

FREE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 68

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

4-6-21-36-46

Megamillion: 11
Jackpot: \$85 million

FANTASY 5
15, 16, 29, 33, 36

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 8, 5, 9
Evening picks: 8, 6, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star.
2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit.
3rd Place: 10, Solid Gold.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Officials were understandably alarmed when 24 residents of a nursing home tested positive for marijuana, but it turned out to be a reaction to a prescription for acid reflux. (Claiborne County, Tenn.)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

When you're traveling the terrain of time, the shortest distance between two points may be a detour.

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Levi's store sets record

Broker calls \$45K monthly rent a new 'benchmark'

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A new Levi Strauss store planned for the Third Street Promenade has set a record high rent along the pricey commercial corridor.

Levi Strauss has agreed to pay nearly \$45,000 a month for the 4,000-square-foot store — previously occupied by Rag Factory — at 1409 Third Street Promenade, according to Randy Starr, a real estate broker at the Tenzer Commercial Brokerage Group.

"That's the new benchmark for retail," he said.

The deal works out to about \$10.65 a square foot, or \$1,451.61 a day, which doesn't include various fees attached. Levi's will have to sell 97 pairs of jeans a day at \$35 a piece, based on a 31-day calendar, to break even on just its rent.

Average retail rents along the Promenade have fluctuated between \$9 and \$10 a square foot while space for restaurants have garnered about \$7 a square foot, according to sources.

Levi's officials reportedly are attracted to the store's location because of its 42-foot-long display windows that front the Promenade and its expansive interior, Starr said.

"It's one of the few spaces on the Promenade where you avoid the bowling alley effect," said Starr, noting most Promenade locations are narrow and deep. "It's one of the

prime spaces and Levi Strauss, with their financial clout, really went after it."

Levi Strauss officials did not return calls Thursday.

"It's one of the prime spaces and Levi Strauss, with their financial clout, really went after it."

— RANDY STARR
Real estate broker

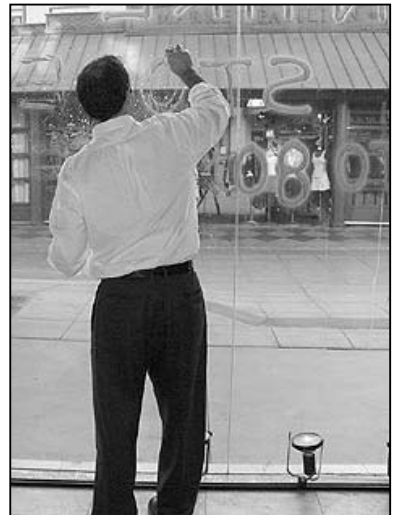
The company will officially take possession of the space today. It may take between three to five months to complete construction and for the store to be fully operational, Starr said.

"The space itself is a clean space," he said. "So there shouldn't be any real issues."

While city officials are not sure if the high rent being paid by Levi Strauss constitutes a new trend, they noted it was one of the highest they had heard of on the Promenade.

"Whether a single rent of that kind is a benchmark remains to be seen," said Mark Richter, the city's director of economic development. "There are other vacancies on the Promenade, and I think rents tend to be forced upward when there is a lack of supply."

"But it shows how much they wanted to be there," he added.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Commercial real estate broker Chuck Dembo, who represents Levi Strauss, uses some elbow grease to remove paint from the former tenant's moving sale on the Promenade. Levi Strauss has set a new benchmark for a retailer paying rent on the outdoor mall.

The Rag Factory, which has several locations in the Los Angeles region, was one of the few remaining locally owned and operated stores along the Promenade. High rents have forced

See LEVI'S, page 6

S.M. woman heads to Iraq

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica woman's commitment to peace is taking her into the epicenter of a looming war with Iraq.

Kelly Hayes-Raitt boarded a plane Thursday for a two-week trip that will take her and 10 other U.S. women to Baghdad. Once there, the group will meet with weapons inspectors, visit a children's hospital and an orphanage and a bomb shelter where 480 civilians were killed in 1991 during the Gulf War.

"I think it's vitally important that we hear

from various perspectives on how this war will affect Iraqis, and one of the voices we rarely hear from are women's voices," Hayes-Raitt said.

One of the goals of the delegation's visit is to highlight the disastrous effects a war could have on Iraq's women and children.

"I feel a responsibility to Iraqi women to voice their fears, their hopes, their dreams," Hayes-Raitt said. "Clearly, Iraqi women are repressed. But they will only become more repressed if we start bombing Iraqi buildings."

See IRAQ, page 6

No leads on threat at courthouse

By Daily Press staff

There are no leads as to who threatened to blow up the Santa Monica Courthouse on Wednesday, but officials do know that a man, who said he was of Middle Eastern descent, called in the threat.

At about 2 p.m., a man called the small claims court division in the courthouse and said a bomb had been planted in the building, officials said.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies evacuated the building, which had about 250

See THREAT page 7

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★★★-So-so ★-Difficult

Happy Birthday for Friday, Jan. 31, 2003

You have the drive and follow-through to make what you want happen this year. Self-knowledge and knowing more of what you want will be instrumental to your success. Your sense of direction directly links to what you accomplish. Network and expand your immediate circle of friends and associates. If you are single, you will meet people easily, and actually could have an opportunity to change your solo status. You find a relationship extremely rewarding, especially next fall and winter. Allow this happiness in your life. If you're attached, check in with each other frequently, making sure you have similar goals. Communication bonds you. Don't forget that! AQUARIUS understands you.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Don't sit back any longer. Get off your duff and take action. How you lead and how you follow through attracts many different associates. Others believe that you know what you're doing. Use your strong sense of direction right now, and you will greet success. Tonight: Where your friends are.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might have a difficult time with an associate or a boss. Support an associate's strong action, which could make a considerable difference in the outcome of a situation. Consider what is and is not possible. You're in a unique position to weigh the pros and cons. Tonight: A must appearance.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Others continue to run with the ball. If you interfere, you could be surprised by what happens — i.e., don't run interference. Let the chips fall where they may. Your ability to detach could make a big difference. Tonight: Do something very different.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might want to ask for more information, especially about a project. You might be surprised by what a difference an associate could make in getting this effort done. You might feel a lot better if you ask for the help you need. Tonight: One-on-one relating.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others touch base, though you clearly see that you have little control over what goes on. Think twice about a loved one's or child's offer. Don't just discard his or her suggestion. Rather, absorb the essence of what he or she is saying. You might not be able to hold someone back. Tonight: Where the action is.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Success will greet you this week. You drive a hard bargain. You might want to be a bit reclusive, as you need to get work done. Your family and home play a big role in a work-related or day-to-day matter. Tonight: Ask for a back rub.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your creativity surges because of a discussion. You can no longer put someone on a back burner. Initiate a discussion. Listen and share, but above all, look for a point or place where others, as well as yourself, can be comfortable. Tonight: Kick up your heels.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Deal head-on with a money matter that impacts your security. You might not be comfortable with what is happening with a child or loved one who is close to you. Handle what you must, understanding that a lot more than you realize is going on here. Tonight: Close to home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You no longer stand on ceremony. You say what you feel and let others clearly know that you mean business. Your ability to express yourself comes across; still, you might be upset with a loved one or a close friend. Understand why you're so triggered. Tonight: Hanging out with your friends.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Deal with finances as directly as you can. Though you might not be comfortable with someone's perception, curb a tendency to keep your feelings inside. Perhaps it might serve you to say something. Use your strong money sense. Tonight: Your treat.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Switch your personality on high. You're more likely to get more of what you want and desire. A friend might like contradicting you, but, ultimately, you force the issue. You can have what you want. Please don't settle right now. Tonight: Smile and draw in what you want.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Knowing when to lay back could be key to your success. Somehow you discover the need to understand a boss and his or her irritation. For some, the issue could involve a parent or an older relative. Realize when you've had enough. Tonight: Vanish.

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LOCAL



The Q-Line

Starbucks and sarcasm are alive and well in Santa Monica

This past week, Q-Line asked,

"Do you think the Promenade needs another Starbucks? Why or why not?"

Here are your responses:

■ "I was a former barista who worked on the Promenade and also worked at one of four Starbucks that were all in the same two-block radius of each other downtown. I can honestly state that your average coffee patron does not care where they get their coffee from. When they come in, they assume all the sizes and names are the same. As far as how it effects the Promenade, the only thing I can see is that it might provide some much needed jobs for those who cannot find work elsewhere."

■ "I do not believe this Promenade needs another Starbucks because 12 coffee houses are enough. Starbucks is way too much of a corporation. I don't even go to the Promenade anymore because it's not even a Promenade. Santa Monica lost its soul about 15 years ago to developers. I regret going to Santa Monica when I do go. Another Starbucks would even keep me away. No more Starbucks in Santa Monica or anywhere in Southern California."

■ "YES! The more Starbucks, the better! Young yuppies will need a place to sit until their unemployment checks run out while wondering who fired the salvo that torpedoed them from their job sites and caused their BMWs to be repossessed. After all, George Jr. is their guy."

■ "Not only do we not need more Starbucks, we need less. There are too many of them already. They are like a cancer that spreads around in this city destroying everything in its path."

■ "I absolutely think we need another Starbucks on the Third Street Promenade. Right now, I have to walk almost 30 yards to get a latte. I can stop at the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, which is about 15 yards closer to my office. What

is a person supposed to go through to get a cup of coffee? I think they should do the right thing and put three Starbucks on every block."

■ "Give me a break. Another Starbucks is the last thing we need on the Promenade. More and more people are consuming an over abundance of java. I've been advised by a friend that the increase in breast thyroids in women could be a direct result of our societies love affair with coffee drinks. Her medical doctor advised her to taper her intake and especially with Starbucks. Something about Starbucks' processing method may be contributing to this worsening health issue. No more Starbucks in our city."

■ "Starbucks is a company that does not know when to stop. Two Starbucks on the Third Street Promenade is more than sufficient. Not only will a third store contribute to a boring, nothing-new-here environment, it may also take space from an interesting one of a kind retailer. Starbucks, know when enough is enough."

■ "Now that the Promenade attracts so many vagrants and high decibel street performers, it's possible that there is a problem finding tenants for the retail space. If Starbucks are willing to risk a third shop there, I wish them well."

■ "I'm absolutely opposed the Promenade needing another Starbucks. I'm sick and tired of the franchises pushing the mom and pop stores out of Santa Monica. It's horrifying on the Promenade that this has already happened. I'm dreading the day it happens on Montana. Even Montana has 2 Starbucks now."

See Q-LINE, page 5

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

What to expect for the weekend: The new moon Saturday means extreme tides; highs getting up near six feet and lows dipping negative. This morning, building northwest swell shows, adding size as the day wears on.

Conditions look best Saturday, when the swell's peak is forecasted. We also have some west wind swell coming in, so well-exposed spots may show some overhead surf Saturday.

As swell fills in today, we should see continually improving consistency, regular sets hitting as soon as early evening.

Given the strength of the new swell and the angle, most spots should stay in chest- to shoulder-high waves, with occasional plus sets.

Sunday we see swell back off, starting in the morning. Surf remains decent, plenty of fun sets with only a slight decrease in size.



Today's Tides:

Low-	2:03 a.m.	1.96'
High-	8:05 a.m.	6.26'
Low-	3:26 p.m.	-1.29'
High-	9:49 p.m.	3.93'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	C
Topanga	2-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Breakwater	3-4'/Poor	4-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B
El Porto	4-6'/Fair	4-6'/Fair	4-6'/Fair	A

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and let us hear what you have to say

The Q-Line

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OPINION

LETTERS

Enough of Saddam

Editor:

I've read a lot of articles on the present day Iraqi situation and I need a little clarification, so maybe someone can help me out here.

In 1961, Britain granted independence to Kuwait. In 1990, Saddam Hussein attacked Kuwait for shipping too much oil, and thereby lowering HIS profit on oil. In addition, it was Saddam who insisted that Kuwait was taking oil from underneath HIS land by drilling sideways and therefore taking money away from him.

We all know what happened next, Saddam invaded Kuwait. During the final days of the war, he ordered his people to set the oil fields on fire. As we all know, the fires were put out and Saddam agreed to disarm.

Now, many years after agreeing to disarm, has he really gone ahead and done just that? If so, United Nations sanctions against his country would be removed and life for him and his country would return to what it was. To me, this would be something he would want to conclude as possible as it would be in the best interest of his people. Maybe not in his best interest, but if he was someone who was looking out for the best interest of his country, then why wouldn't he want to choose this course of action?

Like most people, I've owned/leased vehicles that don't get the greatest gas mileage. Not because I support terrorism, but like most people, the vehicle had the features that I wanted, and the extra expense for gas wasn't going to break the house. Like most people, I'm not for violent confrontations. Unfortunately, there are people in this world who don't mind using it to get their way. He's attacked his own people, he's attacked other countries. Do you really want to see what he's going to do next? Sometimes someone has got to stand up to and say, enough.

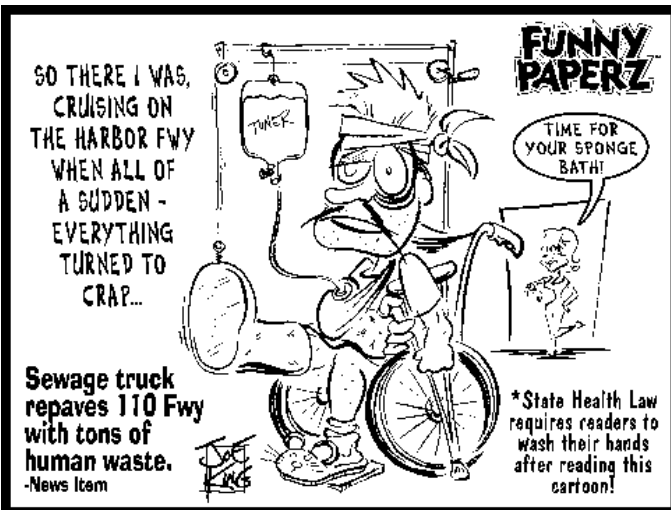
Steve Roberts
Santa Monica

Next sting for noise pollution

Editor:

As a homeowner living near Santa Monica College, I read with great joy the article in the Daily Press about the non-handicapped parking sting (Jan. 29, 2003). Daily, I witness students parking in front of my house (a preferential parking zone), putting grandma's handicapped permit on their cars and walking, with heavy backpacks, over a block to school. Maybe this new enforcement of the law will deter some of these violators.

The next sting operation needed for the SMC campus area is one targeting the people who drive around with car stereo's playing loud enough to shake the windows out of houses. How this is allowable in a city that fines airplanes \$5,000 for flying into Santa Monica airport louder than 100db is unbelievable. Station an undercover police officer near Pearl and 20th Street on any school night to write noise pollution violations and we could probably solve the city's budget crisis.



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Jeff Bender
Santa Monica

Support the schools

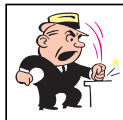
(Editor's note: The following letters were submitted by elementary students in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.)

Editor:

I went to a rally at City Hall last week with my mom, my sister and my friends who go to another Santa Monica school. I was there because I was trying to help support my school and my teacher after being told that the city is taking money away from our schools and getting rid of some teachers. This upsets me because I love my school

See LETTERS, next page

Bayside, schools are victims of political games



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

That sweet-smelling smoke that occasionally rises up from Center Court on the Third Street Promenade must've blown into the Bayside District Corporation's open window last Thursday night.

How else would you explain the bizarre request by Bayside director Rob Rader that the BDC ask the city NOT to reduce funding for social (homeless) services because of the fiscal crisis.

Apparently some Bayside directors still haven't come to grips with the fact that the large numbers of transients and social misfits downtown scare away shoppers.

Last July, then vice-chair, now BDC chair, John Warfel, asked that the city increase support for social services. Warfel's suggestion was incorporated into a resolution requesting that the city modify existing trespass laws and ordinances prohibiting camping in private doorways.

At the time, I criticized Warfel and his fellow directors. While the request to

increase social services might be politically correct, it's a shot in the foot for a board whose mission it is to promote a friendly, safe, clean and viable shopping experience downtown.

Perhaps, some Bayside directors are confused. If they want to advocate for the homeless, they should join the Social Services Commission, whose mission it is to support said services.

I'm sure Bayside directors are aware public feedings and the nearly two dozen homeless service programs are magnets that attract transients and keep them here. They probably don't want to be called cold and uncaring, even though their actions are counter to BDC's mission.

It's unfortunate that some BDC board members haven't figured out what the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce has — high numbers of vagrants, social misfits, drunks, bums and mentally ill don't make for a pleasant place to do business. For the Bayside board to continue to advocate for that which threatens the economic viability of the downtown — well, there must be something sweet-smelling in the air.

...

In other news, the "Save Our Schools" ad-hoc parcel tax committee settled on a

tax plan to raise money for the schools. After weeks of meetings, thousands of hours of dialogue and thousands of scarce dollars spent for polling and research, they came up with "EE light."

The new and revised parcel tax plan presented to the school board last night asks for a flat \$225 per parcel tax increase. Voters defeated Measure EE, a similar \$300 parcel tax increase last November.

If the school board approves the SOS committee's recommendation, Santa Monica and Malibu voters will vote on the new \$225 increase in June.

A proposed formula that based a portion of the tax on square footage of buildings or "improvements" was scuttled in order to let the big property owners and major businesses off cheap and buy the approval of the business community.

The local chamber of commerce's Political Action Committee will support the new parcel tax. And damn well they should, because the SOS committee gave businesses a huge tax break. The same is true with the Apartment Owners Association of Greater Los Angeles. They said they'd support it as long as they can pass the cost on to renters. Isn't amazing how all these business groups are for something as long as you and I pay for it

and they don't?

Senior property owners and landlords, who largely opposed EE, will be exempted this time around eliminating another major negative voting block. Senior renters are not exempted. When all is said and done, about half the property owners and renters will subsidize the other half of the property owners and renters.

And the heaviest burden of the proposed tax will again be on the poor, those living in duplexes, triplexes and condos. Renters living in buildings under 10 units will get hit hard while renters in larger, more exclusive buildings will pay virtually nothing.

All the exemptions, sweetheart deals and political maneuvering designed to eliminate opposition to the parcel tax increase this time around also reduces the potential income the SOS committee claims the schools need. But that's what happens when the goal is to win at any cost.

While the new tax measure might squeak by in June, once again our schools and those unlucky few who will foot the bill will be the real losers. Two years from now, like the Terminator, they'll be back.

(Bill Bauer is a freelance writer who lives in Santa Monica.)

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.

LOCAL



LETTERS

LETTERS, previous page

and my teachers. I think that instead of taking money away from the schools and teachers, the city should give more to them. I am in a music program, and I don't want it to be taken away.

Hayley
Fifth grade student
Santa Monica

Don't take away music

Editor:

I went to a rally to show the City Council and the mayor that I was concerned about the budget cuts. The first thing that came to my mind was that many things that are important to children will be gone. I thought that maybe there won't be anymore music programs at my school. I really hope that the city can give money to our schools because education is important.

Elena
Third grade student
Santa Monica

Stop the budget cuts

Editor:

My name is Jane, and I am a fifth grade student at Franklin Elementary School in Santa Monica. I just went to a rally with my two sisters and my parents to protest against school budget cuts. I know there are serious budget problems in our city. I hear that these cuts will increase class size, not letting students get as much attention from their teachers. We'll also have to dismiss important staff positions such as our vice principal, who makes sure all students are safe on school grounds and that school runs smoothly. If we cut school budgets, students all over will not be able to experience instrument and other music lessons, art classes, drama classes and many more activities that some of the students' families can't afford. Thank you to those reading this letter and keep in mind; these budget cuts take away valuable things that students deserve and, quite frankly, need.

Jane
Fifth grade student
Santa Monica

The Q-Line

Q-LINE from page 3

■ "I don't think the problem with Starbucks is the number or density of their stores. I think what they lost sight of years ago was they had a Disney-like employee policy: no piercing, no tattoos. They had to give that up along with customer service and the ability to make gourmet coffee because the work pool is so watered down. I don't think the problem is that there are three right next to each other, I think that there is a thousand too many Starbucks for the qualified employees that they can hire."

■ "I agree that it is obnoxious to see a Starbucks on practically every corner. But I'm a natural night owl that has to get up early in the morning to be a teacher and nothing, nothing gets me going like a Starbucks coffee. The people that work there are nice, too."

■ "Santa Monica absolutely needs more Starbucks. There are several blocks on the Promenade that are not fully covered with coffee dispensing establishments. Until there is a coffee delivering mechanism whereby people can have coffee delivered directly to their blood stream, I think it is imperative that Santa Monica has more coffee serving establishments. Especially Starbucks!"

■ "The Promenade does not need anymore Starbucks. If we are not careful, all of the J Crews, Banana Republics and Gaps are going to be squeezed out

as well as the upcoming Benetton. That would be a real tragedy to lose those stores for more coffee."

■ "I'm calling on behalf of Homeowners for Voluntary Coffee Shops. For too long, the City of Santa Monica has been able to designate your shop a coffee shop without your own permission. I think that is a terrible infringement on personal and property rights. I think it's high time you are only forced to have a coffee shop if you truly want one, or a coffee shop district if every single shop in that district that wanted to become a coffee shop."

■ "Hi. I am having a problem. I was hoping you could help me out. I'm meeting my massage therapist at the Starbucks on the Promenade. There are so many Starbucks, I'm not sure which one it is?"

■ "Starbucks sell fair trade certified beans at 2,300 of its outlets, but they don't sell it as the coffee that they brew for customers. I believe in organic shade grown coffee beans and if they are not going to furnish it to the public and all of their stores I am going to boycott Starbucks. What they are doing is preventing diversity in rain forests. It's not good for the environment."

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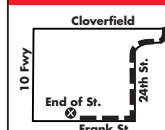
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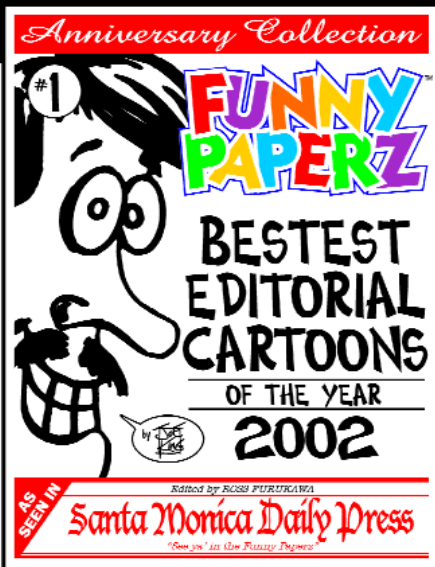
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LOCAL

Retailers need rental space

LEVI'S, from page 1

many independent retailers to seek more inexpensive locations on side streets.

Many of the national retailers moving onto the Promenade are willing to pay higher rents because they see it as an advertising investment. With the high level of foot traffic, companies have established flagship locations that act more as a showcase than as a money-maker.

"If you can afford the space as part of your

advertising dollars, then it's hard (for the independent guys) to compete," Starr said.

Demand for retail space along the Promenade is soaring. After a six- to seven-month slow-down in new retail leases, fervent leasing activity has begun anew, Starr said.

"The decrease has stopped and it's hotter than ever for retail space along the Promenade," he said. "It's still really successful."

Local woman travels to Baghdad, makes her stand

IRAQ, from page 1

The group also will deliver medicine, vitamins and medical supplies to an Iraqi civilian population that has suffered tremendously under United Nations sanctions, Hayes-Raitt said.

Approval from the U.S. state department and Iraqi officials was received on Monday. Since then, Hayes-Raitt, a member of Santa Monica's Commission on the Status of Women, has been frantically preparing for her trip.

Once in Baghdad, Hayes-Raitt said the group will be escorted by a guide, a translator and Iraqi military "minders," who will make sure the group doesn't stray from its focus.

"They want to make sure we're not taking photos of government buildings or things that might get blown up," she said. "You know, they want to make sure we're not taking pictures of water treatment plants and sensitive things like that."

Hayes-Raitt, who runs a Santa Monica-based public relations firm, paid about \$3,000 to go on the trip, which is being coordinated by CodePINK — a national women's group opposed to war.

"I feel so lucky I have the opportunity to go," she said. "I own my own business. I don't have family obligations, so I feel I have a unique situation and an obligation to use that to hear Iraqi women's voices and bring those back to Santa Monica."

When she returns, Hayes-Raitt said she would like to go on a speaking tour of Santa Monica's community groups and schools to raise awareness about the

implications of a war against Iraq.

She especially would like to speak to junior high students, who could be impacted by the war against Iraq if the military's predictions of a five- to seven-year commitment in that country hold true.

Though Hayes-Raitt has never been to the Middle East, she has traveled to exotic locations in China, India, Papa New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

"While I have been to out of the way places, I have never been some place as volatile as Iraq," she said.

Despite that, she doesn't fear for her safety. Hayes-Raitt believes the Iraqi government "would be fools to let something happen to us" during the group's visit.

But while waiting for her flight at Los Angeles International Airport, she sent an e-mail to friends and family — and a few reporters — contemplating what lies ahead.

"Many reporters have asked me if I'm worried or scared," she wrote. "Perhaps I should be. Frankly, what worries me the most is that my own convictions and opposition to this war will interfere with my ability to be truly open to what I am experiencing."

"And I worry about whether the State of the Union speech will make it more difficult to have honest moments with people," she added. "The hotter the rhetoric, the cooler the candid conversations."

Local Sports

Samohi boys soccer takes down Hawthorne

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica High School boys soccer team defeated Hawthorne on Wednesday.

The first half started with senior Josh Rodriguez heading a ball in off a corner kick from junior Andrew Martinez. Hawthorne came back to tie the game. Senior Marco Sumale then scored his first goal of the season when he took a pass from junior Ryan Natale and placed a fierce shot into the back of the net from 22 yards out. Right before the end of the half, Hawthorne tied the game, 2-2.

With strong words of encouragement from the coaching staff, Samohi awoke

from their slumber and played a stellar second half. Junior Barry Jackson scored two goals; Rodriguez scored his second goal of the game; and juniors Carlos Lopez and Martinez added in for five second half goals.

The Vikings will host Beverly Hills on Friday at John Adams Middle School for a 3 p.m. kickoff. This will be their last cross league match. Next week they will resume with Bay League play and begin the second round of games. They will travel to Mira Costa on Feb. 3 and host Peninsula on Feb. 5.

The Vikings' record is 13-6-1, overall, 6-2 in the league.



LOCAL □ STATE



Another Metrolink accident



Nick Ut/Associated Press

Los Angeles County Sheriff's investigators survey the scene where a Metrolink train slammed into a car parked on the tracks early Thursday, killing the driver in what appears to be a suicide, authorities said. The train did not derail and passengers were examined for any injuries. It is the third Metrolink accident in the Los Angeles area this month.

Police arrest semi-nude man after burglary

By The Associated Press

BAKERSFIELD — A man wearing only a top hat and a cape was arrested as he allegedly tried to roll away from the scene of a museum burglary in a wheelchair, police said Thursday.

Officers responding to a silent alarm about 2:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Kern County Museum found Shane Michael Walton, Sgt. Jay Borton said.

He remained jailed Thursday after being booked for investigation of burglary and felony mischief.

Police alleged that Walton broke into

two museum buildings, causing an estimated \$20,000 damage by smashing windows, damaging walls and destroying computer monitors, a picture, sewing machine, mirror and other items.

The wheelchair, hat and cape were props used by the museum for historical skits, Borton said.

Walton did not appear to be drunk or under the influence of drugs, Borton said. Walton had previous arrests for various charges dating back to 1997. He had been convicted of possessing a sawed-off shotgun, driving under the influence of alcohol and animal cruelty.

Courthouse receives one or two threats per year

THREAT, from page 1

people inside, within minutes. Several cases were being heard, as well as a few jury trials when the threat was made.

Authorities combed through every inch of the building for about an hour and a half before concluding it was a hoax. Judge Alan Haber, the presiding judge over the westside district of the Los Angeles Superior Court, ended the court day since there was only about an hour left in the business day.

"The dilemma is, at that hour, what do you do?" the judge said. "If one uses their imagination, how long would it take to

have 250 people go back through screening? It would have been a waste of time."

Haber said bomb threats are routine — there was one in early 2002 that occurred about 11 a.m. People were let back in the building later that afternoon, he said.

"It happens once or twice a year and never once have they found a bomb," Haber said. "It's havoc to shut down in the middle of the afternoon. But the man gets a perverse satisfaction from doing this."

The caller most likely won't be traced because local calls into the courthouse are not recorded, authorities said.

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STATE □ NATIONAL

Assembly approves bill to alter Coastal Commission

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — The state Assembly voted Thursday to change the terms of Coastal Commission appointees to fixed, two-year terms to satisfy an appellate court ruling that found the current structure is unconstitutional.

The 48-24 vote sent the measure to the Senate, which is considering a bill to make the terms fixed, four-year terms.

The Coastal Commission was approved by voters in 1972 and made permanent by the Legislature in 1976. It regulates development along the state's 1,100-mile coastline.

The 3rd District Court of Appeal ruled last month that, because legislative leaders appoint a majority of the 12 coastal commissioners and can remove them at will, the commission violates the constitution's separation of powers clause.

Approving the changes to the appointments will keep the Coastal Commission functioning, said Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara, the bill's author.

Assemblyman John Campbell, R-Irvine, opposed the bill, saying the Legislature needed to do more to fix the commission, which he called an "arrogant, oppressive and abusive agency."

gant, oppressive and abusive agency."

The Senate didn't take up a bill by Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, that would give the commission's legislative appointees fixed four-year terms. Doubling the current two-year terms would further insulate commission members from legislative influence, she said.

Kuehl said Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, and Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson, D-Culver City, would discuss how to reconcile the differences in the bills after lawmakers finish dealing with a package of mid-fiscal year budget cuts.

"It's very difficult for leadership to focus on how to reconcile these last details until we have all the budget work done," she said.

Gov. Gray Davis supports either plan, said spokesman Byron Tucker. "The length of the terms isn't relevant, as long as the terms are fixed."

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer has until Feb. 10 to file a petition for review with the state Supreme Court, said spokesman Tom Dresslar.

The appeals court ruling stemmed from a lawsuit filed by the Marine Forests Society, a nonprofit group that sued the commission after it was ordered to stop building an artificial reef off Newport Beach.

Six university students admit to cheating with cell phones

BY STEPHEN MANNING
Associated Press Writer

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Six University of Maryland students have admitted cheating on an accounting exam by using their cell phones to receive text messages with the answers, the school said Thursday. Another six students were implicated in the case.

The scheme worked this way: Test-takers brought their cell phones into the exam with them. They used the phones to contact friends outside the classroom. The friends looked up the exam answer key that had been posted on the Internet by the professor once the test had started. Then the friends messaged the answers back to the test-takers.

Officials with the university business school said they caught the students in a sting: A fake answer key with bogus answers was posted online after the exam began last month; then the exams were checked to see which test-takers put down the bogus answers.

It appears most of the 12 students hatched the plan independently of each other, said John Zacker, head of the university's office of judicial programs. He said it was the biggest cheating scheme uncovered on campus involving cell phones.

"We've had isolated cases in past semesters, but not in these numbers," he said.

The case highlights the struggle schools face as they try to keep up with technologically savvy students. Hitotsubashi University in Japan failed 26 students in December for receiving e-mailed exam answers on their cell phones.

The scope of the Maryland case is unprecedented nationally, said Diane Waryold, executive director of Duke University's Center for Academic Integrity. It is also a sign that students

might have a technological edge on their older professors, she said.

"It's a generational issue," she said. "It's safe to say our students are far more sophisticated."

The six Maryland students who confessed will fail the class and have a mark placed on their transcript that indicates they cheated. Five others either met with school officials or are awaiting trial by the school's student honor council.

**"We've had isolated cases
in past semesters, but
not in these numbers."**

— JOHN ZACKER
Maryland University

The 12th student died over the winter break. Zacker did not know the circumstances surrounding the death and would not release the student's name.

The council is also looking for the people who sent the text messages to exam-takers, Zacker said.

Provost William Destler sent a letter to faculty members over the weekend recommending they not post answer keys while an exam is ongoing. The school has no plans to bar students from bringing cell phones to class, Zacker said.

The number of Maryland students caught cheating has risen recently, from 97 cases in the fall semester of 2001 to 156 cases in the fall semester of 2002, Zacker said.

The use of cell phones is a new twist. Many phones allow text messages to be passed back and forth silently. The accounting exam was monitored by proctors walking the aisles who failed to notice the cheating.

NATIONAL



There are fewer women in legislatures and other offices

BY ROBERT TANNER
AP National Writer

After three decades of gains, the number of women crafting state laws and policy has slipped in recent years, drawing concern from advocates who see statehouses as a training ground for the nation's future leaders.

The latest drop is small: There are 35 fewer female legislators this year, down to 1,645 women out of 7,382 state lawmakers across the country.

But a similar decline occurred after the 2000 election. And despite a record six women now serving as governor, women have lost ground for all statewide elected offices, such as treasurer and attorney general.

"There are fewer women in the pipeline than we want to have and we need to have," said Roselyn O'Connell, president of the National Women's Political Caucus.

"We're going to see fewer women serving. And we're going to have fewer women running for positions like lieutenant governor or governor, because they haven't moved through that pipeline."

In Congress, women failed to make any gains in the House last November and increased their numbers by one in the Senate, with Lisa Murkowski appointed by her father, Alaska's new governor, to fill out the rest of his term. There are 73 women out of 535 members of Congress.

Still, O'Connell and others emphasize women's successes — the first female governors in Michigan, with Democrat Jennifer Granholm, and in Hawaii, with Republican Linda Lingle. Women also govern Arizona, Delaware, Kansas and Montana.

But the weakness in legislative and statewide seats like attorney general and secretary of state raises special concerns, because it casts doubt about the future pool of candidates for Congress and the presidency.

"It's a story of stagnation. We're not making strides here, where we've always made strides before," said Deborah Walsh, director of the Center for the American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

In response, women's groups have renewed the focus on encouraging women to enter politics in their communities, starting outreach efforts to college students, career women and others.

In 1971, women made up 4.5 percent of the nation's state legislators. That rose steadily through the 1980s and '90s, reaching 22.5 percent by 2000. The number of women in office shrunk after the 2000 election, rose a bit because of 2001 races, then dipped slightly again: Women now hold 22.3 percent of state legislative seats.

Women in statewide elected office, including governor, fell from 92 at the end of 2000, to 89 last session, to 79 this year.

Gary Moncrief, a professor of political science at Boise State University, said men are still more likely than women to choose a career in politics on their own. Women are more often recruited.

"Women were much more likely to say that they were — not pushed into the race, but they needed some kind of prodding," said Moncrief, author of the book "Who Runs for the Legislature?"

Advocates say they're refocusing their efforts to reach out to young women and those at career midpoints, to talk of the challenges and rewards of politics.

"Our whole role is to get back in there, to get out and identify, recruit and train women to become part of that political pipeline," said O'Connell, an Arizona Republican who said her group reaches out to all parties. It emphasizes abortion rights, federal funding for child care and pay equity for both genders.

Walsh, O'Connell and others are particularly con-

cerned that term limits may be damaging women politicians more than men. They said further study is needed, but across the 11 states with term limits in effect, women lost a total of 13 seats, or roughly a third of all the losses in the 2002 election season.

Term limits may simply scare off female newcomers, who now must add in the prospect of a shortened political career along with traditional concerns of family and career, said Michigan state Rep. Dianne Byrum, a Democrat and the first woman to head a legislative caucus in the state.

"It's getting more expensive to run for office. And in a term-limited state, there are more seats that are up. It

just ratchets up the cost to be involved," said Byrum, who is in her 20th year in politics.

But some women politicians say the problem shouldn't be overstated.

Even unsuccessful campaigns will inspire other female candidates, said Shannon O'Brien, the former Massachusetts treasurer who lost the governors race to Republican Mitt Romney.

"I don't think anyone should be terrified by what I perceive as a blip," said O'Brien. "Women need to take some pride in the fact that so many women take on these challenges, and a number of women did win. And we go on from there."

Ridge visits Miami



Hillery Smith Garrison/Associated Press

Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, right, rides along in a U.S. Customs speed boat that is part of the Blue Lightning division during a visit to Miami, Thursday. Ridge traveled to Miami on his first visit to the troops since becoming Homeland Security secretary last week. Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson is at left.

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INTERNATIONAL

Rift over Iraq strengthens contours of 'new Europe'

BY PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary —

The "new Europe" raised its voice Thursday, as eight of its leaders praised U.S. resolve in disarming Iraq and indirectly chided the traditional powers, France and Germany, for opposing U.S. plans for military action against Saddam Hussein.

In an op-ed column published in major U.S. and European papers, the leaders of Britain, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Denmark expressed solidarity with

Washington over Iraq and urged strong U.N. Security Council action to force Baghdad to disarm.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has always supported President Bush in saying that U.N. backing might not be necessary for a war with Iraq over its alleged weapons of mass destruction.

While stopping short of that, the six other prime ministers and one president signing the letter seemed to place themselves closer to Washington than Paris and Berlin — both of which are emphatic that the United States should not act without the United

Nations.

Key U.N. Security Council member Russia also agrees with France and Germany, although President Vladimir Putin suggested this week he could harden his stance toward Iraq if Baghdad hampers U.N. inspectors.

Still, in the article in the Wall Street Journal, The Times of London and other European newspapers, the eight nations thanked the United States for "bravery, generosity and farsightedness" in ensuring peace in Europe.

"We must remain united in insisting that his (Saddam's) regime be disarmed," the article

said. "The solidarity, cohesion and determination of the international community are our best hope of achieving this peacefully. Our strength lies in unity."

In a sign of that unity, the European Parliament passed a resolution Thursday calling on the United States not to take unilateral action and urging the United Nations to find a peaceful solution.

But the article was the latest sign of an emerging split 14 years after the collapse of the Iron Curtain was hailed as the beginning of a unified Europe.

It also highlighted divisions between what U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has called the "old Europe" — traditional allies like France and Germany — and former communist countries and traditionally back-seat EU members.

Some of Europe's newest democracies have expressed the strongest support because of past U.S. economic and political support of their struggle to escape communism.

Albanian Prime Minister Fatos Nano, in a letter to Bush made public Thursday, pledged "total and unconditional" support in the showdown against Iraq. Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda of Slovakia called the declaration "the clear, right word at the right time," and said he agreed with it.

Still, with their economies struggling and their armies weak and outdated, these newly democratic countries offer mostly moral support.

Backing from Albania, one of

Europe's poorest nations, is mostly symbolic, meaning allowing overflights and opening its territorial waters to U.S. warships. Former Soviet bloc members Romania and Bulgaria can do little more than make their air and naval bases on the Black Sea available.

Even if they were to unconditionally back the United States on Iraq, EU members Spain, Denmark and Italy, whose leaders signed the op-ed piece, are militarily inferior both to nuclear power France and to Germany. And they have lesser influence in postwar Europe than Paris, Berlin or London.

With ill-disguised disdain, Jean-Francois Bureau, a defense ministry spokesman in Paris, described the declaration as having to do more "with pretense than substance," and not worthy of "too much attention."

Later, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin tried to play down signs of discord. "We are not seeking to pit one Europe against another, as everyone sees we defend the same principles," de Villepin told the French Senate.

In London, a Blair spokesman dismissed suggestions that the letter deepened the dispute within Europe, saying only that France and Germany "are in a slightly different place" on the Iraq debate.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said Europe's position was "of 15 (countries), not of eight," alluding to the EU position opposing war not backed by the United Nations.

Marines train in Middle East



Adam Butler/Associated Press

U.S. Marines Angel Salcedo from Maywood, N.J., left, and Staff Sgt. Johnny Pyles, from Fredriktown, N.J. take part in a training exercise on board the USS Austin, Thursday, in the Persian Gulf.

'Counterfeit Rockefeller' agrees to be extradited to United States

By The Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — A French con man known as the "Counterfeit Rockefeller" for his high-society scams has agreed to be extradited to the United States to face various charges.

The lawyer for Christopher Rocancourt told the British Columbia Supreme Court Wednesday that his client wanted to go face charges in California and New York.

"He'll go back to the United States to face his charges," said the lawyer, Leonard Doust. "There was an arrangement worked out with his U.S. lawyer."

Rocancourt, 34, allegedly bilked wealthy Americans out of millions of dollars by pretending to be related to the rich and famous, including the Rockefeller family.

He has been convicted of crimes in France, and faces California charges of passport fraud and weapons possession. Rocancourt also is sought by New York authorities on suspicion of fraud.

He was arrested in Victoria, British Columbia, with his wife and young child two years ago and pleaded guilty last year to defrauding businessman Robert Baldock of more than \$100,000.

Rocancourt told Baldock he was a Formula One

racing driver known as Michael van Hoven.

He was convicted of forgery, credit-card fraud and impersonation in his native France, where he was jailed five times.

Last June, Rocancourt surrendered to U.S. authorities, but the deal fell through when further charges were filed against him south of the border.

The additional charges in New York federal court involve eight victims who claim to have been bilked out of \$200,000.

Once Canada's justice minister signs a surrender order for Rocancourt, he gets turned over to U.S. officials.

"It could be done as early as tomorrow but, of course, that all depends on when the minister will get to do this," said Deborah Strachan, a lawyer for the Canadian attorney general.

Media reports have portrayed Rocancourt as a slick international confidence man who rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous. His scam technique was to fleece the wealthy by promising fantastic returns on investments while demanding cash up front for expenses.

He allegedly posed as the nephew of film mogul Dino De Laurentis, nonexistent Rockefeller heir Christopher, and used other aliases.

BY MARTIN FACKLER

Associated Press Writer

SHANGHAI, China — Two men whose bodies fell from an Air France jetliner in Shanghai last week were identified Thursday by police as Turkish nationals with a history of stowing away in airline luggage holds.

Ramazan Karacaban, 20, and Onur Ozuyaman, 19, are believed to have been stowaways aboard the Air France flight, said police spokeswoman Fang Dinghua. She said they had a record of hiding in airline luggage holds and had snuck into France aboard a ferry a week before the Paris-Shanghai flight.

Fang refused to give other details, saying an investigation was still underway. Turkish diplomats in China and the Turkish Foreign Ministry have also declined to comment.

The two men fell from Flight 112, a Boeing 777, on Jan. 23 as it approached Shanghai Pudong International Airport. One crashed through the roof of a house, while the other landed in a field.

Footprints have been found in

one of the compartments holding the jet's landing gear, said Air France spokeswoman Zhuang Ying.

The wheel wells have no heat and are unpressurized, suggesting the two men spent the 12-hour flight exposed to the thin, frigid air of higher altitudes.

State media reports said the bodies were frostbitten, a sign the men may have died before their fall.

While there have been repeated cases of people stowing in airplanes to emigrate to Europe, sneaking into China from Europe is unusual.

Officials had said earlier the men were wearing red uniforms, suggesting they might have been baggage handlers or part of a plot to penetrate airport security. State media reports said they were carrying walkie-talkies.

The newspaper Shanghai Daily said Thursday the two men might have boarded the wrong plane in Paris and were trying to reach a different destination. Flights within Europe last only a few hours.

Chinese police identify men who fell from jet

SPORTS



Five Buccaneers pleased to reach Pro Bowl at last

BY GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — After the monthlong playoff grind, tension of the Super Bowl and crazy victory celebrations, Tampa Bay safety John Lynch still doesn't want to rest.

Not until next week, anyway.

Lynch yawned and squinted through the morning sun toward the Pacific Ocean on Thursday before the NFC Pro Bowl team's workouts. The Buccaneers' star was sleepy, jet-lagged and exhausted, but he thought it was all a small price for his first chance to be an NFL champion and an all-star in the same season.

"There's definitely a difference when you come over here as a Super Bowl winner," said Lynch, in his fourth Pro Bowl. "It's a better feeling. The guys have a respect for you. You're more tired than you ever were before, but it's worth it. It's soooo worth it."

Five members of the Buccaneers were at the Ihilani resort on the west side of Oahu for their first Pro Bowl workouts: Lynch, quarterback Brad Johnson, linebacker Derrick Brooks, defensive end Simeon Rice and fullback Mike Alstott.

They joined forces with 16 players from the Philadelphia Eagles and the San Francisco 49ers who were sent home from the playoffs by Tampa Bay's defensive machine and ever-improving offense.

Like Lynch, the rest of the Buccaneers are worn out, but willing to play.

Only defensive tackle Warren Sapp declined the chance to add another week of physical punishment to his busy schedule, citing a knee injury in dropping out of his sixth Pro Bowl appearance.

The four days since the Buccaneers' 48-21 thrashing of the Oakland Raiders in San Diego have been a whirlwind of activity — something that's unfamiliar to most of the Bucs. Several players appeared on talk shows and made public appearances, and everyone gathered in Tampa on Tuesday for a victory parade.

"The first time it hit home for me was the parade," said Johnson, who got his second Pro Bowl trip after Atlanta's Michael Vick dropped out last week. "You could see the frustration of all those Bucs fans just get lifted. I don't think anybody can

understand what that means to a team and a community until you actually win it all.

"I really felt it when I saw John Lynch and Warren Sapp hugging, because they've been through it all, through all the bad times and bad seasons. I haven't been there for that long."

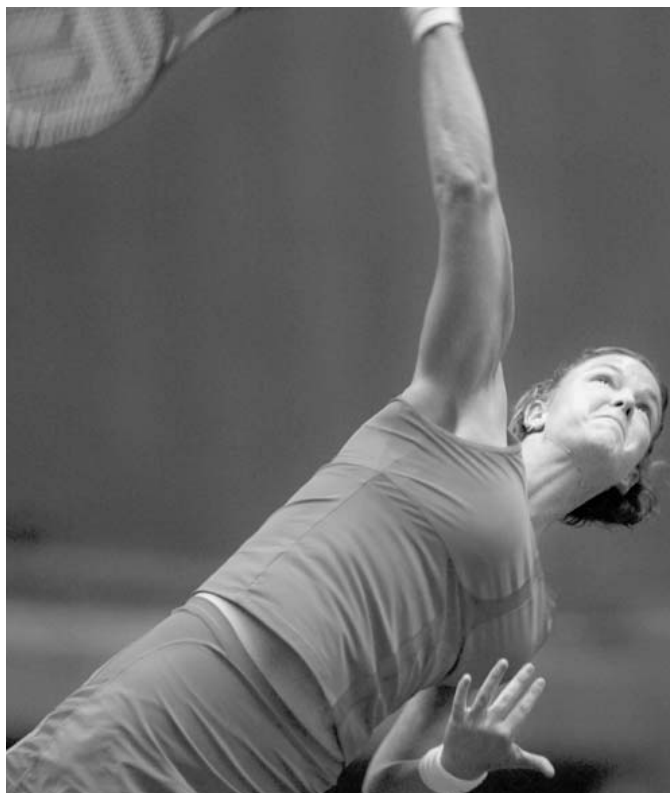
The rest of the Pro Bowlers on both teams said the Buccaneers' championship was well deserved. Most of the Buccaneers' peers sounded a common theme: While Tampa Bay's defense might have won the title, it wouldn't have succeeded without the offense.

"People talked about them like they didn't have an offense. They've got a great offense," Dallas Cowboys linebacker La'Roi Glover said. "They had a great season on both sides of the ball. They deserved to win it all. They're the kings of the Pro Bowl this week."

The Buccaneers' Pro Bowlers haven't begun thinking ahead to next season or contemplating the possible departure of defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, who will interview with San Francisco 49ers general manager Terry Donahue this weekend for their vacant head coaching position. Kiffin is thought to be the leading candidate to replace Steve Mariucci.

"We want him to stay, but it's hard to even think about that right now," Rice said. "I mean, we're in Hawaii! But if he has a good opportunity, we've got the players and the scheme that will make us good for a long time, I think. We're not going to be satisfied with just one championship. We've got that taste for success now."

Davenport advances in tournament



Itsuo Inouye/Associated Press

Lindsay Davenport of the U.S. serves the ball against Croatia's Iva Majoli during their second round of the Toray Pan Pacific Open Tennis tournament in Tokyo Thursday. Davenport won the match 6-4, 6-4.

Mariucci interviews with Lions

By The Associated Press

DETROIT — Former San Francisco 49ers coach Steve Mariucci spent most of Thursday at the Lions' training complex, interviewing for Detroit's head coaching vacancy.

"Steve and I will continue to discuss this opportunity over the next few days," Lions president Matt Millen said in a statement.

Mariucci arrived Wednesday evening to tour Ford Field and meet with Bill Ford, team vice chairman and Ford Motor Co.'s chairman and chief executive.

After spending much of the day at the Lions' facility in Allen Park, Mariucci headed home.

Ford will be in San Francisco on Saturday to give the keynote speech at the National Automobile Dealers Association convention. It's not known if he'll meet with Mariucci while in town.

Marty Mornhinweg, who served as offensive coordinator under Mariucci with the 49ers, was fired Monday, a month after the Lions finished 3-13.

Mornhinweg had a record of 5-27 over his two seasons, the worst two-year stretch in team history.

Mariucci, who was born and raised in Iron Mountain, Mich., had a 60-43 record in six seasons with the 49ers, and he guided the team to the playoffs four times.

Mariucci clashed with 49ers owner John York, however, and the team fired Mariucci three days after a 31-6 loss at Tampa Bay in the divisional playoffs. Mariucci had one year left on his contract.

While Mariucci had just a 3-4 postseason record, he had won three times as many playoff games as the Lions have since winning the 1957 NFL title. Detroit beat Dallas 38-6 in the divisional playoffs on Jan. 5, 1992, and lost to Washington in the NFC championship game.

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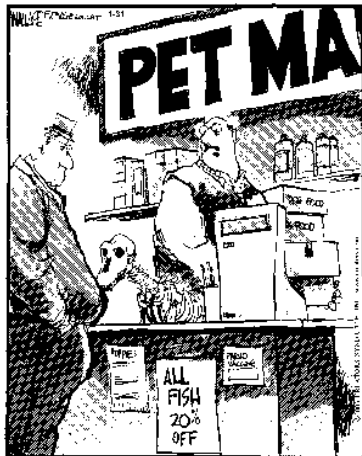
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COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

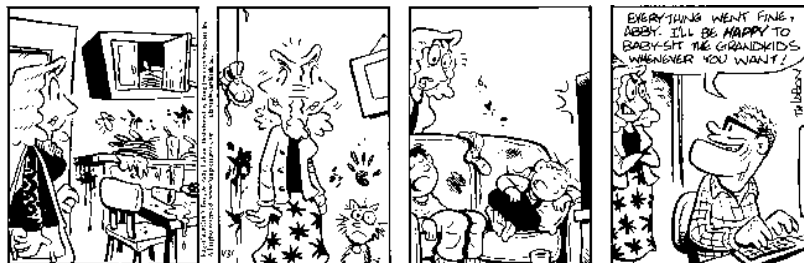


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- 37 Missing
- 39 Writer
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- 42 Solo in space

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- 42 Solo in space

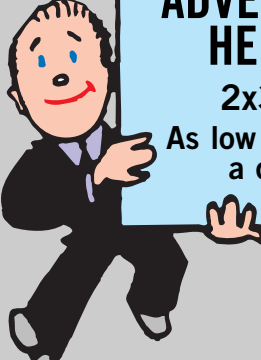
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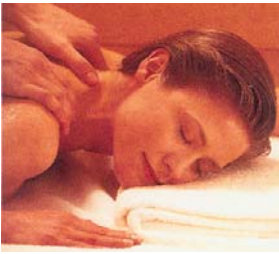
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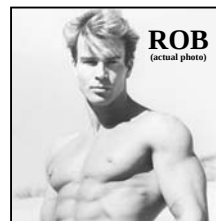
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Outlaw circus

By The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — If state lawmakers decide to act, the world-famous Cirque du Soleil can rest assured its next Minnesota performance will be strictly legal.

Last year, the international troupe of clowns, acrobats, mimes, dancers and trapeze artists appeared at the same time the State Fair was under way in suburban Falcon Heights.

This was a clear violation of a statute banning circuses anywhere in Minnesota while the State Fair is on, from late August through Labor Day.

So were the Cirque performers entertainers or outlaws? "Well, technically, it would be illegal," said Jerry Hammer, the Fair's general manager. "Maybe they're only half a circus," he said, in apparent reference to Cirque's theatrical flair and absence of animal acts.

Legislators doubt any prosecutor would enforce the "gross misdemeanor" punishable by up to \$3,000 and a year in jail. But to be on the safe side, a House agriculture committee will consider repeal of the 1933 anti-circus law.

In the 1920s and '30s, Hammer explains, getting to the State Fair was an all-day trek for many, so crafty promoters set up circuses everywhere to lure away fairgoers. Today's organizers express confidence the Great Minnesota Get-Together is safely second-to-none.

54-year-old postcard

By The Associated Press

MOBERLY, Mo. — "He's gone. He's dead," was the

first thought church secretary Marie Taylor had as she held the postcard addressed to the late Rev. Jack Stanton.

Then she took a closer look and read the postmark — 9:30 p.m., Oct. 20, 1949.

The card, relayed by the Postal Service, finally reached its destination last week at the Carpenter Street Baptist Church, where Stanton was pastor from 1947 to 1951. He died last year.

The card, with a correct one-cent stamp, featured a picture of a St. Louis evangelist, Del Fehsenfeld, who was planning a revival in Burbank, Calif., in 1949.

Promised topics included "Are you ready to meet God?" and "Will the atomic-bomb end all?"

Taylor used the Internet to track down the 90-year-old Fehsenfeld in Greenville, S.C. He recalled passing through Missouri many times and said he'd like to visit again, Taylor said.

Postal officials had their theories about how the card went missing for more than half a century.

It could have been stuck in a machine or a piece of furniture in a Burbank post office and didn't get found until a recent renovation, said Rich Skaggs, the Moberly postmaster.

But Terri Bouffiau, spokeswoman for the U.S. Postal Service in Southern California, said there wasn't any renovation or move lately at any Burbank post office.

What would the late pastor think about his never-received mail? "He would get a kick out of it," said current pastor Brian Wilson.

Jury round up

By The Associated Press

PRESTON, Minn. — Everybody into the jury pool.

With a drug trial ready to start and not enough potential jurors on hand, the judge told Sheriff Jim Connolly: Find them where you can.

Connolly nabbed his first two right in the courthouse, as Fillmore County Board Chairman Marc Prestby stood in plain view, talking with a friend and thinking about having lunch.

"We both kind of laughed about it and thought he was

joking," Prestby said Tuesday. "Then the judge himself came by and thanked us for volunteering."

To collar his next four, Connolly had only to visit the Victory Cafe across the street. "You finish your lunch and be at the courthouse by 1 o'clock," he told them.

His next stops were a grocery and nearby deli, where he scored two customers and an assistant manager.

At the local newspaper, the Fillmore County Journal, Connolly looked publisher John Torgimson in the eye. "He came along without a problem," reported Connolly.

Ten people with other plans had become 10 potential jurors.

"That's the old-fashioned way of doing it," Connolly said.

No Phil, just pig

By The Associated Press

COTTAGE GROVE, Wis. — Instead of a groundhog, the local Lions Club will use a potbellied pig to forecast the weather this weekend.

The club is also switching the date of its celebration from Feb. 2 to Feb. 1 because it can't muster enough volunteers to sell tickets at the door any other day.

Besides, the hall where the event is held has already been rented by a local church.

The Lions argue that Hamlet the Potbellied Pig proved his powers of prediction last year when he agreed with Jimmy the Groundhog: A sunny dawn meant spring would wait awhile.

Some traditionalists say the Lions Club is making a farce of the holiday.

"They're making a fallacy of it. They're demeaning Jimmy," joked Sun Prairie mayor Jo Ann Orfan.

Lee Phillips, food committee chairman, said last year's groundhog breakfast fed 462 people and raised money for scout clubs, scholarships and vision tests for kids.

The club also contributed \$2,000 for Taylor Prairie School playground equipment and helped a local man who was seriously injured in a hunting accident, Phillips said.

Even the traditionalists agree the celebration has its advantages.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2003

TODAY

Santa Monica High School Theater Arts Department presents Romeo & Juliet. Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00pm. November 22nd through December 21st. \$10.00 for students, children, and seniors, \$15.00 for adults. Humanities Center Theater at Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Blvd. For more information please call (310)458-5939.

MAGICOPOLIS presents HOCUS POCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

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

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

SATURDAY

Organic Farmer's Market every Saturday. 8:30am to 1pm, Arizona and Third Street. (310)458-8712

Shots for Tots & Teens will provide FREE immunizations and TB skin tests to all infants, adolescents and teenagers under the age of 18 at the Saint John's Health Center cafeteria on the Ground Floor. FREE Valet parking is

available off Santa Monica Blvd. 10am to Noon. Saint John's Health Center, Cafeteria - Ground Floor. Arizona and 22nd St. (310)829-8234.

Weekly Storytime, 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes & Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call 310-260-9110 for more information.

Book reading by local writer Monira Sohaili at Dutton's Brentwood Books. Monira's book teaches children the value of tolerance through fables about plants, animals and people. Reading will start at 11am, 11975 San Vicente Blvd. Is Brentwood. (310)476-6263

MAGICOPOLIS presents HOCUS POCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

Cat & Kitten Adoption Fair: Every Sat & Sun, 12pm to 4pm @ Centinella Feed, 1448 Lincoln Blvd in Santa Monica. Donations include spay/neuter, 1st vaccines, flea/worm treatment as needed. Knowledgeable support for new adopters. Rescue Me Pet Foundation. (310)452-9568.

Psychic Faire & Spiritual Healing Festival - Admission & Healings are free. Tarot, Past Lives, Career, Palm, Love Life, Money, Aura and More. Readings \$8 contribution or three for \$20. 1pm to 4pm, 1731 21st St. (between Michigan and Olympic) For information or directions call (310)587-3536.

The Red Ribbon Squares, Santa Monica's official square dance club, will be celebrating their 52nd Anniversary at Marine Park (16th & Marine St.) in Santa Monica with Lee Schmidt calling the squares and Margaret Wilson cueing the rounds. Elegant Hor D'oeuvres will be served all evening. Starts at 8pm with pre-rounds at 7:30pm. Admission is \$7. Information (310)395-3383 or (310)398-7973

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:50, 3:45, 6:40, 9:35, 12:25.
Biker Boyz (PG-13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05, 11:20. **The Hours** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50, 12:35. **The Guru** (R) 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20, 12:55.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Adaptation (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:10, 10:25. **The Recruit** (PG-13) 11:15, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 12:30. **Confessions of a Dangerous Mind** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:10. **Gangs of New York** (R) 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30. **National Security** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15. **Darkness Falls** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Just Married (PG-13) 12:50, 3:25, 5:40, 8:15, 10:30. **The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:40, 8:30. **Catch Me If You Can** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:20. **Chicago** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15. **25th Hour** (R) 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 10:05. **Kangaroo Jack** (PG) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50. **Final Destination 2** (R) 12:45, 3:15, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Nicholas Nickleby (PG) 1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30. **The Pianist** (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
City of God (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. **Far From Heaven** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55. **Frida** (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05. **The Quiet American** (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.

AERO THEATER

1328 Montana Ave.
My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.



BACK PAGE

Abducted millionaire is released unharmed, without ransom

BY JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN

Associated Press Writer

GREENWICH, Conn. — Three weeks ago, one of the richest men in America was abducted from a parking garage in this wealthy New York suburb after leaving work at his \$5 billion hedge fund.

The kidnappers were clearly out of their league.

Authorities said Edward Lampert's abductors were from crime-ridden New Haven neighborhoods a world away from Greenwich. Two had drug convictions; one was an eighth-grade dropout who, according to his lawyer, cannot read or write.

The man they seized and held for ransom was a tight-fisted figure with a reputation for coolness under fire and a penchant for calling the shots when it comes to money.

And the plot they hatched was B-movie quality, executed with such comic ineptitude that they used their captive's credit cards while they were still holding him, investigators say.

"They're like misguided soldiers of fortune," said Michael Sherman, a well-known lawyer in Greenwich who is not involved in the case. "They seemed to be making the plan as they went along."

After being held hostage in a motel room for just over a day, the 40-year-old Lampert was dropped off unharmed — and without losing a cent — near the Greenwich police station. According to news reports, he was set free after promising his abductors \$5 million in ransom.

Within days, four men were arrested in the scheme.

Except for a statement of thanks to the authorities, friends and business partners, Lampert has refused to discuss his ordeal and his acquaintances have clammed up.

Lampert is worth an estimated \$800 million, good enough for No. 288 on the Forbes list of wealthiest Americans. He built his fortune by investing in a few solid, unflashy companies like AutoNation, Office Depot and Payless Shoes after painstaking research, a technique used by his mentor, Warren Buffett.

By 28, he was a part owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team along with George W. Bush, and his investors

include Michael Dell of Dell Computer and media mogul David Geffen.

"What I have always wanted to do, and the reason I set up my own business, is to make the investment decisions in whatever areas I thought I understood and made sense," Lampert told The Washington Post in 1995. "If I was the quarterback, I didn't want the coach calling the plays."

"(The kidnappers are) like misguided soldiers of fortune. They seemed to be making the plan as they went along."

— MICHAEL SHERMAN
Lawyer

His strategy works: According to Institutional Investor, Lampert's hedge funds have grown by an average of 24.5 percent per year since 1988, nearly double the performance of the S&P 500.

Yet Lampert for years drove a beat-up car and lived in a rented apartment (in 1999, he bought a \$20 million mansion). When his mother once complained about her 7-year-old car, he told her to take better care of it.

"Other boys his age, with the money he's made, would spend more lavishly," his mother, Dolores, told The Wall Street Journal with a laugh in 1991. "He's like an old conservative man."

On Friday evening, Jan. 10, four young men toting a shotgun jumped him in a parking garage. He was taken to a Days Inn outside New Haven and, according to news reports, spent the next 30 hours chatting with his abductors and trying to make a deal with them.

Records in the case are sealed. But a law enforcement source who spoke on condition of anonymity said the kidnappers blindfolded Lampert, called the cell phone of a member of Lampert's family and played a recording of his voice to confirm his captivity.

Investigators also noticed activity on his credit cards. According to news reports, the kidnappers even used plastic to buy pizza.

"They were zeroing in on these guys almost immediately," the source said.

The alleged ringleader, 23-year-old former Marine Renaldo Rose, may have used the Internet to buy ski masks, handcuffs and bullet-resistant vests for the caper, the source said. News reports also said he used the Internet to research wealthy targets before settling on Lampert.

Not long after Lampert's release, three of his alleged captors were arrested, still at the motel, where authorities found a shotgun and a mask. Shemone Gordon, 23, and Devon Harris, 19, were charged under federal extortion law. The third suspect is 17; details of his case are sealed.

Rose was captured Jan. 18 in Canada.

All three adults could get up to 20 years in prison. Gordon and Harris' lawyers have said the two maintain their innocence.

Richard Rainwater, a Texas investor who helped fund Lampert's company, ESL Investments, recalled testing Lampert's mettle by calling him on Oct. 19, 1987, as the stock market crashed.

A lot of people that day "were rattled, shaken, unnerved. Eddie was not shaken, not rattled and not unnerved," Rainwater told the Journal in 1991. "I had a real live test to watch a guy in combat to see how he fought — and he fought great."

Despite their apparent missteps, the kidnappers managed to breach a world where safety is often assumed.

Greenwich real estate agent David Ogilvy said many residents were initially shocked but calmed down when it turned out Lampert was safe and the kidnappers were, in his words, "Keystone Kops."

"It was really amateur night out," Ogilvy said.

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TEAM CAPTAIN'S WANTED

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

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

Team Captains responsibilities:

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

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

For more information:

Please call Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society
(310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246
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