

FREE

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Cops arrest two after east side shooting



Santa Monica Police officers monitor the perimeter of the crime scene at 17th Street and Delaware Avenue, where a shooting took place early Friday morning.

Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Traffic violation leads to chase and charges of attempted murder

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Two suspects were arrested for attempted murder of a police officer Friday after an early morning chase through a troubled eastside Santa Monica neighborhood ended in gunfire.

The neighborhood, bordering Michigan Avenue and Delaware Avenue, between 17th Street and 20th Street, was in "lockdown" mode shortly before midnight after police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. The driver evaded police by speeding away, according to authorities. The suspect then stopped and abandoned the vehicle in the 2000 block of 20th Street and fled on foot through a backyard and jumped a fence, running westbound.

At about 12:05 a.m., officers stationed at 18th Street and Delaware reported they had been fired upon. A bullet hit a police car, though no officers were injured. A short time later, officers arrested the owner of the car, who was

found in the vicinity of 16th Street and Michigan Avenue, according to police. A second suspect was also arrested. Neither person was identified, though police said one is a male adult and the other is a male juvenile.

The scene attracted helicopters from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles Police Department, as well as officers from the Santa Monica, Beverly Hills and Culver City police departments.

Officers discovered shell casings in the 1700 block of Delaware and recovered a gun along the chase route.

Residents who live within a block of the incident reported hearing multiple gunshots.

"It sounds like Beirut around here," said a resident, adding when she saw a police officer with his gun drawn next to her house, it didn't alarm her.

"I don't mind him stand-
See SHOOTING, page 3

Hats OK at area schools as ban is lifted

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to the Daily Press

Out of the lockers and onto their heads, students are once again allowed to wear hats during school.

Administrators amended the school district's policy earlier this week to reflect a new state law that allows children seeking to protect themselves from harmful ultra violet rays from the sun to wear "protective gear," such as hats.

Hats were banned from California schools almost a decade ago because certain colors and teams were used by high school gangs for identification purposes and to send signals to each other. But with more scientific research correlating the sun ray's with skin cancer, legislators felt more damage was coming from above students rather than from amongst them.

"Really, I thought we were only allowed to wear hats if it was cold outside or if it was raining. I haven't heard of any of these other rules."

— CAMILLE THORSEN
Santa Monica High sophomore

Many of southern California's schools have open campuses, which means that hallways and courtyards — through which students travel to get to their classrooms

— are subject to the sun.

However, the new hat policy is being interpreted differently in each facility throughout the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. With each school's administration coming up with its own version of the policy, many students are left wondering what's the real rule.

At Santa Monica High School, for example, the proposed policy is to allow students to wear hats only if they have the school's colors of purple and gold or if they have the school's logo on it.

However, the message hasn't trickled down to the student body yet.

"Really, I thought we were only allowed to wear hats if it was cold outside or if it was raining. I haven't heard of any of these other rules," said Camille Thorsen, a

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Early talks set a mellow tone until you decide you must do something. Your action needs to follow your authentic feelings rather than an immediate knee-jerk reaction. Listen to yourself in a discussion. Your family remains your highest priority. Tonight: Invite others over.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your words ring the right note, though by someone's reaction you could doubt it. Could this person just be hot tempered? Easy works. Understand someone's gripes. Speak to others. An older friend or relative's suggestions help. Tonight: Out and about.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your finances rapidly become a major priority. You find ways to enhance your immediate status. You have a choice: save or spend. Ultimately, only you can decide your future actions. You will be convinced your decision is right. Tonight: Do something a bit out of the ordinary.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Someone makes a direct request. Listen to this person, as he or she asks for something very important to him or her. Refuse to be intimidated by a fiery individual close to you. Go out and make happen what you want. Someone will respond. Tonight: Enjoy being top dog.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Take your time as someone presents his or her ideas. A change in scenery might disappoint you, but ultimately flexing draws much happier results. If someone wants to hide out with you, go along. Fun happens when you relax. Someone shares more. Tonight: Continue playing it low-key.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Friends drive a hard bargain, but they mean well. Others want your company and are willing to sabotage your present set of plans. Clean up a project. An associate or loved one balks at your flex. Don't worry so much about this person. He or she will join in on his or her own time. Tonight: Where the gang is.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Others make demands, and you respond. You might be highly sensitive, as if you're in a work situation. You derive a lot of pleasure from a responsibility. A child or loved one seeks you out. Grab an opportunity while you can. Tonight: Where the action is.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Take off. Opt for different surroundings. You naturally have a good time wherever you are, enjoying life to the utmost. Your laughter and happy ways draw someone's attention. Someone you meet now could become a long-term relationship. Stay open to possibilities. Tonight: Continue with the new.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Choose your words and share more of your feelings. Think about a partner and what would make this person happy. Give more of yourself, and your relationship will become far toastier. If single, a relationship could be budding from a flirtation. Tonight: Go along with someone's desires.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your popularity soars. Many possibilities surround you. Think carefully about a financial expenditure. Spending some money on the quality of your life might be wise. Remember that you can't take your money with you when you die. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: Parties occur wherever you are.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Get into a project or sleep in if you wish. Make this a special day just for you. Think in terms of enjoying your life more and perhaps doing less. Cancel a minitrip if you want. Loved ones support you in your search for a happier, more satisfying relationship. Tonight: Whatever makes the Water-Bearer happy.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Whisper in someone's ear. Share more of your feelings. Your warm emotions find a natural audience. Listen to someone's feedback carefully. This person sometimes plays devil's advocate with spending and risk. Add more spice to your life without than tossing your funds away! Tonight: Play away.



WEATHER

Today ...	Partly Cloudy	High—63°F	Low—47°F
Tomorrow ...	Few Showers	High—58°F	Low—44°F
Monday ...	Partly Cloudy	High—55°F	Low—40°F



QUOTE of the DAY

**"Be true to your teeth or your
teeth will be false to you."
— Dental proverb**

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Gangs, drug dealing concern residents

SHOOTING, from page 1

ing on the wall," she said. "I want them to catch 'em." She said she expected something to "go down" weeks ago because there's been a lot of activity on the streets.

All residents interviewed requested anonymity for fear of retaliation from the neighborhood's gangs.

"They are getting bold around here," said one man who lives on Ocean Park, but owns an apartment building on 18th Street. "They are crazy."

Police would not confirm that the incident is gang-related, saying they are still investigating.

One resident said the neighborhood surrounding Delaware Avenue has been engulfed in a turf war between two gangs — the Graveyard Crypts and the Santa Monica 17th Street gang — for years. The tension appears to be not only racially motivated — one gang is black, the other Latino — but also drug-related.

Drug dealing on street corners along Delaware Avenue has been a problem for years. Most of it is cocaine traffic and a lot of it is dealt out of the city-funded, low-income housing on 17th Street and Delaware, according to residents.

"The guys have been dealing out of there forever,"

said one resident. "They (the city) don't care."

Individuals at the low-income housing complex threatened a reporter taking pictures of the scene.

"Familiar faces show up and you know they are always up to no good," said one resident who lives on Delaware Avenue.

Some residents are frustrated because they don't feel there is enough police presence in the area.

"The (Pico Neighborhood Association) has said we need more policing in the neighborhood for the last 10 years," said one resident. "There should be enough cops here to get on them (gang members). Unfortunately, it is going to take a kid or a cop shot before anything is done about it."

A police substation is located just blocks away at Virginia Avenue Park in response to the increased violence in the area.

Santa Monica City Councilman Richard Bloom defended the police department, saying the Pico and Virginia Avenue Park neighborhoods are consistently patrolled. The problem, however, is that police can't watch over one area 24 hours a day.

"There is a group of residents that has voiced its opinion there," he said. "But we can't predict when and

where it's going to happen."

Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega said more than two officers are assigned to the neighborhood and patrols have increased in response to the growing number of crimes there.

"The bicycle officers are assigned out there," he said. "But we don't discuss deployment."

In the past few years, the neighborhood has morphed into a mixture of middle-class working families who live in single-family homes, along with people in low-income housing, and young adults and children who have chosen drug dealing and gang activity as their way of life.

One resident says the building owners, including the city, need to pay more attention to their properties.

"The landlords need to be accountable," she said. "If you have drug dealing out of your building you should be responsible for making it stop."

Others are frustrated because they feel ignored.

"If the neighbors are shooting neighbors then it's no big deal," said one resident who lives across the street from where the shooting occurred. "The difference this time is that they shot at a cop. Now this ups the stakes and it'll be interesting to see if the police will take it seriously because they were targeted."

Hockey dad sentenced



Jim Bourg/Associated Press

Thomas Junta presses his head into his hands during his sentencing hearing at Middlesex Superior Court in Cambridge, Mass., Friday, as his attorney reads a letter that Junta wrote to his daughter, Kendall Junta. Junta received 6 to 10 year in prison for the manslaughter death of Michael Costin at a hockey arena in Reading, Mass in July 2000.

SAMOHI students think hat policy is outdated

HATS, from page 1

sophomore at Santa Monica High School. "I think as long as it's not gang related, wearing any hat should be fine."

Thorsen said neither she nor her friends were members of a gang, and hardly anyone mentions the gang's existence. "But I'm sure they exist," she said. "There are gangs in every high school these days."

Other students think all this fuss over hats is ridiculous.

"It was really silly that we weren't allowed to wear hats before — especially if it has nothing to do with gang activities," said Iris Early, also a Sophomore at Santa Monica High School. "But if it does, then people can go without wearing a hat to school if it will keep people safe."

School officials agree, and say that students' choice of apparel should be consid-

ered a free speech right, as long as the clothing poses no safety threat.

"I'm all for not having kids wearing gang attire or clothing that advertises drugs and cigarettes," said school board president Julia Brownley. "But kids should be allowed to make their own fashion statements, which includes hats."

The district's board of education directed superintendent John Deasy to study each school's rule on head apparel and make a report at next month's meeting. The board may set one district-wide policy regarding what is and isn't appropriate hats for school.

"Right now anybody with a hat on can say 'I'm doing it to protect myself from the sun,' which is a legitimate concern," said Brownley. "I mean we live in southern California. People wear hats and sunglasses to protect themselves all the time."

Redford getting honorary Oscar for Sundance idea

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS — Robert Redford is getting an honorary Academy Award.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Friday that its Board of Governors chose Redford for an honorary Oscar with the inscription, "Robert Redford — Actor, Director, Producer, Creator of Sundance, inspiration to independent and innovative filmmakers everywhere."

Honorary Oscars are given for "exceptional distinction in the making of motion pictures or for outstanding service to the Academy." Previous recipients include Ernest Lehman, Stanley Donen, Deborah Kerr, Federico Fellini, Ralph Bellamy, Michael Kidd, Alex North and Hal Roach. Redford's award will be presented during the March 24 Academy Awards.

"Bob's dedication to independent filmmaking has had an enormously positive impact on the motion picture industry since he created Sundance 20 years ago, and young filmmakers for years to come will continue to benefit from the training that his institute provides and the world-class showcase that his festival offers," academy president Frank Pierson said.

Since his acting debut in the 1962 drama "War Hunt," Redford has appeared in more than 35 films including "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "The Way We Were," "All the President's Men" and "The Sting." He was nominated for an acting Oscar for "The Sting."

Redford won an Academy Award in 1980 for directing "Ordinary People" and he was nominated twice in 1994 for producing and directing best-picture nominee "Quiz Show."

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STATE

Police officers, woman killed in attempted kidnapping

BY ARTURO SALINAS
Associated Press Writer

TIJUANA, Mexico — Unidentified assailants kidnapped a woman, slit her throat, and opened fire on pursuing police in this violent border city Friday. The woman and two police officers were killed. The kidnappers escaped.

Two other officers were wounded in the confrontation with the kidnappers, who abducted the woman in one of the city's residential neighborhoods on Friday morning, said city police spokesman Raul Garcia.

The shootout began after a 30-year-old man, who authorities refused to identify, escaped from an apartment where a group of machine gun-wielding kidnappers had been holding him since Tuesday.

He alerted authorities who stormed the building early Friday. The fleeing kidnappers slit the throat of the woman, then shot their way to a pair of Volkswagen sedans and disappeared down a nearby alleyway.

Authorities did not release the name of the woman, who was between 25 and 28-years old. As they fled police, the kidnappers dumped her body on a street a few blocks away from where she was abducted, Garcia said.

Also killed was officer Carlos Lopez Reyes, 30, who had worked for four years in the local police department. Another officer, Carlos Martinez Alvarez, sustained three gunshot wounds and died after being rushed to a local hospital. Authorities did not release any further information on Martinez Alvarez.

Wounded were officers Omar Martinez Hernandez and Jaime Meraz.

Authorities searching the area around the apartment building late Friday found a sizable arsenal of pistols and automatic weapons in a nearby alleyway, Garcia said.

On Tuesday, 1,300 federal police officers arrived in Tijuana under a new program launched by President Vicente Fox to combat drug trafficking, kidnapping, and car thefts.

Two Cuban soccer players may have defected after tournament

BY DAISY NGUYEN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Two Cuban soccer players, here to take part in the Gold Cup soccer tournament, have been reported missing and are believed to have defected.

"I decided to do it this morning and I didn't think about it twice."

— ALBERTO DELGADO
Cuban soccer player

Strikers Rey Angel Martinez, 20, and Alberto Delgado, 22, told El Nuevo Herald, the Miami Herald's Spanish edition newspaper, on Thursday that they want to stay in the United States permanently and play for Major League Soccer.

Representatives from the Cuban soccer team reported Martinez and Delgado missing Thursday night when they couldn't find the men at the Hilton hotel in Burbank, where the team was staying, Burbank police Sgt. John Dilibert said Friday.

"I decided to do it this morning and I

didn't think about it twice," Delgado told an El Nuevo reporter.

The men are staying with a friend who helped them plan their escape, the paper said. The men said they had been closely supervised during most of their trip, so Thursday was the first opportunity they had to carry out their plan.

Martinez said he wants to play for the MLS and help his family living in Cuba.

MLS spokesman Simon Board said his organization had not been contacted by the men. Immigration and Naturalization Service officials said they had not been alerted.

Twenty-five members of the Cuban soccer team traveled from Havana early last week to play in the quarterfinal games at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. They lost to the United States last weekend and dueled South Korea to a tie on Thursday, so they were eliminated from the tournament.

The players' defections come at a tough time for the Institute of Cuban Sports because six members of the male volleyball team defected in Belgium in December.

The volleyball players are now in Italy where they have obtained temporary residence.

"That news fell on Havana like an atomic bomb," Martinez told El Nuevo.

Both players told the paper they planned to travel in coming days to Miami, where Martinez has relatives.

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India nuclear test increases tension in region

BY ASHOK SHARMA
Associated Press Writer

NEW DELHI, India — India tested a new nuclear-capable missile Friday and announced it will not pull troops back from Pakistan's border anytime soon, raising tensions with its rival neighbor and drawing international criticism.

Officials said the missile, a shorter-range version of the intermediate-range Agni-I, was successfully fired over the Bay of Bengal from Wheeler's Island off the coast of Orissa state in eastern India. The missile's range is 420 miles.

The test drew immediate criticism from Pakistan — deadlocked in a dispute with India over violence in divided Kashmir — and from the United States, Britain and Germany. All said it sent the wrong signals amid the tension with India's nuclear-armed neighbor.

"We hope the international community will take note of this Indian behavior, which is prejudicial to the pursuit of stability in our region, especially during the current situation," Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said. It added, "Pakistan has the means to defend itself."

Indian officials said the test was routine and had no political meaning. They said it was scheduled months ago, well before a deadly Dec. 13 attack on the Indian Parliament prompted both India and Pakistan to mass forces along their border.

"The test was conducted in a non-provocative manner and has no bearing on the situation on the India-Pakistan border," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Nirupama Rao said. "This should not aggravate any tensions on the border or between India and Pakistan."

India accused two Pakistan-based Islamic militant groups and Pakistan's intelligence agency in the Parliament raid, in which 14 people were killed, including the five attackers. It has demanded that Pakistan's government stop all cross-border attacks by militants based in Pakistan.

Hundreds of thousands of Indian and Pakistani soldiers, missiles, fighter jets and tanks have faced each other across their border since last month in the two nations' biggest military standoff in decades.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, who tried to nudge the rivals toward dialogue in a visit to the region last week, said he would have preferred that India "had not performed that test at this time of high tension." But he said he did not think it would further inflame relations with Pakistan.

"We hope the international community will take note of this Indian behavior ... Pakistan has the means to defend itself."

— PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTRY

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer also criticized the timing of the test, saying, "Against the background of the current tensions with Pakistan, this test could lead to avoidable misunderstandings."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said, "I believe that restraint in developing possible nuclear weapon delivery systems is in the long-term interest of India and the region."

A U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the missile launch was long expected and did not demonstrate any new Indian capabilities. The most

advanced version of the Agni — the word for fire in Hindi — can reach 1,500 miles.

India says it is developing its missile program as a deterrent against Pakistan and China.

India and Pakistan both conducted nuclear tests in 1998, raising fears that nuclear weapons could be used if they go to war again — as they have three times since gaining independence from Britain in 1947.

Two of the wars between Hindu-majority India and Islamic Pakistan have been over Kashmir, a mostly Muslim Himalayan region divided between them and claimed by both.

Islamic militants, some based in Pakistan, have been fighting Indian rule in Kashmir for 12 years. More than 32,000 civilians, militants and Indian troops have been killed.

India accuses Pakistan of funding and arming the groups and sponsoring attacks on Indian soil, both in Kashmir and in some cases elsewhere — such as in the Parliament attack.

Also under pressure from the United States, its ally in the campaign against terrorism, Pakistan banned several Islamic groups, including the two accused in the Parliament attack, and made hundreds of arrests.

In a Jan. 12 speech, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf promised not to allow any terrorist activity targeting Indian-controlled Kashmir. But India says the words have not been matched by action.

On Friday, Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani said India would need several months to judge whether there has been a letup in "cross-border terrorism" and repeated India's demand that Pakistan extradite 20 men wanted on suspicions of terrorist acts in India.

"At the moment, the government decision is that the present situation will continue," Advani said, referring to the troop deployments.

Kidney disease, gangrene may have killed King Herod

BY BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press Writer

BALTIMORE — King Herod, the blood-thirsty Judean ruler who reputedly tried to kill the infant Jesus, died an excruciating death, brought on by kidney disease and finished off by gangrene, a medical sleuth said Friday.

"It's a very unpleasant way to die," said Dr. Philip Mackowiak, the director of the Historical Clinicopathological Conference at the University of Maryland medical school.

"It's a very unpleasant way to die."

— DR. PHILIP MACKOWIAK
University of Maryland medical school

At the annual conference, doctors apply their diagnostic skills to historical figures whose deaths have not been satisfactorily explained. Previous conferences concluded rabies killed Edgar Allan Poe and that the Roman emperor Claudius died from eating poisonous mushrooms.

Before his death in 4 B.C., Herod suffered an array of symptoms — intense itching, painful intestinal problems, breathlessness, fever, swelling in the feet, convulsions and, finally,

gangrene of the genitalia.

Peter Richardson, a religion professor at the University of Toronto, found the description of Herod's ailments in the writings of the first-century historian Flavius Josephus.

Fournier's gangrene, rare today, probably killed Herod, said Dr. Jan Hirschmann of the University of Washington medical school, who examined Herod's case history. The disease would have killed the king in a week or less.

The symptom of itching led Hirschmann to conclude Herod suffered from kidney disease. Itching might have led to the gangrene as well, causing Herod to scratch his skin and open it to infectious bacteria.

Many have speculated that Herod had gonorrhea, but Hirschmann said there's no evidence to support that. Debunking such popular theories is the point of an intensive, clinical approach to Herod's death, Mackowiak said.

Kidney disease may also explain some of Herod's brutal acts — including the executions of several family members. The untreated accumulation of bodily wastes can result in mental illness.

"He had some mental changes — depression and a suicide attempt, as well as paranoia," Hirschmann said. "These may be part of the disease, or they may be extensions of what he was like before."

According to religious tradition, Herod, fearing the coming of a Messiah after Jesus' birth, ordered the execution of infant boys in Bethlehem, forcing Mary, Joseph and the child to flee to Egypt.

West Bank mayhem



Nasser Nasser/Associated Press

A Palestinian boy runs to avoid tear gas during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops outside Yasser Arafat's compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah Friday.



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



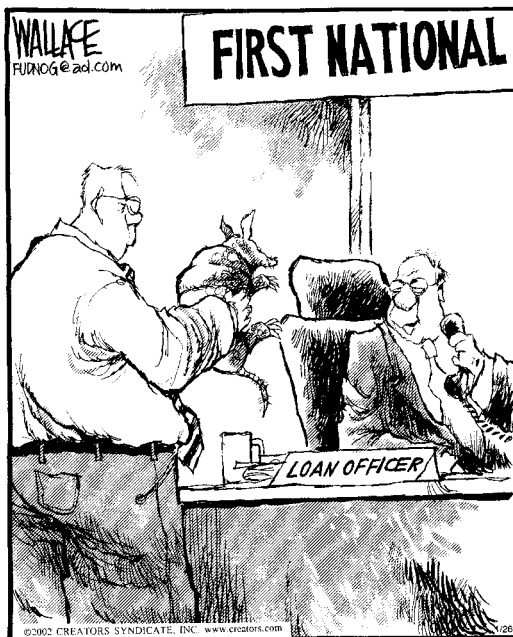
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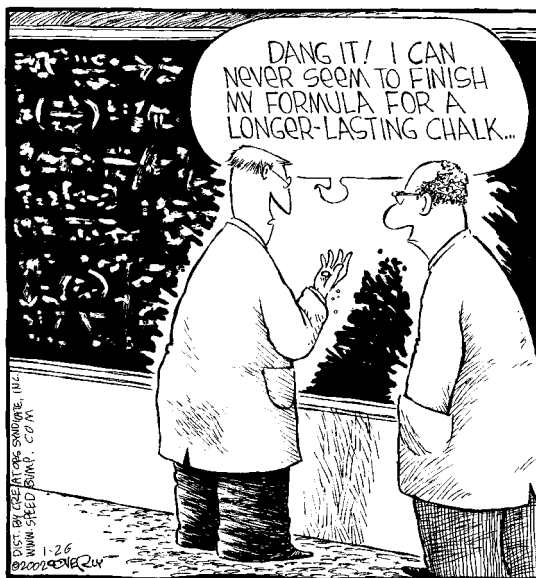


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 - 2 Taken all one can
 - 3 Conductor Previn
 - 4 Predicament
 - 5 Small bills
 - 6 Bring together
 - 7 Strips for breakfast
 - 8 Unusual stuff
 - 9 Race loser
 - 10 Superfluous
 - 16 TV, radio, etc.
 - 18 Thin coins
 - 20 Shake-spearean forest
 - 22 California observatory
 - 23 Like some bridges
 - 24 Ready for the batter
 - 25 Lady of Spain
 - 28 Winter garb
 - 30 Sell for
 - 31 Bender's expression
 - 34 Chess turn
 - 36 Baseball's Ripken

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Yesterday's answer

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39						40				

1-26

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Mute gets unfair treatment

The District of Columbia Department of Corrections admitted in August that it had illegally detained a deaf-mute man, who also has a serious mental illness, for 669 days on a minor misdemeanor charge (that ultimately was dropped) because it had lost his file. Jail records showed that the man never had visitors (not even the required public defender). The department director said it was "kind of unbelievable to me" that his agency could have done that.

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BACK PAGE

Man lives long enough to carry Olympic torch

By The Associated Press

MILPITAS, Calif. — The day before doctors predicted Louie Bonpua could die from leukemia, the 37 year old carried the Olympic torch — and then returned to the hospital and lapsed into a coma from which he never awoke.

Weak but in high spirits, Bonpua rose from his wheelchair and walked the two-tenths mile with the flame Jan. 19 in San

Francisco. After passing the flame, Bonpua said goodbye to his loved ones, returned to his hospital room and fell asleep for the last time.

Three days later, doctors pronounced him dead.

Leading up to the Saturday torch relay, doctors suggested Bonpua wouldn't be strong enough to participate. They said he could die that Sunday.

But Bonpua was so determined he had

concocted a plan to sneak out of the hospital to make the ceremony, his sister Aggie said. The escape plan, which included a waiting ambulance, was set aside when a doctor decided to let Bonpua participate.

A program manager for Cadence Design Systems in San Jose, Bonpua was diagnosed in 1997 with leukemia, and within a year dropped from 150 pounds to 92. He became involved with the Team-

in-Training Program, a fundraising arm of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, in which people receive endurance event training in exchange for raising money.

He got his weight back up to 150 pounds and in August completed his first triathlon — a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile marathon with a 17-hour time limit. To a cheering crowd, Bonpua finished in 16 hours, 56 minutes and 30 seconds.

Gulliver's travels lead him home after six years

By The Associated Press

NORTHPORT, Mich. — After six years on the road, Gulliver the cat is home.

The intrepid feline had run off when Sheri Sutherland was cat-sitting for her sister, Susan Stebbins, in 1996. The sisters did everything they could to try to find Gulliver.

"We put up fliers all over town and asked everyone to tell us if they saw him, but we never heard a thing," Sutherland said. "And you can bet that whenever we saw a cat on the street we'd slow down to see if it was him."

"But it never was," she told the Traverse City Record-

"We put up fliers all over town and asked everyone to tell us if they saw him, but we never heard a thing."

— **SHERI SUTHERLAND**
Cat owner's sister

Eagle for a story Wednesday.

Her sister moved to Nebraska, and Sutherland eventually stopped feeling embarrassed about losing her sister's cat. Then the phone call came Sunday.

A neighbor was looking for the owners of a big orange cat that had been hanging around the house. Sutherland and her husband saw the animal and knew it was Gulliver, based on surgical scars they recognized.

Gulliver is thinner and bedraggled but otherwise seems healthy. Sutherland said when she told her sister that Gulliver's travels had come to an end, she "completely flipped out."

Judge orders mediation in Stevie Wonder palimony suit

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Superior Court judge ordered mediation in the \$30 million palimony lawsuit filed against Stevie Wonder by an ex-girlfriend who also

accuses the singer of giving her a sexually transmitted disease.

Angela McAfee filed the suit in October, claiming the singer-songwriter promised to support her for life. In court documents, she charges Wonder gave her herpes, a claim

Wonder's attorney has denied.

In a countersuit filed a month later, Wonder accused McAfee of taking more than \$160,000 worth of furniture, stereos, exercise equipment and musical instruments after the couple split

last year.

In addition to the return of his property, Wonder seeks punitive damages.

Judge Emilie Elias, who ordered the two to try to settle things out of court, scheduled a status conference for April 25.

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