



President's Report

10-9 what?

Another San Francisco bike messenger appreciation day is upon us. There will be the traditional food at the wall during the day and a party/art show that night at the union hall. This year I want to get as many messengers (both current and former) as possible involved. We are planning a group picture with as many of us as we can muster. To have a picture that basically says: "We are still here. Our industry may be down or on the ropes but we are still here." There have been too many articles, as of late, that repeat that same old bullshit. This is why 10/9 is so important. It is an incredibly important part of our identity as messengers and as a tool to build solidarity within the community. So please make it downtown for food at the wall and come out later that evening for beer, messenger art and a special exhibit of messenger memorabilia from the

Rubberside down, skinside up.



Messengers in Literature

by Howard Williams

From One Minute to Midnight by Michael Dobbs, a history of the October 1962 missile crisis, considered by historians and those of us who were alive at the time to be the closest the world ever came to a nuclear holocaust. The following passage describes the communications problems the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C. had at that time.

"The [communications] problem was even worse on the Soviet side. Some of their communications procedures were out of the nineteenth century. If the Soviet ambassador in Washington wanted to send a message to Moscow, it first had to be encrypted in groups of five letters. The embassy would then telephone the local office of Western Union, which would dispatch a courier on a bicycle to collect the cable. Soviet diplomats would watch the young black messenger cycling slowly down the street, and wonder if he would stop along the way to chat with his girlfriend. If all went well, the message would be transmitted to the Kremlin over a telegraph cable originally laid across the Atlantic a hundred years earlier.

