

# Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

## LOTTO

### FANTASY 5

12, 19, 32, 29, 21

### DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 8, 6, 0

Evening picks: 3, 0, 7

### DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 3, Hot Shot

2nd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

3rd Place: 4, Big Ben

Race Time: 1:45.18



## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

When Dan White killed San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone in 1978, but argued successfully that he had diminished capacity because of a depression that was exemplified by eating too much junk food, the "Twinkie Defense" was born.

In December 2003, U.S. Rep. Bill Janklow of South Dakota was convicted of manslaughter for causing a traffic fatality, despite a defense that he had diminished capacity due to low blood sugar from his diabetes. Presumably, then (though Janklow did not specifically say so), the accident, the death, and his conviction would never have happened if only he had eaten some Twinkies.



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Laws are like sausages. It's better not to see them being made."

— Otto von Bismark



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# Principal's message heard loud, clear

BY JAMIE WETHERBE

Special to the Daily Press

**SCHOOL DISTRICT HDQRTS.** — The fate of a Santa Monica high school seems to be in jeopardy in the wake of its principal lashing out at a top school official last week, claiming he has threatened to close the facility's doors.

"I feel like this is the last supper before the execution," said Olympic High School Principal Dr. Susanne Toyryla, speaking to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education last Thursday.

"My good name is on the block," she added.

Toyryla came out on the defensive last week — defending the school, its staff and its students. She insisted she was on hand to not only protect her job, but also the educational oppor-

**"And you think you're going to get rid of me this quickly? No!"**

— DR. SUSANNE TOYRYLA

Olympic High School Principal

tunities of the 130 students who attend the alternative school at Lincoln and Ocean Park boulevards.

Rumors have been rampant within the community regarding schools superintendent John Deasy and his alleged intention to turn Olympic into charter schools. However, Deasy said

Toyryla's interpretation of his plans are wrong, adding he has no intentions to close the school.

"There clearly was a miscommunication," he said after the meeting.

Instead, as part of an effort to improve all district high schools, Deasy insists he wants to assemble a task force to explore expanding Olympic into charter schools so more students can attend. By opening charter schools, Deasy said students as early as the eighth grade could opt to attend Olympic rather than being sent there because they'd fallen behind at Samohi or Malibu High.

The superintendent and school board backed off those plans, however, after students, staff and Toyryla shouted at the board out of frustration,

See OLYMPIC HIGH, page 6

## That's rubbish



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

**Volunteers from Step Up On Second, a local social service agency, scrape refuse off the sidewalk along Second Street on Thursday. More than 50 of the agency's clients, volunteers and community business partners swept, scraped and picked up debris along the thoroughfare between Colorado Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard.**

## Nonprofits given \$190K donation

*Private foundation steps in as government pledges slide*

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Two Santa Monica nonprofits were among 10 awarded a total of \$1.2 million earlier this month by the California Community Foundation, an area philanthropic outfit with more than \$550 million in assets.

Among the donations: Chrysalis, which helps homeless and poor people find jobs, received \$175,000; Upward Bound House, a housing provider for low-income seniors and homeless families, will get \$15,000.

With government donations shrinking throughout California, nonprofits are increasingly turning to private groups to help fund social service programs. Local groups are no exception.

Andrew Parker, the executive director of Upward Bound House, said the \$15,000 donation is a welcome contribution to his organization's \$1 million budget.

"It'll be used for core operating costs, staff operating costs for the transitional housing facility," he said. "We had actually this past year asked the city of Santa Monica

See GROUPS, page 7

## Jury deciding the fate of accused cab driver killer

BY MICHAEL TITTINGER

Daily Press Staff Writer

**DOWNTOWN LA** — The fate of a 24-year-old Santa Monica man accused of viciously attacking and killing an unsuspecting cab driver nearly three years ago, now rests with a 13-member jury deliberating today at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Closing arguments were delivered Thursday in the murder trial of Antonio Barba, accused of robbing and stabbing Keum Kim more than 30 times in the head, neck and chest during an attack in the Oakwood section of Venice.

Superior Court Judge Robert J. Perry instructed the jurors on Thursday, following three days of witness testimony. The jury, selected from a 55-member pool during a lengthy inquisition on Monday, will begin

deliberating in earnest today. Perry, who will not be in attendance at the courthouse today, will return to the courtroom should a ruling be rendered by the jury, according to a court clerk.

Barba is charged with one count of murder and one count of armed robbery in connection with the July 8, 2001 slaying of Kim. Hailing from the 1800 block of 16th Street in the Pico

See CAB DRIVER, page 6

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## It's a five-star day, Scorpio



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average  
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You are clearly relieved to greet the weekend, but there are certain steps you must take to get there. The unexpected does occur, but you will be prepared to handle it. Communication remains key. Tonight: Where the gang is.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Make the most of the daylight hours, when the aspects favor you. In fact, you might like what goes down so much that you feel in the mood for celebration. Ask others to join you, but be prepared to pick up the tab. Tonight: Your treat.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Take your time during the day. Reflect, get your must-do list done and think in terms of gains. Your personality opens doors as the day gets later. What would a Friday night be without a Gemini? Don't be shocked by another's behavior. Tonight: Enjoy the whirlwind of popularity around you.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Use the daytime hours, when you are favored. You can obtain what you want if you are focused. You also get a friend's or group's backing. Move quickly, especially as a surprise opportunity could hit, though at first you might think it is bad news. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You seem in a neutral position no matter what comes down your path. How you see a situation could change if you open up to new possibilities. A partner's surprise action takes you a long way toward a new goal. Tonight: Where you are is where the party is.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ If you can take off earlier in the day, do so. As the day becomes later, you will find that others need you and have a lack of stability. In fact, you might not be able to split town fast because of responsibilities. Tonight: A must appearance. Sorry.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal with an individual who is sorely in need of your time and advice. You'll like what happens as a result. Work on taking an overview. Get a new perspective, if possible. You might want to talk to someone you trust who's in the know. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You're still in the mode of letting others come to you. You could continue to do this, but what might happen would be a bit surprising. Deal with others only when you are ready, which will be by the evening. Tonight: Togetherness works.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Pace yourself on an even level. You'll discover what someone really wants if you let those around you talk. The unexpected occurs later in the day with a family member. Let this person express his or her feelings. Tonight: Follow another's lead.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Use that innate creativity during the day, whether to get out of the office or to try something totally different. An invitation to a friend might be given with unusual ingenuity. He or she cannot say anything but "yes." Tonight: Don't push yourself too hard.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Deal with basics during the day. Recognize how unpredictable others find you, or vice versa. Be willing to flow with the moment. Security and family members need time. Get ready to be your ever frisky self later. Tonight: Lead the Friday-night festivities.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You need to ask questions before making an assumption. You find others unpredictable, but you might be changing more than you realize. Air out a decision with those you care about. Feedback will be important. Tonight: Happy at home.

## Santa Monica Daily Press

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## LOCAL

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Help wanted: District seeks cash-conscious committee**

By Daily Press staff

If you care about the future of the local district, there is an opportunity to become more involved in its finances.

With the resignation of Walter Rosenthal due to business commitments, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education is accepting applications to fill one vacancy on the district's Ad Hoc Financial Oversight Committee. The application deadline is Feb. 13 and an appointment will be made by Feb. 19. Parents and community members are invited to apply.

The Financial Oversight Committee was originally formed in answer to the community's desire for increased communication and understanding of the district's financial operations and a need to generate additional revenue for the district. Following is the criteria for selections:

- Broad perspective.
- Financial and/or management and/or legal expertise/experience.
- Residing, employed or working within geographic boundaries of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.
- Business process orientation.
- Communicates clearly information resulting from the committee's work.
- Not currently serving as an elected official.

All attempts will be made to have the composition of the committee reflective of the student population. Since Rosenthal resided in Malibu, the board encourages Malibu residents to apply. However, all applicants will receive consideration.

The committee meets regularly on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the district's testing room, 1651 16th St., second floor.

Applications may be obtained at the district administration offices, 1651 16th St., or on-line at [www.smmusd.org](http://www.smmusd.org).

**Big Blue Busloads of food driven to needy**

By Daily Press staff

City employees collected more than 9,500 pounds of non-perishable food in this year's annual food drive. The food was collected on behalf of the Westside food bank from city employees from all the departments in November and December.

The annual food drive initiated by the Big Blue Bus, pits city departments against each other to see which department can raise the greatest amount of food. The Big Blue Bus coordinates the food drive, now in its eighth year, as part of its community service commitment.

As it is every year, competition was fierce among the departments. Departments competed against other city departments of the same size. This year's winning city departments were, the City Attorney's Office with 1,140 pounds, the City Manager's Office with 1,345 pounds and Environmental and Public Works Management with 3,905 pounds. Each department will be recognized with an award.

The Westside Food Bank, which supplies food to more than 65 social service agencies throughout west Los Angeles, reaches more than 70,000 people each year, half of them children. According to the Food Bank, the Big Blue Bus Annual Food Drive campaign is one of the most successful food drives conducted on their behalf.

**A walk back in time City Hall**

By Daily Press staff

The city of Santa Monica has published a "Guide to Historic Santa Monica City Hall," a full-color brochure that details the architectural, historic and artistic features of the 65-year-old City Hall building.

A "walking tour" guide to City Hall, the brochure includes pictures of the building's interior and exterior tiles, created by the renowned manufacturer, Gladding, McBean, and two large, Petrachrome murals created by Santa Monica artist, Stanton Macdonald-Wright, as well as highlighting the inlaid city seal in the lobby floor, finely-crafted woodworking and fixtures. Accompanying text describes the origins and significance of the building and its features. The free brochure is available at the information desk in the lobby at City Hall, and can be viewed online at [santa.monica.org/cm/PDF/HistoricGuide.pdf](http://santa.monica.org/cm/PDF/HistoricGuide.pdf).

Built in 1938-39, City Hall is an example of the "PWA Moderne" style of architecture favored for public buildings in the 1930s and 1940s. The building is both a desig-



The wind swell will back off today as the S swell holds and a new NW ground swell fills into early Saturday. We'll see a fade in surf by the end of the weekend.

Today, look for a mix of swells in the water. Winds remain light and variable this morning and build out of the NW in the 8-12 knot range for the afternoon.

Expect 3-4', waist- to shoulder-high with fair to good conditions.

Write us at [wood@smdp.com](mailto:wood@smdp.com) and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break. Epic.

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| SUNDAY    | 5:09 AM   | 5:51 PM | 11:04 AM   | N/A      |
| MONDAY    | 6:09 AM   | 6:26 PM | 12:36 AM   | 11:49 AM |
| TUESDAY   | 7:24 AM   | 7:00 PM | 1:16 AM    | 12:48 PM |
| WEDNESDAY | 9:04 AM   | 7:39 PM | 2:04 AM    | 2:20 PM  |
| THURSDAY  | 10:39 AM  | 8:35 PM | 3:00 AM    | 4:49 PM  |
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nated city landmark and registered state historical resource, and is also eligible for listing in the federal Register of Historic Places.

The brochure was produced using funds remaining from a 2002 grant from the Getty's "Preserve L.A." initiative to help conserve the historic, architectural, and cultural resources of Los Angeles County. A historic structures report, compiled by the Historic Resources Group, LLC, surveyed, analyzed and documented the building resources and is the basis for its preservation, maintenance and future improvements.

**Lincoln Blvd. emancipated from blockades**

By Daily Press staff

One of the busiest intersections in Santa Monica opened this week after it was closed for more than a month.

A water main break that occurred on New Year's Day caused damage to the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Colorado Avenue, resulting in the temporary closure of Lincoln Boulevard from Broadway to the freeway.

Travel on Lincoln Boulevard and Colorado Avenue between Seventh Street and Lincoln Boulevard returned to normal with the opening of all lanes of traffic on Wednesday. Motorists are advised, however, to watch for crews finishing up road striping work through the end of the week.



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## LETTERS

## Noting ethnicity not very ethical

## Editor:

In the story "Accused cab driver killer stands trial" (SMDP, Jan. 27, page 1), the ethnic background of the victim (was he not Korean American instead of Korean?), and the preferred spoken language of the suspect's mother are irrelevant. The suspect's ethnicity should have been brought up only in the context of the judge's jury selection, if at all. The sentence "Among those showing their support for Barba, who is Hispanic, was his non-English-speaking mother," is particularly biased and, frankly, shocking to see in a newspaper in 2004. In "New charges filed against Santa Monica woman" (SMDP, Jan. 27, page 1), why isn't her ethnicity or preferred spoken language mentioned? Are we to assume that only Hispanics with non-English-speaking mothers are worthy of having their ethnic backgrounds put on trial?

My girlfriend is Korean-American, and I'm Latino, and I say this because this is relevant, if I chose to disclose such, given my objections. I think whoever killed this cab driver crime should pay dearly.

But this story clearly violates the journalistic ethic of leaving ethnicity out of it unless the story is actually about ethnicity.

Dennis Romero  
Los Angeles

## No one home at homeless meeting

## Editor:

As a new resident of Santa Monica, I am very concerned about the homelessness problem. I would have attended the meeting this week had I known about it, ("Few residents weigh in on homeless plan," SMDP, Jan. 28, page 1). So I would not read into the lack of resident-attendance as a lack of interest on the part of local residents.

I think local, taxpaying-resident input is important to addressing this problem. I also think resident concerns should be addressed — safety, etc. — without being vilified by homeless advocates as being anti-homeless. Residents have legitimate concerns that deserve an open forum to be discussed with the city and those who advocate for the homeless.

Kathryn Padbury  
Santa Monica

## Help is just eight blocks away

## Editor:

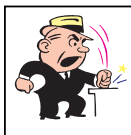
Since "Few residents weigh in on homeless plan," (SMDP, Jan. 28, page 1) I suggest the first step in the plan has to be to improve communication with the residents. Then, take a tip from a New York city program — Inform the public about their role in homelessness. Every time they — residents and visitors alike — give cash hand-outs, they become part of the problem by enabling someone to live on the sidewalk. Few people that I talk to on the Promenade even know what the dolphins are for. Volunteers stood in Grand Central Station in the 1980s handing out cards with the address of a drop-in center, which commuters were encouraged to give to panhandlers rather than cash.

I've done the math. There are enough programs in Santa Monica to support the homeless that you'd run into one walking just eight blocks from any point in the city. It's got to be easier to walk eight blocks than to sleep on the sidewalk.

Informing the public has to be the first step in the plan.

Susanne Trimbath, Ph.D.  
Santa Monica

## Strike that! Now we're all paying price for impasse



**MY  
WRITE**  
By Bill Bauer

We're all victims of the supermarket strike.

The supermarket strike has been very frustrating for all of us. I feel for the supermarket workers. They've been either locked out or on strike for going on four months.

The major markets themselves — Ralphs, Vons/Pavilions and Albertsons — have lost hundreds of millions of dollars. And, we all have been inconvenienced, paid more for groceries and in the end, will suffer the most.

What's obvious is the terrible miscalculation by the leaders of the 70,000-member United Food and Commercial Workers Union whose many members are either striking or have been locked out of the three major Southland grocery chains. Their leadership's strategic blunders have turned this into an unmitigated disaster for all concerned.

Last October, the major issue was health benefits. While most industries have either dramatically cut health benefits or required employees to co-pay, the

UFCW bosses thought they could buck the trend. It was a serious misfire.

Most of us respectfully headed to the health food stores, drug stores and local neighborhood markets anyway. I shopped at the Pico and Brentwood farmers' markets for fruits and veggies. Sodas, snacks and hard goods were purchased at drug chains including Save-on, owned by Albertsons.

I hit independents like The Farms on Montana Avenue and Bob's Market on Ocean Park Boulevard. What had been "one-stop shopping" has become "four-and five-stop shopping." I noticed right away that my grocery bill was 15 to 25 percent higher.

As a goodwill gesture for us experiencing supermarket withdrawal, the union stopped picketing Ralphs and said, "Shop there, instead." From a marketing standpoint, this was another stupid mistake. The last thing you want is customers going to a rival store. They might like it and not come back, which means you reduce overhead by permanently laying off workers.

Higher grocery bills are bad enough but listening to picketers on television newscasts describe how they make ends meet by shopping at non-union Wal-Marts and Costco was insulting.

Recently, the LA Times and other newspapers reported that grocery workers are scabbing and going back to work at non-union stores, or at the same chains they're supposed to be striking. I can't blame them, they have bills to pay and mouths to feed, too.

After three months, I decided to cross the picket line. I found that fruit medley cups had gone from \$2.50 to \$3.99. Twelve packs of diet soda had risen from \$3 to \$4.99. I couldn't find favorite cold-cuts and basics such as some produce, chicken and various meats.

Prices in the major supermarkets have risen dramatically since the strike, I guess because management feels that "low prices" will not entice shoppers to cross picket lines. But you can bet no matter how or when the strike is settled, permanently higher prices for food at all supermarkets are inevitable.

This will lead to even more defections to Wal-Mart, Target and Costco. After the strike, I'll probably continue buying produce at the farmers markets, which means dollars will no longer be spent at Albertsons.

The UFCW has been attacking Safeway (owner of Vons and Pavilions) CEO Steven A. Burd, who earned \$1.26 million in salary and bonus in 2002 and

another \$15 million since August by cashing in stock options.

Rick Icaza, president of UFCW Local 770 was quoted in the Monday, Jan. 26 LA Times as saying, "It is obscene to reward executives with fat bonuses when more than 20,000 employees have given up their own paychecks." The very same Icaza earned \$273,404 in 2002 — about \$25,000 more than John Sweeney, the national president of the AFL-CIO.

The LA Times reports that UFCW international president Douglas Dority was paid \$329,792, making him the highest paid president among the AFL-CIO's 64 member unions in 2002.

The chains with their deep pockets are in it for the long run and grocery workers will never make up the losses even if this ends tomorrow. Signs are that this could drag on for many more months especially if "big labor" joins in and plays hard ball by invoking the "union busting" war cry.

Meanwhile, corporate executives and union bosses will still collect big salaries and fat expense accounts.

For all the rest of us victims, it's a no-win nightmare.

(Bill Bauer is hungry and irritable. He's a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

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

# CREATE SOME DIALOGUE. YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Please send letters to: **Santa Monica Daily Press**  
Att. Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • sack@smdp.com

# OPINION



## The Q-Line

### Landlords off the hook if latches are off the door

A Santa Monica jury earlier this month found in favor of a landlord who was being sued because his tenants claimed he didn't provide enough security, even though the building can't be accessed without a key or pass code. The tenants were the victims of a violent break-in by four gunmen.

This week's Q-Line question was:

**"How far should landlords in protecting their tenants? Do you agree with the jury's decision?"**

Here are the responses.

■ "This is an important question. How far should landlords go toward protecting their tenants? Well, I don't agree with the jury's decision. When you move into a security building, you pay a premium for that security. This is a black and white issue to me. They were paying a premium to live in a very expensive apartment that was supposed to include security. In this case, we are dealing with broken locks or something on a security elevator, a problem the landlord is supposed to take care of. I cannot believe that a jury found for the defendant, the responsibility plainly rests with the landlord. It is very clear that the landlord should have been on top of this for his tenants. This is the dumbest verdict I have ever heard of."

■ "I don't think that these tenants have any right to collect any money. I am sure that the landlord had acceptable security. Just because some people broke into someone else's apartment does not make it the landlord's fault. I am not sure what the laws are regarding security in other buildings but either way, you can't expect the landlord to pay for damages he truly is not responsible for."

■ "The best security in any apartment building is the security that tenants provide for themselves. Self-preservation lends itself to the old boy scouts adage, 'be prepared.'"

■ "I don't agree with the jury's decision. Some years ago, I went back east to visit a friend who lived in the projects. They had security at the front door. You did not get in the front door unless the tenant came downstairs to receive you as a guest. You also had to show identification to prove that you lived in the building just to get in yourself as a tenant. Visitors had to show identification as well. If they can do that in the housing projects, public housing, and they can't do it somewhere you're paying \$2,000 or \$3,000 a month for rent, then something is really wrong. The decision is wrong, the landlord is wrong, and he should have paid those people for their suffering. Leave it at that."

■ "Landlords are responsible for locks on their front door and tenants are responsible for keeping those doors locked whether they are entertaining indoors or out of their apartment. It was not clear whether or not the tenants had their own door locked. Here is another example. If a homeowner is robbed, who does he blame? Does the home-

owner blame the police for not preventing this attack? I agree with the jury's decision."

■ "I have to disagree with the specifics on this case. Most of these landlords are getting excessive rents for these places, most of these rents are pretty high. When you rent a place like that you assume that the building is secure. It is the responsibility of the owner to inform tenants if they are not as safe as they think. They have keys and doors, and all kinds of security. However I don't think a lot of these landlords are making sure they get all the keys back from previous tenants. When you own a building you have to take care of these things every time."

■ "I think the first thing you have to say is, how much is better security? If someone really wants to get in, they will. One idea is to put up a barb wire fence, then you really have a problem. If we could do that then you would have severe repercussions against the landlord and no one would want to live there. I think common sense has just gone out the window."

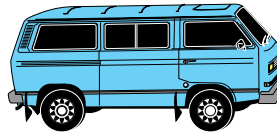
■ "Landlords make efforts to keep their properties safe from crime. Let us all remember it was the four gunmen that are guilty of this horrible crime. It is a pity that they were not caught, but I am sure the landlord would not be to blame if the criminals were caught."

■ "It's unclear how the four gunmen entered their apartment in the first place. Was there a broken door or a released pass code? Was the landlord really responsible or could it have been negligence on the part of the tenants not keeping the doors closed? Also, four gunmen? It seems to me that this was not random. Perhaps some of the neighbors should be questioned. Landlords are supposed to provide certain securities. How did these gunmen get in?"

■ "I'm glad the jury didn't find the owners liable. All the owners should have to do is provide a domicile that is fit to be occupied, lockable doors and windows, heat, light and a roof that doesn't leak. What, the owners should have to hold the hand of each tenant, follow them around like children? Pick up after them, make sure they look both ways before crossing the street? These were adults we think! They signed a lease/rental agreement after inspecting the unit. It's their responsibility."

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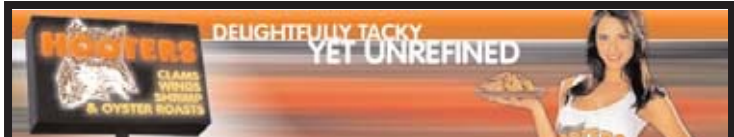
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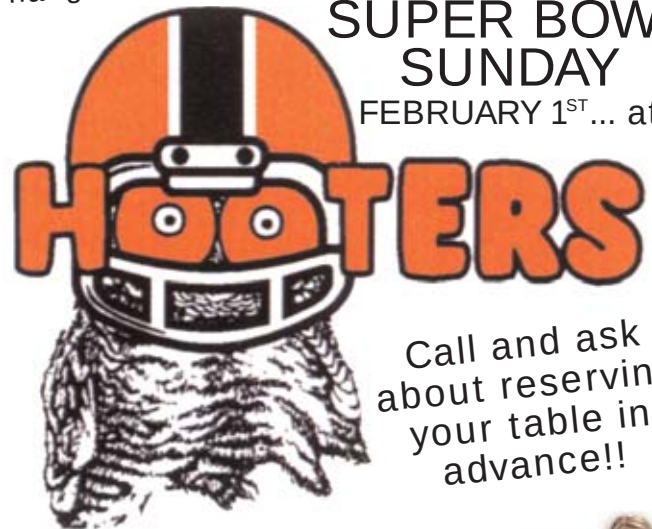
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## LOCAL

# Olympic High just starting to see its needs met

OLYMPIC HIGH, from page 1

with most of the ire directed toward Deasy.

Toyryla told the board that, earlier this month, Deasy indicated to her that Olympic wasn't meeting students' needs and that he was going to close the school whether she liked it or not.

"I am not lying. You did say those words to me," Toyryla said. "I have not lied to anyone at Olympic."

She went on to say that Deasy told her the board would back him in whatever plans he proposed. Deasy later said he wouldn't discuss the matter because it would be "highly unprofessional" to disclose what was said between two district administrators.

Toyryla then turned her consternation toward school officials for not meeting the needs of the school.

"We've asked and asked and gotten nothing from the board," she said. "We've

asked for a fence (for four years) to help keep the homeless out of our bathrooms," but haven't gotten anything.

"And you think you're going to get rid of me this quickly? No!" she shouted, prompting Olympic supporters on hand to erupt with applause.

Board members said little until after Toyryla stepped away from the podium.

"It's exciting to see people get this excited," said board member Shane McLoud.

Board member Mike Jordan said he had no prior knowledge of the issue and was surprised by the ambush. It appeared that other school board members were just as bewildered as not one of them questioned Toyryla.

What scant discussion there was by school board members concerning the charter school idea indicated a hesitancy to form a task force to look into the matter.

"I was moved by everything that was said here," Jordan admitted, adding that

sometimes the board just needs to listen.

While Deasy's idea for a task force was shot down, he and Toyryla have since had conversations about other ways to improve the school.

Following years of effort by Olympic's faculty to attract the attention they feel the school deserves, Toyryla believes it's starting to pay off. The fence will be coming soon — workers have been on site measuring the property.

Students said they didn't want Olympic to expand via charter schools. With class sizes ranging between 15 and 20 pupils — they contend they are afforded the chance to have more personal relationships with teachers.

"It's not just a continuation school," said Shaun Foster, 18, who's been at Olympic for almost two years. "It's a community."

Foster said he's frustrated by what he perceives as a lack of education amongst school board members regarding Olympic. As a result, it doesn't get the attention it deserves.

"I was a failing student. I worked my butt off, and now I can graduate," he said. "If (the board) wants to change it, bring us some better food."

Many students at Olympic have experienced tough times in their short lives.

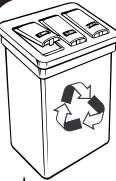
About 30 percent of the students are on probation. More than 20 percent of the population are special-education students. Half of the students enrolled work to support families. Some are pregnant, others have dead parents, some come from abusive and broken homes, others are in trouble with the law.

While some people might consider Olympic the step-child of Santa Monica's other public schools, many within the community aren't even aware a second high school exists. Olympic is rarely discussed by administrators or the community at-large.

Despite all of its needs, and an apparent lack of acceptance, many of Olympic's faculty and students are proud of what happens on campus every day. Toyryla, who came to Olympic in 1997 after a stint as assistant principal at North Hollywood High, is especially proud of her staff.

Toyryla said the school could be made larger by adding one more teacher, for a total of eight, but improvements should be made methodically.

"Our kids don't come from cookie-cutters," she said. "Bottom line — we strive to do what's right for students."



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## Cops: Cabbie was ambushed

CAB DRIVER, from page 1

section of Santa Monica, Barba has entered pleas of not guilty to all of the allegations.

According to police, Barba hailed Kim's cab around 1:40 a.m. along the 1800 block of Santa Monica Boulevard. After being picked up, Barba is said to have repeatedly stabbed the driver with a butcher knife he took from his mother's kitchen and robbed him as he delivered Barba to the 800 block of Brooks Avenue, just off Lincoln Boulevard.

The prosecution's case centered on the belief that Barba, then 21 years old, called a cab for the specific purpose of killing and robbing the driver. The defense countered that all of the evidence in the case was circumstantial.

The prosecution is not seeking the death penalty in the case.

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## LOCAL



# Private donors pick up slack to aid nonprofits

GROUPS, from page 1

for it, but because of their budget constraints they were not able to help us out, so we had to turn to the California Community Foundation.”

A third of the \$1 million annual budget for Upward Bound House is funded through private contributions, while the rest comes from grants and government funding. Only \$10,000 comes from City Hall, Parker said, adding the money is used almost entirely to run a city-mandated computer system that tracks services in Santa Monica.

With a staff of 13, Upward Bound House, located at 11th Street and Washington Avenue, has served 191 families since it was founded in July, 1997. The average stay is six months, Parker said, adding that his group helps about 100 children a year.

Emily Newman, chief operating officer for Chrysalis, which has locations in downtown Los Angeles, Santa Monica and in the San Fernando Valley, said the \$175,000 given to her group will be used to hire an experienced site supervisor for the LA office to manage “employment specialists,” who work directly with homeless and poor people seeking jobs.

Chrysalis, with 53 paid workers and 150 volunteers, has an annual budget of \$6 million. Last year, the group helped 1,500 land jobs — more than 600 of them through the Santa Monica office, said Newman, adding the success rate is 92 percent.

“Our mission is to help homeless and economically disadvantaged people become self sufficient through employment support,” she said. “We teach the soft skills of getting and keeping a job, and then we provide some of the tangible

tools that you would need ... in the process of getting a job.”

Newman said that although government grants statewide have been on the slide in recent years, City Hall is one of very few outlets that has kept up its funding despite the downturn.

About half of Chrysalis’ \$6 million budget is made up of contracts, mostly from various municipalities and business improvement districts — which offer entry-level jobs doing clean-up and other work. Another 10 percent of the budget is made up of government funding, while 40 percent comes from private donations, Newman said, adding only 10 percent of the money is used to pay administrative costs.

The California Community Foundation grants are issued quarterly for nonprofits that provide programs related to early education, employment, health and neighborhood revitalization. The January grants ranged from \$15,000 to \$223,000.

Spokeswoman Catherine Stringer said the foundation oversees more than 1,000 accounts from individual donors and also handles accounts for companies and other groups — like police and fire departments, among others. The grants go to nonprofits dealing with everything from visual arts and animal welfare to youth programs and the aftermath of natural disasters.

There are more than 600 community foundations nationwide, Stringer said.

John Maceri, executive director of the Ocean Park Community Center, the city’s largest provider of social services, said the grants from private groups are crucial.

“They’re incredibly important, because they’re providing funds for services that aren’t being paid for from other sources,” he said.

## Western federal judges rip law limiting sentencing discretion

BY PAUL CHAVEZ

Associated Press Writer

**LAGUNA BEACH** — The chief judges of federal courts in the West objected to a new law limiting their discretion in sentencing convicted criminals, saying Congress should have consulted them before acting.

The opposition was voiced during a two-day meeting of the 15 chief district judges of the U.S. 9th Circuit that concluded here Tuesday at a beachfront hotel.

Judge John Coughenour of Seattle said the group had “virtual unanimity” in its disdain for the Feeney amendment, which compels judges to strictly follow sentencing guidelines and orders that reports be sent to Congress on any judge who deviates from them.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Tom Feeney, R-Fla., was placed in a federal anti-crime bill signed last year by President Bush. It was supported by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The Justice Department made no attempt to consult with judges, Coughenour said, and ignored a commission created by Congress to make sentencing recommendations.

“The Justice Department is unwilling to undo the mistake,” Coughenour said.

Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist also has criticized the law.

Supporters said the change was needed to ensure fair and equal sentencing throughout the court system.

Judge Ancer Haggerty, who presides in Portland, Ore., said Congress made its decision, in part, based on misleading statistics that showed how often federal judges departed from sentencing guidelines.

“If you look at the overall number of times a judge supposedly departed, it was done at the request of the government in most cases,” Haggerty said.

Mary Schroeder, chief judge of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, said the district judges also considered proposals on how to make the courts of the circuit more efficient.

Judges will consider increasing the use of special masters to oversee complex patent and intellectual property cases that require technical expertise, Schroeder said.

The 9th Circuit also is looking at ways to deal with the high number of litigants who represent themselves. About 40 percent of the appeals in the circuit involve people acting as their own attorney, Schroeder said.

She said the court plans to consider expanding programs that provide free representation by qualified attorneys.



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Application forms and information are available at the Environmental Programs Division, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite J, Santa Monica, CA 90401. You may request an application by mail or fax by calling (310) 458-2213.

**To be eligible, applications must be received at the Environmental Programs Division office by 5:00pm Wednesday, February 4, 2004.**

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STATE □ NATIONAL



## CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

### The Academy would not like to thank 'screener'

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Two major movie studios sued an actor and longtime member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences who allegedly leaked "screener" copies of movies that were then reproduced and distributed on the Internet.

Columbia Pictures Industries and Warner Bros. filed the lawsuits against Carmine Caridi, a 20-year Academy member who has appeared in "The Godfather: Part II" and "NYPD Blue."

Caridi, 70, has told investigators he sent VHS copies of about 60 movies he received each year to his Illinois friend, 51-year-old Russell Sprague, who used a software program to convert the VHS tape into DVD format and then sent the original tapes back to Caridi, authorities said.

Investigators said a search of Caridi's Hollywood apartment turned up 36 original Academy screener tapes, including "The Last Samurai," "In America," "Shattered Glass" and "Mona Lisa Smile."

### NASA seeing red like never before

By The Associated Press

**PASADENA** — The Opportunity rover could roll off its lander and onto Mars as early as Sunday, giving NASA scientists more chances for exploration just days before the rover's convalescent twin, Spirit, could resume its own work.

Opportunity unfolded its front wheels and locked them into position, leaving just a few more tasks before it's ready to travel the final 10 feet onto the surface of Mars, mission members said Wednesday during a news conference at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration still wants to adjust the forward tilt of Opportunity's lander, pitching it down 5 degrees to smooth the six-wheeled robot's path. Engineers hoped to complete that work in time for a late Sunday roll-off, said rover activity lead scientist Rick Welch.

Meanwhile, engineers worked to regain full control of Spirit, which has been sidelined for a week on the other side of the planet with crippling software problems.

## Hispanics boost enrollment in Western public schools

BY STEVE GIEGERICH

AP Education Writer

With Hispanics graduating from high school in numbers that will keep increasing for years, the head of a higher education group that released a new report on the trend says colleges need to step up efforts to accommodate the nation's largest minority.

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education projects that Hispanics will account for 21 percent of the country's public high school graduates in 2008, up from 17 percent in 2002.

The commission found that nearly 5 million Hispanics were enrolled in the country's public elementary and high schools in 1993-94. And by the 2007-08 school year, it projects that Latino public school enrollment will be about 9 million.

"In general, colleges are still not prepared," said David Longanecker, executive director of the interstate commission. Its report, "Knocking at the College Door," is released every five years and is used by local school districts, states and higher education to track enrollment trends.

"We know there is a relationship between race and income and academic preparedness," Longanecker said. "But we don't have the support services in place to enhance the success that we need."

Using data compiled from the nation's leading test-makers, the U.S. census and other sources, the WICHE study projects a significant regional shift in the school-age population to the South and West that follows general population trends.

In 2007-08, Southern states are expected to enroll 16.7 million students in kindergarten through high school. WICHE said enrollment in Western schools will be 11.9 million in 2007-08, followed by 10.8 million in the Midwest

and 9.3 million in the Northeast.

Because of continuing gains in Hispanic enrollment, the report said, white students will represent a minority of graduates from Western high schools in 2013-14.

Although Hispanics enroll in college at almost the same rate as non-Latino students, they often bring special circumstances to school, said Richard Fry, a senior research associate with the Pew Hispanic Trust.

Hispanics are less likely to attend college full-time and are more likely to work so they can provide financial support to dependents, Fry said.

"In order to help these students receive degrees — particularly bachelor's degrees, but also associate's degrees and vocational credentials — you have to help them negotiate their work lives, their family lives, as well as their academic lives," Fry said.

He said community colleges, in particular, need to improve tutorial services for Hispanic students placed in remedial academic and vocational training programs.

T. Jaime Chahin, a scholar at the Tomas Rivera Center at Trinity University in San Antonio, said that some schools, especially in the Southwest, are making progress integrating Hispanic culture into campus life.

But he said schools across the country need to do a better job of recruiting and retaining Latino faculty members who can serve as role models for Hispanic undergraduates.

The process of pushing Hispanics toward college degrees needs to begin at the elementary school level, he added.

Hispanics should feel "that college is not a novelty but is something that is expected, even for first-generation students who have never been exposed to these kinds of opportunities," said Chahin, also a professor at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

## NATIONAL

# Conservationists concerned that Methow critters are stressed out

BY JOHN K. WILEY

Associated Press Writer

**SPOKANE, Wash.** — The U.S. Forest Service failed to take increasing winter recreation impacts into account when it approved expanded backcountry snowmobiling and helicopter skiing in the Methow Valley, conservation groups alleged this week.

Five groups sued the agency in U.S. District Court in Portland, Ore., on Friday, taking the Forest Service to task for approving special use permits in July 2002 that expanded areas where heli-skiing and snowmobiles are allowed in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests.

The permits nearly double the number of helicopter trips allowed, and nearly triple the number of clients snowmobilers can take into the backcountry.

"We are concerned wildlife are being harmed, solitude is lost and water quality is degraded by these activities," said Susan Crampton, a member of the plaintiff group Methow Forest Watch.

"The Forest Service unfairly chose to ignore those impacts to allow expanded helicopter and snowmobile use," Mike Peterson of the Lands Council said Tuesday. "There's already a lot of stress on animals. You can't keep expanding into new areas and having those impacts on wildlife."

Jennifer Zbyszewski, resource assistant for the Methow Valley Ranger District, said district officials had not seen the lawsuit, so had no comment.

North Cascade Heli-Skiing is the only helicopter operation in the Methow. Calls to the Winthrop-based company went unanswered.

Zbyszewski said only one of three snowmobile outfitter-guides issued the special-use permits is operating this winter.

The plaintiffs contend the Forest Service has not done sufficient recreation planning and management to address increased impacts in roadless areas to winter wildlife, mountain wetlands, alpine meadows and other forest resources.

They also allege a lack of monitoring and record-keeping for recreation uses.

The permits were issued after the district ranger signed "Findings of No Significant Impact" in July 2002.

**"We are concerned wildlife are being harmed, solitude is lost and water quality is degraded by these activities."**

— JENNIFER ZBYSZEWSKI

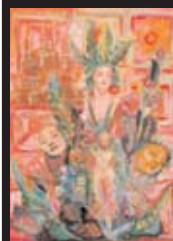
Resource assistant, Methow Valley Ranger District

The helicopter permit increased allowable heli-ski activity from 650 client-days to 1,050 client-days during the four-month season, ignoring a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendation, the lawsuit says.

The special-use permit for snowmobile rental ignores Fish and Wildlife Service concerns about the district's recreation management plan, the plaintiffs say. The wildlife agency had recommended limiting the number of client days to 500 per season, rather than the 1,200 client days allowed under the permit.

The conservation groups also object to five-year extensions granted by the Forest Service to two snowmobile rental outfits, and to the agency's allowing public use of an illegally constructed warming hut.

The five conservation groups that sued are Methow Forest Watch, Kettle Range Conservation Group, North Cascades Conservation Council, The Lands Council and Wild Wilderness.



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# Entertainment

## Latest Leonard caper should have stayed on shelf

### Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

There's a scene midway through "The Big Bounce" in which Morgan Freeman's shiftless Hawaiian magistrate warns Owen Wilson's

### What's Playing

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

#### WIN A DATE WITH TAD HAMILTON!

Forty years ago, this film would have been a hit. Today, it misses.

#### THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

A no-thrills thriller that gets sillier as it lists toward a wholly preposterous finale.

#### ALONG CAME POLLY

Ultimately sags due to an absence of chemistry between the leads and a surprising shortage of crisp comedy.

#### TORQUE

An eye-popping, all-out assault on the senses that makes very little sense. A big-budget thrill for designer motorcycles, Budweiser and Mountain Dew, set to a kinetic soundtrack.

#### CHASING LIBERTY

Despite an arrant disregard for verisimilitude, this is an undeniably pleasant fairy tale about an 18-year-old girl coming of age under highly unusual circumstances.

#### MONSTER

Serves as a grim reminder of humanity's very real and limitless capacity for evil. Charlize Theron delivers a career-defining performance.

#### BIG FISH

If you're willing to lose yourself for a few hours in a surrealist fish story, well, it's hard to imagine anything better than what Burton has conceived here.

#### HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG

Manages to be compelling, despite a host of implausibilities, thanks to the lead actors, both of whom bring such conviction to their roles that what transpires almost seems feasible.

#### THE COOLER

Wayne Kramer's lowdown on the desperate lives of lost souls in Las Vegas is easily one of the best bets this year.

#### THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS

An emotionally charged, and often hilarious tale about a dying man who reconnects with old friends and his estranged son.

#### THE RETURN OF THE KING

This film, the best of the year, seals the deal: Director Peter Jackson has delivered the most spectacular film trilogy of all-time.

#### SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

If you enjoy lots of jokes about May-December romances and erectile dysfunction, this is the film for you.

#### STUCK ON YOU

Contains several laugh-out-loud moments and some surprisingly deft comedic performances.

#### IN AMERICA

An inescapably moving elegy about pain and loss and hope and renewal that unabashedly wears its broken heart on its tattered sleeve.

#### THE LAST SAMURAI

An entertaining film, but highly derivative of superior antecedents such as "Dances With Wolves" and "Unforgiven."

petty thief that "some things are exactly as they appear." After collecting dust on a shelf at Warner Bros. for more than a year before finally landing a less than desirable January release date, it would appear that this curious remake of an awful 1969 Ryan O'Neal flick is a big loser.

Yes, some things are exactly as they appear. If not for the presence of Wilson, who has a penchant for making bad films seem, well, not so bad, "The Big Bounce" would be the clear-cut early favorite to top 2004's "Worst of" lists. Wilson does what he can to drag this crappy comedy along, but he's held back by an inert narrative and a stagnant supporting cast. Freeman was surely one of the finest actors in the business in his heyday (early 90s classics include "The Shawshank Redemption" and "Unforgiven"), but his credits in recent years suggest he's content to merely cash some hefty retirement checks. Marking her film debut is Sara Foster, a former model and MTV veejay, who surely looks nice in a bikini ... and surely can't act very well.

Based on a novel by Elmore Leonard, and easily the weakest adaptation of the author's work, "The Big Bounce" chronicles — slowly, waaaaay too slowly — the missteps of Jack Ryan (Wilson), a tousled con man/surfer who gets into some trouble with real estate developer Ray Ritchie (a disinterested Gary Sinise) and his not-ready-for-prime-time toughs (Charlie Sheen and Vinnie Jones). Ignoring Ritchie's edict that he leave the North Shore of Oahu, Ryan instead winds up in the employ of District Judge Walter Crewes (Morgan) — a schemer in his own right — and under the



(L-R) Charlie Sheen, Morgan Freeman and Owen Wilson in "The Big Bounce."

spell of Ritchie's cunning young mistress, Nancy Hayes (Foster). A bag of money is up for grabs, and from there it's just a question of who's scamming who. But there isn't much reason to care.

"The Big Bounce" is lacking essential elements that have made other Leonard-ized movies so enjoyable — punchy dialogue, a credible caper and, most of all, multi-dimen-

sional characters. This movie plays as if director George Armitage had handed out Prozac and a set of instructions to the cast and crew each morning to hang loose and not let the production get in the way of their Hawaiian vacation.

(Rated PG-13 for sexual content and nudity, violence and language.)

## Freeman's performances reaching new heights

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

He has an air of nobility about him befitting an actor widely recognized as one of the very best. Still, 66-year-old Morgan Freeman, while fully aware of his rightful place in the pantheon of Hollywood greats, remains unaffected. You can hear this in his voice — a singular, sensational voice that soothes like a lazy afternoon in Clarksdale — the serene Mississippi hamlet he sometimes calls home. There, Freeman's a husband, a father, a sailor and the proprietor of a blues club. In the movies, he's Red from "The Shawshank Redemption," Hoke Colburn of "Driving Miss Daisy" and, more recently, God himself in "Bruce Almighty."

Freeman's latest appearance on the silver screen is as a Hawaiian magistrate in the comedy caper "The Big Bounce" opposite Owen Wilson and newcomer Sara Foster.

**QUESTION:** You spent a month shooting "The Big Bounce" on Oahu's North Shore? Did being from the Deep South make it easy to adapt to the laid-back Hawaiian lifestyle?

**MORGAN FREEMAN:** I was born for the island lifestyle, which is like, "Hey, not today, man." I live in the Caribbean, and when I'm not in the Caribbean, I live in Mississippi. We all follow the same time frame — slow and easy.

**Q:** There's a convincing sense of cama-



Morgan Freeman

raderie between the characters in this film, which Sara Foster attributes to exceptional casting. How important is it to find the right co-stars in order for you to effectively do your job?

**MF:** That's a loaded question. Obviously, it's very important to be acting with someone who, shall we say, inspires you. But that's almost any actor. You'd have to be really bad otherwise, and, generally, actors who get into

the movies have learned the craft. Even if they haven't learned the craft of moviemaking, they've learned the craft of acting. So it's important, but not very hard to find.

**Q:** What does Owen Wilson bring to the table?

**MF:** Owen is very, very intelligent. He's often amused, and he sees irony and he plays with it. It's fun to play with, because there's always something going on behind his eyes. That's why he's still here, because he's easy to dance with — very easy to dance with.

**Q:** Sara also mentioned you weren't around much when the cameras weren't rolling. What did you do during down time?

**MF:** I flew while I was here. I was a student pilot, trying to get my instrument rating, so I went to the Flight School of Hawaii and worked with a terrific guy there. And I now have my twin-engine instrument rating.

**Q:** Have you always wanted to fly?

**MF:** Yes and no. I started out in high school, wanting to fly. At 16, I was flying my desk up through 18,000 feet in a jet while my teacher was up there drawing on the board. I'd be at my desk, going like this (feigns talking in the cockpit), and the teacher would eventually say, "Morgan, leave. Get out!" But I graduated. Then, I quit ... decided I didn't want to be a killer — a fighter pilot. I gave up the idea of flying up until a couple of years ago.

**Q:** Music, on the other hand, is something that has always been a big part of your life, right?

**MF:** When I was 14 years old, I was in the high school band. I followed my brother, who was really a talented musician — and because he was so talented, he went headfirst into music, and I went right behind him. So life was all about music then, until our paths sort of diverged, and I somehow knew that I was not going to be a musician, but an actor. But as a kid, music is what keeps you all glued together. And I've always been drawn to it.

**Q:** Of the hundreds of characters you've played on stage and screen the past 40 years, which ones have stayed with you most?

**MF:** None of them have. Once a job is done, I don't carry it around. Even while I'm doing the job I don't carry it around with me. I was doing stage for about 20 years, and I was never one of those actors who needed to bury myself in the character so much that I couldn't leave it on the stage. Once it's done, it's done. If they say, "cut," that's it — I'm out of character.

## ENTERTAINMENT



(L-R) Scarlett Johansson, Leonardo Nam and Chris Evans in "The Perfect Score."

## 'Perfect Score' is a waste of perfectly good #2 pencils

### Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

The credits contend "The Perfect Score" was made by the hip peeps over at MTV Films, but the film just as easily could have been scripted by the local PTA. Rife with lessons on good citizenship — teamwork is good, cheating is bad and always listen to your mama — this film about a group of high school students who conspire to steal the answers to the SAT is a morality play that doesn't play very well at all.

The pacing is terrible, the dialogue feeble and the plot held loosely together by a series of preposterously opportune circumstances: Not only do the kids live in Princeton where the ETS (author of the SAT) is headquartered, but the ETS building is owned by the father of the group's soi-disant punk rock chick (Scarlett Johansson), who happens to have the keys to the joint. The ultimate deus ex machina occurs midway through the film, when the All-American white boy (Chris Evans) is traipsing through the halls of ETS (he got in ... don't ask) and is handed the master copy of the SAT by an administrator who thinks he's the copy room guy. The kid winds up inadvertently shredding the document, but you get the point.

The setup goes something like this: Our six protagonists are all required to take the SAT in order to get into college, and all of them — for various reasons — are not up to

snuff when it comes to taking standardized tests. Francesca, the punk, is too consumed with dark eye shadow and loathing for her wealthy, philandering father. Kyle is bright, but not bright enough to get into Cornell (and, boy, won't it break his parents' hearts if he doesn't?). Matty (Bryan Greenberg), All-American white boy #2, has his eye on Maryland so he can join a girlfriend who's clearly over him. Desmond (NBA prodigy Darius Miles) is black, and everyone knows the SAT is racist. Pedantic Anna (Erika Christensen, sleepwalking through the entire picture) is an academic whiz, but repeatedly freezes during the big test. And Roy (Leonardo Nam) is a stoner Asian dude ranked last in the class, even though — can you say "stereotype?" — he's a math and computer genius.

"The Breakfast Club" this ain't, though it aspires to be like that and several other far superior films. There is some entertainment value in watching a clearly overmatched Miles try to hold his own against Johansson (what in the hell is she doing in this movie?), and I can't help but think of what might have been had Darius been allowed to dunk on her ... repeatedly.

Here's a question (get out your #2 pencils): If, as the film's poster claims, the SAT is hard to take, but even harder to steal, why didn't these kids just study? That would have saved us all a lot of wasted time.

(Rated PG-13 for language, sexual content and some drug references.)

## Music Scene

# Nothing but the blues in downtown SM club

GREG WILLIS

Special to the Daily Press



probably be all right, too.

That was almost three years ago, and the reassuring gentleman was Cevin Clark, the proprietor of Harvelle's. We became friends and, later, at my urging, he added the great guitarist Paul Warren to his weekend lineup.

Impressed with his willingness to listen to others, and convinced of his commitment to provide the finest live music locally, I became more than a friend, I became a fan. My respect has grown as he has consistently presented not only great blues, but an eclectic mix of some of the finest live music to be heard in LA in an intimate club setting. The crowds have grown both in size and sophistication, mostly due to word of mouth. It is still possible to get in most nights without waiting in line, however those days may be numbered.

Harvelle's has always had great weekend bands, now the weekday lineup has taken off thanks to Clark's willingness to experiment. Monday has long been open mike night, now it is known as pro-jam night, and rightfully so. Under the direction of sax player extraordinaire Walter Davis, the proceedings feature a world class house band and a procession of some of the finest musicians in LA looking to display their chops before a friendly audience. While the stage is open to any musician with the \$3 cover charge and the patience to wait until they are called to the stage, drunken karaoke singers and fledgling musicians should be forewarned.

Tuesday is now Circle of Songs/LA Live! Music Showcase Series. Jenna Leigh presents top quality performances by artists who are destined by virtue of their talent and dedication to their craft to have successful careers. They are the kind of artists who you might want to pay big money to see some day. The night starts out at 7 p.m. with an acoustic circle of songs (admission is free until 8 p.m.), and builds to ensemble performances by the some of the hottest young talent I've ever seen. Once word gets out about the level of talent in this series, it will be black clothes and ponytails. Circle of Songs is a 40,000-strong member-based organization, find out more at (310) 452-4163 or at [www.circleofsongs.com](http://www.circleofsongs.com).

Wednesdays open with Circle of Songs at 7 p.m., and then into Blue Wednesday, featuring a hot blues performer. Guitarist-vocalist Key Frances who comes to these parts by way of Austin and New Orleans, recently displayed the bag of music he collected on his many travels. The legendary blues singer Mickey Champion is a regular, if you haven't seen her singing 50 feet away from the stage without a microphone you haven't seen the real thing.

Thursdays is open to a variety of music, recently young hot band Hodges, backed by Green Sugar, packed the place with twenty-somethings, which delighted Clark and ran the bartenders ragged. The next week Los Tiburones, (the Sharks without Dennis Quaid), entertained the crowd with musicianship honed over years of professional playing.

Sundays have long been held down by the Pure Unadulterated Soul of the Toledo Show, replete with scantily clad dancers and a smoky atmosphere, this cabaret show brings in a Damon Runyonesque cast of characters. Not to be experienced by the unworldly or the prudish, who might possibly be corrupted.

On Friday and Saturday nights, premiere bands take the stage. Clark has put together an outstanding lineup of regular performers, with an occasional appearance by someone hoping to break into the rotation. Last week's appearance by '60s British vocalist guitarist Terri Reid fell into that category, and was evidence of Clarks' genius as a booker of talent. Curiosity assured a good crowd, and Reid was left to make his own case for a renewal of a career that came very close to superstardom. Unfortunately I missed the show, whether or not he returns to Harvelle's anytime soon will be the best indication of how he performed. Among the great artists who are regulars at Harvelle's are longtime Clark friend Guitar Shorty, the Delgado Brothers, the Imperial Crowns, Jessie and the Raindogs, Blowing Smoke and the Fabulous Smokettes, 2000 lbs. of Blues, Paul Warren and the Wreckers, Cafe R&B, the Boneshakers, Jimmy Z. and the Z Tribe, and Carlos Guitarlos, whose recent appearance accompanied by world famous vocalist Marcy Levy, (Clapton etc., etc.) was only one of many highlights this month. Saturday night the return of Paul Warren and the Wreckers is sure to end January on the right note. Warren has been on tour in Europe for months and is dying to throw down for a local crowd, and he won't be back until April.

Future plans for Harvelle's call for expanding the Web site, which can be reached at [www.harvelle's.com](http://www.harvelle's.com), and beginning to record the many great musicians who play there, on an ongoing basis. Stay tuned.

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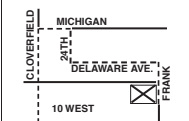
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# Bullish on bison: Mad-cow, Atkins boosting meat sales

BY JON SARCHE

Associated Press Writer

**DENVER** — A bison boomlet is under way as Americans look for an Atkins-diet-friendly and mad-cow-proof alternative to beef.

Although the bison industry is just a baby when it comes to U.S. meat production, there are signs of heightened interest as producers recover from a mid-1990s slump brought on by overproduction.

"People see it more, probably sample it more and they like it," said Roy Rozell, who manages a bison ranch in Colorado.

A good indicator of the bison industry's turnaround is Ted's Montana Grill, a national chain of 18 restaurants co-founded by media mogul and bison ranch owner Ted Turner. The chain is expected to double in size by the end of the year.

Standing outside a Ted's in downtown Denver, attorney Tom Franklin shrugged off the mad cow scare and said he had just enjoyed a bison burger lunch. Another customer, businessman Mitch Zatz, said he likes the taste and the fact that bison meat is leaner than beef.

"It's kind of cool, a change of pace. I feel like, we're in Colorado, we should eat bison," he said.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service reported that in 2002, the latest year for which figures are available, 25,340 bison were slaughtered at federally inspected plants, compared with 35 million head of cattle.

Bison meat, higher in iron than beef, can be difficult to find on store shelves and commands a premium in restaurants and supermarkets compared to a similar cut of beef. At Denver-area grocery stores, ground bison was selling for \$5.99 per pound, compared to \$4.69 per pound for 93 percent lean ground beef.

A recent poll conducted by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association indicated most Americans still believe the beef supply is safe. Bison producers, fearing a chilling effect for their product, say they wouldn't want that to change.

Agriculture officials believe that feed containing protein or bone meal from cows with mad cow disease is the most likely source of infection. Such feed was banned in 1997.

There have been no known cases of mad cow disease in bison, and the animals' natural characteristics make it useless for ranchers to give them extra protein from animal byproducts, said Martin Marchello, an animal sciences professor at North Dakota State University.

Bison haven't been bred for centuries, like beef cattle, to be "a meat wagon," said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association based in

Westminster, Colo.

"The animal just doesn't do well with a real high-protein feed, so there's less tendency to even want to move in the direction of supplementing feed," he said.

**"It's kind of cool, a change of pace. I feel like, we're in Colorado, we should eat bison."**

— MITCH ZATZ  
Businessman

Many of the plants where bison are slaughtered and butchered have had longstanding policies against using sick or injured animals for human food, Carter said. The Agriculture Department recently banned use of such animals by beef processors for human consumption.

Carter also said bison are processed in smaller plants that handle far fewer animals than large beef-processing plants — about 25,000 animals per year compared with about 130,000 head of beef slaughtered daily.

It's not a guarantee against disease-causing organisms, Marchello said, but it means workers can take more time and care with each animal and to ensure cleanliness.

"Everybody searches for a healthy product and we have that," said Rozell, the Colorado bison rancher. "I think the American public, they are going to try stuff and when it's good, they're going to come back to it."

## Buffalo vs. bison

By The Associated Press

According to the National Bison Association, buffalo meat is a nutritional alternative to beef:

■ Bison meat has fewer calories and is lower in fat and cholesterol. It is also higher in iron than beef.

■ The Food and Drug Administration has not approved the use of growth hormones in bison and many producers do not want to use the drugs.

■ An industry code of ethics bars use of antibiotic-laced feed and feed containing animal products. Beef producers can apply to the government for labels making similar claims if they provide documentation.

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# Santa Monica Daily Press

## NATIONAL



# Bush wants \$760M for forest thinning, fire prevention

BY MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** — The Bush administration is asking Congress for \$760 million next year to reduce the risk of wildfires by thinning national forests.

The amount is at least \$80 million more than current spending and would allow forest managers to treat up to 4 million acres at risk of fire — an increase of about 300,000 acres over current efforts. The acreage is quadruple the amount treated in 2000, when a record 8 million acres of forest land burned.

The plan announced Wednesday would fully fund the so-called "Healthy Forests" law passed by Congress last fall. Most of the thinning projects — which include prescribed burns and removal of underbrush that serves as fuel for wildfires — would be focused on areas near homes and communities.

Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey, who leads the administration's forest policy, called the budget request a good start.

"We think it's an appropriate response to the act," he said.

The money being requested is separate from accounts to prepare for and put out fires, Rey said, and includes spending by both the U.S. Forest Service and the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management.

Rey said the \$760 million includes \$80 million to \$100 million in new spending. Rey disputed a claim by some environmentalists that the increased spending for thinning projects was a way to increase commercial logging on public lands.

Critics have called the new forest law a giveaway to the timber industry, which has contributed more than \$500,000 to President Bush since 1999. The law will limit public participation in forest decisions and leave old-growth trees and remote, roadless areas of forests at risk of logging, they say.

Rey called that unfair and said much of the treatment work will be done through prescribed burns, not logging.

"With regard to mechanical thinning, those projects will be done with a singular objective: to improve the health of the forests," Rey said. "The amount of timber to be removed is incidental."

A top aide to Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat who helped pass the forest bill, called the announcement

a positive development, but said Wyden was waiting to see the fine print before celebrating.

"We hope that the \$760 million is real money and isn't taken from other programs that are critical to maintaining our forest resources," said Josh Kardon, Wyden's chief of staff.

Environmental groups, meanwhile, criticized new guidelines that allow private groups to keep trees and other material removed from public lands to reduce the danger of wildfire.

Under so-called "stewardship contracts," the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will allow contractors to cut large, commercially valuable trees for up to 10 years in exchange for clearing smaller, more fire-prone trees and brush.

Critics say the program turns forest land into a

"money tree" for timber companies. "When you let forest managers use the trees they manage like a big piggy bank ... those trees are in big trouble," said Mike Leahy, natural resources counsel for Defenders of Wildlife.

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## WORLD BRIEFLY

### Two bombings kill three in Iraq

By The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — A roadside bomb exploded Thursday in a central Iraqi city, wounding five Iraqis, a day after thousands of Shiite Muslims protested in the south to demand the U.S.-appointed provincial governor's resignation.

Also Wednesday, a suicide bomber sped through a security barrier in the heart of Baghdad and blew up a van disguised as an ambulance in front of a hotel, killing three people — including a South African — and wounding 17.

The protest by some 10,000 people in the town of Nasiriyah was the latest sign of the growing empowerment of Iraq's majority Shiites who were repressed for decades by Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated regime.

Sunni insurgents loyal to the captured dictator are blamed for much of the ongoing violence in the country, such as Wednesday's suicide van bombing in an upscale Baghdad neighborhood.

Thursday's bombing occurred in Baqouba, in the volatile Sunni Triangle north and west of the capital.

### Asia works to keep bird flu at bay

By The Associated Press

**BANGKOK, Thailand** — Asian countries that have so far escaped the bird flu spreading across the continent stepped up measures Thursday to keep the virus outside their borders.

Hong Kong isolated a woman who returned from Vietnam with suspicious pneumonia symptoms and Singapore intensified a campaign to cull crows. The scavengers are considered potential spreaders of the disease, because they could pick up the flu from dead birds.

Hong Kong and Singapore were hit hard by severe acute

respiratory syndrome last year and both were on high alert to prevent an outbreak of bird flu, which has affected 10 Asian countries.

Tens of millions of chickens and ducks have died across the region — from the disease or in government-ordered slaughters aimed at containing it. The virus has jumped to humans in Thailand, where two people have died, and Vietnam, which has had eight fatalities.

### Fed expected to take the higher road

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Federal Reserve policy-makers reinforced some economists' belief that interest rates could move higher this summer, dropping an assessment that they could stay near rock-bottom levels for a "considerable period." Central bank officials said the economy was expanding briskly.

The change by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues came this week with agreement to hold a key short-term interest rate, called the federal funds rate, at a 45-year low of 1 percent, where it has been since last June.

Since its August meeting, policy-makers had been saying they foresaw holding rates low for a "considerable period." But that phrase is now gone. Instead, the Fed said it "can be patient in removing its policy accommodation."

Economists viewed the new language as a first step by Fed policy-makers to prepare Wall Street and Main Street for higher interest rates down the road.

### Dean's donors may start logging off

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Howard Dean must win a presidential primary in the next two weeks to keep even his

most loyal donor base — those giving modest amounts over the Internet — contributing enough to make him financially competitive, his campaign chairman said.

Despite Dean's third-place finish in Iowa and second-place showing in New Hampshire this month, small-dollar donors have continued giving, helping Dean raise more than \$100,000 on Wednesday and more than \$1.8 million in the past week, Steve Grossman said.

"Now, we have to give them a return on their investment pretty soon, which is why we have to put a win on the boards sometime between now and February 7 to restore and revitalize their sense of the campaign's momentum," Grossman said in a telephone interview Wednesday with The Associated Press.

"Success in the next 10 days is absolutely essential" for the campaign to remain competitive financially, and Dean knows it, Grossman said.

### Bush rolling up his sleeves

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush is bracing for a difficult election-season fight with Congress over spending after a budget year that he can hardly expect to top.

Bush sends lawmakers his 2005 budget on Monday. But only last week, Congress completed its spending work for 2004, which saw Bush win virtually all his major priorities including a tax cut, new Medicare prescription drug coverage, funds to fight a war with Iraq, and overall spending restraint.

"He wanted a carpet that looked like X, and generally speaking he got a carpet that looked like X," said Richard Kogan, who analyzes the budget for the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The Republican-run Congress avoided overt clashes with Bush but did not roll over completely.

Lawmakers trimmed his defense plans while boosting funds for highways, Amtrak and veterans. They ignored Bush's plan to make tax cuts permanent, scaled back his proposal to stop taxing corporate dividends, derailed his energy bill and added thousands of home-district projects to spending measures.

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## INTERNATIONAL



# Democrats, Republicans find support in Kay's words

BY KEN GUGGENHEIM

Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** — The man who led the CIA's search for banned weapons in Iraq entered the politically charged debate over President Bush's decision to go to war and provided fresh ammunition for Republicans and Democrats alike.

Under questioning by Senate Democrats, David Kay acknowledged Wednesday that he found no evidence that Iraq had chemical or biological stockpiles. He offered doubts about Bush administration claims that trailers and aluminum tubes were intended for weapons of mass destruction. He said U.N. inspections, belittled by the administration, "achieved quite a bit."

Kay agreed with Republican senators that there is no doubt deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had ambitions to use such weapons. Kay said Saddam had secret weapons development programs that violated U.N. resolutions, and that the world is much safer without his government in place.

"I have said I actually think this may be one of those cases where it was even more dangerous than we thought," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Kay, a former chief U.N. nuclear weapons inspector in Iraq, resigned Friday from his position as the CIA's special adviser for the weapons search, citing a decision to reduce resources for the search.

At the hearing and in recent interviews, Kay said he found no evidence that Saddam possessed the banned weapons in recent years. Bush's public rationale for going to war was based mostly on claims that Iraq's stockpile of weapons posed a clear threat to the United States and others.

Questioned by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Kay said he believed an outside inquiry would be important to see why intelligence failed and how it could be improved.

The White House opposes such an investigation, noting the CIA is conducting its own intelligence review and the weapons hunt has not ended.

National security adviser Condoleezza Rice reiterated that opposition Thursday, saying on national television that existing efforts to learn the extent of Saddam's weapons arsenal are sufficient.

"No one will want to know more than the president the comparison between what we found when we got there and what we thought was there going in," Rice said on NBC's "Today" show.

Asked if she thought the American people have a legitimate concern about whether intelligence was manipulated to justify the decision to go to war, Rice replied, "The president's judgment to go to the war was based on the fact that Saddam Hussein for 12 years had defied U.N. resolutions" regarding his stock of weapons.

The administration also went to war, she said, "because this was a dangerous man in the world's most dangerous region. He had been considered a danger for a long time and it was time to take care of that danger."

Interviewed on CBS's "The Early Show," Rice said America wasn't alone in believing Saddam had such weapons.

"It was the judgment of our intelligence community, the judgment of intelligence communities around the world," she said. "It was the judgment of many intelligence officials in countries that didn't even support the war that he had weapons of mass destruction. ... Everybody thought that he did."

The Senate Intelligence Committee is also examining prewar intelligence. The chairman, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., told Kay, "I personally take some umbrage at people who for one reason or another think we need to have an outside investigation before our inquiry is even complete."

That inquiry is nearing completion. But the committee's top Democrat, Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, said in a statement that Kay's testimony shows a need to expand that review. Rockefeller said the inquiry should examine whether the administration manipulated intelligence.

At the hearing, Kay said he does not think analysts were pressured to shape evidence to make the case for war. "I

deeply think that is the wrong explanation," Kay said.

"You know, almost in a perverse way, I wish it had been undue influence because we know how to correct that," he said.

Kay described a broad intelligence failure on Iraq. "We were almost all wrong, and I certainly include myself here," he said.

He blamed a lack of human spying inside Iraq and inadequate money for U.S. intelligence agencies. He also said he believes analysts have been asked to read too much into limited data and depended too much on data provided by U.N. inspectors.

Kay said his team wrestled with the question of why Saddam did not try to save himself by proving he no longer had stockpiles of banned weapons. Kay said Saddam likely did not want to appear to be caving in to the United States and the United Nations. He also wanted to use the threat of chemical weapons as leverage against his domestic enemies.

Questioned by Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., Kay said the fear of U.N. weapons inspectors had contributed to Iraqi decisions to stop making banned weapons. But when Clinton suggested that inspections should have been given more time, Kay said Iraqis have been more forthcoming now than under Saddam.

"I think we have learned things that no U.N. inspector would have ever learned given the terror regime of Saddam and the tremendous personal consequences that scientists had to run by speaking the truth," he said.

Kay agreed with the committee chairman, Sen. John Warner, R-Va., that because Iraq is so large, there's a "theoretical possibility" that banned weapons could still turn up somewhere. He expressed reservations when Warner said, "Maybe we'd better not pronounce, 'We're all wrong,' yet."

"I believe that the effort that has been directed to this point has been sufficiently intense that it is highly unlikely that there were large stockpiles of deployed militarized chemical and biological weapons there," he said.

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- 12 Lucy's chum
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- 14 Dagger partner
- 15 Phoebe's portrayer
- 17 Money dispensers
- 18 Lot unit
- 20 Criminal group
- 22 Overly
- 23 History division
- 26 Corn-husker city
- 28 Singer Tucker
- 29 Old Fords
- 31 Malcolm's dad
- 32 Renown
- 33 Scoop holder
- 34 Lacking locks
- 36 Bible twin
- 38 Clear
- 40 More sagacious
- 43 Soda bottle size
- 44 Game setting
- 45 Endures
- 46 Amble

### DOWN

- 1 City transport
- 2 Have debts
- 3 Homes with rooms in a long line
- 4 "L.A. Law" lawyer
- 5 Table parts
- 6 Ab neighbor
- 7 Braves home
- 8 Homes with rooms in a long line
- 9 League member
- 10 Moose cousins
- 16 Epoch
- 18 Tiny bit
- 19 Crooner Perry
- 21 Hill crawlers
- 23 Placid
- 24 Tatum's dad
- 25 Eli's place
- 27 Pilot's wear

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

# NBA All-Star Game in LA promises to be 'Bootylicious'

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Singer Beyonce Knowles will perform the halftime show at this year's NBA All-Star Game at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 15.

The 53rd NBA All-Star Game, featuring the top players from the Eastern and Western conferences, will be televised by TNT (8 p.m. EST), the NBA announced Tuesday.

Knowles also has signed a multiyear deal with Tommy Hilfiger Toiletries to be the spokeswoman of a fragrance slated for a global launch in the fall. Terms of the deal weren't disclosed.

"Beyonce is a true star," Hilfiger, honorary chairman and principal designer of Tommy Hilfiger U.S.A. Inc., said in a statement Tuesday. "Not only is she extremely talented and beautiful, but she is sophisticated, intelligent and charming. Her career is serious, professional and on the rise."

Said the 22-year-old Knowles: "I love fragrance, so this new relationship with Tommy Hilfiger Toiletries is the fulfillment of one of my dreams. I can't wait to get started."

■ **CLEVELAND** — "Basic Instinct" screenwriter Joe Eszterhas' memoir details his life in Hollywood, his battle with cigarettes and alcohol, and his father's involvement with anti-Semitic propaganda.

Eszterhas said "Hollywood Animal," released Tuesday, shows him as a cold, self-absorbed person before he stopped drinking.

"Soulless is a good word. And I think I had begun to become that way. I think my drinking was part of that. I made mistakes," he said.

Eszterhas was diagnosed with throat cancer nearly three years ago and was treated at the Cleveland Clinic.

He lost part of his larynx but now is in remission.

He grew up in Cleveland and started smoking at 12. He's moved back to the area from Hollywood and has quit smoking. He has apologized for glamorizing cigarettes in his movies.

Eszterhas wrote that in 1990, his Hungarian father was contacted by government investigators looking into alleged war crimes because at age 27 he wrote "Nemzet Politika," an anti-Semitic book.

"He loved me and was a central part of my life. If I was going to be true to that part of his life I had to be true to the other," Eszterhas said. "I wondered if I was betraying him. I knew other Hungarians would think I did."

Eszterhas said he forgave his father.

He said he was inspired to write the book after he got a clean bill of health.

"I raged against God all my life. My story is one of rediscovering my faith. A blasphemous, irreverent and profane man finds God at the age of 60," Eszterhas said.

■ **HERNANDO, Miss.** — A Mississippi judge has sealed the case file on divorce proceedings involving rock 'n' roll star Jerry Lee Lewis and his estranged wife, Kerrie McCarver Lewis.

No court date has been set for the final divorce proceedings.

The office of lawyer Helen Kelly, who is representing Kerrie Lewis, said Tuesday that Kelly was "not at liberty to discuss the case."

A message left at Jerry Lee Lewis' home wasn't immediately returned.

The Lewis case file was ordered sealed by Chancery Judge Mitchell Lundy, a DeSoto County Chancery

Court official said Tuesday.

Kerrie Lewis was awarded temporary custody and \$10,000 a month in child support for the couple's son, 16-year-old Jerry Lee Lewis III, in a September court hearing.

Lewis, known for hits such as "Great Balls of Fire," was awarded use of the couple's Nesbit home, the Lewis Ranch, while Kerrie Lewis was given use of her home in Booneville.

Lewis, 68, married the former Kerrie McCarver, his sixth wife, in 1984. It was her second marriage. The couple have been separated since June 1998.

■ **NEW YORK** — FX has placed a series order for comedian Denis Leary's "Rescue Me," signing up for 13 episodes of the one-hour drama, the network announced.

"Rescue Me" is about the lives of a group of New York City firefighters. Leary stars as a firefighter who's coping with the fear of his job in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The announcement was made last week by Nick Grad, vice president of series development for FX. Production of "Rescue Me" is scheduled to begin in April and will be shot in New York.

"It's about time there is a show that looks at the lives and great work of New York City firefighters and what goes on beneath the surface of the job you see," Leary said in a statement. "I am excited to portray a firefighter. I have many close friends and family members that are firefighters and many of the stories and characters will be drawn from them."

Leary, 46, is a native of Worcester, Mass., and a cousin of one the six Worcester firefighters who died in a 1999 warehouse blaze. The actor founded The Leary Firefighters Foundation in response to the blaze.

**DID YOU KNOW?:** The traditional response to the Irish greeting "Top of the morning to you" is "and the rest of the day to yourself."

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