

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

33, 2, 24, 1, 4

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 4, 6

Evening picks: 7, 7, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 6, Whirl Win

2nd Place: 5, California Classic

3rd Place: 10, Solid Gold

Race Time: 1:49.65



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In December, a federal judge rejected the latest appeal of David Cobb, 66, a former teacher at the prestigious Phillips Academy in New Hampshire, who made *News of the Weird* in 1995 with his attempts to seduce children by dressing as "Pumpkin Man" and encouraging kids to fondle him. He had challenged the child pornography counts against him, claiming that some of the nude photos he had were not of children, but of adults onto whose bodies he had meticulously glued head shots of kids cut out from magazine and catalog ads.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Writing is easy. All you do is stare at a blank piece of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead."

— Gene Fowler



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Momma's boy



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Five-year-old Thomas Shoff gets help from his nanny, Anne Holmes, making a Valentine's Day card for his mom at Santa Monica's temporary library on Wednesday.

Restaurant owners chomping at the bit

A year and a half later, Barney's Beanery ready to move downtown

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

PROMENADE — After more than a year and a half of dealing with City Hall bureaucracy, construction on the second outlet of a famed Los Angeles bar and restaurant will start here today.

Plans for Barney's Beanery were approved by City Hall this week. Barricades will go up in front of the building today, and construction is expected to take three months at a cost of \$1 million, co-owner Dan Houston said.

"They just went through all kinds of gymnastics."

— HERB KATZ
City Councilman

Officials said getting to this point was anything but easy. Barney's sued City Hall in 2002 over what could be built in the new restaurant. That lawsuit eventually settled, but Houston then hit another snag — plans for the project were stuck in the "plan check" department of City Hall for well

See BEANERY, page 6

City Hall to local businesses: 'Shhh'

No need for earplugs with new law

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — Maybe now Santa Monicans will get a little peace and quiet.

That's the hope of local politicians, who after a thorny exchange between themselves, residents and businesses passed a new law on Tuesday that governs how much noise can be made in Santa Monica.

Resident activists lauded the changes, which they expect will limit the noise created by local businesses. Business groups called the new law bad policy and said it was passed despite a dearth of data.

Fifteen members of the public spoke on the topic before the City Council narrowly approved the law. The council had failed to reach a consensus on the issue in November, instead sending it back for more research.

Under the new law, a 100-foot transition area will be established between residential and business zones. In that area, the allowable decibel level for the two zones will be averaged. If a resident complains that a business is too loud, a code enforcement officer will be sent to the residence to measure the noise level. The noise then will be judged against the allowable standard for the residence and not the adjacent busi-

ness, as is done now.

Businesses also will be prohibited from dumping trash and recyclables after 11 p.m., among other things. City staff plans to study the new ordinance's effects and return to the City Council with a report in eight months.

"Santa Monica is not Agoura Hills or somewhere else where there's square miles of tract homes away from the freeways."

— BOB HOLBROOK
City Councilman

Kathy Dodson, president and CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, and Gary Gordon, executive director of the Main Street Merchants Association, asked the council to wait to pass the law. They accused council members of acting too quickly, without gathering enough data as to how the proposed changes would affect businesses, many of which abut residential areas.

City Councilman Ken Genser replied by twice challenging

See NOISE, page 5

Public workers pocket another paid holiday

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The birthday of Abraham Lincoln — the 16th president who was born 195 years ago — may not be a big event for the average citizen. But for government employees it means another day off, with pay.

One of the perks of working for the government is paid holidays,

which seem to occur more frequently than the public would prefer.

Until 1971, government employees enjoyed taking off Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12 and George Washington's birthday on Feb. 22. But President Richard Nixon combined the two and created one federal holiday — President's Day on the third

See HOLIDAY, page 6

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Information might not be as clear as you would like it to be. Why not find the person in question? You might be confused by a friend or an associate. You end the day accomplishing much more than you anticipated. Tonight: Togetherness counts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might not understand what a boss says and need to ask questions. Be diplomatic. Also, help an authority figure decide how to make a concept workable. Your creativity peaks right now; you find answers and solutions. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ You could be dragged down and tired. Certainly, you're not thinking as clearly as you would like. Frustrations mark your decisions and communications. Call it an early day if you can. Otherwise, a walk at lunch might refresh you. Tonight: Ask for that massage.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You have wonderful ideas, but a partner or an associate might be confused, and no matter how you present your ideas, you cannot get through. Late in the day, you opt for a different approach. Your creativity is endless. Use it. Tonight: Again, use your ingenuity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ If you can call in and take a personal day, do so. Listen to others, even though you might really wonder where they are coming from. Maintain control of your personal domain, as you can control no one else. Tonight: Happy at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You do well no matter where you are. You seem to be able to break through office flak and confusion. You might try to get a better understanding at first, but then decide to head in your own direction — an excellent choice. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ You might be most unhappy about a risk, whether it is emotional or financial. You see life from a different perspective because of this upset. If you tune in to your sensitivity and intuition, you'll come up with a remarkable solution. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might be crushing someone close with your dominance right now. This person might not be willing to express his or her feelings except in an indirect manner. Be sensitive, as you're top dog right now. Tonight: Aim for more of what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Take your time with others. Misunderstandings will happen way too easily. Stay on top of work, remembering what you can accomplish. Screen calls until later in the day. Tonight: Take some time off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Where your friends are is where you want to be, even at work! You delight in a work-related meeting or even networking. Your presentation could awe others. Be careful with funds, making no commitment. Tonight: Pretend it is the weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You take charge in an unprecedented manner at work or with a responsibility. The stress this action might cause you could be considerable. Know that you don't want to do this too often. A partner or associate thanks you profoundly. Tonight: Chill out as soon as you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Use your detachment to see what really might be going on with you. Although you have an idea, you might want to take a hard look at your inner thoughts and energy. Seek out an expert if need be. Tonight: Follow the music.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

Hospital at a new level

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center reached new heights on Tuesday, signifying a construction milestone in its decade-long renovation.

The hospital hosted a "topping off" ceremony in the emergency room parking lot, across from the hospital's main entrance. A one-ton steel beam, signed by hospital employees, physicians and supporters, was hoisted into position during the ceremony. The structural steel framework for the new hospital's North Wing reaches its full height.

The North Wing, to be located adjacent to Wilshire Boulevard, will be the highest part of the new Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, currently taking shape around the existing Santa Monica-UCLA facility. The new hospital is scheduled to be completed in 2007.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Report: Employers can make for healthy workers

By Daily Press staff

Employers can help reduce employee obesity and health costs by offering healthier food choices and improving access to physical activity at work, according to a report issued last month by the California Department of Health Services.

The report found that many business leaders promote worker-health programs as a way to reduce the costs of employee obesity. Those costs include increased absenteeism, loss of productivity and higher medical bills.

"Workers spend the majority of their waking hours on the job, so it makes good business sense for employers to try to improve worker fitness," said Dr. Gilberto F. Chavez, chief medical officer of the department. "Access to healthy foods and physical activity during the workday can significantly reduce the risks of obesity and other health-related problems."

Obesity-related medical expenses cost California \$7.7 billion annually — more than any other state — according to research released in January by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The department research findings include:

- Fewer business leaders are concerned about physical inactivity, poor diet and being overweight than tobacco use, even though more than half of all adults are overweight, obese or sedentary.

- Fifty percent of business leaders said their worksites had programs that were intended to promote good health. The most common offerings were health screenings, health fairs and flu vaccinations.

For more information, visit www.ca5aday.com. For further information about the CDC report, visit www.cdc.gov.

Music to their ears

By Daily Press staff

A local teacher has been honored for her leadership in music.

Bonnie Lockrem has been chosen as the recipient of the California Music Educators Association Southern Section Outstanding Music Educator Award. Lockrem will accept the award on March 19 in Sacramento. She has been the association's orchestra representative for the last 10 years.

Lockrem has taught instrumental music in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District since 1973 and is currently teaching at all three Malibu elementary schools. A staunch advocate for music education, she helped create the award-winning music programs in the local school district. She served as a coordinator of the elementary instrumental music program for eight years and has been coordinator of the district's widely acclaimed production, Stairway of the Stars, for three years.

Lockrem received her BA and MM from the University of Southern California. She is especially well known by the citizens of Malibu, where she lives and teaches with her husband Steven Ravaglioli, also a music educator in the district, and her daughter, Raquel. Lockrem also is a member of the music faculty at Pepperdine, a violinist with the Topanga Symphony and founder/director of the Malibu Music Seminar.



Our NW swell should build through today, showing strongest in the afternoon and continuing to build through Friday. This swell is coming from a pretty steep NW angle, so most spots stay small today.

OUTLOOK: On Friday, wave heights will continue to creep up as the swell builds and turns slowly more West. This will start to send in a few more waves to areas that had been left out of the steeper NW swell.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break. Epic.

Today the water is:

57°

	LOW TIDES		HIGH TIDES	
	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
SATURDAY	3:05 AM	4:08 PM	9:15 AM	10:37 PM
SUNDAY	3:45 AM	4:36 PM	9:48 AM	11:02 PM
MONDAY	4:30 AM	5:08 PM	10:28 AM	11:37 PM
TUESDAY	5:23 AM	5:38 PM	11:14 AM	N/A
WEDNESDAY	6:30 AM	6:06 PM	12:15 AM	12:15 PM
THURSDAY	8:03 AM	6:48 PM	12:59 AM	1:47 PM
FRIDAY	9:43 AM	7:45 PM	1:54 AM	4:15 PM

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The Q-Line

The national unemployment rate has dropped to 5.6 percent — the lowest level in two years. But with only 2 million jobs created since he took office, President George Bush has the worst job creation record of any president since Herbert Hoover.

But the economy as a whole appears to be climbing back up. However, municipalities are still struggling — including Santa Monica, which faces a \$4 million deficit next year. And the local school district faces \$3.5 million budget shortfall for the upcoming school year. Many of our woes are because of the state's multi-billion dollar deficit, which doesn't appear to be as

easily solved as our new governor once thought. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed state budget would take more money away from local municipalities and school districts.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know:

"What should be done to solve our local economic crisis?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Saturday's paper (responses used to be printed on Friday but have been moved to Saturday). Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

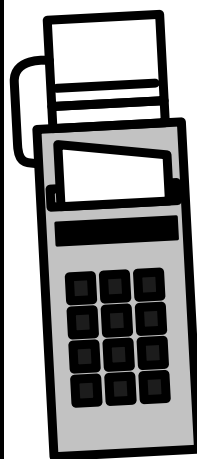
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LETTERS

Listen up, council

Editor:

I could not believe my ears but it was true. City Councilman Kevin McKeown at Tuesday's City Council meeting said that the reason that the council was working so hard on the noise ordinance was because the people had given the council a mandate to improve the "quality of life" in Santa Monica. Who do you think your kidding, Kevin? You have all the homeless running around Santa Monica that people want you to get rid of and you invite more in. Your council members burden business with all these stupid regulations that has them running and you say that is "quality of life." You, more than anyone, always yelling about civil rights when your very own city is the most racist and civil right violating town to be found. Yet you talk about a mandate from the people? What people? Get real, Kevin. Average people have been telling you a different story if you were listening, but unless they have money for you or help you get reelected, you don't listen. Of course, do any of the council members listen? But that's another story.

Brian A. Gray, Sr.
Santa Monica

It's about education

Editor:

For all his historical and political inaccuracies, Marc Sanschagrin's recent comments in the Daily Press (Letters to the editor, Feb. 9, page 4) should serve as a reminder: That good intentions alone are not enough when the education of our children is at stake.

How the money is raised, how much it actually raises, and how it is spent are all critical considerations for any school funding measure.

Despite all the public relations efforts (and when was the last time you've seen a promotional campaign for a measure that's already passed?) the shortcomings of Proposition S have become evident, and have already helped spawn another school funding proposal, the CEPS initiative. At the risk of further being branded an "anti-education radical" by Mr. Sanchagrin, I still believe that our students cannot be sold short. With that in mind, our challenge now is to insure that CEPS actually makes it to the ballot and is not co-opted by some of those same special interests that benefited from the inequalities of Proposition S.

Any insider "deal" that somehow precludes residents from deciding the fate of this fundamental statement of support for our schools serves the interests of neither democracy nor our children.

Don Gray
Santa Monica

City Hall ignoring traffic on San Vicente

Editor:

(This letter was originally addressed to the Santa Monica City Council).

Fifty years ago when my parents lived near the intersection of 14th Street and San Vicente Boulevard, my mother and her neighbors tried to get the city to install a traffic signal at that intersection after witnessing a number of bad accidents there. The

city did nothing about it. A few years ago, one of our neighbors on Woodacres also asked the city to install a signal after her son was badly injured in an accident at this same intersection. Again, nothing was done about it. My family still lives near 11th Street and San Vicente Boulevard and we have heard or witnessed many bad accidents along this part of San Vicente, including the death of four Palisades High School students in the late 1980s who were killed right in front of our street in a terrible two-car accident.

There have been several letters published in the Santa Monica Daily Press recently about the accidents and near misses occurring at the intersection of Fourth Street and San Vicente Boulevard. All these accidents have one root cause — the uninterrupted flow of traffic between 26th Street and Ocean Avenue. Drivers treat this stretch of San Vicente as if it were a freeway. Periodically, the city will send out motorcycle police to hide in people's driveways and ticket speeders, but this only slows traffic on the days they are out there. The only solution to this problem is to install a traffic signal at 14th Street to permanently slow traffic. On Tuesday, the Daily Press reported yet another bad accident had occurred at 14th Street and San Vicente. How many more people have to be killed or injured before the city does something about this? The City Council has found millions of dollars in the budget for their traffic calming projects and spent a lot of taxpayers' money on making 26th Street even more dangerous with their confusing traffic circle. Yet for 50 years they have done nothing to remedy a truly dangerous situation on San Vicente Boulevard.

Debra Buteyn
Santa Monica

Our country needs a real leader, not an enabler

Is it my imagination or is the Democratic primary more about ousting President Bush than selecting a real statesman? People seem primarily determined in finding someone — anyone — who has a chance of replacing the incumbent. Yet in our ever-shrinking world, it is discouraging that no one is discussing in real depth the pivotal role of an American president in the global community.

So far I hear only campaign promises that are confusing because all of the candidates sound alike. Should I cast my vote for the one who promises a "new American patriotism," or is it more urgent that I go with the guy who means to "take back America?" But wait, maybe I should hitch my wagon to the guy who wants me to go with him as in "together we can take back this country."

However, no one can articulate the what, how and why of the hatred felt by so many towards Americans and how we

might diminish that hatred. As our president speaks of preemptive strikes, of resuscitating our nuclear arms program, of "you are either with us or against us," the response from the Democratic contenders has been a deafening silence.

If you are old enough to remember John F. Kennedy's speech at American University in 1962, you at least know what a real leader sounds like. He spoke eloquently about peacefully coexisting with the Soviets despite our irreconcilable differences because we all share a common humanity. He offered an olive branch, yet spoken with strength and conviction. That one speech brought the Soviets to the test ban treaty table. More than ever, we need words like that in today's world.

Instead we are given boiler plate rhet-

oric for better health care, better schools, a better future for our children, lower taxes, reducing the debt, increasing defense, yada, yada, yada. But why is no one asking us to make personal sacrifices? Why isn't anyone brave enough to admit that no one can fix any of the above without our real help?

Why aren't we asked to buy energy-efficient cars, recycle, conserve energy, clean up our neighborhoods, take better care of our children, re-examine our unending love affair with too much stuff, improve our health with better lifestyle choices, learn more about other cultures, or demand an end to big business decimating our environment by boycotting those that do? All of that would not only improve the state of our nation, they would produce a positive ripple

effect felt around the globe.

Apparently, though, no one feels like asking anything from us because too many think too many Americans are too soft to roll up our sleeves and be an active participant in "taking back our country." I disagree. I believe we are looking for a leader who can inspire us and those around us so that we can respond as a team. But too many of us have simply given up. Without the straight talk and the tough love we need to hear, most of us regrettably define an honest politician as an oxymoron.

Give us a real job to do. What we desperately need is for someone to empower us, not enable us. Yet all of the candidates ask only two things from us: Our money and our vote. Ironically, it is both too much and not enough.

(Jill Chapin is a freelance writer and a Santa Monica resident).

Guest Commentary

By Jill Chapin

LOCAL



Noise law will return to council in eight months

NOISE, from page 1

Dodson to supply her home phone number so residents could take their complaints directly to her. Both Genser and City Councilman Kevin McKeown compared excessive noise to dog waste on the sidewalks, saying there needn't be repeated violations before the need for an ordinance becomes apparent.

In the end, the council voted 4-3 to pass the noise ordinance. Shortly after the vote, City Councilman Mike Feinstein, who had voted against the law, switched his vote, saying he would put his energy and spirit behind the ordinance even though it was "sloppy thinking based on insufficient information."

Earlier Tuesday, a group of activists had threatened to mount a campaign to unseat Feinstein and City Councilman Herb Katz, who both voted against the law in November, if they didn't work towards a resolution. Both councilmen are up for reelection this fall. Katz on Wednesday said he realized he was the swing vote in support of the law.

"I went into it saying I really don't like the transition zone — and I don't, I'm still not thrilled with it," he said, adding he was later convinced by the staff recommendation, which was backed by an outside consultant. "I said, 'Well, these are pretty independent (opinions), and we're really not playing politics here.'"

Katz said the key activists who have long pushed for a stricter noise ordinance are few in number but vocal in their argument. He added the most important part of any noise ordinance is that it be enforced.

To address that, the City Council also authorized City Hall to hire another code compliance officer — currently there is only one. The council also passed new noise violation fees — first time offenders

will be charged \$75 and that amount will be raised for violators who break the law again within 36 months.

Residents on Wednesday said they were mostly pleased with the new law.

"The result is that the maximum allowable noise for people that live very close to businesses will be reduced by one-third, and everybody else will be reduced by one-half, which is certainly an improvement," said Dan Stuart, 39, an attorney who lives in an apartment near Main Street in Ocean Park.

But local merchants saw the ordinance differently. They argued that the bulk of noise complaints to the Santa Monica Police Department haven't been because of local businesses — they've been because of garbage trucks, music in passing automobiles, loud motorcycles and other annoyances. Those few instances when businesses violate the law should be addressed individually, they added.

"Our concern has always been if you impose an additional regulation on a business — at anyone's request — and you don't know what that will mean to the operation of the business, then you're making an uninformed decision," Gordon said. "When I'm talking about outdoor dining, for example, I'm talking about one of the jewels of Southern California ... and if you start making rules that may end up requiring the enclosure of outdoor dining areas, that's a big thing."

City Councilman Bob Holbrook, who voted against the law, said local residents should be accustomed to putting up with some noise.

"Santa Monica is not Agoura Hills or somewhere else where there's square miles of tract homes away from the freeways," said Holbrook, pointing out local attractions that generate a lot of noise, like

the airport, Santa Monica Pier and the Third Street Promenade. "Fair play is fair play. Frankly, I don't get it."

But Stuart, who was a leader in the effort for a stricter noise law, said he didn't buy the argument that residents should adapt to businesses.

"I think the opposite is really true," he said. "I think that businesses that choose to operate so close to residences benefit from that and it should be incumbent upon them to take the necessary measures to make sure they don't generate late-night noise that would keep people awake."

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Can you hear me now?

The new noise ordinance limits continuous noises in industrial zones to 70 decibels, commercial zones to 65 decibels during the day and 60 decibels at night, while residential zones are limited to 60 decibels during the day and 50 decibels at night. An average of the requirements will be used in a 100-foot transition area between any two zones.

EXAMPLES OF NOISES, IN DECIBELS:

Faintest audible sound: 0 dB
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LOCAL

Barney's Beanery was a Janis Joplin hangout

BEANERY, from page 1

over a year, he said.

The situation got so difficult that the City Council, fearing Barney's would levy a second lawsuit against the city, on Tuesday voted unanimously to extend by four months Barney's window for developing the Promenade property.

Difficulties in getting through the planning department in City Hall are all too common in Santa Monica, merchants have long complained. They say the process is overly bureaucratic and marked by poor customer service and other inefficiencies. That claim was backed by a recent study conducted by graduate business students, as well as the admission of the department's top bureaucrats.

The case of Barney's was even more confusing, because — like the Midnight Special Bookstore, which also hit snags when it moved to Second Street last year

— Barney's was a project local officials were eager to pursue. What's more, Barney's is moving into a space that used to be occupied by a restaurant, meaning it didn't need to apply for a time-consuming change-of-use permit, officials said.

But Suzanne Frick, planning director, said the owners of Barney's are largely to blame for the lag in getting the new restaurant approved.

"This one is certainly an exceptional case, because when they first applied, they were asking to go well beyond what the original ... permit would have allowed," she said. "The city and Barney's got into a dispute about that determination and it ended up a settlement agreement ... so you really can't use this as an example, because this really was an anomaly and the subject of a potential lawsuit."

City Councilman Herb Katz said both sides contributed to the delay.

"They've gone through quite a bit of a struggle — quite a bit of it was city, part of it was theirs," he said. "They just went through all kinds of gymnastics."

No matter who is to blame for the delay in opening Barney's, Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp., the nonprofit that runs downtown with funding from City Hall, said something needs to be done differently.

"The process has to be much more efficient," said Rawson, whose office is above the site of the new Barney's, just north of Santa Monica Boulevard on the Promenade.

Houston, who also owns Q's Billiard Club & Restaurants in West LA, Santa Barbara and Pasadena, declined to discuss the delays at City Hall.

"That's far from our goal — our goal is not to get into litigation with anybody, particularly not the city of Santa Monica," he said, later adding, "It's been longer than we would have liked it to be, because we're anxious to open up in Santa Monica."

Barney's Beanery moved from Berkeley to LA in the 1920s. Over the years it's been frequented by all types of movie and rock and roll stars, including regulars like Jim Morrison and Janis Joplin, Houston said.

"We're excited," he added. "The style of Barney's is very loose. I call it a hyper-casual, almost, dining experience ... and I thought that would work very well in Santa Monica and particularly on the Promenade because it's a very relaxing place."

Lincoln's birthday means another City 'Hall-iday'

HOLIDAY, from page 1

Monday in February — a day to remember all past presidents.

However, Lincoln's birthday is still recognized as a state holiday and, therefore, government employees are entitled to take the day off.

Santa Monica officials realized several years ago that giving employees yet another day off in February wasn't good for customer service. City Hall negotiated with all of the unions representing 1,800 employees that Lincoln's birthday should be observed some other time of the year.

While most of the unions agreed to convert Lincoln's birthday into a "floating holiday," there was one — the Municipal Employees Association — that didn't agree to it. That's because there are many employees who are regularly assigned to work on holidays, which means holiday pay, plus time and a half. Taking a floating holiday would mean those employees — like garbage men and other blue collar workers — wouldn't get extra pay.

At the time, City Hall was forced to either pay MEA employees overtime and holiday pay to work on Feb. 12 every year, or reduce city staff by giving the majority of the MEA employees the day off with holiday pay. The result was staffing shortages, impaired customer service and overtime expenditures in City Hall. The MEA represents between 650 and 700 employees, and includes clerical workers, technicians and blue collar workers, said Karen Bancroft, director of

Human Resources in City Hall.

But finally, this year, the MEA recognized the waning customer service and increased cost to City Hall. It agreed to change the way Lincoln's birthday is handled. This year, employees who are regularly assigned to work on holidays will work today without losing overtime pay. Employees who aren't required to work on holidays will work today and get a "floating holiday" at some point during the year.

"It's better to give them a day off than to keep everyone on holiday pay," said City Hall spokeswoman Judy Rambeau. "It's less impact to the public because we're trying to make sure we're here and it's a budget issue."

The issue really became noticeable a few years ago when City Hall employees had five days off in a row. Every other Friday, City Hall is closed to cut down on car emissions by reducing car trips. So when that alternate Friday fell in between Lincoln's birthday and President's Day, city employees enjoyed an extended vacation.

"That really prompted us to look at this," Bancroft said. "MEA finally recognized the need for public service."

MEA's agreement with City Hall is good for only this year — the bargaining unit's contract will expire this spring and Bancroft hopes to negotiate the current agreement into the new contract.

So while the public may be observing Lincoln's birthday today, some City Hall employees may be doing it in June or September.



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Christina S. Porter
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BUSINESS

Opportunities for private owners



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

By John Kim

Running a successful business is a constant challenge. It is, therefore, imperative that you surround yourself with the right set of professionals to help you meet some of the common obstacles that growing businesses face. The following strategies will help uncover opportunities for your business, as well as help you obtain an even greater level of success.

1. Start with a plan. Whether starting a new business or seeking to obtain capital for expansion, an important key to success is a good business plan. The plan should include:

- Business description, including product/services, competition and market size.
- Marketing strategy.
- Operations analysis, including production, management and human resources.
- Financial projections.
- Executive summary geared to your target audience.

The executive summary represents the first impression you will make on a lender or potential investor. Often, it may be the determining factor in whether or not the remainder of your plan is read. It should include a mission statement, a summary of your marketing strategy, financial projections and operations analysis.

Although the executive summary will be the first section of your plan, it should be written last. Length should not be more than a few pages. Ask yourself: Who is the reader? What are you asking them to do? And, most important, what is in it for them?

2. Access capital. There may be no greater challenge for a business owner than accessing the right amount of capital, at the right time and for the right price. Whether it's business expansion or purchasing additional inventory, access to a reliable source of funds that can be borrowed quickly and conveniently will be the key to future success. Consider some of these lending options:

- Working capital and term loans
- Securities-based loans *
- Home equity loans
- Letters of credit
- Small Business Administration loans

3. Manage cash flow. Maintaining adequate funds on hand, while maximizing returns on "non-working" capital is a difficult and time-consuming task. The solution? A working capital account that will not only help ease your cash management burdens, but should also optimize your business' return on assets. This type of account combines cash management, investment and credit benefits and includes such features as:

- Writing checks and transferring funds
- Simplifying payroll administration
- Daily sweep of cash balances into money market funds
- Borrowing against securities *

4. Plan retirement. In order to attract the attention of talented individuals and encourage loyalty and productivity, you likely will need to offer incentives such as retirement plans. These are not only a valuable employee benefit, but they can also generate substantial tax savings for both you and your employees. There are many variables involved when deciding on a particular plan, such as cash flow, cost and tax benefits to the business and what direction you want the business to go. Taking these factors into consideration, review some of these retirement options:

- SEP IRAs
- SIMPLE IRAs
- Profit sharing plans
- Defined benefit plan
- 401(k) plans
- Uni-401(k) plans

5. Determine a business succession plan. If you wish to pass on your business to a relative or partner after your departure, it would be prudent to fully analyze the many available estate-planning strategies in order to ensure a smooth transition. By planning ahead of time, you will be safeguarding your business, as well as reducing estate and gift tax consequences, which can be substantial. Consider some of these strategies:

- Life insurance
- Key employee life insurance
- Business succession planning
- Buy-sell agreements
- Family limited partnerships
- Limited liability companies
- Lifetime transfers of business interests
- Philanthropic gifting

6. Unlock liquidity from business. Determining the most opportune method to exit the business will depend on several factors — the reason for your departure, your desired level of involvement in the business, market and economic conditions, personal and professional goals and whether or not you have a buyer already in place. Once you have analyzed the reasons to sell, the next step is to review your options:

- Sale/partial sale
- Recapitalization
- Divestiture
- Merger and acquisition
- Employee stock ownership plans
- Leveraged buyouts

7. Invest your personal wealth. Do not neglect your own financial future. Whether you're just starting out, diversifying assets or selling your stake in the business, it's important that your personal investment strategy not only generate additional wealth, but also preserve the assets you've worked so hard to accumulate. Develop an investment strategy that covers all of your concerns, like educating your children, retiring comfortably, allocating your assets and devising a personal estate plan.

8. Forge alliances. Successful entrepreneurs draw upon a wide circle of sources when seeking business advice and making decisions. Ask your fellow business owners if they know a great financial consultant, lawyer, CPA, insurance specialist or technology expert.

* Borrowing against securities involves risks should your securities decline in value. These risks, as well as the suitability of this strategy, should be carefully considered beforehand.

(John S. Kim is a financial consultant with Smith Barney, located in Beverly Hills. He can be contacted at (310) 205-4939 or at www.fc.smithbarney.com/jkim. Smith Barney does not offer tax or legal advice. Consult your tax and/or legal advisor for such guidance. This article is based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the business client services department of Smith Barney. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc., member SIPC).

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STATE

Reorganization effort takes shape; Dems to back bonds

BY TOM CHORNEAU
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's plans to streamline state government has moved forward with a call to state workers to begin offering their ideas and a June deadline when recommendations would be presented to the public.

Schwarzenegger promised during his State of the State speech last month to "blow up" the bureaucracy in an effort to remove waste and fraud. Administration officials announced this week the opening of a campaign office for the Californian Performance Review as well as a Web site and hot line.

Chon Gutierrez, currently the interim director of the Department of Motor Vehicles and 30-year state employee, will lead the effort along with the help of Billy Hamilton, deputy state comptroller of Texas, who has been involved with such reviews in the past.

Supporters say the window for change is open but vot-

ers expect results.

"We are truly at a historic point," said Paul Miner, the chief deputy cabinet secretary assigned to the program, who noted that voters called for big changes in state government through the Oct. 7 recall and Schwarzenegger believes are ready to embrace such changes.

Although many efficiency improvements have been tried and failed, Miner called this one different because it will combine state workers with private-sector experts to find ways to save money. This effort, he said, also has the support of the governor and legislative leaders.

Organizers say they will enlist support of about 150 workers from all parts of state government. A commission appointed by the governor will also evaluate the ideas and eventually make recommendations to the governor and the Legislature.

This won't duplicate any of the agencies that already exist to expose waste, supporters said.

California already has the Little Hoover Commission, a bipartisan, independent panel started in the early 1960s to promote efficiency in state government, and the Legislative Analyst's Office, which reviews the state's spending plan for the Assembly and Senate and can suggest cutting duplicative programs. Legislators can also request audits of state spending or programs by the non-partisan Bureau of State Audits.

Hamilton helped former President Clinton organize a National Performance Review in the early 1990s and led a prior reorganization effort in Texas. Hamilton said performance reviews in his home state created more than

\$12 billion in savings over 10 years.

Miner said the new program will be paid for out of existing state funds but it doesn't have a specific budget yet.

Any good ideas could be implemented immediately, Miner said, which the governor could do by executive order. However, the Legislature may have to approve other proposals from a formal report due to Schwarzenegger by June 30.

Meanwhile, Schwarzenegger's efforts to get state voters to pass a \$15 billion bond measure and a balanced budget amendment received a big boost Tuesday from Democratic leaders, who endorsed Propositions 57 and 58.

Along with the Legislature's leaders, Senate President Pro Tempore John Burton of San Francisco and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez from Los Angeles, both U.S. senators, Democrats Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, endorsed the two propositions.

"We think there is no alternative for this state this year," Burton said. "Deficit spending is not the best way to do things but unless you find a very big bank to rob, there's no other way to get things done in time."

The proceeds from the bonds are needed to pay off short-term loans that come due in June. There's another \$3 billion from the bond sale that would also be used to help close next year's budget gap.

Until Tuesday, the only major Democrat openly supporting the governor's plan was Controller Steve Westly, who said the new endorsements are critical to getting the measures passed.

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John Garamendi proposes version of a workers' compensation reform plan

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Hoping to influence how lawmakers reform California's workers' compensation system, state Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi released his own plan that he claims would reduce costly lawsuits and get benefits quicker to injured workers.

The plan calls for a slew of changes to the state's current system, which California employers say is too costly and worker advocates contend doesn't provide adequate benefits.

"What I am proposing is a bridge between the business community and labor interests in California that the Legislature can cross over," Garamendi said Tuesday.

Garamendi's proposal comes as lawmakers in Sacramento debate the merits of a workers' compensation

bill backed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Assembly Insurance Committee was scheduled to review both Garamendi's and the governor's plan on Wednesday, during the first of six planned hearings on the issue.

Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders met for about an hour Tuesday in Sacramento to discuss how to reach a compromise on the proposed legislation.

Schwarzenegger and business groups are backing a bill designed to cut employers' workers' comp costs by about \$11 billion, but it's run into strong opposition from Democrats, labor and workers' attorneys, who contend the bill will hurt injured workers.

Schwarzenegger set a March 1 deadline for legislators to vote on the bill. He has threatened to put his proposal on the November ballot for voters to approve if lawmakers don't come through.

Among the key provisions in Garamendi's plan include making uninsured employers subject to felony charges instead of misdemeanors. Employers also would be required to pay benefits immediately to workers hurt on the job.

The plan also would allow employers to dispute workers' claims for up to one year, compared with the 90-day period allowed under current laws. Garamendi also suggested an independent medical examiner should look at injured workers and determine the extent of their disability and what kind of treatment and compensation they should receive, if any.

Garamendi also wants lawmakers to simplify the permanent disability rating system, which is used to rate the degree of an injured employee's disability. Disputes over the severity of injuries and how much compensation workers should receive drive costly lawsuits, Garamendi said.

He acknowledged, however, that he could not estimate how much his plan would help reduce the cost of workers' compensation.

Garamendi's plan has not been actually adopted as part of any legislation, he said.

Schwarzenegger spokesman Vince Sollitto said the governor had not had a chance to review Garamendi's proposal, but welcomed it.

David Rockwell, treasurer of the California Applicants Attorneys Association, a group that represents 1,000 attorneys specializing in worker compensation cases, criticized Garamendi's plan for not being aggressive enough on insurers.

"At the best it puts some rate regulation on insurance carriers, provides a floor so that carriers can't undercut themselves, but it doesn't do anything to reduce excessive rates," Rockwell said.

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NATIONAL



Scientist's testimony could influence impasse over N. Korea

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The United States and North Korea have been arguing for well over a year about the breadth of Pyongyang's nuclear program.

Ironically, U.S. officials say that Pakistan's rogue scientist, Abdul Qadeer Khan, for all of his admitted misdeeds, may be ideally positioned to clarify the North's nuclear capabilities.

Officials hope that Khan, Pakistan's ace bomb-builder and confessed proliferator of nuclear secrets, will set the record straight before key talks on the North Korean nuclear impasse start Feb. 25.

Khan is uniquely qualified to address the issue, having been linked to the sale of nuclear secrets to North Korea, among other countries on the State Department's terrorism list.

Given his flouting of the U.S. anti-proliferation campaign, it may seem out of character for the United States to accept without complaint the pardon that Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf gave Khan last week. To the extent there is indignation about Khan, officials are keeping it to themselves. Nowadays, they see Khan as more of an opportunity than a problem.

At the same time, however, Secretary of State Colin Powell insisted this week that Pakistan tear out the nuclear black market network "by its roots."

China has refused to accept the U.S. contention that North Korea is developing nuclear weapons based on highly enriched uranium. The United States first made the allegation in October 2002; Pyongyang has persistently denied it. Officials worry that North Korea, emboldened by China's backing, may not back away from those denials in the upcoming talks.

If there is no break in the impasse, this could lead to the collapse of the prolonged U.S. effort to seek a negotiated settlement based on the U.S. demand that Pyongyang verifiably eliminate its nuclear weapons program.

The administration is looking to six-nation talks in China that start Feb. 25 for progress toward that goal. Participants will include the United States, the two Koreas, China, Japan and Russia.

As U.S. officials see it, no agreement is possible if Pyongyang insists that it has no nuclear ambitions beyond the plutonium-based nuclear program which it has publicly acknowledged. North Korea has expressed a willingness to dismantle that program under certain conditions.

More highly enriched uranium is needed to make a nuclear weapon than to make one from plutonium, but enriching uranium is easier to do clandestinely, since it does not require a nuclear reactor. Moreover, uranium-based bombs are considered more reliable.

Some experts believe that if the negotiations reach a dead end, a crisis could ensue, with the United States imposing a blockade on North Korea at some point — perhaps after the U.S. elections in November. The administration has declined to speculate on contingency plans.

David Albright, head of the International Institute for Science and International Security, says Khan's links to North Korea involve assistance for a uranium program and not the country's plutonium program.

Albright says no one would object if Khan had helped the North Koreans with research and development on uranium enrichment. It would be another matter, Albright adds, if Khan were to concede that he has been involved in the construction of centrifuges, an essential element in the development of a uranium bomb.

Miriam Rajkumar, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said that if Khan confirms what U.S.

officials believe, "that would go a long way toward buttressing the U.S. in its conflict with North Korea."

She adds that any such confession by Khan would have no meaning unless Pakistani investigators provide the details.

U.S. officials wonder how long China could support North Korea's denial in the face of contradictory information from Khan. On the other hand, if Khan professes ignorance about the North Korean program, that could reinforce Pyongyang's stand — as well as China's backing for it.

Last week, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher made clear the administration is counting on full disclosure from Pakistan concerning Khan's revelations to investigators.

He said the United States expects that Pakistan "will share information that they're unearthing in their ongoing investigation with the international community."

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NATIONAL

Kerry's rivals in distress after Virginia and Tennessee

BY NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — It's not surprising that John Edwards says he would be a tougher opponent for President Bush than Democratic front-runner John Kerry. It raises eyebrows when Howard Dean says the same thing.

With the race's fourth major candidate, Wesley Clark, quitting the race, Edwards and Dean are ganging up on Kerry, winner of 12 of the 14 nominating contests so far.

Dean told CBS News in an interview that will air Wednesday night that he believes Edwards would be the better candidate in the general election, even though Kerry has the advantage right now.

"My fear is that he actually won't be the strongest Democratic candidate," Dean told the network.

Asked about Dean's comment, Edwards told reporters: "I agree with that. I think that he is a very wise man. ... The truth is that this campaign to bring about change is working with independents and voters that we will have to get in order to win the general election."

Kerry is speeding toward the nomination, and Dean and Edwards are hoping to stop him after a showdown in Wisconsin on Tuesday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Dean urged voters in Wisconsin's primary to stand up against Kerry and other Washington insiders who he said are trying to derail his candidacy. He said he would support the Democratic nominee, but Kerry would be the "lesser of two evils" in a race against President Bush.

Dean, once the race's high-flying front-runner, has gone winless while Kerry has captured 12 victories, including Virginia and Tennessee on Tuesday. Clark decided to quit the race after dismal third-place showings, while runner-up Edwards forged ahead with a busy campaign day in Wisconsin.

Edwards said he has not entertained the thought of

"The truth is that this campaign to bring about change is working with independents and voters that we will have to get in order to win the general election."

— JOHN EDWARDS
Democratic candidate

dropping out and not one Democratic official has asked him to. He is planning to focus his campaign on trade and job losses in Wisconsin, hoping the contest will force Dean from the race and leave him as the alternative to Kerry.

"I'm going to be the nominee," Edwards told The Associated Press in an interview aboard his plane. "I'm definitely staying in."

Edwards' advisers also said he would remain positive and refused to criticize Kerry. Dean, on the other hand, sought to portray Kerry as part of the Washington machine working against him.

"What we now see is that John Kerry is part of the corrupt political culture in Washington," Dean said in an interview. He said he came to that conclusion after learning that former New Jersey Sen. Robert Torricelli contributed to an independent group that ran ads that used images of Osama bin Laden to question Dean's ability to combat terrorism if elected president.

Torricelli, who was forced out of office over ethical lapses, is now raising money for Kerry's presidential campaign. Dean said disclosures that money was also raised by backers of Dick Gephardt show Washington insiders are trying to derail his candidacy.

"The link is unassailable," Dean said. "The same fund-raiser who was ethically challenged and had to step aside from a Senate race because of that raised money from the same donors to support both Senator Kerry and his ... political action group."

"I intend to support the Democratic nominee under

any circumstances," Dean said. "I'm just deeply disappointed that once again we may have to settle for the lesser of two evils."

Kerry spokesman David Wade called it "another day, another Dean act of desperation." Wade said Kerry has a record of fighting special interests in Washington and that voters across the country have said they want his leadership in the White House.

Dean finished in single digits in Virginia and Tennessee, having skipped both states to campaign in Wisconsin. He's hoping to revive his candidacy there, but some of his supporters have been questioning whether it is possible.

"I think there comes a point when you have to recognize reality," said Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, one of Dean's high-profile endorsers. "I understand he made the commitment to go to Wisconsin, but I think at some point there's going to have to be a reckoning here."

Meanwhile, Kerry campaign officials said he picked up more congressional endorsements — New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman and Maine Rep. Tom Allen.

Kerry retreated to his home in Georgetown, nursing a cough and making phone calls. He returns to the campaign trail Friday with stops in Wisconsin and Nevada, which holds its caucuses Saturday.

The Bush campaign is increasingly convinced that Kerry will be the opponent in the November elections. They are planning to portray Kerry as a tax raiser who wants to roll back efforts in Iraq and has changed from a war supporter early last year to an opponent when his position started to hurt him in the Democratic primary.

"Certainly Senator Kerry looks to be the front-runner," said Bush spokesman Scott Stanzel. "Democrats are supporting his campaign and we are anxious for the time when we'll have a chance to highlight the clear contrast that voters will have in this election between George Bush's positive leadership and the negativity and pessimism that's being offered by the Democratic candidate."

Kerry pledged to take it "one step at a time," first clinching the nomination and then focusing on President Bush. But he spoke like a front-runner Tuesday night, devoting more than half of his victory speech to the president.

"George Bush, who speaks of strength, has made America weaker — weaker economically, weaker in our health care, weaker in education. And the truth is that he has made us weaker militarily by overextending the armed forces of the United States," Kerry said.

Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich and Al Sharpton, both winless, also have indicated that they intend to push on regardless of how well they do in upcoming primaries.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Killing increases in Baghdad

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide attacker blew up a car packed with explosives in a crowd of hundreds of Iraqis waiting outside an army recruiting center in Baghdad, killing up to 47 people, officials and witnesses said, in the second bombing in two days targeting Iraqis working with the American-led coalition.

The attack, which occurred a day after a suicide bombing against a police station south of Baghdad that killed up to 53 people, fueled warnings that insurgents are stepping up violence to disrupt the planned June 30 handover of power to the Iraqis.

"This could be ... part of the ongoing pattern of intimidation we've seen of late," Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the military's deputy operations chief in Baghdad, told The Associated Press in an e-mail interview. "We have stated numerous times that in the lead-up to governance, there could be an uptick in the violence."

Col. Ralph Baker of the 1st Armored Division said there was no immediate indication who was behind Wednesday's attack, but he said it resembled "the operating technique" of al-Qaida or Ansar al-Islam, a radical Muslim group linked to Osama bin Laden's terror network.

OPEC strategy will be felt at gas pumps

By The Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — OPEC's unexpected, two-pronged strategy for stabilizing prices — curbing excess production of crude and trimming its members' output quotas by 1 million barrels a day — could end up costing consumers more to fill up their cars and heat their homes, analysts say.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed Tuesday to reduce output to try to keep oil prices stable when warmer weather erodes demand in the United States and other major importing countries. The

combined cuts, if effective, would squeeze OPEC's actual production by as much as 10 percent, or 2.5 million barrels a day.

"What this means is that consumers are going to carry on paying loads of money for their gasoline for quite some time," said Jan Stuart of FIMAT USA, a New York brokerage.

Patrick Ward, an analyst at ABN/Amro in New York, estimated that OPEC's decision could add 5-10 cents a gallon to the average U.S. retail price for unleaded gasoline.

Snowmobile ban clouds winter

By The Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — An already confusing winter for snowmobilers in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks got even more complicated when a federal judge blocked severe restrictions on the use of the machines enacted just as the season began.

The move was cheered Tuesday by Gov. Dave Freudenthal and the businesses that rely on renting snowmobiles to visitors, but jeered by environmentalists, who fear an increase in pollution, noise and damage.

U.S. District Judge Clarence Brimmer in Wyoming issued a temporary restraining order Tuesday against the Clinton-era restrictions and ordered the National Park Service to develop temporary rules for the rest of the 2004 season including use of cleaner, quieter snowmobiles.

It was not immediately clear what the next legal step would be, or what rules would be in effect for the 2005 season.

More chickens slaughtered

By The Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Officials took swift action after the second case of bird flu was found in Delaware, ordering the slaughter of 72,000 more chickens and the quarantine of 80 farms as they tried to avert more foreign bans

on a billion-dollar export industry.

The chickens were from a commercial flock in northern Sussex County and were killed Tuesday afternoon, said Delaware Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse.

Perdue Farms said it destroyed the chickens to prevent the spread of the disease and the flock was believed to have been infected by nearby chickens raised for the New York City live markets.

The disease was first found on a farm in Delaware's southern Kent County operated by an independent grower. State officials immediately ordered the slaughter of 12,000 birds.

About 80 farms in a six-mile radius of the two farms will be quarantined for at least 30 days, state officials said. Scuse said chickens over 21 days old will be tested every 10 days during the quarantine.

Seven nations, including some of America's largest export customers, have banned at least some poultry imports from the United States because of the bird flu cases.

Bush calls for tougher action

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Arguing that international efforts to combat nuclear proliferation have been neither broad nor effective enough, President Bush is calling for tougher global action against dangerous regimes and terrorist networks that seek those and other deadly weapons.

Bush was unveiling his new push for greater international resolve against the spread of weapons of mass destruction in a speech Wednesday at the National Defense University, a senior administration official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity said Tuesday.

In a proposal likely to anger nations such as North Korea and Iran, Bush was to call for preventing countries from acquiring nuclear enrichment and reprocessing technology under the guise of building civilian power facilities, the official said.

With the president still under fire over whether Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, he also was using the speech to outline the role that good U.S. intelligence has played in recent nonproliferation successes in places such as Libya and Pakistan, the official said.



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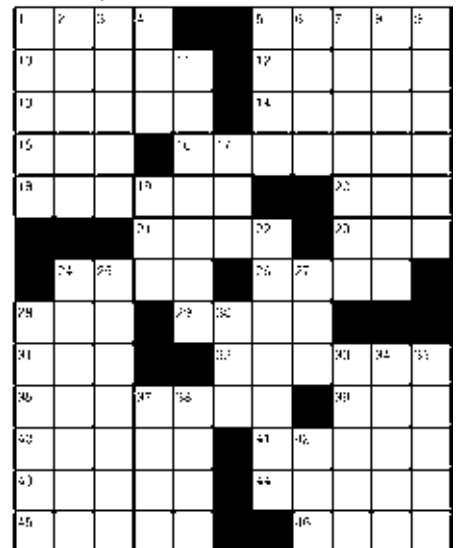
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Locale
 - 5 Doughy ring
 - 10 Sprite
 - 12 Individual
 - 13 Strange
 - 14 Diatribes
 - 15 Reactor part
 - 16 Meal ender
 - 18 Rock's — Dan
 - 20 Big serpent
 - 21 Visionary
 - 23 Fitting
 - 24 Go by
 - 26 Whirlpool
 - 28 Scot's topper
 - 29 Ump's call
 - 31 Mine material
 - 32 Letter writer, of a sort
 - 36 Black cat
 - 39 Eroded
 - 40 "Frasier" pooch
 - 41 Hawk's grasper
 - 43 New Hampshire city
 - 44 Without break
 - 45 Summed
- DOWN**
- 1 Ship poles
 - 2 Cockpit worker
 - 3 Rust, e.g.
 - 4 Draw
 - 5 Outlaws
 - 6 Sighed word
 - 7 Spoiled
 - 8 Disordered state
 - 9 Anne Rice character
 - 11 Infinite
 - 17 Hurricane part
 - 19 Double curve
 - 22 Cite
 - 24 Marched
 - 25 Corrected
 - 27 Lair
 - 28 Kansas city
 - 30 Big galoot
 - 33 CBS founder
 - 34 Expiate
 - 35 Gives for a while
 - 37 Fork feature
 - 38 Follow
 - 42 Connecting word

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Singer Lou Rawls pays \$35K for 'nuisance' lawsuit

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Lou Rawls has settled a lawsuit with a woman who claimed she gave up her business to become his mistress.

The soul singer will pay Margaret Schaffer \$35,000 to settle her \$12 million lawsuit which claimed he backed out of a verbal agreement to support her financially even if they split.

Rawls' spokesman, David Brokaw, called the claim a "nuisance" lawsuit and said that while the singer was acquainted with the woman, the two had never dated.

"Mr. and Mrs. Rawls settled for the sole purpose of removing Schaffer from their lives," Brokaw said after Monday's settlement.

In the lawsuit, Schaffer said she met Rawls, 68, in February 1998 and moved into his Southern California home shortly afterward.

They entered into an oral agreement in November 1998 "to treat as joint property income and earnings," according to the lawsuit. Rawls also agreed to pay her what she would have earned in her job, Schaffer said, adding he promised lifetime support even "in the event their relationship should terminate."

Schaffer said Rawls ended their relationship January 2003 and told her never to contact him again and "forget him completely."

The lawsuit sought \$2 million in compensatory damages, \$10 million in punitive damages and half the worth of the real estate, stocks and vehicles Schaffer says Rawls bought while they were together.

Rawls, who has won three Grammys, is best known for his 1976 hit "You'll Never Find (Another Love Like Mine)."

■ **NEW YORK** — Holly Hunter sat in the front row at the Vera Wang fashion show Wednesday to support her designer friend, she said — not to shop for her Oscar gown. But Hunter, nominated for best supporting actress for

"Thirteen," surely noticed the pretty, nude-colored tulle dresses that Wang sent down the runway.

"Vera has been my friend for 10 years. She dresses me for everything, from the Oscars to today," said Hunter, dressed in a black pantsuit. (Wang designed the black illusion gown Hunter wore when she won the Academy Award for best actress for 1993's "The Piano.")

The petite 45-year-old told The Associated Press she counts on Wang for her wardrobe because the designer "understands dressing for a small woman."

She said more than a decade of walking the red carpet has taught her always to try on a dress before she lets herself fall in love with it.

"I know that I have to be comfortable — especially in my shoes. And the dress has to be infinitely wearable because it feels like you have it on for 25 hours!" she said.

Besides the gowns she's best known for, Wang offered several day looks at the show presented during New York Fashion Week, including skirts and slacks with tweed-belt waistbands and a bow blouse in a brown, orange and teal floral print.

■ **LONDON** — More Hollywood stars are popping up in the West End, with Julia Stiles and Aaron Eckhart teaming up in a revival of "Oleanna," David Mamet's play which has previously stirred up audiences.

The production will open a 13-week run April 22 at a theater still to be determined. The run will mark the British stage debuts of its two stars, both of whom are far better known on film.

Stiles, 22, has long been a teen movie favorite in films including "Save the Last Dance" and "10 Things I Hate About You." Eckhart, 35, made his name in such Neil LaBute films as "In the Company of Men," "Your Friends and Neighbors," "Nurse Betty" and, most recently, "Possession" opposite Gwyneth Paltrow.

Mamet's play — first seen off-Broadway in 1992 with William H. Macy and Mamet's wife, Rebecca

Pidgeon — will feature Stiles as Carol, a student who develops a combative, ultimately destructive relationship with her teacher, John (played by Eckhart). During the New York run, audiences were known to shout back at the stage or storm out of the theater as they took sides with one or the other of the characters.

The play was highly acclaimed in its first London production in 1993 at the Royal Court, directed by Harold Pinter, where both roles were played by British performers. Lindsay Posner will direct this new revival.

The London stage has long been catnip to visiting American performers. Feb. 20 sees the West End premiere of a stage version of the popular Billy Crystal-Meg Ryan movie, "When Harry Met Sally ...," starring Luke Perry and Alyson Hannigan. Paltrow, Madonna, Woody Harrelson and Kyle MacLachlan also have made recent stage appearances.

■ **SHANGHAI, China** — Houston Rockets star Yao Ming topped Forbes Magazine's 2004 list of Chinese celebrities, ending up head and shoulders over entertainers including martial arts star Jet Li and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" actress Zhang Ziyi.

The 7-foot-6 center, now in his second season with the NBA, ranked first based on "heavy exposure in media and Web hits in China," the magazine said in a news release on its Web site.

Yao also recorded the second-highest 2003 income among Chinese celebrities: \$14.6 million.

The top money-earner was Li, star of last year's action thriller "Cradle 2 The Grave," who chalked up earnings of \$17 million in 2003. Li ranked 10th overall on the celebrity list.

Zhang took second place on the list, followed by fellow actress Zhao Wei and Hong Kong-based singer-actress Fay Wong. Veteran film star Gong Li came in fifth, followed by Zhang Yimou, the award-winning director of "Raise the Red Lantern" and other films featuring Gong.

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