

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Promenade a power point for enthusiastic performers

City creates complicated system to accommodate entertainers

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Nowhere is freedom of expression more exercised in Santa Monica than on the Third Street Promenade. But it does come with a price.

In order to protect First Amendment rights and keep the peace, many minds are at work within City Hall to manage a complicated system that regulates hundreds of artists who come here to either express themselves, entertain or make a living.

The Third Street Promenade has become well known around the world as a mecca for street performers. When the outdoor mall was redeveloped more than a decade ago, city leaders found themselves grappling with how to balance protecting people civil liberties while maintaining order on the public street.

Laws were created about five years ago that

provide a method to the madness. On any busy weekend night, there are thousands of people taking in the eclectic mix of entertainment

"You just never know who will be in your crowd that will change your life."

— STEELE SMITH
Street performer liaison

delivered by not only talented artists but also some wacky personalities. Issues of public safety, crowd control, preserving the city's aesthetic values and minimizing unfair competition always are on the minds of city regulators.

Each year, the Santa Monica City Council reviews the laws and makes changes to the sys-

See PERFORMERS, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

(Top) Third Street Promenade performers Charlotte Andrews and her daughter Christen Andrews jam out one recent weekend afternoon to a rendition of Charlie Daniels' "Devil Went Down to Georgia." (Bottom) "Thrilla," "Soul-JA-boy," "Vicious" and "Bob-o," who make up a group called the Krypto-Knights, show their moves for hundreds of people on the Third Street Promenade. The Promenade offers a collection of diverse artists, who sing, dance and entertain on the busy shopping corridor.

Large development starts to tax the city's electricity network

Officials looking into whether adequate power exists downtown

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The web of wires supplying power to downtown street lights and shops alike may not be enough to support the large developments dominating the Third Street Promenade, officials say.

As small boutique shops and restaurants are combined into larger spaces for national retail-

ers, the power grid supporting downtown is increasingly being taxed. Now officials want to know if possibly expanding street lights downtown would overwhelm the electricity network.

"Before, we only looked into making sure we had enough power to light up the trees," said Santa Monica City Councilman Herb Katz. "Whether we do or don't have problems, I don't think we know for sure yet. But we're probably already operating at the upper edge."

Southern California Edison, which owns the power lines in Santa Monica, has continued to update the network and run new lines when it is

See POWER, page 5

Power rates may drop by mid-year

By Daily Press staff

As the state's electricity crisis cools down, there might be some relief on the horizon for those painfully expensive utility bills.

According to a plan proposed by Southern California Edison last week, Santa Monica's electricity provider may lower its rates by nearly 20 percent for small and medium businesses and large residential users by June.

Consumers who saw their rates soar the highest during the state's electricity deregula-

tion fiasco also will be the first to see relief, utility officials wrote to the California Public Utilities Commission.

"The higher electricity rates were borne by our business customers as well as those residential customers who have high consumption requirements," said Edison CEO Alan Fohrer in a prepared statement. "Thus, we are asking the commission to reduce rates in the same pattern originally used to allocate those crisis rates across customer groups."

See RATES, page 5

Utility bill decreases

The following chart describes the customer groups most impacted by the CPUC rate surcharges along with the proposed rate reductions.

Customer Group	Current Avg. (Per kWh)	Proposed Avg. (per kWh)	Proposed Reduction
Larger-use Residential	20.0 cents	18.6 cents	8%
Small & Medium Business	15.6 cents	12.6 cents	19%
Larger-use Business	13.0 cents	9.7 cents	26%

Source: Southern California Edison

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Reach out for others. Make that additional effort. You could be surprised by what someone close to you shares. Stay focused, especially if intellectual work is involved. You can solve a problem — just use your ingenuity, please. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Be more imaginative in how you carry out a responsibility. A key associate responds very well to your energy and direction. You might have a better idea than you realize. Feedback makes you feel great! Tonight: Indulge a loved one.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might want to review a situation more carefully than you have in the past. Others present ideas quickly. Do a better job of listening. You come up with remarkable and strong ideas. Screen your calls, taking only the necessary ones. Tonight: Follow your friends.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Learn how to be more efficient from an associate. Dealing with individuals adds that personal touch. As a result, you will gain both financially and emotionally. Good news surrounds your efforts. Others will pitch in. Tonight: Put your feet up.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your efforts do make a difference. A child or loved one adores hanging out with you. Add more pleasure to a playful get-together. Your imagination can light up any situation and illuminate any problems. Just be yourself. Tonight: Play away.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Be direct, even if you are uncomfortable with a loved one or a friend. Realize what makes you happy, which might be something as simple as having time to yourself. Ask for more of what you desire. Charge your imagination into your work and personal life. Tonight: Put your feet up.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Push extra hard to talk to that boss or to get through someone's door. You will find that others respond to your high energy and efforts. Something you want heads down your path. You gain a novel perspective as a result. Tonight: At a favorite spot.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You might wonder why you need to spend as much as you do on your image, but you will see the end results almost immediately. Others admire your presentation. You know how to make that difference with others. Use your imagination with family members. Tonight: Your treat.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Others don't often get your drift. The good news right now is that it doesn't make any difference, as they simply decide to go along with you. What more can you ask? Interestingly, you will come up with a good answer or response. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Step back and set your limits. Sometimes you take on way too much, not knowing when to say "enough." Your associates will understand that sometimes you need to eliminate or delegate. In fact, you might be quite happy with someone's reaction. Tonight: Let others decide.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your friends could make all the difference in what comes down your path. Listen well to someone's suggestion. He or she has enormous understanding of what will make you happy. Don't make choices that aren't necessary. Tonight: Follow your friends.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Accept what others might not. You find a boss or associate to be pushy, wanting to have something his or her way. Do you really care? Your positive attitude and strong sense of timing separate you from others. Tonight: in the limelight.



QUOTE of the DAY

**"Show me a hero, and I will
write you a tragedy."**
— F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940)

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LOCAL



Gavel III Gavel

From the people's court in the Santa Monica Courthouse

By Andy Fixmer

What's a motorcycle between friends?

A Santa Monica man was ordered to pay \$3,165 for selling his friend's motorcycle while he was living abroad.

Manuel Reyna Jr. sued Michael Tefertoller in Santa Monica Small Claims Court last week when he returned from living abroad to find that his friend had sold his antique motorcycle for \$1,500.

Tefertoller said he had a written agreement with Reyna that he would store the motorcycle for up to two years at his home for a \$300 annual fee.

For the first two years, Reyna sent the money, but then Tefertoller said he didn't hear from him for more than a year. He said he couldn't reach Reyna at the contact numbers he left behind so he decided to sell the motorcycle.

Tefertoller put a lien on the bike through the California Department of Motor Vehicles and registered it under his own name.

"I don't store bikes," he said to the court. "I repair them for a living, but I did this as a personal favor."

Reyna contacted Tefertoller in June and apologized for being late with the money. He asked Tefertoller to hold onto the motorcycle for one more year.

"He said send the money and everything will be fine," Reyna said.

Tefertoller said a check didn't arrive until August 2002 and by that time he had sold the bike.

Judge Pro Tem Alan Freedman ruled the two men had an oral agreement and Tefertoller is liable for paying the \$4,000 market-rate value of the motorcycle minus the holding charges to Reyna.

"You entered into a new contract in June," Freedman said. "You told him to send the money and everything will be OK."

Can't claim back wages if you keep paying

A woman was ordered to pay \$1,000 to a Santa Monica businessman as a reimbursement for work that wasn't done.

Judge Pro Tem Alan Freedman ruled that Janet Bates must pay her previous employer, Chip Myers of Mania Entertainment, \$1,000 for failing to perform book-keeping services for the company.

Myers sued for \$4,500 because he had paid Bates a \$1,000 a month for two months of work he said she didn't complete. He was also seeking the cost of having to hire another book-keeping firm to correct his financial documents.

But Freedman found Bates had performed many of the functions she was supposed to, and Myers continued to pay her for them.

For that reason, he said Bates should not be liable for the entire amount. He also said the firm would have had to hire a new book-keeping firm to replace Bates anyway, so that's not a cost she should bear.

"Even though the work dropped off, you continued to pay her in full," he said. "Even though it was likely in good faith that she would catch up on the work, I have a problem with that."

NEED SOMETHING FUN TO DO? CHECK PAGE 15!

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Forecasts promise strong surf with new west by north-west swells.

Waves are expected to see a one- to two-foot increase in height over last week, so we should be in for chest- to head-high surf at exposed spots in the north; some bigger sets in the south.

Porto, which had been pounding all last week, should hit head-high to overhead, and occasionally bigger.

Tides return to moderate levels as we get toward the middle of the moon cycle.

Today's Tides:

High- 1:57 a.m. 4.57'

Low- 8:30 a.m. 1.61'

High- 1:54 p.m. 3.38'

Low- 8:01 p.m. 1.17'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County Line	3-5'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-5'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	C
Topanga	3-4'/Poor	3-4'/Fair	A
Breakwater	4-5'/Fair	4-5'/Fair	B
El Porto	5-6'/Fair	5-6'/Fair	A

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The Q Line

It was reported over this past weekend that another Starbucks is opening a shop on the Third Street Promenade. That makes it one for every block. There's a Starbucks on Wilshire, another at Center Court and now one's going in between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway Avenue. Its location is within feet of two businesses that serve coffee and pastries.

In fact, there are more than a dozen coffee houses on the Third Street

Promenade. It appears that Santa Monicans can't get enough java.

This week, Q-Line wants to know "Do you think the Promenade needs another Starbucks? Why or why not?"

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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LETTERS

Family should take responsibility

Editor:

It never ceases to amaze me how many articles I read about families that come here seeking the "American Dream" and yet do everything to make sure it DOESN'T happen for them! (RE: 1/24/03)

The "landlord verses poor, low-income tenant" article featuring the Vivanco family is pathetic. Not because Liska is allegedly an evil landlord, but because Mr. and Mrs. V were privileged enough come to this country, were lucky enough to get a rent-controlled apartment and they still have not one but two children!

When will these people get it? If you are poor and you come here with no marketable skills and you don't speak the language, then you are still going to be poor! (Yes, it's a hell of a lot better to be poor in America where you can get a rent-controlled apartment well under market value, but you are still poor!) Why would you add to your financial burden by having children? WHY?!!

It doesn't take a Ph.D to figure out that if you can't feed, clothe and shelter yourself, then you certainly can't feed, clothe and shelter yourself AND children!

The Vivancos had a chance back in 1987 when they were paying \$416 for a 2-bedroom apartment to begin down the road to obtaining the "dream."

Based on government stats, no more than 30 percent of your income should go to housing. That would mean their combined salaries should have been \$16.5K per year (not hard to do for two people even if they were making minimum wage at the time). In today's dollars, they would have to be earning 25K with their \$623 monthly rent (again, not hard to do with two incomes).

So what happened?

They have little Ernesto. All right, maybe things were looking up for Mr. and Mrs. V. Maybe Candido got a big raise that year and decided, "Hey, let's have a kid." But wait a minute — who's going to care for the baby? Answer — Mrs. V. So now they are down to one income. An income that cannot possibly keep them on the road to the "dream." Then seven years later — little Teresa shows up. Now we have a family of four living in a two-bedroom apartment with NO chance of "movin' on up."

Mr. and Mrs. V made some very path-altering decisions back in 1986 and 1993. Had they not decided to have children and simply continued to progress in their jobs, they would be making \$32,000 per year (assuming a worst case scenario of a modest 4 percent raise per year and no job advancement). That would mean that in today's dollars they would only be paying 23 percent of their income towards rent. Hell, maybe they wouldn't have needed a two-bedroom in the first place! Maybe they could have saved enough money to buy a place of their own instead of living in a rent-controlled apartment for their entire lives!

Mrs. V said, "We came to find our American dream ... that dream has become a nightmare ever since we received the notice." I would argue that the nightmare began when she and her husband over-extended themselves by having children they could not afford. And

now we're supposed to feel sorry for them? Two words: Personal responsibility.

(By the way, the allegation from Dr. Hopper that Mr. V's affliction "was brought on by" the stress of the eviction proceedings is total BS. The Wolf-Parkinson-White Syndrome is a unique condition present from birth. In patients with WPWS, an extra conduction channel or "cable" connects the upper chambers to the lower chambers of the heart.)

Tony Street
Santa Monica

Developers are not homeowners

Editor:

Tom Larmore compares his "developer's right to demolish" initiative (Measure A) to a woman's right to choose to terminate her pregnancy. (Daily Press, 1/22/03).

Mr. Larmore seems to be saying that since women should have sole control over decisions affecting their bodies, developers should have sole control over decisions affecting a neighborhood. Nonsense.

Proposition A would make compliance with Santa Monica's Landmark Ordinance optional. Mr. Larmore likes to talk about giving homeowners the freedom to choose the fate of their property. What he doesn't mention is that most home demolitions are done by developers building spec homes. Are developers homeowners? They certainly own the home they're about to demolish. But are they homeowners that live in and care about the community? Do they care about how the destruction of a historically and architecturally significant structure may impact the character and value of a neighborhood? Yet if Proposition A passes, these "homeowners" would have sole authority to determine whether an existing home has historical significance and should be saved.

Most older homes are NOT worthy of preservation and very few are given landmark status. In the 26 years that Santa Monica has had its historic preservation ordinance, ONLY 16 HOMES HAVE BEEN LANDMARKED IN THE ENTIRE CITY. That's less than one home per year, out of 6,500 single family residences!

Last year, 96 of 97 permits for demolition were approved. All one has to do is look around his own neighborhood and ask: Are too many homes currently being saved?

Clearly, there has not been an epidemic of landmarking under the current ordinance. For most Santa Monicans, Proposition A is a solution in search of a problem. But for developers, its passage would be a huge gift, eliminating one of the few tools a neighborhood has to protect its existing character.

Santa Monicans must not lose their right to participate in decisions affecting their neighborhoods. Vote "NO" on Proposition A.

Victor Fresco
Santa Monica

The United States is about to have blood on its hands



To the people of this and other great nations across the world I say this: We should ban together and let our voices be heard.

The present leadership in this nation and Great Britain should put away their sabers of war and join the table of diplomacy. War is nothing but failure of intellect on a grand and devastating proportion.

War CREATES famine, economic failure, cultural undoing and opens the door for discrimination and more of the same ilk of people LIKE Saddam Hussein to be in power. War is the answer for those whose I.Q. is in the range of our shoe sizes! And for those who lack the creativ-

ity to find solutions.

Yes, I agree that this madman is a few sandwiches shy of a picnic. But these schoolyard bully tactics only fuel the fires of the present opinion of the United States leadership as being hypocrites. We need to take care of our own before trying to solve the problems of the world.

I watch the news here in China on a multi-national channel and the fire is growing — this country does not want war. And neither does France, Germany and most of the Arab countries. They understand the proportions of this war on a global scale, especially with North Korea AND India playing with the nuclear fire ball. India, for those who don't follow the news here in Asia, just kicked out the Pakistani Embassy and has been showing off its new toys.

Maybe this is a "hippy attitude" I am thinking with, but peace is the best solution to any of the problems humankind faces. All of the greatest world leaders and minds saw this — Ghandi and his daughter; Martin Luther King; John and Bobby

Kennedy; Malcolm X; Albert Einstein, etc. With exception of Einstein, they all died for their beliefs.

This war mongering has to be stopped! It already has been proven that the United States is not invulnerable as we thought it was, and the terrorists are not as stupid as we thought either. Our borders have been all but open to them for a decade or more since the last war with Iraq, as well as the countries of our allies as we have seen with the bombings around the world.

In my military mind, I believe that there are many more cells of these maniacs in the U.S. that have gone all but undetected. And the minute we set foot in Iraq militarily, all hell will break loose around the world. Anyone who is a veteran that remembers their guerrilla warfare training can see this.

Colin Powell can see this, and our leadership is WELL aware of this threat, yet it puts our people and innocent people around the world in jeopardy. We are sending our children and men and women to what could be certain death.

As a leader, I would not ask my subordinates to do anything I would not be willing to do myself. So, I believe we should put Saddam Hussein (whose sane?) and Little Georgie Porgie on the battle field with all of their cohorts and let THEM fight this war.

Let THEIR children and families die for this "cause." THEY represent this war, NOT the people of the United States, England or the world as a WHOLE.

The PEOPLE of the United States, England, Iraq and the world are speaking to you who claim to be "leaders" in this very dangerous situation you have created, but are you listening? Can you hear the roar of the masses over your bloated egos and greed? Is the "Will of the People" your primary concern? Or has the oil money you want stuffed your ears and blindfolded you?

(Charles Springer used to be homeless in Santa Monica. Now, he's teaching the Chinese how to speak English in Shanghai.)

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
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LOCAL □ STATE

Retailers find electrical limits in the downtown

POWER, from page 1

needed, said Mark Olsen, a company spokesman.

"As far as I understand it, there's no problem with the system," he said. "But when there is a new load on the system, there can be new lines added to serve a building. But our system in general can handle the electrical needs (of downtown)."

The question of the power grid's capacity arose when Winterlit, the Promenade's holiday decoration scheme, had difficulty drawing the needed power for an overhead canopy of lights.

Now that some officials are looking into expanding the amount of street lighting downtown, they want a better idea of how much more capacity will be needed from the grid and how much it would cost to update it.

But Olsen said even though upgrades can be expensive, it's a problem that can be easily solved.

"If they want to put in more lights and they are having capacity problems, it would be something that could be coordinated," Olsen said. "Sometimes people think there's not enough electricity or a system to supply all of it, but we do. We have enough electricity and a large enough network to supply the entire downtown."

However, some retailers are finding electrical limitations in their stores. A national retailer, undergoing renovations on the 1200 block of the Promenade, has added new power lines and transformers to support the lights it needs, said the project's architect, David Hibbert.

Local architects say it's a problem that's likely to become more common as

power demands along the Promenade rise.

"It's not that the grid is inadequate, it's that it was built in certain places where the demand for power wasn't as high," Hibbert said.

"These retailers all have these standards based on new shopping malls, and they are moving into areas of the Promenade that weren't built for that."

— DAVID HIBBERT
Architect

"These retailers all have these standards based on new shopping malls, and they are moving into areas of the Promenade that weren't built for that."

Another dilemma for larger retailers is that shops along the Promenade go from property line to property line, leaving little space for the new power lines and transformers, Hibbert said.

Large new retailers opening shops downtown — such as Victoria's Secret, United Colors of Benetton's and Circuit City — may all run up against the electrical limits of their buildings.

"It's a situation where people have standards that sometimes don't mesh well with the older buildings that are there," the architect said.

Low-income residents will still receive their discounts

RATES, from page 1

Most residents under the plan wouldn't see a difference in their bills. Those rates would remain flat because average homes are unaffected by the electricity surcharges put in place at the height of the crisis, Edison officials said.

Low-income residents enrolled in California Alternative Rates for Energy, or CARE, will continue to receive rate protection and a 20 percent discount under the proposal.

"Nearly two-thirds of our residential bills did not include the crisis surcharges, because most of our residential customers were either exempted through the CARE discount program or they were able to keep their consumption levels below the surcharge benchmarks," Fohrer said.

Large residential users who are currently paying 20 cents per kilowatt hour would see their rates decline 8 percent to 18.6 cents per hour. Small and Medium business owners would see their rates drop 19 percent from 15.6 cents a kilowatt hour to 12.6 cents an hour. And large business owners may see their rates drop from 13

cents to 9.7 cents — a 26 percent decline.

Edison officials project by June the company will have recovered the costs of having to enter into inflated long-term electricity contracts made during the crisis. Edison has been collecting the higher costs under a 2001 settlement with the CPUC.

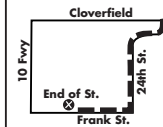
Edison officials said as of Dec. 31, 2002, the utility had collected all but \$574 million of \$3.6 billion in uncollected costs stemming from the higher contracts. The remaining balance will be paid off mid-year by the surcharges, allowing for the rate drop to take place.

But don't expect to see electricity rates drop to levels seen before the electricity crisis just yet. Even if Edison's proposal is approved, rates will not drop all the way to pre-crisis levels because of the higher costs associated with the state's long-term energy contracts. Those costs will continue to affect rates for some time to come, Fohrer said.

"(But) we will continue to press for refunds and other measures that will restore reasonable pricing and reliable power supplies for our customers," Fohrer said.

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LOCAL

Performers offer views on the city's restrictions

PERFORMERS, from page 1

tem in an effort to protect the public and maintain a sense of order.

As a result, City Council members find themselves engaged in philosophical discussions over what is art, what is craft and what is performance — important distinctions when it comes to the rules of who can or cannot be on the Promenade.

"Some people think we are being overly bureaucratic," said Councilman Ken Genser. "But we are trying to allow people to do what they want to do, but also maintain order and not restrict freedom of expression. So we accommodate them with this convoluted process."

"They ticket us so we have to pay these crazy fines. They don't like it because we make more money than them."

— MR. ANIMATION
Street performer

The ordinance regulating street performing is 10 pages, built with layers of restrictions that were designed from experience over the years. City attorneys spend hundreds of hours a year on crafting new laws in an attempt to address the issues that arose from the past year.

"It's like our Golden Gate bridge — we keep painting it and painting it but we never finish and that's OK," said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie. "It is truly organic because it changes every year."

In a city where constitutional freedoms are heavily protected, many resources go into managing street performers on the Promenade, which is arguably the biggest attraction for tourists and commerce downtown.

As more and more artists realized the magnitude of exposure the Promenade offered, the city realized it couldn't handle the influx of performers with just an ordinance alone. So the city hired a street performer liaison in 1999 whose primary job is to manage the artists and maintain order.

"We try to service them while regulate them," said Steele Smith, the street performer liaison, who spends his days and nights monitoring the three-block mall. "The city is amenable to getting politically involved, but it's all new territory and we are on the cutting edge with these regulations."

There are only a handful of cities that offer venues for street performers, and Santa Monica looks to them when considering new laws.

"(The laws) have all been significant and based on experience," Moutrie said, adding she and her staff spend hundreds of hours researching the ordinances they bring to the council. "I like that about them."

A system at work

One of the more significant laws affecting street performers was passed a few years ago, which made it easier for artists to set up camp on the Promenade. At the time, it was a free-for-all when artists showed up and secured their spot for the day. What ended up happening, however, was artists began fighting among each other over key locations. It also allowed them to dominate one place all day long.

The city devised a rotation system that requires artists to move locations every two hours. The system is on a first come, first served basis. When an artist shows up for the day, they pick their spot and sign in with Smith, who then rotates them to designated spots on the mall throughout the day.

"That way, you don't have to be a slave to your spot," Smith said.

Most artists agree the rotation system works, but there are still plenty of issues that haven't been resolved.

The types of acts that have descended upon the Promenade have changed over the years. Performers are now more focused on entertaining the crowds through gimmicks rather than performing an art. The result is musicians who come to express themselves through instruments and verse now compete with loud boom



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Street performer liaison Steele Smith, right, makes sure a drummer on the Promenade has the proper permits issued by the city.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
"Jo Jo" the monkey does three things to entertain the crowd on the Promenade: Sucks on lollipops, yanks on his leash and takes money from children who are fascinated by him.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Mr. Animation, center, knows how to play to the crowd. He is one of a handful of performers who draws big audiences.

boxes from performers who use comedy and fast moves to attract large circles of people.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, acoustic guitarist Bob O'Dair — stationed next to the Krypto-Knights, a four-man dancing team that played to the crowd with a blaring boom box — watched as the group drew more than 100 people. It created a wall of people between O'Dair and the street.

"You can't compete with that," he said. "It's gotten a lot more competitive in the last three years."

Noise is definitely an issue on the Promenade, especially on a busy weekend night when up to 28 acts could be performing simultaneously.

Performers have to be 40 feet away from each other, which is supposed to create enough room that when a person walks by they only hear one act. But when one performer goes beyond the legal decibel level, the artist next door has to turn it up so he can be heard. Within a short time, the sound level has risen beyond what's allowed.

Chris and David Smith, two acoustic guitar players, performed on Friday afternoon next to "Mr. Animation," arguably one of the most popular performers on the

Promenade. They too were drowned out by the music and crowd generated by Mr. Animation, who dances and uses comedy to draw people in.

The Smith brothers, like many free-spirited artists, would prefer that the city back off and let them hash out the issues on their own.

"It's all up to us and there's a way to do it," David Smith said. "What I noticed when I first got here is how short 40 feet really is."

One artist suggested that there be spots dedicated to just music by alternating the acts so there is a musician in every other location. That would alleviate high levels of noise in a condensed area, he said.

"We just need sound spaces and quiet spaces," he said.

The Smith brothers have gotten three sound violations since they showed up on the Promenade more than two years ago. The duo, along with other performers, say the city arbitrarily enforces the noise ordinance, which is 97 decibels on average and 107 at night.

"We're one of the quietest acts here," David Smith said. "When I got the two violations, no one had even complained."

But they still appreciate the city's efforts and its recognition of local artists.

"The council wants things that are interesting and fun to watch, not a street market."

— MARSHA MOUTRIE
Santa Monica City Attorney

"They are doing their best to keep the sanity," Chris Smith said. "We are really grateful for this and the opportunity it provides for us to show people what we do."

"Mr. Animation," who is easily spotted by his L.A. Lakers jersey and his "Michael Jackson when he was black" impersonation, has been on the Promenade for 12 years. Currently he is on probation for allegedly violating three of the city's laws — loud music, not moving locations and leaving his equipment unattended.

"They are harassing street performers for no reason," he said of the police force stationed on the Promenade, who monitor noise levels and enforce the laws. "They ticket us so we have to pay these crazy fines. They don't like it because we make more money than them."

"They need to go back to the original way — leave us alone," he said with a smile.

Some artists are satisfied with the city's ever-changing laws, even though they are restrictive.

"It's definitely for the better," O'Dair, the guitarist, said. "The scene and the environment is good down here."

Another performer, Steve Barbato, said he was on the Promenade for six years but left two years ago. He has recently returned and is especially happy with the rotation system.

"It's a lot better now the way it's run," he said. "I like it better because I used to have to hold a space all day."

Barbato's performance is a bit less artistic than some of his competitors, but he makes his fair share of cash. The act is his monkey, "Jo Jo," who sucks on lollipops, wears a American flag smock and collects dollar bills mostly from children.

A money maker

The business of regulating street performers may be yet another level of bureaucracy in City Hall, but it also generates some revenue for Santa Monica. The city issues nearly 1,000 permits a year to artists at \$37 a pop. And citations, fines and tickets can cost hundreds of dollars for performers.

City Attorney Moutrie said performers are routinely cited for infractions usually involving public safety hazards.

Some get tickets, and others are cited and charged with misdemeanors. But instead of pursuing the violation criminally, the city has set up its own justice system for street performers — artists who violate multiple laws have to go before a city administrative hearing officer who will determine if their permit should be suspended or revoked.

LOCAL



City grapples with regulating art, performance

PERFORMERS, from page 6

"The notion of sending artists to jail was crazy," Moutrie said.

After a few years of experience, city officials realized just ticketing and giving fines to performers wasn't addressing the public safety concerns they had. Officials created a distinction in the law that gives harsher penalties for more serious and consistent violations.

"People were just paying the tickets because they were making more money by creating the hazard," Moutrie said.

While the city rakes in the cash from permits and fines, so do performers through audience "donations." After some trial and error, the city early on created a law that forbids artists to charge for their performances, but they can accept donations.

For some performers, the acts are their only source of income. Others perform in hopes of finding their fast break to stardom. "This is my only job," Mr. Animation said, who performs Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

Smith, the street performer liaison, said the scene on the Promenade is a microcosm of the entertainment business, where vanity runs rampant and people are looking to be discovered.

"You just never know who will be in your crowd that will change your life," he said. "We are known as a venue that provides some opportunity."

Some performers bring in hundreds of dollars a night while others make that in a week. The Smith brothers, who live in a van down by the ocean (the title of their latest CD), say they make about \$200 a week.

The Krypto-Knights stop in mid-performance and use laundry baskets to collect dollar bills from their audience before finishing. They joke with the crowd by saying, "Kids, if your parents don't give us any money, that means they don't love you."

While performers are hesitant to say how much they make, they do admit that their acts allow them to pay the rent and more.

"That guy Twirlbird mentions money about 50 times a night," said musician Chris Smith.

Performers are not shy about asking for money from their spectators. They either guilt the crowd into giving them money or put on a spectacular show that makes people want to donate.

Either way, the Promenade's street performer scene is one of the cheapest forms of entertainment in the Los Angeles area.

Yet, it's a love-hate relationship for many of the merchants and business owners who operate on the Promenade. They recognize that thousands of people are drawn to the mall because of its artists, but the noise and scene can be too much to handle at times.

Some artists get the feeling they are not wanted on the Promenade, but are tolerated so businesses can reap the benefits of their performances.

"They don't want us here but they use us to advertise," said David Smith of a recent radio commercial that lured people to the Promenade during the holidays. "When the merchants complain, I ask what are they doing here? This is the Promenade."

Promenade a target for civil liberty challenges

Some question the level of talent that the Promenade attracts, which can be questionable at times. But as city officials have to continually point out, it's a public street and they can't arbitrarily select



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

"Thrilla," left, of the Krypto-Knights routinely brings audience members into his performance for comic relief.

artists over others. It's not like City Walk in Los Angeles, which is privately owned and where people have to audition before they are allowed to perform, said Moutrie, the city attorney.

"If you can sing or you can't sing, you can apply for a permit and throw your hat on the Promenade," she said. "We can't pick good singers over bad singers. It's their constitutional right to be there."

But as much as the city attempts to protect people's First Amendment rights, there are limits. And individuals who are prohibited under the city's laws routinely challenge them.

However, Moutrie said the ordinances are designed to withstand civil rights lawsuits.

"A lot of legal work goes into making these laws stick," she said.

Still, there are some pending lawsuits levied by artists who have been kicked off the Promenade. One of them involves Henna artists who were banned last year. Some were using a skin dye that cause skin rashes and other health-related complications. It resulted in a lawsuit against the city by someone who got infected from getting the non-permanent tattoo.

Subsequently, the City Council voted 4-3 to ban Henna not only because it created a public safety hazard, but some members didn't think it was performance art.

"It's just a lawsuit away that we would have to start allowing manicuring and hair braiding," Councilman Genser said.

The minority of the council, Richard Bloom, Mike Feinstein and Kevin McKeown, voted to keep Henna because they agree the 5,000-year-old practice is an art form.

Another performer argues he should be able to collect money for producing small flowers made out of palm leaves. He says it's an art form. The city says it's handicraft that is mass produced and doesn't fall under the realm of a First Amendment right.

"The council wants things that are interesting and fun to watch, not a street market," Moutrie said.

Genser, who has helped craft street performing laws since their inception, said it's one of the more complicated issues he faces in City Hall.

"It's kind of silly, but we are trying to accommodate everybody and stay within their constitutional limits," he said.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Street performer liaison Steele Smith, left, takes a minute from a busy Saturday afternoon to chat with acoustic guitarist Bob O'Dair.

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- 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.

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COMMENTARY

Welcome to the world of fatherhood, now pay up



**LEGAL
VIEWS AND
NEWS**

By David Pizarra

Congratulations on being a dad — welcome to child support payments.

Dad, Pop, Father. The words we use to describe our male parents all evoke feelings of security, protection and safety. That's your job as a parent.

But as an unmarried male parent, you are in a dangerous place when it comes to your rights, and when it comes to your responsibilities. The law recognizes mothers immediately for the obvious reason that a child was brought forth from her, but not so with fathers. A man must take some action to secure his place in a child's life. He must make sure that the mother puts his name down as the father.

Depending on your relationship with the mother of your child, you may find that co-parenting is the greatest pleasure in the world. It can also be an exercise in war. Some unmarried couples work very well together as co-parents. They have no problems with money or visitation, no disagreements about medical care or schooling, some get along great in dealing with religious issues. Other couples might not have as easy a time. It is for those fathers, that this article is written.

There are five main areas that people fight over: Money, visitation, medical care, schooling and religion.

MONEY: Child Support

This is the area where most men protect themselves the least, get into the most trouble and yet it is probably the easiest to handle.

The law works this way. If the mother of your children goes to court to get a child support order, and you do not have a custody arrangement with her in writing, she can tell the judge that you make however much money she wants, and the judge will decide how much child support you must pay. The court does not listen to your side of the story. Period. She wins and gets a judgment against you.

Now she takes that judgment and goes to the district attorney's office. They take the judgment and garnish your wages, tax refund, driver's license and lottery winnings. Additionally, if she has said there is back child support owed, they will charge you for that. All of this will accrue interest, meaning you are paying interest on a child support award you did not agree to and there is nothing that can be done to stop it unless you go back into court, get an agreement with her for child custody, show how much you really make and then hopefully get her to reduce the amount of

money she claims was owed her.

MONEY: Welfare

If at any time she should go on welfare and collect relief for herself and your child, you will be forced to repay that money. The district attorney will open a child support case and come after your paycheck, tax refund, driver's license and lottery winnings. This money must be repaid and no one can waive the repayment or the collection of interest on it.

The best way to avoid all of this is to be a responsible dad, have a written custody agreement with a realistic child support payment that you can make and be sure to keep a payment history with supporting documents.

**VISITATION, MEDICAL CARE,
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The remaining four areas people fight over are decided for the most part by a negotiation between the parties and their lawyers. Only in extreme cases is the court forced to make decisions in these areas. Most people are able to work out a peaceful settlement in the best interests of the child.

It is only in the worst cases, where the parties cannot come to an agreement, that outside people are called in to do evaluations. In the case of visitation and custody, a Child Custody Evaluation can be ordered by the court. This involves a person who meets state mandated criteria for qualifications to make an evaluation and recommendation as to what is best for the child, where they should live based on the housing conditions, the quality of home life, stability of the parties and the emotional maturity of the parties.

Decisions regarding medical care is likewise determined by going to outside sources only in the rarest of cases. When one parent refuses to acknowledge, or treat a known condition, or perhaps the attending physician isn't doing a good job, the court may order independent evaluations by new doctors.

Schooling and religion are two areas the court avoids getting involved in as much as possible. The parties should try to work out a reasonable solution, otherwise the court is likely to make a decision that no one wants.

As a father you have many responsibilities, but as an unmarried father you must protect your rights, otherwise the mother is in control and you can find yourself left out in the cold, or, worse, having no rights but a very large child support payment.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached by e-mail at dpizarra@pizarra.com.)

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NATIONAL



Hardship for citizens as budget crises worsen in many states

EDITOR'S NOTE — From Maine to California, state governments are struggling with the worst budget crisis in a half-century. This is the first installment in an ongoing series by The Associated Press examining the real-life consequences of tough times and tough choices.

BY DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

Cutting services and raising taxes. Firing civil servants, freeing inmates early, squeezing health care for poor families. In almost every state, the options facing governors and lawmakers these days are grim.

State governments that went on a spree of tax cuts and higher spending in the flush 1990s now find the bills are due. And with less money to spend, politicians must make difficult choices with implications far beyond the statehouse.

The pain will spread in the coming year, but hardship is already evident — for state workers laid off in Connecticut, for Medicaid patients deprived of services in Oklahoma, for homeless families turned away from overflowing shelters in Massachusetts.

"I was shocked — I didn't know prosecutors were going to be laid off," said Carrie Bernier, 32, who has a young daughter and prosecuted domestic violence cases in Stamford, Conn., until her layoff this month.

The decisions legislators make in the months ahead will affect millions of Americans beyond state employees and poor people who depend on government for medical care.

Most will likely feel the impact: drivers forced to stand in longer lines to renew licenses, parents saddled with higher college tuition bills, smokers and drinkers paying more.

Already, some states have been forced to make one of the most painful cuts of all: to education. With war looming as a possibility, no one knows how much worse things can get.

As 24 new governors take office, their budget options are limited because many states' reserve funds have been exhausted and there are no more quick-fix financial gimmicks.

"States are facing a perfect storm with deteriorating tax bases, an explosion of health care costs, coupled with a virtual collapse of capital gains tax revenues and corporate profit taxes," said Raymond Scheppach, executive director of the National Governors Association.

According to the NGA, states are short a total of \$50 billion this fiscal year (ending June 30 in most states) and

"States are facing a perfect storm with deteriorating tax bases, an explosion of health care costs, coupled with a virtual collapse of capital gains tax revenues and corporate profit taxes."

— **RAYMOND SCHEPPACH**
National Governors Association, executive director

up to \$70 billion next year — the worst financial crisis for the states at least since World War II.

A handful of states are avoiding major difficulties. Wyoming and New Mexico are flush because of a natural gas boom; Vermont averted a shortfall by spending late '90s surpluses on one-time projects rather than recurring programs.

Among the hard-hit states, California leads the pack, with a projected shortfall of \$34.8 billion for an 18-month span of 2003-04.

To pay the bills, Gov. Gray Davis has proposed \$8.3 billion in tax increases and \$20.7 billion in budget cuts. School spending alone would be slashed more than \$5 billion.

One likely target of California's austerity drive is a low-income housing project to be built starting this summer in Santa Barbara.

"It's devastating that the people who need the money the most are the ones who lose it first," said Sister Alicia Martin, head of a Roman Catholic charity that donated land for the project.

Reasons for the crises vary — a drop in tourism hurt Florida and Hawaii; in New York, the Sept. 11 attacks caused widespread job losses.

Yet some pivotal factors apply almost everywhere. Lawmakers and governors eagerly — some critics would say recklessly — spent the surging state revenues of the late 1990s. Though some put money aside for the long-expected downturn at the boom's end, they were unprepared for the length and breadth of the financial beating.

Even as recession set in, the cost of Medicaid and other health programs — which account for about 30 per-

cent of state spending — continued to rise. Caught in a spiral of lower revenues and higher bills, more than 40 states now face budget shortfalls.

So where do states go from here?

Long-term solutions may require major changes to Medicaid — the taxpayer-financed health care system for low-income Americans — as well as steps to help states cope with tax revenues that boom, then bust. Already, virtually every state is cutting back on Medicaid coverage.

For additional relief, many states have raised cigarette taxes. Maryland's new governor, Robert Ehrlich, wants to bring slot machines into his state. Some governors hope to collect sales taxes on Internet transactions.

In Oregon — reeling from the nation's highest jobless rate — voters are being asked to make a tough choice on their own: They will decide in a special election Tuesday whether to raise their state income taxes by 5 percent for three years.

If voters reject the increase, lawmakers could be forced to cut more than \$300 million from state programs.

The tough times have politicians nationwide venturing off traditional partisan paths. Several Democratic governors are contemplating deep cuts to social programs; two Republican governors, Mike Huckabee of Arkansas and Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho, jolted lawmakers of their own party by proposing sales tax increases.

More than 1,500 state jobs have been eliminated in Arizona, about 300 in Nebraska. The nation's only state anti-pornography czar lost her job due to budget cutting in Utah.

Many states are reluctantly reviewing the huge sums they spend on schools. Illinois lawmakers broke a string of funding increases for K-12 schools last year; tuition is expected to rise at least 10 percent at Michigan's state colleges this fall.

In several states, prison construction projects have been postponed. And in Kentucky, prosecutors were enraged when Gov. Paul Patton ordered the early release of 567 inmates in December. Yet similar proposals for early releases — or more lenient sentencing — are surfacing in other states.

Patton said it was up to lawmakers to choose among the unpalatable options for coming up with \$509 million.

"The problem, quite frankly, is nobody wants to bell this cat," said the House Democratic floor leader, Greg Stumbo. "There are two possible solutions, cut spending or raise revenue. Nobody really wants to be the father of either one of those proposals."

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INTERNATIONAL

A war in Iraq would focus on Saddam Hussein

BY RICHARD PYLE
Associated Press Writer

One lingering image from the 1991 Persian Gulf War was of terrified Iraqi soldiers waving their arms in surrender to an unmanned Navy reconnaissance drone as it skimmed overhead, videotaping the desert terrain.

That incident underscored a vast difference between the two sides — the battlefield technology that enabled a U.S.-led coalition of forces to easily defeat a million-man army, then billed as the world's fourth largest, in six weeks.

Twelve years later, American surveillance and "smart weapon" technology is far more sophisticated and reliable, and the key to what U.S. planners hope would be an even swifter, more decisive and less bloody victory than Desert Storm.

Despite an already big buildup of U.S. combat forces in the Gulf region, experts say a new war will not be a throwback to the desert tank battles of 1991. Nor will it be another Afghanistan, although "special operators" — Army Rangers and Green Berets, Navy SEALs or Air Force commandos — could play crucial roles in trying to capture or kill Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein.

Even if Saddam anticipates that, "the idea is that the U.S. force will be so powerful, and so fast, and take him by so much surprise that the regime will collapse by itself," Boo said. This "plausible scenario," as he calls it, anticipates that Iraq's forces, much weaker than in 1991, can be bypassed without a serious fight.

As in 1991, any attack is sure to begin with precisely targeted U.S. air attacks to blind Iraq's air defenses, destroy communications and cripple Saddam's ability to fight back.

This time, the weapons are guided by GPS — global positioning satellites — rather than lasers, and will comprise far

more than the 10 percent of all explosives unleashed on Iraq the first time around. They include the Predator, the Air Force's multipurpose unmanned aerial vehicle; the Navy's long-range Tomahawk cruise missile used in the Gulf War and against Al-Qaida in Afghanistan; and new or upgraded missiles that can be guided from air to target from as far as 15 miles away. They have already tested in Afghanistan, Kosovo and against Iraqi air defenses in the no-fly zone.

In making Iraq's anti-aircraft defenses the top priority, U.S. officials cannot dismiss the potential threat of chemical and biological weapons, which are hard to detect and can be delivered by several means, including the Scud missiles of Gulf War notoriety.

As for ground action, Boo said, the objective will be to "drive straight to Baghdad," and with overwhelming forces at the city limits, wait for Saddam's regime to crumble under the pressure. "Anything else will just be a diversion."

While protracted World War II-type street fighting is the Pentagon's "nightmare scenario," Boo doesn't expect it. "The whole theory is that by the time the U.S. military reaches the gates of Baghdad, Saddam will have surrendered, or will be floating in the Euphrates as the result of the Iraqi people revolting."

Other experts are skeptical of that — or of a coup d'etat, given Saddam's record of purging aides he suspects of disloyalty. Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger says that if Saddam's generals tried to topple him, "they'd all be dead" before they succeeded.

In a defiant speech on Jan. 17, Saddam appeared to reject any idea of compromise or abdication from power, and said an attack on Baghdad would be "suicide." He also claimed that Iraq actually won the 1991 Gulf War.

That conflict came after Saddam invaded

Kuwait in August 1990, accusing the neighboring emirate of using "slant drilling" to infringe on Iraq's oil fields, and of cheapening Iraqi oil by overproducing its own. He nullified debts owed Kuwait from Iraq's eight-year war against Iran, and "re-annexed" Kuwait as Iraq's 19th province.

By that lightning stroke, the Iraqi dictator gained control of 20 percent of the world's oil reserves, and hinted at a further drive into eastern Saudi Arabia,

where another one-fifth of the world's oil lay underground.

Declaring that Iraq's "aggression will not stand," President George Bush gained U.N. backing for sanctions and armed action to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait.

Threatened by Saddam's move, Saudi Arabia invited U.S. military intervention. Bush assembled a 33-country coalition that included not only traditional U.S. allies like Britain and France, but a dozen Islamic nations.

Peace demonstration in Switzerland



Fabrice Coffrini/Associated Press/Keystone

Demonstrators wearing masks with the faces of U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, right, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, carry the "Golden Calf," during a demonstration against the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, Saturday. The WEF takes place in Davos until Tuesday.

Israel locks down West Bank, Gaza Strip ahead of election

BY MARK LAVIE
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Israel locked down the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Sunday ahead of its national election, after a large-scale military incursion into Gaza and warnings that Palestinians may try to disrupt the voting with violence.

About 26,500 police and soldiers were deploying to guard against Palestinian attacks during the voting Tuesday, police spokesman Gil Kleiman said. There were general warnings of attacks by Palestinians over the next 48 hours, but no more than usual, he said.

However, Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told Israel's Cabinet on Sunday that Israel is in the midst of an "assault of terror," both in terms of the scope of warnings and attempts to carry out attacks.

Wrapping up his campaign in Haifa, the home of his main opponent, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he would try to set up a broad-based government after the election.

On Sunday afternoon, Israel imposed a blanket closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring all Palestinians from entering Israel and confining most to their communities. Israel has enforced stringent travel bans on Palestinians since the outbreak of fighting, but Sunday's restrictions, to be in effect until Wednesday,

impeded movement even further.

The military said the Allenby Bridge between Jordan and the West Bank and the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt would remain open.

Palestinians drew a connection between the Israeli election and a large-scale Israeli incursion into Gaza City early Sunday in which 12 Palestinian gunmen were killed and 67 wounded. Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said it was part of Sharon's re-election campaign.

The Gaza City raid began shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday, and ended Sunday morning. After Israeli troops withdrew, about 30,000 Palestinians joined the funeral procession for the 12 gunmen killed in the fighting — the highest death toll in Gaza in five months. Those killed included members of the security forces and various Palestinian militias.

It was the deepest Israeli penetration into the Palestinian city of 300,000 in more than two years of fighting. The raid came in response to the firing of crude, short-range Qassam rockets at the Israeli town of Sderot in the southern Negev Desert, near Gaza, on Friday.

"The Israelis will pay a heavy price for every drop of blood shed last night," Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas, told the crowd at the funeral. "Our battle will continue until we uproot this Zionist occupation from

our holy land, no matter what the sacrifice."

The Israeli military said its forces "raided dozens of buildings used as weapon-producing workshops," destroying equipment. Also, soldiers blew up two houses belonging to militants. However, five more Qassam rockets were fired at Israel Sunday, causing no damage or injuries.

Also in Gaza, a 50-year-old Palestinian man was killed outside his home in the border town of Rafah by an Israeli tank shell, Palestinian security officials said. The Israeli military said soldiers opened fire on suspicious figures moving in a forbidden area near the Gaza-Egypt border.

In Cairo, where the Egyptian government has been trying to forge an agreement among Palestinian factions for an end to attacks against Israeli civilians, the Arab League issued a statement condemning the Israeli incursion and warning that failure of the international community to stop such actions "would increase the feelings of Arab anger and frustration."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a statement deploring the "ominous" escalating violence, criticizing Israeli operations "that place Palestinian civilians in harm's way" and Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians.

In Davos, Switzerland, Secretary of State Colin Powell said the world must work to install a Palestinian leadership

that "will clamp down on terror," but he also told Israel that the Palestinians must have a real state, "not a phony state that's diced into a thousand different pieces," an apparent reference to Sharon's offer of a truncated, limited state some time in the future.

The conflict with the Palestinians dominated the Israeli election campaign as it drew to a conclusion.

With voting two days away, a poll published Sunday indicated that Sharon's Likud Party remains comfortably ahead, winning 30 seats in the 120-member parliament, compared to 19 for the opposition Labor party. The Geocartographia survey among 1,007 voters also said the centrist Shinui party would win 13 seats. It quoted an error margin of 3.1 percentage points.

Earlier polls indicated that Labor could slip so far down that Shinui might overtake it. In the final evening of campaign commercials on Israeli TV stations, Labor candidate Amram Mitzna appealed to disaffected Labor voters, many driven to other parties by Labor's 20-month stint in Sharon's government.

"Those who believe there is still hope, who believe that it is possible to drive out the frustration, give me the power," Mitzna pleaded, "I call on you, come home. Come back to the Labor Party."

SPORTS



Buccaneers wallop Raiders in Super Bowl XXXVII

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

SAN DIEGO — Just defense, baby! The Tampa Bay Buccaneers didn't need much more — for most of the game, anyway.

Coach Jon Gruden and his Bucs won the Super Bowl on Sunday, routing the Oakland Raiders 48-21 in the first matchup of the NFL's best offense against its best defense.

The Tampa Bay defense won by a mile, shutting down the Raiders for three quarters and holding on as they made a belated comeback attempt.

Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson had two interceptions, as did Dwight Smith, who returned both of his picks for touchdowns, including a 50-yarder to finish off the scoring with 2 seconds left in the game. Derrick Brooks also returned an interception for a touchdown.

Simeon Rice had two of the Bucs' five sacks as Tampa romped to a 20-3 halftime lead then scored two quick third-quarter touchdowns.

That rendered futile a late comeback by the Raiders that included a touchdown on a blocked punt and 48-yard TD pass from league MVP Rich Gannon to Jerry Rice.

The Tampa Bay offense did its part, too, led by Michael Pittman, who ran for 124 yards on 29 carries.

Mike Alstott had a 2-yard TD run and Brad Johnson added two TD passes to Keenan McCardell, the second an 11-yarder after an 89-yard drive that ate up almost eight minutes of the third quarter.

Just 43 seconds later, Smith grabbed the ball away from Jerry Rice and took it to the end zone to make it 34-3.

Oakland owner Al Davis' slogan "Just win, baby!" wasn't going to work this time.

How good was the Tampa Bay defense?

Oakland had just 62 total yards in the first half, second-lowest total in Super Bowl history. And the five interceptions of Gannon were the most he had in any game this season. He finished 24-of-44 for 272 yards and two touchdowns.

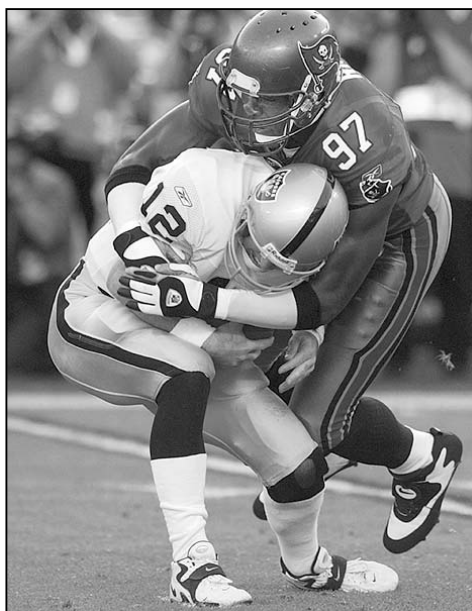
Credit the win also to the 39-year-old Gruden, who left Oakland a year ago for Tampa Bay in what seemed at the time far too much in draft picks and cash — \$8 million to be exact.

But Gruden's knowledge of his old team worked out perfectly.

"Every play they've run, we've run in practice," Tampa Bay safety John Lynch said.

To be fair, the Raiders might have entered this game a bit distracted.

Their All-Pro center, Barret Robbins, was sent home before the game for missing team functions on Saturday.



Amy Sancetta/Associated Press

Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive end Simeon Rice (97) tackles Oakland Raiders quarterback Rich Gannon (12) in the first quarter in Super Bowl XXXVII in San Diego Sunday.

The Bucs took advantage, with Warren Sapp, Lynch and the interior defense pushing up the middle constantly against backup center Adam Trew to put pressure on Gannon and shut down the run.

This was a victory for one of the NFL's longtime sad sacks.

Between 1983 and 1996, the Bucs were the NFL's worst franchise, going without a winning season and losing 10 or more games in 13 of those 14 years.

Even a year ago, they were a laughingstock after the Glazer family that owns the franchise fired coach Tony Dungy and went after big-name coaches like Bill Parcells and Steve Mariucci before landing Gruden.

But if this was a glorious day for the Bucs, it was the opposite for the Raiders, who have three Super Bowl victories but hadn't been back to pro football's showcase

game in 19 years.

Oakland's aging warriors did little or worse. Jerry Rice and Tim Brown, the 40- and 36-year-old wide receivers, were all but invisible.

Rice, who has a reception in every game he's played since 1985, didn't have his first until 3:30 was left in the third quarter Sunday and the Raiders trailed by 31 points.

That came just before Gannon's 39-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Porter gave the Raiders' their first TD. They got their second just 44 seconds into the fourth quarter when Tim Johnson blocked a Tom Tupa punt and Eric Johnson caught it in the air and took it in.

But even those TDs didn't produce what they could have because the Raiders twice missed 2-point conversion attempts.

Tampa Bay started badly but soon took control and led 20-3 at halftime on a 2-yard touchdown run by Alstott and a 5-yard TD pass to McCardell. The defense held the Raiders' top-ranked offense to just three first downs at intermission.

But the Raiders struck the first blow.

On the opening series, Johnson was hit by Regan Upshaw as he threw toward an open McCardell, and Charles Woodson intercepted to give the Raiders the ball at the Tampa Bay 28. But Oakland got only one first down and had to settle for Sebastian Janikowski's 40-yard field goal to take a 3-0 lead.

The Bucs came right back to tie it on Martin Gramatica's 31-yarder. It was set up by two 23-yard plays, a pass from Johnson to Joe Jurevicius and a sweep by Pittman.

Jackson's first interception for Tampa Bay set up the next score: Gramatica's 43-yard field goal early in the second quarter to give the Bucs a 6-3 lead.

Jackson got another interception on the Raiders' next possession, returning it 23 yards to the Raiders 45. Tampa Bay couldn't move and Tom Tupa had to punt.

But the Tampa Bay defense held the Raiders to three downs and out, and the Bucs finally broke through to take a 13-3 lead.

First Karl Williams returned Shane Lechler's punt 25 yards to the Oakland 27, then Pittman had runs of 6 and 21 yards to give Tampa Bay a first down at the 2. On the second play, Alstott went in for the game's first TD with 6:24 left in the half.

The Bucs made it 20-3 at halftime on a 77-yard, 10-play drive, which was aided by three Oakland penalties and capped by a quick out to McCardell on first down from the 5.

After latest triumph, Agassi faces new challenge

BY PHIL BROWN
Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andre Agassi was ranked 141st in the world in 1997 before he began his remarkable career resurgence.

Agassi has won five of his last 15 major tournaments, the latest triumph coming in the Australian Open. Agassi needed only 76 minutes to beat Germany's Rainer Schuettler 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 early Sunday.

Now comes another challenge for Agassi: Coaxing his wife, Steffi, out of retirement. Graf, who won 22 Grand Slam titles — 14 more than her husband — said she would play mixed doubles with him at the French Open if he won the Aussie.

Graf hasn't played since retiring in July 1999, weeks after winning her sixth French Open title. She and Agassi married in 2001, and they have a 15-month-old son, Jaden Gil.

"I don't think anybody appreciates how hard this is going to be for me to get her out there," Agassi said.

Agassi, 32, held up his end of the deal by carving through the competition at Melbourne Park, even before the final. He won 18 straight games in a 6-1, 6-0, 6-0 second-round win over South Korea's Lee

Hyung-taik, and he lost just 48 games in all seven of his matches.

The 26-year-old Schuettler, seeded 31st and playing in his first Grand Slam quarterfinal, was outmatched from the start. Agassi won the first eight points before hitting a backhand long, prompting Schuettler to raise in arms in mock triumph. Schuettler held service four times the entire match.

"Over the past two weeks, I've been hitting the ball better than I ever have. I feel stronger and better. It's a great feeling to work hard and have it pay off," Agassi said.

Schuettler said he's never faced a better player.

"It's as if he puts you on a carousel and you just can't get off," he said. From the first point on, I was under pressure. It's a bit disappointing to play a final and lose easy like that."

Agassi, the oldest man to win a Grand Slam singles title since Ken Rosewall won the Australian in 1972 at age 37, makes some concessions to age.

While he is ready to work hard for major tournaments, he is not interested in "grinding through a lot of different circumstances and difficulties" to pursue the No. 1 ranking again, he said.

"No. 1 will be a result of a lot of things

going right, and it's a long year," said Agassi, who is ranked second behind 21-year-old Lleyton Hewitt.

Besides, Agassi said, "the year is a complete success for me now. I'm over the moon with it."

Receiving his trophy, he told the center court audience, "There's not a single day that's guaranteed or promised to us, and certainly days like this are very rare."

Agassi said he now regrets not playing more often in the Australian Open, where he has won four titles — 1995, 2000, 2001 and 2003 — in seven outings.

He missed last year's tournament after injuring his right wrist on the eve of the tournament. He said it left him "very much scared for my career," and now he always wears tape on the wrist. Psychologically, it feels good to have a little support there," he said.

He still won five tournaments last year and made it to the U.S. Open final, losing to Pete Sampras. Agassi also said he was proud of beating Hewitt in the semifinals there.

"He is one of those guys that is looking to push the standard of tennis," Agassi said. "To beat him in a big match is a great result."

Agassi's ranking plummeted in 1997. He missed the Australian because of his marriage to actress Brooke Shields.

Agassi also skipped the French Open and Wimbledon because of a wrist injury.

But at age 29, he won the French Open and U.S. Open in 1999 — the same year his marriage ended. He then added his three most recent triumphs at the Australian Open, where the bouncy Rebound Ace court "fits my game really well."

His eight Grand Slam titles tie him for sixth-most with Rosewall, Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl and Fred Perry.

Agassi also is the fourth man to win at least four Australian titles. Roy Emerson had six, and Rosewall and Jack Crawford won four each.

By losing only five games, Agassi matched the most lopsided victory ever in an Australian Open final — John Hawkes' 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 defeat of Jim Willard in 1926. Overall, it was the most lopsided Grand Slam men's final since John McEnroe lost just four games to Connors at Wimbledon in 1984.

Schuettler got a free pass into the fourth round when 2002 runner-up Marat Safin withdrew with a wrist injury. In the semifinals, Schuettler overcame Andy Roddick 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3. The 20-year-old American had worn himself out and hurt his wrist during a 4-hour, 59-minute victory over Younes Al Aynaoui.

COMICS

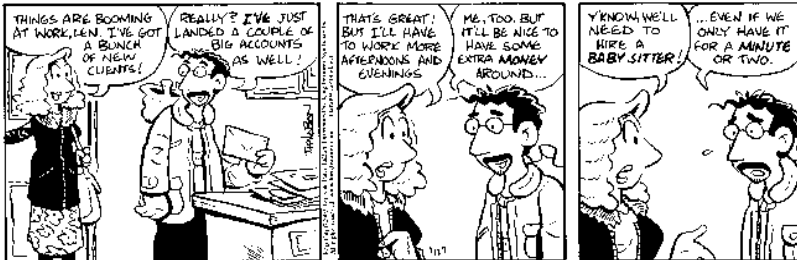
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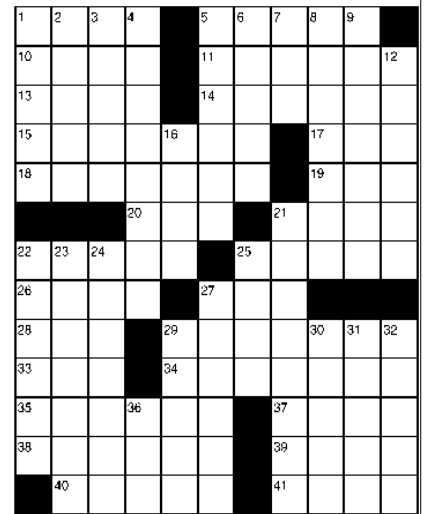
- ACROSS**
- Track shape
 - "Oleanna" playwright
 - Tree with needles
 - Brunch order
 - "Like that'll ever happen!"
 - Buck
 - Not as big
 - Bar cubes
 - Abstract sculpture
 - Diego
 - Picnic pest
 - Parachute part
 - Pollute
 - Talks crazily
 - Skating spot
 - Lobster trap
 - Tax grp.
 - School groups
 - Museum topic
 - Vegan's no-no
 - Non-pro
 - Thus
 - Quiet
 - Kitchen fixture
 - Loser to Truman
- DOWN**
- Used to be
 - Milky gems
 - Drop in
 - Singer Baker
 - Paris section
 - Early Ford
 - Love, Italian-style
 - Crooner Tormé
 - Writer Ralph
 - More than aid
 - Directions
 - Dryer waste
 - Living end
 - Ordeals
 - Siren cause
 - Chic
 - Map line



Saturday's answer

- Serving
- More than aid
- Directions
- Dryer waste
- Living end
- Ordeals
- Siren cause
- Chic
- Map line
- More than enough
- Wading bird
- Act the waiter
- Rarin' to go
- Boulder
- Kitten cry

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Man plays sympathy card for killing police

According to police in Red Bluff, Calif., Andrew McCrae killed one of their officers in November and fled to Concord, N.H., where he was arrested a few days later. According to his Web site postings, McCrae (a former "human shield" in Israel) thought the alleged murder would create sympathy for his views on war, police brutality, globalization and corporate social irresponsibility. He allegedly told friends that he was immune from prosecution because he had had the foresight to incorporate himself beforehand in a state other than California (corporate name: Proud and Insolent Youth).



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MID-WILSHIRE \$675.00 Newer 1BD/1BA, new crpt, blinds, freshly painted & clean, gated prkng, Indry facil. on premises, bclny, stv, gated entrance/controlled access.

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N. HOLLYWOOD \$985.00 2BDR/1BA, new crpt, new appliances, all new, gated prkng, A/C, bclny, stv, lrg clsts, pool, no pets, wlk to shops.

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PASADENA \$700.00 Tranquil 1BDR/1BA, new carpet and kitchen flooring, Indry facil. on premises, air conditioning, bclny, crpts, ref., stv.

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S.M. \$1700.00 On 18th near SM Blvd. 2bdrm, 1.5ba. Townhouse. Appliances, wetbar, fireplace, private patio, 2-car garage. Info: (310)828-4481.

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SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Studio, pet ok, r/s, crpt, Indry, bright.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$775.00 Bachelor, near beach, r/s, flex lease, util incld

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$800.00 Studio, good loc, r/s, hrdwd flrs, quiet, bright, patio, util incld.

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SM \$1250.00 1bdrm, upper. Brand new building. Microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator, stove, berber carpeting, large balcony, parking. Available now! 1347 23rd St. (310)899-9917.



CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$862.00
1+1, pet ok, stv, blnry, pool,
Indry, prknng.

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Westside Rentals

SM \$1,150/\$1,250 1bdrm/1ba,
utilities/parking/refrig, laundry,
included. Walk to beach and
Main St. Russell (310)396-
1439.

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hardwood/carpet, utilities/park-
ing/refrig included. Balcony,
ocean view, walk to beach/Main
St. Russell (310)567-6108.

SM \$2,400.00 Townhouse Con-
do in condominium complex
with beautifully kept grounds.
3bdrm/2.5 ba. New carpet &
paint. Very large unit w/private
patio, private entry, gated sub-
terranean parking, fireplace,
dishwasher, stove and storage
room. 1 year lease, no pets.
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SM 2BDRM/1.5BA \$2150.00
Prkg, wood flrs, newly remode-
led, french doors, no pets.
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modeled, french doors, prknng,
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STUDIO CITY \$1000.00
1BDR/1BA New w/d in each
unit, new bbq and sun patio w/
fountain, central air & heat, mir-
rored wardrobe doors.

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Fee. We have others from
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nity logo.
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STUDIO CITY \$850.00
Contempo lower 1BDR/1BA,
cat ok, D/W, gorgeous bldg,
gated prknng, patio, A/C, tiled
kitchen, new lino bath.

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Fee. We have others from
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nity logo.
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VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00
1BDR/1BA, super quiet bldg,
bbq, vertical blinds, new crpt,
very clean, pkg, Indry, gated en-
trance, stv. swimming pool.

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Fee. We have others from
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VENICE \$995.00 2bdrm/1ba
Bright & airy. Quiet upper unit
w/new carpet and paint. 2 car
parking off street. Close to
beach/shops/restaurants. 1
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VENICE BEACH \$1795.00
Large upper 1bd/1ba. Com-
pletely restored in smaller build-
ing. 1 block from beach w/hard-
wood floors, tile bathroom and
kitchen, new electric & plumb-
ing, dishwasher, W/D, stove,
fridge. 1 year lease, no pets.
Private garage available.
(310)396-4443 ext. 102

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For Rent

VENICE BEACH \$2,695.00
Craftsman house, 2bdrm/1.5ba
with 3 car parking. Hardwood
floors and tile w/large deck. 1/2
block from beach. 1 year lease,
no pets (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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VENICE BEACH \$825.00 Studio
with ocean view in tudor
style building. Great location 1/2
block to the beach. 39 Sunset.
1 year lease, no pets. (310)401-
0027.

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VENICE BEACH \$850.00
Large single 1 block from the
beach. New carpet and paint,
bright and airy. 1 year lease,
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VENICE BEACH \$850.00 Single
w/lots of charm and original
hardwood floors. 1 block from
the beach. Close to shopping
and restaurants. 1 year lease,
no pets, paid parking available.
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VENICE BEACH \$995.00 Single
w/ ocean view in historic
brick building on the beach. Ex-
posed brick walls. Lots of win-
dows and light. Recently re-
modeled w/ new paint and car-
pet. 1 year lease, no pets.
(310)450-1934

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VENICE BEACH Bachelor
\$625.00 1/2 block to the beach.
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VENICE BEACH Large
1bdrm/1ba apartments. Upper
unit in large courtyard w/swim-
ming pool, 4 blocks to beach.
Gated private parking, laundry
room, quiet neighborhood.
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VENICE BEACH \$2,400.00
Residential loft, completely re-
novated. 1bdrm/2ba, oakwood
floors, high ceilings, rooftop pa-
tio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots
of windows, lots of storage.
Great looking unit. 1 year lease,
no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

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VENICE/SM \$895.00 Large cor-
ner studio, secure building,
parking, pool. 235 Main St. Se-
nior citizen 62+ only. (310)261-
2093.

W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00
Townhouse 2BDR/1.5BA. Front
unit, new paint, new blinds, lots
of kit. cabinets. Offstreet prknng.
Indry facilities on premises,
dishwasher, hrdwd flrs, refrigera-
tor, stove.

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Fee. We have others from
\$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportu-
nity logo.
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For Rent

W. LA \$1050.00 Spacious 1
bedroom apartment. 1616 S.
Bundy Dr. (310)497-4411.

WeHo \$750.00 Character,
gas stove, fridge, carport, Indry,
secure entry, new crpt, new lino
flrs, Close to the Grove.

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nity logo.
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WeHo \$795.00 Spanish
1BDR/1BA, high ceilings, stove,
fridge, crwn mldngs, w/c, cat,
carpet.

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WeHo \$750.00 Classic New
York Style brick bldg, hrdwd
flrs, PET OK, Stove, Ceiling fan,
Crwn Molding, Close to shops
and rest. Pkng avail.

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WEST HOLLYWOOD \$795.00
Great 1BD/1BA, patio, 2 units
avail., patio, hrdwd floors, stv,
fridge, Spanish style.

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SANTA MONICA \$795.00
Lower Unit, Part. Furn., safe
neighborhood, bright, full kitch-
en, off of Wilshire Blvd., utils.
inc., amenities include Street
parking, Indry facilities, crpts,
furnished, refrig., stv, storage.

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Fee. We have others from
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nity logo.
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(310)276-4663

SM \$2500 1bdrm, ocean view,
designer furnished, marble
bath, granite kitchen. (310)721-
4824.

Houses For Rent

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tio, bright, prknng.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$795.00
Fourplex, studio, pet ok, r/s,
hrdwd flrs, bright.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$850.00
Guest House, 1+1, pet ok, r/s,
near beach, quiet, prknng.

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Westside Rentals

Houses For Rent

VENICE CANALS House
\$3,250 3bdrm/2ba, 2 car ga-
rage, canal front patios and
views, fireplace. Great location!
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carpet downstairs, new wood
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ext. 102.

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fice suite available. Great for
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ens. 500-10,000sq./ft. 2 blocks
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\$500.00 to \$750.00. Space
available for rent. Hottest loca-
tion on Main St. Can be ven-
dors like clothing, jewelry, can-
dles, salts, etc. Call only
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1994 Ford Escort LX Compact
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Introductory specials from
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time limit. Will come to you.
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mature chocolate. 14
years experience.
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Body, Mind & Spirit with a the-
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full body massage by athletic
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Announcements

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Santa Monica.

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202. **OTHER RATES:** For
information about the
professional services
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play ads, please call our
office at (310)458-7737.



Fake divorce

By The Associated Press

HOLLIDAYSBURG, Pa. — A couple looking to tie the knot was ordered to stand trial on charges they allegedly faked the man's divorce papers so they could get married more quickly.

Scott Alan Hite, 40, and Patricia Palmer, 38, now face a formal Blair County Court arraignment — on Valentine's Day.

An investigation began shortly after the couple allegedly filed a document in October that purported to confirm Hite's divorce.

Police said a Blair County clerk noticed an odd coincidence: The chief judge in Frederick County, Va., whose signature was on Hite's divorce decree, had the same name as a Blair County judge: Thomas G. Peoples Jr.

That prompted Blair County Prothonotary Carol Newman to check with Virginia officials, who said they had no record of Hite's divorce, and that the judge there was not named Peoples.

Because Palmer is also divorced, Blair County officials looked up her file and found Peoples was the judge who signed her decree, police said. Court officials, and later police, determined the signature on that document allegedly matched the signature on Hite's divorce decree, authorities said.

The couple were charged with forgery and false swearing.

The couple's attorney, Richard Behrens, said Tuesday his clients "are not guilty of any crime. Explanations will be forthcoming."

Talking trash cans

By The Associated Press

CLINTON, Iowa — They're talking trash about the environment at Clinton High School.

That's because the trash compactors in the lunchroom broadcast audio messages whenever someone opens the panel of the mechanism to throw away garbage.

"Thank you for helping us keep the environment clean," the trash can says. "Thank you for dining with us; we look forward to serving you again."

The new cans are among cafeteria improvements made after the school adopted a new policy that requires students to stay in the building at lunch, Principal William Cornelius said.

Students who toured Davenport North High School's cafeteria last year saw similar compactors and liked the talking trash cans, said Jeff Weaver, food service director for the school.

Cornelius said there's a "noticeable difference" in the amount of trash students leave behind at lunch. He thinks some students use the compactors more often to see what message they'll hear.

The four trash compactors cost \$4,500 each.

Although some students enjoy using the new cans, some wonder why the school spent so much on them.

"I don't think the talking trash cans make a difference, but if that is what they want, that's OK," said Rohini Ramnath, a member of the student council.

Helpful smoke detector

By The Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The idea for a smoke detector that lets parents record a message to tell young children what to do when there is a fire came in a dream, one of its inventors says.

Eddie Fray was one of four inventors of the KidSmart Vocal Smoke Detector who shared an award recently at the International Consumer Electronics Association's 36th annual show in Las Vegas.

"I dreamed there was a fire in the house and the smoke alarm told the kids to get out," said Fray, a 42-year-old father of three. "I almost went back to sleep, but I decided to get up and write it down."

Fray said he believes such a detector, with a message in a familiar voice recorded on it, will be less confusing to a child than a standard smoke alarm.

Fray and business partner Dale McCarthy teamed up with two other men, Brent Routman and Larry Stults, who also had patented a talking smoke alarm.

Routman and Stults received their patent first but agreed to partner with the two Pensacola men in a single company, Smart Safety Systems Inc., Routman said.

He said young children often panic and hide when they hear a conventional smoke alarm, sometimes fearing they have done something wrong to set it off.

Pet guardian

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Residents here have redefined their relationship with man's best friend.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance this month that changes the city's health code to make pets' owners the animals' guardians.

City health officials last November urged the board to change the law so pets would be considered animals, instead of someone's property.

"We're really trying to get to the heart of trying to treat animals more humanely and promote guardianship," said Matt Gonzalez, the board's president and chief sponsor of the ordinance.

Supervisor Gavin Newsom said the proposal could cause confusion among pet owners and veterinarians. He also noted the words "owner" and "guardian" have different legal definitions and could open up the city to frivolous lawsuits.

Other localities that have passed similar ordinances are Berkeley, West Hollywood, Boulder, Colo., and Rhode Island.

The ordinance needs the signature of Mayor Willie Brown to become law.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2003

TODAY

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

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

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Harvelle's Blues Club present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

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

TUESDAY

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.

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, 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.



BACK PAGE

Latest virus exposes reactionary nature to security flaws

BY ANICK JESDANUN
AP Internet Writer

NEW YORK — The latest virus-like attack on the Internet exposes more than a software flaw: The very strategy that managers of computer networks typically adopt for security has proven inadequate.

As network technicians worked Sunday to complete repairs to damage caused by Saturday's fast-spreading worm, government and private security experts worried that too many security managers are only fixing problems as they occur, rather than keeping their defenses up to date.

Security experts said Sunday that the problem was largely under control, though some worried that lingering infections could appear when businesses reopen Monday.

The FBI said Sunday that the attack's origin was still unknown.

The worm that crippled tens of thousands of computers worldwide and congested the network for countless others, even disabling Bank of America cash machines, took advantage of a vulnerability in some Microsoft Corp. software that had been discovered in July.

Microsoft had made software updates available to patch the vulnerability in its SQL Server 2000 software — used mostly by businesses and governments — but many system administrators had yet to install them.

"There was a lot that could have been done between July and now," said Howard A. Schmidt, President Bush's No.

2 cybersecurity adviser. "We make sure we have air in our tires and brakes get checked. We also need to make sure we keep computers up-to-date."

As the worm infected one computer, it was programmed to seek other victims by sending out thousands of probes a second, saturating many Internet data pipelines.

Unlike most viruses and worms, it spread directly through network connections and did not need e-mail as a carrier. Thus, only network administrators who run the servers, not end users, could do anything to remedy the situation.

According to Keynote Systems Inc., which measures Internet reliability and speed, network congestion increased download times at the largest U.S. Web sites by an average of 50 percent, and some sites were completely unavailable at times Saturday.

Bruce Schneier, chief technology officer at Counterpane Internet Security, said the attack proves that relying on patches is flawed "not because it's not effective, but many don't do it."

Two of the previous major outbreaks, Code Red and Nimda, also exploited known problems for which patches were available.

But with more than 4,000 new vulnerabilities reported last year, according to the government-funded CERT Coordination Center at Carnegie Mellon University, system administrators can have trouble keeping up.

Patches also take time to install and could disrupt other systems and applications. Schmidt said many network managers delay

installing patches to fully test them first.

Microsoft spokesman Rick Miller said the company is working with network professionals to develop better tools, including ones to automatically scan systems for known vulnerabilities.

A larger problem is inadequate information on which patches need to be tested and installed first, said Dan Ingevaldson at the Internet Security Systems' X-Force research arm.

Preventing the next outbreak, security experts say, will mean rethinking security. Favored approaches range from getting vendors to make better software to paying private companies more money to handle

the brunt of the work.

Company executives have said they want to make security updates automatic so users could grant permission once and have multiple patches installed over the Internet whenever needed. Network managers, however, worry that such automation could inadvertently introduce problems for other applications.

George Kurtz, chief executive of security company Foundstone Inc., said antivirus and firewall products are no longer enough.

"Security is a journey, not a destination," he said. "It needs continuous care and feeding like a child."

Tenn. town to train police officers in handling animals

By The Associated Press

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. — A police officer's shooting of a family dog has prompted the department to train its officers in handling aggressive animals.

The Cookeville Police Department received thousands of angry e-mail messages, letters and phone calls following the Jan. 1 shooting during a videotaped traffic stop.

Police and state troopers pulled over and handcuffed James and Pamela Smoak and their 17-year-old son, mistakenly suspecting they had been involved in a robbery. The tape shows an officer shooting the dog, named Patton, after the

bulldog-boxer mix jumped from the car and ran toward him, wagging its tail.

Gov. Don Sundquist personally apologized to the North Carolina family, who were on their way home from a vacation in Nashville.

The Humane Society of the United States will conduct the training in March, said Sgt. David Dukes, who oversees training for the department.

"This training isn't something that was mandated, it's something we asked for," Dukes said.

The Cookeville police and Tennessee Highway Patrol officers who attend the training will in turn train their colleagues.

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- 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm
- UCLA, Kerckhoff Hall
- Student Union
- Los Angeles

Thursday, January 30

- 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- Vera Davis McClendon
- Youth & Family Center
- 610 California Avenue
- Venice

Saturday, February 1

- 10:30 am - 12:00 noon
- Ken Edwards Center
- 1527 4th Street
- Santa Monica

Tuesday, February 4

- 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- Tom Bradley Youth
- & Family Center
- 5213 W. Pico Blvd.
- Los Angeles

Wednesday, February 5

- 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- Virginia Park
- (Thelma Terry Center)
- 2200 Virginia Avenue
- Santa Monica



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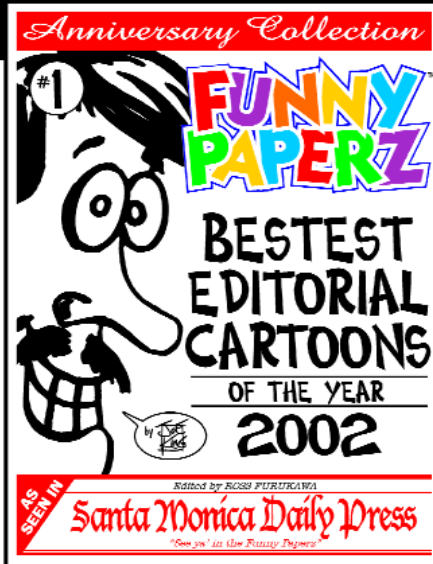
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