

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Picked fresh daily. 100% organic news.

City's historic designation comes under fire

Group to circulate ballot measure giving homeowners final say

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A group of citizens plans to put a measure on the November ballot that would prevent the city from deeming homes historic without the consent of the owner.

Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation, a newly-formed committee, notified the Santa Monica city clerk Monday that it will be circulating a petition in an effort to allow homeowners a choice as to whether their homes should be classified as landmarks, or structures of merit. The group needs 6,000 signatures to place the measure on the ballot.

Committee members believe the current ordinance that imposes restrictions on private property constitutes an unwarranted intrusion of personal freedoms.

"It doesn't make sense that they have more rights over your house than you do," said Greg Poirier, an owner of a home on

18th Street that's being considered for designation. "All we are saying is let the homeowner decide."

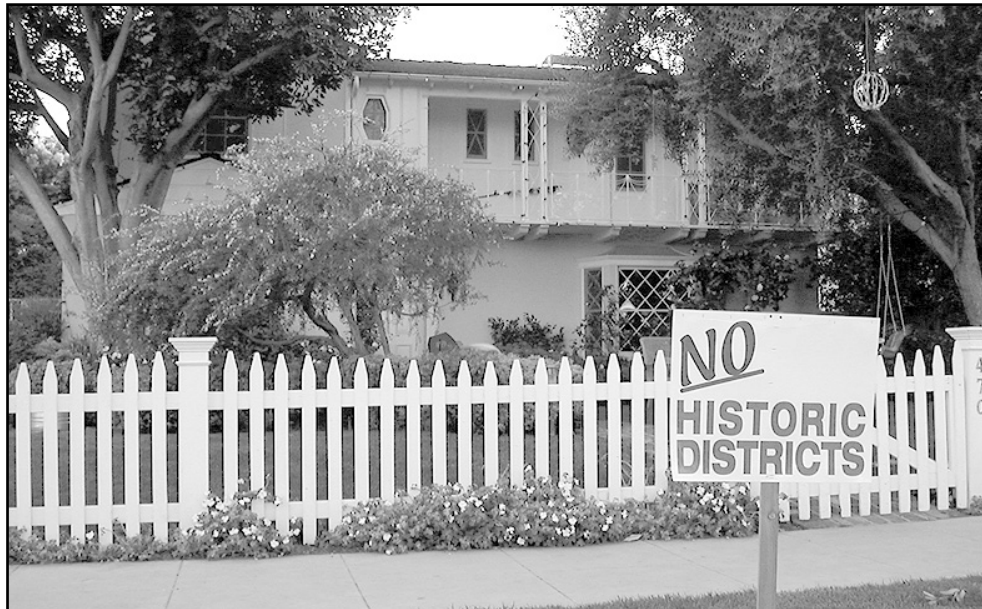
Without the permission of the property owner, the city allows the landmark's commission to designate single family homes as landmarks or as having historical significance. The commission also can create historical districts in certain areas of Santa Monica.

Poirier said he tried to apply for a demolition permit to tear down his existing home, built in 1940, because it was too expensive to fix the aging foundation. But the city wouldn't approve the permit because his home is now being considered as one with historical significance.

"This is fundamentally a question of personal freedom," he said. "We do not believe that the city has the right to force single-family homeowners to submit to the drastic limitations contained in the landmarks ordinance with respect to remodeling or replacement of their homes."

Landmarks commission member Barbara Schnitzler said the entire issue is being clouded with misinformation.

"If the issue of preservation is to be put



Andrew H Fixmer/Daily Press

These lawn signs are popping up around town, sending a message to the city to back off on its desire to create historic districts.

to a vote, I would hope the public is able to cast its vote based on truthful and accurate information," she said.

The two individuals spearheading the initiative, Poirier and property rights

attorney Tom Larmore, are casting the commission as unwilling to work with property owners, Schnitzler said.

"Unfortunately neither Mr. Larmore

See DISTRICT, page 3

Confusing part of Ocean Avenue may be re-named

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Hundreds of residents who live on portion of Ocean Avenue may soon have to order new address labels.

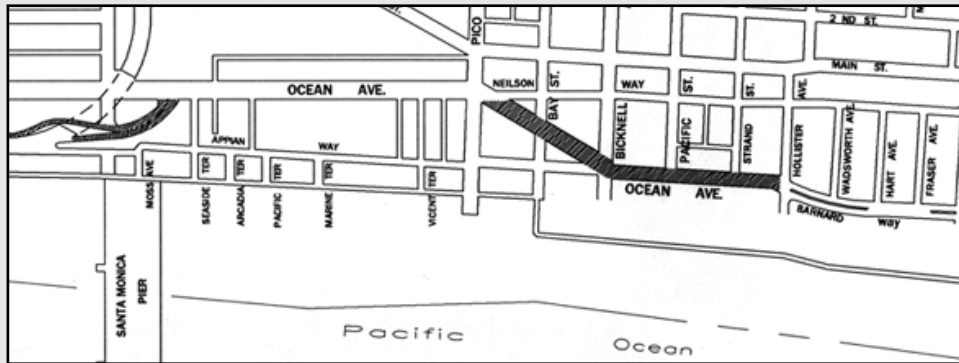
The Santa Monica City Council will review a proposal tonight that suggests a section of Ocean Avenue between Hollister Avenue, Pico Boulevard and Neilson Way should be changed to

Barnard Way.

"It's pretty confusing for people in that area," said city engineer Tony Antich. "This would make it continuous."

Ocean Avenue runs from the northern city limits to Pico Boulevard, where it veers toward the Pacific Ocean and continues to Hollister Avenue. Traveling south of Pico Boulevard on Ocean

See OCEAN, page 3



Map courtesy of the City of Santa Monica

The shaded areas of this map indicate where a name change could occur on local roads. The city council will review a proposal tonight to change Ocean Avenue south of Pico Boulevard to Barnard Way. The council also will consider naming the street leading to the Pacific Coast Highway.

Oil companies not off the hook for water pollution

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A judge refused to dismiss a lawsuit last week that could force a \$200 million dollar clean up of Santa Monica's drinking water.

Several oil companies, including Shell and Arco, sought to dismiss the city's lawsuit against them, arguing that the statute of limitations on the case had run out. The companies argued that though legal action was not taken until 2000, the contamination was first discovered in 1995.

However, Orange County Superior Court Judge Stephen J. Sundvold ruled Friday that because the plume of MTBE contamination continues to plague Santa Monica's water supply, the statute of limitations had not run out.

"The city expects to win," said Deputy City Attorney Joe Lawrence. "And at this time we expect there will be a trial."

Sundvold also allowed the city to ask for three times more in punitive damages under a civil court code meant to help water utility companies seek extra damages if a water supply is contaminated by an outsider.

Lawrence said the city hasn't deter-

mined how much it will seek in damages, though the cost of cleaning up the ground water has been estimated to cost more than \$200 million.

"We're suing to clean up the drinking water," Lawrence said. "But surely, when this is all over it will likely cost them several hundred million dollars."

Oil company lawyers could not be reached for comment Monday.

Methyl tertiary-Butyl Ether is a colorless chemical that at very low concentrations smells like turpentine and is a suspected carcinogen. The state was scheduled to ban the additive, though California Gov. Gray Davis recently delayed instituting the ban.

Two years ago Santa Monica sued 18 refiners, manufacturers and suppliers of MTBE and MTBE-laden gasoline for allowing the chemical to leak into its ground water.

The pollution closed seven of Santa Monica's 11 wells, forcing the city to import about 80 percent of the 12 million gallons of water it uses a day. Until the ground water is cleaned up, the oil companies are paying \$3.5 million a year to import drinking water to the city.

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Santa Monica's Daily Calendar



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Want to be on the A-List?

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Don't push the line — focus. Rather than letting others know that you're out of sorts, close your door. You'll feel much better once you finish a project or two. An offer from a family member comes none too soon. Tonight: Join your friends at the gym.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Creativity surges with a child or loved one. Reach out for others. In your opinion, finances could be a bit tight. Remain positive, and look at the glass as half full as opposed to half empty; you might be surprised by what happens. Tonight: Playtime.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Scratch being overly serious, and open up to possibilities. That doesn't mean you need to go hog-wild with spending. Understand what another feels rather than making a judgment about this person. Imagine walking in this person's shoes. Tonight: Chill out at home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Put your best foot forward and ask for more of what you need. Review a matter that is close to your heart. Remain upbeat when dealing with those in your life who might not be quite as "up" as you are. Don't linger on negative thinking. Tonight: Join friends.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Expenses get out of whack if you're not careful. Your instincts take you in a new direction. Follow-through counts when dealing with others. Do not be intimidated by another's seemingly austere appearance; this person wants what he or she wants. Tonight: Take a deep breath, then decide.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You're personality plus. Do more listening than talking. Friends and associates have many great ideas. Though you might want to work, you can't help but listen. Let good feelings flow between you and others. Make an important meeting. Tonight: The world is your oyster.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Step back and ascertain what is important concerning work and/or a key person in your life. Right now, step back and read between the lines. What one doesn't say might be as important as what he or she does say. Do a better job of listening. Tonight: Don't depend on anyone but you.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Think about your long-term goals. Though you might want to schedule a trip or enlist in a class, you might take on too much even for you to handle. A partner might feel insecure about what you're doing. Settle your priorities. Tonight: In the limelight.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Listen carefully to a boss who, in general, might be unusually severe. As much as you would like to lighten up those around you, you could succeed in a limited fashion. Carefully consider options that surround a financial investment. Tonight: Spend time with someone who is friendly.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Closely review a matter that involves work and/or an important relationship. You might not always come up with the right answer. Explore options that will force your mind to grow. A trip might be part of this scenario. Tonight: Reach out for someone.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Deal with another on a one-on-one level. Though someone could test your limits, you come up with great solutions. Focus on your ability to get the job done. Brainstorm with a co-worker or an associate about being more efficient. Tonight: Let another have his or her way.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Listen to others who seek you out. You find that someone who is close to you could be a bit off. Dig in to your ingenuity to find a way to cheer someone up. If you cheer up those around you, you'll add to your energy and happiness. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



QUOTE of the DAY

"Perhaps there is no life after death ...
there's just Los Angeles."

— Rich Anderson

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LOCAL



Historic district report to be released next week

DISTRICT, from page 1

nor Mr. Poirier have proven themselves reliable in this regard," she said.

The ballot initiative was prompted not only by Poirier's frustration and other homeowners who have recently gone before the landmark's commission, but also because the city is considering creating "historical districts" throughout the city.

The city is currently updating its historical structure inventory list. A report completed by a city-hired historic preservation consulting firm — West Los Angeles-based Historic Resources Group — will be released to the public on April 2. The report may suggest that some areas north of Montana Avenue and on 18th Street should be designated as historic districts.

Last month, about 200 homeowners gathered at

"It doesn't make sense that they have more rights over your house than you do."

— GREG POIRIER
Homeowner

Franklin Elementary School to discuss the possible changes to their neighborhood. Several homes in various neighborhoods throughout the city now feature lawn signs that read, "Say no to historic districts."

The last time an inventory was taken was in the late 1980s, according to Liz Bar-El, a city planner and the liaison to the landmarks commission. She also said it's not uncommon for a city to update its inventory every 20 years.

Bar-El has said in the past that historic districts are not generally designated if there no support for them. There will be many community meetings to gauge the public's support after the study is made public.

There are two historic districts in Santa Monica currently — the Third Street neighborhood, which extends from Beach Street to Hill Street and the Bay Street cluster, which consists of four properties on Bay Street.

The next in line to be studied for historic designation could be Ocean Park, although that has not yet been determined.

Name change would affect hundreds of area residents

OCEAN, from page 1

Avenue past Hollister Avenue the street name suddenly changes to Barnard Way.

City staff believes that it may be less confusing for residents and visitors if the entire street from Pico Boulevard to the southern city limit had the same name, Barnard Way.

The name change would affect nine apartment buildings, one single-family home and the Bayside Motel.

The city council in 1966 honored for-

mer mayor Benjamin Barnard by renaming "The Speedway" and a portion of Ocean Avenue to Barnard Way. Within a couple of months, the council changed its decision and the Ocean Avenue portion was reinstated. Only that street formerly known as "The Speedway" retains the name of Barnard Way.

The issue came up nearly a year ago when the council approved the renaming of what is now Ocean Way, Ocean Front Walk and Pacific Terrace, in an attempt to eliminate confusion and duplication with similarly named streets. The council asked staff to investigate renaming Ocean Avenue south of Pico Boulevard and the access road to the Pacific Coast Highway.

The proposal before the council tonight includes naming the access road to the PCH, which is only known as "former route 187."

Route 187 began at the PCH in 1933 and traveled across southern California to the Lucerne and Morongo Valleys in the Mojave Desert. As freeways and interstates were built, the route was shortened. In 1994, the state eliminated the portion of route 187 in Santa Monica, including the unnamed access road between the PCH and Ocean Avenue. There are no addresses on the road so no private properties are affected.

If the council agrees to change Ocean Avenue to Barnard Way, city staff would meet with affected property owners and residents. A public hearing would then be scheduled to discuss the impacts, as well as to solicit input on the naming of the access road to the PCH.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

This address may soon read 2101 Barnard Way if the city council decides to change the street name.

LETTERS

Flip side of the farmer's market debate

(This letter is in response to Monday's letter from Theodore Lonsway)

Editor:

I am told I have been cut to the quick, but for the life of me I cannot find the wound.

Re: Omelets and Sundays:

Which came first the chicken or the dead horse?

My letter was not mean spirited, it was a response in real time to an issue which affects more people than a few businesses.

FACT: The Main Street Business Association as a whole does not support the views held by either of the complainers.

Apparently the McCool ownership was amused ... PERFECT!

A little humor is good for you. However in pointing out the "inaccuracies" of my argument, not one of them was refuted in fact. Nor was the position of the Main Street Merchants' body represented.

As to my wish to eat on Main Street on a Sunday morning for less than \$9 an omelet: The owners of McCool's and Lula's are known to be among the finer restaurateurs and providers to the Westside, but their "let them eat cake," cavalier attitude (not to mention slurring of Denny's) is astounding, unless of course one picks up on the "trickle down" slap in the face to those who are without major disposable income.

A Denny's nearer to Main would demonstrate the realities of the market far better than any argument this poor citizen could provide. And that is the point.

If a business is not prepared to make adjustments in relation to the times, then the public should not be asked to participate in a bailout of that business.

(Query: Jake and Annie's became McCool's in response to NO market considerations?)

As to parking: ... (here I know I press a Buzzword Button), ... In a resurrected neighborhood, snatched like Lazarus from the dead, you should be so lucky to have a parking problem.

It means your zone is successful. Competition for goods services and even parking begins not at the doorstep of the business in question, rather at the doorsteps of the public.

Anyway... I am certain you will receive more than this poor epistle, and I am sure that the debate will be hard nosed and vicious. This is true of all local politic issues. The arguments are mean and personal precisely because so little is at stake.

Thanks again for the forum.

Mel Bloch
Santa Monica

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FBI tests confirm drug lord killed in shootout

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The FBI confirmed on Monday that Ramon Arellano Felix, the reputed leader of one of Mexico's most violent and powerful drug cartels, died in a shootout last month.

The FBI compared blood taken from Arellano Felix's jailed brother, Francisco, with DNA evidence collected from the shootout at the Mexican coast

resort of Mazatlan on Feb. 10.

The analysis, conducted at a lab in Washington, D.C., corroborates that the dead man was Ramon Arellano Felix, the FBI said in a news release.

Mexican authorities said they had reached the same conclusion earlier this month by comparing the DNA evidence from the scene with blood taken from another Arellano Felix brother, Benjamin, who was captured March 9 in

a raid on a house in Puebla, east of Mexico City.

U.S. and Mexican officials say Benjamin and Ramon Arellano Felix ran a Tijuana-based drug ring that smuggled tons of cocaine and marijuana into the United States and killed hundreds of people over the past 15 years.

The FBI posted the 37-year-old Ramon Arellano Felix, accused of being the gang's enforcer, on its 10 most-want-

ed list in September 1997. A 1999 DEA report attributed about 300 murders in Mexico and the United States to the gang.

U.S. and Mexican police agencies had determined that Arellano Felix came to Mazatlan on Feb. 5 with a plan to kill a rival during Carnival celebrations. Police say his death resulted from a chance encounter with traffic police who saw guns in the car he was driving.

Homeless looking for spots to sleep after weekend sweep

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — About 175 homeless squatters were looking Monday for new places to sleep after being swept from a downtown Las Vegas encampment and moved again when they set up tents in a nearby vacant lot.

"They're making us like flies and shooing us from place to place," a homeless Robert Courtney told the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Leaders of the local American Civil Liberties Union chapter were issued trespassing summonses while trying to defend the homeless people during the pre-dawn Sunday sweep ordered by Mayor Oscar Goodman.

A federal judge on Friday turned down an ACLU request for an injunction to stop the sweep.

The move, during a rare Las Vegas rain, was peaceful. Las Vegas police and neighborhood services officers urged campers to seek help at nearby shelters — the Salvation Army, Shade Tree for women, and MASH Village.

However, the service providers reported they had few beds available.

Goodman insisted Sunday that anyone who wanted a bed or shelter could find it.

"The number of beds is not going to be an excuse," he

told the Review-Journal. "If they want a bed, I'll make sure they have it."

City officials and police said Sunday that people who remained on the street refused shelter. They counted 10 beds available for men and 41 beds for women.

"They're making us like flies and shooing us from place to place."

— ROBERT COURTNEY
Homeless

But at the Salvation Army, administrators reported they were had no space available. They said they turned away about 130 men.

MASH Village, a shelter for homeless families, said it has been full for months. It offered passes letting the newly displaced homeless go to the front of agency service lines on Monday.

The Las Vegas Rescue Mission reported it had five beds available.

"It's like a shell game that will never stop until people

acknowledge the problem," said Allen Lichtenstein, general counsel for the Las Vegas-based ACLU of Nevada.

"The problem is there's no shelter space," Lichtenstein said, "and (city officials) just keep moving things around trying to hide the problem instead of dealing with it."

In 1999, UNLV researchers reported that 6,700 homeless people lived in the Las Vegas area, but that only 1,212 emergency shelter spaces were available.

Since then, shelter space has diminished. One shelter closed for construction but is expected to open with 900 beds in July. Others cut services because of budget constraints.

Sheriff Jerry Keller has estimated the number of homeless in the area at 8,000. Homeless service providers put the number at 12,000.

Last June, officials bulldozed another homeless tent city along the Union Pacific railroad tracks, about a half-mile from the sidewalk site swept on Sunday. Both times, officials cited unsanitary conditions and public health risks.

"If they'd left everyone at (the railroad-side) tent city," said homeless camper Carl Steiner, 25, "they wouldn't have all of us camping on the street or the sidewalks."

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- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

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BUSINESS



Shell Oil to acquire Pennzoil-Quaker State

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — Shell Oil said Monday it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Pennzoil-Quaker State Co., the nation's biggest producer of motor oil, for \$1.8 billion in cash.

The deal calls for Shell, a unit of Royal Dutch Petroleum Co., to pay \$22 a share in cash and assume \$1.1 billion of debt.

Shell said the deal has already been approved by Houston-based Pennzoil-Quaker's board of directors, and is expected to be completed during second half of 2002. It is still subject to regulatory and shareholder approval.

"Pennzoil-Quaker State will benefit significantly from being part of an enterprise with the geographic scope, operational scale, breadth of products and serv-

ices, and financial resources necessary to compete in a consolidating industry," said the company's chief executive officer, Jim Postl.

Pennzoil-Quaker State owns the nation's biggest group of oil-change stores, Jiffy Lube, which has 2,150 locations across the United States.

Shell Oil, also based in Houston, explores, produces and markets oil, natural gas and chemicals. It has reserves of 1.2 billion barrels of oil and 1.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Its parent company, Royal Dutch/Shell Group, is the third biggest petroleum company in the world behind Exxon Mobil and BP.

Royal Dutch/Shell Group managing director Paul Skinner said the deal will make Shell a leader in the U.S. and global lubricants market.

Gateway says Microsoft contracts hurt consumer

BY D. IAN HOPPER
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON — Microsoft keeps a stranglehold on computer makers by not letting consumers buy computers without also paying for Microsoft's Windows operating system, a manufacturer testified Monday.

Gateway executive Anthony Fama, a witness for the nine states asking for strong penalties against Microsoft for antitrust violations, said new Microsoft contracts keep computer makers from giving customers a choice of operating systems.

Microsoft says the provision helps fight piracy of Windows, Fama said. "This rationale, however, ignores the possibility that customers may have legitimate licenses for an operating system that they obtained from other sources."

Fama said Microsoft's uniform license, which applies to all major computer makers, would force either Gateway or its customers to pay the Windows royalty, even if the customer already has a copy of Windows or wants to use a different operating system.

The nine states want U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly to force Microsoft to create a stripped-down version of its flagship Windows software that could incorporate competitors' features. The states also want Microsoft to divulge the blueprints for its Internet Explorer browser.

The federal government and nine other states settled their antitrust case against Microsoft last year with lesser penalties.

The original judge in the case, Thomas Penfield Jackson, ordered Microsoft broken into two companies after concluding it illegally stifled its competitors. An appeals court reversed the penalty, but not the conviction, and appointed Kollar-Kotelly to determine a new punishment.

Earlier Monday, Michael Tiemann of Red Hat, distributor of the competing Linux operating system, accused Microsoft of taking ownership of open technology standards in an attempt to frustrate other companies.

Tiemann said Microsoft adds extensions to critical communications methods that computers use to transmit security

information, print, and perform other tasks. Those extensions are proprietary to Microsoft, he said, and despite recent actions Microsoft has not been forthcoming in releasing details of those changes.

"Some disclosure does not mean complete disclosure or substantial disclosure," Tiemann said.

"Pardon the pun, but you are asking me to compare apples and oranges."

— MICHAEL TEIMANN
Red Hat distributors

Linux is based on a "open-source" model in which software developers create programs through collaboration and share their software blueprints. Microsoft, like most software firms, jealously guards its technical data.

Tiemann said Red Hat would benefit from a penalty proposed by the states that would force Microsoft to offer its dominant Office productivity software to other companies so that it could be translated for use on competing operating systems.

Tiemann said that, to his embarrassment, some Red Hat employees have to use Windows to run Microsoft's Office programs in order to share documents with other firms.

Microsoft lawyer Stephanie Wheeler argued that Red Hat, which has only 1 percent of the PC market, should put more money and effort into developing applications for its own operating system.

Wheeler noted that Apple has a version of Office for its computers, and is still dwarfed by Microsoft in the number of compatible applications.

"Pardon the pun, but you are asking me to compare apples and oranges," Tiemann replied.

Apple uses its own computers, Tiemann noted, rather than the mainstream personal computer market where Microsoft and Red Hat compete.

"I HATE HIDDEN COSTS!" —DR. ROSS SOMERS, OPTOMETRIST, (UCLA ALUMNI)

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NATIONAL

On the trail of a secure but not secret shadow government

BY CALVIN WOODWARD

Associated Press Writer

A SECURE UNDISCLOSED LOCATION

There are secrets here in the countryside outside Washington, but they are not well kept. In this verdant land, streams run clear, fish leap and secrets leak.

At undisclosed locations far enough from the capital to survive a nuclear blast, a hidden federal government is at work, scores of officials swallowed up by the hills.

They toil in rocky warrens, micro-Washingtons stuffed into tunnels, with communication links, emergency food rations and stale air.

The government won't say where they are.

The problem is, lots of other people are sure they know.

The government kept a tight lid on the locations of its bombproof emergency centers outside the capital until the Cold War ended and everyone relaxed. Now facing terrorist threats, Washington is trying to take these secrets back.

But these installations have neighbors over the barbed-wire fence. Satellite pictures are available. And how hush-hush can anything be when motormouths talk about it online?

"It's simply a matter of connecting the dots," said Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists.

An unofficial tour around one such site was provided by a civil servant who works in an unrelated part of the government. He lives hereabouts and is well-connected to hamlets in the vicinity.

He will be known as Deep Trout.

"It's an underground bunker," he says, pointing to a hilltop on a horizon etched by radio towers. "Everyone knows that. It's like trying to put the genie back in the bottle."

On Thanksgiving, he took his kids up a nearby hill that also has communications equipment. Previous outings caused no trouble. This time, military police confronted them in a hurry.

He asked one guard what was going on. "The guy said, 'If I tell you I'll have to kill you.'"

"He was smiling," Deep Trout added.

People grew up here knowing they had a mysterious federal installation in their midst — the one up the slope where tunnels go straight into rock and seem never to come out.

"Half the country knows about it," says Bobbi, a homeowner whose yard borders the federal property down a winding lane.

If not half the country, then surely half the countryside.

"You hear more things than normal people up here," says Julie, pausing in the stockroom of her family's grocery store.

But she's not too nosy when people come in from the mountain. "I don't think that's fair that I ask them and put them in a predicament which they shouldn't be in. Their job's secret."

"It's an underground bunker. Everyone knows that. It's like trying to put the genie back in the bottle."

— STEVEN AFTERGOOD

Federation of American Scientists

People joke they expect to run into Vice President Dick Cheney, often said to be hunkered down in secure undisclosed locations after Sept. 11.

Residents who were interviewed gave their full names and other particulars. Those details, like Deep Trout's identity, are not being reported, to avoid giving away the location.

The White House says up to 150 officials from every Cabinet agency work in two sites, staying on the compounds 24 hours a day until they rotate out and others replace them, under a plan tailored to the terrorist threat.

Their basic needs are met. In Deep Trout's territory, there is no call and perhaps no opportunity to venture to the local restaurant for the rustic specialty, hog maw.

A citizen who has frequently delivered supplies inside said the facilities are Spartan, with heavy desks the color of battleships and the air not country fresh. "Typical '50s decor," the supplier said.

New furniture is being rushed in. The tunnel leading to the multistory underground offices has a massive door, then another, and the two are never opened at the same time, the supplier said.

The second site that national security experts believe is also home to the hidden government is several hours away.

It's a hive of activity at the crest of a hill. A helicopter roars from the pad, traffic flows past the gate. An officer questions two people taking pictures by the road, checks their identification and encourages them to move on.

Among the secure federal facilities arcing around Washington, two have been documented as primary backups for the Pentagon and a cross-section of federal agencies. They can house large numbers of officials indefinitely; declassified plans for one of them, from 1951, called for office space for 5,400 people.

"By refusing to identify the locations, the government may actually be creating a mystique around the facilities and encouraging speculation, curiosity," Aftergood said.

There was once plenty of mystique surrounding an elaborate bunker secretly built for members of Congress under the Greenbrier resort in West Virginia.

After the Cold War, when the risk of a nuclear attack eased, it came to be seen as a relic and its functions were detailed in the press. Now the public can tour it.

In Deep Trout country, Jill steps out of the fragrance of her quilt, birdhouse and curio store to look out on the secret mountain. "It was a little scary being here when things went down in September," she said.

On Sept. 11, the skies thickened with fighter jets and helicopters, and that has happened many times since. Roads were blocked and parents could not immediately reach their kids at school.

The crisis in America's stricken cities had come to the quiet hills.

After that, everyone was jumpy.

When teen-age hikers and a teacher on a school field trip drifted off their trail in October and too close to the federal site, camouflaged men with guns stopped them.

Another teacher, watching from a distance, called police to say somebody was holding his students at gunpoint. Everything was sorted out.

Then there was the "white van" incident.

"That was the day they spotted the Arabs," said Bobbi. "We were out of here in five minutes."

Men in a van had raised suspicions, and authorities told residents to watch for danger. It was apparently a misunderstanding of some sort and no more was said about it.

"We never find out," Jill said. "We never know the results."

FBI to let relatives of Flight 93 victims hear recordings

BY JOHN CURRAN

Associated Press Writer

Relatives of the 40 passengers and crew killed aboard United Flight 93 will be allowed to listen to the recordings of what went on in the cockpit Sept. 11 when some passengers apparently rushed the hijackers, the FBI says.

The highly unusual decision was approved by FBI Director Robert Mueller, an FBI official speaking on condition of anonymity said Monday.

The jetliner crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside after some passengers apparently fought back with the cry, "Let's roll!"

The FBI official said that families of the crash victims will be allowed to listen to the audio recordings in a single, private session in Princeton, N.J., on April 18. The San Francisco Chronicle first reported the FBI's offer over the weekend.

"I don't know what I'm going to hear, but I need to hear it," said Patrick Welsh, whose 49-year-old wife, Deborah, was the lead flight attendant on board.

"It's going to be a horrific thing to listen to. In some ways, it may appear almost masochistic, after what all of us have been through. But you're trying to find a truth,

trying to get some more information about the events."

He said he believes his wife died trying to keep the hijackers out of the cockpit. A United representative has told him she was stabbed, he said.

"I know she went down scratching and tearing and screaming," Welsh said. "She went down resisting, and it cost her her life."

The jet crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pa., after setting out from Newark, N.J., for San Francisco. It had turned mid-flight and apparently was headed toward Washington when it went down with four hijackers aboard.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates aviation accidents, has never allowed relatives to listen to cockpit tapes, spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz said. Under federal law, the safety board cannot release the tapes and can only give out transcripts during a public hearing or when a majority of factual reports on the crash are completed, Lopatkiewicz said.

Welsh lauded the government's decision, saying it balanced family members' right to know with privacy considerations.

"They did the correct thing. I think

they realized this is something they couldn't suppress, but didn't have to make into public knowledge," said Welsh, who was told counselors will be on hand at the event.

Armand Talignani, 77, of New York City, who lost his brother, John, on the

flight, said he has no interest in hearing the recordings.

"It's all over with, they ought to leave it alone," he said. "Will it make someone feel better to hear some Arab guy talking? We've already been through the pain and sorrow. Why prolong it? For what?"

'Let's Roll' memorialized on select U.S. airplanes

By The Associated Press

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. —

As Flight 93 widow Lisa Beamer watched, the Air National Guard on Monday unveiled a star-spangled nose decal emblazoned with Todd Beamer's famous fighting words, "Let's roll," on an F-16 fighter jet.

"I'm honored that you would use Todd's words as a rallying cry for our war against terrorism," Beamer's widow said. "When I hear those words, I think of the grit and determination Todd and his fellow passengers had."

The decal has already been applied to select aircraft throughout the Air Force and Air National Guard.

Todd Beamer, 32, telephoned from the hijacked United flight Sept. 11 and said "Let's roll!" before he and other passengers apparently confronted the terrorists. The plane crashed into the Pennsylvania countryside, killing all 44 people on board.

"He meant 'Let's roll' in a specific instance, but he kind of kick-started our whole mission in the war on terrorism," said Staff Sgt. James Green, crew chief for the aircraft.

NATIONAL



Playboy seeking 'Women of Enron' for pictorial

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Playboy is hoping to entice some of the women who lost their shirts in the Enron scandal to reveal a little bit more.

The magazine is putting together a "Women of Enron" pictorial and is inviting employees past and present to send snapshots of themselves in bikinis if they wish to pose.

"This is an opportunity for them to do something fun in the midst of the turmoil that's going on in their lives. These are women who are out of a job," Playboy spokeswoman Elizabeth Norris said. "We

are offering what you could view as a part-time job, or what might turn into a new career."

Plenty of women at the heart of scandals have appeared on Playboy's pages, including televangelist mistress Jessica Hahn.

"That's rich," said Deborah DeForge, co-chairwoman of the Severed Enron Employees Coalition. "We've had so much depressing news or stressful news, and then to all of a sudden come up with something like that, it's kind of cute."

DeForge said she would not pose, but added: "I'm sure there are some in the younger set who would be perfect."

John Wayne Bobbitt marries again on birthday

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — John Wayne Bobbitt, who made national headlines after his then-wife Lorena Bobbitt was charged with cutting off his penis in 1993, was remarried on his 35th birthday.

Bobbitt married Joanna Ferrell, 31, during a 30-minute ceremony at the Little Church of the West on the Las Vegas Strip, said chapel owner Greg Smith. Fewer than 10 guests attended the noon ceremony Saturday.

The Clark County Marriage License Bureau reported the couple obtained a license Saturday.

The Rev. Robb Hickey, of the Church of Christ in Las Vegas, officiated. Hickey

said it was routine service and added that he intended to file the marriage certificate Monday with the Clark County Recorder.

Bobbitt was thrust into the national spotlight in 1993 when his wife was charged with cutting off his penis while he slept. Lorena Bobbitt argued she had been the victim of an abusive husband. She was found innocent by reason of insanity.

After successful surgery to reattach his penis, Bobbitt made appearances on the "Howard Stern Show" and has made a number of adult films.

In 1997, Bobbitt moved to Nevada, where he has worked in a brothel and as a bartender and tow truck operator.

Firefighters mop up \$5 million New Mexico blaze

BY PETE HERRERA

Associated Press Writer

ALTO, N.M. — Sandy Gilmore kicked through the charred remains Monday of what was once her mobile home, reduced by a mountain fire to steel girders on a cinderblock foundation.

"All the clothes are gone, but the hangers are lined up on the ground," said Gilmore, 46, sorting through the blackened debris that was her closet.

Her Yorkie-mix dog, Poochie, has been missing since Saturday when the blaze hopped through Gilmore's subdivision in the Sacramento Mountains, forcing the evacuation of 1,300 people and destroying 28 homes.

No one was injured, but there was little else for Gilmore and her neighbors to cheer about when they returned home Monday. Smoke still curled from a hot spot about 500 yards away from the end of Gilmore's cul de sac.

The initial damage estimate by the Lincoln County assessor's office was \$5.2 million.

Gov. Gary Johnson said the south-central New Mexico blaze, which charred about 800 acres, started when a resident dumped fireplace ash in a back yard in the mistaken belief the ashes were cold. Wind gusting to almost 60 mph churned the flames.

The blaze was 60 percent contained Monday as firefighters continued to mop

up, helped along by low temperatures and increased humidity. But another fire burned on more than 10,000 acres in the nearby mountains of the Mescalero Apache Reservation. The area was declared a state disaster.

"We got here and there was ash on our house. The smoke detectors were going crazy."

— NINA PEDRONI
Resident

Nina Pedroni and her husband, Steve, were watching from a ridge Saturday as the blaze raced closer to their mobile home. The flames stopped about 50 feet short of their home.

"We got here and there was ash on our house," she said. "The smoke detectors were going crazy."

With conditions dry and snowpack light, New Mexico's fire season is two to four weeks early. In 2000, the state reported 2,466 fires covering 519,177 acres. Last year, 1,649 fires burned 38,890 acres. From Jan. 1 through March 20 this year, 61 fires burned 2,279 acres.

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INTERNATIONAL

A-10 bomber jets move into Afghanistan

BY PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press Writer

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The U.S. military bolstered its firepower in eastern Afghanistan even as a dispute among its Afghan allies threatened Monday to complicate the campaign against the Taliban and al-Qaida.

The military has brought a small number of A-10 Thunderbolt II attack jets to this base to bolster America's capability to provide close air support for combat operations against al-Qaida and the Taliban, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The A-10s, armed with a 30 millimeter Gatling guns as well as AGM-65 Maverick and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, have already been used in operations in Afghanistan, including the just-concluded Operation Anaconda.

A dispute among America's Afghan allies continued to build about 40 miles east of the Operation Anaconda battle area. Afghan officials said U.S. Special Forces had not handed over two suspects who allegedly sought refuge at their base after an ambush of the car of the regional security chief in which one bodyguard and two others were killed.

The incident threatens to drive a wedge between Afghan groups allied with the United States in the fight against Taliban and al-Qaida and promote further instability in the Khost area.

The campaign against Taliban and al-Qaida quickened, however, as the A-10s took up positions at Bagram, making them available more quickly in case al-Qaida and Taliban targets are spotted. The aircraft had been positioned outside of Afghanistan.

"The A-10s that are coming in here give us an additional air platform," said Maj. Gen. Frank Hagenbeck. "They bring close air support and a little bit more coordinates than our helicopters can cover on any given mission."

At least four of the jets, known among pilots as "Warthogs," could be seen at Bagram air base, located north of Kabul.

A-10s can survive direct hits from armor-piercing and high-explosive pro-

jectiles. The twin-engine jet aircraft can be used against ground targets like tanks and other armored vehicles, as well as caves and fortified positions.

An A-10 jet can fly low and slow, allowing them to get in and out of target areas in the valleys and mountains of eastern Afghanistan. The Gatling gun mounted on each plane can fire 3,900 rounds a minute.

Much of the close air support in this month's Operation Anaconda was provided by Army Apache and Marine Cobra helicopters. But several of the helicopters suffered serious damage from ground fire, against which the A-10s are better protected.

U.S. and allied troops have been clearing the area of Paktia province where Operation Anaconda took place. Hilferty said several large caches of weapons and ammunition abandoned by al-Qaida and Taliban forces during Operation Anaconda have been located and destroyed within the last day.

In Khost, a spokesman for the local intelligence service, Chinar Gul, said Afghan authorities were talking with the Americans about handing over the two suspects after the Sunday shooting incident.

The security chief of Khost province, Sur Gul, escaped uninjured in the attack, but his bodyguard was killed and two people were injured.

Khost, located in eastern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border, is a volatile city, bristling with arms and controlled by warlords. Most of the city is under the control of U.S.-backed warlord Bacha Khan Zardran, but within Zardran's group there are rival factions.

Gunmen attacked U.S. and Afghan troops in an attack last Tuesday in Khost, touching off a firefight that wounded one American soldier.

Khost intelligence chief Hazratuddin said the suspects were loyal to Sardar, who is Bacha Khan Zardran's nephew, and Sardar is "a strong commander of the Americans."

Hazratuddin warned that the longer it takes to hand over the killers the more unstable the situation becomes.

There was no comment from U.S. officials in the area.



Adam Butler/Associated Press

Soldiers from the 626 Charlie Medical company, part of the 101st Airborne Division, evacuate a "wounded" soldier from a Black Hawk Helicopter during a training session at the military airbase, Kandahar, Afghanistan on Monday.

INTERNATIONAL



Palestinians, Israelis considering U.S. truce proposals

BY MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Palestinian and Israeli leaders separately pondered a U.S. truce proposal Monday, while the United States pressed a reluctant Israel to let Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat attend this week's Arab summit in Beirut regardless of whether a cease-fire is reached.

The Israelis and Palestinians held separate consultations late Monday night, with U.S. officials pressing for quick answers about their ideas to bridge gaps over implementing a truce plan negotiated last June by CIA Director George Tenet.

After consulting with Arafat, Palestinians said they would meet with U.S. officials Tuesday morning to discuss the U.S. bridging proposals, including asking for some changes.

U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni offered the ideas after several meetings between security commanders from both sides did not produce a truce accord. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon convened senior ministers to discuss the proposals late Monday.

U.S. officials said Zinni was trying to arrange a three-way meeting for Tuesday.

Meanwhile, time was running out for an Israeli decision about whether Arafat would travel to the Beirut summit, which begins Wednesday.

The Palestinian leadership said Arafat's participation is a "Palestinian right and the Palestinian leadership rejects any Israeli blackmail."

Jibril Rajoub, a senior Palestinian security official, claimed that Arafat's participation in the summit was "100 percent assured."

Sharon aide Raanan Gissin told The Associated Press that the decision would be made Tuesday or possibly Wednesday morning.

Sharon has insisted that a cease-fire be in place before Arafat leaves the Palestinian areas. Israel controls entry and exit.

Arafat told ABC's "World News Tonight" he was trying to stop the terrorist attacks.

"I am making a hundred percent effort," he said. "But no one can get a hundred percent results except God..."

Arafat also said Palestinians were the victims of terrorism.

"We are the only people now who are under occupation, can you understand what's the meaning of that? ... The real terrorism is this occupation."

President Bush has called on Sharon to consider allowing Arafat to attend.

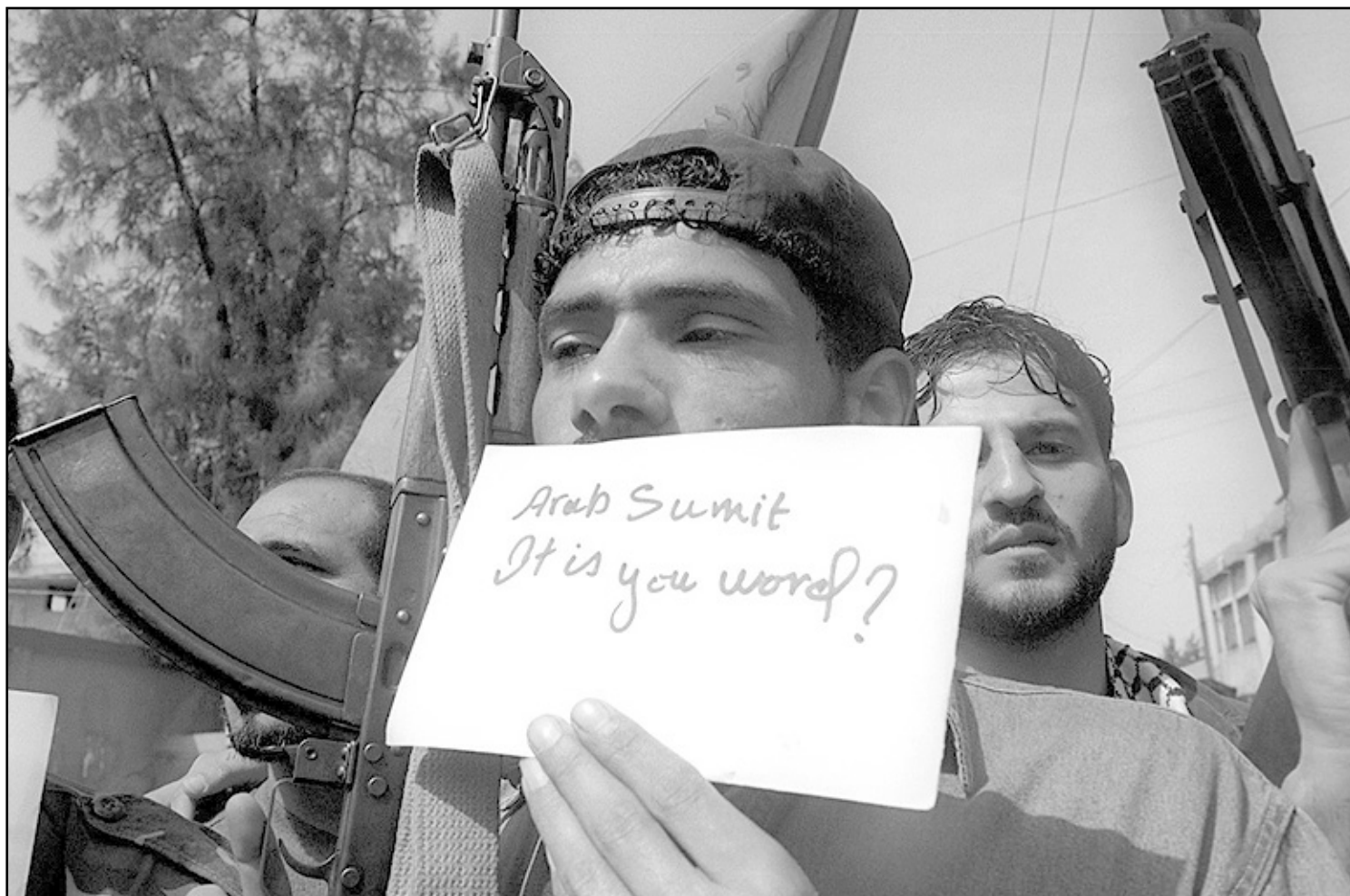
At the United Nations, spokesman Fred Eckhard said Secretary-General Kofi Annan was seeking Arafat's attendance because the meeting is "expected to endorse an important peace proposal."

For three months, Israeli tanks confined Arafat to his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah; Israel eased the restrictions two weeks ago, allowing him to travel freely in the Palestinian areas, but he has still not left the Ramallah area.

The Palestinian issue is to be a focus of the two-day Arab League summit, where Saudi Arabia is to present a proposal for Mideast peace.

Arab League chief Amr Moussa said the summit also would address the occupation of Arab land, threats against an unspecified Arab country — a reference to U.S. threats of military action against Iraq, and threats to Islamic culture.

According to a text sent to the



Mohammed Zatari/Associated Press

Two armed Palestinians take part in a demonstration on Monday, denouncing the possibility of resettling Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and other countries. The demonstration comes two days before the Arab summit in Beirut in which Saudi Arabia will present a peace initiative that aims to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Palestinians, the peace proposal calls for an end to the Israel-Arab conflict in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from lands it captured in the 1967 war — the West Bank, Gaza Strip, east Jerusalem, Golan Heights and a tiny parcel of disputed land on the Lebanon border.

Israel's government rejects a total withdrawal. There is also a hot dispute over the difficult issue of the nearly 4 million Palestinian war refugees and their descendants that is not resolved by the Saudi proposal.

Arab foreign ministers met Monday in Beirut under tight security and were said to be working on phrasing to address that issue.

Sharon presented his own peace plan with the Palestinians on Monday. He told members of his Likud party that he favors a three-stage process, starting with a cease-fire, then an open-ended partial agreement and finally talks on a peace accord. He did not give details.

Saudi officials said they would leave it up to the Palestinians to decide whether their initiative would be discussed at the summit if Arafat is not allowed to attend.

In Beirut, Palestinian Economics and Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said the Saudi proposal was a "good step to achieve peace in the region, if the Israelis accept it."

Arafat talked by telephone to Secretary of State Colin Powell, an Arafat aide said.

Gissin said Israel was ready to ease its demand that implementation of the cease-fire be spread over four weeks, while the Palestinians insist on two weeks. There has also been a dispute over what comes first — Israel ending its closures on Palestinian areas or the Palestinians cracking down on militants.

"We have no problem taking two weeks," said Gissin, "the question is the actual intention to implement it." He said that so far there has been "no stopping of suicide bombers," and that would make it

difficult to enforce a truce.

There has been a growing clamor from some Israeli Cabinet ministers to step up military pressure on the Palestinians should the truce effort fail.

But Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman Yarden Vatikay denied a report in The Washington Post that the Israeli military was preparing a large-scale offensive in Palestinian towns and refugee camps if the cease-fire talks break down. "There are no such preparations," he said.

In Gaza Monday, a Palestinian was

killed in an explosion in his house in a refugee camp, Palestinians said. It appeared that he was preparing a bomb. Earlier, a 19-year-old Palestinian was killed by Israeli gunfire in Rafah during an Israeli incursion. The Israeli military said soldiers were looking for tunnels used to smuggle arms in from Egypt.

In the West Bank, the body of a Palestinian man was found by a road. The army was checking whether the man was connected with a bomb explosion Sunday, which was thought to have been aimed at a passing Israeli bus.

Cronkite says restrictions hinder Afghan war reporting

BY KENJI HALL

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — The U.S. military's restrictions on journalists have prevented accurate reporting on the Afghan war, retired CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite said Monday.

Cronkite, who for decades was one of America's best-known faces as "CBS Evening News" anchorman, told students at Tokyo's Waseda University Americans don't know enough about the actions of their troops in combat.

"We have a duty to know what they're doing in our name," he said in a morning talk with about 40 students. "They are keeping the war correspondents at arm's length. It's a very serious gap in our democratic procedures."

U.S. reporters had more freedom to travel with troops and report on their operations during World War II than they have now, said Cronkite, who covered the war in Europe as a reporter for United Press and later helped shape public opinion about the Vietnam War as CBS

anchorman.

Cronkite, who retired in 1981, was in Japan to receive an honorary doctorate from the university, one of the country's most prestigious.

In his discussion with the students, Cronkite cited the world wars, the U.S. moon landing, and the development of birth control as major events of the 20th century.

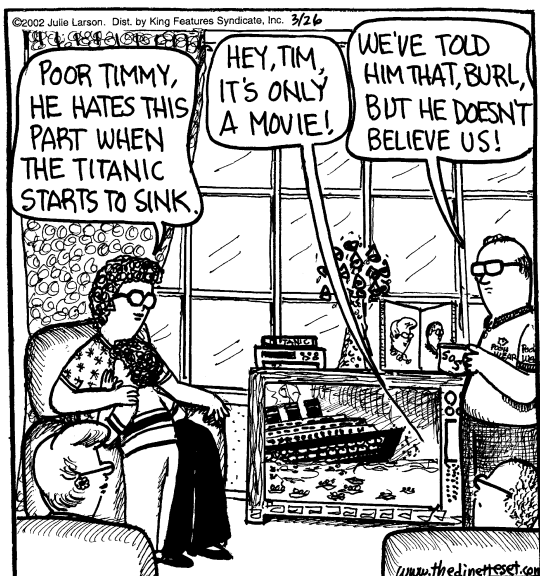
He recalled being in Japan during the 1960 street protests against Tokyo's signing of a U.S.-Japan security pact ahead of a visit by U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower.

Satellite links weren't available, and Cronkite had to find the CBS truck that would take his tapes to the airport for delivery home. But protesters jammed his path.

"I decided there was only one way to do it. I got down from my truck, I linked arms with the zengakuren (student protesters), and I went marching ... When I got to the truck at the other end I said, 'Well, thank you. I get off here.' And I climbed aboard the truck to the airport," he said, chuckling.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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 - 16 Greedy one
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 - 22 Towel word
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 - 25 It's about a foot
 - 28 Book of maps
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 - 32 Deodorant type
 - 34 Have debts
 - 35 Roof feature
 - 36 Sticky stuff
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Yesterday's answer

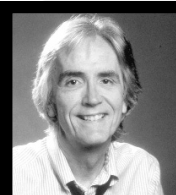
- 27 Nervous
- 29 Candidate of 2000
- 30 Oklahoma native
- 33 —
- 35 Cluckers
- 38 Auction action
- 39 Bar vessel

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3-26

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Incest is alive and well in Florida

Sheriff's deputies in Glades County, Fla., on the edge of Lake Okeechobee, arrested a 53-year-old farm laborer in February on a single count of incest after discovering that he and his sister had established a 25-year family unit that had produced nine kids and four grandchildren. The family lived in a rural work camp run by his employer and first drew the attention of deputies when a neighbor reported that the couple kept a casket in their living room, containing the remains of an infant son who had died 12 years earlier.

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*Apologies to Frank Miller

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BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Town to give away free home lots

By The Associated Press

CHELSEA, Iowa — If you call Chelsea home in the next 12 months, it can be yours for free.

In a blatant attempt at self-preservation, leaders in this small central Iowa town are giving away three ready-to-build lots to anyone willing to build a house here.

Mayor Roger Ochs said the homespun giveaway is the centerpiece of a strategy to revive a hard-luck community desperate for new blood, a broader tax base and a new lease on life.

"We just want to get some new people in here," Ochs said of the city-owned lots, which offer a sweeping view of the Iowa River Valley. "If it takes giving away something to do it, then the City Council felt it was worth it."

After watching one family after another move away, many after the Iowa River flooded the town in 1993, Ochs and the council decided it was time to do something to reverse the trend.

In 1997, the city council bought seven acres of land on a hill north of the city for \$25,000, subdivided it into 15 lots and paid to install sewer, water and electricity.

The nine lots remaining are selling at discounted prices, between \$7,500 and \$8,500, well below the cost paid to install utilities. They'll go for free as long as the new owner agrees to begin construction within six months and finish the home within a year.

Conch-blowing contest draws 40

By The Associated Press

KEY WEST, Fla. — Kathe Betz used her experience playing the trumpet to win the Key West Conch

Shell Blowing Contest.

The retired high school art teacher from Milwaukee outperformed 40 contestants Saturday to win the 40th annual competition that attracted conch shell blowers from 4 to 92.

"I spent high school playing a trumpet, in college I played a baritone and I still play in a British brass band up in Wisconsin," Betz said. "I think I have big lungs because I play all the time."

"I did all of the fancy things I could think of to do," she said, after playing a segment of the "William Tell Overture."

The contest, a facet of the island's Old Island Days heritage celebration, has deep roots in Key West's colorful history. Trophies were awarded in four categories, with judging based on the quality, novelty, duration and loudness of the sounds produced.

Native-born residents refer to themselves as conchs, conch chowder and conch fritters are traditional island dishes, and the two-story, gingerbread-bedecked wooden houses in the historic Old Town district are known as conch houses.

Town nearly forgets 150th birthday

By The Associated Press

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — Sometimes people can forget a birthday. But a whole town?

That's the case this year, when Cedar Falls turns 150.

Despite an ample supply of history buffs, the occasion didn't show up on anyone's radar screen until only a few weeks ago.

"I guess it kind of crept up on us," said Sid Morris, a member of the Cedar Falls Historical Society Board. "We thought we better get something together, and do it fast."

The board now has a committee formed and is plan-

ning a Labor Day celebration to mark the event.

Organizers say it will be a family event with entertainment, vendors and people dressed in clothing from the mid 1800's. The event is planned for Overman Park, named after the city's first mayor, John Milton Overman.

Cedar Falls was first recognized as a town in 1852.

Snake habitat may halt construction

By The Associated Press

NEW BERLIN, Wis. — Garter snakes are choking the city's plans to build a \$40 million civic center.

The city and the state Department of Natural Resources have been sparring over how to proceed since last summer, when state officials discovered garter snakes in an area where a road would be built to the center. The state classifies the species as threatened.

The state wants the city to alter the road plan to save the snake habitat, but New Berlin officials say the road extension is critical for developers to solidify deals with potential tenants.

After a meeting Friday, New Berlin Mayor Ted Wysocki agreed to submit a list of the city's objections and offered a plan to move the snakes about 600 yards to the Deer Creek Preserve.

"I just can't believe there isn't some element of common sense here," Wysocki said. "We would dedicate our work force and find every snake that's out there, seriously."

Gloria McCutcheon, the southeastern district chief of the Department of Natural Resources said her agency didn't discover the snakes until eight months after the city filed its road extension application.

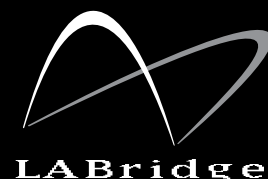
"It may not have been everyone's first solution, but it was a compromise," she said.



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