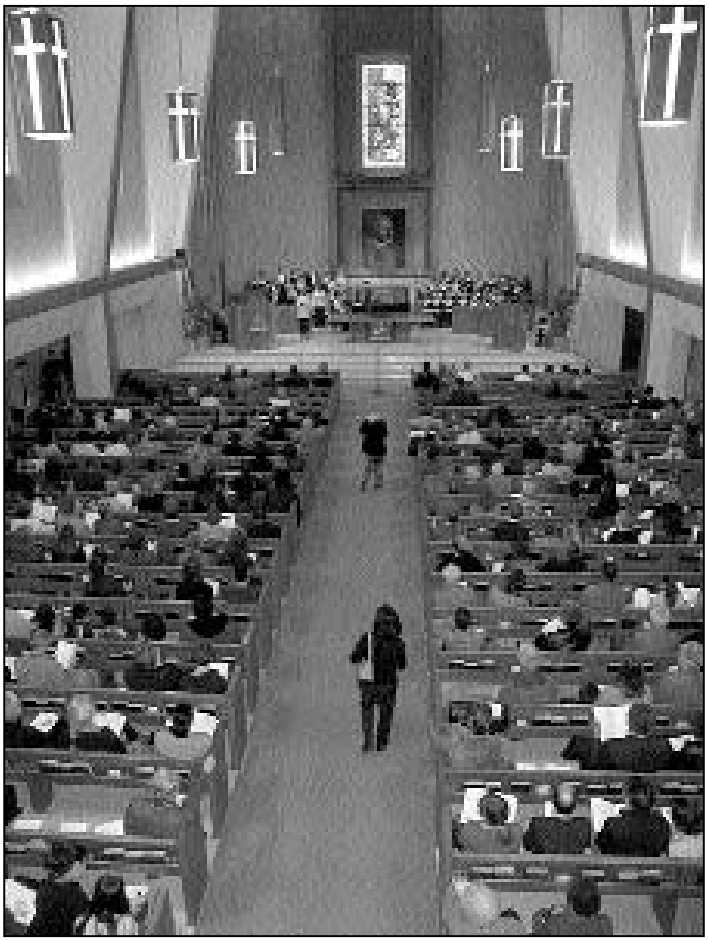
FREE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2003 Volume 2, Issue 59

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*A newspaper with issues*



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

**(Left) The New Direction Choir sings 'This Little Light of Mine' to a packed audience on Monday at First United Methodist Church celebrating Martin Luther King Day. (Right) Hundreds listen as the SMC Emeritus Gospel Choir and the John Adams Middle School Norsemen Choir sing. Their performance inspired a standing ovation from the packed pews.**

# Looking at the soul, spirit that drove King

**BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON**
Daily Press Staff Writer

Hundreds turned out to a local church on Monday to celebrate Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and to better understand the mark his message has had on the world.

One of the largest Martin Luther King Jr. events in Southern California, the Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition held its 18th annual celebration of King's life at the First United Methodist Church. On Wednesday, King would have turned 74 years old.

It wasn't just the ordinary, run-of-the-mill celebration, however.

In recent years, the media has given only sound bites to Dr. King's message usually in the form of excerpts taken from his "I have a dream" speech. But often times they are used with no context and have little meaning to the general public, Monday's keynote speaker said.

Sylvia Rousseau focused her speech on Dr. King's soul and spirit. She said it's time that we rediscover what King taught the world, particularly its leaders about nonviolence, negotiation, racial understanding and working toward solutions, especially in times of war.

"Sound bites of Martin Luther King's message is an injustice," she said. "We need to spend some time to delve into Dr.

See KING, page 6

# FBI holding car of Max Factor heir for evidence

**Andrew Luster's car is being held at an undisclosed location in Santa Monica.**

*Investigators interviewing residents for leads on Andrew Luster's whereabouts*

By staff and wire reports

The vehicle belonging to Max Factor cosmetics heir Andrew Luster remains in Santa Monica where investigators are searching it with a fine tooth comb looking for clues as to where the fugitive may have gone.

The green Toyota 4-Runner was found Sunday afternoon in an upscale Santa Monica neighborhood near the corner of 10th Street and San Vicente Boulevard.

A resident who noticed the car sitting in the same spot for more than two weeks called the Santa Monica Police Department reporting a suspicious vehicle. A check of the license plate showed that the car belongs to Luster, who allegedly jumped his $1 million bail on Jan. 3.

The car apparently turned up in the neighborhood just two or three days after Luster failed to show up in court to answer to charges of raping three women at his Mussel Shoals beachfront home after secretly giving them a date-rape drug.

He disappeared midway through his rape trial and a Ventura County jury is considering his fate in absentia. The 39-year-old great-grandson of cosmetics magnate Max Factor failed to report to law enforcement officials and didn't show up in court Jan. 6.

Kathy Rubens who lives on the corner of San Vicente and 10th Street said she first noticed Luster's car either Jan. 8 or Jan. 9. Rubens said she walked her dogs past the vehicle for

See HEIR, page 6

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# HOROSCOPE

# Try to loosen up, Virgo

**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)**
★★★★ Situations around you appear to calm down because of your ability to focus and concentrate on the details. Given time, others will chill out. Still, pressure involving someone at a distance could throw you into a tizzy. Pick and choose your words with care. Tonight: Mellow out in a favorite way.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★★ Sometimes you need to let go and play more. A partner might have a strong reaction to your actions, but sometimes you need to please yourself, not someone else. Recognize what is motivating this person; consider including him or her more often. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ Allow family and personal priorities to dominate. Think through a recent decision involving a partner. You might have pushed this person away without even thinking about it. Be more indulgent of others' foibles, as they are of yours. Tonight: Chill out at home.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★★ Reach out for others. Your ability to relate to others develops through understanding. Carefully consider what someone wants. It might be easy to say "yes," but ultimately, it's not what you want to do. Keep discussions active and moving. Tonight: Visit with friends.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ Use extreme caution with a risk, even if it involves another's request or long-term desire. Seek out different types of solutions. A tendency to overindulge and have a good time comes out despite yourself. Realize what might be possible. Tonight: Chip in and help someone out.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★ The Moon in your sign empowers you, causing new possibilities to evolve out of a difficult encounter with a loved one or a friend. You cannot push this person, but you can walk in another direction. Take care of yourself. Realize how much a close associate does care. Tonight: Loosen up, please.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★ You might choose to deal with a situation differently given some perspective. You want to kick up a storm right now, but after a while, you could be unhappy. Accept an invitation and an opportunity to loosen up. Extremes punctuate your mood. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★★ A friendship or association could be costly, yet worthwhile. Rethink your priorities here before you take a risk, which will cost you. You have a tendency to be extravagant, both emotionally and financially. These traits seem to go hand in hand. Tonight: Let yourself have a good time.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★ Make an effort, even if it means bending in unprecedented ways. Rethink how you approach a boss or loved one, as your present attitude doesn't seem to work. Flexibility and good will team up, making you a sure winner. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★ A change in course might be refreshing for not only you but also for others. Detach by getting others' advice. You might be surprised by what comes your way. A friend or associate presents a unique opportunity. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ Consider what might be going on with a partner or associate. You simply need to rethink your position here. You might not want to move on, but you have little choice right now. Listen to information that heads your way. Someone is sharing some key facts. Tonight: Let a partner make the call.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★★ Review a personal matter that might be on your mind with a friend you really trust. You find getting an assortment of views instrumental to your well-being. Consider what might be going on with a boss or parent who could be out of sorts. Take in this information. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

## QUOTE of the DAY

**"Income tax returns are the most imaginative fiction being written today."**
– Herman Walk

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# LOCAL

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Fairview Branch Library reopens today

By Daily Press staff

The Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. reopens to the public today at noon.

Renovations to the Fairview Branch include the addition of a new reading area, additional wiring for online services, new carpeting, painting inside and out, and new landscaping.

The Montana Ave. Branch, 1704 Montana Ave., reopened to the public in mid-December following extensive renovations. Major features of the Montana Avenue Branch improvements included construction of a new community multi-purpose room, a new space for young adults and remodeled children's area, a new service desk, added wiring for information technology, new carpeting, interior and exterior painting, restoration of the patio, and new landscaping.

Branch library hours are noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Killefer Flammang of Santa Monica are the architects for the branch library renovation projects that were made possible through passage of a library bond issue by Santa Monica voters in 1998.

For more information, the public can check the library's Web site www.smpl.org, or call general library information at (310) 458-8600.

### Celebrate Black History Month with Ashley Bryan

By Daily Press staff

In honor of Black History Month, the Santa Monica Public Library presents renowned children's author, illustrator and storyteller Ashley Bryan in the Main Library Auditorium at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Bryan, who has won the Coretta Scott King Award as well as the Arbuthnot Prize for lifetime achievement, is known for his extensive knowledge of African and African-American folklore and poetry, which he brings to life for audiences throughout the world.

The program is free and recommended for children ages 6 and up. The library is located at 1343 6th St., at Santa Monica Blvd. For more information call the Youth Services Department at (310) 458-8621.

### Author will make an appearance at Midnight Special

By Daily Press staff

Dai Sijie, author of Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, the novel selected for the Santa Monica Citywide Reads program, will appear at Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica today at 7:30 p.m.

The international best-selling author and filmmaker will read and discuss his work, with French translation provided. Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress was an overnight sensation when it was first published in France in 2000. Since then, rights to the novel have been sold in 25 countries, and it currently appears on both the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times best-selling paperback fiction lists.

Dai Sijie also wrote the screenplay and directed the film, with the same title, that was nominated for a Golden Globe award for best foreign language film.

The semi-autobiographical story tells the tale of two teenage boys who are banished to the Chinese countryside for "re-education" during Mao's Cultural Revolution. There, the two friends discover a forbidden cache of books that forever changes their lives and that of the local tailor's daughter. Dai Sijie was himself exiled for "re-education" between 1971 and 1974. He left China in the mid-1980's for France, where he has lived and worked ever since.

Citywide Reads is a new program that invites everyone who lives, works, visits, or attends high school and college in Santa Monica to read Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress and then come together to talk about this book during April and May. Sponsored by the City of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Public Library, the California Center for the Book, and community partners, Citywide Reads is modeled after "one book, one city" projects held in other U.S. communities and is designed to encourage appreciation for reading and book-centered discussion.

For more information and a schedule, contact Citywide Reads, Santa Monica Public Library, 1343 Sixth Street, Santa Monica or call (310) 458-8646. Or visit the Santa Monica Citywide Reads Web site www.smpl.org/cwr.

## surf report

*Information compiled by Jesse Haley*

The weak swell left surf on the flat side this past weekend, but it should get better.

A new northwest swell is making its way towards Southern California. It's due to arrive today, with exposed breaks seeing a good boost in height. Tides are running extreme on both sides, high and low, as we just saw the full moon early Saturday morning. Check out dawn patrol or maybe the afternoon if you're paddling out.

**Today's Tides:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Low- | 3:55 a.m. | -1.99' |
| High- | 9:56 a.m. | 5.95' |
| Low- | 5:15 p.m. | -0.89' |
| High- | 11:42 p.m. | 3.97' |

| Location | Tuesday | Wednesday | Water Quality |
|---|---|---|---|
| County | 1-2'/Poor | 2-3'/Fair | A |
| Zuma | 1-2'/Poor | 2-3'/Fair | A |
| Surfrider | Flat | 1-3'/Fair | D |
| Topanga | 1-3'/Fair | 2-3'/Fair | A |
| Venice | 2-3'/Fair | 3-4'/Fair | A |
| Porto | 2-3'/Fair | 3-4'/Fair | A |

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## The Q Line

The build-up in the Persian Gulf last week instigated anti-war protests throughout the world this past weekend. Activists demanding that the United States' government stop its intent on bombing Iraq stretched from as far away as Hong Kong. Marches were held on the nation's capital, in front of the U.S. embassy in Russia, England and several cities across the country.

While you may agree or disagree with whether or not we are justified in going to war, it appears it's more probable now than ever.

This week's Q-line question wants to know:

**"If there is enough uprising in this country and around the world, do you think our administration will back off?"**

**Call (310) 285-8106** with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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# OPINION

# LETTERS

## Youth get a voice

**Editor:**

People for a Santa Monica Youth Commission is a newly formed group of youth and adult supporters of youth who are currently working to establish an ongoing Santa Monica Youth commission that would advise the City Council on youth-related issues. Our first meeting on Jan. 7, 2003 at the Ken Edwards Center in Santa Monica was well attended and inspirational.

Often, young people who are not yet of voting age are the ones heard from the least. The timely formation of an official ongoing advisory Santa Monica Youth Commission is an idea whose time has come. A Youth Commission would help to further empower our youth and give them an equal participatory voice along with Santa Monica's other dedicated and hard-working city commissions.

Many educators, youth group leaders, students and parents are now doing outreach to support this important endeavor. So, we are asking for concerned individuals and groups to add their endorsement to the growing endorsement list. There are meetings being planned to take place at local schools and youth group locations. There is a petition drive starting to get underway. Enthusiasm and positive community energy is growing rapidly!

If your school or community group would like to host a support meeting, or you would like to help circulate the support petition, please call.

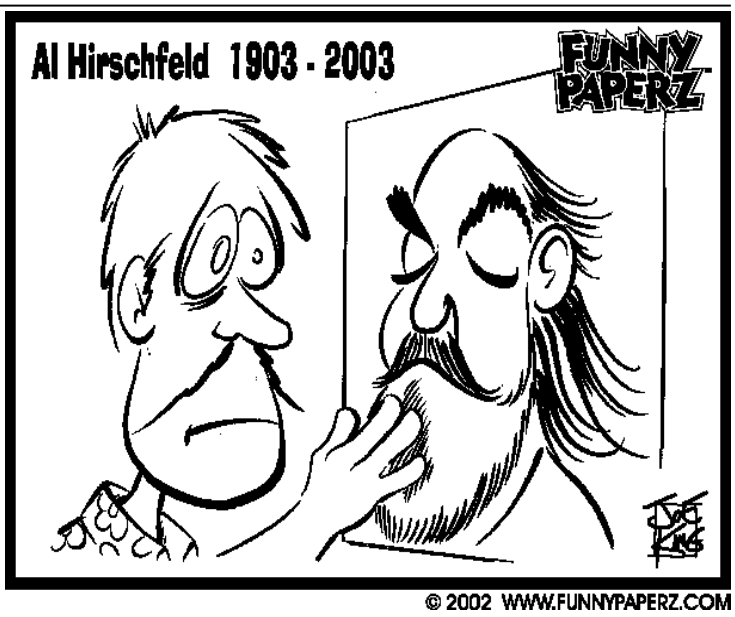
The Malibu Youth Commission has been doing excellent work for the past three years. (They have two representatives each from sixth through twelfth grades and one member at large of a total of 15 members).

Soon we will be formally asking our Santa Monica City Council to appoint a task force to further study the benefits a Youth Commission would provide - both for our youth and for our City.

So, thank you so much for your help, support and ideas. A Santa Monica Youth Commission is a true investment in everyone's future!

For further information, call People for a Santa Monica Youth Commission. Contact Jerry Rubin at (310) 399-1000 or Kathy McTaggart at (310) 450-8338 ext. 339. E-mail to mctaggart@smmusd.org.

**Jerry Rubin**
*Santa Monica*




## YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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# THINK twice

# A citizen's view on pending city cuts

Todd Flora

Sadly, it doesn't look like the Santa Monica budget will be running in the black for a few years. As I have previously advised state leaders, so too must city leaders employ a "tough choices" approach of spending cuts AND revenue increases.

City Finance Director Mike Dennis reminded those of us attending a recent course in "City Budget Basics" that the City Council is currently accepting public input on budget priorities. I say it is our prerogative to provide some. As my two cents, I want to comment on a few of the city staff's recommendations:

**Cuts:**

■ Hiring freeze: If we're supposed to be a city "shrinking" in population, for now we must find a way to deliver existing services with, at most, existing staff.

■ Salary freeze: This may be preferential to tempting across the board cuts, which may result in actual layoffs. Better to keep our talent at temporarily static pay.

■ New discretionary projects: Like anyone, I want to see all approved projects completed. But perhaps it is time to aggressively seek capital from private sector partners to help complete them.

■ Salary and benefits savings: Substantial sums that accrue during lag time, intrinsic in filling civil service positions should be used to reduce debt.

**Revenue increases:**

■ Fee increases: Paid by users, not necessarily by all of us. The city staff should continue its review of potential accounts where fees can be raised.

■ Fine increases: Only those who stretch the law will pay slightly more. I think this is a strong alternative to the calls for increased meter rates in our retail areas.

The city should hold the line on the hotel "bed tax" and business licensing taxes if possible. We should not only encourage our tourism businesses to put our lower bed tax to its competitive advantage, but also avoid giving them another political excuse not to pay a living wage.

I certainly don't have all of the answers, and there is even more we need to do beyond what I suggest. But one thing is certain. It would be an awful mistake for some in this community to use the budget shortfall as yet another excuse to bash this city's leadership. You can't go anywhere in America right now and not find a budget crunch. And I guarantee you can't blame OUR City Council for all of them! Let's keep our eyes on the ball, and get to work as ONE community.

*(Todd Flora is the former state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, a campaign finance reform effort, and the former Western regional director of the Concord Coalition, a fiscal watchdog organization. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com)*

Evelyn Jerome

I recently took a crash course on our city's budget. I figured if I'm going to throw stones at the City Council during the budget process, I should know a little about it.

After studying two several-inch thick notebooks of budget gobbledygook, I have some thoughts for the folks making the cutting and spending decisions.

We start with a budget of almost $400 million, and the budget wizards foresee a deficit of $9 million this year. Unlike the feds, we can't run a deficit, so we have to cut expenses, raise revenues, or both.

The head budget guru, Mike Dennis, is a sharp guy. He's given the City Council some ideas to ponder as they reconcile this $9 million deficit for the upcoming year. One-time cuts will not solve the looming problem, Dennis notes, so it's belt-tightening time.

The City Council should view their decisions the way we run our households and businesses: What do we really need? Where can we sacrifice without it hurting too much? Who gets a raise and who doesn't? The private sector faces these decisions every day.

Dennis offers revenue enhancement suggestions, cautioning that increasing parking meter rates, the hotel tax, and business license fees could affect our competitiveness as a tourist destination. I think his caution is well-placed.

The city could look at pet license fees for revenue enhancement. Santa Monica charges $12 for neutered dogs and $24 for unaltered dogs. Neighboring cities charge twice that — Los Angeles charges $100 to license an unaltered dog. Just a small, benign example.

Dennis' common-sense cuts won't reduce resident services.

Here are my suggestions.

■ A hiring freeze (i.e. not filling vacant city positions)

■ A salary freeze for city employees (there was a one-year freeze during the recession of the early 1990s)

■ Halt construction projects, including library and park construction

■ Restructure the city's benefit program

We spend $22 million annually on "Community/Cultural Services," with part of that serving 3,000 homeless people. According to the 2002-2003 budget, only 10 percent were placed in permanent housing, and only 15 percent found employment. With tough decisions at hand, let's get some bang for our social service bucks.

Let's ask our residents to pitch in and help — why not ask senior citizens to volunteer in our libraries? Then we can take some senior program expenses and library assistant positions off the books.

Nothing should be "off the table" during this budget cycle. And by the way, how much did those shiny new bus benches cost?

*(Evelyn Jerome is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats, and a member of the New Democrat Network. To respond or to reach Jerome, e-mail her at evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)*

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

STATE

# Law aims to rein in state's sprawling growth patterns

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

**SACRAMENTO** — While it was being debated last year, no one pitched AB857 as the one true initiative to reshape California's haphazard growth management policies.

But as the state begins 2003 with the new law in place, its supporters hope it will provide the framework for a gradual, dramatic series of changes ahead. More, they hope it will help California erase its image as a national laggard in growth management as widespread sprawl continues to dominate its 155,000 square-mile landscape.

The new law makes a priority of infill development — rebuilding and reusing existing neighborhoods — as the state doles out billions of dollars worth of infrastructure spending.

Two more priorities would spare working farms from development and make suburban growth more efficient by squeezing more people onto fewer acres. Census reports show California's post-1970 suburbs average about 1,600 fewer people per square mile than pre-1950's neighborhoods.

While still a small step, the law written by Assemblywoman Patricia Wiggins, D-Santa Rosa, sets up new struggle between powerful establishments of "smart-growth" theorists and builders who operate in the hard realities of the marketplace. And it comes as California homebuilders forecast 124,000 new single-family homes this year — the highest number in a decade — primarily on empty land at the state's booming suburban edges.

Now California "has actually set some priorities. It hadn't been done, so it was a big deal," says Julie Spezia, state issues director of the California Futures Network, an 80-member coalition that sponsored the bill with California's urban planners.

Backers consider the move toward strategic growth investments the biggest leap in a generation for a state government that routinely lets 58 counties and almost 500 cities decide how to accommodate roughly six million new residents a decade. The next five years California intends to spend $56 billion on colleges, highways, hospitals, courts and state buildings. Voters have approved billions more for local schools and housing in bond issues. The new law could push more of it toward existing neighborhoods instead of new ones.

The law also requires the state to fulfill a 1970 requirement — signed into law by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan — to prepare a long-range vision and strategy for the state's growth. That was last done in 1978, when California had 13 million fewer people.

While modest compared to aggressive topdown planning undertaken by state governments in Oregon, Maryland and Washington, environmentalists, farmers, planners and urban activists view it as a beginning for California, a law they can muscle up in coming legislative sessions.

Across a wide spectrum of groups, they're tailoring new proposals from growth management to tax policy to fit AB857's new priorities.

Those priorities typically favor growth in established neighborhoods, downtowns and declining 1960s and 1970s suburbs that have streets, sewer lines and transit routes.

Supporters want the state to encourage more land-efficient ideas like Fresno's two-story elementary schools that take up seven acres instead of 10 and Sacramento's hundreds of new downtown residences, including its first new units above grocery stores and parking garages. Other favorites include reusing obsolete sites. In Anaheim, a homebuilder plans 36 townhouses and 20 single-family homes on a five-acre former truck yard near downtown.

Abel Avalos, who works for the developer for the Anaheim project, says buyers want to escape worsening commutes. While five decades of suburban growth has proved enormously popular in California, it has also brought some of the nation's worst traffic.

"There's pent up demand. It's not really an issue of whether people will buy this," says Avalos, infill land acquisition manager for John Laing Homes.

The infill-type development stressed by the new law represents more than 30 percent of growth in Los Angeles, but only about five percent in fast-suburbanizing counties like Riverside and San Bernardino, says John Landis, professor of city and regional planning at the University of California, Berkeley. Landis says a statewide 30 percent infill development rate could spare up to 2.5 million acres of open land from development in this century.

But for all the enthusiasm, the new law's supporters have a fight on their hands. Much of the state's growth machine — suburban builders, real estate agents, businesses and local governments — opposes state meddling in how cities and counties grow. Last year their lobbyists fought the bill in committee hearings, saying it could steer precious road and school money from popular hot-market suburbs to central cities where many families fear weak schools and don't want to live.

Some legislators ridiculed AB857 in floor debate.

"This idea that something worthwhile is going to come of this is a dream," said Republican Assemblyman Tim Leslie of Tahoe City.

Even backers acknowledge that's possible in a state where more than eight in 10 residents say their ideal is a single-family house with a back yard in a safe neighborhood. Suburban starter houses far from jobs also tend to be more affordable than city homes.

"It has great promise, but it could also be an empty gesture unless it's implemented well," says Nick Bollman, head of the California Center for Regional Leadership.

In Maryland, where the state steers infrastructure funding for sewers, roads and schools toward already-built cities, Special Secretary for Smart Growth Harriet Tregoning calls AB857 "a very good idea, but it won't work by itself.

"We have a full set of incentives we use to encourage growth in areas we want," she said. "It's not enough to exhort growth to go to those areas. The infrastructure might be older. The land entitlement process is longer and community opposition is more vehement."

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LOCAL

# New library will observe legacy of Dr. King Jr.

KING, from page 1

Martin Luther King's ideals ... Dr. King was much more than a dreamer.

"I am duty bound to make sure there is not another year of celebrating the TV version of Martin Luther King," she added.

Rousseau described King's childhood as a time when he first noticed the injustices around him. Born into a relatively well-off family, King did not live in poverty but was close enough to it to see disparities. He saw how whites treated blacks during times of segregation and the economic, social and political injustices that ensued because of it.

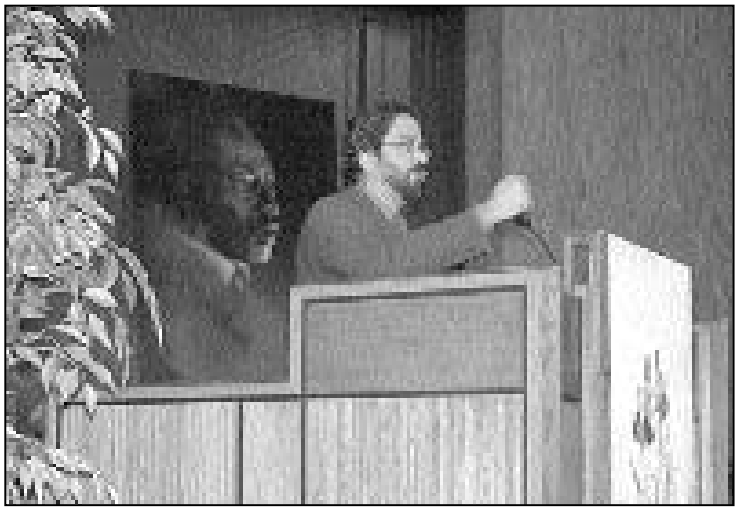
"The soul and spirit was characterized by his ideals," Rousseau said, emphasizing King's message that a man's character should not be judged where he stands in comfort but where he stands in challenge and controversy.

With a pending war against Iraq continuing to build in the United States, Rousseau suggested that Dr. King would say that war is more costly and risky than finding peaceful alternatives.

Rousseau also said Dr. King's message of equality has been lost in a society where most people believe they are entitled to more than their brothers and sisters.

"All men were created equal and he believed it more than the writers of the Declaration of Independence," she said, adding King's ideals during a time of segregation were bold. "His message that everyone is entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness was a movement so morally driven that it shamed a nation into change.

"The world wasn't ready for where Dr. King would go," she added. "The world didn't understand the soul and spirit of the man."



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

**(Left) Mayor Richard Bloom speaks from the pulpit. Nat Trives accepts a lifetime achievement award from event organizer Michele Wittig.**

Rousseau said she and all of the Western civilization has a duty now to pay back Africa for the injustices that have been caused there while other parts of the world have capitalized on opportunities of wealth, and to help it through crises like the AIDS epidemic and severe poverty.

"The entire Western world is in debt to Africa," she said to applause. "When will Africa ever collect her debts?"

West Los Angeles resident Haleh Khavari, whose parents live in Santa Monica, said she appreciated Monday's observance and Rousseau's speech because it taught her more about the man and the notion of peace in a time of war.

"It's so easy for us to go for the violence," she said. "She focused on his life and the human aspect of it ... it wasn't just about racism. We have to rediscover his message that it's about everybody and not just one race which is so much needed now with all of the conflict in the world."

Much to his surprise, Nat Trives, former mayor of Santa Monica, received a lifetime achievement award from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition, a group he helped form 18 years ago when the first observance was held.

After accepting the award, Trives was visibly moved as he wiped tears away from his face. Trives, who was the first speaker at the celebration, said we need to remember Dr. King's warning that racism cannot be resolved if the powerful continue to profit instead of taking care of people.

"It brings us to life's most persistent question, 'What are we doing for others?'" he asked.

Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom told the crowd that the pursuit of education is just as important as protection of civil rights, diversity and social justice.

"Libraries are a critical link in the pursuit of education," Bloom said, noting that the city is building a new library downtown and the auditorium will be named in memory of Dr. King.

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# Car of fugitive stays in Santa Monica as evidence

HEIR, from page 1

several days and noticed it had at least two parking tickets on it.

Rubens said while it would be random that Luster chose a Santa Monica neighborhood to stash his vehicle, the 18-year resident speculated that he may have known someone in the area.

"The neighborhood is changing and is more affluent," she said. "I hope they find him."

It is unknown if Luster has relatives or friends in Santa Monica.

The vehicle, which sits at an undisclosed location, shows signs of being abandoned. It is covered in dust and appears to have been in the elements for an extended period of time. Inside the truck are miscellaneous pieces of paper and personal effects.

Prosecutors contend that Luster used the date-rape drug gamma hydroxybutyrate, also known as GHB, and liquid Ecstasy, to render three women unconscious for sex.

He is charged with 87 criminal counts and faces a possible life sentence, if convicted.

Sheriff's officials have said Luster fled his beach home near Ventura in his sport utility vehicle, taking his German shepherd and collection of Chumash Indian artifacts. The dog was located last week at Luster's mother's home in Northern California, but authorities gained no leads on Luster's whereabouts.

Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

**Contents lying on the front seat of Luster's car may lead FBI officials to clues as to where the fugitive may have fled.**

Capt. Paul Anderson of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department declined to answer specifics about the vehicle because the investigation is ongoing.

"Until that thing has gone over and they determine what kind of evidence is there or not there, there really isn't a lot that can go out," Anderson said.

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

STATE

# Wave of lawsuits threatens 70-year-old consumer law

BY JESSICA V. BRICE
Associated Press Writer

**SACRAMENTO** — California consumer advocates, angry about alleged deceptive business practices, have used a landmark law to go after tobacco companies, drug manufacturers and even sneaker maker Nike Inc.

Now, the 70-year-old consumer protection law — championed by some as the nation's most powerful — is under attack after a handful of private attorneys filed thousands of lawsuits against mostly ethnic and immigrant business owners, seeking millions of dollars in settlements.

The controversy has rekindled legislative attempts to amend California's Unfair Competition Law. And this time around, critics say they have the publicity they need to push the changes through the Legislature.

"Now they've gone too far," said Assemblyman Robert Pacheco, R-Walnut, who has sponsored a bill to amend the law. "Now they're reaching down to the bottom of the money barrel and targeting minority business owners."

Enacted in 1933 to protect businesses, the law, also known as Business and Professions Code 17200, was later expanded to protect consumers against price-fixing, false advertising and other deceptive business practices.

It's the only law of its kind, allowing plaintiffs to act as "private attorneys general" to sue on behalf of the public even if they haven't been directly harmed or affected by the alleged wrongdoing.

While business leaders say the law encourages frivolous lawsuits, consumer attorneys say there's nothing unique about California's law that makes it more susceptible to abuse.

"On one hand, California may be the minority in that it allows private attorneys to act as attorneys general, but the law is less generous than other states," said Charlie Harak, an attorney for the National Consumer Law Center, in Boston, Mass. "Other states allow claimants to get damages and attorney fees, California does not."

But business owners say California's law is flawed for one reason: It allows attorneys to file lawsuits even if the business did nothing illegal.

"It's ridiculous. They've stretched this law to the point it has to break," said Tom Swingle, who co-owns G.T. Automotive in Los Alamitos. Swingle was sued based on a warning from the state Bureau of Automotive Repair for improperly writing up a customer invoice.

"Think of the implications. It's a minor violation by a regulatory agency and it was never intended to say my business is unlawful," Swingle said. "If that were the case, it would mean that every building contractor who's gotten a notice of correction and every company whose driver has gotten a traffic ticket could be sued."

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer has launched investigations into a number of private law firms accused of filing thousands of lawsuits to obtain millions of dollars in settlements.

Among them is the Beverly Hills-based Trevor Law Group, which has filed between "2,000 and 5,000" lawsuits on behalf of a one-man, for-profit organization called the California Watch Enforcement Corp. Many of the suits were based on paper violations that are posted on the Bureau of Automotive Repairs Web site.

Trevor attorney Shane Han testified this week at a legislative hearing that the corporation — which shares the same address as the law firm — gets its income solely from 17200 lawsuit settlements.

One settlement offer from the Trevor Group, printed on red paper and sent to defendants, read: "either pay even more money to fight in court or settle out of court and get on with business."

Long Beach-based law firm Brar & Gamulin, whose attorneys attended law school with Han and another attorney from the Trevor Group, is also being investigated for misusing the law. Lawyers from the firm didn't return calls for comment.

Brar & Gamulin allegedly filed hundreds of lawsuits against Southern California nail salons, claiming their practice of using the same bottle of nail polish on multiple customers is unlawful.

Those lawsuits are filed on behalf of the California Watchdog Association, a one-man company that has not registered with the secretary of state and has not filed taxes, according to the Franchise Tax Board.

Trevor attorneys Han and Allan Hendrickson, attorneys Harpreet Brar and Martin Gamulin and four attorneys from another law firm being investigated, Callahan, McCune & Willis, all obtained their law degrees from Western State University. The small, private law school in Fullerton was founded in 1966, but didn't receive accreditation from the American Bar Association until 1998.

Despite investigations launched by the attorney general and the California Bar Association, some lawmakers and supporters of lawsuit reform say the problem needs to be fixed by changing the law.

"If a private attorney is going to take on the responsibility of a public district attorney, even though they have never been elected to perform that job, then there needs to be more limitations on what cases are allowed to move forward," said John Sullivan, president of the Civil Justice Association of California, a group out to change civil liability law.

At least eight bills have been introduced in the last five years aimed at limiting who can use the law, but all of them were killed or stripped before making it out of their house of origin.

"There's always been a strong opposition to amending the law simply because trial lawyers don't want to hinder their ability to file lawsuits," Pacheco said. "Amending the law would take money out of their pockets, and that money is used to support legislators who support the practice."

Pacheco's bill proposes to restrict plaintiffs from filing suit unless they can show they have "suffered distinct and palpable injury."

The bill is already facing strong opposition from consumers advocates, public prosecutors and trial attorneys who say it will undermine their efforts to protect consumers.

"It's important to look at the problem," said Gail Hillebrand, senior attorney at the Consumers Union, which publishes the publication "Consumer Reports."

"If the problem stems from private attorneys who are abusing the law by engaging in this type of activity, then we should deal with that problem," Hillebrand said.

Lockyer also warned against amending the law earlier this week, saying that public attorney generals don't have the time or resources to pursue all cases of unfair or deceptive business practices.

## Groups under investigation by attorney general

By The Associated Press

Here's a list of lawyers who are being investigated by the attorney general's office amid allegations that they are misusing the state's Unfair Competition Law:

■ The Beverly Hills-based Trevor Law Group is under investigation for filing thousands of lawsuits against auto-repair shops and restaurants on behalf of the for-profit organization Consumer Enforcement Watch Corporation. The law firm and watch corporation share the same address.

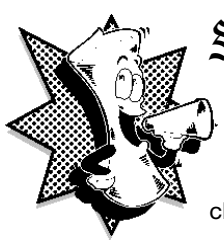
■ The Long Beach-based law firm of Brar & Gamulin is under investigation for filing hundreds of lawsuits against nail salons on behalf of the California Watchdog, which is not registered with the secretary of state and has not filed taxes.

■ Costa Mesa-based for-profit organization Citizens for Fair Business Practices, which is represented by the law firm of Callahan, McCune and Willis, is under investigation for suing mortgage firms.

■ The Consumer Action League is being investigated for filing lawsuits against travel agencies and Internet-related businesses. The group is represented by Sacramento attorney Brian Kindsvater.

■ For-profit organization Californians for Fair Business Practices is under investigation for suing real estate agents. Sacramento attorney David Byers represents the group.

*Source: The California Attorney General, Secretary of State, Franchise Tax Board and Bar Association.*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## STATE

# Goal in play to ease some of nation's worst traffic

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

**SACRAMENTO** — Traffic jams. Lost time. Stalls and road rage. Nothing says California like six lanes of idling cars.

Now the state agency that built the nation's most advanced freeways and presides over its worst traffic has quietly begun building a new vision to prevent catastrophic gridlock in 2025.

Planners at the California Department of Transportation are eyeing everything from e-commerce that gets shoppers off the road to land development that spawns fewer cars and freeway upgrades to move more people faster. The state's transportation establishment also wants to wean more vehicles off gasoline, build new bus rapid transit systems and spur all-purpose electronic cards for statewide parking and transit.

All this can't come soon enough for Karen Race, a legal assistant from Torrance who calls her 15-mile commute to Westwood "horrible."

"It takes me 50 minutes to get to work and up to two hours to get home," she says. "There's too many people out here, too many cars, and the bus system is horrible, too. If I take a bus it takes me longer. It takes me two and a half hours."

Santa Rosa taxicab owner Mark Neese adds, "There's probably four or five times the traffic there was 30 years ago."

In a state where forecasters predict 10 million more cars by 2020 and nearly 50 million people by 2025, the California Department of Transportation and the state's 43 regional traffic agencies are trying to prod a new generation of policies.

Airborne Los Angeles traffic reporter Rod Bernsen says they're sorely needed.

"It ain't working now," says the Fox-TV helicopter veteran.

"The one thing I see overhead is the lost productivity. Look at the hours wasted. You're talking about a significant impact on the economy."

Three months ago Caltrans, with aid from such traffic watchers as the Automobile Club of Southern California, Federal Highway Administration, California Transportation Commission, state universities and environmental groups, produced a new look at the future called the California Transportation Plan 2025. Now the agency has set 10 workshops across California from Jan. 28 through Feb. 25 to let commuters, transit riders and truckers weigh in.

The plan goes to Gov. Gray Davis in June and by December will be a final blueprint to "guide the state in its investments and decisions about transportation over the next two and a half decades," says Caltrans spokesman John Robin Witt.

Witt says the plan doesn't identify specific projects. Instead, it suggests possible new strategies and goals to ease traffic in a state with five of the nation's 20 most congested metro areas. Other obstacles: Only 5.4 percent of commuters use transit, fewer still telecommute and the state has a $100 billion shortfall in transportation funding, according to a 1999 estimate by the California Transportation Commission.

Many of the plan's ideas are rooted in the emerging "smart growth" movement, which favors more growth in existing cities and less car-dependent suburban development. Among them: bus-only lanes, special cheaper mortgages for homes near transit, car sharing, new materials to make roads last longer, better transit connections, more efficient freeway interchanges, technology that reduces need for physical travel and more clean fuel vehicles.

"The ideas are not coming from the top down," says Witt. "They're bubbling up from the people, this broad coalition that has created a broad consensus of what it wants California to look like in the first quarter of this century."

# Disney settles $20 million 'whistle-blower' lawsuit

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Walt Disney Co. has settled a $20-million "whistle-blower" lawsuit brought by a former executive who claimed she was fired for refusing to help the company cheat the IRS.

The case, scheduled to go to trial Jan. 27, was settled late last week, the Los Angeles Times reported Monday. The terms were not disclosed.

In her March 2001 suit, Judy Denenholz said she was wrongfully terminated after a series of clashes with the company's chief lawyer. Disney general counsel Louis Meisinger allegedly was angered by her refusal to sign off on Disney's response to an IRS audit.

Denenholz, who was senior vice president of the company's worldwide anti-piracy division, claimed that Disney had substantially understated what it owed the IRS.

In response to the suit, Disney said it had investigated the allegations leveled by Denenholz and found them to be "shameful and untrue."

Meisinger announced Wednesday that he would be leaving the company to serve as an adviser to a Los Angeles law firm and would continue to be a consultant to Disney.

A Disney executive speaking on condition of anonymity told the Times that there was no connection between Meisinger's departure and the case settlement.

The IRS audit focused on how Disney was accounting for taxes stemming from legal and professional expenses incurred in copyright and trademark lawsuits for 1993, 1994 and 1995.

Denenholz said her bosses were angered when she refused to approve a statement to the IRS indicating that Disney owed back taxes of $676,000. She believed the company was omitting millions of dollars in legal expenses.

Soon after, in January 2000, Meisinger told Denenholz her services were no longer needed, according to the suit, ending a nearly 20-year career at Disney.

She sued under the state's labor code that protects a whistle-blower from retaliation by his or her employer. In the suit, Denenholz also accused another former colleague and Disney attorney of sexual harassment.

Disney has said Denenholz was not fired, only that her contract was not renewed after it expired and that her allegations were baseless.

## NATIONAL

# Arts school was a figment to taxpayers and officials

BY LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Y'Hica Institute for the Visual Arts in London appeared to have all the credentials for certification in a student loan program administered by the U.S. Department of Education — a web site, a school president, a consulting firm and students who needed financial help.

Unknown to federal officials who certified Y'Hica, the school didn't exist.

But this wasn't just another fraud on the government. This school was an undercover sting operation by congressional investigators, who wanted to learn how closely education officials monitored aid applications from foreign schools.

The investigators from Congress' General Accounting Office had little trouble gaining U.S. certification of the school and obtaining loan approvals for three students from two of three lending institutions contacted.

The undercover agents even tried to leave a clue to unravel the scheme, identifying one of the "students" as Susan M. Collins.

Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, was the lawmaker who asked for the investigation. She is now chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and was its ranking minority member when the inquiry began.

Terri Shaw, chief operating officer for the Education Department's Federal Student Aid Office, acknowledged that officials should have verified the school's existence. In this case, the officials "did not completely follow every step of the procedure which resulted in Y'Hica obtaining preliminary approval for one year."

Shaw maintained that officials would have caught the scheme before money actually was loaned out, because one lender noticed irregularities in the student applications and notified the department.

The department now is conducting on-site visits of all foreign schools applying for eligibility in loan programs, and also is working with the State Department to verify a school's existence.

The fictitious Susan Collins and the two other "students" each were approved by two institutions for $55,000 in loans under the Federal Family Education Loan Program. The investigators had the payments stopped before any money was sent.

The investigators went through a series of steps to create the school, including submission of counterfeit documents.

A school catalogue was printed. Certified financial statements were created for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, signed by a nonexistent accountant residing at a phony London address. A fake letter indicated a real university in the United Kingdom validated Y'Hica's academic program. And a fictitious letter from educational authorities in England stated the school was a nonprofit institution with degree-granting authority.

After the school was certified, the investigators created identities, addresses and telephone numbers for the applicants. They logged on to the Education Department's web site to obtain Personal Identification Numbers and online applications were completed.

**This school was an undercover sting operation by congressional investigators, who wanted to learn how closely education officials monitored aid applications from foreign schools.**

The applications for $18,500 per student then were submitted to Nellie Mae Student Lending Inc., the Sallie Mae Servicing Corp. and Bank of America. Only Bank of America became suspicious and rejected the application.

Congress in the past has criticized the Education Department as doing a poor job of managing its multi-billion-dollar budget, including student loans.

In 2001, the department began using a government database of people who recently found jobs to locate people who defaulted on student loans and initiate collection efforts.

## Ms. King remembers

Ric Feld/Associated Press

**Coretta Scott King, the widow of slain civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., is applauded by Dexter Scott King, left, and Rev. Michael L. Pfleger, right, during the 2003 King Holiday Observance at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta on Monday.**

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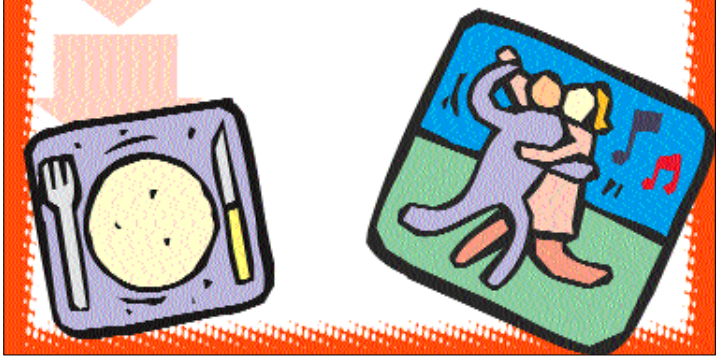

INTERNATIONAL

# Powell says U.N. 'must not shirk' from responsibility

BY BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

**UNITED NATIONS** — Secretary of State Colin Powell, faced with stiff resistance and calls to go slow, bluntly told other nations on Monday that the United Nations "must not shrink" from its responsibility to disarm Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

"We cannot be shocked into impotence because we're afraid of the difficult choices ahead of us," Powell told members of the U.N. Security Council.

Directly responding to qualms registered by several foreign ministers in two days of talks, and with only Britain explicitly standing alongside the United States, Powell spoke of war as a real option.

In a speech at a U.N. conference on terrorism, and at a news conference, Powell urged reluctant nations to focus on Baghdad's failure to disarm and to prepare to weigh the consequences by the end of the month when U.N. inspectors file a report on 60 days of searches in Iraq for illicit weapons.

"If Iraq is not disarming, the United Nations cannot turn away from its responsibilities," Powell said.

He said the U.N. Security Council, which is due to consider the report on Jan. 29, must come to grips with a regime that he said has acquired, developed and stocked weapons of mass destruction and trampled human rights at home.

"So no matter how difficult the road ahead may be with respect to Iraq, we must not shrink from a need to travel down that road," Powell said.

"Hopefully, there will be a peaceful solution," he said. "But if Iraq does not come into full compliance, we must not shrink from the responsibilities that we set before ourselves" when the Security Council called for the disarmament of Iraq.

Casting aside diplomatic ambiguity, Powell spoke directly of war. "Iraq has a responsibility now to avoid a conflict, to avoid a war," he said.

The U.N. inspectors, by contrast, have said they were making progress in their searches, may require months more of time, and have referred to the report due next Monday as only an interim report. Some 16 chemical weapons warheads have been divulged by Iraq, a move taken by the inspectors as a sign of cooperation.

But Powell brushed that aside. He said of the Iraqis: "We cannot let them dribble out this information, dribble these warheads out."

Iraq knows how many weapons of mass destruction it has hidden away, Powell said, "We will not allow Iraq to frustrate the will of the world."

British Foreign Minister Jack Straw, in his U.N. speech, said it was important to "wait and see what the inspectors actually say," but he emphasized that "time is running out for Saddam Hussein."

But Germany's foreign minister took a strong stand against military action, saying it might have "negative repercussions," for the international fight against terrorism.

"We have no illusions about the brutal nature of Saddam Hussein's regime," Joschka Fisher said during a daylong Security Council meeting on counterterrorism. But, he said: "We are greatly concerned that a military strike against the regime in Baghdad would involve considerable and unpredictable risks for the global fight on terrorism."

## A mixed bag

David Guttenfelder/Associated Press

**Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix, front right, and chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency Mohamed ElBaradei, speak at a news conference in Baghdad, Iraq on Monday. The chief U.N. arms inspectors reported mixed success in two days of talks to gain Iraqi cooperation in their disarmament effort.**

# Report: Russian envoy holds 'successful' talks with North Korean leader

BY PAUL SHIN
Associated Press Writer

**SEOUL, South Korea** — North Korean President Kim Jong Il heard a Russian plan for ending his nation's nuclear standoff during talks Monday with a Moscow envoy, his first known meeting with a foreigner since the crisis started.

The three-part plan, presented by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov, envisions nuclear-free status for the Korean peninsula, and written security guarantees and a humanitarian and economic aid package for the impoverished North.

Losyukov was quoted as telling the Russian news agency ITAR-Tass that talks were "very warm" and "successful," but he cautioned they were only a first step in ending the standoff with the United States over North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Still, the talks represented a possible breakthrough in the dispute, even as U.S. officials sought support for taking it to the U.N. Security Council — a move that would increase pressure on the North, because the council can impose international sanctions.

Russia, along with China, is one of the communist North's few remaining allies and seen as key to resolving the conflict or helping to arrange the direct talks Washington seeks with Pyongyang.

Kim, who like his father before him rules North Korea with an iron fist, is regarded as the only power in the isolated country who can make any decision on the nuclear issue.

His meeting with Losyukov was apparently his first with a foreigner since early December, when his country decided to reactivate nuclear facilities frozen under a 1994 energy deal with the United States. It since expelled U.N. monitors and quit a global anti-nuclear treaty.

Losyukov said Kim was expected to give his answer on the "package plan" directly to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In Beijing, U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton said Monday after meeting with Chinese officials that China seems to have no objection to let the Security Council take up the issue.

Secretary of State Colin Powell received similar assurances from China's foreign minister in New York, where both attended a U.N. conference on terrorism, a State Department spokesman said.

China has veto power on council, whose possible sanctions could further cripple the impoverished North, dependent on international handouts to help feed its 22 million people.

Also Monday, South Korea pledged to use rounds of talks this week with North Korea — officially unrelated to the nuclear issue — to push for a peaceful solution. The talks include Cabinet-level meetings in Seoul and economic discussions in the North.

The first meetings opened late Monday between Red Cross officials at the North's Diamond Mountain resort, aimed at setting up a reunion center for Korean families separated by the division of the peninsula.

The three-day meetings continue contacts between the divided Koreas that began with a historic summit of their leaders in 2000. But it was unclear how much success the South would have in bringing up the nuclear dispute, because Pyongyang sees the impasse as a matter between it and the United States.

One barrier to a solution has been the North's insistence on the United States issuing a nonaggression treaty — something the U.S. Congress is unlikely to do, because Pyongyang backed out of the 1994 pact.

The North, through its official KCNA news agency Monday, emphasized its demand for a "legal document" from the United States guaranteeing it would not attack.

Washington has said it would consider some form of a written promise — though not a formal treaty — and the Russian plan, as described by Itar-TASS, asks that the security guarantees be in writing.

# IOC investigating alleged torture of Iraqi athletes

By The Associated Press

**LAUSANNE, Switzerland** — The IOC is investigating accusations that Saddam Hussein's oldest son, the head of Iraq's Olympic association, tortured and jailed athletes.

"We're received the complaint and we're dealing with it," IOC ethics commission official Paquerette Girard Zappelli told The Associated Press. She said she could not comment further while the inquiry was under way.

In December, Indict, a London-based human rights group, lodged a complaint demanding that the IOC expel the Iraqi National Olympic Committee. Citing witness statements by exiled Iraqi athletes and United Nations reports, Indict said the Iraqi committee was in violation of the IOC's ethics code.

The group contended Odai Saddam Hussein once made a group of track athletes crawl on newly poured asphalt while they were beaten and ordered that some be thrown off a bridge. It also alleged he ran a special prison for athletes who offended him.

The Iraqi committee also participated in the looting of Kuwait during Saddam's 1990-1991 occupation of that country and continues to run front companies that are used to duck U.N. sanctions, Indict said.

Indict, which receives three-quarters of its funding from the U.S. Congress, was set up in 1997 to try to get Saddam and leading members of his regime brought before an international tribunal on charges of crimes against humanity.

The IOC ethics commission, whose members include track star Edwin Moses and former U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, previously suspended Afghanistan's national committee because the country's former Taliban regime barred women from sports.

The ethics commission was set up in 1999, largely to monitor the behavior of IOC members in the wake of a bribery and corruption scandal that swept the Olympic movement.

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SPORTS

# Tampa Bay versus Oakland: Offense versus defense

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

**SAN DIEGO** — It looks like the perfect Super Bowl matchup: Oakland's high-powered offense against Tampa Bay's stingy defense.

For all the common denominators, from their swashbuckling logos to the coach they have shared, the most intriguing theme is sports' age-old one. Can the prolific Raiders, led by the NFL's most valuable player, overwhelm the Buccaneers, who have the league's defensive player of the year?

For all of Oakland's offensive playmakers, from Rich Gannon to Jerry Rice to Tim Brown to Charlie Garner, Tampa Bay can offer such defensive stalwarts as Derrick Brooks, Warren Sapp, John Lynch and Ronde Barber.

And for all of Jon Gruden's success as coach of the Raiders, he never made the Super Bowl with them. He now has with the Bucs.

"We've got a tough team coming up, Tampa Bay," said Jerry Rice, the NFL's all-time leading receiver who already has won three rings with San Francisco. "And it's going to be a little unusual facing Gruden. But this is an opportunity of a lifetime and I am just looking forward to the challenge."

The challenge for Oakland, which scored 71 points in two playoff victories, including a 41-24 decision over Tennessee on Sunday for the AFC title, is not just to move the ball against Tampa Bay, but also find the end zone. The Bucs, who beat Philadelphia 27-10 for the NFC championship, yielded the fewest yards and the fewest points in the league.

The Raiders certainly have the weapons, from MVP Gannon, who threw for three touchdowns and ran for another against the Titans, to his bevy of receivers.

One of the best matchups next weekend will be Rice, Brown and rapidly burgeoning Jerry Porter vs. Barber, Lynch and the rest of the Bucs' superb secondary.

"We're good and I'm not afraid to say it," said Barber, whose 92-yard interception return with 3:12 iced the win in Philadelphia.

So is Oakland, of course. The Raiders even seem oblivious to their lack of discipline — 14 penalties for 127 yards didn't stop them Sunday.

"We were making a lot of dumb mistakes out there," Oakland linebacker Eric Barton said. "Fortunately, we sucked it up and stopped it. That shows the character of this team."

The Raiders, heading to their first Super Bowl in 19 years, ranked first in total offense and passing offense. The Bucs, going to their first Super Bowl, were No. 1 in total defense and pass defense. They had a league-high 31 interceptions, and defensive player of the year Brooks had four runbacks for touchdowns this season.

"We're a confident bunch and knew what we had to do to get it done," All-Pro defensive tackle Sapp said. "We didn't have to talk about it, just let the pads do the talking."

Before the pads collide at Qualcomm Stadium, both sides will be inundated with questions about Gruden. After guiding the Raiders for four seasons, he was "traded" to the Bucs, who had fired Tony Dungy last January, for four high draft picks and $8 million.

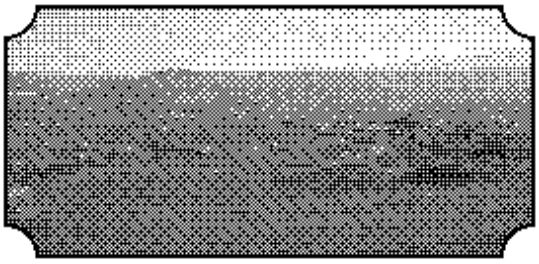
Replaced by his offensive coordinator, Bill Callahan, Gruden hardly was missed as Oakland opened its playbook further and scored 450 points this season. And he didn't really put his offensive touch on the Bucs until these playoffs, in which they have outscored the Eagles and 49ers by 58-16.

"Certainly there's some sensitivity there and some emotion to see Oakland play in the Super Bowl," Gruden admitted. "I have not talked a lot about how I got here, but I respect where I came from. I know there's some players that maybe don't feel that, but I'm proud of my experience there and I have a lot of respect for the players there and what they may have done."

Gruden knows there won't be any sympathy coming from the Silver and Black during the big game. The Raiders' trash talk already has begun.

"How ya doing, Coach?" Porter quipped. "I'll see ya later."

Added Brown, the longest-tenured Raider with 15 seasons: "We thought this could happen. For it to come to fruition, you really can't dream about it. We're going to go get Jon."

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# Heat's not enough for N.Y.

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Latrell Sprewell outscored Miami in the first quarter and New York went on to defeat the Heat 72-65 Monday as the teams matched the NBA record for fewest combined points in a first half with 57.

Sprewell scored 14 of his 24 points in the first quarter as New York took an 18-12 lead. Miami eventually went ahead by as many as eight, but the Heat managed only 11 points in the fourth quarter.

Kurt Thomas added 15 points, making two key plays in the final minute. The Knicks scored their final four points from the line in the final 22 seconds — including a pair of free throws by Allan Houston to double his point total to 4 — to help account for the final margin.

Eddie Jones scored 19 and Malik Allen added 13 for the Heat, whose 65 points was a season-low.

New York scored just nine points in the second quarter and trailed 30-27 at the half.

# Kobe Bryant's wife gives birth to couple's first child

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Lakers star Kobe Bryant missed practice, but he had a good reason — his wife gave birth to the couple's first child.

Bryant's wife, Vanessa, gave birth to a girl at 3:08 p.m. Sunday, said John Black, a team spokesman.

Natalia Diamante Bryant weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 19 1/2 inches long, Black said.

Although Bryant, 24, was out for the day, he was expected to play Monday at the Staples Center against the Clippers.

Teammate Shaquille O'Neal, already a father with another child on the way, offered some advice to Bryant.

"With kids you've got to hold them, rub their heads, stand there through all their pain," he said. "But Kobe's a tough guy, he'll be fine."

# Street violence follows Raiders victory over Titans

By The Associated Press

**OAKLAND** — Crowds celebrating the Oakland Raiders' AFC championship set a bonfire, threw bottles and rocks and broke windows along several blocks of International Boulevard.

Police made about 20 arrests after the street violence broke out following the Raiders' 41-24 victory over Tennessee in the AFC championship game Sunday night.

An auto repair shop was burned, and investigators were looking into that fire Monday. Windows were broken on some local buses, according to Alameda County sheriff's officials.

Police closed off some areas in an effort to control the violence and used rubber pellets to help disperse the crowd, which was finally broken up by 3 a.m. One hundred extra officers were called in in preparation for any post-game antics.

With the win, the Raiders advanced to the Super Bowl on Sunday in San Diego.

**DID YOU KNOW?:**
In 1975 Junko Tabei from Japan became the first woman to reach the top of Everest.

# COMICS

## The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

## Natural Selection®

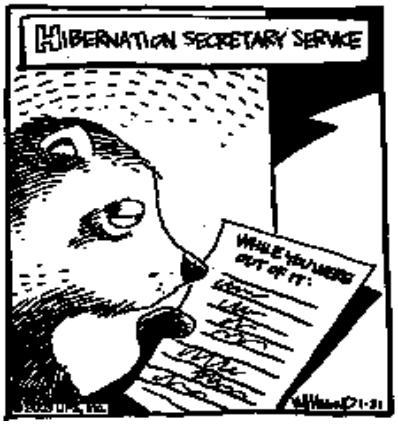
By Russ Wallace

## edge City

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN

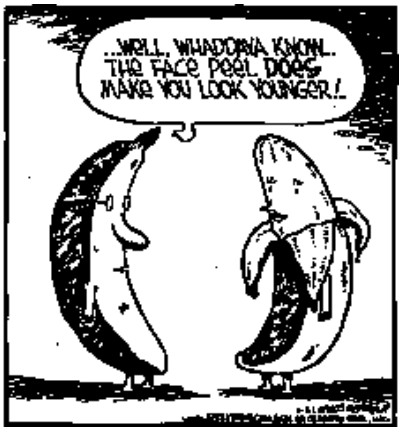
## Reality Check®

By Dave Whammond




## Speed Bump®

By Dave Coverly




## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

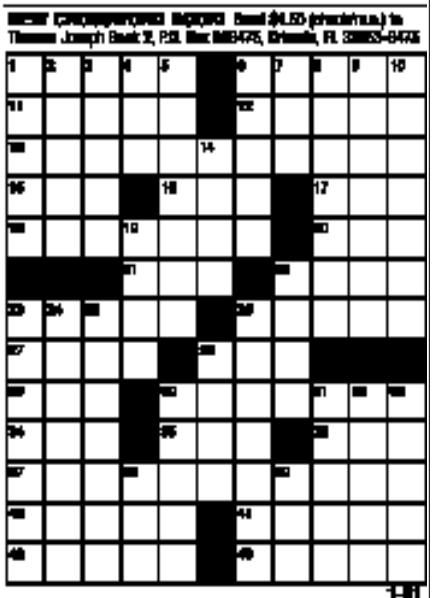
**ACROSS**

1 Car count
6 Ran
11 Surprise win
12 Pueblo material
13 Took severe measures
15 Gift feature
16 Fury
17 Greek letter
18 "Bull Durham" director Ron
20 Drill part
21 "— a boy!"
22 Cast a ballot
23 Phoebe of film
26 Grant's successor
27 Folding money
28 Apple pie baker
29 Dentist's grp.
30 Pastors' places
34 High hit
35 Bullfight call
36 Dennis Quaid film
37 Located
40 Debate
41 Dark
42 Grating
43 Trattoria order

**DOWN**

1 Tear carriers
2 First name in TV talk
3 Missouri river
4 — room
5 West Indies isle
6 Burdened
7 Unusual
8 Hoagie
9 "Stuart Little" author
10 Signifies
14 Cupid
19 Whoppers
22 Siren
23 Creosote source
24 Spain neighbor
25 Brewing needs
26 In hiding
28 Farm animal
30 Lockup
31 They're adored
32 Namely
33 Annual visitor
38 Golf goal
39 "CSI" topic

Yesterday's answer



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-820-5166! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (16+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

# NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

## He's the real Jack Ass

The former Bob Craft filed a lawsuit in November against the owners of the reckless-stunt-filled MTV program (and movie) "Jackass," claiming it has defamed him, in that five years ago, he had his own name legally changed to "Jack Ass," which he thought would call attention to his national campaign against drunk driving. Ass, who lives in Montana and filed the lawsuit there, claims that the TV show and movie have damaged his reputation ("which I have worked so hard to create," he wrote) to the tune of at least $10 million.

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

P.O. Box 1380

Santa Monica, CA 90406-1380

Phone: 310-458-7737

FAX: 310-576-9913

## RATES

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

## EXTRAS

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

## Santa Monica Daily Press

### CLASSIFIED AD INSERTION ORDER FORM

**First:** _____ **Last:** _____

**Phone:** _____ **Fax:** _____

**Address:** _____

**City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

**PRINT CLEARLY:**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 001 | Announcements | 250 | Wanted | 405 | Real Estate Loans | 630 | Yard Sales |
| 025 | Creative | 260 | Travel | 450 | Storage Space | 650 | Health and Beauty |
| 100 | Employment | 275 | Vacation Rentals | 500 | Vehicles for Sale | 655 | Fitness |
| 200 | For Sale | 300 | Apartments/Condos Rent | 575 | Massage | 675 | Wealth and Success |
| 205 | Furniture | 310 | Houses for Rent | 600 | Services | 680 | Lost and Found |
| 210 | Pets | 320 | Roomates | 605 | Computer Services | 700 | Personals |
| 225 | Boats | 350 | Commerical Lease | 610 | Attorney Services | 725 | Obituaries |
| 230 | Jewelry | 400 | Real Estate | 625 | Business Opportunities | | |

SANTA MONICA SCENE **°CALENDAR EDITION**

# TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2003

## TUESDAY

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

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

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.

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.

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

## WEDNESDAY

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

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

Question & Answer Seminar with author, speaker and minister John Morton presented by The Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness. 2101 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Admission is FREE! www.msia.org or (323)737-4055.

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

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.

Unurban Coffee House presents Poetry and Spoken Word every Wednesday evening. Hosted by Tony Perez. 8pm, 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

## MOVIE °GUIDE

**LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA**
**1441 Third St. at Broadway**
**About Schmidt** (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45. **Two Weeks Notice** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00. **The Hours** (PG-13) 11:15, 1:00, 2:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:15.

**MANN CRITERION**
**1313 Third St.**
**Adaptation (R)** 12:30, 3:45, 7:30, 10:35. **Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (R)** 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00. **Gangs of New York (R)** 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30. **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG)** 11:00am. **Main in Manhattan (PG-13)** 2:30, 7:45. **Narc (R)** 11:45, 2:25, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40. **National Security (PG-13)** 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 5:10, 7:15, 9:45, 10:25.

**AMC THEATRE SM 7**
**1310 3rd Street**
**Just Married (PG-13)** 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35. **The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13)** 1:20, 5:00, 8:45. **Catch Me If You Can (PG-13)** 1:05, 4:05, 7:10, 10:10. **Chicago (PG-13)** 1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15. **25th Hour (R)** 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10. **A Guy Thing (PG-13)** 2:15, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00. **Kangaroo Jack (PG)** 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:45.

**LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE**
**1314 Wilshire Blvd.**
**Antwone Fisher (PG-13)** 1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30. **The Pianist (R)** 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15.

**LAEMMLE MONICA**
**1332 2nd St.**
**City of God (R)** 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. **Far From Heaven (PG-13)** 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55. **Frida (R)** 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05. **The Quiet American (R)** 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.

**AERO THEATER**
**1328 Montana Ave.**
**My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG)** 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor.

# BACK PAGE

## THE REAL WORLD

### Bible school fights 666 phone number

By The Associated Press

**VANCLEVE, Ky.** — A small Appalachian Bible college is fighting to change its telephone number because the 666 prefix is disturbing to Christians who recognize it as the biblical mark of the beast.

"People say, 'You're a Bible college and you have 666 in your phone number?'" said Carlene Light, an office worker at Kentucky Mountain Bible College. "It's the connotation. No one wants to be part of the mark of the beast."

The conservative, non-denominational Christian college on a hillside in eastern Kentucky has been trying for months to persuade a telephone company to change the number.

Rob Roy MacGregor, the college's vice president for business affairs, said staff and students want the number changed to a second prefix, 693, that recently was added after all the 666 numbers were taken.

In the biblical book of Revelation, "666" is stamped by Satan into the foreheads or hands of those marked for eternal damnation during the last days.

MacGregor said he asked Access Point, a North Carolina-based telephone company that serves the college, to change the number about six months ago.

Kaye Davis, general counsel for the company, said Friday the phone company intends to change the number as soon as possible.

"I certainly understand, being a Bible college, that the number 666 would cause some questions," she said.

### Gain altitude and get naked

By The Associated Press

**MIAMI** — Those who like to bare it all on the beach can get a head start stripping in the air.

A travel agency that specializes in clothing-optional vacations has chartered a 172-seat Boeing 727 for a flight from Miami to Cancun in May. Once the plane reaches its cruising altitude, passengers will be invited to disrobe.

Castaways Travel of Spring, Texas, is touting the trip as the world's first flight for nude passengers. The crew will be clad and the temperature inside the plane's cabin will be regulated to accommodate the nudists, Castaways co-owner Jim Bailey said.

"People are looking for stress relief," Bailey said. "In a nudist environment, everyone is the same."

Vacationers will stay at a nudist resort for a week. Rooms start at $910 weekly, plus $499 for the flight, according to the company's Web site.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said there are no regulations specifically banning nudity aboard an aircraft. "It's not a safety issue," she said.

Some safety issues are being addressed, however — no hot drinks or hot food will be served to nude passengers. And all nude travelers will be asked to keep a towel between themselves and the plane seat.

### Good deeds will get cops goatees

By The Associated Press

**PALMER, Mass.** — Police officers who want more than mustaches have struck a deal with their boss: goatees for good deeds.

Thirteen officers in this western Massachusetts town began grooming whiskers on their chins last week after making an unusual agreement with Chief Robert P. Frydryk. They had previously been permitted only to grow hair on their upper lips.

Officers who raise at least $50 by April 1 for the Jimmy Fund, which helps children fight cancer, can keep their goatees. Those who do not must shave their chins clean.

A few weeks ago, Officer Theodore Bonnayer, president of the local officers union, approached Frydryk about the issue and the two came up with "A Hair-raising (Hair-razing?) Event for the Jimmy Fund."

Frydryk said the contest will boost department morale, involve the community, and raise money to fight cancer. The chief himself plans to compete himself.

State Ethics Commission guidelines prohibit officers from collecting donations while on duty, but they may hand out donation forms. The fund is part of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

### Technique for the perfect snowman

By The Associated Press

**BLUEFIELD, W.Va.** — Building a snowman is usually carefree child's play, but for the engineering department at Bluefield State College, it's an exact science.

After decades of research and development, members of the department have worked out 10 surefire steps for creating the perfect snowman.

It begins with baseline conditions — at least 2 inches of wet snow covering a large flat surface preferably a front yard.

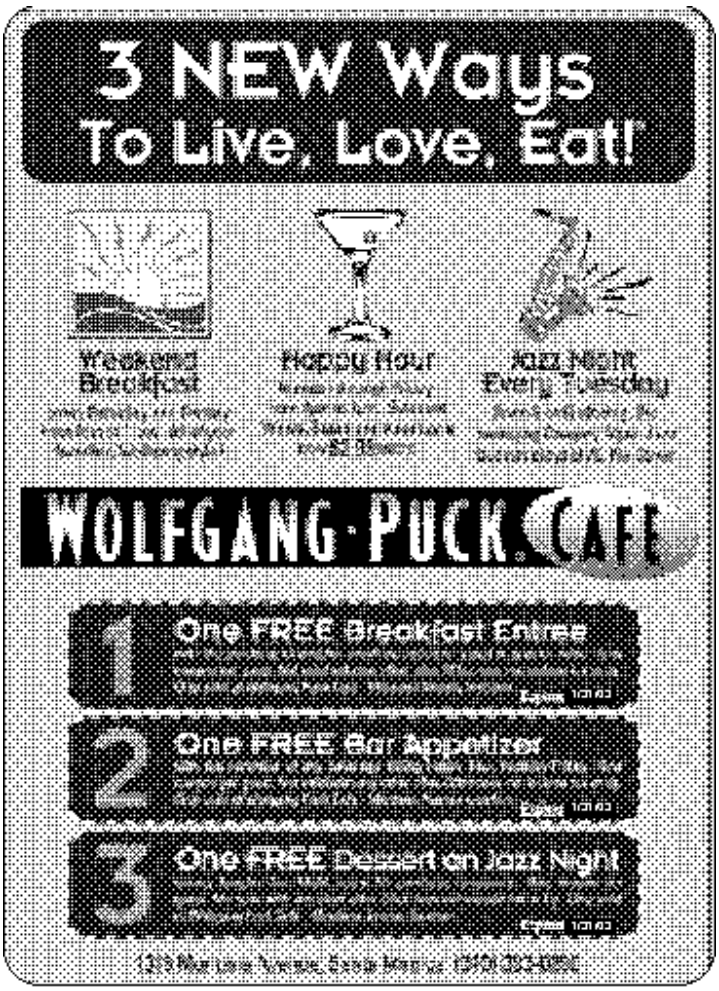
Construction should start at the base by rolling a ball approximately 3 feet in diameter, said Josh Hamilton, a senior at BSC. Another ball 2 feet in diameter must be centered on top of the first.

For the head, roll a ball 1 foot in diameter and place it on top. Two sticks measuring about 2 1/2-feet long must be inserted halfway up either side of the center ball.

The next, and very important, step is to give the snowman an identity.

Five rocks must be arranged on the top snowball in a semicircle or arc to create a smile. Place two slightly larger rocks above the smile to form eyes.

A fresh carrot is mandatory, Hamilton said. It should be placed, stem first, just above the smile and below the eyes to form a nose. Old gloves, a hat and a scarf can add an extra bit of dash.


RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society

TEAM CAPTAIN'S WANTED

2nd Annual Santa Monica Relay For Life
Santa Monica College, Corsair Field
July 26 and 27, 2003

The Team Captain is a leader who forms a team, works with the Relay Committee, and is the central organizing person for their team and for the Relay event itself.
We need team captains to make this relay work!!!!

Team Captains responsibilities:

- Organize a team of 18-20 people and distribute team member's packets
- 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
(310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246
tracey.mayer@cancer.org