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Bayside to refocus Promenade efforts

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Special to the Daily Press

While the Third Street Promenade has changed and evolved, the problems that haunt it have not — except to increase in number.

Still in question is the ratio of retail, restaurants and entertainment. Officials constantly grapple with what constituents performance art and what is harassment. And, as anyone on the Promenade will tell you, the homeless remain a challenge.

However, for the first time the Bayside District Corporation — the public-private partnership between downtown business owners and the city — has to also deal with a souring economy, and to do that it may have

to completely change how it regulates and represents downtown businesses.

“The focus of this organization will have to change,” said Kathleen Rawson, Bayside’s executive director, in the corporation’s January newsletter. “We have to completely re-engineer the approach that we take.”

Since its conception nearly a decade ago, Bayside officials have enjoyed governing a shopping Mecca during the longest peacetime economic expansion in the nation’s history.

When the crowds came, so did the nationwide retailers. As these businesses moved in they combined multiple spaces into mega-stores. As space became limited, rents soared and small businesses and restaurants were forced to move around the corner — changing the char-

acter of the Promenade.

The city wants to bring back the golden times, when a healthy mix of all that makes the Promenade interesting co-existed. To study how to fix the situation, the Santa Monica City Council has temporarily barred new retail stores from setting up shop on the Promenade and created a task force to study ways of keeping small, locally owned businesses thriving alongside larger retailers.

“We have to look at how we are going to refocus our efforts since the economy has changed; the market has changed and now we must rethink the direction we’re going,” said Rawson. “We’re completely in the planning stages right now and we’re just putting our budget

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MGM reportedly on auction block for \$7 billion

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

Shares of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. were up 12 percent Tuesday, fueled by speculation the venerable movie studio was on the auction block.

A report in the Los Angeles Times Tuesday said Santa Monica-based MGM had hired investment bank Goldman Sachs & Co. to explore a sale. The report said MGM was seeking about \$30 a share, or \$7 billion. Investors valued the compa-

ny at about \$5 billion before Tuesday’s trading.

Shares of MGM rose \$2.39 to \$22.27 at the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday.

MGM said Tuesday it has been “regularly evaluating business combination opportunities,” but said no agreements have been reached. The company would not confirm it had hired Goldman Sachs or that it was evaluating specific offers.

“There can be no assurance that the company will decide to enter into any transaction,” the statement said.

Goldman Sachs declined to comment.

The studio has never made a secret of its need to grow, either by acquiring distribution outlets, such as cable television networks, or by merging with a larger player. Last year, MGM paid Cablevision Systems Corp. \$825 million to buy a 20 percent stake in four cable channels.

Last October, MGM Chairman Alex Yemenidjian said the company would have to grow much larger in 2002 to compete with other media giants.

“I think we all recognize MGM needs to be part of a larger organization,”

See MGM, page 3

Lights ... Action ... Camera!



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Actresses Travis Miljan and Rhonda Lord (left) play the grandmother and mother of the bride, played by Colette O'Donnell, in the initial scene of Vincent Foster's film "Donut Holes" outside of Saint Monica's Catholic Church on California Avenue Monday. Film crews were shooting this week for the production of the 35-millimeter comedy short which will appear in film festivals and at the Los Angeles Film School. The premise of the movie is that after being engaged to two grooms who have died, O'Donnell's character manages to find a third groom who dies at the wedding. Her mother, smoking a cigarette while carting around an oxygen tank, has had enough of her daughter's ill fortune and threatens to cut her off from the family riches.

Merchant: Bank on the 'little guy'

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Take it from one businessman to another — bank on the “little guys” to manage your checking account.

Santa Monica-based Interior Space Inc. recently learned that dealing with a small bank may have saved the business money when a credit card processing company was charging it twice on a large transaction.

A judge ruled this month that Cardservice International Inc. overcharged the interior design firm by collecting fees on both the purchase and the

subsequent credit canceling it.

Interior Spaces Inc. sued Cardservice International, Inc. in Santa Monica small claims court for the “double charge” on a \$24,000 transaction made by a customer. But Cardservice International turned around and sued Interior Spaces for \$3,000 in processing fees because the firm had closed its checking account before Cardservice International could seize the money.

And the only way Interior Spaces Treasurer Peter Canepa knew that the credit card processing company was taking more money than it was entitled to was because his bank’s vice president

called him personally to alert him of the debits being made.

Knowing that Interior Spaces was having trouble sorting out the charges, Preferred Bank, located in Century City, called Canepa to tell him that Cardservice International was automatically deducting fees out of the account. The credit card processing company has a right to deduct money

See MERCHANT, page 3



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HOROSCOPE

Gemini, try not to say 'yes' too often



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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Assume a lower profile as you digest difficult, if not contrary, information. You might not be sure as to what to do. Hang out in your present mind-set. You'll know when the time is right. Trust yourself enough to sit back. Meanwhile, concentrate on other matters. Tonight: Do your thing.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You feel like the lead basketball player as you throw one ball after another into the hoop. Others cheer you on. Your success stems from a strong drive, an understanding of facts and working well with others. You can afford to say "no" to an unappealing offer. Tonight: Midweek break.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others deem that you can do the job. The question remains whether you want to or not. You need to take stronger control of what you want in your life. Too many times you say "yes." You can only do well that which you want to do. Stay in control of your life and responsibilities. Tonight: Work as late as need be.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Make inroads with those at a distance through making calls. Think in terms of specializing in your present field. You will add to your job desirability. Recognize your limits at the same time. Discuss possibilities with someone who might be able to give you good advice. Tonight: Listen to music while surfing the Net.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Deal with someone directly. You might not be able to make your point as clearly as you would like. Help someone understand that his or her actions could have repercussions for you. Remain easy. Don't lose your patience. Tonight: Dinner for two.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Opportunities knock on your door, making nearly anything possible. Lighten up about someone's change of heart. Don't overthink it. Simply grab the occasion and the moment. Good luck surrounds fast actions right now.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Focus on getting the job done. The less time you spend floating on the Internet, the more you get done. Stay on top of someone's requests. The key is to remain present with the moment. Someone at a distance chooses not to talk or communicate. Tonight: Stay even.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Allow your creativity to help others with their problems. Curb a tendency to flirt way too much. You could cause yourself more of a problem than you realize. Schedule time with a youngster you enjoy. Hop on the swing with this person! Tonight: Only what you like.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You cannot avoid dealing with family and personal issues. You might make the plea that you have work to be done. It won't work. Everyone in your life needs attention and special care right now! Lighten up and do what you have to do. Tonight: Quit fighting the inevitable.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Answer calls, schedule meetings and clear out e-mail and messages. Your efficiency serves you best when you're focused on communication. Others might need feedback from you. Let someone know where you stand. State your case with your normal flair. Tonight: At a favorite spot.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might not choose to share with others exactly what you have in mind. Do be careful with risking because you could get yourself into some trouble. Be grateful for what you have rather than always seeking something else. Avoid envy. Tonight: Treat yourself well.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ The moon accents you presently. You're able to beam in much more than usual. Timing works right now. Go for what you want, and don't put it off until tomorrow. Your smile wins many friends — use it right now. Cheer up someone who might be blue. Tonight: You decide.



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Friday ...	Partly cloudy	High—63°F	Low—41°F



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— Anthony Burgess

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LOCAL



Analysts: 'MGM sale makes sense'

MGM, from page 1

Yemenidjian said during a conference call to discuss the company's third quarter financial performance. "Our board supports recommendations Chris and I have made that we need to become larger and we need to become larger by mergers and acquisitions. We need to have more scale, we need to have more vertical integration."

"While MGM has taken steps to vertically integrate its businesses, the company's film library is its crown jewel."

— JILL KRUTIK
Salomon Smith Barney analyst

Chris McGurk is MGM's chief operating officer.

Without the effect of new accounting rules, MGM reported earnings of \$28.2 million in the quarter ending Sept. 30 — the highest in the company's 77-year history. Revenue was driven by box office success of its movies "Legally Blonde" and "Jeepers Creepers" and DVD sales of "Hannibal" and "Silence of the Lambs."

Analysts said a sale makes sense for MGM, although a deal might be tough to make at the asking price. Management control issues could also complicate a deal, analysts said.

"This company has talked regularly about transforming transactions," said Jeff Logsdon, an analyst at the investment firm Gerard Klauer Mattison & Co. "It's very tough to grow an entertainment conglomerate one film at a time."

Media companies such as The Walt Disney Co., Viacom Inc. and others would love to have access to MGM's vast film library, which is expected to generate nearly \$300 million in revenue in 2002, analysts said.

"While MGM has taken steps to vertically integrate its businesses, the company's film library is its crown jewel," Salomon Smith Barney analyst Jill Krutik said in a note Tuesday.

MGM's library has more than 4,100 titles, including the James Bond films, Pink Panther movies and others. MGM has launched branded cable channels internationally and is talking to EchoStar Communications Inc. about an MGM channel in the United States.

The library has become particularly valuable with the increases in DVD sales.

MGM is controlled by billionaire Kirk Kerkorian, who first acquired the studio in 1969. He has an 80 percent stake after buying the company for a third time in 1996 when he led a \$1.3 billion buyout from Credit Lyonnais.

If Kerkorian seeks a tax-free, all-stock transaction, he will gain a stake in the studio's buyer. Many companies may not be willing to grant that kind of control, which could allow Kerkorian to name one or more of his representatives to the acquirer's board of directors.

Rockin' Waves



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Beachgoers take in the Pacific breeze, salt air and the mist from waves hitting the rocks off of Will Rogers State Beach one recent afternoon.

Souring economy adds to Bayside woes

BAYSIDE, from page 1

together so we're not ready" to talk about future plans.

Herb Katz, Bayside alumnus and current city councilman, summarized the Promenade's challenges into three categories: store ratios, parking problems and lack of outdoor dining.

"There's too much retail, and restaurants are being priced out due to the availability of businesses willing to pay high rents," he said. "We need to control that balance so our retail (presence) and the street doesn't become just another shopping mall."

As for parking, Katz served on the recently defunct Downtown Parking Commission and said the recommendations the committee made will take time and money before they become reality.

"There's a huge parking problem," he said. "But we need to be able to add parking without overloading the streets and overtaxing our facilities. The idea is to create the one-stop parking, where you don't have to keep moving your car every time you want to go to a different store."

But Katz said Bayside's largest challenge will be to increase outside dining.

"We have to encourage people to sit and have coffee or dinner. It has to be a combination of restaurants, retail and entertainment," he said. "If when one of those combinations fail, then the whole thing falls apart."

And while the changing economic circumstances are out of Bayside's control, Rawson agrees that many of the solutions that traditionally plague the Promenade are within its grasp.

"Marketing efforts are within our control. We're publicly funded so there's not always enough money available for what we need," she said. "We're trying to get some seed money together to get some of the local merchants to advertise. We would buy the banner advertisement and maybe bring the merchants in at reduced costs."

Rawson said Bayside needs to continue with its shopping campaigns and slogans. They remind residents of the importance to spend their money locally whenever possi-

ble, she said.

"It was very gratifying to hear from our merchants that local residents were coming in and saying they were trying to keep their spending in town," said Rawson of the "Shop Santa Monica" holiday campaign.

And according to Rawson, holiday sales were higher than expected at local stores, encouraging businesses that the recent economic dip would not go much further.

"Certainly sales on the Promenade were extremely successful during the holidays and the number of visitors seems to be very strong," she said. "Over 80 percent of Santa Monica residents visit downtown at least once a week. That's a huge number."

Success to Bayside would be to keep the Promenade running like it has for the past 10 years — with little city intervention and with little fanfare.

"We do have to try to keep our area unique. We spend a lot of time on those things one doesn't always notice," she said. "But if the trash cans are overflowing you notice it. We want people not to notice as many things as possible, and just enjoy themselves."

Dealing on a more local level has its advantages

MERCHANT, from page 1

from their client's account, but the client has a right to close his or her checking account, particularly if they are disputing the charges.

"It's a good lesson for small businesses," Canepa said. "If we were with Bank of America or Wells Fargo, no one would have called us."

Austin Casey, senior vice president

"They have a right to credit the account as part of the agreement with the customer. They also have a right to debit the account."

— AUSTIN CASEY
Preferred Banks, senior vice president

and the westside regional manager for Preferred Banks, said dealing with banks on a local level has its advantages.

"Small banks have all the information about the customer right there and officers are looking at accounts every day to get familiar with them," he said, adding he has been doing business with Canepa for 15 years. "If there is something out of the ordinary, they will alert the customer."

And while companies like Cardservice International Inc. has every right to take money from customer accounts, they also have an obligation to put it back in when they overcharge.

"They have a right to credit the account as part of the agreement with the customer," Casey said. "They also have a right to debit the account."

"I think merchants have a right to know that."

Boeing teams with CAA

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Boeing Co. said it will partner with Creative Artists Agency, a major talent and literary agency based in Beverly Hills, to launch its direct-to-cinema movie delivery system.

The technology, called Boeing Digital Cinema, aims to transmit via satellite movies, concerts, sporting events, advertising and corporate events directly to audiences. It uses some of the same techniques Boeing has used for years to deliver encrypted national security information to the Air Force, the company said.

CAA, which represents some of the biggest names in Hollywood, will advise

Boeing on its business and marketing of Boeing Digital Cinema, the two firms said Monday.

Movie studios see the potential for big cost savings from digital delivery of their content, which is played back to audiences on digital projectors. The cost of traditional film prints can range between \$1,500 and \$2,000 each, and as many as 4,000 copies are required for a major release.

The industry also boasts that the technology improves quality by eliminating the scratches, pops and hairs that mark film prints. But most theater owners have balked at spending \$150,000 to \$200,000 for new digital projectors, when conventional projectors cost about \$35,000.



STATE

Legislative analyst: Davis budget 'overly optimistic'

BY ALEXA HAUSSLER

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gray Davis' budget plan relies on "overly optimistic" assumptions and could result in a multibillion dollar deficit in the future, Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill said Tuesday.

Davis overestimated revenues and the federal money California will receive and his estimate of education costs is too low, according to the initial analysis by the Legislature's top economic adviser.

Also, because the Davis plan relies on one-time solutions and deferred spending to plug budget gaps, it could leave the state with a \$4 billion shortfall in the budget year after next, Hill said.

"We do not see the current situation as being a temporary imbalance, but rather an ongoing budget problem that requires ongoing solutions," Hill said.

Last week, Davis released his 2002-03 spending plan, which would go into effect July 1. It must be approved by the Legislature. Hill, who advises the Legislature on economic and budgetary matters, will give lawmakers her complete budget analysis on Feb. 20.

The \$100 billion plan uses spending cuts, deferred spending and loans to fill an estimated \$12.5 billion budget shortfall over the next 18 months. The budget proposal includes \$5.2 billion in spending cuts, including deep reductions to health and welfare programs.

It also counts on an economic upswing within the next year and the sale of bonds to repay the state treasury for buying electricity during last year's energy crisis.

Tim Gage, Davis' budget chief, disagreed with Hill Tuesday.

"We took a very cautious and moderate view when we put the numbers together in December," Gage said.

Davis' budget is "basically a balancing act" between attacking a budget shortfall and "at the same time not devastating programs," Gage said.

The budget also used slightly older economic data than Hill, Gage said. Davis will revise his budget plan in May after receiving information from the April sales and income tax receipts, Gage said.

Hill said she agrees the economy will recover this spring, but said "the budget imbalance remains in part because we've dug such a big hole in the current fiscal year."

The analyst's forecast assumes the state will receive \$3 billion less in revenues this budget year than the governor's budget assumes, Hill said. She said her fig-

ures are based on revenues in the first half of the fiscal year and cash payments to the state in December.

She believes only half of the \$1.1 billion in federal funds Davis expects to receive will materialize, and that the state will be forced to pay more than predicted to fulfill its minimum schools funding requirements.

And Hill said one-time solutions, such as issuing bonds against state's tobacco settlement payments and postponing payments of the state's retirement contributions, could strap the state with increased costs in the future.

Judge bars Harrison brother-in-law from selling memorabilia

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — George Harrison's widow has accused her former brother-in-law of stealing Harrison memorabilia, then trying to sell it the day after the former Beatle died.

Superior Court Judge Dzintra I. Janavs on Friday granted a temporary restraining order barring Carl Roles of Temecula from selling the disputed items, which allegedly include clothing, records, photographs and other items removed from Harrison's home.

Harrison was 58 when he died of cancer Nov. 29.

Olivia Harrison's suit, filed by attorney Robert Chapman, said a private detective working for the Harrison estate bought 10 boxes of personal items from Roles and his wife, Carol. Carl Roles was once married to Linda Arias, Olivia's sister.

Roles "admitted that the property they were trying to sell was personal property owned by the Harrisons that

had been taken from the residence and the property in the late 1970s," Chapman alleged in the suit.

Roles told The Associated Press by telephone from his Temecula home that he was married to Arias from 1976 until they divorced in 1984 or 1985, and that he and Arias also lived in Harrison's Bel-Air home from 1976 until a flood demolished the property in 1980.

"I was given permission to remove items from the house," Roles said. "I was authorized to rescue items that went into storage, some of it has been in storage for more than 20 years."

Roles said he didn't try to sell the items.

"I've always honored their privacy. I never sold anything or offered anything for sale. The most important thing to me is my integrity and credibility," Roles said.

Chapman said Tuesday that a hearing for a permanent injunction will be held Feb. 1.

"And we will make attempts to get the property back," the attorney said.

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— Louis D. Brandies

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NATIONAL



Senior auditor to be canned, Enron announces

BY MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON — Arthur Andersen LLP said Tuesday it is firing a senior auditor who organized a “rushed disposal” of Enron documents last fall after federal regulators had requested information about the failing energy company.

It was the first time that the accounting firm has acknowledged that the document destruction occurred after Enron received requests from the Securities and Exchange Commission for information on its financial reporting.

Andersen also said that four partners in its Houston office would be stripped of management responsibilities and that three auditors had been put on administrative leave.

One of the four Houston partners, D. Stephen Goddard Jr., an Andersen managing partner, was a major fund-raiser for President Bush’s 2000 campaign and was one of the “Pioneers” who raised at least \$100,000. He also personally contributed

\$1,250 to Bush’s earlier races for Texas governor, campaign finance records show.

Enron was Bush’s largest corporate contributor in the 2000 race.

The lead auditor, David B. Duncan, ordered the destruction of documents during an Oct. 23 meeting.

Two weeks later, in a desperate e-mail, his assistant said, “Stop the shredding.” A day before that, Andersen had received a federal subpoena for the documents.

The law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, which is representing Duncan, said he is cooperating with investigators.

Andersen’s chief executive officer, Joseph Berardino, did not rule out the possibility that wrongdoing reached higher into the accounting firm than the auditors being disciplined.

The company said it is replacing the management of its office in Houston, where Enron is based. Four Andersen partners in the Houston office “have been relieved of their management responsibilities,” the accounting firm said.

The Chicago-based firm said it will fire any other employees found to have participated in the improper destruction of documents, which it disclosed last week.

The SEC’s enforcement director, Stephen M. Cutler, said last week the agency was widening the scope of its investigation to include Andersen’s destruction of documents.

The Justice Department is pursuing a criminal investigation of Enron, which became the biggest corporate bankruptcy in U.S. history on Dec. 2.

Duncan called an urgent meeting on Oct. 23 to organize an “expedited effort” to destroy documents, Andersen said, a few days after he learned that the SEC had requested information. The SEC sent a letter to Enron on Oct. 17 asking for information after the company reported hundreds of millions of dollars in third-quarter losses.

A telephone message left at the home of a David B. Duncan in Houston was not immediately returned.

In addition to Goddard, the partners removed from the Houston office are Michael M. Lowther, Gary B. Goolsby and Michael C. Odom.

Andersen disclosed Monday that an in-house lawyer spelled out the firm’s document destruction policy for auditors on Oct. 12, four days before Enron announced its third-quarter losses.

The Andersen lawyer, Nancy Temple, e-mailed the policy to a partner in the firm’s office in Houston.

Berardino testified to Congress last month that Andersen notified Enron’s audit committee on Nov. 2 of “possible illegal acts” within Enron.

He did not mention Andersen’s destruction last fall of thousands of documents related to the company, which the SEC, the Justice Department and congressional investigators are seeking in their inquiries.

Asked about that Tuesday, Berardino said executives of the firm didn’t learn of the destruction until shortly after New Year’s.

Purple hearts extended to America’s heroes

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING

Associated Press Writer

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — One of 15 servicemen who received the Purple Heart on Tuesday for being wounded in Afghanistan said his injury wasn’t as important as winning the war on terrorism.

“The overall objective of what has happened, when you look at that, the bigger picture, this isn’t quite so bad,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael McElhiney, a Kansas City, Mo., native who lost his arm last month when a U.S. bomb missed its target and landed 100 yards from his team near Kandahar. Three soldiers were killed.

Thirteen Army special forces soldiers and two Air Force Special Operations airmen joined McElhiney in receiving the Purple Heart. They were hurt either in Kandahar or during an uprising by Taliban prisoners at a fortress outside of Mazar-e-Sharif.

The Army’s chief of staff, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, presented the medals in a ceremony at Fort Campbell.

In addition to McElhiney, the soldiers who received the Purple Heart were Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Raikes, Capt. Jason Amerine, Sgt. 1st Class David Kennedy, Staff Sgt. Bradley Fowers, Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn Berntson, Staff Sgt. Wesley McGirr, Capt. John



Associated Press

Sgt. 1st Class Michael S. McElhiney, right, is congratulated by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki on Tuesday after being awarded the Bronze Star with “V-Device” for bravery. McElhiney also was awarded the Purple Heart, for wounds resulting in the loss of an arm during combat operations. McElhiney was one of 13 men awarded Tuesday at Fort Campbell.

Leopold, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry Reed, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Pickett, Staff Sgt. Hamid Fathi and Specialist John Menefee.

One soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Gilbert Magallanes Jr.,

was absent from the ceremony because he was recovering in a Bethesda, Md., hospital, said Major Robert Gowen.

McElhiney, Amerine, Magallanes, McGirr, and Pickett also each received a Bronze Star.

The airmen honored with Purple Hearts were Staff Sgt. Craig Musselman and Staff Sgt. Alan Yoshita.

Four soldiers who had previously received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained near Kandahar were also given the Bronze Star on Tuesday. They were Capt. Kevin Leahy, Capt. Paul Syverson, 1st Staff Sgt. David Betz and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Beck.

The wives of two of three Green Berets killed in Afghanistan attended the ceremony. The three men have been awarded Purple Hearts posthumously.

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Teen-ager opens fire in NYC school

BY RICK BERSNAK JR.

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A teen-ager opened fire in the hallway at a high school near Lincoln Center on Tuesday, seriously wounding two fellow students in what may have been a gang-related shooting, authorities say.

The shooting on Manhattan’s Upper West Side occurred at Martin Luther King Jr. High School on what would have been the 73rd birthday of the apostle of non-violence. The public school has 3,000 students.

Authorities did not immediately give a motive, but schools Chancellor Harold Levy said the shooting may have been gang-related. He said the suspect was an 18-year-old who had not been attending school.

Police spokesman Lt. Brian Burke said a young man outside the school was questioned, but no one had been arrested by Tuesday evening.

“We were in school and we heard two gunshots,” said senior Romain Morrison, 17. “They were telling everyone to get out of the hallways.”

Authorities said Andre Napper, 17, and Andre

Wilkins, 18, were shot from behind in a fourth-floor hallway. One was shot in the back and the other in the buttocks, and both were listed in serious condition.

A .380-caliber handgun was found on the fifth floor, along with three shell casings, authorities said.

The school was swiftly locked down and students kept in their classrooms as police in riot gear swept the building on Amsterdam Avenue between 65th and 66th streets.

“They wanted us to be in the room, locked up until they had things under control,” said senior Giorlys Alvarez, 17, who was locked in a classroom for more than an hour.

The school’s metal detectors and X-ray machines were working Tuesday, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said.

Teacher Octavia Melian said the school had previous problems with students breaching security. She said students would pass through the metal detectors, then open side doors for their friends to smuggle guns and other items inside.

“It’s been a constant concern with the faculty and the student body,” she said.

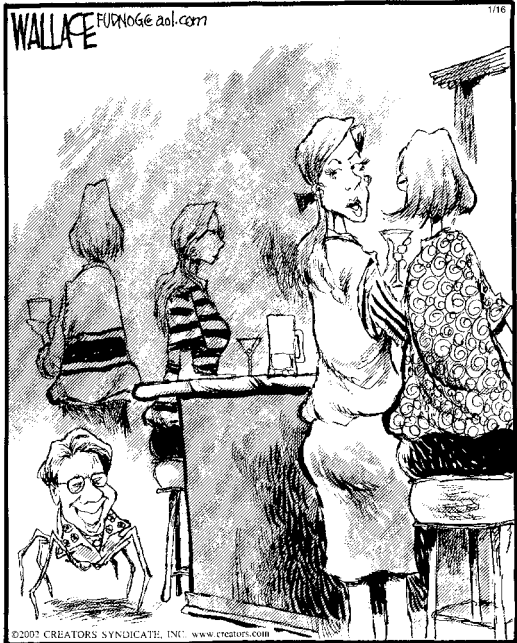


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 - 12 Cocoon, e.g.
 - 13 Require
 - 14 Ask for divine help
 - 15 Brown hue
 - 17 Fix
 - 20 Canoe's kin
 - 23 Keats poem
 - 24 Edible mollusk
 - 26 52, in old Rome
 - 27 Director's call
 - 28 French article
 - 29 Like an escapee
 - 31 Quick taste
 - 32 Poem feature
 - 33 Long time
 - 34 Expulsion
 - 37 Master-work
 - 39 Scents
 - 43 Bordeaux, e.g.
 - 44 Applaud
 - 45 Table parts
 - 46 Play parts
- DOWN
- 1 Knee protector
 - 2 St. kin
 - 3 — de plume
 - 4 Trophy
 - 5 Bill of fare
 - 6 Annexes
 - 7 Entreaty
 - 8 "Rocky" actor
 - 9 MPG-rating org.
 - 10 Put down
 - 16 Enjoy the rink
 - 17 Back biter
 - 18 Archie's wife
 - 19 "Heart of Gold" singer
 - 21 "Tomorrow" singer
 - 22 Maintains units
 - 24 Farm
 - 25 Listening device
 - 30 Entertains
 - 33 Happened
 - 35 Sea dogs
 - 36 McCormack of "Will & Grace"
 - 37 Wise one
 - 38 Bakery buy
 - 40 Fellows
 - 41 Had a bite
 - 42 Distress letters

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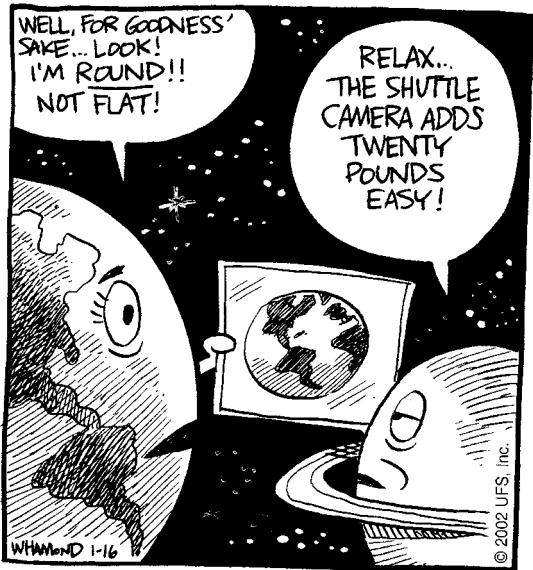
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Man murders ex-girlfriend on her wedding day

At his October murder trial in Hackensack, N.J., Agustin Garcia, 49, did not dispute that he shot his former girlfriend to death on her wedding day, but he said the jury ought to sympathize with him, in that he could not help himself: On the day that he learned of her wedding, it had been only three days since he had last had sex with her himself. A psychiatrist testified that this was "acute adjustment disorder," but that apparently did not faze the jury, which sentenced Garcia to 30 years in prison.

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BACK PAGE

Breeder dubbed 'Squab King' finds niche market

BY STEVE CHAWKINS

Los Angeles Times

OJAI, Calif. — It's good to be the Squab King, but it isn't easy.

For one thing, hardly anyone knows that the "squab" part refers to delicate young pigeons, plucked and processed before the exertion of flying can toughen their butter-soft breast muscles.

"I'll tell people at parties I'm the Squab King," says Gary Carpenter, who tosses off the title with a grain of salt, "and they'll say, 'The what, the what king?' I've even met some chefs at high-caliber restaurants who don't have a clue."

Sitting in the unheated office of his idyllic little spread near Ojai, Carpenter piles on the kind of laments familiar to growers of everything from cows to cabbage: The market is fickle. Nagging diseases can chew away at your profit. If you're not careful, competition from inferior goods can eventually nudge you off the nation's dinner plate and onto the compost pile of obscurity.

Nearby, you can hear the honeyed murmur of some 16,000 pigeons — a vast, otherworldly chorus of coos as sleep-inducing as a New Age meditation tape.

Carpenter has been living off the fat of the squab for all of his 58 years. For three generations, his family has bred the

avian morsels, selling them to high-toned eateries back when only the most benighted hayseed would wrinkle his brow and ask: "The what? The what king?"

Roasted squab on wilted watercress was the seventh of 11 sumptuous courses the night the Titanic went down. Squab teased the palates of moguls and movie stars; Carpenter's father and grandfather serviced such elegant establishments as Ciro's and Romanoff's, where, Gary Carpenter recalls, "even the garbage cans smelled wonderful."

But times have changed. In 1965, the Cornish game hen — a hybrid chicken introduced by poultry giant Tyson — started replacing the more expensive and difficult-to-prepare squab even at the finer establishments.

"A terrible fraud," insists Carpenter, pointing out that Cornish game hen is, after all, only chicken.

Today, the recession is doing no favors for breeders of a delicacy that can hit the \$30 range on menus of upscale restaurants. Even worse, cheaper birds raised in Canada are clipping the wings of their American counterparts, said Robert Shipley, president of Squab Producers of California, a cooperative of about 75 members.

"It's not a robust market right now," said Shipley, whose Modesto office sits at the center of the state's squab industry.

"At high-end places in San Francisco and New York, we've seen a real downturn in demand."

While the tiny pigeons still star at a number of well-known gourmet restaurants, most of Carpenter's birds are trucked to wholesalers in Los Angeles' Chinatown. Through them, he has managed to scratch a sizable niche, selling to Asian restaurants throughout Southern California.

"As the population has changed, we've benefited," said Carpenter, one of the state's largest independent squab producers. Typically, California producers have flocks only about 10 percent the size of his.

These pigeons aren't the winged rats that carpet-bomb the cityscape, or the flying heroes that once flapped their way through enemy gunfire with urgent messages. A squab's job is just to be born, to sit, and to accept food regurgitated from its parents' beaks.

After 28 days, the fledgling is ready for anything — especially, say, a bed of mixed greens and a sun-dried blueberry vinaigrette.

Seven years ago, one of Carpenter's birds achieved immortality — or the closest a squab can get to it — with its leading role in what GQ magazine deemed one of the world's top 10 meals.

John Downey, chef and proprietor of Downey's restaurant in Santa Barbara,

still serves the dish — squab roasted with cloves of garlic, thyme and braised mustard greens.

"I try to achieve a perfect medium-rare for the breast and legs," Downey says. "If it's in the well-done range, you're talking about an entirely different piece of food."

Doing squab right requires such meticulous care that Downey doesn't serve it on his usually busy Saturday nights. Besides, not all diners relish pigeon in any form.

"Where I grew up in England, old-timers would talk about going up in the hills in the winter, when times were hard, and shooting pigeons," Downey said. "Those birds are tough as boots; they're desperate food for desperate times."

Each week, Carpenter kills and plucks 1,000 delectable, month-old pigeons, sending them from his shaded dell off the Casitas Pass to their destiny at Chinese pleasure palaces and other fine eateries, such as Wolfgang Puck's Postrio restaurant in San Francisco or Musso & Frank's venerable grill in Hollywood.

Meanwhile, their parents, who mate for life, breed like crazy. When their reproductive urge fades in about 12 years, their fate is clear.

"It's soup," Carpenter says, as unsentimental as any other farmer about what might be called the coo de grace.

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