

## Earthquake rocks California

Residents of Southern California are holding on and waiting for more tremors to occur after a strong earthquake rattled the region last night, making buildings sway as far away as Arizona and Nevada

The quake, which struck at 9:51 p.m. (PDT), measured 6.1 in a preliminary Richter scale reading, said officials at the California Institute of Technology's seismology lab in Pasadena. A magnitude-6 quake is capable of severe damage.

The epicenter was 9 miles east of Desert Hot Springs, which is 110 miles east of downtown L.A. Cal Tech said.

Officials said there was a 10-25 percent chance that the quake, several miles from the San Andreas fault was a foreshock to the long-dreaded disastrous "Big One" sometime in the next three days.

## California executes murderer

Double murderer Robert Alton Harris went to his death in California's gas chamber Tuesday morning in the state's first execution in 25 years. Harris was put to death at 6:21 AM (PDT) after a dramatic last-minute stay of execution was overturned.

The convicted murderer died 14 years after he shot to death two San Diego, Cal. teen-agers so he could use their car for a bank robbery. With Harris' execution, California becomes the 20th state to use the death penalty since 1976 when the US Supreme Court allowed states to resume capital punishment.

Harris had been scheduled to die just after midnight, but the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals put the execution on hold, based on a claim that his brother shot 1 of the teens. The court

Buildings swayed in downtown L.A. and shaking was felt at Dodger Stadium but didn't interrupt a baseball game there. There was no noticeable reaction from players or the crowd.

The quake was felt from San Diego to Santa Barbara, 200 miles up the coast, according to broadcast reports.

"It rolled for a good five to ten seconds, a real strong one to the point where it didn't seem like it was going to end," said Mark Sayre, a broadcaster with KESQ-TV in Palm Springs. "People bolted out of their doors."

"The animals had been going berserk for the past twenty minutes (before the quake)," said Marie Kinnon in Palmdale, 50 miles north of downtown L.A. "I felt it and it scared the heck out of me."

Reports of earth shaking came from as far away as Phoenix, 350 miles east of L.A.

issued 3 more stays based on a claim that death by gas is cruel and unusual punishment before the US Supreme Court ordered on more stays.

The ACLU argued that the gas chamber, used by a diminishing number of states, violates "evolving standards of decency" recognized under the Constitution. Harris had appealed to the US Supreme Court 6 times, received 5 execution dates and came within 12 hours of death in 1990 as the case made its way through the courts, becoming a test of several death penalty issues.

Reporters who witnessed the execution said Harris was very somber and at on point told guards next to him that it was "all right." They say Harris moaned and convulsed during the estimated 7 minutes it took the gas to kill him.

## Supreme Court to decide abortion law

Morality, politics and the law are set to collide in a case providing a conservative Supreme Court an opportunity to pronounce its verdict on abortion.

The nine justices are to hear arguments today over a restrictive Pennsylvania statute. This statute could prove to be the most severe test yet over the constitutional right to abortion decreed by a previous, and more liberal, high court nineteen years ago. The enormity of the stakes in this election year has helped make it the most closely watched and debated case of the Supreme court's 1991-92 term.

Both sides agree that the conservative majority fashioned by Ronald Reagan and George Bush may use the occasion to reverse, explicitly or implicitly, the landmark 1973 Roe vs Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide.

Court officials expected a huge crowd vying for the 100 courtroom seats which are available to the public during this hearing.

Sleeping bags, pillows, blankets and other attempts at comfort were allowed for those who waited through the night on the building's expansive marble plaza.

At issue in the case is a recently enacted Pennsylvania law that requires doctors who perform the abortions to tell the women seeking abortions about abortion alternatives, and requires women to put off an abortion for 24 hours after receiving such information.

The law also stipulates that doctors must keep detailed records subject to public disclosure of all abortions performed, and that married women must notify their husbands of their plans for an abortion.

# The Daily Crusader

## Just a Thought... by Brian Reckling

I'm usually late. Not to a certain class or to work, but to everything. It's not that I don't care about being on time. And it's not that don't care enough to get up early. Somehow, I just always manage to be about five minutes late; for everything.

In order to be on time as much as possible I look for things that can be postponed. In the mornings there are things that must be done. I have to take a shower, brush my teeth and use deoderant, but that's about all that absolutely has to be done except

for putting clothes on. What that means is that it is not uncommon to find me walking around with my contacts and my electric shaver in my backpack.

Carrying my contacts isn't that bad, but my shaver and after shave make me feel a little awkward. I feel loaded down with baggage that makes me look around everytime I do something like open my backpack pocket for a pen. "Is someone watching me? Did anyone see my Adidas aftershave?"

Sometimes though, the items

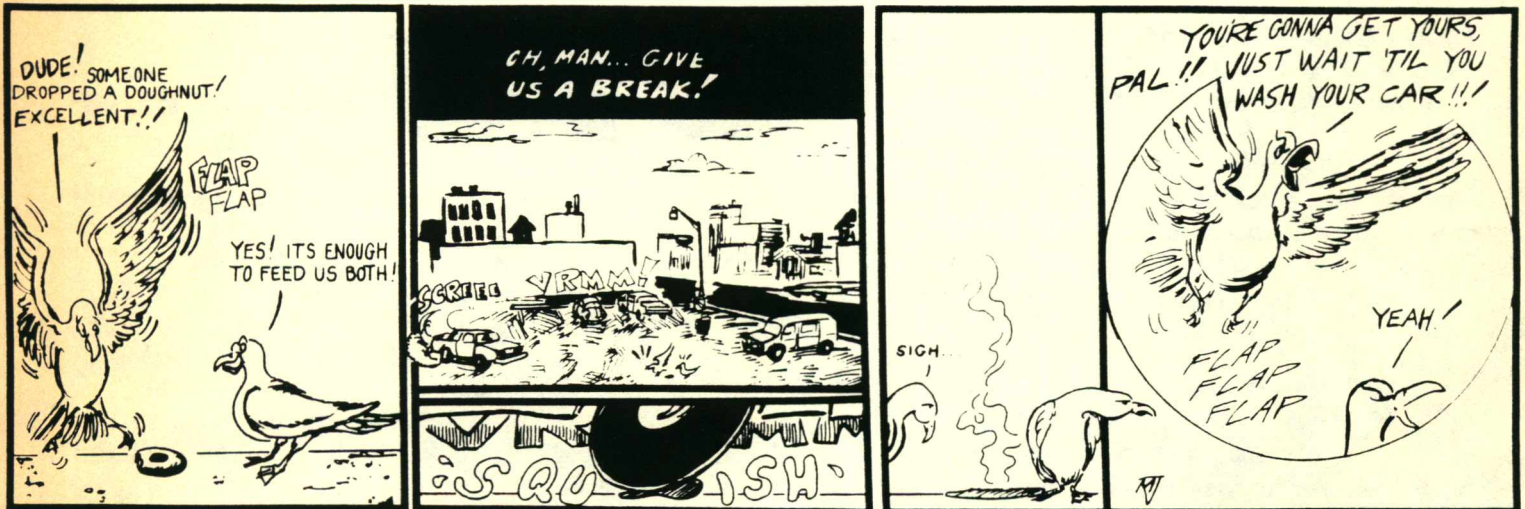
in my backpack aren't the only things that make me feel self-conscious. Sometimes, there are other things in my life that make me wonder if any one is watching. That excess baggage weighs me down. It becomes harder to smile, more difficult to laugh and generally, I just want to hide.

God wants to take those things away from us, and He can. The hard part is just actually letting go. It is letting God see inside that backpack you carry around.

Is your backpack getting pretty heavy? Do you want to lighten your load? Then let go, and let God carry it.

## Colonel Skipper

by Matt Johnson



## Fishbowl

by Eric Ellis

