

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Getting wired



Crews wait for materials to be lifted via crane to the roof of the Equity Office building at Second Street and Arizona Avenue on Friday. Workmen installed a new cell tower for Sprint on top of the building, which is supposed to give the company's cellular phone users better reception in downtown Santa Monica.

Andy Fixmer/Daily Press

New school 'tools' try to teach kids how to play nice

District combats name-calling, bullying with experimental program

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Outside the principal's office at Roosevelt Elementary School one recent afternoon, two guilty-looking kids sat on opposite sides of a wooden bench waiting for the inevitable.

But when a teacher finally approached the two children, it wasn't to punish them but to reinforce the values of a new experimental program aimed at confronting violence among students.

"Why didn't you close your door?" the teacher asked one child. Then looking at the other,

"As most parents know, the playground can be an emotional war zone for our kids, and anything the school can do to lessen that is a major help."

— MARY BETH DELUCIA
Parent

she asked, "And why didn't you use your stop sign and exit?"

The program, called "Cool Tools," teaches kids strategies for successfully dealing with name-calling and bullying. The teacher was going over strategies kids are being taught on how to prevent a conflict from escalating into a fight — which in this

case was over a soccer ball being kicked over a fence.

Cool Tools was developed by educators at the University of California, Los Angeles' Graduate School of Education. It's being tried out for the first time with Roosevelt fourth graders, and if it's successful, the program could

See TOOLS, page 5

Santa Monica's homeless laws are not enforceable yet

Education, training and warnings first need to happen

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Two laws effectively designed to reduce the homeless population downtown have not yet gone into effect, despite that they were passed more than two months ago.

Laws usually go into effect 30 days after they are passed. However, city officials say they want to educate the community about the laws before issuing misdemeanor citations to those who violate them.

The ordinances, which were passed in October, were aimed at appeasing business owners, tourists and residents, who complained that the city had become a magnet for homeless people who panhandle and urinate in public.

The majority of the council voted to make it illegal to sleep in front of downtown businesses' doorways from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The second law requires groups who feed the hungry to go through a rigorous government process to get a permit from the city and the Los Angeles County Health Department to provide meals in a public place.

The passages of the laws were

and public safety and health concerns were just an excuse to pass laws that are designed to deter the homeless from coming to downtown Santa Monica.

Regardless, the laws will go into effect when officials are ready to enforce them. The no

"This is not about restricting but doing it in a safe manner and in an environment where they serve is appropriate."

— TERRANCE POWELL
Chief environmental health specialist for L.A. County

touted as a way to protect the public from unsanitary conditions on the streets and a health threat to those who accept free food from charity groups, who may not be following Los Angeles County Health Department regulations.

But some say the passing of the laws were politically motivated during the election season,

sleeping in doorways law could be enforced by the Santa Monica Police Department by the end of the month, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

The SMPD will be able to enforce the law once the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office

See LAWS, page 6

Apartments threatened by shoreline collapse

BY ANNA OBERTHUR
Associated Press Writer

PACIFICA — From their apartments perched on the edge of the Pacific Ocean, the residents of Esplanade Avenue have a spectacular 180-degree view. But if the weak cliffs continue to crumble, their homes will be in danger of plunging to the sand below.

A shoreline collapse like the one that resulted in the destruction of seven houses just down the street in 1998 is ultimately inevitable, officials say. It's just

a matter of time before the cliff is eaten up by the sea. The question is, how much time?

"Overall, you take a look at a broad history of the coastline, and erosion does occur," said Pacifica's assistant fire chief Steve Brandvold. "Whether it happens two years from now or 50 years from now is beyond our ability to predict."

The city is monitoring three seaside apartment buildings in this town a few miles south of San Francisco. More than 12 feet of the cliff have eroded

See COLLAPSE, page 7

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Knowing when to pull back can be as instrumental to success as knowing when to move ahead. You're the expert at charging forward. Work on the art of lying back. Watch the world come to you. Others prove highly responsive. Tonight: Take your time.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might want to think through a decision involving a friend or group meeting. With perspective, you're more likely to get what you want. Take a leadership position, if need be. Understand what should happen. Tonight: Follow your friends.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Take hold of a vision and, for once, make it a reality. Reach out for others who seem most favorably disposed to your long-term desires. Remember, you don't need to do all the work. Let others pitch in. They can only be too delighted. Tonight: In the limelight.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ While others rant and rave, you wonder what is going on here. Be as helpful as you can when dealing with others, which looks like not only giving feedback but also being willing to pitch in. Tonight: Buy a new CD.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Give others the respect they deserve. You might discover just how resourceful an associate is. Together you tighten up a project and allow greater possibilities to enter your life, if you defer. In a personal relationship, you grow and develop. Tonight: Let someone else choose.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your caring and loving ways do make a difference. Please, count on it. Sometimes others respond harshly when looking for different answers. Remain open and gentle. You'll get the results you desire. Work with associates. Tonight: Happy at home. Let a loved one dote on you.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Pace yourself and handle the moment efficiently. You have a way with words. Use your talent and skills to get past a problem. Understand a friend or loved one better by accepting who he or she is. Good feelings filter through the air. Tonight: Luxuriate in a favorite way.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Allow your caring to flow, and your creativity will soar as well. The two are linked, whether you like it or not. Be more direct in your dealings with a loved one. You'll get a strong response. Be careful with a tendency to be extravagant. Tonight: Ever playful.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your energy might go in a contrary direction from your goals, or perhaps goals that someone else decided on. Learn to accept this innate rebelliousness in you. Your laughter helps relax a tense scene. Tonight: Just be yourself.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might not always understand what makes a loved one do what he or she does. You also might react unusually strongly to this person's energy. Don't give in to a grudge; rather, flow with conversations. Tonight: Have a long-overdue talk.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others knock on your door as they seek you out. You feel the good intentions, but there is a minor issue, such as work. You might need to screen your calls and make the most out of your time. Schedule fun and games for later. Tonight: Now, go with the flow.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ All eyes turn to you as a source of reliable and good information. You might not always be sure what you want, but others seem to be able to point you in the right direction. Why not follow a boss's or older relative's directive? Tonight: What you want.



QUOTE of the DAY

**"A well-written life is almost
as rare as a well-spent one."**

— Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public feedback needed for 'Community Voices'

By Daily Press staff

The City of Santa Monica will host a Community Voices Gathering — the culmination of a community-wide human services planning process — on Saturday, Jan. 11, at John Adams Middle School, 2425 16th St. from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. In 1999-2000, the city's Human Services Division engaged in an exhaustive planning process called Community Voices. Through the program, the city partnered with the RAND Corporation to develop a profile of the Santa Monica community and, with the participation of residents, service providers and the business community, determined the priorities for the city's \$ 8-million grant program, which supports over 62 different non-profits.

This year's Community Voices project takes a special look at the needs of older youth (11-23 years) and updates — via the RAND Corporation — the 1999 community profile, and identifies through surveys, 50 different discussion groups and public hearings new human service needs and trends. Today, with an economic decline and shrinking resources, determining the city's funding priorities for the next three years requires thoughtful choices.

Participants will be offered a light breakfast and have the opportunity to meet with more than 25 community organizations to learn about the resources available. Workshops, led by a professional artist-facilitator, will also be held to creatively explore important social problems and strategies to address them.

Parking, child-care (ages 3 and above), information booths, Spanish and sign language interpretation and special activities for youth will be provided.

During these challenging economic times, it's especially important that the City of Santa Monica hear from the community. Teens are especially encouraged to participate.

For more information on Community Voices, call Human Services Division at (310) 458-8701, TTY 458-8696, or e-mail: human-services@santa-monica.org. For disability-related accommodation requests (such as sign language interpreter), please contact Janet Hand at 458-8701, TTY 458-8696, or via e-mail at janet-hand@santa-monica.org at least three working days in advance. Big Blue Bus lines 7 and 8 serve this location.

Youth Commission group reaches out

By Daily Press staff

People for a Santa Monica Youth Commission, a newly formed Santa Monica-based group currently enlisting volunteers, endorsements and support, will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 7, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Ken Edwards Center located at 1527 4th St. in Santa Monica (between Broadway and Colorado).

Students, youth group leaders, teachers, school administrators, parents and concerned individuals are invited to share their ideas and suggestions on how a Santa Monica Youth Commission could be effective and empowering, and how the community can help it to be established in a timely manner.

Members and city staff from the three-year-old Malibu Youth Commission will be at the Jan. 7 meeting to share their experiences and offer their input.

For further information or to RSVP, call People for a Santa Monica Youth Commission at (310) 399-1000.



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Dawn patrol should be clean with good size today when, at six o'clock, tides hit a moderate, three-foot low.

Venice, Playa and Manhattan locals will be stoked on the west-northwest swell. It arrived late Sunday and has plenty of energy left. Sources predict peeling, chest-to-shoulder-high rights at the breakwater this morning.

Tuesday another swell is due. With more west to its angle, at roughly 280 degrees, this new swell looks to put well-exposed spots in chest- to head-high surf again.

In general, water has cleaned up considerably since the rains. Bacteria levels are down to within official county Health Department limits, except for in Malibu, mainly at Surfrider Beach, where pollution remains a problem.



Today's Tides:

High- 12:20 a.m. 3.82'
Low- 4:58 a.m. 2.52'
High- 10:54 a.m. 5.33'
Low- 6:17 p.m. -0.23'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Poor	Not available
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Poor	Not available
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	F
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	4-5'/Fair	2-3'/Poor	A
El Porto	4-5'/Fair	2-3'/Poor	A

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The Q Line

The city was sued on Friday for instituting a law that requires charitable groups to have permits from the Los Angeles County Health Department and the city in order to feed the homeless. The charities argue it's their constitutional right to hand out free food.

City officials say the law is designed to reduce significant public health risks that the meal programs create, as well as to attach the free food with Santa Monica's social services (the city spends \$2 million annually on homeless services).

But many believe politics played a role in the law's passing, which they say was

designed as a way to get rid of the homeless population here by inadvertently eliminating food lines in city parks.

So this week Q-Line wants to know:

"Do you think the new law is really about protecting the public, or is it to get rid of the food lines and subsequently the homeless?"

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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LETTERS

Chamber needs to enter political arena

Editor:

The best Christmas present and cheer for the new year came in the form of your front page story, Dec. 19. This was when the SMDP reported that the chamber of commerce is entering Santa Monica's political arena. It was almost like heralding an antidote for the plague. In this case, a political plague that has consumed Santa Monica and its former quiet, unobtrusive character, replacing it with a trendy, cold progressive agenda.

From the days of my youth, I remember small business and residents joining together to create a city for the people living here. City councils came and went. Some of their leadership was creative, and some was short-sighted. But whatever flavor the council was, at any given time, change usually replaced what fell out of favor with the residents. This shuffling of the guard acted as healthy checks and balances for Santa Monica, helping it to maintain its quaint, quiet seaside lifestyle.

Such a lifestyle is no more. The political deck has been stacked and stagnated for decades by one political machine. And, as genius as Santa Monica for Renters Rights political strategies might be, they have pretty much erased almost everything but the memory of how great Santa Monica used to be.

Polarization of business and City Hall, rampant over-development to subsidize growing social services, homelessness, degrading of our educational institutions is only a partial listing of what residents say is wrong with the Santa Monica of today.

But these concerns have fallen on the deaf ears of leaders who already have preset policies filling their heads. It has been an uneven playing field for years, hogged by a virtually unstoppable political powerhouse, until maybe now.

News of the chamber's future active involvement in our city's politics is a substantial catalyst that could produce changes that are so desperately needed — new ideas, new personalities, fair oversight on policy making. For instance, a level-headed City Council would have honored the Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation petition to enact their moderated version — a non-adversarial approach to historical preservation. But, our current majority prefers a costly election process, because the homeowners' view contrasts their own ideological one of the world. An election would give SMRR time to put the screws to the homeowners, distort their initiative and hopefully keep all the toys in their own sandbox via a well-orchestrated election — in other words legislatively thwart any independent thinking outside of their own.

The chamber offers hope of turning the bias around. With its reasoned and organized influence, it can showcase candidates and issues without agendas, only visions of what would be positive for ALL Santa Monicans. This alone should encourage our support for the chamber and their bold endeavor to become a part of the solution by addressing the problems of Santa Monica — more fair representation in our municipal government.

Jan Tousignant
Santa Monica

There are few homeless in China, despite population



I am suffering from massive jet lag, but I am writing this column from Beijing.

I am here to help a business with American clients for 10 days, all expenses paid. I'll be going to Shanghai by tomorrow. It's kind of ironic that a homeless person would be able to go to China. But it goes to show how hard work pays off in the long run. My friend who set this up has seen the type of person I am and that's why I was able to go.

I have not seen any homeless yet, but I would imagine that is because even a

Communist country takes care of its own before trying to take care of the world. The people are very friendly and helpful. And the country itself is extremely beautiful. I am very happy to have been able to make this trip.

I feel that as Americans we can learn a thing or two about taking care of our own from these people. We are so busy trying to right the wrongs of the world that we do not think about what other people think about our sticking our noses in their business.

How do we know that these countries we are "helping" even want or have asked for our help? And to tell the truth, most of their dilemma is CAUSED by our spreading capitalism to their countries under the guise of "democracy."

By doing this, the government has hurt more people around the world than our government lets us know about. Then our government goes in and tells them that we

will "fix" them while children in this country are lacking in education, medical care and recreation. Families are being forced to live on the streets and are starving. Our government has a lot to learn about minding its own business and clean up its own backyard.

The lies and deception in the government has even gotten on the nerves of the U.N. inspectors. They tell them that Hussein have all these weapons of mass destruction yet the intelligence that our government claims to have has not been fully disclosed.

And now North Korea is thumbing its nose at the world by blatantly defying the U.N. resolutions against nuclear weapons. But they are not a threat, right?

I think that this government has to start being honest and forthright to the people. We, as the citizens, have a right to say whether we go to war with anyone and not be deceived. We have a right to not go to

war and to make our government start taking care of the people who vote and hold that power under the Constitution.

We, as citizens, should start taking that power from the ones who will only destroy the freedom we have in this country. And we should start looking at other ideas; we should start taking the things that work in other countries and use them here.

As I said, I have not seen one homeless person here yet, and the person who set up this trip for me tells me that he only saw five in the week he was here before. What's wrong with this picture? A country that has more people in its military than we have in the United States and nearly two times the population. How do you explain that? How does that make sense?

You, as citizens, should ask yourself these questions. More from China next week.

Charles Springer, who is homeless and lives in Santa Monica, is a regular columnist.

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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LOCAL



Parents welcome district's newest tool against bullying

TOOLS, from page 1

spread quickly to schools nationwide.

Since September, students have been taught the real world impacts of the playground scuffles and name-calling that is all too common at schools across the country.

They are told teasing other students about their weight can lead to eating disorders and even death. Teachers explain how picking on others who seem different can ruin their lives before they have even begun.

Those might seem like heavy concepts for fourth graders to digest, but to Ann "Ava" De La Sota — the UCLA professor who developed Cool Tools — it's a dialogue that has to begin in elementary school.

"By the time they get to junior high, their hormones take over and there's almost no getting in at that point," she said. "Adolescence is a cruel act of God, it could have been handled better."

"No, we need to reach our children at the elementary school level, when their minds are still open and we can get them to instinctively react when they're put into a difficult situation," the professor said.

Roosevelt is nestled among one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in Santa Monica, where million-dollar homes line quiet, tree-shrouded streets. Its students — who boast some of the highest test scores in the district — are a mix of children from the wealthy homes north of Montana Avenue and luxury apartments and condominium complexes north of Wilshire Boulevard.

But if Columbine taught America anything, it's that the worst things can happen in the best communities.

After the spate of suburban high school shootings devastated the nation, the United States Secret Service profiled the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, among others regionally, and found high levels of tension between students, said school district administrators.

Alarmed local educators cracked down on students found fighting and name-calling, but the undercurrents remained. In an attempt to better understand student anxiety, administrators began interviewing those caught fighting and picking on others.

"We found they felt alienated from their peers," said Marolyn Freedman, the school district's safe schools/pupil services coordinator. "In some cases, they had been teased and picked on to the breaking point."

To counteract any potential acts of violence, administrators knew they had to make students feel more connected to the community. Kids who feel connected tend to fit in better with their peers, perform better academically and become more attached to their school, Freedman said.

That's where De La Sota came into the picture. She had developed Cool Tools at a UCLA laboratory school called Seeds University Elementary, where fighting has been almost eliminated and name-

calling is rare. With the program's early success, De La Sota began looking for an elementary school where she could set up a pilot program.

At Roosevelt, De La Sota said she found an economically and racially diverse school in an open-minded district with an emphasis on safe schools. It was exactly what she was looking for.

UCLA put up \$7,500 to run the pilot program. Cool Tools is relatively cheap to run because its most expensive component is a tool box of about \$100 worth of props. Each object in the tool box is a metaphor, representing a principal of the program.

"No, we need to reach our children at the elementary school level, when their minds are still open and we can get them to instinctively react when they're put into a difficult situation."

— ANN DE LA SOTA
UCLA professor, 'Cool Tools' developer

One exercise has a teacher squirt out a tube of toothpaste. Volunteer students are selected from the class to try to put the paste back in. When the kids realize it's futile, the teacher explains it's the same with insults — once they are squirted into the open, they can never be put back.

Teachers must go through several hours of training with De La Sota on the curriculum and learn how to use classroom incidents as they happen to teach the program's concepts. According to De La Sota, it's at these times when the meaning of the program is most likely to sink in with kids.

"It doesn't always happen in the classroom; it's in the hallways, at the water fountain or on the playground," she said. "These put-downs that kids use today are so cruel I don't want anybody to be subjected to them."

"We're taking a moral stance and telling our kids teasing and picking on others is not OK," she said.

Many parents of Roosevelt students say they have been noticing a difference. Mary Beth DeLucia said she believes her child feels less threatened and seems to enjoy going to school more.

"I'm so glad they are trying something," she said. "As most parents know, the playground can be an emotional war zone for our kids, and anything the school can do to lessen that is a major help."

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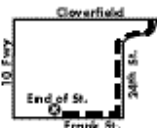
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LOCAL

Officials want to tie free meals with city programs

LAWS, from page 1

finishes writing the language that will appear on signs posted on businesses that indicate they don't want people sleeping there. Once the signs are placed, Santa Monica police officers will begin patrolling the downtown area looking for violators, Fabrega said.

First-time infractions will carry warnings to people who sleep in doorways. After that, violators will be charged with misdemeanors, Fabrega said.

The second law focused on food distributors will take much longer to enforce, officials say. And if some individuals are relying on the Los Angeles Health Department to help remove the homeless by shutting down food programs, they could be sadly mistaken.

A top Los Angeles County Health Department official said it could be as late as this spring before the law is actually enforced by local police.

Terrance Powell, chief environmental health specialist for L.A. County, said his organization will work with Santa Monica officials in identifying every person who hands out free food to the homeless.

A city staff report said as many as 30 private groups distributed thousands of meals each month and that serving meals on the street could pose "significant public health risks" because sanitary facilities are not readily available and the handouts attract crowds.

Powell hopes to educate and train the groups on how to prepare, store and serve food to the public in the next two to three months. They will be required to follow the health department's regulations in food distribution, just like the thousands of businesses in L.A. County who sell food. The food providers will be permitted and regulated by the county's Health Department, just like every restaurant is.

"This is not about restricting but doing it in a safe manner and in an environment where they serve is appropriate," Powell said. "Public health is our business and that's what we are after ... ensuring that an at-risk population gets safe food."

Powell said he and the city must find an appropriate location to serve the food, which may not be city parks because they lack the proper amenities like enough bathrooms, a facility for food servers to wash their hands and trash service.

City officials' goal is to tie the free meal programs to the city's social services so the homeless aren't just getting a free meal, but also using the programs designed to lift them off the streets.

Powell said it's possible to relocate the meal programs to the facilities that house the city's social services, which have the proper amenities to serve food safely.

After the training period is over, local police will patrol Santa Monica looking for food distributors who are not properly permitted by the health department and the city.

Santa Monica also plans to enforce a law already on the books that restricts large groups to distribute food only three times in a 90-day period. The city also requires that groups over 150 people get a permit from City Hall to use public spaces.

By enforcing those already established laws, some people — including business interests and residents — hope many of the food distributors will disappear from

Santa Monica and the food lines will become less frequent.

Powell, who has lived in Santa Monica for the past 10 years, understands the health department is caught in the politics of the city's homeless problem. But Powell said he hopes the city understands his main goal is to create a safe environment for food distribution and he is less concerned about the state's 90-day restriction.

"Our issue is not how often but how well (food is distributed)," Powell said. "It seems like a waste of time and money if it's just to make them go away."

"We work in 88 cities, there is always local agendas," he added. "My intention is not just to shut them off, but to empower them."

**"It's possible through
the training that
they'll find other places
to feed people. I think
it remains to be seen."**

— MARSHA MOUTRIE
City Attorney

But the effect may be that some food distributors will decide that it's too much hassle to get the necessary permits, or they'll decide to work with the city's social service providers.

"It's possible through the training that they'll find other places to feed people," said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie who crafted the laws. "I think it remains to be seen."

Meanwhile, advocates for the homeless showed their defiance of a city crackdown on public feeding by filing a federal lawsuit last Friday.

The National Lawyers Guild, on behalf of several charitable groups and people, is seeking a court ban on enforcement of the ordinance. The suit contends the law violates the right to engage in "expressive, associational or religious activities."

But those activities have to be safe, Powell contends.

"I don't care if someone sues," he said. "If you look at the (homeless) population, there is no safety net for them if they get sick from food borne illnesses."

Mayor Richard Bloom, who along with Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, introduced the laws to the council, said the impetus behind them was to make sure free meals were attached to the city's social service programs like they were years ago.

"We had brought ourselves to a place where we were spending money in great programs but the feeding programs in the parks were directly counter-productive to our programs," Bloom said. "What happened was it continued that way because the policy was ignored. All we really did was step back and say 'what did we agree to?'"

"It's not unlikely that there are homeless people who will suffer as a result of what we are doing, but I think there are far more that will benefit," he added.

STATE



Fatal train accident



The wreckage of a car is shown after it was hit by a Metrolink commuter train Friday in Rialto, Calif. The driver of the car was killed.

Jonathan J. Dwyer/Associated Press

Cities build seawalls to protect pricey homes

COLLAPSE, from page 1

since the first winter storms hit in December, leaving a 15-foot-wide, half-moon shaped gap in one spot along the narrow corridor between the apartment buildings and the sea.

Officials will consider evacuating the residents if 10 more feet erode.

"We will be very conservative. We want to try to give ourselves four to five days to evaluate things so we don't have to do a midnight evacuation where people are running out in pajamas," Brandvold said.

Two residents already have chosen to leave. They moved out after the building's owner and the fire department circulated a letter about the situation.

"Try living with people telling you your house could crumble away at any minute," Patty Martinez told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Other residents aren't so concerned.

"To be honest, I'm not worried about it. The cliffs haven't shifted at all," said Alan Dodds, 33, who has lived in his apartment for a year. He says he won't be going anywhere until he has to. "I'm just going to wait until they say evacuate. You can't beat the view."

As development has increased along California's sheer coastal cliffs, many cities have built seawalls to protect real estate from erosion caused by the crashing surf.

But seawalls don't do much to stop groundwater from seeping in from above, or to prevent weak soil — like Pacifica's soft sand from ancient dunes and rivers — from sloughing off as it becomes saturat-

ed, said Monty Hampton, a coastal geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

"I'm not an engineer, but my opinion is yes, that that is just an unstable area," Hampton said of Esplanade Avenue. "That material is so weak, eventually there are going to be some major problems."

"That material is so weak, eventually there are going to be some major problems."

— MONTY HAMPTON
U.S. Geological Survey, geologist

When the 1998 El Nino storms wreaked havoc on Pacifica's coastline — where cliffs are between 60 and 100 feet high — the bluffs just south of the current slide were deemed uninhabitable. Seven homes were condemned and had to be destroyed.

Millard Tong, who owns the apartments on Esplanade Avenue, isn't waiting around for erosion to swallow up his real estate. He says he plans to build a seawall. He's already diverting runoff water away from the cliff through plastic tubes that will eventually become permanent.

"This is a great investment," Tong said. "I can't let it go down the mountain either."

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STATE

Reef builder's fight threatens Coastal Commission

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
Associated Press Writer

NEWPORT BEACH — The California Coastal Commission wanted to sink Rodolphe Streichenberger's plans to grow forests of marine life on reefs made from rope, tires and plastic jugs.

Instead, the 74-year-old Frenchman threatens to sink the commission.

Last week, a state appellate court ruled the commission that regulates development along 1,100 miles of coastline violates the state Constitution. The court held that the 12-member panel violates the separation of powers clause since lawmakers control a majority of appointments.

The ruling came in response to a 2000 lawsuit filed by Streichenberger and his roughly 20-member nonprofit group, the Marine Forests Society. He sued after the commission denied a retroactive permit for 10 acres of artificial reefs he had begun to assemble 900 feet off the coast here, in waters 40 feet deep.

Since Monday's ruling, lawmakers have scrambled to draft legislation to fix the appointment issue and save the 31-year-old commission.

The Coastal Commission also was expected to vote Wednesday to appeal the ruling, Executive Director Peter Douglas said.

Until then, the commission's previous actions against Streichenberger and his group — including a 1999 order to remove one to two acres of habitat already in place — are on hold.

Streichenberger came to the United States in 1986 and soon began his project to create artificial reefs, hoping to undo what overfishing and pollution had done to coastal habitats.

"We have to remake them. If we have destroyed something, we can restore it. We just needed a technique — a technique that is cheap," Streichenberger said.

The first lifeline he extended to the ocean was rope, which he affixed to the ocean bottom so mussels could grab hold and flourish. From there, he began seeding the

ocean with 1,500 used tires, PVC tubing and plastic jugs in a bid to create — cheaply — something to anchor envisioned forests of kelp and other marine life on the otherwise barren, sandy ocean bottom.

He received approval from Newport Beach officials and a lease from the state Department of Fish and Game. What he didn't have was the blessing of the Coastal Commission, which in 1993 determined that the project violated the Coastal Act.

The Department of Fish and Game had advised the Coastal Commission that Streichenberger had made a poor choice of materials in using plastic, rubber and rope, senior biologist Dave Parker said. For its own reef projects, the department uses rock and concrete.

"We felt that for building an artificial reef, there are much better materials that have a better track record and

mimic natural reefs more closely," Parker said.

Streichenberger said he chose recycled materials to save on cost — an idea that has carried little favor with the Coastal Commission.

"We told him he needed to get a coastal permit for basically dropping trash into the ocean," Douglas said. Streichenberger applied, but a permit was denied in 1997, kicking off a \$200,000 legal battle.

Since 1986, what was supposed to become an under-sea forest has gained a toehold, but has yet to reach what Streichenberger called "critical mass."

The Coastal Commission will pursue the project's removal if the agency prevails in its expected appeal.

Streichenberger vows to press forward with the experimental project, even if it requires another court battle.

Gang prevention programs fall short

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — More than half of the city's 26 agencies that provide gang prevention services to middle-school students have failed to meet performance standards, leading officials to terminate a contract with one of the programs and place six others on probation.

The agencies, which are part of the city's L.A. Bridges program, were created to help keep an estimated 5,200 middle-school students out of gangs by providing them with after-school sports programs, counseling and anger-management classes.

But a recent review by the city's Community Development Department found several middle school sites suffer from low participation by parents and students and have failed to adequately document their results.

The evaluation comes as Los Angeles is struggling with an increase in gang violence that has contributed to a 10 percent increase in homicides in 2002, when 659 killings were reported.

"The evaluation showed that certainly there are areas

that need improvement, but overall we are able to quantify improvement in the performances," said Lillian Kawasaki, manager of the Community Development Department.

The program was launched in 1996 in response to a rash of gang killings, including the shooting death of 3-year-old Stephanie Kuhen, whose family made a wrong turn down an alley and were ambushed by gang members.

The city requires each L.A. Bridges contractor to maintain a caseload of at least 50 students considered to be at high risk for joining gangs and 150 lower-risk students.

Each agency must provide documentation, including sign-in sheets showing that these students are receiving counseling, anger-management training, educational, tutorial and homework assistance and organized sports and recreation activities.

The latest evaluation, submitted a few weeks ago to Mayor James Hahn, concluded that one agency had to be terminated for low attendance and lack of any sports or recreation programs. Fourteen other agencies had problems that require corrective action.

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STATE



Davis takes office, reveals budget plans in key week

BY ALEXA H. BLUTH
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — There will be no honeymoon for Gov. Gray Davis as he begins his second term.

In fact, Davis will barely have time for a celebratory toast Monday as he takes the oath of office facing a gargantuan budget deficit that could consume much of his second term.

The inauguration of the Democratic governor who barely won back his job in November marks the start of perhaps his most important week: He will be sworn in, report on the state of California and reveal his plans to deal with an unprecedented \$35 billion budget shortfall — all in the space of five days.

"He needs to just put his head down and move forward and take on this budget crisis and prove that he can in fact lead the state," said Democratic political strategist Gale Kaufman. "That's a tall order."

Davis will deliver three key speeches this week to spell out how he plans to repair California's finances. First will be his midday inaugural speech and brief remarks at an evening party Monday, and then he will give his State of the State speech to a joint session of the Legislature two nights later.

On Friday, Davis will reveal his 2003-04 budget — which will include more proposed budget cuts and most likely a call to raise some taxes.

"He has to be convincing that what he is proposing is how we solve the problem," Kaufman said.

Davis won election four years ago by a 20-point margin and

enjoyed a booming economy and swelling state treasury during his first two years in office. His fund-raising prowess and political popularity lofted him to a list of potential presidential hopefuls in 2004.

But his fortunes quickly turned, as the state suffered rolling blackouts and soaring electricity bills. The high-tech economy also tanked, dragging down income tax and capital gains revenues with it.

In November, Davis won reelection by a 5 percent margin over little-known Republican businessman Bill Simon in an election in which voters repeatedly said they disliked both choices as well as Davis' handling of the state budget and power crises.

Simon repeatedly said Davis overspent the state into its budget problems, and Davis was notably absent in negotiations as the Legislature was locked in a two-month budget standoff.

The governor spent nearly \$70 million to win a second term, only to keep the reins of a state facing its worst-ever financial crisis.

In his first term, Davis was criticized for not reacting quickly enough to crises, but now he faces a huge challenge while he tries to restore his political status.

The \$98.9 billion budget he signed last year relied on one-time fixes to close a \$23.6 billion deficit. Also, some expected money never materialized — which, combined with the continued economic stagnation, leaves the state with a larger shortfall and fewer options over the next 18 months.

"I'm hopeful and believe that

we will be on an economic upswing at the end of four years and be able to return to investing in areas that I think continue to be critical," Davis said recently.

But to succeed, Davis must sway a Democrat-controlled Legislature reluctant to cut too deeply into programs and Republicans who vow to block any budget that includes higher taxes.

"For the last four years Governor Davis has always been behind the curve as it relates to solving a problem," said Assembly Republican leader Dave Cox, of Fair Oaks. "If he continues to function in that fashion, he's always going to have a situation where he fails to garner the confidence of members of the Legislature."

"If he really wants to try and resurrect himself as a take-charge kind of governor he's got to be willing to take that heat," said Ken DeBow, a political scientist at California State University, Sacramento.

But Davis already has shown he intends to do things differently this year.

He divulged his grim economic forecast for the state earlier than usual and quickly called for cutting \$10 billion immediately from the current and coming budgets, including reducing spending on his legislative priority — education.

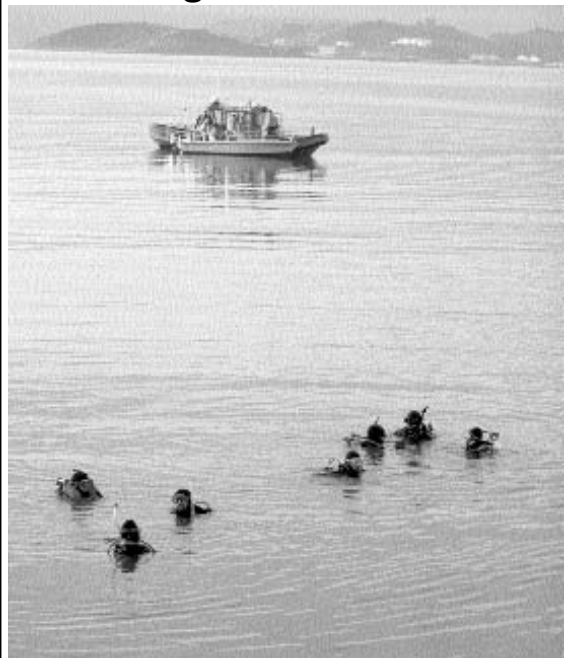
Aides last week revealed the central theme of the three key speeches during his inaugural week — creating new jobs and reviving the state's sputtering economy — to try to deflect attention from the inevitably unpopular cuts and likely tax increases he will propose this week.

Plus, some political experts speculate, Davis will finally be able to focus on governing, rather than on his well-publicized thirst for campaign donations. During his first term, Davis began raising millions immediately for his re-election effort and was criticized for accepting donations

from many people or businesses with state business.

"I think he can regain some of the initial enthusiasm that surrounded his governorship as we move beyond the election and the unpleasantness and dreariness and the campaign finance questions," DeBow said.

Searching for Laci



D. Ross Cameron/Associated Press

Police search and rescue team members prepare to dive in waters off Berkeley, Calif., Saturday. Investigators combed the Berkeley Marina where Scott Peterson, husband of missing 27-year-old Laci Peterson, told police he'd spent the day before returning home to find his wife missing on Christmas Eve. Laci Peterson, of Modesto, was 8 months pregnant when she disappeared Dec. 24.

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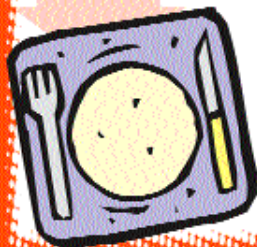
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**NATIONAL**

Rev. Al Sharpton may take shot at running for president

BY KEN MAGUIRE
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — If the turnout at a Boston rally the day after announcing a presidential run is any measure, the Rev. Al Sharpton has got his work cut out for him.

At Prince Hall Grand Lodge in a predominantly black neighborhood, 75 people showed up Saturday, and they had plenty of time to get there — Sharpton was 90 minutes late.

But the civil-rights preacher says it's his duty to run; the Democratic Party has shifted too far to the right, he says, leaving blacks and other minorities behind.

Sharpton was a guest preacher at two Boston churches Sunday, and on Monday he's scheduled to meet political and business leaders, including Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. He concludes his trip Monday evening with a speech sponsored by Harvard Law School.

He hopes to return to the White House as a candidate for president.

But pollsters doubt the New Yorker, who in the past has been accused of polarizing blacks and whites, can organize a national campaign to make himself a serious candidate. Pickup-truck drivers in Iowa and New Hampshire, home of the first presidential primaries, don't relate to him, observers say.

Sharpton, 48, says that doesn't matter. "Politics is about serving the interests of people and moving toward progress, it's not about betting on winners," he said. "It's about moving society, and that's why I'm prepared to make this race. The question is not if I run, can I win. If I run, we can't lose."

Sharpton has many thoughts about fel-

low Democrats and President Bush's foreign policy.

Bush wants to invade Iraq to get control of its oil reserves, Sharpton charged Saturday, and the Democratic Party treats black voters like mistresses: "They want to have fun with us on Election Day but they can't bring us home to introduce us to their mommies and daddies. We are not going to continue to be the concubines of the national Democratic Party."

State Rep. Byron Rushing of Boston said Sharpton speaks for the disenfranchised.

"But a large percentage of those people who feel most disenfranchised don't use their franchise," Rushing said. "He has to organize them to register, but most importantly, to turn out to vote and to do all the important political activity that you have to do to support a political campaign like this."

Rushing says Sharpton isn't afraid to speak the truth.

Pollsters say that group is small. Maurice Carroll, who heads Quinnipiac University Polling Institute, said Sharpton is unlikely to challenge top Democrats in the race.

Senators John Kerry of Massachusetts and John Edwards of North Carolina have joined outgoing Vermont Gov. Howard Dean in forming exploratory committees. Senators Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Tom Daschle of South Dakota, as well as Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri, are expected to announce their plans soon.

"It's not a serious candidacy in the sense that he expects to win," Carroll said. "He's a protest candidate, he's a movement candidate, not because he's black. You know he's not going to be president of the United States. He knows he will not be president of the United States."

Architect fans can now wear 'Fallingwater' as jewelry

BY ALLISON SCHLESINGER
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — Fans of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright can now wear a tiny piece of his masterpiece Fallingwater around their necks, on their wrists or dangling from their ears.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, which owns a home that is one of the most famous examples of Wright's architecture, about 70 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, started to sell its Fallingwater Restoration Jewelry last summer and recently made the pieces available online.

The structure voted "Building of the 20th Century" by the American Institute of Architects underwent a complex and expensive restoration to keep it from eventually falling into the stream it sits over. Most of an \$11 million project to restore and stabilize the building was finished last summer.

But the conservancy wanted a way to commemorate — and help fund — the renovations, said Fallingwater Director Lynda Waggoner.

She figured architecture fans would like to own and wear bits and pieces of concrete that were removed when engineers installed a system of steel cables to keep the home's cantilevers from dipping into the Bear Run creek.

Waggoner was inspired by a cathedral in Dresden, Germany, that sold wrist-

watches each year to commemorate the restoration of its building, which was flattened in World War II. The timepieces contained bits of the old structure.

Then, Waggoner ran into the creations of Cara Markowitz of C.linea in New York. The 31-year-old jewelry designer uses materials like acrylic, resin, shattered glass and silver to create sleek, geometric accessories such as cufflinks and earrings.

Waggoner liked how Markowitz embedded things like feathers and pieces of beer bottles into a clear material and thought it would work with concrete. But Markowitz wasn't so sure.

"At first I thought it was kind of boring, because it was just bits of gray concrete in plastic," said Markowitz, who studied Wright's work as an interior design major at Syracuse University. "Then I started looking at the concrete and saw all of the colors of the stone within the concrete."

Markowitz used the concrete, clear resin and sterling silver to create earrings, a pendant, cuff links, a double bracelet and a necklace exclusively for the conservancy.

But don't expect the jewelry to look like Wright's famed windows.

"We didn't try to copy Wright's design. We tried to make it very modern. Sleek. Its own design," Waggoner said. "We have a great deal of concrete that we can use. I doubt that we will run out any time soon."

INTERNATIONAL



Bombing in Israel



Associated Press/IDF Handout

In this photo distributed by the Israel Defense Forces, Israeli medics rush a wounded man to an ambulance after a double suicide bomber attack in Tel Aviv, Israel Sunday. Two suicide bombers blew themselves up in downtown Tel Aviv killing at least 15 bystanders in the first such attack in an Israeli city since November.

China declares unmanned space mission a success

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — An unmanned Chinese space capsule returned safely to Earth on Sunday, state media said, laying the groundwork for China to attempt later this year to send an astronaut into space.

A successful manned flight would make China only the third country, after Russia and the United States, able to send its own astronauts into space.

The Shenzhou IV capsule landed as planned just after 7:00 p.m. on China's northern grasslands in the Inner Mongolia region, the official Xinhua News Agency and state television said.

"Experts in charge of China's manned space program said the return of the space-shuttle represents a complete success of the fourth test flight of the program," Xinhua said. It said the flight "lays a solid foundation" for eventual manned missions.

Chinese officials said this week that barring problems with Shenzhou IV, the next launch would be manned — a possibility that appeared to grow with the reported smooth conclusion of the flight Sunday.

Communist leaders hope manned space flight will be evidence of China's progress and technical prowess, winning them support at home and respect abroad. However, some ordinary Chinese criticize

the program as a waste of money for a poor country where the average income is about \$700 a year.

Shenzhou IV blasted into space Dec. 30 from a base in the Gobi desert. Xinhua said it orbited the earth 108 times and performed hundreds of maneuvers, including unfolding its solar panels.

Instruments functioned normally and collected a large amount of test data, Xinhua said. It said the re-entry vehicle and its contents will be sent to Beijing for analysis.

The flight was the second in less than 10 months for a Chinese space capsule — the shortest period to date between launches and a possible sign of growing official confidence in the program.

Communist Party and military leaders observed the spacecraft's return from the Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Center, Chinese Central Television reported.

Television pictures showed officials and technicians, many wearing military tunics under their white lab coats, sitting at control panels before a large television screen showing what appeared to be the capsule lying on its side in the dark.

A corps of about a dozen astronauts picked from among fighter pilots in China's air force have been training for years to take the first trip into space. At least two were sent to Russia's cosmonaut school.

Gruesome murders and deadly bombings keep Pakistan on the Edge

BY PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — It was one of the most enduring images of 2002 — a photograph of Daniel Pearl, a gun pointed at his head, just days after he was kidnapped off the streets of Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi.

The January abduction and beheading of the Wall Street Journal reporter was the first blow in a year of unprecedented violence against foreigners and Pakistani Christians, and many fear a further backlash if the United States goes ahead with an attack on Iraq.

Religious hard-liners staged loud but peaceful demonstrations Friday, chanting "Down with America," and "Long Live Saddam Hussein." Crowds ranged in number from 7,000 in Peshawar, a stronghold of pro-Afghan sentiment, to 400 in Islamabad, the capital.

Retired Gen. Talat Masood, a security analyst, says he expects reaction to an attack on Iraq to be much worse than during the 1991 Gulf War.

"Polarization is much greater and anti-Americanism is much more crystalized," he said. "The general impression here is that this is part of an attempt to dominate the Muslim world. Iraq may be first, but Iran and then Pakistan may be next."

Masood said an Iraq war could lead to more violence against foreigners here. "One can't rule that out," he said.

Others note that the Gulf War protests were not particularly broad-based, and demonstrations called in 2001 against the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan did not draw large crowds.

Still, while Pakistan has always been rife with sectarian violence and foreigners have been targeted before, the level of attacks in 2002 was unprecedented, and analysts say radicals could become even more emboldened if Iraq is attacked.

"I think that should be a cause of concern for the government," said Gen. Rashid Quereshi, a spokesman for President Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Pakistan's defining moment — and the main reason for its heightened level of violence — came after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when Musharraf chose to ditch the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and support the United States.

The military leader ordered his intelligence

agencies to help track down al-Qaida and Taliban fugitives, and banned homegrown Islamic radical groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Tayyaba. Washington gave Pakistan billions of dollars in aid and debt forgiveness, and renewed military contacts with the country.

But Musharraf's decisions left radicals feeling betrayed.

On Jan. 23, Pearl was abducted while working on a story about Islamic extremists in Karachi. A month later, U.S. diplomats received a grisly videotape of his murder. Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, a British-born militant, has been sentenced to death by a Pakistani court for his role in the crime.

On March 17, assailants threw grenades into a Protestant church within walking distance of the U.S. Embassy, killing five people, including an embassy employee and her 17-year-old daughter.

In Karachi, a suicide bombing killed 11 French engineers and three others in May, and a car bomb outside the U.S. Consulate killed 12 Pakistanis in June. Authorities also said they foiled a plot to assassinate Musharraf in Karachi.

In July, assailants threw a grenade at foreigners touring an archaeological site, injuring 12 people. In August, armed men stormed into a Christian school filled with foreign children east of Islamabad and killed six people, all Pakistani. Four days later, grenades hurled at a church near a Presbyterian hospital left four dead.

And in September, gunmen entered the offices of a Christian welfare organization in Karachi, tied up staff and shot eight of them in the head.

On Dec. 5, an explosion rocked Macedonia's consulate in Karachi. Investigators found three bodies inside — two men and a woman — each with their hands and feet bound and their throats slit. Messages scrawled on a wall referred to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida group and warned against "infidels." Investigators say it may have been revenge for the shooting deaths of seven Pakistanis in a van that ran a roadblock in Macedonia the previous March.

Finally, assailants covered in burqas, a traditional women's garb, tossed a grenade during Christmas services at a village church in central Pakistan, killing three people and wounding 11.

Gunman steals plane, threatens to crash into Frankfurt bank

BY DAVID MCHUGH
Associated Press Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany — A man stole a small aircraft at gunpoint Sunday and flew it over downtown Frankfurt, circling skyscrapers and threatening to crash into the European Central Bank. He landed safely after about two hours and was arrested.

The man, apparently a German, told a television station he wanted to call attention to Judith Resnik, a U.S. astronaut killed in the 1986 post-launch explosion of the space shuttle Challenger.

Military jets chased the stolen, two-seat motorized glider as the man began circling slowly above Frankfurt's banking district.

Hundreds of people were evacuated from the main railway station and dozens more from several skyscrap-

ers, which were mostly empty on a Sunday afternoon at the end of the Christmas season.

Authorities refused to identify the man, who was being questioned at the airport. But news channel n-tv named him as Franz-Stephan Strambach.

"I want to make my great idol Judith Resnik famous with this," he said in a call from the plane to the channel. "She deserves more attention, she was the first Jewish astronaut, and maybe that's why she isn't really considered."

Resnik was among the seven astronauts killed when the shuttle Challenger exploded seconds after take off on Jan. 28, 1986, from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Police said the man had identified the Central Bank headquarters as a possible target. A police helicopter was sent up to try to force the plane away from the city. The German air force sent two Phantom jets roaring back and forth across the evening sky.

Central Bank spokeswoman Regina Schueller said security officers evacuated about 10 employees from their offices. The bank's president, Wim Duisenberg, was not in the building.

Though the man told n-tv he didn't want to harm anyone, he threatened to commit suicide once his fuel ran out. He landed at 5:11 p.m. at Frankfurt's international airport, where flights were halted during the drama.

It was unclear if the man was forced to land, or talked down. Air traffic controllers and a police psychologist had been in contact with him.

The man stole the plane Sunday afternoon from an airfield at Babenhausen, just southeast of Frankfurt. He threatened a pilot at gunpoint, seized the controls and took off, said Axel Raab, a spokesman for the German air safety agency.



SPORTS

S.F. 49ers make big comeback, defeat N.Y. Giants

BY GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Buried in a 24-point playoff hole after a season of missed opportunities, the San Francisco 49ers finally woke up.

After that, Jeff Garcia and Terrell Owens could do nothing wrong — and the New York Giants made a monumental collapse, all the way down to their new long snapper.

Garcia hit Tai Streets with a 13-yard touchdown pass with 1 minute left, and the Giants botched the snap on a 41-yard field-goal attempt as time expired in San Francisco's 39-38 victory Sunday. It was the second-biggest comeback in NFL playoff history.

Right down to a confusing, contentious ending, it was a game with more twists, turns and dramatic moments than most teams would see in years — from Amani Toomer's three touchdown catches to Kerry Collins' impressive performance, from Garcia's impossibly gutsy leadership to the fight that broke out at the

height of the tension.

The 49ers (11-6) trailed 38-14 with 4 minutes left in the third quarter, but they scored 25 straight points on two TD passes and a scoring run by Garcia, as well as two 2-point conversion catches by Owens.

After Garcia drove the Niners 68 yards in just over 2 minutes for Streets' score, Collins got New York to the San Francisco 28 with 6 seconds left. But long snapper Trey Junkin, signed earlier in the week, made a low snap that Matt Allen couldn't handle.

Allen threw a desperate pass that fell incomplete, and after New York was penalized for illegal men downfield, the Niners leaped, sprinted and collapsed onto the field in a raucous celebration before an exhausted Candlestick crowd.

The 49ers advanced to face Tampa Bay next Sunday, but the Buccaneers will have no idea which San Francisco team they'll face — the one that stumbled through the first 40 minutes, or the one that flattened the Giants with an unbelievable rally.



Paul Sakuma/Associated Press

New York Giants wide receiver Jeremy Shockey, right, catches a touchdown pass as San Francisco 49ers safety Tony Parrish, left, looks on during the second quarter of their NFC Wild Card game in San Francisco, Sunday.

San Antonio Spurs shut down L.A. Clippers, 94-86

BY BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — With Tim Duncan, David Robinson, Malik Rose and Steve Smith around, Tony Parker doesn't need to score for the San Antonio Spurs.

But once in a while, the NBA's youngest starting point guard gets his own ideas.

"I concentrate on playing good defense and I'm always looking for the open man. We have scorers, but sometimes it falls in my head and I feel confident I can score too," said Parker, who had 26 points and made 11 of 13 free throws as the Spurs beat the Los Angeles Clippers 94-86 Sunday.

"He was really special," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said of the 20-year-old Parker. "He gets us into situations we want to be in. He tells people where they should go if they're in the wrong spot."

Duncan had 24 points and 14 rebounds for his 25th double-double of the season and Popovich earned his 300th victory with the Spurs, the only team he's ever coached in the NBA. Already the team's career leader in victories, Popovich is

300-176 in seven seasons.

Bruce Bowen scored all of his 13 points in the second half for the Spurs, who committed 16 turnovers.

The Clippers lost their sixth straight and eighth in nine games to remain at the bottom of the Pacific Division.

"We're really trying to get better, but things aren't happening for us," said Corey Maggette who had 19 points, including all eight of his free throws. "We're a very talented team and we're not getting it done. It's our fault. We're not hitting the shots."

Lamar Odom had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers.

"Sometimes losing is contagious. We can't fall into that. We got to take practice very seriously and look in the mirror and hold ourselves accountable," guard Keyon Dooling said. "We were right there and we just couldn't make that run we needed to get over the hump."

Elton Brand had 15 points and 16 rebounds, Michael Olowokandi had 12 points after sitting out Friday's loss to Memphis with a sore left knee and Andre

Miller scored 12 points for the Clippers, who were booed when they missed their first five shots of the game.

"Right now we're not giving a good effort and we're not winning," Miller said, citing the team's 7-12 record at Staples Center. "Teams are coming and beating us like it's their home court."

Once again, the Clippers were done in by poor shooting (33 percent) despite frequently taking high-percentage shots. They went three minutes without a basket in the fourth quarter, when the Spurs were barely pressed in maintaining a nine-point lead.

"It's very simple. We can't win the game shooting 33 percent," Clippers coach Alvin Gentry said. "It's not the turnovers, it's not the rebounds, it's not any of that. We're getting good shots and we can't get them in the basket."

Odom's driving layup put the Clippers within three on their first basket of the fourth. Minutes later, Bowen sandwiched baskets around a hook shot by Robinson and the Spurs led 75-66 with 7:09 remaining.

Parker hit two free throws for a 79-70

lead, the Spurs' largest of the quarter. After the Clippers scored two straight baskets, Parker made a 3-pointer for an 82-74 lead.

Twice the Clippers got within five points in the final two minutes, but San Antonio answered with baskets each time.

"Our shots didn't fall. It was a dismal shooting performance," Olowokandi said. "It's important we turn it around right now. Every game we go into is a must-win."

Neither team led by more than seven points in the third quarter, when the Spurs tied it three times early. Bowen hit two straight 3-pointers to give San Antonio a 54-47 lead with 5:23 remaining. Maggette had nine points in a seven-minute span of the third, when Los Angeles trailed 67-62 going into the fourth.

The Spurs led by eight early in the second quarter before the Clippers rallied to tie and briefly take the lead. Dooling scored to start an 18-12 run, including five points in a row by Miller, whose final jumper gave the Clippers a 35-33 lead. Parker scored six in a row to put San Antonio back in front 37-36 at halftime.

In college football, nice guys don't always finish last

BY JIM LITKE

AP Sports Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. — How fitting.

At the end of a college football season where misbehaving was a central theme — coaches ripped referees and smacked fans, fans ripped down goal posts and rampaged through town — the national championship will belong to a coach whose temperament doesn't need icing down.

In that sense, it doesn't matter who heads home with the Fiesta Bowl trophy: Miami's Larry Coker or Ohio State's Jim Tressel. A win by either proves that nice guys don't always finish last.

"The thing about Larry when you watch him on a day-to-day basis," Hurricanes offensive coordinator Rob Chudzinski said, "is that he just enjoys what he is doing. You see head coaches who are stressed out. Whenever you see him, he's enjoying it."

The same is true of Tressel. Watching him motor up and down the Ohio State sideline in a crisp white shirt, red jacket and tie, he looks like a Norman Rockwell painting come to life. While some of Tressel's routines seem schmaltzy at

times, none of his players doubts his sincerity.

Asked about his coach's temper, receiver Michael Jenkins paused before recalling the first — and so far, only — time he saw Tressel get mad. It came a few days after the Buckeyes returned from a trip to Penn State and players wearing headphones had a run-in with flight attendants.

"They called Coach into the cockpit, but he didn't say a word about it until our next team meeting. Guys already knew he wasn't crazy about them wearing headphones most of the time, so I guess we were expecting a lecture. But it wasn't anything long," Jenkins said. "What did he say? Put it this way — he hasn't had to repeat himself a second time."

Both coaches have no trouble being heard without shouting, in part because both already own some impressive hardware. Coker won his first national title in his first year as a college head coach. Tressel won four Division I-AA championships at Youngstown State.

It's also not hard to figure out where either learned his chops. Both were products of families led by fathers who taught them to work hard, to serve others, and let that

carry them as far as it might.

Coker grew up in Oklahoma the son of an oil field pump man who died at age 89 in 2000, and a mother whose successful fight against cancer 40 years ago taught him lessons about toughness and survival that still drive him today. He played defensive back at Northeastern State University, then made the segue into coaching at Fairfax (Okla.) High, where he won two state titles.

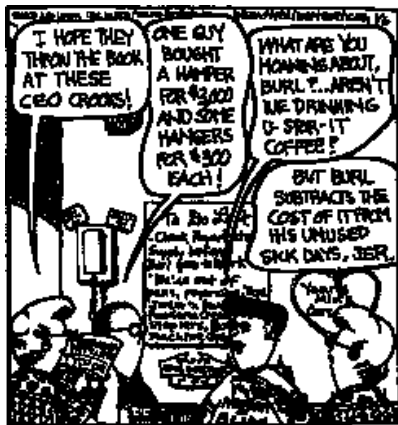
In 1978, after moving to nearby Claremore High, he caught John Cooper's eye and joined the staff at Tulsa. Thus began the life of a coaching gypsy. He was Jimmy Johnson's offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State, put in a stint with Cooper at Ohio State, worked for Gary Gibbs at Oklahoma, and finally settled in with Butch Davis at Miami.

He helped develop future NFL stars Barry Sanders, Thurman Thomas, Eddie George, Orlando Pace and Edgerin James. Yet nobody but real college football insiders could have picked Coker out of a lineup. And if the kids at Miami hadn't gone to bat for him when Davis left to join the Cleveland Browns, Coker still might be an assistant.

COMICS



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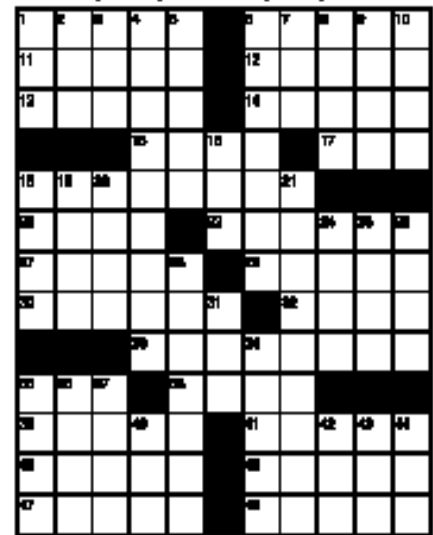
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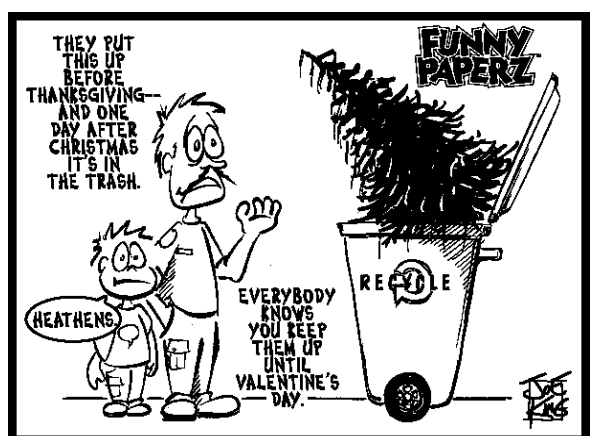
By Dave Coverly



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Men claim they were defamed by '60 minutes'

Two men who have sat on juries in notoriously litigation-friendly Jefferson County, Miss., filed a lawsuit against the TV program "60 Minutes" in December, claiming that they were defamed in a segment about Mississippi juries' generosity. Anthony Berry was on a jury that gave out \$150 million in an asbestos case, and Johnny Anderson was on one that awarded \$150 million in a diet drug case, and both say the "60 Minutes" segment made the juries seem so extravagant that they must be getting kickbacks. The two men's lawsuit (filed in Jefferson County, of course) asks for more than \$6 billion.





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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2003

TODAY

Toddler Time, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

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.

Harvelle's Blues Club present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

Unurban Coffee House presents Hot Topics Night hosted by Ali every Monday evening. Signup is at 8pm. Open panel discussion and open forum. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

TUESDAY

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.

Crossroads Schools in Santa Monica invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

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Santa Monica College Emeritus College Band invites adult musicians who play a band instrument to join the band. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening in the Band room at Lincoln Middle School, 14th and California Streets from 7pm to 9:15pm, Concerts are given during the year. For more information call (310)474-5271.

Unurban Coffee House presents 'Stitch 'n' Bitch' every Tuesday evening. Chicks, yarn, coffee & chat. 7:30pm to 9:30pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

MOVIE °GUIDE

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About Schmidt (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40. **Two Weeks Notice** (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10. **Antwone Fisher** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. **The Hours** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20.

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.

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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.

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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

Rocket fuel pollution strains Southwest water supplies

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — A toxic chemical used to fuel Cold War-era missiles and the rockets that put man on the moon has left a legacy of contamination across the Southwest, where it pinches the region's already tight supply of drinking water.

The chemical, called perchlorate, pollutes much of the lower Colorado River — the main water source for 20 million people across the Southwest — and has forced the shutdown of hundreds of wells in California.

State and federal officials are still debating how much risk perchlorate poses when ingested and what limits should be set for the chemical, a process slowed partly by lawsuits filed by defense contractors such as Lockheed Martin Corp. that worry they could be on the hook for billions of dollars in cleanup costs.

Thousands of people have sued the companies that once made or handled perchlorate, alleging years of drinking water laced with the chemical have caused cancers and other illnesses.

Adrienne Wise-Tates, 46, has had tumors of the brain and ovaries, multiple cysts in her breasts, cancerous cells found when she had a goiter removed and, most recently, an unknown mass in her left kidney.

The mother of three blames the perchlorate-tainted water she drank while growing up in Redlands. There, 70 miles east of Los Angeles, nearly 1,000 people are suing Lockheed Martin over perchlorate pollution associated with a former rocket engine testing facility that closed in the 1970s.

"I played in the water, drank the water, everything. The normal things a child does," Wise-Tates said. "Since it was so much in this area, in the water, that's what I attribute it to."

Lockheed spokeswoman Gail Rymer said the company is "vigorously" defending itself against the claims.

"We do not feel that anyone was harmed or has been made ill as a result of our operations at the former

Lockheed Propulsion Co. site," Rymer said.

The oxygen-rich chemical interferes with the way the body takes iodide into the thyroid and can disrupt how the gland regulates metabolism. It's unclear how much is dangerous.

Initially, it was thought perchlorate pollution would be restricted to places where rocket fuel was made or used. However, it's since been tied to plants around the country that made munitions, fireworks and even the charges that deploy airbags.

"We need to be able to say to people that this is a problem, it is a big problem. It is moving rapidly. It is in 22 states and we need to address it."

— DIANNE FEINSTEIN
U.S. Senator (D-Calif.)

"Anything that explodes seems to be associated with perchlorate," said David Spath, chief of the division of drinking water and environmental management for the California Department of Health Services.

Along with explosives, naturally perchlorate-rich fertilizer imported from Chile has contaminated wells on New York's Long Island, forcing some to close.

"We need to be able to say to people that this is a problem, it is a big problem. It is moving rapidly. It is in 22 states and we need to address it," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. "We don't need to panic, but we need to do it in a way that's cost-effective and makes sense."

The single largest source of contamination is a former Kerr-McGee Corp. rocket fuel plant outside Las Vegas.

For decades, waste water containing perchlorate was left to seep into the ground, a company official said.

"There were probably 20-plus years when we didn't have the environmental awareness we have today," said Pat Corbett, the former plant manager who is now the company's environmental technology director.

The site still leaches as much as 900 pounds of perchlorate a day into a wash that drains into the Colorado River, the main water source for much of Arizona, southern California and southern Nevada.

Across the nation, millions more eat vegetables grown with Colorado River water. What risk the vegetables could pose, if any, is unknown.

"It's really one of the most massive pollution problems the water industry has ever seen," said Timothy Brick, a member of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Across California, nearly 300 wells are contaminated. Most are in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, where dozens of aerospace factories hummed during the Cold War.

California officials have proposed what they consider a safe level of perchlorate of two to six parts per billion and hope to set the nation's first standard by 2004. However, Lockheed Martin and Kerr-McGee forced the state to submit the draft recommendation to further outside review, including by industry-picked experts, delaying the process by months.

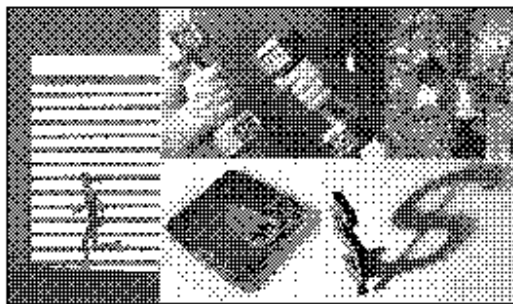
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's draft proposal is stricter: one part per billion.

Perchlorate in the Colorado River has been measured as high as 9 parts per billion.

It will take years to discover the extent of perchlorate contamination nationwide, and cleanup will take decades more, to the consternation of people like Wise-Tates.

"I would just hope no one else has to go through this, but I am sure they will, until they find some way to clean up the water," she said.

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