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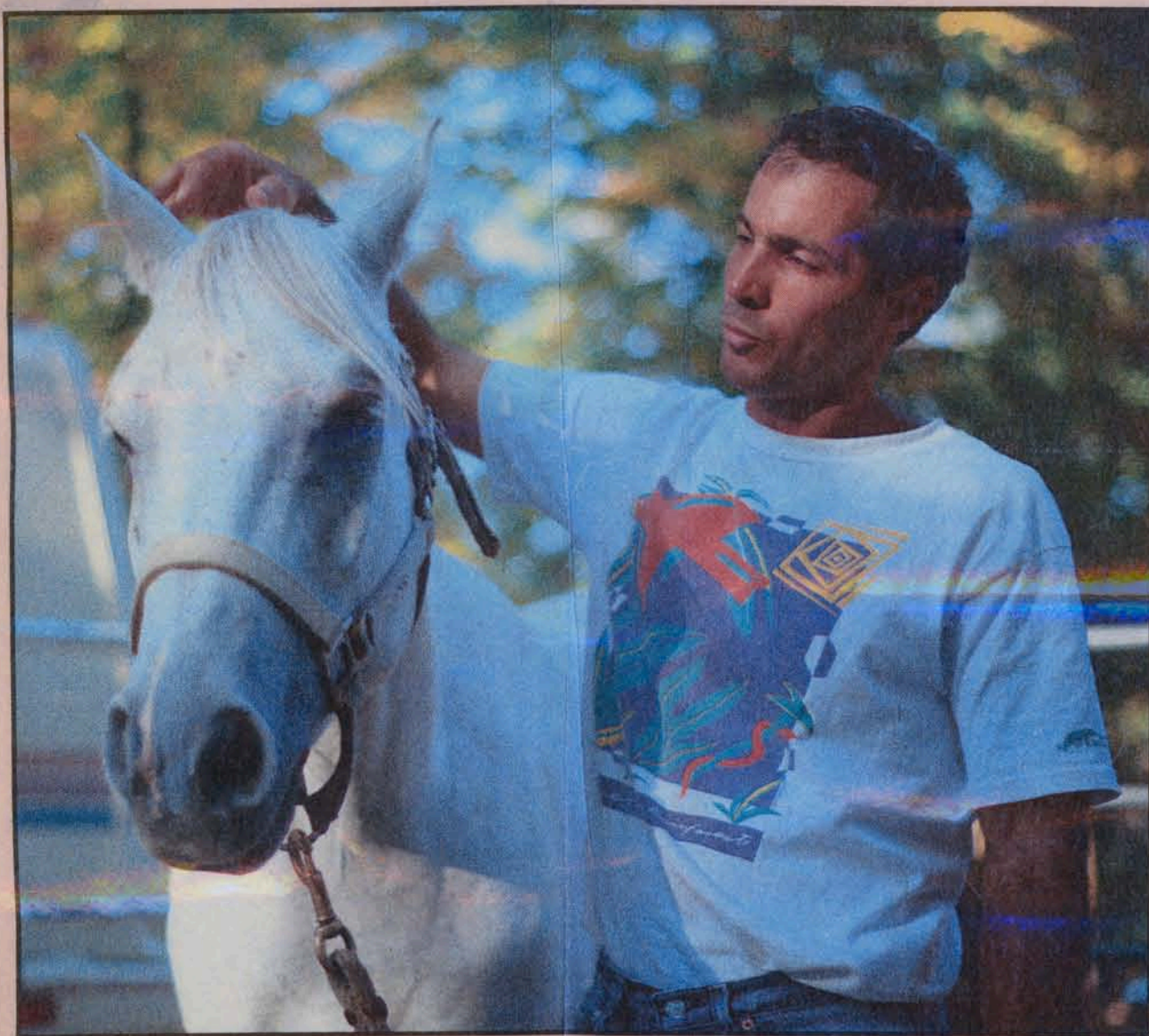
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By Audrey Ross — The Capital

Lucian Spataro and his horse Sea Ruler completed a cross-country trip yesterday at Chesapeake Beach. The ride earned the Arizona engineer a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records.

## Rider reaches end of trail

### Cross-country trip focuses attention on rain forests

By AUDREY ROSS  
Staff Writer

**A**n Arizona engineer who crossed the country on horseback ended his ride yesterday, 2,800 miles and 4½ months after it began.

Lucian Spataro rode into Chesapeake Beach yesterday afternoon on a 6-year-old Arabian horse named Sea Ruler.

He coaxed the horse into the water to officially end his trek, which began on a California beach May 19.

Spataro began the ride across America to boost awareness about the devastation of tropical rain forests.

“(The horse) kind of attracts attention, people kind of gravitate to the horse,” he said. “That’s the reason for riding the horse, so you can talk with people.”

He also set a world record for the longest ride made by one person on horseback, 1,400 miles, and another record for traveling across the United States in the shortest time on a horse.

The previous record was 10½ months. His name will appear in either the 1990 or 1991 issue of the Guinness Book of World Records.

“I don’t really think it’s hit that it’s really over with. I’m kind of sad,” the 32-year-old said.

The finale was videotaped by half a dozen people who assisted during the crossing, including two trainers who monitored the horses.

The video will be sent to a television station in Tucson, Ariz., where Spataro lived before starting the trip.

The station has aired monthly reports of the trip.

Spataro poured champagne on both horses used on the last leg of the trek before sipping from the champagne

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bottle himself in front of a small gathering of curious spectators.

Spataro said yesterday’s 4.3-mile ride on Route 4 and down Chesapeake Beach Road was the shortest distance he has ridden since beginning the trip.

During the height of the trek, he averaged 30 to 40 miles a day, alternating between Sea Ruler and a 12-year-old Arabian named Marching Along.

He averaged 23 miles a week the last few weeks of the trip.

Spataro has ridden daily for the past two months, crossing Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

The worst part of the journey was crossing the desert, where temperatures reached 117 degrees, he said.

Because of the heat, some of his rides started at 3 a.m., and he also rode at night.

Spataro reached Washington, D.C., Friday, stopping shy of Chesapeake Beach Saturday.

He and his crew board three recreational vehicles will leave the Duncan KOA campground in Lothian today.

Spataro spent five years organizing the trip, which was funded by donations from corporate sponsors.

An Arizona ranch donated horses for the trek. Other sponsors donated tack, feed and a truck used to pull one of the trailers.

The Rainforest Action Network and the Environmental Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., groups that lobby to save rain forests, also helped organize the ride. Surplus money from the trip will finance educational programs, printed materials and lobbying efforts.

Spataro got the idea for the trip after witnessing the devastation of rain forests through his work.

“Things won’t change unless people become aware of the problem. They need to act quickly,” he said.

The loss of rain forests contributes to global warming and loss of wildlife.

Most people are aware of local problems, but aren’t aware of problems on the global level, he said.

“That’s dangerous because a lot of people have to be aware of the impact of global problems,” he said.

The cross-country horseback ride was Spataro’s third attempt at breaking a world record, he said.

Several years ago, he and some friends rode a tricycle 64.9 miles in 64 hours in an Olympic-sized swimming pool, he said. That record has since been broken, he said.

In 198, he was among a group that tried to suba dive in one of the highest bodies of water in North America, he said.

The attempt was foiled because of bad weather. He said they completed the dive about a year later, climbing the 18,710-foot-high Orizaba Mountain outside Mexico City to dive in a small lake formed in the crater of a volcano, but the Guinness Book of World Records refused to acknowledge the event.

## Write-in campaign opposed

### Democratic leaders fear damage to party

By TOM ELIA  
Staff Writer

Several local Democratic leaders have advised Mayor Dennis Callahan to abandon thoughts of running a write-in campaign to retain his office in the Nov. 7 election.

The party leaders include some of the mayor’s outspoken supporters in the Sept. 19 primary election, which he lost to Alderman Alfred A. Hopkins.

Saying the write-in bid would help neither the party nor the mayor’s political future, the leaders have said they will support Alderman Hopkins,

**“Dennis did a good job as mayor, but the people of Annapolis have indicated they want some change. It’s Al’s turn.”**

and asked the mayor to join them.

“Dennis did a good job as mayor, but the people of Annapolis have indicated they want some change,” said Rep. Tom McMillen, D-Anne Arundel. “It’s Al’s turn.”

Rep. McMillen, who has made strengthening the county Democratic party a priority, said he and the mayor had a “good, honest conversation” about the issue last week.

It follows similar counsel from Callahan boosters such as former Mayor Roger “Pip” Moyer, who helped to manage the mayor’s primary election campaign. Supporters such as Alderman Samuel Gilmer, D-Ward 3, also support the alderman but have not advised the mayor to do so.

Mayor Callahan said last week some people, such as Rep. McMillen, have given him that advice but said other people who worked on his behalf have encouraged him.

One person voicing such sentiment was Culver Rausch, his former headquarters manager who leads a petition drive urging him to run.

“I think he had the votes (to win) the primary,” Rausch said, adding he had not spoken with the mayor. “He just didn’t get the people out.”

Mayor Callahan said he will decide whether to run a write-in campaign this week for the sake of his supporters and city voters.

“There is no middle ground on this,” he said. “I’ve had people for whom I have respect say it’s a gigantic mistake and to go for it.”

His decision is expected to come no earlier than tomorrow, after he reviews the petitions and when the city Board of Supervisors of Elections decides whether voters may use labels to mark write-in ballots. Labels improve a write-in candidate’s chances, eliminating errors that can invalidate votes.

Alderman Carl O. Snowden, D-Ward 5, also is considering a write-in campaign for mayor. He also is expected to decide this week whether to mount the campaign.

A Callahan candidacy would make the race a three-way contest between him, Alderman Hopkins and Republican Larry Vincent.

Given the alderman’s 60 years in Annapolis, Democrats feel their party can win if he runs only against Vincent. But a Callahan candidacy may divide the Democratic votes, they said.

“By nature, write-in campaigns are divisive,” Jinx Hubbard, city Democratic chairwoman, said today. She declined to speculate on the write-in bid’s effect on the race.

Dividing Democrats and helping the Republican party win the election could hurt the mayor’s chances of obtaining another office under the Democrats’ banner, officials said.

“I don’t think his career is over,” said Moyer. “He’s an excellent mayor.”