



Wanda Martin, a prolific pool player and avid sports fan at 81, is a proven winner. **F1**

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 14, 2001

LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1897



Renegades roll over West Hills, 36-3. **C1**

Bulldogs rally for 25-22 win over Colorado State in overtime. **C1**

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Conference in line with unity

Patriotism resounding theme among myriad speakers at 17th annual event at CSUB

By **STEVEN MAYER**

Californian staff writer

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From heavy-duty discussions of world events to light, airy comedy, the Bakersfield Business Conference delivered yet again on its promise to inform and entertain its 9,000 guests Saturday.

Ex-presidents, prime ministers and power players from former administrations shared the stage with comics, actors, political bulldogs, corporate leaders and media darlings at the annual festival of patriotism and politics held at Cal State Bakersfield.

But this year, partisan politics took a major backseat to a post-Sept. 11 message of unity.

If there was an overarching message repeated inside the 17th annual conference's giant main tent — a red, white and blue structure that towers nearly 100 feet over the grounds at Cal State Bakersfield — it was reflected in the very fact of the event itself: Conference-goers did not stay home covering in fear. They did not hesitate to come together to hear such prominent world leaders as former

U.S. President Gerald Ford, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and former United Kingdom Prime Minister John Major.

Instead, the thousands of attendees, most of whom came to Bakersfield from cities and towns across California and the United States, thumbed their collective nose at Osama bin Laden and any other terrorist who would deem to shut down the country and the lives of its citizens.

"Frankly, I don't give a damn about those terrorists," Borton, Petrini & Conron managing partner and conference founder George Martin told the crowd in his opening remarks. "We're going to sit under this big flag and have a great time."

By all indications, that's exactly what they did. Few conference guests slept in Saturday morning. The throngs began arriving before 7 a.m., and lines soon began to form at the front gate.

The conference crowd is generally a happy crowd, with smiles blooming everywhere like the fresh-cut flowers

Please turn to **CONFERENCE / A8**



Dean and Barbara Russell of Lake Arrowhead wave their appreciation of the American flags on the tables for attendees at the Bakersfield Business Conference on Saturday.

CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN



David McMahan with the All-America Boys Chorus found a place next to the stage to watch Tim Conway. At left is Diane Thielvoldt and at right is Brigette Bonnet.

HENRY A. BARRIOS / THE CALIFORNIAN



Leeta McCullah is searched at the front entrance to the business conference by Bakersfield Police Officer Joe Mullins.

CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN

Pilot of plane downed in China surprises all

By **KERRY CAVANAUGH**

Californian staff writer

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Surprise guest U.S. Navy Lt. Shane Osborn, on the verge of tears, only spoke a few moments to the thousands at the Bakersfield Business Conference Saturday, but his words were a fitting end to a day spent discussing America's response to terrorism.

"Right now, Johnny (Lt. John

Comerford) and I just got the call. We're heading over to the Middle East to join our brothers and sisters in defending our nation," Osborn said to a tent of wild-waving American flags.

Osborn was the pilot on the U.S. surveillance plane that made an emergency landing on Chinese soil earlier this year after a collision with a Chinese fighter jet. He was joined by Comerford, another

member of the 24-person crew. The April 1 incident triggered an 11-day standoff in which the Chinese government refused to release the crew until the United States apologized for the crash, which killed their pilot.

President Bush eventually sent a letter saying the United States was "very sorry" for the death of the Chinese pilot and for landing the damaged plane in China with-

out permission, but he did not take responsibility for the collision.

After talking with the Navy crew, U.S. officials said they were certain the collision was caused by the Chinese pilot making a dangerously close pass to intimidate the Navy crew.

The two men got a weekend off to appear before the business conference in dress blues with caps

Please turn to **OSBORN / A8**



Shane Osborn fights with his emotions on stage.

LON COOPER / THE CALIFORNIAN

President says goals being met

Bush calls air strikes a success. Meanwhile, five more employees of American Media Inc. in Florida test positive for anthrax exposure.

By **ANDREW MOLLISON**

Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Saturday that allied military forces had met their initial goals in Afghanistan, and that officials are taking "strong precautions" against potential threats within the United States.

"We are taking the war to the enemy, and we are strengthening our defenses here at home," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, in remarks broadcast Saturday on Qatar's al-Jazeera television, warned U.S. and British citizens "not to ride airplanes or live in tall buildings."

He said there would be a new "storm of planes" and warned that Bush, his father, former President Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would pay for "crimes" against Muslims.

The White House denounced the broadcast as propaganda.

Meanwhile, in Florida, five more employees of American Media Inc. have tested positive for exposure to anthrax, a company spokesman said Saturday. A photo editor for the company died last week from anthrax and two other employees were exposed but did not become ill.

Earlier in the day, Bush sought to calm mounting fears across America of more terrorist attacks and the spread of

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INSIDE

U.S. strategy: Fan the flames of Taliban dissent. **Page A3**

Reflections on how we've changed since Sept. 11. **Page A10**

Analysis: Despair, poverty have fueled Arab rage. **Page A15**

No one immune to anthrax scare

Reporter, a bioterrorism expert, shaken upon discovery of white powder.

By **JUDITH MILLER**

N.Y. Times News Service

NEW YORK — It looked like baby powder. A cloud of hospital white, sweet-smelling powder rose from the letter — dusting my face, sweater and hands. The heavier particles dropped to the floor, falling on my pants and shoes. An anthrax hoax, I thought.

My mind had been on something else. At my *Times* desk, I was already focused on what I thought was going to be the story of the day: the Bush administration's effort to seize the assets of more people and groups it said supported terrorism.

It was after 9:15 a.m. Friday, and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill would soon begin discussing the list of 39 additions to his agency's roster of rogue financiers of terror. I was on the phone, talking to Jeff Gerth, my colleague and friend, about the article we were

Please turn to **LETTER / A2**



Miller

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MORNING BRIEFING

NATION

School bus crash kills three, injures 28 more

A school bus returning from a high school band competition veered off a road, went through a bridge guard rail and crashed into a gully Saturday. Three people were killed and 28 were injured, some critically, authorities said. **A4**

Dispute specialist named to mediate Microsoft case

Eric Green, a Boston University law professor and a specialist in the field of resolving disputes out of court, has been named as the mediator in the Microsoft antitrust case. **A4**

WORLD

Ukraine accepts findings that missile hit airliner

In strained language that acknowledged only a "tragic coincidence," Ukraine's president, Leonid Kuchma, stated on Saturday that he accepted investigators' preliminary finding that his military accidentally destroyed a Russian airliner over the Black Sea last week with an errant missile. The air defense commander, Volodimir Tkachov, and his deputy turned in their resignations. **A24**

Latin economies reeling from fallout in attacks

Economies throughout Latin America have stumbled badly since the terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon, stirring fears of a long-term recession. From Mexico to Chile, country after country has suffered an abrupt downturn. Currencies have plummeted as the jolt to the world economy has cut prices of basic goods like oil, copper, zinc, steel and foodstuffs. Vital capital inflows have withered, sending Latin stock and bond markets plunging, and driving up interest rates. **A24**



NATI HARNIK / AP

Emergency personnel work a bus accident Saturday, near Omaha, Neb. Three people died and at least 32 were taken to hospitals.

Schoolgirls newest victims of Irish violence

Generations of simmering religious and cultural tensions in Northern Ireland found a new victim: young Roman Catholic girls, some just 4 years old, who were stoned by Protestant residents of a working-class neighborhood in north Belfast while walking to their first day of school last month. **A21**

LOCAL

Public to view plans for new KHSD boundaries

Parents and youth will catch a first glimpse Tuesday at proposed boundary changes within the Kern High School District. The district will hold the first of two public meetings Tuesday to take public comment on three proposals to redraw the boundaries of its comprehensive high schools in the metropolitan Bakersfield area. **B1**

Davis OKs bond measure that could benefit Kern

A \$2.6 billion bond issue park will be placed on the March 5 ballot. The measure, which was signed Saturday by Gov. Davis, could stand to bring at least \$5 million to Kern County for park projects, if approved by voters. **B1**

BUSINESS

Truck stops making a play for vacationing families

Truck stops used to be wide places along the freeways, somewhat scruffy places where long-haulers would stop to refuel and maybe have a quick meal and a cup of coffee. But outside Cleveland, one truck stop has undergone a makeover as the operators look not only for the big-rig business,



Having a shoot 'em up good time — Wild West revisited

The varmints were coyote-shaped silhouettes and the saloon was nothing more than a wooden facade, but none of that mattered Saturday during the 5 Dogs Wild West Extravaganza. About 250 competitors entered the California State Championship of Cowboy Shooting. Held at the 5 Dogs Range northeast of Bakersfield, the three-day event concludes today at 5 p.m. Cowgirls and cowboys, all dressed in required pre-1900s Western garb, compete in timed trials at 10 different stages. **B1**

but the family vacation crowd. **E1**

Money market mutuals become investor haven

The first money market mutual fund opened to investors in 1971, with the debut of the Reserve Fund. Today there are an estimated 1,042 U.S. money market funds, with assets totaling more than \$2 trillion, according to the Investment Company Institute, a mutual fund industry group.

Money market funds also have become a huge part of the mutual fund industry, accounting for nearly a third of all fund assets. **E1**

REAL ESTATE

Local home sales soar in August, service says

Local home sales in August posted a 25 percent year-over-year gain, according to a real estate tracking service.

The continued tumbling of long-term interest rates was the primary fuel for the leap in sales. **D1**

SPORTS

Wright making name for himself at Fresno State

FRESNO — When Fresno

State football Coach Pat Hill took over the Bulldogs' program five seasons ago, he made a recruiting trip to Kern County.

Wide receiver Rodney Wright and quarterback David Carr both became members of Hill's first recruiting class.

For Wright, the journey has been anything but simple. **C1**

Former champ Tyson TKO's Nielsen in sixth

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Six rounds not only gave Mike Tyson some much-needed work, it may also have gotten him another shot at the heavyweight title.

In his longest fight since losing his title to Evander Holyfield five years ago, Tyson bloodied Brian Nielsen and knocked him down Saturday before the bout was stopped with the half-blinded Dane still on his stool after the sixth round.

Though stopped between rounds, the fight was declared a technical knockout one second into the seventh.

"I'm back," Tyson said, after riding himself of some ring rust in his first fight in nearly a year.

He kept his spot as the mandatory No. 1 challenger for the winner of the Nov. 17 fight between Hasim Rahman and Lennox Lewis. And he did it at

the heaviest weight of his career, showing the boxing world a new, bulked up Tyson. **C6**

St. Louis beats Arizona, forces decisive fifth game

Bud Smith did his part, sending the St. Louis Cardinals to a decisive Game 5.

Now, all they have to do is beat Curt Schilling. At Bank One Ballpark.

Smith, a 21-year-old rookie, held Arizona to one run in five innings and St. Louis defeated the Diamondbacks 4-1 Saturday to even their NL playoff series at two games each. **C7**

UCLA remains unbeaten with win over Washington

PASADENA — Look out, Florida!

And Miami, Oklahoma and Nebraska, as well.

The UCLA Bruins believe they can play with anyone in the country, and if Saturday is a reliable barometer, they're right up there.

"We just wanted to get out there and show America," DeShaun Foster said after rushing for a school-record 301 yards and four touchdowns as the No. 7 Bruins routed No. 10 Washington 35-13. **C10**

EYE STREET

Feisty felt-meister still avid sports fan at 81

Don't patronize her. Please. No oohs and aahs or how cute it is that an 81-year-old



woman plays bar room pool and is a member of the O's Lounge team. Average age 45.

Fact is, Wanda Martin would beat your brains if given the chance. She's a pool player when she's not betting the ponies, parlaying the football games or agonizing over her beloved San Francisco Giants, a team she's mad at for not making the playoffs. This life is nothing new. Martin's been like this for 50 years. Work hard, play hard. **F1**

We love 'Lucy' too much, top episodes choices show

So many people have certain favorites among the numerous memorable episodes of "I Love Lucy." So it's difficult to pick a top 10. Even CBS couldn't do in 1958 when it decided to air a collection of reruns titled "The Top Ten Lucy Shows." It ran 13. Still, check out these five classic episodes of "I Love Lucy" demonstrating the variety of Lucille Ball's comedic talent. **F11**

Seattle beyond Starbucks — a journey to city's past

As Seattle prepares to commemorate its sesquicentennial, the city is famous for building jumbo jets and giving birth to Starbucks Coffee and grunge rock, symbols of today's pop culture. But the totem poles that pop up here and there suggest the Emerald City has its roots in the culture of the continent's original settlers. **F6**

LOCAL POLL

Question: Are you concerned about recently reported outbreaks of Anthrax infections?

Yes. Anthrax is normally rarely contracted, but recent incidents are numerous and alarming in wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. (26.90%)

I'm not overly worried, but I'll take extra precautions in handling mail. (36.55%)

To participate in the Local Poll, visit www.bakersfield.com/local

No. The threat has been largely overhyped by the media. (36.55%)

ATTACKS: Giuliani reassures public anthrax not a threat as new cases mount

Continued from A1

anthrax. "I understand that many Americans are feeling uneasy. But all Americans should be assured we are taking strong precautions, we are vigilant, we are determined," Bush said.

Officials of the joint terrorism task force of federal, state and local health, postal and law enforcement authorities said in New York that so far, only two letters — one mailed to a tabloid newspaper in Florida and the other to NBC in New York — have infected people.

They said early test results show that the powder or granules in other suspicious letters, including one sent to the *New York Times*, did not contain anthrax, and those cases are being treated as criminal attempts to scare people, rather than to kill them.

In Nevada, a letter sent from Malaysia to a Microsoft office near Reno has tested positive for anthrax, Gov. Kenny Guinn said later Saturday, but no one has tested positive for the disease or become ill. The letter was sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta for further testing, Guinn said.

In his radio address from Camp David, Bush stated that the U.S. forces "achieved the goals of the first phase" of the military actions that he launched last Sunday.

"We have disrupted the terrorist network inside Afghanistan, we have

weakened the Taliban's military and we have crippled the Taliban's air defenses," he said.

Shortly after he spoke, the Pentagon acknowledged that a 2,000-pound "smart" bomb released by a Navy F/A-18 jet missed a Taliban military helicopter at the Kabul airport and struck a residential neighborhood one mile away.

Residents reported four deaths and the destruction of four houses, said The Associated Press. "We regret the loss of any civilian life," a Pentagon statement said.

U.S. planes Saturday evening finished their seventh straight day of attacks, firing seven missiles at targets in the northern part of Kabul. Attacks also hit a military base outside Kandahar, Taliban's southern stronghold, the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press reported.

At the same time, the sprawling anti-terrorism coalition coordinated by U.S. diplomats gained new support as six Arab nations — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — agreed to freeze assets of people and groups identified as terrorists in two lists issued by the U.S. Treasury.

Taliban officials once again rejected Bush's demand that the regime turn over bin Laden, who has been linked by U.S. officials to the terrorists who conducted the Sept. 11 attacks.

Large peace marches remained

nonviolent in London and Berlin, but Reuters reported that an anti-American demonstration in Nigeria spun out of control and into riots in which at least 16 people were killed.

Secretary of State Colin Powell leaves today for India and Pakistan to bolster support for Bush's anti-terror campaign.

In the United States, nerves were on edge.

A U.S. Airways flight from Charlotte, N.C., to Denver was diverted to Indianapolis as a precaution after a flight attendant noticed an unidentified substance in the plane's galley. The substance, believed to be a powder used in packing materials, was tested and found not to be hazardous.

"I think people have absorbed this news about anthrax," New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said.

"It's not contagious, it can be treated and cured," Giuliani said. "People shouldn't be overwrought about it or nervous about it because it can be dealt with."

Bush countered domestic worries by praising former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, who went to work last week as head of Bush's new Office of Homeland Security, as "a decorated Vietnam combat veteran" and "a skilled and tested leader."

He said Ridge "will report directly to me (on his coordination of efforts) to protect our country against terrorism, to frustrate terrorists' plans, to help

protect vulnerable points and to prepare our response to potential threats."

On the political front, meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., set the stage for a showdown between the Democratic-controlled Senate and the Republican-controlled House and administration over the size and nature of an economic stimulus package.

Bush and Congress are trying to agree on a package of tax cuts and extra spending that could help to push the country out of an economic slump that deepened after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Many of us believe that about \$50 billion in additional stimulus makes sense, while the administration has suggested that \$75 billion might be needed," Daschle said in the Democratic response to Bush's radio address. "Clearly, there's plenty of room for a principled compromise."

That was a clear snub to House Republicans, who think Bush's proposal was too small.

The draft of a \$100 billion stimulus bill was approved Friday on a party-line vote by Republicans on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

"Finally, a good economic stimulus package is one that includes a mix of tax cuts and investments (in) unemployment and health benefits ... public health, transportation safety and other critical parts of our safety infrastructure," Daschle said.

LETTER: Whoever is behind letters able to spread terror with baby powder, a few stamps, reporter says

Continued from A1

planning to write that day. As we spoke, I was picking my way through the pile of unopened mail beside my computer.

I had been getting many letters since Sept. 11. Some were complimentary; others were angry about the government's failure to protect Americans from terrorism. But most writers wanted to know how they could protect themselves and their families from bioterrorism, having seen two colleagues and me on television discussing our book, "Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War."

Had I not been distracted, I probably would not have opened the stamped letter in the plain white envelope with no return address and a postmark from St. Petersburg, Fla. My sources and I had been discussing the threat of anthrax attacks ever since a man died this month from an inhaled form of anthrax he contracted at a newspaper office in Boca Raton, Fla., not far from where one of the hijackers of the Sept. 11 attacks had done his flight training.

But I wasn't thinking. I was rushed, absorbed in my work, and only half paying attention to the mail.

The powder got my full attention. I immediately asked the reporters and editors around me to call security. I didn't want to touch the phone.

They looked alarmed. It's OK, I told them. It's probably just a hoax.

Just then the phone rang. Instinctively, I pressed the headphone button. It was a source. Had I heard, he asked, about Tom Brokaw's assistant? She had contracted anthrax from powder in a letter she had opened in late September.

The envelope, he said, had a Florida postmark. Calm down, I thought. It's still probably a hoax. But when *The Times* security officials arrived — promptly — I was relieved to see that they were carrying a plastic garbage bag and wearing gloves. As I moved away from the desk, they gingerly placed the letter and envelope in the bag, and sealed it, along with the glove that had touched them.

As I washed my hands and tried to

dust off the powder that clung to my pants and shoes, I thought about what Bill Patrick, my friend and bio-weapons mentor, had told me: Anthrax was hard to weaponize. To produce a spore small enough to infect the lungs took great skill. Bill knew that firsthand. He had struggled to manufacture such spores for the United States in the 1950s and '60s as a senior scientist in America's own germ weapons program, which President Nixon ended in 1969.

Growing anthrax that would penetrate the skin — cutaneous infection, it was called — was less difficult, though still not easy. That's why Bill had been very concerned when he heard about the Florida case. Whoever had done this had been able to produce the tiny spore that could enter the lungs.

The NBC case, Bill told me, could well have involved a larger spore that was cut with baby powder or another substance to mask the deadly pathogen with a smell that was reassuringly familiar. Anthrax itself had no smell. And it was almost never white.

Major developments

- Taliban reject President Bush's "second chance" offer to surrender terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden, the Afghan Embassy in Pakistan says. The president had earlier given the Taliban another opportunity to "cough up" bin Laden and his followers.

- Fighter jets pounded the area around Kabul's airport Saturday in a seventh straight day of airstrikes. The action followed a hiatus in the U.S.-led campaign for most of Friday, the Muslim holy day.

- A U.S. bomb intended to strike a helicopter at the Kabul airport hit a residential neighborhood a mile away. According to unconfirmed ground reports, four people were killed and eight were injured, the Defense Department said.

- In Florida, five more newspaper employees tested positive for exposure to anthrax, but none showed symptoms of infection. And in Nevada, a letter sent to a Microsoft office also tested positive for the

- A second NBC employee had possible symptoms of anthrax, health officials said. Authorities traced anthrax to a second threatening letter sent to NBC and postmarked Sept. 18 in Trenton, N.J.

- *The New York Times* said a powdery white substance mailed to one of its reporters tested negative for anthrax in preliminary tests.

- The FBI said authorities "see no connection whatsoever" to the Sept. 11 attack and the anthrax cases. Vice President Dick Cheney is skeptical: "I think the only responsible thing for us to do is proceed on the basis that it could be linked."

- More than 25,000 peace protesters took to the streets in Germany calling for an end to U.S. air attacks against Afghanistan.

- A Saudi prince blamed "Jewish pressure" for the rejection of his \$10 million donation to a New York relief fund.

Lottery

Saturday's Lotto numbers		
	15-18-28-36-43	
Meganumber	6	
Jackpot	\$10 million	
Fantasy Five	2-15-28-35-37	
Daily 3	7-6-5	
Derby	Horses 1-12-2 Time: 1:47.35	
Wednesday's Lotto numbers		
	8-11-29-43-44	
Meganumber	10	
Wednesday's winners		
	Winners	Prize each
5 of 5 with Mega	0	0
5 of 5 without Mega	6	\$16,184
4 of 5 with Mega	27	\$1,798
4 of 5 without Mega	831	\$97
3 of 5 with Mega	1,302	\$55
3 of 5 without Mega	34,271	\$10
2 of 5 with Mega	18,424	\$10
1 of 5 with Mega	90,535	\$2
Meganumber only	138,411	\$1

Annual event another one for the record books

The Bakersfield Californian

Oh the flags!

And you thought you've seen your fair share of flags. The business conference provided audience members with 9,000 hand-held flags, and the main tent sported the event's largest flag.

NOTES

The American flag motif on both sides of the tent's top measured 133 feet by 340 feet — slightly larger than a football field.

Satisfying the sweet tooth

Among the sweets and junk food available: 30,000 breakfast pastries; 30,000 Nestle and Haagen Dazs products; 30,000 bags of Frito-Lay chips and Cracker Jack popcorn snacks; 16,000 servings of Jelly Belly jelly

beans; 16,000 cookies; 3,000 brownies; and 3,000 lemon bars.

Powering up

More than 14 miles of electrical cables supplied power for the conference. There were 13 generators: five 300-kilowatt, two 200-kilowatt, two-150 kilowatts; and four 100-kilowatt generators. There was also 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

The star-spangled vest

Camilla Pence of Visalia was perhaps the most colorfully dressed conference-goer in the house. She wore a sparkling vest of red, white and blue that lighted every darkened tent through which she walked. A friend of hers purchased the vest for \$2 at a second-hand store, and Pence borrowed it in March. She promises she'll give it back — "one day," she said.

Search me

The wait was up to 50 minutes for many attendees trying to enter the grounds early Saturday. "Not one person seemed to mind," Cal State Bakersfield campus police Chief Brian Baker said after the lengthy lines had cleared. "One lady looked around and said, 'Hey, you didn't search my purse very well,' and she started pulling things out for (security) people to look at."

After standing in one line ...

At 7:45 a.m., the lines for refreshments were longest at the liquor tents. The most popular order, according to one busy bartender, was the Bloody Mary.

All for O'Reilly

"I'm in love with him," said Joyce Chell of Ojai in Southern California. Chell said

seeing Bill O'Reilly of the TV news show "The O'Reilly Factor," was the only reason she came. Chell bought one of O'Reilly's books and a videotape and stood in a line of more than 100 people just to get his autograph.

Lost and found

A quick check of the lost and found at 7 p.m. revealed five purses, five pairs of sunglasses, three cell phones, several sets of keys, a pager, a camera and one hearing aid. All leftover items can be reclaimed at Gate 19 today.

What would The Terminator do?

It was a logical question in the press tent after Arnold Schwarzenegger's talk in the main tent — how would The Terminator deal with Osama bin Laden?

"Never confuse what's in the movies

with what is reality," Schwarzenegger said, adding that he feels the nation is in good hands. "It makes me proud to be an American to see how America has reacted," said the Austrian-born bodybuilder-turned-actor.

Will work for free

Conference organizers left nothing to chance as an army of volunteers fanned out across the grounds to take care of everything from the tiniest bit of litter to ticket taking, supplying snack tents, serving food, emptying trash and refilling glasses of wine.

Not just for adults

Isabelle Steffel of Bakersfield is now a veteran conference-goer. At 9 years old she's already been to two. Her favorite moment of the day? Watching Schwarzenegger in action. Oh, yes, the booths and ferris wheel were good too.

Taking requests

The All-American Boys Chorus made its 10-year mark on the conference. The Orange County-based singing group brought 40 boys, from ages 9 to 15, to sing the greatest of the great patriotic numbers for incoming guests. They also sang "It's a Great Country," at the request of conference organizer George Martin.

Bakersfield what?

Surprise guest Lt. Shane Osborn didn't at first know what to make of his invitation to appear at the conference. "Why would a business conference want to talk to a Navy pilot?" he wondered. He had to look up the conference on the Internet and said he was impressed with what he found.

Ex-chief challenges priorities

Former Defense Secretary William Cohen says U.S. was "lazy" before Sept. 11.

By CHRISTINE MALAMANIG

Californian staff writer

e-mail: cmalamanig@bakersfield.com

Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen helped explain how and why the Sept. 11 attacks happened.

"It's because of who we are," he said. "It is hate for the nation's openness, free minds and acceptance, said Cohen, who was named Secretary of Defense in 1997 and has had a 31-year public service career.

"We have become lax, lazy, self-indulgent," he said. "We have misplaced our priorities," he added.

He also said the United States has lost control of its borders and has underfunded its military. Cohen also said teachers, police and firefighters should be paid more.

"We have to take care of those who take care of us," he said.

Cohen said we need to do a better job of balancing personal privacy and security.

We are in the midst of that debate right now, which has long been deferred and is under way, he said.

Cohen said people are going to have to sacrifice comfort and ease.

"The question becomes how much intrusion are you willing to accept?"

So how do we resolve the issues, Cohen asked.

"Do we start with profiling? Is that something consistent with our ideals? The answer is no."

We need to have better information and intelligence, he said.

Cohen said terrorist attacks will happen again.

He said terrorists have been planning the Sept. 11 attacks, as well as attacks against the USS Cole for years, and said they are planning more attacks against us.

In regards to responding to terrorism, Cohen said people need to remember we are Americans, not barbarians.

"We can never descend to the level of those who killed us," he said. "We will (respond) with precision. We will rip them up and bring them to justice, as President Bush said."

This is going to be a long, tough battle, he said.

Military strikes are necessary, but more covert actions are called for, he said.

"The real question for us is, 'Do we have the will — the will to stay the course?'"

Cohen said the nation can't play defense 100 percent of the time.

"You have to play defense, but you also have to play offense," he said.

However, Cohen said, individuals should not panic, particularly in response to reports of anthrax attacks.



HENRY A. BARRIOS / THE CALIFORNIAN

Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen said people are going to have to sacrifice comfort and ease. "The question becomes how much intrusion are you willing to accept?"

He said it is premature to say whether the recent anthrax cases were criminal or terrorist.

He said they could be the result of copycat actions, but said we need to be as vigilant as we can.

The government must take action on developing the proper vaccines, he said.

Cohen said the fight against terrorism is bigger than simply going after one person, Osama bin Laden.

There are networks out there that mean Americans harm, he said.

"One person is the focus right now, but should not be the exclusive focus," he said.

Cohen helped enlarge the NATO alliance and guided the U.S. military through the 1999 NATO air campaign over Kosovo and during operations to prevent Iraq from destabilizing the strategic Persian Gulf area.

Cohen also held political office 24 years, representing Maine in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. He has also written or co-authored nine books.

Conference attendees thankful for security

Increased police presence, long lines, road blocks bring few complaints.

By GAIL DAVIS

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Heightened concerns led to heightened security at Saturday's Business Conference, which went off without a hitch, security officials said.

SWAT and other special forces teams from the Bakersfield Police Department, the FBI, the Secret Service and a bomb-sniffing dog joined the Cal State Bakersfield campus police in providing a security screen unseen in previous years.

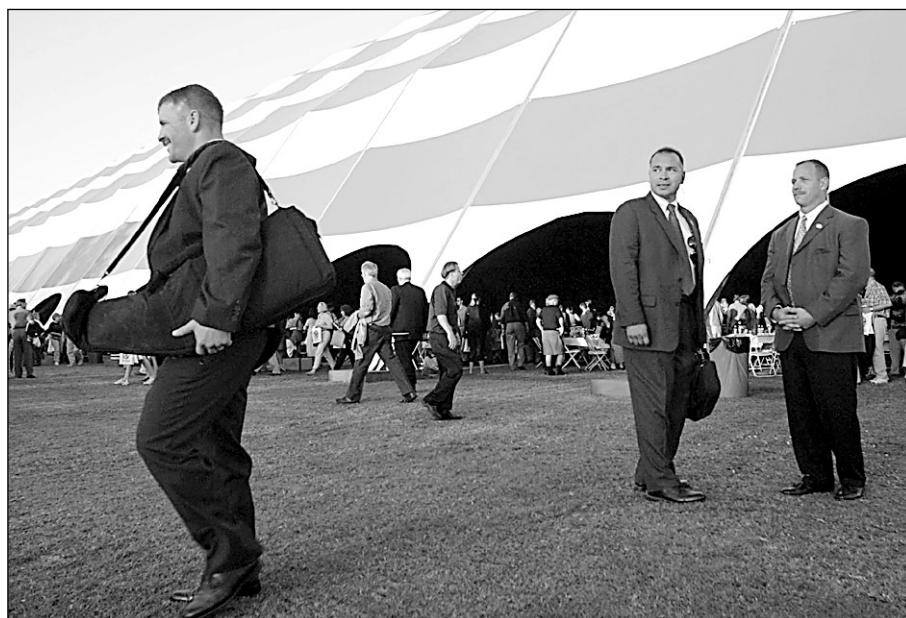
"We're in a different world now," said Jack Campbell, a former Kern County sheriff's SWAT team commander who served as head of security for the conference.

That meant roadblocks on paths along the conference's perimeters, metal detectors and bomb squad teams patrolling the grounds.

All necessary, Campbell said, to ensure that in the remote chance of a terrorist incident, attendees would be protected.

And there were surprisingly few complaints, even with unusually long lines to get in, as people waited to pass through the metal detectors and have their purses and other belongings checked. Campbell said that it was surprising that even under tighter security, Saturday's crowd was the most relaxed ever.

The bomb squad started Saturday very early indeed, completing a complete sweep of the grounds for potential threats by 8 a.m.



HENRY A. BARRIOS / THE CALIFORNIAN

Security personnel carrying cases for automatic weapons were on the scene at the Bakersfield Business Conference.

But the presence of the five-man team wasn't anything new this year, according to Sgt. Danny Shrider, its commander. Bomb sweeps have been done here for at least 10 years.

"Security for us here has always been a high priority," Shrider said, noting the perennial presence of high profile world and national leaders.

What was new Saturday was the reaction of attendees

to the police presence.

"This year we've had people come up and thank us," Shrider said. "In prior years, we've mostly had people come up and ask us why we're here."

No one had any question why the bomb squad, the SWAT team and untold other security measures were being used this year.

There were few if any complaints, and no problems.

CONFERENCE: Attendees not put off by tight security

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that decorate the grounds.

But not everything looked the same as it has in previous years. "We have really tightened it down this year," said Jack Campbell, the head of conference security. "We're in a different world now."

At the main gate, all bags and purses were searched thoroughly by Bakersfield police. Conference-goers were then directed to walk through one of three free-standing metal detectors. And finally, a hand-held, wand-style detector was passed over pockets and shoes as an extra step toward ensuring organizers' stated goal of safety and security for all.

Nobody complained. "Passing through a metal detector is not a violation of my civil rights," said Gwen Zioli, an Arcadia resident who has attended the conference religiously for the past seven or eight years. "Standing in line is an inconvenience, not a threat to my civil rights."

On the contrary, Zioli lauded organizers for anticipating attendees' comfort and security needs.

"This conference meets the Disney standard," she said. "Not one thing will happen today ... that they have not already considered."

Zioli is hardly alone in her effusive praise. In the past five years, the International Platform Association has twice named the Bakersfield Business Conference the "Best One-Day Conference in the Nation."

And Special Events magazine has said the annual extravaganza represents the nation's "Best Program and Entertainment Concept."

One of the reasons for the conference's continuing success may lie in the fact that organizers don't pretend the conference is anywhere other than in Bakersfield. They don't try to turn it into an ultra-sophisticated soiree by covering it with a false veneer.

Banish that thought. Even as guests gnawed happily on barbecue and all the ice cream, pistachios, fresh fruit, doughnuts, bagels and other goodies they could eat, they had the chance to enjoy a wide variety of entertainment — and plenty of words of enlightenment, too.

Famed astronaut and former U.S. Sen. John Glenn spoke eloquently about a number of aspects of the current world situation. And he struck a chord when he recalled horrifying images from the Sept. 11 attacks.

"People jumping, holding hands as they came down ... and the terrorists saying they did it in the name of God," Glenn said. "There must be a tear in the eyes of God for being so misrepresented."

Flag-waving yet cautionary inspiration came to listeners from former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo, Fox News host Bill O'Reilly and former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen.

Business-related wisdom and personal recollections also abounded as corporate leader Herman Cain related his recipe for business and personal success, and former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young spoke about how faith and family are his personal anchor and the anchor for the nation.

Deadpan comic Tim Conway, of "McHale's Navy" and "The Carol Burnett Show" fame, said he didn't mind if anyone used flash photography during his talk. He also didn't mind making some slightly off-color noises in the midst of his stand-up routine. "My career is pretty much over," Conway joked. "I don't think there's a damage factor here."

All of Saturday's featured speakers and fun activities are part of a tradition begun in 1985, when the Bakersfield-based law firm of Borton, Petrini & Conron decided to host a business and finance conference. The first conference's speakers included several of the law firm's partners as well as a number of local businessmen.

However, even the first year featured nationally-known speakers, including Pulitzer-Prize winning author Jack Nelson, nationally syndicated columnist Mark Stevens and comedian Pat Paulsen. About 250 people attended that first conference.

The firm decided to do it again, and again and again. By 1992, the Conference had outgrown its first location at Stockdale Country Club and moved to the soccer fields of Cal State.

OSBORN: 'Choked up' pilot details experience overseas

Continued from A1

tucked under their arms. The enthusiastic welcome was overwhelming and caused him to cut his remarks short, Osborn said. "I was getting a little choked up."

In the months following their return from China, the men said they've been surprised at times by the people they've met and accolades they've received.

But the terror of the midair collision and following days in interrogation have left their mark on the men.

"(There have been) a lot of sleepless nights. A lot of nightmares and a lot of praying still," Osborn said.

Comerford and Osborn briefly described their emotions and actions in the air when the plane was hit — the mad and sick feeling in the pit of the stomach, the struggle to control a dropping plane, the dash to throw the surveillance equipment out of the plane and into the water.

"Teamwork, training and a belief in something is how we got home," Osborn said.

The pilot has written a book, which comes out in November, called "Born to Fly." In it, he recounts his own story of growing up in Nebraska to flying Navy planes.