

LA residents find alternative routes for traveling



LOS ANGELES (AP) — Commuters hamstrung by Los Angeles' earthquake-crippled freeway system entered the brave new world of trains, buses and car pools Monday. To their surprise, many found it wasn't as bad as they feared.

"It's sad, I know, but maybe this is forcing us to do something that we should have been doing for years," said Dale Lynn Bowman, a first-time passenger on the Metrolink commuter train.

The Jan. 17 quake, which measured 6.6 on the Richter scale, killed 56 people and injured 8,335. Officials revised the death toll downward from 57 on Monday without an immediate explanation.

In Washington, President Clinton pledged to line up federal aid as rapidly as possible. "Just keep your chins up and keep working on it," he told federal relief officials in Los Angeles. "We'll do what we can here."

Train ridership leaped, solo drivers were scarcer and the downtown subway did brisk business as thousands found their way to work despite the destruction of vital freeway segments.

Commuters through the Newhall Pass, where one freeway closure diverted traffic onto a winding canyon road north of downtown, endured a 90-minute drive, compared to four-hour journeys that were common last week.

About 16,000 of the 200,000 motorists who travel the pass daily took the Metrolink train. Before the quake closed Interstate 5, the state's main north-south route, fewer than 1,000 passengers rode the train daily.

Freeways and surface streets were briefly gridlocked on the city's congested west side because of a break on the Santa Monica Freeway, which normally handles as many as 340,000 daily trips. And traffic crawled 15 miles along an alternative, the Ventura Freeway, in the San Fernando Valley.

Traffic engineers believe many people decided to stay home, leave for work early or abandon their cars for mass transit or car pools, said Jerry Baxter, district director for the California Department of Transportation. No actual counts were made to verify that assessment, he said.

"I'm not here to tell you we're out of the woods," Baxter told a news conference. "Tomorrow may be a lot tougher than

today."

State transit officials urged businesses to stagger working hours, adopt four-day work weeks and have employees work from home via computer.

Commuters faced an even sterner test Tuesday, when all but about 9,000 of 640,000 students in the Los Angeles Unified School District were to return to class.

About 70 teachers at William Mulholland Middle School near the quake's epicenter showed up at dawn Monday to prepare. Leading concerns were drinking water for thirsty kids and whether to hold final exams.

"We had about 1,400 students before the earthquake, but we don't know how many are coming back. A lot of them are in shelters," said principal Alfredo Tarin.

Funeral services were held Monday for police Officer Clarence Dean, 46, who died when his motorcycle plunged off a severed freeway overpass moments after the quake.

Thousands of people visited 13 Federal Emergency Management Agency centers to apply for housing vouchers and other help. A line of 200 people at the Northridge center, nearest the quake's epicenter, was "the shortest I've seen in three days,"

said volunteer James Weeden. The Red Cross sheltered 10,500 people in schools, gymnasiums and tents, and 4,400 people stayed in tents put up by the National Guard. At least 11,000 dwellings were uninhabitable, and aftershocks were adding to that figure, said U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Aftershocks at mid-morning Monday knocked items off store shelves in Newhall and drove 200 more people to the tent shelters at Winnetka Recreational Park in Northridge, already temporary home to 1,500 people.

"The building was shaking too much and my mom got scared, so we came here," said Mark Gomez, 14.

"I wish I could talk to the children more," said Jane Kubrian, an English-speaking volunteer tending to Spanish-speaking refugees at Birmingham High School in Van Nuys. "But I hug them and hold them and hope that makes them feel better."

Concerned about sanitary conditions, counselors visited refugees living in vacant lots to persuade them to go to official shelters. Building inspectors targeted refugees' homes, hoping to declare many of them safe and

allow occupants to return.

In other developments:

—Electricity was restored to all but 700 customers. Some 5,000 households lacked water service, and 30,000 were without gas. A boil-water order was in effect for much of the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys, as well as the Hollywood Hills.

—FEMA's aid hotline logged nearly 38,000 aid applications, including more than 14,000 in a 24-hour period ending Monday. The agency estimated about 14,500 residences were damaged or destroyed in the quake. FEMA planned to open six mobile centers Tuesday to process additional disaster aid applications.

—The General Services Administration said it was buying 3,000 family-size tents and camp stoves, lanterns and fire extinguishers for people still camping in front yards and parks.

—Citing quake damage, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency withdrew a threat to pull \$800 million in highway funds from California because the state has failed to improve its auto emissions inspection program.

Speaker says classes on sexuality effective

WASHINGTON (AP) — Classes on sexuality and AIDS are offered at about 93 percent of American high schools, and the most effective combine lessons on abstinence with the importance of using condoms and other contraceptives, research suggests.

Douglas Kirby, research director for ETR Associates, presented his paper Monday to a conference sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

Contrary to claims of some opponents of sex ed, Kirby found such classes neither hasten the start nor increase the frequency of intercourse. Nor do the classes increase the number of sexual partners, he said.

But he found the programs had a mixed result in changing the behavior of teen-agers.

To be effective, Kirby said, the programs should focus on reducing "specific sexual risk-taking behaviors," reinforce values, and provide information on social influences and pressures. They also should be adapted to the age and experience of the students, he said.

Kirby defined effective as getting teen-agers to change their behavior by practicing abstinence or using condoms or other contraception if they already are engaging in intercourse.

"Programs for younger youth, fewer of whom are sexually experienced, should cover contraception but should focus much more upon delaying intercourse," he said. "Programs for older youth, more of whom have had sex, should include abstinence and skills to resist pressures to have sex, but should focus more upon using condoms and other types of contraceptives."

He said the AIDS epidemic has put increased focus on the use of condoms, but that there is not enough data to determine whether school-based condom

distribution programs are successful.

Douglas J. Besharov, a resident scholar at AEI, forecast that more than 1 million teen-agers would become pregnant this year, resulting in 400,000 abortions, 134,000 miscarriages and 490,000 births, two-thirds of them out of wedlock. Further, he said, about 3 million teen-agers will become infected with a sexually transmitted disease.

"Schools have been assigned a primary role in addressing these problems," he said.

Besharov said 93 percent of all high schools in the country offer courses on sexuality and AIDS, and 40 states and the District of Columbia either require or encourage the teaching of abstinence.

He said more than 510 junior or senior high schools have school-based or school-linked clinics, while more than 300 provide condoms at school.

"Although these programs have generated intense controversy, the scientific evidence about their effectiveness is mixed," Besharov said. "The only programs that seem to work are those that have a clear message about specific values and behaviors."

Kirby said there was insufficient evidence to determine whether sex education decreased the rates of pregnancy, AIDS infection or incidence of sexually transmitted disease.

However, he said, that would be a logical result given the effectiveness of some programs in delaying the start of intercourse, reducing the number of sexual partners and the frequency of intercourse and increasing the use of contraception.

Kirby's paper summarized research on 23 school-based sex ed programs. ETR Associates, is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the behavior of young people.

Burt, Loni agree to divorce settlement

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Burt Reynolds and Loni Anderson have agreed to a settlement in their publicly bitter divorce: She gets \$2 million and a vacation house; he gets the rest.

"She's been very easy on him," Anderson's attorney, Martin Simone, said Saturday.

The agreement was reached over the weekend, beating a Monday divorce court date in Jupiter, Fla., Simone said.

Custody of their 5-year-old adopted son, Quinton, must still be arranged in Los Angeles County Superior Court. Anderson expects the boy to live with her, while Reynolds would have visitation rights, Simone said. They would share joint legal custody.

Reynolds already is paying \$42,000 per month in child support under a temporary order.

The University of Oregon's Review Workshop for the Medical College Admission Test

For the seventh year this spring, the University of Oregon will offer its comprehensive review workshop for the Medical College Admission Test. This program, developed by the University to assure that students have access to the very best materials and instruction at the most reasonable cost, will reflect the latest revisions to the exam.

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Faculty: University faculty from biology, physics, and chemistry as well as test preparation experts from Academic Learning Services.

Materials: Official practice exams and manuals from the American Association of Medical Colleges and review materials from the highly respected *Harvard Health Sciences Summer Program*. These materials are authored by medical educators and physicians from some of America's best universities and medical Colleges. Over 800 pages of review materials with guidance for preliminary study are provided to each participant prior to the workshop.

Videotaped Sessions for Review: All instructional sessions are videotaped to allow workshop participants to review sections or to make up sessions that they might miss.

Fees: The low \$200 fee reflects the service motivation behind this workshop. Unlike the private companies that provide workshops, the University of Oregon is not seeking to make a profit; it is providing this top quality program as a complement to its educational mission.

Schedule: Seven Saturday sessions
Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 12, 26; April 2, 9, 16
9:00 am - 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

For more information or to register, contact Academic Learning Services at 346-3226 in 68 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.