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NEW ROBOTS WATCH THE KIDS, GUARD THE HOUSE

BUSINESS, D1



M'S WON'T GIVE UP ON BAVASI, MCLAREN

SPORTS, C1



[thenewstribune.com]

SITES NOT MONITORED

Easy entry at border up north, GAO finds

Investigators carrying a large red bag cross the Canadian border four times without being intercepted, a congressional report on security says.

thenewstribune.com
Posted online at 2:40 p.m. Thursday

BY LES BLUMENTHAL
The News Tribune

WASHINGTON—Terrorists carrying radioactive materials could easily enter the United States from Canada undetected, government investigators said Thursday after they were able to cross the 5,000-mile border carrying a large red duffel bag without being intercepted.

The crossings took place at unguarded and unmonitored sites in four northern-border states. The Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative arm, did not disclose where the crossings took place.

"Our work shows that a determined cross-border violator would likely be able to bring radioactive materials or other contraband undetected into the United States by crossing the U.S.-Canada border at any of the locations we investigated," the report said.

Even though the northern border is more than twice as long as the U.S.-Mexico border, it has less than one-tenth as many agents patrolling it.

Lawmakers from northern states blamed the White House and the Department of Homeland Security for the lax security on the U.S.-Canada border.

The report said investigators found

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'THERE'S A LOT OF ANGER'

Fix it, Bush says of mess in airports

Fewer flights and higher compensation for bumped passengers are among White House initiatives on air travel.

BY MATTHEW L. WALD AND JEFF BAILEY
The News Tribune

WASHINGTON—After the worst summer of flight delays on record, President Bush on Thursday ordered transportation officials and airlines to fix the nation's overcrowded airspace.

White House officials said they were considering options like capping the number of flights and allowing airports to charge higher fees to airlines for landing at the busiest times of the day. The administration is also considering rules that would require airlines to provide passengers with more information about frequently delayed flights and give more compensation to travelers bumped from flights.

"We've got a problem, we understand there's a problem, and we're going to address the problem," Bush said after calling Transportation Secretary Mary Peters and aviation officials to the Oval Office for a meeting.

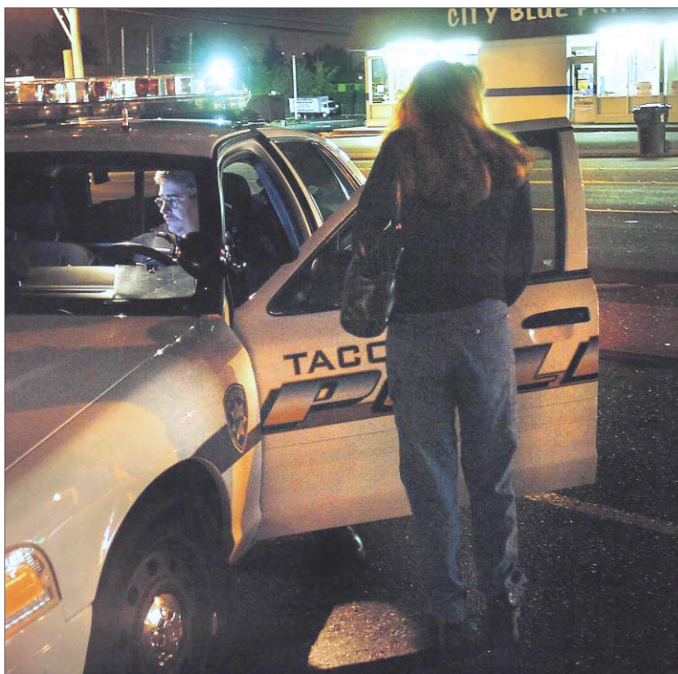
The president also said airlines should treat passengers better when delays occur.

"There's a lot of anger amongst our citizens about the fact that, you know, they're just not being treated right,"

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Crackdown on Pacific Avenue

Extra police patrols, community activism make a dent in prostitution



Tacoma police officer Don Williams runs an identification check after he makes contact with a known prostitute at South 82nd Street and Pacific Avenue. The woman's SOAP (Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution) court order expired in May.

Photos by RUSS CARMACK/The News Tribune

The Tacoma Police Department is patrolling Pacific Avenue to try to stamp out prostitution. Business owners and officers say the patrols are helping.

BY STACEY MULLICK
The News Tribune

Six weeks ago, it was hard to miss the prostitution along the southern corridor of Pacific Avenue in Tacoma.

Women in spiked heels and low-cut blouses methodically paced the sidewalks. They blatantly tried to lure customers, even approaching men about to enter stores. Business owners repeatedly shooed the women away, but were left with parking lots full of used needles and condoms.

Now, the prostitutes are harder to spot — thanks to a stepped-up police presence and a no-tolerance attitude from the community.

"Lately, it's gotten a lot better," said Anna Stanton, a Pacific Avenue business owner who has had several run-ins with prostitutes, including one fistfight.

"Hopefully, it stays better." A slice of the problem has crept into surrounding streets, however. Officers are now paying special attention to those streets while concerned residents are putting up Safe Streets signs and learning how to watch for and report criminal activity.

"The things from Pacific are coming down into our area," said Suzette Nyseth, co-leader of the newly formed Fern Hill Alliance Safe Streets group, centered on the west side of Pacific. "We are trying to work on it."

The Police Department is relying on \$100,000 in federal grant money to pay for overtime patrols along the highly traveled, mostly commercial strip. The use of patrol officers in their navy blue uniforms, driving police cruisers, is a nontraditional way for the department to tackle the problem.

Lt. Kathy McAlpine combined the uniformed patrols with more conventional approaches — including undercover operations and sentencing options for prostitutes and their clients — in a plan rolled out last month.

"It was really bad, so we just decided we needed to do something about it," said McAlpine, who supervises police response on the East Side

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"As a patrol officer, you are running from call to call. It's hard to give it the attention it takes."

TACOMA POLICE OFFICER DON WILLIAMS, who volunteered for overtime shifts to take part in a prostitution crackdown on Pacific Avenue

PASSING SCORE IS 60 PERCENT

Government unveils new citizenship test

Immigrants hoping to become American citizens soon will be answering a new set of questions. 'Why does the flag have 13 stripes?' is one of them.

BY DAVE MONTGOMERY
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON—Can you name one of the American forefathers who wrote the Federalist Papers? Or cite the number of amendments to the Constitution?

Those are among the questions on a redesigned citizenship test unveiled Thursday, after seven years of research and \$6.5 million. If you answered James Madison, Alexander Hamilton or John Jay to the first question and 27 to the second, you might be on your way to a passing score.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security, will begin conducting the new tests in October 2008. The revisions, USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez said, will encourage prospective citizens to have a better understanding of the "basic civic values that unite us as Americans."

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Could you pass? No cheating, now!

Here are 10 sample questions, some of which have more than one answer:

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment (to the Constitution)?
3. Who makes federal laws?
4. Why do some states have more Representatives (to the U.S. House) than other states?
5. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?
6. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?
7. Why did the colonists fight the British?
8. When was the Constitution written?
9. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
10. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

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MALDONADO CHARGED WITH 15 CRIMES

Shooter's mental health key in closing arguments

The jury will have the last word after prosecutors and the defense make closing arguments in the trial of the Tacoma Mall shooter.

BY ADAM LYNN
The News Tribune

A Pierce County jury Thursday began deciding the fate of Dominick S. Maldonado, the young man who took two guns to the Tacoma Mall on Nov. 20, 2005, and opened fire in a crowded corridor.

The six men and six women heard from more than 40 witnesses over nine days of testimony, viewed photographs of ragged bullet wounds, studied diagrams of the mall's floor plans, watched as prosecutors dramatically

hoisted Maldonado's guns in the air and listened as two mental-health experts described their diagnoses of the gunman, who sat sullenly throughout.

At 2:43 p.m. Thursday, Superior Court Judge Linda Lee handed the case to members of the jury.

Now they must decide whether Maldonado's mind was so clouded by mental illness that he didn't know what he was doing that Sunday afternoon, or whether he was a purposeful, angry man bent on destruction.

Maldonado is charged with 15

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Maldonado

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WEATHER

HOPE THIS DOESN'T DESCRIBE YOUR DAY: Mostly cloudy with a shower. Details, C10



BORDER

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state roads close to the northern border that did not appear to be guarded or monitored. In three cases, investigators were able to cross from Canada into the United States undetected. In the fourth case, Border Patrol agents were alerted, but the investigators were able to disappear into the United States before the agents arrived.

In addition, the report said it found several ports of entry that were staffed during the day but not at night. Though U.S. Customs and Border Protection said such sites were equipped with surveillance equipment, GAO investigators spent 12 minutes at one of them taking pictures. Border Patrol agents never arrived at the port of entry. The GAO investigators were later stopped three miles from the site but were only briefly questioned, and their vehicle was not searched.

"CBP records indicate it does successfully stop many individuals from crossing the border illegally, but our own observations and experiences (along with CBP's acknowledgement of existing challenges) lead us to conclude that more human resources and technological capabilities are needed to effectively protect the northern border," the report concluded.

The Border Patrol uses agents, helicopters, unmanned aerial drones and electronic monitoring and surveillance equipment to patrol the northern border. Along the Mexican border, the agency uses the same equipment, but a 700-mile fence is also planned, and Boeing is building a 28-mile virtual fence that will use satellite-linked cameras and sensors placed on observation towers.

"We agree with GAO's findings: The border is not as secure as it needs to be, in my opinion," Ronald Colburn, deputy chief of the Border Patrol, said in testimony prepared for the Senate Finance Committee, which requested the report. "While manpower on the U.S.-Canada border has significantly increased since 9/11, the Border Patrol's ability to detect, respond to and interdict illegal cross-border penetrations there remains limited."

Over the next two years or so, the agency plans to hire nearly 8,000 additional agents and to develop and install additional surveillance and monitoring equipment, Colburn said. He did not indicate how many of the new agents would be assigned to the northern border.

"As the GAO report indicates, there is no remote stretch of border in the United States that can yet be considered completely inaccessible or lacking in the potential to provide an entry point to organized crime, terrorist or terrorist weapon," Colburn said.

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TEST

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Candidates must correctly answer six of 10 questions drawn from the list when they take their tests before one of 1,600 immigration officers known as adjudicators. They also must be able to converse and write in English.

The questions and answers replace the current batch of 96 questions, which critics had complained were irrelevant or too simplistic in many cases. For example, seven questions about the American flag were compressed into a single question: "Why does the flag have 13 stripes?"

Gema Santos, an educator with Miami-Dade County Public Schools who helps elderly immigrants prepare for citizenship tests, worked closely with the agency to help shape the final test. The old one, she said, put too much emphasis on memorizing facts and figures instead of addressing the broad principles of what it means to be a citizen. In studying for the new test, she said, "they learn how it affects them in real life. They don't have to read the Federalist Papers to know how they relate to the Constitution."

To see the 100 test questions, go to www.uscis.gov and click on "See the questions and answers for the New Naturalization Test."

ANSWERS

1. The Constitution.
2. Speech, religion, assembly, press, petition the government.
3. Congress (the Senate and House of Representatives).
4. Because the number of representatives is based on the state's population.
5. To print money, declare war, create an army and make treaties.
6. To provide schooling, protection (police), safety (fire departments), issue a driver's license, and to approve zoning and land use.
7. Because of high taxes (taxation without representation), because the British army stayed in colonists' houses without permission (boarding and quartering), and because colonists didn't have self-government.
8. 1787.
9. Louisiana.
10. The Missouri and the Mississippi.

DELAYS

CONTINUED FROM A1

Bush said. Some, he said, have been subjected to "egregious behavior."

Although the White House made clear that it preferred that airlines voluntarily reduce congestion at the most crowded airports, it warned that mandatory rules might be imposed if the airlines didn't act on their own.

Airlines have been unable to develop solutions to congestion problems, which are growing steadily worse. As public frustration grows, a consumer advocacy movement has been building, and state

and local governments have gotten involved. And Congress is again considering "passenger rights" measures.

Peters told reporters that air travelers "are cranky, and they have good reason to be."

She and Bobby Sturgell, the acting head of the Federal Aviation Administration, said they would convene an advisory group of airline executives, airports, corporate aviation interests and consumer groups to work out a plan by December to cut traffic at Kennedy International Airport in New York.

Failing that, Peters said, the alternative might be to "return to the days of government-regulated flights and limited com-

petition." The goal is to have improvements in place by the beginning of next summer.

One-third of the nation's air traffic passes through the New York region, and three-fourths of the chronic delays around the country can be traced to delays in New York.

Peters also said the government would propose raising compensation for bumped passengers to \$624 from \$200, and would review whether the Transportation Department's complaint division was adequate.

Tales of passengers being stranded on planes for hours have become legend. One day last December, 67 American Airlines

flights were stuck on the ground for three hours or more. In February, nine plane-loads of JetBlue Airways passengers were stranded for six hours or more when an ice storm hit New York.

Overall, about a quarter of domestic flights run late.

Some people were skeptical that federal officials could curb the competitive instincts of airlines eager to profit after years of record losses and bankruptcies. "The policies being weighed by the administration could produce fewer flights and higher fares."

"Perversely, this is good for the airlines," Roger King, an industry analyst at CreditSights, noted in a report.

Because of antitrust laws, airlines are barred from meeting on their own to agree to limit flights, but solving the problem requires joint action.

One government official pointed out that cutting flights, perhaps by flying one large plane instead of two smaller ones, would help, but that "there's no incentive if you don't have some assurance your competitors won't take advantage of what you've just left behind."

The airline industry seemed receptive to the president's initiatives, but most executives said they would reserve judgment until they had more details.



Larchmont-area Tacoma residents Jenny Hayes, Bill Upton and Marion Bass, from left, listen to Safe Streets community mobilization specialist Darren Pen, center in blue shirt, on how to work to keep their neighborhood safe during a recent meeting at a Walgreens drugstore.

RUSS CARMACK/The News Tribune

CRACKDOWN

CONTINUED FROM A1

and in the South End.

Prostitution along Pacific Avenue had been building for several months but seemed to explode over the summer. And with the activity came drug dealing, vandalism and littering.

"It was 24 hours a day. Very blatant," McAlpine said. "You could see the area eroding."

Police said many of the newer women working the area were from out of town, including Snohomish County, Canada, California and Las Vegas.

"They had heard 'Tacoma is the place to be,'" McAlpine said. Some claimed they were working to pay for college.

"The rumor is Tacoma is safer on the streets and Tacoma is paying more money," said officer Don Williams, who's helped patrol the area.

Community members repeatedly called 911 to complain. For police, the calls were a lower priority, and patrol officers often couldn't get to the area in time to make arrests.

"The community was just up in arms, and they were calling in and getting little to no response from us," McAlpine said. "We didn't have the luxury of just staying and waiting."

Police officers from Tacoma and Pierce County repeatedly teamed up for stings, focusing on hookers and their clients. Other officers worked to shut down three drug houses.

At the same time, neighbors marched along Pacific Avenue, holding signs aimed at the prostitutes and drug activity. Business owners put up signs.

At Gloria's Bar & Grill, the owner increased the number of surveillance cameras monitoring the property and put a warning on the sandwich board out front.

"Smile Johns you're on camera," it reads.

"The Johns would drive by and they'd get picked up back and on the side," said Jackie Patrick, a 15-year employee at Gloria's. "We wanted to embarrass the people that were picking up the hookers."

But the prostitution didn't go away.

For the Police Department, the breaking point came when at least one business owner was assaulted after trying to get several prostitutes to leave.

Anna Stanton came to work at City Blueprint, which specializes in large-format printing, about 9 a.m. one day. An employee told her a minivan was parked on the side of the building and that two men were inside.

With her 4-year-old daughter nearby, Stanton popped outside and told the men to move along. They claimed they were out of gas, Stanton said.

"They were sitting there since 7 a.m. and there's an AM/PM down the street," she recalled.

Suddenly, the minivan started up. "You ran out of gas?" Stanton yelled.

Then a woman, who had earlier gotten out of another vehicle down the street, got out of the van.

"She just jumped out of the van and onto my property and tried to assault me," Stanton said.

The two women clashed briefly before the attacker left.

"I am just trying to run a business," said Stanton, who believes she's lost customers because of the prostitution.

She's put up Safe Streets signs only to see them tagged with graffiti.

"People didn't like to come here," Stanton said. "It was bad."

'NOT A ONE-NIGHT PRESENCE'

McAlpine was given the job of coming up with a comprehensive plan to address the problem.

With the \$100,000, 18-month grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, she decided to put the uniformed patrols along the Pacific Avenue corridor. McAlpine asked for volunteers interested in working overtime. These officers would receive extra training and access to a new computer database that helps officers track suspected prostitutes.

"Thirty officers and sergeants showed interest in the overtime missions."

"As a patrol officer, you are running from call to call," said Williams, who volunteered for some of the overtime shifts. "It's hard to give it the attention it takes."

An undercover police sting kicked off the new enforcement plan. Officers arrested 31 suspected prostitutes and Johns Aug. 21, McAlpine said.

Two days later, the uniformed patrols started.

Between Aug. 23 and Tuesday, the patrol officers spent 300 hours driving up and down Pacific Avenue, from South 72nd to South 96th streets. They contacted 195 known or suspected prostitutes and issued them

warnings to stay out of the area.

Of the women contacted, 62 had been arrested, including 15 on suspicion of loitering for the purposes of prostitution, 14 for violating a court order prohibiting them from being in a high-prostitution or high-drug area, seven on existing warrants, four on felony charges, eight for having drug paraphernalia and three for drug possession.

"They have seen by our constant presence this is not a one-night presence," McAlpine said.

EFFORT WORKING

Police officers and business owners have reported a decrease in the prostitution along Pacific Avenue.

"We have gone from having 10 to 15 to having trouble finding one or two in a three- to four-hour period," Williams said. "There's been a definite change."

Pierce County sheriff's and Lake-Wood Police officials haven't reportedly seeing a sizeable increase in their prostitution problem because of Tacoma's enforcement efforts.

"I am guessing we'll probably be seeing more activity south of the city line," said sheriff's Lt. Larry Minturn, who supervises the department's special investigations unit.

Given the early success of Tacoma's patrols, the length of the uniformed patrols has been scaled back from up to 11 hours a day to three- and four-hour blocks. The department has gone from two-officer patrols to one-officer shifts in hopes of stretching out the grant money.

Business owners have noticed the increased police attention.

"We've been seeing a lot of police activity," Stanton said. "They have been pretty much out in full force. You'll see a prostitute walking down the street and a patrol car will stop her."

Community members also realize, however, that the grant money will eventually run out and the uniformed patrols could go away.

"That's why neighbors in the Larchmont area are learning how to conduct resident patrols, business owners along Pacific Avenue are meeting with Safe Streets, and residents in the Fern Hill area are organizing themselves."

"The businesses and the citizens have to get involved," said Marion Bass, co-block leader for the Larchmont Safe Streets group. "We have to keep this going."

City Councilwoman Connie Lad-

The Tacoma Police Department plan to address prostitution along Pacific Avenue includes:

- Having uniformed officers patrol the area, paid for by a \$100,000 federal grant.
- Undercover stings in the area.
- Seeking SOAP (Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution) court orders prohibiting convicted prostitutes from being in the area.

Pacific Avenue has been designated as a high prostitution area.

■ Giving men arrested on suspicion of picking up a prostitute the option of going to a so-called John school. The diversion program is for first-time offenders. They attend a daylong class and pay a fee.

■ If the man has no additional prostitution offenses for a year, the charge is removed from his record. Officials have said none of the participants has been re-arrested so far.

■ Providing information to prostitutes about the Promise Program. It helps them get off the streets and provides them with job training.

■ Sending "Dear John" letters to registered owners of cars that have been identified as being driven by someone patronizing prostitutes.

■ Putting up signs along Pacific Avenue stating it's a Stay Out of the Area of Prostitution zone.

■ Working with neighbors and business owners on crime prevention strategies.

Stacey Mulick, The News Tribune

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enburgh says she'd like to look at long-term solutions to prostitution so the city has a "no tolerance" approach to the crime, though she realizes it's a problem that might never go away.

"It's gotten bumped around," she said. "It's frustrating."

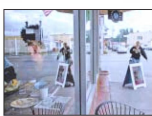
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COMING SUNDAY

PLAYOFFS AHEAD

The regular season ends Sunday. Find out which teams get the final spots in the baseball playoffs.

IN SPORTS



GARFIELD STREET

Pacific Lutheran University's new bookstore anchors a revitalization along the main street into campus.

IN BUSINESS



TRENCHES AND TROUSERS

The trench coat is back, but expect to see it updated. And at last, pants are no longer dictated by denim or length or rise.

IN SIGHT