Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Arnold sworn in as California governor

By Tom Chorneau THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Arnold Schwarzenegger was

sworn in Monday as the 88th governor of California, completing a meteoric rise from bodybuilder and action hero to leader of the nation's most populated state in a historic recall election.

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The 56-year-old SCHWARZENEGGER Gov. Gray Davis, Austrian immigrant took the oath of office before an audience of 7,500 dignitaries and sup-

porters on the steps of the Capitol. Schwarzenegger's wife. Maria Shriver, held the Bible while California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald George administered the oath.

"I am humbled, I am honored and I am moved beyond words to be your governor," Schwarzenegger said after being sworn in

"I enter this office beholden to no one except you, my fellow citizens. I pledge my governorship to your interests, not to special interests," he added.

Although he had no prior experience as an elected official, the Republican Schwarzenegger was swept into office in the Oct. 7 election that ousted Democratic

reviled by the voters for handling of the state's ailing economy.

The ceremony, while steeped in tradition, was void of the pageantry often associated with California inaugurations.

Bitterness over the divisive recall vote and the state's financial prompted Schwarzenegger to put a damper on livelier festivities. Former Miss

America Vanessa Williams, who appeared with Schwarzenegger in the 1996 film "Eraser," sang the national anthem.

Nearly 740 journalists were expected to cover the ceremony. Fifteen dignitaries from 13 countries were in attendance, including representatives from Canada, Egypt, Austria and several from Mexico.

The new governor was surrounded by his four children, who had remained out of public view during much of the recall campaign.

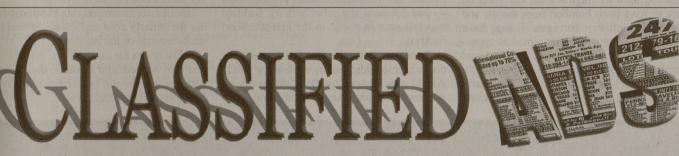
the Later in Schwarzenegger was to attend three events: a luncheon inside the Capitol rotunda for state and federal officials, a private family gathering across the street and an invitationonly reception sponsored by the state Chamber of Commerce.

He was scheduled to return to the Capitol by mid-afternoon to

start the business of running California's government, a job that became more daunting over the weekend when his chief financial deputy pegged the state budget deficit at \$25 billion.

An immigrant who arrived in the United States at the age 21 barely able to speak English, Schwarzenegger is a quick study who impressed even some of his critics with his raw political skills. But he has nonetheless also made many promises to voters that will be hard to keep, including repealing a big hike in the car tax on his first day in office. That will add an estimated \$4 billion to the deficit.

Democrats have said that they will be willing to give the new governor a chance, but most observers agree that the political goodwill will not last, presenting the new governor with even more challenges.



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roommate 2bdrm/2bath, private room and bathroom. Spring semester, on bus route. \$300/mo.

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Across from campus everything included. Mic 979-680-8126; roommate.

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call Ginger 696-5518. Female roommate needed 3bdrm/2bth

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ed. \$390/mo. +1/4utilities. nataliepa@tamu.edu or (979)695-2178. Spring sublease, Midtown Apartments,

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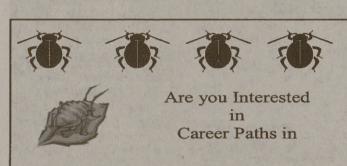
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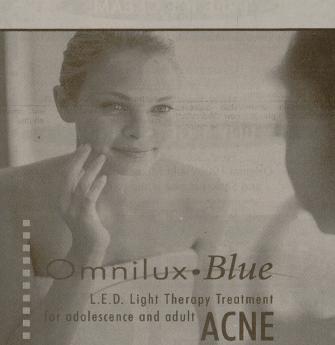
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