



AROUND NEW MEXICO

Journal Staff Reports

Child Molestation Trial Begins

Cora Fierro, ex-wife of suspected child molester Eric Fierro, testified about the couple's relationship in state District Court on Wednesday as the long-delayed trial entered its second day.

Fierro, 37, is accused of sexually molesting his stepdaughter, now 23, from the time she was 6 until she was 17, and of threatening her and her mother. DNA tests have shown Fierro is the father of the young woman's baby, prosecutors have said.

Fierro has denied sexual relations with the girl, at least when she was in elementary school, and said the accusations were made to get back at him for beating up her boyfriend, now 51.

In cross-examination, the ex-wife acknowledged having sex with her husband while her daughter was on the bed, from the time she was 6 through her teenage years. It wasn't routine, she said, but it happened after the family piled onto the queen-size bed to watch videos Eric had brought home and one of the children fell asleep there.

The trial had been delayed four years while Fierro changed attorneys multiple times.

KRQE News Director Leaving

Michelle Donaldson, news director at KRQE-TV, Channel 13, announced this week that she will leave the local CBS affiliate for a news director job at KPHO-TV in Phoenix, also a CBS affiliate.

Donaldson has been at KRQE for 8½ years, the first half of that time as assistant news director. Nationally, the average length of stay for a news director at a TV station is two years, she said.

"Albuquerque has been good to me and I honestly did not see myself leaving," she said Wednesday. "I will miss Albuquerque and everybody here at the station. They're a great team." Nevertheless, she said, the offer from Phoenix "was a temptation I could not pass up."

Man Charged With Burglary

A European man was in jail in Bernalillo County on Wednesday after going on what court records and police describe as a multistate burglary spree along Interstate 40 that included victims in Albuquerque.

Brian Lee Dodd, a 34-year-old native of Luxembourg, was being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center on an \$80,000 cash or surety bond on felony charges of residential burglary and auto theft stemming from two alleged thefts in Albuquerque in May, according to jail and court records.

Dodd was arrested May 17 in Arkansas when a state trooper stopped him on suspicion of driving a stolen truck, according to a criminal complaint. Police say the truck had been stolen from a home on Palomas NE in Albuquerque. The Arkansas trooper who stopped Dodd found items that were linked to two burglaries in Texas.

Topless Protest Comes to SF

SANTA FE — As if Santa Fe won't be crowded enough this weekend with Indian Market, just three blocks off the Plaza, a small group of women will be baring their chests as part of the National GoTopless Protest Day Saturday from 1-2 p.m.

Organized by the Raëlian religion, which believes the human race was created by aliens, the event is meant to demonstrate that women should have the same constitutional right to be bare chested in public places as men.

City attorney Frank Katz says it's all legal.

“I think a bunch of middle-aged women taking off their shirt — I don’t see how that violates either the city law or state law, given the definition of indecent exposure,” he said, explaining that indecent exposure is considered below the waist.

The event is scheduled for Macione – or Old Ft. Marcy — Park.

Organizer Alaric Balibrera said Katz told him that as long as the women don’t act provocatively, there is no problem. Since there are only two Raëlians in New Mexico — Balibrera and his wife — Balibrera said he has maybe a dozen friends and associates who are willing to go topless.