

FREE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 71

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

03, 05, 14, 24, 35

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: **3, 9, 7**

Evening picks: **3, 5, 7**

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

3rd Place: 05, California Classic



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ A 51-year-old woman (calling herself "Mrs. B") picketed the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Conn., on Jan. 15 over an alarming crisis: She believes she has for six years been possessed by from one to 19 demons, yet the church (six dioceses in three states) will not assign her an exorcist, which she says is "unpardonable neglect." Among her signs: writhing, speaking in tongues, and having her eyes move "without my permission."

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Get all the fools on your side and you can be elected to anything.

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Large downtown employer moving to MGM plaza

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

One of downtown Santa Monica's largest employers is moving out of the Bayside District so it can consolidate its operations.

Rubin Postaer and Associates, with more than 400 employees working at four office buildings all located within walking distance of the Third Street Promenade, officially signed a deal Monday for 110,000 square feet of office space at the MGM Plaza.

The new lease with Tischman Speyer Properties is for space at its Colorado Center, the campus-like office complex occupied by Metro-Goldwyn Mayer, which is moving much of its operation to a new skyscraper in Century City.

Since opening its first office at 1332 Second Street in 1992, Rubin Postaer and Associates has grown from a small start-up advertising agency to one of the largest in Los Angeles County. The company continued to expand by leasing space in buildings scattered throughout downtown Santa Monica.

But that arrangement became expensive and ineffi-

See MOVE, page 7

Filling the hole



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Crews continue work on a giant sinkhole at the corner of Euclid Street and Ocean Park Boulevard. The street collapsed about 150 feet from Euclid to 11th Street on Dec. 28 after sand beneath Ocean Park Boulevard washed away. A 12-inch diameter high pressure water main erupted, releasing about 1.5 million gallons of water before being contained. The street will be closed for another month. Repairs are estimated to cost about \$1 million.

It's not curtains yet for Santa Monica Playhouse

By Daily Press staff

It appears as if the story of the financially troubled Santa Monica Playhouse will have an encore.

"Friends of Santa Monica Playhouse" announced they have succeeded in raising \$200,000 by the mandatory Jan. 31 deadline to satisfy a deal to purchase the theater.

As part of an intensive outreach to the community, coupled with the loyal support of actors, alumni, audiences, the media, and a last-

"We have been overwhelmed by the amount of love the community has shown for our theater."

— EVELYN RUDIE
Santa Monica Playhouse

minute plea from Gayle Anderson and KTLA Channel 5, the playhouse won't have to close its doors and will be able to buy the property on Fourth Street.

After 40 years of being renters at its theater complex in downtown Santa Monica, the internationally acclaimed Playhouse, the oldest continuously producing theater

company and conservatory in the city, was given the opportunity of purchasing its facility.

They now have six months remaining in which to raise funds for the down payment. If they cannot meet the deadline, they will be forced to close.

"This \$200,000, coupled with the City of Santa Monica's impressive \$75,000 matching grant, means that we are more than halfway

See PLAYHOUSE, page 7

Telemarketer's call connects father to son he never knew

By The Associated Press

VISTA — When Riverside County telemarketer Al Kinkade began a call to Daniel and Kellie Kinkade of San Diego County he mentioned that they share a surname.

The last name small talk led Kellie to realize that her 27-year-old husband is Al Kinkade's son.

"Dan, it's your father!"

the Vista resident shouted. "Give me the phone," her husband replied. "You're messing with me." "I just about fell out of my chair," Al Kinkade told The Press-Enterprise in Riverside for Monday editions. Kinkade, 49, called to solicit a donation to a police and sheriff's Explorer Scout program. Father and son compared notes and every ques-

tion had the right answer.

Did Al work as a security guard in 1975? Yes.

Did Dan's mother Shirley Jean Weaver drive a blue 1969 Chevy Nova? Yes.

The Vista couple began searching seven years ago for Dan's father. All they had was his full name, Alfred Robert Kinkade, and two photographs of him with Dan's mother. She

died of colon cancer at age 39 when Dan was 9, and Dan was raised by an aunt and uncle in Los Angeles.

The couple searched the Web for Alfred Kinkade. Dan even bought "The World Book of Kinkades."

"It had every Kinkade in the world except for my dad," Dan, a heavy-equipment operator, said.

Al Kinkade had been

hard to find because of years of substance abuse that led to homelessness. Now living in Moreno Valley, he finally decided to go sober on April Fool's Day, 1998.

The finally connected father and son now talk daily by phone. They met for the first time Jan. 5, when Al also met his 4-year-old granddaughter, Sierra.

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HOROSCOPE

Say yes to a family member, Sag

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

Happy Birthday for Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2003

Events might not be happening fast enough for you this year. You have unusual creativity, but each step comes slowly. Know that when you take each step, you need to be well-grounded and sure of yourself. As a result of the slow pace, you will have everything together. Deal with others in a more dynamic way. Be open to uncomfortable changes. If you are single, you open many doors, especially when you're off doing things for yourself. Explore your options. Be open to off-beat people. If you are attached, you will want to set certain goals for you two as a couple. By working to achieve them, you will bond even more closely. PISCES helps you make money.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Understand that others mean well. In fact, if you create a clearing, you find that others will express their intentions a lot easier. A boss could give you a sign of approval, be it a pay raise or promotion. Keep discussions open, even if you feel like closing down. Tonight: Talk out a problem.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Aim for what you want. Understanding others helps you move forward on a major project but also allows you more opportunity for self-expression. Right now, work from the premise that others mean well, even if their actions don't support it. Get to the bottom of a problem. Tonight: With the crowds.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ How you see someone could be considerably different if you just relax and kick back. An associate goes out of his or her way to make your life more pleasing or rewarding. You might not always be sure of this person. Soon, you will be. Let it all hang out. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Someone has his or her eye on you. You might not be exactly sure which way to go in a personal matter that might be very important. Explore your options. Open up discussions. Don't even think that you have to come up with the solutions and/or ideas. Tonight: Hop on the computer.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Making that extra effort will make a difference. Allow more sunshine in your professional and day-to-day lives. Help those around you feel more valued. Just by asking for advice or for help, you can give another person a sense of importance. Tonight: Togetherness counts.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your efforts do make a difference, as others will let you know. Pressure builds in a new way, if you're not careful. Discussions illuminate someone's position in your life. Your ingenuity helps you get past a problem. Tonight: Reach out to a child or loved one.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Pace yourself with a co-worker. You might like to see a personal matter resolved. Go out of your way to talk to family members. Together you will build on strong feelings. Decide on a purchase that could or will change the quality of your life. Tonight: Put in overtime if you must.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ How you communicate what you need can make or break what is going on. Listen carefully to a child or loved one who expresses hesitation. Understand the basis he or she is coming from. Evaluate the situation with openness and caring. Tonight: Continue with what is going on.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Build on basics, with the knowledge that this, too, can change. Float with situations. Someone might project his or her displeasure on you, not realizing what is going on. Your ability to treat a loved one well could help ease him or her off a problem. Tonight: Say "yes" to a family member.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Reach out to a loved one. Express more of what you feel. Review a matter that is close to your heart, even if it weighs you down. You will find the right words to clear the air. Verbalize what is on your mind in a way that makes a difference. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You might answer to someone in a way that could be most confusing to him or her. Keep clarifying and making sure you have reached a place of mutual understanding. Much could change for you quickly. Resist knee-jerk reactions. Tonight: Treat a loved one.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your ability to understand what might be happening with a personal matter could be exciting. Talk about these changes, realizing more of what you want. A family member might be unusually grim or difficult. Work with this person. Tonight: Whatever makes the Fish smile.

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LOCAL



The smell of war is in the air



(Editor's note: The Daily Press plans to publish updates from Kelly Hayes-Raitt while she is in Baghdad. Today is her first report from the field.)

BY KELLY HAYES-RAITT
Special to the Daily Press

BAGHDAD — After 42 straight hours of traveling and barely nine hours of truncated sleep, I arrived at our hotel in Baghdad.

From the federal security guards at LAX to our fellow airline passengers, we've received enthusiastic and heart-felt wishes for our mission.

The last leg of the trip was a grueling 18-hour car trip from Amman, Jordan to Baghdad, with a two-hour "lay-over" at the Iraqi border. The guards bent over backwards to facilitate our border crossing, serving us tea, allowing us to rest on couches in their lounge — they did everything but serve us Girl Scout cookies.

During our seven-hour lay-over in Amsterdam, an American man approached our pink-clad group and offered a cup of coffee if someone would explain what we

were doing. Bleary-eyed and caffeine-deprived, I immediately volunteered.

Nathan was a member of the special forces during the gulf war and has been working in Kuwait as a private consultant for the military. He isn't sure if the war is warranted, but made the case for it in response to my questions.

He has been training soldiers in Kuwait. Until a year ago, their training had been in defense; now it is in attack. He says Iraqi dissidents are being trained in Turkey to maintain civilian systems (electricity, water) in the event of war. I said it sounded as if we were going to war. He said he was tired and has seen too much.

"I've seen things that get replayed and replayed," he said.

I awoke the next morning in the car on the desolate road between Amman and the Iraqi border to a sky alive with stars and a mesmerizingly bright Venus low on the horizon, a blaze of light bathing this ancient holy land.

Venus. The Morning Star. Goddess of Love.

I hope Nathan is wrong.

(Kelly Hayes-Raitt is one of nine American women traveling in Baghdad to meet with Iraqi women about the effects of war on women and children. She returns to Santa Monica on Feb. 12.)

BEYOND
BAGHDAD

The Q-Line

The school board last week voted to place a flat \$225 tax proposal on the June 3 ballot. That means every parcel owner in Santa Monica and Malibu would pay \$225 a year, despite the size of the property. Owners of monster mansions in Malibu would pay the same as condo owners in Santa Monica.

There were other proposals that would have taxed people more based on the size of the buildings on their properties. For instance, one of the proposals that was shot down was a charge of \$60

per year, plus 7 cents per square foot.

This week, Q-Line wants to know:

"What tax proposal would you support? Will you vote in favor of the flat \$225 tax scheduled for the special election?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

The new moon Saturday brought 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.

We also have some west wind swell coming in, so well-exposed spots may show some overhead surf.

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.

Surf remains decent, plenty of fun sets with only a slight decrease in size.



Today's
Tides:

Low- 2:47 a.m. 1.82'
High- 8:48 a.m. 6.15'
Low- 4:03 p.m. -1.13'
High- 10:23 p.m. 4.00'

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

Lipstick on a pig

Editor:

Neil Carrey (John Deasy's frontman on the "committee" to push the unpopular parcel tax) thinks that the money involved is just pocket change to some around here ... "What some might spend on a few good meals of a weekend." B.S., I say. Voters rejected the parcel tax because it wasn't needed in their view. To bring it up for a vote again is an insult. Changing wording and payment formulas doesn't make anything about their proposals palatable. When you put lipstick on a pig, it is still a pig. The educators are too heavy at the trough.

Paula Dryden
Santa Monica

See through the Prop A propaganda

Editor:

Homeowners, would-be homeowners, renters, fair-minded and reasonable persons in Santa Monica know full well what is at stake, regarding Proposition A. The issue is very simple: Who will decide the destiny of our neighborhoods? Who will manage, control and dispose of our landmarks? The developers? And those who fund them? Or the community? This is the issue. Homeowners, would-be homeowners, renters, fair-minded and reasonable persons in Santa Monica understand and will rise up in support of a "NO" vote on Proposition A.

Nina Fresco
Santa Monica

(Editor's note: Nina Fresco is a member of the city's landmarks commission.)

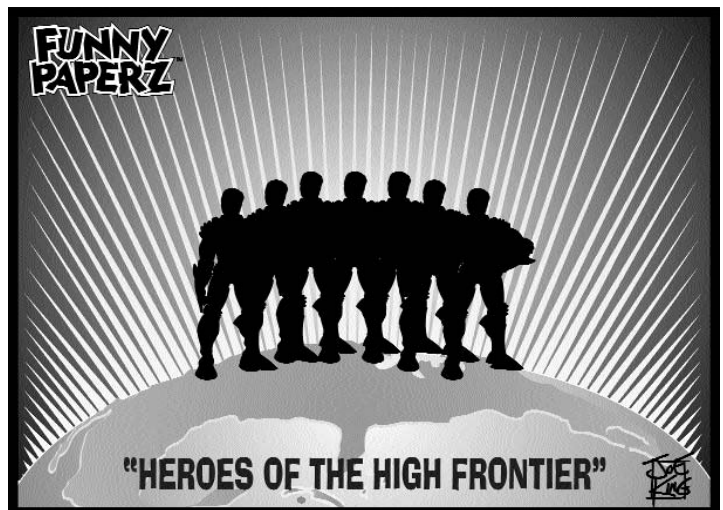
Starbucks taking over the world

Editor:

In an episode of The Simpsons, Bart goes to the mall, passes a Starbucks, passes a

"Soon to be a Starbucks" then goes into a store. While trying to decide on what to get, the store guy tells him to hurry, as the place is being turned into a Starbucks. When Bart leaves, every store in the mall is Starbucks. That's what we're coming to, people. Be warned. A virus spreads, and so does Starbucks.

Mike Kirwan
Venice



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Are Santa Monica politics progressive?



Todd Flora

Reports of Santa Monica's progressive demise have been grossly exaggerated.

There are still well over twice as many Democrats in Santa Monica as Republicans, and a few thousand Greens to boot. On election night, most things that usually happen here did happen. Candidates endorsed by the city's progressive parties and groups still won, with the "other guys" getting their usual winner. In addition, several thousand votes went to three or four progressives who did not win, but seemed to finish a close fourth or sixth in City Council voting.

Everyone should take a deep breath.

However, a more conservative element IS running around town trying to make something of their negative, deceptive, and (most importantly) temporary \$3 million campaign victory against the living wage. Soon after their narrow, surprise win, Warren Olney was asking on "Which Way, L.A.?" whether Santa Monica is "changing" and becoming "less liberal." Banter ensued around water coolers, and then the next thing I knew, many were assuming we had become Newport Beach.

Santa Monica is NOT Newport Beach, nor should it be. Despite some demographic shifts due to "vacancy decontrol," Santa Monica should strive to REMAIN and IMPROVE UPON the progressive city it is reputed to be. Why? For one, the fact is a largely progressive agenda has made this

city one of the most enviable places to work, spend, and live over the past 20 years. Further, our "daring progressivism" is Santa Monica's "competitive advantage." Beverly Hills has its glitz and stars; Inglewood has its racetrack and a few bad cops; Culver City has, I don't know, indistinguishable city borders. Santa Monica is known for many great things, one of them definitely being its progressive policies and people. What other local city has a powerful grassroots organization that stands up for renters? Look around — this liberal living isn't treating us too badly.

Are City Councils flawless? Nowhere. Do we have problems? Yes. But it is time for progressives to stand up in this city and defend their vision. Progressives must not only present a clear agenda, but also call to

the carpet this particular conservative element that is organizing and executing a political agenda, hell bent on destroying Santa Monicans for Renters Rights and any progressive policies we administer in this city. Their agenda goes beyond mere policy differences, which I can respect. They aren't always wrong. But they are out to destroy, not to discuss. Write letters, speak up, and stand up to them NOW, before we become another conservative Newport Beach.

(Todd Flora has served as personal assistant to then Lt. Gov. Gray Davis, and state director for the California Clean Money Campaign. He is a professional issues manager and has been featured on TV, radio, and in several publications. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com).



Evelyn Jerome

We've all heard it before: "The People's Republic of Santa Monica."

It's not really meant to be flattering.

What is Santa Monica's political identity, and what should it be? Are we the "progressive" city everyone thinks we are? Were we ever "progressive" in the first place?

What does progressive actually mean? Does "progressive" refer to specific policies, like supporting union issues, rent control, or environmental protection?

I would argue that a "progressive" community is one in which all are invited to share their political views, and all views are

respected. By respected, I mean that no one is ridiculed, booed, or otherwise made to feel that their opinions are not welcomed in public discourse.

According to my definition, Santa Monica never was, and still isn't a "progressive" community. A haven for liberalism, maybe. But not progressive, because there have never been dissenting opinions until just recently.

How has our community changed? Young families have bought homes and condominiums, raising property values. Our schools are top-notch (so much so, in fact, that one-fifth of the kids in Santa Monica and Malibu public schools live outside our cities, but that's another column).

As new residents have moved into our community, the spectrum of political opin-

ion has expanded, and the powers-that-be feel threatened. Not everyone thinks that rent control has been good for the city as a whole. Not everyone thinks that we should deal with the plight of the homeless by offering public meals. Not everyone thinks that Target was a bad idea — some even think the city should encourage businesses to locate here.

But you don't hear these opinions expressed too frequently, and when you do, they are often surrounded by a chorus of boos and hisses. So much for everyone having their say in this "progressive" town.

I have found that I make political points more effectively when I speak with people who don't share my views. "Prove it," people say to me.

So I say to those who have controlled

Santa Monica for decades: Prove that rent control has provided housing for low-income workers. Prove that spending millions on the homeless has improved their overall quality of life.

Don't feel threatened because new people have moved in, invested in their homes and businesses, and want to express their political views. A truly "progressive" city would encourage substantive civic debate, and work towards finding real solutions to the community's problems rather than sticking with the status quo in fear of change.

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

LOCAL



Here are seven thoughts for seven astronauts

1. I had a dream. The night before the Saturday morning shuttle re-entry catastrophe, I had this dream that woke me up and told me I had to go outside with binoculars and look up at the sunrise in order to see the satellites falling. Saturday I woke up fine until I turned on the TV to see CBS weekend host Russ Mitchell sitting there with guest anchor Dan Rather. Dan Rather took a phone call on the air.

(*All dialogue not verbatim, sorry.)

Dan Rather: We have a caller on the line now from ... Eufala, Texas.

Caller: Dan there are pieces of debris in my backyard. Lots of people are looking at it.

Dan Rather: Yes.

Caller: The debris. It looks like Baba-Booey's teeth!

Dan Rather: Uh ... I'm not that familiar with where Eufala is ...

Caller: Dan, you're an idiot.

Russ Mitchell: Dan, that's not really from ... that is a crank call.

Dan Rather: Well I am an idiot, but that's beside the point ...

(Of course it was one of those Howard Stern fanatics who got him. "Baba-Booey" is Howard Stern Show radio producer Gary Dell'Abate's nickname.)

2. People blame NASA. People have to blame. Blame the media for never showing us much about the shuttle on the news. Blame the government for making too much war news so the media had no room to show us any shuttle news. Blame each other for all the bad jokes that now run the length of Challenger to Columbia and back again ad infinitum: "Nasa=Need Another Seven Astronauts." "I said a Bud Light." "What was the Israeli astronaut doing lighting Havdalah Candles that early on the Sabbath?" (ask a rabbi about this last one)

3. I'm mad as Paddy Chayefsky and I can't take it anymore. The irony of it all I mean. Irony that the Indian-American astronaut was doing "fire ball" experiments inside the craft. Hello science! Irony enough for ya that parts of the Israeli and Columbia landed in Palestine, Texas. (Of course they pronounce it differently down there), and Dick Cheney (pronounced "Chee-ney" in his family) was down there hunting pheasant or duck or something the same day. No weirder I guess than seeing a headline the day before: "Skynyrd Guitarist Not Sure About War With Iraq." A story about Rickey Medlocke, a "founding member of both Lynyrd Skynyrd and Blackfoot, who unlike some of the other people voicing anti-war sentiments, says he's a fan of President George W. Bush, but that doesn't mean he's fully behind the

administration's cause." How am I supposed to care about Astronaut Husband when they want me to think about Lynyrd Skynyrd?

4. Less ironical was reading in the NY Times on Friday: "On national security, Mr. Cheney has been consumed by planning for the political reconstruction of a post-Hussein Iraq. The plan so far, is for an American military commander to run the country, alongside a civilian administrator, with an eventual transition to an Iraqi-led government." Guess it's a done deal folks. Might as well cancel the peace rallies and just sit around with our Phil Ochs cds singing "I Ain't Marchin' Anymore."

5. I remembered reading during the Hutu and Tutsi catastrophe one woman telling a reporter: "We make songs and sing and tell funny stories, that is how we deal with our tragedy." (Or maybe I read it during the Kurdish catastrophe). So I woke up my girlfriend Emily in Berkeley and we sang on the phone and laughed in our madness. Jokes about the

first Israeli in space were easy enough, remembering that Bill Dana, a Jewish comic had done most of them on his album about the first Mexican in space. His name was Jose Jimenez. He would come on-stage and say: "My name Jose Jimenez." Hilarious guy.

6. Did you want to be an astronaut when you were a kid? Even though they didn't invent Tang or Teflon or even those delicious Space-Food sticks in space? If you wanted to be a poet, one day you could be invited to the White House and then Laura Bush would cancel the invitation because you might read a poem that was anti-war.

7. I am not psychic so my dream was probably just an example of synchronistically. Carl Jung said there are three responses to a synchronistic experience that shakes you to your wit's end: 1) Ignore it. 2) Become like a shaman and teach others. 3) Or you can have what Jung called "a critical understanding" of the experience and return to your life. synchronistically occurs all the time in our world. Bill Walton found out Yao Ming liked the Grateful Dead; Kennedy had a secretary named Lincoln, etc. If you just note it and move on Jung said it would keep happening. The bigger a deal you make out of a synchronistic event, the less it happens. That's why I'm writing it all down here. I'm too chicken, I don't want it to happen again.

(Hank Rosenfeld has never even been to Space Mountain. But he is a licensed local Mediatrician at Hankidu@aol.com).

Guest Commentary

By Hank Rosenfeld

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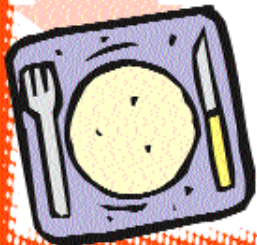
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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Couple takes on the clean air cause

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica couple has invited some 100 friends and neighbors to an "action group" on Feb. 9 to produce a mass mailing urging state officials to require auto manufacturers to produce cleaner cars.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has been steadily weakening its zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates and just three weeks ago, the only remaining automaker to produce an electric vehicle for sale to individuals abandoned its EV program. CARB is meeting on Feb. 27-28 to review its ZEV mandates once again.

"This is a time-sensitive opportunity for us to effect positive change in important state regulations that affect the air we breathe," said Paul Scott, who will be hosting the action group with his wife, Zan Dubin Scott. "CARB members must stop caving in to auto industry lobbyists. We want the board to know that Californians won't stand for it."

The Scotts expect some 100 concerned citizens from throughout Los Angeles County to attend the gathering. The entire Santa Monica City Council has been invited as well. Several activist-guests will be offering their electric vehicles for test drives. All will be crafting letters to CARB members and various state senate and assembly representatives.

The Scotts' action group will begin at 5 p.m. Test drives of electric vehicles will begin at 4 p.m.

Citizens rally against potential war for oil

By Daily Press staff

Members of the Westside Greens will join citizens from various West Los Angeles cities today in a rally in front of the Chevron and Shell Oil gas stations located at the corner of Olympic Avenue and Bundy Avenue. The event, scheduled from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., is an attempt to draw the link between the United States' oil addiction and the Bush administration's drive towards war in Iraq.

The rally is sponsored by a broad coalition of groups, including Greenpeace, Global Watch, Democracy Rising, Peace Action, GlobalExchange, Sierra Student Coalition, Amazon Watch, and Power Shift.

"If our rush to war were about liberating oppressed people, we could be talking about Chechnya, Columbia, and a dozen other countries," said Danny Meyer, the Westside Greens steering committee member. "If this were about weapons of mass destruction, we'd be in North Korea. But one thing is clear: Iraq is a potential menace to our oil supplies, and that is unacceptable to this administration."

The organizers say that they are not attacking the station owners or motorists filling up, but trying to educate them about the impacts of fossil fuel and what people can do to alleviate the security and environmental threats posed.

Barbershop chorus to entertain on Valentine's

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus will once again be dispatching quartets to deliver two classic sweetheart love songs, a personalized Valentine's card and a Mylar Valentine balloon — all for just \$40, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Valentine's Day, Thursday, Feb. 14.

"Singing Valentines" orders are filled on a first-come basis at "The Singing Valentines" Hot Line (310) 474-9505, by calling Valentines program coordinator Steve Demmer directly at (310) 839-4296, or online at www.oceanaires.com. Delivery in one of 400 major cities across the continent can be arranged through the non-profit Barbershop Harmony Society's special Web site: www.SingingValentines.com, or the toll-free number: (800) 876-SING.

Local Sports

Samohi soccer wins again

By Daily Press staff

The Vikings' boys soccer team won their last cross league match of the season against Beverly Hills on Friday.

Samohi scored late in the first half when senior midfielder Josh Rodriguez brought down a throw-in inside the 18-yard box and sent the ball to sophomore Forward Omid Shokoufandeh who scored the goal.

Shokoufandeh received another ball from senior midfielder Corey Prost in the second half and scored his second goal of game. Beverly Hills scored their goal with five minutes remaining in the game.

The Vikings' record is 14-6-1 overall, 7-2 in the league.

**SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION
NEED SOMETHING FUN TO DO? CHECK PAGE 15!**

LOCAL



Interest already high for company's office spaces

MOVE, from page 1

cient, company executives said. So they began shopping around for a space large enough to house all of its operations under one roof. Staying in Santa Monica was important to them.

"We think of ourselves as a westside company," said Gerry Rubin, the company's president and CEO. "We are a Santa Monica company, and that's where we wanted to stay."

High downtown rents coupled with a weak market for office space throughout the Los Angeles region sparked company officials to begin looking for a new location, said the company's real estate broker, Randy Starr, who works at Tenzer Commercial Brokerage.

"Rents were definitely a motivation, big time," Starr said. "Downtown Santa Monica, even with the drop-off in rents since the dot-com downfall, haven't dropped off that much. That's why it doesn't make sense for a tenant with more than 100,000 feet of space to stay downtown anymore."

Staying in downtown Santa Monica also would have been very difficult for the company because office buildings tend to have smaller spaces unsuitable for large companies in need of more than 100,000 square feet of space, Starr said.

"The bottom line is that they have outgrown the downtown area," he said. "The typical footprints aren't big enough to accommodate the size of a company Rubin Postaer has grown into."

The move to Colorado Center, located

near the intersection of Colorado Boulevard and 26th Street, should be complete by the end of the year, company officials said.

Some downtown business interests worry the move will take hundreds of bodies off the Promenade during lunch and hurt downtown merchants' sales, which already are sluggish from the slow economy.

"When any major company moves from the downtown area we are going to feel the impact," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp., which partners with the city to manage the downtown.

"The positive side is that Santa Monica is a pretty popular place to work," she added, "so the turn-around is pretty quick."

While data doesn't exist for office vacancy rates downtown, officials said Santa Monica has a 16 percent vacancy rate. That's up 1 percent from last business quarter, said Mark Richter, director of the city's economic resource department.

"In general, Santa Monica is fairing better than most areas of metropolitan L.A.," he said. "In most other primary office areas there are higher vacancy rates than ours."

There may be some truth to that, Starr said. He said there are already several interested companies looking at the space being vacated by Rubin Postaer and Associates.

"The space being vacated by Rubin Postaer is prime real estate," Starr said. "Those worried about Rubin Postaer leaving downtown shouldn't because it's space that is highly desirable."

Theater still raising funds

PLAYHOUSE, from page 1

there," said Friends Committee member Carol McCune. "We are immediately moving forward to raise the remaining \$225,000 by the end of June."

It was announced this time last year that the playhouse may have to shut down because its rent would be increased to more than \$12,000 a month starting in January, but the venerable theater group can barely pay the \$10,000-a-month rent for its prime downtown location.

However, the theater group's landlord, local attorney Jules Kievits, isn't viewed as the villain. He is giving the theater group 18 months to raise \$500,000 to buy the building. Every six months the group must reach fundraising milestones, or risk losing it all.

After a year of fundraising the group is more than half-way to meeting its goal, theater officials said. Even so, theater officials say they have a tough six months of fundraising ahead of them in order to raise the remaining amount.

"We have been overwhelmed by the amount of love the community has shown for our theater, and grateful to the many donors who have helped us reach this second benchmark," Playhouse co-artistic director Evelyn Rudie said. "Now that we have passed the mid-point, we are encouraged that corporate, community and foundation donors will come on board, recognizing the project as viable and worthy of their support."

Local, national and international artists continue to lend their support to the "Save the Playhouse Campaign." The Spring



File photo

Santa Monica Playhouse met its benchmark to buy its Fourth Street theater.

Benefit line-up will offer something for everyone, including Don Snell's Valentine's Day performance of "A Private Spirit: Noel Coward and his Gal Pals;" Andrew Gaines' Comedy Playhouse on Feb. 28; Chris Sullivan's One-Man Irish Show on March 14; Rochelle Newman's "Hip Bones and Cool Whip" on March 21; and the Playhouse Young Professionals Company musical presentation of "Next! Living the Lie" on March 28.

Santa Monica Playhouse is a not-for-profit educational conservatory and theater that has been serving the greater Los Angeles Area since 1962, directly reaching more than 5 million people, including more than 1 million young people and under-served students. Community members, corporations, private foundations and anyone concerned about helping the Playhouse continue its mission to educate, enlighten and entertain, can make a donation by calling (310) 394-9779, ext. 555.

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- 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.

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STATE

Jurors in marijuana case decry their own verdict

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Jurors who convicted marijuana guru Ed Rosenthal of cultivation and other drug charges said Monday they would have acquitted him had they been told he was growing medical marijuana for the city of Oakland.

"I feel like I made the biggest mistake in my life," said juror Marney Craig, a 58-year-old Novato property manager. "We convicted a man who is not a criminal. We unfortunately had no idea of who he was or what he did."

Other jurors reached by The Associated Press agreed. They plan an unusual gesture: writing Rosenthal to apologize.

Rosenthal, 58, the self-described "Guru of Ganja," faces up to an 85-year prison term when sentenced June 4. Prosecutors on Tuesday are scheduled to ask U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer to revoke Rosenthal's bail.

After a two-week trial Friday, a 12-member federal jury unanimously concluded that Rosenthal, a world-renowned marijuana advocate, was growing more than 100 plants, conspired to cultivate marijuana and maintained an Oakland warehouse for a growing operation. He was painted as a major drug manufacturer and put on little, if any, defense.

The jury was not told that Rosenthal was acting as an agent of the city of Oakland's medical marijuana program, which was an outgrowth of a 1996 medical marijuana initiative approved by California's voters.

"I really feel manipulated in a way. I feel the jury was railroaded into making this decision," said juror Pam Klarkowsky, a 50-year-old Petaluma nurse. "Had I known that information, there is no way I could have found that man guilty."

Throughout the two-week trial, Rosenthal's defense team had repeatedly tried to call witnesses to testify that Rosenthal was growing medical marijuana. The judge denied those requests. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the judge twice during mid-trial appeals.

During the trial, Rosenthal told reporters the judge should have removed himself. After the verdicts were read, he called Breyer's courtroom a "kangaroo" court.

Still, legal experts said Judge Breyer,

brother of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, had federal precedent on his side when excluding defense witnesses.

"A bank robber is not allowed a defense that he was stealing money for his starving children, even if he was," said Rory Little, a Hastings College of the Law professor. "The general principle is: Motive is not a defense to a crime."

The reason is simple — to prevent jurors from acquitting because of personal feelings. A hung jury in Rosenthal's case required only one holdout.

**"We convicted a man
who is not a criminal.
We unfortunately had
no idea of who he was
or what he did."**

— MARNEY CRAIG
Juror

Also backing Breyer, experts say, was a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court two years ago prohibiting advocates for the sick and dying from doling out marijuana to those with a doctor's recommendation. That decision prompted a string of raids on medical marijuana growing operations throughout California. In addition, the federal government does not recognize the medical marijuana laws in nine states that have them.

Even so, some of the jurors on Rosenthal's case feel duped.

Juror Debra DeMartini, a 45-year-old Sonoma restaurant manager, said she would have acquitted had she known what the media was reporting during the trial. Breyer ordered the jury not to listen, read or watch any news accounts of the trial.

"I'm hearing all of these things after the fact," she said. "That sheds a whole new light on it."

Jury foreman Charles Sackett, 51 of Sebastopol, said he hopes Rosenthal's case is overturned on appeal.

"Some of us jurors are upset about the way the trial was conducted in that we feel Mr. Rosenthal didn't have a chance and therefore neither did state's rights or patient's rights," the landscaper said. "I would have liked to have been given the opportunity to decide with all the evidence."

Movie trailer pulled over image of shuttle distress

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The destruction of the space shuttle Columbia has prompted Paramount Pictures to withdraw a trailer for the upcoming sci-fi adventure "The Core" because it features a fictional shuttle with landing troubles.

The film, about weather chaos and magnetic disturbances caused by a weakening of the Earth's molten core, is set for release March 28.

"In respect to the tragic loss of the Columbia crew, we are removing references to the space shuttle from our advertising," the studio said in a statement Monday. "Every effort is being made to have our current trailer taken down and replaced."

The scene from the film "portrays the shuttle crew in a heroic and successful endeavor," according to the statement, which added that there are no plans to postpone the release date or alter elements of the film.

"The Core" stars Hilary Swank and Aaron Eckhart as scientists who try to save humanity by burrowing into the center of the planet with a machine built to reverse the core's problem.

NATIONAL



Recovery teams pick up shuttle Columbia's pieces

BY PAULINE ARRILLAGA
AP National Writer

NACOGDOCHES, Texas — Using plastic bags and buckets, investigators went from rural schools to a college campus Monday gathering pieces of space shuttle Columbia strewn across a pine-cloaked disaster scene larger than West Virginia.

Search teams hunted down remains and debris in the rivers and woods of Louisiana and Texas — including a 6-to-7-foot chunk of cabin found in one rural county. Environmental and explosives experts, along with NASA officials, bagged up wreckage and transported it to airports now serving as evidence warehouses.

"We are collecting material that we find on the ground even as small as a quarter," said Gary Moore, a regional coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency. "Obviously, you're going to get to a point where you can't collect every single speck."

Recovery teams were focusing on schools, noting that two in Nacogdoches County stayed closed Monday to keep children away from possibly hazardous debris.

Recovery teams gathered at a federal command post in nearby Lufkin to be dispatched to counties across the state, said Sue Kennedy, emergency management coordinator for Nacogdoches County. A seven-member squad was on the ground in Nacogdoches removing debris from schools.

Teams removed 25 pieces of debris from the grounds at Douglass School, whose 340 students in kindergarten through 12th grade stayed home for the day. They then moved on to another public school before heading to Stephen F. Austin State University.

Eventually, the pieces will be shipped to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, where they were being collected in a sprawling hangar. The goal is to try to reconstruct what's left of Columbia, and establish a sequence of how each part peeled off during the shuttle's ill-fated journey home.

On Monday, debris and human remains from the destroyed shuttle began arriving at the base "in everything from helicopters to rental cars," NASA spokesman Steve Nesbitt said.

NASA examiners and the independent investigative team headed by retired Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr. have set up shop at the base in a room with a large map, using pushpins to mark the thousands of debris sites. The map was color-coded according to the size of the particles.

The recovery effort is daunting due to the size and scope of the debris field. It stretched west to east 380 miles from Eastland, Texas, to Alexandria, La., and north-south 230 miles from Sulphur Springs, Texas, to metropolitan Houston.

Louisiana state police confirmed more than two dozen chunks of debris in 11 different parishes.

In Texas, Gov. Rick Perry said wreckage had been found in 33 counties sprawling 28,000 square miles of landscape — a territory marked by dozens of lakes and creeks and hundreds of thousands of acres of thick pine forest. That's 10 percent of the entire state, and an area larger than West Virginia.

The area where wreckage was being found expanded westward Monday, said Michael Kostelnik, NASA deputy associate administrator. One debris collection center was opened at the former Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, 180 miles northwest of the recovery command center in Lufkin.

Findings included a 3-by-3-foot piece of metal in a bank parking lot in Nacogdoches and a 1-foot diameter piece of gray metal in front of the courthouse. Among the more significant discoveries: a huge section of cabin discovered in a rural wooded area east of Nacogdoches.

County Sheriff Thomas Kerss would not disclose the exact location or provide details of what all was found, but said teams would continue scouring remote forests in the hunt for more cabin components.

He said federal agents were heading to a home to look for stolen shuttle parts. No arrests have been made, he said.

Kerss stressed that recovering the remains of Columbia's seven-member crew was a top priority. Authorities confirmed about 15 sites where human



Charles Rex Arbogast/Associated Press
Ricci Casserly of Houston breaks down and cries after placing seven roses and balloons as a memorial to the 7-member crew of space shuttle Columbia outside the main gate of the Johnson Space Center in Houston on Monday. The seven died when their spacecraft broke up on re-entry Saturday.

remains have been found in the county, Kerss said, again declining to provide details.

Some remains have been recovered in rural east Texas, and forensics experts think the astronauts could be genetically identified despite the orbiter's disintegration 39 miles overhead.

Kennedy, the Nacogdoches emergency coordinator,

said the memory of the seven fallen astronauts drives workers in their search for answers to what brought Columbia down.

"Never, ever do we forget the true heart of this tragedy," she said, hoisting a notepad she carries throughout the day. Scribbled on a sticky note were the names of all seven astronauts.

Grieving families say 'the bold exploration of space must go on'

BY MARTIN STEINBERG
Associated Press Writer

The families of Columbia's crew remembered their loved ones Monday as optimists who rejected the word "can't" and explorers willing to accept risk for the sake of expanding knowledge.

They urged Americans to support the space effort "for the benefit of our children and yours."

"We've gotten strength from each other," Evelyn Husband, wife of Cmdr. Rick Husband, told NBC's "Today" show Monday, describing a meeting that relatives of the seven-member crew held Sunday.

"We just cried and laughed and hugged each other, and it was very helpful."

She read a statement from the families.

"On January 16th we saw our loved ones launch into a brilliant, cloud-free sky. Their hearts were full of enthusiasm, pride in country, faith in their God and a willingness to

accept risk in the pursuit of knowledge — knowledge that might improve the quality of life for all mankind. ...

"Although we grieve deeply, as do the families of Apollo I and Challenger before us, the bold exploration of space must go on. Once the root cause of this tragedy is found and corrected, the legacy of Columbia must carry on for the benefit of our children and yours."

Appearing on CBS' "Early Show," the mother of payload commander Michael Anderson recalled his enthusiasm for the space program.

"He told me some years ago the word 'can't' should be taken out of the dictionary because there wasn't nothing that can't be done," said Barbara Anderson of Spokane, Wash. "His life wasn't in vain and will do some good to mankind."

The mother of Laurel Clark of Racine, Wis., recalled Clark's love of nature.

"She loved to take hikes, be out-

doors," Marge Brown of Oro Valley, Ariz., told CBS's "Early Show." "Her favorite thing to do at home was taking care of her flowers. She worried about them not getting watered when she was away."

Audrey McCool, mother of Cmdr. Willie McCool, spoke of her son's upbeat personality.

"He had a great smile; he had a great personality to go with that smile. He was outgoing, upbeat, always positive," she told ABC's "Good Morning America."

The wife of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon said her husband was such an optimist that he didn't even write a will.

"He thought it was unnecessary," Rona Ramon told Israeli reporters in Houston late Sunday.

She said that at the liftoff, while everyone was celebrating, their 5-year-old daughter said, "I lost my Daddy."

"Apparently she knew," Rona Ramon said, sobbing.

DID YOU KNOW?: The living does not outnumber the dead. Since the creation, roughly about 60 billion people have died.



INTERNATIONAL

Iraq explains origin of warhead before U.N. inspectors arrive

BY HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq took the unusual step of issuing an explanation for a missile warhead discovered Monday by U.N. arms inspectors — before the monitors themselves made the news public.

The inspectors found the abandoned case of a small rocket and a “modified, damaged and abandoned warhead” at a missile parts factory south of Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency said, describing it as a Russian-made Luna — a short-range rocket permitted under U.N. resolutions.

Iraq, however, rarely reports on what the inspectors find. The report appeared timed to give Iraq’s version of events before the discovery was publicized by the United Nations.

The discovery last month of 12 empty chemical warheads — which the Iraqis considered an oversight on their part — was cited by the United States as an example of Baghdad failing to comply with terms of U.N. Resolution 1441.

Iraq is especially sensitive to

such allegations ahead of Secretary of State Colin Powell’s appearance before the Security Council on Wednesday. Powell plans to present evidence that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has retained his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

Photographs of mobile biological weapons installations and transcripts of overheard conversations among Iraqi officials are part of the evidence Powell will present to the council Wednesday, a Bush administration official said.

Iraq denies holding any banned biological, chemical or nuclear weapons but is under pressure to improve cooperation with U.N. inspectors.

The United States and Britain insist Saddam still is hiding banned weaponry and say they will disarm Iraq by force if necessary. The United States has deployed almost 90,000 troops in the Gulf region, a number that may double soon.

Hoping to avert war, the two chief U.N. weapons inspectors travel to Iraq later this week in an attempt to win meaningful concessions from the Iraqis on reconnaissance U-2 flights and

private interviews with Iraqi scientists — two of the issues the inspectors say have stalled progress so far.

Saturday’s talks will come just before chief inspector Hans Blix and chief nuclear inspector Mohamed ElBaradei make their next important report to the Security Council on Feb. 14.

Iraq, meanwhile, suggested that it may offer a compromise on the question of allowing private interviews with its scientists.

A senior adviser to Saddam said Iraq was exploring the possibility of having non-Iraqi witnesses sit in on the private interviews. The inspectors believe the scientists will be more candid if they can meet with them alone — but not a single scientist has agreed to a meeting.

The Iraqis say they fear their words will be twisted unless a government representative is present. U.S. officials say the scientists face death if they agree to meet independently with U.N. inspectors.

A final decision, however, would be left to the experts themselves, Lt. Gen. Amir al-Saadi said.

Turkish troops make a move



Turkiye/Associated Press

Turkish military vehicles are loaded onto a ferry at Sirkeci port in Istanbul, Turkey on Monday. The Turkish military began moving troops in western Turkey to its border with Iraq and strengthened its security force along the rugged border area ahead of a possible U.S. war against Iraq.

In Kuwait, American schools close, companies consider evacuations

BY STEVEN GUTKIN
Associated Press Writer

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait’s two main American schools announced Monday that they will suspend classes, and foreign companies considered evacuations — signs that threats of terrorism and a possible U.S.-led attack on Iraq are unnerving Westerners living in this oil-rich emirate.

Americans and other foreigners have begun to leave Kuwait, heeding a U.S. State Department recommendation. Several said they feared for their families’ safety following an Iraqi threat to attack Kuwait if the United States launches a war, considered likely in the coming weeks.

Oil companies British Petroleum, Texaco and Chevron were reportedly holding meetings Monday and Tuesday to decide whether to evacuate their staffs.

The moves followed three recent attacks on U.S. citizens in Kuwait that killed one U.S. Marine and an American businessman working on a contract with the U.S. Army. Kuwaiti Muslim extremists are suspected in two of the attacks.

“I’m worried that one of these fanatics will see an American woman with her kids and try to take a potshot at us,” said Sharon Margolis, a Californian who has lived in Kuwait for 20 years but now says she may leave with her

four sons and Kuwaiti husband.

A survey by The Associated Press of international schools elsewhere in the Middle East — including Egypt, Lebanon, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates — found no other institutions with firm plans to close because of fears of a war in Iraq.

Kuwait, however, is especially vulnerable because the small emirate lies within range of Iraqi missiles and is a major staging area for U.S. forces preparing for a possible war.

An estimated 30,000 U.S. troops have already assembled in this country of 2.3 million people, and tens of thousands more are expected.

The American School of Kuwait and the American International School — which together provide classes to about 270 American children as well as about 2,000 kids of other nationalities — will shut their doors from Feb. 10 to March 22. School officials said the closures are a result of tensions in the Persian Gulf and war fears among American teachers.

Ron Hawley, personnel administrator for the American International School, said school officials believe the closure dates could correspond to the dates of a war.

“The timing is based on our best guess,” he said.

He said the prospect of war

and recent statements by Iraq that it might attack Kuwait “make American teachers nervous.”

“There’s a lot of tension, and we can’t live with tension,” said Wael Abdul Ghafour, owner of the American School of Kuwait.

The British and U.S. embassies have instructed their nationals to take extra security precautions such as varying their day-to-day movements. The American embassy also said its citizens in Kuwait should seriously consider leaving following the three attacks.

“We continue to have full confidence in Kuwaiti authorities. But after what’s happened you have to consider what’s best for your citizens,” U.S. Ambassador Richard Jones said in a recent interview.

Last week, Iraq’s deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that if U.S. troops launch military operations from Kuwait, “I cannot say that we will not retaliate.”

“The reason we’re leaving is because of the possibility of a biological or chemical attack on Kuwait,” said 39-year-old Raed Alsaleh, a Kuwaiti businessman who said he, his American wife and two children will head to the United Arab Emirates on Feb. 14.

Saddam “knows it’s a do-or-die situation so he’ll do anything he can,” Alsaleh said.

8,000 women protest at French Embassy

BY ANGE ABOA
Associated Press Writer

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Loyalist women surrounded the French Embassy on Monday, swaying to music in an 8,000-strong protest against a French-brokered peace deal — the latest in an outpouring of anger that has sent countless French fleeing their onetime West African hub.

“Chirac, liar!” women chanted, dancing and waving tree branches as they denounced French President Jacques Chirac.

French leaders, unyielding, demanded that Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo stick to the peace proposals negotiated outside Paris, which have angered many government supporters. Ivory Coast rebels declared Monday they would win the war in two days if the peace efforts collapse.

“We went to Paris not only because we know our cause is just, but because we wanted to preserve human life — because under the military option, 48 hours is enough to finish off Laurent Gbagbo,” rebel leader Guillaume Soro said from the insurgents’ northern base in Korhogo.

Abidjan, the commercial capital, has seen days of protests and riots over the Jan. 24 deal to end a four-month civil war in which rebels have seized half of Ivory Coast, the world’s largest cocoa producer and a West African economic hub.

Government loyalists object to power-sharing provisions of the deal that would bring rebels into the government, accusing Ivory Coast’s former colonial ruler of trying to force compromises upon them.

Since Jan. 25, stone-throwing mobs have attacked French institutions and French nationals in rampages that had Air France scheduling extra flights to handle the French exodus.

Monday’s march, however, appeared without incident — and even festive.

The mainly young and middle-aged women sang and swiveled their hips to the samba-like rhythms of Ivorian zouglou music pouring from speakers set up outside the embassy gates.

At one point, they greeted Western journalists with chants: “We don’t hate the French! It’s the government of France we hate!”

Dozens of heavily armed Ivory Coast paramilitary police silently stood guard outside the embassy walls. A lone French soldier could be seen watching through binoculars from the embassy roof.

The U.S. Embassy nearby closed as a precaution.

SPORTS



Tiger and Ernie: A renewed rivalry in the works

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

A record score. A dramatic shot. A stirring comeback. They sound like more show-stopping feats by Tiger Woods, only he hasn't played in two months.

This is the work of Ernie Els, who has given golf what has been sorely lacking — a real threat to Woods.

"He has always been the guy that I thought had the ability to get better and contend for No. 1," said two-time U.S.

Lions hope to hire Mariucci

BY LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer

DETROIT — The Detroit Lions hope to hire Steve Mariucci as their next coach by Tuesday after trying to reach a deal for the past six days.

"While there was significant progress made during those discussions, no deal has yet been finalized that would make Steve our next head coach," Lions spokesman Bill Keenist said Monday night. "We are hopeful that an agreement can be reached with Steve by the end of the day tomorrow."

Mariucci, who was born and raised in Iron Mountain, Mich., was fired by San Francisco on Jan. 15 after compiling a 60-43 record with four playoff appearances over six seasons.

Mariucci's agent, Gary O'Hagan, said Monday night that negotiations were moving forward with the Lions.

"It's progressing positively," said O'Hagan, who declined to elaborate.

Marty Mornhinweg was fired by Detroit on Jan. 27, a month after the Lions finished 3-13. Mornhinweg, an offensive coordinator under Mariucci with the 49ers, went 5-27 in two seasons — the worst two-year stretch in team history.

Mariucci was 17 games over .500 in San Francisco despite taking over during a rebuilding period. He went 3-4 in the postseason.

Since winning the 1957 NFL title, the Lions have only one playoff victory — they beat Dallas in January 1992 before losing to Washington in the NFC championship game.

But Mariucci clashed with 49ers owner John York, and was dismissed three days after a 31-6 loss at Tampa Bay in the play-

Open champion Curtis Strange, a golf analyst for ABC Sports. "Ernie's knock has been, does he have the get-up-and-go? If there's ever a time, it might be now because of his start."

The Big Easy, as Els is called, won the Heineken Classic in Australia for his third victory of the year. But bringing together the top two players in the world could take some doing.

While the 32-year-old South African has been traveling the world and winning almost everywhere he goes, the 27-year-

olds. Mariucci had one year left on his contract.

San Francisco went 10-6 last season and won the NFC West before making the second-biggest comeback in NFL playoff history to beat the New York Giants 39-38 in the first round.

Mariucci repeatedly said he wanted to keep his family in the San Francisco Bay area, and he would be willing to take a minimal raise or even coach the final year of his contract without an extension.

If he becomes Detroit's coach, he will work about 75 miles away from his best friend, Michigan State basketball coach Tom Izzo. Mariucci and Izzo grew up together in Iron Mountain, which is in the state's Upper Peninsula, and attended Northern Michigan.

Mariucci has been Detroit's leading candidate since the Lions fired Mornhinweg last week. He met with team officials last Wednesday night and Thursday, and is the only coach to have an in-person interview with the Lions.

Detroit chief executive Matt Millen has never publicly named any other candidate for the job, but said the Lions would do their best to comply with the NFL's policy of interviewing at least one minority candidate.

O'Hagan, who also represents former Minnesota coach Dennis Green, refused to comment on numerous reports that Green refused to interview with the Lions because they appeared to have their sights set only on Mariucci.

O'Hagan has said Mariucci's ties to Michigan have played a part in his interest in the Lions after he initially said he would take next year off from coaching. Mariucci did not want to be considered in January for the opening in Jacksonville.

old Woods has been recovering from knee surgery in Florida and won't return until at least next week in San Diego.

The first tournament where both are scheduled to play is the Match Play Championship at the end of the month. They wouldn't face each other until the finals, and the top two seeds rarely advance all the way in 18-hole matches.

The following week, both are supposed to play the Dubai Desert Classic in the United Arab Emirates. Those prospects are in doubt as the United States moves closer to war.

Els is in no hurry.

"It will come to a head sooner or later, and you guys are probably going to write it up quite a bit now," Els said. "I'm going to stick to my guns. Hopefully, with this form I'll have a good chance of playing against any field."

Els has won two U.S. Opens. But no one has been runner-up to Woods more often than Els — six times — including four tournaments in 2000 when Woods shattered one record after another.

Els began working with a sports psychologist and decided to worry more about his own game than whether it was good enough to beat Woods.

He held off Woods at Doral last year, added his third major at the British Open and then really took off. He has won five of his last seven tournaments dating to the World Match Play Championship in England, where he shot a 60 early in the event.

"I kept it going," he said. "This game is quite amazing sometimes."

He finished last year by winning the unofficial Nedbank Challenge in South

Africa by eight strokes.

This year, only his equipment and endorsement deals changed.

Els blitzed the winners-only field at Kapalua to win by eight strokes at 31 under par, a PGA Tour record. The next week in Honolulu, he won on the second playoff hole over Aaron Baddeley with a 55-foot birdie putt from the fringe.

Just when it seemed his global travels were catching up with him, Els shot 66-65 for the weekend at Royal Melbourne to win by one over Nick Faldo and Peter Lonard.

It was reminiscent of when Woods recovered from a 10-stroke deficit to win the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open in Germany two years ago, closing with 63-66.

"This one is good ... sweet," Els said. "I haven't come from behind for quite some time."

The only blip was at the Singapore Masters, where Els blew a final-round lead and lost to unheralded Zhang Lian-Wei of China with a bogey on the last hole.

Still, Els is leading the money list on the PGA Tour and on the European tour, and Woods will have some catching up to do when he returns.

"Don't think Tiger isn't chomping at the bit," said Strange, who has talked with Woods during the past few weeks. "He doesn't miss a thing. I still think Ernie has to be sharp to beat him, but the gap looks smaller because Ernie is playing so well."

Woods has had his share of rivals. David Duval won 11 times in 34 tournaments to replace Woods at No. 1 briefly in 1999. Phil Mickelson has won more tournaments than anyone but Woods over the last five years.

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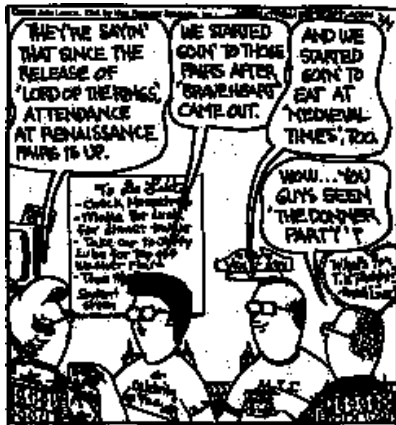
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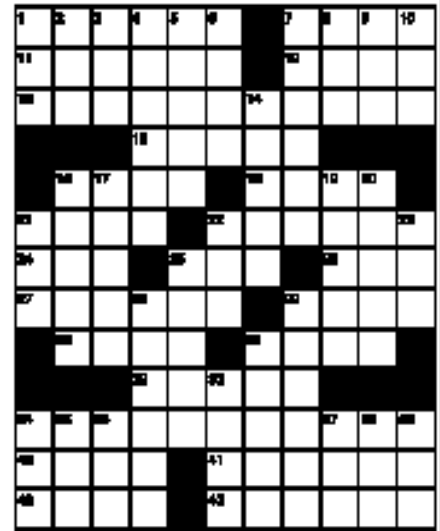
- ACROSS**
- 1 Twin of Artemis
 - 7 Not wild
 - 11 Grad-to-be
 - 12 Tow
 - 13 Gourmet meals
 - 16 Lucid of TV
 - 18 Cave critters
 - 18 Reporter's field
 - 21 Kind of boat or dancer
 - 22 Ineffective
 - 24 Epoch
 - 25 Napkin setting
 - 26 Lair
 - 27 Like an adrium
 - 29 Okay
 - 30 Without a date
 - 31 Penny
 - 32 Sand-bank
 - 34 Patsy Cline hit
 - 40 Carson predecessor
 - 41 Refusal
 - 42 Liberal study
 - 43 Like the night sky
- DOWN**
- 1 Farm beast
 - 2 Sunday seat
 - 3 Undivided
 - 4 Decade
 - 5 Yoga position
 - 6 Spheres
 - 7 Sandra Bullock film
 - 8 Tow grp.
 - 9 Marsh stuff
 - 10 Golf's Ernie
 - 14 Amused
 - 18 Fake
 - 17 Spy
 - 19 Make broader
 - 20 Winter weather

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ABILE	KNELL
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BTAMPAD	
FLO	CLEO
EIDER	CLARA
AMIGO	CEDAR
TONOW	ABONE

Yesterday's answer

- 21 Balloon fill
- 22 Party concern
- 23 Finish
- 25 Like a feather
- 28 CD player parts
- 29 Western capital
- 31 Insertion mark
- 33 Baiting
- 34 Relating resort
- 35 Kid's card game
- 36 Have dinner
- 37 Broadcast
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No more lawn potatoes

By The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — You don't have to get off the couch, but you do have to get the couch off your lawn.

That's according to a new law in this college town that prohibits the use of sofas, washing machines and other household items outdoors. It bans an old Southern practice that many consider unsightly.

While so-called porch furniture is prevalent in low-income areas, University of Alabama students also were a target of the ordinance passed by the city council last week.

Council President Jerry Plott cast the lone dissenting vote.

"Fundamentally, I have a hard time with the city telling someone what they can have on their back porch," he said. "This is a problem created by university students who don't keep their houses up. We're passing something that affects 35,000 households because of 25 students."

The ban — which includes exceptions for yard sales, screened porches and garages — takes effect March 1. City attorney Bob Ennis said violators can be fined \$200, plus court costs.

An Alabama student said the ordinance was unfair. "I'm a student at the University of Alabama and I work full time," sophomore Adam Hargett told the council. "I personally can't afford to pay someone to haul off a couch to the landfill."

Gummi soldiers ship out to Iraq

By The Associated Press

HOBART, Ind. — These gummi grunts are red and green and ready to be packed up and shipped off to the Middle East.

Larry Albanese, co-owner of the Albanese Nut and Candy Co. hopes to dispatch his gummi candies — Bazooka Bob, Rifleman Rich and GI Johnny — to troops stationed in the Middle East.

"I wanted to model our candy after the heroes of the world, you know, the good guys," Albanese said. "And what better time in history for them to be available to our servicemen?"

As one of only a handful of companies that makes gummi bears in the United States, Albanese Nut and Candy exports candies to a number of countries, including Australia, Britain, Taiwan and South Korea.

Albanese said it took him about four years to perfect his soldier sweets, which come in 14 flavors ranging from apple to hot cinnamon.

'Singing mailman' belts out last tune

By The Associated Press

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. — The mail must go on, but the melodies will stop.

Charles Thompson, Bluefield's "Singing Mailman," has retired from the U.S. Postal Service after more than 33 years because recent knee surgery has hindered his

ability to deliver mail.

Thompson is a member of the Scott Street Baptist Church choir and also sings mostly religious music at weddings and other events. He once sang "Happy Birthday" for a 90-year-old woman on his route.

"I can't deliver the mail on foot anymore," Thompson said. "I'm not really looking forward to" retirement, he said.

Thompson's last day was Saturday.

Donkey march apology

By The Associated Press

FAIRPORT HARBOR, Ohio — A man and woman who vandalized a baby Jesus statue in a church's outdoor nativity marched through town with a donkey to apologize.

Jessica Lange and Brian Patrick, both 19, were ordered by a judge to make Sunday's march through this northeast Ohio town after they admitted defacing a statue at St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church on Christmas Eve.

Small groups of residents watched as the two walked and asked forgiveness. They led a donkey provided by a petting zoo through the streets carrying a sign that said, "Sorry for the jackass offense."

The procession allowed Lane and Patrick to avoid a longer jail sentence for stabbing the statue and defacing it with Satanic symbols.

"This is a kind of conscience flogging," said municipal Judge Michael Cicconetti.

After the 30-minute march, the pair were taken by police to jail to serve 45-day sentences that will include drug and alcohol treatment. They also must replace the statue.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section. Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2003

TODAY

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Crossroads Schools in Santa Monica invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

Santa Monica College Emeritus College Band invites adult musicians who play a band instrument to join the band. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening in the Band room at Lincoln Middle School, 14th and California Streets from 7pm to 9:15pm. Concerts are given during the year. For more information call (310)474-5271.

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.

WEDNESDAY

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

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center.

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

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

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

Torah readings: Hosted by Rabbi Aaron Shaffier. This popular class examines the text of the Bible verse by verse with explanations. Every Wednesday at 12:15pm, 1111 Montana Ave. Fee is \$7 per class. Gourmet salad lunch is served. (310)488-7151.

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

Free Meditation Workshops sponsored by Sahaja Yoga. Every Wednesday night at 7pm in the Community Room at the Wilshire Wild Oats, 500 Wilshire Blvd. At 5th St. Open to all. (310)395-6443

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

Vatican weighs in on Age of Aquarius, feng shui, crystals

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican weighed in Monday on feng shui, crystals and the dawning of the Age of Aquarius in a new document designed to address whether you can still be a good Christian while taking yoga class.

"A Christian Reflection on the 'New Age,'" doesn't give many absolute answers. But while saying some positive things about the New Age movement, it warns that New Agers' quest for spirituality and inner peace can't take the place of true Christian religion.

And it highlights some core differences between New Age and Christian thought, particularly regarding the concepts of God, Jesus and sin.

While New Agers are waiting for an era when they are "totally in command of the cosmic laws of nature ... Christians are in a constant state of vigilance, ready for the last days when Christ will come again; their New Age began 2,000 years ago, with Christ," the document said.

The Vatican said the preliminary document was the result of requests by bishops for guidance on determining whether practices embraced by New Agers, including yoga, meditation and healing by crystals, were compatible with Christianity.

The 90-page booklet, which includes a glossary defining terms like "channeling," "karma," and "reincarnation," urges caution.

Monsignor Michael Fitzgerald, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, told a news conference many aspects of the New Age movement were viewed positively by the church, such as the importance it places on protecting the environment.

"But if one is brought to this by ascribing 'divineness' to the land, that's another thing," he said. "Music that relaxes you is good. But if this music empties prayer and prayer turns into just listening to music and falling asleep, it's no longer prayer."

The document, which was six years in the making, traces the history of the New Age phenomenon and notes the importance of the 1969 Woodstock festival and the musical "Hair."

**"Music that relaxes you is good.
But if this music empties
prayer and prayer turns into just
listening to music and falling
asleep, it's no longer prayer."**

— MONSIGNOR MICHAEL FITZGERALD
Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, president

It defines "Age of Aquarius" as the astrological age that New Agers believe will usher in an era of harmony, justice and peace, following the current "Age of Pisces," which has been marked by wars and conflicts. The Vatican document is silent on when the "Age of Aquarius" begins.

It lists feng shui, the ancient Chinese art of placing things to ensure a harmonious energy flow, as an "occult"

New Age practice that emphasizes "being in tune with nature or the cosmos."

The document stresses that much of the New Age phenomenon is driven by marketing books, therapies, and crystals, and it notes some consider New Age just a label "for a product created by the application of marketing principles to a religious phenomenon."

The Vatican didn't say why the book was coming out now — more than 30 years after the New Age movement took hold in the United States and elsewhere — although it is current enough to acknowledge that yoga and crystals are enormously popular these days.

The booklet attributes such popularity, particularly in the Western world, to a "spiritual hunger of contemporary men and women" unsatisfied with existing religion, political institutions or science.

It offers some practical steps for priests to follow, saying the best way to counter the search for New Age remedies was to highlight the "riches of the Christian spiritual heritage."

It encourages dialogue with New Agers, but stresses that their credentials must be checked. And it urges caution with groups that host prayer meetings or initiation ceremonies, saying they may lure people into a form of false worship.

The booklet was prepared by Fitzgerald's council and the Pontifical Council for Culture, with help from the Vatican's orthodox watchdog, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

It is not considered to be the Vatican's final word on the matter. A definitive document will be published once the Vatican receives feedback from dioceses on the provisional one issued Monday.

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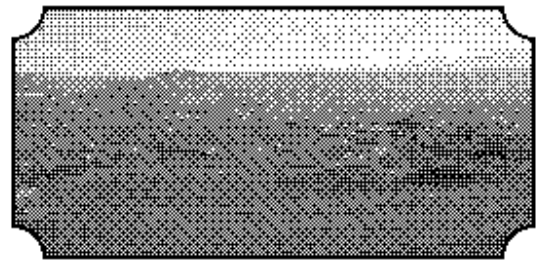
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