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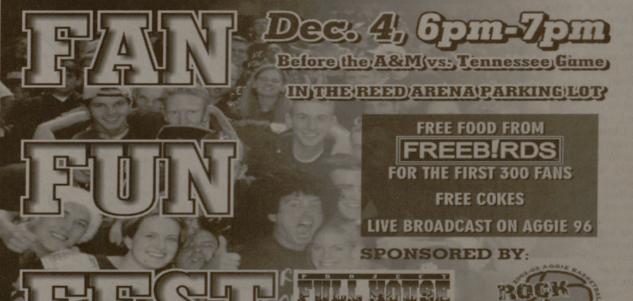
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Wednesday, December 4, 2002

Airports' holiday seizures 15,983 knives and a brid

Some passengers still haven't gotten the word about what they can and can't take on planes. Seized at airports during the Thanksgiving crush: 15,982 pocket knives, 98 boxcutters, six guns and a brick.

Still, transportation officials said the airport chaos predicted by many never occurred. Passengers waited less than 10 minutes on average at security checkpoints during the first holiday travel season since an all-federal work force took over screen-

Michael Wascom, spokesman for a group representing the major airlines, said operations were generally smooth even with bad weather in some places. "Passengers moved efficiently through the airports, and customer service standards were upheld," said Wascom, spokesman for the Air Transport Association.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the government has tightened restrictions on what can be taken on board a plane.

Robert Johnson, spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration, said many holiday travelers are inexperienced fliers and don't realize they can't take knives, scissors, fireworks or ammunition onto planes. If they try to, the prohibited items will be

confiscated. Passengers also could be prosecuted, a decision made by law enforcement officials depending on the item and the circumstances.

Between Tuesday and Sunday, six people who tried to carry guns onto planes were arrested: two at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport and one each at New York's LaGuardia Airport, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport, Salt Lake City International Airport and Dulles International Airport outside Washington.

The TSA says that at the 38 busiest U.S. airports over the Thanksgiving holiday, 1,072 clubs or bats were confiscated, 3,242 banned tools and 2,384 flammable items, including a welding gun in Boise, Idaho. Another 20,581 sharp objects such as scissors, ice picks and meat cleavers - also were stopped at the checkpoints. Someone tried to bring a toy cannon made of live ammunition onto a plane at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

A man tried to carry a brick onto a plane at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington. "I don't know why he would carry a brick," Johnson said.

Though TSA can't make yearto-year comparisons because the data collection method has changed, the six guns taken from Not a carry-on

Some passengers still do no know what they can and car take on planes.

Confiscated items at the 33 busiest airports from Tuesday through Sunday

with 813 firearms taken 429 airports in the eight m from February to Septer During that same 783,670 knives and 31,064 cutters were seized, com with 15,982 pocketknive boxcutters Thanksgiving.

The prohibited item turned over to local p Johnson said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Companies settle charges for using fake Web site scheme

WASHINGTON (AP) - Four companies agreed to repay customers a total of \$300,000 to settle federal charges that they sold fake Internet addresses ending in ".usa" with an advertising campaign pegged to the Sept. 11 terrorist

The Federal Trade Commission said Tuesday

that the companies - TLD Network Quantum Management Ltd., TBS Industries and Quantum Management U.S. Inc. - last jointly sold Internet domain names ending '.brit' and ".scot." After Sept. 11, the compa began an e-mail campaign advertising domain names, with statements such as, Patriotic! Register .USA Domains."

The FTC said the ".usa" domain names aren usable over the Internet and probably never with



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