

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica's largest convention brings in big money

American Film Market comes to downtown next week

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The largest convention group of the year is coming to town, and it's estimated to bring in millions of dollars for local businesses.

More than 7,000 entertainment industry professionals will swarm Santa Monica next week during the American Film Market — dubbed the largest international film trade show in the world.

"This is the biggest convention we host. It's just phenomenal."

— DEBBIE LEE
Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau, communication manager

Taxes on hotel rooms alone are estimated to rake in nearly \$300,000 for the city, but officials estimate delegates also will spend more than \$2 million at city shops and restaurants.

"This is the biggest convention we host," said Debbie Lee, communications manager for the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's a

very unique market because it's not all in one hotel, it utilizes almost every hotel downtown. It's just phenomenal."

This year will mark the 12th consecutive year the AFM has held its annual trade show in Santa Monica. The city has a contract with the group to hold all its future conventions here until 2004.

City officials said the convention is exactly what local businesses need to jump-start the economy and bring in badly needed funds for the city. The city of Santa Monica is projecting a loss of between \$14-\$18 million in overall tax revenue for next year, officials said.

"With the current state of the economy as well as it being our off-season, this important group visits at a crucial time for Santa Monica," said Joanne Bogus, director of corporate sales for the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau. "This is just the boost our local businesses need, especially for retail and restaurants that rely heavily on tourism."

The trade organization will take over the Loews Santa Monica Beach Resort, replacing office furniture with most of the beds and dressers.

"The only thing that stays in there is the desk," said Lee. "They set up their fax machines and everything so they can do business. I have never heard of any other convention group doing something like that."

Different film production companies will then work out of the temporary offices, where wheeling and dealing generates more than \$500 million in film and distribution deals, officials said.

Security at Loews and other hotels

See CONVENTION, page 3



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

The city's pool project has been delayed more than a year, but it should be ready for summer swimming.

City's \$5 million pricetag on pool won't swell

After a year of delays, public pool almost ready

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

There may have been months of construction delays, but the city isn't taking a bath on its new swimming pool.

A new public pool near the Santa Monica College was supposed to be finished last year, but the contractor — Vahdani Construction — went bankrupt in the middle of the project.

The pool, scheduled to be ready for the summer, will replace the original one damaged in the 1994 Northridge Earthquake.

When Vahdani Construction walked off

the job, the city got its money back and hired San Francisco-based Swinerton Builders to finish it. After adding new improvements to the original \$5.3 million contract, the price of the project swelled to \$6.85 million.

But Vahdani's insurance company had to cover the \$1.55 million increase in the project's cost, leaving the city with no added expenses.

"Obviously, we were very lucky," said Brett Horner, senior analyst with the city's department of parks and community facility planning.

Calls to Vahdani Construction for comment Thursday were not returned.

The city council on Tuesday gave the go ahead to City Manager Susan McCarthy to finish negotiations with

See POOL, page 3

Car break-ins on the rise

By Daily Press staff

Car break-ins are on the rise in downtown parking structures this year.

There have been 15 break-ins in six garages along Second and Fourth Streets this year, an increase over last year, said Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega.

The parking structures are patrolled throughout the day by police officers in cars and on bicycles.

Motorists need to use common sense when leaving their cars unattended by making sure all doors are locked and valuables are not in public view, Fabrega said.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ The moon in your sign makes you the zodiac star. Others pick up on your sense of well-being. Family bombards you with news and different requests. What begins as a serious talk turns into a creative and/or romantic chat. Tonight: The world is your oyster.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Slow down, because you could be on overload. Listen carefully to someone's sharing. You could be overwhelmed with all that you're hearing. Slow down and take all the time that you need. If you feel uptight about finances, don't spend! Tonight: Vanish quickly.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Meetings take you in a new direction. In fact, what starts out as business turns into play before you know it. A money opportunity seems too good to be true. You could be frivolous in your choices. Worry less right now. Wait until tomorrow. Tonight: Where the gang is.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You're in the spotlight. You might have swallowed way too much for your own good. Still, you decide that you can do it, and you can. Use instincts with someone who has power over you. A partner could be unusually enthusiastic and happy. Tonight: Leader of the gang.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Rethink a matter close to your heart. You might be well-advised to detach, if you can. Whatever might be going on behind the scenes or in your personal life could add a bounce to your step. Be careful of someone you meet right now. Check this person out. Tonight: Go to a favorite music spot.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Relate to others as if each person is the most important person in your life. Friends come to your rescue and drag you out of work if you're not out in time. Your imagination leads you in a new direction. Make a friendship out of a work relationship. Tonight: Togetherness works.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out, though you might have a difficult time leaving your work. All work and no play could make you most unhappy. Loosen up and enjoy your life. Your imagination leads you on a new route emotionally. Tonight: Follow the gang.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Focus on what needs to get done. Work demands your attention, though realize someone at a distance waits to hear from you. Reach out for this person. Happiness surrounds you once you relax and let go of your daily concerns. Tonight: Nap first.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Befriend someone and listen to his or her perspective. What you see developing is a warm friendship, if you both just relax and be yourselves. Resist pegging anyone into a slot. Enjoy the uniqueness of those around you. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Honor priorities, even in the present playful mood that surrounds you. Once you have accomplished what you need to, you can let loose. Family dominates your thoughts. Check out an investment with care. You know what works. Tonight: Stay close to home.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ How you see someone might change because of the joyous and playful nature of those around you. Question yourself. Evaluate whether you might be unusually hard on a loved one or child. Open up a discussion to air out different views. Tonight: At a favorite spot.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Deal with spending. Someone could easily tease you down a trail that, generally, you might prefer not go to down. Laugh more and enjoy yourself with a loved one, but also know when to say "no." Use your intuition with spending. Tonight: Your treat. Your pleasure.



WEATHER

Today ...	AM Clouds/PM Sun	High—65°F	Low—47°F
Tomorrow ...	Partly Cloudy	High—63°F	Low—47°F
Sunday ...	Partly Cloudy	High—62°F	Low—44°F



QUOTE of the DAY

“Partying is such sweet sorrow.”

— Jean Kerr

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LOCAL



New pool complex to open late spring

POOL, from page 1

Swinerton and approve more features like an extra retaining wall.

The new facility, located at the corner of Pico Boulevard and 17th Street, will have one Olympic-sized 50-meter competition pool and one smaller instructional and recreational pool.

There also will be a two-story structure in between the two pools which will house offices, locker rooms and showers.

Planning the new swimming pool facility began in 1998. But before construction of the pool could occur, the city had to demolish a condemned Santa Monica parking structure. At the end of 1999, the first construction permits were issued by the city.

"The demolition was done first to speed things up," said Horner. "Most of the money for the pools is from federal block grant money, for earthquake damage."

The foundations for both swimming pools have been installed and

workers are now finishing the facility's building and the plumbing systems, officials said.

In addition to uses by local aquatic groups, the new pool also will be home to the Santa Monica College's swim team. Since the city demolished the old facility in 1999, the team hasn't had a place of their own to practice.

"We are as eager to see this project completed as anybody else," said Santa Monica College spokesman Bruce Smith.

City officials say they have received some complaints about the long construction delays, and the lack of public swimming facilities in the city.

"We're down so many pools because of the (Northridge) earthquake," said Horner. "Right now we are down to one pool at Santa Monica High School. That's why we've been trying to fast track this (project) and get the pool open real soon."



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Police units blocked off the 800 block of Lincoln Boulevard, between Montana Avenue and Idaho Avenue, on Thursday for an apparent domestic dispute. At least a half dozen police units responded, as well as an ambulance. The victim is interviewed by officers in the Pavillions parking lot.

Convention delegates will use mass transit

CONVENTION, from page 1

where the delegates are staying will be tight. For example, at Loews only people with AFM badges will be allowed into the hotel.

Special shuttle buses will run between all of the downtown hotels and Loews. Officials say delegates use public transportation or walk to all venues, leaving very little impact on traffic.

"The amazing part of this city-wide effort is that even though there will be all these people here, it really doesn't interrupt the flow of traffic or anything," said Lee. "Almost none of

them will drive anywhere."

This year, the AFM is showcasing more than 600 screenings of 400 films on 23 screens throughout downtown theaters. As in past years, locals will be allowed to attend up to 50 soon-to-be-released independent films free of charge.

"The AFM has a wonderful relationship with Santa Monica for the past 11 years," said Jonathan Wolf, managing director of the AFM. "We are delighted to open our doors to the residents so they can

share in the excitement of the world's largest film market."

To register for a complimentary pass, click on the AFM link on the calendar section of www.santamonica.com.

Homeless are human beings

Editor:

I enjoy seeing your daily photo take on the Middle East; one day from Palestine, the next from Israel. But your caption to the front page photo the other day about a homeless man who "dives into..." a garbage can for food.

Are you referring to "dumpster diving"? Many artists in Santa Monica and Venice communities like Gerry Fialka and friends find some of their best stuff doing this "media ecology." But your caption makes a

homeless man sound more like a seagull or a pelican "diving" down into the sea for food. This poor soul is a human being and his actions could be afforded a more humane appellation don't you think? Perhaps something like "Hungry man digs for fortune or food neglected by those so blessed but unconscious as to leave food instead of finishing it or at least handing it to the homeless..." etc.

H. Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Santa Monica High gets state recognition

By Daily Press staff

There are good ideas coming out of Santa Monica High School, according to the state.

The Santa Monica High School Mortensen Library recently received the California School Library Association's "Good Ideas" award at the organization's annual conference in Long Beach.

Samohi library's winning project, a study of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," was collaboratively planned and taught by librarian Ann McKechnie and English teacher Kristy Brehm.

The Samohi library is named for William Mortensen, former president of First Federal Bank of California and alumnus of Samohi.

"His support of the library has

made it a dynamic institution visited by post-graduate library students from not only California, but other states as well," McKechnie said. "Our library is highlighted in a new university textbook titled Windows into Instructional Collaboration."

The recognition is awarded to five school libraries in the state for strengthening student literacy and information skills.



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STATE

Dick Clark Productions acquired for \$140 million

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Dick Clark Productions Inc., the force behind such television specials as the Golden Globe Awards and the American Music Awards, is being acquired by a group of investors for \$140 million.

Mosaic Media Group Inc., CDP Capital Communications and veteran television executive Jules Haimovitz will acquire the outstanding shares of the company.

Clark, who owns about 70 percent of the shares, will receive \$12.50 in cash for a portion of his shares. He will invest his remaining shares in the new company, as will Francis La Maina, president and chief operating officer.

The remaining stockholders will receive \$14.50 per share in cash.

Clark will remain chairman and chief executive officer and the company will continue to operate as an independent television company. Haimovitz becomes vice chairman.

The company saw its profits plummet 50 percent in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. In the latest quarter ending Sept.

30, 2001, the company reported a loss of \$275,000, due mainly to a slowdown in television production and losses from its restaurant division.

The company operates a chain of casual dining restaurants. It also produces live events for companies and makes television series, including the recently launched "The Chamber" on the Fox network.

La Maina said the deal helps the minority shareholders recoup their investments. The stock is listed on the Nasdaq stock market but is thinly traded, making it difficult to sell shares at a profit.

Both sides said the deal will focus on generating profit from the company's library of shows, which includes old television specials and episodes of "American Bandstand."

"Our focus will be first on television, repurposing our existing library and certainly less focus on our restaurant division," La Maina said.

Mosaic President Alan Shapiro said the deal gives Dick Clark Productions much needed capital to compete against larger production companies.

California construction activity dips with economy

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Construction activity in California declined 13.1 percent last year as the slumping economy scared off lenders, an industry report shows.

Builders received \$20.4 billion in funding for residential and commercial projects in 2001, compared to \$23.5 billion a year earlier, according to a report released Thursday by DataQuick Information Systems, a La Jolla-based real estate information service.

Demand for new homes and commercial buildings remained firm, especially with interest rates low. But the sagging economy has made banks and other lenders more cautious, DataQuick said.

In the early 1990s, lenders supported many projects only to see the market crash during that recession.

"They burned themselves back then with ... overexuberance," said John Karevoll, a DataQuick analyst.

Today, builders are selling nearly everything they're putting on the market but didn't know the market would stay so strong when they did their planning, said Mike Ela, DataQuick's president.

"There's a good chance building activity will pick back up this year," he said.

The San Francisco Bay area, where the

collapse of Internet companies ended a frenzied few years of construction, returned to a more normal pace in 2001, said John Karevoll, a DataQuick analyst.

Construction activity in the nine-county area fell 28.4 percent last year from the 2000 figure.

San Francisco County's 59.2 percent decline led the state, followed by Marin County at 54 percent and San Mateo at 50.8 percent.

Santa Clara County, the heart of Silicon Valley, saw construction activity dip 26.7 percent to a still-sizeable \$1.39 billion.

In Southern California, Los Angeles County dipped 10 percent while neighboring Orange County saw a 32.2 percent decline, partially because of the tech industry decline.

However, counties bordering those dense urban regions continued to grow, attracting people unable to afford homes in the more expensive markets.

For example, San Bernardino County east of Los Angeles reported a 25.3 percent jump to \$1.16 billion.

In the farming areas of the Central Valley, Merced County's construction activity jumped 57.3 percent to \$153 million and Madera County's total increased 50.7 percent to \$53 million.

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NATIONAL



Surveys find businesses not returning to Manhattan

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Five months after the Sept. 11 attack, more than one in four jobs in lower Manhattan has been lost, and half of the businesses whose buildings were destroyed or damaged do not plan to return to the neighborhood, surveys have found.

The surveys solidify the growing sense that the world's financial capital will not be same even as the buildings are repaired or rebuilt.

About 100,000 of the 370,000 jobs that were once in downtown Manhattan have been lost entirely or have been moved to midtown, out of town or out of state, according to the Alliance for Downtown New York.

M. Myers Mermel, chief executive of TenantWise.com, an online commercial real estate firm, said 49 percent of the tenants in destroyed or damaged office buildings say they are leaving downtown for good. Those tenants once occupied 17 million square feet.

Many companies that are not leaving outright are decentralizing for fear of suffering a devastating loss in another terrorist attack.

"The trend once upon a time was to have the corporate campus, to have everyone in one place," said Valerie Lewis, a spokeswoman for the Alliance for Downtown, a business improvement organization. "9-11 has flipped that around. Now dispersal is in."

Citywide, 94,000 jobs have been lost permanently since the Sept. 11 attack, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said this week as he delivered a budget address that called for spending cuts and heavy borrowing.

Companies displaced by the attacks include financial giants American Express and Lehman Brothers, joint owners of 3 World Financial Center, a 51-story tower directly across the street from the World Trade Center.

Lehman Brothers spokesman Jason Farrago said the lower floors occupied by the investment bank were severely damaged by flying girders. "We have a hole where some of the offices used to be," he said.

Unwilling to wait for the Cesar Pelli-designed tower to be repaired, Lehman Brothers bought a new headquarters at Seventh Avenue and 49th Street and is moving in gradually. The investment bank plans to lease or sell the floors it occupied at the World Financial Center.

American Express will move back, beginning in April.

It had about 3,000 employees at 3 World Financial Center and 1,000 at other downtown sites.

Dow Jones & Co. had about 800 employees at 1 World Financial Center. It plans to move about half that number back in once asbestos removal has been completed, spokesman Steven Goldstein said. Other departments, including The Wall Street Journal's copy desk and graphics department, will work out of South Brunswick, N.J., where they have been located since the attacks.

Lewis, of the Downtown Alliance, said an incentive plan announced by Gov. George Pataki last month should help keep businesses in lower Manhattan. She said there is \$80 million in state money for small-business grants and \$170 million in loans and grants for large businesses that stay in lower Manhattan or seek to locate there.

Mermel said that even some downtown companies whose buildings were not damaged are leaving or dispersing. He cited the decision by the investment bank Goldman Sachs to move its equities staff to Jersey City, N.J.

"Where it's leading," Mermel said, "is that there is risk of continuing loss of jobs in lower Manhattan."

Regulators take on psychic hotline for deceptive tactics

BY DAVID HO

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

Federal fraud fighters say Miss Cleo's psychic hot line should have seen it coming: A lawsuit accusing the service of rampant deception.

Describing the hot line as "permeated with fraud," the Federal Trade Com-

mission said Thursday it wants to shut down Access Resource Services Inc. and Psychic Readers Network. The two companies in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., are behind the telephone psychic reading service advertised by mail, on television and the Internet.

Florida authorities announced a separate lawsuit, challenging the service's

spokeswoman, Youree Dell Harris, known as "Miss Cleo," to prove that she really is a renowned shaman from Jamaica. Harris appears on national television commercials promising in-sights into love, money and other personal matters.

A person who answered a gate intercom at Harris' home west of Fort Laud-

erdale said she had no comment. An attorney for the companies, Sean Moynihan, said, "The only unfair and irresponsible practices involved in the lawsuit are those of the FTC."

The companies also have been sued by Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pen-

sylvania and Wisconsin.

The FTC complaint, filed Wednesday, accuses the service of misdeeds including false promises of free psychic readings, tricky billing tactics to squeeze money out of consumers and unrelenting and abusive telemarketing calls.

"Considering the laundry list of unfair and deceptive practices in this case, it's a mystery to us why Miss Cleo and her employers haven't seen this coming," said Howard Beales, the agency's director of consumer protection. He said the FTC acted after getting more than 2,000 consumer complaints over the past 18 months.

Moynihan said the consumer complaints are only

a "handful" out of millions of satisfied callers and that the psychic service would fight the charges.

"If the FTC had only bothered to call, we would have explained that their allegations are based on erroneous information and a basic lack of understanding," he said.

Beales said the service promises a free psychic reading, but when consumers call a toll-free number they are directed to a 1-900 number charging \$4.99 per minute. The fees add up after an initial free period of three minutes with callers usually on hold.

An average call costs more than \$60, Beales said, noting that nearly 6 million people have called the service.

Cartoonist apologizes for drawing

By The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — Concord Monitor cartoonist Mike Marland apologized Thursday for publishing a drawing of a plane labeled "Bush Budget" crashing into two towers labeled "Social Security."

"It was not my intention to desecrate the memory of those who died that day, nor to add to the anguish and sorrow of their loved ones or the city of New York," Marland wrote on the paper's opinion page Thursday. "To these people, all I can say is how profoundly sorry I am."

Hundreds of readers and public officials criticized the

Feb. 8 cartoon, saying it was insensitive to those still suffering from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center.

"Equating the president's budget with terrorist attacks that took 3,000 lives is as wrong as wrong can be," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said after the cartoon appeared. "This is tasteless and an affront to the people of New York."

Marland said the drawing was meant to illustrate the potential calamity of Bush's proposal to tap into the Social Security surplus. He said Thursday that, in hindsight, a less jarring image would have done the job.

Couples seek Vegas for quickie nuptials

BY ANGIE WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — In jeans or in white, pregnant or pushing a suitcase, brides and their grooms rushed to the county courthouse on Valentine's Day, eager to exchange vows in the city of quickie, no-frills weddings.

"We just came in off the plane," David Lendosky, 48, of Turtle Lake, Wis., said Thursday, hauling two bulging suitcases up the stairs of the Clark County Courthouse.

Lendosky and his bride, Mary Eichholz, 45, skipped hotel check-in and went straight to the long line at the Marriage License Bureau.

"We thought it'd be different," Eichholz said of marrying in Las Vegas.

That's a sure thing in a city where you can wed in a taxi at a drive-up

window, get a marriage license any hour of the day on weekends and holidays and take advantage of the most liberal marriage laws in the nation — no blood tests or waiting period for the \$50 license.

"No movie stars came," said Cheryl Vernon, license bureau supervisor. "Actually we're kind of slow today. Yesterday was horrendous."

Last year, 1,065 marriage license were issued on Valentine's Eve and Day in Las Vegas. Vernon expected this year's total to be lower.

"They're all crazy," she said.

Pollitt, 28, wasn't paying attention. She was too busy filling out paperwork.

"Let's see, my divorce was final, March?" she asked.

Wedding chapels lining Las Vegas Boulevard put out red ribbons, balloons and signs advertising "I do" specials.

"We are just having a wonderful, awesome time," said Charolette Richards, a minister and president of A Little White Wedding Chapel. "I just married this couple in their car!"

The chapel booked 150 weddings for Thursday, each lasting a few memorable minutes. "We are into the serious part of marriage," Richards said.

On the Strip, 107 couples brought to town by a Los Angeles radio station exchanged nuptials at the same time under the Eiffel Tower at the Paris Las Vegas hotel-casino.

But even in the self-proclaimed wedding capital of the world, love isn't always in the air.

"You don't want to get married?" a woman asked her boyfriend after he walked away from the waiting line at the courthouse.

"It's Valentine's Day."



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NATIONAL

ODDS & ENDS

Valentine's produces criminal Cupid

By The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Police are searching for a criminal Cupid who sawed a hole in a wholesale florist's warehouse and made off with about 6,000 roses.

The deed was done early Monday at Spell Wholesale Florist.

"They crawled through like a rat," co-owner Barry Spell said as he pointed out the tire-sized hole. The suspect then kicked in a wooden interior wall and headed straight for one of two walk-in coolers inside the large warehouse.

The cooler held roses of all shapes, sizes and colors, and the thief seemed to know to take only the very best, Spell said.

The roses may be easy to trace. Spell is the exclusive distributor within a 100-mile radius of the brands of roses called Durham for Rio and Arbusta.

Spell and his brother, Mark, are asking residents to keep a lookout for street vendors hawking those brands.

"If they're standing there with roses, they better have a receipt," Barry Spell said.

'Hello, this is not the Johnsons'

By The Associated Press

LYNNWOOD, Wash. — It's bad enough getting telemarketing calls, but Ann Hutton and her husband are getting annoying pitches for someone else.

The Huttons, who have lived in this suburb north of Seattle for seven years, have the phone number once assigned to Omar A. Johnson. He moved out of Snohomish County 30 years ago but is still listed at his old address and number in the Verizon phone book.

Hutton said she was getting 10 calls for Johnson on "a good day" from sellers of siding, home loans, hearing aids, auto glass, carpeting, pagers, vacation homes, windows, newspapers, water purifiers and chiropractors, as well as requests for donations to charity and medical research.

"We keep telling them there are no Johnsons here," she said last week.

At one point, Hutton said, she was unable to call her sick mother because a telemarketing call had the line tied up. When she hung up and picked the phone up again, the spiel was still going.

Verizon says it's a database error, "an isolated event" that can't be fully corrected for months.

The next reissue date for the magnetic tape of telephone customer names and numbers that includes her phone is Aug. 15, and the new Verizon directory comes out in December.

Moose falls through roof

By The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A young cow moose took a walk on a roof and made Anchorage history.

The 8-month-old moose crashed through the fiberglass roof of a storage shed at Bell's Nursery and got stuck, dangling 8 feet off the ground for three hours until rescuers got her down safely.

Rick Sinnott, a biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game said it is thought to be the first rescue of a moose from a roof in the city's history.

"Hopefully the last, too," Sinnott added.

At about 9 a.m. Tuesday, greenhouse owner Mike Mosesian got a call from a neighbor who reported a moose was in the greenhouse. Mosesian raced to work, fearing the animal was eating a prized fig tree. There was no sign of a moose.

"All of a sudden I looked up in the air," Mosesian said. "I thought, My God, there's this moose, 8 feet in the air up on the roof."

The 400-pound cow had walked onto the deck of a house next to the shed. Then she stepped onto the shed's snowy roof and three of her legs punched through the roof.

Sinnott tranquilized the animal and freed it with the help of a backhoe. After the drugs wore off, the animal walked off "pretty gingerly" and headed up a snowy slope out of sight, Sinnott said.

"I don't know what this moose was thinking," he said.

Politics get X-rated

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tim Hagan was caught off-guard when his appearance on a radio show to talk about politics turned into an X-rated event.

Hagan was a guest Tuesday on WMJI-FM when, midway through his appearance, the show shifted to its annual Breast Fest contest comparing women from different Cleveland neighborhoods.

As Hagan sat with his radio hosts, five women paraded by to have their breasts judged.

"If I was looking for the 'Jerry Springer' vote, that's it," said Hagan, who left when the segment ended. "I could have got up and made a scene. But what can I do? It was beyond my control."

Show producer Doc Thompson said Hagan's appearance at Breast Fest was coincidental. "It had nothing to do with Tim," he said.

Coincidence or not, Hagan was besieged by at least eight angry callers: His seven sisters and his wife, actress Kate Mulgrew.

INTERNATIONAL



Air Force man accused of offering to spy for Iraq

BY TED BRIDIS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A grand jury indicted a retired Air Force master sergeant Thursday on new charges that he tried to spy for Iraq, Libya and China, and accused him of offering U.S. military secrets to Saddam Hussein for \$13 million in Swiss currency.

Hoping to strike a bargain with Saddam, a debt-ridden Brian Patrick Regan allegedly wrote the Iraqi leader that his payment demand was a "small price" compared with the salaries of movies stars and athletes.

Regan, 39, could face the death penalty on two charges in the four-count indictment. A grand jury in Alexandria, Va., indicted him on three counts of attempted espionage and one of gathering national defense information.

A grand jury had already indicted Regan in October on a single espionage charge, though it did not specify whom authorities suspected him

of spying for. Regan pleaded innocent to the charge in federal court.

Deputy U.S. Attorney General Larry Thompson declined to say Thursday whether Regan turned over any secret or otherwise classified information to foreign governments. Thompson also declined to say whether Regan actually delivered the letter he is accused of writing to Saddam.

But the indictment indicated that Regan flew last June to Berlin and possibly Munich before returning to Washington seven days later, and the trip was "not in connection with any official duties."

Prosecutors said Regan wrote personally to Hussein in a letter — some time between 1999 and 2001 — and asked for \$13 million to provide information about U.S. satellites and other military secrets. They said he offered to send a sample of secrets for \$1 million, and offered additional information afterward for \$3 million and \$5 million

payments.

"There are many people from movie stars to (athletes) in the U.S. who are receiving tens of millions of dollars a year for their trivial contributions," Regan allegedly wrote, falsely describing himself as a CIA officer near retirement. "If I am going to risk my life and the future of my family, I am going to get paid a fair price."

Court records indicated that Regan carried debts of at least \$53,000 earlier this year, and he told a federal judge in November that he could not afford to hire a lawyer.

Regan allegedly described the demand to Iraq for \$13 million as "a small price to pay to have someone within the heart of (a) U.S. intelligence agency providing you with vital secrets." The letter said the information being offered was worth "billions" and "worth many times what I am requesting."

Thursday's indictment also accused Regan of writing a nearly identical

Shots fired for funeral



Jerome Delay/Associated Press

Islamic Jihad and Hamas activists fire their guns in the air during a funeral procession for Khatem Sweiki in the West Bank town of Hebron on Thursday. Sweiki was shot dead on Nov. 4, 2001, by Israeli police, after he opened fire on a bus in Jerusalem, killing two and wounding more than a dozen. His body was only returned to his family Thursday.

letter to Moammar Gadhafi of Libya between August 2000 and August 2001, but it apparently did not include demands for payment. That letter offered Gadhafi "top secret" information about satellites, early warning systems and overall U.S. defense strategies.

U.S. officials have said Regan worked at the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, Va., a U.S. intelligence agency that designs, builds and operates the nation's vast network of spy satellites. He worked at the NRO from July 1995 until his arrest — first in the Air Force, then as a defense contractor for TRW Inc. beginning in October 2000.

Prosecutors said that shortly after he returned from Germany in July, he

began repeatedly logging into the government's classified "Intelink" computer network and searching for information — including satellite photos — of military facilities in Iraq, Iran, Libya and China, even though those countries were not related to his official duties at TRW.

From Aug. 6 to his arrest on Aug. 23, officials said he logged into the system every day, Monday through Thursday, when he was in the office.

But FBI spy-catchers, alerted by then to what they described as his suspicious behavior, were watching Regan on secret video cameras during some of the times he used Intelink, officials said. On the morning he was arrested, for example, they watched Regan make

notations about computer files in a small, spiral-bound notebook that he dropped in his front trousers pocket before leaving the office, court records said.

Regan, a native of New York City, lived with his wife and children in one of about a half-dozen attached townhouses at the end of a quiet street in suburban Bowie, Md.

Wary of falling into an FBI counter-espionage trap, prosecutors said, Regan also demanded that Iraq subtly alter its official Web site on computers run by the United Nation.

"Don't bother contacting me," he allegedly wrote. "The price is non-negotiable. I am sure you will recognize this offer as a chance of a lifetime and well worth the money."

Young Chinese influenced by U.S. hip-hop culture

BY MARTIN FACKLER
Associated Press Writer

SHANGHAI, China — Yang Jie's parents found inspiration in the revolutionary slogans of Mao Tse-tung. The 20-year-old Shanghai youth discovered his in the gyrating hips of Janet Jackson.

Yang was just another college-bound high school student until he saw a Jackson concert video three years ago. The energy and freedom that he felt from her performance convinced him to become a professional dancer instead.

Now he teaches more than 100 Shanghai teen-agers and university students the lock-step moves of hip-hop dancing. Like him, many of his pupils wear oversized parkas and jeans that sag in the crotch. A fervid few boast sun lamp-darkened skin and dreadlocks.

"Hip-hop lets young people express their emotions in ways that traditional Chinese dancing can't," said Yang, who has won several televised competitions in hip-hop — called "jiewu," Chinese for street dancing.

Hip-hop's growing following underscores the popularity of American culture in China, despite the two nations' often rocky political ties and the misgivings many Chinese feel toward U.S. military power.

Relations between Washington and Beijing are recovering from last year's standoff over a U.S. Navy spy plane, and President Bush hopes to give them a

boost during a visit to Beijing this month. American music and fashion need no such high-level emissaries to win the hearts and minds of China's people.

American chain restaurants and coffee shops have opened even in remote provincial cities. Hollywood movies are so popular that the government limits their number to protect domestic filmmakers. American brand-name outdoor wear and university sweatshirts are almost as common in Shanghai as New York.

One of the most successful cultural imports has been professional basketball, whose games are shown regularly on Shanghai TV. Michael Jordan is as well-known here as Chinese-speaking celebrities like Jackie Chan. Shaquille O'Neal's face appears on the prepaid cards used in Chinese public phones.

Experts say U.S.-inspired materialism is rushing into the moral vacuum left in China by decades of political upheaval and rapid economic change. Marxism and Confucianism alike have been discarded, without any clear alternatives rising in their place.

American values are not accepted wholesale. Chinese pick and choose what they want. There's little talk of democracy and human rights, at least in public.

And experts warn that the same young Chinese who buy American brands and music are no less likely march on the U.S. Embassy if they feel their national dignity is at stake.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

California band stopped and searched by Utah police

By The Associated Press

PAYSON, Utah — Police stopped and searched a bus carrying a band from California after a convenience store clerk told officials that the musicians had asked about security checkpoints near the Olympic Games.

Alma Melodioso from Angels Camp, Calif., a group scheduled to perform at the Olympic Plaza in Park City during the games, had stopped in Payson, 50 miles south of Salt Lake City, around noon Wednesday.

Utah Highway Patrol spokesman Doug McCleve said a store clerk called police after the group asked whether there were security checkpoints between Payson and Salt Lake City.

"Because we're in a heightened state of alert, we reacted, issued an all-points alert, located the bus and closed down the freeway ramp until we could investigate," McCleve said. "We have an obligation to the public to be very, very responsive right now."

The musicians were cooperative and allowed police to search the bus and their personal belongings, he said.

Band member Kathy Miletich said the group expected security during their trip to Utah but didn't expect to be pulled over for asking a simple question.

"It was a surprise and it was funny," she said. "What wasn't so funny was that they asked us what ethnic groups were on the bus and after they searched the whole bus and found some articles about terrorism, they pulled one of our guys aside and questioned him a lot."

Alma Melodioso specializes in Latin jazz, Afro Cuban and world beat flamenco music.

LONDON — London film critics have named Australian star Nicole Kidman actress of the year for her performance in the glitter-drenched musical "Moulin Rouge."

"Moulin Rouge" also was declared film of the year at the London Film Critics Circle Awards, held Wednesday night.

Kidman has been nominated for an Oscar for her per-

formance as a dying cabaret singer in Baz Luhrmann's lavish Parisian musical. "Moulin Rouge" also won Ewan McGregor the best British actor award. Judi Dench, an Oscar nominee for her performance as novelist Iris Murdoch in "Iris," was named best British actress, while her co-star, Jim Broadbent, was named best British supporting actor.

Helen Mirren took the award for best British actress in a supporting role for her performances as an efficient housekeeper in "Gosford Park" and a Cockney widow in "Last Orders."

The best actor award went to Billy Bob Thornton for "The Man Who Wasn't There."

"Gosford Park," a country-house drama directed by Robert Altman, was named British film of the year, while foreign film of the year went to France's "Amelie."

LONDON — Chart-topping singer Robbie Williams and his publisher must pay \$71,000 in royalties to the owners of a song whose lyrics he plagiarized, a judge ruled Thursday.

Judge Nicholas Pumfrey rejected a request for more damages from Ludlow Music Inc., which holds the copyright to the Woody Guthrie song "I Am the Way."

The High Court ruled in October 2000 that Williams had copied substantial portions of the song for "Jesus in a Camper Van," a track from his 1998 album "I've Been Expecting You."

The original song, which Guthrie wrote in 1961 and Loudon Wainwright III adapted in 1973, included the lines: "Every Son of God gets a little hard luck sometimes, especially when he goes round saying he is the way."

The Williams song contained the line: "I suppose even the Son of God gets it hard sometimes, especially when he goes round saying I am the way."

Williams and his collaborators admitted using elements of the Wainwright version, and credited him on the album. But he and publisher EMI had not agreed to Ludlow's request for 50 percent of the song royalties.

EMI had offered 25 percent instead. Ludlow fought the offer in court.

Pumfrey ruled Williams should pay 25 percent of the royalties — about \$71,000 — along with a similar amount in Ludlow's costs.

He also granted an injunction that bars future use of the part of the lyric that infringed copyright and prevents new pressings of the recording.

Pumfrey said additional damages were not justified because the copyright infringement had not been cynical or flagrant.

The judge, who said he had "grave doubts as to who has actually won this case," granted both sides permission to appeal.

LOS ANGELES — Dennis Franz and the rest of the cast of "NYPD Blue" will be pounding the beat for another year.

The ABC police drama has been renewed for the 2002-03 season, its 10th, the network said Wednesday.

Despite moving to a new and competitive time slot, 9 p.m. EST Tuesday, "NYPD Blue" has been one of struggling ABC's better performing series this season.

The drama stars Franz as New York police Detective Andy Sipowicz. The ensemble cast expanded this year to include Mark-Paul Gosselaar and Jacqueline Obradors as new detectives.

LOS ANGELES — Actress and former Playboy Playmate Jenny McCarthy and director John Asher are expecting their first child in June.

"We are thrilled to bring a bundle of love into our family," McCarthy said.

The couple was married in September 1999.

McCarthy, 29, recently was a co-host of the American Music Awards and will appear next in the feature film "The Perfect You."

Asher, 31, directed the Showtime series "Going to California," and the feature film "Diamonds," starring Kirk Douglas and Dan Aykroyd.

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SPORTS



German-turned-Spaniard wins 2nd gold

BY LARRY MCSHANE
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Like an inversion above the Utah valley, the contentious debate over judging in the pairs figure skating lingered over the Olympics for a fourth day — and showed few signs of dissipating.

Cutting through that fog Thursday was Johann Muehlepp of Spain, who needed no judges

to confirm the cross-country skiing medal that was his second in Salt Lake City. Neither did skier Janica Kostelic, who captured Croatia's first-ever winter medal.

Muehlepp, who became a Spanish citizen after a 1998 split with the German ski federation, was so far ahead after the first portion of the pursuit that even his competition ceded the gold.

"We knew we couldn't catch Muehlepp, so the race was on for the silver," said Frode Estil of Norway, who tied with teammate Thomas Alsgaard to share that medal. A last-second lunge by Alsgaard created the tie.

Muehlepp finished nearly 30 seconds ahead of the Norwegians. His first medal came in the 30K freestyle event.

In the controversy that will not die, the International Skating Union ignored IOC pressure Thursday and refused to speed up its timetable for investigating the judging of the pairs figure skating.

The ISU executive board will conduct a meeting on Monday as scheduled, with no decision until then, said union head Ottavio Cincuenta.

"It is a legal hearing on an appeal," Cincuenta said, adding the date would not be changed for a ruling on the gold medal awarded to Russian couple Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze despite their obvious technical error in Monday's competition.

The silver went to Canada's Jamie Sale and David Pelletier. The Canadian Olympic Association subsequently appealed to the ISU to hold an independent investigation of the judging. And a French Olympic official said a judge from his delegation was "somewhat manipulated" before casting her vote.

International Olympic Committee director general Francois Carrard said Thursday that Olympic officials wouldn't demand the ISU move any faster.

"We are working," Carrard said. "We will continue to work as long as necessary."

The figure skating flap went on even as another group of skaters prepared for the men's free program Thursday night.

Germany remained atop the top of the medals chart with 13 (4 gold, 6 silver, 3 bronze). The Americans were second with 10 (3-5-2), tied with Norway (5-5-0) and Austria (1-2-7).

• WOMEN'S COMBINED: High winds and fog turned things upside down in the ski race, with the slalom runs done first and the downhill delayed until later. When the fog cleared, 20-year-old Janica Kostelic was the winner — and Croatia had its first Winter Games medal ever.

Renate Goetschl of Austria won the silver, and Martina Ertl of Germany won the bronze. American medal hopeful Caroline Lalive, the seventh-place finisher in 1998, dropped out after a fall in the slalom.

• SNOWBOARDING: Sorry,



Thomas Kienzie/Associated Press

Lindsey C. Kildow, of the USA, raises her hands in the finish area after the downhill portion of the women's combined in Snowbasin, Utah Thursday at the Salt Lake City Olympics. Kildow finished 4th in the event.

dude — the flow of U.S. snowboarding medals has stopped.

In the women's parallel giant slalom, Lisa Kosglow was the only one of four Americans to qualify for the finals — and that included star racer Rosey Fletcher, who failed to make the cut. Kosglow finished seventh of the 16 qualifiers.

Among the U.S. men, only Chris Klug — 11th of out 16 — reached the finals. Klug, 29, received a liver transplant just two years ago after battling a rare disease.

• WOMEN'S HOCKEY: Finland, with its second straight win, all but clinched a berth in the medals round with a 3-1 victory over Germany. The loss virtually eliminated the Germans from medal contention.

The Americans and the Canadians remain the medal favorites in women's hockey.

• CURLING: The U.S. women, after winning its first two games, has now lost two straight and may not reach the medal round. A 9-4 loss to Denmark could leave the Americans on the outside looking in, as only the top four teams in the 10-team round-robin tournament make medal play.

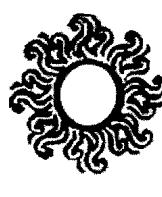
"We can't afford to lose anymore," U.S. skip Kari Erickson said.

• NORDIC COMBINED: The men's 90-kilometer Nordic combined team jumping was postponed by high winds. It was tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, weather permitting.



Luca Bruno/Associated Press

Kris Freeman of the United States, competes in the classical portion of the men's 10K cross-country pursuit at the Winter Olympics on Thursday, at Soldier Hollow in Midway, Utah.

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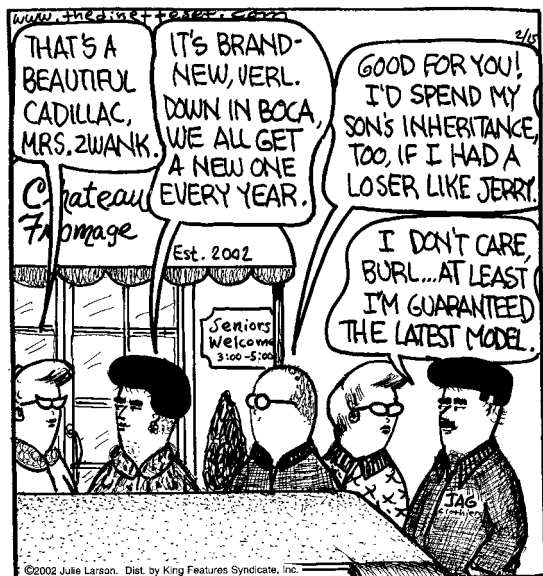
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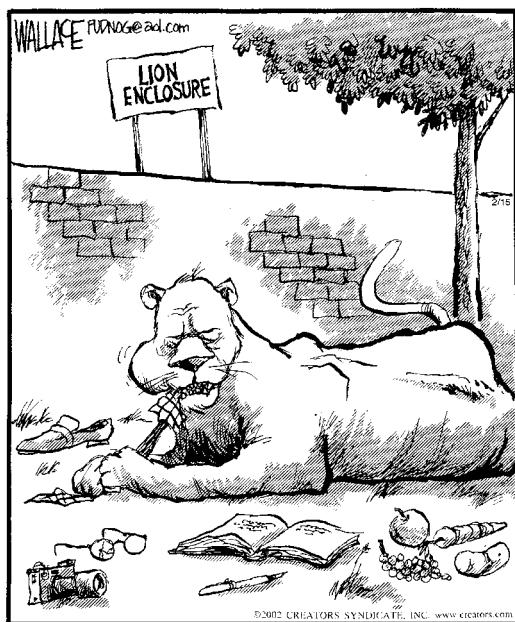


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 - Course goal
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 - Dye type
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 - "The Kiss" creator
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- Folding money
 - Charts of hearts
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 - British slang expert
 - Blue
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 - Play opening
 - "Nightmare Abbey" novelist
 - Cuts off
 - Serving need
 - Fix the clock
 - Newsman Koppel
 - Sanction
 - Heart line spot
 - Occupation
 - Removed
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 - Took the title
 - Prison camp
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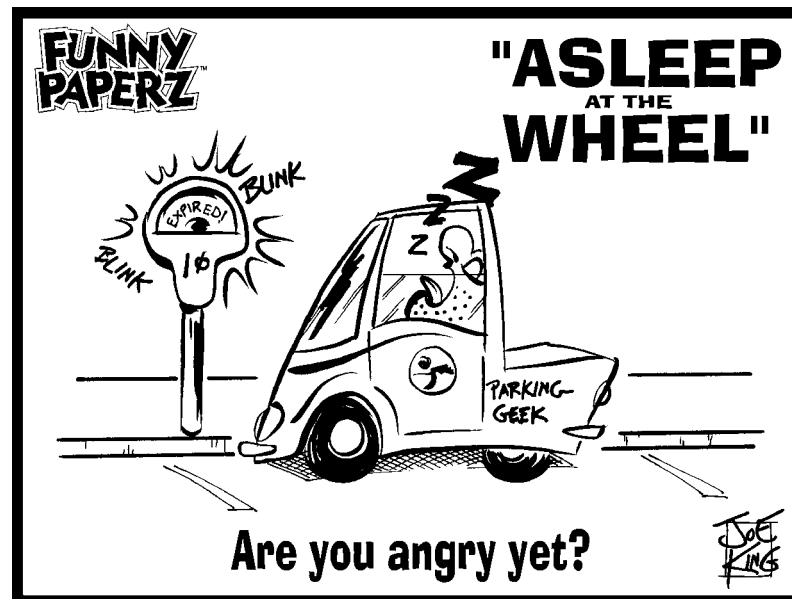
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Male brothel didn't satisfy their customers

- A brothel for female clientele closed because customers were abusing the owner's pay-afterward privilege by claiming the men didn't satisfy them (Waldshut, Germany).
- A man escaped after robbing an auto parts store of \$50, but not before losing his prosthetic leg and his pants in a scuffle with an employee (Kansas City, Mo.).
- The owner of seven large (up to 6 feet long), house-roaming Monitor lizards died, apparently of natural causes, but then became dinner for his brood before a relative discovered the body (Newark, Del.).
- A wealthy director of Finland's Nokia telecom company was fined about \$103,000 for speeding, based on the country's system of assigning fines by income, but he said his income has dropped, and the fine should only be about \$20,000 (Helsinki).



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BACK PAGE

All that sleep may be killing you, study says

BY LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Don't fret if you don't get eight hours of sleep a night — new research suggests adults live longer if they get six or seven.

Even the study's authors say it is not time to reset the alarm clock just yet.

The research is based on a nationwide survey of 1.1 million adults. It found that those who slept eight hours a night were 12 percent more likely to die within six years than those who got 6 1/2 to 7 1/2 hours of sleep. The increased risk was more than 15 percent for those who reported getting more than 8 1/2 hours or less than about 4 hours nightly.

The participants were ages 30 to 102. Few reported frequent insomnia — which, despite popular belief, was not associated with an increased risk of death.

"Additional studies are needed to determine if setting your alarm clock earlier will actually improve your health," said lead author Dr. Daniel Kripke, a psychiatrist at the University of California at San Diego.

The study was published in February's Archives of General Psychiatry.

Sleep experts said the research has several flaws. The study was not actually designed to look at sleep's effect on longevity. It relied on patients' recollections of their sleep habits and did not ask if they took naps. It did not look at the quality of people's sleep or whether they felt drowsy all day.

Dr. Phyllis Zee, director of Northwestern Memorial Hospital's sleep disorders center, said the results probably do not reflect the general population because participants were not randomly selected but were mainly friends and relatives of volunteers for the American Cancer Society, which collected the data as part of a 1982 survey on cancer risks.

Zee said it is possible that participants who got little

sleep or slept eight hours or more had medical problems that would explain their increased death rate.

"Additional studies are needed to determine if setting your alarm clock earlier will actually improve your health."

— DR. DANIEL KRIPKE

University of California at San Diego, psychiatrist

About 5 percent of the women and 9 percent of the men died during the six years after the survey, with heart

disease and cancer the leading causes.

The research neglects strong evidence that there are natural sleep variations, said psychologist Rosalind Cartwright of the sleep disorders center at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago.

"There are natural-born short sleepers who are perfectly healthy with fewer than six or fewer hours," Cartwright said. "They couldn't sleep more if you paid them — because we've tried, and they can't."

She added: "There are natural-born long sleepers, who if they try to shorten their sleep to six hours, they're going to be grumpy."

And even mild sleep deprivation may result in daytime sleepiness and accidents, as Drs. Daniel Buysse and Mary Ganguli of Pittsburgh's Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic noted in an accompanying editorial.

Woman is victim of 'word rage'

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A Texas man is facing up to 20 years in prison for shooting his girlfriend because he thought she was about to say "New Jersey."

A jury took less than two hours Wednesday to convict Thomas Ray Mitchell, 54, of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for shooting Barbara Jenkins outside his apartment in March 1999.

Although he did not claim insanity as a defense, relatives testified Wednesday that Mitchell

gets angry, curses and bangs on walls when he hears certain words or phrases, including "New Jersey," "Snickers," "Mars" and "Wisconsin."

They said Mitchell had been committed numerous times to mental facilities for periods of three weeks to three months since 1985 but he had never harmed anyone.

On Tuesday, the first day of his trial, Mitchell did not react when the phrase "New Jersey" was uttered twice within his earshot. On Wednesday, he appeared to be holding his ears closed with his

fingers when relatives testified about his problems.

Defense attorney Maria Luisa Mercado argued that Mitchell did not understand what he was doing when he was arrested and was asked by police to make a statement about the shooting. Investigators said he told them he shot Jenkins because he thought she was about to say "New Jersey."

Prosecutor Mo Ibrahim said Jenkins died recently. Details were not available, but Ibrahim said her death was not related to the shooting.

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