



King lawyers seek \$6 m

LOS ANGELES: Lawyers who represented Rodney King are seeking \$6 million from the city of Los Angeles.

The bill includes time lawyers spent taking Mr King to the Oprah TV talk show and attending his birthday party.

US District Judge John Davies asked Mr King's chief attorney Steven Lerman: "Why are two

hours at Mr King's birthday party compensational?"

The lawyer's response made the judge laugh: "The time of Mr King's birthday party was spent discussing his cake - discussing his case."

Mr King was awarded \$5.2 million in damages over his 1991 beating by police.

Because he prevailed in court, he is allowed to seek payment of

his lawyers' fees and court costs. Mr Lerman and 22 other lawyers submitted bills for \$6 million, saying they put in 18 000 hours on the case.

Deputy city attorney Don Vincent said Mr King's attorneys should be paid for no more than 1000 hours - or \$475 000.

Mr Davies said he would announce his ruling at a later time.



Get ready for those jet noises again. EAAF FA/18 and United States F-16 fighters will begin arriving today for Exercise Aces North. The exercise is to train elite pilots as tactics and weapons experts. Flying will be from November 1 to 33 with the only night operations on November 2, 3 and 15.

Table-top dancer Yasmin Cotton has announced she will be a candidate for the blue-ribbon Melbourne seat of Kooyong to be vacated by former Liberal leader Andrew Peacock. Ms Cotton yesterday promised voters a "physical demonstration of her politics". Office wit commented Ms Cotton obviously hoped the voters would look up to her.

This is national water week. But NT and Beyond has had more than a few calls from people irate that sprinklers are on during the day in school grounds and other public areas. In some cases water was running away down gutters. Talking of the precious stuff, water usage figures released yesterday show Australians are using more at a time when the nation can least afford it. Every capital city in Australia, except Hobart, has recorded increases in water consumption of up to 24 per cent in the past year.

Darwin City Council aldermen debated the issue of upgrading the Gardens Amphitheatre on Tuesday night. With the vote ending six to five for the upgrading there were some unhappy aldermen. When Alderman John Antella (against the upgrading) asked why there was \$2000 of the Lord Mayor's Fund, set aside for the project, not being used and what it would be used for, Alderman Jan Collins (also against the upgrading) quipped: "Why not buy \$2000 worth of ear plugs for residents?"

Moffat: Why I ruled out helmets in Run

By BOB WATT

Cannonball Run organisers did not insist on helmets because they did not want entrants to "feel they were racers", an organiser told Darwin Coroners Court yesterday.

A Run organiser Ian Moffat said: "I take full responsibility for this decision, which was thought out carefully."

Mr Moffat, a retired touring car racing champion, said the procedures of belting in and putting on a helmet "transformed his zeal" to do the job required.

He said: "The comfort it gave me as a professional race driver allowed me to take the car to its absolute limit."

"I did not want ordinary people who had perhaps never had a helmet on in their lives... to feel they were racers."

"The concept of the NT Cannonball Run was to keep it a controlled motor sport event."

Mr Moffat made these comments when answering questions from counsel for the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS), Peter Barr.

Mr Moffat spent all day yesterday in the witness box being questioned by counsel representing the families of those who died and

counsel for the NT Government and CAMS.

The inquest into the deaths of two Japanese competitors and two NT voluntary Run officials at a checkpoint south of Alice Springs on May 24 enters its 14th day today.

It may finish today after addresses by counsel and summing up by counsel assisting the coroner, Michael Adams QC.

Coroner John Lowndes is expected to reserve his findings.

The inquest was told earlier the crew of the Ferrari, which crashed at the checkpoint, most likely would have survived had they been wearing helmets.

Heavy

Mr Moffat said he did not recall recommending helmets be worn during the "flying mile" speed runs or in competitive sections.

Helmets were hot and heavy when worn for an extended period and the full-face models made communication difficult.

Mr Moffat told Mr Barr the speeds of 160 to 170 km/h with a maximum of 220 mentioned during a meeting attended by police in January were "ball park figures".

Speaking emotionally yesterday, Mr Moffat said he had attended every day of the inquest "to hear every piece of evidence to try to explain the catastrophe".



Allan Moffat yesterday... helmets may have made Run competitors 'feel they were racers'



REMEMBER THERE ARE TIMES WHEN

THE LAST THING YOU NEED

IS GROG

