

# F A S T B R E A K S

## MARTINA'S SECRET

The Virginia Slims of Oakland was not a good tournament for Martina Navratilova. First, she lost to Kathy Jordan in the semifinals. Then, airport security personnel found a .38-caliber pistol (unloaded) in her carry-on bag. She started carrying the gun a year ago, she said, after a series of rapes in her neighborhood. It was supposed to be in her suitcase, but a friend packed it in the wrong place. Authorities have decided not to press charges, but in the future, Martina may be more careful about where she packs her pistol.

## LIBBY WILL BE PROUD

When Ann Bancroft, a 30-year-old elementary school teacher from Sunfish Lake, Minnesota, saved a man's life on a climbing expedition last year, noted arctic explorer Will Steger was so impressed that he invited her to join himself and six men on a dangerous journey to the North Pole. The team, which departed from Ward Hunt Island, Canada, on March 3, plans to travel 800 miles across sea ice by dogsled, arriving at the pole by May 1. No one has attempted such a feat since Admiral Peary first reached the pole in 1909.



## FUN IN THE STAIRWELL

Janine Aiello likes the Empire State Building Run-Up "because it's so silly, really." Aiello recently won "the most vertical race in the world" by climbing all 1,575 steps (86 flights) in 13 minutes, 19 seconds, just five seconds short of the record she set last year. "In longer road races, even if you win, you're too tired afterward to party without passing out," she notes. "After the Run-Up, you have some energy left." Aiello used her surplus energy to run around Central Park, see Lily Tomlin on Broadway, visit museums, and listen to jazz.

## BUT DO THEY GET T-SHIRTS?

The greatest race you wish you had entered will conclude on May 24 at Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The Super Run II America's Race is a 10K for amateurs only that awards a whopping \$500,000 to both the female and male winners. Fifty state champions will compete in the final, which will be televised live by ABC's "Wide World of Sports." Why so much money to the winners? Says publicist John Holgate: "A million bucks is a nice round figure."

## NOT EXACTLY A FAST TRACK

Put on your combat boots, hose down a dirt embankment, and practice running up it if you want to get in shape for next year's Volkslauf 10K run, held each February at the Marine Corps Air Station in Santa Ana, California. In what must be the filthiest footrace around, participants slog through muck-filled trenches and streams and slither under two-foot-high obstacles. The Camp Pendleton Mudhens won the women's team division this year for the second year in a row; 17-year-old Holly Hogan of Anaheim Hills, California, won the individual women's division in 58.2. Winners collected trophies—after taking showers.

## GAY (BLANK) GAMES

A federal appeals court recently upheld the ruling that the Gay Games may not use the word "Olympic." "[The USOC is] trying to intimidate athletes from publicly identifying as gay," said Shawn Kelly, executive director of the Gay Games. "Not true," responds Ron Rowan of the USOC. "We advise numerous groups not to use the word. We certainly have no objection to the games themselves." In any case, the Gay Games will be held from August 9 to 17 in San Francisco, offering events in 18 sports to about 5,000 athletes from 15 countries. For more information, contact Gay Games II, 526 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; (415) 861-8282.



## SHE ALSO SPEAKS FRENCH

Gea Johnson (above) jumped for joy when she received the Dial Award for outstanding high school athletic and academic performance in 1985, but then, she's always jumping. Gea won gold medals in the hurdles and long jump at the International Sports Exchange meet in Hong Kong last year, and holds the nation's highest juniors score in the heptathlon, which includes seven running, jumping, and throwing events. A professional model, Gea, who plans to attend Stanford next fall, also has a 4.0 G.P.A., is the current Miss National Fitness, is president of her senior class at Washington High School in Phoenix, Arizona, and, yes, was Homecoming Queen.

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