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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 69

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Officials may change alcohol permit rules

City has highest number of alcohol permits in the state

ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to the Daily Press

Call it an intervention.

Planning Commissioners want the city to take a good look at itself and ask if it has a problem with alcohol.

At its most recent meeting, the commission heard from Santa Monica Police vice officers, the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control office and city planning officials about the difficulties they encounter because of the city's high number of bars and liquor stores.

Santa Monica has the most liquor licenses — 295 — of any municipality in California. And after Beverly Hills and San Francisco, it's the third highest in ratio of population to the number of establishments allowed to serve alcohol.

One suggestion has been to require anyone seeking a new alcohol permit from the city to attend a free four-hour training class offered by the state and the Los Angeles Police Department. The programs detail liability issues to owners and teaches them how to spot intoxicated patrons and fake drivers licenses.

"My plan is that we start making changes," said Kelly Olsen, chair of the planning commission. "I would like to see all alcohol permit holders, including their servers, required to go through one of these extensive training programs."

For every three people arrested by the Santa Monica Police Department in 2001, one is alcohol related. A recent review of arrest records over the past three months show that there is a DUI arrest made almost every two weeks, commission members said. And during the weekend, scores of people — many of whom are homeless — are arrested for public intoxication.

Police officers told the commission they patrol areas with the highest concentrations of nightlife to curtail alcohol problems, said commission members.

"They say it's very predictable in the surrounding areas where enforcement is needed," said planning commissioner Jay P. Johnson. "But that could just be a function of traffic patterns rather than one specific thing or another.

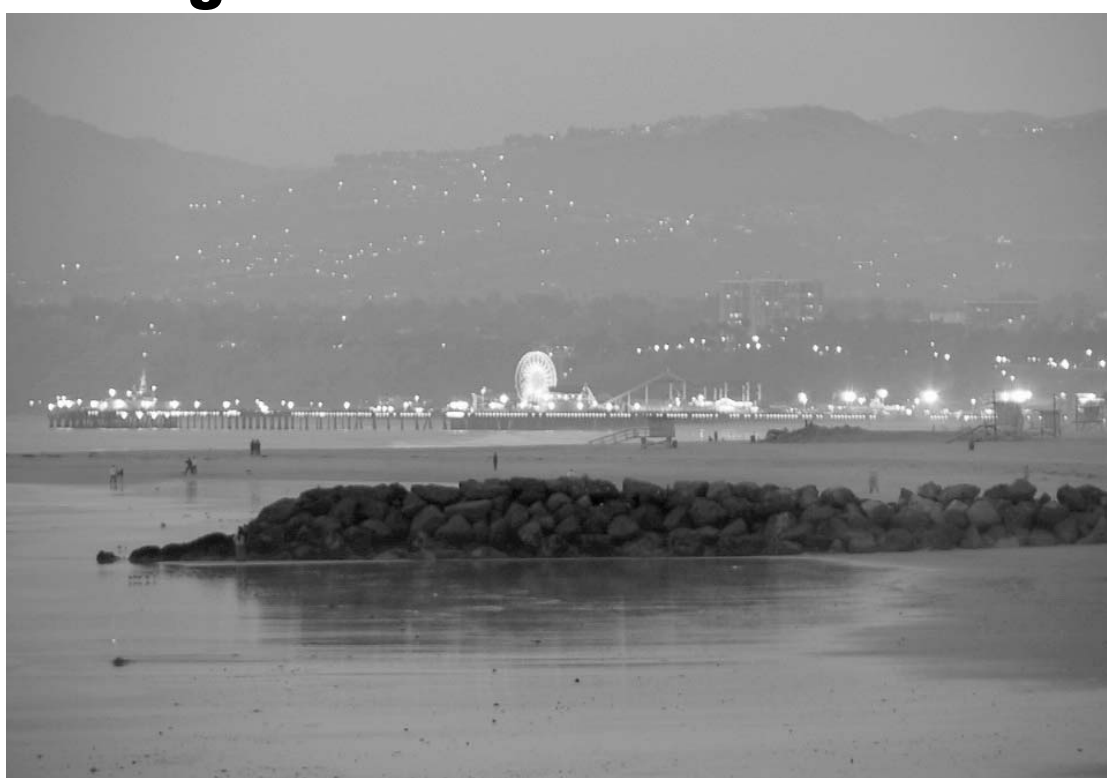
"I'm most concerned about people driving under the influence," he continued. "That is the single greatest threat to public safety as far as I'm concerned."

According to city officials, most of the city's alcohol licenses were granted before stricter laws were enacted. When restaurants and bars are sold, their new owners retain the licenses so long as no significant expansions are made.

"Many of these were already in existence,"

See ALCOHOL, page 3

Piering over Santa Monica



Ross Furukawa/Daily Press

A view from Venice Beach shows there's plenty going on in Santa Monica's nightlife.

Kids speak out

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

If there is one message Santa Monica kids want to send to adults it's this: pay attention to your children.

That's what kids told elected officials, parents and school administrators Tuesday night at a "youth speak out on violence prevention."

Nearly 100 people filled the Santa Monica High School cafeteria to address youth violence in Santa Monica, partly in response to the murder of Deanna Maran, 15, who was stabbed at a party in Westwood on Nov. 17.

At the event's introduction, Santa Monica City Council members, school officials, police and parents stood up in front of the students and told them they were there to listen to them.

Dozens of students broke out into small groups and were asked to answer a list of questions relating to violence. They shared their thoughts with adults in the room and came up with solutions to work toward.

But students warned their elders to actually take what they had to say and put it into practice. Too often, events like a "youth speak out" are forgotten about within months and solutions are not followed up on, students said.

See VIOLENCE, page 3

County wants retail stores to post signs for overcharging

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Retailers who overcharge customers for store items will have to post a sign in their window acknowledging their offense under a new plan by the county Board of Supervisors.

The proposal needs the support of the retail industry before supervisors give final approval. The new measure would mirror the grading system imposed on restaurants by the county Health Department, but for retailers the number of convictions would be posted in the storefront window.

An investigation revealed that 60 percent of retailers failed to charge customers the price advertised on store shelves. County investigators visited 108 retail stores around the county over the past three weeks and issued fines of more than $60,000.

Stores that overcharge by more than $1 face misdemeanor fines of up to $1000 and those that overcharge less than $1 face fines of up to $100.

"We are all at the mercy of this industry, and we have to rely on their integrity," said Supervisor Gloria Molina. "I was shocked and surprised at the number of convictions."

See SIGNS, page 3

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Work demands attention. You're capable of moving mountains if you relax your position. Your ability to view a situation and gain perspective must come in to play if you want to succeed. Your hard work pays off in a big way. Think through a decision. Tonight: Relax through exercise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your playfulness causes a problem for a partner. This person easily gets his or her dander up. Be especially careful with funds involving others. You might be OK with a risk, though someone else isn't. Take time with a child or loved one. Underscore openness. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Dealing with others tests your limits. You could easily snarl at one person, if not more. Go on retreat if you don't like what you're hearing. Close your door at the office. Screen calls. Concentrate on one item at a time. You do best on your own. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Speak your mind, but don't be surprised when someone gives you flak. Do understand what is going on with an associate or co-worker. Consider the fact that resistance to new technology could be a problem. Open up to possibilities, and so might someone else. Tonight: Join friends for a break.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Emotional and financial risks could lead to problems. Worry less about control and more about handling each issue individually. Examine your long-term goals before you decide to spend money on any item or idea. Focus on making money rather than spending. Tonight: Do something just for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You don't need to agree about a domestic matter or investment. Look to the positives and where your energy would be best placed. Don't push someone too hard. Understand and honor your limits with someone. Use your natural charm. Tonight: It's your call.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Choose your words with care. A misunderstanding appears out of the blue. You might wonder what you did to draw the results you have. Ease up and worry less about what others think. Cocoon and do what you can by yourself. Count on few right now. Tonight: Take a personal night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Remain positive and content, even if you are concerned about a financial matter. Be careful about what you commit to. You could be sorry otherwise. Participate in a happening. Meetings add to your popularity. Tonight: Where the gang is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You react strongly to an authority figure. Consider if you might be having a knee-jerk reaction here. Think about what it is you want from someone. Be more upbeat about someone's leadership. If a project gets into trouble, at least it wasn't your fault! Tonight: In the limelight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your perspective might be marred by some anger or a personal problem. Slow down and detach from your "stuff." Listen to someone without your emotional baggage. You find solutions through valuing others' perspectives. Tonight: Shop for a new CD.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Recognize limits within a relationship. Just because this person might not fulfill every one of your desires and dreams, it isn't a reason to discard him or her. Be sensitive to those around you. Examine your long-term desires. Look at your values. Tonight: Let someone make nice.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your sense of what is right differs a lot from someone and his or her needs. Think about what you expect from those you work with and are personally involved with. Your decisions could be affected by your expectations. See people as they are. Tonight: Delight a partner.

WEATHER

Today ...	Mostly Sunny	High—58°F	Low—37°F
Tomorrow ...	Mostly Sunny	High—60°F	Low—40°F
Saturday ...	Partly Cloudy	High—65°F	Low—42°F

QUOTE of the DAY

"Too clever is dumb."
— German proverb

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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Alcohol servers asked to serve responsibly

ALCOHOL, from page 1

said Amanda Schachter, the city's principal planner. "And the licenses that were grandfathered in make up most of the city's total number" of alcohol permits.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce plans to address the commission's concerns on alcohol at its executive meeting next week.

"I would imagine if we take a position — and we haven't — it would be to not limit particular businesses," said Kathryn Dodson, executive director of the chamber. "You have to be careful who gets limited and who has access. We'll have to first study this and learn exactly what the city has in mind."

Some officials fear any plans to cut the number of alcohol permits in the city could counteract the city's plans to attract new restaurants to the Third Street Promenade, where in recent years retailers have replaced many of the eateries.

The city has enacted a moratorium preventing space currently occupied by restaurants to be converted into shops while a taskforce looks for ways to attract more eateries.

"The role of the planning process is to balance community benefits against impacts and concerns. There's a big difference between a rowdy bar in a neighborhood and a dinner restaurant on the Promenade," said Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown. "Certainly a responsible alcohol policy would retain flexibility, allowing lower-impact uses and appropriate locations."

Planning commissioners hope any changes they would propose to the city council would not hurt businesses or the city's efforts to draw in more restaurants.

"We are concerned with promoting restaurants on the Promenade and tourist-dependant areas of the city," said Johnson. "I don't think we want to do anything to hurt (those businesses). Due diligence is critical to how we manage our alcohol facilities."

But Olsen said he hasn't seen any convincing evidence that making alcohol permit holders go through a training program would hurt business.

"If you want to serve alcohol we're asking you to do the same thing as you would have done to set up shop in Los Angeles," he said. "In Santa Monica, we're way behind the curve."

Kids tell adults how they feel about violence

VIOLENCE, from page 1

Judy Abdo, the facilitator of the speak-out, asked that adults stand up at the end of the gathering and commit to the kids what they will do to help end youth violence. Then each person was asked to think of at least one thing they could do as individuals to help curb violence in the community. Participants walked away with small plans, as well as big ones.

The suggestion that sparked the most conversation came from a student who suggested a youth retreat. Many adults and youth jumped at the chance to be part of the event, possibly planned for spring.

Teachers and administrators from the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District, which sponsored the event, were pleased with the turnout given that it was the first day of a new semester and students had a long weekend because Monday was a day off for them.

What teacher Joy Bramlette noticed at the tables where students were working from in small groups was that the kids chose strangers to sit with.

"These kids are not friends at these tables," she observed. "They came up to each other and introduced themselves."

The students presented their thoughts by posting large sheets of paper along the wall with their ideas outlined on them. One by one, each group explained why violence happens and how to deal with it.

Some said it was the easy access to drugs and alcohol; others said youth violence happens because people fight for power. Some said violence is a result of misunderstandings and kids don't take it seriously until it hits close to home.

"I believe that they really don't want to get involved until something very serious happens to them or someone close to them," one student wrote.

The debate among city council members and city officials surrounded what the adult's role is in fostering respect and kindness in children.

They all agreed that many parents fail in playing the "authority role" and as a result, they are letting their children down. Instead, parents need to spend more time with their kids and send the message that they are there for them.

Jose Lopez said he grew up in the hood and has seen plenty of violence around him. The kids he grew up with only knew how to express their feelings through violence and drugs.

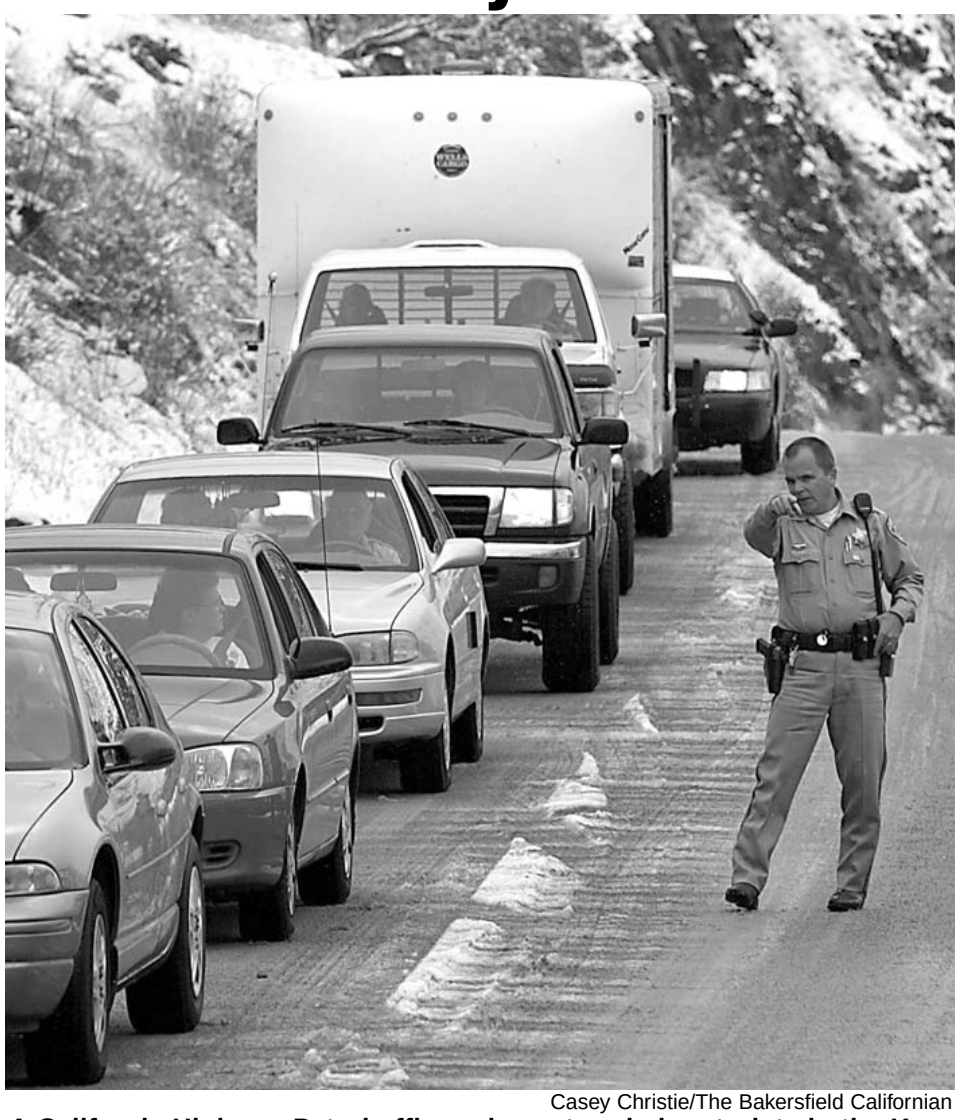
"I've seen a lot of destruction and I'm tired of it," he told the group. "A lot of it has to do with anger within themselves ... If you are mad at somebody and you are loaded, you never know what is going to happen."

That could have possibly been the case when Maran, the Santa Monica High School sophomore, was stabbed after she confronted a 15-year-old girl who was breaking potted plants at a party in November. The girl allegedly called her older sister who arrived a short time later and with the help of other party goers, pinned Maran down while she was kicked and then stabbed.

The violent end to Maran's life still haunts her family, friends, fellow students and her teachers. But events like Tuesday's are a step in the right direction of ending youth violence, teachers say.

"The kids are moving forward in a positive way," Bramlette said. "Obviously we see they are at different levels."

Slowed down by snow



Casey Christie/The Bakersfield Californian

A California Highway Patrol officer gives stranded motorists in the Kern River Canyon some information regarding a temporary road closure on Tuesday, due to snow and several accidents in the canyon east of Bakersfield.

Retailers may have to 'fess up'

SIGNS, from page 1

The industry's largest stores were guilty of overcharging, investigators said. On average, Kmart charged $2.35 too much; Wal-Mart $2.69; and Macy's $14.95. All three stores issued statements pledging to resolve the pricing errors.

The overcharges were three times more frequent than undercharges, said Cato Fiksdal, agricultural commissioner and director of weights and measures.

Besides having retailers place signs notifying customers of convictions, other improvements include boosting the number of county inspectors and posting a toll-free number on cash registers for customers who feel they were short-changed.

Retailers say overcharges usually occur with posted sales prices that are never taken down. Many customers don't notice the price at the cash register.

"The surest way not to get a bad letter grade is not to reduce prices," said Mallory Duncan, general counsel for the National Retail Federation in Washington, D.C. "Just keep prices where they are and never have specials and you'll score an A, if that's what the county wants to accomplish."

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STATE

Scuba valves recalled due to drowning hazard

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A California company is recalling about 7,700 valves used for scuba diving because a defect could cause divers to drown.

Custom Buoyancy Inc. of Torrance, Calif., has received three reports of the overpressure valves sticking open, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Wednesday.

The recalled valves are installed on buoyancy control systems with the following brand names: Diving Unlimited International (DUI), International Divers, Ocean Management Systems, Rip Tide and Steam Machines.

These buoyancy control systems come in two versions, a jacket style and a wings style. Brand names and logos are printed on the epaulettes and pockets.

The date code, printed on a label sewn to the buoyancy control system, is the first four numbers after the brand name abbreviation. The recall includes date codes from October 2000 through June 2001.

Valves with an asterisk below the serial number are not recalled.

Custom Buoyancy distributors sold the buoyancy control systems with the recalled valves from October 2000 through November 2001 for about $590.

The safety commission said consumers should stop using the buoyancy control systems with these valves and contact their dealer for a free replacement.

For more information, consumers can also contact Custom Buoyancy at 1-866-790-5099 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PST Monday through Friday.

Douglas donates $2.5 million to theater project

By The Associated Press

CULVER CITY — Stage work may have disappointed Kirk Douglas, but he hasn't forgotten theater's role in launching his movie career.

"The point of the theater is to give young talent a chance to develop."

— KIRK DOUGLAS
Actor

The 85-year-old "Spartacus" star announced Tuesday he will donate $2.5 million to renovate a dilapidated Culver City cinema into a 500-seat theater for plays managed by the Center Theatre Group.

"The point of the theater is to give young talent a chance to develop," Douglas said.

An additional $5.5 million must still be raised by the drama group to meet the estimated $8 million cost of all renovations.

If the funding comes through, the 1947 Culver Theater building, which is a historic landmark, will be renamed the Kirk Douglas Theatre when the complex reopens in 2004.

Douglas began his career as a New York stage actor and wanted to stay there, saying he was "appalled" when a string of flops sent him looking for work in Hollywood.

He's best known for his roles in the 1949 boxing picture "The Champion," 1957's war drama "Paths of Glory" and the 1964 political thriller "Seven Days in May."

"In a sense I'm a failure," Douglas joked, "because I never wanted to be a movie actor. ... I thought maybe I could make some money."

Theater and television director Martin Magner dies at 101

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Martin Magner, who directed theater productions and the television show "Studio One," has died. He was 101.

Magner died Friday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center of cancer, said his caretaker Loretta Morgenstern.

Born in Stettin, Germany, Magner began his acting career in the Hamburg Chamber Theater at the age of 18. He was named the company's general director after his predecessor, who was Jewish, fled the country because of the Nazi regime.

He also worked in Poland and Czechoslovakia before World War II. Among his admirers were playwright George Bernard Shaw and psychiatrist Sigmund Freud.

He left Europe for the United States in 1936. Magner taught at Northwestern University before taking jobs and a producer and director for NBC and CBS over the next 30 years. He retired in 1965.

Magner later moved to Los Angeles and was the artistic director for the Inglewood Playhouse and then the New Theatre Inc., which he started. He was given a lifetime achievement award in 1989 by the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle.

U.S. nuclear plants were targets, evidence suggests

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Diagrams of American nuclear power plants found by U.S. forces in Afghanistan show al-Qaida's interest in striking them, but it's unclear how far along those plans were, a defense official says.

In addition, documents recently uncovered in a suspected al-Qaida safe house in Kabul include rudimentary designs for a nuclear weapon, according to an unclassified U.S. intelligence report released on Wednesday.

The discoveries highlight the dangers posed by the terrorist network, officials said.

Military officials are unaware of any finds noting specific times or operatives who would conduct an attack on a nuclear power plant. Instead, the documents seem to be part of al-Qaida's research and planning effort, and they provide insight to the terrorist group's thought process in designing possible attacks, said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Some of the material recovered appears to be from public sources such as magazines. It is not known how al-Qaida came by the rest.

In his State of the Union address Tuesday night, President Bush said, "The depth of their hatred is equaled by the madness of the destruction they design. We have found diagrams of American nuclear power plants and public water facilities, detailed instructions for making chemical weapons, surveillance maps of American cities, and thorough descriptions of landmarks in America and throughout the world."

The discoveries Bush mentioned prompted an FBI warning to law enforcement agencies earlier this month, telling them to be vigilant around utilities, nuclear plants and water facilities, said homeland security spokesman Gordon Johndroe.

Since Sept. 11, the NRC has advised plants to be on alert, and some states have sent National Guard troops to augment the security forces at a handful of plants.

Paul Leventhal, president of the nonproliferation advocacy Nuclear Control Institute, said Bush's statements raise questions about the government's preparations for terrorist attacks on nuclear power plants.

"It would suggest they received specific diagrams of specific plants," Leventhal said. "And it raises the question of whether the plants have been alerted."

Bush's statements are the latest product of the ongoing effort by U.S. military and intelligence officials to sort through documents, computers and other items found at former al-Qaida caves, camps and safehouses in Afghanistan.

The nuclear weapon diagram found in Kabul, described as "crude" in the U.S. intelligence report, describes "essential components — uranium and high explosives — common to nuclear weapons."

The report, provided to Congress by CIA Director George J. Tenet, says terrorists aren't believed to have a nuclear weapon.

It says that much of the terrorists' interest is on chemical weapons, such as cyanide salts, that would contaminate food and water supplies and assassinate individuals.

Moreover, "terrorists probably will continue to favor proven conventional tactics such as bombings and shootings," it says.

In addition, other evidence obtained in Afghanistan shows al-Qaida operatives have fallen for a number of scams in their attempts to acquire nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, a senior government terrorism analyst said.

"That's good news for us," said Gary Richter, a terrorism expert with the Energy Department's Sandia National Laboratories. "It shows they really don't know what they are doing. If they knew to turn away these scam artists, it would be frightening."

Richter said he has examined several items recovered from al-Qaida caches in Afghanistan, all of which were believed to be tied to the terrorist group's attempts to develop or buy weapons of mass destruction. From them, Richter concluded that al-Qaida operatives tried to buy such weapons several times, paying cash for items that turned out to be worthless.

"They'll buy junk," he said.

U.S. troops and intelligence officers searching through abandoned caves, safe houses and camps belonging to the group have discovered some canisters and chemistry apparatus, some of which had Russian markings.

Richter did not know how much money al-Qaida has spent trying to buy these weapons, and he declined to say from whom al-Qaida tried to purchase the weapons.

He echoed statements from U.S. defense and intelligence officials that al-Qaida has developed a crude ability to use industrial chemicals as weapons — like those used on the battlefields in the early part of World War I.

But the terrorist group lacks the sophistication to deliver these weapons in a way that would kill mass numbers of people. Other officials have said al-Qaida could probably deploy chlorine, phosgene and some biological toxins as weapons.

Ruth Fremson/Associated Press

New York Governor George Pataki, right, shakes hands with Hamid Karzai, Afghanistan's interim leader, during a tour of ground zero of the World Trade Center attacks site on Wednesday.

Lewis weighing options after Tyson fight in Vegas ruled out

BY ROBERT MILLWARD
AP Sports Writer

LONDON — Lennox Lewis said Wednesday he was weighing his options on whether to go ahead with plans to fight Mike Tyson or line up a bout against another heavyweight challenger.

Lewis said he might walk away from one of the most lucrative fights in boxing history following Tuesday's decision by Nevada boxing commissioners to deny Tyson a license to fight Lewis April 6 in Las Vegas.

While a Lewis-Tyson fight could still be held in another state or country, Lewis said he could look for a new opponent to defend his world title.

"I'm going to weigh up my odds and make that decision later," Lewis said at a London news conference. "I need just a little time. I have to consider who's out there, who should I box next, when I should box."

Asked what would happen if the Tyson fight doesn't go ahead, Lewis said, "There's always a challenge out there. If you're in a No. 1 position, there are always people out there trying to knock you down. I'm looking at those guys that are out there right now."

"I know the public wants to see (the Tyson fight) done, they want to see the ultimate matchup," he added. "It's disappointing we couldn't get it together. It's too bad we couldn't get the biggest fight in history on."

Lewis also reiterated his statement, released earlier in Las Vegas, that Tyson had bitten his leg when the two brawled at a news conference in New York last week.

"The fact is that Mike Tyson bit through my trousers and took a significant piece of flesh out of my thigh," he said.

Lewis confirmed for the first time that he received a tetanus shot after the incident at his New York hotel room.

"They wanted to take me to the hospital but I didn't want all the drama," he said.

Lewis, the WBC and IBF champion, accepted no responsibility for the melee in which he threw a right hand at Tyson.

"Actually that was a glancing punch, it didn't really hit him," he said.

Lewis blamed the Tyson camp for the brawl and denied it was pre-planned by both sides.

"If there was an agreement they never let us know," he said. "They were really prepared, that's what they wanted to do."

Lewis said he did not feel sorry for Tyson.

"His history basically speaks for itself," he said. "I'm glad I had no part in the decision making. It's disappointing that boxing has come to such a level."

Asked whether he would have attended the Las Vegas hearing to back Tyson's application for a license, Lewis said: "I don't know about that, you have to remember this guy just took a chunk out of my leg. I'm thinking, 'Who's going to protect me in the ring? Who's going to guarantee that Mike Tyson doesn't bite me in the ring?' "

Asked whether he had a moral obligation regarding the fight, Lewis said, "The moral obligation is to go in and give him a whipping."

Lewis' manager, Adrian Ogun, opened the news conference declaring, "Lennox is not afraid of Mike Tyson."

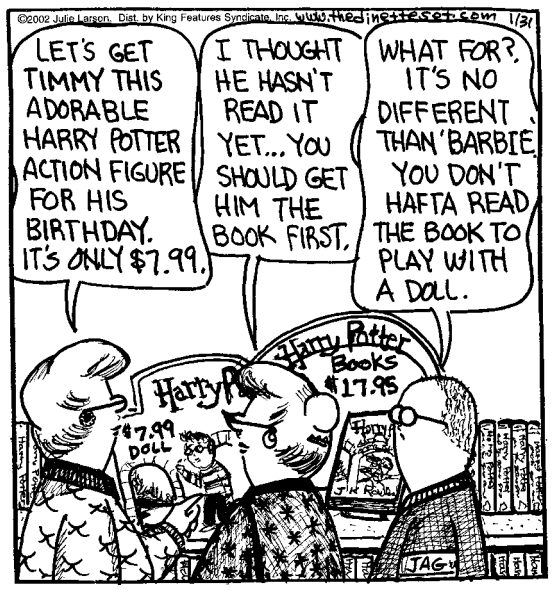
Ogun said he and Lewis began meeting at 2 a.m. London time to discuss the ramifications of the Las Vegas ruling.

"It's only been 12 hours since we've received the information," he said. "There are many options open to Lennox."

Ogun said the Lewis camp would be in touch with Lewis' U.S. television backers, HBO, as well as officials from the WBC, IBF and British boxing board. Ogun said he would meet with HBO officials in New York next week.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



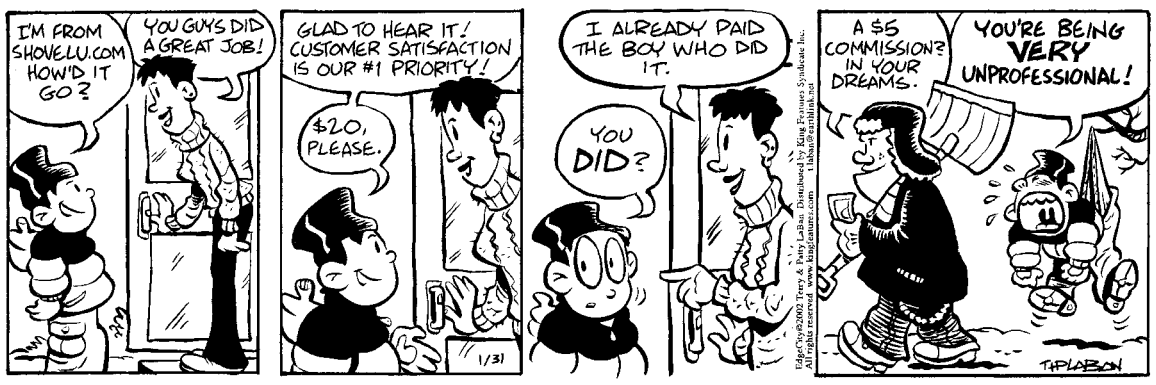
Natural Selection®

By Russ Wallace

"Look, I can appreciate that you're an endangered species, but there's only *one* of me, and I'm hungry."

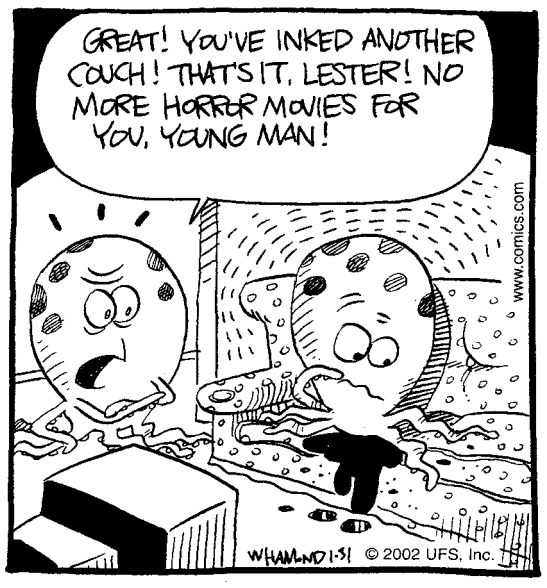
edge City

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



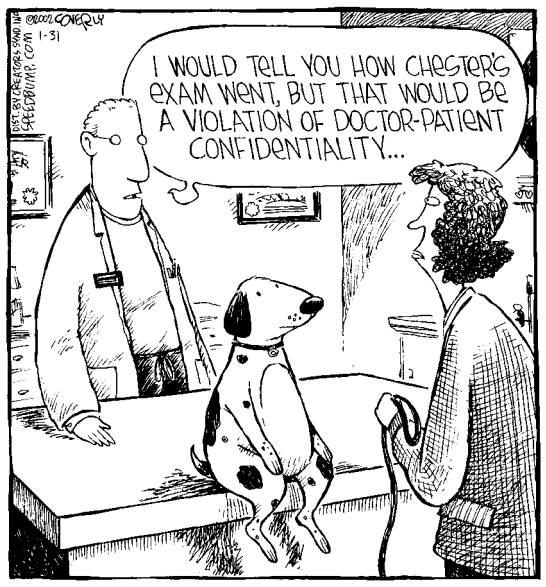
Reality Check®

By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump®

By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 St. Louis attraction
5 Trumpet sounds
11 Physically strong
12 Sondheim's "Into the Woods" collaborator
13 Not closed
14 Stand against
15 Patio event
17 Family
18 Mediation events
22 Was fond of
24 Concert venue
25 High card
26 Crosses out
27 Co-op's cousin
30 Cotton bundles
32 Stage direction
33 Flightless bird
34 Blood feud
38 Prisoner's hope
41 Crony
42 Stir
43 Tramp
44 Took home
45 Bits of history

DOWN
1 Melville character
2 Indian prince
3 Smallville resident
4 Name of the Love Bug
5 Common-interest group
6 Flying island visited by Gulliver
7 Show up
8 Carnival city
9 Print units
10 Envision
16 Terminus
19 Smallville resident
20 Pad's place
21 Pertness
22 Doily makeup
23 Clickable picture
28 Pious
29 Threatening words
30 Sack
31 Don of "Cocoon"
35 Call for
36 Oompah producer
37 Andy's pal
38 Bad review
39 Exist
40 Nonsense

N	A	S	H		R	E	D	I	A	L
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S	P	A	N		D	E	B	A	T	E
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			F	R	O	G		A	L	L
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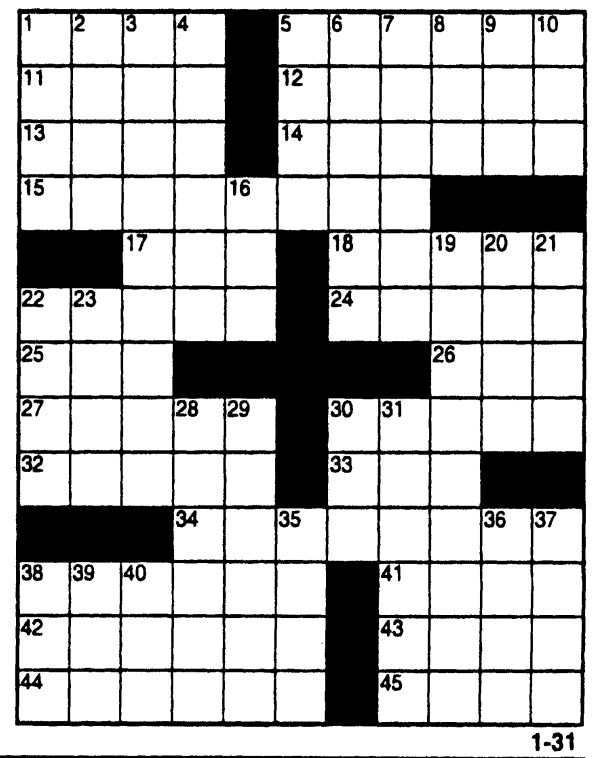
Yesterday's answer



1-31

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

A knife threat in the name of the environment

• Ms. Takako Konishi, 28, was found dead, of probable suicide, in Detroit Lakes, Minn., six days after being spotted in Bismarck, N.D., inquiring how to find the money that had been buried by a character in the movie "Fargo."

• A Tokyo hospital official was ordered by a court to pay about $2,350 to a colleague whom he had verbally assaulted at a board meeting last year by calling him an "idiot" or a "moron" 74 times.

• Yale Divinity School dean Ralph William Franklin resigned over charges of mismanagement, including using Yale funds to pay for clearly personal expenses, in "flagrant violation" of his contract.

• An environmental official in Kagoshima, Japan, was arrested for threatening to knife a bar owner if he didn't start separating his garbage according to the country's strict trash laws.

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BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

It wasn't Jesus in the flesh

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A jury awarded $290,000 to two women who said they were deceived by a fundamentalist church whose leaders promised to produce Jesus Christ in the flesh.

The True and Living Church of Jesus Christ of the Saints of the Last Days was ordered Monday to pay $270,000 to Kaziah Hancock and more than $20,000 to Cindy Stewart for fraud, breach of contract and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

As a condition of church membership, Hancock gave 67 acres of her farm and shares of water rights to the church for redistribution among members. Stewart contributed money from her retirement plan, attorney Don Redd said.

In return, church founder Jim Harmston promised payments on other property, membership in heaven's elite and the chance to meet Christ on earth, Redd said.

The eight-member jury threw out complaints of racketeering and unjust enrichment against the church and Harmston.

Harmston refused to comment and referred questions to his attorney, Mark Middlemas. Middlemas did not return calls Tuesday.

Harmston's wife, Elaine, told The Salt Lake Tribune that she was disappointed with the verdict, adding: "God's people have always been persecuted and right now is no different."

Brownie laxative backfires

By The Associated Press

EBENSBURG, Pa. — A man who brought laxative-laced brownies to work to get back at co-workers who were eating his bagged lunches is being sued by one of the men who ate them.

John R. Anthony Sr. is seeking unspecified damages from Raymond Jastrzab for the pain and embarrassment he suffered when he ate the brownies.

Jastrzab was fired from OMG Americas in Johnstown following the Jan. 27, 2000, incident and has been denied unemployment compensation after the Commonwealth Court in Harrisburg ruled that he was guilty of willful misconduct and "evil design."

Jastrzab admitted to baking the brownies because co-workers had been eating his lunches, the company said.

Anthony ate the brownies only after they had been left on a table in the plant's dining room, said his attorney, Terry Graffius. It was an unwritten rule of the plant that food left on the table was available to anyone, he said.

Jastrzab stood by and watched Anthony eat them, Graffius said.

Anthony suffered nausea, diarrhea, cramps and dehydration which required medical attention after eating the brownies.

Jastrzab has an unlisted number and could not be reached for comment.

A human's world from a fishbowl

By The Associated Press

SALINA, Kan. — Adam Zaretsky knows what it's like to live in a fish bowl: He's on exhibit at the zoo.

Zaretsky's known as "Zed, species Homo sapiens," in the "Workhorse Zoo" exhibit. His home is an 8-by-8-foot glass room he shares with albino frogs, families of mice, microscopic worms and yeast.

Zaretsky, a 33-year-old San Francisco conceptual artist, says the display is a combination of art and science. He hopes it will get people thinking about their relationships with other living things.

"I'm actually trying to blur the boundary between what is human culture and what is reality," Zaretsky said, while stretched out on an ambulance gurney that he uses for a bed.

Julia Reodica, who was Zaretsky's teaching assistant while he served as a visiting professor at San Francisco State University, is the zookeeper.

"As a serious researcher, I am finding Zed temperamental and unpredictable," observed Reodica, clad in a Boy Scout uniform with long, zip-up black go-go boots. "When agitated, he throws rubbish against the windows."

Zaretsky received a $20,000 grant to stage his weeklong exhibit.

Talking trash about the bowl

By The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Less than 24 hours after their home-state teams advanced to the Super Bowl, chief executives of Missouri and Massachusetts engaged in what has become a gubernatorial tradition — a little good-natured trash talking.

Acting Massachusetts Gov. Jane Swift kicked off the round on Monday, warning St. Louis that her state's New England Patriots shouldn't be overlooked by the Rams, already 14 1/2-point favorites for Sunday's title game in New Orleans.

"Being an underdog has suited the Patriots just fine this year," Swift said. "The Rams are going to find out very soon that these underdogs have a very painful bite."

Missouri Gov. Bob Holden took the high road, calling Swift an acquaintance and "very nice lady."

"We'll let the players on the field do the talking," Holden said. "The Rams are gonna win."

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