

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Hollywood's spotlight dims on Santa Monica

As productions continue to move to Canada, local filming declines

(Editor's note: This is the second installment of a two-part series that examines film production in Santa Monica and what it means for the local economy. Monday's article focused on why production companies choose Santa Monica.)

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica increasingly found itself at the epicenter of the nation's film production during the booming economy of the last decade as major studios and entertainment companies moved their headquarters into town.

Sony, MGM and MTV all moved their headquarters to the east end of Broadway and Colorado boulevards during the 1990s, creating an entertainment gulch of studios and post-production companies.

Now MGM is pulling up its stakes for new digs in Century City. And in recent years many of the region's entertainment industry jobs have been rapidly moving to Canada, which in some cases subsidizes 30 to 40 percent of a production, enter-

tainment officials say.

To stay competitive, firms have used Canadian companies and locations to get new contracts. The effects have been disastrous for local filming.

"Our primary benefit is that (local filming) puts a good face to Santa Monica and it gets our image out to the entire world."

— KATHY DODSON
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

The city issued \$222,755 in film permits in 1997, but this year officials estimate the city will take in about \$122,000.

The Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Airport also has felt the pinch. It's been used for scenes from movies such as "Austin Powers: Goldmember" and the "Big Lebowski." But lately, the movie business hasn't reaped the same kind of benefits for the hangar.

See **FILMING**, page 4

City Hall stabbing prompts review of custodial transfers

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — County officials are searching for a safe place for parents in heated custody disputes to exchange the kids for visits.

The problem of contentious custody battles was magnified four months ago when a 6-year-old boy watched his father stab to death his mother, then kill himself, during a court-ordered custody transfer in front of Santa Monica City Hall.

A domestic violence counselor there to supervise the transfer also witnessed the killings.

"There are many families in Los Angeles County where the parent conflict is so high that they cannot peacefully exchange custody between them," said Superior Court Judge Aviva K. Bobb, who supervises the court's family law departments.

"There is a major need for a place where

parents can exchange their children and there is professional supervision," she said.

Family court judges now order some parents to swap children for visitations in public places, like fast-food restaurants or even police stations.

To facilitate peaceful exchanges, the court wants to establish a place where parents can drop off and pick up their children for court-ordered visitation under the watchful eye of professional mediators and within earshot of law enforcement officers.

Court and county officials are working with law enforcement to locate space in a San Fernando Valley police station and a San Gabriel Valley sheriff's station for two exchange centers.

The Superior Court and county Judicial Procedures Commission will ask the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday to authorize an application for a \$100,000 federal grant to pay for a pilot program.



Andy Fixmer/Daily Press

Top: Genvieve Raymond of Venice, right, and Lisa Gallegos of Mar Vista debate gentrification over coffee at the UnUrban Cafe. **Bottom left:** Costa Bargeliotis browses through guitars at McCabe's Guitar Shop. **Bottom right:** Unique restaurants like Sabor have added much to Pico's eclectic flavor.

Businesses on Pico post steady growth in sales

With the creation of a business district, sales have staggered upwards

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Graying automotive repair shops and graffiti are giving way to lively restaurants and retailers along Pico Boulevard.

And with that transformation, sales figures for the city's longest and least cohesive business district have grown steadily as well.

Since the Pico Boulevard Business Improvement District was first formed in 1999, sales tax figures from shops along Pico have grown steadily. Between 2000 and 2001, sales at Pico shops increased by 5 percent, city sales tax returns show.

City sales tax data released Wednesday shows third quarter sales from June to September 2002 increased by 7 percent when compared to the same period last year.

"The reason for that reasonable strength, is that Pico — unlike other areas of the city — is not dependent on the

See **PICO**, page 5

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Use your imagination, and you'll create possibilities. Close down, and you could have a problem. Friends and associates mean well. Do a better job of listening. Your creativity takes you in a new direction. You're encouraged to act. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Review recent discussions with an associate before launching into action. You could be uncomfortable with what you hear. Try to get clarity in that situation. Ask questions. Seek out answers. Your ability to realize what others are asking could make or break you. Tonight: Stretch and get out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Put your best foot forward and reach out for loved ones. Think through answers and find out what needs to happen. You could find news rather diffuse and extremely confusing. Seek facts; dump opinions. You will find the right path this way. Tonight: Treat another to dinner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your personality helps melt barriers and change others' opinions. Laughter will take you in a new direction if you can help those around you loosen up. There are many answers to the current issue. Brainstorm with associates. Tonight: Do your thing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Be creative, even if a part of you wants to withdraw from a problem. You have the answers. Getting others to listen might be difficult. Review recent decisions involving a relationship. Not everything is as clear as it seems. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Pressure builds in an unprecedented manner. You might not be happy with what others share. You want something different, though you might not know how to ask for it. Start aiming higher. A family member agitates for more of what he or she wants. Tonight: Start your weekend early.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Pressure builds whether you realize it or not. Think in terms of more positive happenings. Make an effort. Reach out to others. Your efforts come back in multiples. Consider your options that involve a child or loved one more carefully. Tonight: Make that additional effort.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Keep asking questions about your financial status. You have difficulty staying on top of what is necessary. Someone at a distance is a constant source of ideas. Check in if you would like to find an alternative. Tonight: Surf the Net.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Mars moves into your sign, energizing you and pointing you in a new direction. You might react angrily at first, but later you change gears. Work with others on a one-on-one level. Your discomfort marks your interactions. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others run with the ball. You're a sign who enjoys being in control and resents others making decisions without you. Be careful with your anger. You might say something that you are not able to take back later. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ You might not be sure of a friend, especially if he or she suddenly becomes ballistic. Nurture others, understanding more of what needs to happen in order to gain the control you desire. Carefully think through a decision. Tonight: Clear off your desk.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ A boss is on the warpath. You could feel out of sync when dealing with loved ones and friends because of pressure at work. Don't respond so much to others' demands. Follow through on what you need to do. Tonight: Use your imagination.

QUOTE of the DAY

"The popularity of a bad man is as treacherous as he is himself."

— Pliny the Younger (c. 62-c. 113)

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Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Angela Downen angela@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackarison sack@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE William Pattinosh william@smdp.com
COURT REPORTER John Wood john@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Pleubeni rob@smdp.com
SPORTS EDITOR Jesse Haley jesse@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Keri Arosty keri@smdp.com
NIGHT EDITOR Patrick McDonald PRMcDonald@aol.com	CIRCULATION MANAGER Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastreana del@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Alejandro C. Cantarero alex@smdp.com	STAFF MASCOT Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED SALES REPRESENTATIVE Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com	

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Relay for life gearing up

By Daily Press staff

Walkers are being rounded up early this year for the second annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life, a 24-hour event to increase cancer awareness and fund-raiser in Santa Monica.

Teams are made up of at least 18-20 people who will walk or run around a track in shifts. Team participants camp out and enjoy music, entertainment and refreshments, as well as build team spirit in the fight against cancer.

The event is scheduled for July 26-27 at Santa Monica College, Corsair Field, from 9 a.m. to 9 a.m.

The power of the relay allows the community to grieve for those who have been lost to cancer and to celebrate the lives of those who have successfully survived. It gives everyone, from the newly diagnosed patient to the caregivers of those who have struggled with the disease, an opportunity to be with others who have been touched by cancer.

Participants form teams of 18-20 people who walk or run around the track in shifts. Teams can be made up of friends, relatives, local businesses, hospitals, schools, churches and other organizations. Each team is asked to keep one member on the track at all times. Team registration fee is \$150 and each team member is encouraged to raise a minimum of \$100.

All cancer survivors, from those beginning their journeys to those who have emerged victorious, are encouraged to walk our opening lap and inspire everyone through their participation.

For more information call Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org

Waxman makes Santa Monica appearance

By Daily Press staff

Congressman Henry A Waxman will give a "State of Our Congress" address today at Pacific Gardens in Santa Monica.

The address is scheduled for 2 p.m. at 851 Second Street.

The focus will be senior citizen issues, as well as various community interests.

Pacific Gardens Residence in Santa Monica is a quality full-service Community for Senior Living catering for some 100 residents. The eldest is Dorothy Barr, who is 99 years old this year.

Santa Monica's past has been extended

By Daily Press staff

An exhibition featuring Santa Monica's history has been extended through Jan. 31.

The Santa Monica Historical Society Museum, 1539 Euclid St., is showing "The Outlook: History & Headlines," an exhibit featuring famous headlines and stories of the 20th Century with photographs of early artifacts used in the newspaper's operation.

The exhibit's hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. An ongoing exhibit, Cities By The Sea; Images of the Past, features visual histories of Santa Monica, Ocean Park, Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Venice and Santa Monica Canyon.

For more information, call (310) 395-2290.

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Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Rumors of a huge swell seem to have been exaggerated. The swell filled in better in the afternoon, but winds picked up, making for bumpy, blown out waves.

We should see the same kind of surf today, decent size, more in the chest to shoulder-high range and mediocre conditions, better in the morning when the winds are calm.

Leftover swell will wind down further today. Expect mostly waist to chest-level waves at good breaks, smaller at shadowed spots.



Today's Tides:

High- 5:29 a.m. 5.16'
Low- 1:01 p.m. 0.39'
High- 7:32 p.m. 3.20'
Low- 11:35 p.m. 2.46'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	D
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	3-4'/Poor	2-3'/Poor	A
El Porto	4-5'/Poor	3-4'/Poor	A

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The Q Line

A recent city survey notes that the top concerns of Santa Monicans are the increasing number of homeless people living on the streets, too much development and too much traffic.

The results of the survey probably don't surprise many, since the concerns have been the same for at least three years in a row. However, the survey only polled 400 people in a city with a population of 84,000.

So this week Q-Line wants to know: **"Are the top concerns revealed in the city's survey also your concerns? How can our elected officials rectify the problem?"**

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LOCAL

Film companies generate good buzz for Santa Monica

FILMING, from page 1

It used to be that 40 percent of the hangar's income came from filming. That has now shrunk to 10 percent, said Linda Sullivan, who books films for Santa Monica Air Center, Inc., which owns Barker Hangar. Still, the hangar can make tens of thousands of dollars renting out its space for a day.

"There's still commercials out there but not like it used to be," she said. "Commercial production used to be a significant part of our business and it no longer is. I find that troubling because there are so many people in this city whose livelihood is dependent on it."

Now Barker Hangar's focus is on live television events. For the third straight year, the Kids Choice Awards will be held in the hangar, and last month rap celebrity Eminem held a Pay-Per-View concert there with about 1,700 audience members. The annual World Stunt Awards have been held there for nearly five years.

"We are great for live television," Sullivan said. "When you get a thousand people in here it doesn't matter what sound is outside. Put a thousand kids in a room, you're not going to hear a jet taking off."

Restaurant owners get into movie biz

For other local business owners, filming has allowed them to maintain a stream of income even if their sales are slumping, or their operations are down.

Bruce Beach, owner of Pentola Taverna at 312 Wilshire Blvd., temporarily closed his restaurant during a recent kitchen upgrade, but he is still renting out his space for filming. He can average \$4,000 a day renting out his restaurant to film crews.

Beach said his restaurant is used for filming once or twice a month. He said he avoids renting it out more than that because it's problematic for his patrons.

"You don't want to alienate your customers by being closed too often," he said. "Besides, I'm in the restaurant business, not the movie business."

The restaurant often is used as an East Coast location, because of its high ceilings and elegant atmosphere, Beach said. It was used in the movie "Get Shorty," in television shows "The West Wing" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," and numerous commercials.

"We're losing some of it now," Beach said. "A lot of it is going to the studios where they are building sets. It's expensive to shoot in Santa Monica because of all the permits. If it's a long series, now they'll build a set."

Film companies find local businesses by word of mouth and through advertisements those businesses place in industry directories that list their facilities.

The film and television industry is a vital aspect of Santa Monica's economy, generating \$1.5 billion in payroll and vendor expenditures annually, according to an industry study. The city also is home to thousands of industry employees who earn their living from entertainment production.

Santa Monica becomes the center of attention

Many jobs in post-production studios are located in Santa Monica, and a large number of outdoor scenes take place here, generating hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in revenue for the city and local businesses.

Local government officials recognize the film industry's importance to the city's economy. Santa Monica has joined the

national fight to keep film production in the United States and out of Canada.

The Santa Monica City Council was one of the first in the nation to sign a petition last May asking trade representatives to investigate the claims of wrongdoing by Canada. Film industry and labor unions hope to use the council's resolution to pressure lawmakers in Washington D.C. to follow through with some action.

City Manager Susan McCarthy said it is unlikely film fees would be raised during the current budget deficits because officials want to encourage the film industry to continue shooting in Santa Monica.

To that end, the city has made its film permit process easier for production companies to shoot on location in the city.

"If a big job comes in and they're late with their paperwork and we aren't doing anything else too important, we'll drop whatever we're doing to make sure they get all the permits they need," said Kathy Ruff, the city's film permit coordinator. "We try to make it as easy as possible for them to get what they need."

"It's expensive to shoot in Santa Monica because of all the permits. If it's a long series, now they'll build a set."

— **BRUCE BEACH**
Santa Monica business owner

Generally, businesses that need to get permits for film productions say the bureaucratic tangles found in other departments within City Hall don't exist when it comes to filming.

"The city has been pretty friendly with it," Beach said. "Sometimes they object to parking situations, but in other cases the city has bent over backwards to accommodate ... them too."

Some location scouts said Santa Monica is known for being a difficult place to film, but others said it's relatively easy.

"I love filming in Santa Monica because I understand what I can do in Santa Monica," said Mike Beche, a location manager for the television show "7th Heaven."

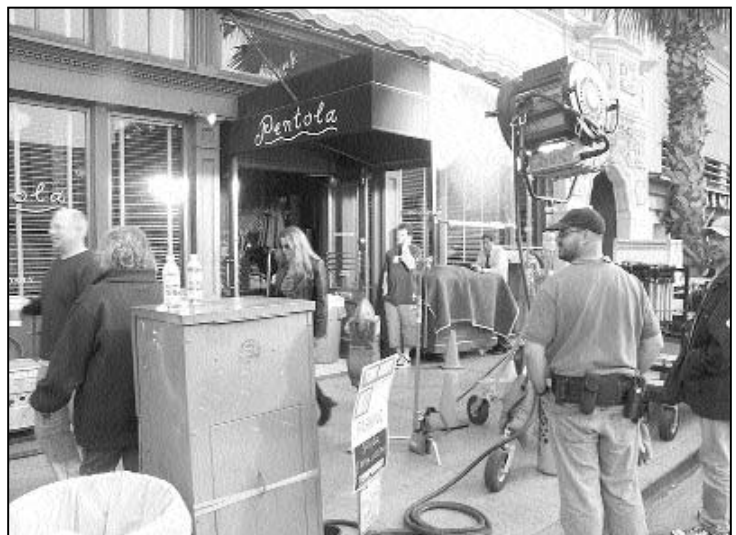
"If it causes a traffic problem, they don't want it," he said. "If I need to do something really crazy I go to L.A. because it's so big they don't ever know."

While city officials want to protect an industry that is close to home and helps generate tax dollars, many in the business community want to see local filming continue to give Santa Monica widespread exposure.

From the sandy beaches depicted in "Baywatch" to the bungalow lifestyle shown in "Three's Company," the local film industry generates a lot of good buzz worldwide for Santa Monica.

"I think in the long run it gives Santa Monica more promotion and that's generally good for business, especially tourism related business," said Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathy Dodson. "Our primary benefit is that it puts a good face to Santa Monica and it gets our image out to the entire world."

"If for that reason alone, the film industry is a very important segment of Santa Monica's local economy."



File photo

Filming crews, whether it be for television programs, commercials or the big screen, routinely choose Santa Monica for their locations.

Top: Crews last year filmed a segment for "In the House," starring Steve Martin. The Disney production is expected to be released soon.

Center: An upcoming movie "Gigli," starring Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez is being shot at Will Rogers State Beach, which was also the set of "Baywatch" for years. Crews filmed most of the scenes this past February for the film, but were back at last week to wrap up the work.

Bottom: Pentola Taverna on Wilshire Boulevard is a favorite among film companies who shoot television programs and movies. Film companies are willing to pay thousands of dollars to exclusively use area restaurants for their sets.

LOCAL



Some call Pico's growth misleading, lopsided

PICO, from page 1

tourism trade," said Mark Richter, economic development director for Santa Monica. "It's a more resident-service market."

Richter believes Pico's sales have steadily grown because businesses serve the neighborhood and have good relations with nearby residents. The creation of a business district has helped businesses get their message out to residents and attract new patrons, he said.

"I think its success points to a continuing need to provide amenities and services that are attractive to the local population, and to do that in a way that is respectful of the adjacent districts," Richter said. "And that is what we have been trying to do with Pico."

Bordered by the Santa Monica Freeway to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west, the 3.5 miles of Pico Boulevard that make up the district are a hodge-podge.

Anchored on its western-end by two luxury resorts, Shutters by the Beach and Casa Del Mar, the boulevard quickly switches to a video rental store and a bowling alley near the civic center. It again changes, this time to student-serving businesses like bars and book stores, by Santa Monica College.

A Trader Joe's dominates its eastern edge, near the traffic-clogged freeway on-ramp, where a scurry of local and regionally renowned businesses have sprouted nearby.

McCabe's Guitar Shop and the UnUrban Cafe have become cultural institutions regionally for their concerts and poetry readings.

"This part of Santa Monica is the last corner of mom and pop shops," said Pamela Stollings, vice-chair of the business district and owner of the UnUrban Cafe. "And people are finding more comfort in that."

"So much of Los Angeles to me looks like a strip mall," she added. "Here everybody still has their individuality."

And the eastern edge of the district may also be the only place in Santa Monica where one can buy a \$2 bottle of red wine at Trader Joe's and walk across the street and have a \$200 dinner at Valentino's Italian Restaurant.

It's that diversity of stores that will help lead to a thriving business corridor, city officials said.

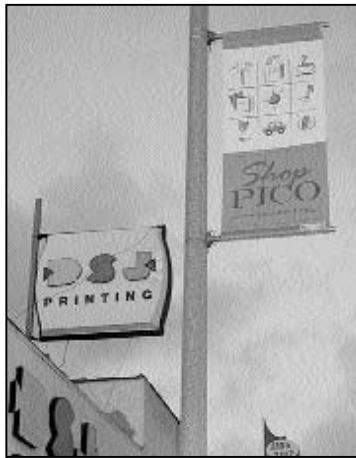
"We're really pleased to see it improving," said Gwen Pentecost, an economic analyst with the city who works closely with the Pico business district.

"The story of Pico is the unique business that comes in works hard and turns it around," she said. "And that's what they are doing, they are turning it around."

But some say Pico's growth is lopsided. Little activity exists between businesses near the beach and those close to the freeway. Indeed, the district's board is dominated by businesses from the eastern edge of Pico and hotels officials have shown little interest in participating.

"Some of the best businesses on Pico are on the east end of Pico," said Jim Stebbinger, president of the business district and a Trader Joe's employee. "I'm glad it's a mini region that's helping Pico, but I'm concerned about the rest of Pico. We have to spread that growth out."

Stebbing said figures indicating Pico's sales are growing can be mislead-



Andy Fixmer/Daily Press

Much of the money collected from Pico businesses for the improvement district has gone toward promoting the corridor. Here a banner attached to a lamp post urges neighborhood residents to shop locally.

ing. He said Trader Joe's accounts for a lot of the sales on the eastern end and the hotels account for much of the rest.

It seems some employees would agree. When told sales figures showed steady growth at shops along Pico, an UnUrban worker chuckled. "I don't know where that's happening," he said. "But it certainly isn't here. We've been dead compared to last year."

Stebbing said Pico most recently has been marked by a string of vacant storefronts, rather than sidewalks bustling with shoppers.

"What I've been noticing is the number of businesses leaving Pico," he said. "It's definitely a mixed bag."

Business along Pico Boulevard are assessed a fee for being in the business improvement district. Depending on the size of the business, those fees fluctuate between \$100 and \$1,000 annually. All told, the district collects about \$65,000 a year for improving the business corridor.

In 2001 money was spent on a survey that found nearby residents had no idea which shops are along Pico Boulevard, officials said.

"Some residents said 'We want a cafe' when there's one right around the corner from them," Stollings said. "It showed us that we really need to reach out to residents and tell them what's in their own backyard."

The group launched an advertising campaign that included street light banners, sending 10,000 mailers to businesses and nearby residents, and distributing a free directory of business found along Pico Boulevard.

According to city officials, the outreach is paying off but they question how long sales can continue to grow.

"I think it does in part reflect the fairly recent formation of a business improvement district, and a concerted effort of merchants along Pico to market and promote themselves and largely target Santa Monica residents," Richter said.

"Certainly five percent (growth) is not sustainable over a long period of time," he added. "And there is still an economic downturn going on, so we will be interested to see the trend over the next couple of quarters."

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

State tripling distribution of radiation pills

By The Associated Press

SAN CLEMENTE — The state has decided to more than triple the number of potassium iodide pills being distributed in communities near the San Onofre and Diablo Canyon nuclear power plants.

Residents and health experts concerned there might not be enough of the thyroid-blocking pills for people who live, work, attend school and vacation in those areas led to the decision by state health officials to expand the potassium iodide order.

The pills could reduce the effects of radiation poisoning after an accidental radiation release or act of terrorism.

At least 400,000 of the 1.4 million pills will be given to residents within a 10-mile radius of the plants in San Luis Obispo County and the border of southern Orange and northern San Diego counties.

The state will now make pills available to worried residents who live outside the zones and to people who pass through the areas.

"I think we want to be better safe than sorry," said Eric Lamoureux, spokesman for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Potassium iodide is a form of salt that protects against one type of radioactive isotope: iodine. The pills help block the absorption of radioactive iodine by the thyroid, reducing the chance of thyroid cancer, the most common ailment suffered after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant explosion in Ukraine.

A few months after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon in 2001, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission offered the pills to more than 4 million people who live within the 10-mile evacuation zones of nuclear power plants across the nation.

California was one of the states that signed up for a supply and received 400,000 doses in the summer. But the state has been struggling to come up with a distribution plan.

Originally, the state planned to make the pills available only to those living in the 10-mile evacuation zones — 421,000 residents near San Onofre and 22,000 residents near Diablo Canyon. Now, the state wants to give them out to anyone who requests them.

Distribution could begin within two months.

"We want to make sure — just in case there's a run on it, which we don't expect — that we can make it available not only for those people living in the area, but also working in the area and recreating in the area," Lamoureux said. "Those numbers are hard to calculate. So having more than enough on hand, we believe, is prudent."

Blood shortage spurs Red Cross campaign

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An acute blood shortage in Southern California led the American Red Cross to begin a paid advertising campaign for the first time.

There is just 4 percent of the desired supply of type O positive blood, 5 percent of B positive and 8 percent of O negative, said Julie Juliusson, spokeswoman for the American Red Cross Blood Services, Southern California Region.

"It's pretty bleak," she said.

The Red Cross opened seven blood centers Sunday, hoping to increase donations. Shortages this week could force postponement of elective surgeries, Juliusson said.

The Red Cross started last week to run ads in newspapers throughout Southern California and on TV and radio stations in English and Spanish.

County not keen on straw hut

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A Meiners Oaks worm farmer built a straw bale hut and Ventura County is huffing and puffing: Officials said he didn't obtain proper permits to build his unusual office and they want him to tear it down.

Pierre Constans compares the county to the Big Bad Wolf in the story of "Three Little Pigs."

"I don't know if the county of Ventura is big or bad. But I wish they would stop focusing on me," Constans said. The 60-year-old entrepreneur built the cheap, ecologically sound straw-bale office without getting any permits.

"I needed an office. If I had known it would cause all this trouble, I would have built it with sticks," he said. The 10-by-20-foot office uses straw bales and stabilizing iron rods that are covered with wire, coated with stucco and painted.

Officials said they have no problem with straw as a building material, but they say proper procedures must be followed.

"Pierre hasn't gotten any permits at all," county building official Jack Phillips said. "We have him listed in violation, and he is working with us on getting a conditional-use permit."

The office was built on a muddy, one-acre lot where, Constans said, he "wrangles 300,000 head of worm," which spend their days in dark trays feasting on moldering coffee grounds. "They seem to like the French roast and Colombian best," he said.

FIND OUT YOUR FORECAST IN TODAY'S
HOROSCOPE ... PAGE 2

STATE



Blake will not answer questions during civil deposition

BY LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — Robert Blake's criminal lawyer said Monday he will not permit his client to answer questions at a civil deposition scheduled for Wednesday in a wrongful death suit brought by the family of Blake's slain wife.

The prospect of Blake providing no information to the plaintiff's attorney raised anew the question of whether the deposition should go forward. Superior Court Judge David Schacter asked attorneys to meet with him on the matter Tuesday afternoon.

Blake's criminal attorney, Thomas Mesereau Jr., said he previously proposed that the civil suit inquiries be postponed until after Blake's criminal trial but the judge turned down that request.

"I will not permit him to respond to any questions at a deposition until after he is acquitted at the criminal trial," Mesereau said in a phone interview.

Eric Dubin, the lawyer representing Bonny Lee Bakley's family, said he wants to delay all proceedings in the civil case but has been opposed by Blake's civil lawyers.

"I don't want to go forward with this case right now," Dubin said. "It's a lesser standard of proof than the criminal case...I

would like to put the case on hold, shake hands and let the prosecutors and detectives do their work."

Dubin said he wants to depose Blake now, but would be willing to postpone the depositions of some 100 other witnesses until after the criminal trial.

He said that Blake's civil lawyers have already spent many hours questioning Bakley's two adult children and said he feels it is only fair now for him to be able to question Blake.

Dubin said that if Blake should be convicted of murder, it would make the civil suit easier to win. If he is acquitted, the civil suit could go forward much as a sim-

ilar suit did in the O.J. Simpson case.

He said the civil suit was filed to comply with a one-year statute of limitations. But the civil case would not go to trial until after the criminal case. Civil depositions are a form of discovery for that proceeding, providing lawyers with information to be used at trial.

Mesereau's request to cancel Blake's deposition was turned down by Schacter after Blake's civil lawyers declined to agree to postpone all discovery in the civil case, according to Dubin.

The civil lawyers, Barry Felsen and Peter Ezzell, did not immediately return phone calls from The Associated Press on Monday.

'Greek Wedding' on TV to be less old world, star says

BY LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — The hit film "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" will change in its translation to a television series, its star and creator Nia Vardalos said Monday.

The movie, which received a People's Choice Award for best comedy film on Sunday and is a Golden Globe nominee, is the basis of the CBS series "My Big Fat Greek Life," debuting next month.

The sitcom will reflect a more contemporary sensibility than the movie's "old world" feel because TV and movie-watching are different experiences, Vardalos told the Television Critics Association.

"In a movie theater, you accept the reality given you. ... When you're in a living room, surrounded by 2003 appliances and your 2003 wife," a show has to be more accessible, she said.

The series also will focus on more than her character's love life, Vardalos said. Making the movie over each week wouldn't be satisfying.

"You can't just carbon-copy something. We have to be creatively interested in what we're doing," she said.

The lighthearted film was about Toula's (Vardalos) courtship and her Greek-American family's response to her Waspish suitor. The series will pick up after their marriage, with Vardalos' character renamed Nia.

There's no danger of running out of material, Vardalos said. "I have one conversation with my dad on the phone and I get an idea for a sequel," she said.

"My Big Fat Greek Life" will debut 9:30 p.m. EST Monday, Feb. 24, and will move to its regular 8 p.m. EST Sunday slot on March 2.

Most of the movie's cast is returning, including Lainie Kazan and Michael Constantine as her parents and Andrea Martin as Aunt Voula. John Corbett, who played her beau, was committed to the upcoming FX series "Lucky" and is replaced in the series by Steven Eckholdt.

Corbett was gracious about missing out, Vardalos said. "That's OK, baby. Have a good time," he told her.

Actress Rita Wilson ("Sleepless in Seattle") helped bring Vardalos' one-woman play to the big screen and is

an executive producer on the TV series.

Wilson said she will guest star on the show. Would her husband, Tom Hanks, also make an appearance?

"He's going to have to go through the casting couch, too," she said, picking up on a joke Vardalos made about using her husband, actor Ian Gomez, in the show. Gomez appeared in the movie.

Vardalos called the People's Choice award "fantastic" and said she was excited about the prospect of other honors — although she's tried to convince herself the film's box-office success is enough. The movie has brought in more than \$200 million, making it an unprecedented independent film success.

The exuberant Vardalos, asked about being a role model for women who aren't rail-thin, said she hoped women of all sizes would be accepted. She also offered a comic jab at the double-standard regarding the sexes on weight.

"Russell Crowe is fat. Nobody ever talks about that," she said. And another top star, Jack Nicholson, "comes into a room 10 minutes before his head does," she added.

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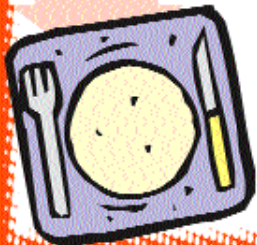
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NATIONAL

Girl Scouts lacking in volunteer troop leaders

BY ANABELLE GARAY
Associated Press Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Mariah Young can't wait to camp out in the woods, ride a horse and learn wilderness survival with a Girl Scouts troop.

But instead of donning the green, patch-adorned uniform and exploring the outdoors with other girls, the fourth-grader spends her afternoons playing basketball at a recreation center.

Mariah has been waiting for a year to join a troop. But the 10-year-old is still eager to become a Girl Scout.

"It teaches you how to do stuff you don't normally learn," she said.

Mariah is among hundreds of girls across the country who have waited for months or even a year because of a shortage of volunteer troop leaders.

The problem exists mainly in areas with a fast-growing demand to join Girl Scouts and where volunteers are difficult to find, said Girls Scouts spokeswoman Ellen Christie in New York. Councils in sparsely populated areas and in large urban centers like greater New York and Los Angeles have girls on wait lists, Christie said.

There are more than 300 Girl Scout councils offering sports, community service projects, cultural exchanges and environmental activities to girls aged 5 to 17. The worldwide organization counts 2.8 million girl members and nearly 1 million adult members, mostly volunteers, in the U.S.

The Girl Scouts organization doesn't track how many girls are waiting to join, but estimates that thousands are served in alternative ways because there aren't enough volunteers to form and lead troops, Christie said.

About 500 to 600 girls are included in the Kentuckiana Council wait list, said Alex Rohleder, assistant executive director for membership. The council is one of the largest in the nation, serving 22,000 girls and covering 56 Kentucky counties, six in southern Indiana and part of a Tennessee county. Kentuckiana Girl Scouts relies on 8,000 volunteers, but it needs more to run all the troops.

With two leaders required for a troop of 10 girls, the council needs at least 120 volunteers, mostly in western Kentucky and in rural and low-income areas, Rohleder said.

"We never have enough leaders, although we've had an increase in membership over the last four years," she said.

In half the cases, the council can't find a leader to head the troop, forcing girls to continue waiting or give up, Rohleder said.

Girl Scout leaders in Alaska faced a similar challenge last year, said Suellen Nelles, executive director of Farthest North Girl Scouts Council in Fairbanks.

The area has a transient population, with many people transferring in and out because they're serving in the military, studying at a university or simply changing jobs. The council registers about 1,100 girls each year and covers the entire northern half of Alaska, a land mass bigger than Texas.

"Being so mobile, we have a hard time hanging on to volunteers, we have a hard time hanging on to girls," Nelles said.

After the council's membership director moved, the wait list grew to 70 and many girls were never placed, Nelles said. This year, the wait list dropped to 10.

Heather Watt, a membership development specialist at the Girl Scouts' Bowling Green Service Center, 110 miles south of Louisville, has seen the same problem.

"We have the most girls wanting to join that we have ever seen," Watt said. "Unfortunately, we don't have the leaders stepping up and volunteering at the time we have such an increase."

In Adair County in rural southern Kentucky, 150 girls are on a waiting list. Yet the area has more troops than ever before, Watt said.

Parents of Girl Scouts account for most volunteer leaders. But that can pose a problem when girls come from single parent homes, leaders say.

"They're single, trying to raise the family and they just don't have the time to be Girl Scouts leaders," Rohleder said.

The shortage of volunteers has left organizers exploring other options. There are mothers who serve as troop leaders on weekends, groups that meet once a month instead of weekly, and instructors who offer short-term programs on everything from whitewater rafting to car maintenance.

"The whole face of Girl Scouts is changing because of the time constraints today," Rohleder said. "We have to meet that challenge by accommodating their needs."

Toy retailer FAO Inc. files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — FAO Inc., which owns the FAO Schwarz, Zany Brainy and Right Start toy-store chains, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Monday.

The King of Prussia, Pa.-based company said it has reached an agreement with lenders that will allow it to continue to operate without interruptions.

The company said it expects to meet with major creditors and file a reorganization plan soon, with the expectation of emerging from bankruptcy in the second quarter.

FAO listed assets of \$257.4 million and liabilities of \$238.4 million.

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NATIONAL

More infants in U.S. share beds with parents

BY DEANNA BELLANDI
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — More infants in the United States are sleeping in their parents' beds — a practice that can be deadly for babies.

The percentage of infants who usually slept in a bed with an adult more than doubled from 5.5 percent to 12.8 percent between 1993 and 2000, according to a study led by Marian Willinger of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

The practice is strongly influenced by cultural factors.

The study found black infants were four times as likely as white babies to share an adult's bed, and Asian babies were almost three times as likely. Infants whose mothers were under 18 were more likely to bed-share; the practice was also more common in poor households.

"They may not have a crib or bassinet for the baby, so the only place the baby can sleep is in the bed," said Dr. Angelita Covington, an Atlanta pediatrician. Some parents, she said, may take their babies

into their beds because it is a practice passed down through generations.

Covington, who works in a community health center that sees mostly poor people, said she discourages bed sharing.

The study, which appears in the January issue of Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, warns that babies can fall out of bed and get hurt, or can suffocate when an adult rolls over or the child becomes trapped between the mattress and the bed frame. Other research suggests bed-sharing can raise the risk of sudden infant death syndrome.

According to a 1999 study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, an average of 64 young children die each year while sleeping in bed with their parents or other adults.

Some have suggested bed-sharing has benefits, such as promoting breast-feeding.

In this study, researchers from the National Institutes of Health concluded there needs to be more study on the benefits or hazards.

The study was based on a telephone survey of a nationally representative group of 8,453 people.

Mike Tyson and Monica Turner are granted a divorce

BY STEPHEN MANNING
Associated Press Writer

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Mike Tyson and his second wife were granted a divorce Monday, and the former heavyweight champion agreed to pay her \$6.5 million from future earnings.

The deal ends a yearlong dispute between Tyson and Monica Turner, who accused the boxer of adultery when she filed for divorce in January 2002.

Tyson was not at the court hearing that completed the divorce, although Turner did attend. She is a pediatric resident at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington.

Tyson, 36, must pay Turner a percentage of his future purses on top of an undisclosed sum he already has given her,

according to Turner's attorney, Sanford Ain. That figure rises to \$9 million if Tyson fails to pay on time.

Turner was awarded the couple's \$4.75 million mansion in Farmington, Conn., and the \$4 million Potomac house where she lives. Turner also gets custody of their children, Rayna, 6 and Amir, 5. Tyson keeps his home in Las Vegas.

"She is pleased with the settlement, and she's ready to get on with her life," Ain said.

Tyson's attorney, Patrick Dragga, did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

The boxer met Turner while he was serving a rape sentence in an Indiana prison. They were married in April 1997 in Bethesda.

New television network aimed at black viewers in the works

BY BILL BERGSTROM
AP Business Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Comcast, the nation's largest cable television company, and Radio One Inc. said Monday they plan to launch a television network targeted toward black viewers.

The network, to carry entertainment, news, opinion and sports programming, would compete with Black Entertainment Television, founded in 1980 by billionaire Robert Johnson and bought by Viacom Inc. in 2000.

The companies said they expect to launch the network by the middle of this year. It will be designed to appeal mainly to black viewers from 25 to 54 years old.

The network, which hasn't been named, will be a joint venture between Comcast and Radio One, which is aimed

mainly at a black audience with 66 radio stations in 22 urban markets.

The companies said Lanham, Md.-based Radio One will invest \$70 million in the new network, and an additional \$60 million will come from Comcast and other investors.

Philadelphia-based Comcast, which has more than 20 million subscribers nationwide, already owns major stakes in several cable networks, including the QVC shopping network, E! Entertainment Television, the Golf Channel and regional sports networks.

The new channel will be launched on a "significant number" of Comcast's systems and the companies also will seek to make it available through other cable and satellite providers, said Brian L. Roberts, Comcast's chief executive officer and president.

INTERNATIONAL



Who guitarist arrested for child pornography

BY ED JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Pete Townshend, the legendary rock guitarist and co-founder of The Who, was arrested Monday on suspicion of possessing indecent images of children, police said.

Townshend has acknowledged using an Internet Web site advertising child pornography, but said he was not a pedophile and was only doing research for an autobiography dealing with his own suspected childhood sexual abuse.

Police said they arrested Townshend, 57, under the Protection of Children Act after executing two searches at a business and a home in Richmond, Surrey, the town outside London where he lives. They said they took computers from the home and were examining them.

Townshend was not charged with a crime. Under British law, suspects are not charged immediately upon arrest and some people who are arrested are eventually released without charge.

Townshend was being held at a southwest London police station.

In a statement on Saturday, Townshend said that on one occasion he used a credit card to download pornographic images as part of his research and that he reported what he saw to police.

Townshend, who helped form The Who in the early 1960s, said he believed he was "sexually abused between the age of five and six and a half."

"I cannot remember clearly what happened, but my creative work tends to throw up nasty shadows — particularly in 'Tommy.' Some of the things I have seen on the Internet have informed my book, which I hope will be published later this year," he added.

The title character in Townshend's rock opera "Tommy" — a deaf, dumb and blind pinball wizard — is sexually abused by an uncle.

Earlier Monday, a group of police officers arrived at Townshend's Richmond home, one carrying a plastic crate containing packaging to store potential evidence.

**"My gut instinct is that he is
not a pedophile and I know him
better than most."**

— ROGER DALTRY
The Who

His lawyer John Cohen told reporters the meeting with police was by "mutual agreement."

"We approached the police this morning and said that we should meet," he said.

Townshend, unshaven and wearing a black jacket, left his house by a side entrance at 7:20 p.m., about four hours after police arrived, and was driven away.

Scotland Yard later announced that a 57-year-old man was in custody on suspicion of making and possessing indecent images of children and of incitement to distribute them. A police spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the suspect was Townshend.

The arrest came as part of Operation Ore, a crackdown on people who view child pornography on the Internet.

British police have arrested 1,300 suspects as part of the sweep, including a judge, magistrates, dentists, doctors and a deputy school headmaster. Fifty police officers also have been arrested, and eight have been charged with offenses.

Operation Ore is the British arm of an FBI-led operation which traced 250,000 suspected pedophiles around the world through credit card details they used to pay for downloading child pornography. The names of British suspects were passed on to police here by U.S. investigators.

Townshend's friend, the model Jerry Hall, said Sunday he was an "avid supporter" of child welfare groups and had spoken at length about the dangers of child pornography on the Internet.

Daltrey, Townshend's bandmate from The Who, said: "My gut instinct is that he is not a pedophile and I know him better than most."

But Internet watchdogs have dismissed Townshend's explanation for entering an Internet site dealing with child pornography.

Mark Stephens, a lawyer and vice chairman of the Internet Watch Foundation said: "It is wrong-headed, misguided and illegal to look at or download or even to pay to download pedophilic material and if you do so, you are likely to go to prison."

Townshend was one of The Who's four founding members, along with bassist John Entwistle, singer Daltrey and drummer Keith Moon. Moon died in 1978 and Entwistle died last year.

The group, founded in London in the early 1960s, was part of the British rock invasion along with the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. Their parade of hits included "I Can See For Miles," "Pinball Wizard," and "Won't Get Fooled Again."

Stone tablet with possible Bible inscriptions examined

BY LAURIE COPANS
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Israeli geologists said Monday they have examined a stone tablet detailing repair plans for the Jewish Temple of King Solomon that, if authenticated, would be a rare piece of physical evidence confirming biblical narrative.

The find is about the size of a legal pad, with a 15-line inscription in ancient Hebrew that strongly resembles descriptions in the Bible's Book of Kings. It could also strengthen Jewish claims to a disputed holy site in Jerusalem's Old City that is now home to two major mosques.

Muslim clerics insist, despite overwhelming archaeological evidence, that no Jewish shrine ever stood at the site. That claim was made by Palestinian officials in failed negotiations with Israel in 2000 over who would be sovereign there.

The origin of the stone tablet is unclear, making it difficult to establish authenticity.

The Israeli daily Haaretz on Monday quoted an unidentified source as saying it was uncovered in recent years, during renovations carried out by the Muslim administrators of the mosque compound known to Muslims as the Haram as-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

From there, it reached a major antiquities collector in Jerusalem, Haaretz said. The Holy Land has a thriving trade in antiquities, often operating on the edge of the law.

The sandstone tablet has a 15-line inscription in ancient Hebrew that resembles descriptions in Kings II, 12:1-6, 11-17, said Israel's Geological Survey, which examined the artifact. The words refer to King Joash, who ruled the area 2,800 years ago.

In it, the king tells priests to take "holy money ... to buy quarry stones and timber and copper and labor to carry out the duty with faith." If the work is completed well, "the Lord will protect his people with

blessing," reads the last sentence of the inscription.

The Jerusalem collector has declined to come forward, and David Zailer, a lawyer for the collector, would not say where the tablet was found or give any further details.

Gabriel Barkai, a biblical archaeologist, said the collector asked the Israel Museum to determine the authenticity of the inscription and was told the museum's experts could not rule out a forgery. The Israel Museum declined comment Monday.

The collector then took the tablet to Israel's Geological Institute, whose experts studied it over the past year. "Our findings show that it is authentic," said Shimon Ilani, who performed geological tests on the inscription. Carbon dating confirms the writing goes back to the 9th century B.C., he said.

In the outer layer, Ilani and his colleagues found microscopic flecks of gold that could have been burnt into the stone when a building containing both the tablet and gold objects was destroyed.

This could mean the tablet was actually part of Solomon's Temple, which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C., said Amos Bean, director of the institute.

"These specks of gold are not natural material, but a sign of human activity," said Bean. "They could be from gold-plated objects in the home of a very rich man, or a temple. ... It's hard to believe that anyone would know how to do these things to make it look real."

The stone itself was probably from the Dead Sea area and was originally whiter than its current dark gray, Bean said.

Hershel Shanks, editor of the Washington-based Biblical Archaeology Review, said the tablet, if authentic, would be "visual, tactile evidence that reaches across 2,800 years."

Barkai said the inscription's resemblance to biblical passages "has far-reaching implications of the historical importance of the biblical text."

Several other inscriptions excavated in recent years refer to characters or events from the Bible. A stone inscription found in northern Israel includes the phrase "house of David." Most experts consider this to be the first ancient writing outside the Bible that refers to King David or the Davidic line of kings, which has corroborated the basic history of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Adnan Husseini, the director of the Islamic Trust that administers the Jerusalem mosque compound, denied Monday the tablet was found during renovation work there.

In recent years, the Islamic Trust has turned an underground vault in the compound into a large prayer area, prompting complaints by Israeli archaeologists that important artifacts are being destroyed. At one point, the archaeologists said truck-

loads of soil from the holy site were dumped uninspected into the nearby Kidron Valley.

The mosque compound is Islam's third-holiest site, while the adjacent Western Wall, the last remnant of the second Jewish Temple compound, is Judaism's holiest site. Most rabbis ban Jews from entering the Temple Mount for religious purity reasons.

When Israel conquered east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, it permitted Muslim clergy to continue administering the hilltop area to avoid conflict with the Muslim world.

The mystery surrounding the stone tablet mirrors the controversy over an inscription on an ancient burial box that may be the oldest archaeological link to Jesus.

Pope says cloning reduces humans to mere objects

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II on Monday outlined a fresh defense of what he calls the "dignity" of human life, denouncing abortion and euthanasia and saying human cloning reduces humans to mere objects.

In his annual speech to Vatican-based diplomats, the pope called the right to life "the most fundamental of human rights."

"Abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, for example, risk reducing the human person to a mere object: life and death to order, as it were!" he said.

"When all moral criteria are removed, scientific research involving the sources of life becomes a denial of the being and the dignity of the person," he said.

The pope has long voiced opposition

to abortion and euthanasia: in a 1995 encyclical, he declared they were both crimes that no laws can legitimize.

The Vatican has more recently voiced condemnation of cloning and research using stem cells from human embryos.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, for example, called the recent claims that a cloned baby had been born "an expression of a brutal mentality, devoid of any ethical and human consideration."

The Vatican is expected to issue a document, possibly this week, touching on cloning, abortion and other issues that clash with the Roman Catholic Church's moral teaching.

The document, drawn up by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, is intended as a guideline for Catholic politicians.



SPORTS

Favorite NFL teams come through this season

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

When the Philadelphia Eagles last went to the Super Bowl 22 years ago, they ran into the Oakland Raiders.

The odds say that could happen again.

The Eagles and Raiders earned home-field advantage throughout this season's playoffs and that should help them in Sunday's conference championship games.

In the NFC, Philadelphia is an early three-point favorite over Tampa Bay, which has lost four straight games to the Eagles. In the AFC, Oakland is favored by 7 1/2 points over Tennessee, a team it beat by 27 in September.

Those matchups seem relatively lopsided — the antithesis of the regular season, when no one could correctly predict anything from week to week.

They also defy the trend of the previous few seasons, when teams like the Patriots, Giants or Ravens (and even the Titans and Rams in 1999) came out of the woodwork to make it to the Super Bowl. This time, all four semifinalists were considered con-

tenders before the season, although Pittsburgh and St. Louis probably were the consensus conference favorites.

Each title game is a rematch of a regular-season contest. The Raiders routed the Titans 52-25 on Sept. 29 in Oakland, and the Eagles beat the Bucs 20-10 on Oct. 20 in Philadelphia.

Each also pits teams with identical records: the Eagles and Bucs are both 13-4, the Raiders and Titans both 12-5, after home teams swept the weekend's games.

Veterans Stadium, which will host its last NFL game Sunday, has been a house of horrors for Tampa Bay.

The Bucs were knocked out of the playoffs there the last two seasons, and they haven't scored an offensive touchdown there in their past three trips (Derrick Brooks' fumble return accounted for the only TD in October's game).

Tampa Bay's players SAY that doesn't bother them, a stance that has been drummed into them by coach Jon Gruden for the past month.

What they really think is another matter.

"We're a different team than we were last

year. We're a different team than we were how many weeks ago that we played them," cornerback Ronde Barber said after the Bucs routed San Francisco 31-6 Sunday.

"We were in this position three years ago when we had a chance to go on the road to play for an NFC championship and go to the Super Bowl. I can't imagine us being denied again."

That game in 2000 was indeed a classic — an 11-6 loss in St. Louis in which the Bucs' defense almost totally shut down an offense that had dominated the NFL.

But it also was played indoors on decent artificial turf. The field at the Vet almost universally is detested by visiting players; Atlanta coach Dan Reeves and quarterback Michael Vick made a point of blaming it for some of their offensive troubles in Saturday night's 20-6 loss to the Eagles.

Oakland proved its legitimacy with a 30-10 win over the New York Jets in a game that was 10-10 at halftime.

More important, the Raiders' defense was the first to make Chad Pennington look like what he is — a first-year starter at quarterback. Oakland's two interceptions were as many as Pennington had thrown in his previous 10 games.

"I don't know who made Chad Pennington into Joe Namath. He's not," Raiders linebacker Eric Barton said. "Yeah, he got rattled. He got a lot of hats put on him."

This week will be a different story.

Tennessee's Steve McNair is far more

experienced than Pennington. McNair's reputation as a scrambler has overshadowed his ability as one of the NFL's top clutch QBs.

He was just that in the 34-31 overtime win over the Steelers on Saturday. Other examples: Against the Giants in December, he almost single-handedly overcame a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit; in the 2000 Super Bowl, he drove the Titans to within a yard of taking the Rams into overtime.

Like the Bucs with the Eagles, the Titans have to prove they can stay with the Raiders.

But that big loss to Oakland this season was the third game of a four-game slide that left the Titans at 1-4. Since then, they've won 11 of 12.

"At that point, everybody agreed we'd love to go back and see them again," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said. "That was not indicative of the way we really are."

There's bound to be a lot of that sort of talk this week:

■ From the Eagles and Raiders, about how hard it is to beat a team twice in a season.

■ From the Bucs and Titans, about how much better they are now than the first time they played.

But the way favorites have been winning and the way home-field advantage really has been an advantage, it looks like it could be the Eagles and Raiders playing for the NFL title in two weeks.

Armstrong has tests done on injured right groin

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA — Oakland Raiders defensive end Trace Armstrong underwent tests Monday on his injured right groin, and his status for the AFC championship game this weekend is uncertain.

Armstrong re-injured his groin while warming up before the Raiders' 30-10 win over the New York Jets on Sunday. He played for one snap during the Jets' first offensive series.

The 37-year-old Armstrong said he "ripped" his groin in a pregame drill. He had an MRI on Monday.

"We wrapped it and did other stuff, but I couldn't even support my own weight," Armstrong said after the game.

This was Armstrong's comeback season, and he was clearly dejected after getting hurt again.

Earlier this season, Armstrong went from being used in spot situations as a pass-rushing specialist to starter in a matter of weeks. He finally felt like his timing was coming back after he missed most of last season

with a ruptured right Achilles' tendon.

"If you want me to cry, I'll cry," he said. "I'm very happy our team won the game. This is part of it. It's never good."

Armstrong said he had never pulled or torn a muscle in his long NFL career until the injury last season. He's in his 14th season.

That's why he isn't sure whether he can recover in time for Sunday's home game against the Tennessee Titans.

"I have no point of reference," he said.

Armstrong first injured the same groin in a loss at Miami on Dec. 15, but played in the Raiders' regular-season finale against the Kansas City Chiefs, a 24-0 win.

Coach Bill Callahan said he wouldn't know about Armstrong's status until Tuesday or Wednesday.

Armstrong finished the season with 20 tackles, four sacks, an interception, two pass deflections, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. He started eight games.

He led the AFC in sacks two years ago for Miami, where he played six seasons. He recorded his 100th sack in a win Nov. 11 at Denver.

Mota, Borbon meet agreement with Los Angeles Dodgers

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Dodgers agreed Monday to a \$675,000, one-year contract with right-hander Guillermo Mota and to a minor league deal with free agent left-hander Pedro Borbon Jr.

The 29-year-old Mota was 1-3 with a 4.15 ERA in 43 games for the Dodgers and 1-3 with a 2.95 ERA in 20 games for Triple-A Las Vegas of the Pacific Coast League last year.

The Dodgers acquired Mota and outfielder Wilkin Ruan from Montreal for pitcher Matt Herges and infielder Jorge Nunez last March. Mota held the opposition to a .202 batting average last season — second on the team to the .189 average allowed by closer Eric Gagne.

The Dodgers have four players still eligible for arbitration: right-hander Giovanni Carrara, left-hander Odalis Perez, and infielders Adrian Beltre and Alex Cora.

The 35-year-old Borbon was a combined 4-4 with a 5.36 ERA in 72 games last season pitching for the Toronto Blue Jays and Houston Astros.

Borbon pitched in 70 games for the Dodgers in 1999, going 4-3 with a 4.09 ERA. He began his career with the Atlanta Braves.

Borbon has a 16-15 record with a 4.45 ERA in 267 innings over an eight-year big-league career. He is the son of former pitcher Pedro Borbon Sr., who pitched for Cincinnati, California, San Francisco and St. Louis.

BY BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Steve Lavin has been under criticism almost from the minute he became UCLA's coach seven years ago. Never, though, has it gotten this bad.

Disgusted fans are leaving early. Booing and taunting Lavin and his players are common occurrences at Pauley Pavilion. The final buzzer following UCLA's 80-65 loss to St. John's on Saturday prompted another such outburst.

The loss dropped UCLA to 4-7 for the first time since the 1987-88 season — Walt Hazzard's final year on the job — and the Bruins appear headed for their first losing season in 55 years.

The 38-year-old Lavin has a 139-67 record and is one of just two coaches to take his team to the third round in five of the last six NCAA tournaments. Duke's Mike Krzyzewski is the other.

Yet it appears Lavin's seventh season as coach of the Bruins could be his last.

First-year athletic director Dan Guerrero said after Saturday's game that Lavin wouldn't be dismissed during the season.

Guerrero, who fired football coach Bob Toledo last month, said he has never advocated changing coaches in the middle of a season.

"I've been consistent on letting coaches do their job, then I evaluate at the end of the season," he said.

The Los Angeles Times reported Monday that Lavin was pondering resignation before the Bruins played another game to avoid further heat and the likelihood of being fired.

But Lavin said through a school spokesman he wasn't going anywhere.

"Steve Lavin is the UCLA basketball coach. He has stated he is not resigning," said sports information director Marc Dellins, adding that Lavin would attend

his usual Tuesday news conference.

Lavin went from second-year full-time UCLA assistant to interim head coach when Jim Harrick was fired on Nov. 6, 1996. A little over three months later, with the Bruins 13-7 and tied for first place in the Pac-10 at 8-3, the interim tag was removed.

"Each season is equally challenging," Lavin said following the loss to St. John's. "This year we're so young, and then when we struggle there's always the outside distractions that we have to block out and keep the team focused as well as possible."

The heat on Lavin has gone up or down depending on how his team performed, but it has been especially hot this season, which began with rare exhibition game losses.

UCLA was upset by San Diego in its season opener, lost nationally televised games to No. 1 Duke, No. 12 Kansas, Michigan and St. John's, and was beaten 80-75 by crosstown rival Southern California last week.

The Bruins are 2-5 at Pauley Pavilion, where they have drawn crowds of 10,000 or more only twice. They entered this season with a 523-65 record at Pauley, which opened in 1965.

Things don't figure to get easier this week when the Bruins host Arizona State on Thursday and No. 2 Arizona on Saturday.

The players are used to hearing rumors about Lavin's job status, but the booing and criticism have never been louder.

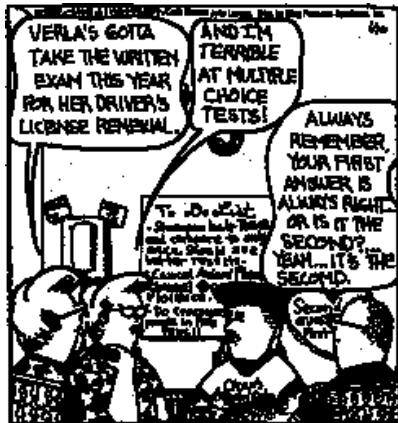
"His job has always been under pressure," junior center T.J. Cummings said. "The guy he had to live up to is John Wooden. You match up his (Lavin's) wins and losses to other coaches and it isn't fair to knock him."

Wooden coached UCLA to 10 NCAA championships in a 12-year span before retiring in 1975. The Bruins have won one NCAA title since that time — under Harrick in 1995.

COMICS



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 - 13 In the thick of
 - 14 All in
 - 15 Like Camby Street clothes
 - 16 In front of the audience
 - 18 Magic word
 - 20 Calendar box
 - 21 Half of zard
 - 23 Translation of 21-Across
 - 24 Particles
 - 25 School book
 - 26 Witty word
 - 29 KI item
 - 31 Do something
 - 32 "The Joy Luck Club" writer
 - 34 — Scott King
 - 36 Fury
 - 40 Dodge
 - 41 Lion tamer's prop
- DOWN**
- 43 Carnival attraction
 - 44 Took on
 - 45 Perfume
 - 46 Bidding word
 - 1 Rascal
 - 2 WH
 - 3 Wear away
 - 4 Racket
 - 5 Long-running musical
 - 6 Fighting
 - 7 Contradictory idea
 - 8 Push
 - 9 Late night
 - 11 British one
 - 17 Opposite of out
 - 19 Collection
 - 22 Tolerate
 - 24 Pastoral
 - 25 Treasures
 - 27 Ron of "Tarzan"
 - 28 Indiana team
 - 30 Bran type
 - 33 Pageant topper
 - 34 Spring sign
 - 35 Bookish ones
 - 37 Perfect piece
 - 38 Exam
 - 42 With it



Yesterday's answer

- 11 British one
- 17 Opposite of out
- 19 Collection
- 22 Tolerate
- 24 Pastoral
- 25 Treasures
- 27 Ron of "Tarzan"
- 28 Indiana team
- 30 Bran type
- 33 Pageant topper
- 34 Spring sign
- 35 Bookish ones
- 37 Perfect piece
- 38 Exam
- 42 With it

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment

APARTMENT ASSISTANT Managers team needed. Best pay & benefits. Fax resume to (310)451-1628.

FASHION FUN! Searching for energetic person, professional attitude, detailed oriented, outgoing. Good with public, phones, general office, computer literate and clerical duties. Hrs. 10-3. Fax H20HH! (310)393-8590.

PART TIME counter help wanted for Santa Monica small business. (310)451-9785

TEACHER NEEDED: Topanga Co-op preschool. Design, direct, expanded classes and toddler programs. Must be credentialed. Begin now. Flex hours. E-mail resume to: ces9801@hotmail.com. Cessilie (310)455-9801. Join our fun!

THE DAILY Press is seeking a full time circulation manager. The position requires early hours (2am to 7am), six days per week. Candidate must be motivated, efficient and possess a desire to win. Must have reliable transportation and clean driving record. Long term position, aggressive pay. Fax resume and cover letter to 310-576-9913, or call 310-458-7737 x 104.

WORK AT THE BEACH! Seeking multi-tasked team player, positive attitude, strong work ethic, computer literate. Detailed oriented, professional appearance, strong phone manners. Duties: general office (file, phone, fax, etc). Prefer clerical & some customer service experience. Include salary requirements. Fax to Robbie (310) 230-0021 or Robbie@OldDebts.com.

For Sale

'91 HONDA ACCORD Sunroof, fully-loaded, great condition. \$3300.00 (310)829-7327

93' TOYOTA COROLLA Fully-loaded, power windows, power locks, 94,000 miles. Excellent Condition \$5400.00 (310) 828-6091

LARGE PARROT Cage. White, powder coated, wrought-iron. Like new. \$300.00 Call for info (818)481-4412

Furniture

7 PIECE Bedroom Set. All brand new! Wood sleigh bed, mattress set, nightstand, and more. Moving and must sell! List \$2500. Giveaway \$795. (310)350-3814.

CHERRY SLEIGH Bed. Solid wood. Still in box. List \$795. Sacrifice \$295. (310)350-3814

Furniture

ITALIAN LEATHER Sofa & Loveseat. Brand new, still in crate from designer home show. List \$3000. Sacrifice \$995. Must sell! Will deliver! (310)350-3814.

KING DOUBLE Pillowtop Mattress Set. Brand new, brand name. Must sell! List \$895. Sacrifice \$295. (310)350-3814

QUEEN DOUBLE Pillowtop Mattress Set. Plush, name brand, still in plastic. Warranty. Was \$595. Sacrifice \$175. (310)350-3814.

QUEEN ORTHO Mattress Set. New, still in plastic w/warranty. Must sell. \$125 (310)350-3814.

Jewelry

NIGHT FASHION ACCESSORY Light up/Sparkling/Flashing Necklace. Convenient for disco clubs, concerts, spiritual, personal fun. Available in a cross and a heart. Teddy Bear backpacks available also. Feel love for yourself or love for someone else. (310)358-6535.

Wanted

CASH FOR ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, ESTATE JEWELRY, DISHES, PHOTOS, X-MAS DECORATIONS. 40 YRS. OR OLDER BUYING ESTATES OR ONE ITEM. (310)393-1111

For Rent

BEVERLYWOOD ADJACENT \$525.00 Bachelor in quaint smaller building. Fresh paint and carpet. 1 year Lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

BRENTWOOD \$900.00 Very large 1BD/1BA with new carpet and paint. Centrally located with offstreet parking. 1 year Lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

FREE RENTAL Lists & No Fee Rentals. Sullivan-Dituri Company. 2111 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90403.

MDR ADJACENT \$1395.00 2+2, fireplace, dishwasher, stove, large private patio, new paint & carpet in newer gated building w/gated, subterranean parking, AC, quiet neighborhood, laundry room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)578-9729.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

For Rent

MDR PENINSULA: \$2000 2bdm/2ba, no pets, freshly painted, new carpets, D/W, stove, refrigerator, 2 fireplaces, walk-in closets, 2 car parking. SHL Management (310)392-1757.

MDR:2+2, remodelled kitchen, new Paver floors, Indry in unit, F/P, balc, pool, tennis, 2 car prkg. Pets ok. \$2300.00 Roz&Kris (310)448-5927

NEW STUDIO Apartments available from \$1295.00 to \$1355.00. Six blocks from the beach. Three blocks from Third St. Promenade area! (310)656-0311. www.breezesuites.com

S.M. \$1700.00 On 18th near SM Blvd. 2bdm, 1.5ba. Townhouse. Appliances, wetbar, fireplace, private patio, 2-car garage. Info: (310)828-4481.

SANTA MONICA \$1150.00 2BDRM/ 1BA, r/s, dishwasher, new paint & tile, close to SMC, prkg.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 1BDRM/ 1BA, r/s, crpts, lrg closets, pool, Indry.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$2600 3bdm/3ba, 827 18th St. #F. Huge upper apt., fireplace, big balcony, NEW carpet, built-in dishwasher & stove, wet bar. No pets. Parking, 1-year lease, 1/2 block S. of Montana. Sullivan-Dituri Co. (310)453-4342.

SANTA MONICA \$275.00/wk Dorm-style Hotel, prvt rm, free local calls & cable, prkg.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$2800.00 Spacious 3 Bedroom/ 3 full Bath. Top floor, high ceilings, sunny, bright, double patio, views of Santa Monica Mountains. Quiet neighborhood, North of Wilshire. Security parking available. (310)451-2178

SANTA MONICA \$695.00 Bachelor, close to beach, Indry, utilities incld.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$775.00 Studio, cozy, refrigerator, close to beach, quiet.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 1bdm/1ba, appliances, no pets. 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #7, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Manager in #19.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$795.00 1BD/1BA, pet ok, r/s, crpt, Indry, patio, control access.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$995.00 1BDRM/ 1BA, pet ok, r/s, pool, Indry, new paint prkg, water & trash incld.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

VENICE BEACH \$850.00 Large single 1 block from the beach. New carpet and paint, bright and airy. 1 year lease, no pets. (310) 396-4443 x102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE/SM \$895.00 Large corner studio, secure building, parking, pool. 235 Main St. Senior citizen 62+ only. (310)261-2093. Furnished Apts/Condos

MDR PENINSULA: \$3,595 Beach front 2+2 w/patio. 2 parking, updated kitchen, marble entry, Sammy (310)454-6095, (310)418-0089 Cell.

SM \$2500 1bdm, ocean view, designer furnished, marble bath, granite kitchen. (310)721-4824.

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$850.00 Guest House, pet ok, crpt, refrigerator, heat, prkg, quiet.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$900.00 Guest House, r/s, Indry, quiet, yard, parking, gas & water incld.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Duplex, pet ok, stove, balcony, Indry, utilities incld.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

STOP PAYING RENT. FREE SPECIAL REPORT! Buy a Home With ZERO Cash. (888)799-9768 ext.8605. www.losangeleshomefinders.com.

Roommates

LOOKING FOR Roommate in West Hollywood. GWM seeks GM to share 2bdm townhouse style apartment. Room has balcony. Cable ready with your own phone line. Close to everything. \$805.50 plus 1/2 utilities + \$850.00 deposit. Call Mitch (310)358-0430.

S.M. SHARE 2bdm furnished apt. 9th & Wilshire. \$2200.00 a month. You pay only \$675.00! Male preferred. 1250 sq. ft. (310)394-1050.

Commercial Lease

1318 Second Street, Santa Monica. Approximately 600 square feet. 2 ocean view offices w/reception. RTH Management (949)916-1430. Parking available.

OFFICE AVAILABLE in 5 office suite. 1121 4th St., SM. Law/Library, (West), reception, copier, fax. \$825/mo. with secretary desk. Marcia, Agt. (310)394-4492.

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GET YOUR HOME SOLD FAST AND FOR TOP DOLLAR! FREE SELLERS REPORT. (888)799-9768 ext.8606. www.losangeleshomefinders.com.

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BETTER HEALTH for 2003. Help reduce your stress. Therapeutic Swedish and deep-tissue. Mike LMT (310)902-1564.

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue. Energy balancing. Non-sexual. Introductory specials from \$45.00/1hr. In/out. Lynda, L.M.T. (310)749-0621

EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing bodywork by mature European. Professional Lady Sonja (310)397-0433.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Acupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

Massage

MASSAGE ENJOY a really great, amazing and wonderful full body massage. Swedish, deep-tissue and Tantra. (Platonic only!) No time limit. Will come to you. 24/7 Cute, slim, fit, petite mature chocolate. 14 years experience. \$125/hour. Female diver w/car wanted. Dolly's pager (310)358-6535.

REVITALIZE & Rejuvenate. Body, Mind & Spirit with a therapeutic Swedish/Deep-tissue massage. Laura (310)394-2923 (310)569-0883.

STRETCH-U-OUT SENSUAL full body massage by athletic male. In/Out Eric (310)815-1222.

STRONG & SOOTHING deep-tissue massage. Near Promenade. Intro: \$35/90min. Paul: (310)741-1901.

Services

HOW can you get the power of email working for your business?

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NEED HELP with your PC &/or the internet? Call your computer helper. All welcome. (310)236-1474.

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Classified Advertising Conditions :REGULAR RATE: \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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PRINT CLEARLY:

001 Announcements	250 Wanted	405 Real Estate Loans	630 Yard Sales
025 Creative	250 Travel	450 Storage Space	650 Health and Beauty
100 Employment	275 Vacation Rentals	500 Vehicles for Sale	655 Fitness
200 For Sale	300 Apartments/Condos Rent	575 Massage	675 Wealth and Success
205 Furniture	310 Houses for Rent	600 Services	680 Lost and Found
220 Pets	320 Roommates	605 Computer Services	700 Personals
225 Boats	350 Commercial Lease	610 Attorney Services	725 Obituaries
230 Jewelry	400 Real Estate	625 Business Opportunities	

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2003

TODAY

Artful Science: The Social-Cultural Relationship Between Built and Natural Environments. Sam Francis Gallery at Crossroads School in Santa Monica presents an exhibition of drawings, paintings, photographs, and sculpture. Mon-Fri, 10am to 4pm through February 14. 1714 Twenty-First St., 2nd Floor, Peter Boxenbaum Arts Building. For more information please call (310)829-7391 ext. 425.

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.

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

The Santa Monica Bat area Chapter of the California Retired Teacher's Association will meet at the United Methodist Church, 1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica. Dr. Monica White, President and CEO of Santa Monica's Center for Healthy Aging will be the speaker. The social hour begins at 11:30am with a lunch served at 12 noon. The cost is \$7.50. Reservations are appreciated by calling Linda Owens. (310)828-2674.

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.

WEDNESDAY

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

Artful Science: The Social-Cultural Relationship Between Built and Natural Environments. Sam Francis Gallery at Crossroads School in Santa Monica presents an exhibition of drawings, paintings, photographs, and sculpture. Mon-Fri, 10am to 4pm through February 14. 1714 Twenty-First St., 2nd Floor, Peter Boxenbaum Arts Building. For more information please call (310)829-7391 ext. 425.

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

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

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.

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

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40. **Two Weeks Notice** (PG-13) 12:25, 3:00, 5:30, 10:30.
Antwone Fisher (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.
The Hours (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20.
Kangaroo Jack (NR) 8:00

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 11:00, 2:30, 6:00. **Treasure Planet** (PG) 12:00. **The Hot Chick** (PG-13) 2:25, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10. **Gangs of New York** (R) 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 9:30, 10:30. **Narc** (R) 11:45, 2:35, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35. **Adaptation** (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:30, 10:25. **Confessions of a Dangerous Mind** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00, 12:35.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Just Married (PG-13) 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05. **Maid in Manhattan** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35. **Star Trek: Nemesis** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50. **The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers** (PG-13) 12:45, 4:40, 8:30. **Catch Me If You Can** (PG-13) 12:30, 1:20, 4:30, 6:45, 7:45, 10:45. **Chicago** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:35, 4:00, 5:15, 8:00, 9:55, 10:45. **25th Hour** (R) 1:00, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

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

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
Far From Heaven (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Frida (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05. **Max** (R) 1:30, 4:35, 7:25, 10:05. **The Quiet American** (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.

AERO THEATER

1328 Montana Ave.
My Big Fat Greek Wedding 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.



BACK PAGE



Stinking banned on city buses

By The Associated Press

BEND, Ore. — You better hit the shower before you board the bus in Bend.

Proposed new city rules would ban spitting, defecating, smoking, skateboarding, and stinking on city buses.

The regulations ban anyone who "emanates a grossly repulsive odor that is unavoidable by other Bend Extended Area Transit customers" from being in the bus station or on a bus.

"It's an effort to keep the riding experience as pleasant and safe as possible," said city attorney Jim Forbes. He noted that the city already has an ordinance prohibiting people from releasing "highly objectionable odors" from their property.

The City Council will consider preliminary approval of the ordinance Wednesday.

The city's transit system is currently reservations-based. Last year, the city expanded the transit service for seniors and the disabled into a service for the general public, but no scheduled routes have been established.

Writer forbidden from selling family

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Writer Steve Young may be able to peddle his prose, but when it came to selling his family, the father of two couldn't cash in on the \$5 million offer.

After reading about the online sale of a struggling

town in Humboldt County, Young decided to put his wife and kids on the auction block.

"If a town could be sold online, then how much could you get for a family?" Young said.

After consulting with wife Diana, and their two children, Kelly, 9, and Casey, 8, Young said he posted the ad Thursday on eBay and received more than 10,000 hits within minutes.

But when eBay operators heard about the auction early Friday, they yanked the ad, saying it is against company policy to sell human beings.

"People have tried to sell themselves five or six times over the past four or five years," said eBay spokesman Kevin Pursglove. "There have been attempts to sell their nephew, uncle, wife, whoever is in the doghouse at the time. They've even tried to sell their soul."

Young said the auction winner would receive a lifetime of platonic companionship, including invitations to family outings and holiday gatherings as well as tips on writing, gardening and cooking. The minimum bid was \$5 million.

The family was willing to relocate anywhere, and the elder Youngs would change their surname.

"You have patrons of the arts, museums and charities. I wanted a patron for my family," he said.

Senior wants his Eagle Scout badge

By The Associated Press

PORT ANGELES, Wash. — Seventy years ago, Erling "Bub" Olsen baked bread and served the hungry on Depression-era bread lines as the final project in his bid to become an Eagle Scout.

But he drifted away from scouting after the death of a friend.

It wasn't until Saturday — at the age of 84 — that he went before a board of review to seek the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank. The national organization will make the final call in February.

Olsen bought a new Boy Scout shirt for his Saturday appearance, attended by friends and family.

"He's probably the oldest to ever receive an Eagle Scout," said family friend Danetta Ruten.

Olsen had forgotten about scouting until last year, when his pacemaker quit and his family wondered how long he had to live.

"We said, 'Bub, is there anything in life you want that you didn't get?'" Ruten recalled. "And he said, quote, 'Yeah, my Eagle Scout. I earned it, and I never got it.'"

One of the requirements is to complete the process "before your 18th birthday," said Mark Hunter, director of marketing for the scouts' Chief Seattle Council. "So to award it at this point, there's exceptional circumstances that go with it."

Many merit badges now incorporate technology that did not exist in the '30s. Olsen's eligibility is based on 1933 requirements, Hunter said.

Kitten spends 9-lives staying alive

By The Associated Press

JUNCTION CITY, Kan. — An 8-month-old kitten named Lilo may have exhausted several of his nine lives surviving more than a month trapped in a crate.

"We are dumbfounded. It is a little miracle," said Lilo's owner, Army Sgt. 1st Class Brody Hilstock.

The lost pet had been confined in the crate from early December until he was freed Thursday. He had lost more than half of his normal body weight, but will likely survive.

Hilstock was stationed at Aliamanu Military Reservation in Hawaii before his transfer to Fort Riley. He and his family packed up their belongings on Dec. 2 and Dec. 3 — but they couldn't find Lilo, named after the star of Disney's Hawaii-themed film "Lilo and Stitch."

The kitten had crawled into a set of box springs. And on Wednesday, as the cargo passed through Denver, a North American Van Lines worker heard meek meowing.

"We could hear him, but we couldn't find him," said company manager Linda McNeal.

The multicolored kitten was taken to an animal hospital for treatment of starvation and dehydration.

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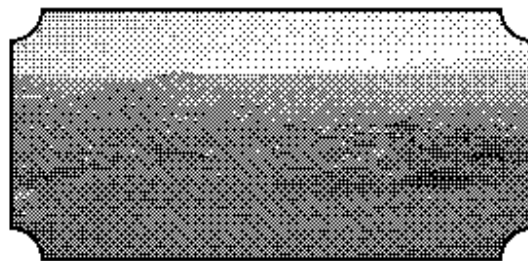
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