FREE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2003 Volume 2, Issue 42

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*Happy New Year!*

# Controversial Main Street block up for sale

*With all the development approvals, former Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery listed for $27 million*

**BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON**
Daily Press Staff Writer

Now that his Main Street residential and commercial complex has been given full approval to be built, developer Howard Jacobs has put the property up for sale.

Jacobs, who has been battling City Hall for nearly four years to get the project approved, has the entire block bounded between Neilson Way and Main Street, and Bay Street and Bicknell Avenue, as well as another parcel across the street, listed for $27 million.

Along with the price tag comes all the approvals and conditions given by the Santa Monica City Council to build the 170,000-square-foot, four-story, 133-unit housing and retail development.

Jacobs put the property up for sale in November, shortly after he received the last approval he needed from the state's coastal commission.

Jacobs was unavailable for comment, but his real estate broker, Ron Harris, said in published reports that Jacobs is taking advantage of a strong real estate market and wants to maximize his investment. Harris also reportedly said Jacobs has had two parties express interest in purchasing the property.

Jacobs' investment not only includes millions of dollars in plan preparations

See PROPERTY, page 4

# Man arrested for armed robbery, attempted murder

*Victim listed in critical condition with massive facial injuries*

**BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON**
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica Police wrapped up its year Tuesday by nabbing an alleged armed robber and attempted murderer who is accused of severely beating a man in his hotel room last week.

The victim, who is unidentified and listed in critical condition, was allegedly beaten by Jason Robert Manuel, 22, of Los Angeles at Loews Hotel last Thursday.

A guest of the hotel found the victim lying in a hallway outside of his room and called police. When officers arrived, they found the man, who was apparently staying at Loews, suffering from numerous massive facial injuries. The victim is a 56-year-old man from Texas. He was transported to a local hospital.

Police said Manuel met the victim at a casino in Inglewood. They returned to Santa Monica and went to the victim's hotel room, where he was allegedly robbed and beaten by Manuel sometime between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. It's unknown why the two went to the hotel.

SMPD detectives were able to identify Manuel within 24 hours of the crime by using surveillance video tape from the Inglewood casino. A picture of Manuel was put on a hotel crime alert that was issued to nine large hotels in Santa Monica on the same day of the crime.

About 100 fliers were distributed to local law enforcement agencies and casinos in the South Bay that identified Manuel. An arrest warrant was obtained and entered into the statewide law enforcement computer.

"Our detectives worked some long hours on this case," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "Once they identified the suspect in 24 hours, they worked every day for hours following up on addresses in Los Angeles."

SMPD officers found Manuel at a casino in Compton at about 6 a.m. Tuesday after a security guard there recognized him from the photograph and called Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies, who arrested him.

"It was the alertness of the security officer at the casino that was able to recognize him," Fabrega said. "He had the flier we sent out."

SMPD officers went to the Compton Sheriff's station and transported Manuel to Santa Monica Jail. He was charged with attempted murder and armed robbery. Manuel's bail has been set at $1,000,000.

Anyone having information regarding this incident should contact the Robbery/Homicide Unit of the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8451.

## A Trojan rallying cry





Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

**(Top) The University of Southern California Trojans' marching band descended upon the Third Street Promenade Tuesday night to rally support for their match-up with the Iowa Hawkeyes in the Orange Bowl scheduled for Thursday in Miami.**
**(Below) Trojans' cheerleaders entertain the crowd at Arizona Avenue and Third Street.**
**USC's record is 10-2 and Iowa is 11-The game is scheduled to air on ABC at 5 p.m.**

# Consumers, renters benefit from new laws, among others

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Farmworkers, consumers, new parents and renters won legislative victories in 2002 and will see the benefits when California rings in the new year.

The list of new laws (a record 1,168 are set to take effect Jan. 1) reads almost like a chronicle of the last year's major events and the Legislature's response to them, such as the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, allegations of child abuse in the Catholic Church and corporate fraud.

In other cases, California lawmakers made their own headlines as they continued to set legislative and political trends.

The gun control movement successfully pushed a measure making California the first state to repeal gun manufacturers' special immunity against lawsuits.

Also, California further expanded its

See LAWS, page 8

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# HOROSCOPE

# Have a Happy New Year!



**JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS**

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★ A conversation puts you on edge. You might feel raw and even a touch grumpy. Use discretion when you discharge this energy. Remember, it is the first day of the new year. Handle problems in a more inventive and dynamic manner. Tonight: A must appearance.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★ Once you take stock of your finances, you could feel as if money got a bit out of hand during the past few weeks. Right now, let go of the problem. Enjoy yourself with an older relative. Say "yes" to doing something totally new. Tonight: Stretch. Continue with the new.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★★ Deal with loved ones directly, not as a group but individually. Nothing replaces the personal touch. Help a loved one at a distance feel a bit more comfortable. Changes occur before your very eyes. Someone heads in a new direction. Tonight: Togetherness counts.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★ Finish up a project that might be on your mind. You get a lot done if you simply focus, leaving plenty of time for socializing and enjoying your friends. In fact, you might want to have a day-after party. Let those around you participate more often. Tonight: Say "yes."

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★★ Your imagination takes you down a new path if you allow yourself to have this adventure. A friend might have a totally different interest than you. Make it OK to follow your individual paths. Remember, you might need a nap. Tonight: Slow down, please.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★ Sleep in if you'd like. You might not want to do anything at all, but stay close to home. Trust that you will be energized soon enough. Add more playfulness to your afternoon. Start the year with something you love. Tonight: Play away.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ Go through your list of people to call, and wish them a special and happy New Year. Carefully think through a situation that could have an unpredictable and costly tone. You might want to veg out and catch up on much-needed rest. Tonight: Stay home.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★ Spread the good humor around this morning. You might find a loved one a bit unpredictable. Make calls later in the afternoon to spread New Year's wishes. Your call and thoughts do make a difference. Tonight: Don't go far.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★★ Calming you down after the somewhat wild christening of the new year could take a lot. You might not even decide to go to sleep until some of the parades are over. Indulge yourself this afternoon, which might include doing nothing! Tonight: Go with the flow.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★ You might be slow to get started, but you're close to unstoppable once you get going. You make up for lost time this afternoon as if there is no tomorrow. Remember, you have the whole year to live out some of your resolutions. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★ Use the early part of the day to touch base with a child and a key friend. You might not see eye to eye with others right now, but don't worry. How you visualize an event or situation might not ring bells for others. Accept these differences. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★ Winding down could take a while. In fact, you're more likely to wind up again once the afternoon begins. You find a lot to celebrate about. Make an effort toward a special friend or family member who might be out of sorts. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

## QUOTE of the DAY

**"Before we make love, my husband takes pain killers."**
— Joan Rivers

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# Homicide spike in key cities set disturbing 2002 trend

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
Associated Press Writer

**LOS ANGELES** — "Stop the killin.' Save our children."

The chant echoed through South Los Angeles on a recent night as 70 community members drove or marched under police escort to sites on streets and sidewalks where people died in a wave of homicides this year in the nation's second-largest city.

And it resonated up and down California as 2002 drew to a close with a number of other cities also facing disturbing increases in homicides, much of it involving gangs.

Some cities saw a decline in bloodshed, but even without complete statistics for the entire year, Attorney General Bill Lockyer this month acknowledged what he termed "a painful truth" in reporting preliminary figures showing crime rising in California.

The six-month figures revealed a 3.3 percent increase in violent crime, including a 16 percent rise in homicides, over the same span in 2001.

Los Angeles had 652 homicides as of Dec. 21, up 11.5 percent over last year and the most since 1996. While nowhere near the totals of the 1980s and early 1990s, Los Angeles' current numbers contrast sharply with those of the nation's other big cities.

New York, with more than twice the population of Los Angeles, reported 503 homicides as of mid-November, down about 12 percent from the same time last year. Chicago had 571 homicides through Nov. 21, down from 598 over the same period.

Los Angeles was not alone in driving the homicide numbers up: Long Beach, for example, recorded a 71.8 percent jump for the first nine months of 2002. Fueled in part by gang violence, Long Beach had 65 homicides by Dec. 6 — more than in all of 2001.

Homicides were also up in San Francisco, with a reported 23.9 percent increase from January through November. However, all other violent crime categories were down, including rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

San Jose was on pace to top last year's homicide total, with 25 reported as of Dec. 18. Fresno had 40 homicides in the first 11 months of the year, compared to 35 for the same period in 2001, but rapes were down 22 percent and aggravated assaults were down nearly 17 percent.

San Diego, however, reported an across-the-board decrease in crime totals for the first 10 months of the year. Homicides were down 19 percent in the period, while rapes were down 6.9 percent and robberies were down 7.5 percent.

"We've had an incredible run down here in San Diego," said police spokesman Dave Cohen. "We've had a decade of pretty decent crime numbers given the size of our city and the fact that it continues to grow."

From 1996 to 2001, the rate of reported homicides decreased statewide by 30 percent in part because of a good economy and a decline in the crack trade. But in the past few years, the trend started to reverse itself in many places.

After experiencing the largest ever one-year drop in California history of 14.9 percent in 1999, the state's major crime rate increased by 3.7 percent in 2001.

Experts have long linked downturns in the economy to crime waves. But the flare-up in gang violence in Los Angeles was attributed mainly to turf wars over the drug trade, and other factors. According to police, gang members newly released from prison are using violence to reassert their positions.

The homicide statistics were translated back into faces at the Los Angeles Police Department's 77th Street Station, where a mothers group decorated a Christmas tree with photographs of victims, and into individual stories through the "Stop the Killin"' campaign by the anti-crime group Central Recovery & Development Project.

At each crime scene a police officer recounted details of the crime and members of the group gathered in prayer around a candle. Group director Ed Turley told them at the end of the night that their effort would pay off.

"The level of murder that was happening when we started this movement is not happening now," he said. "Soon enough everyone will be saying, 'Stop the killin' and the killing will stop."

Los Angeles police Capt. Nancy Lauer, who oversees patrol for the department's Southeast Station, said the grassroots campaign has helped.

"It sends a really positive image to the community that the Police Department and the community are committed to working together to address crime and reduce gang violence in these neighborhoods," Lauer said.

## surf report

*Information compiled by Jesse Haley*

West-northwest wind swell generates decent size at exposed breaks. Expect waist- to chest-high sets with good consistency.

Unfortunately, conditions have been windy in the Santa Monica Bay. San Diego is seeing cleaner surf, with better shape and more size, consistently overhead at good breaks.

We're expecting less size today, with remnant wind swell fading fast.

New northwest swell is on the horizon, but we probably won't see results until the end of this week.

Rumor of the day: I heard a kid from Manhattan Beach say Pratte's reef is going to be all-time today.

**Today's Tides:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| High- | 6:10 a.m. | 6.09' |
| Low- | 1:30 p.m. | -0.63' |
| High- | 7:43 p.m. | 3.64' |

| Location | Wednesday | Thursday | Water Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| County Line | 2-3'/Poor | 2-3'/Poor | Not available |
| Zuma | 2-3'/Poor | 2-3'/Poor | Not available |
| Surfrider | 1-2'/Poor | 1-2'/Poor | D |
| Topanga | 1-3'/Fair | 1-3'/Fair | A |
| Breakwater | 3-4'/Poor | 2-3'/Poor | A |
| El Porto | 2-4'/Poor | 2-3'/Poor | A |

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## The Q Line

The New Year is a time for renewal, change and introspection. A few weeks ago, Q-line asked what you thought Santa Monica's political leaders should focus on in 2003, but now we want to hear what the citizens have in mind for themselves

So this week, Q-line asks:

**"What resolutions or changes will you make in your life for 2003?"**

**Call (310) 285-8106** with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print it in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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# Developer Howard Jacobs ready to part with parcel

PROPERTY, from page 1

and the price of the property itself, but also hundreds of hours spent in the public review process.

Jacobs' plans to redevelop the parcel where the former Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery used to be has gone through at least four major revamps in the past 3 1/2 years, when he first purchased the property. He has had every aspect of the property put under scrutiny — everything from the height and width of the buildings' elevators to how the potted plants on the top floor will be watered, to the color of paint and kind of materials that will be used for the exterior.

Jacobs had envisioned the ground floor of the buildings' retail space to have neighborhood-serving stores and apartments for rent upstairs.

But the public review process was only part of the delay. Jacobs said the planning department — known for its bureaucratic red tape and slowness — spent too long preparing a crucial document that reviews impacts to the neighborhood.

So Jacobs filed a lawsuit against the city in 2001 claiming it has cost him millions of dollars because it dragged its feet in completing the environmental impact review of the project. The report was completed several months after the supposed deadline.

Jacobs has said in the past that the delay has cost him nearly $3 million because he was sitting on land he had to pay for and the city delayed him his right to get a return on his investment in a timely manner. Jacobs has said he pays $115,000 a month for the mortgage, insurance and maintenance of the property.

The lawsuit is still pending and it's unknown whether Jacobs will pursue it.

The planning commission first denied the project and instead of redoing the plans, Jacobs appealed the decision to the city council, which approved it unanimously in February of 2002 after Jacobs made substantial changes to the buildings' facades.

But the architectural review board a few months later shot down the project, despite that Jacobs had made the changes based on recommendations by the council and city officials.

As a matter of process, Jacobs chose to appeal the decision to the planning commission instead of going back in front of the ARB with more changes. He said at the time that he didn't feel he would get a fair review by the ARB. Jacobs believed the ARB's review was out of its legal purview because the board critiqued more than just the building's architecture.

As a matter of law, the planning commission was limited in its second review to only critique the project's architectural design, landscaping and exterior aspects because it was acting as the ARB.

The commission reluctantly approved the project in September of 2002. The process put the planning commission in an awkward position because its members didn't want the project in the first place. When they approved it last fall, commissioners described the development as a "box" they didn't particularly like but had to decorate it as best they could.

The development will be the largest project Main Street has seen in years. Supporters of it say it will clean up a section of Main Street that has become blighted since the Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery was abandoned. But some neighbors say the development is too big, will ruin the character of the area and create too much traffic.

# Lawyers group, legislator support changes to consumer law

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Efforts to amend a consumer protection law that critics say encourages frivolous lawsuits are gathering force with the support of an Anaheim legislator and a top trial lawyers group.

Assemblyman Lou Correa, D-Anaheim, plans to hold a hearing Jan. 10 on complaints from business owners who say the state's Unfair Competition Act encourages predatory lawsuits. Testimony from the hearing will guide him in proposing amendments to the act, he said.

Designed to help consumers fight unfair business practices by prohibiting false advertising, price-fixing and other tactics, the act allows plaintiffs to file lawsuits even if they have not been directly harmed by the alleged wrongdoing.

The law "is supposed to prevent unlawful business practices, yet this code is being used to perpetrate unlawful business practices by some very unscrupulous people," Correa said.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer has likened the activities by some attorneys bringing suits under the act to extortion, and called on the State Bar of California to investigate.

Even the leader of the Consumer Attorneys of California, which previously supported the law, said he would support changes because some attorneys are abusing the act. He said others cited the Trevor Law Group in Beverly Hills, which over the past year has filed thousands of suits against Southern California restaurants, nail salons and auto-repair garages.

The firm said the businesses are cheating the public. The suits accuse restaurants of not meeting health codes and garages of selling used parts as new, among other allegations. Defendants claim the suits are based on government records of routine citations and aim only to pressure businesses to settle for about $2,000.

"At latest count, there are five firms that are just taking advantage of a wonderful consumer-protection statute," said Bruce Brusavich, president of the Consumer Attorneys of California. "We're encouraging the attorney general and the State Bar to crank up their investigation into the groups. Meanwhile, we're seeing if there's a legislative way to take the extortion incentive out of this law."

Brusavich's predecessor as head of the consumer attorneys group supported the law. But Brusavich said he would support two legislative fixes: requiring judges to approve settlements and making the settlements public. He believes those changes would help prevent quick, out-of-court settlements.

Supporters who believe the act allows consumers to "prosecute" unfair business practices that prosecutors don't have time for have fought off any major changes to the law over the years, and it still has its fans.

"The law gives the little guy a lot of power to get a remedy they wouldn't otherwise have," said Eric V. Traut, president of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association. "I don't think it's too broad. In some areas it's too restrictive."


# EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

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## STATE

# Sea gulls don't give a hoot about phony owls

By The Associated Press

**VENTURA** — It seems sea gulls aren't so gullible.

Here's the poop: Sea gulls don't give a hoot about those fake rooftop owls perched as souped-up scarecrows to keep gulls away from homes and businesses in gargoyle-like fashion in the Ventura Harbor area.

If anything, the ersatz owls have become a curiosity to the gulls, said Ken Farzad, owner of the harbor's Hornblower's Restaurant & Comedy Club. The foot-tall owl replicas were placed atop his roof as well as the roof of the Ventura Port District building.

"Some of the gulls will actually go up to the owls and peck at them," Farzad said, expressing disgust over the messy sea birds roosting atop area buildings. "They leave a mess with their feathers and everything else."

Everything else includes toothpaste-like stains on awnings and pancake-sized splats on the ground.

"We need to give them more time before we decide they don't work," said Oscar Pena, the Port District's general manager, who noted the owls, which cost about $40 apiece, only are supposed to scare 30 percent to 40 percent of the gulls that land nearby.

If they don't work, Pena said the district should buy "bigger, meaner-looking owls."

Peter Pyle, an ornithologist with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory in Northern California, doubts that fake owl sentries will ever work.

"It's very hard to fool gulls because they're a lot smarter than many people think," said Pyle, noting they are among the smartest of birds. Being intelligent means it does not take long for gulls to learn if something is real or fake, he said.

Gulls are attracted to the tops of buildings because they are safe places and the rooftops give them a clear view of the area.

# California orders destruction of 1 million infected chickens

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — California officials ordered the destruction of 1 million chickens infected with exotic Newcastle disease and expanded a quarantine to two more counties.

The virus, which is harmless to humans but threatens the state's $3 billion poultry industry, was found in 1 million hens at an egg farm in western San Bernardino County, authorities said Monday. The birds were ordered destroyed.

Ranchers are compensated for all birds that are destroyed, said Larry Hawkins, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

State officials also expanded a quarantine area to include San Diego County after the virus was found in a commercial flock of 75,000 birds there. Orange County also was added to the quarantine list — although it has no commercial poultry operations — to prevent the potential transport of infected birds.

Poultry and poultry products cannot be moved out of quarantined areas, although eggs can be transported if they are washed and placed in new packaging.

"All of the commercial egg facilities are on heightened alert," said Leticia Rico, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles counties already are under quarantine and more than 100,000 birds have been destroyed since exotic Newcastle disease was found this fall in a backyard flock of chickens in Compton.

A statewide outbreak of the disease in the 1970s threatened the entire U.S. poultry and egg supply and led authorities to destroy nearly 12 million chickens. It cost $56 million to eradicate the disease.

# Early birds flock to Colorado for Pasadena's Rose Parade

By The Associated Press

**PASADENA** — Early birds staked out spots along Colorado Boulevard on Tuesday in hope of ensuring good views of the 114th Rose Parade on New Year's Day.

Despite local laws barring sidewalk squatting before noon on New Year's Eve, chairs, camping equipment, umbrellas and groups of people began appearing along the boulevard hours early.

Police patrols were low key, but there were indications of heightened security for the Tournament of Roses.

Temporary parking restriction signs posted on streets just off the parade route warned: "For security purposes all vehicles parked in this area are subject to inspection and search by Pasadena PD."

Police said 1 million people were anticipated along the 5 1/2-mile route. Bill Cosby, Art Linkletter and children's TV host "Mister Rogers" were to serve as grand marshals of the floral spectacle. The 2003 theme was "Children's Dreams, Wishes and Imagination."

Despite partly cloudy skies Tuesday morning, Jan. 1 was expected to present the nation's television audience a picture of balmy Southern California.

Northeast winds were forecast to blow in a sunny and warmer New Year's Day with highs in the upper 60s to mid-70s, the National Weather Service said.

Weather was expected to stay good through the day as Washington State and Oklahoma play in the 89th Rose Bowl game after the parade.

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## STATE

# Debate surfaces about restoring Twain's jumping frog of Calaveras County

**BY DON THOMPSON**
Associated Press Writer

**ANGELS CAMP** — When Mark Twain published "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" in 1865, the frog helped make him famous, and he made the frog famous.

Since then, the frog has made the county famous, drawing upward of 40,000 visitors to fill motels, restaurants and shops full of frog trinkets for the annual May frog-jumping contest at a fairgrounds dubbed Frogtown.

But the amphibian scientists believe inspired Twain's tale — the once-common California red-legged frog — has disappeared from Calaveras County and much of the Sierra Nevada, forcing the contest to substitute bullfrogs instead.

As the county has capitalized on Twain's fame, so have environmentalists and scientists seized on the famous frog to illustrate the dangers facing an "indicator species" they use to gauge the health of the Sierra environment.

Now, residents are debating a proposal to reintroduce the largest native Western species to the county it made famous — a plan opposed by local officials who fear it might harm the annual jumping contest and area development.

The sidewalks in this historic Sierra foothills mining town are literally lined with frogs — painted green ones, and since last year bronze plaques mimicking Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

The world record holder, "Rosie the Ribiter," has a plaque for her 21 feet, 5 3/4-inch triple jump. There's a standing $5,000 prize offered for any frog that breaks the record that has stood since 1986.

But Twain's legendary frog has the place of honor, right outside the Angels Hotel. The hotel's bar was frequented in the autumn of 1865 by budding journalist Samuel Clemens, who was then living in a cabin in nearby Jackass Hill.

The bar is where he heard the tall tale he turned into a short story about a frog called Dan'l Webster, "whirling in the air like a doughnut" during one of its jumps that could "get over more ground in one straddle than any animal of his breed you ever see."

Genetics researcher and consultant Robert J. Stack was so intrigued by the frog after he moved to Calaveras County that he formed the Jumping Frog Research Institute. He's since been a party in lawsuits over protecting the frog, including the court fight over the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed rescue plan that excluded Calaveras County after local officials objected.

"We have an obligation to the frog to see it into the future ... as a tribute to Mark Twain and the frog that put us on the map," said Stack. "I think (in) five years, I'm hoping we can see the first red-legged frog freed in Calaveras County."

He envisions school children raising the frogs and releasing them into ranch stock ponds as part of a voluntary arrangement that would help protect Sierra foothill range lands from development through conservation easements.

"The way I see it, the future of foothill ranching and the red-legged frog are inextricably linked," said Stack.

The way others see it, his plan is a formula for intrusive government oversight and a threat to the nonnative bullfrogs that have taken over much of the red-legged frogs' habitat.

The bullfrogs would have to be removed or killed wherever the red-legged frog is reintroduced. But controlling bullfrogs in a particular pond could be as simple as letting the pond go dry every few years — an event that red-legged frogs can survive, but bullfrogs cannot.

Stack's dream is a potential nightmare for Warren "Buck" King, the unofficial "Frogtown mayor" who manages the Calaveras County Fair and Frog Jumping Jubilee. He's helped lead opposition to the reintroduction for fear "it could mean the demise of the frog jump."

Each May, as many as 2,000 frogs are set to jumping at the Frogtown fairgrounds, an echo of the first frog-jumping contest the local booster club organized in 1928 to celebrate the paving of Main Street through the old Gold Rush town.

"The frog is what has made Calaveras County and Mark Twain famous, and it's been a good match," said King, a booster club member who has been involved with the fair and jumping contest for 32 years.

But King said there's no proof Twain's frog had red legs. "It was a fictitious story, and it wasn't based on a real incident." He suspects environmentalists are just using the frog to get publicity for more environmental protections.

Stack counters that the red-legged frog can be reintroduced without eradicating the bullfrog beyond isolated ponds, and that the reintroduction would be a publicity boon for the county and the contest.

"The bullfrog is the frog of the frog-jump, not doubt about it," said Stack. However, "I think the most wonderful thing in the world would be to have the red-legged frog challenge the bullfrog in a grudge match."

The red-legged frog was killed off in part because San Franciscans found its large legs quite tasty around the turn of last century.

Entrepreneurs of the time imported even larger, but less delectable, bullfrogs from east of the Rockies to feed the frog leg craze. Descendants of the newcomers also helped drive out the red-legged natives.

Today, scientists say competition, habitat loss, climate change, ultraviolet radiation and windblown pesticides are devastating not only the red-legged frog, but other frog species throughout the Sierra.

The Fish and Wildlife Service says the frog's historical range has shrunk 70 percent. Though it still can be found in 256 drainages, most are in enclaves along the north-central coast, and the Center for Biological Diversity says there are now only four places known to have populations greater than 350.

"There's quite a few along the coastal areas, and I say, Well, Mother Nature made a decision. Why introduce them here when they might not do so well?" King asked. "They should just let Mother Nature move the frog, not Fish and Game."

## STATE

# Suit claims copyright has expired on Peter Pan

BY IAN STEWART
Associated Press Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Peter Pan, the boy who wouldn't grow up, has been dragged into the adult world of federal court.

Canadian author Emily Somma has filed suit in San Francisco claiming the characters in "Peter Pan," including Tinker Bell, Wendy and Captain Hook, are now in the public domain and no longer protected by a copyright awarded in 1929.

The suit is a pre-emptive move in anticipation of legal action by the British hospital that currently holds the copyright to Peter Pan.

The Great Ormand Street Hospital for Sick Children in London already has ordered Somma to halt publication of "After The Rain: A New Adventure for Peter Pan," which has been published in Canada and can be purchased in the United States through the Internet.

A lawyer for the hospital claims Somma's efforts to publish a work without paying royalties is depriving the hospital of revenue it needs to treat sick children.

Somma's lawyer, Elizabeth Rader, said the author has offered to pay royalties.

The impending legal battle is part of a growing debate over copyright material.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in October in a case that seeks to thrust closely held creative property — ranging from music such as George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" to books by Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald — into the public domain.

The copyright to Peter Pan and its characters was awarded by the original creator, Sir James M. Barrie, to the hospital in 1929.

U.S. copyright protection for Barrie's works, including "The Little White Bird" — a Peter Pan prototype — and the popular children's play "Peter Pan" normally would have expired in 1987, a half-century after Barrie's death.

In a letter ordering Somma to halt publication of her book, the hospital's lawyer, Alvin Deutsch, contends that a 1976 U.S. law extended the copyright protection for Peter Pan until the year 2023.

Somma's lawyer said that figure is inaccurate.

"They have a theory that spells out to that year," Rader said, "But I don't see how it adds up."

Somma had "After the Rain," in which Pan is brought home from Neverland to grow up, published by Hamilton, Ontario-based publisher Daisy Books.

Immune from a British act of Parliament that extended royalty rights to the hospital in perpetuity, Peter Pan falls within the public domain in Canada.

The Canadian edition of "After the Rain" largely went unnoticed until Somma began soliciting publishers in England, Rader said in a telephone interview Monday.

The London hospital has authorized a series of films based on the original Peter Pan, including Walt Disney's 1953 animated "Peter Pan," and "Hook," the Stephen Spielberg adaptation of the classic tale of never-ending childhood.

Hospital lawyer Deutsch wrote in his letter to Somma that Walt Disney has been authorized to produce several Peter Pan-related projects on the condition the hospital reap a share of the royalties.

In his letter to Somma, Deutsch wrote Peter Pan was "a source of much-needed revenue to expand (the hospital's) work in treating sick children."

# Frog re-entry a concern for Calaveras jumping contest

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

**ANGELS CAMP** — What to do with 2,000 slightly used frogs?

For years, organizers of the Calaveras County Fair and Frog Jumping Jubilee urged participants to carefully put the frogs back where they got them after the annual contest.

Last summer, they found out the practice is illegal in California.

It's not against the law to catch the bullfrogs — but it's illegal to put them back, said Ed Pert, the California Department of Fish and Game's fisheries programs chief. Technically, violators could face a $5,000 fine and a year in jail.

The once-captured frogs could spread disease or alter ecosystems if the common but nonnative frogs are freed in new locations, he said. Since their introduction in 1896, the Eastern bullfrogs already have largely driven out California's native frogs.

Department officials are scrambling to come up with an alternative before next May's contest. They plan an internal brainstorming session next month, before they open the discussion to contest organizers, environmentalists and others.

"We don't want to go and bust these contest participants, because they're not trying to do anything horribly wrong — they're trying to do the right thing," Pert said. "We don't want to abolish the contest; we certainly understand the value of it."

Fairgrounds manager Warren "Buck" King worries the cleanest way to insure the frogs aren't reintroduced to the environment is to kill them after the contest.

That would likely kill the contest itself, said King.

The contest already faces periodic protests from animal rights groups, most recently one last spring led by a former Miss Calaveras County contestant who participated herself 14 years ago.

Contest organizers adopted a "frog welfare policy" in 1997, requiring humane capture, care and release of the frogs, and requiring the banning of participants who knowingly violate the policy or otherwise abuse frogs. No drugs or probes may be used to spur any frog, King said.

Most participants bring their own contestants, but organizers catch about 300 frogs to rent during the contest. The rental frogs, and any others that appear injured, overheated or exhausted, are kept in a "Frog Condo" under the main stage.

Still, King said, the way to make a frog want to jump is to keep it in a container too small to allow jumping until the contest begins. And he said captured bullfrogs typically won't eat, so they must be force-fed hamburger.

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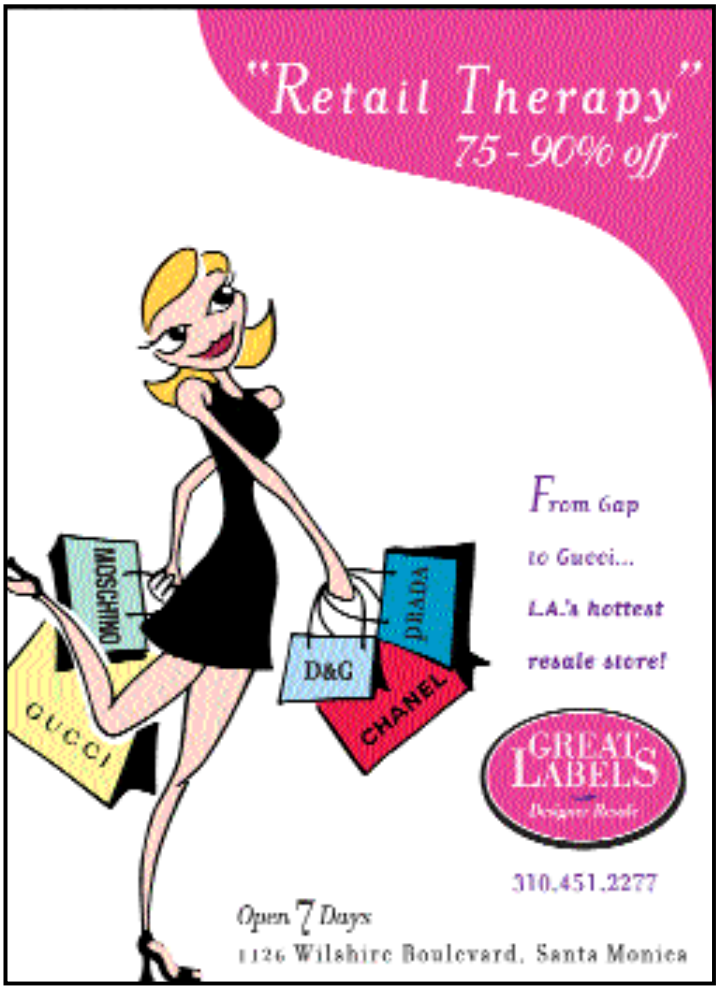
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Santa Monica Daily Press




STATE

# Terror victim's children to get free state tuition

LAWS, from page 1

landmark farm labor law by passing a bill requiring mandatory mediation to break deadlocks in farmworker contract disputes.

As part of a legislative flurry after Sept. 11, lawmakers passed a variety of that focused on strengthening California's defense against terrorism. One new law, pushed by Attorney General Bill Lockyer, changes existing laws to allow roving wiretaps that monitor multiple cell phone or Internet communications without seeking separate court orders.

Another law, championed by a terror victim's partner, will let domestic partners inherit their partner's property if he or she dies without a will.

And children of terror victims will be allowed to attend any University of California, California State University or community college without having to pay for tuition.

Allegations of sexual abuse by members of the Catholic Church prompted lawmakers to push through a law making it easier for child abuse victims to claim damages. It will give victims whose statute of limitations have already expired an additional year to take legal action.

The new law also lets victims sue the organization or association where the abuser worked or volunteered.

And California became the first state to take a stand on the long-running debate on stem cell research.

That law contrasts with Bush administration policy and will explicitly allow embryonic stem cell research. It requires fertility clinics that do in-vitro fertilization procedures to inform women that they have the option to donate discarded embryos to research.

The issue captured headlines more than a year ago when President Bush restricted federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research.

The energy crisis and news of corporate fraud pushed consumer and stockholder protection to the top of the legislative priority list.

One new law will require mandatory reporting of civil judgments, as well as settlements and arbitration awards that are larger than $30,000. Other laws require accounting firms to save audit documents for at least seven years.

Lawmakers also worked to protect renters after Japanese billionaire Gensiro Kawamoto issued 30-day eviction notices to 420 Sacramento rental households and 150 more in Santa Rosa. A new law will require landlords to give long-term renters 60 days to move out, twice the traditional 30-day notice.

Other new laws include:

■ Family members, friends, police and mental health professionals will be able to petition the court to order a mentally ill person into outpatient treatment.

■ Medical professionals treating sexual assault victims will be required to provide emergency contraception if asked.

■ Victims of crime will have up to 10 years after their assailant is paroled to sue them for financial damages including earning from telling their story in a book, film or other publication.

■ Property owners who want to build so-called "granny flats" will have an easier time constructing the backyard and above-garage units, no matter what the neighbors think, if they meet all of the local government standards.

■ California's temporary ban on human cloning will become permanent.

■ California will more closely monitor the payday lending industry. A new law gives the Department of Corporations the authority to audit payday lenders, collect data on the high-interest, short-term loans and provide a comprehensive study for future legislative reforms.

■ A package of new laws paves the way for construction of five new California veterans' homes in West Los Angeles, Lancaster, Saticoy, Fresno County and Shasta County.

But while the new year is a time for celebration, a number of changes and a tight budget year means tough times ahead for many Californians.

California businesses can expect to pay about $14 to $21 per worker per year because of an automatic hike in unemployment insurance taxes. The higher tax is needed to restore dwindling reserves because of high unemployment rates.

Real estate taxes will also go up in 2003. Anyone buying property in California will be required to withhold about 3.33 percent of the sale price for state taxes. Currently, only nonresident sellers of real estate have to pay the tax.

Visitors to state parks can expect to pay higher fees. A day pass could cost as much as $5, camping fees will move from $12 to $13 and boat launching fees, which were eliminated two years ago, will range from $2 to $4.

It's also likely that lawmakers will look at raising taxes to help close a nearly $35 billion budget hole, though Davis has not yet proposed specific tax increases.

## New laws for 2003

By The Associated Press

Some of the new California laws that take effect Jan. 1:

■ Law enforcement agencies will be able to get roving wiretaps that monitor multiple cell phones or Internet communications without seeking separate court orders.

■ Domestic partners will be able to inherit their partner's property if he or she dies without a will.

■ Children of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks will be able to attend the University of California, California State University or community colleges without paying tuition.

■ Victims of sexual abuse will be able to sue the organization or association where the abuser worked or volunteered.

■ Embryonic stem cell research will be explicitly allowed in California.

■ Mandatory mediation will be required to break deadlocks in farmworker contract disputes.

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NATIONAL

# In fight against terror, America remains vulnerable

BY KEN GUGGENHEIM
Associated Press Writer

**Key Democrats are concerned a war against Iraq would distract America from the fight against terrorists. Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota questioned whether the United States is winning the fight against terrorism; he cited the failure to capture bin Laden.**

**WASHINGTON** — America was spared major attacks in 2002, but it was far from winning the fight against terrorism.

Despite the killings and arrests of al-Qaida leaders, top U.S. officials warned that a major attack was all but inevitable.

Warnings went out for planes and boats, landmarks and hospitals, nuclear reactors and petroleum depots. One FBI alert did not mention specific targets; it just said the attacks could be spectacular.

As the United States appeared to move closer to invading Iraq, the chances of an attack will only rise, intelligence analysts suggest.

This year showed the expense and difficulty of that fight: creation of a $40 billion Homeland Security Department, Osama bin Laden's apparent survival and fresh attacks overseas by his al-Qaida network.

Strengthened by Republican gains in midterm elections, President Bush finally won approval for the 170,000-person Cabinet agency in the final days of the 107th Congress. A unified response to "the threat of mass murder on our own soil," the president called it.

The department will combine the Secret Service, Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service and other agencies, and include nuclear experts and intelligence analysts.

Congress approved huge spending increases for intelligence agencies and the Defense Department. The Pentagon's role in protecting American territory grew with the creation of a Northern Command, the first new unified military command in 10 years. The new command, based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo., will be responsible for defending the United States, Canada and Mexico, as well as part of the Caribbean. Its responsibilities will include overseeing homeland defense activities and providing support to civil authorities in the event of attack.

Civil libertarians pointed to an additional price of the terrorism fight: privacy. The Justice Department won more power to listen to phone conversations and e-mail of suspected terrorists as a result of a court ruling in November.

Bin Laden's apparent survival was indicated in an audiotape released in November that referred recent events. Intelligence officials said they believe the tape was authentic.

Bin Laden's health is unknown and the extent of his control over al-Qaida is unclear. But the organization remains active and it or its affiliates were linked to some of the deadliest attacks in 2002.

They included the Oct. 12 bombing of a nightclub in Indonesia that killed more than 190 people; an April 11 suicide truck bombing of a synagogue in Tunisia that killed 19 people; and Nov. 28 attacks in Kenya on an airliner and hotel, both full of Israelis. Thirteen people, plus two or three bombers, were killed at the hotel; no one was injured on the plane.

Americans died in other attacks where al-Qaida's involvement was not certain. Two Americans were among four people killed March 17 when grenades were thrown at a Pakistani church frequented by foreigners. A nail bomb explosion killed a Green Beret and two other people Oct. 2 in the Philippines. Gunmen shot a U.S. Marine and wounded another Oct. 8 in Kuwait.

If Americans seemed to be at risk everywhere, the same was true of terrorists.

The United States used sophisticated technology, diplomatic pressure, spies and soldiers to expand the fight against al-Qaida beyond Afghanistan's borders.

In Yemen, a remote-controlled CIA Predator drone fired a Hellfire missile at a car on Nov. 3. Killed were Qaed Salim Sinan al-Harethi, bin Laden's top operative in that country, and five other suspected al-Qaida colleagues.

In Pakistan, U.S. and Pakistani authorities captured two of its most wanted terror suspects: Ramzi Binalshibh, apprehended on the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks he allegedly helped plan; and Abu Zubaydah, al-Qaida's top terrorism coordinator, who was arrested in March. Both are being held in secret locations.

U.S. authorities believed they foiled a plot to bomb U.S. embassies in Southeast Asia in September. Four embassies were closed as a precaution.

American allies also unraveled terrorist plots. Moroccan police in June said they arrested three Saudi al-Qaida members who were planning suicide attacks against U.S. and British warships in the Straits of Gibraltar. Saudi officials said they prevented an al-Qaida attack on an oil pipeline serving the world's largest oil terminal.

U.S. authorities pursued suspected al-Qaida operatives within its borders. A former Chicago gang member, Jose Padilla, was arrested May 8, accused of plotting to use a radioactive "dirty bomb" in the United States. Five men were arrested outside of Buffalo, N.Y., believed to be part of an al-Qaida cell.

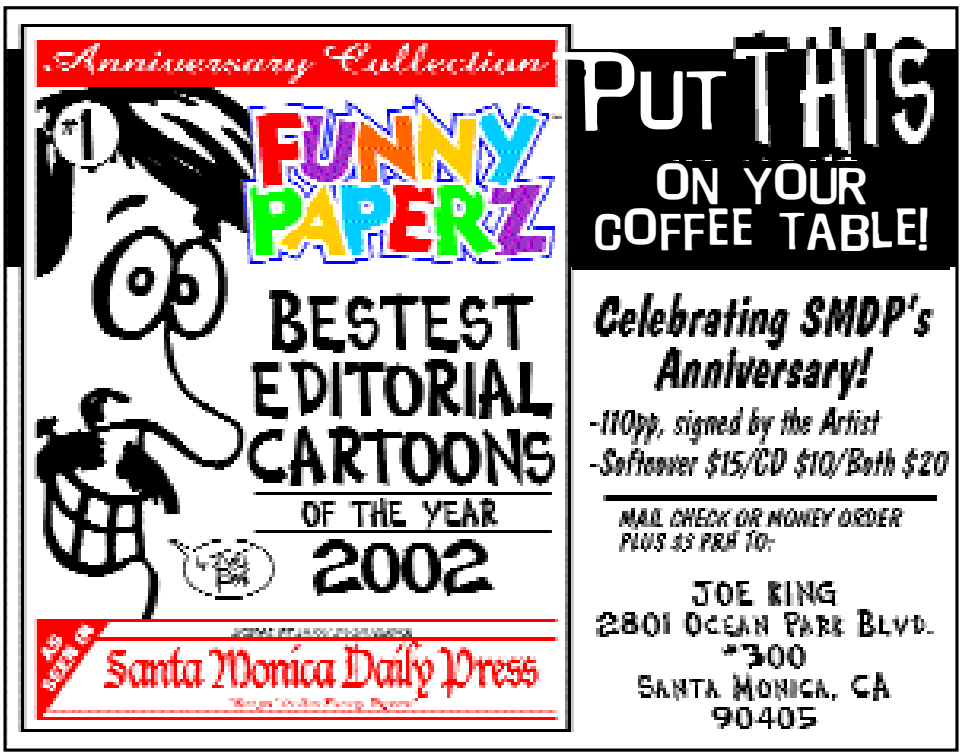
A suspected cell member was arrested in Bahrain, and the group's leader, Kamal Derwish, was among those killed in the Yemen missile strike.

Some progress was reported in cutting off terrorist financing. About $123 million in assets belonging to terrorist organizations, including al-Qaida, has been frozen worldwide since the Sept. 11 attacks, according to the Treasury Department.

Despite those successes, Americans still felt vulnerable — and with good reason.

A joint House-Senate investigation found major problems in U.S. intelligence agencies, including the failure to share clues that might have led to the Sept. 11 attacks. The agencies say cooperation has greatly improved since then; some lawmakers are skeptical.

Key Democrats are concerned a war against Iraq would distract America from the fight against terrorists. Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota questioned whether the United States is winning the fight against terrorism; he cited the failure to capture bin Laden.


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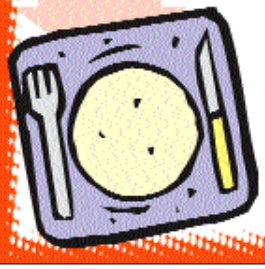
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NATIONAL

# Case of one predator priest sparks worst year in history of Roman Catholic Church

BY RACHEL ZOLL
AP Religion Writer

Other scandals had drawn national attention over the years — a pedophile priest in Louisiana, one in New England, another in Dallas.

But none of those cases, or hundreds of others in the past two decades, threatened to destroy the moral authority of the Roman Catholic Church in America like the clerical sex abuse crisis did this year.

What set 2002 apart was this: The most damaging revelations came not from alleged victims but from the church's own files.

Over the objections of the Boston Archdiocese, The Boston Globe persuaded a judge in January to unseal church documents regarding claims of molestation against priests. The files provided the most extensive evidence to date that preventing scandal in the church consistently took precedence over protecting children.

Those records alone — with letters from bishops expressing support for accused priests, not victims — would have been enough to keep the scandal alive for months.

But as the year wore on, more damaging church documents were made public in Boston and dioceses from coast-to-coast. Each release undermined bishops' pledges that they had revealed all about their past mistakes, and gave hundreds of alleged victims the confidence to come forward.

The toll on the church — morally, financially, legally — is still hard for Catholics to grasp, though at least 325 of the nation's 46,000 priests have resigned or been removed their posts this year from Maine to California. Bishops in Milwaukee, New York, Lexington, Ky., and Palm Beach, Fla., stepped down after being enmeshed in sex scandals.

Another round of disturbing revelations came in December, again in Boston. Plaintiffs' lawyers released documents that showed the archdiocese sheltering several rogue priests, including one clergyman who had failed years ago to immediately call police when the mother of his children overdosed on drugs. Demands intensified for Boston Cardinal Bernard Law to resign.

"It's enough for any Catholic, for anyone at all, to send chills down your spine," said William Donohue, president of the Catholic League, an anti-defamation group. "Where is the empathy for the victim?"

Documents released in the case of former Massachusetts priest John Geoghan started what became the worst year in the history of the American church.

More than 100 people have claimed Geoghan molested them as church leaders moved him from parish to parish.

Five bishops who oversaw the priest while they worked in Boston for Law have gone on to lead their own dioceses, and the court files contained ample evidence of their inaction. Law, a leading American clergyman, acknowledged that he allowed Geoghan to stay on the job despite the accusations.

Soon, Catholics around the country demanded to know if their bishops had also failed to punish offenders.

"Bernard Law has become the Richard Nixon of the Catholic church," said Jason Berry, author of "Lead Us Not Into Temptation, Catholic Priests and the Sexual Abuse of Children."

"This is the man who is continuing to bring the ship down."

Bishops at first felt the outrage was misplaced. In the early 1990s, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops developed a set of guidelines meant to improve dioceses' response to abuse claims and put victims first.

> **"It's enough for any Catholic, for anyone at all, to send chills down your spine. Where is the empathy for the victim?"**
>
> **— WILLIAM DONOHUE**
> President of the Catholic League

The prelates noted that most of the cases revealed this year involved claims from before the policy had been adopted. They blamed the media and church critics for ignoring the reforms.

But the bishops' protests rang hollow as parishioners learned about the depth of the malfeasance in some dioceses.

Bishops acknowledged that many abuse claims had never been forwarded to civil authorities and prosecutors convened grand juries to learn why. Church leaders also revealed they had paid millions of dollars to quietly settle abuse cases, but few would discuss the source of the funding. Some parishioners responded by withholding donations.

"There are cases that endured into the '90s that weren't corrected in Boston and elsewhere," said Scott Appleby, a University of Notre Dame history professor who spoke at the national bishops' meeting in June. "The bishops have systematically mishandled the situation."

Church leaders took dramatic steps to regain their credibility.

They met with the pope, approved a new policy that bars all abusers from church work, formed a lay National Review Board to ensure every diocese complies with the new standards and hired a former FBI investigator to lead their new child protection office.

But even as they took these actions, the crisis would not die. The Archdiocese of Boston is now considering bankruptcy as it faces millions of dollars in claims from sex abuse victims. About 200 abuse lawsuits are pending against the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky., alone.

And California dioceses are bracing for a flood of lawsuits next year because the state loosened its statute of limitations for abuse claims effective Jan. 1.

"No problem that has been happening for so long, kept in such secrecy, can be quickly remedied," said David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests.

"We desperately want it to be over but it's only over when the day-to-day behavior changes. We can't wish it to be over."

INTERNATIONAL

# About quarter of world's nations struggled with conflict

BY NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** — About a quarter of the world's countries struggled with armed conflict this year, mostly low-intensity battles against terrorists or guerrillas, the kind of conflict that poses the greatest threat to global stability, according to a report released Monday.

It says the U.S. military is ill-equipped for such warfare.

The report, issued by the conservative National Defense Council Foundation, found 53 countries struggled with conflict during 2002, six fewer than last year. But F. Andy Messing Jr., the author, said an even deadlier threat is posed by potential foes of the United States secretly developing chemical, nuclear and biological weapons.

"Right now the Pentagon is fighting wars that have morphed over the past few years," said Messing, executive director of the Alexandria, Va., think tank and a former Army Special Forces officer. "But they still have a predominance of conventional warfare thinking, and that's just not satisfactory."

**"Right now the Pentagon is fighting wars that have morphed over the past few years. But they still have a predominance of conventional warfare thinking, and that's just not satisfactory."**

**— F. ANDY MESSING JR.**
Former Army Special Forces officer

The foundation annually surveys 193 nations.

Its report suggests the United States should enhance intelligence activities with pre-emptive special operations, thoroughly vetted assassinations and psychological and anti-guerrilla operations. Messing said the goal should be to use the lowest amount of force to put an end to a conflict.

"The reason this is important is the proliferation of nuclear weapons; you don't want to trip the nuclear trip wire," he said.

Christopher Hellman, a senior analyst at the Center for Defense Information, a more liberal research group that has issued reports skeptical of increased military spending, agrees that the United States is not equipped to deal with low-intensity conflict. He said, however, that pre-emptive action, especially the assassination of political figures would set dangerous precedents.

"We have studiously avoided assassinations for a very simple reason: by and large, our political leadership is way more vulnerable to that type of activity than the Saddam Husseins of the world," he said.

The report said sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East remain the most war-prone areas. War in Afghanistan spilled over into other South-Central Asian countries "like a cancer in the region" to create growing unrest there.

Iraq is considered the site of the most dangerous conflict because development of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons "is almost a foregone conclusion," the report said.

The foundation's report added 10 countries this year to its list of conflict zones, including Jordan, Kuwait, North Korea and Venezuela. It removed 16 nations from the list, including the United States, Malaysia, Macedonia, Sierra Leone and Yugoslavia.

Its criteria for conflict include political, economic and social unrest as well as military.

The report said the "stupidest conflict" occurred in Nigeria, where a newspaper reporter wrote that Islam's founding prophet Mohammed would have approved of staging the Miss World pageant in that African nation and might have wanted to marry a contestant. The story sparked Muslim rioting and Christian retaliation in which more than 200 people were killed. The pageant was relocated to London.

# Asia marks New Year amid terror fears, Philippine bombing

BY EMMA TINKLER
Associated Press Writer

**SYDNEY, Australia** — The word "Peace," written out in lights, blazed over Sydney's famed harbor as millions in Asia rang in the New Year under tightened security and fears of terror attacks.

Several hours before midnight, a bomb went off in a market filled with holiday revelers in the southern Philippines, killing at least four people and injuring 26 others. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but authorities suspected Islamic separatists.

In downtown Seoul, at least 20,000 South Koreans gathered in a candlelight demonstration to protest the deaths of two teenage girls killed when they were hit by a U.S. military jeep. The protesters set off fireworks, some chanting, "Punish the murderous American soldiers!"

One of the first nations in the world to see in the New Year was New Zealand. In the largest city, Auckland, fireworks erupted from the 1,076-foot Sky Tower on the stroke of midnight while crowds cheered on the streets below.

In Australia, police closed Sydney's downtown to traffic in a security clampdown rivaled only by the city's 2000 Olympics. Hundreds of thousands of people watched the spectacular 15-minute fireworks show, that climaxed with a display on the Harbor Bridge blazing in the shape of a dove clutching an olive branch in its beak and then the message of peace.

"After ... all this talk about terrorism it is so good that Australians overcame adversity," Sydney Lord Mayor Frank Sartor said after the fireworks. "We went on and celebrated and had a great, great party."

Along with celebrating the New Year, Europeans were marking a year of using the euro as cash. People in the European Union nations are complaining about price increases they blame on the new currency, launched on Jan. 1, 2002, though EU officials insist it has not caused inflation.

Pacific Rim nations have been on heightened alert since Oct. 12, when bombs tore through two nightclubs on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 192. The victims were mostly Western vacationers and 88 of them were Australians.

The blasts are blamed on Jemaah Islamiyah, a group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

In a defiant gesture against terrorism, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri was to lead national celebrations on Bali, not far from the attack site.

Overall, more than 200,000 security personnel would be on duty across the world's most populous Islamic nation. In the capital, Jakarta, bomb squad officers and armed officers were watching over revelers.

"We are all on full alert," said police spokesman Lt. Col. Zainuri Lubis.

Nonetheless, nervous western embassies told their citizens to stay at home.

The explosion Tuesday evening in the southern Philippine town of Tacurong was triggered either by a mortar shell equipped with timer or a grenade place next to a stall selling fireworks, chief police inspector Jaime Guiballa said.

Authorities have blamed the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front for a series of bomb attacks in the country's south during the past two weeks and an ambush that killed 30 people and injured dozens. The rebels have denied the charge.

In the Philippine capital, SWAT teams and plainclothes agents on motorcycles were posted near the already tightly secured seaside American Embassy and other diplomatic missions in the capital to prevent possible terrorist or rebel attacks timed with New Year's, Manila police chief Pedro Bulaong said .

Although there were no specific threats, "emergency units were on standby to respond to anything that could happen," Bulaong told The Associated Press.

Security in the mostly Muslim Pakistan has been stepped up for New Year's — a celebration some religious leaders frown on as Western, decadent and against Islamic traditions.

In Karachi, where several terrorist attacks have targeted foreigners in 2002, police were enforcing a ban on hotel parties as thousands of young people gathered on beaches on the Arabian Sea.

In Kabul in Afghanistan, few New Year's Eve celebrations are expected, apart from private parties, mostly among foreigners. International peacekeepers were mulling whether to set off fireworks at midnight over the city, more used to the pyrotechnics of war than peace.

In Japan, millions of Japanese will throng to shrines and temples. Toshinobu Hiroki, spokesman for Japan's National Police Agency, said there had been no specific warnings of terrorist activity.

Security is always tight in Beijing, China, and it wasn't clear whether measures had been ratcheted up further for the New Year, which is not widely celebrated. Public buildings are always closely guarded and, in the embassy district, roads are blocked and guards, some toting submachine guns, are posted every few feet.

Also, apparently bowing to security concerns, the legendary Paris-Dakar rally will not start in Paris nor end in Dakar, Senegal. Instead the race of 128 cars, 165 motorbikes and 49 trucks will set off Wednesday from Marseille for a 5,300-mile race to the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm El Sheikh.

Hubert Auriol, the only person ever to win the rally on a motorbike and in a car, said the decision to shift the course to northern Africa was partly due to the dangers and political sensitivities that afflict many African nations, such as the Congo and the Central African Republic.

# Group demands St. Nicholas' bones returned

BY JAMES C. HELICKE
Associated Press Writer

**ANKARA, Turkey** — The Santa Claus Foundation, based in mainly Muslim Turkey, wants Italy to return the bones of St. Nicholas — the 4th century bishop in the Greek city now called Demre on the Turkish Mediterranean coast.

Muammer Karabulut, the group's chairman, told The Associated Press that the remains of St. Nicholas, from whom the Santa Claus myth emerged, were stolen from what is now Turkey by pirates in the 11th century and taken to Italy.

"We want them returned in 2003," he said in a telephone interview. "We're starting a campaign this year for them to be given back."

St. Nicholas was born in what is now Demre, about 70 miles southwest of Antalya, served as bishop in the coastal city and was buried there before the remains were taken to the southern Italian town of Bari.

"He belongs in Turkey," Karabulut said.

Hundreds of Greek and Russian Orthodox faithful commemorate St. Nicholas' death every Dec. 6 at a church in Demre built in his honor.

But the church in Bari dismissed any Turkish claims to the bones.

"They ask for the remains only to keep tourism alive. They don't venerate St. Nicholas," said the Rev. Gerardo Cioffari, historian at the St. Nicholas Basilica in Bari.

According to Cioffari, the remains of the saint's body were brought to Bari in 1087, and have been stored there in the St. Nicholas Basilica, secured in blocks of reinforced concrete.

Cioffari said the bones could never be given back.

"If the remains were moved there would be a revolution here," Cioffari said. "Even the Vatican couldn't do anything about it."

**DID YOU KNOW?:** In the U.S., murder is committed most frequently in August and least frequently in February.

SPORTS

# St. Louis Rams come back late to topple S.F. 49ers

BY R.B. FALLSTROM
AP Sports Writer

**ST. LOUIS** — It was the perfect playoff tuneup for the San Francisco 49ers. For a half, anyway.

Then, the St. Louis Rams came up with a point-scoring frenzy reminiscent of their dominant three-year run as the Greatest Show on Turf.

Dre' Bly returned a fumble 20 yards for the go-ahead touchdown as the defending NFC champions scored 28 fourth-quarter points to go out as winners, beating the playoff-bound 49ers 31-20 Monday night.

"It ended the season in a perfect way," Bly said. "It's a tremendous way to finish, and it's a great feeling."

The NFC West champion 49ers (10-6) played a game of keep-away in the first half, taking a 17-0 lead as they tuned up for next week's wild-card playoff game against the New York Giants. Then coach Steve Mariucci took out several of his first-teamers, and paid the price.

"That was an unusual game to coach, and to play," Mariucci said. "I was really happy with the first half. We played a very energetic, smart game in the first half."

Some of the Rams players felt it was a hollow triumph, even if it did deny the 49ers a clean sweep of the NFC West — San Francisco finished 5-1.

"We did a good job of beating their second team," wide receiver Isaac Bruce said. "But it's cool. It's always good to win."

Bly stripped Garrison Hearst after a screen pass for the first scoring return this season by the Rams (7-9), putting them ahead 24-20 with 6:53 to go.

Quarterback Jamie Martin, who didn't start because of a bruised left knee that kept him out of three practices last week, got the Rams close first. Martin hit Brandon Manumaleuna for a 6-yard touchdown pass with 11:32 to go, and then Bruce with a 26-yarder that cut the gap to three points with 7:09 left.

**"That was an unusual game to coach, and to play. I was really happy with the first half. We played a very energetic, smart game in the first half."**

**— STEVE MARIUCCI**
St. Louis Rams coach

On the first play after the ensuing kickoff, Bly put them over the top.

Hearst fumbled again with 2:51 to go, forced by Leonard Little and recovered by Dexter McCleon at the St. Louis 49, to finish off the 49ers. Martin, who was 22-for-35 for 245 yards and a career-best three touchdowns, tacked on a 32-yard scoring pass to Ernie Conwell with 1:53 remaining.

"We just kind of made a few plays, and that's something we weren't doing early in the game," Martin said. "You saw what can happen when we started executing with this offense."

Jeff Garcia opened by directing the NFL's longest drive of the year in terms of elapsed time as the 49ers chewed up 12:07 on a 20-play, 81-yard march capped by a 19-yard Jeff Chandler field goal. Seldom-used backup quarterback Tim Rattay then took over, throwing touchdown passes of 2 and 27 yards to Tai Streets for a 17-0 halftime lead.

The 49ers had the ball for almost two-thirds of the first half, 19:29 to 10:31 for the Rams, and outgained them 224-33. The opening drive surpassed one of 10:04 by the Jaguars in the opening week of the season.

San Francisco had a dominating start without two offensive linemen nursing minor ankle injuries, guard Ron Stone and tackle Derrick Deese. The 49ers also were without wide receiver Terrell Owens, who missed the last two games with a groin injury.

The Rams, who had the NFL's No. 1 offense the last three seasons, produced only 33 total yards in the first half.

"I was getting ready to check the paper to look for a job," Martz said.

A skittish Martz picked third-stringer Scott Covington the starter on Saturday. But he stayed with Covington — a Bengals castoff who has been with the team since October — for only two ineffective series before going back to Martin.

"He just got a little excited," Martz said. "He had a couple of plays called backwards that hurt us early in the game. Instead of making a bad situation worse and ruining it, I got Jamie in there."

Covington disputed Martz's assessment.

"A couple drives and I'm out, but it's his prerogative," Covington said. "I was comfortable with everything."

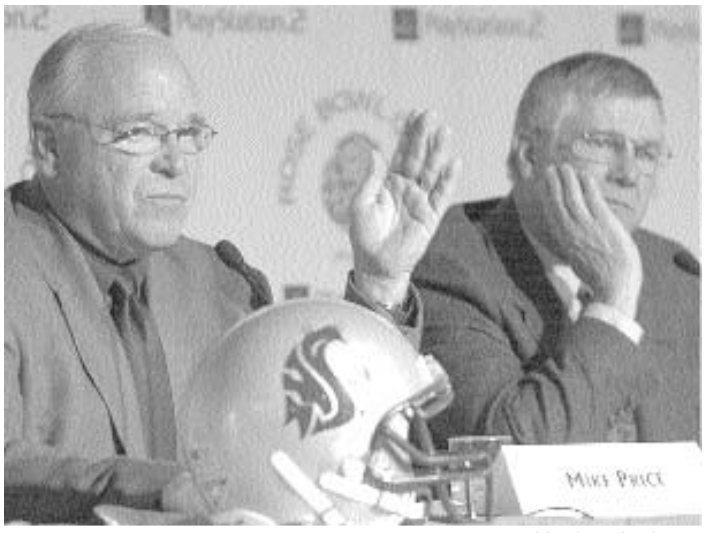
Garcia converted four third downs in the marathon opening march before he threw the ball away on a third-and-goal from the Rams 1. The 49ers had to settle for a 19-yard field goal by Chandler.

Streets' 2-yard catch capped a seven-play, 63-yard drive with 10:34 to go in the half. The third scoring drive was less time-consuming — three plays covering 70 yards — and took up only 1:24, capped by Streets' 27-yard reception with 3:02 left in the half.

The Rams got all but 10 their 33 first-half yards on two completions from Martin to Torry Holt near the end of the half. Martin was intercepted by Ronnie Heard at the 49ers 19 to end the brief threat with 10 seconds to go.

Rams offensive tackle Orlando Pace returned to the lineup after missing three games with a pulled hamstring, but wasn't in for long. Pace left in the second quarter with possible torn cartilage in his right knee.

## A rosy picture



Nick Ut/Associated Press

**Washington State head coach Mike Price, left, and coordinator Bill Doba speak at a news conference on Tuesday in Los Angeles. Washington State plays Oklahoma in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.**

# Chicago Blackhawks uncrown Los Angeles Kings

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — The first intermission lasted much longer for Chicago goalie Jocelyn Thibault than it did for everyone else on the ice.

Thibault deserved a breather after stopping all 18 shots by the Los Angeles Kings in the first period of the Blackhawks' 2-0 victory Monday night. His teammates obliged by keeping the puck away from the Blackhawks' net for almost 12 minutes.

By then, defenseman Nathan Dempsey had scored the only goal Thibault would need as he posted his 32nd career shutout with 33 saves, and extended the Blackhawks' unbeaten streak to six games.

"I thought we outplayed them, without a doubt, and we deserved a better outcome," Kings defenseman Mathieu Schneider said. "We took the play to them most of the night, but we just weren't able to beat a hot goalie. He stood on his head and won the game for them."

Chicago is 7-1-3 in its last 11 games, all with Thibault in net. He lowered his goals-against average to 1.98 with his fifth shutout of the season, putting him within one of his career high and tying him for the league lead.

"I just want to have a solid year," said the 10-year veteran, whose 33 victories and 2.49 goals-against average last season helped Chicago make the playoffs for the first time in five years. "It's started pretty good for me and I just want to keep it going. I think I'm a better goalie now and I'm gaining confidence. I don't think I'm just lucky."

Dempsey scored at 2:21 of the second period — on only the third of 14 shots the Blackhawks had on net. The goal was his fourth in 74 NHL games and second this season.

Steve Sullivan added his 12th goal 56 seconds into the third, converting a centering pass from behind the net by Eric Daze.

"I think we can walk out of this locker room with our heads high, even though we didn't come up with the two points," Kings captain Mattias Norstrom said. "We outshot them and outbattled them. This is the kind of hockey we want to play."

The Kings, who have seven players on the injured list — including Jason Allison, leading goal-scorer Adam Deadmarsh and defenseman Aaron Miller — were shut out for the second time in four games. They had nine regulars sidelined, three with concussions.

"When you've got your best players out, sure it's going to affect your club," Ian Laperriere said. "But we'll just roll with the punches, and we'll be a better team when we get everyone back. We gave that team the best we had for 60 minutes. It's just that Thibault played an unbelievable game."

The Blackhawks survived five power plays by the Kings, including a two-man advantage Los Angeles had for 41 seconds in the opening period. Chicago's opponents are 0-for-22 with the extra man in the last five games.

Notes: Jamie Storr replaced Potvin with 17:23 left in the game and the Kings holding a 27-8 advantage in shots. ... The Kings also played without Bryan Smolinski, who sustained a left eye abrasion last Thursday against Phoenix. ... Chicago won the season series 3-1.

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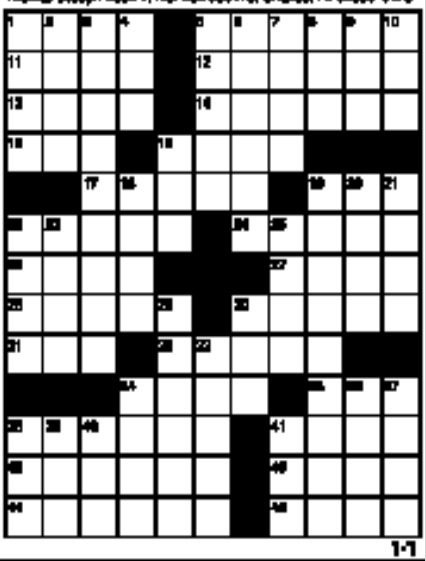
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18 Cry from Horner
18 Heavenly sound
19 Just over 365 days
20 Dry
21 Sampras of tennis
22 Tiff
23 Verdi opera
25 Mob boss
29 Skill
30 Bashful
33 Diamond corners
34 Barbershop sound
36 Mel solo
37 Gelatin shaper
38 "Allas" org.
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40 Brouhaha
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1-1

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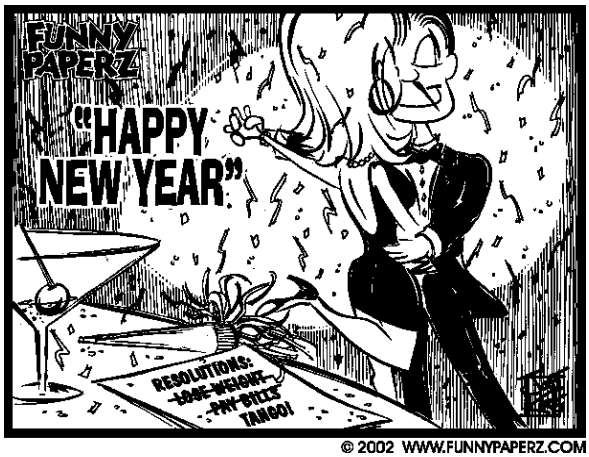
by Chuck Shepard

### Bees trap employees, customers in market

■ Two customers and an employee were trapped inside Sam's Mini Market for two hours on Thanksgiving Day by successive swarms of bees that coated the front door, until firefighters foamed them off (Chatsworth, Calif.).

■ Panda bear experts announced that "dating" software had been developed to match males' and females' personality characteristics so as to improve mating opportunities (Beijing).

■ An aboriginal Manitoba (Canada) woman alleged racial profiling when she was not allowed to buy hairspray at an Extra Foods store, probably because owners feared she only wanted to drink it (Winnipeg). Britain's Office of Fair Trading charged the toy company Hasbro (maker of Monopoly) with retail price-fixing.




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# KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

**Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.**
**Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913**


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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

# WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2003

## TODAY

The annual Santa Monica Nativity Scenes is on display at Palisades Park along Ocean Avenue near Arizona. The 14 lighted scenes with life-size figures depicting events surrounding Christ's birth will remain on display through January 1. For more information please call (310) 453-4445.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. $3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

The Wendell Mew-Herve Laurent Jazz Duo at Kua'aina Burger! 119 Broadway, Santa Monica, 9pm. $5 cover includes a FREE beer or drink. Come celebrate the new year! (310)394-0100 for more information.

## THURSDAY

The annual Santa Monica Nativity Scenes is on display at Palisades Park along Ocean Avenue near Arizona. The 14 lighted scenes with life-size figures depicting events surrounding Christ's birth will remain on display through January 1. For more information please call (310) 453-4445.

Farmer's Market every Wednesday. 9am to 2pm, Arizona between Second and Fourth Streets. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California!

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic and more. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop and Museum. Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are $6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Reservations/Information (310)656-0483. www.puppetmagic.com

Santa Monica Public Library presents Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday at 11:15am, 1343 Sixth Street. Stories for children between the ages of three and five who are ready to participate on their own. (310)458-8600.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Parents of Adult Children. Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. $3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Unurban Coffee House presents Poetry and Spoken Word every Wednesday evening. Hosted by Tony Perez. 8pm, 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

## MOVIE °GUIDE

**LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA**
**1441 Third St. at Broadway**
**About Schmidt** (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40. **Two Weeks Notice** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5;00, 7:30, 10:10. **Antwone Fisher** (PG-13) 1:20. 4:20, 7:20, 10:20. **The Hours** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

**MANN CRITERION**
**1313 Third St.**
**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (PG) 11:30, 3:15, 7:05, 10:30. **Treasure Planet** (PG) 12:00. **The Hot Chick** (PG-13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10. **Gangs of New York** (R) 11:15, 12:15, 3:00, 4:15, 7:10, 8:15, 10:40. **Narc** (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00.

**AMC THEATRE SM 7**
**1310 3rd Street**
**Die Another Day** (PG-13) 11:35, 9:50. **Drumline** (PG-13) 10:30, 4:40. **Maid in Manhattan** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:05. **Star Trek: Nemesis: with Captions** (PG-13) 12:05, 2:45, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40. **The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers** (PG-13) 11:15, 2:20, 3:05, 6:15, 7:05, 10:05, 10:50. **Catch Me If You Can** (PG-13) 10:15, 12:00, 1:20. 3:20, 4:35, 6:45, 7:50, 10:00, 11:00. **Analyze That** (R) 2:30, 7:25.

**LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE**
**1314 Wilshire Blvd.**
**Love Liza** (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30. **Far From Heaven** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

**LAEMMLE MONICA**
**1332 2nd St.**
**Pinocchio (NR)** 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. **Frida** (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05. **Sonny (R)** 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50. **Max** (R) 1:30, 4:35, 7:25, 10:05.

**AERO THEATRE**
**1328 Montana Ave.**
**Bloody Sunday** (R) 5:00 **Secretary** (R) 7:30, 10:00

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor.

# BACK PAGE

## THE REAL WORLD

### Mounted fish swims away

By The Associated Press

**KEY WEST, Fla.** — Sometimes the big one gets away — but rarely after it's been stuffed and mounted.

Harvey Johnson is searching for the 12-foot hammerhead shark that for years had lured patrons to his restaurant, Captain Runaground Harvey's. The big fish was pried off the top of a station wagon outside the restaurant Dec. 22 or 23.

The 150-pound shark was spotted soon after the theft, heading up the Keys on a flatbed truck, police spokesman Steve Torrence said.

Torrence said Friday that police had spoken with a potential suspect but hadn't tracked down the hammerhead. "They're still looking for it up and down the Keys everywhere," he said.

The shark has appeared on postcards and in movies including Wesley Snipes' 1994 film "Drop Zone." Another shark memento is a scar below Johnson's left knee; the hammerhead bit Johnson after he caught it in 1988.

The restaurant is offering a reward — with no questions asked — for the safe return of the shark.

The amount of the reward "depends on what condition it is in," Johnson said. "Since it bit me, it has a lot more sentimental value."

### No place like jail for holidays

By The Associated Press

**SALEM, Ore**. — Being remembered on Christmas wasn't so great for Chandler Charles Field. He was arrested by the same police officer from whom he allegedly escaped not quite four years earlier.

Officer Mike Basket, who suffered good-natured ribbing from his colleagues over the escape, decided that his best shot at nabbing the fugitive would be when he was visiting his parents for the holiday.

"I figured that was the one day of the year I'd be able to find him," Basket said. "I asked for his parents. He started to close the door, and I said, 'No, no,' and I put my foot in the door."

Basket had arrested Field on Dec. 26, 1998, on charges of leaving a diner without paying. While in Basket's patrol car, Field cracked the back window as two other suspects distracted the officer. Field, in handcuffs, slipped out the window and fled.

"I always had that file in my bag because I always wanted to get him," Basket said.

Field, 30, who had fled to California, was charged with resisting arrest, escape and theft, and was wanted on several outstanding warrants. He was being held on $33,500 bail.

### Robber leaves bank in cab

By The Associated Press

**PLYMOUTH, Mass.** — The fare seemed unusual to the cab driver only because of the tip — $5 for a $7 ride from the bus station to a local bank to downtown.

Only later did the driver she was the unwitting getaway driver in a bank robbery.

"As far as I know, (the suspect) was very calm and cool," Patriot Taxi cab company owner Timothy Cushman told The Enterprise of Brockton, adding that the $5 tip was the most notable detail.

"Not bad for a $7 call," he said.

Police said the robber made off with a "substantial amount of cash" from a Citizens Bank branch. The driver was unharmed and "had no clue whatsoever" about the robbery until police called a half-hour later, Cushman said.

### A sugar junkie

By The Associated Press

**ANN ARBOR, Mich.** — A woman charged with a shopping-mall assault did it all for the cookie, police said.

The unidentified Belleville woman allegedly attacked a cookie-stand clerk at the Briarwood Mall last week after she was told the particular treat she wanted was unavailable.

"She became enraged that they didn't have the cookie she wanted to consume," said Ann Arbor police Sgt. Andrew Zazula, adding that he didn't know what kind of cookie she demanded.

After she "exchanged words" with the clerk, the 25-year-old woman hit her in the face with a two-pound box of tissue wrappers, breaking the worker's glasses, Zazula said. Police said the woman then went around the counter and punched the clerk, causing no major injuries.

The woman spent Thursday night in jail, where Zazula said there probably were some leftover Christmas cookies.

"I'm sure they'll give some to her," he said. "Hopefully it's the kind she wanted."

**DID YOU KNOW?:** There are more than 150 million sheep in Australia, a nation of 17 million people.





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