

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

A sorrowful parting



Tim Tadder/Associated Press

Suzanne Hoefler, from Long Island, N.Y., cries as she says her last good-byes to her husband John Friday as he and other sailors board the USS Boxer in San Diego to depart for the Persian Gulf.

Burning stolen American flags lands two men in jail

By Daily Press staff

Two men were arrested early Friday for allegedly burning several American flags in an alley, police said.

Chad Lamar Cavanaugh, 22, and Shaun Michael Muis, 20, were arrested shortly after midnight for arson and theft. Cavanaugh is described as a transient and Muis is from Riverside.

A witness told police he saw the two men allegedly steal flags from the top of a building on Wilshire Boulevard and light

them on fire in the alley near Ninth Street.

Cavanaugh and Muis allegedly fled the scene on foot heading south toward Arizona Avenue where police stopped them and subsequently detained them. The witness identified them as the ones who allegedly burned the property, police said.

Arson is a felony charge and the theft count is a misdemeanor. They were booked into the Santa Monica Jail and their bail was set at \$50,000 each.

Parents, students differ on Samohi redesign

BY ANDY FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

A plan to split Santa Monica High School into six separate houses met the approval by parents this week but students aren't so sure.

At a meeting with about 200 parents of Samohi students on Tuesday, plans by administrators to divide the campus so each house uses the same space year long — which administrators hope will allow students to better identify with the school — received little criticism.

"I'm willing to see how it works," said Linda Engel, a parent of an 11th grader. "To me it sounds like a great idea. I think it will be hard to implement but its goals are noble."

Parents wanted to make sure splitting the student body wouldn't prevent their children from taking honors classes, keep them from taking music and art classes, or hinder them from playing on sports teams.

They also asked administrators to create a checks and balances system to ensure each house has a healthy racial mix and that none of the houses are dominated by students from one geographical region

of the city.

"I'm skeptical," said Andrea Stein, a parent of two Samohi students. "But I'm enthusiastic to see changes."

However some students are critical of the redesign. They say administrators haven't involved them in designing the new system, and have kept them out of the loop.

During a recent visit to the Samohi campus, a reporter interviewed about a half-dozen students — none knew about the redesign plans.

"They are going too fast," said Cynthia Santiago, Samohi's student body president. "The students aren't really being told what's going on. There's a lot of rumors going around but nobody has any real information, it seems."

Santiago also said the redesign won't address overcrowded classrooms, which she said are the high school's real problem. She said no matter how many small groups administrators break students into, teachers with 40 kids to a classroom still face the same problems.

"They talk about wanting to help stu-

See REDESIGN, page 5

Man beaten in hotel last month remains in hospital

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

A man whose face was severely beaten in his hotel room last month remains in serious condition at a local hospital.

Jason Robert Manuel, 22, of Los Angeles allegedly beat and robbed the unidentified man at Loews Hotel on Dec. 26 after the two met at a casino. Manuel is scheduled to go to court on Jan. 28 on charges of attempted murder and armed robbery.

A guest of the hotel found the victim lying in a hallway outside of his room and called police. When officers arrived, they found the man suffering from numerous facial injuries. The victim is a 56-year-old man from Texas.

Police said Manuel met the victim at a casino in Inglewood. They returned to Santa Monica and went to the victim's hotel room, where he was allegedly robbed and beaten by Manuel sometime between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. It is unknown why the two went to the hotel.

SMPD detectives were able to identify

Manuel within 24 hours of the crime by using surveillance video tape from the Inglewood casino. A picture of Manuel was put on a hotel crime alert that was issued to nine large hotels in Santa Monica on the same day of the crime. About 100 flyers were distributed to local law enforcement agencies and casinos in the South Bay that identified Manuel. An arrest warrant was obtained and entered into the statewide law enforcement computer.

SMPD officers found Manuel at a casino in Compton at about 6 a.m. Tuesday after a security guard there recognized him from the photograph and called Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies, who arrested him.

"It was the alterness of the security officer at the casino that was able to recognize him," Fabrega said. "He had the flier we sent out."

SMPD officers went to the Compton Sheriff's station and transported Manuel to Santa Monica Jail. He was charged with attempted murder and armed robbery. Manuel's bail has been set at \$1,000,000.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Hold on tight, as the Full Moon animates your life. You might not be comfortable with what comes up. Realize your limits and just how much you can resolve. Creativity and detachment work together to meld differences. Tonight: Be a wild thing.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Understand what it takes to satisfy someone close to you. Even if you're not exactly sure what needs to be done as you juggle others' wishes, think about what you want. Make decisions accordingly. Let the good times happen. Tonight: The party is at your pad.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You make the right moves, though you might find it difficult to convince others of just that point. Loosen up in your dealing with others. Everyone might be slightly more reactive than normal. Full Moon energy can often be explosive. Tonight: Breeze into a favorite haunt.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Extremes easily hit your finances, making you wonder what is enough. Be more playful in your dealings with others. Find solutions. Listen to others. Use your high energy to help someone feel better. Tonight: Your treat.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ The Full Moon in your sign might have you a bit crazy dealing with others and their needs. You could easily go overboard dealing with a partner, or even just friends who have their plates full. Your high-velocity energy helps those around you re-energize. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ You find that someone has a totally different perspective. Consider your options carefully, refusing to be pressured by others, especially family members. Know when to say "no." Know when to say "yes." If you're not sure, say nothing. Tonight: Early to bed.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Friends remain active. You find that you're often not sure about what is happening within your immediate circle. You feel pressured by others. You can make the choice to not react as well. Just get into the fun aspects of the next few days. Tonight: Follow the action.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Everyone wants a part of you, or so it seems. Delegate as much as you can, realizing that you are only one person, only capable of doing one thing at a time. You will opt for a must appearance. You can and will juggle your different concerns. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Another's high energy might bowl you over, but on the other hand, you feel inspired. Chime in with someone, and you will be off and running. Consider your choices very carefully, especially if they involve travel. Tonight: Out and about.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might not be pleased with how someone views a money matter. You have difficulty coming to a decision as to what would be the most effective way to handle this issue. Use your instincts when making strong, needed decisions. Tonight: Let a partner take the lead.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Others seem challenging, but don't even think that you have angel wings on, either. You're capable of unusual change, especially if you decide you need just that in order to get the results you desire. Laugh and enjoy those around you. Tonight: Follow the happening.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Deal with the basics, allowing yourself more flex. Someone whom you put on a pedestal pushes you very hard. You might want to react. You actually might start going off in your own particular direction. Know what you want. Tonight: Slow down and relax.

QUOTE of the DAY

**"Progress might have been all right
once but it has gone on too long."**

— Ogden Nash (1902-1971)

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

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR
Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com

COURT REPORTER
John Wood john@smdp.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Jesse Haley jesse@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR
Patrick McDonald PRMcDonald@aol.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Alejandro C. Cantarero alex@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Angela Downen angela@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
William Patmos william@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rob Plubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Keri Aroesty keri@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Kurtz Cruz kurtz@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

STAFF MASCOT
Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Affordable housing forum for Pico neighborhood

By Daily Press staff

Rev. Ronald Williams, of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church by the Sea, and Rev. Mike Gutierrez, of St. Anne's Catholic Church, in conjunction with the Community Corporation of Santa Monica, invite the community to an affordable housing forum for the Pico neighborhood today.

The topics discussed at the meeting will be what is affordable housing, who needs affordable housing and what directions the community should take to address housing needs in the neighborhood. The forum is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Thelma Terry Center at Virginia Avenue Park near Pico and Cloverfield boulevards. Lunch and child care will be provided and a Spanish interpreter will be present. People attending the event will also have the chance to win a \$150 Ralph's gift certificate and other prizes will be raffled off.

Big Blue Bus To Hold community meetings

By Daily Press staff

A series of public meetings designed to gather community input and inform the public on new developments with the Big Blue Bus has been set for late January and early February. The meetings are open to the public and will take place at various locations around the Big Blue Bus service area.

Each year, the Big Blue Bus creates these public forums and uses the information to plan new services or improve existing service. Feedback from the last round of community outreach meetings directly resulted in changes in the service to the Veterans Administration Campus, which is the newly reconfigured Line 4.

The Big Blue Bus will begin to focus on the development of a new, three-year service improvement plan this year. The plan guides the long-range planning of bus service and is designed to meet the changing needs of the community. Public input during the development of the plan is highly encouraged. The community meetings give the public the chance to guide and direct how transportation services will change in the upcoming years to better serve the community.

Attend one of the following meetings to find out about some of the new developments occurring at the Big Blue Bus and to share your ideas and suggestions on making public transportation better.

- The scheduled meetings have been slated for the following dates:
- Tuesday, Jan. 28, 12 to 1:30 p.m., UCLA, Kerckhoff Hall at the Student Union
- Thursday, Jan. 30, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Vera Davis McClendon Youth & Family Center, 610 California Ave., Venice
- Saturday, Feb. 1, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St., Santa Monica
- Tuesday, Feb. 4, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tom Bradley Youth & Family Center, 5213 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles
- Wednesday, Feb. 5, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Virginia Park (Thelma Terry Center), 2200 Virginia Ave., Santa Monica.

Fire department celebrates reopening of station

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Fire Department invites the public to celebrate the reopening of Fire Station #2, which is located at 222 Hollister, just east of Main Street in Santa Monica. Two separate events will be held. There will be a dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. on Jan. 31, and an open house on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Station tours will be available during the festivities on Friday and Saturday. Both events will be held at Station 2, rain or shine, and the public is warmly welcomed.

Station 2 was originally built in 1952. The building was deemed seismically unsafe following the Northridge earthquake in 1994, but remained in service for the next few years while plans for a new station were drawn up and approved. The station was closed down for rebuilding two years ago, and staff moved to other quarters. The station was almost completed in April 2002 when it suffered fire damage caused by spontaneous ignition of oily rags left at the construction site.

One engine company and one paramedic squad team will be stationed at the new facility. In addition to the fire engine and ambulance assigned to those firefighters, several other pieces of equipment will be stored at Station 2, including the Urban Search and Rescue truck, a reserve fire engine and a brand-new truck outfitted for fighting brush fires.



Today 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-	2:15 a.m.	2:23'
High-	8:31 a.m.	6.45'
Low-	3:50 p.m.	-1.18'
High-	10:23 p.m.	3.88'

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

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OPINION

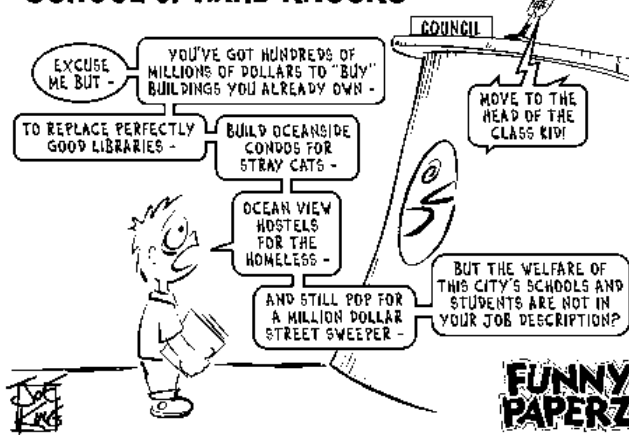
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What me pray? I pay some ladies to do that for me



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

In today's busy world, there are people who do all kinds of things for others that everybody used to do for themselves. There is a phrase that we hear more and more these days: "I have a guy who does that for me."

I'm not just talking about people who will mow your lawn or shovel your snow or do your taxes. Today, you can hire someone who will organize your closets, or stand in line for you at the bank, or choose an anniversary gift for your spouse, or play catch with your kid while you watch T.V. Recently, I learned about another "Don't Do It Yourself" service. In the Philippines, if you're too busy to pray, you can hire somebody to do it for you.

For a fee, "prayer ladies" will pray to

God and ask him/her/it to grant you the things you would have asked for if you weren't too busy. One of these piety purveyors pointed out how grateful her clients are: "They often come back to thank me, especially if they pass the bar or medical school exam." It's weird enough that people feel it's appropriate to pray for a passing grade on an exam, but these future lawyers and doctors actually have someone else do the praying for them. If they pass their tests, are they going to have someone else plead in court for them? Will they give a few bucks to an old woman to perform surgery for them on days when they're "too busy?"

If there were ever an idea that is guaranteed to catch on in the United States and other Western countries, the "You Pay, We Pray" business is it.

It's a logical extension of it being acceptable to not take care of your responsibilities yourself. There are executives whose assistants have assistants. Some students buy term papers while their parents make up lies to get out of jury duty.

The rationalization that we usually hear is that we are much busier and under more pressure than our ancestors were.

Busier and under more pressure? Are we busier than people who got up at dawn to milk the cows and get the eggs before they walked five miles to their jobs in town? Are we under more pressure than families where everybody worked full-time, and yet, somehow, they still took care of the home and the children? I can't remember the last time I started the day by fighting the Cossacks with only a blintz pan to defend my family, followed by my chopping down a tree so I could build a dining room table while my wife was at the river, doing the laundry with one hand while holding onto a nursing baby with the other.

We've got microwaves that cook our food in seconds, cars that tell us when we're getting lost, and lights that can be turned on and off by clapping. Men and women have never had to do less than they have to do today.

So, if we're not actually busier than in

the past, why do so many of us feel the need to have other people do so many things for us? I think it's simply because all those day-to-day things are hard and not always fun, and people today try to avoid anything that's too difficult.

Sometimes, it's hard to play catch with your kid after you've been working all day. It's hard to take the time to find the perfect anniversary gift. And for some people, it's probably hard to swallow their pride, and pray from the heart. But just because these things might be hard or inconvenient, doesn't mean we should have somebody else do them for us. At least, that's what my ghostwriter tells me.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com)

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LOCAL



Some students feel left out of high school's redesign

REDESIGN, from page 1

dents who fall through the cracks but a teacher can't get to every student if they aren't given enough time," Santiago said. "And that's just what happens when their classrooms are packed so full.

"I think the goals are good," she added. "They are admitting to a problem that exists in the school system but you need to have a small class size environment to be able to relate to teachers and develop those relationships that make a difference."

But with declining state funding for education, administrators say class sizes are more likely to grow larger. Until then, administrators said they will continue to try ways to counteract the negative effects of having a large student body.

"Even though we'll have big class sizes, we have an obligation to reach out to each kid," said Ruth Esseln, a 10th-grade Samohi principal who is leading the redesign planning. "If we can't decrease class sizes, at least we can make the schools smaller."

Samohi will have six "houses" that will each have 25 teachers educating about 500 students. Each house will have a different name — "S" "A" "M" "O" "H" "I" — to keep them distinct from one another.

Administrators say each house will operate just like any high school — they will have their own curriculum, a principal and the teachers will work in teams, which will allow them to communicate better with each other than they do now.

Students will be randomly assigned to houses by computer, and administrators said they will go over the rolls of each house to make sure students from one zip code don't all end up in the same house.

Each house will offer honors programs, such as advance placement courses — which earn college credit if completed properly. Arts and sports programs, on the other hand, will continue to be shared.

"There will be several areas, like music and sports, where you will leave your house to go to those classes," said Gretchen Goetz, a co-president of the Samohi PTA. "So they won't be able to stay in the same geographic house for all their classes."

By focusing on more individualized

education for each student, administrators hope to close the achievement gap. And by redesigning large campuses into smaller, individual ones, schools have higher attendance rates, higher grade point averages, lower dropout rates, and students and teachers report being more satisfied with the experience, studies show.

Parents said their children, especially those starting out in the ninth-grade, easily get lost in the crowd of nearly 3,500 students at Samohi. Many said they hope the redesign will help incoming students identify with the school, make friends and get to know their teachers better.

Brian Stecher said if his two children hadn't joined the high school's music program they would have been lost in a faceless sea of students.

"It's not that my two kids were physically lost or couldn't find their classes," he said. "They didn't get attached to a program, or an area of interest, or an activity, or a set of other kids, or a teacher that could help them enjoy their time there."

"It gives them at least a smaller environment to be bouncing around in and it's more likely they will bounce around with the same people more often and hopefully get to know each other," Stecher said. "I don't think it will be a panacea. I don't think it will make the school a wonderful place for every kids. But it's a good start."

When students in ninth and 10th grades show up for class next school year, they will be assigned to one of the houses, where they will stay for the remainder of their high school careers.

Administrators say they aren't sure yet how current 11th and 12th grades will be fit into the redesign, but beginning in February, Samohi staff will meet as if they are in their own houses. The school district believes the redesign will not cost anything extra or increase its current cost of operating the high school.

"I think it's going to be good for kids," said Engel, a parent. "To the extent that you can make teachers' jobs more manageable and kids can feel like they know their teachers better — and teachers know their students better — then everybody wins."

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- Attend the Captain's meetings (there will probably be 2 including one where registration fees will be collected)
- Attend the Bank night 2 weeks before the event (Bring the money raised by your team)
- Create a team name and select your team's campsite
- Be enthusiastic and urge team members to Fundraise. Most of the money will come from fundraising.

The next team captain's meeting for Relay For Life will be held at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street, Room 100B, Santa Monica. The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 5, 2003, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Parking is free.

For more information:

Please call Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society
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STATE

Anti-missile technology may be added to airlines

BY MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. Barbara Boxer wants to equip all 6,800 U.S. commercial jet airliners with technology to protect them from a missile attack.

The proposal would cost taxpayers \$7 billion — about \$1 million a plane, Boxer said. In the meantime, Boxer said the government should use Coast Guard and National Guard units to patrol airport perimeters to prevent attacks.

"We need to act before an American airliner is downed," Boxer wrote Friday in a letter to Adm. James Loy, head of the Transportation Security Administration.

Though security has been tightened considerably at airports since the Sept. 11 attacks, passenger planes still are seen as vulnerable to missiles that could be launched from outside an airport's perimeter. Federal officials are looking at various options to protect them.

Michael Wascom, spokesman for the Air Transport Association, the airlines' trade association, said he has not seen Boxer's proposal, but the airlines have been working closely with the government. "Any technology decisions in this regard will appropriately be made by government, not the airlines," Wascom said in a statement.

The government has long been concerned about the possibility of a shoulder-fired missile taking down a plane. It stepped up efforts to protect planes, although officials would not provide

details, after an unsuccessful attack on an Israeli jet in Kenya in November.

A task force that includes the National Security Council, the White House office of homeland security, the FBI and transportation safety agencies has been assembled to come up with more ideas.

Homeland Security spokesman Gordon Johndroe said his office would examine Boxer's proposal, which she hopes to introduce in the coming weeks. "We have an interagency working group that has been looking at this issue for some time and will continue to look at the appropriate countermeasures to address this potential threat," Johndroe said.

Boxer said the cost in human life and confidence in U.S. aviation would be enormous if such an attack were to succeed. And, she said, shoulder-fired missiles are relatively cheap and plentiful. "My view is we can't stop everything bad from happening, but we can take prudent measures," the California Democrat said in an interview.

She acknowledged her proposal would be expensive, but said it would be far cheaper than the president's proposed \$674 billion tax cut and well worth the cost in terms of reassuring airline passengers.

The bill would require airlines to start installing equipment by the end of the year. Boxer said she did not know how long it would take to retrofit every plane. New planes also would be required to carry countermeasures, and airlines, not the government, would bear the cost, she said.

Declawing ban could be first of its kind in nation

BY LAURA WIDES

Associated Press Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD — In a city known for its progressive stands on social issues, officials are championing the rights of a different breed of residents — cats.

They want the city to become the first in the nation to ban the declawing of the popular pets.

If the City Council approves the ban as expected on Tuesday, West Hollywood would join 13 European nations that have outlawed the procedure condemned by many as inhumane because it involves cutting off part of the animal's toes.

The operation is performed on thousands of cats every year mainly to protect people and furniture from slashing.

"You wouldn't dig out a human's nails," said resident Karen Stith, who adopted a 1-year-old tabby this week. "Declawing is a cruel abuse."

Among the supporters of the ban is "Golden Girls" actress Bea Arthur.

"I've lived with cats for many years and would never dream of subjecting them to this needless, painful mutilation," Arthur wrote in a letter to the City Council.

West Hollywood cat owner Karl Sowa opposes the ban. He said saving his Himalayan cat Teufel from the pound

gave him the right to declaw it.

"If we had to make some accommodations to protect our couch, I think that's OK because he has a good home," Sowa said.

The activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said the ban would be the first of its kind in this country. The organization intends to lobby other cities around the nation to adopt similar laws.

The Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights, which has more than 2,500 practicing members nationwide, also supports the ban.

It would not be the first groundbreaking stance taken by West Hollywood, a city of just one square mile with 3,500 residents. It was the first city in the country to enact a program for domestic partners that, among other things, extended health insurance coverage to gay and lesbian partners of city employees.

Officials also say it was the first city to declare itself "pro-choice" when it comes to decisions involving abortion.

Last year, West Hollywood passed a motion officially dubbing pet owners "animal guardians" to acknowledge the importance of pets to the city's population. The terminology was mostly ceremonial — until now.

STATE



Davis budget proposal spares only prisons

BY ALEXA H. BLUTH
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — As he tries to erase a \$34.6 billion budget deficit, Gov. Gray Davis has proposed cutting an average 9 percent from nearly every state department — except for the Department of Corrections.

The Democratic governor, who built a “tough on crime” reputation and whose largest political contributors include the prison guards union, essentially spared prisons from the pain of helping close the deficit in his \$96.4 billion plan for the 2003-04 budget.

“It’s going to be much easier for everyone across the board to tighten their belt if they think it is going to be an equitable tightening,” said Assembly Public Safety Chairman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco.

The debate over cutting prisons and public safety budgets raises charged issues including post-Sept. 11 security and the recent commutation by Illinois Gov. George Ryan of the sentences of all 167 death row prisoners in his state.

Davis unveiled his plan last week to cut programs, raise taxes and shift some services to counties to fill the state’s shortfall. The plan includes doubling fees for community college students, imposing tougher eligibility standards for Medi-Cal and cuts from schools.

His budget would decrease public safety spending by 0.7 percent, to \$8.5 billion for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

Davis included a long-planned proposal to shutter the Northern California Women’s Facility to save \$1.5 million this year and \$10.2 million next year.

The plan would convert the facility into a reception center for male inmates. Female inmates will be transferred to women’s prisons near Chowchilla.

Davis has received more than \$3 million in campaign contributions from the California Correctional Peace Officers Association. The donations emerged as part of an ongoing controversy over Davis’ fund-raising after he approved a contract likely to bring union members a 37

“It’s going to be much easier for everyone across the board to tighten their belt if they think it is going to be an equitable tightening.”

— MARK LENO
Assembly Public Safety Chairman

percent raise over five years.

Defending his decision to spare prisons from massive budget cuts, Davis said was protecting public safety and “we have a high obligation to protect the citizens against violent offenders.”

Prison guard and Corrections employees, Davis said, will be included in his call to cut \$470 million from the state payroll. In December, Davis directed the state personnel department to reopen contract negotiations with the unions representing all state workers.

“Obviously it takes two to renegotiate, but if they don’t renegotiate them, we’ll institute layoffs,” Davis said.

Davis also has said he opposes a strategy used by other states and recommended by California Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill to fill budget holes: the early release of some nonviolent and elderly prisoners.

“I believe prisoners should pay their obligation to society,” Davis said Thursday.

Still, Leno said he will press budget writers to consid-

er releasing some inmates early — excluding violent inmates, those serving life sentences or with three felony convictions, which requires a lifetime sentence under the state’s three strikes law.

Reducing some inmates’ time served by one month would save the state \$20.8 million, while a 12 month reduction would save \$249 million, Leno said, adding that the savings calculated by the legislative analyst includes the increased parole costs.

Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton enraged prosecutors by recently allowing hundreds of low-level felons to leave jails and prisons early as part of a plan to fill a corrections shortfall. And proposals to release some inmates early, pare down parole periods or reject the return of criminals nabbed in other states have emerged in Washington state, Connecticut, Oregon, Nevada and Oklahoma.

In California, there has been a long-running debate over incarceration of low-level criminals and the Three Strikes Law. During the boom times of the 1990s, California passed several anti-crime laws, and the state’s prison population has since swelled to more than 160,000.

Of those prisoners, 61 percent are considered nonviolent offenders and some 670 prisoners are between 65 and 69 years old while about 500 are older than 70, prison officials said.

Davis also stirred criticism by including in his budget \$220 million to build a new, state-of-the-art death row at California’s historic San Quentin prison. The new facility would hold up to 1,000 prisoners awaiting execution, allowing for a big expansion from the state’s current death row of 603, officials said.

Ten inmates have been executed since California resumed the death penalty in 1977 after the U.S. Supreme Court lifted a temporary ban on capital punishment nationwide. Six prisoners have been executed since Davis took office in 1999. Twenty-two of the condemned died of natural causes.

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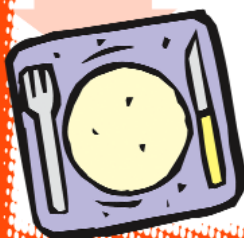
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NATIONAL

Federal officials allow alliance among airlines

BY LESLIE MILLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government conditionally approved an alliance among Delta, Northwest and Continental airlines Friday that would allow them to sell seats on each other's flights if they agree to rules aimed at keeping air travel competitive.

Low-fare airlines lobbied against the deal, alleging it amounted to a virtual merger among the third-, fourth- and fifth-largest U.S. carriers. Eight state attorneys general also opposed the agreement, which they said could stifle competition, raise prices and lower standards of service.

Like most major airlines, Delta, Northwest and Continental have struggled financially since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

The "code-sharing agreement" approved by the Transportation and Justice departments would enable the carriers to reach more destinations without flying more planes and offer reciprocal perquisites such as frequent flier miles.

David Stempler, president of the Air Travelers Association, said passengers like code shares for those reasons and because they think connections will be smoother on code-share flights.

But the federal action came with stiff requirements that some airline experts said would significantly mitigate the benefits.

"They're telling you how to run your airlines," said Darryl Jenkins, head of George Washington University's Aviation Institute. "They're telling you where you can and cannot fly."

Representatives of the three airlines said they were reviewing the order and had no immediate comment.

The proposed rules governing the

agreement prohibit code-sharing on competing nonstop flights to their 10 hub airports and forbid the airlines from striking deals on fares, capacity or route changes.

The order also requires the three airlines to give up at least 13 gates at four of their hubs: four at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport, two at Detroit International Airport, five at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and two at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. And they must give up additional leases on airport gates that are used fewer than six times a day over two months.

Should the airlines agree to the conditions, the alliance would be the largest among U.S. airlines, covering 2,600 flights in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. A code-sharing deal approved in October allowed bankrupt airlines United Airlines and US Airways to share passengers on 192 daily flights.

Smaller airlines believe the conditions are inadequate to dilute the three airlines' combined market power, according to Ed Faberman, who heads the Air Carrier Association of America. The Transportation Department said the three airlines would have about 35 percent of the market.

The smaller airlines wanted the government to require Delta, Northwest and Continental to relinquish leases at more of their hubs. Faberman said big airlines try to keep out competitors by keeping gates even if they're not needed.

Robert Mann, airline consultant at R.W. Mann & Co. in Port Washington, N.Y., said the order doesn't really help the airlines or consumers.

"There really isn't much in the deal for the airlines," he said. "There really isn't much in it for the general public or corporate fliers."

Satellites helped rescue 171 people in U.S. last year

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Environmental satellites equipped to detect emergency radio beacons helped rescue 171 sailors, hikers, downed pilots and others across the United States last year.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said its satellites, along with Russia's Cospas satellites, form an international search and rescue system. The satellites, best known for collecting weather data, can detect emergency radio broadcasts and relay them to the ground.

NOAA said the U.S. rescues last year

were 133 people saved at sea, 27 in the Alaska wilderness and 11 from downed airplanes across the country.

Worldwide the number of rescues is expected to total about 1,500 for the system, which also uses satellites operated by the European Space Agency and India.

Rescues included stranded snowmobilers, lost people and boaters stranded by engine fires, flooding and rough seas.

The system is estimated to have saved 15,000 lives since it was launched in 1982, including 4,500 in the United States, according to NOAA Administrator Conrad C. Lautenbacher.

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NATIONAL

Study suggests women's sex problems exaggerated

BY RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — A new study suggests sex researchers have been overestimating the prevalence of sexual problems in women for years.

The Kinsey Institute study found that a quarter of American women are significantly distressed about their sex lives — far less than the 43 percent a 1999 study labeled as suffering from sexual dysfunction.

Research on the topic has tended to focus on physical aspects of sex, such as orgasms and arousal. The new study found that the best predictors of a woman's sexual satisfaction are her general emotional well-being and her emotional relationship with her partner.

"This study emphasizes the importance of non-physiological components of sexuality as well as the general importance of mental health," said John Bancroft, director of the Indiana University-based Kinsey Institute. "It's not conclusive, but it counterbalances what I believe to be the rather extraordinary conclusion that 43 percent of women suffer from sexual dysfunction."

The Kinsey study, which will appear in the June issue of the Archives of Sexual Behavior, was a random telephone survey of 853 women, ages 20 to 65, who had been in a heterosexual relationship for at least six months.

It found that 24.4 percent of those women reported "marked distress" about their sexual relationship, their own sexuality or both, within the previous month.

That contrasts with a University of Chicago study that questioned more than 1,700 women, ages 18 to 59. That 1999 study found 43 percent of women reported having one or more persistent symptoms of sexual dysfunction, such as a lack of desire for sex, during the previous year.

University of Chicago sociologist Edward Laumann, who led the 1999 research, said the new work cannot be directly compared to his study. While that study involved face-to-face, 90-minute interviews with women, he said the Kinsey study was an impersonal, random telephone survey.

He also said the Kinsey study excluded women who had not had a regular sexual partner within the preceding six months, potentially eliminating women with serious sexual problems.

Other researchers said science has for decades disregarded the fact that some women's sexual lives are encumbered not by physical problems, but relationship or emotional turmoil unrelated to sexual performance.

Beverly Whipple, president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, based in Allentown, Pa., said researchers who have studied women in the past based their findings on what is important to men: desire, arousal and orgasm.

"I don't think we should try to lock women into a male model of what's important. Women are not men; there's so much we don't know," she said.

Patricia J. Aletky, a clinical psychologist with the Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology, noted that decades ago women were labeled "frigid" if they had little or no sexual desire. It was a diagnosis that often disregarded factors such as domestic violence or overwork from caring for children, she said.

Bobby Brown sentenced to eight days

By The Associated Press

DECATUR, Ga. — Singer Bobby Brown was sentenced to eight days in jail and ordered not to drive for a year after pleading guilty Friday to a 1996 drunken driving charge in DeKalb County.

State Court Judge Wayne M. Purdom also ordered Brown to perform 240 hours of community service, pay \$2,000 in fines and \$800 in court costs and get counseling. He will be on probation for two years.

Brown, 33, is married to singer Whitney Houston, who was not in the courtroom Friday.

The judge had issued a warrant for Brown's arrest this week because the singer left Georgia in violation of his bond to perform at the American Music Awards Monday in Los Angeles.

"Mr. Brown, you can't know from your position how

tempting it is in this case to just throw the book at you," Purdom said Friday.

Brown was taken into custody immediately. As he was escorted from the courtroom, he said, "It's over."

It's not the first time behind bars for Brown, who spent 26 days in a Florida jail in 2000 for violating parole on a 1996 drunken driving conviction by not submitting to a drug test.

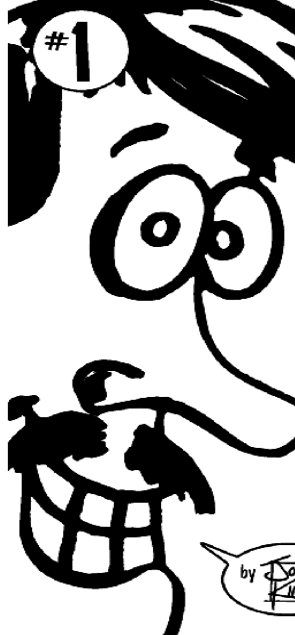
Brown also faces charges in Atlanta, where he was arrested Nov. 7 on charges of possessing less than an ounce of marijuana, speeding and having no driver's license or proof of insurance. After posting bond in Atlanta, he was transferred to the neighboring DeKalb County Jail to face the older charges.

Brown was a member of the R&B group New Edition, but left in the late '80s for a solo career and recorded hits including "My Prerogative" and "Every Little Step."

DID YOU KNOW?: After the French Revolution of 1789 selling sour wine was considered against national interest and the merchant was promptly executed.

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INTERNATIONAL



Neighboring Korean villages are worlds apart

BY HANS GREIMEL
Associated Press Writer

TAESONGDONG FREEDOM VILLAGE, South Korea — With painted-on windows and ghostly streets, one town is dismissed as a cardboard communist prop. Lights mysteriously switch on and off in unison, while ornamental laundry hangs out to dry for weeks because nobody lives there to haul it in.

The other is hailed as a successful symbol of the free world, despite the gun-toting army patrols, land mines, evening curfews and occasional abductions.

Cold War rivalry makes life anything but normal for the only villages inside the razor-wired no man's land separating the two Koreas. Nearly within rifle range of each other, Kijongdong in the North and Taesongdong in the South face off every day across a shallow valley of rice fields that constitutes one of the world's most militarized borders.

"Life here can be inconvenient," admits Taesongdong's 59-year-old mayor Chun Chang-kwon. "But this is my birthplace. I don't want to leave."

The tale of two towns actually predates the divided Korean peninsula to a time when the villages were still friendly neighbors. But how the sister cities have evolved over the last half-century only underlines a legacy of mistrust — and the shifting fortunes of one of the world's last communist dictatorships and its free-wheeling, capitalist neighbor.

"The split is very regrettable," Chun said.

Things changed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, when truce makers charted a new borderline running smack between Kijongdong and Taesongdong.

The towns were enveloped in a meandering demilitarized zone on both sides of

the border. They managed to survive under an armistice proviso allowing each country to keep one village operating inside that buffer, which is 2 1/2 miles wide and 156 miles long and bisects the peninsula coast to coast.

Today, the only thing separating the villages is an imaginary boundary line marked by widely spaced, rusting signs and roving patrols of communist and South Korean United Nations troops.

Taesongdong was rechristened Freedom Village and equipped with a towering South Korean flag that can be seen for miles across the border. Today, its 226 townsfolk are among the richest in the country, with an average tax-free family income of \$82,000 from rice, ginseng and pepper farms.

Not to be outdone, North Korea erected an even larger and taller flag in Kijongdong.

Its blue-and-red North Korean flag is as big as a basketball court and so heavy, at an estimated 600 pounds, it rarely ripples in the wind and takes 50 people to raise, according to officials of the U.S.-led U.N. Command, which controls the south side of the DMZ.

As for the villagers, there are none, U.S. officials say. From what they call painted-on windows to the fake laundry blowing in the wind, Kijongdong is all a charade. It's reportedly devoid of people partly out of North Korean fears they would try to defect and partly because the surrounding area is military zone packed with an estimated 30,000 communist troops.

From a nearby hilltop on the Southern side, Kijongdong resembles the plastic model town for a toy train set — with no signs of people, despite the neat rows of apartment buildings. What really goes on there, however, can't be independently confirmed because the North restricts

Looking for trouble



Associated Press

In this image taken from video provided by Iraqi TV, Iraqi officials watch an unidentified UN weapons inspector examine the nose of one of 11 undeclared but empty chemical warheads when it was found Thursday in an ammunition depot at Ukhaydir, south of Baghdad.

media access.

The surrounding hills are topped with billboards with propaganda slogans such as "Yankee go home!" Thickets of radio towers jut skyward to jam broadcasts from the South.

To the south, Taesongdong isn't exactly bustling either. There is an elementary school, a church and only one general store — with two half-empty coolers and a lonely cafeteria.

But teenagers roam streets, their parents till the land, children play with dogs, and villagers hop in their cars for the hour's drive south to Seoul for a night on the town — through several checkpoints along the way.

"Taesongdong is a living, functioning

village," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Matthew Margotta, head of the local U.N. Command unit. "The farmers are successful, the people are happy. That's a symbol of a system that works."

But it works mostly with a lot of help from the 50 soldiers stationed there.

Every day, army patrols guard farmers on the job, military escorts flank civilian autos after nightfall and soldiers check every house after the 11 p.m. curfew to make sure everybody's inside with the doors and windows locked tight.

There is a good reason for the precautions.

Run-ins with North Korean infiltrators were once common.

Sex comes into the open in the land of the Kama Sutra

BY TIM SULLIVAN
Associated Press Writer

NEW DELHI, India — The images, these days, are everywhere: the beer company calendar with Indian models spilling out of bikinis, the Hindi movie with couples wrapped passionately together, the magazine offering frank sexual advice.

It's pretty tame stuff, or would be if this were New York or Paris.

But this is India, where kissing remains a seldom-broken movie taboo, Playboy can only be found on the black market and homosexuality remains, for the most part, quietly in the closet. Here, in the chastened land of the Kama Sutra, these hints of flesh reflect an upheaval in sexual attitudes.

"Our references have changed," said Mahesh Bhatt, a movie director and self-appointed crusader for more realistic sexual content in films. "The Indian consumer is being shaped by changes going on by the hour around the world ... He is no longer the juvenile who cannot deal with sex."

Bhatt, who has been making movies for three decades, proudly promises a "quantum leap" in sex in his upcoming film, "The Human Body." Most shockingly to audiences of Bollywood movies — where skin is normally limited to "wet sari" scenes of women dancing in the rain and sex is sometimes hinted at by showing buzzing bees — his film shows a woman who likes sex.

Her face shows her enjoyment with sex, Bhatt said: "There's nothing sinful, there's nothing dirty."

What isn't in the movie, though, says as much about India's shifting sensibilities as what is.

There's no outright nudity "because we understand that embarrasses the Indian viewer," Bhatt said, and the kissing was toned down because the government demanded it.

"Don't let her push her tongue into his mouth," Bhatt said censors told him.

India may be stereotyped in the West as a land of exoticism, sensuality and the Kama Sutra, the ancient book of sexual wisdom, but only in the past few years have sex and nudity become topics for public discussion.

Propelled by the spread of satellite and cable TV and the subsequent onslaught of far more graphic Western images, years of primness began to crumble: The thriving black market in pornography moved more into the open, skirts got shorter, TV shows grew more risqué. In urban areas, at least — change comes much slower to rural India — sex came out of the shadows.

There's little agreement, though, on where the primness came from. Some say it's just natural Indian reserve. Others see a holdover of colonial Victorian attitudes, or the post-independence reaction against Western attitudes.

To some, it's simply a prudery that went haywire.

"There is a need to talk about sex, not coyly, not tongue-in-cheek, but openly about sex," said Sathya Saran, editor of Femina, a woman's magazine popular among traditional, middle-class Indian women. While Femina has long been known for its recipes and child-rearing advice, it also now offers sexual advice, and even swimsuit pinups for male readers.

There's a generational shift, Saran said, that is visible anywhere young people are found.

"Women are flaunting their bodies now — not in a negative way, but in an I-dress-for-myself way," she said.

Still, Saran says she had complaints about a recent edition that showed the cover model in her underwear. And even she won't go the route of India's edition of Cosmopolitan, which includes advice on exactly what a man should do to maximize a woman's pleasure.

Instead, it's sex without explicitness.

"We keep the romance in," she said. "That's how we make it a little more, well, palatable."

If India is becoming more open about sex and nudity, it's hardly freewheeling. Start asking questions about sex and even some adults will laugh nervously.

Some here are simply infuriated by the changes.

A toothpaste advertisement was banned from television in 2001 because it showed a kiss between a condemned prisoner and a uniformed woman prison officer.

"I'm not a cultural policeman," Information and Broadcasting Minister Sushma Swaraj told journalists at the time. "But kissing is obscene."

Most people, though, find their own middle ground in the changing attitudes — accepting some increased openness, but uncomfortable with the unrelenting sexuality of the West.

"Somehow, it is taking us away from the softer notions of Indian sexuality," said one New Delhi woman who asked that her name not be used, and who noted that Indian cinema and fashion were once famous for creating eroticism with just glimpses of bare skin. "That is a loss I think."



SPORTS

Can the Bucs survive the Vet and the cold?

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

Jon Gruden wants to dispel the notion that his Tampa Bay Buccaneers can't play well in cold weather or at Veterans Stadium.

"The last time I looked, Philadelphia was in the United States," Gruden said. "It's not like we're going to some exotic foreign place."

Very true, although The Vet, which will be hosting its final NFL game, has been anything but hospitable to Tampa Bay. The Eagles knocked the Bucs out of the playoffs the past two years and also beat them 20-10 on Oct. 20.

And the only touchdown Tampa Bay has scored in those games came on Derrick Brooks' fumble return this season.

Still, the oddsmakers think the Bucs' defense gives them a solid chance: The Eagles are favored by four points in what is likely to be a low-scoring game.

A couple of things to note.

Home field has proven to be a huge advantage in the playoffs this season. In eight postseason games, the only road winner was Atlanta in Green Bay. Add to that the Bucs' history of problems in Philly.

But the Eagles have a burden.

After losing in the NFC title game last season, the Eagles and their fans expect nothing less than a Super Bowl trip. Donovan McNabb looked better than some people expected him to last week against the Falcons, although he did show some rust from his eight-week layoff with a broken ankle.

Still, Philadelphia has been the best

team in the NFL for most of the season. **EAGLES, 16-10.**

Tennessee (plus 7 1/2) at Oakland

The way the Raiders played in the second half of their win over the Jets last week, they could have been sent straight to the Super Bowl. The Titans, on the other hand, barely beat Pittsburgh at home, needing overtime to win.

But throw out the Raiders' 52-25 win over Tennessee early in the season, because that came during the Titans' 1-4 start.

Since then, the Titans have won 11 of 12 games, making them the hottest team in the NFL. Even hotter than the Raiders, who have won eight of nine.

Oakland quarterback Rich Gannon was the league's MVP this season, and Tennessee QB Steve McNair could have been — so it's a wash at that key position.

But Tennessee's secondary has been a problem for the last two seasons. It was against Pittsburgh, and it will be against Jerry Rice, Tim Brown, and the Raiders' new young receiver, Jerry Porter.

The Raiders' defense, meanwhile, is underrated. In the second half of last week's playoff game, Oakland became the first team to shut down Jets quarterback Chad Pennington.

It won't shut down McNair, but ...

RAIDERS, 31-20

LAST WEEK: 2-2 (spread), 3-1 (straight up).

PLAYOFFS: 5-3 (spread), 5-3 (straight up).

Officiating is center stage in NFL playoffs

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA — The men wearing stripes are getting all the attention on NFL fields these days, thanks to a series of blunders and questioned calls at the most important time of the season.

Forget Donovan McNabb and Warren Sapp, the stars who get paid millions to score touchdowns or stop them. The talk leading up to the Super Bowl is all about the little guys who throw little yellow flags.

And with the conference championships this weekend, owners, coaches and players hope the focus can return to the game.

"There's no automatic cure for the officiating," Baltimore owner Art Modell said. "They're human and the players are human, too. They all do the best they can."

Officiating disputes are a weekly rite during the NFL season and intensify during the playoffs. But because commissioner Paul Tagliabue publicly criticized officials, this year's debate is even louder.

Just a year ago, the obscure "tuck rule" helped New England beat the Oakland Raiders in the second round of the playoffs when an apparent fumble was ruled an incomplete pass late in the game.

The Patriots went on to win the Super Bowl and the Raiders are using what they still consider a terrible call to motivate them on their own run to the Super Bowl.

They host the Tennessee Titans on Sunday for the AFC title, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers play the Eagles in Philadelphia for the NFC crown. The winners play for the championship in San Diego on Jan. 26.

In an unusual admission, the league said officials blew a pass-interference call at the end of the Jan. 5 playoff game between the New York Giants and San Francisco 49ers. The Giants would have had one more play to try win the game if the call had been made.

Tagliabue said it was the worst "failing" in his 13 years on the job.

"With the benefit of hindsight, it seems

the decisions were made with less than full information, and that's very disappointing," Tagliabue said.

Others believe the officiating is just fine.

"Every once in a while there are a couple of guys that make me go take a couple extra Tylenol," Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden said.

"But most of the time, I'm all right."

Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher agreed.

"I'm personally not disappointed or concerned," said Fisher, co-chairman of the league's competition committee, which reviews rule changes.

"I think right now it's probably as good as it's been. We've had some difficult calls here in the playoffs, but there have been difficult calls throughout the years."

Fisher was on the sideline last weekend when his team kicked the overtime field goal to beat Pittsburgh 36-33, leaving Steelers coach Bill Cowher furious. He charged after referee Ron Blum to protest a penalty that gave the Titans a second shot at the game-winner.

Earlier in the game, Blum acknowledged he had to check with supervisors to confirm that a certain play was subject to an instant-replay review. League officials said Blum made the right calls but were embarrassed he had to double-check the rules.

Everyone from fans to talk-show hosts to owners have proposed officiating changes. Some people want to use instant replay more, while others would like more officials on the field and insist they should not be part-time workers.

The officials have other jobs during the offseason. They are teachers, lawyers, accountants, dentists, doctors, businessmen and salesmen. Blum is a golf pro.

During the season, they are banned from talking to the media except to discuss specific calls with pool reporters after games.

Any changes to officiating will be decided at the owners' meetings in March.

"I think we've got to take a hard look at it," said Oakland defensive end Trace Armstrong, president of the players' union.

NFL dates to remember

By The Associated Press

Jan. 19 — Conference championships

Jan. 26 — Super Bowl at San Diego

Feb. 2 — Pro Bowl at Honolulu

Feb. 18-24 — Scouting combine, Indianapolis.

Feb. 20 — Deadline for clubs to designate franchise and transition players.

Feb. 27 — Deadline for clubs to submit qualifying offers to their restricted free agents whose contracts have expired and to whom they wish to retain a right of first refusal/compensation.

Feb. 27 — Deadline for clubs to submit offer of minimum salary to retain exclusive negotiating rights to their players with fewer than three seasons of free agency credit whose contracts have expired.

Feb. 28 — Veteran free agency signing period begins.

Feb. 28 — Trading period begins.

March 23-26 — NFL annual meeting, Phoenix.

April 18 — Signing period ends for restricted free agents.

April 25 — Deadline for old club to exercise right of first refusal to restricted free agents.

April 26-27 — NFL draft, New York.

May 20-21 — NFL spring meeting, Philadelphia.

June 1 — Deadline for old clubs to send offer to unsigned unrestricted free agents to receive exclusive negotiating rights for rest of season if player is not signed by another club by July 22.

June 1 — Deadline for old clubs to send offer to unsigned restricted free agents or to extend qualifying offer to retain exclusive negotiating rights.

June 15 — Deadline for old clubs to withdraw original qualifying offer to unsigned restricted free agents and still retain exclusive negotiating rights by substituting offer of 110 percent of previous year's salary.

July 22 — Signing period ends at 4 p.m. EDT for unrestricted free agents who received June 1 offer.

Aug. 4 — Pro Football Hall of Fame Game, Canton, Ohio.



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205 Furniture	310 Houses for Rent	600 Services	680 Lost and Found
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225 Boats	350 Commercial Lease	610 Attorney Services	725 Obituaries
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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 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.

Toddler Time, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

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.

Harvelle's Blues Club present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound,

drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

Unurban Coffee House presents Hot Topics Night hosted by Ali every Monday evening. Signup is at 8pm. Open panel discussion and open forum. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

SATURDAY

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Crossroads Schools in Santa Monica invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

Santa Monica College Emeritus College Band invites adult musicians who play a band instrument to join the band. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening in the Band room at Lincoln Middle School, 14th and California Streets from 7pm to 9:15pm, Concerts are given during the year. For more information call (310)474-5271

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.



BACK PAGE

Pro 'poop scoopers' set to share their wares

BY JIM SUHR
Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS — The folks who've made a business of cleaning up what the dogs leave behind are about to drop in on St. Louis for a gathering all about the scoop on poop.

Sound like a waste of time? Not for Debbie Levy and others across the country who spring into action whenever doody calls.

"Smells like money to me," quips Levy, the suburban St. Louis woman behind Yucko's Poop Scoop'n Service, the home-based outfit she stepped into about a dozen years ago.

"I look at it as diamonds in the rough," says Levy, a veteran poop scooper in what has emerged as a cottage industry complete with its own, Levy-founded trade group and, now, a convention.

More than 30 specialists in dog waste disposal are to converge here Friday through Sunday for the first-ever "Powwow of Pooper Scoopers."

There'll be guest speakers, group talks and networking. There'll be a field trip to the American Kennel Club's Museum of the Dog and a stop at the Gateway Arch. All of it leads to the main event: a contest in which convention-goers use their tools of the trade — everything from special rakes and hoes to tried-and-true gloved hands — to rustle up ersatz excrement.

The two swiftest scoopers get trophies. The last-place prize: a memento bearing the likeness of a horse's back end — something Michael "Sir Scoop" Zlotnick hopes he doesn't have to lug home to suburban Philadelphia.

"They call me an odd breed because I don't use a scoop or pan, just disposable latex gloves," says Zlotnick, who launched his Poopie Scoopers R Us a year ago as a specialist in "feces of all species."

"Don't get me wrong — every way of scooping is effective," adds Zlotnick, who also heads the Association of Professional Animal Waste Specialists, a nonprofit trade group with a code of conduct for pooper scoopers. Among the require-

ments: disinfect your tools after cleanings, don't mistreat animals, and follow local and state requirements to properly do away with the doo-doo.

Most estimates say a few hundred people make dealing with dogs' No. 2 their No. 1 priority. Such ventures dot America's landscape, from New York's Minesweepers to New Jersey's In the Line of Doody and California's On Doody and We Do Doo.

If you think it's easy money, don't hold your breath, Levy cautions. While her five-employee Yucko's is her sole income source, the single mother of a 6-year-old daughter warns that prospective Scoopy Doo-ers must handle marketing, taxes and

licensing, never mind the endless snickers and wisecracks.

"Business has been picking up" and other puns have rolled off Levy's tongue since she opened shop in 1990, after stepping onto something the neighbor dog left behind.

Demand since has kept her paying the bills through the service that charges \$15 for a once-a-week visit, at least \$25 for a stop at least once a month.

Her clientele has included John Geimer, who summoned Yucko's after his golden retriever, Jennifer, kept eliminating outside his jewelry shop. As for cleaning it up, Geimer says, "it's not that I didn't want to do it. It's just that I didn't have time."

Bank robbery goes awry after suspect locks keys in car, shoots self in the leg

By The Associated Press

PORT ROYAL, Va. — First he left a telling trail of \$100 bills as he tried to stuff the money in his pockets and, when this bank robber reached his getaway car, he found the keys had been locked inside.

It didn't get any better Wednesday for the masked man who entered the Union Bank & Trust north of Richmond.

Police said the suspect, 61-year-old Edward Butler Blaine, fled on foot after beating on the car window with a piece of wood. Bystanders then began to chase him, police said.

When the bystanders caught him, Blaine tried to shoot them, but instead shot himself in the leg, Caroline County Sheriff Homer Johnson said. One of the men also shot him as they continued to struggle.

Blaine was charged with eight felonies, including robbery and two counts of attempted murder, Johnson said. He was hospitalized in Richmond for one night and was being held in jail Friday, authorities said.

All the money was recovered, Caroline County Sheriff's Capt. Scott Moser said.

DID YOU KNOW?: George Washington and Thomas Jefferson both grew hemp. Ben Franklin owned a mill that made hemp paper. The US Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper.

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