

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Activists sue city over 'anti-homeless' laws



(Left) James Lafferty of the National Lawyers Guild speaks to the press on Friday regarding a lawsuit filed against the city. (Right) Homeless persons and activists march in protest over a new law aimed at distributors who give food to the homeless in city parks.

Carolyn Sackarison/Daily Press

Homeless march down Promenade to protest barriers placed on local food lines

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Homeless advocates on Friday filed a federal lawsuit challenging a Santa Monica law which makes giving free food to the city's poor more difficult.

Chanting slogans like "Human needs, not Bayside greed," dozens of homeless and activists marched down the Third Street Promenade on Friday to a press conference where lawyers announced they have sued the city in an attempt to stop it from enforcing what they believe is an unconstitutional ban on food lines.

"Santa Monica, to its everlasting shame, has made an immoral bargain with the devil," said James Lafferty, executive

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— JAMES LAFFERTY

Executive director of the National Lawyers Guild, Los Angeles Chapter

director of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. "It has decided that it's more important to shield its tourists and shoppers from having to gaze upon hungry residents lining up for food than it is to provide enough food to shield its hungry residents from starvation."

The City Council in October adopted a law giving its police force the ability to break up food distribution programs that lack permits from both the Los Angeles County Health Department and the city.

City officials say the ordinance doesn't

create any new barriers to food lines but does allow for laws that are already on the books to be enforced.

"What it does is provide notice to the community that the state health laws are in effect and applied to distribution of food to the public, which is the county's interpretation of the state law," said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie. "I don't think our law imposes any significant new restrictions and I think it just makes the state health standards more broadly applicable."

As of Friday afternoon, Moutrie said

she had not seen a copy of the lawsuit, but her office is ready to defend the city's ordinance in court regardless.

Homeless rights advocates say the law gives the city unilateral power to deny food distributors to set up in the city's parks, violating the constitutional rights of the charities and religious organizations that run the programs.

"Although under this new law you can feed someone with the city's permission, there is no system in place for asking for permission," said Carol Soble, a local well-known civil rights attorney who is litigating the case. "This is clearly a violation of a person's civil rights."

County health officials have said they welcome the city's controversial new law and say there is a need to better monitor outdoor food distribution programs.

However, many volunteers of various

See PROTEST, page 7

SM senator weighs in on coastal commission ruling

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Senator Sheila Kuehl, a Santa Monica Democrat, said her party will likely respond to an appeals court ruling that could threaten the protection of state's coastline by suggesting that members of the Coastal Commission have fixed terms.

Kuehl, who chairs the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee, said this week that Democrats probably would respond to the ruling with legislation that would set fixed terms for coastal commissioners, increasing their independence from legislative leaders.

Meanwhile, the Senate's leader urged Gov. Gray Davis on Thursday to call a special legisla-

tive session to respond quickly to Monday's ruling by the 3rd District Court of Appeal that the Coastal Commission violates California's constitution because legislative leaders appoint eight of its 12 members and can remove them at will. The court ruled that it violates the constitution's separation of powers clause by allowing lawmakers to control an executive branch agency.

"The California coastline is not only an environmental treasure but an economic one as well...," Senate President Pro Tem John Burton said in a letter to the governor. "If this decision is upheld by the Supreme Court without a legislative solution in place, the state's ability to protect the coast would be jeopardized."

Davis aides said they were working on a response to Burton,

D-San Francisco.

"In a practical sense, this unrestrained power to replace a majority of the commission's voting members ... allows the legislative branch not only to declare the law but also to control the commission's execution of the law and exercise of its quasi-judicial powers," a three-

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Be direct with someone emotionally. A discussion opens up many new doors, establishing better understanding. If you are single, a friendship could be developing into a lot more. Know what you want and need. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might not appreciate someone's take on a situation, but then, you might not be able to change it, either. Visit with an older relative or take in a movie. You'll be in your element, which allows laughter and relaxation. Tonight: A must show.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Reach out to a loved one whom you care a lot about. You could be dreamy in your mind but ditsy according to others. Take your time driving or doing anything important. Relax with a favorite book or CD. Tonight: Check out a vacation idea.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Carefully review what someone thinks. Your opinion, though meaningful to a special partner, could have little weight elsewhere. Recognize your limits or where you are valued. Make plans with a favorite person. Tonight: Snuggle in.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Others seem to be full of ideas, trying to decide what might be the best plan for the day. Why not make a list and go through each idea on a different weekend? Be more in tune with others and allow them to run with the ball. Tonight: Say "yes."

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Allow others to speak their mind, because you will have no choice anyway. Listen to others, but you might also want to take up a side project, like painting a room or doing some knitting. Give in to the need to accomplish something. Tonight: Whatever makes the Virgin happy.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You will have to dig into your imagination to find answers. You could be rather overwhelmed by news and what you hear. Listen carefully to feedback that involves a child or loved one. Establish boundaries. Tonight: Play the night away.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Family and personal matters take a higher priority than anticipated. Think about what you need to do in order to get a domestic matter flowing. Put on some music and just let everything flow. Allow more humor in. Tonight: Entertain at home.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You might not be able to make the difference you'd like, but others certainly delight in your input. Share your thoughts in a stream of consciousness. You could be surprised by what comes up for you. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your desire to please someone could take you way overboard in your dealings. Your effort to make a good impression could cost you a lot, whether it is figuratively or materially. Ask yourself: How important is this? Tonight: Fun can be inexpensive.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your smile wins the day. You often work with the best of intentions, and right now you're able to communicate just that to others. Be spontaneous. Know that you're loveable. Everything seems to work out just perfectly. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You're determined to use today for something quite unique and special, just for yourself. Don't push too hard, but understand your limits in terms of your ability to act on your ideas. Sometimes you might feel limitless or as if nothing can or will stop you. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

QUOTE of the DAY

"It is better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating."
— Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy of Santa Monica Fire Department

(Left to right) Back row: Scott Waterman, Dale Hallock, Shawn Conniff, Milo Garcia, Mike McElvaney. Front row: Jason Walker, Jeff Connor, George Menta, Frank Evaro.

Firefighters help local families

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Fire Fighters selected 40 local families, which includes 121 children who have received assistance for the holidays. Each family received a food basket, with a money order and gifts for their children less than 18 years old.

This event is a yearly favorite of many firefighters, from buying and wrapping the children's presents to delivering them personally to the families. On Dec. 21-22, off-duty firefighters assembled the baskets at Santa Monica fire station No. 5 and began delivering at 7:30 a.m.

Albertson's Markets, KB Toys (Santa Monica Place), Santa Monica City Employees' Federal Credit Union, Connections For Kids, LA County Low Income Housing, Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica, John Muir Elementary and St. Anne's church contributed to the effort.

Homeless get nutritional meals through donation

By Daily Press staff

The S. Mark Taper Foundation recently granted St. Joseph Center's Bread & Roses Café and Family Center Food Pantry \$140,000 to increase the nutritional value of meals served and grocery bags distributed to working poor and homeless individuals and families on the Westside of Los Angeles.

Last year, the Bread and Roses Café served more than 24,000 hot meals to homeless men, women, and children. Poverty-level families received 16,500 bags of groceries through the Food Pantry.

"With the support of the S. Mark Taper Foundation, clients will now have access to a greater amount of fruits and vegetables, canned protein sources, eggs and dairy products — items that are not often donated in large quantities," said Rhonda Meister, the center's executive director. "The center's food services often serve as the point of entry for clients into long term services such as case management that helps them to progress toward self-sufficiency."

The S. Mark Taper Foundation, founded in 1989, is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of people's lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in local communities.

In 2001-2002, St. Joseph Center, a nonprofit social service agency founded in 1976, served 7,500 adults and children through 11 programs that include emergency services, case management, educational activities, job training, child care and housing assistance.

For more information, call (310) 396-6468 ext. 325, or visit www.stjosephctr.org.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

It's a new year of surfing, but it could be any old week as far as the ocean is concerned. Today sees decreasing swell out of the northwest from Thursday.

However, fading swell will be followed today by a newly arriving swell, a well-angled one, too, coming from about 280-290 degrees, a little more westerly than Thursday.

Forecasts say the swell will peak tonight and carry over into Sunday with waist- to chest-high surf at breaks in the north.

South Bay spots, better exposed, expect shoulder high sets, consistent on the good tides and we should see a lot less wind than we did the last few days.

Weather is predicted nice over the weekend, and water is as clean as it's been since two weeks ago.



Today's Tides:

Low-	3:28a.m.	2.19'
High-	9:33a.m.	6.19'
Low-	5:02p.m.	-1.06'
High-	11:35p.m.	3.77'

Location	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	4-5'/Fair	4-5'/Fair	A
Zuma	4-5'/Fair	4-5'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	F
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	4-7'/Fair	4-7'/Fair	A
El Porto	4-7'/Fair	4-7'/Fair	A

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OPINION

Desperate Lakers need solid New Years resolutions

EDGE of the WEST

By Ron Scott Smith



At this annual juncture where all of our shortcomings of the year are gone by turning to hope and resolution for the one just beginning, perhaps this band of jesters dressed in purple and gold, masquerading as the three-time defending world champion Lakers, will find the answer beginning tonight in Phoenix. The question being — who are these guys?

Bling, bling, bling has turned to clank, clank, clank, the sound of errant basketballs careening off unforgiving rims.

Laker fans, still hung over from June madness, still full of "three-peat" and "four-ward," have been rubbing their eyes since the start of the season in November, trying to get a clue. Who are these guys? And can we please get this next party started? But the numbers sit right smack in the middle of the festivities like a stick

in the mud. Numbers that are hard to believe, but numbers that don't lie.

Numbers like 13-19, their record going into the new year, padded by the current two-game winning streak built at the expense of the hapless Nuggets and Raptors on the last weekend of 2002.

Numbers like 4-13, the road record that is far more typical of the Clippers or the Grizzlies than of the champions of the universe.

Numbers like 10, as in games behind the division leading Sacramento Kings, an astounding number with the young season barely a third of the way gone.

And numbers like .427, their miserable team shooting percentage which places the Lakers 24th out of 29 teams in the league. Staples Center has taken on a new nickname. Welcome to the "Brick House."

We've obtained from inside sources a list of New Year's resolutions drawn up by "the gang that couldn't shoot straight," resolutions that will vastly improve that shooting percentage if they stick to them like you will with yours. Here is a portion of the list:

I, Shaquille O'Neal, resolve ... to never shoot ... more than three feet from the basket; to stay away from free throw lines

wherever they are, and to get a little more spring in my step and a little less point in my finger aimed at less gifted teammates.

I, Kobe Bryant, resolve ... to never shoot ... more than 50 shots per game, and to let the game come to me, as I continue to fly high above the rim — until the silhouette of one of my soaring dunks becomes the new logo for the NBA.

I, Robert Horry, resolve ... to never shoot ... unless the game, the series, the championship is on the line, and to revive the "Robert Horry Picture Show," that camp/horror classic which haunts the rest of the league with recurring nightmares of buzzer-beating three-point daggers driven into opponents' hearts.

I, Derek Fisher, resolve ... to never shoot ... until I have dished off at least five assists like a good little point guard should.

I, Rick Fox, resolve ... to never shoot ... Doug Christie.

I, Mark Madsen, resolve ... to never shoot ... period.

If they have the will to stick to their resolutions, they will right the ship and they will be back in the title run just like last spring. After the death-defying seven game high wire act they pulled off against

the Kings back then, the purple and gold have never quite recovered. Even while sleepwalking past the New Jersey Nets in a four-game finals sweep, it was clear. They brought the title home, but their hearts, and their game too, were left in Sacramento.

When Fox and the Kings' Christie came to blows in the tunnel beneath Staples Center during a pre-season exhibition game, it only confirmed the passion these two teams bring to what has become the greatest rivalry in the NBA. And when the Kings, doing their best Laker impersonation, coolly and calmly came from 12 points behind in the 4th quarter on Christmas day to hand the Lakers their toughest loss in this season of tough losses, it was clear again. They need to relocate that heart, and quickly.

Desperate is not a word commonly associated with these Lakers, but it's the operative word now, as they move forward into 2003, where perhaps it will be ... out with the new and in with the old, the Lakers of old.

Ron Scott Smith occasionally writes for the Santa Monica Daily Press. To reach him, e-mail him at edgofthewest@aol.com.

Coastal cities should appoint their own reps

This week's unanimous ruling by the California Court of Appeals, upholding a previous decision that California's Coastal Act violates the separation-of-powers doctrine, came as a surprise to many thoughtful observers. The Coastal Act has withstood nearly three decades of various challenges and retains both a popular and laudable goal — the protection of California's 1,150-mile coastline for the benefit of all citizens.

In striking down the Coastal Act, the court reached several common sense conclusions: First, the Coastal Commission, through its various functions, for example, issuing permits, promulgating development regulations, etc., is engaged in "executive" activities. Second, there is no doubt that the legislature has control of the commission, since it appoints eight of the 12 members (the governor appoints the other four) and can remove them at will. Third, the California constitution requires the separation of powers between the different branches of government.

In language and reasoning that could have been drawn from a 12th grade civics lesson about the proper division of governmental responsibilities, the appellate court reached the obvious conclusion that the appointment process in the Coastal Act is flawed. Looking back, the real surprise isn't the ruling, but how it has taken so long to arrive. Whether by its popular

public goals, a lack of precise legal challenges or just sheer luck, the Coastal Act has survived until now relatively intact since it was enacted in 1976.

It doesn't mean that the Coastal Commission has operated for all these years without controversy. The nature of the commission's work, for example, balancing public coastline access with individual property rights, will always prove controversial, but the current appointment process has not helped matters. Indeed, there is a long and sordid history of wealthy political contributors lobbying individual legislators and the governor for approval of controversial coastal building permits.

In recent years, the commission also has found itself at odds with whole communities, as with the contentious debate to produce a "local coastal plan" for the city of Malibu. Earlier this year the commission approved a controversial plan that would impose a set of citywide local planning rules.

In a bizarre twist, the commission's plan, while limiting many small-scale residential permits, may also encourage some large-scale commercial development. With many local residents unhappy with the plan and the process that pro-

duced it, voters are demanding a local referendum. The city has launched a challenge to the plan in court and through vocal lobbying, Sara Wan, the embattled Chair of the Coastal Commission has been forced to step down.

Needless to say there is some room for improvement in the commission's functioning and a new appointment process is a good place to start. Several simple remedies to the constitutional deficiencies are already being discussed in Sacramento.

State Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) has said she will introduce a bill to give coastal commissioners fixed terms, thereby removing the legislature's ability to remove its appointees "at will," which is a practice the courts have reasonably found makes the Coastal Commission no more than a handmaiden to the will of powerful legislators.

Others have suggested longer and staggered terms, perhaps four-year appointments and increasing the number of appointments from the governor to make the Coastal Commission more like other commissions in the executive branch. Both of these are good ideas.

The Legislature often devises appointment schemes to balance the governor's

power with its own, but there are other ways to balance the governor's appointments that would help address concerns about local accountability. One idea would be to balance the governor's appointments with local appointments from coastal cities and/or counties. There is already a process the Legislature uses to rotate some appointments among elected city representatives from different regions, so why not delegate those appointments to the coastal counties and cities? This may require increasing the size of the commission to ensure proper representation across the state, which would also be a good outcome.

Some special interests will likely oppose any diffusion of appointment power to local communities, especially if it requires increasing the size of the commission. Under a more locally accountable Coastal Commission, special interest lobbying, which is now highly concentrated in Sacramento, would become much more difficult. The public would be better served, however, by a commission that is both accountable to state citizens as a whole (through the governor's appointments), as well as local coastal communities.

Kevin Feldman is a public policy and financial consultant in Los Angeles. He can be reached via e-mail: kevinfeldman@post.harvard.edu.

Guest Commentary

By Kevin Feldman

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Charlie Hunnam plays 'Nicholas Nickleby'

BY SEAN DALY
Special to the Daily Press

NEW YORK CITY — Judging from posters and billboards for "Nicholas Nickleby," you'd probably never suspect that clean-shaven star Charlie Hunnam — with his deep blue eyes and wholesome boy-next-door smile — is actually a wild and impulsive young Brit, who has already been married and divorced at the age of 22.

The brief union happened last year. Hunnam was a regular on the TV drama "Undeclared," when he began dating actress Katharine Towne, 24, a guest star on the show. They had only known each other for only three weeks when the series was abruptly canceled and they decided to tie the knot.

"I was going to go back to England and we were afraid we would lose touch, so we got married as something of a lark," he explains, with something of a guilty laugh. "We figured that we wouldn't lose touch (this way) and we would definitely have to see each other ... if for no other reason than to get divorced."

And that's precisely what happened.

By fall, legal proceedings were underway, but Hunnam and Towne (the daughter of famed screenwriter Robert Towne) remained good friends and continued to get together at least once a week.

"It's very amicable," he said at the time. But today, as he scratches pensively on a five-month-old beard that perfectly compliments his blonde bird's nest of hair, Hunnam is more focused on his current prospects.

"I've been seeing a little bit of this girl, but she lives in New York and I live in LA," he begins to reveal. Then there is a pause. "I really like her, but I don't know how much of a future it has because we won't get to see each other very much."

Fortunately, Hunnam has other things to keep himself occupied for now. First, is "Nicholas Nickleby." He plays the title character in the latest big screen adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic, opening today.

"I was hired to give the character something of a modern flair," he asserts. Hunnam shares the screen with Nathan Lane, Anne Hathaway, Jim Broadbent, and Barry Humphries, a.k.a. Dame Edna.

"The beauty of a classic," says director Douglas McGrath "is that it is continuously fresh, sometimes in different ways, for each generation that enjoys it."

Filming of "Nickleby" — made on a paltry budget of \$10 million — brought Hunnam to London for three months. Then it was off to Romania for half a year to work alongside Nicole Kidman, Renee Zellweger and Giovanni Ribisi on the Civil War-era drama "Cold Mountain," opening next summer.

"It's about the people who were left behind in the villages during the Civil War and how they coped," he shares. Hunnam plays a member of the Home Guard, a group of men who weren't selected to fight, but remained behind to protect women and property and execute deserters. "My character is an albino, so he was ostracized," he reveals. "When he gets a little power, it makes him dangerous."

Hunnam, who has never formally studied acting, spent his downtime on the set working with a private gymnastics coach, preparing for a scene where he is required



Charlie Hunnam as 'Nicholas Nickleby'

to do a back flip off a horse — not an easy task for someone almost six feet tall.

"I also read a lot of books, I did some horse-riding, watched some MTV and sent a lot of e-mails," he says.

The actor admits he was anxious to get back to Los Angeles, where he zips around town in a jacked up SUV and recently purchased a small house off Melrose Avenue.

"I am pretty frugal with money," he says. "I don't live extravagantly."

But Hunnam admits he does party hard.

"I definitely get belligerent with my friends," he offers with a laugh. "It's a false cliché LA-cons don't drink. There's some pretty raucous people living in LA. And some belligerent people. I just don't do it publicly."

Hunnam moved to Hollywood four years ago from his childhood home in Newcastle, England. That's where he attended — and got tossed out of — what he calls a "stodgy boarding school" at the age of 9.

"I resented so many of the students and most of my teachers," he remembers. "They were so pretentious. I got expelled for mouthing off to my art teacher."

Fortunately, a few months later, on Christmas Eve, Hunnam was spotted by a talent agent while he was "horsing around" in a local shoe store. "He asked if I'd let him get me an audition for (the TV series) 'Byker Grove,'" Hunnam recalls.

But it was the controversial series "Queer as Folk" — about the gay club life in Manchester — that put Hunnam on the map. He appeared in eight episodes and a two hour follow-up movie (as Nathan Maloney, a gay teen having an affair with a man almost twice his age) but never in the popular American cable version, which became a cult hit two years ago. In fact, Hunnam maintains, "I've never even seen it."

Judging by the bad reviews and dismal box office numbers, Hunnam might also wish he had never seen "Abandon" the psychological thriller he appeared in last October with "Dawson's Creek" star Katie Holmes.

"I really believed in it and then I saw the film and I wasn't surprised that it didn't do well," he admits. But Hunnam is more optimistic about the success of "Nickleby." That's why he plans to spend the next few days getting the word out.

"I go to LA tomorrow to do some press," he says, again flashing that innocent smile. "Then I go to Aspen to solicit some Oscar votes from those rich bitches out there skiing."

Sean Daly is president of Showtime Entertainment and lives in Santa Monica.

DIVORCE LAW

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COMMENTARY

A woman's survival guide when seeking a divorce



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pisarra

Five things you need to know before seeking a divorce.

(Editor's note: This is the debut of "Legal Views and News," a weekly column that intends to answer questions about legal matters for Santa Monica Daily Press readers. Readers are encouraged to write questions to the e-mail below.)

Divorce.

The word alone raises your blood pressure, scares you silly, and makes you nauseous. Visions of aggressive lawyers, imaginary fights with a soon to be ex, and terror at the thought of being broke and alone flood your mind.

In today's society, even though many women are successful in the business world, they frequently do not pay close attention to the family finances. When the time comes in a relationship for the parties to separate, the woman frequently does not get as much as she should, mainly because she does not know where all the assets are located.

In California, there is an affirmative duty to disclose all the family assets. Even so, in a divorce it is not uncommon for something to get overlooked by one of the parties.

FIND THE MONEY

The hardest part for most women in divorce is the economic devastation they go through because they lack the financial resources to fight hard for what is theirs. They do not get what they should because they do not know how much money the family has.

The following are questions you should ask:

1. Where are all the bank accounts? His, mine, ours; his company account if he owns a business.
2. Where are all the stock accounts?
3. Where are all the statements for the bank, credit cards, charge accounts; company accounts if he owns his own company, pension and 401(k)s.
4. Where are all the check registers?
5. What property do we own?

GET THE DOCUMENTS

Make sure you have a separate set of copies of the bank statements, credit card bills, stock portfolios, taxes for the last five years, and household bills to give your attorney. It is much easier to make copies, BEFORE one of you has moved out.

The credit card statements can give you a great view of where the money is going, and how much of it there is. Phone

bills also are important to find out if there is a second business, or home.

KNOW HIS BUSINESS

If he owns his own business, you need to know how much money it REALLY makes. Business owners have excellent ways of hiding their income and you need to know how he's going to hide his money.

If you are close to getting a divorce, you need to do some research on how well his company is doing. Call his bookkeeper and discreetly ask how business is going.

You want to find out who his top five clients and vendors are. Vendors are people he buys his products from. This is important because an attorney and a forensic accountant can work backwards to find out how much money he SHOULD be making, based on what he is buying.

BE READY FOR THE TRAUMA

The emotional damage a divorce causes can be extreme. You should have a good support network in place to deal with the inevitable feelings of loss, grief, anger, hurt, and sadness.

Understand that your lifestyle is going to go down, it has to, it costs more to run two households than one. You will change friends and acquaintances, you might live somewhere different, eat in new restaurants and shop in new stores. This could be a good thing if you take this opportunity to grow and change for the better. Talk to your friends, find a good counselor who can help with your pain.

HAVE AN ESCAPE HATCH

Divorce is costly. The basic divorce is going to cost between \$4,000 and \$8,000 if both parties have a lawyer. If there are child or spousal support issues, or if there is property being fought over, the cost of divorce can increase no end.

A woman should have a savings account before starting a divorce. Even if the money in it is community property, a woman should have quick and easy access to cash in case she needs to rent an apartment quickly, buy a new car, or meet other expenses.

Be prepared for your attorney to ask for a sizable amount of money for a retainer. Some attorneys require a \$10,000 retainer; others as low as \$500. It simply depends on your case, the amount of property to fight over, and your spouse's ability to fight.

This is a starting point and there is much more to know, but preparation can ease your way through this painful process and help you to recover better in the long run.

David Pisarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or by e-mail at dpisarra@pisarra.com.

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LOCAL



Los Angeles may be sued if it enacts similar law

PROTEST, from page 1

food distribution programs said they don't believe the city is trying to protect the health of the homeless with its new law. They believe the city enacted its ordinance to help clear the city of its homeless.

Many of the volunteers and the homeless at the event said they hadn't heard of anyone getting sick from the free food regularly made available to the public in the city parks.

Paul M. Grymkowski, a volunteer of Helping Other People Eat — or HOPE, said because nobody is getting sick, he feels the city is responding to pressure from a local business association and downtown merchants, who want an end to the outdoor food lines.

"Santa Monica has always been known for its kind heart," he said. "But the council is collecting a whole lot of bad Karma that could be devastating to the city at some point."

Another HOPE volunteer said the new ordinance already has scared many of the homeless from coming to the parks for the food programs.

She said the number of people using the meal programs in the parks has dwindled. Some have suggested it could be because of the winter weather shelters being open, but others contend its fear of prosecution.

"They are afraid now, the homeless," said Julie, the HOPE volunteer, who declined to give her last name. "They are afraid to come to the food lines now because they think they'll be arrested."

The group of about 80 people — consisting of home-

less, food providers and legal advocates — gathered at Palisades Park, near the intersection of Ocean and Arizona avenues, where free food was distributed.

At about noon, the group marched up Wilshire

**"Santa Monica has always
been known for its kind heart.
But the council is collecting
a whole lot of bad Karma
that could be devastating to
the city at some point."**

— PAUL M. GRYSKOWSKI
Helping Other People Eat

Boulevard and then down the Third Street Promenade carrying signs that said "Food and sleep are basic human rights," and "Ignorance gets people no where." They chanted slogans like "Everyone has the right to eat," and "Save our food lines."

Passersby stopped and watched the procession with stunned expressions. One man standing on the balcony of the Easton Gym yelled "Get a job," while others standing outside the AMC movie theater cheered and applauded

the group.

The group stopped at the intersection of the Promenade and Santa Monica Boulevard, where a swarm of television cameras were waiting.

Tom Morello — a member of the now defunct rock band Rage Against the Machine — spoke at the protest, condemning the city's actions.

"Feeding the homeless is not a crime," he said. "The real crime is that the members of the Santa Monica City Council, all of whom have homes and plenty to eat, have passed a law making it illegal to feed the poor."

Serj Tankin, the singer for System of a Down, also attended the protest and marched in the procession. He said the city has put itself on a dangerous path by passing laws that take food away from the hungry.

"In my opinion we have lost the sense of natural laws and replaced them with human laws," he said. "These are laws that work against humanity and justice."

Citing Santa Monica's ordinance, the Los Angeles City Council is now investigating whether it should create a permitting system for the food distribution programs that take place there.

Attorneys with the National Lawyers Guild warned that if Los Angeles enacts similar laws, it too will be dragged into court by the association.

"Well, Santa Monica's effort is clearly illegal," said Soble, "and just as we have challenged it in court, we are prepared to do the same with Los Angeles if it adopts a similar measure."

Senator requests session to deal with Coastal Commission

RULING, from page 1

judge panel said in a unanimous decision.

The commission, created by a 1972 initiative and extended by 1976 legislation, helps regulate development along California's 1,100-mile coastline. The governor appoints the other four commissioners.

The appeals court decision stems from a lawsuit filed by the Marine Forests Society, a nonprofit group that wanted to use old tires to create an artificial reef off

Newport Beach to develop fish habitat.

Because it had not been issued a permit, the society was ordered by the commission to stop the project in 1999.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer's office will consult with the commission next week about whether to appeal the ruling to the state Supreme Court, said Lockyer spokeswoman Hallye Jordan.

Calling a special session would make it easier for lawmakers to quickly respond to the court decision. Bills passed by simple majorities in a special session take

effect 90 days after the session ends.

Bills passed by simple majorities during the regular legislative session, which resumes Monday, won't take effect until next Jan. 1.

Ronald Zumbun, a Sacramento attorney representing the Marine Forests Society, predicted that lawmakers would also have to eliminate their ability to make a majority of commission appointments and clearly put the commission in the executive branch to satisfy the court.

"Any shortfall in those three standards will not resolve the separation of powers issues," he said.

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STATE

Sentenced to death



Denis Poroy/Associated Press

Convicted killer David Westerfield sits in court and listens to an impact statement made by Brenda van Dam, mother of Danielle van Dam, at his sentencing in San Diego Superior Court on Friday in San Diego. Westerfield was sentenced to death for the killing of 7-year-old Danielle van Dam.

Disney claims Blockbuster cheated it out of \$120 million

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney Co. has sued Blockbuster Inc., claiming the nation's largest movie rental business cheated it out of more than \$120 million.

The breach-of-contract suit, filed Tuesday in federal court on behalf of Disney's Buena Vista Home Entertainment, claims Blockbuster used shady accounting, sold videotapes prematurely and failed to account for hundreds of thousands of missing videotapes under a 1997 revenue-sharing agreement.

Blockbuster ended the agreement at the end of 2001.

An attorney for Blockbuster disputed the claims Friday.

"There is no basis for the suit," Marshall Grossman said. "The accountings of Blockbuster have been appropriate."

He contended that Disney was trying to divert attention from recent corporate problems.

"What Disney's doing is throwing a Hail Mary pass in the wake of some very disappointing business performance. They really ought to stick to making movies, which they used to do well," Grossman said.

Attorney Sandy Litvack, representing Buena Vista, called that allegation "really silly."

"This is a serious lawsuit. They had a contract. They breached it," he said. "It is nonsensical to (argue) that is has anything to do with anything else."

"As far as I know, the accounting is not appropriate and we will prove that in court."

The agreement with Disney allowed Blockbuster to purchase Disney videotapes for \$7 a copy instead of the previous \$65 each. That allowed Blockbuster to have more copies of hit movies on hand for rent. Disney, in return, would receive a percentage of the rental profits.

The two companies still do business but Disney no longer receives a portion of the rental profits.

The suit comes as Disney reorganized its top animation staff, the latest in a series of executive reshufflings.

The company announced Friday that it plans to merge its television animation unit with the Disney Channel.

Disney said the reorganization is part of its plan to improve its overall use of resources and focus on creating endearing characters and franchises.

Barry Blumberg will be president of TV animation and David Stainton was named head of Walt Disney feature animation.

Thomas Schumacher, formerly in charge of all Disney animation as well as live theater productions, was named president of Buena Vista Theatrical Worldwide, which oversees the stage shows on Broadway and around the world.

Schumacher has been credited with helping revitalize Disney's animated movies with hits such as "The Lion King." But he also had several failures. The company had to lower its fourth-quarter earnings because of poor box-office performance from its latest animated film, "Treasure Planet."

NATIONAL



Rules proposed to identify all international travelers

BY CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government wants detailed information about every person who comes to or leaves the country by plane or boat, and for the first time will require U.S. citizens to fill out forms detailing their comings and goings.

Under rules proposed Friday, the information would be sent electronically to the government for matching against security databases.

"It's another way to enhance security for travelers," Immigration and Naturalization Service spokeswoman Kimberly Weismann said.

The public will have a month to comment on the plan and the final regulations will take effect later this year. The American Civil Liberties Union, which has criticized many of the administration's anti-terrorism information-gathering efforts, said these rules should not impinge on people's privacy.

"We don't see a huge downside," said spokeswoman Emily Whitfield.

Congress mandated the changes in legislation that was signed into law by President Bush last May. The law also tightened rules governing the issuance of visas to visitors and students coming to the United States and added more Border Patrol officers.

The proposal requires all passengers arriving or departing, as well as crew members, to provide this information: name, date of birth, citizenship, sex, passport number and country of issuance, country of residence, U.S. visa number and other details of its issuance, address while in the United States, and, where it

applies, alien registration number.

All airlines, cargo flights, cruise ships and other vessels carrying crew or passengers will be affected, with the exception of most ferry boats. The information will be sent electronically to the government before a traveler arrives in the United States or departs from it, giving officials a complete passenger and crew manifest.

The law also gives Attorney General John Ashcroft leeway in proposing further requirements.

The aim is to detect potential terrorists or criminals immediately and to enhance the government's ability to track whether visitors to the United States have departed as planned.

The INS is weighing how long it will keep the information.

For years, international travelers have been required to fill out forms detailing their arrival and departure from countries around the world. Before the Sept. 11 attacks, the main goal was to speed travelers through customs.

The U.S. government, however, has not previously required its own citizens to submit such forms, and never required forms from departing travelers. Canadians, permanent resident aliens and certain other people also were exempted.

More than 29 million passengers flew to the United States from overseas in the first nine months of 2002, according to the Commerce Department. The cruise industry estimates that about 8 million U.S. passengers will embark in 2003.

Officials in the cruise and airline industries say the changes will be costly and could result in some initial delays and inconveniences for passengers.

Industry officials agree the departure rules will present the most problems. Inbound ships and planes have an easier task because they already have a manifest of the crew and passengers on board, while those departing often must juggle last-minute passengers and delays caused by late-arriving connecting flights.

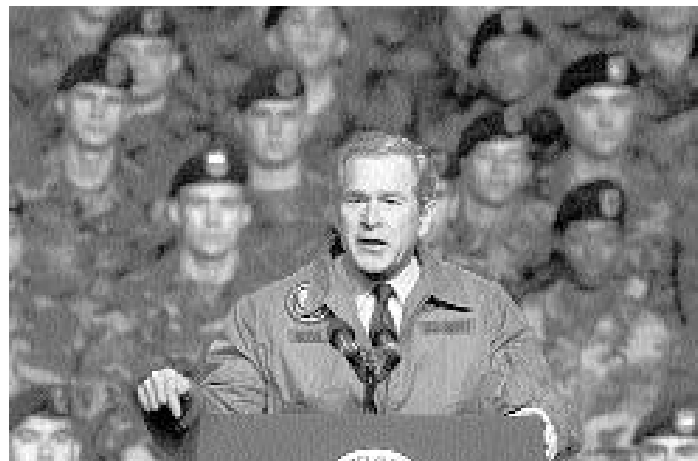
"For people on board, in your system, you have them there and you can readily get the information," said Michael Crye, president of the International Council of Cruise Lines. "For departures, it can pro-

vide a little bit of a bottleneck."

In the INS proposal, Ashcroft has added a proposed "passenger name record" for airlines that will enable the government to better match a departure record with one for an arrival.

Once the information is collected, it will be transmitted to the U.S. government and matched against security databases prior to the travelers' arrival. A passenger or crew member whose information raises a red flag could be met by officials when the ship or plane arrives.

Rallying the troops



Donna McWilliam/Associated Press

President Bush speaks to troops at Fort Hood, Texas on Friday. He told the soldiers who might see action against Iraq: "We are ready, we are prepared."

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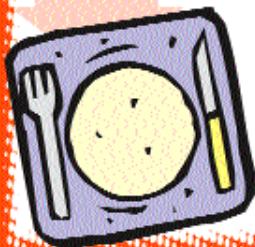
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**NATIONAL**

Outgoing Democratic leader takes a step toward running for presidency

BY WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Departing House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri has decided to kick off his second run for the White House in 14 years by forming a presidential exploratory committee, The Associated Press has learned.

An invitation obtained by the AP says Gephardt will raise money for the exploratory committee at an event Jan. 22, asking for donations of at least \$1,000 — or half the maximum for presidential candidates.

"Join us for a reception benefiting Richard Gephardt for President Exploratory Committee," the invitation said.

Aides to Gephardt, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said Friday that the Missouri Democrat would file paperwork to form the exploratory committee — the traditional first step in a presidential bid — on Monday. They said he will travel to early presidential contest states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina later this month to meet with party activists.

Gephardt is stepping aside after eight years as the Democratic House leader and will bank on a strong national organization and close ties to traditional Democratic groups like organized labor to help him in his presidential bid.

Robert Kelley, president of the Greater St. Louis Labor Council, said his friend has been the "most active champion of working people in Congress over the last decade."

In his last bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, in 1988, Gephardt started strong by winning in Iowa and finishing second in New Hampshire, but his campaign quickly faded.

Gephardt is joining a fast-growing Democratic field that includes Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, who formally announced Thursday that he would run. The field is expected to grow to at least a half-dozen in the coming days.

The St. Louis native has been in politics since his days as a precinct captain and then an alderman in the city. He has represented that area of eastern Missouri in the House since 1976.

The sandy-haired, youthful-looking Gephardt ran for president in 1988 and drew early attention with his stands on the economy and trade. He did well early by winning in Iowa and finishing second in New Hampshire, but his campaign fizzled and he soon ran out of money.

He served as House Democratic leader from 1994 through 2002. Gephardt led efforts to bring the Democrats back to power in the House after the GOP took control in 1994, gaining ground but never accomplishing his goal.

During the last year, Gephardt visited dozens of cities on behalf of House candidates and renewed his widespread political network in case he decided on a presidential run. Though Gephardt has been closely connected with traditional Democratic positions and is closely allied with organized labor, he also has been burnishing his moderate credentials this year.

Gephardt helped found the centrist Democratic Leadership Council in the mid-1980s but later broke with it over issues such as his opposition to trade agreements. He addressed the group early this year and talks about offering a bridge between the traditional wing of the party and the centrists.

Stripper turns activist in Vegas

BY ANGIE WAGNER
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Between nude dances, when the strippers go backstage to have a smoke and adjust their lingerie, Andrea Hackett rushes into the dressing room with a stack of fliers and a plan to save the sex industry.

Come to a meeting, Hackett, a dancer herself, tells them. Let's talk about how to stop the attack on your business, she says.

Politicians and prosecutors are trying to take some of the sin out of Sin City these days — a crackdown that is turning strippers into political activists and causing some to wonder whether Las Vegas is suffering an identity crisis.

"This is an all-out assault on adult entertainment in the adult entertainment capital of the world," said Hackett, who has helped strippers register to vote and distributed a voter guide telling them which candidates to support.

In recent months, the Clark County commission has barred lap dancers in most Las Vegas-area strip clubs from sitting in customers' laps. Some prosecutors want to crack down on dancers who perform in guests' hotel rooms. And gambling agents who used to concentrate on catching cheaters are now patrolling casino nightclubs, watching for lewd behavior.

"I think it's a joke. It's stupid," said "Crystal," a 21-year-old dancer at the Deja Vu Showgirls club who registered to vote for the first time because of Hackett. "They should focus on real prostitution. We put Las Vegas on the map."

The crackdown is coming mostly from Clark County officials; strip clubs within the city do not fall under the county's jurisdiction. But most of the clubs — and the Las Vegas Strip itself — are outside the city limits.

County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates first proposed cleaning up steamy lap dances after an undercover police investigation found that sexy dancing can progress to "excessive grinding," simulated sex acts and, finally, sex for money.

Before the new rules, lap dances were illegal in Clark County. But the law was so vague it was rarely enforced. Under the new law, effective Sept. 1, 2002, lap dances are legal, but dancers are specifically barred from touching or sitting on the customer's genital area. Commissioners initially banned stuffing dollar bills in G-strings, but later decided to OK the practice. Lap dances remain legal in the city of Las Vegas.

The crackdown on strippers doesn't make sense to many tourists.

"That's why people come here. Vegas is Vegas," said Drake Hanson of Palm Springs, Calif.

INTERNATIONAL



At least 23 hurt as troops break up opposition protest

BY SUSANNAH A. NESMITH

Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela — Troops fired rubber bullets and tear gas Friday to keep opponents and rock-throwing supporters of President Hugo Chavez from clashing outside the Venezuelan capital's military headquarters. At least 23 people were injured.

The violence erupted when several hundred supporters of the president threw rocks, bottles and fireworks at thousands of opposition marchers and police in Los Proceres park, outside Caracas' Fort Tiuna.

The anti-Chavez marchers were demanding the release of a dissident national guard general and urging the military to support a 5-week-old strike aimed at forcing Chavez to hold a nonbinding vote on his leadership.

Stinging white clouds of tear gas drifted through the district's tree-lined avenues as guardsmen fired tear gas and buckshot.

The unrest rekindled hours later, with protesters and police ducking behind trees and lying flat on the streets as gunfire rang out.

Among the injured were seven police officers, said Police Chief Henry Vivas. Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez said 11 people were hurt in a stampede.

Col. Jose Rodrigo Pantoja, commander of the military police, said marchers weren't authorized to enter the plaza, which the government has declared a security zone — one of eight such zones in Caracas. He said soldiers acted only after the opposition march reached the plaza.

Defense Minister Jose Luis Prieto had warned against the demonstration.

Thousands of people milled about in neighborhoods



Andres Leighton/Associated Press

Military police officers force an opposition protester to leave at Forte Tiuna military base in Caracas, Venezuela on Friday.

near Los Proceres as guardsmen clashed with jeering Chavez supporters, some of whom ran through a cloud of tear gas carrying an injured colleague on a stretcher.

Opposition protesters demanded the release of Gen. Carlos Alfonso Martinez, one of about 100 officers who revolted last fall. Martinez was arrested Dec. 30 without a required court order. A judge ordered his release, but he remains under house arrest.

Venezuela's opposition called a strike Dec. 2 to pressure Chavez to call a referendum on his presidency. Venezuela's constitution permits a possible binding vote halfway into Chavez's six-year term, or next August. Chavez rejects an early nonbinding ballot.

Opposition leaders blame Chavez's leftist policies for deep economic troubles and accuse him of grabbing power. The president counters the opposition wants to stage an "economic coup."

The strike has paralyzed oil production in Venezuela, the world's fifth-largest oil exporter and a top supplier to the United States. The strike has helped push international oil prices above \$30 per barrel. Oil workers have defied a back-to-work order by the Supreme Court.

Talks mediated by the Organization of American States have made little progress.

The strike has forced Chavez to seek food and fuel abroad. On Friday, he discussed aid for Venezuela with an Algerian diplomat. He also met with OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria on the deadlocked negotiations.

Chavez vowed to defeat the strike and said he had the full support of Latin American governments. He urged the opposition to abandon the strike and spend the next seven months preparing for a binding referendum.

Ali Rodriguez, president of the state-owned oil company, told the state news agency Venpres the government has purchased 250,000 barrels of gasoline from a U.S. firm and 600,000 more barrels from Russia. Venezuela also has received gasoline shipments from Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago.

The government is trying to negotiate long-term gasoline import deals with those countries, as well as Ecuador, Colombia and Mexico, to meet the domestic demand of 400,000 barrels a day.

Analysts say importing gasoline will force Chavez' government to make budget cuts and slash social spending — a move that could weaken his support among the poor, his power base.

Mosque preacher prays for victory over United States

BY NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The preacher at Friday prayers told a story of how God led ancient Arab soldiers to victory over a stronger infidel army, but his message failed to hearten the faithful who fear war with a modern foe — America.

"I'm afraid of war and worried about my sons," said Um Satar, a mother of five boys.

Sermons at Baghdad mosques on the Muslim world's day of prayer came as the Iraqi government-controlled press voiced skepticism about President Bush's declaration Thursday that he hoped the crisis over Iraq's alleged weapons program could be settled without war.

The official daily Al-Iraq said "the dog's tail will never be straight" — the Arabic version of the English maxim "you can't teach an old dog new tricks."

At the Mother of All Battles Mosque — which takes its name from President Saddam Hussein's label for the Gulf War — preacher Thaeer Ibrahim Al-Shomari told the old story to hearten Iraqis who are bombarded by their media and leaders with U.S. threats of war and Baghdad's pledges to defeat any invader.

"The Arab tribes, with their modest armies and modest weapons, confronted the infidel army," Al-Shomari said. "We have to learn the lessons of this story from the Quran. ... Don't lose hope, O Muslims.

"God save the Iraqi people and give them victory over the Americans. ... God ruin their tanks, their soldiers, their weapons and their cannons," Al-Shomari prayed.

As the preacher talked of war, some women wept. Among them was Um Satar, who like others willing to talk to reporters gave only an Arab nickname derived from the name of her oldest son. Um Satar means "mother of Satar."

"Why not cry?" asked the 46-year-old woman. "I lost relatives in the war with Iran, five cousins. I don't want to lose my sons this time."

Um Fahd, 36, who has two sons and

two daughters, complained that other Arab nations were not supporting Iraq and said she was weary of U.S.-Iraqi tensions.

Bush threatens war with Iraq if Baghdad fails to give up its weapons of mass destruction as required by U.N. resolutions adopted after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Iraq insists its weapons programs were destroyed during and after the war.

On Thursday, Bush said he was "hopeful we won't have to go to war," but he still expressed skepticism about Saddam's intentions.

Al-Iraq, the government daily, was prompted to ask "has Bush suddenly become rational again and wakened from his illusions, has he thought about the consequences of his aggression and its destructive effects?"

The paper answered its own query, saying the president's words were "only ... aimed at cooling the atmosphere and reducing the heat of the world's public anger caused by

his threats and preparations for war."

The arms inspectors had a routine day Friday. They revisited the Al Rasheed Co., southwest of Baghdad, which makes missile propellants, and the Al Basil chemical company on the capital's outskirts. They also went to a former storage facility and test site for chemical weapons in the desert 125 miles west of Baghdad.

U.N. officials gave no indication of what the weapons experts found in their inspections as is their custom.

Iraq asserts that five weeks of resumed U.N. inspections have turned up nothing to prove Baghdad has breached Security Council resolutions on weapons of mass destruction.

But in New York, U.N. chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said Friday that he had "a couple of questions" to raise with Iraqi officials about their weapons declaration when he returns to Baghdad this month.

Blix said last month that Iraq's declara-

tion had not provided sufficient details about its production of missile engines, recovery of 50 destroyed conventional warheads, the loss of 550 mustard gas shells, production and weaponization of the deadly VX nerve agent and its unilateral destruction of biological warfare agents.

In Kuwait, a U.S. congresswoman said Washington could not be sure Saddam does not have weapons of mass destruction unless U.N. inspectors interview hundreds of Iraqi scientists.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher, a California Democrat and member of the House Armed Services Committee, said finding out what Iraq's scientists have done since U.N. inspections were suspended in 1998 was vital to getting the true picture of Saddam's arsenal.

The U.N. resolution which returned the inspectors in late November allows private questioning of any Iraqi scientist and provides for them to be taken out of the country.

BMW introduces the new model Rolls-Royce

BY ROBERT BARR

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — The new Rolls-Royce, with its familiar Spirit of Ecstasy hood ornament — but the guts of a BMW — made its first public appearance Friday since the German automaker bought the legendary brand name. The big car lived up to another Rolls-Royce tradition as well: a whopping price tag of \$333,000.

With its instantly recognizable radiator grill and a 6.8-liter V-12 engine that propels it from 0-60 mph in 5.7 seconds, the new car — known as the Phantom — stretches 19 feet, 2 inches.

"There is certainly nothing submissive about the front of a Rolls-Royce. There shouldn't be," said Ian Cameron, the chief designer.

"We've always said this is a 120 percent car — it's a lot bigger than a normal car on the road," Cameron said in an interview with British Broadcasting Corp. television.

Weighing 5,478 pounds, the new Rolls-Royce features a six-speed transmission and average fuel economy of 17.1 miles per gallon.

Rolls-Royce will give the public a first close-up look Monday at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit — a venue that emphasizes the importance of the U.S. market. The company hopes to sell a thousand cars a year, 400 of them in the United States.

Rolls-Royce has been a German-owned brand since 1998, when Volkswagen outbid BMW to buy the British automaker, its factory in Crewe in northwest England and the Bentley brand for \$790 million.

However, BMW bought the Rolls-Royce name for \$66 million from Rolls-Royce PLC, the aerospace company. BMW agreed to let Volkswagen continue producing Rolls-Royce cars until 2003, and the last of the Crewe-built Rolls was finished on Aug. 30.

BMW built a \$100 million assembly plant at Goodwood, near Chichester, 70 miles south of London. Sir Henry Royce, who formed a partnership with Charles Rolls in 1906, lived just 10 miles from the new plant, at West Wittering.

Engines and bodies of the new Rolls-Royce are shipped from Germany to Goodwood, where the cars are painted, and the leather upholstery and wood trim is fitted.

Tony Gott, chairman and chief executive of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, said the new model was inspired by the Phantoms of the 1930s, the Silver Cloud of the 1950s and the Silver Shadow of the 1960s.

"Our aim has been to recreate the legend of Rolls-Royce, to rekindle the flame that burned so brightly in the heyday of the marque, to create a new benchmark for the automotive world, to create the Rolls-Royce of motor cars," Gott said at the news media preview.



SPORTS

Everybody knows each other in the NFL playoffs

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

In the season's first week, the Giants played the 49ers, and the Falcons were in Green Bay.

Division rivals Cleveland and Pittsburgh played each other twice. And until this season, the Jets and Colts were in the same division and played twice a year.

Familiarity is the rule in the wild-card round as the NFL playoffs begin this weekend.

"We know a little bit more about them because we played them, so we're familiar with what they do and what their philosophy is," says Atlanta coach Dan Reeves, who takes the Falcons to Lambeau field to play the Packers on Saturday night.

"But it still boils down to the players." A look at this weekend's games:

■ Indianapolis (10-6) at New York Jets (9-7) (1:30 p.m. Saturday)

The Friendship Bowl.

Tony Dungy of the Colts and Herman Edwards of the Jets met at a college all-star game in Hawaii in 1977 and coached together in Kansas City and Tampa Bay. They also are the only black coaches in the NFL — and this is the first playoff game in league history between minority head coaches.

"I think it's going to spotlight the minority issue, and that's not all bad," says Dungy, who in his first year in Indianapolis turned around a 6-10 team.

The improvement was largely due to defense. The Colts went from 29th in yards

allowed a year ago to eighth this season.

The Jets switched gears, too — from 1-4 to the AFC East title, due largely to the work of Chad Pennington, who replaced Vinny Testaverde at quarterback. Pennington, a friend of the Colts' Peyton Manning, completed nearly 70 percent of his passes and led the league in passer rating.

These franchises have played 63 times since their last postseason game: the 1969 Super Bowl, when Joe Namath and New York upset the Baltimore Colts.

■ Atlanta (9-6-1) at Green Bay (5 p.m. Saturday)

The NFL and the networks liked last year's Snow Bowl in New England so much that they decided to have a January night game at Lambeau Field. Surprise! The forecast for Saturday night is snow.

The Packers beat the Falcons 37-34 in Week 1, an early indication of Atlanta QB Michael Vick's impact — he ran nine times for 72 yards and completed 15-of-23 for 209 yards.

Brett Favre has never lost a cold-weather game, and the Packers have never lost a home game in the playoffs.

But ...

"I think of the conditions in the Ice Bowl," says Reeves, who played for the Cowboys against the Packers in that classic game on Dec. 31, 1967. "I don't think they had any advantage over us, I don't think they were used to that. You can't try to get used to that kind of weather. It's ridiculous."

■ Cleveland (9-7) at Pittsburgh (10-5-1) (10 a.m. Sunday)

After starting the season 0-2, the Steelers began to right themselves by beating Cleveland 16-13 in Pittsburgh. The Steelers later beat the Browns 23-20 in Cleveland.

Pittsburgh was a preseason favorite in the AFC but had an up-and-down season. Still, the Steelers enter the playoffs with legitimate hopes.

The Browns, making their first playoff appearance since returning to the NFL as an expansion team in 1999, got a real boost from rookie running back William Green, who came on strong in the second half of the season.

Cleveland is without quarterback Tim Couch, who broke his leg in a victory over Atlanta last week. The folks in the Dawg Pound don't seem to care — they've been calling all year for Kelly Holcomb, who will replace Couch for as long as Cleveland remains in the playoffs.

■ New York Giants (10-6) at San

Francisco (10-6) (1:30 p.m. Sunday)

The Giants won their last four games and have improved dramatically on offense since a 16-13 loss to the 49ers at the Meadowlands on that opening Thursday night.

San Francisco, on the other hand, has been on cruise control — it had an easy run in the NFC West and stumbled home.

Weather could be a factor in this matchup of teams that met in the playoffs five times from 1981-90. It's monsoon season in the Bay Area and the Candlestick field isn't the best under any conditions.

But the 49ers are more concerned with the development of the Giants' rookie tight end, Jeremy Shockey, who developed into a true leader this season.

"It's going to be a great matchup," says 49ers linebacker Julian Peterson, who shut down Kansas City Chiefs tight end Tony Gonzalez. "I'm going to have fun. I'm so motivated right now it is unbelievable."

No. 2 Ohio State 31, No. 1 Miami 24, 2 overtimes

BY RICHARD ROSENBLATT

AP Football Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. — Perfectly shocking! Perfectly thrilling!

Ohio State worked two overtimes to rip the national championship from the confident 'Canes.

Now the Buckeyes are the best.

Maurice Claret ran 6 yards for the winning touchdown, and Ohio State's defense turned back one final Miami bid to tie the game. With that, the Buckeyes completed an unlikely, unbeaten run to their first national title in 34 years with a 31-24 win Friday night at the Fiesta Bowl.

The Buckeyes' upset ended the Hurricanes' bid for a second straight title

and their winning streak at 34 in one of college football's greatest games ever.

But it would have never happened if not for a late pass interference call at the end of the first overtime — which came with Miami players already celebrating an apparent championship.

Instead, the fourth-down call gave Ohio State the chance it needed to tie the game and send it into the second overtime.

By then, it already was a classic — the first national championship game to go into overtime, in a matchup of the nation's last two undefeated teams.

Miami's Todd Sievers sent the game into overtime with his 40-yard field goal on the final play of the fourth quarter.

Pittsburgh Steelers Maddox honored for top comeback

BY BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

Some good came out of the XFL, after all. Just ask the Pittsburgh Steelers, who found their quarterback and The Associated Press NFL Comeback Player of the Year: Tommy Maddox.

Maddox easily beat Miami running back Robert Edwards in voting conducted by the AP and announced Thursday.

A flop as a first-round draft pick who became an insurance salesman before resurrecting his career in Arena Football and the one-season XFL, Maddox earned 24 votes from a panel of 48 sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity Pittsburgh's given me, not only to be a part of their organization but to go out there and play," Maddox said as he prepared for Sunday's playoff game with Cleveland. "It's been a good year, but we still have a lot of work to do."

Not only did the 31-year-old Maddox come back from past failures to replace Kordell Stewart as the starting quarterback on a division champion, but he returned from one of the season's scariest injuries.

On Nov. 17, in a 31-23 loss at Tennessee, Maddox went down from a seemingly normal hit by linebacker Keith Bulluck. But the quarterback struck his head on the ground and was knocked unconscious. He had no movement in his limbs for more than 30 minutes.

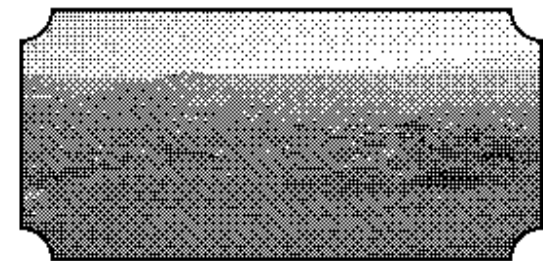
Taken to a hospital, Maddox quickly recovered. And by the Dec. 8 game against Houston, he was back in the lineup.

Asked about the potential for further injury, he said: "If you're worried about that, you shouldn't be playing."

There were many who said Maddox shouldn't be in the NFL after his early struggles. Selected by Denver as the 25th overall selection in the 1992 draft after just two seasons at UCLA, Maddox had little impact in two seasons with the Broncos. He didn't do much for the Rams in 1994 or the Giants in 1995.

The next four seasons included more time selling insurance than playing football. When he did return, it was to the New Jersey Red Dogs of Arena Football, and then to the Los Angeles Xtreme of the XFL.

Maddox was the MVP of that failed league, which got several NFL teams interested in him as a backup.



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- 13 Not out of it
- 14 Plentiful
- 15 Snap, e.g.
- 17 Aplace
- 18 Draw
- 19 Houston team
- 22 Comic
- 23 Ceasar
- 23 Flight makeup
- 24 Rectify
- 25 Galoot
- 27 Epoch
- 30 Long
- 31 Dress in
- 32 Old card game
- 33 Bench
- 34 setting
- 35 Monk's home
- 36 Roof feature
- 38 Antlered beast
- 40 Arab leader
- 41 Annie of "Any Day Now"
- 42 Take it easy

DOWN

- 1 Ming passages
- 2 Michener book
- 3 Dis-honored
- 4 Grime
- 5 Helm tender
- 6 Green shade
- 7 Chair part
- 8 Dr. Dre, for one
- 9 Keys
- 10 Vision-aries
- 16 Jolting spot
- 20 Wheel stuff
- 21 Tease
- 24 In the past
- 25 Mistake
- 26 Asimov book
- 27 Pueblo homes
- 28 Singer Robert
- 29 Types in
- 30 Surgery
- 34 Go, for one
- 36 Superlative suffix
- 37 "You bet!"



Yesterday's answer

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by TERRY & PATTY LEBAN



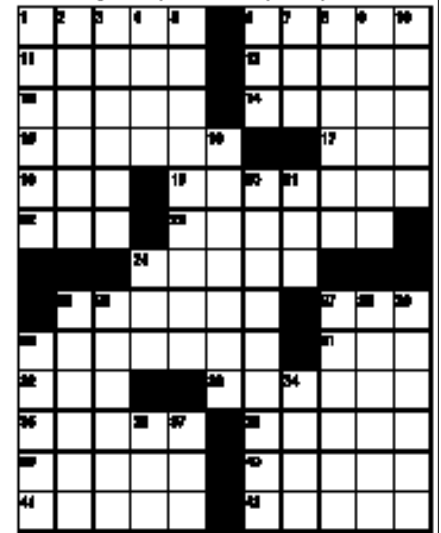
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Woman fakes daughter's illness for money

In December, police in Urbana, Ohio, said they would soon file fraud charges against Teresa Milbrandt, 35, for tricking local people and businesses into giving her more than \$10,000 on behalf of her 7-year-old daughter, who she falsely said had leukemia. Milbrandt apparently never even told her daughter why she had to have her head shaved (to simulate the effects of chemotherapy), but that touch of realism ultimately caused the scheme to collapse when someone noticed the hair had been cut and was not falling out.





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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

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Music Showcase. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

The Red Ribbon Squares, Santa Monica's official square dance club, invites you to enjoy an evening of plus level square dancing, alternating with round dancing, with an A-1 tip during break time. We dance every Saturday at Marine Park from 7:45pm to 10:30pm. Pre-rounds begin at 7:15pm. Admission is \$5 for dancers, including refreshments. Spectators are free. For more information, please call (310)395-3383.

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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. **Adaptation** (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:30, 10:20.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

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

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Love Liza (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00. **The Pianist** (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15.

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. **Far From Heaven** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45.

AERO THEATRE

1328 Montana Ave.
My Big Fat Greek Wedding 5:30, 7:30, 9:30



BACK PAGE



A diamond in the sewage

By The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Call it the diamond in the rough.

Fifteen years after Diane Kurtz lost her engagement ring, it was returned to her by a Hartford sewage treatment plant worker who found it at the bottom of a wastewater drainage pool. He also found her onyx ring that disappeared at the same time.

Kurtz, of New Hartford, believes the rings fell down a sink drain in a bathroom. Kurtz and her husband, Michael, think the rings were pumped out of their septic tank by a contractor who took the waste to the treatment plant.

Bill Zuerblis, a treatment operator at the Metropolitan District Commission's sewage treatment plant in Hartford, found the rings, then did some detective work to find the Kurtzes. He called them Dec. 19.

"He was asking me if I lost anything," said Diane Kurtz, who thought that someone had found car keys she lost earlier the same day. "Finally it dawned on me. My heart started pounding, and I said he found my wedding ring."

Bet pays off for car buyers

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Twenty-eight customers of a West Virginia car dealership received an extra Christmas present after the company gambled on Mother Nature and lost.

As a promotion, Logan Motor Sales promised to pay

any customer who bought a vehicle between Dec. 1 and Dec. 18 \$2,000, if there were at least 2 inches of snow at Raleigh County Memorial Airport near Beckley on Christmas Day.

"It snowed five inches," said Steve Huffman, general manager of the dealership.

Customers deluged the dealership and the airport with phone calls on the day after Christmas.

"I was talking to several people who said, 'We know it hit. We called the airport in Beckley. They said you're about the 20th person who's called today.' They were wearing those poor people out at the airport," Huffman said.

Polar bears don't get sick

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For many Americans, the morning of New Year's Day is for recovering from a hangover. For the Polar Bear, it's for invigorating the soul.

Members of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club dive headlong into the chilly waters of the Atlantic Ocean on New Year's Day, celebrating an annual tradition that dates back 100 years.

"Only in Coney Island would you meet a group of people like this," said John D'Aquino, a Manhattan sound engineer who joined the club 4 1/2 years ago.

And a disparate group they are — from computer animators to postal workers, all linked by the singular belief that swimming in frigid water is good for one's health.

"We have no scientific evidence to back this up; it's all anecdotal, of course," said Ken Krisses, the club's president for the past 15 years. "But we don't ever get sick."

The New Year's dip is the club's premier event, drawing more than 100 swimmers. But every Sunday from late November to late April, 20 to 25 Polar Bears trundle down to the sands of Coney Island and after a round of calisthenics to get the blood flowing, splash around in the frigid water.

"I never liked to wear a hat in wintertime, so my parents always said I should join the Polar Bears. Go figure," Krisses said.

Controversial 2000 ballots given away

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — It's a chance of a lifetime to own a piece of history — chads and all.

Hillsborough County elections officials are giving away 140,000 unused ballots — complete with attached chads — printed for the maligned punch-card machines retired after the 2000 election debacle, said Pam Iorio, the county's elections supervisor.

Anyone wanting some free ballots may pick them up during business hours Thursday or Friday in Iorio's office in downtown Tampa or at the Elections Service Center in suburban Brandon.

All Florida counties that used punch cards in 2000 have since shifted to modern voting machines, such as touch-screen systems.

Ballots that were used in the presidential election and its disputed recounts are sitting in warehouses around the state, while officials decide whether they should be saved for posterity.

Married judges take oath

By The Associated Press

VALPARAISO, Ind. — When David L. Chidester and Mary R. Harper were sworn in as judges, it wasn't the first oath they had taken together.

Chidester, a Porter Superior Court judge, and Harper, judge of Porter Circuit Court, have been married for 10 years.

Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Nancy Harris Vardik, who administered the oath of office to the couple on New Year's Day, said they were believed to be the first judges in the state who were married to each other.

Chidester, a Democrat, was beginning his first term of elected judicial office. His wife, a Republican, was taking the oath after being re-elected.

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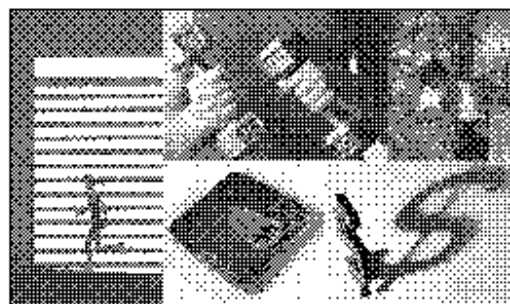
3

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