

At a glance

A brief look at our world

State

Pa. pigeon shoot stirs up protests

HEGINS (AP) — An annual pigeon shoot touted as the largest in the world and condemned by animal-rights groups as slaughter could be halted for the right price, organizers said yesterday.

Bob Tobash, chairman of the Hegin Labor Day Committee, said the organization rejected a \$70,000 offer from an anonymous donor because it was made Saturday, too late to stop the event.

But a deal for next year might be possible, Tobash said. That could halt, at least temporarily, an event that has taken place yearly since 1934.

Heidi Prescott of the New York-based Fund For Animals said court action to outlaw the shoot as a violation of the state's cruelty to animals statutes is pending in Superior Court.

Thousands of spectators sat cheering on bleachers as birds toppled to the ground.

"I come here every year and I enjoy myself," said an elderly woman spectator who watched the shoot from a lawn chair. "I hope this continues forever."

Nation

Study says 20 percent attracted to same sex

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Almost one-fifth of Americans have been attracted to someone of the same sex at some time since age 15, according to a new study that has been criticized by some statisticians but touted by gay rights activists.

The study, conducted by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Center for Health Policy Studies in Washington, found that between 6.2 percent and 20.8 percent of American men and 3.3 percent and 17.8 percent of American women could be considered "incidentally homosexual." The higher numbers are based on reported homosexual behavior or attraction since age 15. The lower estimates are based on reported same-sex sexual behavior during the previous five years.

Deaf Miss America contestant competes

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Heather Whitestone won't hear the roar of the crowd if she wins the Miss America crown next week. For her, a victory-walk down the Atlantic City runway would be about as quiet as a private stroll.

Miss Whitestone, Miss Alabama 1994, is deaf and can hear virtually nothing without a hearing aid. She hopes to become the first Miss America with a disability.

But Miss Whitestone, 21, says she never thinks of herself as deaf. Her goal is to inspire all people to achieve their dreams.

"I want to challenge everybody, not just deaf people," she said.

World

Carlos interrogated for infamous crimes

PARIS (AP) — Smiling broadly and saying he had been kidnapped, the notorious terrorist Carlos the Jackal refused to answer questions yesterday at his first interrogation since being arrested last month, his lawyers said.

The Venezuelan-born terrorist, wearing a grey jacket and yellow scarf, appeared before France's top anti-terrorism judge after he was whisked under heavy security from his isolation cell in a Paris prison.

"I refuse to answer. I was kidnapped. I am being illegally detained," Carlos said after each question, according to lawyers Jacques Verges and Mourad Oussedik.

Carlos, 44, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, was captured Aug. 14 in Khartoum, Sudan, and jailed the next day in France. For 20 years, he had been among the world's most wanted terrorists.

In France, he faces possible charges in three more bombings that killed a dozen people.

Clinton demands labor alliances

By RON FOURNIER
Associated Press Writer

BATH, Maine — With wind and rain whipping down on 1,000 flag-waving iron workers, President Clinton demanded stronger alliances between employees, employers and government in a Labor Day address opening the contentious political season.

"We cannot afford in a global economy to be divided again — government and business and workers fighting each other all the time," Clinton said at a Bath Iron Works shipyard, a 110-year-old company adapting to post-Cold War military cutbacks with the help of its unions and the federal government.

With a towering, new naval destroyer providing the backdrop, Clinton declared, "We can rebuild this economy on the strength of your example."

Interrupting his own vacation on Martha's Vineyard, the president said Labor Day is a 100-year-old tradition designed "to celebrate

"Our administration has fought for change against some very, very powerful enemies."

— Bill Clinton
U.S. president

the dignity of work, its importance in our lives, and to have that last, long weekend before school starts again — and we all go back to work full time."

Clinton, whose political fortunes are sagging, hinted at his plans upon returning to Washington, promising to "keep working until we turn the terrible situation we have in health care around — where we're spending more and covering less."

Shielded from the miserable weather by only a cap and light coat, Clinton toured the USS Laboon, a Navy destroyer under construc-

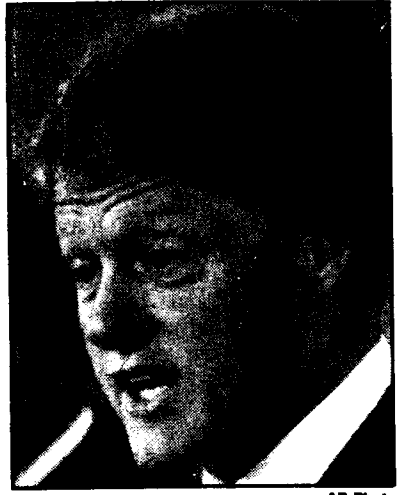
tion at the shipyard. He was accompanied by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell and four Democrats running for state and local offices.

He urged the crowd to vote for Democrats, chiding foes of his deficit-reduction package, the crime bill and health care reform. "Our administration has fought for change against some very, very powerful enemies of change," he said, without naming them.

He left that to Mitchell, who specifically chastised Republicans for claiming last year that Clinton's deficit-reduction budget would hurt the economy. "It's been the opposite of what they said."

At the same time, Clinton called for an end to partisan bickering.

Clinton briefly addressed the Major League Baseball strike, telling owners and players, "On this Labor Day, there's still time for them to go back to work and finish the best baseball season in 50 years, and I hope they will," Clinton said.



Bill Clinton seeking labor cooperation



Pulling his own

A Haitian man pulls a cart containing salvaged refuse from the garbage dump. He transported his load yesterday, as Haiti remains under strict international sanctions.

Campaigns work holiday for votes

By RICH KIRKPATRICK
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — Kicking off the traditional fall campaign, Democrat Mark Singel marched in the Pittsburgh Labor Day parade yesterday and proclaimed himself the real friend of working people in this year's gubernatorial campaign.

Along the parade route, aides for Republican candidate Tom Ridge passed out balloons and literature outlining a record of "standing up for working Pennsylvanians."

"Across the state, people are responding to my message that there is only one candidate in this race who really understands working families," Singel told reporters.

Singel spent the Labor Day weekend traveling across the state repeating his pro-working family theme.

Among the points he cites are that while serving as acting governor for six months last year, he saved 1,000 steel jobs through negotiations; he wrote the Home Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program to help jobless workers keep their homes until they find another job; and that he has signed death warrants and anti-stalking and carjacking legislation.

In sheets passed out to spectators along the parade route, Ridge's campaign noted he was born to a working-class blue-collar family in Southwestern Pennsylvania. During his 12 years in Congress, he said, he consistently supported fair and free trade, buy American laws and expanded job training programs.

In his appearances, Singel says Ridge voted to deny extended jobless benefits to unemployed workers and twice voted against the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Russia threatens Bosnian pullout

U.S. weapons make Moscow wary

By CLARE NULLIS
Associated Press Writer

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Russia threatened yesterday to withdraw its peacekeepers from Bosnia if the United States provides weapons to the Bosnian government.

The new friction between Washington and Moscow jeopardized the united front of five nations that are trying to get Bosnian Serbs to accept a peace plan they adamantly oppose.

Russia's deputy foreign minister, Vitaly Churkin, warned the United States that Moscow might withdraw its peacekeepers if Washington exempted the Bosnian government from the U.N. ban on arms sales to the former Yugoslavia.

Russia has 489 peacekeepers in Bosnia and 960 in neighboring Croatia.

Britain and France, which have the largest peacekeeping contingents in Bosnia, have repeatedly warned they probably would withdraw if the embargo ended. They fear an escalation of fighting that would endanger peacekeepers.

President Clinton has said that if the Serbs do not accept the peace plan by Oct. 15, the United States will seek to have the Bosnian gov-

ernment exempted from a U.N. arms embargo imposed on all of former Yugoslavia. If necessary, Washington will do so alone, he says.

"The unilateral lifting of the arms embargo by the United States is the worst thing that could happen," Churkin told the Interfax news agency. "In that case, all the U.N. peacekeeping activities in Yugoslavia and Bosnia may break apart."

The plan, drawn up by the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany, would reduce the Serbs' holdings from 70 percent of Bosnia to 49 percent. A Muslim-Croat federation, whose leaders have backed the proposal, would get the rest.

France said envoys from the five countries would meet in Berlin on today and tomorrow, their first meetings since Bosnian Serbs overwhelmingly rejected the plan in a referendum late last month.

A high-ranking U.S. delegation met with officials of Bosnia's Muslim-led government yesterday. American officials said the U.S. team — including Richard Holbrooke, the top U.S. policy adviser on Europe, and Charles Thomas, U.S. envoy for former Yugoslavia — would discuss the Muslim-Croat federation.

N.Irish hesitant to celebrate peace

By SUE LEEMAN
Associated Press Writer

BALLYHALBERT, Northern Ireland — Twenty miles southeast of the protests and tension of Belfast, Pat Montgomery surveyed the sweeping golden beach outside her studio and delivered her verdict on the IRA cease-fire.

"All sane-thinking Protestants want to give (peace) a go," said the Protestant artist, whose paintings capture the undulating hills and dramatic seascapes of the verdant Ards peninsula.

"Maybe the IRA really have changed this time." Other Protestants on this prosperous and peaceful finger of land agree it is time for them to take the Irish Republican Army on trust and seek reconciliation.

"The (Protestant) loyalist paramilitaries must disarm now and allow the politicians to negotiate for peace," said Walter Kelly as he and wife Joan admired yachts at a luxurious new marina at Bangor, just north of Ballyhalbert.

Others want British troops removed from Northern

Ireland and an end to the British government's ban that prevents the media from broadcasting the voices of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political allies.

None of that washes on the shabby streets of the Shankill and other Protestant working-class "ghettoes" that stand hard by the IRA's bases in Catholic neighborhoods.

There, most people dismiss the cease-fire as a cynical IRA ploy, and they predict it will not last.

Overwhelmingly they back extremists like the Rev. Ian Paisley, who rails against "papists" and accuses the British government of treachery for its contacts with the IRA and Sinn Fein.

A poll last week by the Dublin-based Marketing Research Co. showed only 9 percent of Northern Ireland Protestants believe the cease-fire is permanent, while 75 percent are convinced the IRA will respond to loyalist murders by rejoining the conflict.

MRC questioned 597 Protestants and 382 Catholics across Northern Ireland on Thursday.

Forty-five percent of Protestants believed the IRA gesture followed a secret deal with London or was due to nefarious "ulterior motives."

Jewish New Year marks historic changes in Israel as peace draws nearer

By RON KAMPEAS
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — The tradition of displaying apples and honey throughout Israel to symbolize the sweetness of the Jewish New Year took on new meaning as the holiday began yesterday with the promise of peace with the Arab world.

"It's time for peace. This is the time to change things," said Yigal Bebal, 47, eating at a Jerusalem restaurant. "Everyone who made a mistake has to ask for forgiveness."

The New Year started at sundown with The Days of Awe, the 10-day period for Jews to contemplate their sins against man and ask forgiveness. The 10th day, Yom Kippur, is reserved to atone for sins against God.

"The peace process is the outcome of forgiveness," said Doron Malka, 28, standing on a mobbed shopping street in the unseasonably hot weather.

The year has seen Israel and the Palestinians end decades of bitter enmity, estab-

lishing Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Israel and Jordan ended hostilities and Morocco became the first Arab nation since Egypt to establish diplomatic relations.

The daily Maariv featured a utopian cartoon vision of the future called "Israel in the Year 2000."

"Oh-oh, it's that gang from Tehran again," one man tells his wife as he looks eastward to the fundamentalist Islamic Iranian state, one of Israel's staunchest enemies. The dire threat has turned into a tiresome guest, with the arriving Iranian shouting, "I brought munchies!" and the wife fretting, "Better hide the cake."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin looked back on the new year and told the daily Yedioth Ahronoth: "I don't feel the need to ask forgiveness from anyone."

That, despite a blunt style that has gotten him into trouble lately. Most recently, he admonished Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to "learn some manners" when she attempted to visit the Palestinian

self-rule areas without advising Israel she wanted to cross the Israeli-controlled border.

"I'm pretty old by now, that's my character. I admit plenty of people don't like it," the 72-year-old leader told Yedioth in a New Year's interview. "Sometimes, to make things clear, I speak straightforwardly."

Rabin's self-satisfaction was echoed in a poll published by Yedioth: 77 percent of Israelis felt personally secure and 70 percent said they were well-off economically.

Those who felt the year scored positive changes on the economic and peace fronts far outnumbered those who saw changes for the worse, according to the poll, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

But change comes slowly. Brig. Gen. Yigal Pressler warned Israelis to be on the alert for attacks during the holiday season. The fundamentalist Muslim Hamas group has promised two major attacks in the coming months in revenge for the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre of 29 Palestinian worshippers.



Jews pray at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. They prayed yesterday, the eve of the Jewish new year Rosh Hashana.