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Local teenager died 'trying to do the right thing'

Deanna Maran dared to protect others with tragic results

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica High School sophomore murdered two months ago felt her reputation as protector so strongly, her family and friends dubbed her "Daring Deanna."

The night Deanna Maran was fatally stabbed, the urge to protect fell upon her shoulders once again.

In an interview with the Daily Press, Deanna's mother, Harriet, and her father, Ilja, spoke publicly about the death of their 15-year-old daughter, who was attacked, allegedly by a 17-year-old girl and her sister, at a party while dozens of people looked on.



Deanna Maran

Deanna told teachers two years ago in an eighth grade essay that she felt pressure to protect people. Her friends had come to rely on her to fight their battles. That's how she won her nickname, "Daring Deanna," — a 5-foot-7-inch athlete who wasn't afraid to call it like she saw it.

"One of the first things that popped into my mind was what she had written. It was Deanna trying to do the right thing and it really struck me that it was the type of thing that could have happened at a party like that," said Cristina Everett, Deanna's eighth grade language arts teacher at John Adams Middle School. "She was feeling growing pressure that her friends were using her either to protect them or to get close to all of her friends who were boys."

"She was increasingly uncomfortable with being in that position," she added.

Harriet said her family always joked about Deanna's no-nonsense demeanor.

"If she is mad, you better stay away," she said.

There had been previous warnings for Deanna to keep to herself. Two weeks before her death, Deanna was hit in the face by a teenager at a West LA bus stop after she warned him to stop harassing one of her male friends.

But on Nov. 17, Deanna's courage and convictions weren't enough to save her. She had been taught since childhood that fear creates victims. The lesson turned out to be a sad twist of fate.

Her fatal struggle came after she confronted a girl who was breaking potting plants at a party in an upscale Westwood home. Deanna was then allegedly jumped by the girl, her sister and their friends, who then pinned her to the ground, beat her, and

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Harriet Maran tends to flowers at a shrine in front of her house dedicated to her slain 15-year-old daughter, Deanna.

Justice is slow for murder victim's family

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

For the parents of 15-year-old murder victim Deanna Maran, justice is a slow and painful process.

"It was hard enough to get through the holidays and now on top of it, I have this shadow lingering over me," Harriet Maran said. "I wake up and think she's coming back. But after a month and a half, I realize she's not coming back. I just go through the motions.

"Normal day-to-day living is a chore in itself."

The 15-year-old girl accused of having a role in Deanna's murder Nov. 17 was scheduled to appear in court Thursday to answer to pending charges brought against her.

But police said earlier this week that the teenager will not appear. Instead, she would be interviewed by Los Angeles Police detectives with her parents present, a common practice in juvenile murder cases.

"When you have a juvenile, you can have them return with their parents and talk to the detectives," said LAPD spokesman Jack Richter, adding the topics of discussion will include everything from her alleged role in the stabbing death of Deanna to her private life and school activities. After the conference, LAPD

See JUSTICE, page 4

Michelle Phillips dreamin' of Henna

By Daily Press staff

Michelle Phillips, of the classic 60's rock band the Mamas and the Papas, has been enlisted in the fight to overturn the ban on Henna artists on the Promenade.

Phillips will receive a Henna tattoo from local artists on Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the Third Street Promenade in a show of support for them, according to community activist Jerry Rubin, who recently helped form "Supporters of Henna Artists' Right to Express."

The Santa Monica City Council think some of the artists pose a public safety risk, therefore opening the city to liability. Others believe that Henna "tattooing" is not a performance and shouldn't fall under the city's code for street performing.

But some artists are ignoring the ban, arguing it's their Constitutional right to express themselves with the 5,000-year-old art form.

Since Jan. 1, police have slapped Henna artist Luke Chanthadara with two misdemeanor tickets for continuing to perform without a business license. He faces up to six months in jail and up to $1,000 in fines. He is scheduled to appear in court on at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 4.

Henna supporters plan to hold a vigil at 8 a.m. that day outside the Santa Monica Courthouse, located at 1725 Main Street just prior to Chanthadara's arraignment.

Chanthadara and other Henna

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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Mars, your ruler, enters Aries. You could become a force to be dealt with. You might even need to harness your energy, or else you could say or do something that causes a misunderstanding. Clear out work. Your destiny is outside of work. Tonight: Do have a good time!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Move quickly to make what you desire a reality today. Clear your desk and complete work with your customary efficiency. Later, you could find anger brewing and misunderstandings rampant. Note when anger builds within you in the next few weeks. Tonight: Take time just for yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Keep focused on work, remembering you would like to spring out the door, fancy-free for the weekend. Don't reject a last-minute suggestion or invitation. Focus surrounds groups, commitments and meetings. Be especially thoughtful to someone at a distance. Tonight: Follow your friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your sense of what needs to be done could be altered by new information coming from someone who is in charge. You cannot push someone so hard; you will see his or her dissatisfaction. Carefully choose your words in the next few weeks. Misunderstandings happen out of the blue. Tonight: Let someone lure you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Keep smiling. Surprises surround your path. If not today, then in the near future, a blast from your past could appear. Return calls, even if a message sounds strange! A co-worker might discuss certain matters that make you most uncomfortable. Tonight: Take off. Try exotic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could feel like there is something askew. Your ruler goes retrograde today, draining you of energy. Someone will chip in for you, if you ask. By all means, don't stand on ceremony. Others are only too happy to pitch in. Think before you leap! Tonight: Let someone cook up the ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Use available energy to dot the I's and cross the T's in a project. Confusion surrounds a message. Do not stand on ceremony with a loved one. You discover what a sensitive and accepting person you're relating to. Use care with others in the next few weeks. Tonight: Out and about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Carefully listen to someone who spouts ideas. Loosen up, and enjoy those in your life. Think about planning a reunion with friends. A former friend or lover pops into your life. Be gentle with a family member. This person really is sensitive. Tonight: Get some exercise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You're coming from a secure point, where you might want to try something very different. Others become highly reactive today and for the next few weeks. Oddly enough, you have a bee in your bonnet, and you will be difficult to stop. Tonight: Playtime.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Make calls. You might not be as comfortable as you would like to be with a family member or roommate. Be gentle when expressing your dissatisfaction. Success will come with persistence. Going to battle might make you feel good but won't offer the same results. Tonight: March on home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You understand exactly what you need to. Remember the old adage about sugar working better than vinegar. Approach someone as positively as possible. In fact, in the next few weeks, you seem to find the right words for the occasion. Tonight: Socialize with your friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Use your energy to clear your desk. Handle interpersonal matters as soon as you can. You will find that others could become out of sorts in the next few weeks. You will tend to take comments personally as well. Be careful as to promises you make. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.

WEATHER

Today ...	Mostly sunny	High—60°F	Low—42°F
Tomorrow ...	Mostly sunny	High—61°F	Low—42°F
Sunday ...	Partly cloudy	High—63°F	Low—44°F

QUOTE of the DAY

"You must all hear the universal call to like your neighbor just like you like to be liked yourself."
— George W. Bush

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LOCAL

Father: 'My girl is dead for their entertainment'

MARAN, from page 1

stabbed her with a knife.

That children could have done such a deed dumbfounds Deanna's mother.

"You have these parents that have more than enough means to raise their children but their priorities are all screwed up and twisted," Harriet said while sitting at her kitchen table, with a box of Krispy Kreme donuts placed in the center, one of Deanna's favorite snacks.

"To me it's a tedious fight to try to straighten these kids out to be good adults," she said. "This is a degenerate society. These kids are on auto pilot."

The Maran children knew that they had to earn their way through life, she said.

"Why are we such an anomaly?" Harriet wondered. "I tried to make them tough in the beginning. I insisted that they be independent. They shouldn't be coddled and sheltered."

On the morning of her death, Harriet dropped off Deanna at her piano lessons in Marina Del Rey and Deanna took the bus back with her younger brother, Ilja.

The day leading up to Deanna's fatal night was typical for her. She spent the afternoon rearranging her room, a standard pastime for a teenage girl. She didn't mention the party that Saturday night to her parents.

"She had gotten so many calls that night," Harriet said. Deanna nonchalantly slipped it in when Harriet was cooking dinner. Deanna deflected many of the standard questions a mother would ask: "Who are you going with? Where is it? What's the phone number? You have to work at the Firehouse tomorrow!"

Deanna dodged her mother's request to stay home for dinner.

"This is a degenerate society. These kids are on auto pilot."

— HARRIET MARAN
Victim's mother

"She got me in a good mood and started dancing and all the goofy stuff she does," Harriet said. Before she could press the issue, Deanna said, "I gotta go, my ride is here!"

Those were the last words Harriet would ever hear from her youngest daughter, affectionately known as "Lala."

"At about 11 p.m., I started thinking, 'Now where is this Lala? She should have left a number.' I went up to her room, checked the bed, but no sign of Lala," she recounted, adding that Deanna's curfew was midnight. Harriet jotted down a few notes, scolding Deanna for taking off without leaving any information and a list of consequences she would face when she returned home.

About a half hour later, Harriet and Ilja got the call every parent fears most. Hospital officials told Ilja their daughter had been stabbed. By the time they arrived at Santa Monica Hospital, their daughter was already dead.

When they returned from the hospital, Harriet looked at what she wrote to her daughter and tore up the notes in disgust.

The next day, the Marans walked around in a daze. They couldn't eat or sleep. Deanna's three sisters, all of whom lived in Northern California, had to be tracked down and told the news.

Meanwhile, questions with no answers nagged at her parents.

How could dozens of onlookers watch as Deanna was pinned down, continuously punched and kicked, then fatally stabbed with a knife? Why didn't any one use a cell phone to call for help?

"A lot of being in high school is being superficial and Deanna wasn't like that."

— IRIS EARLY
Victim's friend

The Marans heard a series of conflicting stories about what happened at the party, which was hosted by a boy Deanna had never met before. The Maran family was forced to sort out reality from high school gossip. What became clear, however, was that in the apparent desire to watch a "cat fight," no one jumped to Deanna's defense. Many said later they didn't realize how seriously she had been hurt.

"My girl is dead for their entertainment," her father, Ilja, said.

Deanna's friends tried to explain to her parents why they didn't intervene but it wasn't enough.

"I didn't want to hear their lame excuses," Harriet said. "For nothing, my girl died."

By some eyewitness accounts, college boys at the party held back the crowd and told anyone who broke through the line that "they'd kick their ass."

Police refused to comment because the incident remains under investigation.

"Nobody stopped to save my Lala," Harriet said. "Maybe they didn't realize it was a fatal wound."

Iris Early, Deanna's friend since the sixth grade, had become much closer to Deanna in the past year, as they were both on the volleyball team and were sophomores at Santa Monica High School. Early, who did not attend the party where Deanna was killed, also relied on Deanna's fearlessness.

"Like, I'm not that aggressive, so when anyone would pick on me or hassled me, she would always stand up and say 'That's not OK,'" said the 16-year-old, adding she still visits Deanna's house where she and dozens of other friends hung out. "It's kind of hard because just talking to her sister, they are so much alike, they have the same body movements, it's hard for me."

Deanna comes from a line of high achieving sisters, but the teen-ager hadn't figured out what she would do later in life.

"I think she would have been a writer," Harriet said, adding after Deanna's death she discovered many poems and letters she had never seen. "I think she had a natural talent. She had a knack for telling a story."

Harriet placed a poem at a shrine outside of their home that Deanna had written to her boyfriend, Mike, also 15, that she isn't sure he had ever seen.

Deanna's older sister, Claudia, known as "Boopsie," a 19-year-old college student who recently moved home from the University of California-Berkeley, has moved into Deanna's room. The room has become a sort of rite of passage for the Maran girls — it was occupied first by the oldest sister, Amika, 27, known as "Bing Bing," and then by Bianca, 21, known as "Chi Chi" and then Claudia and then Deanna — the last girl left in the house.

Harriet, a Filipino, and Ilja, a Czech Republic immigrant, kept their family close knit by reminding their children of where they came from. As part of Filipino tradition, all family members are referred to by nicknames. The Maran's only son, Ilja, 10, is sometimes referred to as "Ne Ne." Harriet has been known as "Nining" since she was a child and Ilja, Deanna's dad, is sometimes referred to as "Ta Ta," which means father in Filipino.

Deanna wrote letters and talked to her sisters frequently, sounding off to them about how she was the last Maran girl left at home with her little brother — everybody else had gone off to college.

Harriet recounted many stories of the family having fun together with Deanna right there in the middle of the jokes. But Deanna was a bit more of a challenge than the rest of her children because of her spiritedness.

"She was a handful out of all of my kids," she said.

The dining room buffet at the Maran home is cluttered with pictures of Deanna with her friends, her sisters, her parents and as a child. A glass-encased box holds her treasured volleyball that is covered with farewell messages from SAMOHI teammates. Some of her friends have placed Deanna's favorite things at the outdoor shrine.

The Maran house is quieter now. The silly, beautifully vibrant, fun-loving girl, and her entourage of boyfriends and girlfriends don't come traipsing through the house any more.

Early said Deanna's character was the reason she ended up being one of her best friends.

"A lot of being in high school is being superficial and Deanna wasn't like that," she said. "She was so amazing all around ... Everything I did it was with her."

Her former teacher, Everett, remembered Deanna as a typical teen-ager, but unique too.

"She was more intent in going with what was right," she said. "It made her an interesting kid. She had a very strong physical presence and definitely had a good sense of herself."

Like her parents, Deanna was animated. On the way to piano lessons the morning she died, Deanna screamed and waved her hands outside the car because she spotted her volleyball coach across the street.

"She was making a fool of herself, she always did that, she didn't care," Harriet said. "She actually was a clown and she made fun of herself. She would squeeze her chin and say she had her dad's 'butt chin.'"

Deanna was the conspirator of a long-running joke on their next door neighbor, Julian, who is the same age. He had a crush on her older sister Bianca, but it was Deanna who liked him. For years, she wrote love letters to Julian and signed them as if Bianca had written them. He later realized the joked being played on him and said at her Nov. 26 memorial that now he realized he picked the wrong sister to have a crush on.

"She was only 15. I am very surprised that she touched so many people."

— HARRIET MARAN

"She was only 15," Harriet said. "I am very surprised that she touched so many people."

No brake for biker



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Police tend to a bicyclist, who was hit by a car Thursday afternoon at the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Pico Boulevard.

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LOCAL

Crucial lesson to learn is non-violence

JUSTICE, from page 1

detectives and the district attorney's office can determine if charges will be brought against the girl, Richter said.

Seventeen-year-old Katrina Sarkissian, identified as the 15-year-old's sister, allegedly stabbed Deanna. But Sarkissian died, possibly from a drug overdose, the day after the fatal party while being questioned by police.

Harriet feels the crucial lesson for families is that non-violence is the key to raising well-balanced adults.

"I've got a bigger job now," Harriet said. "I feel obligated to her memory and that she didn't die for nothing and this won't happen again."

Harriet plans to attend the juvenile's trial if and when it is scheduled. But she said she is not confident in the justice system.

"I would like to think there is justice," Harriet said.

She said she is frustrated and disappointed that she hasn't been contacted by either the family of the girls who allegedly attacked and murdered Deanna or the owners of the house where the killing occurred.

"They have not once talked to us," Harriet said. "To me, these people are beyond hope."

Families of the accused could not be reached for comment.

Harriet is also frustrated about what she perceives as a lack of effort by local police and the Los Angeles Police Department to keep her and her husband, Ilja, abreast of developments in the case. Homicide detectives came to the Maran house three times after the murder to gather information.

Ilja said he talked to a LAPD detective Wednesday who told him investigators have contacted everyone who witnessed the attack and the investigation should be complete by the end of the month.

Still, Ilja said he would have appreciated more information about the investigation during the past few weeks, though "at least I am pleased that they are not taking it lightly," he said.

The LAPD's Richter said the Marans' feelings are typical for victims who feel the need to keep in touch with a system that can move, in their view, exceedingly slow.

"The victim's loved ones feel frustrated with the system and that happens," he said. "It's an unfortunate thing, because it adds to the tragedy."

The Marans were not allowed to attend the juvenile's interview Thursday because it was not an open hearing.

"The parents would not be invited anyway," Richter said, indicating the proceeding is part of an ongoing investigation. "It doesn't concern them. It's questioning of the suspect."

The Marans have hired security guards to watch over their house after a car drove onto the sidewalk last month and mowed down a shrine dedicated to Deanna on the front lawn. Ten-year-old Ilja Maran was standing outside when the incident occurred.

The Marans fear more retribution may follow.

"It wasn't random," Harriet said.

The television news magazine "Dateline," will profile the case and the circumstances surrounding Deanna's death next month.

Contributions to the Deanna Maran Memorial Scholarship for Non-Violence can be sent to SAMOHI Scholarships, Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Henna artists rally for a city council re-vote

HENNA, from page 1

artists have been designated as official permitted performers on Santa Monica's popular Third Street Promenade for the past three years.

Henna supporters collected hundreds of signatures urging the city council to have a re-vote on the Henna issue and attempt to work out a meditative solution involving the inappropriate use of black Henna toxic hair dye. S.H.A.R.E members say the city of Santa Monica inaccurately defines Mehndi art to be a tattoo. S.H.A.R.E. also claims that the Henna artists have as much right to be under the city's performers permit along with the creative portrait artists, caricature artists, balloon artists and artistic flower designers.

Chanthadara and other Henna art supporters will make statements at the vigil.

Ocean Park home burns

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

An Ocean Park home suffered damages estimated at about $150,000 on Thursday, after a fire engulfed the single-family residence. No one was home and no injuries were reported.

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to the house, located at 719 Bay Street, at 1:14 a.m., which was in flames.

The fire started in the living room, and extended to the dining room and kitchen, toward the front of the house. Twenty-five firefighters and other emergency workers responded to the scene. The blaze was extinguished at 1:22 a.m.

The cause of the fire is being investigated. Fire department spokeswoman Jill Barnes said investigators have narrowed down the source.

"There's a couple of things it could have been," she said.

NATIONAL

Judge dismisses appeal from condemned inmate

BY DAVID KRAVETS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A condemned inmate scheduled to be executed Jan. 29 lost a last-ditch effort Thursday to remove Gov. Gray Davis from considering his clemency petition.

After a brief hearing, a federal judge declined Stephen Anderson's request. In seeking Davis' removal from the case, Anderson's attorneys claimed it is certain Davis will reject the San Bernardino County drifter's bid to commute his death sentence to life without parole.

Anderson was convicted of shooting 81-year-old Elizabeth Lyman, a former piano teacher, in the face before burglarizing her Bloomington home on Memorial Day, 1980. Prosecutors say Anderson, 48, watched television in Lyman's living room and ate macaroni after shooting the woman.

U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, in calling Anderson's lawsuit a "last-minute maneuver," said that the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee clemency reviews for inmates. Because of that, whether Davis is biased against murderers is immaterial, Walker ruled in declining to order Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante to review the clemency petition.

"It's not up to the ... courts to tell the governor how to execute his clemency authority," Walker ruled.

Anderson's attorneys said they immediately would appeal Walker's decision to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Anderson is seeking a grant of clemency, which would commute his death sentence to a life term.

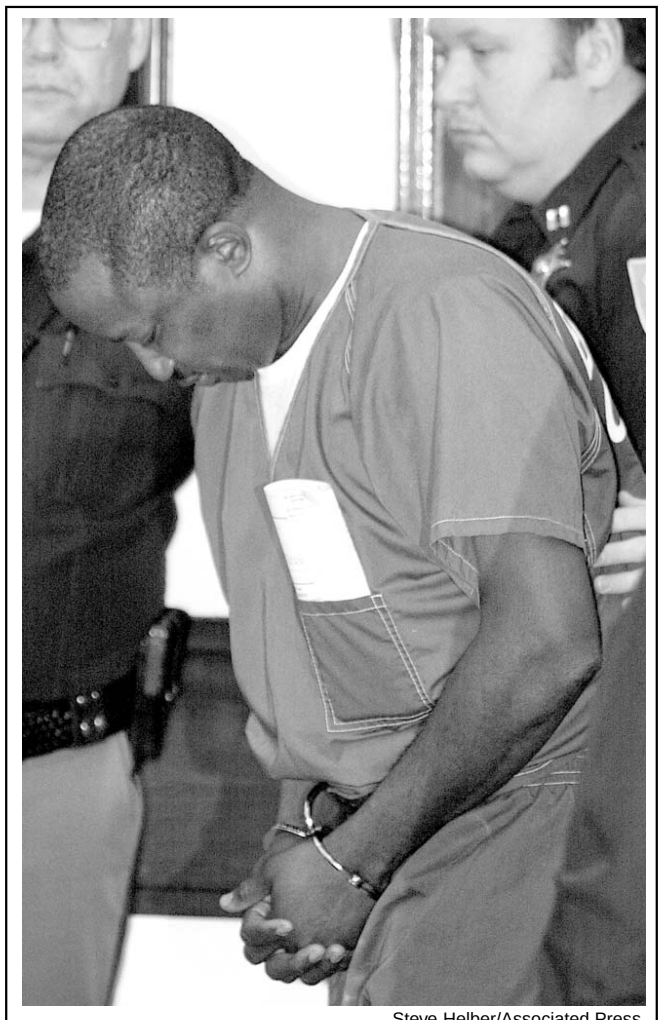
The condemned man's attorneys argued that Davis is biased against murderers. The governor has rejected releasing 64 of 65 murderers on parole, despite recommendations from the Parole Board that they should be freed.

Davis has declined all three petitions for clemency — to commute a death sentence to a life term — from death row inmates since he took office three years ago.

The state Board of Prison Terms will hold a clemency hearing Friday and make its secret, nonbinding recommendation to Davis before Anderson's execution date at San Quentin State Prison.

In his clemency petition, Anderson claims he had inadequate legal representation and that the victim's family opposes his execution.

The last time a California governor granted clemency to a condemned inmate was in 1967, under Gov. Ronald Reagan.



Steve Helber/Associated Press
Peter Odighizuwa is escorted into the Buchanan County General District Court for an arraignment in Grundy, Va., on Thursday. Odighizuwa has been charged in the deaths of three people at the Appalachian School of Law. The former law student who is accused of killing his dean, a law professor and another student told the judge he is sick and needs help.

Enron's $700,000 doesn't deter congressional investigators

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Members of seven congressional committees investigating the collapse of Enron took more than $700,000 in campaign donations from the company over the past dozen years. Some have returned the money, but none has disqualified himself from the inquiry.

Among the 118 congressional investigators, Texas' two Republican senators, Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison, are the two biggest beneficiaries of the Houston-based energy company's contributions.

Gramm, the former chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, received $97,350. He is the senior GOP member on the panel and also sits on the Senate Finance Committee. Both committees have begun Enron investigations.

Gramm's wife, Wendy, is on Enron's board and audit committee and has been named in a lawsuit by investors against Enron executives and directors.

"He has not seen the scope of the proposed hearings and has yet to make a decision" on taking part, said Gramm spokesman Larry Neal.

The Texas senator, who is retiring in January, has began returning his 2002 campaign donations, and that probably includes Enron donations, Neal said.

Hutchison, who sits on the Commerce Committee, accepted $99,500 from Enron from 1989 through 2001. She said Thursday she would donate $100,000 to a charitable organization for laid-off Enron workers. She also said she would stay involved in investigating Enron.

"I am deeply concerned about the situation in which Enron employees and retirees have found themselves, especially regarding their pensions and other benefits," she said.

Several watchdog groups said it is inevitable that politicians sometimes end up investigating their own contributors.

Enron donated to 71 senators and 188 House members — nearly half of Congress — according to the Center for Responsive Politics. The 118 Senate and House members on the committees that have expressed interest in investigating Enron took $722,749 from the company or its officials, according to an AP analysis of the center's data.

Larry Noble, executive director of the center, said that among committee members "it is not as clear-cut a case of having to recuse yourself" as it is with Attorney General John Ashcroft, who took himself off the Justice Department's investigation because he received more than $57,000 in Enron donations for his unsuccessful 2000 Senate re-election campaign.

Enron also has been a major player in issues before several regulatory agencies, lobbying for electricity deregulation and to prevent its trading in energy contracts from coming under the jurisdiction of regulators.

Some lawmakers are moving to distance themselves from Enron by returning the donations or giving like amounts to charity.

For example, Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., a member of the Commerce Committee, will donate an equivalent amount to Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City. "He just wants to avoid any question in any possible hearings he'll be involved in," spokesman Erik Hotmire said.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., received $2,000. "I don't feel at all compromised," said the senator, who is leading the Governmental Affairs investigation.

Rep. Billy Tauzin, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, accepted $6,464 in contributions from Enron. The Louisiana Republican doesn't plan on giving it back because campaign contributions don't affect his decisions, a spokesman said.

Enron chief puts Aspen properties up for sale

By The Associated Press

ASPEN, Colo. — The embattled chairman of Enron Corp. has put three of his four Aspen properties up for sale, asking a total of more than $15 million.

The properties, owned by Kenneth Lay and his wife, Linda, include two single-family homes and an undeveloped lot at the base of Red Mountain, Aspen broker Joshua Saslove said Wednesday.

Enron, which filed for bankruptcy protection Dec. 2, has no legal interest in the properties.

One home, listed at $6.15 million, has four bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths and caretaker's quarters, broker Heidi Houston said. The price was listed at $5,000 less than what the Lays paid for it in August 2000, according to county records.

A five-bedroom log-and-stone house was listed at $6.5 million; the Lays paid $4.8 million for it in 1999. And an undeveloped lot was listed for $2.9 million; the Lays bought it in 1998 for $1.65 million.

The Lays plan to keep a 4,200-square-foot home that the Pitkin County assessor's office has valued at $3 million, Saslove said.

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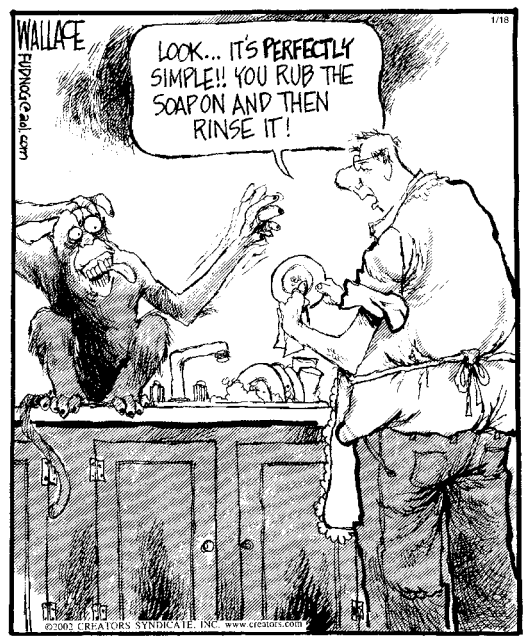
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By Russ Wallace



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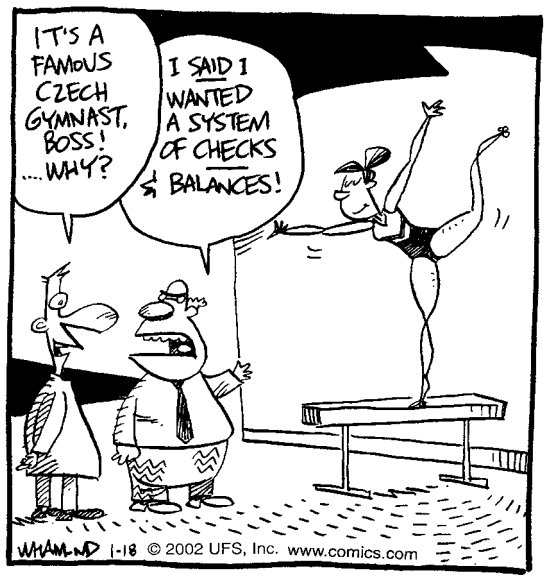
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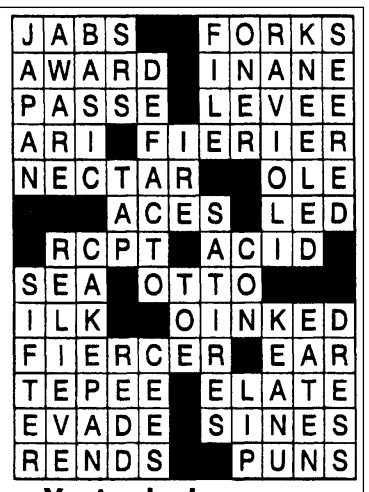
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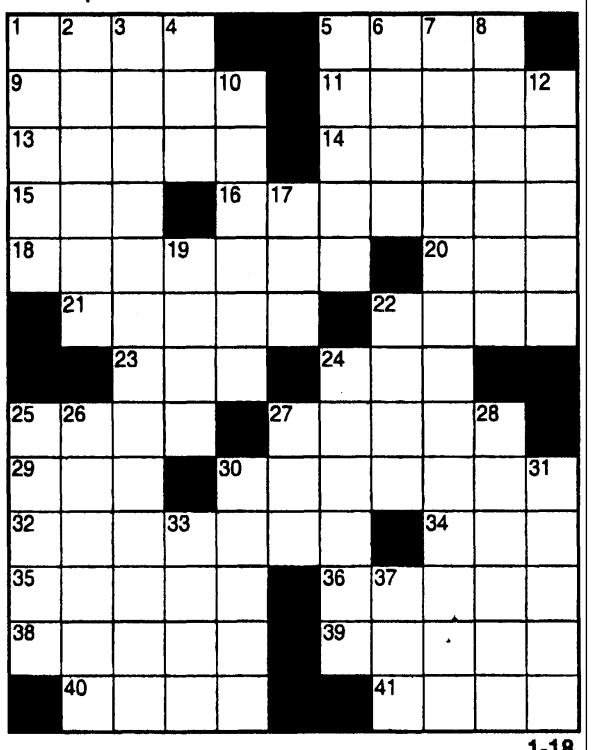
1 Outdo
5 Vault part
9 Battling
11 Simpleton
13 Good, in Guatemala
14 Saw
15 Fruit cooler
16 Entomology study
18 Makes a home
20 Young fox
21 Propeller type
22 Pub orders
23 Lend a hand
24 — alai
25 Cow's home
27 Charred
29 Altar words
30 Put on the line
32 Crossword activity
34 — roll (doing well)
35 Court event
36 CD player part
38 Detect
39 Cream of society
40 Ruby and Sandra
41 Not as much

DOWN

1 Rum cakes
2 Piano pieces
3 Neil Diamond song
4 Earth color
5 Stockpile
6 Took the bus
7 Neil Diamond song
8 Make helpless
10 Muddied up
12 Tree houses
17 Fresh
19 Salon offering
22 Swiss river
24 Do a ball trick
25 Boxing weapons
26 Cherished
27 Outlaw
28 Beliefs
30 Ruses
31 Challenges
33 Bud holder
37 Maximum amount

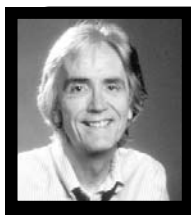


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1-18

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Good things come to those who wait

On Jan. 1, John Guth, 32, and Jeff Tweiten, 24, set up outside the Cinerama theater in Seattle, where they announced they intended to await the public sale of tickets for "Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones," scheduled for release May 16. Tweiten said he was actually engaged in an art project on "waiting for something"; he keeps a log of his experience and originally wanted to await the film for two years. "I'm becoming very aware just how long an hour is," he said, and "what happens in an hour." The film's distributors have not even confirmed that the film will be shown at the Cinerama.

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BACK PAGE

Spider silk produced by transplanting mammal cells

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — By transplanting genes from a spider into cow and hamster cells, scientists have caused those cells to produce the protein that makes spider silk, a step that could point the way to commercial production of the tough fiber.

Spider silk has long been admired for its strength and durability and producing it has been a goal of researcher. They anticipate a range of uses, from surgical thread to soft body armor.

It hasn't been possible to develop "spider farms," however, leading researchers to seek other means of producing the silk.

The process developed by Nexia Biotechnologies Inc., of Montreal, Quebec, and U.S. Army researchers in Natick, Mass., has produced small amounts of silk so far.

But Nexia President Jeffrey Turner says he can increase production to commercial scale using goats that would produce the silk protein in their milk.

In the work reported on in Friday's issue of the journal Science, researchers used cells removed from cows and hamsters.

Genes that code orb-web spiders to produce dragline silk — one of the strongest types — were transplanted into the mammal cells, which then began producing the proteins that can be spun into spider silk.

The resulting fiber was similar to real spider silk, though not as strong, Turner said in a telephone interview.

Randolph V. Lewis of the University of Wyoming, who has done similar research, said this is the first time cells from mammals have been induced to produce spider silk, though it has been done previously in bacteria and yeast.

He said the results are significant because the Nexia protein is larger than others have been able to produce.

"They've actually spun reasonably good fibers compared to natural fiber," he said.

It's also significant, Lewis said, that the fiber was produced in water-based conditions. Other attempts to duplicate spider silk have required use of harsh chemicals that would not be practical to work with on a large scale, Lewis said.

Jean Herbert of the Army's Soldier Biological Chemical Command also hailed the production of the fiber in water as a breakthrough.

Spider silk is of interest to researchers because, by weight, it is stronger than steel and tougher than the artificial fibers currently used in body armor. Nexia has trademarked the name BioSteel for its fiber.

While Turner said the silk produced so far isn't as strong as the natural fiber it's about equal in toughness. Toughness is the reason silk makes good neckties, for example; it can be bent and twisted repeatedly without breaking.

The silk protein is produced in a liquid about the thickness of maple syrup, Turner said. From that the filament was drawn out into silk fibers.

In the lab work, Turner explained, the cow and hamster cells line long hollow tubes. They are fed from one end with a growth medium and the silk protein comes out the other end.

The tubes are called Charlottes, after the spider in the book "Charlotte's Web."

That process can't be scaled up to industrial levels, however, Turner said. Thus, his company is now turning to goats, inserting the spider gene into them with the goal of producing the protein in large quantities in their milk.

NBC camera crews tail the president for television special

BY SANDRA SOBIERAJ
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — It was "must-see Thursday" at the White House as a dozen NBC news cameras shadowed President Bush through an unusually packed made-for-TV schedule.

He walked his dogs, huddled with CIA and FBI briefers, reached out to labor union leaders, pored over education policy with his advisers, lunched with Vice President Cheney, waxed profoundly about the presidency to White House Fellows, talked NATO expansion with the Lithuanian president, signed a bill into law, gave marching orders to his commission on bioethics, sweated through a midday workout and received an award from the 4-H club.

The only door closed to NBC, which was filming for a day-in-the-life broadcast next week, was the one keeping cameras out of Bush's casual evening cocktail party with Republican lawmakers.

"The president and the vice president have agreed to open up the White House today so that American people can have a very rich understanding of the events that take place at the White House, including many of the scenes that take place behind the scenes," said White House press secretary Ari Fleischer.

And so, the executive mansion was essentially turned into a movie set, with massive panels of plastic sheeting erected on the North Lawn so that NBC anchor Tom Brokaw could tape his segments safe from the gaze of passing tourists. On the South Lawn, a remote-controlled camera at the end of a 20-foot jib caught Bush up close as he walked from the Oval Office to his limousine.

The one-hour NBC special, produced by its news division and called "The Bush White House: Inside the real West Wing," will air Wednesday immediately before the network's fictional White House drama, "The West Wing." Extra footage will be used for a separate Discovery Channel special scheduled to air Jan. 25.

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