

FREE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 75

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

5, 12, 18, 25, 31

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 7, 9

Evening picks: 1, 3, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms.

2nd Place: 04, Big Ben.

3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Edward Blaine, 61, who served 20 years in prison for a 1963 bank robbery, apparently is becoming even less competent with age, as he was arrested in January and charged with robbing the Union Bank & Trust branch in Port Royal, Va. Police said Blaine fled with the stash while \$100 bills were falling out of his pockets, and then he realized as he arrived at his getaway car that he had locked the keys inside. He grabbed a log to smash the window but tossed it away in frustration, only to have it hit Emmett Lowe's truck, thus angering Lowe, who grabbed a gun and chased Blaine for 150 yards. In a struggle, Blaine shot at Lowe but hit himself in the leg, just before Lowe shot Blaine in the same leg.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

It is only possible to live happily ever after one day at a time.

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Andes music, S.M.-style



Andy Fixmer/Daily Press
Alfonso Arellano, right, and Humberto Cordoba play traditional Andes music on the Santa Monica Pier recently. Using panpipes and a guitar, the pair play folk songs from Ecuador and Peru before a brilliant Santa Monica skyline.

Bail denied for alleged North Korean agent

FBI accuses Santa Monica man of placing government moles

By staff and wire reports

A federal judge on Friday denied bail for a Santa Monica man the government claims tried to recruit spies for North Korea.

John Joungwoong Yai, 59, who used to own a snack shop in Santa Monica, was ordered held without bond. He has been jailed since Tuesday, when he was arrested at his home at 909 Grant St. on a criminal complaint after years of government surveillance.

A preliminary hearing was set for Feb. 24 and an arraignment date for March 3, when Yai was expected to enter a plea to the charges.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Victor B. Kenton rejected a defense request that Yai be freed on bail and perhaps held under house arrest or be required to wear an electronic monitoring device.

"This court is not convinced" that the proposed restrictions would "mitigate

flight risk or dangers to the community," the judge said.

He noted that Yai is charged with "extremely serious conduct."

"This is a failure-to-register case. It's not an espionage case. He's not a spy."

— WILLIAM GENEGO
Attorney

Yai, a slender, bespectacled man, appeared at the hearing with his feet shackled. He sat listening to an interpreter through headphones.

Yai is accused of failing to register as an agent for North Korea. Federal law mandates that anyone representing a foreign government who is not a diplomat or involved in a legal commercial enterprise must register with the U.S. Department of Justice.

See SPY, page 6

City makes recycling a one-bin process

New system may increase recycling by 11 percent

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The days of separating recycled materials are over in Santa Monica.

By the end of the end of next week, a new recycling system will allow residents to throw all cans, glass, plastic, paper and newsprint into one bin instead of separating the materials and bundling newspapers, city officials said.

Giant bright-blue 300-gallon rubber drums will be lined up along alleys in neighborhoods where there are apartment complexes. 100-gallon blue containers will be given to owners of single-family homes. The bins will replace smaller tubs that residents had previously used.

Because the new system will make recycling easier, city officials predict an 11 percent increase in resident participation.

"The proven theory is that it will increase participation because people won't have to separate their items into those three bins,"

said Craig Perkins, the city's director of Environmental and Public Works. "It's the way things are going in most communities at this point."

To collect the recyclables, city trucks equipped with robotic arms will be driven through alleys and

streets to empty the bins. Perkins said the process will be more efficient and allow city employees to collect recycling in less time than it takes now.

"It's less labor intensive and

See RECYCLING, page 6

Special election could block publication

City law prohibits publicly funded newsletters during an election

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Rules intended to prevent City Hall from interfering with local elections may squash a city newsletter from being distributed

to residents next month.

Santa Monica law prohibits publicly-funded newsletters and mass-mailings to residents 88 days before an election. With the upcoming mail-in ballot over Proposition A beginning Feb. 20 and ending March 21, the city's March edition of the SeaScope would be barred from being published.

The effect could be damaging for the city's spring recreation programs, which rely on the SeaScope to publish a schedule of

community events, city officials said.

"Both customer service and city revenues would be adversely affected if classes must be canceled or remain unfilled," wrote City Attorney Marsha Moutrie and city spokeswoman Judy Rambeau in a report to the Santa Monica City Council.

That's why Moutrie and Rambeau have asked the City Council at its Tuesday meeting to suspend the rules

See NEWSLETTER, page 5

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HOROSCOPE

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

Happy Birthday for Saturday, Feb. 8, 2003

You have ways of drawing others to your cause. Often, your strength awes your associates. They feel they are with you, that they cannot lose. Still, you might not be in the mood to carry such weight and power all the time. Prone to periods of flakiness, you often throw others off. Delegate and don't carry the majority of responsibility. If you are single, you will head in a new direction. You have many more suitors than you thought possible. By 2004, you will be considering settling down. If attached, you will build a stronger bond. Some might want to buy a new home. Others will plan special trips for later in the year. Love blossoms. TAURUS anchors you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Be careful with a partner or someone at a distance who has the ability to shake up your consciousness. Knowing when to say "no" might be very important to you ultimately. Confusion surrounds a long-term project. Take a break. Get involved with a child or a fun activity. Tonight: Where the action is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You might not be aware of the impact you have on a partner. Where you might find it OK to say "enough," someone else might not. Work together, discussing the best results you could look for. Your sense of humor blossoms in the company of a family member. Tonight: What will make the Bull happy?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Gather the troops for meetings while you still can. Listen carefully to someone's issues if you don't want an uproar. This person will share his or her opinion no matter what. Close your door in the afternoon if you have any thoughts of completion or success. Tonight: Take a night off.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ What you think a friend or loved one means might not be exactly what he or she intends. Your popularity draws friends left and right. Think in terms of gains. Exaggeration and letting go seem natural to others. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Express your playfulness in a manner that can and will make a difference to those in your immediate circle of friends. Extremes mark your energy and responses. Be careful, or you could push someone away. Tonight: A must show.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Others might be confused when dealing with a loved one or a friend. You understand much more than you are aware of or that you would like to reveal. Add more fun to your life. Share more of your inner thoughts with someone who can receive them. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Don't be oblivious to someone else and his or her feelings. You might attempt to walk if you don't express who you are, but on the other hand, this person has issues as well. Consider options, especially those involving a child. Change plans if you must. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might be more explicit and direct than you realize. Honor someone's foibles. Pressure builds around finances and family. You make a must appearance. Your imagination heads you into wild turf. Share some of the fun with family. Tonight: Let someone else choose.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Dig into a project with a smile. What you do and how you do it could make a big difference in the outcome. Listen more carefully to a child or friend who expresses confusion or might not be

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your lively side emerges, offering a plethora of opportunities and people to choose from. Everyone loves being around a happy Goat. You might not be sure about a money matter. Avoid taking a risk if you don't want to be uncomfortable. Tonight: Play the night away. Be a kid again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Believe the impossible can and will happen. You are capable of making dreams realities. Help a dear partner loosen up and enjoy his or her life. You might not be ready to take on his or her issues, but you're more than content to create greater joy. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Speak your mind, and others will respond. Your perspective encourages those in your day-to-day life. Consider more of what you want and what you need to do. Think in terms of growth and change. If you want to learn to do something new, do just that. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

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LOCAL



Catch of the day



Andy Fixmer/Daily Press

Standing before a looming ferris wheel from Pacific Park, a man tries his luck off the Santa Monica Pier recently. Even with three lines going, there didn't seem to be any fish taking the bait.

The Q-Line

Callers split almost evenly on tax question

This past week, Q-Line asked,

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

Here are your responses:

(Editor's Note: Because of the high volume of responses to this week's question, the Daily Press printed a partial list of answers Friday and the remaining responses today.)

■ "I would support a tax based on square footage. One of the reasons I didn't vote for the last tax was because it was unfair and now, even though the amount is less, the new one is equally unfair. Until it is based on square footage, I cannot support a parcel tax."

■ "I definitely think we need to support this initiative. The people who are

working on it have come up with the best plan that they can to make it pass. We need to keep our schools afloat."

■ "I would support a flat parcel tax of \$225 for the schools."

■ "I have a son in first grade at Grant Elementary School. I understand that many residents feel a flat tax is unfair given the diverse population within Santa Monica. Other options such as a dollar per square foot tax might be considered more just. However, given that the cost of property in Santa Monica

See Q-LINE, page 5

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Offshore activity was on the rise yesterday as a new north-west began to show at L.A. County breaks. The building strength of the new swell should mean marginally better size today and Saturday.

However, despite the strength of the swell, the steep north-west angle will cause many spots to stay on the small side, especially in the northern half of the county.

In the north bay, expect knee to waist high waves on average, occasional chest high on the sets.

Southside spots with more exposure see a few feet on top of that, averaging waist high, sometimes reaching chest level, possibly shoulder high at best.

Rumor of the day: Kids at Topanga said Ventura's South Jetty is going to be pounding this weekend.



Today's Tides:

High- 1:00 a.m. 4.05'
Low- 7:28 a.m. 1.90'
High- 12:43 p.m. 3.11'
Low- 6:48 p.m. 1.56'

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

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LETTERS

'Shrub' economics

Editor:

When he was running for governor of Texas, his political opponents dubbed him "The Shrub." Prior to that ultimately successful candidacy, he performed an almost impossible feat, given his family background. He headed a failed oil company in Texas, with the unfortunate name of Arbusto Energy. The accented second syllable was prophetic, for instead of pumping oil out of the ground, the Shrub ran his company into it.

Now, of course, he is a man of respect, the president of the United States. G.W. (Gulf War?) Bush, who couldn't budget a small business, has submitted a budget of \$2.23 trillion to Congress. Just a week before, in his state of the union address, he got lots of big-time applause from his Republican pals when he boasted that under his economic plan the increase in discretionary spending would be "held" to 4 percent.

I wonder what the applause meter would have registered if he had put this another way. In the administration of his Democratic-party predecessor (that would be the reckless, tax-and-spend wild man William Jefferson Clinton), the increase was 2.3 percent (according to the CNN.com Web site) or, even worse, nothing at all. Some economists have written that the capped baseline under the Clinton plan would have resulted, after adjusting for inflation, in spending levels that would actually fall progressively lower, were they to be implemented over the next decade.

Presiding for the sake of argument the less controversial figure, the 2.3 percent one, Bush's 4 percent number constitutes an increase that could have led him accurately to proclaim, had he chosen to word it this way, "Under my plan, government spending will be increasing at a rate nearly 75 percent higher than when the Democrats controlled the White House."

Just listen to that deafening sound of 535 congressmen and women sitting on their hands.

It will not be easy for one man to nearly single-handedly bring down the economy of the United States of America. But with a little help from his friends, the Shrub just might be the right man for the job. After all, he's got experience.

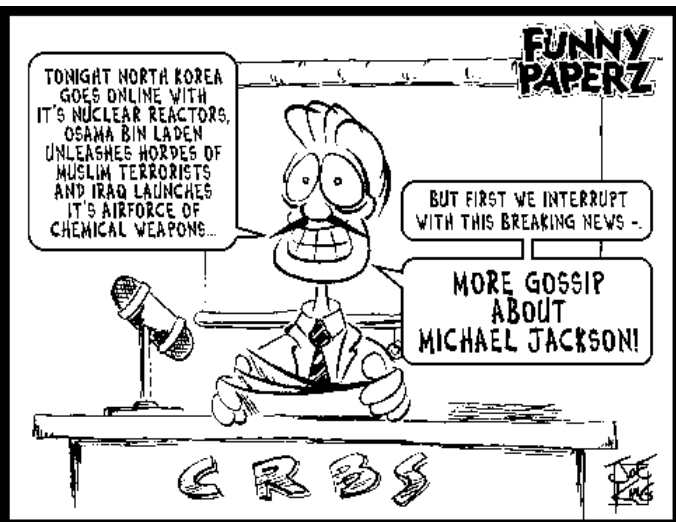
David Stoughton
Santa Monica

A homeowner's choice?

Editor:

Opponents of Prop. A charge that if it passes there will be no more single-family home landmarks. They make this assertion despite the fact that most of the 16 homes that have been landmarked were voluntary — in fact, there are two homes currently proposed as landmarks by the owners at 317 Georgina and 710 Adelaide Place.

They also contend that there will be no additional "historic districts" because one owner would be able to block this designation. However, according to the landmarks



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ordinance, a historic district may be noncontiguous groupings or thematically related properties, not just adjacent ones.

Homeowners may oppose historic designation, not because they want to sell out to a developer or build a "monster mansion," but because they do not want to have to appear before the Landmarks Commission to change the color of the house paint, to put siding on a building at the rear of their property, or to add a skylight — all issues on recent commission agendas.

There are approximately 400 properties in the R-1 zone listed on the city's historic resources inventory. Certainly, judging from the extent of voluntary landmarking already noted, many will be landmarked voluntarily and significant and historic properties will be saved. But it should be the choice of the owner who is in the best position to judge the condition and quality of the building. In any event, an individual should not be penalized or his property encumbered to satisfy the aesthetic or political purpose of the city or the Landmarks Commission.

Margaret S. Horst
Santa Monica

The ultimate over-protection: No tag on the playground



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

Santa Monica's Franklin Elementary School took a position last year against a game that it felt was dangerous. It not only considered it physically hazardous, but potentially harmful to a child's self-esteem.

The name of the offensive game is "tag."

I called Franklin's principal, Pat Samarge, to see if the school's tag philosophy had changed in the past few months. Unfortunately, she never returned my calls, so I can't tell if she's tired of talking about it or if she's too busy making sure nobody is being traumatized on the playground. I decided to go over her head: I spoke to a fourth grader named Gabe.

Gabe told me they're still not supposed to play tag, but kids do it when the teachers aren't looking. He also said that one

way around it is that kids who play tag, don't call it "tag." Often, they cleverly call it, "gat." At least something positive has come out of this — the kids are using their creativity.

The school newsletter explained its opposition to tag by saying that "The running part of this activity is healthy and encouraged; however, in this game, there is a 'victim' or 'it,' which creates a self-esteem issue."

When I was a kid, back before self-esteem was invented, I thought tag was fun whether I was "it" or being chased by "it." Nobody wants kids to get hurt, but that doesn't mean they have to start playing things like "Velcro the Tail on the Donkey."

The anti-tag faction seems more concerned about possible psychological damage than the physical risks. Among other games, "Dodge Ball" and "Red Rover" also have come under fire in school districts across the country. These games supposedly "encourage aggression," and reward the strong, the swift, or the clever kid (why would we ever want to do that?). There are winners and losers in these games. Guess what? It's not the end of the

world. So far, I've seen no statistics that prove conclusively that the major cause of depression is "Duck, Duck, Goose."

Kids are tougher and more resilient than many adults think. Often, while the Little League mom or dad is still fretting about how upset little Johnny must be for striking out, Johnny already has moved on and is now rollerblading happily down the street.

How well are we preparing our kids for the future with this "everybody wins all the time" approach? If they don't learn to deal with disappointment, how will they handle it when things don't go exactly as they want them to? They're going to be thrown when they get older and realize there's no such game as, "Everybody gets into a great college without even trying." And later, they'll probably search in vain for the game, "Everybody automatically gets a high paying job and a life they love."

Do we really want children to only play politically correct games? Will "You don't have to find me if you don't want to" be as much fun as "Hide and Seek?" After kids get tired from playing "Cowboys and Native Americans" or "Capture the

International Banner," will they come indoors and play card games like "Peace" and "Go Fish But Make Sure to Catch and Release?" If you drop a "Hot Potato," are you going to spend decades on the couch lamenting how that event spoiled your life?

Here's my suggestion. The next time you're home with your little kid, touch him or her gently on the shoulder and say, "You're it!" Smile, and start to run away. Your kid will smile back and start chasing you. And don't worry about them enjoying themselves too much. Their fun will stop soon enough. They have to go back to that school playground tomorrow.

By the way, that brave, good citizen, Gabe, spurned my offer of anonymity — which, on the playground, I guess is called, "yitimynona."

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

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LOCAL □ OPINION



The Q Line

CONT., from page 3

does not depend solely on dollar per square foot but also ranges widely depending on the location and age of the home, apartment, or business, it would be very difficult to make any type of tax fair to everyone. In addition, the \$225 flat tax is minimal, given the benefits the funding initiative will provide to the community as a whole. In my opinion schools should be given top priority. Currently the school district is in dire need of replacing lost funds. I would encourage anyone voting against this initiative based on concern of fairness to first attend a PTA meeting at any local Santa Monica school to understand the importance of this initiative. Please support this initiative to maintain the integrity of Santa Monica and it's schools."

■ "I support the school funding initiative."

■ "I am in favor of the flat tax to support school funding and I think it's an appropriate measure to be on the ballot."

■ "I would support a flat tax scheduled for the special election. I feel at this time the City of Santa Monica has a very limited opportunity to help support the crisis that is currently occurring in education all the way down from the state level. It is a crime to think that the governor has used education as a whim to the feed confidence of his fellow lobbyists."

■ "We will vote NO on any and all property tax increases. Last year the

Silicon Valley billionaires put up tons of money to get Prop 39 passed by promoting it with deceitful and false advertising. As a result, all property owners in California will be paying for this travesty for the next 20 to 30 years as new bonds are issued and will most likely see their property taxes doubling in the next three to five years. All homeowners should vote NO on all future property tax increases and assessments. Vote NO all assessments."

■ "Absolutely, positively not. The parcel tax is totally unfair, and in fact, I find I am paying \$167 for schools in a post proposition 13 property tax payment for a 1 bedroom condo. I also don't see why Santa Monica should pay for schools in Malibu."

■ "I supported the alternative to the parcel tax at \$60 per parcel and .7¢ per square foot. No, I will not vote for the \$225 flat tax."

■ "I am a teacher for the Santa Monica City Schools and I am supporting this funding initiative for the schools."

■ "I support the school funding initiative. Vote yes on the parcel tax."

■ "I am a Santa Monica resident and parent in the school district and I am calling to let you know that I am in favor of the flat tax because I believe it will continue to improve the quality of our schools. Our school district is known throughout the region and nation as a model school district. We should absolutely support this measure."

City Hall wants newsletter to publish during special elections

NEWSLETTER, from page 1

when it comes to special elections. Without the change, city staff members say it will be difficult to plan the publication.

Prop. A, also known as the Homeowners Freedom of Choice Initiative, asks voters to give owners of single-family homes final say on whether their properties can be designated historic by the city.

"Elections don't usually affect us because we can work around them. But when we have these little surprises, that's when things get difficult to plan around."

— JUDY RAMBEAU
Community Relations Manager

An earlier issue of the SeaScape already was canceled because of the November election. If the March issue is not printed that means the bi-monthly publication would only have four issues this year.

"We would hate to lose another issue of the SeaScape this year," said Rambeau, the publication's editor.

While city staff can cancel the newsletter before general elections — which are well-known in advance — special elections called as a result of a voter initiative, or to fill unexpected council vacancies, pose challenges.

"Elections don't usually affect us because we can work around them," Rambeau said. "But when we have these little surprises, that's when things get difficult to plan around."

When the SeaScape is affected by special elections, residents lose out because events, classes, programs and workshops aren't noticed in time, Moutrie and Rambeau wrote in the report.

The March edition of SeaScape would not contain any information about the mail-in election, Rambeau said. Prop. A is the first mail-in election to be conducted in the city.

"The city clerk would like something in there about registration information and polling locations," she said. "It's a deadline concern. We have to get it off to the printers on time, and there's not enough time to get something in there."

Notice of the upcoming election will be given through mailed ballots, local media, City TV, and the city's Web site, Rambeau said.

"I would like to be able to give election information, which I think would be fine," Rambeau said. "But because of the way this is done, we wouldn't be able to include that."

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LOCAL

Yai's lawyer contends FBI fails to prove its case

SPY, from page 1

He also is charged with making a false statement to U.S. Customs agents. Federal prosecutors claim that after returning from an overseas trip in 2000 he and his wife declared they were carrying not more than \$10,000 in cash when they actually had \$18,179 that allegedly came from a North Korean official. He also is charged with conspiring with his wife to make the false statement.

Yai faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted on all counts. His wife, Susan Youngja Yai, was not arrested.

Although Yai was not charged with espionage, federal authorities said that was only because they had not uncovered evidence that he was ever successful in obtaining or passing on classified documents.

In court Friday, Yai's lawyers argued that the government's 80-page affidavit never proved that he was spying or intended to spy for the North Korean government.

The government watched Yai for seven years, searched his house and office, took his passport, read his mail and e-mails and monitored his telephone calls but still was unable to get enough proof to charge him with spying, attorney William Genego said.

"This is a failure-to-register case. It's not an espionage case. He's not a spy," he said.

Genego said he did not believe Yai was at serious risk of fleeing if released on bail. He has been in the United States since 1975 and is U.S. citizen, has a daughter at Stanford University and a son living at home who has been accepted into law school, and has been a property owner and businessman for decades.

"He's a hardworking Korean businessman," the attorney said.

But Kenton said Yai's actions may not have been "as benign" as the defense indicated.

Based on the affidavit, a "fair inference" could be drawn that Yai's actions could "potentially impair the security of

the United States," the judge said.

Federal prosecutor Daniel Goodman had urged detention of Yai, saying he would be "beyond the reach of United States law" if he fled to North Korea.

Goodman said there is evidence that Yai received payments from North Korea, that his mission was to recruit agents who could be used as "moles" in government agencies and that "he was tasked specifically to get top-secret information."

"That's what this case is about," he said.

But Genego said the government's affidavit indicates that information which Yai allegedly transmitted to an address in China was publicly available.

Yai was a supporter of unification of North and South Korea who tried to convince others of his political views but "it's not a crime," he said.

Rather, the case has "taken on a life of its own because of the current political situation," Genego argued.

In the affidavit, FBI Agent James G. Chang wrote that between December 1997 and April 2000, Yai was a North Korean agent living in the United States. The North Korean government paid him to identify and recruit other agents to meet with North Korean officials overseas, the affidavit said.

Yai made repeated trips to Beijing, where the FBI believed he then traveled to North Korea.

Chang took the witness stand Friday afternoon and said that Yai admitted in an interview that he traveled to North Korea five or six times, U.S. attorney's spokesman Thom Mrozek said.

Chang said Yai also admitted receiving \$20,000 from North Korean officials during an April 2000 trip to the Czech Republic and Vienna, and that on five or six other occasions he had received payments from \$2,000 to \$5,000 from unidentified North Korean officials.

New recycling system will cost city 'marginally' more

RECYCLING, from page 1

decreases the chance for injuries," Perkins said. "It will also use the same vehicles we currently use but they will also be dedicated trucks for recyclables and yard waste."

Though actual numbers aren't available, officials said the new recycling system will cost the city marginally more than its current program. The added cost is attributed to the extra sorting of materials before they are taken to a recycling plant.

Perkins said the increased costs are justified.

"There's more work to get the material sorted, but it's balanced off by the greater volume of materials we will be able to collect," he said. "There's a balancing to it all and while we think it will make our recycling program slightly less cost effective, it should be slightly offset by the increased collection."

The new system also will result in a

decrease of waste going into landfills, fulfilling a City Council goal to become a more environmentally-friendly community.

"People won't have to separate everything and it'll increase recycling," said Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown. "These are all good things that will help us meet our sustainability goals."

Recycling routes and dates will remain the same under the new system, which has been tested in single-family home and apartment complex neighborhoods since 1999. The new system is funded in part by a grant from the California Department of Conservation.

While the switch to the new recycling system may be seen as a chore for some residents, Perkins said City Hall wants to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"We will do this as sensitively as possible because everyone will have to get a new bin and get used to a new system," Perkins said. "Some people are going to like it, others probably won't. But people will eventually get used to it."

STATE



Jury clears tobacco companies of negligence

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — A Sacramento jury ruled Friday that two tobacco companies are not responsible for a longtime smoker's illness.

Laurence Lucier, 52, a former accountant who said his 30-year pack-a-day habit has left him with terminal cancer, sued Philip Morris USA and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. under a products liability law alleging the tobacco companies engineered and sold a product they knew was addictive and harmful.

In his closing arguments, a Philip Morris lawyer argued that awarding a multimillion-dollar lawsuit to Lucier would amount to an assault on freedom of choice.

Lucier had asked for \$3.6 million for medical expenses, loss of income and the pain and suffering that Lucier's illness had caused his wife and their 6-year-old daughter.

The three-month Sacramento Superior Court trial followed a trial in Los Angeles Superior Court in which a longtime smoker was awarded \$28 billion.

SAG, AFTRA consider consolidating unions

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The entertainment industry's two major performers unions will consider a proposal to merge under one organization consisting of separate affiliates for actors, broadcasters and recording artists.

Directors of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio artists were scheduled to hold a joint board meeting Saturday to vote on principles that would lead to the formation of a new union.

The proposal would require approval by 60 per-

cent of members from both SAG and AFTRA.

Supporters say consolidation would maximize their strength at the bargaining table with media giants. They also say it would resolve jurisdictional conflicts, such as who represents actors in digital productions.

AFTRA, with 70,000 members, represents TV and radio broadcasters and performers in daytime TV, game or reality shows. More than half its members also belong to SAG, which represents actors in film, commercials and prime-time TV shows. SAG, Hollywood's largest performers union, has 98,000 members.

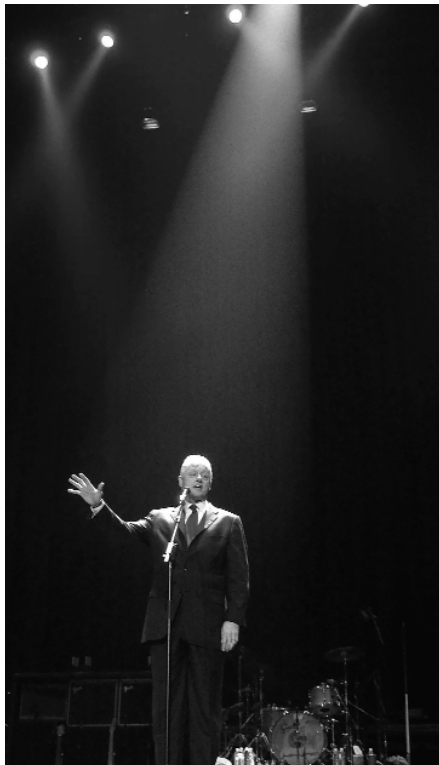
"Today, actors, broadcasters and recording artists all work for the same few employers," AFTRA National President John Connolly and SAG President Melissa Gilbert said in a joint statement Thursday. "With more than 40,000 members in common and with our interests and futures so clearly aligned, we need to act quickly and responsibly to maintain and enhance the leverage of our membership."

SAG members rejected a merger plan in 1999.

Under the latest proposal, each of the actor, broadcast and recording artist affiliates would elect a president. The groups would have autonomy over bargaining and other issues. The president of the new umbrella group would be selected by a convention of delegates.

Health and pension plans also would be combined.

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Mark J. Terrill/Associated Press

Former President Bill Clinton introduces the Rolling Stones, Thursday night in Los Angeles. The Rolling Stones put on a free concert to benefit the Natural Resources Defense Council.

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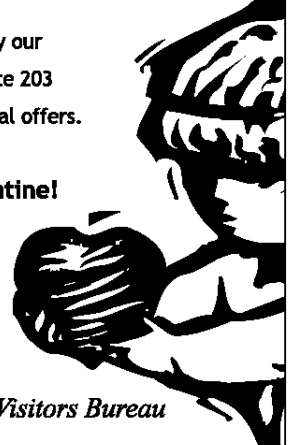


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STATE

German giant taking over American water supply

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

MONTARA — The influence of foreign business can be seen across America, with consumers cheerfully buying Japanese cars, Korean TVs and clothing made in China.

But many Americans aren't so happy about foreigners controlling their water supply.

A recently completed \$8.6 billion takeover of American Water Works by German-based industrial giant RWE has led to a backlash from a handful of cities across America. The deal covers more than 800 water systems serving 15 million people in 27 states and three Canadian provinces.

"As soon as people find out their water service is being bought by a German company, they are up in arms about it," said Juliette Beck, a senior organizer for Public Citizen, a Ralph Nader-backed group that has been rallying resistance to the RWE takeover.

The misgivings are driving community efforts to buy out RWE and regain control of local water systems in two Northern California communities, Montara and Felton; in Peoria and Pekin, Ill., and in Lexington, Ky.

Charleston, W.Va., is considering a bid for its water system, while the Southern California city of Thousand Oaks is trying a different tactic, urging state regulators to reverse their previous approval of RWE's takeover.

Much of the opposition to the RWE deal has been orchestrated by Public Citizen, a critic of corporations inside and outside America. The objections have ranged from concerns about whether the foreign-owned conglomerate will weaken U.S. environmental practices to worries that RWE's enormous debt load will lead to higher water bills.

Few issues are as prickly as RWE's German heritage.

"That really bothered a lot of people, especially older folks," said Kathryn Slater-Carter, a Montara resident since 1979. "Memories of World War II are still very strong."

Officials from American Water and the water industry say the backlash against RWE is misguided. "Public Citizen is doing a pretty good job of fanning the flames and playing on people's xenophobia," spokesman Tom Thoren said.

Supporters of the takeover say RWE's financial clout and expertise will help pay for much-needed improvements in local water systems and provide better protections against possible terrorist attacks on water supplies.

RWE isn't the only foreigner buying into the U.S. water industry; French companies Vivendi Environment and Suez also have bought local water systems within the past few years.

Vivendi entered the U.S. market in 1999 with a \$7.9 billion takeover of USFilter. The French company provides water and wastewater service to 110 million people in 100 countries, generating about \$12 billion in annual revenue from the division.

Besides running the Culligan bottled water service, USFilter, of Palm Desert, Calif. delivers water to about 13 million people in 600 communities.

Suez, which collects about \$8.5 billion in water revenue from 110 million people in 130 countries, entered the U.S. in 2000

with a \$1 billion purchase of United Water Resources, based in Harrington Park, N.J., and a provider of water service to about 12.5 million people.

Before coming to America, RWE expanded beyond its primary business as a power utility by buying England's Thames Water for \$9.8 billion in 2000.

The money provided by RWE and other foreign companies will pay to replace aging pipes and strengthen security — the kind of improvements many cash-strapped communities can't afford, said Peter Cook, executive director for the National Association of Water Companies, a trade group.

Thames, which will oversee RWE's newly acquired U.S. water systems, has invested \$6 billion in service improvements, mostly in Britain, since 1998.

The opposition to RWE's U.S. expansion is "so much hokum and jingoism," Cook said. "Foreign ownership can bring many benefits to a community."

Critics fear RWE and Thames mostly will bring trouble. Thames, for instance, has been fined repeatedly in England for environmental violations that included allowing raw sewage to flow into the streets and onto people's lawns.

RWE's debt-heavy balance sheet has convinced many customers their water rates will have to go up to pay back the loans. RWE is buying American Water for nearly three times the company's book value — equivalent to paying \$1 million for a house worth about \$333,000.

The German company ended 2002 with an estimated debt totaling about \$28 billion. Management wants to reduce the debt to about \$26 billion by the end of this year as part of a debt diet that will continue through at least 2005.

RWE has repeatedly assured regulators it can repay its debt by expanding into new U.S. markets instead of raising rates in the systems picked up in the American Water deal. And in some states, such as California, RWE has even consented to rate freezes.

Still, some critics think RWE is on the same perilous path as Enron, the once-powerful energy merchant that collapsed in 2001 after bingeing on debt to finance years of rapid expansion.

"There are a lot of serious warning signs building up at RWE," said Richard Hierstein, city manager for Pekin, Ill.

RWE's rising debt prompted Moody's Investor Service to lower the company's credit rating last year.

Critics believe the hefty debt also contributed to RWE's decision to replace its longtime chief executive officer, Dietmar Kuhnt, who oversaw the company's recent shopping spree. Former Royal Dutch/Shell Group executive Harry Roels is become RWE's new CEO March 1.

The communities trying to buy their water systems are betting they will be better off on their own because of the savings available under local ownership. Publicly owned agencies don't have to pay income taxes or generate profits for shareholders, so in theory, they could invest in improvements without raising rates.

But money from water rates might also be diverted to pay for other government services facing a shortfall, which might not help water customers.

About 85 percent of U.S. water systems are still owned by the communities they serve.

NATIONAL



CIA's hidden hand helps Powell make his case against Iraq

BY GEORGE GEDDA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — It was the ear.

Decades ago, CIA photo sleuths determined that an elderly man swimming in the Yangtze River was not really Mao Zedong, as the Chinese regime had claimed, but a double.

The shape of Mao's ear differed from the swimmer's, something only a highly trained eye could have discerned. Though intriguing, that episode was a minor footnote to the history of spying compared with the war-versus-peace intelligence harvest on Iraq being presented Wednesday by Secretary of State Colin Powell.

At issue are previously classified photographs and other information that could well influence the course of the international debate over Iraq in the weeks ahead.

If the presentation to the U.N. Security Council is convincing, fence-sitting countries could go along with the U.S. view that Iraq should be disarmed by force if necessary. If it changes few minds, the administration's quest for broad international support would be seriously undercut and give fresh ammunition to President Bush's critics.

Photographs, intercepted conversations and other fruits of the spy trade, and the conclusions analysts draw from them, have produced many turning points over the years during periods of international tension.

The most famous were photos presented by U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson in October 1962 to the U.N. Security Council that proved the Soviet Union had deployed offensive weapons in western Cuba. Moscow had denied any such activity.

The Soviets agreed to dismantle the missiles a few days later in exchange for concessions by the Kennedy administration.

Recalling the dramatic events surrounding Stevenson's presentation, Dino Brugioni, a former top CIA photo analyst, said the code word for going ahead with the photo display was "Stick 'em."

Once the magic words were transmitted, Stevenson put on the show. And the Soviet denial suddenly seemed not very convincing.

Brugioni, who related the story of Mao Zedong's double, said President Saddam Hussein has an Iraqi look-alike who is sent from time to time into poor neighborhoods in Baghdad to demonstrate the government's high-level concern for the less fortunate.

So how does the CIA know it's a hoax? "The double doesn't speak," Brugioni says. "That's a sure sign it's a double."

Other examples of situations in which presidents were guided by CIA eyes and ears:

In September 1983: The Reagan administration released audiotapes confirming that Soviet pilots knew that Korean Airlines Flight 007 was a passenger plane, not a spy plane, when they shot it down.

In April 1986: Communications intercepts convinced the Reagan administration that Libyan leader Moammar Ghadhafi ordered the bombing of a disco in Berlin that killed two American soldiers. In response, President Reagan retaliated with the bombing of Tripoli, Libya's capital, and Benghazi. U.S. bombs destroyed much of Ghadhafi's Tripoli compound, where intelligence information had indicated Ghadhafi was. He survived, but among victims of the raid was a little girl

Gadhafi said was an adopted daughter.

In August 1995: Tracks from heavy vehicles spotted by aerial photography led the CIA to pinpoint the location in Bosnia of mass graves containing Muslim victims of a Serb offensive. Brugioni said when U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright displayed the photos to the Security Council in August 1995, it helped create an envi-

ronment for NATO air strikes against Serb targets. The attacks helped force the Serbs to the bargaining table, and a peace agreement was signed in November to stop Bosnia's long ethnic civil war.

Concerning Iraq, Brugioni says bitter arguments always precede release of sensitive information because of worries that CIA sources and methods might be exposed.

A higher risk



Charles Dharapak/Associated Press
Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, right, speaks as Attorney General John Ashcroft, center, and FBI Director Robert Mueller, left, look on during a news conference announcing the raise in the terror threat level to "High" at the Justice Department in Washington on Friday.

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INTERNATIONAL

Iraq urged to cooperate with U.N. arms inspectors

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The top U.N. nuclear inspector on Friday said Iraq must make “quick progress” in cooperating with arms monitors, and the United States stepped up pressure on the United Nations to take action to force Saddam Hussein to obey U.N. resolutions.

Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Thursday’s unprecedented private interview with an Iraqi scientist was a sign of hope ahead of this weekend’s talks in Iraq. But he said many more such steps are necessary.

“We need to make quick progress because time is critical because the inspection is an alternative to war and not a prelude to it,” ElBaradei said after arriving in Cyprus en route to Baghdad. “This is why we hope to make as much progress as we can.”

But the White House said the scientist interviewed by inspectors actually works for the Iraqi monitoring directorate. “The only one they’re interviewing without a minder is a minder,” spokesman Scott McClellan said.

In Washington, President Bush urged the Security Council to “make up its mind soon” about confronting Iraq, or the United States will disarm Saddam Hussein with the help of a coalition of allies.

“If the Security Council were to allow a dictator to lie and deceive, the Security Council will be weak,” Bush said.

ElBaradei said he and Hans Blix, the top U.N. weapons inspector, have written to Iraqi authorities about the demands, pointing out “that these were important things to move on before we arrive. We made this very clear.”

As the political debate over disarming Iraq continues, inspectors visited a water treatment plant in Baghdad, military depots, and pesticide and missile plants. U.N. experts want to check whether materials used to run the water and pesticide plants are being diverted to weapons production.

The inspections continue as the United States increases pressure on Iraq to improve cooperation with inspectors and on Washington’s Security Council partners to approve military action if Saddam Hussein fails to comply with U.N.



Hussein Malla/Associated Press

Press photographers and television cameramen photograph and film Al Fatah missiles at the Al Musayyib rocket testing facility, 60 kms (40 miles) south of Baghdad on Friday. Iraqi officials brought foreign journalists to this site to underscore the fact that this and other installations have been under United Nations scrutiny for months.

demands.

Blix and ElBaradei will be looking for guarantees of cooperation when they travel to Baghdad on Saturday.

Blix said in Vienna, Austria, there were signs Iraq may be ready to meet those demands after an Iraqi biologist consented to an unprecedented private interview with inspectors Thursday night.

“I think it seems as they are making an effort,” Blix said of the Iraqis. “We want to see a lot more this weekend.”

Blix told The Associated Press that Iraq also must try to resolve several other major issues.

“We need to have active and spontaneous cooperation on substance,” Blix said. “That means that the open issues, whether they relate to anthrax, or VX (nerve agents) or Scud missiles ... they should provide evidence to convince us and the world that they have been destroyed.”

Iraq’s concession on the scientist interview came hours after ElBaradei insisted Baghdad make “drastic” changes in its level of cooperation.

However, Iraq’s move did not impress the United States, which is concerned that Baghdad might offer Blix and ElBaradei

enough gestures to encourage France and others in their demands that inspectors be given more time.

Among the 15 council members, only Britain has lined up solidly behind the U.S. hard-line stance on Iraq.

A British diplomat said London likely will introduce a new U.N. resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq after top weapons inspectors return from Baghdad and report to the Security Council on Feb. 14. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity.

In Moscow, however, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Moscow did not see any need for a new resolution.

“We always underlined that the use of force is an extreme measure ... and it should only be applied in extreme situations,” Ivanov said after meeting with Finland’s foreign minister.

Ivanov also urged Baghdad to cooperate with inspectors more actively.

“Iraq must not only let inspectors into its facilities, but also must provide materials proving that it had dismantled the weapons it had,” Ivanov said.

France — which holds a council veto with Russia, Britain, China and the United States — has refused to give in to the

United States and has called for a doubling or tripling of the inspection team.

On Friday, French President Jacques Chirac called President Bush to say Saddam Hussein could be disarmed without a U.S.-led invasion.

“We can disarm Saddam Hussein without going to war,” spokeswoman Catherine Colonna, quoted the French president as telling Bush.

Earlier Friday, Chirac sternly warned Baghdad to comply with inspectors, but said he still disagreed with Bush’s declaration that time has run out for Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi authorities “cannot shy away from their responsibility. The Iraqi regime must understand this,” Chirac said.

Also, Germany on Friday rebuffed Bush’s call for a new U.N. resolution, saying weapons inspectors should continue their work. Germany, which is chairman of the Security Council this month, opposes a war on Iraq and has ruled out committing combat troops.

In Rome, Premier Silvio Berlusconi said he had asked Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi to act as a mediator with Iraq to avoid military action. He said Gadhafi had not yet responded.

Berlusconi also said he is considering meeting with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz next week, when the Iraqi will be in Rome for an audience with Pope John Paul II.

Blix and ElBaradei were expected to gain Iraqi concessions on such issues as U-2 reconnaissance flights and interviews with scientists. A senior U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Baghdad also must provide hard evidence about its weapons programs.

The United States and Britain accuse Saddam’s regime of concealing chemical, nuclear and biological weapons banned under U.N. resolutions adopted after Iraq’s defeat in the 1991 Gulf War.

A resolution approved unanimously by the Security Council in November authorized a new round of U.N. weapons inspections and warned Iraq of serious consequences if it defied earlier resolutions requiring it to get rid of weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. tries to rally European support for Iraq war

BY ROBERT BURNS

Associated Press Writer

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld worked to rally European support Friday for the American case against Saddam Hussein, saying the hour for action to disarm Iraq is fast approaching.

Rumsfeld met in Rome with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and Defense Minister Antonio Martino. Afterward, Martino said at a news conference with Rumsfeld that his government shares the U.S. position on Iraq and its president, Saddam.

Rumsfeld later visited U.S. forces stationed at Aviano Air Base in northern Italy. Standing before more than 1,000 troops, who crowded inside a hangar with an F-16 fighter jet, Rumsfeld said, “You’re what stands between freedom and fear, between the safety of our people and an evil that cannot be appeased; it cannot be ignored, and it must not be allowed to win.”

“The hopes of mankind depend on your success,” Rumsfeld said.

The main focus of Rumsfeld’s trip is to build support among reluctant European allies. His travels, which include a series of meetings Saturday in Munich, Germany, coin-

cide with an accelerating buildup of American forces in the Persian Gulf region. Within days they will number more than 150,000, enough to launch at least the first stage of an invasion to depose the Iraqi leader.

Some European allies, including Germany and France, believe U.N. inspectors should be given more time to discover and destroy Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction, but the Bush administration insists that Iraq has made clear it intends to give up no banned weapons. This difference of view has caused a rift in the U.S.-European alliance.

“This is a critical time,” Rumsfeld told reporters en route to Rome. “Anyone who looks at what’s taking place can see that momentum is building with respect to efforts to get Iraq to disarm.”

The defense secretary’s comments echoed President Bush’s statement Thursday that “the game is over” for Saddam.

In a clear sign that the buildup of U.S. forces on Iraq’s periphery is approaching critical mass, the Army’s famed “Screaming Eagles” of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., confirmed Thursday they had received an order to deploy their air assault forces.

More than 110,000 U.S. forces already are in the Gulf

area — nearly half in Kuwait, from where the main ground push into Iraq would start.

Rumsfeld reiterated the administration’s warning to Iraq against using chemical or biological weapons should war come. “They would be well advised not use those weapons,” Rumsfeld told reporters. “In the event they do, they will wish they hadn’t.”

He would not discuss whether the United States would consider retaliating with nuclear weapons.

Rumsfeld said he hoped to reinforce the central message of Secretary of State Colin Powell’s presentation to the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday: that Iraq is deceiving U.N. weapons inspectors, not cooperating with them to account for the weapons of mass destruction that Saddam is accused of holding.

“The one thing that it seems to me needs to be put in better focus is the issue of time,” Rumsfeld said Thursday in an interview aboard his Air Force jet. “One could make a very strong case that time is desirable if in fact Iraq were cooperating. But the idea that it takes a long time to determine if Iraq is cooperating obviously answers itself: it doesn’t take a long time to determine.”

SPORTS



Blake beats Ancic; U.S. ties Croatia in Davis Cup

BY STEPHEN WADE
AP Sports Writer

ZAGREB, Croatia — James Blake did his job as the U.S. team's lone experienced Davis Cup player, beating Mario Ancic in straight sets Friday to tie the first-round series against Croatia 1-1.

Blake's 6-1, 6-2, 7-6 (5) victory on the quick indoor court improved his Davis Cup record to 5-1 in singles, 8-1 overall.

The United States trailed the best-of-five series after the first match, in which Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic served 30 aces to beat Mardy Fish 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Ljubicic's string of brilliant serves demoralized Fish, who was making his Davis Cup singles debut. The Croatian ended the match with an ace.

"I've never played anybody with a serve like that," said Fish, who had 11 aces. His only previous Davis Cup match was in doubles.

"I had no answer for his serve, and that doesn't happen very often, because one of the best parts of my game is my return," Fish added.

Ljubicic improved his Davis Cup record to 15-10. He overcame 16 double faults, including two in the final game.

"My strategy is pretty much to go for it on the serve and not have to play," Ljubicic said.

The U.S. team is without its highest-ranked player, Andy Roddick, who has tendinitis in his right wrist. At 23, Blake is the oldest member of the American squad; he's also the only member who had played a Davis Cup singles match before Friday.

"Fortunately for us, it's Mardy Fish," Ljubicic said. "It's not Andre Agassi or Pete Sampras or Roddick or (Jan-Michael) Gambill. With this team, it's easier for us."

In Saturday's doubles, Blake and Fish will face Ljubicic and 2001 Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic.

Ivanisevic has not played a competitive match since shoulder surgery in May. He expects his left arm to hurt Saturday.

"It's going to be painful. Now we're going to see how big the pain is going to be," Ivanisevic said. "We'll see if I can survive with the pain for three or four hours or not."

Ivanisevic said the pain had moved to his elbow and biceps — but only on the serve. That's his biggest weapon, of course.

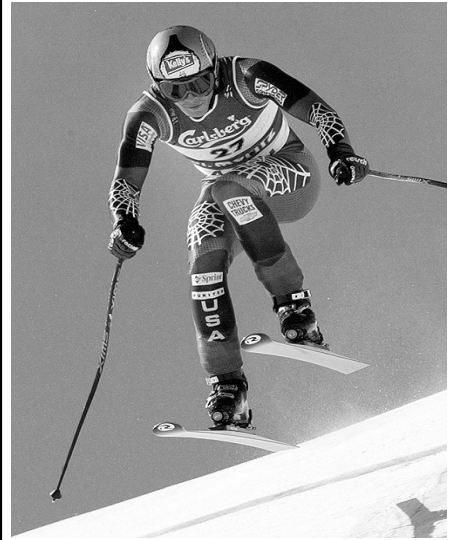
"You don't play the United States every day. Especially not at home," the 31-year-old Croatian said.

"It doesn't matter who plays for them; they can make 10 teams in Davis Cup. For me it's very important to play and very important for us to win and I'm going to do everything to play on Saturday."

"If I have to walk on my head all day today and sleep on the street to play, I'll do that."

The United States has won the Davis Cup a record 31 times, but its last title came in 1995.

Flyin' high



Diether Endlicher/Associated Press

Bode Miller of the United States makes a jump during final training for the Men's Downhill at the World Alpine Ski Championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland on Friday.

Furyk lands on top at Pebble Beach

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

PEBBLE BEACH — Jim Furyk knows the biggest challenge at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am often isn't the weather or the field — it's maintaining focus during the typical six-hour rounds.

So this year, Furyk has a secret weapon to survive the long waits on the golfer-choked courses: Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Lynn Swann, one of his boyhood idols and his amateur playing partner.

So far, the plan is working.

Furyk birdied his final three holes for a 6-under-par 66 Friday, moving one stroke atop a leaderboard that's as crowded as the links.

"You have to be

patient," Furyk said. "I know we haven't cracked 5 1/2 hours yet out there. You just have to be patient, get used to it and set your mind frame. I'm not going to let it bother me."

First-round leader Kevin Sutherland was among five players sitting one stroke back, with Davis Love III and five-time Pebble Beach champion Mark O'Meara two strokes off the pace. All told, 20 players are within four strokes of Furyk.

Though the weather remained nearly perfect, Furyk's 7-under 137 after two rounds is the tournament's highest 36-hole leading score since 1990. Actually, the weather is the culprit: it has confounded most pros' usual approach to the Monterey Peninsula's three normally soggy courses.

An intermittent wind kicked up Friday, particularly for the golfers playing Spyglass Hill, but the firm, dry fairways and greens forced big adjustments for every competitor.

But an impressive round at Poppy Hills was nothing for Furyk compared to his trip behind the Steel Curtain this weekend.

Except for Tom Lehman, Furyk's closest competitors aren't big names, with 11 combined victories among the five: Paul Stankowski, Tim Herron and Rod Pampling joined Lehman and Sutherland at 6 under.

Others succumbed to the weather and the waits. Robert Gamez, who led at the turn Friday, had four bogeys and a double-bogey on the back nine at Pebble Beach to plummet

seven strokes off the pace.

Stankowski had two eagles in his round, while Herron shot his second straight 69. Lehman had a steady 70 despite playing without regular caddie Andy Martinez, who broke his ankle.

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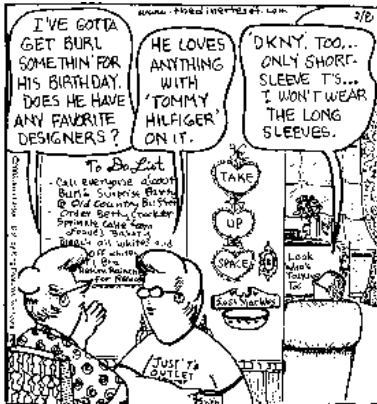
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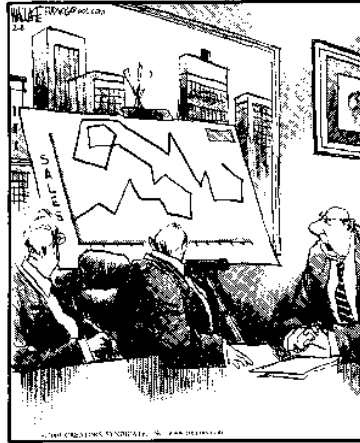
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COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



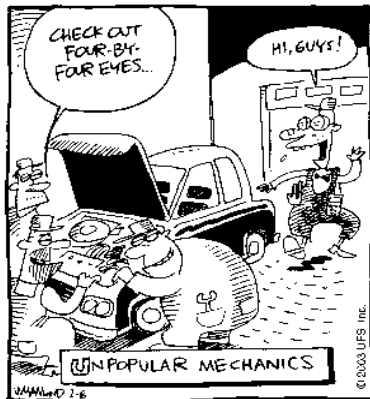
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- ACROSS**
- 1 "Shane" star
 - 5 Rotis-series
 - 10 In the midst of
 - 12 Thus far
 - 13 Not dissonant
 - 14 Tuned in
 - 15 Gaul invader
 - 16 Canal setting
 - 18 Crimson
 - 19 Made malicious remarks
 - 21 Skin hole
 - 22 "No, No, Nanette" song
 - 24 Delhi coin
 - 25 Reproachful journey?
 - 29 Terrarium growth
 - 30 Wears down
 - 32 Bother
 - 33 Keats work
 - 34 Alley prowler
 - 35 Shred
 - 37 Up
 - 39 Calendar item
 - 40 Deliberately lost
 - 41 Hourglass fill
- DOWN**
- 1 Wood strips
 - 2 Quantity
 - 3 Wahlberg of "Boomtown"
 - 4 Genetic stuff
 - 5 Headliner
 - 6 Comics punch sound
 - 7 Aligned
 - 8 Corrida hero
 - 9 Nobel, for one
 - 11 Merry
 - 17 Took on
 - 20 European capital
 - 21 Wing: Pref.
 - 23 Hide-away
 - 25 Bare lady
 - 26 Annual tennis tourney

REACT	SLAIN
INLAW	WILCO
VALVE	ISLET
AMI	RAGTIME
LEG	PIG GAS
SLAM	REGAN
TAB	DOT
DORIS	TOSS
MER	GAP RUE
INPLACE	CPA
TIEUP	ADLIB
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- 20 Euro-need
- 27 Entrance
- 28 Sickly
- 29 Foal
- 31 Ragouts
- 33 Chooses
- 36 German conjunction
- 38 Owl question

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2-8

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2003

TODAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Red Ribbon Squares, Santa Monica's official square dance club, invites you to enjoy an evening of plus level square dancing, alternating with round dancing, with an A-1 tip during break time. We dance every

Saturday at Marine Park from 7:45pm to 10:30pm. Pre-rounds begin at 7:15pm. Admission is \$5 for dancers, including refreshments. Spectators are free. For more information, please call (310)395-3383

Music Showcase. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Dublin 4 returns to The Bitter Redhead. Show starts at 9pm! 2101 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica.

SUNDAY

Farmer's Market every Sunday. 9:30am to 1pm, Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California! (310)458-8712.

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

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

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MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. Biker Boyz (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. The Hours (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:15. The Guru (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 11:00, 12:45, 1:50, 3:45, 4:45, 7:10, 7:45, 10:05, 10:45, 12:45. The Recruit (PG-13) 12:15, 3:30, 7:05, 10:00, 12:50. Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15. 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, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 12:00, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40. The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 2:45, 6:30, 10:20. Deliver Us From Eva (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45. Chicago (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15. 25th Hour (R) 1:40, 4:35, 10:15. Kangaroo Jack (PG) 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:30. Final Destination 2 (R) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
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. Frida (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. Shanghai Ghetto (NR) 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20.

AERO THEATER

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



BACK PAGE

Pa. school district weighing a report card for parents

BY MARTHA RAFFAELE

Associated Press Writer

LEBANON, Pa. — Come fall, Gino Vargas and other parents of schoolchildren in this city could be getting report cards of their own: The school system's superintendent is proposing that parents be graded on how involved they are in their children's education.

Vargas said he cares deeply about his 4-year-old son and has no problem with the proposal, believed to be one of the first of its kind.

"If you take care of your kids, it'll show in the report," Vargas said recently as little Dante waited in the car for the trip home from Harding Elementary. "My dad was there for me. I need to be there for my son."

Under the proposal, parents in the 4,200-student district about 80 miles west of Philadelphia would be evaluated in areas such as attendance at parent-teacher conferences, whether they return things they have to sign and whether their children come to school healthy and properly dressed. Teachers would check "yes" or "no" and send the forms home with student report cards.

Superintendent Marianne Bartley said the goal is to make sure parents are sending their kids to school ready to learn and keeping on top of their academic progress.

"We know that all types of research show that it's more likely that students who have parents who are involved are more successful in school," she said. "We have a lot of parents who are involved and do a wonderful job, but we need to make sure that it's widespread."

No other Pennsylvania school district conducts parental evaluations and it is a rare practice nationwide. The Chicago school system started a "parental checklist" program in 2000, but it was dropped a year later under a new administration.

Paul Vallas, the former Chicago schools chief who now heads the Philadelphia district, said the program was voluntary and each of Chicago's 600 schools was given discretion to develop its own format.

"They weren't report cards as much as they were parental advisories," he said.

The idea drew some criticism. Some parents didn't like the prospect of being

judged by their children's teachers.

"It came across to parents as being very demeaning and very insulting. It's inappropriate for a government agency to be critiquing and evaluating people's parenting skills," said Julie Woestehoff, head of a parents group.

Gregory Heist, who heads a parent-teacher organization at Harding Elementary in Lebanon, said he favors parental evaluations but knows some busy parents are anxious about how they will be carried out.

"Time is definitely short for some people," said Heist, whose three children attend Lebanon schools. "I think some

parents will take it as a rude gesture that they're not doing a good job."

The school board is expected to decide on the evaluation proposal in the next few months.

Sue Ferguson, chairwoman of the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education, said schools would be better served by collaborating more with parents and getting to know them personally, rather than filling out evaluation forms that could alienate them.

"If teachers invest that time up front in getting to know the families, a lot of the other problems they have to deal with throughout the year will subside," she said.

Hotel on Vegas Strip will get big ferris wheel

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Developers have won approval to build a 50-story hotel and a 12-story Ferris wheel around a man-made lake with 20 yachts on the Las Vegas Strip.

The \$650 million project, proposed by Sahara Las Vegas Corp. and Voyager Entertainment International Inc., would include 3,250 hotel rooms and timeshare units, plus 78 suites on the boats moored on the lake.

It would be called the Voyagers hotel-casino, and would be built on a 27 1/2-acre site currently occupied by the Wet 'n Wild water park south of the Sahara hotel-casino.

The Clark County Commission approved the plan on Wednesday.

Sahara Las Vegas Corp. owns the parcel. The company is operated by Paul

Lowden, the former owner of the Sahara hotel-casino and the developer of the Santa Fe hotel-casino in northwest Las Vegas.

Lowden, who could not be reached for comment, is chief executive officer of Archon Corp., Las Vegas, which owns the Pioneer hotel-casino in Laughlin.

A company annual report filed in January with the Securities and Exchange Commission refers to ownership of the Strip property, but makes no mention of the Voyager project.

No details have been provided about financing, although Voyager Entertainment announced in November that it had an interim line of credit.

The interim line of credit helped Voyager secure a loan through Residential Resources Inc., an Anaheim, Calif., investment banking firm, to build what was being billed as the world's largest and

tallest observation wheel.

Douglas Crowther, chief executive officer of Residential Resources, said there were several tiers to the financing, but did not provide details. He told the Las Vegas Sun on Thursday that the loan transaction was "moving along well."

Publicly traded Voyager Entertainment has disclosed plans for the \$100 million Ferris wheel — a 560-foot-high vehicle with 30 individual cars. It would be almost half as tall as the 1,149-foot Stratosphere Tower, the tallest structure in Nevada.

Voyager Entertainment has proposed building two versions of the ride, with one in Las Vegas and another in Shanghai, China.

Richard Hannigan, president of Voyager Entertainment, said he plans to announce a groundbreaking date and construction timetable within two weeks.

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