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## AROUND THE NATION

### **Deserter To Plead Guilty**

FORT CARSON, Colo. — A lawyer for a Fort Carson soldier who fled to Canada after learning his unit was heading to Iraq plans to plead guilty to a reduced charge of desertion.

Authorities say 25-year-old Pvt. Robin Long of Boise, Idaho, fled to Canada in 2005 after his unit was deployed. Canadian authorities denied his request for refuge and deported him in July.

His attorney, James Branam, said Thursday that Long has reached an agreement with prosecutors to plead guilty to desertion with intent to remain away permanently, a lesser charge than desertion with intent to shirk hazardous duty.

Branam says Long's sentence will be determined today. He faces a dishonorable discharge as well as any prison time.

### **Tenn. Teen Kills Classmate**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — A student fatally shot a 15-year-old classmate during a dispute Thursday at a Knoxville high school, police said, as other teenagers watched in horror as the victim clutched his chest and fell to the floor.

Police identified the victim as Ryan McDonald, a sophomore who lived with his grandmother and had alopecia, a condition that left him bald and the target of endless teasing as a child.

"He tried to have a tough exterior, like a shield, to fit in," his uncle Roger McDonald said. "He was a good kid ... who was dealt some bad cards in life."

Jamar Siler, 15, was charged with one count of first-degree murder and was being held in a juvenile lockup.

Central High School, which has about 1,400 students, was placed on lockdown after the shooting. Classes were dismissed and students were bused to a nearby church so they could be picked up by their parents.

### **Sex Show Developer Guilty**

TYLER, Texas — A Texas jury has sentenced a 41-year-old auto body shop worker to life in prison after convicting him of grooming children as young as 5 to perform in sex shows at a small-town swingers club.

Jurors took about 15 minutes Thursday to decide on the sentence for Patrick "Booger Red" Kelly after finding him guilty of engaging in organized criminal activity.

Prosecutors alleged Kelly was a member of the so-called Mineola Swinger's Club, though Kelly has testified he is innocent. They contended Kelly helped set up a "kindergarten" where young children learned to dance provocatively.

To help perform at the club, prosecutors say the children were given Vicodin-like drugs the adults passed off as "silly pills."