

Casper reports on Las Vegas fire

Airport Interview

By Carol Kroot

San Francisco Fire Chief Andrew Casper upon his return from Las Vegas Monday said he believes San Francisco is "on the right track" with its fire and building codes.

He said that many of the inadequacies in fire prevention at the MGM Grand Hotel do not exist in San Francisco.

He noted for example that smoke-proof towers at the hotel contained fiberboard. In San Francisco, such towers must be made of concrete and may not contain such potentially flammable materials.

He came away from the fire feeling confirmed in his belief that sprinkler systems throughout high rise structures are important.

In San Francisco high rises

constructed within the past 6 or so years must be sprinkled throughout.

Older buildings must be sprinkled in certain areas, such as storage areas, but need not meet the total standards.

The reason why older buildings are not required to place sprinklers throughout is because it is impossible to pass legislation which would require so many high-rises to be gutted

for that purpose, said Casper. It would cost millions to retrofit the entire Bank of America building, by way of example.

There are provisions in the local and state fire laws which require however that older structures have compensating fire prevention added on to them such as enclosed stairwells, smoke detectors, elevator recall systems which

bring the elevators back to the first floor and in buildings over 150 feet, public address systems throughout.

The MGM Grand did not have all these compensating factors, said Casper.

Casper said in addition to the sprinkler systems, he feels early warning devices, such as smoke alarms, are essential.

He said that he hoped to embark upon public information

training sessions with hotel management here in the City in an effort to have staff inform guests of proper steps to be taken in case of a fire.

He noted for example that at breakfast this morning in Las Vegas, he asked his waiter where the nearest fire exit was. The waiter was not sure.

Casper said he wants to wait to see what comes out of
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Supes reach compromise on lowriders

By E. Cahill Maloney

Mission Street lowriding ain't what it used to be.

Since Friday and Saturday parking and left turn prohibitions were imposed last September, there's been relatively little action along the Mission strip between 20th and Army Streets.

Assorted residents and merchants, including approximately 700 petition signers are so pleased with the results, they want the no-parking rules made permanent.

Mission Merchants Association president Ralph Piper and Latino youths, who claim the weekend rules amount to a

denial of public use of the streets, insist that the auto-stopping ban should be lifted.

A compromise was adopted Monday by the Board of Supervisors. The weekend no left turn and the no parking regulations will expire on Dec. 6 as scheduled but, they will be reinstated after the Christmas shopping rush. Beginning no earlier than Jan. 2, there will be no parking from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights on Mission Street between 22nd and Army Streets. That ban will be for 90 days, as was the initial ban.

In the interim the Police Department and the Mayor's

Criminal Justice Council (CJC) has promised to participate in hearings to some of the alternatives to traffic bans proposed in a CJC survey of residents.

The compromise was suggested by Supervisor Nancy Walker after a lengthy hearing during which Latino youths complained of police harassment.

"We have marshall law on Mission Street, that's why nobody is there," said Roberto Hernandez, of Real Alternatives Program. (RAP).

Although the police believe the traffic restrictions are reducing crime, Supervisor Harry Britt claims the regula-

tions address the symptom instead of the causes of youth unrest.

"We can't treat what's happening in the Mission as a traffic problem," Britt warned.

Unemployment, overcrowded housing, inadequate recreational facilities and other social conditions have produced the phenomenon of mobs of young people congregating along Mission Street.

According to Britt, instead of doing something about those problems, "we have said to youth, when you get together you are a problem for us.

We are saying, you are not
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Absentee ballot snafu

At least 50 and probably 75 of the absentee ballots cast in the November election did not contain any signatures and should not have been included in the vote tally, Registrar of Voters Jay Patterson has found.

The signature check of absentee ballots undertaken after Supervisorial candidate Terence Hallinan challenged the absentee ballots that put Wendy Nelder out in front of him by 300 votes, is expected to be completed sometime today, Patterson said.

On Monday the count had already produced approximately 100 questionables as well as 50 unsigned ballots and four instances of double voting. The names of the four voters who each cast two ballots has been turned over to the District Attorney's office.

Patterson said the number of absentee ballots in all categories will undoubtedly be less than 200 when the final count is finished, not enough to change the outcome of the election results already announced.

Hallinan's lawsuit is scheduled to be heard Dec. 1.

At A Glance

UC enrollment increases

The University of California will ask for state bailout funds because the UC system has exceeded its enrollment, a UC spokeswoman said Friday.

The UC system had counted on 108,773 students, but 112,914 students actually enrolled, said Sarah Molla, a UC spokeswoman.

Molla said the situation was not uncommon, but said, "We call it technically an emergency, so we can apply for state funds." The funds are used to pay for additional teachers and supplies, she said.

Molla said the state has \$5 million set aside in

case of over enrollments. That money will have to be shared between the UC system and the California State Universities and Colleges system.

Moscone, Milk anniversary

The Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club will sponsor a March Against Violence Thursday night to commemorate the anniversary of the assassinations of Harvey Milk and George Moscone.

The vigil will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving night at the corner of Castro and Market Streets.

The supervisor and mayor were assassinated on Nov. 27, 1978 by former Supervisor Dan

Nabers wins pro marathon

San Francisco runner Ron Nabers finished in the money for the second time this year by winning a pro marathon in Pasadena Sunday.

Nabers, 31, ran two hours, 18 minutes and 49 seconds over the 26-mile, 385-yard course to earn the \$12,500 first prize in the men's division. Cindy Dalrymple of Honolulu, Hawaii won the women's division in a time of two hours, 42 minutes and 54 seconds.

Nabers, 31, was one of 44 men competing in only the second pro marathon. Nabers was the winner in the previous event, as well.

King in police custody

Darrel King, alleged drug chief in the City's

Western Addition, has been in San Francisco police custody since Saturday.

Police transported King from Stockton to the City so he can stand trial in the shooting death of Ronald Butler on July 29, 1979. Butler was allegedly stealing from King's drug runners.

Earlier this year, King's first murder trial ended in a hung jury. He was scheduled to be retried on the murder charges this month.

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SF Progress - Tues. Nov. 25, 1980

...could board the water transport for passage to the City.

The ferries would depart on the hour from suburban terminals and ferry San Fran-

...because of highway outages.

The emergency ferry operation would continue "until notification that other forms of land transportation are available."

shoulder and dodge their way through; and a Rubber Band Bounce, comprised of a giant rubber band, four feet wide and eight feet high that

Cat, which features a vertical mirror that enables visitors to see the face of a companion seated opposite fade and vanish, leaving only a smile.

stairwells which because they were not enclosed served as conduits for the poisonous smoke.

Still others were killed when they became trapped in what were supposed to be smoke-proof towers but which had openings and a lack of pressure pushing air outward. The result was that smoke was able to travel into and up through the towers.

Most of the doors were lock-

Among those killed by the fast-moving ball of fire were two security guards who were in charge of operating the public address system.

He said that in one of the smoke-proof towers was written on the wall "Louise, I love you, Carl". He also found in one of the towers a door which had been literally kicked through by someone apparently desperate to get out of the tower.

Supes

From Page 1

welcome on the streets of the neighborhood where you were born and raised."

Rotea Gilford, CJC director, reported that a majority of the Mission Street merchants surveyed said business has been off 10 to 100 percent since parking bans were initiated.

Some residents complained that the problems associated with lowriders spectators has simply moved to the side streets, particularly Bartlett and San Carlos.

However 70 percent of residents and merchants

surveyed were in favor of the parking ban.

Reduced congestion and increased visibility of the police presence has improved emergency vehicle access to Mission Street and alleviated violence and vandalism, residents said.

Ralph Payne, president of the Mission Planning Commission said that tight traffic controls have provided "the only security the neighborhood has seen in two years".

He said tension between police and neighborhood youths has actually decreased since the no-stopping law

reduced the lowrider attraction that was drawing vandals into the area.

The alternatives to a permanent parking ban that will be scrutinized during the next 90 days include the following:

- Limiting Mission Street off-premises beer sales to cans or refundable bottles;
- Cracking down on stores that sell liquor to minors;
- Issuing residential parking stickers that would permit residents to park on Mission Street;
- Install brighter street lights on Bartlett and 25th Streets;

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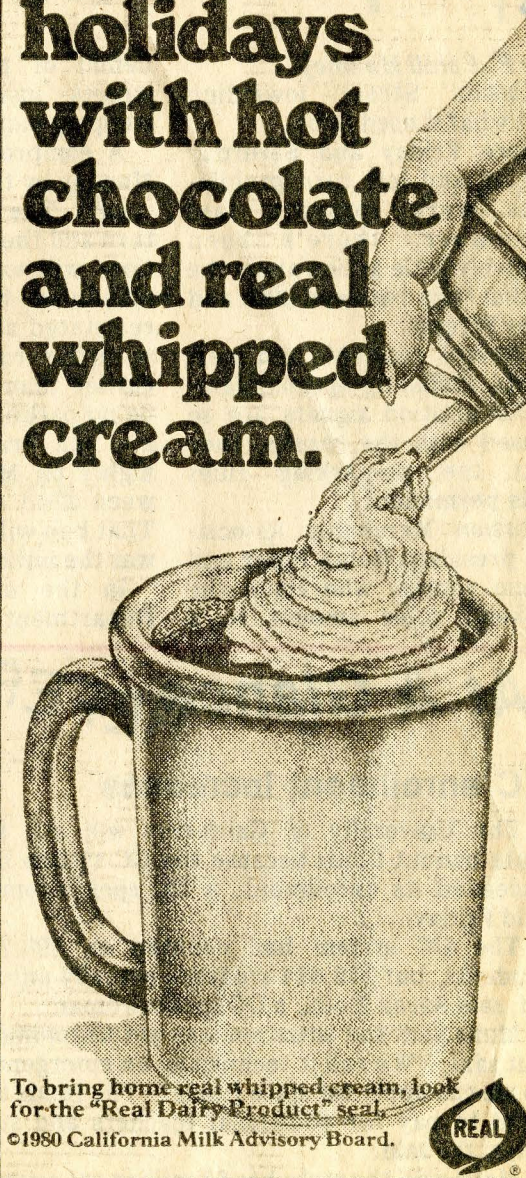
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