

# Tornado

## Storms damage Houston, mall and apartments suffer

**United Press International**

HOUSTON — A tornado ripped roofs from buildings, scattered furniture and dumped debris on the parked cars of residents of a Pasadena apartment complex Monday.

A tornado also "sucked down" a 120-foot section of wall at the 80-store Alameda Mall around 1 a.m. Monday.

Cleanup began early at the mall and Pasadena's Benchmark Apartments. Houston Lighting & Power Co. crews worked Monday to restore power for between 15,000 and 16,000 people who were left without electricity by downed power lines and poles.

Apartment manager Wanda Petty said 100 units were destroyed, and at least 100 others experienced broken windows and minor damage. Fifty cars were severely damaged, and another 75 had the windows blown out.

Before the storm, the complex had 130 vacancies, Petty said. Residents of the severely damaged apartments moved the furniture they could salvage into the undamaged vacant units.

"We haven't even found a lot of the furniture," she said.

The manager said her husband had just said he loved a rainy night when "everything lit up yellow, and we heard the roar. My husband said, 'My God, it's a tornado.' The whole third floor of the apartment was just shaking."

Petty said they ran upstairs to get their sleeping daughter and son and returned to the second floor, where they "hit the floor."

"It was a very, very frightening experience," she said. "We consider ourselves very lucky; very, very lucky. There were three minor injuries and no deaths."

Petty said all of the apartments will be rebuilt. She estimated damage in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Helen Smith, a Benchmark resident, said:

"I've gone through two of these. The apartments on the front, it totally ripped a roof off. Why there were no deaths I don't know. By the grace of God."

Smith said the tornado touched down three times.

Pasadena police patrolled the front of the complex Monday to keep looters away. Donations for families hit by the tornado were being accepted by the Disabled American Veterans.

"We set up a Coleman stove out here and started feeding people coffee," said Smith, a service officer for the DAV. "Those people on the front of the building have absolutely nothing left."

Bob Steiner, group marketing manager, said the twister shattered Alameda Mall skylights and uprooted trees in the parking lot.

"Thank God nobody was hurt, and (that) the mall was closed when it happened," Steiner said.

The three stores which share the 120-foot section of wall were closed for most of the day Monday, but the mall's other 77 stores opened for business on time, Steiner said.

Workers flown in from other malls in the state cleaned up water damage before opening time Monday. They planned to build a temporary plywood wall for the three stores.

"It's too early to estimate the damage, but it will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars," Steiner said.

A National Weather Service spokesman said officials still do not know whether the damage at the apartments, the mall and the two miles in between was caused by the same tornado or different twisters.

The tornado or tornadoes also damaged cars at two dealerships near the mall, flattened an adult movie cinema and crushed rental warehouses.

A flash flood watch was in effect Monday for southeast Texas from Palacios to near Conroe to the Toledo Bend Reservoir, including Houston, Galveston and Beaumont.

Overnight rains of 4 to 10 inches in Brazoria and extreme southern Harris counties filled most drainage ditches, creeks and bayous to near capacity.

# Day-care center

## abuse suspected

**United Press International**

ARLINGTON — State welfare authorities Monday began interviewing employees and students at a day-care center where at least 15 children reported they had been sexually abused.

The La Petite Academy remained open Monday, but an official of the Texas Department of Human Resources said a representative from the agency's licensing division was overseeing operations at the center.

The investigation was launched after the DHR received complaints last week that at least 15 children at the southwest Arlington facility had been sexually abused, said DHR spokeswoman Nancy DeWees. Parents were notified of the allegations over the weekend.

State welfare representatives Monday began reviewing personnel records and interviewing the 11 staff members, said Rosemary McElroy, assistant to the regional director of day-care licensing.

State officials said the 130 students at the center — some as young

as 3 years old — also would be questioned and some of their interviews would be videotaped.

Jack Brozman, president of the Kansas City, Mo., La Petite chain, said he had placed four staff members involved in the case on leaves of absence until the investigation is completed. Each employee has denied the allegations and police said no criminal charges had been filed in the case Monday.

McElroy said she did not know how long the investigation would take.

"It's difficult to say," McElroy said. "We're working as hard as we can. With large numbers of children it just takes longer to interview. We're not saying whether any violations occurred. These are allegations at this point."

The children allegedly were ordered to take their clothes off and dance in circles, and were threatened with reprisals if they told their parents, officials said. They also allegedly were required to fondle each other's private parts and to touch the private parts of their teachers.

# Symphony official says

## Redgrave blacklisted

**United Press International**

BOSTON — The former stage manager for the Boston Symphony Orchestra testified Monday that Vanessa Redgrave was fired from a production because she supported the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Peter Sellars, 27, made the statement to a U.S. District Court jury during the first day of testimony.

"It was a form of blacklisting," Sellars said. "It was denying the right to perform of a given artist because of her political point of view."

Sellars said he argued with BSO management in March 1982 over whether to cancel Redgrave's \$31,000 contract to narrate "Oedipus Rex" at Boston Symphony Hall and New York's Carnegie Hall.

"In Russia, because people have a political point of view, their right to perform is withheld — but not in the

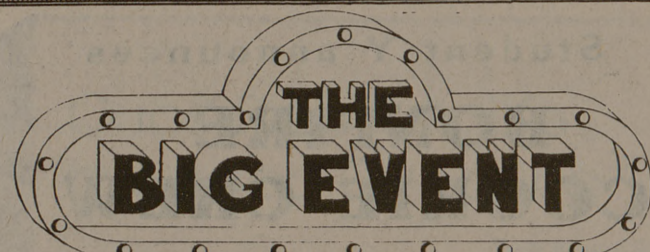
United States of America," he said.

Redgrave, 47, who won the 1978 Academy Award for the film "Julia", claims in her breach of contract and civil rights suit that the production was canceled because of her outspoken support of the PLO.

The BSO argues it canceled the show because symphony officials feared violence would break out at Redgrave's performance. They said they were unaware there would be a controversy until after they struck their deal with her.

Sellars said that from the morning Redgrave's performance was announced in The Boston Globe there was public opposition, specifically because of her PLO stance.

Sellars left the BSO after the dispute and is now artistic director and chief operating officer of the American National Theater at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington.



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# Father: Army covered-up son's death

**United Press International**

WASHINGTON — The Army tried to suppress information about the death of a helicopter pilot killed in a raid preceding last year's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada, the pilot's father said Sunday.

Lucas said the Army told him of the death of his son, Capt. Keith Lucas, four days after it occurred and only listed it publicly when he pressured Army officials in Kentucky and Defense officials in Washington to do so.

The disclosure Monday followed reports by NBC News and Knight-Ridder newspapers a day earlier that there were up to 10 unreported deaths in raids conducted by Navy "Seal" commandos and a special

"Delta Force" before the invasion officially began at 5:27 a.m., Oct. 25, 1983.

It could not be independently verified whether Lucas's son was involved in the same operation described in those reports.

But a congressional source familiar with classified information on the operation said, "The policy was to declare 'black' (not report) everything that could be declared black. There were losses that were not reported."

A Pentagon spokesman said he challenged anyone to produce the names of any U.S. armed forces member who died on Grenada and was not among the 19 listed.

Col. William Smallen, the Army's

top public affairs officer for the Grenada operation said Monday, "There were no deaths or casualties that were not reported. We added names to the list on an immediate basis."

Lucas's relatives should have been notified the first day he was killed according to the procedures used in the operation, Smallen said.

Lucas said his son was killed when the UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopter in which he ferried special forces troops onto the island crash landed and was fired on by Cuban or Grenadian forces.

Major Steve Roy, a public relations officer at Ft. Campbell, Ky., said Monday that Lucas was shot down while carrying Army Rangers

onto the island in the early stages of the invasion. Roy said he knew nothing about any special forces operations.

When Capt. Lucas was reported missing Thursday, Oct. 27, his parents traveled to Ft. Campbell, from their Granite City, Ill., home and pressed officers of his son's 158th Aviation Battalion for an explanation.

It was not until Oct. 28 that Lucas received word from Ft. Campbell; he said that he was told by an Army major his son's status "was classified and there was a possibility those names (would) never appear on a list."

## Deadly sweets show up in Japanese capital

# Group extorts candy company

**United Press International**

TOKYO — Cyanide-laced candy believed sent by the "Man with 21 Faces" extortionist gang turned up in the capital for the first time Monday, delivered to a family market with a note that said "Eat this and die."

The discovery of cyanide-laced treats in a district just north of To-

kyo came as police in Osaka, some 300 miles southwest, postponed a planned door-to-door search of 3.2 million homes and offices. They offered no explanation.

The packets of cyanide-laced candies, dropped in the mailbox of a family market in the Saitama district of Tokyo, were the first found in a week.

The extortionists threatened Oct. 17 to plant the tainted sweets across Japan unless the Morinaga Candy Co. paid the equivalent of \$410,000. No one has died from eating previously found candy.


The poisoned Morinaga caramel and candy drops were labeled "Danger. Poisoned. Eat this and Die," police said. They said the notes were

written on the same typewriter as previous messages and they were convinced they were from the same gang.

To thwart the extortionists, believed responsible for a similar campaign last spring, police have launched the largest manhunt in Japan's postwar history, involving 44,000 officers.

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