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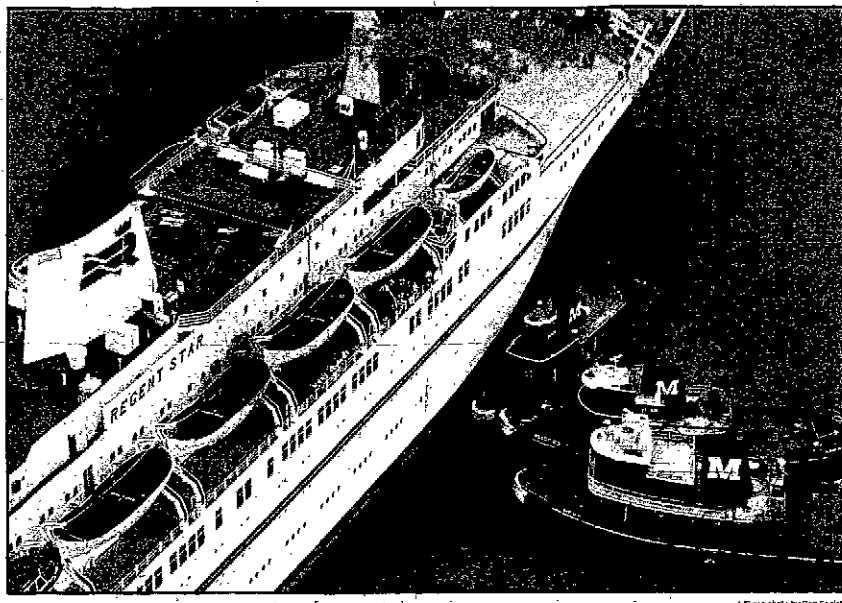
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MONDAY, MAY 28, 1990

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CAPE MAY COUNTY EDITION

Boating mishap off Fortescue



Tug boat crews work Sunday to free the Regent Star from its perch on the Liston Range sandbar as Philadelphia-bound partiers sing and sip mimosas.

Ship runs aground, but party stays afloat

No injuries of body or spirit reported

By DAVID M. HAZLER
Staff Writer

DOWNNE TOWNSHIP — Passengers aboard the Regent Star gathered around the rail to watch three tugboats attempt to free their ship from a sandbar off Fortescue Sunday afternoon.

They didn't look too happy when the tug failed to budge the 642-foot cruise ship, grounded off the coast of

the Cumberland County community. Reports from the ship said most passengers were trying to keep the mood of the earlier stages of their week-long voyage from Jamaica.

The Regent Star, carrying 888 passengers and a crew of 418, ran aground at 1 a.m. Sunday after a small electrical fire disabled its engines and steering. Coast Guard spokesman Jim Weakley said. The

ship was on course for Philadelphia when the accident occurred, he said.

Neither the accident nor the grounding on the Liston Range, more than a mile off shore, caused any injuries or serious damage to the ship, he said.

The grounding was the talk of Cumberland County's bay communities and the destination of choice for many boaters out for the first dry day of the summer season.

A pair of Coast Guard patrol boats

and a smaller state Marine Police boat were kept busy warning pleasure craft, including one carrying members of the media, clear of the area as the tugs did their work.

Work to free the ship, originally due in to Philadelphia at 8 a.m. Sunday, began immediately after the grounding. Electrical power was quickly restored and fire damage repaired.

But Sunday afternoon's high tide

Sec Misap, Page A8

Woman slain in W'wood

Cops have no suspects in vacationer's death

By THOMAS BARLAS
Staff Writer

WILDWOOD — Authorities are searching for the person who killed a vacationing woman whose partially clothed body was found tucked behind a downtown restaurant Sunday morning.

Authorities wouldn't name the victim — an out-of-state resident who was about 20 years old — pending a positive identification of the body and notification of the victim's next of kin.

Authorities also wouldn't release the preliminary results of an autopsy performed Sunday afternoon at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point.

City Police Chief Robert Davenport said authorities found no visible cause of death, such as a gunshot or knife wound, on the body.

The city's first slaying of the year occurred during what authorities called an especially awkward time, as the Memorial Day weekend traditionally kicks off the summer tourist season.

It's the nature of the holiday and tourist season that has members of the local Police Department, the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and a homicide unit made up of detectives from police departments throughout the county moving quickly to investigate the slaying, Davenport said.

"We need to work ... quickly because come this time (Monday) night, a majority of the people in town won't be here anymore," he said.

The body was discovered behind a restaurant in the 230 block of East Challenger Avenue at about 10 a.m., Davenport said.

A restaurant employee was starting to clean up around the establishment when he discovered the body, Davenport said. The employee yelled for his boss, who immediately called city police.

Neither the employee nor his boss disturbed the body, Davenport said.

The woman was found lying on her back, he said.

Davenport would comment no further on the woman's appearance other than to say that she was partially clothed.

Authorities secured the area and, with the help of a State Police crime scene

Sec Dead, Page A4

Florio's school-funding reform plan throws him into tough turf

By SCOTT BUTLER
Staff Writer

ANALYSIS

By putting forward his own school funding reform plan, Gov. Jim Florio has chosen to enter a potentially bruising political battle in his own time and on his own terms.

The last time New Jersey overhauled school aid, a judge shut down the state's schools for a

week to bludgeon the Legislature into line. Texas is just days away from a court-ordered deadline to reorganize its system.

But by proposing a plan that might satisfy the state Supreme Court in a pending lawsuit, Florio could avoid all that and push through his program, just as he

rammed through equally controversial auto insurance and gun control bills.

All that is still dependent on several "ifs." If Florio has correctly guessed the Supreme Court's intentions. If his legislative tactics are successful. If the plan really will smooth out the disparities between rich and poor school districts, the differences that keep spurring law-

suits across the country. And some observers, scrambling to find out the facts behind the plan, aren't so sure.

"Until we hear something from the Legislature, you need a crystal ball, and I lost mine," New Jersey Education Association spokeswoman Karen Joseph said.

Florio's plan, introduced Thursday, would put state educa-

tion funding on a "foundation system" designed to put the same amount of money behind every student, and increase state education aid by \$1 billion.

The foundation system is as simple in principle as it is complicated in detail.

New Jersey's current "guaranteed tax base" system operates under the theory that inequities in spending are caused by ineq-

uities in the ability to raise money. So the system channels state aid to poorer districts based on their tax base. The "GUT" system doesn't even attempt to tell districts how much to spend.

A foundation system, however, holds that the problem is school spending itself.

The state sets a "foundation

Sec Schools, Page A4

N. Korea releases remains of five American soldiers

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The remains of five American soldiers killed more than 35 years ago in the Korean War and held since then by North Korea will begin their final journey home today, Memorial Day.

A U.S. congressional delegation arrived in Seoul Sunday to arrange for the first return of U.S. Korean War dead from Communist North Korea since 1954.

The return of the remains is widely seen as a gesture by North Korea to improve relations with the United States. The two countries do not have diplomatic relations.

The eight-man U.S. delegation, led by Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, will travel today to the town of Panmunjom to receive the remains. Panmunjom is in the Demilitarized Zone separating South Korea and North Korea.

The congressmen arrived on a special flight that landed at an airport outside Seoul. Reporters were not allowed to cover their arrival.

U.S. military officials in Seoul said Montgomery would receive

Sec Release, Page A4

In Senate race, Whitman's foe is Bradley's stature



Sen. BILL BRADLEY
Hedges about '90 race.

Bradley promises full term if winner

By FRANK J. PRENDERGAST
Staff Writer

Democrats across the country are looking to U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley as potentially their next candidate for president.

Bradley is saying "No." Up for re-election this year, Bradley says he wants to continue as New Jersey's senator for another term.

He also rules out the possibility of being the next vice



CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Attacks Bradley's fund raising

Whitman serious about challenge

By FRANK J. PRENDERGAST
Political Editor

Christine Todd Whitman says she is out to win election as the next U.S. senator from New Jersey.

But if she doesn't, "I have no intention of going away," said the former president of the state Board of Public Utilities.

Whitman is on the June 5 Republican primary election ballot, unopposed as the GOP

Sec GOP, Page A8

INSIDE

CONTEST

Press readers win cash playing "Scramble." Page C6.

IN REGION

The death toll during the Memorial Day weekend climbs to seven in the Garden State. Page C1.

IN EDUCATION

Head Start, in its 25th year, has become a success story in New Jersey and across the nation. Page B1.



WEATHER

TODAY: Partly sunny with highs in the low 60s.
TOMORROW: Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain. High around 60.
More weather on Page C3.

School Florio's plan leaves him in tough turf

(Continued from Page 1)

level," or what state think is the right spend per pupil, per state then determine each district can raise. If a local district can't raise the money, the state makes up the difference. The Education Law, in its 1975 version, gave the state the right to sue a district before the Court, is seeking a system, Texas, whose Court overturned its law last fall, is at toward a foundation. But Texas is having

The Democratic Texas has passed a plan a tax increase, but Gov. Bill Clements vetoed it. If the two sides can't agree, the courts will new funding system. That's why John E. Commissioner, thinks the right to seize the initiative.

The solution has been legislatively," said El Austin schools' super-

Conservation back up

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The state's latest pro-athletic elected office, former Giants, wide receiver McConkey, drew the active voices in Congress. The state's latest pro-athletic elected office, former Giants, wide receiver McConkey, drew the active voices in Congress. The state's latest pro-athletic elected office, former Giants, wide receiver McConkey, drew the active voices in Congress.

Coast and former Redskins quarterback Theismann called the of athletes and political administration society.

The parade of GORtives was assembled. McConkey's boyfriend, Secretary of Education, one-time Buffalo Bills. It included House Whip Newt Gingrich and New Hampshire Gov. Tom Humphrey, sports right-to-life lapel pin of a fetus' tiny foot.

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