

Californians face changed world after quake

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Under skies as bright and blue as ever, Southern Californians confronted a changed world Tuesday.

The defining features of this region's life — water, power and freeways — were suddenly uncertain. In their place: long lines, hellish commutes and constant earthquake aftershocks.

A 16th body was found inside a flattened apartment building in Northridge, near the epicenter of Monday's powerful earthquake, bringing the death toll from the quake to 34.

"The days ahead will also be rough for us," Mayor Richard Riordan warned Angelenos, even as he praised them for a cool-headed response to the crisis. "Let's all stick together."

A snapshot of a region in crisis Tuesday:
 • Many offices, schools and stores were closed, and workers were urged to stay home. The closure of four of the nation's busiest freeways still made commuting a frustrating adventure.

• Aftershocks, some as strong as 5 on the Richter scale, continued to jolt the region.

• About 100,000 homes remained without power, and between 50,000 and 100,000 were without water, almost all of them in the hard-hit San Fernando Valley. The Department of Water and Power said it could be a week or more before water was restored.

• About 20,000 people were camping in parks, the Department of Parks and Recreation said.

• About 100 building engineers and inspec-

tors fanned out across the damaged area, but no preliminary estimate on the number of buildings damaged was immediately available.

• More than 2,000 National Guard soldiers were mobilized; many could be seen patrolling the San Fernando Valley, guns at their sides.

• After a dusk-to-dawn curfew, police reported about 75 arrests overnight for crimes such as robbery and curfew violation.

California Governor Pete Wilson answered questions outside the crushed apartment building in Northridge.

"Unfortunately, it is going to be a major, major inconvenience," Wilson said. He said it would take up to a year to rebuild fallen bridges that carry Interstate 10, the Santa Monica freeway, over surface streets in Los Angeles.

Several hundred thousand people a day use the Santa Monica Freeway, making it the nation's busiest highway. Near the fallen bridges Tuesday morning, traffic crawled on Fairfax Avenue at a rate of about four blocks per hour.

Late in the morning, huge construction cranes began tearing down sections of the freeway, biting cracks into the concrete slabs and lifting them away.

The quake also collapsed sections of Interstates 5 and 14, and state Route 118. The closure of Interstate 5, the major north-south highway on the West Coast, left truckers stranded in the San Joaquin Valley north of Los Angeles and gave a hint of the economic reverberations of the quake.

In the San Fernando Valley, the 60-square-

mile suburban expanse most badly damaged by the quake, many people stayed home to clean up and take stock. That kept commuting problems to a minimum.

Those who ventured out in their cars had to negotiate a crazy tangle of detours around cracked residential streets and flooded areas. A few opted for mass transit.

"I was kind of surprised that it was so uncrowded," said Scott Draper, Los Angeles, a city analyst who lives in Glendale and took the train. Although the train was late, he said, "I'd still ride it. We all need to sacrifice and be more understanding of one another."

At dawn, continuous aftershocks raised a slight brownish haze of dust over the northern and western portions of the valley that slightly dimmed the rising sun.

Guardmen stood on street corners and in critical areas where the destruction was the heaviest. A few also patrolled Hollywood Boulevard.

"We're here basically to make sure everyone behaves themselves," said Pvt. Timothy Roth, 25, on patrol in the San Fernando Valley suburb of Reseda.

Throughout the valley, power was being restored in a patchwork fashion. Traffic lights worked in some areas, but were out in others. Long lines snaked around the few open gasoline stations.

Many markets remained closed, but those that were open did brisk business. At a Shell gasoline station on Ventura Boulevard in Woodland Hills, a National Guardsman in full battle regalia stood in the driveway to help keep tempers in check.

Colombian rebels kidnap American missionaries

The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombia's finance minister narrowly escaped assassination Monday when a remote control bomb blew up as he drove by in an armored car. A bodyguard was wounded.

Leftist rebels claimed responsibility for the attack. Rebels also kidnapped two American missionaries, reportedly to protest the presence of U.S. troops in Colombia, and sabotaged the country's largest oil pipeline.

The bomb shattered windows as far as 100 yards away, flung a light pole across the road and damaged a bus. Traffic was snarled for blocks.

Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes was unhurt.

The bombing was further indication that the death of drug lord Pablo Escobar did not mean an end to political violence in Colombia. Escobar, who was slain by security forces Dec. 2, had waged a war of bombings and assassinations that killed hundreds of people.

In the jungle-covered plains east of Bogota, guerrillas kidnaped Stephen Welch of North Platte, Neb., and Timothy Van Dyke of Towanda, Pa., on Sunday, said Mel Wyma of New Tribes, the missionary group the pair work for.

About 15 guerrillas walked into a school for children of missionaries near Villavicencio, 50 miles east of Bogota, ransacked

the school and took the two men, Wyma said in a telephone interview from New Tribes' headquarters in Sanford, Fla.

Local police reports said the guerrillas took the Americans to protest the presence of some 250 American soldiers who are building a military base in the region, training Colombian troops and doing humanitarian work around the country.

"The guerrillas said they were taking our people to make a statement to the Colombian government, but how they will be used to make a statement and what that statement is, I don't know," Wyma said.

Van Dyke is the acting principal of the school; Welch is a groundskeeper.

Police said the rebels were members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, a group loosely linked to the National Liberation Army, known as ELN for its Spanish initials.

The National Liberation Army told RCN radio that it attacked Hommes because of unemployment in Colombia. The official unemployment rate is about 9 percent, but underemployment, for which no figures are available, is much higher.

Hommes has been criticized by rebels for supporting the privatization of state companies, free trade and less government regulation. He also angered trade unions by approving a new minimum wage without consulting them.

KERRIGAN ATTACK — Authorities question Harding

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Tonya Harding faced questioning by the district attorney and FBI for the first time Tuesday as she sought to clear her name in the attack on Nancy Kerrigan and preserve a berth on the U.S. Olympic team.

Voluntarily appearing with two attorneys, a somber Harding stared at the ground as she walked into the FBI office to give her version of events surrounding the Jan. 6 assault at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Detroit.

Authorities are trying to determine if Harding's money, some of it from Olympic sources, paid for the attack on Kerrigan.

Federal charges against Harding are "possible at this point, but remote," FBI spokesman Bart Gori said before the meeting. He would not say if Harding would take a lie detector test.

Jeff Gillooly, Harding's ex-husband, didn't take part in the meeting, which lasted several hours. Harding and Gillooly divorced last year but reconciled and are living together. They both maintain they are innocent.

Authorities, worried about jeopardizing a possible case against Gillooly, have not subpoenaed him or demanded that he come in for questioning. Under state law, a person can invoke his right of silence and, if compelled to give testimony in a grand jury proceeding or other investigatory proceeding, can receive immunity.

"We don't want to take that chance of him getting immunity," assistant district attorney John Bradley said.

On the way to the FBI office, Harding was asked whether Gillooly was going to be arrested. "No, he's not," she replied.

The alleged "hit man" in the attack was due to arrive from Arizona later Tuesday to face charges of conspiracy and assault.

Shane Minoaka Stant, the man accused of striking Kerrigan on the leg with a metal baton, appeared before a judge in Phoenix and agreed not to contest extradition to Oregon. Stant was to be arraigned in Portland on Wednesday. He turned himself in last week in Phoenix after learning there was a warrant for his arrest in Oregon.

In Detroit, Wayne County prosecutor John O'Hair told The Associated Press that, "At this point, we have no evidence here ... at all about (Harding's) culpability as far as the episode is concerned."

He said Detroit's investigation was nearly complete, but Oregon's was still unfolding. He noted that Oregon authorities haven't interviewed Gillooly.

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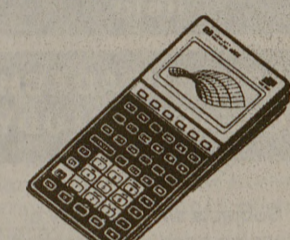
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