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Jury indicts German in theft of yacht

#### ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

A 52-year-old man who claimed to be a German television producer has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges that he stole a \$400,000 yacht from Annapolis last month.

Peter Baron von Liebieg-Knips, who is still awaiting extradition to the United States from Italy, faces a two-count indictment charging him with interstate and foreign transportation of stolen property and theft in special maritime and territorial waters of the United States.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Beth Gesner said she did not know how long the extradition process would take. The indictment lists Mr. Knips' aliases as Wilhelm Peter Knips and Josef Wilhelm Peter Knips.

Mr. Knips was charged in July with swindling an Annapolis yacht broker out of the French-built 51-foot sloop and taking his wife and 9-year-old daughter on a sailing voyage that ended 400 miles southeast of Cape May, N.J., when the vessel sank in a violent storm.

A British cargo ship rescued the trio and brought them to a port in southern Italy, where Mr. Knips was arrested.

Prison guard indicted in prescription fraud  
HAGERSTOWN

A guard at the Maryland Correctional Training Center has been indicted in Winchester, Va., on 70 charges of prescription drug fraud, officials said.

It is not clear whether the charges against Ira Braswell Jr., 53, of Winchester are related to his employment at the Maryland state prison south of Hagerstown. His wife, Sarah J. Braswell, 51, was also named in the indictment issued Tuesday.

Paul Thomson, Commonwealth attorney for the city of Winchester, said police found blank prescription pads in the Braswell home bearing the name of a fictitious physician, Dr. J. Paul Fishman.

Mr. Thomson said a telephone number was set up for the phony doctor so when pharmacists called, someone would say it was Fishman's office and verify the prescriptions.

The investigation was conducted by Jim Heltzel, an agent with the prescription fraud unit of the Virginia State Police. During a June 10 search of the Braswell home, officers said they found empty vials of prescription drugs, including Dilaudid, Merperidine and Lomotil.

Mr. Braswell has worked at the prison since 1987, said Sgt.

Gregory M. Shipley, a spokesman for the Maryland Division of Correction. He said Mr. Braswell would face administrative action because of the indictment, but he did not say what kind of action would be taken.

**SCHOOL LUNCHESES**

Price to go up 5 in Baltimore County

Lunches in Baltimore County elementary and secondary schools will cost a nickel more when classes begin next month.

The school board approved the nickel increase at its Thursday night meeting. The cost of lunch will increase to \$1.40 in elementary schools and to \$1.50 in secondary schools. The price of lunch for adults will be \$1.95. School administrators said that the increase is needed because of rising labor costs, the declining supply of government surplus food and aging equipment that needs to be repaired or replaced.

AH: FOR THE RECORD

\* The 1991 World Karate Championship Tournament was being held yesterday at the Convention Center in Ocean City.

Note:

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