Bomb blast kills leader of Arab-American organization

SANTA ANA, Calif. (UPI) — A bomb blast ripped through the offices of an Arab-American group Friday, killing the organization's executive director and injuring seven other people.

The 9 a.m. explosion at the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee blew out windows on the second floor of the three-story building, scattering glass on the sidewalk and in the street, Fire Chief William Reimer said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing. The Jewish Defense League, often at odds with the group, denied responsibility but praised the action.

Alex Odeh, 37, of Orange the regional director of the Arab group, was critically injured in the blast. He died in surgery about 11:30 a.m. at Western Medical Center. Seven people were treated for minor injuries and released.

"Although we take no responsibility for the bombing of the ADC offices in Orange County, the JDL cannot cry about the act that occurred there," said Irv Rubin, chairman of the JDL.

"Our tears have all been used for the mourning of Leon Klinghoffer, a 69-year-old, wheelchair-bound Jew who was brutally slaughtered and his remains thrown in to the Mediterranean by PLO terrorists," Rubin said.

"Odeh ... appeared on television to whitewash the PLO murder of Klinghoffer," Rubin said. "No Jew or American should shed one tear for the destruction of a PLO front in Santa Ana or anywhere else in world."

"The person or persons responsible for the bombing deserves our praise for striking out against the murderers of Americans and of Jews," Rubin said.

Police evacuated buildings on both sides of the site as demolition experts searched for more bombs.

Fire Capt. Brad Barnette said several agencies were investigating the bombing, but added that there were no suspects.

Agents from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were investigating the explosion, FBI spokesman John Hoos said.

A carpenter working in the building next door said he heard the blast and ran into the building to help the victims.

"When I ran upstairs, the whole place was torn apart," said Dino Tunoa. "When I looked at it, I realized there was an explosion and we started getting everyone out."

Tunoa said he and several other men used their belts as tourniquets on the legs of the critically injured victim. "His legs were really torn up," Tunoa said.

Laura Munoz, a student at a court reporting school across the street, said she heard a "huge" explosion and all the students ran out of the school building.

"I thought it was the beginning of an earthquake," Munoz said.

She added that a nurse who was at the school ran across the street to help administer first aid.

Joseph Halek, publisher of the Glendale-based New Circle magazine, which specializes in Arab-American affairs, said it was not uncommon to receive threats.

"You have people that don't want others to talk and they threaten them," he said.

Hypnotist countersues Johnny Carson

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A hypnotist who was once married to actress Lana Turner filed a $1 billion cross-complaint Friday against Johnny Carson, claiming the "Tonight Show" host is trying to shut down his free clinic for cancer and AIDS patients.

Ronald Dante's court action came in response to a lawsuit filed in August by Carson, who alleged Dante was unauthorized to use his picture to endorse the Psycho Neurology Foundation in Huntington Beach.

"Carson is indirectly, but nevertheless, responsible for letting hundreds of people die who might otherwise be saved by the foundation's breakthrough treatment," Dante said at a news conference.

"Carson's suit is really against the cancer and AIDS patients, knowing full well that I cannot afford his unheard-of suit of $51 million."

Dante said he began the clinic for cancer patients in 1969 and expanded it to cover AIDS victims four years ago. He claims it is supported entirely with the donations of the 1,000 people cured by the clinic's free hypnosis.

The hypnotists who work at the clinic receive training from Dante in exchange for an agreement to donate 12 hours of work, he said.

A picture of Dante sitting with Carson at a table and captioned, "Dr. Dante being interviewed by Johnny Carson," was used in full-page newspaper advertisements for the clinic. The ads used banner headlines reading, "How To Be a Hypnotherapist, Absolutely Free!!"

Jerry Staub, one of Carson's attorneys, said the photo was taken with Carson's permission "sixteen or seventeen years ago," but Dante has no right to use it in advertising.

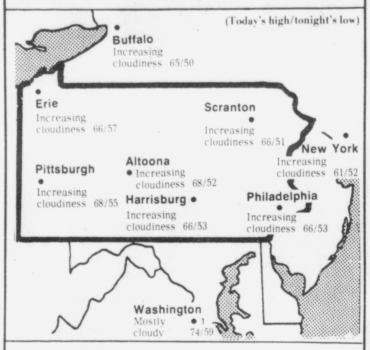
"There was a clear indication when that photograph was published that Mr. Carson was endorsing that clinic, which he is not," Staub said. "We are not aware of any authorization to use that picture in advertising."

Dante, whose brief marriage to Lana Turner ended in divorce about 15 years ago, said the photo helps him attract patients.

Weather

By Air Science Consultants for the Mirror

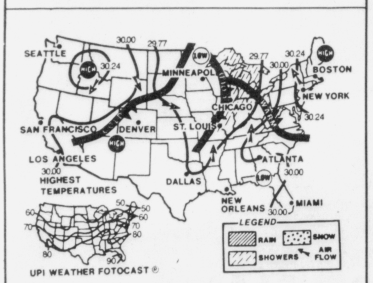
Traveler's forecast for today



Extended forecast

Period	Sky condition	Low	High	THI*
Today	Increasing cloudiness and mild.	—	68	66
Tonight	Mostly cloudy and mild with occasional showers developing.	52	—	52
Sunday	Variable cloudiness, breezy and mild with occasional showers.	52	70	52/69
Monday	Variable cloudiness and cool.	47	65	47/63
Tuesday	Partly sunny and mild.	43	68	43/66
Wednesday	Mostly sunny and mild.	40	69	40/67

*THI, or temperature-humidity index, takes into account the predicted humidity to give a better idea of how the morning low and daytime high temperatures will feel.



Map illustrates National Weather Service forecast for tomorrow

U.S. forecast

A cold front advancing across the Mississippi Valley will cause a large area of rain and rain showers from the western Great Lakes and northeastern Plains to southern Texas, and another front will bring showers to the northern Rockies.

The only other precipitation will scattered thundershowers from South Carolina to Florida. Temperatures will climb to the 80s from the Southeast to central Texas and as far north as southern Illinois, with a few more 80s likely in the Desert Southwest. Meanwhile, the northern tier of states will be mainly in the 50s, with a few 40s in western Montana and northern Idaho.

Local almanac

Yesterday's High.....60
Yesterday's Low.....56
Yesterday's Departure.....-2
Today's Normal High.....64
Today's Normal Low.....41
Today's Record High.....1954/85
Today's Record Low.....1957/26
Year Ago High/Low..... 73/45
PRECIPITATION (ends 8 a.m.)
Yesterday..... 0.00 inches
This Month..... 0.30 inches
This Year.....24.99 inches
Norm for Month..... 3.25 inches
Norm for Year..... 43.45 inches
SUN AND MOON
Sunrise Today..... 7:21 a.m.
Sunset Tonight..... 6:39 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow..... 7:22 a.m.
Sunset Tomorrow..... 6:37 p.m.
Moonrise..... 6:30 a.m.
Moonset..... 6:32 p.m.

MADD's founder voted out of office

GRAPEVINE, Texas (UPI) — Directors of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers voted Candy Lightner, the group's president and founder, from office Friday, and her replacement said she will do the job for free.

Norma Phillips, a San Diego businesswoman, was elected to serve a one-year term as president during in a closed-door meeting.

Lightner, who reportedly earned a $76,000 a year, was removed July 25 as chairwoman by MADD's executive committee shortly after her contract expired. She had requested a $10,000 bonus to continue under a good-faith contract.

The board voted Friday to keep Lightner on as a paid consultant for media and legislative relations, but did not disclose her salary.

Phillips said she would take the post as a volunteer without salary.

"I have never taken a dime from MADD," Phillips said. "I don't have a contract. I think there will be some compensation for travel."

Phillips said she joined MADD four years ago after her 24-year-old son and his 20-year-old girlfriend were killed on Thanksgiving Day in 1981 in Water Springs, Calif., by a drunken driver going 80 mph on the wrong side of the road.

In recent weeks, MADD has been criticized by the Better Business Bureau and the National Charities Information Bureau for spending on administration and fund raising.

Lightner said she was relieved to no longer be responsible for the 500,000-member organization.

"After five years of being the heroine one moment and the devil the next, I am relieved to say, 'It ain't my fault,'" she said.

But Lightner's discontent with the way she was removed from office showed in a brief exchange with Phillips at the announcment of the management changes.

Phillips suggested MADD's local chapters were aware of the contract dispute between Lightner and the board, but Lightner interrupted. "The chapters were not informed of my dispute."

John Wheeler, newly elected chairman of the board, said Lightner's departure was just a part of the ongoing expansion of the organization.

Ex-singer admitted role in Belushi death

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Cathy Evelyn Smith, calling John Belushi's death "all my fault," admitted on a tape played in court Friday that she bought the comedian heroin and injected him with the drug several times in the last 24 hours of his life.

Sounding somber and depressed in the tape of a telephone interview, Smith, 38, a former rock backup singer from Canada, expressed both affection for the comedian and guilt over his drug overdose death.

"It's me. It's goddamn me," she said on the tape. "It's all my fault."

At another point she said of Belushi, "He was a sweetheart. He sure was a good friend to me. He was just a really sweet guy to hang out with."

Los Angeles freelance writer Chris Van Ness made the tape, which prosecutors consider a key piece of evidence against Smith, in a telephone interview shortly after Belushi, 33, died in March 1982 in a hotel bungalow on the Sunset Strip.

Smith returned from Canada to Los Angeles earlier this year to face a second-degree murder charge and 13 counts of administering combinations of heroin and cocaine, or "speedballs," to Belushi, a star of the "Saturday Night Live" TV series and such movies as "Animal House" and "The Blues Brothers."

She has pleaded innocent, and her preliminary hearing in Municipal Court will determine whether she should stand trial.

Following a prolonged legal battle to keep the tape confidential, Van Ness turned it over to the court Thursday after being ordered to serve a 10-day jail sentence for contempt of court. He was freed after agreeing to hand over the tape.

During the interview, Smith said she was with Belushi much of the last five days of his life and bought about $100 worth of heroin for the comedian at his request.

Flooding hits sections of Kansas, New Mexico

United Press International

A rain-swollen Kansas river rose 4 feet in one hour, forcing 100 residents to flee their homes Friday while heavy thunderstorms across New Mexico washed out bridges, closed roads and took the life of one woman.

Officials at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado closed the 11,000-foot high Trail Ridge Road for the winter after snowplows failed to bust 7-foot drifts.

The Whitewater River in Augusta, Kan., fed by up to 5 inches of rain, was more than 30 feet deep and rising. Flood stage is 21 feet, officials said.

"It's come up 4 feet in an hour and it's still rising," said Augusta police Officer Alan Sherry.

At least 100 residents had to leave their homes in the town of nearly 6,000, 19 miles east of Wichita.

"We were out working all night pumping water," said Frank DeWitt, Augusta street department foreman. "It got into a bunch of houses and was running through the Burlington Northern tracks about 1½ feet deep."

City crews were sandbagging in an effort to stop the rising waters.

Gov. John Carlin declared the southeast Kansas counties of Butler, Lyon and Sedgwick disaster areas and ordered the National Guard to help with evacuations and sandbagging in Butler County — the site of the state's worst flooding.

The rain, which caused two days of flooding, tapered to a drizzle Friday, forecasters said.

In New Mexico, runoff from the thunderstorms washed out five bridges in Ruidoso, blocked roads in the south-central mountains and was blamed for the death of one woman.

A resident at the Fort Stanton Hospital and Training School near Ruidoso, a state facility for the developmentally disabled, apparently fell into the Rio Bonito when the river bank gave way.

Several bridges along the Gila River in southwest New Mexico were washed out and roads in Red Rock and Silver City were closed by flooding.

Fresh snowfall in the Colorado mountains forced Rocky Mountain National Park officials to halt attempts to clear 7-foot snow drifts blocking park roads. Trail Ridge Road through the park, the nation's highest continuous highway, was closed.

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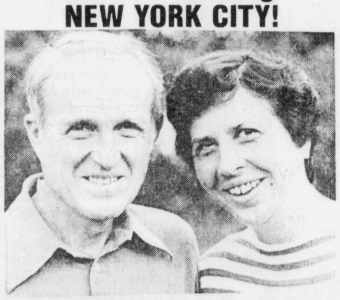

Three first places and one fourth in our contest check-list has earned CHRISTINE DOUDS of R.D. Duncansville the grand prize. She and her husband, Joseph, will enjoy the "BIG APPLE" December 13-15.

WE WISH TO THANK ALL ENTRANTS FOR THEIR INTEREST

Altoona Mirror

NEWSPAPERARCHIVE

Altoona Mirror, October 12, 1985,Pg. 6, Altoona, Pennsylvania, US

https://newspaperarchive.com/altoona-mirror-oct-12-1985-p-6/