

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Beware when buying, leasing new vehicles

Residents can learn from Honda of Santa Monica class action suit

BY ANDY FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Consumers can learn from the ongoing investigation into suspected wrong doing by Honda of Santa Monica, officials say.

The dealership is being investigated by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office and a class action lawsuit has been filed against it for allegedly scamming car buyers out of hundreds of dollars a piece by allegedly tacking on fake state taxes and allegedly misleading customers into buying extended warranties.

To avoid similar dealership scams,

consumer advocates recommend potential car buyers do their homework before going to a dealership.

"Car buying, whether for new or used vehicles, is a ripe opportunity for consumer rights abuses," said Santa Monica Deputy Attorney Adam Radinsky. "And it's an area where the consumer has to be very careful."

Consumer watch

It's best to know what car you want to buy, what the dealership pays for its vehicles and to have a good idea of your credit history — all before you ever step foot into a dealership.

"These days you can go on line and find all of that information very easily," said Radinsky, who specializes in consumer protection law. "It's pretty much all public information now."

Brett Fung, an Encino resident, said he

See DEALERS, page 7

Coastal Commission OKs preferential parking zone

City must allow Embassy Hotel street parking

BY ANDY FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Residents who live north of Wilshire Boulevard may soon find it easier to locate a place to park near their homes.

People who live on Third Street just north of Wilshire Boulevard, have been trying for years to get the city to approve

a preferential parking zone so they don't have to compete for spaces with visitors to the Promenade.

The City Council approved part of the district last year and the Coastal Commission gave the final OK on Jan. 9.

But City Hall may appeal the Commission's approval of the new district, which would cover 26 blocks from Ocean Avenue to Fourth Street and from Idaho Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard.

See PARKING, page 7

Council may spend \$234K

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the city council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica City Council is expected tonight to approve a little more than a quarter of a million dollars to fund two non-profit organizations as well as to

hire a moving company to take items out of the main library.

The council voted last year to give the Santa Monica Playhouse \$75,000. The playhouse, a professional theater and educational conservancy, may have to close its doors if it can't find enough money to pay the rent, officials say.

Its current lease is up and the playhouse is negotiating to buy 50 percent of the building which is estimated to cost between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. The playhouse has to make a down payment of at least \$500,000 in order to make monthly payments that are comparable to its current rental costs, city staff said. The

Making Main Street more foot friendly



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

(Left) A passerby checks out the daily lunch special on the menu board outside of the Library Ale House on Monday. Currently, it's illegal to place boards on the sidewalk, unless it's private property.

(Above) Many people are drawn to Main Street because of its unique setting and outdoor dining. Merchants want to revitalize the area by creating more pedestrian-oriented improvements.

Street businesses.

When the community first began mapping out how Main Street should function more than a decade ago, it was collectively agreed upon that it should be pedestrian-oriented and have a village-like atmosphere.

But the plan was never formally adopted. Current laws are confusing to interpret, leaving many merchants unsure of what they are allowed to do in front of their stores, business owners say.

Hundreds of letters have been submitted to the City Council by merchants and citizens which ask Main Street businesses to be allowed to have more outside dining and become more pedestrian friendly.

"This helps Main Street businesses improve their business and meet the demands of the public," said Gary Gordon, executive director of the Main Street Merchants Association. "The public is very enthusiastic about this."

The association will present its plan tonight at City Hall. The Council meeting begins at 5:45 p.m., however the plan will be discussed toward the end of the meeting.

By Daily Press staff

Merchants and shoppers want to revitalize Main Street so it's more of a pleasure to walk along the sidewalks, eat outside and check out the latest sales in the stores.

But current city laws don't allow much of that to happen at the moment. The City Council will consider tonight a new revitalization plan designed by the Main Street Merchants Association that would allow businesses to have outside dining, as well as menu boards and merchandise display tables on the sidewalks.

Various businesses have been cited recently by the city for having "sandwich boards" outside their shops that display information about the day's sales, and lunch and dinner specials. Some businesses have had to pay as much as \$500 in fines.

Council members Mike Feinstein and Pam O'Connor are spearheading the effort to clarify the laws. They want city officials to look into what could be changed to make life easier for Main

playhouse, located on Fourth Street downtown, launched a fundraising campaign last year and is approaching its goal.

Another \$22,400 could be spent on the Santa Monica Historical Society to help

fund its continuing programs. The museum, which was founded in 1975, provides access to historic documents, photographs

See COUNCIL, page 6

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Pressure builds despite someone's efforts. In order to get past an immediate problem, you need to clear out an emotional issue. Consider why you're so reactive to someone at a distance. A friend adds interesting, if not valid, insights. Tonight: Try something different.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Whatever you do, somehow someone negates your efforts. Actually, this might have very little to do with you and a lot to do with others. Perhaps you need to buy a "sunshine" lamp to cheer up a friend or loved one. Tonight: Be spontaneous with an older relative.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ No matter what an associate says, you will get upset. Settle in and make important decisions just for yourself. Your mood could be a lot more off than you realize. News from others at a distance sheds new light on a personal matter. Tonight: Let someone else run with the ball.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ You feel pushed and pulled by an associate. Let this person know when you have had enough. In fact, you still might need to close your door in order to distance yourself sufficiently. A partner delights you with news. Tonight: Get into your thing.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Sometimes no matter what you do, you cannot please someone. Friends express their disdain. A meeting could prove difficult because of others' moods. Kick it all in. Do something where you can make a difference. Use your high energy positively. Tonight: Let off steam with a wild friend.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ If you can bring your work home, do so. The office resembles a madhouse right now. You might want to attempt another approach. Juggling different demands keeps your hands full right now. Don't lose sight of your priorities. Family counts. Tonight: Happy at home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Think in terms of gains with a child or loved one you care about. Even if this person reacts negatively to what is suggested, he or she means well. Detach and gain a perspective by walking in someone else's shoes. Tonight: Reach out for a loved one.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ A partner proves difficult no matter what he or she does. Think carefully about what is workable. Don't just nix every idea because you're in a bad mood. A family member could have a startling perspective. Take it in. Tonight: Pay bills.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Your best efforts hit a roadblock. What is going on here, you ask. Great question, as you see solutions that could make everyone happy. Consider different types of ideas and ways of communicating if you really want to get your point across. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy!



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Pressure pushes you in two different directions. You might want to hide out with a loved one or an associate. Sometimes it's better to watch the fallout than to be a part of it! You'll get nowhere with logic. Take care of yourself. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You can usually reverse a situation from bad to good. You're on top of your game. Think in terms of gains and positive changes in the near future. Realize what someone close really wants. He or she might not be able to ask for it. Tonight: Where the action is.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Head in a new direction, if possible. Conflict surrounds plans and long-term objectives. An authority figure might not be in a good mood, or the problem might go way past that. Observe carefully. Tonight: A must show.



QUOTE of the DAY

**"In America, you can always find a party.
In Russia, the party always finds you."**

— Yakov Smirnoff

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LOCAL



Billions of gallons of water undrinkable, group says

Santa Monica one community hit by MTBE pollutants

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — More than 70 billion gallons of California groundwater is undrinkable because of contamination by just two highly publicized pollutants, a public interest group says in a report being released Tuesday.

That's enough to supply 400,000 families for a year, and if usable would replace more than a third of the water California is losing because of its inability to cut back on its draw from the Colorado River, according to Environment California.

Backed by the report, state Sen. Nell Soto, D-Pomona, plans to introduce legislation next month to increase water protections and require polluters to replace lost water supplies.

Environment California is a new spin-off from CalPIRG, the state's chapter of the national Public Interest Research Group. The report is the first for the group that officially splits from CalPIRG this week.

Its report catalogs estimates of contaminated water from two high-profile groundwater pollutants for which cleanup

efforts are already largely underway: MTBE, a gasoline additive that trims air pollution, and perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel.

Santa Monica and San Diego are dealing with MTBE groundwater contamination, including a plume underneath San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium where the Super Bowl was played Sunday. Groundwater there isn't used for drinking now, but is in the city's long-term plans to help replace lost Colorado River water.

Santa Monica already is drawing on the Colorado River to replace MTBE-contaminated wells that could supply 13,000 families.

Though polluters already are often paying for cleanup, the group says that does not include many extra public costs. The city of Colton, for instance, is paying \$4,000 a day to bring in drinking water, and obtained a \$3 million emergency state loan to begin cleanup.

The group gathered information from eight communities on how many wells had been contaminated by the two pollutants, and how much water those wells would have produced.

Colton, with nearby Rialto, San Bernardino and Fontana, are together

See WATER, page 6

Tenant not responsible for shoddy cabinets, judge rules

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

If a landlord installs cheap fixtures that break during normal use, then a tenant cannot be held responsible for the damage, a judge ruled last week.

John Hess took Santa Monica-based Roberts Realty to Santa Monica Small Claims Court to recover \$880 of his security deposit, which was withheld so the landlord could replace the apartment's kitchen and bathroom cabinets.

Hess argued the flimsy fiberboard cabinets with fake wood laminated coverings deteriorated during the eight and a half years he lived in his West L.A. apartment on Chateau Place. He said during cleaning, water seeped into the fiberboard, causing it to warp and eventually fall apart.

"My wife is a real neat freak," Hess

said. "She cleaned those cabinets all the time. But they were damaged from normal cleaning and steam from the dishwasher and the oven."

Hess — a self-professed wood expert and certified architect — said the type of cabinets installed in his apartment came with a one-year warranty. He argued he shouldn't be held responsible for them after nearly nine years of use.

Judge Pro Tem Alan Freedman agreed with Hess' argument, but said Hess should be held responsible for 10 percent of the damages since he lived in the apartment for such a long time. Hess was awarded \$680, plus court costs.

"I don't get the idea here that they (the realtors) are shady or trying to take advantage of their tenants, but the cabinets

See CABINETS, page 6

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

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?"

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OPINION

LETTERS

A new plan rolled out for Main Street

Editor:

Tonight the City Council will open discussion on sidewalk dining, sandwich signs and display of merchandise, all three of which are typical activities on Main Street.

The Main Street Merchants Association, in response to customer and merchant concerns, a wave of costly citations issued to several businesses, the tangle of current regulations, and an initiative to open discussion by Councilmembers Michael Feinstein and Pam O'Connor, put together a proposal we hope the Council will support and implement before summer.

The MSMA proposal, which is also part of a Main Street Revitalization Plan presented recently to Council that would improve parking and traffic and continue the improved police presence since last November, would include allowing sidewalk dining, sandwich signs, and display of merchandise on the public portion of the sidewalk as long as 48" clearance for public passage is maintained. The use of this would not be free; it would be rented from the city by the merchant, paid for as part of a check-off option on the annual business license.

The size of the signs would be regulated (3'-4' tall; 2 and 1/2' wide) but would not require Planning Department or Architecture Review Board review.

Merchants would be allowed to display merchandise either on 6'x2' tables (as they do during sidewalk sales) or on clothing racks. The number of tables and racks would be regulated per store. And within certain limits, furniture could be displayed. Benches would also be allowed; again, size would be regulated.

None of this would require planning permits or review which would save the city money in the allocation of staff resources. All of this would create income for the city in the form of the additional rental fees and the additional sales tax generated by the additional business.

While some of the above activity is allowed, application fees for permits (which do not guarantee the permit) are expensive, the process consumes a lot of staff time, and the result has been uneven, frustrating, and especially costly for merchants and for the city. And some of the activity above is just flat-out not allowed so that in the case of some sandwich signs and merchandise displays, what you see, enjoy and use is illegal.

This is not a proposal that would allow anything and everything; it is a proposal that would legalize quite a bit of business activity already popular and characteristic of the eclectic nature of Main Street.

MSMA believes that the Main Street Business Improvement District is part of the solution to the city's money problems and that changes in policy, including adopting this proposal before summer, will help the city, help the merchants, respond to customers' expressed desires and values, and increase customers and business as well as expand and enhance the

pedestrian orientation and village-like atmosphere on Main Street.

If you support these goals, if you support making these aspects of life on Main legal under a well-regulated but less tangled and less expensive system, please consider communicating this to your Council members before or at the meeting tonight.

Gary Gordon

Executive Director

Main Street Merchants Association

Council needs to start thinking

Editor:

Everyone knows by now that the state of California is in terrible shape. Our projected \$34.8 billion deficit is greater than all the other state deficits combined. Putting aside the repercussions all of us are going to feel from tax hikes and program cuts, at the state level, we in Santa Monica need to focus on how our local government is going to manage the mandates for money in this time of shortfalls.

I personally think that more than ever, our City Council would be wise to think out of its political box. This means progressive politics needs to take a "holiday." In its place should arise a more pragmatic and centrist reasoning. I know there currently is a two pronged agenda being funded. One deals with socialized platforms — the homeless, low and moderate housing, rent control, wage controls, unions. The other, ironically, pushes for more gold leafed projects in which to frame this city's lifestyle — flashing cross walks (\$4.5 million), a new main branch library (\$40-50 million), state of the art street sweepers, and the like.

In order to buffer our city from California's financial mess, our leaders simply need to re-prioritize expenditures. Social platforms should be reined in. Restrictive business disincentives need to be reformulated. Zoning and ownership encroachments should be put on hold. Bigger and more glamorous is not better — at least right now. Pet projects like the library replacement, cross walk lights, living wage campaign monies are not pressing issues right now. All of the above should be scrapped, and extra monies moved over to the education column. After all, what good is a gleaming, extra big library when the school district can't even fund paper for its copy machines?

It takes a flexible public mind to leave political egos on the sidelines. But this is exactly what our city council has to do — take off its ideological garments and think, not in terms of constituencies, but in larger concepts of the greater good for all Santa Monicans.

Jan Tousignant

Santa Monica



Democratic hopefuls have to get their act together



Todd Flora

2004?

I listened intently to the Sunday shows a few weeks ago to see if any of the Democratic presidential hopefuls could inspire me.

The Iowa Caucuses are only a year away. Unbelievable. Pretty soon, the mid-term elections will coincide with the Presidential primaries. We must stem this tide, but the coming election cycle has nevertheless become newsworthy. Let's begin to hand-

■ Who can beat George W. Bush in 2004? I won't go on the record 22 months before the election to say no one can. But it's clearly an uphill battle.

So on whose shoulders should Democrats place their hopes for

cap the Presidential contest of 2004.

President Bush: A new economic plan to keep the rich richer? Mounting budget deficits? Potential for a "4 front war" (including two ongoing battles against the environment and civil rights)? The Democratic Party must stop harping on his level of intelligence and more on the scary things he DOES. Sadly, he's probably got much better than a 50 percent chance barring a lackluster 2003/04.

Senator Joe Lieberman: He can have flashes of progressive clarity at times. But despite the character and values he projects, liberal primary voters will quickly ascertain that he's too hawkish and conservative for their taste.

Senator John Kerry: Because of his strong stand for tighter emissions standards and support for publicly funded elections, Kerry is my current choice. Kerry also is a

Vietnam Vet, which he claims allows him to "say things other Democrats can't say." Well, one of those things would have been to oppose the Iraq war resolution. C'mon Senator! But I like his chances, even as a bookish looking New Englander.

Former House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt: I would rather comment on a stationary target. I've seen more Dick Gephardts than Al Gores over the years.

Senator John Edwards: He's what I call a "Top 40" politician — he's articulate about the hot issues of the moment, while never sharing many original thoughts. Also — no incumbent has been reelected to Edwards' Senate seat in years. If he doesn't prioritize the right election in 2004, he may be next.

Governor Howard Dean: He's a "guys guy" who was the first I witnessed to publicly stand up to Newt Gingrich after the

GOP takeover in 1994. As Vermont's Governor, he's passed bold civil rights legislation and created near universal health coverage. This dark horse may be the "Bartlett" of the 2004 field.

This exercise is moot, however, unless one of these Democrats is willing to provide a clear, vocal alternative to President Bush. The nominee doesn't have to be the most progressive Democrat alive. But he must be willing to say something! I hope Democratic leaders will find their guts in the lost and found pile by 2004.

(Todd Flora serves on the steering committee of Santa Monicans Allied for Responsible Tourism (SMART), and is an active volunteer with Heal the Bay. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com)



Evelyn Jerome

polled said they had a negative opinion of him.

He referred to his support of Tawana Brawley, who knowingly, wrongfully accused three white men of raping her, as advocating for women's rights. And poor Tim Russert had to interview Sharpton just

■ Rev. Al Sharpton called himself "someone who brings America together," and dismissed the fact that 66 percent, almost two-thirds, of the Democratic National Committee members

like he was a serious, viable candidate.

John Edwards and Howard Dean are making the rounds, introducing themselves, generating support. Are they just another southern moderate and just another northeastern liberal, respectively? Can either of them bring us together and defeat a circumstantially popular President?

Is anyone seriously considering Hillary as a candidate? As much as the right-wingers hated Bill, they hate Hillary more. While her positions are strong on core Democratic issues, choice, environment, health care, children's rights, she's too much of a lightning rod to be a national candidate.

There's Joe Lieberman. In my view,

America is not ready for a Jewish President. A majority of Americans, including majorities of African-Americans and Latinos, hold anti-Semitic feelings. While I was very proud, as a Jew, to see him on the Democratic ticket in 2000, I don't see now as the right time for a Jewish candidate at the top of the ticket.

What about Gray Davis? While he's only engendered luke-warm feelings among California Democrats, he has a list of accomplishments that has satisfied the left and yet maintained his position as a moderate. And he's got a war chest to boot.

It's going to take a strong combination of style AND substance to beat Bush in

2004. In 1992, Bill Clinton captivated the party and brought all of us together. No one else has done it since.

The left wing of the party jumped ship in 2000, feeling like they had no reason to stay, and it cost us the whole shebang. We need a candidate who can reach across the spectrum and really communicate with voters. And we need to remember that it takes 51 percent to win.

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

DID YOU KNOW?: About 50% of Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace. This is called propinquity.



Signs on Main Street need to stay in order for businesses to survive

I have owned and operated a small furniture store on Main Street in Santa Monica for over five years. I survived El Nino the first year, lack of capital the second, the IRS the third, but it appears that the fifth year of business might be the last for me.

I believe the major reason for my past success on Main Street was because of the wonderful furniture displays I was allowed to put in front of my store. I was informed eight months ago that I was no longer allowed to do this. Since then my sales revenue has dropped over 50 percent.

This sudden law enforcement has had a devastating effect on my small business. Clients are constantly telling me they thought I had gone out of business because they don't see a display outside any longer. You would never be able

to find my store if it wasn't for the furniture outside. There is no display window in front of my building; I have only a small doorway and front window. I originally chose this location because I had seen businesses displaying their product outside of their stores. I had always thought of Main Street as a being a very eclectic street because of all of the different wares for sale on the sidewalk. Now, five years later, the street just looks generic and blasé. I would never have chosen Main Street for my new business location if I had known what it would turn into.

Since given the final warning I have not put anything outside except for a few park benches. The very first week I did not have a display outside my sales dropped 30 percent. There is no getting around the fact that in order for this small business to survive I will need the help of the City Council. I will probably not last another six months at this rate. I have offered this community furniture at outstanding prices for over five years. I believe I have contributed greatly to this city, and feel that it is a shame I will no longer be able to do that.

I am not sure what the benefits are for this law, and have questioned it several times to several different inspectors. I have gotten a different answer every time. I was told it was a safety issue. If that was the case why am I not allowed to put a card rack out? Or when I had put

a small bistro set out right in front of the building they changed their tune and said that it was against the law to have anything for sale outside. Which is it?

I am no longer able to get large shipments of furniture in because I have no rear loading. I received a warning on a shipment day, even though I was actively loading the furniture into the store. Now my inventory has been affected.

I am confused about what the agenda is for the city council. Do they want the city to become deserted of all small businesses? Is the Gap, Banana Republic, and Pottery Barn the only types of retail businesses that can afford

to stay alive in this town? Between the atrocious parking conditions, the city taxes, and all of the red tape businesses have to deal with in this town, I can see why there are so many vacancies and such a high turnover rate.

There is no compromising on the behalf of the city, I am not able to get a loading permit, temporary use permit, nor can I put a small display on the property that I was told belonged to me right in front of the store.

I am not a quitter, I have survived the odds before, and intend to fight until the very end, but I have to admit I am now almost at the end of my rope.

This issue is one of the topics of the next city council meeting, and I am hoping my story will not fall on deaf ears. The city council has the ability to make or break small "mom and pop" stores such as mine. I hope they realize the kind of power they hold and use it in a manner which helps small businesses not only survive, but thrive in this wonderful city.

Some information about my little furniture store: I offer the most affordable prices on vintage and imported furniture in town. Nothing was over \$200.00 in the entire store when I first started out. I offer something to the community that nobody else does in Santa Monica. You may recall my location because you saw furniture outside all the time. Yes, I am still in business, please stop in!

(Theresa Stocking owns Eclectic Avenue Furniture, located at 2307 Main Street.)

Guest Commentary

By Theresa Stocking

DIVORCE LAW

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Bill designed to salvage Coastal Commission OK'd

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — An attempt to keep the state Coastal Commission in business by giving the panel's legislative appointees fixed two-year terms was approved overwhelmingly Monday by an Assembly committee.

By a 9-3 vote, the Natural Resources Committee sent the full Assembly a bill by Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara, that responds to a state appeals court ruling last month.

In that decision, the 3rd District Court of Appeals said the fact that legislative leaders appoint a majority of the commissioners and can remove them at will violates the constitution's separation of powers clause by giving the Legislature control over an executive branch agency.

Jackson said her legislation was intended to be a "very narrow fix" that keeps the balance of power on the commission in place by continuing to give legislative leaders eight appointments to the panel and the governor four.

"This will quickly and clearly correct that (court's) concern so the Coastal Commission can continue to carry out its regulatory function," she predicted.

When the commission was created in the 1970s voters did not want one particular ideology to dominate the panel, she said. Giving the Assembly speaker, the

Senate Rules Committee and the governor four appointments each helps ensure that won't happen, she added.

Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, a former Assembly speaker, said the current appointment scheme gives legislative leaders the ability to influence commission decisions by removing commissioners they disagree with.

"By establishing specific terms for appointees, this bill will institutionalize the independence that coastal commissioners need to do their job," he told the committee.

But Eileen Reynolds, a lobbyist for the California Association of Realtors, and some Republican lawmakers questioned whether Jackson's legislation would satisfy the court.

Reynolds said the bill should give the governor a majority of appointments to the commission to ensure its constitutionality.

"We don't want to put the commission out of business," Reynolds said. "We want to see something fair and equitable and constitutional pass."

"Right now if you've got eight appointments, then the Legislature is, in effect, implementing its own policy. They are implementing an executive branch function."

But Jackson, said the court was "clearly ... concerned" about the ability of legislative leaders to remove their appointees

from office at any time.

"This is a very narrow fix," she said. "I think it's the right one."

Assemblyman Tom Harman, R-Huntington Beach, asked why the bill didn't give the commissioners longer terms of four or six years to ensure they had adequate independence.

A commissioner appointed for only two years might be worried about getting reappointed, he said.

Santa Monica Playhouse may get \$75K from City Council

COUNCIL, from page 1

and artifacts from Santa Monica's history. The museum presents changing exhibitions showcasing various aspects of the city history through lecture series, film showings, and a host of community events.

The museum's funding request was prompted by the Outlook Newspaper's donation of its entire archive of photographs and newspapers covering more than 120 years of Santa Monica. The museum is planning to preserve 250,000

Jackson said using two-year terms "makes sure the commission membership is sensitive to the interest of the people" if there's a change in the philosophical makeup of the Legislature.

The attorney general's office plans to appeal the 3rd District decision to the state Supreme Court. Supporters say Jackson's bill could satisfy any concerns the high court might have about the commission's makeup.

images and negatives from the collection and catalogue 30,000 images to make them available to the public, of which 6,000 images would be on-line.

The Council also plans to build a new library on Sixth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. If the project is approved, it will take about two years to complete. The council is expected to award a \$136,845 contract to Belmann Group, a company that will move the library's contents in and out of the building.

Water pollutants plague municipal wells state wide

WATER, from page 3

fighting an underground perchlorate plume that affects 75 wells and has forced closure of 20 wells that could supply 120,000 families. Soto is hosting a hearing Wednesday in Sacramento of her Inland Empire Perchlorate Task Force on problems there.

The largest impact is to 50 perchlorate-contaminated wells in the San Gabriel Valley, enough to supply 250,000 families, the group said.

Rancho Cordova, near Sacramento, is fighting a plume of perchlorate from its Aerojet plant. Six affected wells there would have been enough to supply 22,000 families.

Fresno is spending \$1 million to treat

four wells contaminated with nitrates from fertilizer runoff. Nitrates contaminate eight wells that could supply 16,000 families.

California's inability to plan for trimming its overuse of the Colorado River water it shares with six upstream states led to a Dec. 31 federal cutback in the state's share.

Gov. Gray Davis last week summoned negotiators from four Southern California water districts to talks brokered by top aides, talks that continued Monday behind closed doors. They're seeking a deal that would involve following Imperial County farmland, with the irrigation water instead going to urban areas and to protect the environmentally sensitive Salton Sea.

Landlord may appeal judge's ruling over damaged cabinets

CABINETS, from page 3

don't appear of the highest quality," he said. "At the same time, I believe you were there for eight and a half years and (Hess) should bear some of the cost."

Steve Citron, vice president of Roberts Realty, disagreed with the decision and said none of the other cabinets in his apartment complex deteriorated like the ones in Hess' apartment.

"It's due to the carelessness of the tenant that the damage occurred," he said. "It's unfair of the court to award any damages."

Adam Horn, a building engineer who testified on behalf of Roberts, said he thought the cabinets were neglected and should be replaced out of Hess' pocket.

"All the tenant had to do was clean up any standing or dripping water and this type of damage could have been avoided," he said. "This was preventable."

But Freedman disagreed. He told Citron that if he was unhappy with the ruling, he could appeal the decision. Citron did not indicate if he would appeal.

"Those types of cabinets are very easily chipped, and those are the cabinets you had installed there," Freedman said. "And to assume there wouldn't be damage to them when you know what kind of cabinets they are would be foolish."

"If after living in that apartment for almost nine years this is the extent of the damage, then I think it says a lot about (Hess)," he added. "I think he took good care of the apartment."

Local Sports

Samohi Vikings defeat champions in boys soccer

By Daily Press staff

The Vikings boys soccer team took another victory home last week when they defeated Leuzinger 2 to 1.

The Vikings beat the defending 2002 Division I CO-Champions last Friday. The win currently puts Samohi in second place, behind Peninsula, and in front of Leuzinger, West Torrance, and Mira Costa.

The win not only helped the Vikings in the Bay League standings, but made up for their sub-par play against Torrance. Five minutes into the Leuzinger game it appeared that Samohi was still slumbering from the Torrance game.

Midfielder Olvera of Leuzinger scored the first goal of the game on an 18-yard free kick. Olvera's shot bent around the Viking defensive wall and into the upper left hand corner. The Viking attack soon followed and in the 10th minute, junior forward Barry Jackson, intercepted a misguided shot by senior midfielder Josh Rodriguez. Jackson, who stood six yards away from the Leuzinger goal, tucked his shot into the back lower right hand corner to tie the

game at one.

Then in the 21st minute Jackson scored his 10th goal of the season, giving the Vikings the lead, and the win. On a far right side cross by junior midfielder Andrew Martinez, junior midfielder Carlos Lopez ran in from the left side to redirect the cross back towards the Leuzinger goal. Jackson anticipated the redirected ball and headed it into the upper left hand corner past the diving goalkeeper.

For the remainder of the game, the Vikings continued to press against the Leuzinger goal, coming close to scoring again at least four times.

Great hustle and play came from defenders Johnny Dahlem, Micheal Eyler, and Cem Mangir, and the midfield play from Artur Szczepanek, Jordan Kurland, Ryan Natale, and Corey Prost controlled the pace and tempo in favor of Santa Monica.

This week the Vikings will play their last two cross league games. They will travel to Hawthorne on Wednesday for 3 p.m. kickoff, and will host Beverly Hills on Friday at John Adams Middle School.

The Vikings record is 12-6-1 and overall 5-2 in the league.

SMC basketball teams advance

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College Men's and Women's basketball teams have jumped up in state polls.

The SMC women lost their first conference game to No. 10 LA Valley but returned Saturday to easily defeat Citrus College. SMC is now ranked 15th in Southern California, moving up from their previous tie in 19th place.

The SMC men remain undefeated in conference after a close win over No. 8 LA Valley and a come from behind win over No. 11 Citrus.

The previously unranked Corsairs jumped to No. 15 in the state poll and No. 7 in Southern California. SMC will finish the first round of the Western States conference on Thursday when they travel to Glendale College where they have not won since the 1998-99 season. Glendale also defeated Santa Monica in the consolation finals of the Rio Hondo tournament in early December.

LOCAL



Do homework before buying a car, advocates recommend

DEALERS, from page 1

was given one deal by a Honda of Santa Monica salesperson on the showroom floor and an entirely different deal by Ali Hussain, the former head of the dealership's finance department.

He said he was told by Hussain that if he wanted to buy a new Honda Civic hybrid, he would have to put down another \$1,000, pay \$50 more each month and

extend the life of the loan for another year. Fung also had to agree to a \$1,600 extended service contract, which he didn't want, in order to get favorable financing, he said.

Under state law, changing the conditions of an automobile sale after the initial deal is agreed upon is illegal. If financing cannot be arranged, the deal is off and the down payment must be returned, according to the Los Angeles County

Department of Consumer Affairs.

The tactic is called the "Turn Over House," according to Radinsky. And it's a common practice among dealerships where multiple sales people are used to deal with the same customer.

First, the greeter helps the customer select a vehicle, and then turns the negotiating over to another sales person whose job is to negotiate the price and close the deal.

The customer is then passed on to another salesperson who arranges financing, and who changes the terms of the deal to better suit the dealership. After sitting at the dealership for hours, Radinsky said most consumers shrug off having to pay a few hundred dollars more.

officers the location of a stolen car.

Ciampi said she was told by finance department employee Hamid Khaki that without the system, she would have to pay \$50 a month more to her car insurance provider.

Two days later she found no insurers would give a LoJack discount, and the dealership allegedly refused to take the device off her lease. They told her it couldn't be done because of the interest rate on her loan, she said.

If the dealership makes false or misleading statements to make a sale, the contract can be made void, according to consumer advocates.

"The most common problem with car

City considers response to Coastal Commission ruling

PARKING, from page 1

The commission — which has jurisdiction over areas a mile from the beach along the state's entire coast — signed off on the plan as long as the Embassy Hotel is given permits for its guests.

However, city officials say by law they can't comply with the Commission's ruling.

"Right now city ordinances do not authorize the issuance of permits to (anything other than homes)," said Suzanne Frick, director of Planning and Community Development. "The ruling is actually contrary to existing laws in the city."

"It's not that easy to accept and change the ordinance," she added. "We have to look at what all the options are."

City officials are still deciding whether they will accept the commission's ruling, ask it to reconsider or challenge it in court. The City Council will likely have to weigh in on the issue by early next month to give city officials guidance on how to respond.

Some residents and the hotel's management have said the ruling is fair, and they see no problem giving the landmark 1920's hotel — located at the intersection of Third Street and Washington Avenue — a street parking permit for each of its 19 rooms.

There are more than 50 preferential parking zones established in the city that allow only residents to park in their neighborhoods during certain times of the day and night.

Hotel employees view a possible city appeal as an attack on their livelihood, said Ray Breen, the hotel's general manager.

"The only problem the city has with that decision is with the hotel getting special treatment," Breen said. "They have no problem with the preferential parking, only giving us special consideration."

"The way we see it, they are spending all this time and money for one reason and one reason only, and that's to put us out of business," he added.

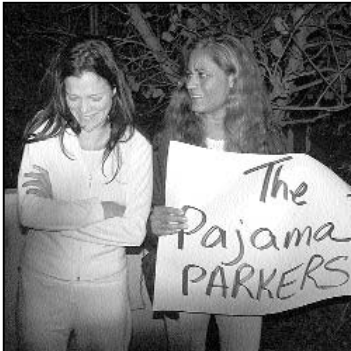
Frick said that's not the case. She said before the commission's ruling, the city has tried to negotiate with the hotel to install meters in front of its entrance and add loading zones for easy access. City officials also have suggested alternative locations for its guests to park.

So far, none of the negotiations with the hotel have been successful, Frick said.

"As we have said many times, we are willing and wanting to work through their parking problems," she said. "We want to continue to work together to identify solutions."

Breen said the hotel's recommendation that angle street parking be introduced to the block to fit more cars was shot down by city officials. He added that the city hasn't been a "joy" to work with so far.

"After dealing with the city for so long — and getting no joy from them — and



File photo

An unidentified resident and Sonja Braga, who live on Third Street north of Wilshire Boulevard, may soon not have to retrieve their cars in their pajamas late at night when the crowds have left so they can park in front of their homes. A new district may be created that could boot non-residents from parking in the neighborhood.

even though we are a historic building, we could get no special considerations," he said. "So we were surprised but delighted with the commission's decision. However, it's just a matter to see if it's actually implemented."

The hotel has no parking of its own, Breen said. When guests stay at the hotel, they must fend for themselves to find street parking — just like residents in the neighborhood and visitors to the Promenade.

Even though the preferential parking district has been approved, not every block has submitted the necessary signatures and paper work for their neighborhood to be included.

Only three of the 26 blocks in the proposed district have submitted completed petitions for preferential parking, Frick said.

And the block with the Embassy Hotel is not one of the three blocks that have qualified.

"In my mind there are a multitude of options available to the city and we haven't landed on the one to pursue," she said. "If we implemented it now, it wouldn't apply to that block (with the Embassy Hotel) because they haven't submitted a petition at this point."

But with downtown Santa Monica becoming the center of commerce for the city, Breen said it's only a matter of time before adding preferential parking to the hotel's block becomes an issue — especially because many employees of restaurants and shops along Wilshire Boulevard park on the side streets instead of paying for parking, Breen said.

"It's a free country but they are obviously stealing spaces from the residents," he said.

"Often you can get the best price through a dealership, but it's going to involve some sweating it out with these sales people."

— ADAM RADINSKY
Deputy City Attorney

"This arrangement is completely illegal because the original arrangements made by the greeter were not honored," Radinsky said. "And this arrangement is designed to confuse and psychologically wear down the consumer."

And if the dealer lets a car buyer take the vehicle home before financing is finalized, the dealer cannot charge for miles driven if the deal goes bad.

Another practice that many consumers complain about are dealerships that pressure car buyers into leasing their vehicles. Dealerships make more money when customers lease vehicles because the monthly payments are for use of the vehicle instead of owning it.

"It's typically a worse arrangement for a consumer," Radinsky said. "And it's an area where many abuses occur."

Holly Ciampi of Pacific Palisades said she experienced poor treatment by the Santa Monica dealership over a 2001 Honda Passport she leased in July 2001. The saleswoman worked it out so that with a certain down payment Ciampi could have the vehicle for \$300 a month — the highest she said she was willing to pay, she claimed.

The finance department allegedly increased the down payment and jacked up the monthly payments \$50 because she was told her vehicle required LoJack, a silent alarm that gives law enforcement

sales are false and misleading statements by the dealer made to confuse the consumer," Radinsky said. "Consumers need to know it's against the law for a dealer to make a false or misleading statement just to make a sale."

Tacking on extra features and extended warranties are very profitable for dealerships, and consumers are advised to look closely at what they are agreeing to, Radinsky said.

Many times the extended warranties being offered by the dealerships are limited to the electrical system or a vehicle's drive train, and they are separate from the warranties that come from the manufacturer.

If potential car buyers aren't comfortable with the negotiating process at dealerships, consumer advocates recommend bringing along someone who is experienced at negotiating. Or, they recommend using a car buying service that cuts the dealership out completely.

"Often you can get the best price through a dealership," Radinsky said, "but it's going to involve some sweating it out with these sales people."

Consumers with complaints against Santa Monica car dealerships may contact the City Attorney's office at (310) 458-8336. If the complaint is against an outside dealership, consumers may call the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs at (213) 974-1452.

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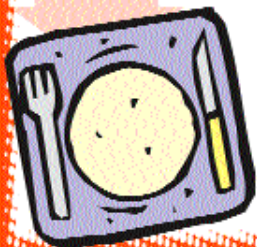
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STATE

Rowdy Raider fans ruin their city



Ben Margot/Associated Press

Overtaken newspaper boxes and benches are seen on Monday in Oakland after overnight vandalism. Rowdy crowds took to the streets after the Oakland Raiders' Super Bowl defeat and left parts of the city strewn with broken glass, charred hulks of burned cars and a fast-food restaurant with nearly every window broken. At least 25 people were arrested, mostly for public drunkenness, authorities said.

Robert Rockwell dies at 82

By The Associated Press

MALIBU — Robert Rockwell, who played Philip Boynton, the shy biology teacher and love interest for Eve Arden in the 1950s television sitcom "Our Miss Brooks," has died, his family said Monday. He was 82.

Rockwell, who had cancer, died Saturday surrounded by relatives at his Malibu home, according to his wife, Elizabeth.

He is the second cast member from "Our Miss Brooks" to die this month. Richard Crenna, who played the squeaky-voiced student Walter Denton, died Jan. 17.

"Our Miss Brooks," which began as a radio sitcom, was the most celebrated role of Rockwell's career. He was part of dozens of radio programs and appeared in more than 350 television shows spanning 50 years.

Among them were television sitcoms such as "Growing Pains" and "Diff'rent Strokes," daytime series such as "Search for Tomorrow" and "Days of Our Lives," and westerns, including his own series, "Man From Blackhawk." He also guest-starred on "The Lone Ranger," "The

Loretta Young Show" — playing Young's husband in each appearance — "Perry Mason," "Lassie," "Newhart" and "Beverly Hills 90210."

Beginning his film career as a contract player at Republic Pictures, Rockwell acted in more than 30 films, including "War of the Worlds."

Rockwell's work in more than 200 commercials and voiceovers was highlighted by a long-running television spot for Werthers Original Candy, portraying an armchair grandfather treating his grandson to a piece of candy.

He was a founding member of the California Artists Radio Theatre and lent his talents to many of their broadcasts.

Rockwell was born in Illinois but lived here for more than 45 years.

Rockwell is survived by his wife of 60 years and his five children: Susan Maddox of Wallingford, Conn.; Dr. Robert Rockwell, Jr. of Yakima, Wa.; Jeffrey Rockwell of Beverly Hills; Gregory Rockwell of Topanga; and Alison Rockwell of Malibu. He's also survived by eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Study finds gas prices climbed nearly 1 1/2 cents nationwide

By The Associated Press

CAMARILLO — Gas prices rose nearly 1 1/2 cents per gallon over the past two weeks, an industry analyst said.

The average weighted price for gas nationwide, including all grades and taxes, was about \$1.52 per gallon on Friday, according to the Lundberg Survey of 8,000 stations nationwide. Gas cost just over \$1.50 a gallon on Jan. 10, the date of the last Lundberg Survey.

A number of factors contributed to the rise: a continuing oil production strike in Venezuela, a fear of war in the Middle East, cold weather on the East Coast and the addition of a costlier gasoline additive in California, Tribby Lundberg said Sunday.

California is phasing out the use of

methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, an additive that is blamed for polluting drinking water after it leaked from storage tanks. Some refineries are beginning to replace it with ethanol, a corn-based fuel additive that is more expensive but better for the environment, Lundberg said.

That has increased prices in California, which in turn pushed up the nationwide average, Lundberg said.

Federal law requires gasoline to contain a 2 percent oxygen additive — such as MTBE or ethanol — to cut down on air pollution.

The national weighted average price of gasoline, including taxes, at self-serve pumps Friday was about \$1.49 per gallon for regular, \$1.58 for mid-grade and \$1.67 for premium.

NATIONAL



Research connects sleep to heart disease in women

BY GEOFFREY WHITE
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — Too little sleep — or too much — may raise the risk of developing heart disease, according to a study of nearly 72,000 nurses.

Women who averaged five hours or less of sleep a night were 39 percent more likely to develop heart disease than women who got eight hours. Those sleeping six hours a night had an 18 percent higher risk of developing blocked arteries than the eight-hour sleepers.

And nine or more hours of shut-eye was associated with a 37 percent higher risk of heart disease. Researchers could not explain that finding, but suggested those women might have slept more because of underlying illnesses.

"People should start thinking of adequate sleep not as a luxury but more as a component of a healthy lifestyle," said Dr. Najib Ayas, a sleep disorders specialist who was at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston when he led the study.

The researchers suggested that getting enough sleep may be nearly as important to heart health as eating right and exercising. And they pointed out a recent poll that

found that about one in three Americans has long-term sleep deprivation.

The study was published in Monday's Archives of Internal Medicine.

The researchers could not say for certain whether the findings apply to men, too. But other research strongly suggests so.

Previous studies of men and women found short-term sleep deprivation can raise blood pressure and levels of the stress hormone cortisol, lower glucose tolerance and lead to variations in heart rate — all precursors of heart disease.

Phyllis Zee, director of the sleep disorders center at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, said the findings show that doctors should be asking their patients about sleep habits. And if those patients are losing sleep by choice, "they may want to rethink their priorities," Zee said.

Researchers examined 10 years of data on 71,617 participants in Harvard's Nurses' Health Study, which tracked female nurses for a variety of studies. The women were ages 45 to 65 and had no sign of heart disease at the outset in 1986. Over 10 years, 934 of the women had nonfatal heart attacks or died of heart disease.

The study relied on the nurses' recollection of their sleep patterns rather than directly measuring their sleep.

Passengers asked to be weighed on smaller planes

BY LESLIE MILLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Airlines will begin checking this weekend to find out how much some passengers weigh before they can board 10- to 19-seat planes.

The Federal Aviation Administration ordered the weigh-ins Monday to determine whether current weight estimates are accurate. It's a question of safety for smaller planes, and passengers who refuse to go along could be barred from a flight.

The FAA also issued an order requiring inspections of elevators on all Beech 1900 series planes. The elevator is a flap on the tail that moves up and down and causes the plane to climb or dive.

Investigators are looking at weight and elevator malfunction as possible contributing causes of the Jan. 8 crash of a 19-seat Beech 1900 turboprop in Charlotte, N.C.. All 21 people aboard died.

Debby McElroy, president of the Regional Airlines Association, which is working with the FAA, said airlines are being asked to weigh passengers and bags over three days within the next month at about a third of the airports used by aircraft carrying 10 to 19 passengers.

The survey will affect passengers on about 200 Jetstream 31s, Metro 23s and Beech 1900s, McElroy said.

All bags will be weighed, but the FAA is letting the airlines decide whether they'll require passengers to step on scales or simply ask them how much they weigh.

The agency will allow airlines to add 10 pounds to each passenger because some people may underestimate their weight.

Passengers who refuse to divulge their weight can be barred from the flight, the FAA said.

The FAA lets airlines estimate that an adult passenger flying in winter averages

185 pounds, including clothing and carry-ons, said Lou Cusimano, FAA's deputy director of flight standards service. The same passenger is calculated at 180 pounds during summer travel.

Children ages 2 to 12 are estimated to weigh 80 pounds in winter and summer, he said, and each checked bag is calculated to weigh an average of 25 pounds for a domestic flight and 30 pounds for international travel.

Some believe those estimates may be too low because Americans and their carry-on bags have gotten larger, and checked bags often weigh more than 25 pounds.

Adult men averaged 180.7 pounds in 1994, the most recent year in which statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention are available.

Cusimano said the FAA still believes the weight estimates are valid but wants to check to be sure.

David Stempler, president of the Air Travelers Association, thinks the agency will find the estimates are way too low.

"People go out with these roll bags that weigh 40 to 50 pounds," he said.

The maximum takeoff weight for the Beech 1900 that crashed in Charlotte is just over 17,000 pounds. The National Transportation Safety Board said the plane's documentation shows it was within 100 pounds of that weight.

Investigators also are looking at weight distribution, which is just as important as total weight because it affects an aircraft's center of gravity. Too many bags in the rear compartment or a few large people in the back could change a small plane's center of gravity and make it more difficult to fly.

For that reason, FAA inspectors are checking each 10- to 19-seat plane to make sure bags are properly restrained so they don't shift during flight.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.N. report bolsters case on Iraq; Powell warns that time is running out

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. weapons inspectors bolstered the United States' case Monday that Iraq has failed to cooperate with them wholeheartedly, but also called for at least a "few months" to give the process time to avert a war.

The United States rejected Iraq's response to U.N. disarmament demands as inadequate, with Secretary of State Colin Powell warning that Saddam Hussein has "not much more time" to "turn on the light" about his weapons programs. China, Russia and France countered that the reports support the need for inspectors to continue to do their work.

In a toughly worded critique 60 days after inspections began, chief inspector Hans Blix charged that Iraq has never genuinely accepted U.N. resolutions demanding its disarmament and warned that "cooperation on substance" is necessary for a peaceful solution.

"Iraq appears not to have come to a genuine acceptance, not even today, of the disarmament that was demanded of it," Blix said.

He said Iraq failed to provide inspectors evidence supporting claims that they indeed had destroyed their weapons, such as the deadly nerve agent VX, anthrax and Scud-type missiles with a range of more than 90 miles.

Blix said his teams now believe Iraq's claims that it was unsuccessful in producing VX were untrue. "There are indications that the agent was weaponized," Blix said. Inspectors have also discovered a mustard gas precursor during recent inspections.

Mohamed ElBaradei, who heads the U.N. nuclear control agency, said nuclear inspections of 106 sites had turned up no evidence so far that Iraq was reviving its nuclear program. With Iraq's cooperation, he said, "we should be able within the next few months to provide credible assurance that Iraq has no nuclear weapons programs."

"These few months would be a valuable investment in peace because it could help avoid a war," ElBaradei told the council.

While ElBaradei asked for more time to carry out inspections, Blix made no request to continue working in his 15-page report, delivered at an open council meeting.

In closed-door consultations after the reports, U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte pointedly asked Blix and ElBaradei how much time they needed to conclusively determine whether Iraq was complying with its obligations, diplomats told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Blix is planning to present a list of Iraq's "key remaining disarmament tasks" in late March, as called for in a December 1999 resolution, unless specifically told otherwise by the council, Buchanan said.

The Pentagon pushed ahead with war preparations that would position more than 150,000 troops and four aircraft carrier battle groups, each with more than 70 warplanes, in the Persian Gulf region by the end of February.



Richard Drew/Associated Press

Nations chief weapons inspector Hans Blix, right, speaks to the U.N. Security Council as International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei, left, listens at U.N. headquarters on Monday.

The White House also prepared to release new evidence to support its charges that Saddam remains defiant and heads a regime with ties to the al-Qaida terrorist organization.

"What we can't do is just keep kicking the can down the road in the absence of a change in policy and attitude" in Baghdad, Powell said at a State Department news conference, even though he acquiesced to additional U.N. inspections.

Corporate leaders at World Economic Forum say effort to rebuild public trust underway

BY NAOMI KOPPEL
Associated Press Writer

DAVOS, Switzerland — Corporate leaders at the World Economic Forum turned their attention Monday to the official theme of the conference — how to restore public confidence in business.

"We are dealing with this issue head on," J.T. Battenberg III, chief executive of U.S. auto supplier Delphi, told the forum, an annual meeting of 2,300 government and business leaders.

The crisis of confidence was brought on by scandals like the collapse of U.S. energy trader Enron. Several at the forum called for a new commitment to old-fashioned business ethics instead of relying completely on the laws and rules affecting corporate governance.

"We no longer live in a world where business can say, 'Trust us. We'll do it right,' but one where the public will say, 'Show me you'll do it right,'" said Jaap Winter, former legal adviser to Unilever.

"Business must not only do the right thing but be seen to do the right thing," said Winter, who led a group of experts on corporate governance and accounting issues for EU finance ministers last year.

The official of this year's forum was "building trust," but the meetings have been overshadowed by the U.S. threat of war against Iraq.

Business and government leaders at the forum also showed signs that they have moved closer to solving a problem

Campaigning for Likud



Enric Marti/Associated Press

Next to a poster of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, a young Likud supporter places an electoral campaign banner in downtown Jerusalem on Monday, a day before the Israeli general elections. Polls predict that Sharon's Likud party will win a majority of the votes in Tuesday's election which will allow Sharon to lead a new coalition. Next to Sharon's portrait are signs from a right wing religious party reading, "Only a strong religious camp will ensure that Sharon will have a Jewish government."

In their reports, both Blix and ElBaradei complained that Iraqi scientists were not submitting to private interviews. But ElBaradei said the Iraqis were cooperating with his questions and said the process shouldn't be hampered by deadlines.

Under Security Council Resolution 1441, crafted by Washington and adopted by an unanimous council in November, inspectors don't need to prove Iraq is rearming.

Blix said three questions remain unanswered:

— How much illicit weapons material might remain undeclared and intact from before the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and possible thereafter.

— What, if anything was illegally procured or produced after 1998, when inspectors left Baghdad.

— How can the world prevent any weapons of mass destruction from being produced or procured in the future.

that has threatened to bring global trade negotiations to a halt.

Intensive talks among the heads of pharmaceutical companies, South African trade minister Alec Erwin and other trade officials made progress in finding ways to ensure poor countries can afford vital medicines, said Supachai Panitchpakdi, director-general of the World Trade Organization.

"Business must not only do the right thing but be seen to do the right thing."

— JAAP WINTER
Former legal adviser to Unilever

"In the last few days I thought (drug companies) have shown the kind of understanding that really we aren't that far apart and we should still be looking for a possible solution," Supachai, who also participated in the talks, told reporters. "What we heard at the meeting was encouraging."

Negotiations on the issue collapsed late last year after the United States refused to agree to a plan that would have let poor countries in certain circumstances

override patents and order cheap, generic drugs from foreign companies to treat diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Discussions are due to restart Tuesday at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva.

The forum, in the posh Alpine resort of Davos, has been criticized by some activists as putting corporate profit ahead of improvements for the world's poorest people.

But on Sunday, the new leftist president of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, expressed hope that the forum can be brought closer to the opposition World Social Forum, where Silva also spoke before coming to Davos.

"This is like a simple negotiation between a labor unionist and an employer," he said. "Once they sit at the bargaining table, we can see there are many topics that can be improved so we can reach an agreement."

On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell called to the nations of the world to back the Bush administration in a potential war with Iraq.

"History will judge us whether we have the strength, the fortitude and the willingness to take that next step," he said.

Jordan's King Abdullah told the leaders in the next session that there was little chance of avoiding war in Iraq. "We're a bit too little too late," he said. "Today I think the mechanisms are in place ... It would take a miracle to find dialogue and a peaceful solution."

SPORTS



Dexter Jackson is this year's Super Bowl MVP

BY HAL BOCK
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — Dexter Jackson grinned broadly and gripped the Super Bowl MVP trophy tightly, as if it were one of Rich Gannon's passes.

Jackson had two of Tampa Bay's five record interceptions Sunday in the Bucs' 48-21 Super Bowl victory over Oakland.

The other three picks — two by Dwight Smith and another by Derrick Brooks — were returned for touchdowns. Jackson's two grabs, however, turned the flow of the game Tampa Bay's way and earned him the MVP trophy.

And once he had it, he wasn't letting go.

"Me and a couple of guys on the team were watching TV and they were talking about the MVP," Jackson said. "I said, 'Hey, man, they ain't thrown the ball yet.' I can

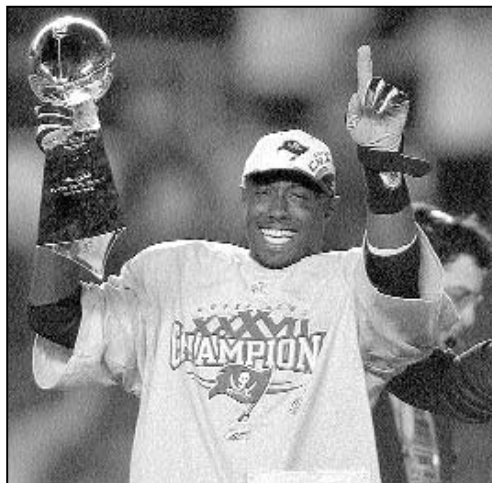
be a big difference in this game. The opportunities came my way and I was able to capitalize on them."

After the MVP was announced, Jackson said All-Pro defensive end Simeon Rice, who had two sacks and easily could have won the award, said the right player was selected.

"He said 'We're a unit,'" Jackson said. "That's the way we think. The stars and the rest of us are all the same."

Jackson began Oakland's downfall when he intercepted Gannon's pass on the last play of the first quarter. That started Tampa Bay on the way to Martin Gramatica's 43-yard field goal early in the second quarter that gave the Bucs the lead for good at 6-3.

On the next possession, Jackson picked off another pass, this time at the Oakland 45. The Bucs did not score on the ensuing



Mark J. Terrill/Associated Press

Tampa Bay Buccaneers Dexter Jackson holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy signifying his team's Super Bowl XXXVII victory in San Diego on Sunday. Jackson, who was chosen Super Bowl MVP, had two of Tampa Bay's five interceptions in the Buccaneers' 48-21 rout of the Oakland Raiders.

possession but got the field position that led to Mike

Alstott's touchdown that made it 13-3. When the Bucs scored again before halftime, the rout was on.

And the more Gannon tried to repair the damage, the more Tampa Bay's defense took advantage.

"We're one of the best of all-time. We're a great

defense," Jackson said. "You never can say you're the best. We're one of the best. They know now, they know tonight, we're for real."

"I share this with the whole secondary," he said, clutching the MVP trophy.

Jackson was only the eighth defensive player — and third defensive back — to win the MVP award in the 37-year history of this game. He also was overshadowed on the league's No. 1 defense by higher profile players such as Brooks, the defensive player of the year, and Warren Sapp, Simeon Rice, John Lynch and Ronde Barber.

"When I first came to the team, I knew they had some great players like the Sapps, the Lynches and the Brooks," Jackson said. "These guys came from nothing and came together as a championship caliber team. I'm happy for the city of Tampa."

Jackson was a quarterback in high school, one of the most highly recruited in the state of Florida. When he got to Florida State, he was converted into a defensive back.

"Good hands," he said, winking.

He was a fourth-round draft choice of the Bucs in 1999 and became an important cog in the NFL's No. 1 defense. In the Super Bowl, the Bucs held Oakland's offense, No. 1 in the league, to 19 yards rushing and 11 first downs.

"Gannon throws 40 to 50 times. Opportunities came my way and I capitalized on it," Jackson said. "During the season, people don't challenge our defense. He tried to make some plays, and I was able to capitalize."

"Gannon started getting frustrated a lot, which led him into more trouble," said Jackson, who returned his interceptions for 34 yards and had two tackles. "He was moving his feet a lot faster. He had happy feet."

Jackson's three interceptions this season were a career high. On a defense crammed with high-profile stars, he was largely overlooked.

Gannon made that same mistake on Sunday and it turned into the MVP award for Jackson.

Super Bowl television rating up 1 percent; best since 2000

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — This lopsided Super Bowl had the second-most TV viewers in NFL title game history: 137.65 million.

ABC's telecast of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' 48-21 victory over the Oakland Raiders on Sunday registered a national rating of 40.7 — 1 percent higher than last year and the best since 2000.

That means an average of 40.7 percent of the country's TV homes were watching at any given moment.

The viewership estimate, based on everyone who watched at least six minutes, puts Sunday's game second only to the 1996 Super Bowl between the Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers, which was seen by 138.5 million on NBC.

Last year's game was watched by 131.7 million on Fox.

The Super Bowl is often the most-watched TV program each year, and nine of the 15 highest-rated shows in history are NFL championship games.

In 2002, the New England Patriots' 20-17 upset of the St. Louis Rams on a final-play field goal had a 40.4 national rating on Fox. That tied 2001 for the fourth-lowest rating for a Super Bowl since 1972. Sunday's game ranks 27th of the 32 Super Bowls since then; of course, cable and the Internet have lowered broadcast ratings in general.

On the other hand, because more people own TVs, lower ratings can still translate to higher viewership.

The 2000 rating was 43.2 for ABC's telecast of St. Louis' 23-16 victory over Tennessee.

Viewership was consistently high throughout Sunday's broadcast, starting with 38.8 from 6:30-7 p.m. and rising to 41.5 by the end of the second quarter. Even halftime was popular, with a 40.1 rating from 8-8:30 p.m.

The audience — which advertisers paid ABC an average of just over \$2 million per 30-second commercial to reach — dipped from 9-9:30 p.m., during which time Tampa Bay enjoyed its biggest lead, 34-3.

It was in that segment that officials reviewed a ruling that negated a possible touchdown by the Raiders with a little more than two minutes left in the third quarter.

As ABC's broadcasters discussed whether the touchdown should have counted, play-by-play announcer Al Michaels said with a laugh to analyst John Madden: "Anything to hold an audience at this point."

With about six minutes remaining in the game, Oakland wideout Jerry Rice's touchdown cut his team's deficit to 34-21, prompting Michaels to say, hope in his voice: "Well, for what it's worth, at least the Raiders are CLEARLY back in the game."

Indeed, Oakland's mini-rally probably helped bring viewers back to the game. The rating rose a bit from 9:30-10 p.m., and hit its peak for the final 18 minutes, from 10-10:18 p.m., with 42.4 percent of the country tuning in.

"There was a significant interest in the game: the matchups, the coaching story with Jon Gruden," said Neal Pilson, former president of CBS Sports and now a consultant. "And the game kind of rescued itself late in the third quarter, when Oakland scored a couple of touchdowns. We were headed for a real blowout."

The record rating for a Super Bowl is the 49.1 that CBS got for San Francisco's 26-21 victory over Cincinnati in 1982.

The good ratings for this year's Super Bowl will benefit next year's broadcaster, CBS, which will sell its ad time based largely on how many viewers were reached this time.

"The biggest benefactor is CBS," Pilson said. "ABC doesn't get a single nickel more or less."

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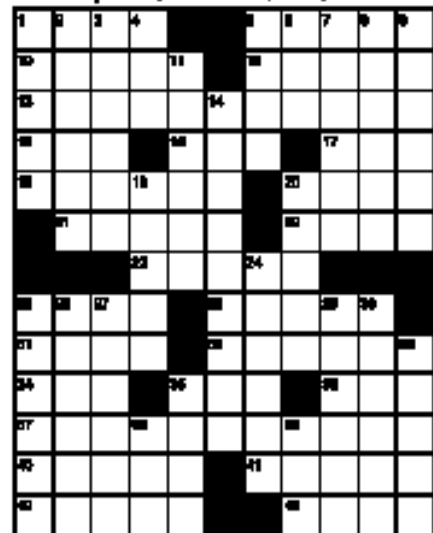
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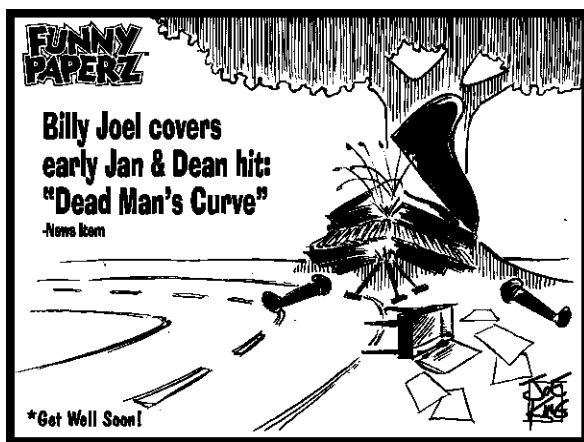


NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Woman fined \$600 for invading privacy

■ In November, Blair MacKay, 32, was fined about \$600 for invasion of privacy by a court in Dingwall, England, after testimony that he had barged into a neighbor's apartment and asserted, "I don't listen to phone conversations," after the woman had just minutes earlier told her companion over the phone that Blair MacKay was probably listening to them.

■ The Agence France-Presse news service reported in October that a German police surveillance campaign had been compromised when a software mix-up by the O2 mobile phone company mistakenly notified criminal suspects that their phones were being tapped from a voice-mail phone whose number was printed on their September bill.



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SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 N. of Wilshire, contemp., spacious 2BD/2BA, stove, dishwasher, prkng, pet OK, W/D in unit, mini-blinds, fridge.

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SANTA MONICA \$250.00/wk Dorm-style Hotel, prvt rm, free local calls & cable, prkng.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$2800.00 Spacious 3 Bedroom/3 full Bath. Top floor, high ceilings, sunny, bright, double patio, views of Santa Monica Mountains. Quiet neighborhood, North of Wilshire. Security parking available. (310)451-2178

SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Immaculate Unit, new carpet, original ceramic tile in kitchen and bath sperate kitchen, laundry, facility, refreg. stove, street prkng, pets OK.

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

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$795.00 1+1, pet ok, r/s, crpt, prkng, util incld.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals



CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$862.00
1+1, pet ok, stv, bldg, pool, indry, prking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

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

SM \$1350/\$1450 1bd/1m/1ba, hardwood/carpet, utilities/parking/refrig included. Balcony, ocean view, walk to beach/Main St. Russell (310)567-6108.

SM \$2,400.00 Townhouse Condo in condominium complex with beautifully kept grounds. 3bd/2.5 ba. New carpet & paint. Very large unit w/private patio, private entry, gated subterranean parking, fireplace, dishwasher, stove and storage room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

SM 2BDRM/1.5BA \$2200.00 2 story, wood floors, newly remodeled, french doors, prking, no pets. (310)261-8989

STUDIO CITY \$1000.00 1BDR/1BA New w/d in each unit, new bbq and sun patio w/ fountain, central air & heat, mirrored wardrobe doors.

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www.apartmenthunterz.com
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STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Contempo lower 1BDR/1BA, cat ok, D/W, gorgeous bldg, gated prking, patio, A/C, tiled kitchen, new lino bath.

Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.
www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00 1BDR/1BA, super quiet bldg, bbq, vertical blinds, new crpt, very clean, pkg, indry, gated entrance, stv, swimming pool.

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VENICE \$995.00 2bd/1ba Bright & airy. Quiet upper unit w/new carpet and paint. 2 car parking off street. Close to beach/shops/restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$1795.00 Large upper 1bd/1ba. Completely restored in smaller building. 1 block from beach w/hardwood floors, tile bathroom and kitchen, new electric & plumbing, dishwasher, W/D, stove, fridge. 1 year lease, no pets. Private garage available. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

For Rent

VENICE BEACH \$2,695.00 Craftsman house, 2bd/1m/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.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

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.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$850.00 Large single 1 block from the beach. New carpet and paint, bright and airy. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

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. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$995.00 Single w/ ocean view in historic brick building on the beach. Exposed brick walls. Lots of windows and light. Recently remodeled w/ new paint and carpet. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)450-1934

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH Bachelor \$625.00 1/2 block to the beach. Utilities paid. 1 year lease. (310)396-4443

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH Large 1bd/1m/1ba apartments. Upper unit in large courtyard w/swimming pool, 4 blocks to beach. Gated private parking, laundry room, quiet neighborhood. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$2,400.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bd/1m/2ba, oakwood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE/SM \$895.00 Large corner studio, secure building, parking, pool. 235 Main St. Senior 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 prking, indry facilities on premises, dishwasher, hrdwd frs, refrigerator, stove.

Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.
www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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.

Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.
www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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

Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.
www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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.

Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.
www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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

Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.
www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

Furnished Apts/Condos
SANTA MONICA \$795.00 Lower Unit, Part. Furn., safe neighborhood, bright, full kitchen, off of Wilshire Blvd., util. inc., amenities include Street parking, indry facilities, crpts, furnished, refrig., stv, storage.

Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.
www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1025.00 Cottage, 1+1, great loc, r/s, patio, bright, prking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

VENICE CANALS House \$3,250 3bd/2m/2ba, 2 car garage, canal front patios and views, fireplace. Great location! Repainted inside and out, new carpet downstairs, new wood trim, new garage door, new deck, new windows. 1 year lease. No pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

Commercial Lease

3RD STREET Promenade office suite available. Great for entrepreneur or small business. Call (310)613-1415

ABBOT KINNEY Design Offices, 1,2,3,4 decks, views, kitchens. 500-10,000sq.ft. 2 blocks from beach. Call for pricing. (310)399-9371

BY THE BEACH: Office or commercial. 1/2 block to beach or Marina Peninsula. In the Portnoy Building at 3401 Pacific. \$1250.00 Owner, Agent. (310)420-7862 or (310)480-7861.

NEWLY DECORATED office. 610 sq./ft., two private bathrooms. 1424 4th St., Santa Monica 90401 (310)276-3313.

OFFICE AVAILABLE in 5 office suite. 1121 4th St., SM. Law/Library, (West), reception, copier, fax, \$825/mo. with secretary desk. Marcia, Agt. (310)394-4492.

SANTA MONICA Main St. \$500.00 to \$750.00. Space available for rent. Hottest location on Main St. Can be vendors like clothing, jewelry, candles, salts, etc. Call only (310)430-3595.

Vehicles for sale

1994 Ford Escort LX Compact Station Wagon - 106,000 miles, CD player, good condition, \$2,200. Contact Nina at (310)395-7321.

Massage

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue. Energy balancing. Non-sexual. Introductory specials from \$45.00/1hr. In/out. Lynda, L.M.T. (310)749-0621

ERIC: CERTIFIED Massage Therapist. (310)877-3412

EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing bodywork by mature European. Professional Lady Sonja (310)397-0433.

ITALIAN MALE
Therapeutic/Sensual CMT
90/min, w/table, late night, in/out. (213)303-8773

MASSAGE ENJOY a really great, amazing and wonderful full body massage. Swedish, deep-tissue and Tantra. (Platonic only!) No time limit. Will come to you. 24/7 Cute, slim, fit, petite mature chocolate. 14 years experience. \$125/hour. Female diver w/car wanted. Dolly's pager (310)358-6535.

REVITALIZE & Rejuvenate. Body, Mind & Spirit with a therapeutic Swedish/Deep-tissue massage. Laura (310)394-2923 (310)569-0883.

STRETCH-U-OUT SENSUAL full body massage by athletic male. In/Out Eric (310)815-1222.

STRONG & SOOTHING professional/therapeutic bodywork. Intro: \$35/90min. Will also trade massage. Paul: (310)741-1901.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Acupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

Announcements

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF SANTA MONICA
Visit our bargain bazaar at 1453 15th St. Very reasonable prices. (310)395-2338

"I sold it one day! When I put my futon for sale in the Daily Press, it took me one day to sell it...thanks!" -Nina Stewart, Santa Monica.

Services

PSYCHIC DAVE - Future forecasting in love and money. Dave was a regular on "Beyond with James Van Praagh" (323)610-0161. psychicdave@aol.com.

SEX THERAPY Enhance desire, intimacy, passion and sensual pleasure. Surrogates & Training available. AASECT Cert. Bryce Britton, MS (310)450-5553

Services

WILLIAM JONES Handyman. Carpet cleaning, minor plumbing, broken windows, hang doors, painting, stucco patch. (310)387-4834.

YOUR CEILING needs clouds? Walls need faux paint for European look? Call Brian at (310)264-1559

Business Services

HOW can you get the power of email working for your business?

Great Big Noise
www.greatbignoise.com

TURN FINE Art, collectibles, movie swag, and junk into cash. E-bay sales and tutoring. (310)780-7262.

Computer Services

NEED HELP with your PC &/or the internet? Call your computer helper. All welcome. (310)236-1474.

PC PARAMEDIC
Computer & Networking Services. Home/Small Business. Weekdays & Weekends. (310)576-7519.

Classified Advertising

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



Ice block crashes through roof

By The Associated Press

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. — It was a chilling mystery when a beachball-sized ice block crashed through a roof and landed in an unoccupied bedroom.

The sound was “like a door was slammed, but 20 times louder,” said Joey Woodard, 14. “I looked around and wondered if a car hit the house.”

No one was injured when the 2-foot wide chunk landed one morning last week. Neither Rachel Smith, 23, nor her 6-year-old half-sister Barbara, were in the bedroom they share.

The piece of ice may have fallen from a passing airplane, homeowner Christine Woodard said she was told by the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA said it is investigating.

“We’ve heard of cases happening before, but it is very rare,” FAA spokesman Christopher White said. “A lot depends on the prevailing winds.”

Dog saves man from death

By The Associated Press

HAMPSTEAD, N.H. — A collie named Jarrod has earned the title of man’s best friend.

The 1 1/2-year-old dog pushed his owner away from beneath his snow-covered roof down a stairway seconds

before the roof collapsed onto the deck.

“If I was under it I would have been crushed,” said David Levesque, who uses a wheelchair. “The way I was leaning over the rail I would have been cut in half, I would have been killed.”

The weight of the 12-by-14-foot roof was later estimated at nearly 4,000 pounds.

Levesque, 61, disabled by severe arthritis and spinal problems, said he was leaning against a railing and reaching up with one of his arm crutches to remove some snow when Jarrod started pushing him.

Levesque says he believes Jarrod, who is trained to help him get around, knew exactly what he was doing and saved his life the morning of Jan. 6.

“Dogs and other animals have heightened senses that allow them to hear things we can’t hear,” said veterinarian Roger G. Wells. “He may have heard the rafters creaking or the timbers starting the break in the roof before it collapsed.”

Entertainment kiosks added to cabs

By The Associated Press

NEWYORK — Nervous about navigating New York City’s night spots? Forget asking people on the street where to eat. Just hop in a cab and quickly find the best places for food, drink and merriment.

Seven different companies are vying to install interactive video screens in yellow cabs — 178 of them in a pilot program so far. They also offer news, hotel and theater information — everything a visitor, and many locals, might want to know.

“This is awesome!” said Kara Logan, a 26-year-old Manhattan waitress, as she tapped the 12-inch screen inserted flush with the back of the driver’s seat. “When the traffic is terrible, you can just say, ‘Where are we?’ and find a restaurant.”

Operated by a wireless mobile computer, the \$3,500 touch-sensitive TV screens list restaurants by cuisine and location, movie theaters and show times. Cultural information comes from New York & Company, the city’s tourism bureau; news, sports, weather and business updates come from the cable channel NY1 and the Fox Network.

Customized programming ranges from documentaries about New York neighborhoods to segments of plays and original comedy skits.

More than 200 million riders per year spend close to \$1 billion to get around in Gotham’s 12,187 yellow cabs.

Santa shrunk before move

By The Associated Press

CARPINTERIA — It turns out Santa was too big for his bridges.

Workers were preparing a 5-ton plaster-and-chicken wire statue of St. Nick — a Highway 101 landmark for a half-century — for a move to Oxnard. They determined that the 22-foot-high Santa was too tall to clear overpasses and power lines along the 30-mile route.

Movers considered laying the him face down on a flatbed trailer but decided, after inspecting his crudely braced interior, that Santa had to remain upright to remain intact.

So workers lopped off the 5-foot plywood base painted to look like a red-brick chimney.

“We saved Santa, we couldn’t save the chimney,” said Mike Barber, board president of the Garden Acres Mutual Water Co. near Oxnard. “He just won’t be as tall. He’ll be 17 feet instead of 22.”

The water company, which owns a freeway-adjacent parcel, plans to spend up to \$5,000 to install a concrete foundation, lighting and landscaping for the statue in its new home.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2003

TODAY

Discover Polymer Clay: **Michaels Craft Store** in Santa Monica . Learn general crafting of jewelry, figurines, home decor, aging, antiquing, marbling, mosaic and how to make beads and more...

Starting in February! kids on Sundays 10-12 noon, Adults Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:30 . Call store for more details.

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.

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.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic and more. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop and Museum. Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are \$6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Reservations/Information (310)656-0483. www.puppetmagic.com

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

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

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

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

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45. **Two Weeks Notice** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. **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. **Narc** (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40. **National Security** (PG-13) 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45. **Darkness Falls** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Just Married (PG-13) 2:00, 5:05, 7:50, 10:05. **The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers** (PG-13) 1:20, 5:00, 8:45. **Catch Me If You Can** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15. **Chicago** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10. **25th Hour** (R) 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15. **A Guy Thing** (PG-13) 2:15, 5:05, 7:40, 9:55. **Kangaroo Jack** (PG) 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Nicholas Nickleby (PG) 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.

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BACK PAGE

Supreme Court rejects ugly fight over Barbie doll

BY ANNE GEARAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Toymaker Mattel lost a Supreme Court appeal Monday over a mocking pop song that called the iconic fashion doll Barbie a "blonde bimbo."

The high court did not comment in turning down Mattel's request to reopen a trademark fight over the 1997 dance hit "Barbie Girl." Mattel claims the preteen girls who buy Barbie dolls were duped into thinking the song was an advertisement for the doll or part of Mattel's official line of Barbie products.

The song, by a Danish group called Aqua, includes the lyrics, "I'm a blonde bimbo in a fantasy world/Dress me up, make it tight, I'm your dolly."

Mattel Inc., which gets \$1.5 billion or more annually

in Barbie sales, complained that an advertisement for the song ran during Saturday morning cartoons and that MCA Records Inc. even wanted to sell the recording at toy stores.

Ad materials for the song used the same electric pink that Mattel has used to package Barbie dolls for decades, lawyers for Mattel claimed.

MCA sold an estimated 1.4 million copies of the recording. The music company calls the song a parody protected by the First Amendment.

Mattel lost in lower courts, and the five-year tussle has gotten ugly. MCA sued Mattel for defamation after the toymaker likened the record firm to a bank robber.

Last year the California-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the notion that consumers were mis-

led by the song, noting that a pop art painting of a can of Campbell's Soup does not make viewers think Campbell's "has branched into the art business."

Appeals Judge Alex Kozinski, known for colorful language, toyed with the two companies a bit. He noted that the original 1950s Barbie resembled a "German street walker," but was gradually transformed into a long-legged American with a "fictitious figure."

"With fame often comes unwanted attention," Kozinski wrote for a three-judge appeals panel. He closed his written opinion with a warning to both companies to play nice. "The parties are advised to chill," he wrote.

Mattel, contended the appeals court rejected the reasoning of other courts in similar cases and ignored evidence that consumers were confused.

College freshmen: Poor study habits, but less likely to drink

BY STEVE GIEGERICH
AP Education Writer

Although American freshmen arrived at college last fall with the worst study habits in 15 years, it didn't hurt their high school grade point averages, according to an annual study based on a survey of the first-year students.

The study, released Monday, found only 33.4 percent of college freshmen reported spending six hours per week or more studying or doing homework during their senior year in high school. It was the lowest percentage since the survey question was first posed by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1987.

More than 45 percent of freshmen said they managed to graduate high school with an "A" average. Alexander Astin, who started the survey in 1966, attributed the high grade point averages to a single factor.

"The best interpretation we can make is that grade inflation has been increasing because of all the pressure

on teachers from students and parents to help them become more competitive for college," said Astin.

"Each year we think it can't inflate anymore. And then it does again. The C-grade is almost a thing of the past." Last year, 44.1 percent of respondents reported carrying an "A" average in high school.

Freshman Abby Shutter learned almost immediately that her relatively lax high school study habits wouldn't cut it at the University of Delaware.

"I took a lot of (advanced placement) courses in high school and I thought I was prepared for college. I didn't know how difficult it was going to be," she said. "Not only do you have to focus on the tests, but every project is more important than high school."

The number of "distractions" in college make hitting the books in college even more difficult, Shutter said.

According to the survey, Shutter's class doesn't drink anywhere near as much as its predecessors.

The study said an all-time low of 46.5 percent of freshmen — compared to a high of 73.7 percent in 1982

— reported drinking beer either frequently or occasionally over the past 12 months. Furthermore, 35.8 percent of freshmen said they don't attend a single party during a typical week.

With the decline in partying has come increased focus on politics — at least for now. "We don't know whether it's a 9-11 blip or part of a trend," Astin said.

Among freshmen entering college in 2001, 31.4 percent said they kept abreast of political affairs. In 2002, the number increased to 32.9 percent as the first class of freshmen entered school following the terrorist attacks.

The all-time low in political interest, 28.1 percent, was recorded in 2000 and the all-time high, 60.3 percent, in 1966.

The report, conducted with the American Council on Education, was based on responses from 282,549 students at 437 public and private colleges and universities to a written survey. A total of 1.2 million students are currently enrolled in four-year schools.

3 NEW Ways To Live, Love, Eat!



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Monday - Friday
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HAPPY HOUR
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JAZZ NIGHT
Every Tuesday
From 7:00pm to 11:00pm
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1 One FREE Breakfast Entree
All day long! Choose from our delicious menu of breakfast entrees. One free with any purchase of \$10 or more. Valid Monday - Friday. 10/1/03

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3 One FREE Dessert on Jazz Night
All day long! Choose from our delicious menu of desserts. One free with any purchase of \$10 or more. Valid Tuesday. 10/1/03

(310) 316-1100



TEAM CAPTAIN'S WANTED

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

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

Team Captains responsibilities:

- Organize a team of 18-20 people and distribute team member's packets
- Attend the Captain's meetings (there will probably be 2 including one where registration fees will be collected)
- Attend the Bank night 2 weeks before the event (Bring the money raised by your team)
- Create a team name and select your team's campsite
- Be enthusiastic and urge team members to Fundraise. Most of the money will come from fundraising.

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

For more information:
Please call Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society
(310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246
tracey.mayer@cancer.org