



Eye on Atlanta
Champion gymnast keeps balance through surgery, coaching wars
Sports



Stamp gives collectors a new cause
L.A. Life

Daily News

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1996

Today's weather:
Fair
High 74-82; Low 54-60
Details, Page 2



Religion, politics gap closing

Rising approval seen for churches' new role

In evidence of a striking change in Americans' attitudes about religion and politics, a majority of the public now believes that churches should be allowed to express their political views, according to a new nationwide survey of religious identity and political opinion.

Support for churches' expressing political opinions runs highest among white evangelicals, or born-again Protestants, a group that has been the driving force behind the American election quarter, roughly on a par with white Roman Catholics and members of mainline churches, like Episcopalians and Presbyterians.

The survey also shows that the growth in their numbers, while evangelicals have been the fastest growing segment of the American electorate, is not as dramatic as some have claimed. But, the survey also found that although Americans say they speak out on a wide variety of political and social issues — especially hunger, poverty, abortion, and the environment — only about one of every 15 churchgoers reported being told how to vote. About twice that many, or one in seven, reported finding candidates for office in the news, but only about one in 10 reported being told how to vote in the 1994 midterm elections.

The survey will be made public by the Pew Research Center.

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Dogs maul Canoga Park man

2 pit bulls quarantined after attack

By Steve Gatzung
Daily News Staff Writer

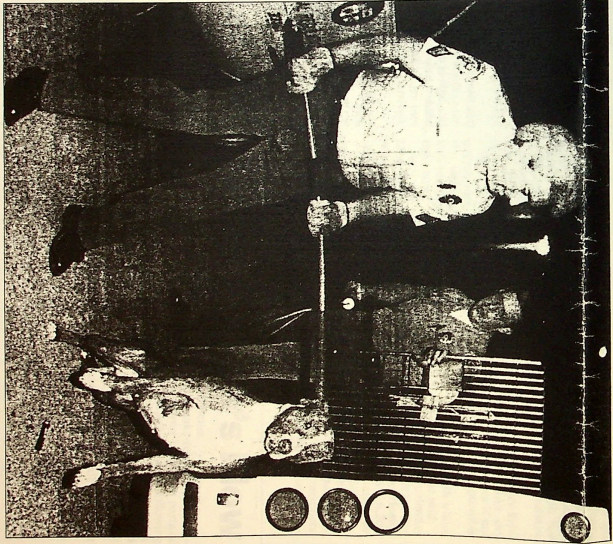
CANOGA PARK — Gene Chen, 45, was hospitalized for two weeks after he was mauled by two dogs in his back yard last night. The dogs, which were pit bulls, were quarantined for 10 days.

Neighbor Raymond Reveles recalls feeling helpless as the two dogs mauled Chen, whose cries broke the summer night's calm in the quiet neighborhood on Lull Street.

And Reveles had an oak ax handle in his fist.

"It was one of the worst things I'd ever seen in my life," Reveles said. "It seemed like I was standing there for an eternity. You take control of the dog and you could hit the guy."

For two to three horrifying minutes Sunday evening, Reveles and about a dozen others drawn into the cul-de-sac by Chen's pleas for help yelled, screamed and wielded



Animal control Officers Wendell Bowers, left, and Frederick Galdi cage one of the pit bulls.

Anti-drug approach upheld

Justices say seizure of property is legal

By Linda Greenhouse
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — In a major victory for federal prosecutors, the Supreme Court Monday said the government can both prosecute someone for a crime and seize his property through civil forfeiture without violating the constitutional ban against double jeopardy.

The double-barreled prosecution and forfeiture strategy, a cornerstone of the government's approach to narcotics crimes, had been meeting increasing resistance in the lower courts.

Two federal appeals courts, in rulings the court overturned in a single decision Monday, had found the approach a violation of the Fifth Amendment, which guarantees the right to a fair trial and prohibits multiple punishments for the same offense.

But ordinary civil forfeitures are not a punishment, Chief Justice William Rehnquist said in his opinion for the court. He said the federal forfeiture statutes the government uses in drug cases, "while perhaps having certain punitive aspects, serve important nonpunitive governmental purposes. For example, they are used to make sure that property is not used for illegal purposes."

See COURT / Page 18

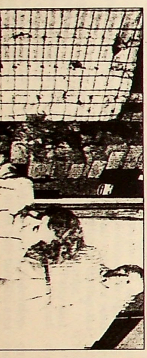
Rumble erupts over quake fund

Lawmakers angry

By Rick Orlow
Daily News Staff Writer

A city agency called Monday for removing St. Vibiana's Cathedral from the list of historic landmarks to be eligible for a new earthquake fund.

The CRA acting at the request of the City Council issued a "negative declaration" stating that a more complete environmental review, which



Animal control Officers Wendell Bowers, left, and Frederick Galdi cage one of the pit bulls.



Neighbors with dog, who attacked Chen, are angry over incident.

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Neighbors help fend off pit bulls

ATTACK / From Page 1

sticks and poles in a panicked bid to stop the attack.

Chen, who tumbled over side-walk and onto the street, was pulled by two dogs, was saved only when the dogs were snatched up by screaming neighbors and gave up the attack.

On Monday, Chen was hospitalized at Northridge Hospital Medical Center where he was being treated for foot marks and cuts. Franklers and other neighbors' teeth were also hurt.

A city animal control officer also was bitten in the wrist as he took the two dogs in custody inside the garage of a home in the 20500 block of Lull Street. Officer Frederick Galdi was treated for his injury and taken to a hospital.

Peter Persik, a spokesman for the city Animal Regulation Department, said an investigation is under way to determine the exact circumstances of the attack and to identify the dogs owner or owners.

Neighbors are trying to prevent the dogs from being destroyed if authorities decided they must die.

"I feel sad because I was very close to the dogs," said Peter said.

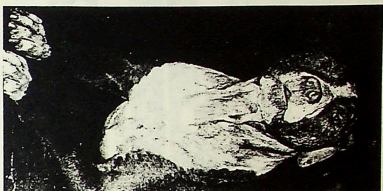
The dogs, an 85-pound male and a 50-pound female, were placed in a rabies quarantine at the West Valley Animal Care and Control Center.

No one at the scene could explain why the dogs had gone after Chen. Police and neighbors say the two pit bulls, who emerged through an open garage door, barked at the 55-year-old man at the house about 9 p.m. to throw out garbage — a chore, Chen said, he had put off all day.

Children riding bikes on the street saw the dogs tear toward Chen. Other neighbors peered out of their homes to investigate when they heard barking and loud yells.

Cleaning up the front yard of his home after a family barbecue, Lorraine Van Cott, his left arm in a sling from elbow surgery, sprang into the street to help Chen. "The dogs could do little to deter the attack," she said.

"As I ran I started yelling for all neighbors to get their attention," he said. "The dogs were



Chen, left, hospitalized in the day, West Valley Animal Care and Control Center.

blinking him from head to toe. He was down trying to cover himself... and that dog was just pulling him, pulling him.

From his view down the street, Reeves said Chen sat down and was cornered by neighbors as the dogs ran toward him. The garage door was shut behind them, Chen appeared to go into shock as paramedics arrived.

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Northridge center still feeling tremor's blow

BLOCK / From Page 1

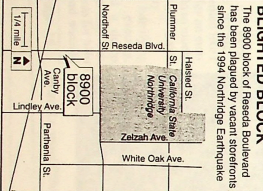
the 8900 block of Reseda Boulevard is still trying to regroup. There are 11 vacant lots in the half-block north of Reseda Street.

Moore and his wife, Carol, a longtime Northridge real estate broker, can't stand to see what's happened to their community.

"Carol Moore said she's heartbroken about this," Carol Moore said, walking along the row of vacant storefronts. "We've got to bring Northridge up. Somebody should do something about this."

There are many earthquake-damaged buildings inspectors to insure that the properties were built properly. The city of Los Angeles has the Moore's really want to turn the dead shops into thriving businesses.

"It's very frustrating, but it's private property," said Francine Ozdim, Benson's assistant chief of



BLIGHTED BLOCK

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Smoking

Animal Control Officer Frederick Galdi, who suffered a bite, pets Judy, said.

Donna Mangin, chief veterinarian for the department of animal regulation, said the dog was heavy-set dog — formally known as Staffordshire terriers or pit bull terrier and similarly endowed with a very strong jaw.

She said the breed is very loyal and compassionate, but like any dog, can be dangerous if not properly trained by responsible owners.

"A lot of it has to do with who's handling the animals," she said. For 1994, the last full calendar year for which statistics are kept by the Los Angeles Animal Department, more than 16,200 people were bitten by domestic or wild animals, officials said.

Hundreds more probably aren't reported to 1 Animal Care and Control on the back of his head and neck, and a sweeping superficial claw mark over his right eye, he said.

Okhotov said Chen's hysterics — most extensive on his hands and feet — were caused by the dog's teeth on the back of his head and neck, and a sweeping superficial claw mark over his right eye, he said.

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Justices not doubt

COURT / From Page 1

All nine justices agreed that of the forfeitures at issue — that hundreds of thousands of dollars cash, proceeds of a marijuana sale, proceeds of a gambling operation — did in amount to double jeopardy. The money was not property that had been forfeited to the government, Justice John Paul Stevens said in a separate opinion.

But in the second case, in which a Michigan man forfeited the value of his house because he had pressed a dissenting vote. He said the forfeiture was plainly punitive because "there is no evidence in the house had been purchased by the man because he fell was surely in contraband."

Stevens said that under the majority's theory, Congress during Prohibition could have prohibited anyone from going home in which alcoholic beverages were consumed. "He accused the majority of repudiating a series of recent court decisions that limit the government's discretion to impose forfeitures in various contexts.

Those decisions, including only three years ago that found civil forfeiture to be a form of punishment, are not applicable to the Eighth Amendment protection against "excessive fines," were an inconvenience to the majority but Reinquist did persuade them to vote with the majority.

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