

FREE

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 48

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Artist Roy Mayhew gives Jeanne Timm a Henna tattoo on the Third Street Promenade Sunday. Mayhew and other Henna artists are banned from performing the ancient art form in Santa Monica because the city council voted in October that it's a public safety risk. Mayhew and other artists are asking for a re-vote from the council to reinstate the art form, arguing it's their right under the Constitution to express themselves.

Henna artists fight their extinction

Performers not leaving the mall quietly

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

It's been a week since Henna artists have officially been forbidden in Santa Monica, yet they continue to perform.

And now they are calling for the city to lift its ban.

The Santa Monica City Council voted 4-3 in October to ban Henna artists from the Third Street Promenade and the pier. Council members felt some of the artists are posing a public safety risk. The ban took effect Jan. 1.

Several council members think tattooing is not a performance or an art. Instead, they contend, it is merely a form of cosmetology. If Henna is on the mall, this line of reasoning goes, then hair braiding may be next.

Henna is a non-permanent dye used in tattooing. However, a small minority of artists use toxic chemicals that can result in skin rashes and other difficulties. This usage has given the 5,000-year-old art form a black eye in Santa Monica.

Skin rashes and other complications can be caused by "black Henna" or phenylenediamine, a hair dye. The black Henna is cheaper than traditional Henna dye, which is red and has been used for skin decorations

and body art for thousands of years.

The city was sued recently by someone who received a Henna tattoo after being told that it was temporary but it turned out to be permanent. As a result, the city staff advised the council to reconsider whether it wanted to permit these activities as a performance, which opens up the city to liability.

"What's the best way to protect the public and their right to safety and our right to express? I don't have the answer to that. I just hope they sit down and discuss it."

— ROY MAYHEW
Henna artist

Proponents of Henna argue that public safety is just an excuse to ban artists. They say the artists are just another casualty in a war between community leaders who have intensely different visions of the city's commercial core.

See HENNA, page 3

Regulation without representation on mall?

City recommends no businesses, restaurants or landlords on Promenade task force

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Special to the Daily Press

The city is recommending that no landlords or merchants participate on a task force that could ultimately lead to an entirely new business landscape on the Third Street Promenade.

Concerned with the deterioration in the number of restaurants on the Promenade and the overabundance of retailers, city officials are concerned shopping along Third Street will diminish as the area begins to resemble a generic suburban shopping mall. The council voted recently to appoint a task force to figure out how to regulate the mall

so it isn't so retail-heavy.

Senior city staff members recommend the task force consist of three councilmembers, two Bayside District Corporation members, and one planning commissioner.

If the council accepts the city staff's plan, the task force could have a shelf life of 1-2 years and the current 45-day moratorium on further retail development could be extend-

ed for as long as three years.

The plan shuns the desires of business groups and the Bayside District Corporation to include, "a property owner and a merchant and/or restaurateur."

"Staff recommends that the task force be composed of no more than six members and that it be small to

See TASK FORCE, page 3

Stars a 'no show' at AFI awards

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

AP Entertainment Writer

BEVERLY HILLS — What if you threw a Hollywood award show and the winners stayed away?

That was the embarrassing situation facing the American Film Institute Awards on Saturday, when director Robert Altman and actors Denzel Washington,

Gene Hackman, Jennifer Connelly, Judy Davis and James Gandolfini didn't show up to collect their honors.

The only film actor winner at the show was Sissy Spacek, who won best actress for the dark suburban drama "In the Bedroom."

"The no-shows were not a snub of the award, it's just

See AWARDS, page 3



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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Cooperate with someone and straighten out finances. Wishful thinking might even impact fiery you. Your resourcefulness and ability to work with others saves the day. Smile as you leave the office or workplace. Reach out for a family member. Tonight: Visit with a dear pal.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others toss work on your desk. Responsibility falls upon you left and right. Decide just how much you realistically can take on. While all this might be flattering now, later it could be overwhelming. Return calls. Delegate whatever you can. Tonight: Do errands, yet make time to visit friends.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Someone offers you nearly everything you want. Be realistic. Is this possible? Bone up on your especially diplomatic style as you sort through what this offer really consists of. You could easily wind up footing the whole bill, giving up fantasies of the proverbial money tree. Tonight: Back to the here and now.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Hold down your imagination, and get your work done. Your positive side manifests itself when you face problems. Remember the power of wishful thinking. Return calls later in the day, when you have accomplished more; otherwise you might get nothing done. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Lay low when dealing with family. You cannot get a straight answer right now. Could someone deliberately be causing you a problem? Chaos punctuates all interactions. Your intuition proves to be your best guide; listen to it. Bring extra work home. Tonight: Close your door and catch up on e-mail.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Make calls and try to clear up any problems. You inspire others with your ideas, though somehow your penchant for detail isn’t contagious. Aim for what you want, staying calm with those who might be a lot more disorganized. Tonight: Play a relaxing and favorite game with a friend.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Honor your financial limits when dealing with others. You might not be sure of what is really happening. Your creativity could cost you if you have your rose-colored glasses on. Take responsibility. Know that, for now, you’ll have to work for your funds. Tonight: Work as late as need be.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your smile confuses someone, making this person think that all is well. Others think that you’re secretive because you don’t wear your feelings on your sleeve. Make a long-distance call that you have been looking forward to. Find experts. Tonight: Do exactly what you want.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Don’t worry so much about others. You don’t need to share everything that goes through your mind. Remain confident despite confusion. In your daydreams lies an answer. Judge your ideas less severely. Close your door and fantasize away. Tonight: Vanish.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Gather with others for a brainstorming session. It is quite possible that you might misunderstand someone. Clarify, especially when your finances are involved. Of course, this is a natural instinct for the Goat. Others indulge you and sort through problems with you. Tonight: Where your friends huddle.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Stay in tune with your long-term objectives. Someone might not understand exactly where you are coming from and keep asking you questions. Your self-expression appears vague to others, possibly because you look at the long-term concept and direction. Tonight: Take control of a project.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Let your imagination take the lead. Realize what is happening behind the scenes. Your humor might not be someone else’s humor. Use care when dealing with people. You could put your foot in your mouth. Reach out for those at a distance. Find a needed expert. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.



WEATHER

Today ... Partly cloudy with a high 74°F and winds at 4mph.

Tonight ... Clear with a low of 51°F. Winds from north at 2mph.

Tomorrow ... Partly cloudy High—70°F Low—50°F



QUOTE of the DAY

“Sex is the biggest nothing of all time.”

— Andy Warhol

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

Henna artists in appeal: 'Don't make us extinct'

HENNA, from page 1

The three council members that voted to keep Henna in the city agree that it's an art form and should be included under the city's street performer ordinance — much like a clown who does face painting. But the three, Kevin McKeown, Richard Bloom and Mayor Mike Feinstein, lost to a majority of four. Feinstein vowed to bring back the issue when a new council is elected this fall.

But Henna artists are pressing the issue for him. They have formed "Supporters of Henna Artists' Right to Express" which is actively lobbying the city to lift the ban immediately. They are gathering signatures to petition the council to reinstate the art form.

The artists say the city has inaccurately stated the ancient Mehndi art form is a tattoo. They argue it's a safe art form and is not a cosmetology service. They have just as much right to perform on the mall as do the creative portrait artists, balloon clowns and artistic flower makers, they argue.

Henna performer Roy Mayhew acknowledges that there are some artists who use potentially dangerous, toxic chemicals like brown hair dye that make the tattooing unsafe. But he thinks if the city will work with him and other responsible artists in regulating the art form, it's possible for Henna to remain a vital part of the mall's funky character while at the same time allowing him his freedom of expression. Mayhew wants the city to be more open to finding

alternatives instead of simply taking the easy way out and banning it.

"What's the best way to protect the public and their right to safety and our right to express?" he asked. "I don't have the answer to that. I just hope they sit down and discuss it."

Mayhew said he is working with Steele Smith, the city's street performer liaison, to come up with a solution. One idea envisions having all artists sign a contract binding them to use safe Henna and then issuing them a permit. Anyone that breaks the contract by using toxic chemicals should be arrested, Mayhew suggested, adding it should be treated as a terrorist act.

Mayhew was giving Henna tattoos to people along the Promenade on Sunday — even though he is banned from doing so. He said his performances were strictly for "demonstration." One tattoo artist continued to perform his art and was issued a police citation Saturday.

"I shouldn't do it," Mayhew said. "I'm not gonna do it."

Mayhew said he has gathered about 100 signatures and expects to have many more by next weekend. The banned Henna artists will be joined by supporters on Thursday at noon for a press conference and art demonstration on the mall between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway.

"My position on this is that this is my right to express myself but it's a fine line between public safety," Mayhew said.

Holbrook wants business represented on task force

TASK FORCE, from page 1

ensure an effective and efficient process," senior staff wrote in their report to council.

Landlords and merchants are confused by the city's plan, as they have made several recommendations of who among them should help serve on the task force.

"I don't understand, if you want to create new ideas you have to talk with people with business experience," said Barbara Tenzer, owner of Tenzer Commercial Brokerage Group, which represents a majority of landlords on the mall. "I don't know why they would do something like this."

Already one elected official has come forward saying the proposed configuration is wrong. Councilman Robert Holbrook said elected officials don't have the expertise to regulate complex issues involving long-term leases and property management issues.

He said it would stand to reason that the people who actually "live it and breath it" should help figure out the best way to fix the Promenade.

However, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown feels city officials came back with an "excellent" recommendation for the task force, though he said he was weary of extending the moratorium for a long period of time.

"But these are the people who are responsible for policy decisions and who have an in-depth knowledge of the issues," he said. "So I think the make-up of the task force would be fine."

McKeown stressed that the task force's

meetings would be public and business owners, retailers and restaurateurs would all have a chance to be heard.

Originally, the Third Street mall was primarily a pedestrian retail mall that failed to attract residents and visitors. The city then enacted a series of zoning measures to bring in restaurants and entertainment.

"The plan established policies to preserve the unique mixture of uses, a key element to the success of the Promenade," wrote officials. "Over the years the council has maintained the balance of uses by enacting zoning regulations that foster the appropriate mix of restaurant, retail and entertainment uses."

As rents along the Third Street Promenade skyrocket, only nationwide chains can afford to pay, sending restaurants to nearby streets and leaving the Promenade with a distinct suburban mall feel.

"The Promenade is becoming less unique and more like an average outdoor shopping mall," wrote officials. "If allowed to continue, this trend will threaten the economic and social welfare of the downtown area."

Administrators say they want to clearly define the role of the task force to keep it on-target and manage it jointly by staff from the Bayside District Corporation, Planning and Community Development Department and Resource Management Department.

"The task force will review the policy issues and recommend solutions with the assistance of staff and consultants," wrote staff members. Business owners were not mentioned.

Chillin' it ...



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Robert Rattler hands over cold treats to kids working up their appetites on the playground at Lincoln Park Sunday afternoon.

'No show' not a snub

AWARDS, from page 1

that the underdogs weren't there with speeches ready," said Tom O'Neil, an award-show scholar who runs Goldderby.com, which tracks Oscar predictions.

The new show is the first big ceremony of Hollywood's long awards season, and the best picture win by "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings" seemingly legitimizes the fantasy epic's Oscar quest.

"The no-shows were not a snub of the award, it's just that the underdogs weren't there with speeches ready."

— TOM O'NEIL
Goldderby.com

Altman and Hackman gained Oscar momentum Saturday with both the AFI Awards and honors from the National Society of Film Critics.

AFI, a film training and preservation organization, is well-respected for its lists ranking all-time top American films or screen stars, but it hosted its first major award ceremony with mixed results.

Actor Dustin Hoffman delivered a choppy introduction while staring

blankly at the camera, there were few jokes to add levity to the proceedings and, most damaging, only 11 of the 19 winners were there, most of them behind-the-scenes artists.

O'Neil said it would be unfair to judge the show by who wasn't there. In several cases, three out of four nominees were in the audience, making the missing winners something of a coincidence.

Spacek, a five-time Academy Award nominee who won for "Coal Miner's Daughter," could emerge as a front-runner for another Oscar for her portrayal of a vengeful mother in "In the Bedroom."

"This film is so close to my heart," Spacek said. "It was a real labor of love, I think, for all of those who worked on it."

Washington won for best film actor in "Training Day," and Altman won directing honors for "Gosford Park."

Hackman's role as the comedically coarse father in "The Royal Tenenbaums" earned him best supporting actor, while Connelly won supporting actress for her turn as the wife of a schizophrenic math genius in "A Beautiful Mind."

In the television category, Gandolfini won best actor for "The Sopranos" while Davis won miniseries actress honors for "Life With Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows."

The 12 awards in the film categories were spread among nine movies. The only multiple winners were "Lord of the Rings," which also won for digital effects and production design, and "Moulin Rouge," honored for composing and editing.



NATIONAL

Note shows teen-age pilot a 'copy cat' terrorist

BY VICKIE CHACHERE
Associated Press Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — The 15-year-old who crashed a small plane into a skyscraper wrote a note expressing sympathy for Osama bin Laden and support for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, police said Sunday.

The short, handwritten suicide note found in Charles Bishop's pocket said he acted alone, Tampa Police Chief Bennie Holder said. The high school freshman had no apparent terrorist ties, Holder said.

"Bishop can best be described as a young man who had very few friends and was very much a loner," Holder said. "From his actions we can assume he was a very troubled young man."

Bishop crashed the Cessna 172R into the 42-story Bank of America building after taking off without authorization and ignoring signals to land from a Coast Guard helicopter that pursued the plane. Bishop was the only fatality.

Holder said there is no indication Bishop specifically targeted the building or "had any intention of harming anyone else."

Investigators on Sunday interviewed the boy's family and said they would search his personal computer for evidence.

Bishop, of Palm Harbor, was told to check the plane's equipment before the start of a flying lesson Saturday, police said. He took off without waiting for an instructor who was supposed to accompany him.

A Coast Guard helicopter crew motioned for the boy to land but couldn't get a response, and a pair of military jets scrambled to intercept the small plane arrived after the crash.

"There was no doubt he died on impact," said Fire Department Capt. Bill Wade.

Fire department officials said damage to the building was limited to the office where the plane hit and small

areas of adjoining floors. Most of the building was expected to be open Monday, though there was concern about chunks of the facade falling to the sidewalk below.

Images of the plane blasting a hole in the side of a skyscraper were chilling reminders of the World Trade Center attacks. Until it was pulled in early Sunday, the plane's tail had dangled from the 28th floor of the building.

In Palm Harbor, police unrolled yellow crime scene tape Sunday outside the apartment complex where Bishop lived with his mother, while detectives and FBI agents interviewed family members.

"He was a happy kid. He was never really down about anything. He smiled a lot."

— ROSS STEWART
Classmate

Julia Bishop, the boy's mother, told a camera crew to "get out" when they attempted to film her as she opened her door for investigators.

Bishop's grandmother had taken him to the National Aviation Academy flight school at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport for a 5 p.m. flying lesson on Saturday, authorities said.

A Coast Guard helicopter caught up to Bishop over Tampa after he had traveled about 20 miles, and the crew signaled for him to land. Pilots said he ignored them, then crashed the plane into the building.

As a precaution, two F-15 fighter jets were scrambled from Homestead Air Reserve Base, 200 miles away, but they arrived after the crash, said Capt. Kirstin Reimann at the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Only a few people were in the building at the time of the crash. None were injured.

Sheriff's Sgt. Greg Tita said there was no record of the ninth grader running into problems with the law in the past.

Derek Perryman, a classmate of Bishop's at East Lake High School in Palm Harbor, about 25 miles west of Tampa, said Bishop often talked about planes with a friend in their journalism class.

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he said, Bishop read a paper to the class. "It was real expressive about how he felt, how disappointed he was," Perryman said.

Another classmate, Ross Stewart, 15, described Bishop as a "teacher's pet."

"I knew he was an honor student. He got straight A's," Stewart said. "He seemed to like his classes. He liked school. He was a happy kid. He was never really down about anything. He smiled a lot."

Neighbors said Bishop, who had moved from the Boston area a year earlier, kept to himself.

"He rode my bus to school. He sat in the front row. He always had sunglasses on for some reason," said David Ontiveros, 14. "He never talked to anybody."

Bev Pinkham, who lived near the Bishops in Norwell, Mass., said Bishop "was just an ordinary quiet kid."

"One day he came over and said my flower gardens were beautiful," she said. "Other than that, he was very quiet."

Michael Cronin, an attorney for the National Aviation Academy, said Bishop had been taking flying lessons since March 2001 and had logged about six hours of flight time.

He said the boy often cleaned planes in exchange for flight time and was very familiar with operations at the school. Cronin said students do preflight equipment checks on their own, then have their accuracy verified by an instructor. Bishop was a year shy of being able to fly alone and two years too young to earn a pilot's license.

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U.S. troops will prepare Cuban Naval base for prisoners

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — About 1,500 soldiers are heading to the U.S. Navy base in Cuba to prepare for the arrival of al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners. The biggest prize — Osama bin Laden — remains uncaptured, though there's a growing belief he's gone to Pakistan, two U.S. senators said Sunday.

About 1,000 troops — many of them military police — from bases all over the United States have received orders to go to the Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where the prisoners will be held under maximum security, Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said Sunday. Another 500 U.S. troops will go to the base in the coming weeks.

"This is our part and we are going down to take care of business," said Col. Terry Carrico, commander of the 89th Military Police Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, just before boarding a plane to Cuba to prepare for the troops' arrival.

Some of the troops are being sent to transport the prisoners from Asia to the island, officials said.

Others will quickly prepare a section of the base to hold an initial first group of fewer than 100 prisoners, though up to 2,000 prisoners eventually may be housed there, Davis said. Gen. Tommy Franks, the head of the military campaign in Afghanistan, said Friday that some prisoners

are to arrive at Guantanamo within 10 days.

The U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo predates the communist revolution on the island nation. It is well-defended and would offer few avenues of escape for prisoners. Fidel Castro's government says the base should have been closed and returned to Cuban control decades ago.

More than 300 suspected Taliban or al-Qaida members were in U.S. custody this weekend, military officials have said. Soldiers were guarding 275 prisoners at the base in Kandahar, 21 at Bagram air base north of Kabul, and one in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif. Another nine prisoners, including American Taliban John Walker Lindh, are being held on the USS Bataan in the Arabian Sea. Afghan and Pakistani authorities are holding thousands more prisoners captured during the fighting.

Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., who is traveling with other senators in the region, said Sunday that Uzbekistan's military intelligence service believes bin Laden has crossed the border into Pakistan. Uzbekistan, like Pakistan, borders Afghanistan and has been a U.S. ally in the fight against the Taliban and al-Qaida.

In Cuba, the prisoners will be held in "maximum security" conditions, the Pentagon said, and will be treated in accordance with international standards for military prisoners and have access to Red Cross and other non-governmental organization personnel.

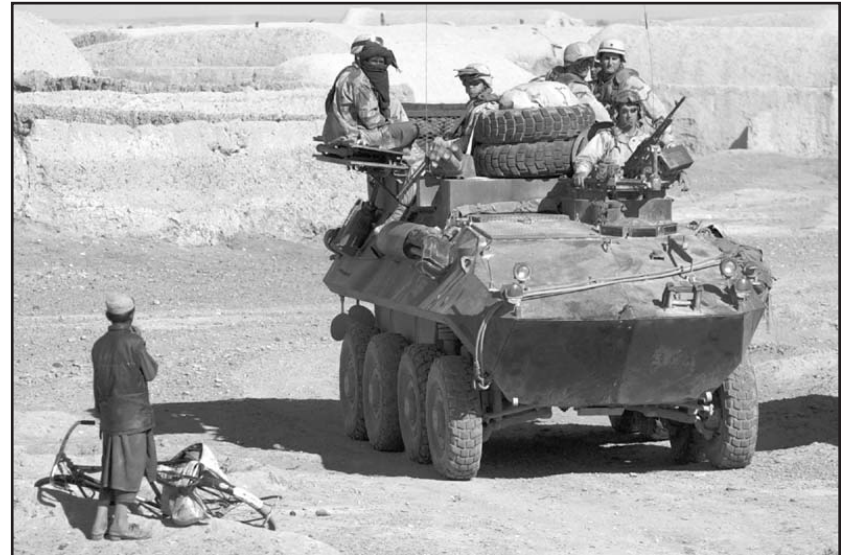
The military is planning tight security in light

of the rioting by al-Qaida prisoners at Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, that left hundreds dead, including CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann, Davis said.

"We are cognizant of the incident that took place in Mazar-e-Sharif," he said. "Many of these people have demonstrated their determination to kill others, kill themselves or escape."

No decision has been made whether to hold military tribunals for some of the prisoners at the Navy base, he said.

Many of the troops will be Army military police from Fort Hood.



Associated Press

Members of Alpha Company of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit roll through Haji Deh, a small village south of Kandahar, Afghanistan, on a patrol Sunday.

Argentina devalues peso; economic measures approved

BY TONY SMITH

Associated Press Writer

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentina's economy minister announced the devaluation of the peso Sunday, overriding foreign investors' concerns and ending a decade-long policy pegging the currency one-to-one with the U.S. dollar.

Jorge Remes Lenicov said 1.4 pesos would now buy \$1, with the country embarking on a two-day banking holiday starting Monday to allow for the transition from the old currency regime.

The announcement came hours after lawmakers granted President Eduardo Duhalde emergency powers to reform Argentina's crisis-stricken economy, mired in nearly four years of recession.

"We want our country to be like any other," Lenicov told a news conference. "We must decide what kind of economic policy is most appropriate for our reality."

He also said the government would present a 2002 budget the third week of January that would include "austerity and fiscal balance."

The bill passed Sunday gives Duhalde the power to pass some laws without congressional approval for the next two years. It sailed through the lower house of Congress late Saturday night and won Senate approval Sunday.

The easy passage marked an early victory for Duhalde, who took office Wednesday as Argentina's fifth president in two weeks following days of rioting and looting that forced President Fernando de la Rúa from office and brought on a series of interim leaders.

Duhalde signaled Friday that a devaluation was "a given" in order to overcome the deep economic crisis.

Changing the value of the peso heralds a radical departure from the fixed currency regime and free market economics that were a bedrock of South

America's No. 2 economy over the past decade. Duhalde also plans to reform the banking system, control prices and protect local industry and jobs.

The reforms and devaluation have made foreign investors nervous. They fear a devaluation will slash their profits and the government will protect local industry with old-fashioned, less market-friendly policies.

Analysts say a steep drop in the peso's value could trigger billions of dollars in losses for Spanish companies, including telecommunications giant Telefonica, oil company Repsol-YPF and two major banks, Santander Central Hispano and Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria.

France's Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine, concerned for investments by companies like Carrefour supermarkets, France Telecom and the automaker Renault, also urged his Argentine counterpart Carlos Ruckauf in a diplomatic note to "do everything in your power to protect our companies."

Presidential spokesman Eduardo Amadeo said Duhalde and Lenicov would start "a serious dialogue" with representatives of foreign companies starting Monday.

"We can't slap in the face people who have invested in Argentina," Amadeo said. "We want foreign investment because it means jobs."

Duhalde says he needs special powers to rebuild the crumbling economic foundations of a country whose banks, currency and political institutions have been devastated by nearly four years of withering recession.

Its accounts drained by the slump, Argentina defaulted on its staggering \$141 billion public debt last week, missing a \$28 million payment on a foreign bond for the first time.

Then, on Saturday, the government announced a 2001 budget deficit of \$11 billion, nearly double the target agreed between Argentina and the International

Monetary Fund.

While foreign companies were concerned about profits, many ordinary Argentine families were worried a devaluation would leave them broke. Although they earn in pesos, about 80 percent of contracts, including bank debt and utility bills, are denominated in dollars.

Moving to protect the indebted,

Duhalde wants loans up to \$100,000 to be switched into pesos at the old rate of one peso to one dollar. He ordered power, water and gas bills also switched to pesos at the one-to-one rate.

The plan also called for a 180-day freeze on layoffs, and companies firing staff during that period will have to pay double compensation.

Largest jury verdicts of 2001

BY THEO EMERY

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — They were an unlikely duo: a small-firm attorney who'd never handled tobacco litigation, and a ponytailed paralegal with a zeal for pursuing cigarette companies in court.

But attorney Michael J. Piuze and paralegal Ray Goldstein won the largest individual jury award against a tobacco company when California jurors ordered Philip Morris U.S.A. to pay \$3 billion to their client, Richard Boeken, a former heroin addict with cancer.

The June award was by far the largest of the 10 biggest jury verdicts of 2001, which totaled \$5.7 billion, according to Lawyer's Weekly USA, a trade publication that publishes an annual Top 10 verdict list.

The 2000 total was about \$2.58 billion, but that included awards by judges and juries. The 2001 list included only jury awards.

The verdicts could be reduced on appeal. A judge has already reduced the California tobacco award to \$100 million, said Paul J. Martinek, editor-in-chief of LawyersWeekly.com, which is affiliated with the trade publication.

"Once you get above a certain amount of money, the figures start to be almost fantastical," he said. "What the judges try and do after the fact is try and return some common sense and have the verdicts have some meaning."

The number of huge awards fell off later in the year, and only one major award was handed down after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Martinek said there are typically three or four large verdicts late in the year.

"The reason why you've only seen one since Sept. 11 is that all the cases were continued," jury consultant Howard Varinsky told Lawyer's Weekly. "They all got bumped into next year."

Juries last year awarded huge compensatory awards, such as a \$115 million medical malpractice verdict in New York that included \$100 million for pain and suffering. The plaintiff's attorney had sought \$10 million for suffering, and the case is being appealed.

Another huge award was the \$1.06 billion a Louisiana jury ordered Exxon Mobil to pay a retired judge in May because of radioactive contamination of his land.

"It's unusual to see an environmental verdict of that size, and that could be a sign of things to come," he said.

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



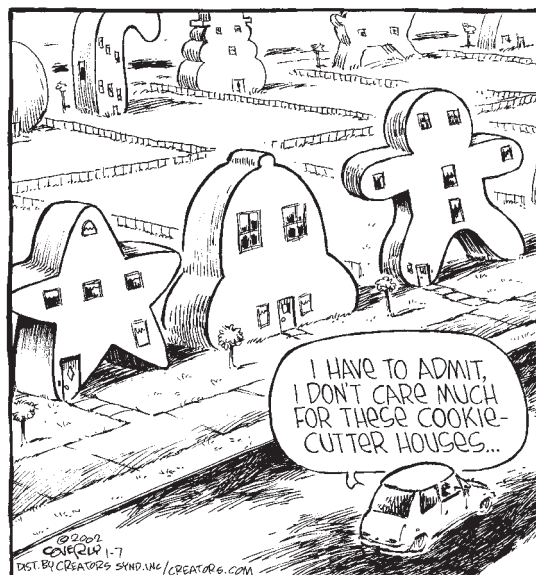
By Dave Whammond



A black and white cartoon by Wallace. In an art gallery, a woman in a costume labeled 'VENUS' stands before a man. The man, looking surprised, is looking at a painting of a woman in a similar pose. The woman's costume is a simple, light-colored garment. The man is wearing a jacket and a scarf. The gallery has several framed paintings on the wall. The cartoon is signed 'WALLACE' in the top left corner. In the top right corner, there is a copyright notice: '©2002 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC. www.creators.com'.

"Psst ... a buck, if you'll scratch my back."

By Dave Coverly



ACROSS

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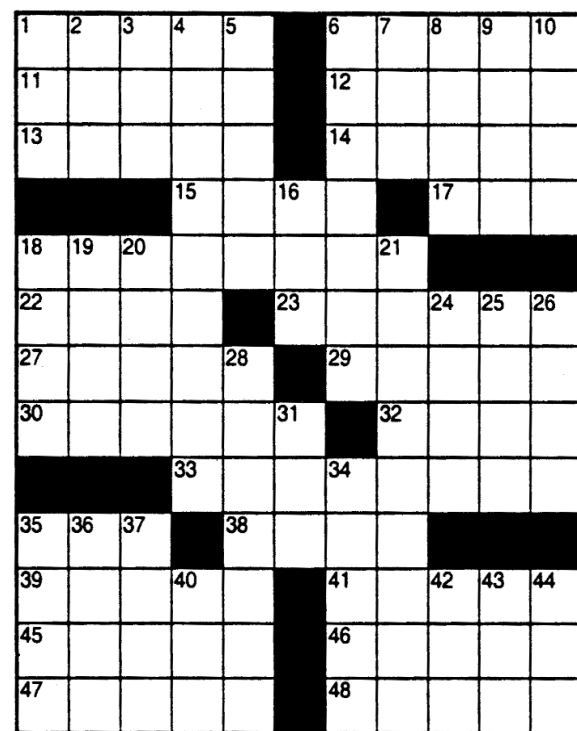
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| 19 Coup d'— | 34 | Permitted | | | |
| 20 Be furious | 35 | Whip | | | |



Saturday's answer

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 21 Obsolete | 36 Opera solo |
| 24 Musical ending | 37 Try to lose |
| 25 Comic actor | 40 Planning time |
| Idle | 42 Writer Levin |
| 26 "Auld Lang —" | 43 Light metal |
| 28 Pasta | 44 Used a stool |
| 31 Cunning | |
| 34 Permitted | |
| 35 Whip | |



1-7

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Transgender wants to be mom and dad

In December, transgender aspirant Jamie Cooper, 16, of Birmingham, England, told reporters that he planned to store some of his sperm before he changes sexes so that, with the use of a surrogate womb, he can eventually be both the father and the mother of a child (which, if it happens, would be a world's first). Cooper is now living openly as a girl, has begun anti-testosterone injections, and, under National Health Service rules, will be eligible for surgery in five years. Various church spokespeople were horrified when told of Cooper's plans.

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BACK PAGE

Art exhibit shows everyone has to 'poop'

BY MARGIE MASON
Associated Press Writer

NAPA, Calif. — A Catholic group has denounced an art exhibit at an upscale Napa tourist attraction that features 35 defecating ceramic figurines, including the pope, nuns and angels.

The work by Spanish artist Antoni Miralda titled "Poetic Gut," is on display at Copia, the Napa Valley's new food, wine and arts museum.

"Artists. California. Alcohol. That's a bad mix," William Donohue, president of the Catholic League said in a press release posted on the New York-based group's Web site.

League spokesman Patrick Scully told the Los Angeles Times that scores of the group's 350,000 members nationwide who had seen or read about the exhibit had called to complain.

But Copia spokeswoman Holly Krassner said Saturday the center received only three complaints and a handful of e-mails complaining about the display, which uses well-known figures including Fidel Castro, Laurel and Hardy and Popeye to demonstrate the final phase of

the eating process.

The squatting figurines or "caganers" are part of Catalan peasant tradition dating back to the 18th century. One is typically placed in a Nativity scene to bring families good luck and good health, Krassner said. The ceramic figurines are popular trinkets available in stores and markets in Catalonia, she said.

Some visitors of the "Active Ingredients" exhibition said if they hadn't looked closely, they would not have noticed what the figurines were doing.

Kathy Kearns of Crockett brought along her 4-year-old daughter, Cora Concannon, who giggled as she peered at the various chess-sized figurines.

"Santa has to poop," Concannon said pointing to St. Nick. "Even angels have to poop."

The figurines are displayed on glass shelves in a display case made from an old soda vending refrigerator. Bed pans and chamber pots are featured below on other shelves.

"This is the perfect recycling process. I think it's delightful," said Nelljean Rice, a food author and English professor visiting from Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"I think people who are offended by this kind of art

take things too literally," she said. "I think it's really clever and funny. I think it's perfect for a food exhibit because it shows the process."

In the statement, Donohue sarcastically responded to Copia's explanation of the display: "Now I get it: To show his appreciation of Mother Earth, Miralda had to show the pope and nuns defecating. But why couldn't he have chosen the Lone Ranger and Tonto instead? Or better yet, just Tonto and a few of his Indian buddies."

No one from the Catholic League returned repeated phone calls from The Associated Press on Saturday.

Some Catholics viewing the display on Saturday laughed at the figurines, saying they were not offended by the religious pieces, but did find them a little gross.

"I think it's quite funny. I'm not offended," said Barbara Gaspers visiting from Seattle. "There's also uncle Sam, so should we as United States citizens be offended, too? It's a bit of a reach. And I'm Catholic."

Krassner said no one from the Catholic League has visited the exhibit, and she said the group is spreading misinformation about the museum's funding. She said Copia has received only one state grant for \$50,000, which was not used for the controversial display.

Family, friends surprised at alleged Hair Bandit's arrest

By the Associated Press

LONG BEACH — Family members and friends were surprised by Michael Lynn Howard's arrest as the alleged "Hair Bandit," an attacker who hacked off a girl's and women's tresses in a series of assaults.

"It's very bizarre," Jack Howard, a Los Angeles County probation officer, said of his younger brother's arrest and the fetish

that allegedly drove him.

"We don't really understand it."

Jack Howard said family members noticed a striking change in his 47-year-old brother's behavior last month, perhaps due to drug use.

Howard was charged Thursday with six counts of second-degree robbery, one count of lewd conduct upon a child, and one count of assaulting a peace officer. He was ordered held in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

He was arrested Jan. 1, a day after sheriff's deputies said they saw him attack a sixth victim on a street in East Los Angeles. The other five, ranging in age from 12 to 45, were attacked in Long Beach.

Jack Howard said he called authorities after hearing about the attacks in the news, but has not said why he suspected his brother.

"That was not an easy thing to do, but

given my position and experience, I've got to think about victims," he said.

Michael Howard's business partner of 25 years, Gian Simonetti, said he never knew his friend to have any fascination with hair.

"He surprised everybody," said Simonetti, co-owner of Simo Cycle, a custom bicycle shop in Huntington Beach.

"I thought it was crazy, and feel sorry for him," he added.

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