

WEATHER

Sunny, clear
skies, calm seas.
High 75, Low 50.
Page B9.



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The Ravensgate Oregon Journal

FOUNDED 1858 in Portland, Oregon

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**UMPIRES
ROOM**

FAR OUT

Comedy of errors
helps Las Vegas
51s beat Brewers
in extra innings.
Sports, D1

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NEHALEM, TILLAMOOK AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES 35¢ | ELSEWHERE 75¢

CYBERTERRORISM IN DOWNTOWN RAVENSGATE!!

Computer virus causes Fed COMETPRO armor suits to run amok; two city blocks trashed, 7 dead, scores injured



TERROR AFTERMATH: Debris from the façade and ground floor of the Oregon Journal MediaCorp Building litters the street, left. A stray round leaves its mark on the landmark Commerce Hotel, second from left, and Journal photographer Randy Pragasu examines what's left of the Ambassador Theatre's façade. At right, Ravensgate Mayor Salome Throckmorton-d'Aubaine reacts with relief when hearing her father was unharmed in the terror attack.

RAVENSGATE (AP)—Cyberterrorists sprung a trap for Federal and local law enforcement officers when they caused powered armor suits to fire blindly along two crowded streets.

Initial reports place casualties at seven dead and as many as 150 injured, including Caballera and Gemini from Team Hyperion and an unknown number of The Foundry. Most of the injured are police officers from the Extreme Countermeasures Unit and the Rapid Armed Intervention Division, who were assisting the Federal Counter-Metacriminal Project (COMETPRO).

At press time, the identities of the dead are being withheld pending family notification, and the affected area of Downtown Ravensgate has been quarantined as per the Office of Homeland Security. This edition of the *Journal* was produced in a makeshift newsroom in our Tillamook distribution warehouse and printing plant.

The area affected is a one-block radius extending from the Oregon Journal

MediaCorp Building. Commerce Blvd is closed until further notice.

Oregon Congressmen David Gavriel and Hellman Jessup, who rushed to the scene upon learning of the attack, promise a swift and thorough investigation of the attack.

"These suits aren't supposed to be vulnerable to computer viruses," said Rep. Gavriel (D). "Someone on the local COMETPRO team had to have been negligent. We'll get to the bottom of this."

Gavriel and Jessup both sit on the House Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee.

The first sign of trouble was at 2:30 p.m., when former *Journal* columnist Vic Charlton called *Journal* publisher Jean-Pierre d'Aubaine and alerted him to a police search of the Journal MediaCorp sub-basement parking garage.

Throckmorton Group Security arrived minutes later to assist with the search, followed by COMETPRO.

"From what I've been told," said Rep. Jessup (D), "they were looking for something or someone. If you ask me, that search was doomed from the time somebody leaked word out to an irresponsible journalist."

Within minutes, the COMETPRO powered armor suits began jerking about and firing wildly, taking the assembled police officers and superheroes by surprise. It took the combined might of the police and superheroes to disable the suits before more damage could be done.

At the end of the battle, seven suits of expensive classified armor lay immobile, 43 buildings sustained heavy structural damage, six television news vans were destroyed, and scores of people—possibly hundreds—were hit by flying debris.

A hastily-assembled strike team composed of members of COMETPRO, Hyperion and The Foundry entered the Underground to search for any possible

■ See **CYBERTERROR**, page A2

"City of Superheroes" Nation's Tops In Crime Year-to-date homicides top 2000, 2001 combined

SALEM (AP)—Civil unrest, cyberterrorism, gangland warfare and a violent police strike have combined to vault Ravensgate past Washington, D.C. as the nation's crime capital. Statistics for the first half of 2002 are still being compiled, but they show Ravensgate has the clear lead.

Homicides in the local area are up 503 percent over last year. The total to date for the year is 103, well in excess of the two previous years. In 2000, Ravensgate reported 43 murders, 46 in 2001. By comparison, Portland reported 29 and 33 in the same years, and its 2002-to-date homicide total is 11.

State and Federal law enforcement sources admit that the homicide figures for 2002 include officer-involved shootings ruled as justified—including the controversial Rust City Massacre in April. City Assembly sources confirm these statistics and claim they underscore a reinstatement of the Vigilante Registration Ordinance.

"We didn't have the skyrocketing crime rate until we had a sudden increase in superheroes," said City Assemblyman Oroville Ketchum.

■ See **CRIME STATS**, page A2