

THURSDAY



Dangerous waters

Ducks pose stiff test for Cats

— Sports, Page 1C



Blackett's Ridge Trail

A quick hike, spectacular sights

— Outdoors, Page 8C

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Simpson 'wrongly accused,' defense says

By Adam Pertman

* 1995 The Boston Globe

LOS ANGELES — Seven months after he was arrested, O.J. Simpson got to tell his side of the story that almost every accusation leveled at him has a benign explanation, and that prosecutors have deliberately ignored vital evidence because of a frenzy to convict him.

Defense counsel Johnnie Cochran made those assertions yesterday to ju-

rors during an impassioned, often-personal opening statement in which he portrayed Simpson as a good father and a philanthropist, a man who might have struck his ex-wife but never could have murdered her.

"The evidence will show this case is about a rush to judgment, an obsession to win at any cost and by any means necessary," said Cochran, who proclaimed his client "an innocent man, wrongly accused."

While outlining the defense's strategy for the first time, Cochran repeatedly tried to punch holes in the scenario that prosecutors had presented a day earlier — that Simpson was a violent and jealous man and that a trail of blood proved his guilt. In an effort to introduce reasonable doubt into the jurors' minds, Cochran also cited numerous examples of what he characterized as sloppy or suspect police procedures.

Cochran offered or hinted at consid-

erable new evidence during the course of his presentation, including an accusation that law-enforcement officials missed a witness who said she saw four men running from the area around Nicole Brown Simpson's home the night of her murder.

Some of the new names and information that Cochran discussed, however, apparently had not been provided beforehand to the prosecution, as the law requires. Moreover, after the jury was

excused for the day, other defense counsel disclosed in court that the defense had not notified the district attorney's office of more than a dozen additional witnesses, statements and other materials it planned to use.

That set off an explosive exchange, in which prosecutor William Hodgman asked Judge Lance Ito to impose stiff sanctions against the defense for "outra-

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Woman, 25, beaten, bed set on fire

By Carmen Duarte

The Arizona Daily Star

A prowler broke into the home of a 25-year-old woman early yesterday, sexually assaulted her and set her bed on fire before driving off in her car.

The woman, who was beaten with a heavy object, regained consciousness while lying on her burning bed. She escaped by running out the front door of her home in the southwest-side Mohave subdivision, north of West Valencia Road and west of the Santa Cruz River.

Bandy Ogden, a Tucson Fire Department spokesman, said that when firefighters arrived at the woman's home, it was about 60 percent engulfed in flames. The woman had gone to a neighbor's home to report the blaze.

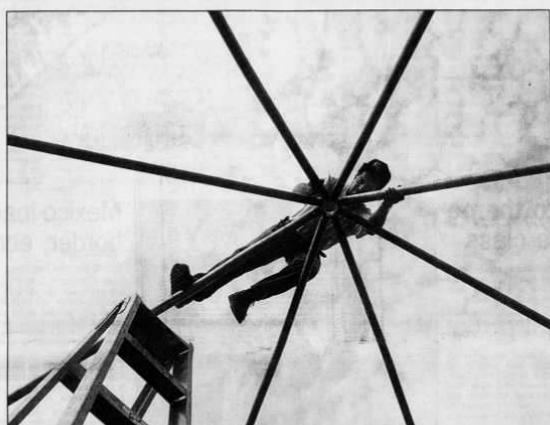
The victim suffered first- and second-degree burns to her scalp and right arm. She was taken to St. Mary's Hospital, where she was listed in stable condition last night, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The blaze erupted at about 2:30 a.m. and was brought under control within about 25 minutes. Damage was estimated at \$120,000.

Arson and adult sexual assault detectives were at the house yesterday until about noon.

Detective Jim O'Bright of the adult sexual assault unit said yesterday afternoon that he had yet to fully question

See PROWLER, Page 2A



Getting ready for gems

David Sanders, The Arizona Daily Star

Jesus Torres assembles a tent structure that will be used for a gem and mineral exhibition at the downtown Days Inn, beginning Feb. 2. The exhibition will remain

open during the 41st Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. The four-day show, which begins Feb. 9, will be held at the Tucson Convention Center.

AIDS fluke bodes well for vaccine

BOSTON (AP) — One man's HIV infection over a decade ago is giving scientists their first evidence of the safety of an AIDS vaccine that has been considered too dangerous for people.

In a kind of unintended natural experiment, the man caught a genetically weakened form of the AIDS virus. It is virtually identical to the weakened virus used in the experimental vaccine, which works well on monkeys.

Typically, people fall ill within 10 years of contracting HIV. But this man, now 44, appears to be perfectly healthy at least 12 years after getting infected.

About 5 percent of HIV-infected people show no signs of immune system damage more than a decade after catching the virus. Understanding the factors that keep them healthy is a major goal of AIDS research.

The study is the first to show that long-term HIV survival clearly may result from catching a crippled version of the virus.

Certainly, one healthy patient does not prove safety. And it also does not demonstrate whether the vaccine wards off other HIV infections, although the researchers said it may have kept the man, a hemophiliac, from getting more lethal forms of the virus from his clotting material, which was produced before it was routinely screened for HIV.

Recently, doctors discovered

See VACCINE, Page 4A



A.E. Anish, The Arizona Daily Star

A sporting gesture

Ray James lends a hand to fallen sumo wrestler Rob Gordon. UA students competed yesterday in unusual sporting events — from jousting to bungee runs — in the Sports Illustrated Campus Fest. The festival was held on the University of Arizona Mall.

Greenspan urges nudging retirement age up to 70

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Congress should gradually raise to 70 the age at which workers can retire with full Social Security benefits, and then keep increasing it as people live longer, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said yesterday.

Greenspan told the Senate Finance Committee that the longer people live, the more they should expect to work. Eighty-somethings are now one of the fastest growing age groups.

"In order to make a sound Social Security system, we ought to stabilize the ratio of the number of years in which the average beneficiary receives benefits to the number of years that the beneficiary works," said Greenspan.

Current retirees can expect to receive more in benefits than they paid in Social Security taxes. Greenspan urged the panel to act now to reduce projected spending increases in Social Security and Medicare, instead of waiting for solvency crises that are expected to hit in five to 20 years.

"There are some very serious problems in some of our social insurance programs as we get into the 21st century," said Greenspan.

"Congress can make adjustments... effective, say, the year 2000, 2010, and have a very material effect on the long-term fiscal outlook of this country," he said. Benefits programs now account for about half the budget.

One of the biggest problems facing Social Security is that as the baby boom generation retires, there will be fewer people in the work force to pay the payroll taxes that are used for Social Security benefits. Raising the retirement age would increase the number of workers and reduce the number of retirees.



Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan

Greenspan endorsed a recommendation by Sen. Bob Kerry, D-N.H., and former Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo., to slowly raise the retirement age to 70.

The retirement age — now 65 — is already scheduled to be gradually raised to 67, beginning in 2000. For people born after 1937 but before 1960, the retirement age will be between 65 and 67. For those born in 1960 or later, the normal retirement age will be 67.

Under Greenspan's indexing proposal, the retirement age would automatically rise with increases in life expectancy for people who reach age 60. The life expectancy of the elderly has been slowly edging up. In 1960, the average 65-year-old could look forward to 14.3 more years of life; by 1995, that had risen to 17.5 years.

WEATHER

Chance of rain. Today is expected to be partly cloudy and cooler with a 40 percent chance of showers. Expect a high near 60, and a low in the upper 30s. Yesterday's high was 66; the low was 55. Details on Page 8A.

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