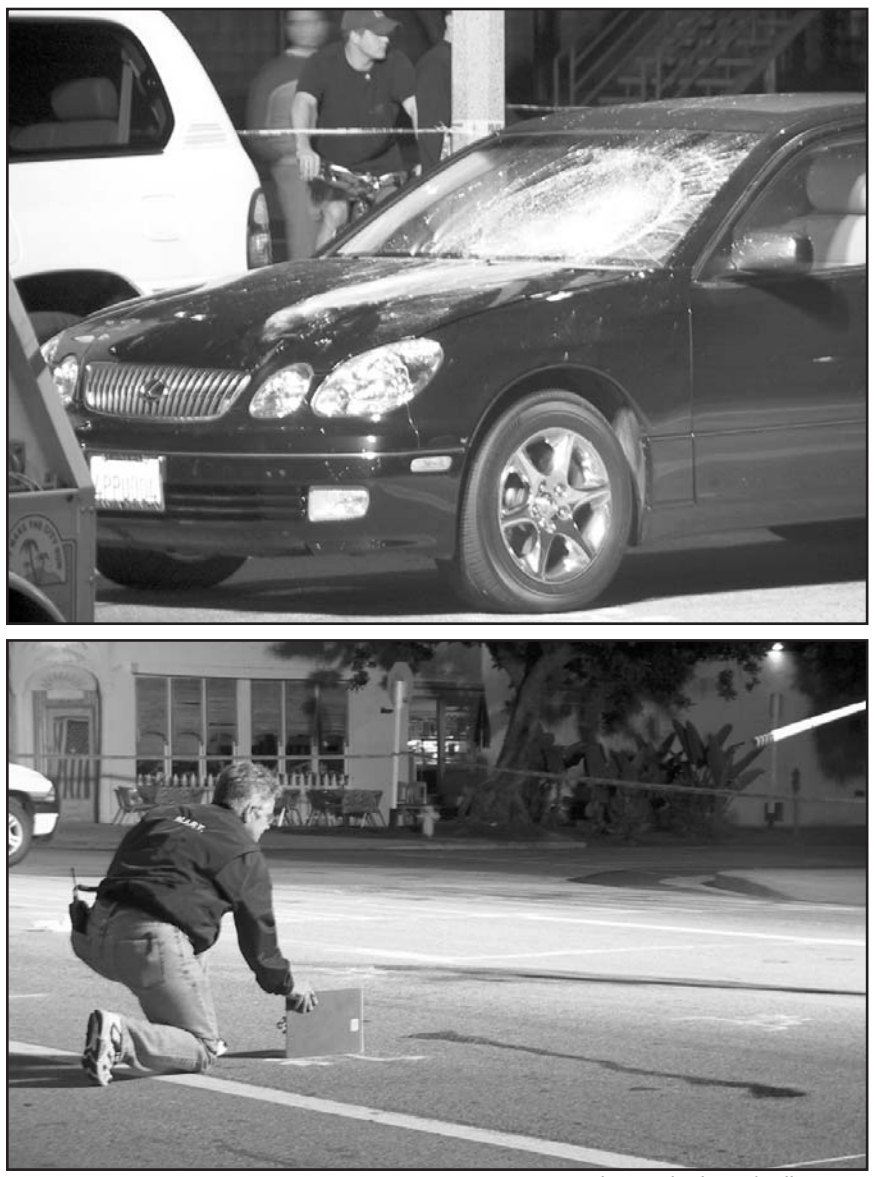
FREE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2001

Volume 1, Issue 6

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Top: An unidentified woman was struck by this car Saturday night while crossing Montana Avenue.
Bottom: Santa Monica Police Officer Claudia Brick investigates the scene.

Woman struck by car while crossing street

Residents say city needs to make Montana Avenue safer for pedestrians

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A woman was seriously injured Saturday night after she was struck by a car on Montana Avenue.

Witnesses said the woman was hit by a westbound car while she was crossing the busy street northbound in a crosswalk at its intersection with 10th Street. They estimated the woman was in her 30s while the driver, also a woman, was in her 60s.

Police in Santa Monica haven't released any names, or the hospital the victim was taken to, as well as what her condition is.

Chris Jenkins, a waiter at the Rosti II restaurant at that corner, said the pedestrian was hit on the side, which caused her to roll onto the hood of the car, smashing its windshield. She then flew about 15 feet before landing in the middle of the road. When Jenkins ran to the woman, he said she was unconscious and bleeding from the head. After about five minutes, she came to and tried to get up but Jenkins and other witnesses urged her to stay down until rescuers arrived.

"I was trying to talk to her," Jenkins said. "We just held her down because we thought maybe she had a broken neck."

The irony is that the crosswalk at 10th and Montana is scheduled to be repainted in the near future, area residents say. Sidewalk and street improvements are currently being done along the heavily traveled road. Montana Avenue is the first phase of a multi-million dollar pedestrian safety enhancement project the city is embarking on, said city councilman Kevin McKeown. Improving pedestrian safety is an issue that he used in his platform to get elected.

"This underscores the need," he said, adding his regret that the improvements hadn't been done sooner. "This was originally supposed to be done in September. It might have made a difference, but we don't know that, of course."

But area residents say the improvements won't be enough. Several people on the scene Saturday night recalled many episodes in which people attempting to cross Montana have been killed in recent years.

Judy Osterday, who lives just off the busy road said her son was hit while trying to cross the street eight years ago. She said traffic on Montana Avenue has worsened since then and City Hall needs to take a new look at safety there.

"They need more medians and more stop signs," she said. "This is a shopping and walking area. It's just ridiculous to have all these cars ... Something has to be done because I get so angry about how fast people drive around here.

"We need to do more," she added.

See ACCIDENT, page 3

Mistaken identity — a cabbie's nightmare

Cab wars taken to court

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Two cab company owners are set to quarrel in court early next month over who owns the rights to the name "express" to describe their outfits.

The cab wars began when Express Cab Co. came to Santa Monica earlier this summer. Its owner, Kostan Gasparyan, is being challenged by Express Taxi Co. owner Ayman Radwan, whose company has been here for almost a year. Radwan is bringing a sort of trademark infringement case for $5,000, claiming "express cab" is deceptively close to "express taxi" and is confusing customers.

Radwan is unlikely to take an express lane to victory. He has the burden of proving that Gasparyan's outfit has unfairly snapped up $5,000 in business that would have otherwise come to Express Taxi.

"He chose, in the whole country, to do this in Santa Monica," Radwan said, suggesting that Gasparyan set up shop near him intentionally. While it's not illegal to compete, the body of trademark law allows protection in some cases for a recognizable name used in commerce. The question here will be whether "Express Cab" is deceiving or confusing customers into believing that it is "Express Taxi."

Gasparyan has thus far had little to say in his defense. But he suggested his company's name is distinct from that of Radwan's.

"Mine is different. It is Express Cab," he said at a small claims court hearing last month.

It's unclear whether a lawsuit for $5,000 will get Radwan his desired goal: To have Gasparyan change the name of

See CABBIE, page 3

Local teen stabbed Saturday

By Daily Press Staff

A sophomore at Santa Monica High School was stabbed to death Saturday night at a party in Westwood, according to students who knew the girl.

West Los Angeles Police could not confirm the report by press time Sunday, but a spokesman did say officers are investigating a homicide in the area that occurred around midnight.

An argument reportedly broke out between the victim and another girl in the backyard of a house where about 15 students were partying, according to sources. One girl left the party and came back with her sister, who allegedly stabbed the victim, according to unconfirmed reports. It was a few minutes before anyone at the party realized that someone had been stabbed — until they saw blood.

Several students then drove the victim to a nearby hospital where she died, sources said.

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HOROSCOPE

Gemini, you can do no wrong today

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
✷✷✷✷ Bright ideas mark your day. Think about being in charge. Empathize with a boss. Don't be so quick to make a judgment. Talk about finances, especially if you want to refinance your home or restructure your budget. Good news surrounds loans. Tonight: Work late.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
✷✷✷✷✷ Make inquiries as soon as possible. The more feedback you get, the better the decision you will make. Worry less about gossip. Stick with facts. Handle a legal or professional issue. Find an expert in the field. Strength comes when you understand your limits. Tonight: Rent a movie.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
✷✷✷✷ You whip out suggestions one after another. Your swift mind and natural ingenuity easily overwhelm others. Give someone the space to put in his two cents! Surprises surround finances and a partnership. Opt for spontaneity. Tonight: Respond to another's loving gesture.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
✷✷✷✷ People seek you out this morning. In fact, you might have difficulty starting your work, as the phones ring overtime! Lighten up about another's request. You can always say "no" nicely. A meeting proves instrumental to your plans. Listen well. Tonight: Sort through invitations. Lucky you!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
✷✷✷✷ All work and no play could make the Lion a bit sad. Stop. Think of the long weekend ahead. You prove to be a dynamic source for ideas; others tap into your resourcefulness. Co-workers support an important change in your schedule or procedures. Tonight: Work as late as you need to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
✷✷✷✷✷ If you would like to extend your weekend or network more than usual, others will fill in for you. Return calls, as good news surrounds you. A loved one wants time. A flirtation could develop into a lot more if you let it. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
✷✷✷✷ Realize that, as much as you would like to, you cannot escape a domestic matter. Your feedback remains key, at least financially. Check in on an older friend or relative. Make sure he feels up to snuff. Sometimes others get depressed before the holidays. Tonight: Extra work comes home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
✷✷✷✷ Others respond to your inquiries and suggestions. You encourage dialogue when others hit a dead end. Use your lunch break to get some important Thanksgiving errands done, even if it is simply buying chocolate or cookies for the office. Tonight: Visit with a friend over dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
✷✷✷ You're great at checking out investments and are willing to jump on a good deal. Once more, you demonstrate unusual monetary insight as you review your budget. Don't be surprised if others often seek you out for feedback and advice, especially today! Tonight: Use your instincts with a purchase.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
✷✷✷✷ Reverse your path, if need be. Your strong direction helps those around you. Work as a team. Communicate with others. Put a plan into action. Use your mind, but don't hesitate to tap into your charisma, too! Tonight: Whatever the Goat wants.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
✷✷✷ Stand back. Use your intuition with those in charge. You're right on target and, as a result, you make the proper decisions. Presently your strength lies in working behind the scenes. Make calls. Clear out work. Tonight: Do whatever it is that you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
✷✷✷ Be sensitive to friends as well as associates. Discussions behind the scenes might not exactly be honest. Do a better job of listening and reading between the lines. Make calls and seek out experts. You come up with unusual ideas that impress many. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

WEATHER

Monday through Tuesday ... Areas of night through morning low clouds and fog...Otherwise mostly clear. Lows in the 50s. Highs in the upper 60s to mid 70s.

Wednesday through Thursday ... Mostly cloudy. Lows 50 to 60. Highs 65 to 75.

QUOTE of the DAY

"Life is what happens to you when you are busy making other plans."
— John Lennon

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL▫STATE

Driver has not been charged in accident

ACCIDENT, from page 1

Todd and Tatiana James feel the same way. They walk along Montana Avenue almost every day with their young child. Montana is unsafe to cross anywhere except at crosswalks which have traffic lights, they said. Todd James raised the issue of cell phone use on the road.

"We always joke about how bad traffic is on this street," he said. "It is all around atrocious driving on Montana. A lot of people are on their phones, there's a lot of people parallel parking and a lot of pedestrians. It's a main thoroughfare."

Another witness, who asked not to be identified, said he thinks the biggest problem with Montana is a lack of traffic lights to slow drivers down so they can see pedestrians. He also took the unusual view that vehicles, not pedestrians, should have the legal right of way.

"It's just a bad law. Pedestrians have the right of way but it's easier for a pedestrian to see a car and a pedestrian can react faster than a car," he said.

Montana Avenue was closed to traffic between seventh and 10th streets for more than two hours while police investigated the mishap and took measurements around the car involved, which remained where it had stopped. The driver, a Los Angeles resident, hasn't been charged.

As part of the improvements being made on city streets include installing curve extensions, which hopefully will narrow the street and deter cars from exceeding the speed limit; making the striping at crosswalks brighter and more noticeable, as well as building traffic islands at various locations, McKeown said.

Cab companies competitive in Yellow Pages

CABBIE, from page 1

his competing company. The pro tem judge, Norman Axe, postponed it because he is unfamiliar with the body of law covering deceptive business practices or trademark protection. He did suggest that Radwan would have to seek an injunction against Gasparyan's use of the name "Express Cab," with damages to follow.

"You need to seek the advice of someone in copyright law and then get an injunction and seek damages," he told Radwan. "There you will be in front of a court, in an arena that understands the law ... Does the name create enough of a deception? I don't know the answer to the question."

Radwan said he felt his "Express Taxi" name covered the use of the word "taxicab," and thus "cab." However, he says he can't afford an attorney to bring his case for him. "We are a mom and pop operation, we don't have $5,000," he said, adding he consulted with a lawyer who told him that's how much it would cost to be represented in a civil courtroom.

He vowed to bring witnesses at the next court date Dec. 5 to testify they are confused on the two cab companies. He said there are 10 other cabbies that will testify that they thought his operation was Express Cab, even though it is really Express Taxi.

"Here Ayman is working so hard to be different and provide good service and it's so hard to prove, it so intangible ... The judge is asking the impossible. Every move this guy makes is a potential for Ayman to have his business hurt."

WENDY RADWAN
Co- owner/Express Taxi Co.

Still, the judge will ask Radwan to prove that he's lost $5,000 in damages.

"I'm not in it for the money," said Radwan. "I want him to change the name."

Radwan and his wife, Wendy, don't feel they are reaching justice fairly. The couple, who own the company, say Ayman has spent the past year researching the market and developing his business plan. He selected the word "express" as a way to market that his cab service is different and distinct from other cab companies.

Wendy is worried that if someone has a bad experience with Gasparyan's cab service, they may confuse it with their company in the future.

"Here Ayman is working so hard to be different and provide good service and it's so hard to prove, it so intangible ... The judge is asking the impossible," she said. "Every move this guy makes is a potential for Ayman to have his business hurt."



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Express Taxi Co. owner Ayman Radwan is suing a competitor for allegedly stealing his company's identity.

What's more, Gasparyan charges $2.60 a mile and Ayman charges $2.20 a mile.

"They don't speak English and this could be a catastrophe because they charge high rates and if they (customers) have a bad experience at $2.60 a mile they will never, ever call express anything again," he said. "I cannot notice the damages right now. I can feel it though."

Express Taxi is listed in the phone book yellow pages, while Express Cab is not. But the concept of brand recognition may be perplexing in a town with over 20 cab companies listed. Almost all use "taxi" or "cab" in their names. But the word "express" is another matter.

There is a "United Express Taxi," and a "United Cab Co.," and even a "Taxi Taxi." Express Taxi Co., Radwan's outfit, got itself listed first in the pages by posting the name "A Express Taxi," as well as "A Taxi" and "Express Taxi Service." There is no listing for "Express Cab," or a variation of it.

Weak demand, low oil costs push down gas prices nearly 5 cents

By the Associated Press

CAMARILLO, Calif. — The price of gasoline fell 4.5 cents in the past two weeks because of weak demand and the plunging cost of crude oil, industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday.

Some regions of the country are seeing buck-a-gallon gas for the first time in months, Lundberg said. The lowest price in the nation Friday for a gallon of regular grade was 97 cents in Atlanta, and the highest was $1.82 in Honolulu.

The average retail price of gasoline, including all grades and taxes, was about $1.23 per gallon on Friday, according to the two-week Lundberg Survey of nearly 8,000 stations nationwide.

The price of gasoline has fallen 32.2 cents since Sept. 7, shortly before the terrorist attacks that further slowed the nation's economy. Prices are the lowest for this time of year since 1998 and show no sign of rising through the end of the year, Lundberg said.

"As crude oil is down about a nickel per gallon equivalent since Nov. 2 so is the price of gasoline."

TRILBY LUNDBERG
Industry analyst

The national weighted average price of gasoline, including taxes, at self-service pumps Friday was about $1.20 for regular unleaded, $1.30 for midgrade and $1.39 for premium.

Demand is typically weak during early November, and uncertainty about the economy has further depressed the nation's thirst for gasoline, jet fuel and other oil products, Lundberg said. But the ongoing drop in crude oil prices is the main reason pump prices continue to slide, she said.

"As crude oil is down about a nickel per gallon equivalent since Nov. 2 so is the price of gasoline," Lundberg said.

December crude oil futures finished Friday at $18.03 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed Wednesday to cut output beginning next year to stem the price drop — but only if non-OPEC producers also reduce production.

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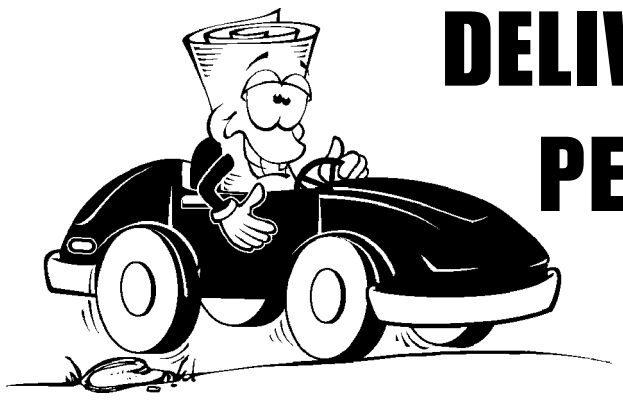
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STATE

LA school officials opt for $7 million in new furniture

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Teacher and taxpayer groups are attacking Los Angeles school officials' plan to buy $7 million in furniture for the district's new headquarters, instead of hanging onto what they already have.

Los Angeles Unified School District officials say buying new furniture will cost nearly twice as much as moving the old furniture, but added that the new equipment will last longer and make better use of space, the Daily News of Los Angeles reported.

The purchase is part of a $184.2 million plan approved last month by the governing board to make room for a much-needed high school by relocating district headquarters to an existing 28-story high rise. Some equipment, including light fixtures, sprinklers, door handles and smoke detectors, will be reused in the new headquarters.

The plans have not changed despite warnings last week that impending state budget cuts could cost the district $74 million.

"The kind of economy we are in now will cause us to look again at what the district is doing, and nothing will be exempt from that," said Anne Valenzuela-Smith, executive administrator in charge of the relocation project.

But she added, "We're going to need that school no matter what the economy looks like, and (district staff) need to be housed somewhere. ... The question is how efficiently and cost-effectively."

Critics said the furniture money should be spent on textbooks, academic programs and other crucial projects.

"This is the most ill-managed, poorly run school district in the nation, and for them to be buying $7 million for furniture (and carpets) for administrators, I don't see it and I don't think the taxpayers will see it," said Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association in Sacramento.

"It just shocks the conscience to see what they spend on themselves," said Steve Weingarten, a spokesman for United Teachers Los Angeles who is part of a union team negotiating for higher teacher salaries.

"They feel entitled to it. But when it comes to classroom instruction, they want it at bargain-basement prices."

Meteors dazzle stargazers

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
AP Science Writer

MOUNT WILSON, Calif. — Thousands of shooting stars provided a dazzling light show Sunday that amazed veteran and novice stargazers alike as the Leonid meteor show made the moonless sky appear to rain light.

At the peak of the early morning shower, as many as 1,250 meteors per hour streaked overhead, according to NASA estimates.

Atop Mount Wilson, hundreds of cars clogged the road leading to the observatory high above the Los Angeles basin as stargazers sought out dark spots to watch the display.

Patty Ronney, 49, said she had never seen a single meteor before leaving her El Segundo home late Saturday.

"It's getting exciting, because the more I see, the more I want to see. It's such a novel event," Ronney said.

Streak after streak of light shot across the sky as tiny bits of comet debris burned up harmlessly in the atmosphere. The brightest flares left shimmering, smoky trails that hung in the sky for a few seconds.

"There are the little 'eeee' ones, then there are the 'ooooh' ones — those ones you have to stand up and follow with your head," Susan Kitchens said on Mount Wilson.

The shower was less intense than the 4,000 per hour some had predicted, but nonetheless it was a more impressive display than astronomers have seen in years.

"I'm seeing more (meteors) in the last six hours than I have in my whole life," said George Heald, who teaches astronomy at the University of New Mexico, as he watched in the Cibola National Forest southeast of Albuquerque, N.M.

The best viewing in the United States was between 4 and 6 a.m. EST, but people on the East Coast reported seeing meteors fly even after dawn broke. Some meteors could be seen even in New York City, where light pollution normally makes for poor skygazing, Phillips said.

In a park at Larchmont, N.Y., 10-year-old Ken Kaneshiro said he counted 40 meteors in about 20 minutes.

"When you see a lot, it's exciting," he said.

But many other people across the Asia-Pacific region who had given up a good night's sleep were disappointed by bad weather. Skies in Tokyo clouded over after sunset. Conditions in Sydney, Australia, were worse with heavy rains throughout the day.

But about 150 Chinese who gathered at midnight on the roof of a 550-year-old Ming Dynasty stone observatory in Beijing were overjoyed when the first meteor tore across the sky leaving an ephemeral fiery trail in its wake.

"There are many more shooting stars than I expected, and they're really clear," said Hou Lei, a 19-year-old construction engineering student.

Clear skies also rewarded more than 1,000 stargazers who sat on lawn chairs at a youth training camp near Seoul, South Korea.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle, said Ko Hyon-ju, 19.

The Leonid shower occurs each November, when the Earth's orbit takes it through the trail of particles shed by the Comet Tempel-Tuttle as it swings around the sun once every 33 years.

Most particles are smaller than a grain of rice. They enter our atmosphere traveling 45 miles a second and burn up in brilliant streaks of light. The meteors are called Leonids because they appear to come from the direction of the constellation Leo.

The last major Leonid shower occurred in 1966, when stargazers counted as many as 150,000 meteors per hour. Astronomers expect another such shower in 2099.

NATIONAL

In aftermath, U.S. authorities identify terrorists among us

BY JOHN SOLOMON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The largest criminal investigation in American history has exposed the rough outlines of at least a half-dozen centers of terrorist support on U.S. soil operating underground before the Sept. 11 suicide attacks, officials say.

Law enforcement officials say they believe suspected supporters of terrorism have stolen credit cards and used wire transfers to finance their activities, created false visas and identity documents, and moved frequently with like-minded Middle Easterners.

Investigators believe they have arrested a small handful of terrorist supporters among the more than 1,000 people, most of Middle Eastern descent, they have detained since Sept. 11 and they are searching for more.

"There are people in the United States who have association with, affiliation with, support of certain terrorist groups," FBI director Robert Mueller said Friday. "We're doing everything we can to identify exactly the extent of that activity."

The pockets of terrorist support exist in Boston, New Jersey, suburban Washington, Texas, southern California, and the Upper Midwest, particularly Detroit, the officials said, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

"We don't call each of them cells. We call them terrorist presences. They're almost like cliques. Clear in their hatred for America, and loosely working together," one law enforcement official said.

Officials said the suspected terrorists appear to be aligned with several groups, including Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and the Palestinian Hamas movement. They cautioned they are a small number among a large Muslim population.

The evidence is not clean and organized enough to suggest each suspect belongs to a specific cell, another law enforcement official said. But it draws the most comprehensive picture to date of terrorist threats on U.S. soil.

The suspected activities span the gamut from fund-raising in Texas and recruiting among Arab college students in California to planning in Boston and Detroit of attacks overseas, the officials said.

Several locations also had money wire outlets belonging to the Barakaat network that U.S. officials raided this month and accused of laundering money for al-Qaida. The company denies those allegations.

The evidence shows suspected sympathizers are remarkably migratory, just like the 19 hijackers who crisscrossed the country from San Diego to Maine before their attacks.%

A recent federal court filing details the extensive travels of two Middle Eastern men being held for possessing a cache of fake IDs that could have been used to assist terrorists.

The men entered the United States in New York in fall 2000, spent time in the same Washington suburbs where five of the hijackers got false Virginia identifications, moved to Ohio, where officials recently raided a money exchange suspected of assisting the al-Qaida network, and then proceeded to Detroit, where they were arrested.

"Their clothing was kept in duffel bags, suitcases and garbage bags, there was essentially no furniture to speak of, nor any beds in the apartment," prosecutors said in a court filing asking they be held without bail.

Even before Sept. 11, the source of terrorist money began emerging during a trial last summer of an Algerian convicted of plotting to blow up the Los Angeles airport in December 1999.

The Algerian's collaborators testified they supported themselves through stolen credit cards, some taken from patrons of a Boston health club. They also plotted to buy a gas station so they could steal credit card numbers as people paid for gas.

Since the terror attacks, authorities have arrested at least one person, Chicago cab driver Youssef Hmimssa, accused of using a hidden device to steal credit card numbers from customers. He also has been indicted for fraud and false documents but has not been charged with a terrorist related crime.

The re-evaluation of pre-Sept. 11 evidence has yielded several important clues. A review of Customs Service intelligence gathered last summer led authorities to Nabil al-Marabh, a former Boston cab driver identified as an al-Qaida operative and one of the key people in detention.

Officials said Customs had evidence in its files of financial transactions between al-Marabh and Raed Hijazi, a suspect in the failed plot to kill Americans and Israelis at hotel in Jordan during the millennium celebrations.

With its easy access to Canada via the Windsor bridge, Detroit has emerged as a possible coordination point for Algerian extremists who are known to have a presence north of the border.

A recent report by Michigan police detailed suspected terrorism activity.

"It is important to note that the Detroit/Dearborn area is a major financial support center for many Middle Eastern terrorist groups," it said.

"Southeast Michigan is known as a lucrative recruiting area and potential support base for IT (International Terrorism) groups. It is also conceivable that 'sleeper cells' may be located in this area of the state," it said.

Administration says bin Laden and al-Qaida on the run, but military mission in Afghanistan not finished

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — Terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network are on the run in Afghanistan and their Taliban supporters are in disarray, but the American-led military campaign to crush them is far from over, senior administration officials said Sunday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, in separate talk show interviews, both said they have no reason to believe bin Laden has escaped Afghanistan.

"I have seen no intelligence or information to suggest" he has left, Powell said on ABC's "This Week."

The Taliban's envoy to Pakistan said Saturday that bin Laden had left Afghanistan, but that has not been substantiated. Later, the diplomat said he meant only that bin Laden was outside areas under Taliban control.

Powell, Wolfowitz and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice all suggested bin Laden's room to maneuver is shrinking, his options narrowing.

"It's getting harder for him to hide as more and more territory is removed from Taliban control," Powell said. "I don't think there's any country in the region that would be anxious to give him guest privileges if he showed up."

Wolfowitz described bin Laden as "in very great danger" of being killed or captured.

"This is a man on the run who's doing his best to hide," Wolfowitz said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Added Rice: "We're beginning to narrow his possibilities for hiding."

Powell said the Central Intelligence Agency has been doing "some rather splendid work with respect to our activities in Afghanistan, working alongside our military forces that are inside in Afghanistan."

The Washington Post reported Sunday the CIA has paramilitary forces in Afghanistan; Powell would not confirm that.

"I think we've got a very fine linkup between our intelligence assets, our military assets, all within the framework of a good political and military strategy," Powell said on ABC's "This Week." "And it's now starting to show rather significant results."

If bin Laden were to flee Afghanistan, the United States would keep up the hunt, Wolfowitz said.

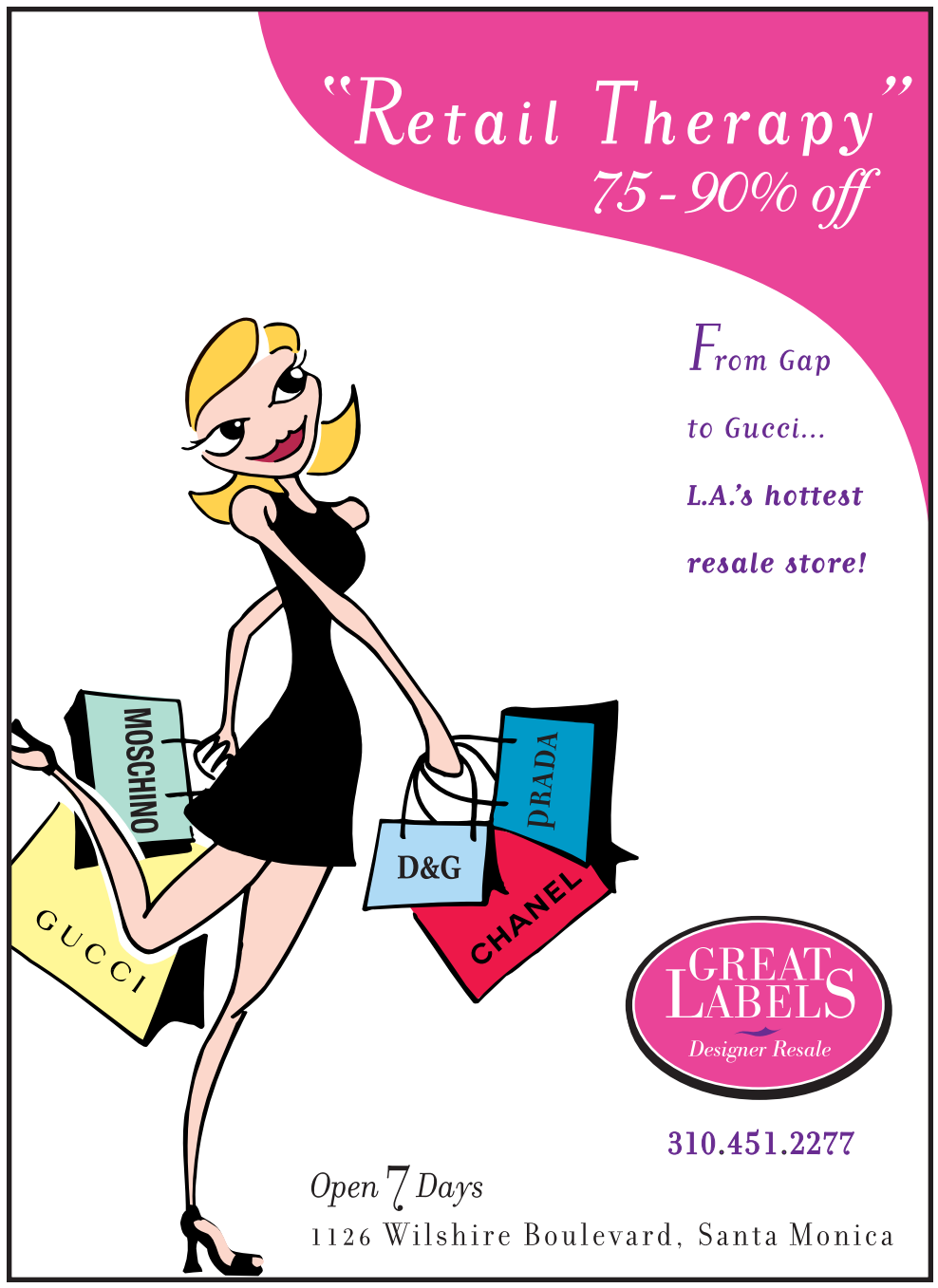
"We are going to continue pursuing him," he said. "Let's also remember, we're going to continue pursuing the entire al-Qaida network, which is in 60 countries, not just Afghanistan and, worst of all, here in the United States. ... This is a campaign against all the global terrorist networks and the states that support terrorism."

Powell said no country on the periphery of Afghanistan — even China — would give bin Laden a haven.

"I don't think this fellow is going to be welcome anywhere," he said. "He is an outcast. He is a murderer, he's a terrorist. ... He is on the run, just as the president said he would be. And we will get him."

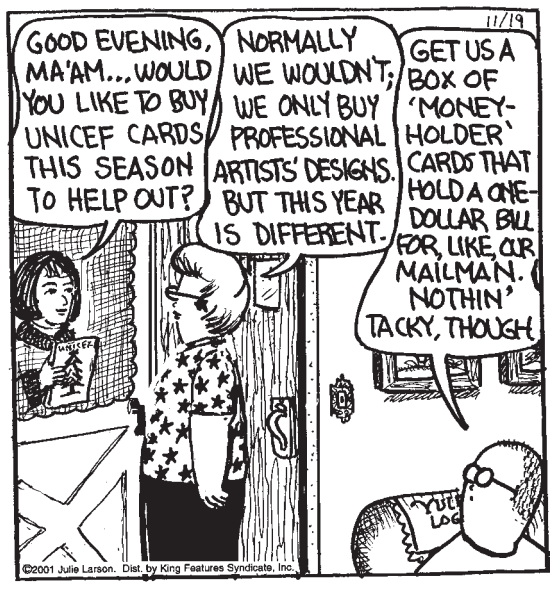
Rice cautioned against assuming that the military successes in Afghanistan over the past week mean the United States has met its main objective.

"This may take a while," she said on NBC's "Meet the Press."



COMICS

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"Bob, wait ... do we pull on 3, or is it 1-2-3, then pull?"

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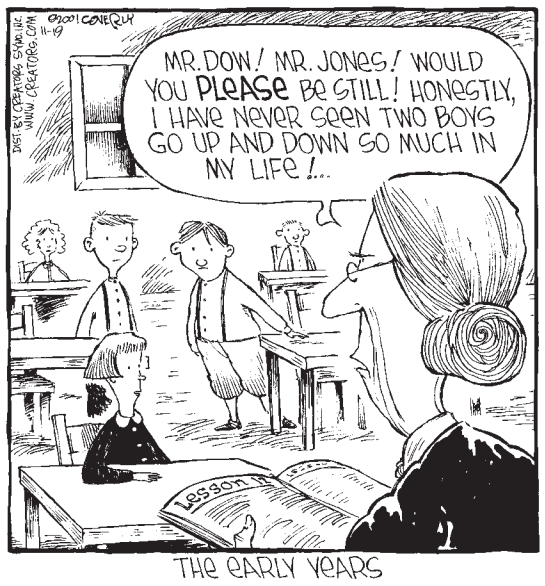
Reality Check®

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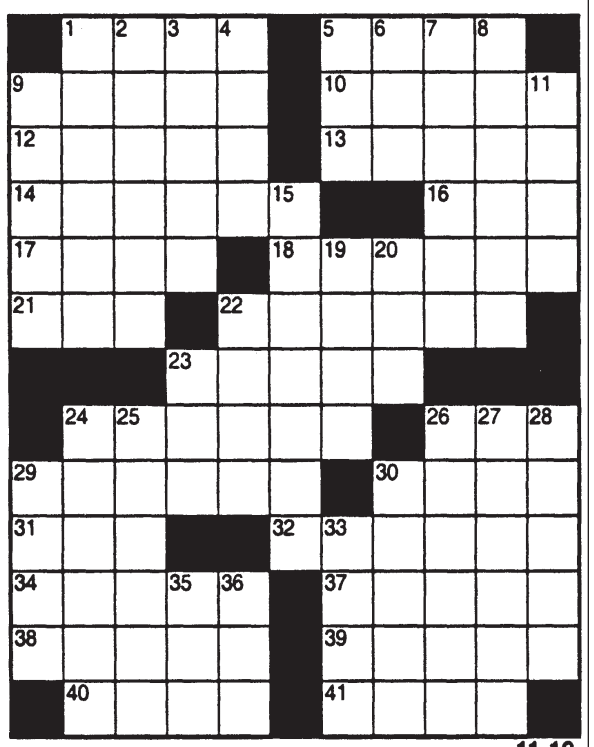
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Food fishes
5 Practice for a bout
9 "Be quiet!"
10 Abode of the dead, in myth
12 Last Greek letter
13 Wed in secret
14 Medium for a loss
16 Genealogy chart word
17 "Dog-gone!"
18 "It's my belief ..."
21 Utter
22 Meta-morphic rock
23 Fists, in slang
24 Impulse relayer
26 Toothpaste choice
29 Second election
30 Volcano output
31 Play part
32 Like ice
34 Sports shoe feature
37 Without letup
38 Like a haunted house
39 Owed amounts
40 Spot in the ocean
41 God of love

DOWN
1 Picture taker
2 Eventually
3 Number part
4 Baseball's Musial
5 That lady
6 Chum
7 Aphrodite's love
8 Turn from sin
9 Ribbed pants
11 Look for
15 Begin
19 Subse-quently
20 Towel inscription
22 Ride the waves
23 Pair
24 Cell parts
25 Comes in
26 Garden structure
27 Happen-ings
28 Comes to earth
29 Track event
30 Antisocial sort
33 Took the bus
35 Suffer
36 Golf peg

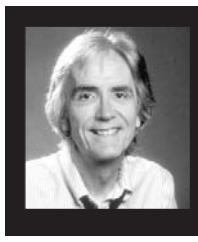
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Saturday's answer



11-19

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Wrong Place, Wrong Time

Six men were indicted in New York City in October for operating a drug ring, which came to the attention of firefighters, and then police, when one of the men curiously refused to evacuate his apartment across the street from the World Trade Center in the late morning of Sept. 11, despite the area's fires, falling debris and widespread panic. The reason: Inside, police found large supplies of drugs and paraphernalia.

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BACK PAGE

ADD drugs among popular as black market drugs

BY MARTHA IRVINE
AP National Writer

She had no idea she had a popular party drug on hand.

To her, the vial of prescription pills she'd once been given to treat attention deficit disorder were just leftovers, until a friend from New York called to ask if she'd mail out a few — just for fun.

The woman, a 29-year-old San Diego resident, didn't do it. But she and her friends were intrigued.

"We said, 'We should just try it. It could be fun,"' says the woman who, on the condition that she not be named, told how they partied on the drug once this summer and again in September.

In this case, the stimulant of choice was Adderall, an amphetamine. Others use methylphenidate, another attention-deficit drug more widely known by one of its brand names: Ritalin.

Whatever the type, authorities are concerned about ADD drug abuse.

Some unprescribed users are adults. But experts say many are young people — a good number of them grade schoolers, who get the drugs from peers being treated for ADD.

"They've got pretty easy access to it," says Steve Walton, a detective with the Calgary Police Service in Canada and author of the book "First Response Guide to Street Drugs."

Users often crush the pills and snort them to get a cocaine-like rush.

Walton says he's also found youth who frequent the rave dance-party scene "stacking" the drug Ecstasy with Ritalin to try and prolong their high. He calls the practice "alarming."

Reports of ADD stimulant abuse continue to surface in this country, too. They include the case of two rural teens arrested in January for stealing $9,700 worth of drugs, including Ritalin and amphetamines, from a pharmacy in tiny Lacon, Ill.

In March, 11 sixth-graders in Scituate, R.I., were suspended for buying and selling prescription drugs, including Adderall and Concerta, a newer form of methylphenidate.

Surveys of young people — from Massachusetts to the Midwest — also have documented the trend.

One of them, published in this month's Psychology in the Schools journal, focussed on 651 students, ages 11 to 18, from Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Researchers found that more than a third of students who took attention-deficit medication said they'd been asked to sell or trade their drugs. And more than half of students who weren't prescribed the medication said they knew students who gave away or sold their medication.

"I've been trying to tell anyone who will listen," says William Frankenberger, study co-author and a psychology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. "People don't realize what these drugs are — and that the similarities between them and cocaine are much greater than the differences."

Officials at the federal Drug Enforcement Administration say abuse of prescription stimulants became more common in the last five years, as production of Ritalin increased and other drugs were introduced into the marketplace.

But some, including doctors, wonder if new "time-release" versions of the drugs are slowing the abuse.

They include Concerta, taken just once a day — so an ADD child doesn't have to bring the drugs to school. Time-release versions are also more difficult to crush and, thus, snort, says Dr. Timothy Wilens, a Harvard Medical School psychiatry professor.

A national survey released in September by the General Accounting Office found that only 8 percent of principals said stimulant drugs were abused or stolen in their schools in the 2000-2001 school year. Most of those said they knew of only one incident.

But Terrance Woodworth, deputy director of the DEA's diversion control office, isn't convinced that abuse is down.

In fact, he thinks the age range is expanding — even as makers of some of the drugs, including Ritalin, have launched their own education campaigns to try to curb misuse.

"The kids who were abusing in junior high and high school are now in college," Woodworth says.

That has caused some colleges, including the University of Wisconsin, to tighten prescription-writing procedures for such drugs as Ritalin, which some students call "Vitamin R" and use to help them pull all-nighters.

Although alcohol abuse remains a much worse and visible problem, students on the Madison campus can only get one prescription per month — and only enough pills for that month, says Dr. Eric Heiligenstein, clinical director of psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin Health Services.

At Harvard, Wilens advises his patients, especially students, to "keep their medications locked away in clandestine places so that strays don't steal it from them."

He says those on the medication aren't usually the abusers. In fact, a study he presented last month at the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry conference found that those who were treated with prescription stimulants were half as likely to abuse alcohol or drugs.

For her part, the 29-year-old from San Diego says she has no plans to party with Adderall again.

"I just try to remember how I felt after," she says, recounting that a feeling of "utmost clarity" turned to insomnia and left her "crashed out and overdone" the following day.

Then in the next breath, she admits she's kept 20 of the pills.

"I don't know why," she says. "Maybe for a special occasion."



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