

Thanks for the meal, mate



GRACIOUS HOST Dieter Petensen, a keeper at the West Berlin Zoo, seems to be on the receiving end of a thank you from Nixe, a sea

elephant, which extends flipper to shake his hand. The sea beast just polished off part of the 55 pounds of food it consumes daily.

Feds: He preyed on stars

By **JERRY CAPECI**
Daily News Staff Writer

Controversial talent agent **Norby Walters** was charged yesterday with teaming up with a New York mobster to shake down college athletes and entertainers, including singer Michael Jackson.

Walters and his partner, **Lloyd Bloom**, were accused in a **racketeering** indictment of trying to shake down Jackson's manager in an effort to get a piece of the singer's 1981 nationwide tour when he was part of the Jackson Five.

Walters and reputed Colombo family capo **Michael Franzese** threatened Jackson's manager by telling him "there would be no tour" if they weren't involved in it, said Chicago U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas.

\$15 million gas tax scam

Franzese, named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the eight-count indictment, is serving 10 years for **racketeering** stemming from a \$15 million gasoline tax scam. Valukas refused to discuss whether **Franzese** had cooperated.

Walters, 58, and **Bloom**, 29, were charged with **racketeer-**

ing, mail fraud, wire fraud and extortion and face 70 years in prison and \$2 million in fines if convicted.

Neither Jackson nor his representatives could be reached immediately for comment.

Others charged

California sports agent Dave Lueddeke and pro football player Chris Carter were charged in a separate indictment stemming from the 17-month probe.

Lueddeke was charged with perjury and obstruction of justice for offering Carter a \$5,000 under-the-table payment for signing with him. Carter, a former Ohio State star who now plays for the Philadelphia Eagles, was charged with mail **fraud** and obstructing justice.

Carter has agreed to cooperate with authorities but faces 10 years and a \$500,000 fine. Lueddeke, 37, faces 15 years and \$750,000 in fines.

Forty-three other athletes who illegally signed with **Walters** and **Bloom** while receiving scholarships cooperated with authorities and will perform community service and reimburse some portion of the scholarships to their universities.

Valukas said **Walters** and **Bloom** "told some players they had partners who would come down and insure (that) the players never played again."

Among the athletes who cooperated with the government in the case are NBA basketball player Brad Sellers of the Chicago Bulls and NFL football players **Ronnie Harmon** of Buffalo, Brent Fullwood of Green Bay and Paul Palmer of Kansas City.

Walters' lawyer, Robert Gold, said his client would "plead not guilty tomorrow and you can be sure that we will mount a very vigorous defense."

Gold said he did not know whether **Franzese** was cooperating with the government and refused comment about a report last year in Sports Illustrated that said **Franzese** knew **Walters** "as a child" and called him "Uncle **Norby**."

The indictment seeks the forfeiture of **Walters'** and **Bloom's** interest in their business firms, **Norby Walters Associates** and **World Sports & Entertainment Inc.**, and \$275,000 in proceeds.

Port is closed as Poland's strike spreads

By **GIRARD C. STEICHEN**
The Associated Press

GDANSK, Poland — Strikers closed the last section of Poland's busiest port yesterday, some employees stopped work at a major steel mill and Solidarity denounced police action against strikes elsewhere in the country.

The government and workers are struggling for the initiative in the biggest labor upheaval since Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski imposed martial law in December 1981 to crush and then outlaw Solidarity.

Strikers demand higher pay and better working con-

ditions and that Solidarity be made legal again.

Strikes began Aug. 16 and have spread to more than 20 sites.

Early yesterday, police invaded a bus depot in Szczecin and 150 strikers who had been holed up there for a week yielded quietly. A strike

at the Mieszko coal mine in Walbrzych ended Tuesday night in similar fashion when police broke down the barricaded gate.

"We condemn and strongly protest these acts," Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a senior Solidarity adviser, said of police strike-breaking actions.

The latest Gdansk strike brought all major dock and shipyard industries to a halt in the Baltic port. Employees of the Lenin shipyard, where Solidarity founder Lech Walesa works as an electrician, went on strike Monday in support of the miners and of port and transport workers in Szczecin.

Also yesterday, about 1,000 employees quit working in two departments at the Nowa Huta steel mill, where a strike attempt fizzled after a few hours Monday.

The official news agency PAP said strikes ended peacefully at the Lenin, Victoria, Marcel and Borynia mines, all in the Silesia region of southern Poland.

School counselors overworked: study

Middle-school guidance counselors had caseloads of close to 800 students each last school year, more than twice the average in the rest of the state, an educational watchdog group charged yesterday.

And "even if new hiring brought staff-to-ratios to an acceptable level," a report by the Educational Priorities Panel said, "the urgent needs of young people could not be met with the present structure."

The panel said that as a

result of the high student-counselor ratio, the average graduating middle school student can speak with a counselor for less than 20 minutes before deciding which of the city's 110 high schools to attend.

The ratio of students to counselors in the rest of the state is about 350 to 1.

The study also found guidance services are "poorly designed and poorly delivered," and that counselors are "burdened with heavy paper work ...

and are often completely inaccessible to students."

The report said that programs are "uncoordinated" and are often "oriented toward crisis services, i.e. drugs, dropouts, and away from prevention."

Students who speak only limited English have it the worst, the study said.

A spokesman said Schools Chancellor Richard Green is "formulating a plan to improve the guidance program."

—Joanne Wasserman