

Haitian protesters want end to standoff

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Buoyed by the failure of a U.N. plan to return President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power on schedule, about 200 chanting rightists marched Sunday to demand his replacement.

Other rightists considered a "constitutional coup" that would bar Aristide from office and replace him with a Supreme Court justice, although a leading official in the former Duvalier dictatorship emerged Sunday to demand power within the Aristide-backed transition government.

"Arrest Malval! Arrest Malval! Aristide's in deep trouble!" the demonstrators, referring to Aristide's prime minister, chanted outside the vacant National Palace in tune to "Farmer in the Dell."

One protester carried a black-and-red Duvalierist flag atop the statue to the Unknown Slave. Three older women carried color photographs of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier as the protesters marched toward the Normandie Bar, a hang-out for army-backed civilian gangs known as "attaches."

"We're tired, we're finished with everything, we're going to form our own government!" shouted former Sen. Reynald Georges, a Duvalier supporter. Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his successor son, Jean-Claude, ruled Haiti for nearly 29 years. The regime toppled after popular protests chased Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" from the country in 1986.

Georges said his supporters didn't have to storm the palace. "We cannot storm something that belongs to us," he told journalists

in the Caribbean sun.

Asked about the two-thirds support reported for Aristide in the 1990 popular election, Georges could not restrain himself: "Eh-hah-hah-hah! I am laughing."

Across the Avenue of Liberty, four military officers in civilian clothes watched the demonstration. On the street, a prominent businessman looked on sadly.

"I don't see how we are getting out of this thing," Gerald Allen said, referring to the blocked political and economic impasse. Three months ago, he closed his weekly Journal du Commerce, founded in 1954, because of the collapse of legitimate businesses in the face of thriving contraband market.

"There is nothing left to defend," Allen said. "They (the rightists) say they are the people, but they are not the people. The people are in hiding," the Rev. Rene Giroux, a priest in an Aristide stronghold in the capital, said.

Aristide supporters have been repressed since the military overthrew the elected president in September 1991. Premier Robert Malval was appointed by Aristide in August as part of a U.N. envisioning Aristide's return by Oct. 30, but the military has retained control of government ministries.

U.S. and U.N. officials, who have imposed a worldwide oil and arms embargo on Haiti, have warned that a constitutional coup would violate the terms of the U.N. plan to restore democracy in Haiti.

Californians try to recover

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. — Jack and Elaine Lund lost their home, clothing and 25 years of memories when a wildfire leveled their house near Emerald Bay.

But when they went to church Sunday in newly purchased clothes, they volunteered one of their few remaining possessions to help others left homeless in last week's firestorm. They offered the use of their pickup truck to carry victims' belongings.

"There may be people worse off than us," said Lund, who retired from the Army in 1968 and ran a golf cart distributorship afterward. "We lost all the material things of the house, which means nothing."

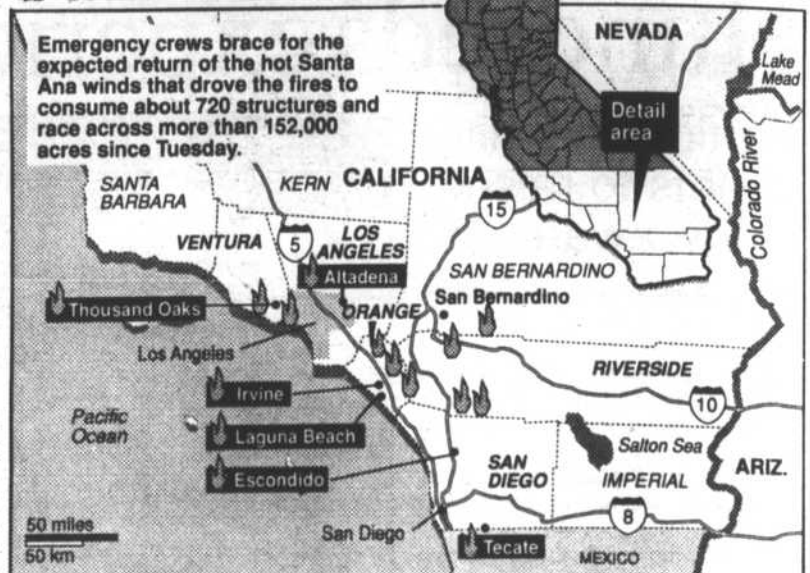
At St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church in Laguna Beach, and at churches and homes around Southern California, people like the Lunds were stepping forward to help. And they were counting their blessings that, despite the destruction wrought by fires that flared up with a blast of Santa Anas, nobody was killed.

Thirteen major fires in a 200-mile stretch from Ventura County to the Mexican border torched 167,700 acres, damaged or destroyed 787 buildings, including at least 650 homes, and injured 62. A preliminary estimate from the state Office of Emergency Services put damage at \$500 million.

The Laguna Beach fire, which destroyed 366 homes and businesses and charred 16,680 acres of brush and suburban landscape, was contained within a line of bare earth. A destructive 5,700-acre blaze above Altadena was 60 percent contained but burning away from homes into the mountains northeast of Los Angeles and a 39,000-acre fire in Ventura County was 90 percent contained.

High clouds drifted over most of the region Sunday, maintaining cool, moist weather that helped firefighters get the upper hand on the fires. But the

CALIFORNIA FIRES



- TOTALS:**
- Acres burned: 167,700
 - Structures destroyed: About 787.
 - People displaced from homes: About 25,000.
 - Firefighters and civilians injured: 62.
 - Preliminary damage estimate: \$550 million.

forecast lent urgency to efforts by hundreds of firefighters who rushed to the area from across California and the West.

The National Weather Service said the Santa Anas — hot desert winds from the east or northeast in Southern California — could begin blowing again Monday night and Tuesday. The winds are expected to blow at 20 mph to 30 mph with gusts up to 45 mph — milder than the winds that spread the wildfires.

Out-of-town crews were handling the heavy work of snuffing hot spots

with hand tools, said Capt. Michael Wilson, a California Department of Forestry firefighter in Riverside County.

"If we get the hard winds, we're looking at everything happening all over again," Wilson said. "We need to get everybody fed and rested."

In the tourist center of this affluent town of 24,000, there was little sign Sunday of the devastation that occurred nearby. Tourists packed shops and espresso bars near the Pacific beach. An occasional Red Cross truck drove by.

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River Phoenix dies at nightclub

LOS ANGELES — River Phoenix, whose natural intensity as a teen-age actor in the 1986 film "Stand by Me" launched his career, collapsed outside a nightclub early Sunday and died. He was 23.

Friends reported that Phoenix was "acting strange" as he left the Viper Room in West Hollywood about 1 a.m., said sheriff's Deputy Diane Hecht. She didn't elaborate. Paramedics were called when the actor collapsed and he was rushed to Cedars Sinai Medical Center. He was pronounced dead shortly before 2 a.m.

An autopsy will probably be performed Monday, she said. Sheriff's detectives were handling the case, as a matter of routine, but

"it's not a homicide investigation at this time," Hecht said.

A year after his 1985 film debut in "Explorers," Phoenix showed his star potential in director Rob Reiner's "Stand by Me." In his brief career, Phoenix played a male hustler in Gus Van Sant's 1991 film "My Own Private Idaho" and portrayed a youthful computer hacker in the Robert Redford-led ensemble cast of 1992's "Sneakers."

His other films include "The Mosquito Coast" (1986) and "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," both with Harrison Ford, "Little Nikita" (1988) with Sidney Poitier, "A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon" (1988) and "Running on Empty" (1988).

SPORTS WIRE

Dolphins' Shula ties coaching record with 324th victory

MIAMI — Don Shula got part of a record and a full soaking Sunday.

Shula tied George Halas with 324 victories, most in NFL history, when Scott Mitchell threw three touchdown passes in a 30-10 rout of Kansas City. It has taken the 63-year-old Shula 30 years to compile a 324-152-6 mark with the Dolphins and Baltimore Colts. Halas was 324-151-31 in 40 seasons with the Chicago Bears.

Shula's reward? Linebacker Bryan Cox dunked a pail of ice water on Shula's head.

How did Shula react? "I told him I loved him," Shula replied.

He goes for the record next week at the New York Jets, the only team to beat the Dolphins (6-1) this season.

"I'm very happy to tie a record by a guy who's meant so much to the National Football League," Shula said. "I never even thought when I first started coaching that there would be a day like this."

It was another short day's work for Joe Montana. The Chiefs quarterback left in the second quarter after reagravating a hamstring injury.

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