

11,000 anti-abortion protesters cross city

NORTHWEST PORTLAND (AP) — About 11,000 anti-abortion demonstrators lined 41 miles of streets east to west through Portland on Sunday while an intersecting line of 3,000 stretched eight miles north to south, forming a human cross across the city.

Some of the demonstrators stood in bunches, some up to 40 feet apart. All stood quietly in the rain. They held signs that read: "Abortion Hurts Women," "Abortion Kills Children" and "Jesus Forgives and Heals."

The second annual Portland Life Chain, sponsored by 350 churches in the metropolitan area, was formed to communicate a message to the people of Portland, said Georgene Rice, an organizing committee mem-

'We're committed to being part of the solution ... not merely pointing out the problem.'

— Georgene Rice, Portland Life Chain member

"This is a step toward healing," Rice said. "We're real committed to being part of the solution and not merely pointing out the problem."

Rice said many people who stood in line back up their beliefs by volunteering in pregnancy crisis centers.

"I volunteered as a birthing coach and we just celebrated that baby's first birthday," Rice said. "You make a commitment to being supportive."

There were no reports of problems, although at least one pickup festooned with abortion-rights signs drove the route, honking at demonstrators.

Teresa Jundt, 13, said the often-emotional outbursts by motorists were frightening.

Jundt took part in the demonstration with her family and other members of the Rolling Hills Community Church in the Portland suburb of Tualatin.

"This is one way to show our belief," said Bruce Li, minister of the Portland Chinese Christian & Missionary Alliance Church. Li held his sign near an Interstate 5 interchange in southwest Portland.

House bombed by frozen waste

WOODINVILLE, Wash. (AP) — Leroy and Gerri Cinnamon were at home watching the Seattle Seahawks on television when the ah- whatever you call it - almost hit the fan.

A basketball-sized chunk of frozen sewage crashed through the Cinnamons' roof Sunday, blasting through the ceiling and splattering on the living room floor only a few feet from where Gerri was sitting in front of the TV.

Officials of the Federal Aviation Administration say it appears the Cinnamons' house was the target of an inadvertent discharge from an airliner restroom.

The waste bomb made a 3-foot by 2-foot hole in the roof and ceiling of the one-story house in this northeast Seattle suburb. None of the four people at home were hurt.

"It made one great, big, large ke-bang, and we thought something had exploded," Leroy said.

He and his wife said firefighters who responded to their call figured it had to be one of two things: frozen aircraft waste or a meteorite. While the second possibility was still open, the house was quarantined and a hazardous materials response team was called in to check for possible radiation.

"They treated us like we were radioactive," said Gerri.

When the object began to melt, all doubts were removed.

"It stunk real bad," Gerri said.

FAA spokesman Mike O'Connor said the Cinnamons' house wasn't singled out by an errant air crew.

A leak must have developed in one of the toilets of an airliner, he said. At higher altitudes, it would have formed into ice, clinging to the side of the plane. On the descent into Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the plane's airframe would have warmed up, causing the chunk to thaw and break loose.

O'Connor said the FAA is checking flight records to determine which plane was over the Woodinville area at the time the ice fell.

"We need to find the plane and get it fixed," he said.

The Cinnamons said they stored the pieces of ice in a plastic kitty-litter container in their freezer, just in case they need them for evidence.

The distraction took them away from a game the Seahawks lost 19-0 to the Los Angeles Raiders.

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Instincts lead woman to house fire

TACOMA (AP) — A premonition sent Bridgette Simmons home from work and may have saved the lives of her husband and three-year-old son.

Simmons had been at work for about two hours Sunday, tearing down walls for a renovation project, when she was overcome by a feeling that something was terribly wrong. She told her boss she had to leave and began walking the four blocks to her house.

"Something told me to pick up the pace," Simmons said later from her hospital bed, and she began to run.

When she reached the house, smoke was everywhere and her nine-year-old son, John, was outside screaming that the house was on fire.

"I thank God I went home, and I thank God I had the courage and strength to do what I did," she said later Sunday.

"I followed my first instincts. Your instincts never let you down."

While John ran to a neigh-

'I followed my first instincts. Your instincts never let you down.'

— Bridgette Simmons, saved husband and child

bor's house to call the fire department, Simmons, 32, ran to the back of her home and climbed through a bedroom window. Smoke and flames prevented her using the front door.

Inside, she said, "Everything was totally black. I couldn't see anything."

Simmons crawled to the hallway, where she found her husband of 15 years, Robert, and their 3-year-old son, Andrew.

Her husband was unconscious and she dragged him as far as she could toward safety. Then she grabbed the boy and left the house through a window - the same window used

shortly after that by Tacoma firefighters to bring out her husband.

Robert Simmons, 70, suffered second- and third-degree burns on his arm, face and hands. He was in critical but stable condition Monday at St. Joseph Hospital, a nursing supervisor said. His wife is worried about long-term impact, and noted Sunday he had suffered eight heart attacks over the years.

She suffered from smoke inhalation, but was in satisfactory condition Monday at Tacoma General Hospital and expected to be released soon. The two children, treated for smoke inhalation at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, were released Sunday.

Firefighters say the blaze apparently began in a living room couch. Fire Department investigator Rick Blackburn speculated that Robert Simmons may have fallen asleep with a cigarette burning, or perhaps the children were playing with a lighter.



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