

FREE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 70

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The land between Malibu and Topanga Canyon won't be subject to development.

Coastal land purchase links wide swath of open space

By The Associated Press

A conservation group has acquired more than 400 acres of land between two coastal canyons above Pacific Coast Highway.

The deal reached by the Mountains Restoration Trust will link a stretch of undeveloped land that is mostly covered with coastal scrub and chaparral. The land purchase in Tuna Canyon between Malibu and Topanga canyons connects more than 1,600 acres bought by the state to extend Topanga State Park to the ocean and 1,256 acres acquired by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

"It's a really strategic wedge piece between the two properties," said Rorie Skei, acting

deputy director of the conservancy.

Trust officials said they will work with the state and the conservancy to protect wildlife habitats and explore recreational uses for the land. They hope to link the areas with a nature trail and build paths to the Backbone Trail, which runs 60 miles from Will Rogers State Park in Pacific Palisades to Point Mugu State Park in Ventura County.

The trust acquired the land, valued at \$13 million, from John Paul DeJoria, founder of Paul Mitchell Hair Care Systems, said Mountains Restoration Trust President Steve Harris.

DeJoria bought the property in hopes of developing it. He sold a portion of the land for about \$1.4 million and donated the remainder.

Landmark status at stake

City to debate whether Civic Center auditorium is historic

ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to the Daily Press

City officials want to make the Santa Monica Civic Center Auditorium an historic landmark for its unique architecture and for hosting significant cultural events throughout its 55-year history.

But City Councilman Herb Katz says the auditorium is an antiquated theater badly in need of a complete renovation, lacking in both architectural significance and character.

He has appealed the November decision by the Landmarks Commission to save the exterior and portions of the building's interior.

On Feb. 5, Katz plans to ask the city council to reconsider preserving a building that could potentially be central in unfinished plans to redevelop the Civic Center area, which is a \$120 million project scheduled to be discussed next week.

"We can do much better today. We know a lot more about acoustics and sound than we did in the 1950s and we could drastically improve the building," Katz said.

"Parts of the front of the building are impressive, but the rest of the building is really just a box."

"There is nothing historic about

"There is nothing historic about this building except for the pylons and parts of the exterior. But so what. Put them in a pond and remember them that way, and get over it."

— HERB KATZ
Santa Monica City Councilman

this building except for the pylons and parts of the exterior. But so what. Put them in a pond and remember them that way, and get over it," he added.

Landmark officials say the building has a unique architectural style, designed by a well-known local architect, with acoustics designed by a famous UCLA dean.

"It's an icon. It's a building that by anyone's definition is a landmark," said Ruthann Lehrer, chair

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Defense secretary expects more deadly terrorist acts

Plans find that water supplies, power plants targeted

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — The United States could face terrorist surprises "vastly more deadly" than the Sept. 11 attacks that killed more than 3,000 people, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday.

On a day in which other administration officials said the nation is likely to remain on a high state of alert for

some time, Rumsfeld said terrorists who managed to get unconventional weapons and deliver them great distances with ballistic missiles could kill hundreds of thousands of Americans.

Amid evidence that the al-Qaida terrorist network may have been studying U.S. nuclear plants, dams and water-supply systems as potential targets, Rumsfeld said the magnitude of danger will grow if terrorists are allowed to link up with rogue nations willing to provide them with nuclear weapons.

"These attacks could grow vastly more deadly than those we suffered," he said in a speech at the National Defense University, a graduate school for senior military officers and government officials.

Rumsfeld suggested that the answer to such threats may be pre-emptive strikes.

"The best, and in some cases, the only defense is a good offense," he said, since the New York and Pentagon attacks showed it is not possible to defend against every conceivable threat.

Separately, government officials said nuclear power plant operators were alerted last week that terrorists might be planning an airplane attack on a reactor. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission based its alert on information from an al-Qaida operative, the officials said. Later the commission followed up with an advisory stating that the

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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—60°F	Low—40°F
Tomorrow ...	Mostly Sunny	High—63°F	Low—41°F
Sunday ...	Partly Cloudy	High—67°F	Low—42°F



QUOTE of the DAY

**“Don't let it end like this.
Tell them I said something.”**

— Last words of Pancho Villa (1877?-1923)

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Officials say landmark won't interfere with plans

CIVIC CENTER, from page 1

pro tem of the landmarks commission. "Either by its design or by the events that have occurred there, this is a very special building."

The auditorium once hosted the Academy Awards and over the years, many famous musical acts played to cheering fans, but recently the auditorium has been out of commission.

"I once saw Bruce Springsteen there, and that was a great show" said Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown. "But I don't know if the place deserves landmark status because the Boss played there. I'm going to have to really study the staff's report and think about this."

Senior staff, after studying the building's history and getting an independent analysis of the building, are recommending the city preserve the building's exterior as well as the lobbies, the wood paneling, and the main hall.

And staff members say the designation as a landmark would not interfere with plans to re-invent the Civic Center area.

"Changes would have to be analyzed on a case by case basis. The city is looking to the future and enhancing the functionality of the auditorium as well as the economic stability of the building," said city senior planner Kimberly Christensen. "Yes, in some instances there would be a higher threshold in

design sensitivity, but that doesn't mean long term plans for the area are impossible."

Officials say assigning landmark status to the auditorium would still allow the building to be renovated, and there would be little in the way of additional costs.

"It does not prevent changes. It only manages how they are done," said Lehrer. "They need to be respectfully done and consistent with existing architectural features, but certainly change is a dynamic in an urban environment and landmark status would take that into account."

Lehrer said the building qualifies for the federal list of historic places and, depending on how the council votes, the commission could move forward with those plans too — though city officials say they would like to take one step at a time.

"We've heard them talk about getting it on the federal registry," said Christensen. "But right now the city's staff is concentrating on what's before us now."



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Is this building worth a landmark designation? That's what the city council will decide next week.

Apple Computer Inc. and Robert Moog getting Grammys

By The Associated Press

Moog Synthesizer inventor Robert Moog and Apple Computer Inc. are getting Technical Grammy Awards recognizing contributions of outstanding technical significance to the recording industry.

The technical award winners, chosen by members of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences producers and engineers wing, will be presented during the 44th annual Grammy Awards show Feb. 26 at the Los Angeles Staples Center.

"The technical and creative innovations of Robert Moog, and the inventiveness and versatility of the Apple Computer are the towering achievements of true visionaries," academy

president Michael Greene said Wednesday in announcing the technical Grammy winners.

"The products of their inspiration introduced electronic technology into the public consciousness, put the power of creation in the hands of the individual, and revolutionized the recording industry," Greene said in a statement.

Moog's development of analog electronic instruments made his name synonymous with the synthesizer and ultimately led to the electronic music revolution of the 1980s and 1990s. The Moog Synthesizer was introduced in 1965.

Apple Computer is considered the leading architect in bringing computer technology into the studio and revolutionizing the way music is written, produced, mixed, recorded and creatively imagined, the academy said.

By The Associated Press

SHASTA LAKE, Calif. — A environmental protestor dressed in a Catwoman suit was arrested Wednesday after spending close to seven hours perched 125-feet above ground on fiberglass manufacturing plant smokestack.

Celeste Draisner, 27, of Mountain Gate said she was protesting health dangers she claims are posed by the fiber glass plant.

Draisner was dressed in full Catwoman gear, donning a mask, cape, over-sized ears and a tail similar to those worn by the Batman comic book character of Gotham City fame.

The Knauf Fiber Glass plant in Shasta Lake employs about 140 people, but has been closed for years amid concerns over emissions and water use. It could open within a week.

Draisner snuck up the smoke-

stack at about 5 a.m., stayed there for awhile and told negotiators she would come down "when she was good and ready," said Shasta County sheriff's Lt. Harry Bishop.

Good and ready turned out to be about noon when Draisner walked down from the perch and was arrested, handcuffed and taken to jail.

She later posted \$1,000 and was been released. Her attorney says her choice of protest attire was a mystery.

"The Catwoman risked her life to save the lives of others," said Draisner's lawyer Eric Berg.

Berg said those opposed to the plant want an environmental study conducted before the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grants Shasta Lake's request for water to serve the fiberglass plant.

Knauf Fiber Glass is a member of the family of building materials companies owned by the Knauf family of Iphofen, Germany.

LETTERS

Turn up the heat

Editor:

I'm always delighted when I pick up your paper. Hell, I might even pay a quarter for it. You always manage to get in at least one good snapshot of humanity, mostly as it relates here. Take your "Brown Act" piece in today's edition by Carolyn Sackariason.

It seems the newspaper publishers, through lawyer Jim Ewert, come up a little short in making "public meetings reasonably accessible to citizens." The courtroom demonstration, according to Ewert, would be the council "on purpose ... makes the meetings inaccessible." The article quotes Susan McCarthy as telling us there is no present solution, "or we would be doing it."

For years, I've been trying to get people to turn on the heat in the meetings. Generally people whispered there would be too many people if they did. Not city manager Susan McCarthy. McCarthy said, "We can't. We have an energy crisis."

Julien Thompson
Santa Monica



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STATE

Free lottery game open to public until March 18

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California residents will have a chance to play a special one-time contest with \$1 million in prizes after state lottery officials admitted they sold scratch-off tickets even though the game's largest awards were claimed.

Californians have until March 18 to send a self-addressed stamp to the state's lottery office in Sacramento. They must include their name, address, phone number and age. No purchase is necessary and people can enter as many times as they want.

Lottery officials previously said the game would be open to those who played the Scratchers game. However, they admit there is no way to verify that information.

There will be 240 prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. The money will come from the lottery's administrative budget and will not affect the revenue that is given to public schools.

Lottery officials revealed that 11 Scratchers games since 1996 were still being sold after all the grand prizes had been awarded. In four of those games, up to \$6.6 million worth of tickets were still available to the public.

Since December, lottery officials have begun canceling Scratchers games when only two large prizes remain.

The address for entries to the free drawing is: Scratchers \$1 Million Drawing, P.O. Box 5056, Lake Forest, CA 92609-9903.

MGM pulls ads connected to 'Fast and Furious'

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has pulled television and radio ads connecting its upcoming action film "Rollerball" to the street-racing hit "The Fast and the Furious."

Universal Studios, which released "The Fast and the Furious," filed a lawsuit against MGM, claiming the rival studio was misleading the public by saying in ads that "Rollerball" was "from the filmmakers that brought you 'The Fast and the Furious' and 'Die Hard.'"

U.S. District Court Judge A. Howard Matz issued a court order Tuesday prohibiting MGM from "stating or suggesting" in ads that anyone responsible for creative content of "The Fast and the Furious" also was responsible for "Rollerball."

The link between the two films is John Pogue, who co-wrote "Rollerball," and has an executive producer credit for "The Fast and the Furious." "Rollerball" director John McTiernan shot the 1988 smash hit "Die Hard."

"Rollerball" is scheduled to open Feb. 8.

Actor sues Fox over dust in 'Planet of the Apes' film shoot

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — A background actor from last summer's "Planet of the Apes" movie accused the filmmakers of harming him and hundreds of others with dust used in a climactic desert fight scene.

Jeffrey Clark seeks unspecified damages from studio Fox Entertainment Group for alleged fraud, battery, conspiracy and negligence, according to the proposed class-action lawsuit filed Tuesday.

About 80,000 pounds of Fuller's Earth, a sedimentary clay used for absorbing chemicals and oils, were tossed into the air with giant wind machines during the production, the lawsuit said.

Extras involved in the scene — a battle between human slaves and their ape rulers — were exposed to the dust for hours at a time without breathing masks, according to the lawsuit.

As a result, Clark said he suffered lingering eye irritation and respiratory problems.

It is unclear, however, whether other background performers have joined the lawsuit. Clark's attorney did not immediately return calls for comment.

Fuller's Earth is routinely used to produce dust effects in movies. The International Cinematographers Guild recommends limited use of the product and only in well-ventilated areas. The guild also suggests that crews wear proper breathing protection.

Limited exposure to the clay is not dangerous except for those with chronic asthma or other respiratory ailments. Fuller's Earth is also used in some cat litter and oily skin health treatments, and the dust is not toxic unless previously used to soak up a poison.

Clark alleges he was exposed to the dust for 10 to 12 days at six or eight hours at a time. He and other extras were paid about \$8 an hour.

Fox officials did not immediately return calls for comment.

The 2001 movie, a remake of the 1968 Charlton Heston thriller, chronicled the adventures of an Earth astronaut (Mark Wahlberg) who lands on a planet populated by intelligent primates who enslaved a race of humans.

Directed by Tim Burton, best known for 1988's "Batman," the \$100-million sci-fi adventure earned about \$180 million domestically.



Robert Mecea/Associated Press

Heavily-armed New York City police officers stand watch near the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York on Thursday. Many of the world's most prominent business and political leaders convened to discuss the planet's biggest problems at the World Economic Forum opening Thursday in New York at the hotel.

Terrorist cells already on ground waiting to strike

TERRORISM, from page 1

information had not been corroborated or otherwise authenticated.

The alert said "the attack was already planned" and three people already "on the ground" were trying to recruit non-Arabs to take part, one official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

FBI Director Robert S. Mueller told reporters he believes there are "sleeping cells" of terrorists waiting for word to attack, and thus the nation remains on high alert. He said information about possible threats to America has emerged from interviews with captured al-Qaida fighters and an enormous cache of documents, videotapes and other materials recovered in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Rumsfeld, in a question-and-answer session after his speech, alluded to what President Bush in his State of the Union address called a peril that "draws closer and closer."

"The real concern at the present time is the nexus between terrorist networks and terrorist states that have weapons of mass destruction," he said.

He named no countries but has said

before that Iran, Iraq and North Korea — a trio that Bush called an "axis of evil" — have such links to terrorists.

"Let there be no doubt, there is that nexus, and it must force people all across this globe to realize that what we're dealing with here is something that is totally different," he said. "It poses risks to not thousands of lives but hundreds of thousands of lives, when one thinks of the power and lethality of those weapons."

Elaborating on Bush's pledge to hold North Korea, Iran and Iraq accountable for actions that support terrorist networks, Condoleezza Rice said Thursday those nations have been "put on notice."

She called North Korea the world's No. 1 seller of ballistic missiles; the Pentagon accuses the North Koreans of selling missiles to Iran and Pakistan and fears these weapons could spread.

Rice for the first time gave some hint of the steps the Bush administration might take against Iran, Iraq and North Korea. It will work toward international agreements banning the spread of dangerous weapons, use a "new and budding" relationship with Russia to push for changes in those countries and move ahead with missile defense,

Deadline extended for kidnapped Wall Street Journal reporter

BY ZAHID HUSSAIN
Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A group claiming to hold kidnapped Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl extended the deadline for killing him by one day in an e-mail sent Thursday and warned his abduction is just the beginning.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said "we are doing everything we can" to win Pearl's release, but ruled out bending to demands made in previous e-mails for the return of prisoners from the Afghan campaign.

It was impossible to determine whether Thursday's unsigned e-mail, received by Western and Pakistani media, was actually sent by the kidnapers, who abducted the 38-year-old Pearl on Jan. 23 in Karachi. However, Pakistani sources close to the investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity, said police believe it did.

"We will give you one more day. If America will not meet our demands, we will kill Daniel. Then this cycle will continue and no American journalist could enter Pakistan," the message said.

It warned that unless the demands are met, "the Amrikans (Americans) will get what they deserve. Don't think this is will be the end. It is the beginning and it is a real war on Amrikans."

"Amrikans will get the taste of death and destructions what we had got" in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the e-mail said.

An e-mail over the weekend — the first from those claiming to hold Pearl — demanded Pakistanis captured in fighting in Afghanistan and now held by the U.S. military at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, be returned to Pakistan for trial. It said Pearl would be held in the same "inhuman" conditions as the Guantanamo prisoners.

An unsigned e-mail Wednesday set a 24-hour deadline before Pearl would be killed, accusing him of working for the Israeli intelligence agency, the Mossad. It also demanded all American journalists leave Pakistan within three days or become targets.

The latest message gave no reason for the extension and did not specify at what time the countdown began.

The Pakistani sources said the latest e-mail was sent through the same server as the one received Wednesday. Thursday's message did not include photographs of Pearl, as the e-mails Wednesday and Sunday did, but the sources said police are operating on the assumption that all three came from the kidnapers. They cited similarities in language and spelling.

Powell ruled out any negotiations

she said.

In a speech in Florida, Bush made the case for allied cooperation against terrorism.

"The rest of the world needs to be with us because these weapons could be pointed at them just as easily as us," he said.

Rumsfeld used his speech to lay out the Bush administration's justification for proposing a \$48 billion increase in the 2003 defense budget.

The FBI warned on Wednesday that al-

with the kidnapers.

The first e-mail purporting to be from Pearl's kidnapers, sent Sunday, was signed by the heretofore unknown National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty. The message included pictures of Pearl with a pistol pointed to his head.

The Journal has sent repeated return

"We will give you one more day. If America will not meet our demands, we will kill Daniel."

— KIDNAPPERS

e-mails denying Pearl is an agent of any government and appealing for his life to be spared. Pearl's pregnant wife and boxing great Muhammad Ali joined those pleas Wednesday.

In an interview with CNN, Pearl's wife, Marianne, appealed to the kidnapers to open a dialogue with her about winning her husband's freedom.

"This is completely wrong, to hold us. It's just creating more misery and that's it. Nothing can come out of there," she said.

Ali, a Muslim, invoked Allah and asked Pearl's captors to show "compassion and kindness" and release him.

"I have not lost Allah's hope in us to show compassion where none exists and to extend mercy in the most difficult of circumstances. We as Muslims must lead by example," the 60-year-old former heavyweight champion said in a statement.

Reporters Without Borders, a non-governmental organization that promotes press freedom, urged five international Islamic religious figures to appeal for Pearl's release. The appeal was made in a letter to King Mohammed IV of Morocco and religious leaders in Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Pearl disappeared after leaving for an appointment at a Karachi restaurant with a contact whom he hoped could arrange an interview with Gilani, head of the small militant Islamic group Tanzimul Fuqra.

Pakistani authorities said Pearl was most likely being held by a known radical Muslim faction — Harkat ul-Mujahideen — linked to the al-Qaida terrorist organization.

Qaida terrorists may have been studying American dams and water-supply systems in preparation for new attacks. And in a report to Congress made public Wednesday, CIA Director George Tenet said rudimentary diagrams of nuclear weapons were found in a suspected al-Qaida safehouse in Kabul, Afghanistan. Other evidence uncovered in Afghanistan includes diagrams of American nuclear power plants, although it is unclear if an attack was planned.



COMICS

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BY TERRY & PATTY LABAN



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 - 6 Paris subway
 - 11 Blundered
 - 12 "One Way" sign
 - 13 In the midst of
 - 14 Demonstrate
 - 15 Jury member
 - 17 Jungle group
 - 18 Emery board feature
 - 20 Opposition member
 - 22 Bird of myth
 - 23 Ballot makeup
 - 26 Texas landmark
 - 28 Frighten
 - 29 Scarlett's friend
 - 31 Tell tales
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 - 27 British sea resort
 - 30 Altar promise
 - 33 Elroy's dog
 - 34 Fit perfectly
 - 35 Blue hue
 - 37 Software buyer
 - 39 Went ahead
 - 41 Cut off
 - 42 Golfer Ernie

ARCH	BLARES
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ACE	XES
CONDO	BALES
ENTER	EMU
VENDETTA	
PAROLE	CHUM
AROUSE	HOB
NETTED	ERAS

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
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18	19				20	21			
22				23				24	25
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34	35				36	37			
38				39		40		41	42
43						44			
45						46			

2-1

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Chickens have feelings too

In January, after the California restaurant chain Carl's Jr. began televising a commercial chiding competitors' chicken-nugget meals (the ad: executives examining a chicken in a futile attempt to find a body part called the "nugget"), the animal rights group United Poultry Concerns objected, not just because the chicken was mishandled but because the examination hurt the chicken's feelings (treated the chicken "derisively," United's chief Karen Davis told the Los Angeles Times). (A few days later, seemingly in support of Davis, Australian neuroscientists Charles Watson and George Paxinos announced the startup of their project to compile a comprehensive atlas of a bird's "sophisticated and complex" brain, emphasizing features in common with humans' brains.)

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BACK PAGE

Report finds waste, disorganization at Louvre Museum

BY ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — The artworks may be beautiful, but what happens behind the scenes at the Louvre Museum is something of a mess, according to a report issued Thursday by France's state auditors.

Waste and mismanagement are disrupting the show for some of the millions of visitors to the famed museum in Paris, the report by the Cour des Comptes suggests. The report was part of a more than 800-page study of the entire public sector.

The report said the world's biggest museum doesn't know how many works of art it has, how many people work there or how much time employees spend on the job.

The report said the world's biggest museum doesn't know how many works of art it has, how many people work there or how much time employees spend on the job. Some workers habitually take extra days off or go on coffee breaks that last for hours, according to the report. The Louvre took in 6 million visitors in 2000 — two-

thirds of them foreigners, the report said. While progress has been made in welcoming the public, "worrisome deficiencies" remain, it said.

The ticket and information counters are a particular problem: coffee breaks, the report said, "can take 2 1/2 hours a day for employees working the information bank ... and 3 1/2 hours for employees in the cloakroom, at the cash register and at the ticket control post."

When visitors do get in, they will never see the whole museum. Not just because it is so big, but because it is never fully open. Nearly a quarter of the rooms were closed to the public in 2000 for lack of security personnel, the report said.

Security is also a problem. The report cited a museum official complaining of disputes among security guards and a lack of vigilance.

When a Corot painting was stolen in 1998, a security chief was fired. But it was only 28 months later that he

turned in his keys and left the apartment provided to him free of charge, the report said.

As for inventories, they are incomplete since not all works are listed. "The museum is reduced to making a rough estimation" of about 400,000 works, the report said.

Finally, the Louvre doesn't always open at the usual time of 9 a.m. About once a month, the opening is held up because of union meetings, "with no possibility of warning the public."

The Louvre's director admitted there were problems, saying they stemmed from the museum's complicated management and financial structure, which he said is being reformed.

"The Louvre is taking a direct role in its expansion by increasing its own resources, which have doubled since 1993, notably by actively seeking sponsorship," Louvre chief Henri Loyrette wrote in the report. Louvre officials declined to comment further.

Students protest inedible lunches

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Middle school students at Schiller Classical Academy are taking a bite out of history in an effort to improve the quality of their lunch.

The students, who were inspired by civil disobedience in the Boston Tea Party and the bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., have started their own revolt of sorts.

Since mid-December, students have begun a boycott of the lunchroom and adopted the slogan: "We won't eat if it smells like feet."

They complain their pre-packed provided meals

often include half-thawed frozen peaches, watery macaroni and cheese, greasy pizza and discolored meat. School officials say Schiller is limited in its offerings because the school lacks a cafeteria.

"They're not good ... and every other day it's the same thing," said sixth-grader Brittany Ford, 11.

The protest was sparked students in Antoinette Jones' eighth-grade history class after Jones urged students to take action, instead of just complaining.

"I told them to find a cause, document what they feel is wrong, document the steps they will take to change it, and I told them they must be willing to make a sacrifice," Jones said.

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