

While you were away, here is all the news that didn't seem to fit

**Tim Jones and
Vincent Schodolski**
Chicago Tribune

Been wondering about Gary Condit and Washington intern Chandra Levy, who seems to have disappeared for a second time?

How about O.J. Simpson, who took the witness stand in Miami last week and - ready for this? - did so without CNN providing non-stop coverage.

They've been shoved to the hind end of the media bus and are now, in their own way, editorial victims of the events triggered by Sept. 11. They're back there with the Social Security lockbox, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Jennifer Lopez's marriage and vigorous dissent.

This is no media conspiracy. After all, television, newspapers and magazines have for years reaped enormous profits from serving up a daily story diet that exceeds the USDA's recommended levels for fat and carbohydrate intake.

James Naughton, the former executive editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer and now president of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, said the redefinition of news in the past seven weeks is the biggest shift he has seen since the reporting of Watergate.

"What this has done is refresh our recollection of what matters to the point that real news is dominating, in the way that the Condit story and all that other fake news did," Naughton said.

So what might have made the front page in most daily papers had it not been for the terrorist attacks? Here goes.

The Postal Service is pressing to push the price of a first-class stamp to 37 cents, up from

34 cents. Because the Postal Service usually gets what it wants, look for that to arrive in January.

The media-sponsored recount of Florida's presidential vote, the one that is supposed to resolve who won last year's disputed election, is on hold. Plans call for examination of the tally to begin in December.

Friedrich Leibacher, 57, opened fire and tossed a grenade in the legislature of the placid Swiss canton of Zug, killing 15 people, including three members of the canton's seven-member government. Officials said Leibacher, who killed himself during the attack, was angry at government authorities over a dispute that started with a bus driver two years ago.

Rush Limbaugh, the nation's most-listened-to talk radio host, announced that he is nearly deaf. The story was buried in most newspapers, getting top-of-the-hour treatment only in the Onion: "Rush Limbaugh's Love Affair with Sound of Own Voice Comes to Sad End," the satirical weekly reported.

Toyota and Sony announced they had combined forces to produce a car that smiles, cries and changes colors, depending on how you treat it. Called Pod, the car is normally orange, but it turns blue and produces water on its headlights if it has a flat tire or runs out of gas. No word on how it responds to pot-holes.

The number of layoffs announced since Sept. 11 topped 410,000, about the size of the city of Atlanta.

Norwegian and Russian diving crews, in a remarkable salvage venture, successfully raised the Kursk, the 17,000-ton Russian nuclear submarine that sank to the ocean floor in August 2000 after an onboard ex-

Love is out there for everyone

Eric Hall
Columnist

I believe there is someone out there for everyone. A soul mate. Your soul mate, one that feels the way you do, one that believes in love just as much as you do.

True, I have only been traveling down life's road for only a short time, but I am just now starting to keep an eye open for her.

And at this point in our lives, hope makes up a tremendous amount of our hearts. The hope of one day finding true love and the hope that its magic may remain in our spirits until the day we die.

I have yet to find my soul mate on life's journey. When I find her, I will have so much to tell her, so much to talk

about.

So I am writing her this letter. A letter that is in words, but really can't be described with words. A letter whose beginning began 18 years ago and if I ever find her, will never own a conclusion.

In this letter I tell her that I am traveling while writing this letter, but traveling mostly lost and down the wrong road without her. I tell her I need her to walk beside me and hold my hand, as I will walk beside her and hold hers.

I tell her I know there will be rough times, but nothing we can't handle together. I know that we will have joyous times, every moment spent together. I know we can face life and eternity because we will be together.

I tell her that we need to find

one another because our story will be too beautiful not to be lived. I tell her that when we meet for the first time and I am speechless, it is because I have just realized that I found something that many fail to ever find in a lifetime.

I tell her that I will never take for granted any moment spent with her or any glance her way.

I love her. I will love everything about her. However she is, is how she is - and that's why I will love her. I will love her, and that's all there is to it.

Life's road has not brought us together yet. But until that sweet day, I will continue writing this letter to her.

And continue protecting one single stamp in my pocket.

plosion. The crippled submarine carried 22 cruise missiles and a crew of 118, all of whom died. The vessel was attached to the bottom of a barge and towed to a dry dock in Siberia.

The murder rate in the United States reached a 35-year low last year, according to the FBI.

Proving once again that love is often blind, French attorney Isabelle Coutant-Peyre announced that she would divorce her husband to marry one of her clients, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, also known as international terrorist Carlos the Jackal.

"This is a marriage of love and compatibility of ideas," Coutant-Peyre said. "Between the image of him that is presented and the reality of what he is, there is a big difference."

They are expected to wed in Paris' La Sante prison, where

the Venezuelan Jackal is serving a life sentence for the 1975 murder of two French secret service agents and a suspected informer.

Thirteen people were killed in Brookwood, Ala., when part of the roof of Blue Creek Mine No. 5 fell near a battery charger in the nation's deepest mine. It was the worst mining accident in the United States since 1984.

Former President Bill Clinton was suspended from practicing law before the Supreme Court.

Researchers at Texas A&M University reported that guinea-pig-like rodents from Africa may have crossed the Atlantic Ocean by swimming or rafting along ocean currents.

A global dust storm engulfed Mars, kicking up dust as fine as talcum powder up to 40 miles into the atmosphere.

Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura urged residents of the state to stop reading the two major daily newspapers in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and to stop watching the local evening newscasts. That way, Ventura said, residents can protect themselves from the "half-truths, the National Enquirer journalism that's practiced today." Ventura recommended talk radio as the reliable source of information.

O.J. Simpson was acquitted in Miami on charges of road rage. Simpson smiled and said, "Thank you."

And U.S. Rep. Gary Condit, D-Calif., will face a primary challenge from California Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza, who promised that he would not make character an issue. As the San Francisco Chronicle noted, that won't be necessary.

It's about time... So let your Opinions be heard!
Write for us: e-mail us at pendulum@elon.edu,
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