

Brazen thief uses club in gas station stick-up

A masked thief wielding a club stole cash from a northwest gas station Monday night. The theft occurred at about 10 p.m. at the Esso station at the corner of 16th Avenue and 10th Street N.W. A lone man walked into the station armed with a stick about 35 centimetres long, which he brandished threateningly at the clerk. His face was obscured by a red and black tuque or balaclava. The clerk gave the robber an undisclosed sum of cash and the man fled east on foot into the nearby Rosedale neighbourhood. Calgary police say the culprit is a white male. He wore a black leather jacket at the time of the robbery. Police are reviewing the gas station's surveillance tapes.

Video of suspect released



Police hope to speak to this man.

Police are appealing for further public assistance after reviewing surveillance tapes from the Anderson LRT station and several tips received in connection with an attempted sexual assault early Monday. Police are looking for a man described as white, in his early to mid-20s, five foot nine and 160 pounds with dark brown or black hair and clean-shaven. He wore a black leather jacket, blue jeans and dark shoes.

Police trying to identify unconscious cyclist

A man who sustained a critical head injury was found lying on an inner-city bicycle path Monday morning. At about 6:50 a.m., Emergency Medical Services found the man, believed to be in his 40s, on the asphalt path next to the Elbow River, just north of the Talisman Centre. He was unconscious and bleeding from the head. The man was not carrying identification. He was taken to Foothills Hospital and admitted in critical condition. Calgary police Insp. Tom Marriott said investigators scoured the area but found no evidence of a struggle. "It looks for all intents and purposes like a fall," Marriott said.

Wayward minivan plunges onto Deerfoot

Alcohol is a suspected factor in a bizarre single-vehicle crash on Deerfoot Trail that left the driver recovering from life-threatening injuries. Police said a Dodge Caravan westbound on Memorial Drive left the road, went around a concrete median and continued west along a grassy embankment before plunging nose-first off a retaining wall and onto the right, northbound lane of Deerfoot Trail. No other vehicles were nearby at the time of the crash, which happened shortly after 11 p.m. on Monday. The minivan's lone occupant, a 35-year-old man, sustained severe head trauma and was transported to hospital. On Tuesday, his condition was listed as stable. The police investigation continues.

Nick Taylor faces roast at farewell party No. 4

SEAN MYERS
CALGARY HERALD

There's little question that former senator Nick Taylor was an independent thinker during his political career. Taylor led the Alberta Liberals from 1974 to 1988, spending the first 12 years of his tenure overseeing a party without a single seat in the legislature.

In recent years, being a former oil and gas man from Alberta who supported ratification of the Kyoto protocol and opposed the war in Iraq didn't put him in good stead with many in his home province.

After serving six years as a senator in Ottawa, Taylor finally had to retire from political life in November when he turned 75, the mandatory retirement age in the Senate.

He now plans to attend his fourth, and final, retirement party on April 26.

The dinner is to be held at the Telus Convention Centre. Tickets are \$100 each, with money going to support the Alberta Liberal Party and the Save the Children charity.

The dinner will take the form of a roast, giving former victims of Taylor's often witty verbal assaults from the political benches a chance at a little payback.

Expected guests include outgoing Conservative leader Joe Clark, former federal cabinet minister Brian Tobin and former Alberta MLA and ethics commissioner Bob Clark.

"Those roasters are pretty able on the platform," said Taylor. "I'm going to be lucky to survive."

Taylor was born on a farm in south-eastern Alberta, near the Montana border, on Nov. 17, 1927.

His first elected position was a four-year stint as a Calgary school board trustee in the early 1950s.

He worked until the early '70s in Calgary's oil and gas industry as a geologist and mining engineer.

"Experience in business and political life should be mixed together much more than they are (in today's elected officials)," said Taylor. "The two make you a more balanced politician."

Taylor said he has no regrets and retirement will simply be a new set of challenges.

He now goes into his Calgary office three times a week and has signed on as a consultant for Sheila Copps' bid for the prime minister's office.

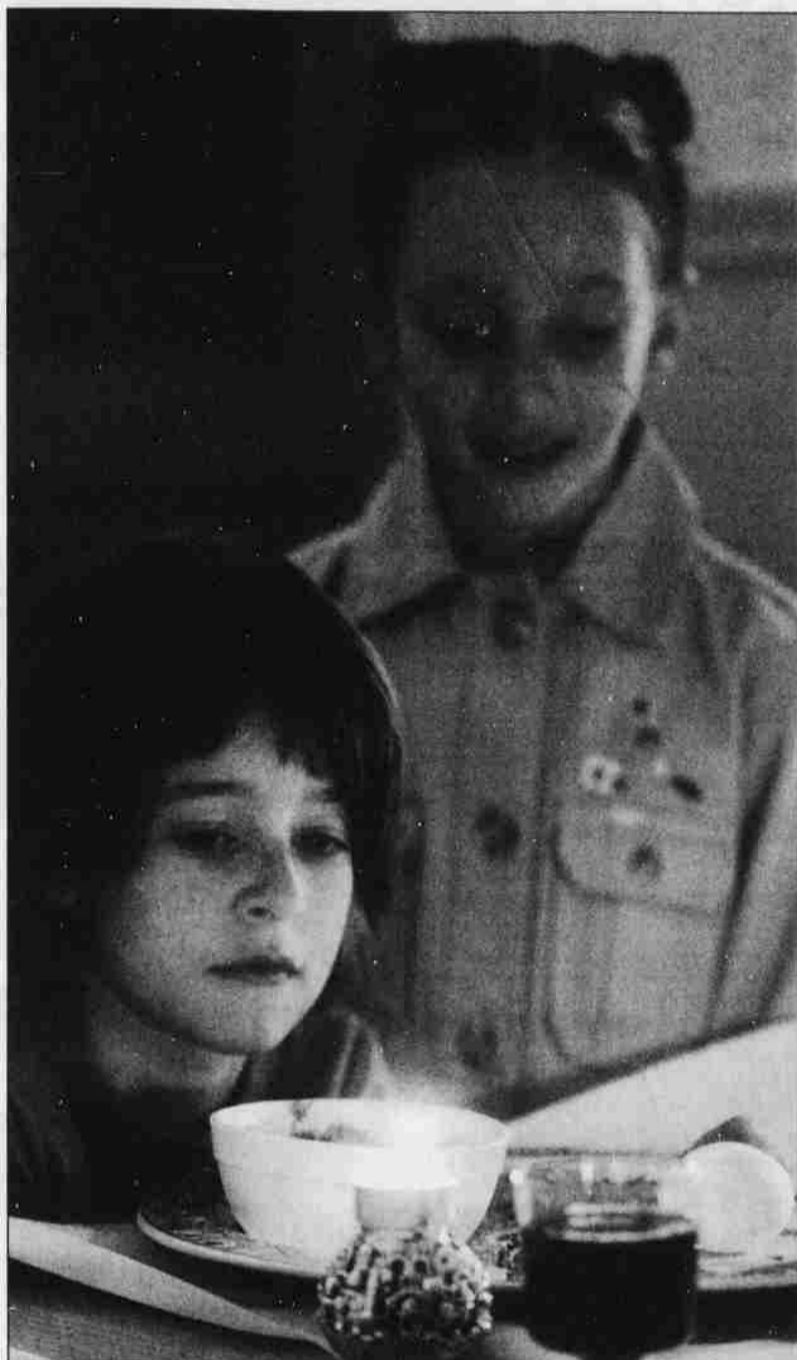
He's also found time recently to charter a boat and take a two-week sailing trip through the British Virgin Islands with his wife, Peg, and his son and daughter-in-law.

"I piddle around a little bit in the oil and gas industry and on various boards," said Taylor. "And I will keep busy with my nine children and 15 grandchildren scattered about."

"My biggest challenge, because my wife is such a good cook, will be trying not to eat too much."

For ticket information on the roast, call 247-0321.

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Mikhaela Gerwing, standing, and Evan Diamond-Gerwing study a typical Passover feast. The girls were part of a class learning about seder, the Hebrew Passover Meal, at Chahad Lubavitch Jewish Outreach Centre.

Exodus recalled with rich tradition

JOE WOODARD
CALGARY HERALD

At nightfall on the 15th day of the month of Nisan, in the year 5763 — otherwise known as April 16, 2003 — Jews worldwide start celebrating the eight days of Pesach or Passover, the Festival of Unleavened Bread, or the Festival of Freedom.

The Pesach commemorates the Exodus of the Hebrews out of Egypt more than 3,000 years ago, an event marking the end of 400 years of slavery and the birth of the Jewish people.

Pesach is observed through a ritual family meal, the seder. The Haggadah, or the liturgy of the feast, is read, ritual questions are asked by the youngest family members, and at set moments unleavened bread and bitter herbs are eaten or wine is drunk.

"The symbols of slavery and the symbols of freedom are completely intertwined during the seder," said University of Calgary religious studies professor Eliezer Segal.

"The matzoh (the unleavened flatbread that God ordered the Hebrews to make for their flight from Egypt) is clearly a symbol of freedom, but it's eaten with maror or bitter herbs, symbolizing slavery. You can't really appreciate freedom unless you've had some experience of slavery."

Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman of Calgary's Temple B'nai Tikvah said Passover is misunderstood if it is taken simply as backward looking.

"We're supposed to look at the story of the Passover as a chance to examine our lives and examine the state of our nationhood," said Voss-Altman.

"The Hebrew word for Egypt — mitzrayim — means the 'narrow place.'

We're supposed to be examining whether we have been escaping our own narrow places of intolerance, vice, and selfish behaviour."

During Passover seders, four glasses of wine are drunk in slow succession, commemorating God's four promises to his people (Exodus 6:6, 11:7): "I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians. . . . I will redeem you. . . . I will take you to be my people. . . ." and finally, "I brought you out of the land of Egypt."

A fifth glass of wine is left in the middle of the seder table for the prophet Elijah, expected to return someday as a harbinger of the Messiah, said Voss-Altman. Late in the evening, a front door is opened to welcome the prophet.

Prior to the first Passover 3,319 years ago, ancient religions tended to see history as circular, like the seasons of the year. Ancient Greeks, Hindus and Confucianists alike saw history as a pointless recurrence of rises and falls, thus relatively unimportant in understanding human existence.

After the first Passover, history began to be seen as linear or going somewhere. Human existence itself, both individual and collective, became defined in terms of the recurring motif of a journey, like the later Christian pilgrimage, the Muslim Haj and the modern notion of "progress."

"In the sense of 'keeping time,' the Passover is the first time God acted (to change) human history since creation," Voss-Altman said.

"So it foreshadows the world to come, the time of the Messiah. So we look forward to a better future."

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Jocelyn Burgener leaps into Calgary Centre race

CALGARY HERALD

Former Tory MLA Jocelyn Burgener announced Tuesday her candidacy for the Canadian Alliance nomination in the federal riding of Calgary Centre.

Burgener, who was the Calgary-Currie MLA for eight years until 2001, says she has a long history of involvement in the community and brings "a strong credibility to the Alliance Party."

While serving as MLA, Burgener

chaired the Alberta Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission and the Seniors Advisory Council.

She said her campaign will focus on three key initiatives: senate reform, mandatory meetings for first ministers, and international agreements that intrude on provincial jurisdiction.

Two dates have been selected for voting in the nomination, June 4 and 14.

Fellow Canadian Alliance member Shawn Howard has also announced his candidacy for Calgary-Centre.

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Detours and lane closures for today

- Westbound 16th Avenue between 36th and 52nd streets N.E. Single lane closure, watch for construction in the area.
- Crowchild Trail between Brisebois Drive and 53rd Street N.W.
- Eastbound Crowchild Trail between Sarcee Trail and 53rd Street N.W.
- Westbound 11th Avenue S.E., multiple lane closures westbound between 3rd Street and Macleod Trail.
- 52nd Street at Memorial Drive S.E., both sides.
- Westbound Marquis of Lorne Trail west of McKenzie Lake Boulevard N.E.
- 30th Avenue between 39th and 41st streets S.E. Road closed.
- 146th Avenue east of 37th Street S.W.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CALGARY ROADS

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Page 11 (CC043F303)
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ALBERTA CANCER FOUNDATION

The Calgary Southwest Canadian Alliance Riding Association extends its deepest sympathy to Stephen Harper and his family on the loss of Mr. Harper's father, the late Joseph Harper.

The Calgary Southwest nomination meeting will proceed in Mr. Harper's absence. All Calgary Southwest members are encouraged to attend.

Stephen Harper's townhall meeting will be rescheduled to a later date. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2003
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Hull Child and Family Services Gymnasium 2266 Woodpark Ave. SW
Guest: John Reynolds, M.P. (Opposition House Leader)

For more information call Joel Loh at 1-888-662-2517

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