

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

07, 08, 22, 37, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 5, 9

Evening picks: 4, 7, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 03, Hot Shot.

2nd Place: 04, Big Ben.

3rd Place: 05, California Classic.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

■ A judge in Monroe County, N.Y., denied Jerold Ponder's application for a handgun permit, but Ponder is appealing that decision, even though he is currently in jail charged with the shooting death of his pregnant girlfriend. Ponder's best-case-scenario defense is that it was just an accident, occurring while he and the girlfriend were target-shooting with a rifle, and that that incident is not relevant to whether he is safety-conscious enough to carry a pistol.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.



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Council considers ban on smoking in public parks

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

It soon may be more than impolite to light up a cigarette in a Santa Monica public park.

Hoping to protect children from the harmful effects of second-hand cigarette smoke, the Santa Monica City Council is contemplating a plan to ban smoking in all of its 15 parks.

The City Council will consider drafting a law on Tuesday that would forbid smoking "curb to curb" in every existing public park, and any new parks that may be created in the future.

Santa Monica's Recreation and Park's Committee voted unanimously June 20, 2002, to recommend that the City Council ban smoking in parks. Since then, the city manager's office and the city attorney's office have been studying how to put the ban into place.

Committee member Neil Carrey said the issue is important and a ban is imperative.

"I don't know how anyone could defend what the City Council and the city itself stands for and then not support this," he said. "If you are going to have a sus-

tainable city, it makes sense to help sustain the people living in it."

The practice of banning smoking in public areas has become more common in recent years. Smoking has been banned in office buildings, commercial airplanes and, in California, at restaurants and bars.

"Even the people that smoke tell us they would agree to more restrictions."

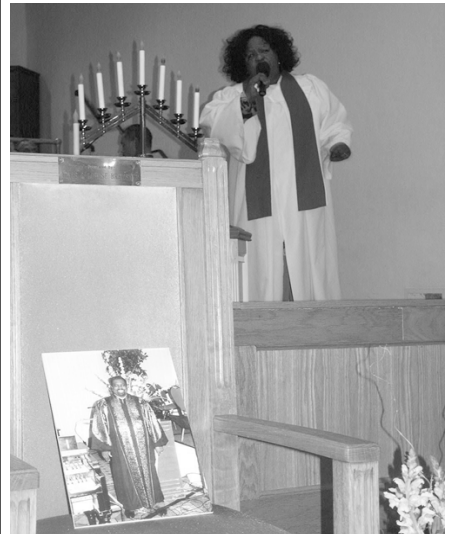
— ROBERT BERGER
Committee for Smoke-free Zones

The state has enacted legislation that took effect in January 2002 which forbids smoking on playgrounds. The law allows municipalities to extend smoke-free zones in the entire park or create them in certain areas.

Public officials worry about the effects second-hand cigarette smoke may have on children playing nearby. Recent studies suggest second-hand smoke contains

See SMOKING, page 7

Celebrating a life



Andy Fixmer/Daily Press

Dolores Davis leads more than 200 people in song Saturday night at the First AME by the Sea church. The church was packed wall to wall with people celebrating the life of Rev. Ron Williams, a committed community leader, who died Tuesday of a heart attack.

Councilman tight-lipped on \$10,000 question

Donor says check intended for L.A. County Greens

BY ANDY FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The donor of a missing \$10,000 check, which intended for the Los Angeles Green Party, wants to know where his money went.

But the one person who knows — Santa Monica City Councilman Mike Feinstein — isn't talking.

Greens throughout the state learned in the past two months that Feinstein, a founding member of the L.A. County chapter and a nationally-known figure in the Green Party, had deposited Bill Pietz's check on Jan. 17, 2001, in a privately-held account.

But the money never made it to the L.A. Green Party official bank account.

Speculation over what happened to the money grew with each passing month that Feinstein ignored calls from local party leaders asking him to disclose bank records showing how the money was used, according to officials.

With no end to the impasse in sight, state Green Party leaders called a summit meeting last month in Palo Alto, Calif., to discuss how to handle the situation. Days before the meet-

ing convened, Pietz sent an e-mail to party leaders attempting to dispel rumors that had developed over the past several months.

"There were so many misunderstandings

from people who weren't knowledgeable of what had gone on that I felt I had to clear things up," said Pietz, a Silver Lake resident who had

See CHECK, page 7

Pizza order helps catch kidnappers

BY DIANE SCARPONI
Associated Press Writer

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — An order for pizza led investigators to the four men accused of kidnapping one of the richest men in America. That's because the victim's credit card was used to pay for it, according to an arrest affidavit unsealed Friday.

"That was dumb," one of the accused kidnappers said after his arrest, the affidavit shows.

Shemone Gordon, 23; Devon Harris, 19; and former Marine Renaldo Rose, 23, all face federal extortion charges. If convicted, they could each be sentenced to 20 years in prison. The court record of a fourth suspect, a juvenile, is sealed.

Millionaire Edward S. Lampert was snatched from a parking garage in Greenwich on Jan. 10.

The 40-year-old was held in a motel room just over a day before being dropped off unharmed near the Greenwich police station.

According to news reports, he was set free after promising to pay his abductors \$5 million. The affidavit doesn't say why he was released.

Lampert is worth an estimated \$800 million and is No. 288 on the Forbes list of wealthiest Americans. He is chairman of the hedge fund ESL Investments.

According to the affidavit, the pizza paid for with Lampert's credit card was delivered to an address in New Haven associated with one of the suspects.

An unidentified woman there told the FBI that Lampert was being held in a motel in New Haven, according to the affidavit.

By the time police located the motel on Jan. 12, Lampert had already been freed.

Instead, they found three of the suspects, a .410-gauge shotgun, a microcassette recorder, shotgun shells and knit caps, the affidavit said.

Rose, who also is suspected of holding up a delivery truck, was arrested later in Canada. He was ordered held without bail Friday.

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

Happy Birthday for Monday, Feb. 10, 2003

You make waves whether you intend to or not. Others step back and watch what you do. In some way, you become a role model for others. You're able to reach out and make a difference to many because of your creativity and humor. You demonstrate that not everything has to be heavy or hard to accomplish. You relate well to others, opening doors and opportunities simultaneously. If you are single, it will become clear that that particular status will no longer remain so. You will draw many suitors, but you might not settle down immediately. If you are attached, your relationship will move in a new direction. You might feel like you just met each other! GEMINI reads you cold.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Move on key issues in the a.m., when you have plenty of get-up-and-go. By the afternoon, you will want to put your feet up on your desk and relax a little. You deserve some downtime. Return messages at that time. Good news circulates quickly. Tonight: Invite a friend for munchies and drinks.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ While you might still be reacting to a boss's directives, others seem to be cleaning up their acts with the weekend in mind. Come afternoon, you feel more playful, especially as you clear out additional work. Reach out for a loved one who means a lot to you. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Evaluate what is going on with others around you. If possible, a meeting needs to be scheduled for the morning. You could be overwhelmed by what you hear and what you feel you must do. Slow down this afternoon. Allow a partner or associate to pitch in. Tonight: Where the gang is.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ A boss makes demands, and a partner has strong expectations. You could feel between and betwixt the two. Your answer comes through a conversation, which could be unusually meaningful. Don't close yourself off. Keep the dialogue going. Tonight: Find a friend.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You choose the people in your life. Sometimes you find it difficult to deal with another's innate unpredictability. You might want to reach out to a co-worker who is not up to snuff. You have the ability to help others relax, if you so choose. Tonight: Out on the town.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ A partner seeks you out, though you might not appreciate all of his or her suggestions. Recognize your limits within your immediate surroundings. Detach and accept an overview. Listen to somewhat off-beat suggestions. Tonight: Try something different.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others encourage you down a new path, whether you choose that path or not. Review a personal matter that might involve a key partnership. You can no longer walk away from this situation. Remain open to a loved one's or family member's efforts. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Clear out work. You could easily be overwhelmed by what is happening between you and an associate. Revise your opinions. Reverse directions. Network in the afternoon, knowing that anything and everything is possible. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Use the a.m. to create a think tank. Brainstorming takes an unusually productive path. Know when the answer is "no." How you reject someone's ideas could make all the difference in the outcome. When you take away, give something back. Tonight: Treat a co-worker.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Deal with family and the basics first, especially if you are uncomfortable with a personal matter. You discover that solutions head your way if you're willing to risk a little more. Do not step back from the inevitable. You have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Tonight: Reveal what is in your heart.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Return calls in the a.m. Also, have important discussions during the same period. In the p.m., clear out your work. When you leave work, you will have a lot to feel good about. Don't be coerced into doing anything you don't want to do. Tonight: Happily head home.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your financial matters need balancing. You could question someone's integrity. Do so with care. You might inadvertently hurt another's feelings. Keep communication open. You might learn a lot about yourself. Let a friendship grow. Tonight: Don't push the line.

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LOCAL



Gavel II Gavel

From the people's court in the Santa Monica Courthouse

By John Wood

Immigrant laborers prevail in court

Three immigrant laborers won more than \$1,100 last month from a Santa Monica man who hired them but later refused to pay for their work.

The laborers, who share an apartment in downtown Los Angeles, told the court Thomas Buchanan hired them for repairs to his Copeland Avenue home in Santa Monica, which included constructing a concrete path and building an outdoor wall.

The three workers — Oscar Rivera and Tomas and Ricardo Valladares — were paid \$1,492 for the job. But Ricardo Valladares, who managed the team, said he was shorted \$1,114 and couldn't fully pay his team or himself.

Ricardo Valladares claimed he was owed for 45 hours of his own labor, at \$12 an hour, and a combined total of 69 hours for the other two workers, at \$8 an hour.

Buchanan told the court he didn't pay the workers the full amount because the City of Santa Monica later forced him to redo some of the work, claiming it was not performed to the city's standards.

"We worked it out. At least I thought we had," Buchanan said. "Then (Ricardo Valladares) came back wanting more cash."

But Judge Pro Tem Edward Bennes ruled for the plaintiffs, saying it was clear they had worked the hours they claimed.

"They're providing the labor," Judge Bennes said. "They work with their hands." On his way out of court, Buchanan had a final comment for Valladares.

"No hard feelings Ricardo," he said. "I just disagreed with you."

Online sale leaves sour taste

A Washington state antique desk dealer learned a costly lesson in Internet sales last month — from a Santa Monica judge a thousand miles away.

Chris Waggoner of Puyallup, Wash., didn't make the trip to Santa Monica to respond to Deborah Silverstein's lawsuit, but a judgment was entered against him nonetheless.

Silverstein sued Waggoner for \$1,000, saying she paid \$634 for what Waggoner advertised online as a children's desk from the 19th century. But when the desk arrived, Silverstein said it wasn't what she had ordered.

"The desk was neither antique nor a children's desk," Silverstein said.

Silverstein was seeking the full \$634 cost of the desk, plus the \$270 she spent serving court papers to Waggoner out of state, plus other court costs.

Before making his ruling, Judge Pro Tem Edward Bennes expressed some reservations over the jurisdiction of his court.

"Over the years, I've developed the understanding that you can't sue out of state in small claims," he said. "However, based on my research here today, I see no language that says you can't do it."

Silverstein had argued the case belonged in Santa Monica because she entered into a contract with Waggoner from the computer in their Santa Monica home. Though Judge Bennes finally agreed, he refused to award Silverstein the full cost of serving Waggoner out of state.

"We're cracking new legal ground here," Judge Bennes said.

Though Silverstein paid \$270 to have Waggoner served with court papers, having somebody served in state typically costs no more than \$50.

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A pretty sad weekend for local surf spots. Too steep for L.A.'s west facing exposure, the northwest swell missed our county, leaving surf in the ankle- to waist-high range throughout the north.

Occasional sets at South Bay breaks were hitting waist to shoulder high, the best of those waves probably at El Porto.

We'll see the peak of this steep northwest swell during the morning today, but conditions change little from yesterday.

Expect mostly small, flat conditions in the north.

The best waves will be from Porto south, good breaks in P.V. showing chest high as well.

Swell fades this afternoon, into Tuesday, and probably Wednesday. Long range forecasts say the next swell is due Thursday.

Today, expect offshore winds around 10 knots. Also, a chance rain is in the forecast for Tuesday and Wednesday.



**Today's
Tides:**

High- 3:44 a.m. 4.35'
Low- 12:00 p.m. 0.91'
High- 7:18 p.m. 2.80'
Low- 9:51 p.m. 2.80'

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

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The Q-Line

Plans have been in the works the past few years to rebuild the Santa Monica Pier's breakwater so it can become a harbor again for sailboats, sport fishing and other recreational opportunities.

But, of course, because of the city's budget crisis, the City Council may divert the \$4 million needed to match the federal government's share of the project toward other projects that are more needed.

Some say having a harbor will give Santa Monica another reason for people to come here, which will fuel the economy.

Others say a harbor will add traffic and attract too many people here.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think the city should use its financial resources to build a new harbor? Would it be bad or good for Santa Monica?"

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.



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LETTERS

Bauer's off the mark

Editor:

Bill Bauer's recent comparison of the Madison Theater to the defunct Target proposal is baseless and idiotic (Daily Press, Feb. 7, 2003). The Target proposal totaled 162,400 square feet, more than three times the Madison proposal.

Let's be serious Bill ... this is not a quiet neighborhood. Two of the bordering streets are Santa Monica Boulevard and 11th Street, major Santa Monica thoroughfares. Our attempt to play off the college as disrupting a tucked away treasure is quite laughable.

As heard throughout community forums, the demand for performing arts theaters is ever growing. Santa Monica College has listened to the needs of the community and is following through.

Joe Weichman
Santa Monica

Homeowners need to take control

Editor:

I read Landmarks Commissioner Nina Fresco's letter to the editor entitled "See through the Prop. A propaganda." She is obviously very out of touch with the actual human beings who live and own these homes that make up our wonderful neighborhoods. She mentions that Santa Monica residents know full well what is at stake regarding Prop. A. She is right, they do know what is at stake.

That is why, if you drive up and down any given residential street, you will see a mass of "Yes on A" lawn signs in support of Prop. A. The Prop. A message, which allows homeowners to give their consent before the city can come in and designate their homes, is palpable. It is also interesting that she addresses renters (twice). This is obviously a ploy by the Landmarks Commission to appeal to the populous renter vote even though Prop. A is a R-1 residential only issue. And if that wasn't enough, as a scare tactic she brings up the point that developers will control and dispose of our landmarks.

First of all, Prop. A does not affect any homes that currently have landmark status and, second of all, if the landmarks commission was set up to use preservation as a development tool or a growth measure, than they have failed miserably. How is it that Mrs. Fresco believes that if things stay the way they are now, the developers will not decide the destiny of our neighborhoods?

Come on. The development issue needs to be addressed with our zoning laws not our Landmarks Commission.

Strict zoning laws also known as the "Monster Mansion" ordinance have been recently implemented in the North of Montana area and just last week have been approved in Sunset Park and also the Wilshire/Montana area. These were put in place to protect the integrity and charm of our neighborhoods. Let them do their job. Thank you, Nina, but the good homeowners of Santa Monica know exactly whom they want to manage and control their homes, and it's not you.

Jason Powell
Santa Monica

Cutting school funding unacceptable

Editor:

Letter writer Paul Dryden accuses the "Save Our Schools" committee of trying to



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"push an unpopular parcel tax" on Santa Monica voters. He argues that citizens have already expressed their distaste for a special tax to fund schools by rejecting Measure EE last fall. He accuses local educators of putting "lipstick on a pig" and of being "too heavy at the trough."

In fact, special parcel tax measures to fund education are far from unpopular locally — support of EE garnered a clear majority of votes in the last election. While the measure failed to gain the two-thirds of votes needed for approval, it's clear that most Santa Monica residents are willing to dig deeper to maintain excellence in our local public schools.

While Mr. Dryden is entitled to his opinion, I believe his comments reflect the knee-jerk, anti-tax sentiment held by a small but vocal portion of our community. This type of outdated Howard Jarvis-like thinking threatens to undermine the concept and fulfillment of quality public education. Given the drastic cutbacks in state funding, it's imperative that local school districts look at all measures to restore dollars to classrooms.

Faced with a SMMUSD budget shortfall of more than \$12 million in 2003-04, Superintendent John Deasy last week proposed a series of Draconian cuts to the school board. Nearly 206 full-time positions face elimination next fall, all directly impacting the day-to-day classroom experience of our children. Among the positions he reluctantly suggests be eliminated if no additional public funding is secured:

- 66 full-time teachers at the district, achieved by significantly raising student-to-teacher ratios in elementary, middle and high schools;
- The principal at Santa Monica Alternative School House and two vice principals at other elementary schools;

See LETTERS, page 5

Are the U.N. inspections working or is it all irrelevant?

In late January, there was video out of Iraq of a man who jumped into one of the SUVs the United Nations is using to perform weapon inspections. Over and over again he yelled, "Save me! Save me!" The U.N. inspectors handed him back to Iraqi security forces.

This incident illustrates the choice the United Nations is facing. With the help of France, Germany and the domestic anti-war movement, the United Nations can destroy its own usefulness by abdicating its responsibility to enforce the rule of law. Criticism of the anti-war movement is not the same as accusing them of being unpatriotic. That idea seems to be coming solely from a movement intent on deflecting criticism.

The catch phrase of the anti-war movement is "let the inspectors work." This misses the point of the inspections. If they "work," one very successful out-

come will be the discovery that Saddam Hussein has continued to gather weapons of mass destruction and containment has failed. In fact, the inspections have already worked.

The questions that should be asked is what kind of threat does this pose? Asking what kind of threat this poses solely to the United States seems too reminiscent of the isolationist movement of the 1930s. Saddam's past offers the start of an answer.

On Aug. 25, 1988, the village of Birjinni in northern Iraq was attacked with nerve gas. Some in the village died quickly. Many more suffered. Today their safety is guaranteed only by constant air patrols enforcing no-fly zones.

A few years later, Iraq invaded

Kuwait. It was unprovoked and ruthless. Saddam Hussein looted and raped that country. His surrender was not brought about with inspections and diplomacy, it was brought about by stealth fighters and M-1 tanks. Even the current inspections

wouldn't be happening without the threat from carrier groups in the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf.

Last week, eight European nations pledged their support to military action and support is growing. The recent discovery that Saddam Hussein has missiles with a longer range than previously thought was probably met in Paris and Berlin with the reaction, "Just how long a range are we talking about?... Not long enough, phew ... we still believe in containment and America

is a bully." It won't be long before France and Germany find a way to jump on the bandwagon while claiming they haven't changed their position at all.

What if France and Germany continue to balk at military action? Well, Amnesty International says that "sacrificing the human rights of people for the sake of geopolitics is unacceptable." That quote was dated Jan. 26, 2003. That's 15 years after Saddam Hussein launched a gas attack against his own people, 12 years after he invaded Kuwait and one day after an Iraqi man jumped into an United Nations Land Rover and pleaded for help. It's time for the U.N. to decide if it is still relevant.

(Paul Corrigan is a Santa Monica resident.)

Guest Commentary

By Paul Corrigan

OPINION



Public school budget cuts threaten student progress

Just as recent reforms have begun to show results, massive school cuts threaten our progress. Student achievement has increased and test scores continue to rise. Cutting school funds won't help our students achieve the high standards we've set for them. Cuts of \$2 billion or more from current year school funding are on the table as state leaders try to close the gaping budget hole. Such cuts will mean fewer teachers, support staff and resources devoted to student achievement. In order to save the amount of money being discussed, the state would have to shut down our schools for two full weeks, reduce per-pupil spending by \$300 or lay off more than 35,000 teachers.

Any mid-year cuts will devastate our schools. Districts are reeling from more than \$3.1 billion in cuts within the past two budget years. School districts have increased class sizes, deferred new textbook purchases, gutted music, drug awareness, English language development and other programs, laid off teachers and staff, and reduced school safety personnel. The proposed cuts will make these school reductions seem mild.

We need fiscal fairness to balance the budget. The deficit should not be balanced on the backs of public school students, teachers and staff. There are fair ways to raise new revenues. The state's leaders should construct a comprehensive, multi-year plan to resolve the state's fiscal crisis and address the immediate and future needs of our students and schools.

Public education remains the top priority for California voters. Voters want to invest more in our public schools — not less. According to the 34th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, three-fourths of Californians would cut other programs to preserve education funding. Almost 60 percent support raising state taxes to avoid cuts to education.

Restoring the top tax income tax brackets for the wealthiest of Californians will generate more than \$3 billion. Federal tax relief for the wealth-

iest taxpayers far outweighs the amount the top brackets would recover. Will lawmakers do the right thing?

Republican lawmakers have vowed to oppose any new taxes to address the state's projected \$25-plus billion budget shortfall — meaning they'll cut school kids before special interests. Since schools receive 40 percent of the state's general fund expenditures, the Republicans would take that percentage from schools' budgets.

The right to a quality public education is guaranteed to every student from kindergarten through the university level. The deficit can't be an excuse for failing to meet the constitutional guarantee. By cutting back school funding rather than closing tax loopholes, we sacrifice the progress we've made. The solutions exist to fill in the budget hole.

In addition to restoring top income tax brackets, the state should consider enacting a severance tax on oil. California remains the only state without a severance tax, and virtually the only place in the world that collects no royalties or taxes on oil removed from private lands.

It also makes sense to limit the mortgage interest deduction for mansion owners. We support limiting mortgage interest deductions to mortgages of \$700,000 or less. Only the wealthiest individuals benefit from mortgage interest deductions of more than \$50,000 per year!

School leaders are willing to help craft a comprehensive package of cuts and new revenues that protects the financial integrity of the state and maintains the momentum for improved student achievement. But let's make sure the lawmakers do what the people want: Protect quality public education.

(Mary Bergan is president of the California Federation of Teachers. As the statewide affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the CFT represents more than 100,000 teachers and school employees in California.)

Guest Commentary

By Mary Bergan

LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

- All six elementary music school teachers and all nine elementary library coordinators;
- Half of the 10 school nurses;
- 10 P.E. instructors;
- Nearly 60 classified and support staff, from custodians to computer aides to cafeteria workers.

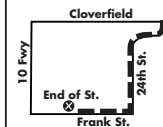
It's simply unacceptable that a district that boasts such a high standard of living and such a rich history of progressive civic thinking could even contemplate these crippling cuts to our children's education.

I urge all citizens to support the new parcel tax measure, to petition the City Council to increase its fiscal commitment to quality public education and to enlist their neighbors and friends in this crucial fight. To borrow Mr. Dryden's analogy, we need to turn a sow's ear into a silk purse.

Matthew King
Santa Monica

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COMMENTARY

How to hire a lawyer without knowing what you need



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pizarra

THE PROBLEM WITH HIRING A LAWYER

Hiring an attorney is one of the most confusing things you will likely ever do. The reason is that you often don't know what you don't know. So you need to hire someone to handle a problem that you cannot handle yourself, mostly because you do not know what to ask or do. The obvious difficulty in this is that you have no way of confirming when you ask an attorney about what needs to happen, how it should be done or what it will cost, and if what they are saying is correct. If you knew that, you probably would not need an attorney in the first place.

The hardest part for most people is the inherent mistrust of attorneys. Most everyone will normally speak with their friends and co-workers about what they should be spending. The problem with this is that every situation is different, and even ones that look the same can have a "little" different fact which causes the entire case to change, and that changes what needs to be done, what it will cost and what the end result of the case will be.

HOW TO INTERVIEW, WHAT TO ASK, WHO TO BELIEVE

When you are seeking a lawyer, don't forget that you are the customer. They are the seller, and you are the buyer. They are looking at you as someone who is bringing them business. You need to remember this so that you are not intimidated by them. Frequently a client does not feel comfortable asking questions of a lawyer's experience, past history, past successes and past failures.

Clients often feel that they are being disrespectful or untrusting by asking questions. **THIS IS NOT THE CASE.** Please remember that a lawsuit is your life. To a lawyer, it is his livelihood — not his life.

At the end of an interview, you should feel comfortable telling your lawyer your deepest secrets. If you don't have the confidence in this lawyer, go to another until you find the one with whom you feel confident.

Any lawyer you interview should be able to provide you with a list of their current and past clients, who are willing to speak with you about the representation they received and their satisfaction levels.

Ask your family, friends and co-workers what their experiences are, and trust those experiences. But in the end, you must believe in your own instincts.

Every case is different and people love to be supportive of you. Expect them to be

a "Monday Quarterback" scrutinizing you lawyer. This is why you need to have confidence in what your lawyer is telling you.

HOW DO LAWYERS GET PAID?

Cases have traditionally been paid for in one of two ways. There is the hourly case and the contingency case. Each has its advantages. Depending on the type of law, the likelihood of recovery and the necessary expenses involved, will determine how the lawyer wants to be paid.

In an hourly based case, the lawyer will bill for every minute they are working on the case. In reality, it is almost impossible to bill for every minute, and that is why attorneys will bill in pieces of an hour. Attorneys bill in 1/10ths of an hour or 1/6ths of an hour. So for every six minutes or 10 minutes the attorney is on the phone, you are billed. The clock starts from the time the attorney picks up the phone. This type of billing is designed so that you do not pay for more time than it actually takes to do a job. This is to the client's advantage so that they can see how much they are spending.

Hourly cases would include family law, corporate law, contract disputes, landlord tenant, real estate and legal representation before governmental bodies.

A contingency case is when the attorney takes a percentage of the recovery in exchange for financing the expenses of the case. This is done when the client cannot afford legal representation. The benefit to the client is that they are represented and do not worry about a monthly bill. The benefit to the lawyer is a larger reward upon recovery than if they were working hourly. The cost to the lawyer is that they must finance the litigation, which is expensive and there are no guarantees of winning.

Contingency cases would be personal injury and worker's compensation. The cases which fall into the category of civil rights, or employment law, are hard cases to finance, prosecute and win.

You need to have an attorney who has sizable resources behind them. Do not be afraid to ask for track records, historical wins and results of similar cases. This is one area where going with a big firm is to your advantage. However, be sure that you negotiate a strong agreement and don't ever forget that a contingency case percentage can be re-negotiated depending on the final settlement.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes legal questions that can be answered in this column. E-mail him at dpizarra@pizarra.com.)

DID YOU KNOW?: The US nickname Uncle Sam was derived from Uncle Sam Wilson, a meat inspector in Troy, New York.

LOCAL



Most Californians favor anti-smoking laws, poll says

SMOKING, from page 1

more chemicals that are suspected carcinogens than previously believed.

The cities of Beverly Hills, Carson, Huntington Beach and El Monte already have taken advantage of the state's law and completely banned smoking in their public parks, according to a city staff report.

The Los Angeles City Council enacted legislation banning smoking within 25 feet of where children play. Los Angeles' ordinance even forbids smoking at dog runs, public swimming pools and golf courses.

Enforcement of the smoking ban in Santa Monica would be achieved by a combination of signs and community edu-

cation, officials said. The same approach worked in Beverly Hills, where there has been a voluntary compliance with the law, according to a city staff report.

A statewide organization called the "Committee for Smoke-free Zones" has been working with Santa Monica, and 10 other municipalities in Southern California, on creating restrictive smoking laws to protect public health.

Robert Berger, a Smoke-free Committee member, has said polls show below 20 percent of Californians smoke, and 93 percent of the population agrees with more restrictive smoking prohibitions.

"Even the people that smoke tell us they would agree to more restrictions," he said.

Donor won't sue or file complaint against Feinstein

CHECK, from page 1

wanted the donation to be anonymous. "I felt I needed to tell party decision-makers about what's been happening."

Feinstein declined to comment on Saturday.

On the evening of Jan. 13, 2001, Pietz said he handed the check to Woody Hastings, an L.A. County Green Party organizer, who then passed it over to Feinstein. Pietz said Feinstein called him that night to confirm the check was real.

The money was intended to help strengthen the L.A. County Green Party, which at the time had a little more than \$50 in its official bank account, Pietz said.

"The situation back then was very disorganized," he said. "Things were not very functional."

Pietz hoped the money would help the county chapter get stronger so it could organize candidates to compete with Democrats and Republicans for locally elected offices.

Instead, Pietz later found out that the check was deposited into an unofficial Green account under Feinstein's name at the Hughes Aircraft Employees Federal Credit Union, Pietz said.

A copy of the endorsed check provided to the Daily Press shows the check was made out to the "Los Angeles County Green Party" on Jan. 13, 2001, for \$10,000. On the back of the check, along the endorsement line, is written "Los Angeles Green Party," and below that is a signature similar to those Feinstein has used on campaign statements and other public documents.

Party officials said they believe the check landed in Feinstein's hands because there was no organized system for collecting donations for the L.A. County Green Party.

At the time, the county party didn't have a treasurer, but it had two bank accounts. The official account was in the party's name and controlled by the vacant treasurer's position. The "unofficial account" was privately held in Feinstein's name and had been used since he helped found the local chapter, according to party officials.

When Pietz made his donation, Feinstein was simultaneously trying to rent out space on Pico Boulevard to be used for Green Party events and environmental causes, according to official minutes from meetings.

Feinstein had said at Green Party meet-

ings in 2001 that he thought the money was intended to help support the office and the organizing efforts that were taking place there, according to the minutes.

However, Pietz said when Feinstein called to confirm the check, nothing was said about the money being used for the Pico Boulevard office. He thought the county party would determine how the money should be spent, Pietz said.

"The money was given to the county and it should have been deposited with them," Pietz said. "It was to help them."

Pietz said he doesn't plan to sue Feinstein or file a complaint with the state's Fair Political Practices Commission, which regulates political matters in California. As far as Pietz is concerned, Feinstein's actions weren't illegal and the matter is an internal Green Party dispute.

"My interests are very specific," he said. "My interest is in allowing the county party organization to organize itself, which includes fundraising. But as long as there are these financial issues... it's hard to move forward."

Feinstein has previously said more than \$30,000 in Green Party donations, including Pietz's check, have been deposited into the privately held account. Most of that money has paid for rent and supplies for the office located at 2809 Pico Blvd., according to the minutes.

The office has been used by Feinstein as a Green Party headquarters, though it's not recognized by the Green Party, officials said.

Feinstein is organizing a summit of elected Green office holders from across the country at the Pico Boulevard office later this month. Party leaders decided to go public with their concerns because neither the convention nor the fundraising Feinstein is undertaking for the event have been sanctioned by the party, officials said.

Fearing that a situation like Pietz's may be created, state and national Green Party officials wrote in an open letter distributed to Greens across the country that Feinstein does not speak for the party and he isn't supposed to be raising money for it.

"When it became clear that this might not be limited to me but (it could happen) to others as well," Pietz said, "the state party felt it necessary to alert everyone."



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STATE

California officials say Bush policies hurt state

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Across most of the West, conservative Republican officeholders are applauding the Bush administration's proposals to open federal land to more local control, new roads and additional logging in the name of fire prevention.

Not so in heavily Democratic California, where officials say the administration has repeatedly undermined the state's stricter environmental standards on everything from low-polluting automobiles to offshore oil drilling.

They were particularly incensed when the administration helped prevent oil drilling off the coast of Florida, but tried to block California's review of 36 offshore leases because, Interior Secretary Gale Norton said, "Florida opposes coastal drilling and California does not."

"Unfortunately, the Bush administration just doesn't understand California," said Democratic Gov. Gray Davis. "We believe you can have a strong economy and a clean environment. We refuse to sacrifice one for the other. We believe in protecting our magnificent coast, clean air, clean water, and a sensible approach to protecting our forests."

Much of California's criticism echoes that of environmental groups that accuse the Bush administration of rolling back or proposing rollbacks of environmental rules, regulations and laws enacted by presidents as far back as Theodore Roosevelt.

"You name it: forests, wildlife, water, energy, wetlands," ticked off state Resources Secretary Mary Nichols. "It's an odd blend of wanting to defer to the states, but in reality we have less influence."

They say the administration is challenging decisions that previously had been left to the state, in what they call a perversion of the federalism usually championed by conservatives.

"Ironically, this was a president who ran on states' rights — but it's states' rights unless they're different than what he wants," complained Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara. She hosted a recent hearing of her Natural Resources Committee on the growing divide between California and the federal government.

The White House and other Western officials contend it is California that is out of synch, as the Bush administration tries to streamline regulations and find a balance between protecting the environment and the economy.

"There's a very deep divide between that rhetoric and the reality of what we've been doing," said James L. Connaughton. The chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality dismissed much of the criticism as "politics as usual."

Yet California officials are reflecting a more urban population and diversified economy than other Western states, which have long been dependent on resource extraction to drive their economies, other observers said.

Wyoming and Alaska are thus more appreciative of administration proposals to open federal land to oil and gas companies to promote energy independence. In Alaska and Utah, officials cheered an administration proposal last

month that could open certain federal land to new roads sought by state and local governments.

Montana lawmakers are debating whether their state's environmental protections went too far in driving out mining and logging companies. And Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico and South Dakota see value in Bush's Healthy Forests initiative after watching devastating wildfires sweep through tinder-dry forests last summer.

"We believe you can have a strong economy and a clean environment. We refuse to sacrifice one for the other."

— GRAY DAVIS
Governor of California

"I think most of the states in the Intermountain West disagree with California officials on a lot of things," said Jim Sims, executive director of the Golden, Colo.-based Western Business Roundtable. "I think there is broad and deep support across the West generally in the Bush administration's environmental policy."

Politics may play a role as well. Bush seems unlikely to win a re-election fight in California, but he needs to keep the votes of the other western states, which for the most part are Republican bastions.

Paul Beddoe, who oversees public lands and Western issues for the National Association of Counties, said rural Western counties were delighted that Bush's latest budget chops money for federal land acquisition while boosting payments to counties with federal land.

"All those little red counties that voted for George Bush couldn't believe what they were seeing," said Beddoe, referring to media maps showing Republican support in the last election. "This year, there's been a 180-degree turnaround."

California has long prided itself on leading the nation on environmental issues, and part of state officials' frustration is with what they say is Bush administration interference with that effort.

The federal government for the first time is siding with the automotive industry in opposing California's effort to raise fuel economy and air pollution standards with new requirements for zero-emissions vehicles. And California is among six states suing the administration for rolling back new energy efficiency standards for air conditioners and heat pumps.

"This state is no different than any other state in picking and choosing when they like federalism. It's whose ox is being gored, frankly," said Robin Rivett, an attorney with the Sacramento-based Pacific Legal Foundation who often intervenes in environmental decisions on behalf of private property owners. "I think the average Californian would welcome a return to balance and common sense."

NATIONAL



The question of war no longer seems to be if but when

BY RON FOURNIER

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The prospect of war against Iraq appears to be growing with each passing day. The remaining question seems to be when — not if. The answer? Soon, apparently.

President Bush says he has not made a final decision. But the White House — in word and deed — is moving closer to war with the discipline of a political campaign.

"The game is over," Bush said last week. "Saddam Hussein will be stopped."

The number of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf stands at about 113,000 and will climb to 150,000 by Feb. 15, enough to launch at least the first stage of an invasion. Britain is sending 35,000 troops — including a quarter of its army and its biggest naval task force in 20 years.

It is no accident that U.S. forces will be ready just as chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix reports to the Security Council on Friday.

White House officials long have considered mid-February as a critical trigger point, when diplomatic, military and political pressures begin to come to a head.

U.S. officials say the Security Council will be called upon to decide, most likely by the end of the month, whether to back the U.S. bid to forcefully disarm the Iraqi president or stand aside while America and few allies act on their own.

War is virtually inevitable, they say, unless the U.S. pressure leads to an 11th-hour coup or exile for Saddam.

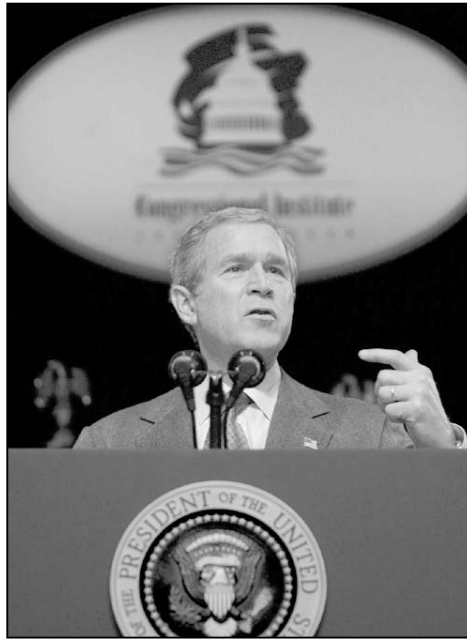
Since September, when he stood before the General Assembly and asked for a resolution to disarm Iraq, Bush has cautioned the United Nations against becoming irrelevant.

He told the Security Council in October to "show its backbone" and followed the script through last week, when he stood with Secretary of State Colin Powell and said, "The U.N. must not back down."

Armed with satellite photos and tape recordings, Powell presented what he called "irrefutable and undeniable" evidence of Iraq's illicit weapons program. Even as Iraq denied the assertions, Powell told the United Nations, "Saddam Hussein and his regime will stop at nothing until something stops him."

That presentation opened a brief window of diplomatic and public relations activity before Bush forces the issue of war.

Hoping to build support in the United States, the president on Saturday devoted his weekly radio address to Iraq.



J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

President Bush addresses Republican lawmakers gathered for a weekend retreat at the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., Sunday. With his party holding the majority in the House and Senate, Bush is depending on cooperation from GOP Congressmen to pass his domestic agenda and support his efforts to rid Iraq of Saddam Hussein.

On Sunday, members of his national security team were appearing on television news shows to argue Bush's case.

"Iraq is harboring a terrorist network headed by a senior al-Qaida terrorist planner," Bush said Saturday. "This network runs a poison and explosive training camp in northern Iraq, and many of its leaders are known to be in Baghdad."

Though not tied to Iraq, Bush's decision Friday to raise the nation's terrorism alert status underscored the

grim potential for attack.

The president may already be making head way. Polls taken last week after Powell spoke at the United Nations suggest a growing belief that the administration has presented enough evidence to justify military action against Iraq. More than half in those polls say they feel the evidence is strong enough to justify military action.

On the diplomatic front, Bush spoke Friday with French President Jacques Chirac and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, both of whom want to give inspectors more time. They also have veto power on the Security Council.

Bush meets on Monday with Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a key ally, and later with President Lucio Gutierrez of Ecuador.

The president, Powell and British Prime Minister Tony Blair plan to speak to dozens of their counterparts around the world, seeking support and drawing on the evidence that Powell presented.

The United States and Britain persuaded the Security Council last fall to require Iraq to disarm or face "serious consequences," a term Bush interprets to justify military action. Bush and Blair are seeking a follow-up resolution that would hold Iraq in defiance of the first measure.

The best option for Bush is a resolution that specifically authorizes use of force, but U.S. diplomats say that is not likely.

Another option would threaten war unless Saddam removes himself from power or is removed by his own people by a certain deadline, possibly 48 hours.

Bush does not believe he needs the second resolution to wage war, but White House official say one would make it easier to justify war to the American public and the world.

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INTERNATIONAL

War preparations move into high gear in Kuwait

BY STEVEN GUTKIN

Associated Press Writer

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait — The key launch pad for a future war on Iraq bustles with tens of thousands of U.S. and British soldiers. Military convoys clog highways, and the entire northern half of Kuwait is sealed off as a military operations zone.

"Every day this thing grows by leaps and bounds," Lt. Col. Jeffrey Helmick said.

"We're bursting at the seams," said Helmick, commander of the U.S. Army's 6th Transportation Battalion, which helps truck tons of supplies from ports of entry to desert camps near the Iraqi border.

Officials will say little about the total number of U.S. troops being dispatched to Kuwait before a possible war. Washington says war is likely to begin soon because Iraq has failed to rid Iraq of all biological, chemical and nuclear weapons — weapons Iraq denies it has.

About 113,000 U.S. troops are now in the Gulf, and that number is expected to climb to 150,000 by Feb. 15 — enough to launch at least the first stage of an invasion. Britain is sending 35,000 troops — including a quarter of its army and its biggest naval task force in two decades.

When troops arrive in Kuwait — usually in cargo planes or in commercial jets chartered by the military — they travel to base camps in civilian buses with curtains that are drawn so potential terrorists don't see in.

The timing of any possible war could be driven less by diplomatic maneuverings than by the complicated logistics required to set up and supply an invasion force. Bringing in tens of thousands of troops involves building new roads, camps and living quarters, in addition to ensuring adequate supplies of food, water, electricity, weaponry, ammunition and vehicles.

Judging from the intense activity at

Kuwaiti ports, the massive military convoys blocking traffic throughout the oil-rich emirate and the words of U.S. soldiers on the ground, the job is just about done.

"We've got enough for whatever needs to be done. Now we're just continuing to reinforce it," said Sgt. Maj. Larry Stevens, spokesman for the 6th Transportation Battalion. "If the commander in chief gives the order, we don't have to wait for anything."

Camps are being set up throughout northern Kuwait, where a large ground force is massing in white tents, bustling mess halls and training grounds with shooting ranges, mock cities and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

At base camps there are gyms with state-of-the-art cardiovascular machines, movie theaters, fast-food restaurants set up in trailers and PXs stocked with everything from Coca Cola to DVDs to Mideastern tobacco pipes. A chapel set up in a tent at Camp Arifjan, the U.S. military's main logistics base south of Kuwait City, has heat, air conditioning and a digital hymn player.

This week, command-and-control systems that would be used in any strike on Iraq are being tested in a computer-generated exercise dubbed Lucky Warrior.

Kuwaiti police, U.S. Marines and an armored vehicle mounted with an M60 machine gun escorted a convoy of 30 heavy trucks carrying bulldozers, forklifts, graders and other engineering equipment across the desert Saturday from Kuwait's main sea port to Camp Virginia, a small base near the Iraqi border.

Soldiers in the convoy clutched their M16 rifles and talked of their hopes and anxieties surrounding a possible war.

Kuwait is grateful to the United States for leading the coalition force that drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War. It has welcomed allied troops

now despite an official stance opposing war without U.N. approval. The United States says it will attack if necessary, with or without a new U.N. resolution.

The entire northern half of the emirate has been declared off-limits to civilians, to the annoyance of families who normally enjoy camping in those deserts at this time of year.

Despite pervasive pro-U.S. sentiment among Kuwaitis — a rarity in the Muslim world — three serious attacks on Americans here since October have killed a U.S. Marine and an American civilian contracted to the U.S. military. Shots have been fired on U.S. convoys carrying

equipment and personnel.

"We're in danger every day," said 2nd Lt. Sarah Groen, 23, of Haymarket, Va., who commanded Saturday's convoy.

Inside the cab of one of the convoy's trucks, two sergeants asked an army chaplain how long they'd have to be away from home.

"Wrap your mind around a year," said the chaplain, 37-year-old Capt. Craig Johnson, of St. Louis, Mo. Even if a war went quickly, he told the soldiers, there would be many humanitarian operations and other duties to be performed in a post-war Iraq.

Blix again visits Iraq



Jerome Delay/Associated Press

United Nations chief weapons inspector Hans Blix, background, listens as International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed El Baradei, right, speaks at a news conference at the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad on Sunday, following their meetings with Iraqi officials.

Working with FBI: Pakistan struggles with questions

BY PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — American agents swoop in on three Islamic schools in the capital, breaking down doors, blindfolding a cook and peppering him with questions about alleged terror links, then disappear as quickly as they came.

Reports of the operation last month sparked a new wave of anger at the presence of FBI agents in Pakistan and a vow by hard-line religious leaders to kick American soldiers and agents out of the country.

But the raids never happened, U.S. Embassy and Pakistani law enforcement officials insist.

"Whatever it was, we had nothing to do with it," a U.S. official told The Associated Press of the alleged Jan. 16 incident, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Brig. Javed Iqbal Cheema, a senior Interior Ministry official who is coordinating intelligence and security in the campaign against terrorist groups, agreed.

"These raids simply never took place," Cheema said. "These people wanted to malign the government, so they made these things up, but it is absolutely false. When we raid someplace, we own up to it."

School officials, however, continue to insist they were targeted by English-speaking agents whom they took to be from the FBI, and it hasn't been hard to convince most Pakistanis. News of FBI involvement in high-profile arrests has become commonplace here, adding to a perception that the country is swarming with American intelligence agents.

"Every white person in Pakistan is taken as an FBI agent," Cheema said. "It is just a perception, but there are vested interests and quarters here that want to catch on to the public sentiment to give the impression the FBI is on a rampage. The ground reality is very different."

The U.S. Embassy refuses to comment officially on individual arrests and it turned down a request for access to FBI officials in Pakistan. But it said the number of FBI agents in Pakistan has fluctuated between just two and 12 since the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Whatever the number, Pakistani police and intelligence officials confirm that FBI agents have been involved in nearly every important terror arrest in this country of 145 million people since the war on terrorism

began. Pakistan's government says it has handed over more than 420 al-Qaida and Taliban suspects to American custody.

But opposition to President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's support for the U.S.-led campaign has become a rallying cry for resurgent Islamic hard-line groups, which rode a strong anti-American platform to unprecedented success in October elections. The religious coalition is urging the expulsion of all U.S. personnel.

U.S. Navy ends last exercises in Vieques

BY SANDRA IVELISSE VILLERRAEL

Associated Press Writer

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico — The U.S. Navy has concluded its last scheduled round of targeting exercises on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques with a ship firing inert shells at the bombing range, the U.S. Navy said Sunday.

The guided-missile cruiser USS Ticonderoga stopped firing 5-inch shells at the island Saturday afternoon, said Lt. Cmdr. Kim Dixon, a Navy spokeswoman. She said Navy ships would continue training at sea.

"The training overall went very smoothly," Dixon said. "They accomplished all their missions."

Meanwhile, a 100-vehicle caravan drove across civilian areas of Vieques on Sunday to mark the end of training.

"The Navy is not leaving because it wants to, but because the people have forced them out," protest leader Nilda Medina said.

The caravan passed about 30 pro-Navy demonstrators holding U.S. flags, and the two sides briefly

exchanged insults. About 80 police officers were posted in the area, and no violence was reported.

The Navy says it will withdraw from Vieques by May 1, turning over the island's eastern third to the U.S. Department of the Interior and moving training to locations in Florida and elsewhere on the U.S. mainland.

But some protesters have expressed skepticism that the Navy will leave as planned. Activists say the bombing exercises, which began in 1947, have harmed the environment and the health of the island's 9,100 residents. The Navy denies the claims.

The training has been criticized by Puerto Rican leaders since off-target bombs killed a civilian guard on the firing range in 1999. Since then, the Navy has turned to inert ammunition, while more than 1,000 protesters have been arrested for trespassing on Navy lands.

Nineteen demonstrators were detained for trespassing during the latest 27 days of training, while one man was detained for cutting a Navy fence, Dixon said.

SPORTS

In wake of scandals, USOC creates reform task force

BY NANCY ARMOUR

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — The U.S. Olympic Committee is getting serious about cleaning up its mess.

After several months of scandals that splintered the organization and took public attention away from athletes, the USOC's executive committee announced Sunday it has formed a task force to create a blueprint for major reform.

The governance and ethics review task force will examine virtually every part of the USOC for ways to streamline the organization and improve its operation. Its recommendations are due before the USOC's April board meeting.

"The task force has a broad mandate and a lot of work to do," said Bill Stapleton, who will chair the task force with fellow vice president Frank Marshall.

"We have a unique chance in the history of our organization to create real change that we have needed to make for a very long time."

And, frankly, the USOC doesn't have much choice. Congress has the authority to revoke the USOC's charter, and it has very little patience with the group these days. One senator, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, even said chief executive officer Lloyd Ward should resign because of his role in the recent scandals.

A second Congressional hearing is scheduled for Thursday, and senators have asked witnesses for suggestions on fixing the USOC's unwieldy operating structure.

"This gives us the opportunity to show Congress we're stepping up to the plate as far as our own governance, and are willing to take corrective action," said Jim McCarthy, a member of the USOC's executive committee.

"We've had reports with these suggestions before," he added. "The advantage now is we're getting a big push."

Political intrigue and power struggles between volunteers and paid staffers are nothing new to the USOC. But the recent turmoil has been bad — even by USOC standards.

Since Ward was accused in December

of trying to steer Olympic business to his brother's company, five USOC members have quit, president Marty Mankamyer resigned and the organization's leaders have been called before Congress.

The group has now had three presidents in the last 11 months, and three CEOs since 2000.

"The USOC needs to take decisive action to get our house in order," interim president Bill Martin said. "... The time for action, change and improvement is now."

Martin said he would name the rest of the reform task force early this week. The group will then focus on six areas: ethical behavior; governance and organizational structure; maintenance of sensitive, confidential and proprietary information; communications policies; openness, transparency and disclosure; and fundraising efficiency.

The executive committee also asked Anita DeFrantz, Rob Stull and Al Monaco to finalize the selection process for a new president. DeFrantz, the senior U.S. member of the International Olympic Committee, said she hopes that can be done within two weeks.

One of the task force's main focuses will be on the USOC's ethics process, which has been under fire for the way conflict-of-interest allegations against Ward were handled. The executive committee gave Ward a mild reprimand Jan. 13, prompting five USOC members — including ethics compliance officer Pat Rodgers — to resign in protest.

The USOC's compensation committee ruled Ward had committed two ethical violations, and he was stripped of his

\$184,800 bonus Saturday.

"There are no specific recommendations yet, but we need to have an ethics process that is in line with the best practices of Fortune 100 companies," Stapleton said. "I don't think there's any model that won't be reviewed or any idea that won't be considered."

The size of the USOC's board of directors will also be scrutinized. The board currently has 123 members, and almost everyone agrees it's too big.

But where can it be trimmed? The USOC's executive committee officers have to be on it, as do its past presidents. The governing bodies of 45 sports have to be represented, as do paralympians and several community-based organizations.

Twenty percent of the board has to be athletes or former athletes, too.

"In some form, we have to be a big tent, and have to provide an opportunity for all amateur organizations to have a voice," Martin said. "We don't know how we're going to do it."

But they're determined to try.

"I don't think you change the world over the weekend. I think that it is a continuum," Ward said. "I think ultimately what blunts any criticism is not what occurs in a meeting, but what occurs in performance."

"The story will be written going forward, and it won't be one that has no history," he added. "But I think it will be one now where this weekend will create a little bit of air cover and a little bit of a runway so that we can do some good, and I'm excited about that."

Gold on the slopes



Fabrice Coffrini/Associated Press/Keystone

Canadian Melanie Turgeon skis to the gold medal in the women's downhill at the Alpine Ski World Championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland, Sunday.

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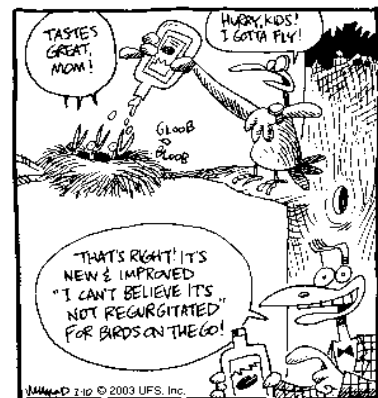
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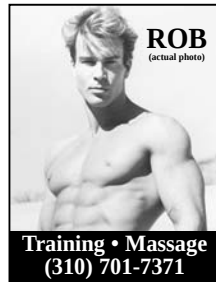
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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003

TODAY

Artful Science: The Social-Cultural Relationship Between Built and Natural Environments. Sam Francis Gallery at Crossroads School in Santa Monica presents an exhibition of drawings, paintings, photographs, and sculpture. Mon-Fri, 10am to 4pm through February 14. 1714 Twenty-First St., 2nd Floor, Peter Boxenbaum Arts Building. For more information please call (310)829-7391 ext. 425.

Toddler Time, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica. Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Unurban Coffee House presents Hot Topics Night hosted by Ali every Monday evening. Signup is at 8pm. Open panel discussion and open forum. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

TOMORROW

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.

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

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

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. **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) 2:00, 5:00, 7:40, 9:50. **The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13)** 1:35, 5:15, 8:45. **Catch Me If You Can (PG-13)** 1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15. **Chicago (PG-13)** 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00. **25th Hour (R)** 1:40, 4:35, 10:15. **Kangaroo Jack (PG)** 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15. **Final Destination 2 (R)** 2:15, 4:45, 7:45, 9:55.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Nicholas Nickleby (PG) 4:00, 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

End nears for unmanned explorer, Jupiter-orbiting Galileo

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
AP Science Writer

PASADENA — As NASA temporarily grounds its shuttle fleet following the Columbia disaster, an unmanned spacecraft that has been exploring the solar system for 14 years is nearing the end of its mission — and still revealing the secrets of a planet hundreds of millions of miles from Earth.

It took the Galileo probe five years to reach Jupiter. It photographed asteroids, and the stormy red spot, and then turned its cameras on the giant planet's moons, each a world in its own right.

The photos and measurements sent back to Earth have provided tantalizing clues suggesting three of those moons — Callisto, Europa and Ganymede — have liquid oceans, an idea that has fueled the imagination of scientists who speculate the salty water could harbor extraterrestrial life.

The probe also caught Io, the most volcanically active body in the solar system, in the act as it belched lava and plumes of dust mixed with gas.

Like many extended journeys, Galileo's will end soon with countless miles traveled, its fair share of breakdowns and album after album stuffed with snapshots.

At the end of this month, mission operations at NASA's Jet Propulsion

Laboratory for the craft conclude. After that, scientists will check on it once a month until September, when it is directed to crash into Jupiter.

Galileo could be allowed to simply remain in orbit, but scientists feared it might collide with Europa and contaminate that body with microbes from Earth, possibly damaging its environment.

The \$1.5 billion mission met 70 percent of its science objectives and made a number of serendipitous discoveries along the way — despite a range of problems.

"There was always something to fix. It kept me busy," said engineer Greg Levanas, Galileo's full-time troubleshooter.

The biggest challenge was the failure of its umbrella-like main antenna, which did not unfurl as planned two years after launch. That forced NASA to rely on a smaller antenna, severely squeezing the amount of data Galileo could beam back. The spacecraft still relayed a wealth of data about the planet and moons previously imaged in the 1970s by Pioneer 10 and 11 and Voyager 1 and 2.

Galileo also was battered by the intense radiation found close to Jupiter.

The spacecraft — itself powered by radioactive plutonium — withstood four times the cumulative dose of harmful radiation it was designed to take. But the bombardment took its toll, causing technical hiccups and occasional losses of data.

In December, it zapped the spacecraft's reel-to-reel tape recorder, though engineers were able to fix it.

From the beginning, it seemed the mission was constantly overcoming adversity.

Congress first approved the project in 1977, but it took another dozen years to get the spacecraft — named for Galileo Galilei, who discovered Jupiter's four largest moons in 1610 — to the launch pad. It was waylaid in part by the 1986 Challenger disaster that grounded NASA's space shuttle fleet.

In 1989, the more than 20-foot spacecraft finally blasted into space aboard shuttle Atlantis and began its 2.3 billion-mile trip.

Along the way, it took the first close-up images of an asteroid. It topped the feat two years later when it spied a tiny moon in orbit around another space rock, another first.

As Galileo approached Jupiter in 1994, it used its unique vantage point to photograph fragments of the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 as they smashed into the atmosphere, producing brilliant flashes of light on the planet's far side that would have otherwise remained unseen.

Close to Jupiter, Galileo released a probe that hit the planet's atmosphere at more than 106,000 mph. The probe worked for nearly an hour, transmitting data about the planet's chemical composi-

tion, winds, clouds and natural radiation environment.

At its height, 300 people worked on the mission at JPL. Now just two dozen do. The end is slated for Sept. 21, when Galileo is expected to plunge into Jupiter's stormy atmosphere after completing its 35th loop around the planet.

NASA recently announced plans for the Jupiter Icy Moons Orbiter, a nuclear spacecraft that would further reconnoiter Callisto, Europa and Ganymede. It won't launch before 2011 but should pave the way for the further robotic exploration of the Jupiter system, NASA said.

The only other spacecraft in the neighborhood of Jupiter is Cassini, on track should arrive at Saturn next year.

Given the risks of human spaceflight, made clear by the Columbia disaster, planetary exploration will remain the province of such robot explorers for decades to come, experts said.

Other than Mars, the rest of the solar system is too distant or too inhospitable for astronauts to explore.

"It's a big, tall order," said Louis Friedman, executive director of The Planetary Society, a space exploration advocacy group. "I would say it's not on the horizon."

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