

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

Fall 2006

July 4th Events

(Directory on Page 3)

By Lilla Hammond, Vice-President SBPCA

Every Strathmore Bel Pre community celebration of July Fourth offers a great opportunity to remember and to pay tribute both to our country's history and to those who have served to preserve our freedom as Americans. Each year, this celebration seems more cherished and more important to those who attend. This year we had a great turn out, kicking the events off with the parade starting at 1 p.m. and ending with the community picnic at the pavilion. Those who came enjoyed getting to know their neighbors, sharing in the fun of the children's field games and topping it all off with good food and socializing at the picnic.

As usual, the day's events started with the parade. Parents, grandparents and others arrived with children decked out in colorful red, white and blue costumes and decorated bikes and wagons. The kids from a few months old to teens were the focus of attention and pride. It was fun!

A fire truck arrived to lead the parade. Linda Bea, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association President, lead the paraders. And – adding a special touch – Max Bronstein followed the paraders in his car, which he used to play John Philip Sousa marches. Another spark of excitement included the fire truck making a wrong turn on the parade route. As a result, the truck arrived at the pool where there were more kids to see and enjoy it.

We thank all the parents, grandparents, their families and friends for bringing their children and friends to the parade. An honor roll of the paraders and the July 4th volunteers follows. Please note that we were unable to get a complete list of paraders. The following includes those who participated last year and those whose names we do have for this year's parade. We regret if your child participated and is not listed. Remember, to check the website. You may find their photo there!



Paraders:

Ellen, Matthew, Andrew, Rebecca, and Nicholas Wesley; Ruth, Abby, Kathy, Michael, Rebecca, and Sarah Aitken; Joanna Ladas; Kara Neesen; Papa John Kominski; Emily Caulfield; Jonas, Piper, Renee, Ava and Keith Yokelson; Grace, Donna, and Happy MacFarland; David Suley; Michael and Bart Cahill; Benjamin, Elaine, Wendy, and Arthur Castro; Grady and Turner Garrett; Mark Kessler; Brookes, Charolette, Will, Leanne, and Scott McNamee; Sarah, Connor, Clayde, and Bill Ruppert; Gus Garrett; Zach Hill; Carson Taylor; Sarah Staggs; Laura McGehee; Chembe and Londa Mulutula; Rafael, Julie, and Oreo Pinero; Elmo, Greg, Laura, Lylan, Winston, Emerson, Olivia, and Owen Miller; Michael Stagnitto; Indy and Cambria Lyness; Alex Czujko; Aimee Hechler; Tatiana Fontana; Molly and Billy Johnson; Sky, Kayla, Riley and Mike Geary; Ilana Potosky, Jared, Stoner and Nancy Machlin; Corinne and Mary Kaminsky; Emma, Evan, Josh, and Kellen Bearman; Laura and Larry Woods; Luke, Cara, Connie, and Paul Sanneman; Catherine, Andrea, and Marta Vargas; Natalie Rutsch; Kara Fannon; Bunny Ostrowea; Grace Kessler; Emily Frantz; Candice Hill.

July 4th Volunteers:

The Kensington Fire Department

Parade Judges: Max and Susan Bronstein, Rueben and Marilyn Lev, Arthur Milstein, Maury and Charlotte Potosky and Dan Thomas.

Photographer: Bill Hammond - aka "Strathmo," our community web master -photographed the celebration. Look for his photos on our community's website at strathmore-belpre.org.

Field Day Coordinators and Volunteers: Paulette Ladas, Arthur Meister and others.

Picnic Volunteers: Mike Fannon, Dawn Greeley, Joe Hamblin, Harry Klapper; Phil, Bev and Kevin Mc Gehee; John and Shelly Bogasky; Susan and Max Bronstein, Lou Ann Rector, Lynn Towle and Ellen Wesley.

Coordinators of the Day's July 4th events were Bill and Lilla Hammond. Dawn Greeley generously assisted as co-chair.

In addition to the above individuals, there are always others whom we owe for the wonderful success of our Strathmore Bel Pre Community July 4th celebration. Although, we have been unable to list all participants and volunteers, you know who you are J and we thank you for helping to make the day such a great success!!

Strathmore-Bel Pre Civil Association (SBPCA)

**P.O. Box 6836
Silver Spring, MD 20916**

[E-Mail:Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org](mailto:Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org)

Annual SBPCA membership: \$12.00

Civic Association Officers

President:	Linda Bea	301-460-0497
1 st Vice President	Lilla Hammond	301-871-5074
2 nd Vice President	Reuben Lev	301-460-1048
Treasurer	Charlie Bea	301-460-0497
Recording Sect.	Dawn Greeley	301-603-8055

Civic Association Board of Directors

Max Bronstein	301-460-3117	Maurice Potosky	301-460-9008
Elliot Chabot	301-871-1113	Dan Thomas	301-871-2624
Ron Daub	301-460-0929	Arlene Thorne	301-871-5013
Bill Hammond	301-871-5074	Harry Klapper	301-460-9645

The Bugle

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The President's Corner

**By Linda Bea, President
SBPCA Board of Directors**

Dear Strathmore-Bel Pre Neighbor,

As the days slowly begin to get shorter and autumn creeps in, I hope that you and your family had a safe and enjoyable summer season! The Civic Association Board has kept busy over the summer months. Our annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic was a big hit. The day was hot, but the pool was cool and the rains held off just long enough so that everyone could enjoy the parade and field games, and stopped just in time for our community picnic. Many thanks to Lilla Hammond and to all the other Board members who worked so hard to make this event a success. I would also like to thank all the community members who volunteered at the various events, your efforts helped make the day a truly special, community event. Don't forget to visit our web site, www.strathmore-belpre.org for photos of the parade.

In addition to planning the July 4th activities, the Board has continued to focus on several important community developments over the summer; including the Indian Springs development, the Kirby development, and the Matthew Hensen trail. Our goal in monitoring each of these projects is to try to ensure that development proceeds in a way that is the least detrimental to our community.

As you are all no doubt aware, from the presence of all those campaign signs and advertisements in the mail, this is an election year. And although the Civic Association does not endorse candidates, we do strongly believe in helping to inform you about your choices. To that end, we are happy to co-sponsor another Candidate's Forum at the Aspen Hill Library. This one will feature the candidates for the Maryland House of Delegates and will be held on September 6th at 7:30 p.m. I strongly encourage you to attend and to exercise your civic duty this fall and vote!

Thank you for your continued support.

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MARK YOUR CALENDER!

WHAT: The Annual meeting of the Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA) and the Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)

WHERE: Bel Pre Elementary School on Rippling Brook Drive

WHEN: Thursday, November 16th at 7:30 p.m.

WHY: The annual meeting is an important community event that allows residents to hear updates from both the SBPCA and BPRA Boards. Elections are also held at these meetings to select Board members for both organizations, so please attend.

BE AN INFORMED VOTER!

Attend the Candidate's Forum on September 6th at 7:30 p.m. at the Aspen Hill Library. Candidates for the Maryland House of Delegates will be there to answer questions and state their positions on the issues

BPRA News

Dear Neighbors,

I hope all of your summers have been pleasant. The Association's Board has been busy with repairing and replacing old playground equipment, and otherwise caring for the pool grounds. First, the swing set was refurbished with a new canopy, swings, ropes, and other equipment that was either damaged or missing. Secondly, the replacement playground boat has arrived. After seventeen or so years in service, the old boat had grown increasingly shaky and worn down. The Board would like to thank Dawn Greeley and Arthur Meister for their tremendous help in locating and ordering the new playground equipment. Finally, on the plant front, Board member Ted Bechtol has ordered and planted some new plants in the front of the pool house – thank you to Ted and his group of volunteer gardeners!

Along with the new roof put on the pool house early this year, the Board (with lots of help from Association members) has spent a good deal of time and effort in keeping our pool facilities safe and in good repair. A committee has been formed to look into replacing the broken tables/chairs under the pavilion and the damaged umbrellas around the pool deck. It is our hope and plan to have replacement equipment in place for the 2007 pool season. We will now dive in and tackle needed repairs inside the pool house, and I will keep all of you up to date on how that progresses.

Over the summer, the pool's snack bar has been operated by a group of young men who have done a terrific job. The guys are all pool members and several are lifeguards at the pool as well. When, at the beginning of the summer, it looked like we would not have a snack bar this year, these guys stepped in, got the snack bar up and running very quickly, and made sure that the BPRA tradition of having snack bar access continued this season. Thank you to the snack bar team for a job well done!

Please note that the Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Bel Pre Elementary School. I hope to see everyone there, and a formal notice will be sent to everyone in October. And please remember that, in general, the Association's Board of Trustees meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30. We meet at the pool pavilion during the summer months, and at the Bel Pre Elementary School library during the remainder of the year. All Association members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Cheers!

Ed Frantz, President
Bel Pre Recreational Association

Recreational Association Officers

President:	Edward Frantz	301-603-8055
Vice President:	Dan Keating	301-603-8162
Treasurer:	John Adamo	301-460-3275
Secretary:	Chris Swan	301-871-1113
Administrative Assistant:	Brenda Henry	301-871-6298
Pavilion Usage:	Louisa Hoar	301-871-2954

Recreational Association Trustees

John Bogasky	301-460-1604
Ted Bechtol	301-871-3679
Lou Ann Rector	301-603-8805
Paulette Ladas	301-460-4740

Board Meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month, 7:30 at Bel Pre Elementary School and during summer months at the Pool Pavillion

NEW DMV OFFICE

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration just opened a new full service office in White Oak at 2131 Industrial Parkway, Silver Spring. It's next to the VEIP Emissions Station. The site is easy to get to, by going on Randolph Road/Cherry Hill Road to Rt. 29, turn right, then left at the second traffic light. There is good signage to find it and plenty of parking. This office is closer to us than any other full-service MVA facility.

Community Developments

GLEANINGS from MEETINGS

By Max Bronstein

Montgomery County Civic Federation: The June meeting heard presentations from two departments of the County. The Department of Permitting services addressed issues such as : How to gain input when a yellow sign indicates new construction planned; Protection for a neighbor when a demolition is planned; Permit needed for driveway construction, or who to contact for tree removal in the public right of way (the area of your yard within approximately 20 feet of the road edge); Who to call if you feel construction is not following an approved plan; What to do if muddy or excessive water runoff from a construction site occurs. The Office of Consumer Protection advised about the New Home Warranty Program and the Board of Registration of builders. This is an excellent office to contact regarding differences that arise between residents and businesses.

The July meeting is the Fed's annual occasion for making plans for its activities for the year starting in September.

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board: June's meeting dealt extensively with the proposed development on the Indian Spring Country Club site of 773 homes and was conducted by staff members of the Planning Board. The development, currently known as Poplar Run, will be the subject

of a hearing before the Montgomery County Planning Board on September 7, 2006. There is a possibility that the hearing might continue on September 14. This is a very large project, covering 308 acres, and will have a major impact on this area. Citizens from a number of communities will be testifying about this matter, including myself. We advise attention to this activity. The Board's July meeting recognized the service rendered to the community by several outgoing members, and welcomed incoming Chairman, L. Blaine Charak, and Vice-Chair, Walter Booth. Aide to Marilyn Praisner, Joy Nurmi, reported on the new Workforce Housing Bill.

Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings: This reporter, as well as other members of communities nearby, testified before the Hearing Examiner, Ms. Francoise Carrier, in regard to the Kirby-Vedanta project at Homecrest and Bel Pre Roads. While acknowledging that the development has undergone a large improvement, there are still several issues that citizens felt needed resolution. Ms. Carrier felt that her decision on these issues would be forthcoming in approximately 60 days. That decision goes then to the County Council for a final decision. We will keep you posted.

Stay Tuned For More Notes From the Bugle!!

STRIVING TO MAKE THE *BUGLE* SERVE YOU BETTER!

NEW PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: In an effort to keep residents better informed of news and events that affect our community, the Civic Association has decided to publish **FIVE** issues of the Bugle, rather than the traditional four. Issues will appear in January, April, June, August and October.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OPTION: To insure **MORE TIMELY RECEIPT** of your Bugle, we are also now offering **ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**. To sign up, just send your name, e-mail address and street address to: dgreeley8055@comcast.net.

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE? As always, we welcome your **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**, as well as news and information that you want to pass along to the community. We also publish non-commercial ads for free in our **TRADING POST** section; here you can list

items for sale, babysitting and dog walking services, help needed ads, and calls to start clubs and play groups.

We also encourage contributions from our younger neighbors for inclusion in our **KIDS CORNER**. We welcome poems, jokes, and news stories written by kids in our community. We also want to know about kids who are making a difference in our community through volunteer work or other special projects and activities.

We would also love to publish your **GOOD NEWS**. You may send in birth and engagement/wedding announcements, as well as news about special honors/awards or achievements by community members.

We also welcome your suggestions for improvement!

SCHOOL NEWS

Kennedy High School:

COMMENCEMENT: On June 1, more than 300 Kennedy High School received their diplomas. The featured speaker was the Surgeon General of the United States, Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona. Kennedy students have been accepted by more than 120 universities which include nearly every major institution of higher learning in the Washington area, nearly every institution in the state of Maryland, a number of Ivy League schools, the US Naval Academy, and other colleges throughout the country, several in Canada and one in England.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Kennedy is proud that the recent emphasis on students taking more challenging Advanced Placement classes has resulted in our school, along with all other Montgomery County public high schools, being in the top 3% of American high schools on Newsweek magazine's Challenge Index. In fact, Kennedy experienced a dramatic improvement from last year's position of 658 (out of 27,500 high schools) to this year's position of 443 which raised it above nine other

WANT TO GET YOUR *BUGLE* ELECTRONICALLY?

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MCPS schools. Also, the average SAT score for seniors has improved for the second year in a row.

Kennedy principal, Fred Lowenbach, who was named Principal of the Year by the Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association (MCR). MCR is composed of all 24 Montgomery County High School Student Government Associations.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: is scheduled for September 14 at 7:00.

HOMECOMING: Come and support the Kennedy Cavaliers at their Homecoming game against Paint Branch on Saturday, October 7 at 2:00.

SAT Deadlines: The next SAT test will be October 14, 2006 and the deadline for registering is September 12. The November SAT test is scheduled for November 4 and the deadline for registering is October 11. The website for registering is www.collegeboard.com.

Practice SAT: The Kennedy PTSA will host a Practice SAT on Saturday, September 9, 2006 from 8:00 am – noon. All 9th through 12th grade students (public, private and home school) are welcome and encouraged to take this official College Board SAT. The tests will be scored by an organization called Studyworks and returned with an 8-page analysis of the test scores and an essay score explanation. To register, please call 1-800-783-1728. Studyworks.com will be taking the registration for Kennedy. The cost is \$10.00 (cash or a check made payable to Kennedy PTSA) which is payable on the day of the exam. Advance registration is recommended.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

The Civic Association web site www.strathmore-belpre.org is loaded with valuable news and information about our community, county and state. You can see and download photos from the July 4th Parade and picnic, get the latest Dolphins news (as well as a history of the team), or view back issues of the *Bugle*. You can also easily access links to various County Agencies, Schools and resources that can help you with everything from reporting a broken streetlight to trash pick up. There are also helpful tips on public health/safety and emergency preparedness. So check it out!

Dolphins Complete 3-Year Rise from Bottom of C Division to Become the PMSL's Number 2 Team

The Dolphins returned to 'A' Division this season after a six year absence. The Dolphins arrived in 'A' as the undefeated 'B' Division champions, but expectations were low. The previous year, the previous 'B' Division champion had gone winless in 'A' Division. The Dolphins entered this season hoping for 1 or 2 wins. After all, it had been more than 10 years since the team's last winning season in 'A' Division.

However, someone forgot to tell all of this to the swimmers and coaches. The Dolphins surpassed all expectations, going 4-1 in the regular season to tie for first place going into the Divisional meet. The Dolphins placed third in the Divisional meet and finished as 'A' Division runner-up, overall the 2nd best team in the 5-county, 40 team Princemont Swim League, placing ahead of several much larger, 200+ swimmer teams! It's an exceptional performance for a 'closed' team whose competitors can openly recruit for the best swimmers.

That accomplishment is the latest in an incredible run by the Dolphins over the past 3 seasons. In 2003, the team went 1-4 in B Division and finished dead last in the B Divisionals meet. In 2004, they started as last seed in C Division, nearly falling to D Division for the first time in Dolphins history.

The meets in C Division during 2004 were very close. In several meets, the Dolphins won only by swimming clean with fewer DQs than their opponent. Despite the close meets, the coaches and kids still found a way to win every meet. They went undefeated in 2004 and won the C Division championship.

In 2005, the team moved up to B Division, hoping to win at least a few meets. That would be success after 4 previous consecutive losing seasons in B Division. Once again, every meet was close. The Dolphins needed to fill the lanes, swim cleanly, and post best times to surprise their opponents each week. The team went 5-0 in the regular season but still was only seeded third at B Divisionals.

The coaches and kids surprised us all again. At the 2005 B Divisionals, 17 of our first 20 swimmers posted best times for the season, starting a wave that ended with the Dolphins' 2nd consecutive undefeated season and a B Division Championship.

So the Dolphins moved up to A Division, seeded last again. The first meet against 3-time A Division champion Belair Bath & Tennis (BBT) was the first sign of something special this season. Instead of being blown out as expected, the Dolphins were competitive. The question was in the air, if the Dolphins could be competitive against BBT, what did that mean for the other A Division teams?

We now know. During the regular season, the Dolphins



beat all other A Division teams. They finished as A Division runner-up, a long way from the bottom seed of C Division at the start of 2004.

Long-time Dolphins fans sometimes talk about the old days of the streak, when the Dolphins won 54 straight meets over 11 years. What the Dolphins have accomplished these past three years is just as impressive! It's a feat, consecutive Division championships while rising from lower Divisions, which those great old teams never matched. Our Dolphins have begun a new streak!!

The Dolphins were also awarded the League's Saum-Hilton Award. This award, named in honor of two of the founder's of the Princemont Swim League, is given each year to one of the two smallest teams in each Division. It is awarded to the team that has improved the most relative to its initial seeding but did not win the Division. It's the league's official recognition of the Dolphin's accomplishments in rising from 6th seed to finish 2nd in 'A' Division.

The 'A' Divisionals meet also saw Takoma Park set a new league record in the Girls Mixed Age Freestyle Relay. The record had stood since 1984 and was held by the Strathmore Bel Pre team of T. Long, J. Martinson, M. Smith and Dolphins Head Coach Terry Kominski. This was Terry's longest standing PMSL record from her days as a Dolphins swimmer. Her sister Ruth still holds several PMSL records and Terry still holds several Dolphins and SBP Pool records.

Finally, the Dolphins capped their season with a win at the Cheverly Relays meet, defeating several teams including Takoma Park, who came in second at the 'A' Divisionals meet.

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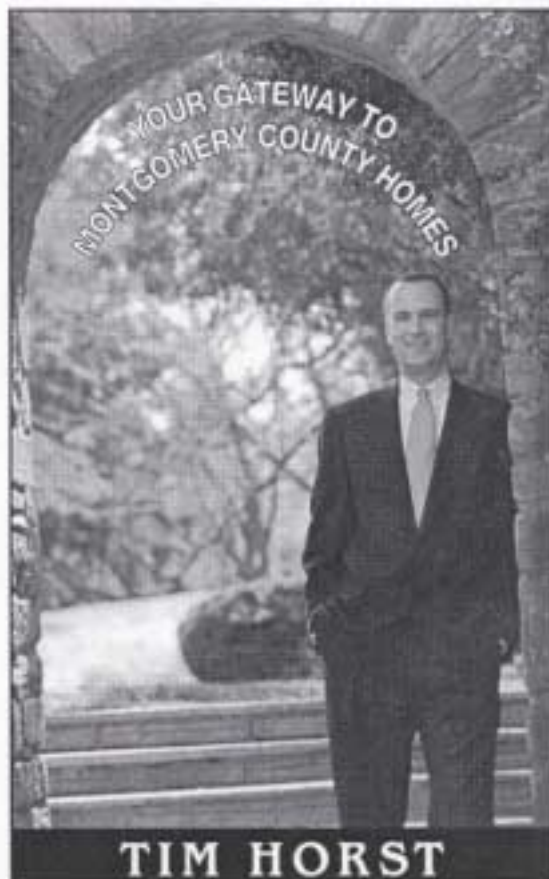
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2006

Aug. 28.....	First Day of School
Sept. 4.....	Holiday-Labor Day
Sept. 12.....	Holiday-Gubernatorial Primary
Sept. 27.....	Early Release
Oct. 2.....	Yom Kippur No School
Oct. 20.....	MSTA Convention No School
Nov. 1.....	Professional Day No School
Nov. 7.....	General Election Day No School
Nov. 9.....	Parent Conferences Early Release K-8
Nov. 10.....	Report Cards Early Release K-8
Nov. 23-24.....	Holiday—Thanksgiving
Dec. 25.....	Holiday-Christmas
Dec. 26-29.....	Winter Break

2007

Jan. 1.....	Holiday-New Years Day
Jan. 15.....	Holiday-Martin L. King Jr., Day
Jan. 22.....	Professional Day No School
Feb. 19.....	Holiday-Presidents' Day
Feb. 27.....	Early Release Day K-12
Mar. 27.....	Professional Day No School
Apr. 2-5.....	Spring Break
Apr. 6 & 9.....	Holiday-Easter & Passover
May 28.....	Holiday-Memorial Day
Jun. 14.....	Last Day of School-Early Release

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Mi-T-M Pressure Washers, Coleman Powermate, Ingersoll Rand, Peerless Transmission, and More...

Call The Mowerman at 301-384-6290

BPRA homeowners who need copies of the Bel Pre - Strathmore Covenants or other Bel Pre Rec. Assoc. Documents in order to sell their homes should either 1) contact the Civil File room in person. There is a cost for duplication. This office can be found on the first floor of the Circuit Court Building in Rockville. Refer to Civil Desk: Homeowner Records, HOA 268 filed on March 28, 1989, or 2) call Community Paperworks and ask for a resale package - approximate cost \$75). Their phone number is (301) 309-8977.

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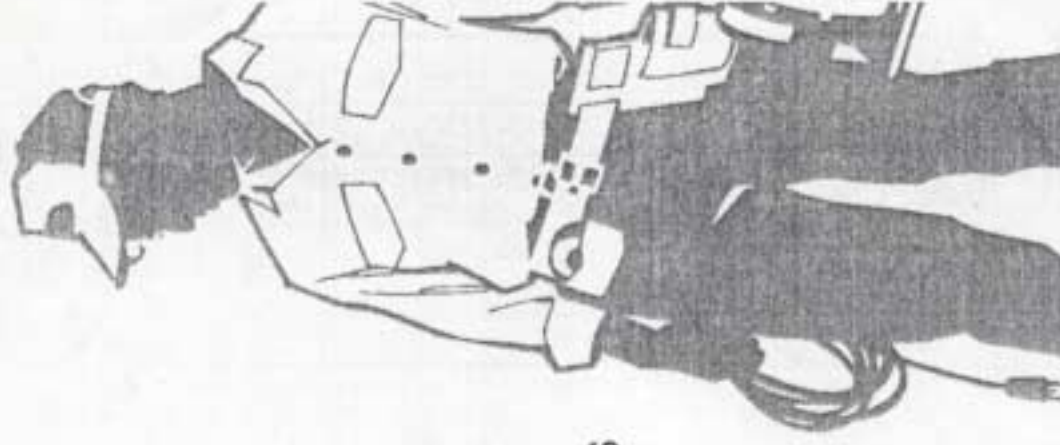
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