

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Dragon sighting



Bree Clarke/Special to the Daily Press
A sand sculptor who gave his name only as 'Greg' created a detailed likeness of a dragon before passersby on the Venice Beach board walk Thursday.

Known sex offender moves after neighborhood pressure

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A convicted sex offender classified as "high risk" has left the city because of pressure from his neighbors. It has only been a little more than two weeks since the felon's past first became public knowledge.

Akouris Akouris, 43, who was recently released from prison and moved to Santa Monica, left his family's Santa Monica home and delisted himself in the Santa Monica Police Department's sex offender database on Thursday. He will now register with the Los Angeles Police Department in an unknown division, however Akouris' home won't be on the westside, police said.

Akouris' prison release and subsequent move to Santa Monica was publicized Dec. 29, 2002. After neighbors were notified that he moved into the area, they became concerned about their children's safety. "Too much correspondence came to the family from residents and neighbors. He is no longer going to be living in Santa Monica," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "We'll contact the Department of Justice and notify them of the move."

Akouris was ordered as a condition of his parole to register as a sex offender with the Santa Monica Police Department. He lived at the 1140 block of Chelsea Avenue, just north of Wilshire Boulevard and near Douglas Park.

Akouris was previously listed as a serious sex offender, a lesser status than high risk. He has been convicted of several offenses, some of which occurred in Santa Monica, police said. SMPD detectives did extensive research and background on Akouris with the Department of Justice to get his status elevated.

See related story, Page 10

"Our detectives working sex crimes did additional follow up on this subject to move his status to high risk," Fabrega told the Daily Press in December. "It's the (chief of police's) policy that all high risk sex offenders get publicized."

Akouris was identified as a high risk sex offender by the Department of Justice based on his criminal history. He is required to register as a sex offender as a result of his convictions.

Akouris is currently on felony parole with a condition that prohibits him from being out of his home between the hours of 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. He served time in prison for oral copulation and sexual battery, among other offenses.

See OFFENDER, page 8

California has lost track of thousands of sex offenders

SMPD, however, keeps close watch on registered parolees

By staff and wire reports

California has lost track of nearly half its sex offenders, despite a state law requiring rapists and child molesters to register each year and be included in the Megan's law database.

At least 27,577 sex offenders, or 39 percent of the 70,631 ex-cons currently required to register in California, may be "out of compliance," according to state data provided to The Associated Press.

"We don't know where they are," acknowledged

See MEGAN'S LAW, page 8

Suspected bank robber killed by police in Vegas

'Do Jo Bandit' hit one bank in Santa Monica, 10 in county

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A man who attempted to rob Washington Mutual Bank on Wilshire Boulevard last fall was fatally shot by police in Las Vegas and is believed to be responsible for nearly a dozen bank robberies in Los Angeles and nine in Nevada.

Robert James Nusbaum, 34, was shot by Las Vegas Metro Police on Dec. 31 after he and another man allegedly robbed a

Bank of America and opened fire on authorities when they were found hiding behind a nearby apartment complex, said Las Vegas Metro Sgt. Rick Barela.

Nusbaum, known by the FBI as the "Do Jo Bandit" because he wore a karate shirt similar to the ones worn in that type of karate practice, fired the first shot at officers when he was spotted in the getaway car, Barela said. Nusbaum struck one police officer in the leg. Two officers fired back and fatally shot Nusbaum. He died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Evidence recovered at the scene linked Nusbaum, who

See SUSPECT, page 6

Man attempts to kidnap child

Police urge parents to talk to their kids about strangers

By Daily Press staff

A man tried to persuade a child to enter his car in a posh Santa Monica neighborhood Thursday.

At 1 p.m., Santa Monica police officers responded to the 1400 block of San Vicente Boulevard, where a 13-year-old boy said a man he didn't know tried to get him into his car earlier Thursday morning.

The boy was standing on San Vicente Boulevard waiting for a bus when he was approached by the stranger, according to police.

"The juvenile saw his bus approaching and



Sketch of suspect

refused the offer," said Lt. Frank Fabrega, an SMPD spokesman.

The suspect then fled east on San Vicente Boulevard, the boy told officers.

However, it wasn't until the child returned home from school that he told his parent, who immediately called police.

The suspect is described as a white male, 40-50 years-old, about 6 feet tall, with medium build and no facial hair. He is said to be bald, with possibly a shaved head. At the time of the incident, he was wearing dark sunglasses and a dark-colored, button-down collared shirt.

The vehicle is described as a late-model, four-door, silver-colored sedan with a black leather

See KIDNAP, page 6

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could keep coming up with ideas just to have them blown out. You might be tired of what is going on and the ensuing choices. Look for easy and caring. Everything works out if you roll with the punches. Understand what someone wants. Tonight: Entertain from your pad.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others are receptive to your words and opinions. Where some hit brick walls with the same ideas, gates part for you. Pursue high-priority matters right now. Schedule time at the end of the day for an extended conversation. Tonight: Out and about.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Say little and make solid choices for yourself. Others don't always agree with your ideas or choices. Consider your multiple options, even if you could be a bit confused. Juggle your finances carefully as you seek out answers. Tonight: Treat a friend.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might not be absolutely sure about your choices that surround a partnership. Just when you think everything is settled, you could get a bit of a jolt. Learn to juggle and experiment more often. You might love the outcome. Tonight: As you like it.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Take your time. The more settled and direct you are, the better the end results could be. You hear a lot of conflicting stories. Consider the fact that the information could all be true. Pull back and see the many different sides. Tonight: Do your thing.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Friends mean well, but you could feel as if you're on a merry-go-round as you try to ground yourself. Worry less about centering, and enjoy what is happening on a deeper level. Bring friends together. Celebrate the moment. Tonight: Where the action is.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Understand what a boss or supervisor wants from you. As a result, you will be able to juggle your different concerns and make what you want happen. Don't push others too hard. Schedule time for a special loved one. Tonight: A must appearance.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep your loyalties in mind when making the choices you need to make. Someone at a distance or an in-law might have a tendency to throw boomerangs in your path. Keep your spirits high and look at the possibilities. Be open. Tonight: Take in a different perspective.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might not be exactly sure what will work with a child or loved one, though it's time to find out. Carefully consider your different options once you have a better perspective of what someone wants from you. Tonight: Make that additional effort.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You don't have to do much because, as you'll discover, many come to you. Still, you could feel rather overwrought by all the opportunities you're presented with. Don't worry if you feel rather scattered. Make it OK. Tonight: The only answer is "yes" if you want to keep the peace.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Realize your limits with a loved one or a friend. You can only do or say so much. Understand more of what is expected from an associate or pal at work. Invite others to join you, even if you might be made nervous by the mix. Tonight: Get enough rest.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Realize what might be going on with a child or loved one. Your creativity and dynamic approach take you in a new direction if you're willing. Take a chance: Move in a new direction within a relationship. Get past a case of the jitters. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

QUOTE of the DAY

"If you haven't got anything nice to say about anybody, come sit next to me."

— Alice Roosevelt Longworth (1884-1980)

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LOCAL



Wasted water?



Bree Clarke/Special to the Daily Press
A Venice Beach fire hydrant spewed foul-smelling brown water Thursday. It's unknown why the hydrant was allowed to be released, or why the water smelled so odd.

The Q-Line

Citizens agree with city survey

This week, Q-Line asked:

"Are the top concerns revealed in the city's survey also your concerns? How can our elected officials rectify the problem?"

Here are your responses:

■ "I have a suggestion. Mr. Springer, who actually writes as a guest for your paper, (From the Streets) suggests that China has solved the problem of the homeless. So perhaps we can take all the homeless from Santa Monica and send them to China so they can be taken care of."

■ "Many years ago, Santa Monica had the Ocean Park Amusement Pier done in by Disneyland. The Arragon and Consenso Ballrooms done in when folks stopped dancing and Jack's at the beach done in when the amusement pier was torn down. It was a great place have to fun. I remember 66 years ago when I went to Pirate Days at Venice amusement pier. I was five years old. The Venice amusement pier was also demolished. How dare we try to have a good time. In the late 1970s, real estate price gouging and profiteering reared its

head and was soon severed by a well-written and well-justified rent control law that opened the door of fairness against greed. It created two political issues in Santa Monica: rent control and homeless. Rent control is here to stay. I trust the government will help the homeless. As for myself, the only fun I have now is riding my bike along the excellent Santa Monica bike path, reminiscing about how good it was to be alive in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s. It is then that I realize that I had the best of it."

■ "Our elected officials are not capable of rectifying the problems because it's their own incompetence that has caused them. The only solution is for all of us to wake up and vote more wisely in the future. We need to elect people who live in the real world and have real jobs and who will base deci-

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Today we're seeing a new northwest swell on the rise. Expect waist-to-shoulder high surf on the average. The swell has a good, westerly angle that shows well at LA County's breaks. Unfortunately, the swell is on the weaker side. We should see small, consistent surf over the weekend, nice weather and good conditions.

Saturday the swell will back off some, but plenty of energy remains to keep exposed breaks in two-three foot waves. At the right tides we'll see occasional four-footers.

Sunday, expect more leftovers, but with weakening strength and less size.

Some spots in Malibu should be flat, but El Porto looks like it might go off today and Saturday.



Today's Tides:

Low- 1:37 a.m. 2.33'
High- 7:54 a.m. 6.33'
Low- 3:16 p.m. -1.07'
High- 9:50 p.m. 3.77'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	Not Available
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	Not Available
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	0-1'/Poor	Not Available
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	Not Available
Breakwater	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	Not Available
El Porto	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	Not Available

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sions on common sense and a healthy respect for taxpayers money."

■ "The concerns regarding homelessness, over-development and congestion mirror my own. Our policies, or perhaps lack of them, have turned Santa Monica into a Mecca for the homeless. Their sheer numbers and the problems they create has put a financial and emotional strain on this city. Area-wise this is a small, eight-square-mile community. It has been weighed down over the last two decades by a tremendous growth in buildings. Why? Because our leadership is sold out to developers in exchange for more money to plow into their social programs. Lastly, there is the issue of congestion. This is simple math. When you increase density, you also increase the mass. In the case of Santa Monica, this

means more people squeezed into traffic slowing lanes. Basically, I think social planning and civic planning are totally out of sync in Santa Monica."

■ "The worst problem in Santa Monica is smog due in replacement of established trees with twigs. The bus lane made more traffic. We have more empty buses chasing each other around."

■ "I think the homeless problem is just going to get worse and worse. All of the money the city throws at it is just going to make the problem worse for the citizens who pay for these programs to exist. I'd like to see all the money for the homeless put towards our schools and senior citizens. Let those adults who have messed up their lives find their own way out of it."

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OPINION

LETTERS

Inaccuracies printed about Barker Hangar

Editor:

Andy Fixmer's series on film production in Santa Monica (Hollywood spotlight dims on Santa Monica, 01/14/03) underscored both the importance of commercial filming to a range of businesses in our community and recognition of this fact by City Hall. Nevertheless, it did contain a few inaccurate statements concerning the Barker Hangar:

1. We do NOT "make tens of thousands of dollars renting out the space for a day." I believe my comment referred to feature productions that booked from six to eight weeks. We have not had a feature like that since 1998, as a consequence of the overall decline in commercial production in the region.

2. Eminem did do a pay-per-view at the Barker Hangar — but that was two years ago, in January 2001.

3. The World Stunt Awards, an internationally televised award ceremony honoring professional stunt performers worldwide, was launched in the year 2001. Its first two years were televised at the Hangar.

Our primary focus has always been — and continues to be — on aviation, and the needs of our aviation businesses, including the pilot supply store, Tantalizing Takeoffs, as well as flight schools, aircraft brokers, aircraft storage and tie down. The Barker Hangar was designed for aircraft manufacturing in a very different era of Santa Monica. We are happy that the Hangar now can serve as a community resource for a range of events and as a venue for charitable fundraisers benefiting the AIDS victims, cancer patients and the victims of childhood leukemia.

Linda Sullivan
Property manager



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Focusing on the little issues and mighty oaks



MY WRITE By Bill Bauer

The city held another one of its "Community Voices" events last Saturday at John Adams Middle School. Attendees were told they would be addressing various social issues within the community.

High on the list were the homeless, affordable housing, senior services and a host of subjects near and dear to the city's heart. What most participants expected to be a thought-provoking and spirited town hall meeting became a series of theatrical acting exercises, role playing and sensitivity training before it became the usual public relations event essentially designed to curry public favor with the city's social services agenda.

I guess some people enjoyed the role playing and psychological mumbo-jumbo, but many others thought it all was a waste of energy and severely limited time for meaningful public input on important issues.

So what else is new? Most city meetings that "invite public input" end up being a rant session where those upset with the status quo can vent and let off steam after which it's still business as usual.

"We gave you an opportunity to be heard," they'll tell you. But nothing changes. Most neighborhood and community meetings seem to sell the city point of view as opposed to finding out what the people want.

Neighborhood meetings on traffic calming, for example, are nothing more than an opportunity to convince you that all those speed bumps, medians and traffic circles are a good idea. A community forum a couple years ago on homeless issues became one big propaganda event designed to promote even more homeless services.

Sometimes, when it comes to dealing with issues, one has to grab the bull by the horns. Take John Quigley, for example.

John Quigley is the man who had been sitting in an old oak tree in Stephenson Ranch since early November. He was trying to save a 400-year-old oak tree from a developer's bulldozer. He has become the stuff of legends.

It all started when developer John Laing Homes got approval to build some 20,000

homes in Santa Clarita. The developer and Los Angeles County agreed that an existing road should be widened for access to the mega-development. However, the old oak tree was in the way.

Because the canyon wasn't wide enough to accommodate both the tree and four lanes of traffic, the oak, dubbed "Old Glory," was earmarked for the woodsman's chainsaw — until John Quigley climbed into its branches and dared them to cut it down.

This tale has all the ingredients of a classic movie script. There's the good guy in the white hat: John Quigley. Then there are the bad guys in the black hats: Developer John Laing Homes and L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, in whose jurisdiction the condemned tree grows.

Mike "the developer's best friend" Antonovich wouldn't step in to save the tree paving the way (no pun intended) for the inevitable showdown with the law. Last weekend, L.A. County Fire and Sheriff's deputies removed Quigley from the tree and his appeals to the courts were denied.

Proving that big developers aren't totally evil, John Laing Homes promised to relocate the tree out of harm's way. Conservationists say that the tree won't survive the move. Only time will tell whether "Old Glory" will

live or succumb.

John Laing Homes' image still comes off as rapacious, greedy and uncaring while Antonovich cemented his reputation of being an "enemy of the Earth."

Where's the environmental movement? I've followed this story very closely, and I never saw news of support from the Green Party or the Sierra Club.

This seemed like a natural cause for Greenpeace, but, alas, they kept a low or no profile, too.

I wouldn't expect any of our local environmentalists to become involved. Perhaps our Green councilmen, Messrs. McKeown and Feinstein, weren't interested because this was all happening in Canyon Country or maybe because there were no hotel workers involved.

I can't help but thinking that if this were occurring here, both Santa Monicans and our city government would have insisted the tree stay put. We'd have a landmark oak tree and a traffic island, thus satisfying two fervent obsessions of our city politicians — landmarks and traffic calming.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and freelance writer.)

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

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LOCAL



Obituary

Melvin (Mel) Asch, retired film publicity executive who worked with studios such as 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros., Universal and MGM in New York and Hollywood, died Sunday, Jan. 5, at his Santa Monica home after a brief illness.

He was 77.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on Dec. 2, 1925, as the son of Charles and Helen Asch. Mel was the great nephew of writer Sholem Asch, who inspired him to seek knowledge and an understanding of society through language and history.

He enlisted in the Army Air Force in July 1943 at 17 years old and was trained as a radio operator/gunner. The war ended before he could use his skills. After WWII, he pursued his education at the University of Illinois, Champagne (B.A. in journalism) and the University of Minnesota (masters in political science).

After completing college, Mel went to work as a staff reporter at various newspapers on the East Coast and Midwest. He met and married Doris Marcell. After extensively traveling through Europe, Mel and Doris settled in Indianapolis, Ind., where Mel worked for the Indianapolis Times. Mel and Doris moved to Spain and spent a year exploring their interests. Moving back to



Melvin (Mel) Asch

the U.S. in 1961, Mel settled back in his hometown of New York City and transitioned from the newspaper business to entertainment and film publicity. Mel moved his family to California in 1977 and made Santa Monica his home.

Mel held various executive positions in the publicity departments of 20th Century-Fox, MGM and Universal; and was assistant studio publicity director at Warner Bros. He made friends with Frank Sinatra while serving as his publicist on the Fox movie "Tony Rome" in 1967. Mr. Sinatra insisted to the Fox studio bosses that Mel be assigned to any and all pictures the singer/actor made for the studio. The studio granted Mr. Sinatra his request and Mel went to work on Fox's "Tony Rome" sequel, "Lady In Cement."

Other films Mel helped create, market and publicize include "10," "The French

Connection," "The Pink Panther," "11 Harrowhouse," "Planet of the Apes" (with Charlton Heston) and "The Valley of the Dolls," among others.

Mel later served as director of public relations for The Lorsch Group and the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the National Safety Council before retiring in 1991.

Mel dedicated himself to his family, his job and to the pursuit of the truth. He had a thirst for knowledge and learned something new every day. He loved being in the company of young people; he never considered himself "old." He was happiest when he could share an intelligent conversation with a friend or relative over coffee or a game of pool.

Mel is survived by his daughter, Lauralee; his son, David, and his son-in-law, Russell Morris.

Mel will be remembered as a giving, caring, loyal, intelligent and gentle man whose bark was bigger than his bite. Those who weren't intimidated by him made a friend for life and benefited from knowing him.

His favorite quotes were "the truth will set you free" and "discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought."

Memorial services will be private.

Local Sports

Santa Monica High Vikings shut out another opponent

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica High School Vikings (10-5-1 overall, 3-1 league) beat Bay League opponent West Torrance 2-0 in a tight soccer match Wednesday.

Sophomore Omid Shokoufandeh opened the scoring in the 35th minute, assisted by Senior Corey Prost. Then the Vikings sealed the victory in the 46th minute on free kick by Junior Barry Jackson. Taking the direct free kick from the left side of the goal, Jackson placed the ball in the back right hand corner of the West Torrance goal.

Samohi recorded their second league shut out with good defensive play from seniors Cem Mangir, Alex Farivar, Johnny Dahlem and Jordan Kurland and sophomores Artur Szezpanek and Michael Eyler. Senior goalkeeper Daniel Islas made three saves and shared the shut out with Senior reserve keeper Ricardo Ortiz, who recorded one save. Next up, the Vikings travel to North Torrance for a 3 p.m. kickoff on Friday.

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LOCAL □ STATE

SoCal Edison to ask state to lower rates by summer

BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Southern California Edison, the state's second-largest utility, will ask for an average rate decrease of 13.4 percent to take effect later this year after the utility finishes paying its power-crisis debt, the company said Thursday.

The utility said it plans to file the plan with the California Public Utilities Commission on Friday. It said the decrease would probably take effect by this summer.

The application must still be reviewed and approved by the PUC.

It would mainly affect businesses and large residential customers, Edison said.

Edison was granted a rate increase last year as part of a settlement of its federal lawsuit against the PUC. The deal, which is being challenged in state court by a consumer group, was designed to help the utility repay \$3.6 billion in debt it accumulated during the state's power crisis of 2000.

The utility incurred the debt when wholesale power costs skyrocketed and Edison could not pass the higher costs

along to ratepayers.

Most residential customers would not see lower rates if Edison's plan is approved. The company said about two-thirds of its residential customers did not pay the crisis surcharge because they either were eligible for discounts or kept their consumption below certain benchmarks.

Edison said Thursday it will propose that rates for large business customers drop 26 percent. Rates for small and medium business customers would drop 19 percent.

Rates for residential customers who are big users would drop 8 percent.

"The higher electricity rates were borne by our business customers as well as those residential customers who have high consumption requirements," SoCal Edison chief executive Alan Fohrer said in a statement. "Thus, we are asking the commission to reduce rates in the same pattern originally used to allocate those crisis rates among customer groups."

Earlier this year, Edison asked the PUC for a 3 percent rate hike to take effect in 2004. The commission has yet to act on that request.

Suspect in bank robbery got away empty-handed

SUSPECT, from page 1

entered Bank of America on Las Vegas' northeast side, and Maxie Taylor, a 23-year-old black man, to the robbery, Barela said.

The Las Vegas bank robbery occurred at 11:30 a.m. and the two men left with an undisclosed amount of cash, Barela said. Nusbaum entered the bank, lifted his shirt, showed the teller the butt of a gun and demanded money, police said.

Taylor, who also is known as Taylor Maxey, drove the get-away car about six blocks before he parked it. When officers approached the vehicle, Taylor fled on foot and was later caught by police. He was arrested and charged with murder, bank robbery and attempted murder on two police officers. The murder charge was filed because Taylor's actions resulted in the death of Nusbaum, Barela said.

Nusbaum is believed to be responsible for between six and nine bank robberies in Las Vegas since December.

Cheryl Mimura, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles' FBI, said Nusbaum is suspected of robbing banks throughout Southern California.

"If there is good surveillance videos, they can link him. He's good for probably 11 in L.A. County since November 15, 2002," she said, adding Nusbaum used a note to demand money from bank tellers. "Most bank robberies are note jobs, not take-overs, where they make you get down on the floor."

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to Washington Mutual on Nov. 27, 2002, located at 2701 Wilshire Blvd., at 5:42 p.m. A Washington Mutual employee said a man entered the bank, approached a teller, displayed a handgun and demanded money.

But apparently he got anxious and fled through the rear of the bank before the teller could give him the cash. He was last seen running north on Princeton Avenue. No vehicle was seen or heard leaving the area, police said.

Nusbaum, who is white, was described as 38 to 48 years old, 5'6" to 5'8" tall, wearing a brown flannel shirt, a white T-shirt, brown pants and a light colored hat. Witnesses said he also was wearing a cell phone piece in his ear.

Kids shouldn't accept rides

KIDNAP, from page 1

interior.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Youth Services Division of the SMPD at (310) 458-8451.

The Santa Monica Police Department urges parents to talk to their children about strangers who offer them rides. Parents should tell their children that if anyone offers a lift, the child should not take it.

"It's a must," Fabrega said. "They should tell them to never, ever accept a ride from a stranger even if they say the parent sent them. And they should tell someone immediately so they can call police."

Children should tell their bus driver, teacher, parent or flag down a passing police officer immediately, he said.

Crime tips can be found on the Santa Monica Police Department Web site, <http://santamoniacapd.org>, under the heading personal safety. Or residents can contact the SMPD's community relations team at (310) 458-8474 for more information.

STATE

Seventeen arrested in anti-war protest in L.A.

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Seventeen people protesting the Bush administration's threatened war against Iraq were arrested Thursday when they refused police orders to stop blocking a sidewalk during a demonstration outside a downtown federal building.

About 75 others applauded and shouted "No blood for oil" as the 17 were handcuffed and taken away in a bus to be cited for misdemeanors at police headquarters.

"I'm vehemently against the war," said actress Shiva Rose McDermott, who was arrested in what she said was her first act of civil disobedience. "I think it's hypocritical of us as a country to say we're trying to save the Iraqi people when in fact we're putting in a puppet government to preserve oil interests."

The protesters were arrested after they lay down in rows next to cardboard coffins labeled "Democracy," "Dreams" and "International Law," and ignored

orders to disperse. They peacefully stood and went with police as they were taken into custody.

The demonstration was organized by the American Friends Service Committee Pacific Southwest Region to coincide with the 12th anniversary of American bombing raids that launched the 1991 Gulf War, as well as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Jan. 15 birthday.

The arrestees ranged from a 26-year-old musician to a 63-year-old grandfather and included a Navy veteran.

Venice resident Jeff Brown, 38, who was a Navy lieutenant aboard a nuclear submarine stationed in Norfolk, Va., in 1991, said that in the years since he has come to believe in settling conflicts non-violently because "the taking of innocent lives per se is immoral."

"I fortunately never had to take anyone's life or saw anyone's life taken, so I can't speak to the horror of war that way," said Brown. "I know what I would have done if I had been ordered to do so, and I just have to live with that."

6-year-old brings pot to school

By The Associated Press

YUCCA VALLEY — A 6-year-old boy brought an unusual item to a show-and-tell session at his school: a small amount of marijuana and a pipe.

Sheriff's detectives went to the boy's house and arrested his dad, Douglas Ballard, 41, and the dad's live-in girlfriend, Heather Peterson, 32. They were booked into Morongo Basin Jail for investigation of child endangerment. Bail was set at \$100,000 apiece.

Authorities said they were alerted to the incident Tuesday when a teacher at Yucca Valley Elementary School noticed the first-grader had a bag of marijuana, a lighter and a smoking pipe.

Sheriff's Sgt. Fred Gonzalez said the boy had about a tenth of an ounce of marijuana

and he apparently knew what people did with it and wanted to show his classmates.

School administrators were notified and the items were confiscated.

"We've never had a case like this before," said Patricia Jensen, child welfare coordinator for Morongo Unified School District. "I've never had a ... child in first-grade bring marijuana to school before."

The boy has been suspended from school for five days, pending an investigation by the school's principal, Jensen said.

Authorities said Ballard also is accused of being a felon in possession of ammunition and was out on bail, facing other charges, including failure to appear. He previously was convicted of child endangerment.

Yucca Valley is 130 miles east of Los Angeles.

Judge drops felony charges against 'Bumfights' defendants

By The Associated Press

EL CAJON — Charges facing four filmmakers accused of videotaping fist-fights and humiliating acts involving homeless people were either dismissed or reduced to misdemeanors by a judge.

Superior Court Judge Larrie Brainard ruled Wednesday that there was insufficient evidence and dismissed felony battery and soliciting charges. He ordered the four defendants to stand trial on one charge of conspiracy to stage an illegal fight and three of them to stand trial on the charge of a conspiracy to commit a battery charge.

The defendants — Ryan McPherson, 19; Zachary Bubeck, 25; Daniel J. Tanner, 21; and Michael Slyman, 21 — have pleaded innocent. If convicted, the defendants could face up to one year in jail on each charge.

They will be back in court Feb. 5.

Despite his ruling, Brainard said there was "something abhorrent and morally repugnant in finding joy and profit" through demeaning other human beings

especially homeless alcoholics.

The video entitled "Bumfights: A Cause for Concern," promoted by radio shock jock Howard Stern and denounced on the floor of the House of Representatives, has sold about 300,000 copies at \$20 each, authorities said.

Homeless people are seen fighting on the tape and engaging in dangerous stunts. The judge's ruling comes at the end of a five-day preliminary hearing where some of the video's stars testified they were paid for their performance.

However, two of those who are featured in the video said they did not clearly remember or were intoxicated when they were being videotaped.

Prosecutor Curtis Ross said he was disappointed with the judge's ruling but said going forward with the case still shows the filmmakers committed a crime.

"The message is being sent that this type of activity is illegal," he said. "It still is a crime. The message is being sent out that what they engaged in, it's still criminal activity."

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LOCAL

Tracking is difficult because system relies on felons

MEGAN'S LAW, from page 1

Margaret Moore, who until recently ran the state's sex offender registry in Sacramento.

A closer look at the numbers revealed the department also doesn't know the whereabouts of another 5,719 offenders who "cannot be accurately categorized." Many never registered as required after leaving prison, and most have not been heard from since 1995, said Norm Pierce, manager of the Violent Crime Information Center.

All told, California is missing 33,296 offenders, or 44 percent of the 76,350 required to register, according to the data provided to the AP after months of requests.

Failing to register is in most cases a felony that could put high-risk offenders in jail for up to three more years, but most police departments aren't actively enforcing the law. That's because most law enforcement agencies lack adequate financing and resources to keep tabs on sex offenders.

SANTA MONICA IS DIFFERENT

However, that doesn't appear to be the case in Santa Monica. Tracking sex offenders and parolees in the city has been a goal for the Santa Monica Police Department for the past three years, said Lt. Frank Fabrega.

How the Megan's Law database works

By The Associated Press

■ HOW TO USE CALIFORNIA'S MEGAN'S LAW DATABASE:

Go into a sheriff's office or designated police department. You must be 18 or older and show identification. Some local agencies require you to explain why you want to search the database. You can also check up to two names at a time for a \$10 fee by calling 1-900-448-3000, if you can convince the operator you have a reasonable suspicion the person is a risk.

■ WHO IS IN THE DATABASE?

Ex-convicts who committed rape, sodomy, child molestation, felony sexual battery, oral copulation with a child or lewd and lascivious conduct, among other crimes, must register within five days of their birthday each year. Some particularly violent or high-risk offenders must check in more frequently. Law enforcement agencies then put their information in the database, a portion of which the public can view.

Juvenile offenders and people convicted of less serious crimes including incest, pornography, indecent exposure or spousal battery are required to register, but are not subject to public disclosure.

■ WHAT INFORMATION MUST THE OFFENDERS PROVIDE?

They get their photo taken and update their home and work addresses, phone numbers, and other details from the make and model of their cars to any tattoos or scars. Most of this information stays inside police departments, and there's no way for the public to know if it's current.

How AP got the numbers

By The Associated Press

The Associated Press began investigating the accuracy of California's Megan's law database in March 2002 after trying unsuccessfully to locate several sexually violent predators who had been released from Atascadero State Hospital.

After repeated requests and delays, the Justice Department in September provided statistics on the numbers of offenders in compliance with the law, those believed to be out of compliance, those incarcerated, those who had moved out-of-state and those who had died.

Department officials said it was the first time they had ever been asked to analyze the accuracy of its Megan's Law database.

Several more weeks passed as the AP tried unsuccessfully to clarify questions about the numbers, and in November, the department said the numbers it had provided months earlier were erroneous.

In December, the department sent the AP a CD-ROM with fresh statistics from the database, saying they were the most accurate numbers they had as of Nov. 27.



Ed Bailey/Associated Press

Director of Parents for Megan's Law Laura Ahearn stands outside her children's courtroom on Long Island, New York, Wednesday, Dec. 18.

"We have a criminal investigative analyst that works closely with a sex crimes unit and they make every effort to track sex offenders in Santa Monica," Fabrega said.

Just last month detectives spent several hours getting a convicted sex offender who moved to Santa Monica upgraded from a serious risk to a high risk. The public was notified of his presence, and he has since moved out of the city because of pressure from his neighbors.

And this month, a detective spent six hours interviewing and investigating another sex offender who registered with the SMPD. Local police want to know as much as possible about the offender in case other agencies need it in the future. In this case, detectives found a nude doll in the convicted felon's backpack — although it's not a crime but perhaps indicative of the man's problem.

"We do it right, you have to spend time ... We want to know why they are a registrant so we can set a pattern with him," Fabrega said. "We also conduct follow ups and checks that the information he gave us is accurate."

"We actively pursue and work these cases when a sex registrant comes in to register; we gather all the pertinent information on him," Fabrega said. "The law just says he has to register. We have a packet of questions to ask him because down the line it could be critical information to have."

Typically, if a sex offender is released, the police department where the convict last lived is notified by the Department of Justice. A flyer with a picture of his face is given to the police officers.

"If they arrest him or come into contact with him, then we make them register," Fabrega said. "If he failed to register, our officers will arrest him."

ACCURACY OFTEN DEPENDS ON FELONS

Megan's law databases are designed to help the public and police keep track of some of the state's most dangerous criminals. But in California, no one audits the database for accuracy. No one knows how many sex offenders never registered after leaving prison. State Justice Department officials can't even say how much the program costs.

Megan's law was named after 7-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a child molester who moved in across the street. All 50 states have similar laws designed to warn communities about the presence of such ex-cons.

But the usefulness of the database in California — and most other states — is dependent on whether the sex offenders actually check in with police, and whether overworked law enforcement agencies follow up to see if the information is correct.

"The law puts the responsibility for accuracy on the felons," Moore said. "It makes it very difficult to track."

The situation angers Laura Ahearn, executive director of Parents For Megan's Law, a nonprofit, national victims' rights group. She said people have a misplaced faith in the database.

"It's really unacceptable that the registry is not as accurate as it should be and people in California should be outraged by that," Ahearn said. "People have this false sense of what Megan's law guarantees and they just fall into this illusion. They're not crying out because they're believing that everything is just fine and it's really not."

California's Justice Department touts its sex offender

database as a valuable tool for the public — it announced recently that information is now updated daily and is available in 13 languages.

But when Attorney General Bill Lockyer was presented with the AP's findings — the first analysis of the database's accuracy that agency officials said had ever been done — he acknowledged changes are necessary.

"Having self-regulation is fine if there's effective oversight," said Lockyer, who stopped short of saying California lacks such oversight.

"Our system is inadequate, woefully inadequate," he said. "It can only be improved by putting money into the local law enforcement agencies. It's a matter of resources."

SMPD SETS GOAL TO TRACK OFFENDERS

SMPD's Fabrega said as part of fulfilling the department's goal of tracking sex registrants, it uses the resources it has to the fullest. Santa Monica is known for a large transient population, and several years ago police officers were coming into contact with a lot of parolees, some whom were sex offenders.

With an emphasis on tracking them, SMPD focused its resources on operations, the largest segment of the department. Uniformed police officers on daywatch patrol attend monthly parole and gang-related meetings with other law enforcement agencies to be more aware of what's happening on the street. Officers assigned to nightwatch work closely with parole and probation officers in conducting parolee searches in Santa Monica, Fabrega said.

Officers also have access to a "supervised release file" in patrol cars where they can communicate directly with the Department of Corrections via computer so when a parolee or sex offender is stopped by police, the parole officer will be notified of the circumstances surrounding

See MEGAN'S LAW, page 9

Dozens of sex offenders live in Santa Monica

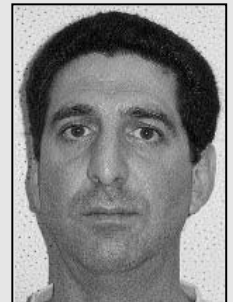
OFFENDER, from page 1

The SMPD's policy to publicize high risk sex offenders living in Santa Monica is made possible by Megan's law and allows the public additional information to protect themselves and their children. The law is not intended to punish the offender and specifically prohibits using the information to harass or commit any crime against the offender, police said.

There were 50 registered sex offenders living in Santa Monica as of last year, according to results from a search in the Los Angeles County Sex Offender database. At that time, there was only one high risk sex offender living in Santa Monica. He is identified as Clark Ashley, a black male, who was convicted of rape by force or intimidation, oral copulation and oral copulation with a person under 14.

A person who is considered a high risk sex offender has been convicted of a violent sex offense as well as other offenses. A "serious" sex offender has been convicted of a felony sex offense or child molestation. Another level, classified as "other," are sex offenders who have been convicted of either indecent exposure, spousal rape, misdemeanor sexual battery, pornography or incest.

The SMPD remains vigilant in its lookout for sex offenders who have not registered with the city in accordance with the conditions of their parole or release from prison, Fabrega said.



Arthur Akouris



Sniper victims' families sue gun manufacturer, store

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Relatives of two Washington, D.C.-area sniper victims filed suit Thursday against a gun manufacturer and store linked to the Bushmaster XM15 assault rifle used in the deadly attacks.

Relatives of victims James "Sonny" Buchanan and Conrad Johnson claim the gunmaker and store showed "gross negligence" that "caused injuries and death," according to the complaint. The families are represented by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

The case seeks unspecified damages and names Bull's Eye Shooter Supply of Tacoma, which either sold or lost the rifle in a theft; store owners Brian Borgelt and Charles Carr; Bushmaster Firearms Inc. of Windham, Maine; and sniper defendants John Allen Muhammad and Lee Malvo.

"We plan to show that less than three months after Bull's Eye received the Bushmaster assault rifle in its

store, the firearm 'disappeared,' traveled across the country and was used in the sniper attacks," Seattle attorney Paul Luvera said in a statement Thursday.

"Such a swift 'time to crime' is highly indicative of grossly negligent sales and distribution practices on the part of Bull's Eye and the gun industry defendant," he said.

Buchanan's sister, Vickie Snyder of Rockville, Md., said she hoped that, ultimately, there would be more control over who obtains firearms.

"I guess I really hope the shops will be more responsible in their paperwork and the manufacturers will be more responsible about who they sell guns to," she said.

Buchanan, 39, was killed Oct. 3 while mowing grass at a car dealership near White Flint Mall; Johnson, 35, a bus driver, was killed on Oct. 22 in Aspen Hill, Md.

Muhammad and Malvo are accused of killing 13 people and wounding five others in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

They are being tried first in Virginia in separate case, and both could face the death penalty.

Dennis Henigan, legal director of the Brady Center, said at least three more families of sniper victims plan to join the lawsuit soon.

The organization has filed more than two dozen similar suits on behalf of municipalities and individuals.

"This assault rifle, which served the snipers' deadly purposes so well, did not fall from the sky into their hands," Henigan said.

The Bull's Eye owners didn't return phone calls for comment. Investigators are trying to determine how Muhammad and Malvo wound up with the rifle.

Allen Faraday, vice president of administration for Bushmaster, said the company did nothing wrong and sold the rifle legally to a firearms dealer.

"We naturally don't feel it's legitimate," Faraday said of the lawsuit. "Nowadays, lawyers are looking to file lawsuits wherever they can."

Ex-cop hopes DNA clears her of murder 22 years later

BY MELISSA MCCORD

Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE — The Laurie "Bambi" Bembenek story has already yielded several books and a TV movie: Blond former police officer and Playboy bunny convicted of killing her husband's ex-wife escapes from prison, is captured in Canada and then set free in deal with prosecutors.

Now Bembenek wants to write an epilogue: exoneration via DNA testing.

She hopes to clear her name 22 years after the crime.

Ira Robins, a private investigator who has spent years working with her, said Bembenek believes she has nothing to lose by seeking exoneration.

"She already served her time," Robins said. "There's no downside for Laurie. There's nothing they can do to her."

Even that quest, however, has taken a bizarre turn.

The producers of the "Dr. Phil" television show agreed to pay for some DNA testing in exchange for her appearance.

But while awaiting the taping in November, Bembenek had what her lawyer said was an attack of claustrophobia and tried to slip out of her Los Angeles hotel room by climbing down a bedsheet rope. She fell from the second story and had to have her foot amputated.

Her case returns to court Friday for a hearing on a request for ballistics tests on two guns. So far, preliminary lab tests showed none of Bembenek's DNA on several items from the murder scene. Her attorney wants more DNA testing.

Bembenek, 44, is living in Washington state, taking care of her ailing father.

"It's one of the reasons she decided to do the DNA testing at this time, to try to clear her name before he died," said her attorney, Mary Woehrer. Through her lawyer, Bembenek declined a request for an interview.

Bembenek was sentenced to life in prison in 1982 for killing Christine Schultz, the ex-wife of Bembenek's then-husband, a detective. Investigators say Bembenek killed the woman in 1981 after

complaining about the alimony Bembenek's husband had to pay.

She escaped from prison in 1990 and hid in Thunder Bay, Ontario, but was caught three months later. The breakout led to a Milwaukee rally that drew several hundred supporters wearing "Run Bambi Run" T-shirts.

Bembenek has claimed she was framed because of her efforts to expose sex discrimination and other misconduct on the Milwaukee police force.

"She can say whatever she wishes to say. A jury spoke, and we continue to investigate what happened, with this DNA evidence," said Assistant District Attorney Mark Williams.

In 1992, a judge ruled that "significant mistakes" were made in the murder investigation. Afraid she might be granted a new trial on appeal, prosecutors struck a deal with Bembenek under which she pleaded no contest to second-degree murder and was released on 10 years of parole.

With her parole completed, Bembenek

went to court in August seeking DNA tests on a T-shirt the victim wore, the bullet that killed her and other items from the crime scene. The results showed two unidentified male DNA samples on Schultz's bedsheets and comforter. Male and female DNA was on a bullet, but the female DNA was not Bembenek's.

Woehrer said that proves Bembenek was not at the crime scene. But forensic experts say that is not necessarily so. To make her case stronger, Bembenek's team hopes to match DNA from the scene to DNA taken from another suspect.

She had tests conducted on tissues samples from a man suspected of committing armed robberies around the time of Schultz's murder, but the samples did not yield enough DNA evidence. The man, Frederick Horenberger, once confessed that he was involved in Schultz's murder but recanted hours before he killed himself, according to court records.

Woehrer is trying to get more tissue samples from Horenberger tested and other evidence released from prosecutors.

Law enforcement lacks manpower, money, organization

MEGAN'S LAW, from page 8

the incident.

"These guys have a special relationship with the parole officers," Fabrega said. "The parole officers may not know that the parolee was stopped."

"We're also in constant communication with the Department of Justice on the movement of current and past sex registrants," he added. "We've been working on this for the past three years now, and we feel this organization has done a good job of tracking them."

POLICE DEPARTMENTS LACK PROPER RESOURCES

But most other local efforts are less organized, inadequately funded and understaffed.

"We could definitely use some help," said detective Terry Chew, the only officer dedicated full-time to tracking Sacramento's 1,945 registered sex offenders.

Chew believes at least 300 haven't checked in for more than a year, but he isn't sure. "There's so many of them out there, it's hard to keep track."

Some states are more proactive. In Washington, the first to implement a Megan's law, law enforcement goes to the

sex offenders each year to confirm their information, rather than relying on the ex-cons to report in.

Of Washington's 17,105 offenders, only 10 percent, 1,781, couldn't be found by sheriff's deputies, according to Toni Korneder, Washington's Criminal History Records Manager.

Nationwide, the databases fall short of their promise, Ahearn said.

"It's not only in California, but it's across the entire nation. We're expecting sex offenders to be reporting their addresses and that's the problem," Ahearn said. "Megan's law is an unfunded mandate and law enforcement is not given the resources they need."

With a \$34.8 billion deficit in California, more funding is unlikely — even from a tough-on-crime governor.

And while Gray Davis' spokesman praised the database as highly popular, he also sought to distance the governor from responsibility for its problems.

"This is not our program," Byron Tucker said. "I know the governor is supportive of this program. Obviously there's room for improvement."

People who move into new neighborhoods or who want to check out neigh-

bors, teachers or coaches are often frustrated to learn how limited the available information is.

Californians can search by last name, ZIP code or county, and see a photo of the registrant, along with the name, birthdate, type of crime and physical description including any tattoos. But the public isn't allowed to see the offenders' addresses, and with most ZIP codes including more than 6,000 residents, pinpointing offenders is nearly impossible.

Also, only police can see whether the registration is current — or whether the offender hasn't been heard from in years.

In San Jose, police can instantly identify every known molester living in an area as soon as they learn of a missing child.

Last year, when a 7-year-old girl was raped, Sgt. Tim Porter ran a list of every sex offender who fit the suspect's description and who lived or worked within one mile of the attack.

"Every single one of them was in compliance," Porter said. "Because of our record-keeping system and our monthly audits, when we have to pull a list of suspects, it's fairly accurate."

But with nearly half the state's sex offenders missing from the database, most other

agencies can't respond as well or quickly.

"We'd have a list, but it wouldn't be accurate," said Officer Frank Alliger in Oakland, where no one works full-time on the registry and no compliance checks are done on the city's 1,500 convicted sex offenders.

SMPD's Fabrega said the local police department doesn't have enough resources or room in its facility to have a database for the public to access. If it did have room, at least one staff person would have to man it.

"If you are going to have a computer for the public, it should be updated every day," he said. "It does require a full-time person assigned to do that."

Lockyer said persuading police and sheriff's departments to spend more on crime prevention is key — but he's aware of no requests for more state money to improve the accuracy of the database.

The situation is unacceptable to former Assemblywoman Barbara Alby, the child advocate who wrote California's Megan's law.

"I'm appalled," she said of the database's inaccuracies. "We've got to put some teeth in the law for law enforcement. We should tie some of their funding to making sure this is getting done."



NATIONAL

Sex offender unable to settle in at least four states

BY JULIE ANN STEPHENS
Associated Press Writer

LAS NUTRIAS, N.M. — A convicted sex offender has been chased, punched, followed by police, filmed from television helicopters and harassed by protesters since his release from prison four months ago.

David Siebers, 45, has been run out of Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky, and has moved to several locations in New Mexico, state officials said.

He left Toledo, Ohio, after the police found him a bus ticket to Kentucky.

In Albuquerque, Siebers has been followed by reporters and police. He stayed in different places outside the city for several weeks, and moved to rural Las Nutrias last week after two people let him park his trailer on their land, 50 miles south of Albuquerque.

Signs placed on the fence across the street read: "Keep Your Women/Children Away," "Molester Lives Here," and "Go back where you came from — Hell."

Siebers, 45, served nine years in prison in Michigan for armed robbery and rape beginning in 1979. Months after his release, he was arrested for trying to lure a 10-year-old girl into his car and was imprisoned for 10 years.

After his release in September, investigators in Michigan told the Grand Rapids Press that Siebers would hurt others. A prosecutor, William Forsyth, said an FBI profile showed that Siebers was still dangerous.

He has refused to talk to The Associated Press.

"The really troubling thing about this sort of response is that it does nothing to

"It would be just as easy for someone to bury him out here in the desert as it would be for him to take another victim. I don't want to see anybody get hurt."

— KAREN CHAVEZ
Neighbor

protect the community from criminal sexual violence," said Peter Simonson, head of the American Civil Liberties Union in New Mexico. "It simply shifts responsibility for monitoring these individuals onto another community."

Jack Furlong, a New Jersey attorney who has given advice to Siebers' family in

Michigan, said he has repeatedly asked Forsyth make public the FBI report, and the prosecutor has refused.

Furlong said Chavez is subjecting Siebers to a modern-day witch hunt.

"There is nothing more frustrating to a former offender than to be accused of future dangerousness without more infor-

mation," Furlong said.

Mayor Martin Chavez has ordered the city police to keep monitoring Siebers, even though he is no longer in their jurisdiction.

"I'm not picking on him," Chavez said. "He comes with this label 'will re-offend.' Not 'might,' but 'will.'"

On Wednesday, a man punched Siebers while he was doing yard work. A deputy who was watching Siebers rushed to his rescue and arrested the man, authorities said.

Karen Chavez, who now lives near Siebers, said she worries about the danger to and from Siebers.

"It would be just as easy for someone to bury him out here in the desert as it would be for him to take another victim," she said. "I don't want to see anybody get hurt."

Judge finds home delivery of newspapers doesn't violate town's anti-litter law

By The Associated Press

NATCHEZ, Miss. — Two publishers aren't violating the city's littering law when they drop off their free newspapers at homes, a judge has decided.

The ordinance bans the distribution of advertising handbills. The publishers of Miss-Lou Magazine and Miss-Lou Buyer's Guide countered that the ordinance violated the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of the press.

In his ruling Wednesday, Municipal Judge John Tipton described the ordinance, as applied to newspapers, as "vague" and "ambiguous."

The city has 30 days to appeal.

"If we can't distribute freely we can't employ people," said Peter Rinaldi, who puts out the monthly Miss-Lou Magazine. "I'm happy everybody has a job tomorrow."

The publications have been delivered to homes and businesses in portions of southwest Mississippi and eastern Louisiana since the late 1980s.

Miss-Lou Buyer's Guide is a weekly published by Natchez Newspapers Inc., which owns the city's daily newspaper, The Natchez Democrat.

Rinaldi said the anti-litter ordinance was retaliation for editorials he wrote criticizing aldermen's handling of the city budget.

Aldermen said they approved the law

to help attract tourists, who drive the town's economy. The town has more than 40 plantations, antebellum mansions and Victorian townhouses.

"We have tried our best in the past few years in Natchez to clean up our city. It is a big priority of ours and we try to work on it very hard," said Alderman Jake Middleton.

"Other than that as far as I'm concerned there were no other reasons why the ordinance was changed."

A spokesman for the National Newspaper Association, based in Columbia, Mo., said other courts have upheld home delivery of free publications.

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INTERNATIONAL



Freedom spreads despite war on terror, study shows

BY NICK WADHAM

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Countries around the world witnessed no major loss of civil liberties in 2002, even as they struggled to find a balance between security and freedom in the fight against terrorism, according to an annual report on world democracy.

The progress of countries of the Middle East and North Africa remained stagnant, not only in the last year, but since the survey began in 1972, the nonprofit group Freedom House said in its "Freedom in the World" report.

The report said the world showed "significant gains" for freedom in 2002 in several countries and the number of nations designated as free outnumbered those designated as not free by 3-1.

"Not only is democracy holding its own and expanding, there is a growing understanding that one of the keys to fighting terrorism is political reform," Freedom House President Adrian Karatnycky said. "The more democratic a government becomes, less is the appeal of

these extremist groups."

Freedom House, a Washington-based, nonpartisan group, was founded nearly 60 years ago by Americans concerned about threats to democracy. It conducts advocacy, research and training to encourage and nurture democracy.

The group said there were "some missteps and some overreach" by democratic countries in their efforts to combat terror. Karatnycky said that was a reference to the detention of hundreds of immigrants on visa violations for months after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States and other "advanced democracies."

The report said 23 countries recorded improvements in political rights and civil liberties in 2002, while 11 saw negative trends. Ivory Coast, riven by a rebel uprising since September, was the only country to drop from "partly free" to "not free."

The report draws a tentative correlation between freedom and Islam, saying that the number of predominantly Muslim states classified as "not free" grew from 23 in 1972 to 27 this year, while in the non-Islamic world,

the number of free countries grew from 41 to 87.

It said that there had been "virtually no significant progress toward democratization" in the Middle East and North Africa since 1972.

The report was careful not to draw a direct link, noting freedom was limited in many Muslim countries because they have monarchies resistant to change and governments that came to power in military coups.

"We would say that it is not necessarily a correlation with religion, and believe it's that these extremist groups hijack religion," Karatnycky said.

The report noted gains in many Muslim countries, including Senegal, Bahrain, and Afghanistan after the ouster of the Taliban, and noted that the majority of the world's Muslims live under elected democracies.

Freedom House divides countries into three categories: free, partly free, and not free. A score of one indicates great freedom, while a seven shows no freedom at all.

Forty-seven of the world's

192 countries were rated "not free," and nine received the lowest rating. They were Burma, Cuba, Iraq, North Korea, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan and Saudi Arabia.

The number of people living in free countries rose from 1.3 billion to 2.6 billion, but the number of people living in countries deemed not free also rose from 1.7 billion to 2.1 billion, with about 60 percent living in China.

Turkey and Brazil recorded the most progress. Turkey elected a moderate party with Islamic roots and loosened restrictions

on its Kurd minority last year, while Brazil elected a leftist leader for the first time.

Yugoslavia entered the free category with its "vibrance of civil life, improvements in free media and gains in the rule of law," the report said.

Setbacks in 2002 came in Zimbabwe, where President Robert Mugabe's policy of seizing white-owned farm has pushed the country to the brink of famine, and in the Russian republic of Chechnya, where a rebel insurgency persists, the report said.

U.S. pilot attends hearing



Tony Gutierrez/Associated Press

U.S. Air Force pilot, Maj. William Umbach, right, arrives at his Article 32 hearing, with his wife Marlene, left, Thursday at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. Maj. Umbach is one of the two U.S. airmen charged in the mistaken bombing that killed four Canadian soldiers who were on a live-ammunition exercise last April in Afghanistan.

U.S. presses for allied help to provide united front against Iraq

BY MATT KELLEY

Associated Press Writer

STUTTGART, Germany — NATO should agree to help with a possible war against Iraq to present a united front against the threat of Iraq's weapons, the second-in-command at the Pentagon said Thursday.

The threat of military action is the only way to persuade Iraq to disarm peacefully, and the more countries that back the United States, the more credible the threat is, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said.

His comments, made during a trip to install a new head of the U.S. European Command, were aimed at some of America's NATO allies. Germany, for example, has ruled out participating in any war with Iraq, though it has offered to help provide security at the many U.S. bases in Germany should war break out.

Other NATO allies such as Canada have indicated they would only participate in a war if one were explicitly authorized by the U.N. Security Council.

U.S. officials say they do not need another U.N. resolution to attack Iraq, which they say is a direct threat because of its stocks of chemical and biological weapons. Iraq denies it has any such banned weapons, though U.N. inspectors on Thursday found at least 11 empty chemical warheads that Iraq had not declared.

The United States has asked NATO to provide alliance mili-

tary help in the event of a war. Such aid could include using naval forces to patrol the eastern Mediterranean, and sending AWACS surveillance planes and Patriot missile batteries to help defend NATO ally Turkey, which borders Iraq's northern tip.

"There are a number of ways in which NATO could contribute, both during and after a conflict, if there has to be one," Wolfowitz said.

A NATO commitment would encourage Turkey, which has been wavering on whether and how much it would help in a war, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

U.S. teams on Monday began surveying Turkish bases and ports to see which could be used in a war to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The official, who spoke to reporters in Stuttgart on condition of anonymity, said Turkey's cooperation has been slower than U.S. officials would like.

Other NATO help could mean providing security at U.S. military bases in the Persian Gulf, which are under threat of terrorist attack, the official said. NATO also could offer forces to replace U.S. troops sent to the Persian Gulf from other missions, such as peacekeeping in the former Yugoslavia, the official said.

The Bush administration believes it does not need any further U.N. backing for war against Iraq. A main worry in Washington is that Saddam could pass chemical or biological weapons to terrorist groups,

which could use them for attacks on American soil.

The United States has given U.N. inspectors names of Iraqi scientists whom the Americans believe should be interviewed outside Iraq, as well as specific activities and sites to inspect, the official said. President Bush would offer more evidence of Saddam's weapons programs only after deciding that inspections have failed, the official said.

Some reluctant countries have gathered information on their own about Iraq's weapons, the official said, including Germany, which provided helpful information to the United States about Iraq's biological weapons programs.

Students want Clinton as chancellor

BY SUE LEEMAN

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — He may no longer be president, but Bill Clinton still is winning ballots.

A new poll says 48 percent of undergraduates at Oxford University want Clinton as their new chancellor, editors at Cherwell, the student magazine, said Thursday.

Clinton is a former Rhodes Scholar at Oxford whose daughter, Chelsea, now is a graduate student there.

His closest rival was Shirley Williams, one of the "Gang of Four" British politicians who split from the Labor Party to form the Social Democrats in 1981. She got 16 percent.

Cherwell sent out e-mail questionnaires to 1,000 undergraduates and based its findings on the first 100 replies. No margin of error was given, but it could be high, given the number of respondents.

Cherwell staff members were not surprised by all the support for Clinton.

"Bill Clinton's profile is very high in the town, and he is very much respected here," news editor Charlotte Ashton said. "By coming here often, he has shown his support for Oxford."

The previous chancellor, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, died earlier this month. He was another member of the "Gang of Four" and an Oxford graduate.

News reports said Clinton has

indicated he will not accept the post.

Although the job is mainly ceremonial, the next chancellor will be required to help turn around the financial fortunes of the underfunded institution.

"On that score Mr. Clinton, with his fund-raising skills honed during years in American politics, has his supporters, and not solely among star-struck undergraduates," the Daily Telegraph newspaper said Thursday.

The chancellor is appointed by graduates and some academic and administrative staff. Undergraduates do not vote.

A university spokeswoman said no date has been set for the poll, although an announcement may be made next week.



SPORTS

Monica Seles injured; bows out of Australian Open

BY JOHN BROCK
Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Monica Seles made a surprisingly early exit from the Australian Open.

It's still not clear when she'll leave the Grand Slam stage altogether.

Hampered by an ankle injury, Seles lost to 113th-ranked Klara Koukalova of the Czech Republic 6-7 (6), 7-5, 6-3 Thursday in the second round. It's the first time Seles won't reach at least the quarterfinals of the major she's won four times.

"I was in bad pain; it's an ankle sprain," the sixth-seeded Seles said. "I knew I was in trouble. I tried to fight it out there, but she was just too good."

The 29-year-old Seles owns nine major titles but hasn't reached a Grand Slam final since the 1998 French Open.

Two young American men hoping for their first real splash at a major reached the third round with victories Wednesday: Andy Roddick and James Blake.

No. 9 Roddick overpowered Romania's Adrian Panaitescu 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, and No. 23 Blake beat Argentina's Jose Acasuso 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

Lleyton Hewitt, a 21-year-old who already has ended the last two seasons at No. 1, brushed aside fellow Australian Todd Larkham 6-1, 6-0, 6-1.

On the women's side, Kim Clijsters needed just 33 minutes to beat Hungary's Petra Mandula 6-0, 6-0. After beating both Williams sisters in the WTA Tour Championships last November, she is considered one of



David Callow/Associated Press

Australian Lleyton Hewitt hits a return against compatriot Todd Larkham at the Australian Open tennis tournament Thursday in Melbourne.

the most likely to stop Serena's effort to win a fourth consecutive Grand Slam tournament.

Williams stayed on track for a Serena Slam by beating Belgian Els Callens 6-4, 6-0. Her 22-year-old sister Venus is seeking a fifth Grand Slam title.

After her first-round win, Seles said she was "at the

very happy stage in my career where my body is still letting me play."

Apparently, she spoke too soon.

She rolled her left ankle trying to change direction when she was wrong-footed by Koukalova in the third game of their match.

After getting treatment from the trainer while she sat on the court, Seles moved to the changeover chairs to have the ankle strapped and get some painkillers.

She'll have tests Friday.

In the meantime, "I just want to get out of the pain, because I've been in it for the past 2 1/2 hours," Seles said, adding that the Rebound Ace courts at Melbourne Park are "stickier" than other surfaces.

"It surprised me today because it really wasn't hot," she said.

Seles said Koukalova forced her to run and, "I was just a step slower. I couldn't change directions."

Koukalova sealed the win with a drop shot, before raising both arms in triumph. This is her first foray into Grand Slam tennis.

"I'm very happy. I couldn't believe I actually won," Koukalova said. "Monica is a top-10 player, so it's unbelievable."

The 20-year-old Koukalova lost in the second round of qualifying here last year. Thursday's win will lift her into the top 100 for the first time.

The loss was a blow for Seles, who beat Venus Williams in the quarterfinals here last year before losing to Martina Hingis in the semis.

All-Star game winner to receive home-field advantage

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Baseball owners decided unanimously Thursday to give the All-Star game winner home-field advantage in the World Series. Now it's up to players whether to put the change in place.

"This energizes it. This gives them something to really play for," commissioner Bud Selig said after the 30-0 vote. "People pay a lot of money to see that game. They deserve to see the same intensity they see all year long. Television people pay a lot of money for the game. It was not and should not be a meaningless exhibition game."

Home field has rotated between the American and National leagues since the World Series began in 1903, and the team hosting Games 1, 2, 6 and 7 has won 15 of the last 17 titles and the last eight Series that went a full seven games.

Owners made the change following last year's mess in Milwaukee, when both teams ran out of pitchers and the All-Star game ended in a 7-7, 11-inning tie. Management officials say Fox, which holds baseball's television rights, was strongly in favor of the proposal.

Some players have voiced opposition. "That's crazy. You've got the All-Star game with players from different teams. I don't think that's right," said Chicago White Sox catcher Sandy Alomar Jr., a six-time All-Star. "That's totally ludicrous."

Alomar was MVP of the 1997 All-Star game at Cleveland, and was a member of the Indians team that lost Game 7 of that year's World Series at Florida — which would have been played at Jacobs Field under the new rule.

The union said it's not sure of its stance, but it appears management and Fox has work ahead to convince players to accept the change.

"We appreciate what they're trying to do," said Gene Orza, the union's No. 2 official. "We'll talk to the players and get a more widespread reaction than we've

gotten so far. We'll also talk to the networks. It's not problem-free, but nothing in this sport is."

Management can't understand any opposition.

"Their arguments are kind of hollow, whatever they are," Arizona owner Jerry Colangelo said.

Selig also will have his staff direct the All-Star managers to keep players in reserve in case the game goes extra innings and urge them to keep starting pitchers in the game longer.

"In the last few years, it's basically been an exhibition game," Los Angeles Dodgers chairman Bob Daly said. "That isn't the way I grew up watching the game."

Some players don't want the game to have more importance.

"How many times is it going to wind up a tie?" Paul Konerko of the White Sox said. "It was doing pretty good the way it was. I don't think we need to start tinkering with it to make it the seventh game of the World Series."

In other news, baseball's committee on the future of the Montreal Expos will start contacting communities interested in acquiring the team to set up meetings. Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia and Portland, Ore., are the leading candidates to obtain the franchise, which is among the poorest draws in the major leagues.

"We'll be ready when they are," said

Bobby Goldwater, president of the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission.

The Expos will play 22 home games this year in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to increase revenue. As part of a deal to get the team, several owners said baseball would like a community to have financing in place for a new ballpark. Thus far, no area has gone that far.

Selig refused to say whether 2003 would be the last season in Montreal for the Expos, who began play in 1969.

"Ask me that question as the year goes on, and I'll give it a more definitive answer," he said. "Nothing is for certain right now."

Clippers played like they were in Buffalo

BY KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — They played like the Clippers of old. Or even worse, like the Buffalo Braves of old.

With boos raining down on their home court, the Los Angeles Clippers put on one of their saddest performances ever — and that says a lot.

Standing around, missing almost 70 percent of their shots, watching as opponents drove to the hoop, the Clippers managed their second-fewest points in franchise history in a 95-64 loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The only time they scored fewer points was in 1972, when they were the Buffalo Braves and lost 91-63 to Milwaukee.

Coach Alvin Gentry's job looks less secure by the day.

Even though general manager Elgin Baylor said this week that no coaching change is in the offing, the coach is hearing footsteps.

"It comes with the territory," Gentry said. "They don't fire players. I've been in the league 15 years and that's the way it is."

Gentry settled on "embarrassment" to

describe Wednesday night's performance by his players.

"That was ridiculous. It should be embarrassing to everybody involved. It's an embarrassment to the fans who paid their money to come in here and see it," Gentry said after the Clippers' eighth loss in 10 games dropped them to 14-24.

"It was an embarrassment to management, it's an embarrassment to our owners, and it should be an embarrassment to the players and the coaches. Nobody should be immune from this. It's absolutely embarrassing and the fans deserve to boo something like that. And that's all I have to say."

Los Angeles shot just 32 percent from the floor, going 24-of-75. The Timberwolves weren't exactly hot, shooting 43 percent. But that was good enough to win by 31 points.

As the final seconds ticked down, Minnesota coach Flip Saunders took mercy, telling his players to hold the ball and not shoot.

"We played extremely well and extremely hard," Saunders said after the Timberwolves allowed the least points ever against them, four fewer than Boston

scored in 1998.

This was supposed to be a playoff-contending year for the Clippers, who acquired playmaking point guard Andre Miller during the offseason in hopes he could galvanize the team's group of talented young players.

The box score of the loss to Minnesota seemed to summarize what's going wrong: Miller had just two assists; center Michael Olowokandi took just three shots and scored four points; the usually dependable Elton Brand went 3-of-13 from the floor.

Olowokandi believes the Clippers can't win because they can't shoot from outside. Unworried about the perimeter, the Timberwolves were able to collapse on him and Brand.

"I don't see it getting better. Let's not fool ourselves," Olowokandi said. "We can talk about being optimistic, but if you don't address the real problem, it's not going to get better — unless we just magically start making our outside shots."

"It's that simple. Everyone is searching for deeper answers. But that's what I see. The coach might have a different viewpoint."

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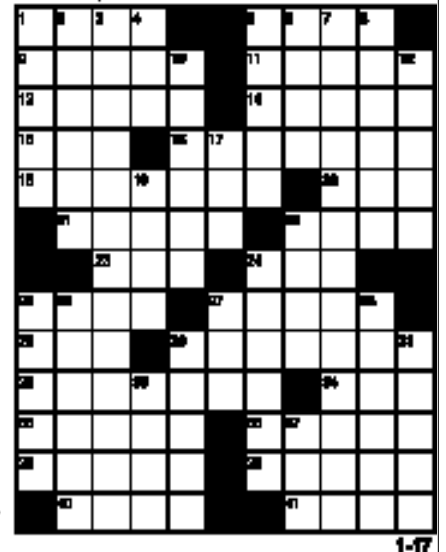
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Woman takes a wrong turn, ends up 250 miles away

Adding to the list of stories that were formerly weird but which now occur with such frequency that they must be retired from circulation:

■ The elderly motorist who takes one wrong turn and then seems powerless to correct the mistake for hours or even days, such as the McLean, Va., woman (age 80) whose planned 10-mile shopping trip in November left her north of Pittsburgh, 250 miles away, 48 hours later.

■ The packs of young men on minor-crime sprees who proudly videotape themselves during the acts, thus making prosecutors' jobs so much easier when the tapes are recovered, as with four men on a vandalism and shoplifting spree in the St. Louis area in November.

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SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Bachelor, pet ok, Indry, lost of clst spc, fridge, util incld.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$900.00 1BDR/1BA. hrwd flrs, Indry, prkg.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$925.00 1BDR/1BA, r/s, crpts nice, quiet bldg, prkg.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 1BDR/1BA, pet ok, hrwd flrs, bright & airy, near beach.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

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

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

W. LA \$1050.00 Spacious 1 bedroom apartment. 1616 S. Bundy Dr. (310)451-5151.

Furnished Apts/Condos SM \$2500 1bdrm, ocean view, designer furnished, marble bath, granite kitchen. (310)721-4824.

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.

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$850.00 Guest House, pet ok, fridge, crpts, heat, prkg.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Duplex, 1BDR/BA, pet ok, stv, blcny, Indry, util incld.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Guest House, r/s, quiet, Indry, yard, prkg.

310-395-7386
Westside Rentals

Roommates

LOOKING FOR Roommate in West Hollywood. GWM seeks GM to share 2bdrm 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.

Commercial Lease

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

3RD STREET Promenade office suite available. Great for entrepreneur or small business. Call (310)613-1415

ABBOT KINNEY Design Offices, 1,2,3,4 decks, views, kitchens. 500-10,000sq/ft. 2 blocks from beach. Call for pricing. (310)399-9371

NEWLY DECORATED office. 610 sq/ft., two private bathrooms. 1424 4th St., Santa Monica 90401 (310)276-3313.

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.

VENICE: LOFT office space. 900 or 1800 sq. ft. Parking & bathroom. Wood floors & skylights. 215 Windward. \$1900 or \$3900. (310)567-9262.

Real Estate Loans

0 POINTS REFINANCING through small town company with competent, honest broker and low overhead. Low rates! (530)604-7929.

Massage

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

BRONZE BEAUTY. Full body session. Incall, pvt house. Venice/Marina Area. Candles, aromatherapy oils. Bianca (310)621-8926

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

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.

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

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Swedish, Deep-Tissue, Sports Massage. Intro: \$35/hour. (CMT) Vldy (310) 397-7855

Announcements

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF SANTA MONICA
Visit our bargain bazaar at 1453 15th St. Very reasonable prices. (310)395-2338

Services

SEX THERAPY Enhance desire, intimacy, passion and sensual pleasure. Surrogates & Training available. AASECT Cert. Bryce Britton, MS (310)450-5553

Business Services

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

Great Big Noise
www.greatbignoise.com

Computer Services

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

PC PARAMEDIC Computer & Networking Services. Home/Small Business. Weekdays & Weekends. (310)576-7519.

Investment

MAR RESTAURANT. Sale or Investment. Contemporary design. Brand new (323)850-5583

Yard Sales

SATURDAY JANUARY 18 8:30 - ? 938 9th Street, in Al-ley. Household appliances, furniture, collectibles, books

YOUR AD HERE

ADVERTISE!!!

Santa Monica Daily Press Classifieds

310.458.7737
Ask for Mitch

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.

WE ARE THE CLASSIEST GIG IN TOWN!
Call Mitch at the Santa Monica Daily Press
310.458.7737 ext.111

CLASSIFIEDS



P.O. Box 1380

Santa Monica, CA 90406-1380

Phone: 310-458-7737

FAX: 310-576-9913

RATES

\$6.40 per column inch
for display classified ads.
\$3.50 per day for
the first 15 words.
20¢ per word for
each additional word.

EXTRAS

Bold: 20¢ per word
Italic: 20¢ per word
Boxed: 50¢ per ad
Reverse: 50¢ per ad
CAPITALIZED: 50¢ per word
Underlined: 50¢ per word
Blank Lines: 50¢ each

Santa Monica Daily Press

CLASSIFIED AD INSERTION ORDER FORM

First: _____ **Last:** _____
Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 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.

Santa Monica High School Theater Arts Department presents Romeo & Juliet. Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00pm. November 22nd through December 21st. \$10.00 for students, children, and seniors, \$15.00 for adults. Humanities Center Theater at Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Blvd. For more information please call (310)458-5939.

MAGICOPOLIS presents HOCUS POCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

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

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Pulse - Through kinesthesia, sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell, pathways clear for your deeper embodiment and wider expression. Each session is supported by live music with Christo Pellani of Soundformation Music and/or by recorded music. Altars devoted to the senses, spirit and play enrich the environment and amplify your awareness. Third Friday of the

month, 7:30 p.m. To 9:30 p.m., Continuum Studio, 1629 18th Street #7, (North of Olympic in Santa Monica) Cost \$12.00. For more information please call Kara Masters (310)455-2743.

SATURDAY

Organic Farmer's Market every Saturday. 8:30am to 1pm, Arizona and Third Street. (310)458-8712

Weekly Storytime, 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes & Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call 310-260-9110 for more information.

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

Cat & Kitten Adoption Fair: Every Sat & Sun, 12pm to 4pm @ Centinella Feed, 1448 Lincoln Blvd in Santa Monica. Donations include spay/neuter, 1st vaccines, flea/worm treatment as needed. Knowledgeable support for new adopters. Rescue Me Pet Foundation. (310)452-9568.

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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, 8:00, 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.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 11:00, 2:30. **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, 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.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

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

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 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

Attention Business Owners and Entrepreneurs

**Great
Networking
Event!**

Broaden Your Entrepreneurial Horizons
By Attending

Where's the Money?

Presented by the Westside Small Business Development Center and VEDC

*A half-day seminar for entrepreneurs who are looking for funding
for their business and information on all aspects of business.*

Experts in financing, credit, loans, marketing/sales and international trade will present
as well as success stories from local business owners.

Keynote Speaker

Burke Franklin

CEO of Jian Software

A Silicon Valley software company renowned for "BizPlanBuilder".

Mr. Franklin was also nominated for the Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Burke has just released his new book "Business Black Belt"

Saturday, January 25th, 2003

Registration 7:30 am

Breakfast Buffet 7:45 am

Seminar Begins at 8:00 am

Admission Fee: \$20 for one participant

\$30 for two

Ramada Plaza Culver City

6333 Bristol Parkway

Culver City, CA 90230

call 310-398-8885 for registration and information

**Great
Networking
Event!**



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BEVERLY HILLS
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