

FREE

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Schools chief to revamp district's priorities

Teacher, student development at the heart of superintendent's new plan for the district.

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to the Daily Press

Teachers won't just work in the classroom but will return as students under a new plan proposed by Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Superintendent John Deasy.

Deasy's vision for the district centers on continuous professional development both through the central administration office and through the individual school.

"Drive-by professional development doesn't have staying power," said Deasy of the school district's current form of teacher training. "Somebody comes by, makes a presentation and then moves on. What we need to do is trust our teachers to know what works and doesn't work

"What we need to do is trust our teachers to know what works and doesn't work in their classroom."

— **JOHN DEASY**
Santa Monica-Malibu superintendent

in their classroom and facilitate a continuous professional development over the course of their career."

Upon Deasy's arrival six months ago as superintendent, he proclaimed that he would "leave no child behind" and "equalize student performance" throughout the dis-

trict by implementing a system focused on results and a continuous learning process.

To achieve that, the school district will implement a learning survey, currently used in 22 other states. The extensive survey is given to students, teachers and parents to make sure classroom practices are being used by children at home too.

"This survey is not going to access the quality of our instruction," Deasy said, "but it will provide our facility with an enormous amount of information and a comprehensive look at how their teaching practices are following through."

A team of 12 coordinators will be used to develop individual learning plans for each student and serve as mediators between teachers, students and parents, as well as provide college and career guidance. By creating this team, Deasy expects a 40 percent drop in current counselor's case loads.

See PLAN, page 3

Blocking the way



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Concrete blocks are scooped up by a bulldozer at the corner of Fourth Street and Broadway as city crews continue to tear up streets in the downtown core for the transit mall project. Traffic remains congested at intersections and business owners along the construction route continue to remind people that they are open for business.

Controversial developments on agenda

City council to tackle Civic Center, Virginia Park tonight

By Daily Press staff

Two controversial development projects that have been on the drawing board for years are slated to be reviewed by the Santa Monica City Council tonight.

The Civic Center Plan and the Virginia Park Expansion are both likely to be debated by the council for months because of the wide-ranging changes they will bring once implemented for both the city and nearby residents.

The design scheme of the \$120 million Civic Center Plan is centered around 11 acres the city purchased from the RAND Corporation in 2000 for \$53 million. The city wants to completely overhaul the civic center area so it will better connect to downtown Santa Monica.

Not only will the design of the plan around City Hall on Main Street be heavily scrutinized, but many people want less low-income housing and more playing fields.

The civic center area would have a town square, a garden walk with botanical and sculpture gardens, open space and bicycle

See COUNCIL, page 3

State gets on top of prostitution safety in New South Wales

By The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — The state government wants to make prostitutes' lives a little easier.

New South Wales workplace safety watchdog on Monday released guidelines aimed at providing a better working environment for prostitutes in Australia's most populous state.

The potential pitfalls include injuries caused by dim lighting in brothels and massage parlors, tripping in showers and repetitive movement problems, the government agency said.

The "Getting on Top of Health and Safety" guidelines cover potential hazards to be checked in a brothel such as loose bed frames,

storage of condoms and checking cleanliness of spas.

It also warns of concerns about back injury from unsuitable beds and wrist injury from constant massage.

While the industry has traditionally focused on improving sexual health and safer sex practices, WorkCover New South Wales said sex workers face many other work-related risks.

WorkCover general manager Kate McKenzie said the guidelines cover brothels, massage parlors, escort agencies and various other sex venues.

Prostitution has been decriminalized in New South Wales and most brothels are officially licensed by state authorities.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Keep smiling despite present snafus. Communication becomes chaotic at best. Others might not be as sure about the facts as they would like you to think. Keep asking questions until the responses no longer sound like gibberish. Stay on top of work, if possible. Tonight: Pay bills.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others need your smile and positive attitude, as chaos seems to erupt in the workplace or when dealing with someone who is in charge. Your positive attitude carries you far in your dealings. Sort out the facts with care. Verify all information, no matter how good the source is. Tonight: Laugh and let go of worry.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Step back. Don't try to make sense of the present confusion. Listen, as some facts contain nuggets of truth, but as a total they don't work. You need to verify all information. You could be out of sorts. Answer e-mail. Surf the Internet during a break. Tonight: Relax to music.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Follow your friends and certainly don't avoid groups. A partner might be confused about financial information. Rather than get uptight, don't worry. Loosen up and deal with others. Brainstorm and think through new ideas. Avoid decisions right now. Tonight: Where the gang is.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others do a great job of confusing what already is chaotic. Get through a problem and deal with someone head on. Confirm all agreements, especially if it involves your work or well-being. Even better, postpone agreements until tomorrow. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Aim for a long-term vision, if possible. Disengage if you can. The key to this particular maze comes through detachment. Gain a perspective by seeking out experts. If tired or out of sorts, acknowledge that, as negative energy impacts your decisions. Tonight: Enjoy a movie.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Laugh all you want. In fact, you might as well joke about what is going on, because someone might have difficulty seeing the situation clearly. You could talk until you're blue in the face. Expressing a vision could be difficult. Carefully review a situation that involves a partner. Tonight: Make light of a difficult situation.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You can't win for losing! Defer to someone and step back as much as possible. Your ability to gain a perspective changes considerably. Review a matter that is close to your heart. You might opt not to discuss it with someone just yet. Wait until you feel better. Tonight: Just say "yes."



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Approach work step by step, even if someone is in a tizzy. You find that you need to be everyone's anchor. Information you receive could be incomplete. Ask more questions when seeking out key facts. Laugh at frustration, because you can't do anything about it. Tonight: Go for a jog or a brisk walk.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your creativity peaks. You could easily bark up the wrong tree if seeking good advice or trying to make solid choices. Lighten up and loosen up about what is going on around you. Your wiry humor helps you make light of the situation. Tonight: Opt for fun!



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Laughter goes far in taking away the immediate pressure. Obviously someone doesn't see a situation the same way as you do. Lighten up about a family member who sometimes causes a lot of problems. You're not changing this person. Stay clear. Tonight: Relax at home.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You muddle up even the most basic concepts, as your mind really isn't present. Be smart. Head out the door and discuss a problem that weighs on your mind. Once you clear the air, you'll be able to assume responsibility. Don't let upset brew. Tonight: Do errands on the way home.



WEATHER

Today ...	Mostly sunny	High—57°F	Low—40°F
Tomorrow ...	Mostly sunny	High—58°F	Low—38°F
Thursday ...	Mostly sunny	High—66°F	Low—42°F



QUOTE of the DAY

"Never face facts; if you do you'll never get up in the morning."

— Marlo Thomas

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LOCAL

Teacher training focus of superintendent's plan for improving district

PLAN, from page 1

"The work of implementing this for September is no small task, but I don't want another parent asking me, 'When will something be done to improve student performance?'" Deasy said. "If I made an error in my thinking it's that I waited too long in implementing this plan."

"This model is about continuous learning and being relentless about student achievement."

Parents and school board members applauded Deasy's recommendations, which they believe will revitalize achievement scores throughout the school district.

"I think for the first time when we say we will offer the best for our kids it will happen," said School Board Vice-President Maria Leon-Vazquez.

Deasy warned that the benefits of his plan would not be seen in months or even a year, but many years down the road.

"It will be impossible to see the successes of these changes immediately," he said.

Deasy also wants to reorganize the district's various entities.

All day-to-day operations of the school district will be moved to the first floor of the administration's office building at the corner of 16th Street and Broadway and all policy-centered positions will be aligned along the second floor corridors.

The move is intended to remove the hustle and bustle of the school district's business and personnel offices from dis-

turbing the thought process of policy administrators.

The new system, slated to be in place by next school year, will divide the two Assistant Superintendents into areas of educational and instructional services and student and family support services.

In addition to restructuring the central office, Deasy set forth an ambitious reorganization of Santa Monica High School. He wants to create one CEO, or Chief Educational Officer, who would oversee three assistant principals. The current system relies on two co-principals and four assistant principals.

Two deans also would be added to free assistant principals from the arduous task of discipline and allow them to concentrate on policy implementation.

"These recommendations are not about administrators or teachers not working hard enough," said Deasy at last week's school board meeting. "I won't even consider that [criticism] because it is simply not true. This is entirely about creating a framework that facilitates and delivers instruction to students."

The proposed plan would require several new positions, which are not currently budgeted.

"The net effect on the central office would be an increase in positions, especially in the development of math and science curriculum, that currently do not exist and are not currently budgeted," Deasy said. "It will be my responsibility then to find the necessary funds to fill these positions."

Face lift



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Laborers begin work on a building's facade at 424 Wilshire Boulevard, which will soon become the home of a new Japanese restaurant called Musha. The restaurant is scheduled to open this spring.

Expansions could draw ire

COUNCIL, from page 1

paths, as well as a childhood development facility and revamped City Hall, according to the recommendations of a "working group," which created the current proposal.

The estimated 300 housing units may include family townhouses, flats and live-work units for artists. The working group suggested that 160 of the units be for low-income households.

However, the city's housing commission suggested in December that more affordable housing should be built in order to create a "viable, mixed-income community" in the area. The commission also suggested more live-work space for artists be added in a smaller building on the north side of Olympic Drive between Ocean Avenue and Second Street.

The Santa Monica Planning Commission okayed the plan, though its members want the council

to consider using some space for playing fields for organized sports.

The project would take up to 10 years to complete and would be paid for through the capital improvement plan, redevelopment agency tax increment funds, general obligation bonds and regional, state and federal funding sources. Affordable housing would be supported by local, state and federal housing funds.

The Virginia Avenue Park expansion, approved by the city planning commission last month, would include more parking, new basketball courts, field areas, a wading pool with restrooms, a changing area and storage space, as well as the renovation of two commercial buildings for office space.

Virginia Park is located between Virginia Avenue on the north, Pico Boulevard on the south and 21st Street and 23rd Street on the west and east.

The park has been subject of debate since the city started purchasing parcels next to the site in the mid-1980s. Some residents objected to proposals they thought would bring too much noise and traffic to the area.

City staff said the project is underfunded by \$4.3 million, based on the cost estimates so far. They said they are working with the design team to reduce the funding gap.

The council meets at City Hall, 1685 Main Street, at 6:45 p.m. The meeting is broadcast live on cable channel 16.

No deal yet in SAG, agent talks

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An agreement between actors and agents that was set to expire Sunday night will remain in place as talks continue to reach a new deal, officials with the Screen Actors Guild and the Association of Talent Agents said Monday.

"The nutshell is they're still talking and that the contract that was established, that has been in existence since October 20, 2000, is continuing," said Ilyanne Kichaven, associate director of communications for SAG.

A statement posted on SAG's Web site also announced the extension of the so-called master franchise agreement, and Kichaven declined to comment beyond it.

ATA officials released a statement saying they have agreed to recommend to their members and members of the National Association of Talent Representatives that they continue to comply with the lapsed agreement.

The master franchise agreement, which contains operating rules for agents representing SAG actors, actually dates back 63 years. It expired in October 2000 and entered a 15-month termination phase, which has prevented agencies from making deals to sell their services or buy producers and distributors.

The current agreement includes strict conflict-of-interest provisions to assure agents don't become producers and studios don't end up owning the agencies they negotiate with for the services of an actor or director.

Fire department offers disaster training

By Daily Press staff

Can you save yourself?

Even if you think you might, a one-day course offered by the Santa Monica Fire Department, will make sure citizens have the skills to save themselves, their loved ones, neighbors, or co-workers in the event of an emergency.

Because emergency preparedness is such an impor-

tant issue in the event of a disaster, the fire department-sponsored course is free. The training will be offered on Feb. 16, and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The course includes hands-on training in light search and rescue techniques, shutting off utility connections, rescuer safety, and disaster first aid. Participants also will practice putting out fires with extinguishers. The training is open to all adults who live or work in the city of Santa Monica. To enroll in the program, call (310) 458-2221.

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STATE

U.S. Marine killed in crash 'wasn't supposed to be there'

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Staff Sgt. Dwight Morgan wasn't supposed to be there.

The Marine who died Saturday in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan had been on a ship earlier this month that would have taken him home from the war to his pregnant wife and 4-year-old son in San Diego.

But as he was set to leave, someone called his name.

"At the last minute, they said 'Morgan! Get off the boat! We don't have a replacement for you,'" his stepfather, Don Willett, said Monday.

So the 24-year-old helicopter mechanic who grew up amid the redwoods of rural Northern California went back to doing the job he loved in the Marine Corps.

And that's where he was Saturday night, on board a Super Stallion helicopter that crashed in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Morgan, of Willits, and Staff Sgt. Walter "Trae" Cohee, 26, of Mardela Springs, Md., were killed and five others were injured. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the cause of the crash appeared to be mechanical failure.

The remains of the two Marines arrived Monday at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany.

All but one of the seven Marines on board were members of the Flying Tigers, a helicopter squadron based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

The San Diego base is still mourning the loss of seven comrades killed earlier this month in a plane crash in Pakistan — the largest single loss of life for American troops in the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

"What we feel is just a fraction of what the families are feeling now," said

Maj. T.V. Johnson, a base spokesman.

To the family, Morgan was a victim of circumstance.

"He wasn't supposed to be there," Willett said. "I mean it was just a matter of a bunch of wrong turns."

One of those turns had him on his way back from an overseas deployment on Sept. 11. He stayed home long enough to conceive another child with his wife, Teresa. The couple said goodbye when Morgan shipped out again around Nov. 1.

Today, Teresa Morgan, four months pregnant, is holding up "about as well as a leaky basket," Willett said. Alex, Morgan's 4-year-old son, doesn't fully understand what happened.

Chet Morgan, 18, had planned to follow his elder brother into the Marines or the Army, but his mother has now ended that plan.

Dwight Morgan was one of those rare young men who know exactly what he wanted and did it. Two weeks after graduating from high school, he married Teresa, his high school sweetheart, and enlisted in the Marines.

"That was his goal," said Keller McDonald, who was principal at Willits High School when Morgan graduated in 1995.

It was a decision welcomed by his mother, Mary Trimmer.

Morgan was a handful growing up. He ran with a tough crowd, got into fist fights and broke curfew.

"Not a bad boy, just all boy," she liked to say.

"He could have gone either way, but he went the way of the discipline and took right to it," Willett said.

At the time of the crash, Morgan was in line for a promotion to staff sergeant, which will now be awarded posthumously.



Debbie White/Associated Press

Marine Cpl. David J. Lynne, 23, of Charlotte, N.C., right, is shown with his cousin Will Walton at Miramar Air Station near San Diego in this March 25, 2000, family photo. Lynne was among five Marines injured in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan Sunday. Two others were killed.



Middle East melee



Associated Press
Masked Palestinians come to the aid of Palestinian police officer Hussein Zubaidy as he falls on the ground after being shot in clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Monday. Zubaidy died of his wounds.

Testimony sought from fired auditor in Enron case

BY PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Congressional investigators in the Enron probe pressed Monday for public testimony by a fired auditor who says the Arthur Andersen accounting firm shares the blame for Enron's collapse.

Dismissed over the destruction of thousands of Enron-related documents, David Duncan told investigators that Andersen had ample information when it evaluated the controversial partnership arrangements at Enron that were a big factor in its bankruptcy. Enron kept hundreds of millions of dollars in debt off the balance sheet for several years.

Duncan "did not sit there and say 'Enron hid all this information from us and therefore we couldn't count right,'" said Rep. Jim Greenwood, R-Pa., who heads a House panel investigating the collapse. "It was more of ... 'we made mistakes.'"

Rather than giving a "mea culpa," Duncan gave "a wea culpa; he did not point the finger at Enron," Greenwood said Monday, characterizing the comments the fired auditor made last week to congressional investigators.

Duncan's lawyers sought to delay his public testimony, scheduled for Thursday before the House Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, arguing that Duncan needs more time to prepare.

But Greenwood, who chairs the subcommittee, rejected the request, saying Duncan "doesn't really need to recall every detail of what he did for Enron. We're focused on the destruction of documents. We'll subpoena him if we have to."

Andersen chief executive Joseph "Berardino is saying that the company found fault with Duncan's destruction of documents. He (Duncan) needs to defend himself," said Greenwood.

If Duncan testifies, the hearing will pit him against Andersen's legal department and company management in Chicago.

Meanwhile, a lawyer for Kenneth L. Lay, Enron's chairman and chief executive, said Lay disposed of millions of dollars in Enron stock before the company's collapse last year because he needed to raise cash to repay loans, not because of concerns about the health of his company.

Attorney Earl J. Silbert said Lay had put up shares of his Enron stock as collateral for other investments. On at least 15 occasions between February and October last year, Lay returned shares to the company to repay \$4 million he had received through a credit line.

However, Silbert also said that Lay held onto some stock, detailing one transaction in which Lay exercised options to purchase 68,000 shares of Enron stock on Aug. 21.

"He continues to hold that stock today," Silbert said.

King day goes on under the shadow of terrorism

BY MEGAN SCOTT
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Under the shadow of America's war on terrorism, thousands gathered across the country Monday to pay tribute to the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his message of unity and equality.

In Atlanta, a standing-room-only crowd of about 2,000 packed the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the civil rights leader once preached. Assassinated in 1968 at age 39, King would have turned 73 last Tuesday.

"I can't help but think how Dr. King would be pleased at how we've come together since Sept. 11," said Georgia Sen. Max Cleland.

First Lady Laura Bush, who also attended the service, called King "a man committed to peace and a man committed to change."

"American history is unimaginable without him," Mrs. Bush said. "He stood for truth, he did the will of God and made America a more just nation."

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, asked people to use the holiday as a day of service, as did her son Martin Luther King III in Detroit.

"We don't see it as a day off," he said. "We see it as a day on which people can be involved in community service."

In Boston, King's eldest daughter, Yolanda, addressed 1,500 people at the city's largest annual MLK Memorial Breakfast. She said Sept. 11 erased racial differences — for now.

"Skin color was covered by the ash of burning towers," King said. "Perhaps the best response to this tragedy is to not go back to normal."

Schoolchildren, public officials and religious leaders spent the day volunteering in communities around Pennsylvania.

In Philadelphia, children from Jewish and Muslim schools worked at The Greater Philadelphia Food Bank to package food for needy families.

"It shows how much we can do to help people when we put our minds to it," said Sophia Bernstein, 12, a sev-

enth grader at Perelman Jewish Middle School.

"Everyone was touched by what happened Sept. 11 and because we're Muslims, some people in this country thought we were happy about it," said Hend Salah, 10, a fifth-grader at Al-Aqsa. "If kids are brought up right and brought up good, they won't believe those things."

Sept. 11 left 42-year-old Joel Bourgeois suspicious, scared and longing to be around other blacks. Bourgeois, who hasn't attended Los Angeles' King Day parade for years, was among thousands of people who showed up at the event Monday.

Bourgeois believes the war on terrorism has taken a toll on King's nonviolent vision.

"I don't think Dr. King's dream may ever come alive soon," she said.

Two of Texas' largest minority organizations said Monday they were joining forces to fight racial inequality.

The Texas League of United Latin American Citizens and the Texas NAACP made the announcement on the Capitol steps in Austin before a crowd of thousands that had gathered for annual King Day activities.

"In the past, we have fought over the same crumbs," said Gary Bledsoe, Texas president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Our problems are the same and we decided that no longer will there be division."

The groups plan to use power in numbers — the NAACP has 19,000 members, and LULAC 4,000 — to work on issues such as racial profiling, education and economic development.

More than 50,000 people attended the King Day march in San Antonio, Texas, one of the largest in the nation. T-shirts and hats bearing King's image were common in the crowd, as were American flags.

In St. Paul, Minn., former Vice President Walter Mondale said King would demand that America respect civil rights in its battle against terrorism.

"That's the only way to fight it," Mondale said. "I'm sure if King were around, he would say that his struggle is designed to help all Americans be a part of the fullness



Ric Feld/Associated Press

First lady Laura Bush, left, speaks Monday during the 34th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Service at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta as Coretta Scott King, widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., listens.

of American life."

Members of the Democratic-controlled Colorado Senate were among the politicians in Denver's 17th annual King parade and march. Senators had the day off for the first time since Colorado recognized the holiday in 1984.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives continued working.

In Raleigh, N.C., about 700 people marched about a mile in the rain to the antebellum former state Capitol for speeches recalling King's life and work.

Bloomberg also warmly greeted David Dinkins, the only black to be elected the city's mayor, during a City Hall ceremony. New York's senators, Charles Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton, also attended.

Clinton said it's important to recall King's teachings, especially as the city works to rebuild its hope and landscape since the terror attacks.

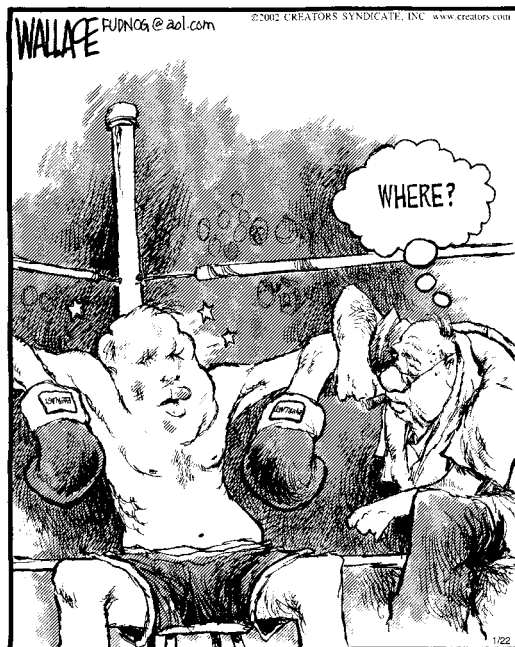
"In the face of despair, he preached hope," she said.

COMICS

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Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



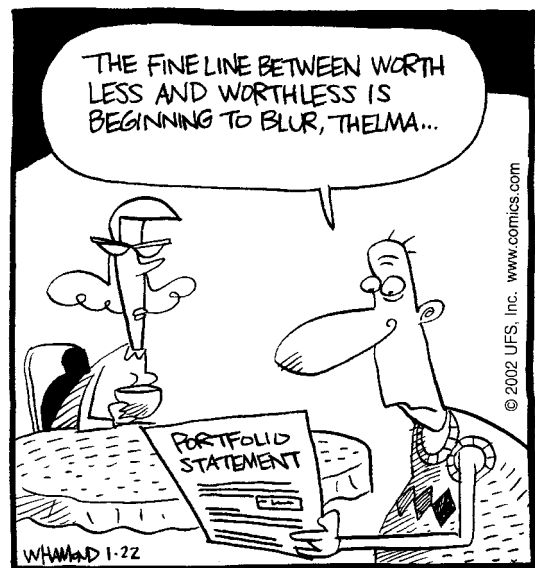
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- 43 Pal of Fido and Spot
- 44 Helper: Abbr.
- 45 Layers

DOWN

- 1 Reduced
- 2 Thrill
- 3 Puccini opera
- 4 Hill insect
- 5 Shoe material
- 6 Family member, familiarly
- 7 Garden evictee
- 8 Wood of Hollywood
- 9 California city
- 12 Buffy, for one
- 17 Wall climber
- 20 Screen vamp Bara
- 21 Jacket part
- 24 Burning crimes
- 25 California tree
- 26 Impulse senders
- 27 Shipping center
- 29 Dam-building org.
- 31 Gain by force
- 32 Depart
- 33 Old anesthetic
- 34 Century components
- 39 Greek letters
- 41 Miss Piggy, to herself

D	R	O	P	Y	A	M	S
M	E	A	R	A	E	N	A
A	C	R	E	S	A	G	R
T	R	E	S	S	E	S	I
C	E	L	I	Q	T	E	S
H	E	Y	Y	O	U	V	A
A	N	I	S	E			
S	E	L	L	N	E	S	T
T	R	I	E	D	O	N	H
A	R	M	E	X	T	R	E
B	A	B	E	L	F	I	B
S	T	E	A	L	O	P	E
A	R	T	S	R	E	S	T

Saturday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

1-21

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Woman acquitted for being 'too drunk' at her arrest

A judge acquitted Yvonne Lancaster of drunk-driving charges in October, even though she had been found passed out in her car in Warrington, England, with an empty vodka bottle at her feet, with a blood-alcohol reading four times the legal limit. Because she was barely conscious and had to be propped up at the station for her breath test, the police declined to read her her rights (because she appeared not to understand anything being said to her), and that failure, the judge said, invalidated the arrest.

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BACK PAGE

Las Vegas bank heists rise for fourth straight year

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The number of bank heists in the Las Vegas area increased for the fourth straight year in 2001, FBI statistics show.

Last year, a record 181 banks were robbed in the metropolitan area, up from 2000's then-record 161 bank robberies, according to the FBI.

And there's no signs of a slowdown — 13 banks were robbed in the first 15 days of this year, the Las Vegas Sun reported on Monday.

Nationally, the number of bank robberies decreased from 1996, when 8,046 heists were reported, to 1999, when there were only 6,599. That trend ended in 2000, when 7,127 robberies were reported in the United States and U.S. territories, according to FBI reports.

National bank robbery totals for 2001 were not available.

The rise in population in the Las Vegas valley likely contributed to the increase in bank robberies, said Supervisory Special Agent Tracy Reinhold, head of the violent crime squad for the FBI's Las Vegas office.

One serial robber can create a rise in the number of bank heists. Last year, one man was accused of robbing 32 banks in Las Vegas, Southern California and Utah, Reinhold said. The man was later caught and charged.

"We target the serial robbers, because they are likely to be the most violent," he said. "The reality is that robbers hit one place and then move on to another area."

Most of the Las Vegas area's robberies included the use of a gun or the threat of a gun.

"It's a very violent crime and the folks who are (in the bank) really are innocent victims," Reinhold said.

"If a robber says he has a weapon, it's not really for the tellers to decide if there is one or not."

No one in Las Vegas was killed during a bank robbery last year, but several tellers and customers were roughed up during robberies, including a few occasions when someone was pistol-whipped, Reinhold said.

Despite deterrents, John Hall, a spokesman for the American Bankers Association based in Washington, D.C., said banking officials know attempts will be made to make off with the cash.

"As long as robbers mistakenly feel that they can get away with robbing a bank, we will continue to have robberies and they will also continue to get caught," he said.

About 50 percent of the Las Vegas-area robberies were solved, which he said was good for an area with 1.4 million people, Reinhold said.

Circus clothes are now part of in-vogue fashion

BY SUZY PATTERSON

AP Fashion Writer

PARIS — Christian Dior haute couture shows are now circus spectacles, featuring costumes, not clothes. The spring show by designer John Galliano on Monday had little do with exhibiting wearable fashions, and was all about creating a spectacle.

Held under a tent at a racetrack near Paris, the show led off with shogun-style Japanese warrior outfits and kabuki theater inspirations. Nearly bare drummers pounded booming beats on gongs and drums.

It was sheer fantasyland à la Galliano when models came out with mountainous coifs of brightly colored fur, multi-

colored suede jackets with huge puffy sleeves, colorful tights and fur-topped boots. Getups for summer?

The workmanship was amazing, though the finished product was best suited for a Japanese festival or costume party. Indeed, faces were painted or plastered with elaborate mask-like gold jewelry that covered eyes, chins, mouths.

At one moment, a horned creature came out in an Oriental mask and a flopping elaborate skirt, followed by drummers.

Other outfits offered a Russian hussar look with gold epaulettes, ballerinas in fur-edged and puffy costumes, twirling ribbons.

As a grand finale, the cast trotted out

again to the drumbeat and a shower of shiny red confetti.

To take his bow, Galliano opted for a bare chest and sky-blue gold-embroidered matador pants.

Emanuel Ungaro is more serious about making clothes women want to wear. His show at the former Jeu de Paume at the Tuileries gardens was a glorious, glamorous trip to exotic places — with sarongs or kimono blouses and beaded, fringed dresses à la Charleston.

At 68, Ungaro still loves his haute couture work. He has always put women in tailored jackets with dressy evening outfits and frills. He thrills his fans with dressy ideas, both in ready-to-wear — now done by his top assistant Giambattista

Valli — and real couture.

His show for spring featured gorgeous, dressy clothes that looked great on models like Naomi Campbell and Alec Wek, whose navy draped chiffon gown was a classic of elegance.

But all the models looked great in this exotic show based on silky kimono styles from Japan, African-inspired evening wear in elaborate gilded tulle, with bone, coral and turquoise and mother of pearl embroidery.

Bold silk floral print tunics and jackets topped three-quarter pants or skirts over slimmer pants and stiletto-heeled shoes. And beautifully draped sarongs almost stole the show. Especially in deep pink-silvery iridescent fabrics.

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