Briefly

Compiled By Bill Lang
From Our Prew Services

Halloween revelry
Violence erupts in Madison, Boulder

Police in first year used pepper spray early Sunday to clear thousands of Halloween revelers out of downtown Madison, Wis., after members of the crowd started a small fire.

Officers arrested 250 people, mostly for county ordinances violations, police spokeswoman Emily Samsoe said. Last year, more than 300 people were arrested.

Meanwhile, SWAT teams in Boulder, Colo., accepted 18 people wearing Halloween costumes for throwing bricks and bottles at police. Officials had been sent to check reports of underage dancing in a crowd of about 1,500 people.

Science
Vaccine targets deadly rotavirus

WASHINGTON - A new vaccine against rotavirus, the diarrheal infection that kills millions of children worldwide, doesn't appear to raise the risk of serious bowel blockages that caused it to prevail vaccine to be pulled from market five years ago, doctors reported Sunday.

The new vaccine, Rotavac, was recently licensed in Mexico and is expected to go on sale there this year. Its maker, Belgium-based GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, plans to seek similar approval throughout Latin America, Asia and Europe, and to launch a study in the United States aimed at getting it approved for American infants.

Doctors tested the vaccine in more than 50,000 infants in Latin America and Finland and reported results Sunday at an American Society for Microbiology meeting.

Energy derived from sewage

Scientists are developing technology that would turn raw sewage into an energy source, according to a report being published today in the American Chemical Society Journal Environmental Science & Technology.

Researchers at Pennsylvania State University have tested a microbial fuel cell, similar to a hydrogen fuel cell, that captures electrons naturally released by bacteria as they digest organic matter and converts them into electric current, instead of having it flow, thus. So far, scientists have generated 78 milliwatts per square yard by running thick sludge wastewater, said Bruce Logan, Penn State's Kepp professor of Environmental Engineering.

D.C.

General support for whistleblower

WASHINGTON - A senior Army contracting officer who charged his boss with corruption has been subjected to a racial and sexual work environment, her former supervisor, a retired general, said in an affidavit.

The affidavit by retired Lt. Gen. Joe N. Ballard demonstrated the integrity of Bush administration officials, said the Army bowed to their pleading by longtime Vice President Cheney's former company, and that she was frozen out of decisions affecting it.

That work environment "just made it that much more difficult for Ms. Greenhouse to take the action she took. She was under immense pressure to cave in," FedEx said Sunday.

Texas

Partner runs over, kills police
woman

AUSTIN - A police officer died early Sunday after an accident out of his patrol car to chase a suspect on I-35 and was run over by his partner, Officer Adrian Valdivieso, said police chief Blaine Knae.

Donovitch jumped from the car to question the man but he fell under the foot.

Valido put car in reverse to try to stop the man and the car struck Donovitch, the chief said.

Compiled by Bill Lang