

At a glance

A brief look at our world

State

Woman sits on man, charged with assault

NORRISTOWN (AP) — A woman who returned from prison to find her boyfriend had strayed sat on the man until he promised to take her back, police said.

Juanita Winston — who at 170 pounds outweighs William Narr by more than 40 pounds — was charged with assault, reckless endangering and stalking.

Police said Winston, 27, cornered Narr, 37, Saturday in the storeroom of the liquor store he managed, picked him up and threw him onto a ramp, then wrapped an apron around his neck and forced him into a chair.

Then she sat on him, police said.

"He finally gave in and told (Winston) that he would like to renew their old relationship," according to court papers.

Effects of closed bases helped by new group

HARRISBURG (AP) — Gov. Tom Ridge has reorganized a committee first formed to prevent military base closings to help communities facing the loss of jobs following Pentagon cuts.

"We fought for every job and every base during the most recent base closure process and we will fight equally hard for the communities that need and want assistance in the wake of these closures," Ridge said.

The Base Retention and Conversion Pennsylvania Action Committee was formed from a group known by the same acronym — BRAC PAC — that aided communities with military installations targeted by the federal Base Closure and Realignment Commission. Ridge announced the new group Wednesday.

The new team has two missions — to help communities that still have military facilities and to provide guidance and support to areas losing bases.

The areas of the state hit hardest by Pentagon recommendations, now accepted by President Clinton, are Philadelphia and Chambersburg.

Nation

Teacher charged with possession of drugs

SLIDELL, La. (AP) — A former teacher of the year was arrested along with her weightlifter husband yesterday after deputies found 10 marijuana plants growing in their home.

Laurie Wilder Maschek, a fifth-grade teacher, and her 34-year-old husband, James Maschek, were charged with marijuana cultivation and other offenses carrying a total of more than 50 years in prison.

Mrs. Maschek, 32, was named teacher of the year by her St. Tammany Parish school system in 1992.

"There's no indication that they were selling at the school or out of their house at this point," sheriff's spokesman Larry Ciko said.

The marijuana, worth about \$15,000 on the street, was growing in a room with a 1,000-watt light bulb, deputies said. Officers also seized two shotguns and two bottles of bodybuilding steroids.

The couple were jailed on \$15,000 bail each.

World

Mir crew stuck in orbit due to lack of funds

MOSCOW (AP) — The three-man crew aboard the space station Mir will have to stay in space an extra month, reportedly because of a shortage of funds to build the rocket transporting a replacement crew.

Russian space officials confirmed yesterday that they plan to keep the two Russian cosmonauts and a German astronaut in orbit 39 days longer than their original four-month mission.

The delay was caused by funding problems that prevented the booster rocket for the crew's replacements from being ready on time, the ITAR-Tass and Interfax news agencies said.

Mexico quake aftershock measures 6.1

By **SUSANA HAYWARD**
Associated Press Writer

MANZANILLO, Mexico — A strong aftershock rattled this Pacific resort town yesterday just as rescue workers clearing the rubble of a flattened hotel neared a lobby where 20 earthquake victims are believed buried.

Yesterday's quake lasted for more than five seconds, causing panic but no reports of serious injuries or deaths.

At least 55 are known to have died in a stronger quake Monday, and that number is expected to rise

as rescue workers pry through the wreckage to reach the lobby of the fallen hotel.

Yesterday, workers recovered two more bodies including that of a boy, age undetermined, from what had been the third floor. They said the boy had been dead only a few hours because rigor mortis had not set in.

Mexico's National Seismological Institute reported that yesterday's quake measured 6.1. The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., gave it a preliminary reading of 5.5.

"Since Monday, the ground has-

n't stopped shaking," said housewife Maria Morelos, one of hundreds of people camping out in dozens of makeshift shelters after their homes were damaged or destroyed in the Monday quake.

"My God," she said. "When is it going to stop?"

At least 26 aftershocks have rattled this town of 60,000 since the 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck along some 200 miles of the western Mexican coastline Monday morning.

With cranes, drills and pickaxes, rescue workers continued their day-and-night quest to dig through

the rubble of the flattened Costa Real hotel, where at least 20 bodies have been recovered.

Workers briefly stopped their labors to wait out the morning aftershock.

National Protection engineer Arturo Lopez, one of hundreds of workers trying to pull bodies from the hotel's ruins, said about 20 people were believed buried in the lobby.

Officials doubted any survivors would be found.

Wednesday night, two passports discovered under mounds of crushed cement led officials to

identify two Vancouver, Canada, tourists, whose bodies had been found earlier and were being kept in a refrigerated trailer morgue beside the hotel.

The families of Dirk Jan Boswyk, 58, and Judy Jang, 68, were notified and expected to take the bodies home, Public Ministry officials said.

At a news conference Wednesday night, the governor of Colima, Carlos de la Madrid Virgen, said the earthquake destroyed 17 schools, three health clinics in nearby communities and hundreds of homes.

U.N. officials say cease-fire violations not serious

By **PATRICK QUINN**
Associated Press Writer

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnia's most hopeful cease-fire to date quieted almost all battlefields yesterday, but the government insisted Serbs must do more to lift the siege of Sarajevo before peace talks can start.

After weeks of heavy fighting, U.N. officials called yesterday's cease-fire violations insignificant. The government and rebel Serbs accused each other of new attacks in the bitterly contested northwest, but sat down to discuss how to firm up the U.S.-brokered truce, scheduled to last 60 days.

With Washington leading the peace drive, this cease-fire is given more chance than previous truces in the 3½-year war.

"There are good reasons to believe that we are approaching peace in Bosnia," so long as the world remains firm with the Serbs, Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said in Brussels.

"The cease-fire has more chance than previous ones, because the readiness (for it) is greater than before," said Momcilo Krajisnik, a Serb leader.

But the Bosnian government warned it would boycott peace talks, due to begin Oct. 31 in the United States, unless further conditions are met. The talks may lead to an international peace conference in Paris.

Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey said the Serbs must open a road to the eastern enclave of Gorazde and another road out of besieged Sarajevo.

Serb soldiers at a checkpoint on the road indicated they would not clear the road — a condition of the cease-fire agreement.

A Serb soldier, Miroslav Cvoko, said Serbs would inspect any U.N. convoys to make sure the government wasn't using them to smuggle weapons to Gorazde.

Restoration of gas and electricity to Sarajevo was a key condition of the truce, which took effect just after midnight (7:01 p.m. EDT Wednesday). While access to Gorazde was part of the truce agreement, an open road out of Sarajevo west to Kiseljak was not.

The truce has not ended the siege of Sarajevo, and its residents cannot travel freely in and out of the city because the roads, which

cross through Serb-held territory, can be dangerous or barricaded.

Sacirbey said it was vital for Sarajevans, after 3½ years of Serb siege, to "feel freedom and safety again."

"We will not attend the next round of peace negotiations if the roads from Sarajevo to Kiseljak and Gorazde are not opened," he told the Croatian weekly Globus.

In recent weeks, the government has had to drop similar demands under pressure from Washington to keep peace talks alive.

The United Nations said it registered 15 cease-fire violations across Bosnia yesterday — two detonations in a Sarajevo suburb and 12 in northeastern Bosnia.

The United Nations has no presence in northwestern Bosnia, where the government and its Croat allies reported grabbing two Serb-held towns, Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad, in heavy fighting this week.

The Bosnian army accused the Serbs of breaking the cease-fire around Sanski Most. The Bosnian Serb army responded that government and Croat forces were jeopardizing the cease-fire in unspecified ways.

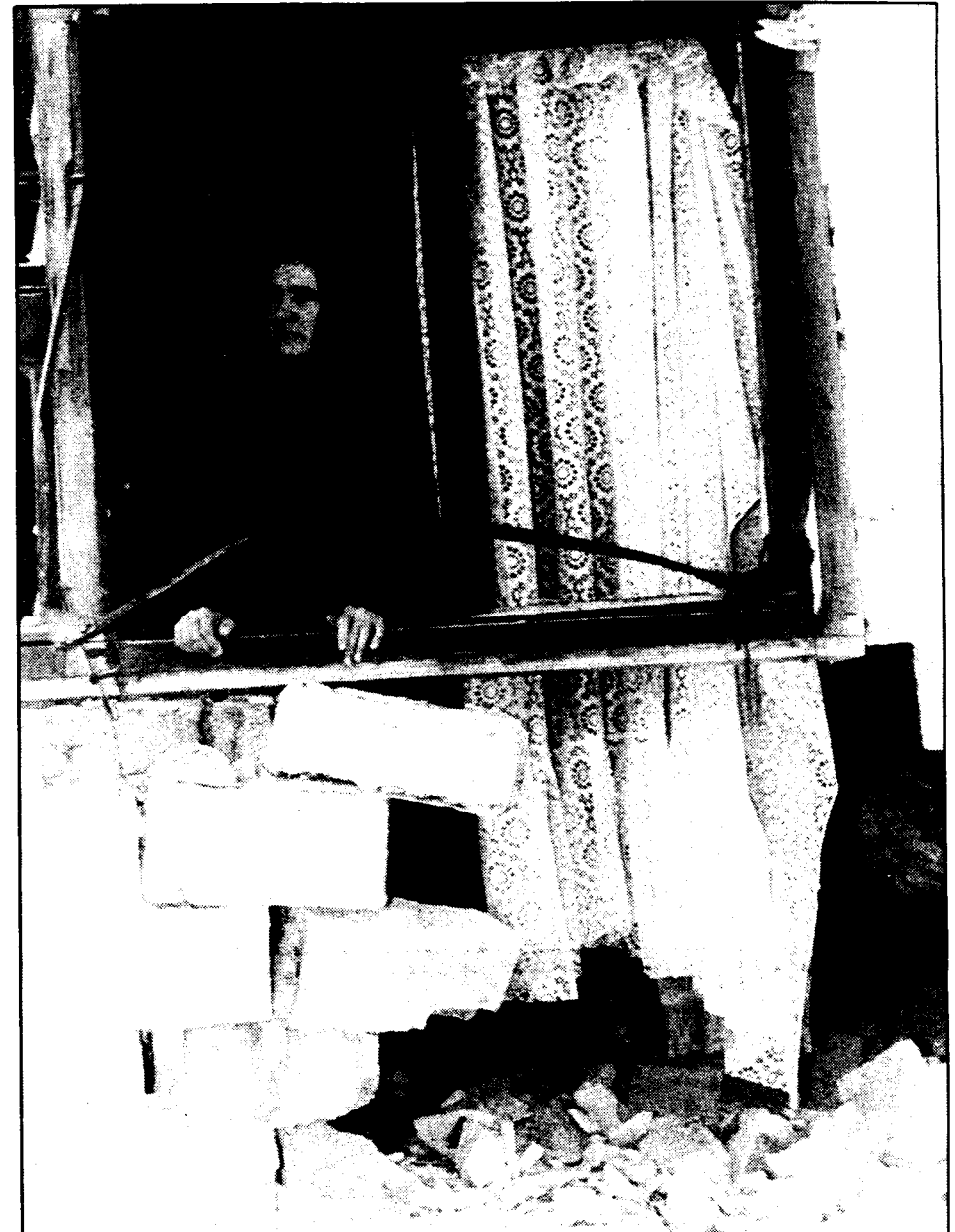
U.N. officials suggested skirmishes would not necessarily jeopardize the peace efforts. "We cannot militarily expect people who are within 200 meters of each other fighting suddenly to put their rifle in the air and say, 'Thanks very much, I'm walking backwards,'" said U.N. military spokesman Lt. Col. Chris Vernon. "It doesn't happen like that."

Aid workers were concerned yesterday with the fate of up to 400,000 refugees chased from home over the past three months. Most are Serbs routed from Croatia and northwestern Bosnia.

"We are very, very concerned now what is going to happen to many of these people during the winter," said John Sparrow, spokesman for the international Red Cross. "It is quite clear that there will be insufficient accommodation and people will be dying this winter as a consequence."

The Serbs, meanwhile, are rushing to expel up to 20,000 non-Serbs from Serb-held northern Bosnia, aid officials said.

Draft-age men were being separated from their families, and there were reports of rape, robberies and executions, U.N. officials said.



Mara Mistic, 41, of Zivinice, near Tuzla in northeast Bosnia, looks through her bedroom window after her house was hit during suspected Bosnian Serb shelling. Since the cease-fire began in Bosnia yesterday, some minor violations have occurred.

U.S. mediator goes to Moscow, plans for Bosnian peace talks

By **BARRY SCHWEID**
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — American mediator Richard Holbrooke said yesterday he intends to keep Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia engaged in U.S.-led peace talks "until we get results."

Before leaving for Moscow to plan for peace talks due to begin Oct. 31, Holbrooke said cease-fire

violations would not disrupt the talks. But he said they could prompt new NATO airstrikes.

"The United States will take swift action," he warned at a news conference. U.N. officials said, however, that cease-fire violations reported yesterday were insignificant.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said "things seem to be better" in Bosnia, especially

in the capital of Sarajevo, yesterday as a result of the cease-fire, which took effect at midnight (7:01 p.m. EDT Wednesday).

"But, by no means will we pronounce this a 100 percent success until we see in coming days how the parties honor their obligations."

He said, however, the cease-fire "does create an opportunity for our diplomacy to continue."

Holbrooke is to meet in Moscow with Russian, British, French and German officials and also try to resolve differences over how Russian peacekeeping troops would be used to help ensure a settlement.

American troops will make up one-third to one-half of a NATO force, the Pentagon said this week.

Holbrooke stressed "it's a

daunting challenge" to try to end the war in Bosnia.

However, he said Presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia had promised "not to threaten to leave" the talks, and that President Alija Izetbegovic would keep senior officials at the table if he returned home.

"We are going to go as far as we can," Holbrooke said.

Attorney testifies he told prison officials to open Abu-Jamal mail

By **HENRY CUTLER**
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — State prison officials opened Mumia Abu-Jamal's mail and passed legal documents on to officials in a position to advise the governor about issuing a death warrant for the condemned journalist, a lawyer for the prison system testified yesterday.

Attorney David Horwitz said that in August 1994, he ordered prison guards to open letters from lawyers to Abu-Jamal, copy the contents and pass them along.

Horwitz spoke under questioning by Timothy O'Brien, a civil attorney for Abu-Jamal. In a lawsuit, Abu-Jamal is asking U.S. Magistrate Kenneth Benson to stop prison officials from opening his mail, denying him access to paralegals and preventing him from meeting with reporters.

"What I am suggesting is that information pertinent to his legal strategy wound up in the hands of people who could make decisions that were adverse to his interests," O'Brien said outside the courtroom.

A former radio reporter, Abu-Jamal was convicted of the 1981 murder of Philadelphia police Officer Daniel Faulkner. He is seeking a new trial, saying his first trial

was tainted by racism. Abu-Jamal is black.

Horwitz said he ordered the mail copied because he suspected Abu-Jamal of violating a rule forbidding inmates to pursue professions while behind bars. He had learned that National Public Radio planned to broadcast a series of Abu-Jamal's radio commentaries, titled "Live From Death Row."

NPR later decided not to use the commentaries but paid Abu-Jamal \$900 for them, Horwitz said.

One intercepted letter dated Aug. 16, 1994, included information about legal tactics that Abu-Jamal's attorneys planned to use in their bid for a retrial, Horwitz said.

Horwitz said he "skimmed" that letter, concentrating on two paragraphs he said would affect his investigation. He also sent it to Brian Cottlieb, an attorney in then-Gov. Robert P. Casey's general counsel's office.

Lawyers in that office advise the governor on legal issues related to issuing death warrants.

After the hearing had adjourned for the day, Tom Halloran, a lawyer defending the prison system in Abu-Jamal's civil suit, said corrections lawyers routinely pass documents to the general counsel's office.

"That's because every state



Mumia Abu-Jamal
convicted murderer

department has an attorney in the general counsel's office," he said. "It's not unusual. Every department has coordinating counsel."

He said he did not know whether Cottlieb had passed on the letter within the general counsel's office.

O'Brien said prison officials took no action even though Horwitz's investigation of Abu-Jamal showed he was paid for his NPR commentaries in an apparent violation of prison rules.

He said officials acted only after learning in February that Abu-Jamal planned to publish "Live From Death Row," a book highly critical of the prison system.

FBI still searching for clues about Amtrak derailment

By **MICHELLE BOORSTEIN**
Associated Press Writer

HYDER, Ariz. — The FBI broadened its search yesterday for the saboteur who derailed an Amtrak train, checking tire tracks in the desert several miles away, knocking on doors in the sparsely populated area and interviewing railroad employees.

About 40 of the 90 agents who have been working near the site of Monday's crash fanned out to interview residents and others, said Robert Walsh, the FBI agent running the investigation.

About 20 other agents were sent back to their home offices from the crash scene 55 miles southwest of Phoenix, where Amtrak's Sunset Limited derailed on a sabotaged stretch of track and tumbled into a gulch. One crew member was killed and at least 78 people were injured.

The saboteur unbolted a bar that holds two rails together, loosened or removed spikes and used a wire to bypass a system intended to warn crews of a break in the track.

Several copies of a letter alluding to the federal sieges at Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and signed "Sons of Gestapo" were found at the scene.

Agents have been given access to Amtrak personnel records and are interviewing employees of the rail company and Southern Pacific Railroad, which owns the track, said Walsh, who heads the FBI's San Diego office.

He cautioned against interpreting that to mean investigators have fixed on the theory the saboteur was a disgruntled railroad employee.

"That would be quite a stretch. If they really wanted to target the railroads, I think that's what they would have focused on more in the letter," Walsh said.

Agents also have collected information on anti-government militia groups, he said, again warning against concluding the FBI is leaning toward that theory.

"It's very broad. It's still open to everyone," Walsh said.

Agents even copied the subscriber list of an obscure railroad magazine that published an article detailing a 56-year-old case of track sabotage in Nevada that paralleled the Amtrak case down to disabling the warning system.

The magazine, Southern Pacific Trainline, which has 30 subscribers in Arizona and 1,800 total, was put in the mail in Kansas on Oct. 3, less than a week before the wreck.