

FREE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 88

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

15-24-26-32-37
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: \$18 million
FANTASY 5
09, 15, 18, 20, 25
DAILY 3
Afternoon picks: 0, 4, 1
Evening picks: 8, 6, 2
DAILY DERBY
1st Place: 11, Money Bags
2nd Place: 07, Eureka
3rd Place: 12, Lucky Charms
Race time: 1:46:34



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ Latest Christian congregationalist to sue for injuries after falling backward upon being saved but landing on the floor because the "catcher" clumsily missed breaking her fall: Loraine Daily, 40, at the Sydney (Australia) Christian Life Center, September (suing for the equivalent of \$380,000).
■ Latest restaurant to offer ostentatiously exotic food specialties: PieWorks, Gwinnett County, Ga., January (featuring pizza with 163 toppings, including meats such as alligator, ostrich and rattlesnake).

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The nail that sticks up gets hammered down.

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Tactics by anti-wage campaign assailed

Witnesses testify about questionable moves by opponents of living wage

BY ANDY FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Supporters of Santa Monica's failed living wage law put their opponents' campaign tactics on trial Saturday.

Witnesses — who consisted of elected officials, campaign workers, favorable hotel employees and clergy — testified before a panel dominated by campaign reformers that a living wage victory was stolen by a high-priced opposition campaign.

Many witnesses, who were sworn

to tell the truth before giving their testimony by former California Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso — who was also a panelist — said deceptive campaign tactics used in Santa Monica should be a "poster child" for statewide campaign reform.

"From Sacramento to Santa Monica truth in campaigns is under assault," said Sonya Fox Sultan, a local resident and attorney who volunteered on the living wage campaign. "And without taking action, it could eventually undermine the entire electoral system."

The living wage ordinance, which was passed in 2001 by the Santa Monica City Council, would have

See LIVING WAGE, page 6



Andy Fixmer/Daily Press

Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante tells living wage supporters there should be truth in campaign advertising

Homeless services to face deep cuts by city

BY ANDY FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Public funds for homeless services are drying up just as the numbers of those living on the streets are on the rise.

The City of Santa Monica recently asked all 31 social service agencies it funds that help the homeless find jobs and permanent housing to apply for the lowest possible amount of funds this year.

"Our intent is whenever possible to maintain the social service program and keep it intact and to make sure cuts don't impact low-income people," said Tracy Scruggs, the city's human services supervisor. "We've asked them to submit proposals that take a hard look at where they can find efficiencies before we have to find the efficiencies for them."

The city is considering cutting \$400,000 of the \$8.8 million it annually doles out for social services, Scruggs said.

But many of the agencies say they are already so under-funded that finding room for more cuts is next to impossible.

The Venice Family Clinic, for example, is asking for the same level of funding it received last year, said the organization's executive director, Elizabeth Foyer.

"Cutting back really isn't an option because we are already providing over and beyond what we have funding for," Foyer said. "There's no where to cut."

The clinic already treats more patients than it receives funding for, she said.

The number of homeless in Santa Monica seeking assistance from locally-funded social service agencies rose by more than one-third during the past year, according to an annual city audit. In the last census — taken in 2000 — the city found that there are between 900-1,200 people living on Santa Monica streets every day.

Ocean Park Community Center, the largest provider of social services and job training to the poor and homeless, has already lost a \$100,000 federal grant, according to John Maceri, the organization's executive director. And more funding is expected to be lost down the road, he said.

The organization is likely to see a 10 percent cut in funding from Los Angeles County and a possible five percent cut from Santa Monica, Maceri said. About \$3.5 million of OPCC's total operating budget of \$5 million comes from public sources. Any decline in that funding could be disastrous for the organization, Maceri said.

"It's a lot when you realize that represents real services being cut for real people," Maceri said.

Step Up on Second, a Santa Monica provider of mental health care to the poor and homeless,

See SERVICES, page 6

Homeownership a dream for millions of Californians

BY JIM WASSERMAN AND SANDRA MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writers

Low mortgage rates have triggered a home-buying binge that's grabbing headlines and remaking neighborhoods. Yet millions of Californians remain locked out of the American dream of homeownership despite the boom, stymied by endlessly climbing

prices or unwilling to commute hours to homes they can afford.

The Golden State has the nation's fourth-lowest rate of homeownership, some of its highest prices, and a combination of demographic forces and economic realities that seem certain to make the problem worse rather than better in the coming decades.

The problem — some say crisis — hits particularly hard at the state's fastest growing

population group, young Latinos. But the victims cover the spectrum of Californians: poor immigrants and thirtysomething professionals, recent college graduates and blue-collar working families.

While Californians who already own are building equity to trade up, pay college tuition or ensure a comfortable retirement, those on

See HOMEOWNERSHIP, page 7

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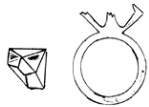
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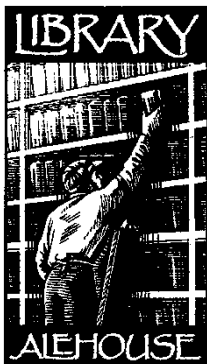
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Feb. 24, 2003:

Recognize that what works for you might not work for others. Stay focused, especially when dealing with those in charge. You cannot push the line here without being sorry. In some way, you might feel as if you are depriving your home life or a roommate. Learn to juggle, especially after June 3, when your personal life becomes even more rewarding and enriching. Career opportunities also seem unique. You will need to call on your creativity this year. If you are single, you might be inclined to change that status after August 2003, when you meet someone quite special. If you are attached, the two of you want to add a concrete symbol of your love to your life together. SAGITTARIUS pushes your buttons.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ What seemed to be a problem might no longer be. Review what is important to accomplish this week before charging into a new project. A touch of organization goes a long way. Whatever you focus on, you'll manage to accomplish. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Deal with an associate who might twist and turn substantially when under pressure. You might find this pattern quite disabling. Try to define goals before taking hold of a project. You might even need to sign an agreement with this person. Tonight: Go with a loved one's plans.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Review plans with your co-worker. Changes might be easier to handle at the beginning rather than at the end. You might feel that in some way you're tough on someone. Perhaps you might be forcing a long-overdue issue. Tonight: Accept a dinner invitation.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Emphasize success, not ego. You will succeed as a result. Think through what might be problem or what could be holding you back. Skip through obstacles, keeping a smile on your face after you have cleared them. Use an associates input. Tonight: Relax in a favorite way.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your playfulness could delight you, but it could cause a problem for a friend. Know when to put a halt to present activity, especially if an associate is uncomfortable with what is happening. Defer to others in a meeting. You cannot change another's mind. Tonight: Someone close would love your playfulness.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You could be distressed by how many responsibilities and commitments seem to fall on you. Understand that you can say "no," but the ramifications could be hard to take. End the workday as soon as possible, even if it means taking extra work home. Tonight: Turn on your answering machine. Cocoon.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might have difficulty grasping the big picture, and you might sense that something is off. Explore conversations, asking for more feedback. You could find the solutions in an indirect way. Realize what is no longer applicable or appropriate. Tonight: Visit a preferred haunt.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You could find it difficult to come to terms with a developing situation or problem. Realize when you need to establish a stronger sense of direction. Your humor allows you to find out more about a financial matter than you really want to know! Tonight: Do your thing.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ When empowered, you could be close to unstoppable. An associate attempts to slow you down. Understand what might be going on with this person, though you still might be a runaway freight train. Realize more of what you want. Tonight: As you like it.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Sometimes you are best off doing your own thing. You'll see that this attitude pays off in the work arena, quite quickly at that. Close your door and clear out some long-overdue paperwork. Dig into a project. You quickly accomplish a lot. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Make a list and focus on completing just those items. You feel as if you're on a roll, especially in meetings. Others listen to your advice. Knock on a friend's door and make plans to get together in the near future, if possible. Network to your heart's content. Tonight: Follow the gang.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Realize what might need to happen within your immediate circle. Bosses make demands, as do other authority figures. You have little choice at this time and must deliver. As a result, you could work long, hard hours. A family member might be upset. Tonight: A must show.

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LOCAL



Gavel II Gavel

From the people's court in the Santa Monica Courthouse

By John Wood

AT&T pays for unwanted calls

Seeking refuge from unsolicited phone calls to his Santa Monica home, Deverin Karol called AT&T last March and asked to be placed on a "do not call" list.

But nearly a year later the calls were still flooding in, Karol said, so he filed a lawsuit against his phone service provider for \$5,000 — the limit in small claims court.

Unwanted telemarketing calls are illegal and under the 1991 Telephone Consumer Protection Act and companies placing them can be held liable for \$500 in damages for each call. That amount in turn can be tripled if the caller intentionally violates a recipient's "do not call" request.

Karol claimed that AT&T and their subsidiaries did just that. In his complaint, he alleged that AT&T "knowingly and willfully" placed repeated telemarketing calls to his home, beginning in March of 2001.

Malcolm Ross, an AT&T representative, told the court a different story. He brought a print-out of all incoming calls answered at Karol's home over the past two years. Ross said the document proved only one of the calls came from a telemarketer, and it was placed before Karol asked not to be contacted.

"My contention is that we complied (with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act). He contacted us, requested us to stop (calling) and we did," Ross said. "We've all been on the receiving end of unsolicited calls and it's annoying."

Karol, who kept a detailed log of the time and date of each unwanted call, further questioned the phone company's actions.

"Is it possible that this is wrong? Absolutely. Is it possible that these records are doctored? Absolutely. This is a company that denied receiving certified mail from me," Karol told the court.

Karol, who said he has not collected on previous judgments of \$1,000 and \$2,500 against other companies for similar abuses of the law, claimed he wasn't suing for the money. He told the court he just wants to put an end to the unsolicited calls.

Commissioner Roberta Kyman, who took the matter under submission, later ruled against the phone company for \$500 plus court costs.

Bank held liable for identity theft

A Mar Vista woman successfully sued Bank of America to reimburse her for \$5,000 in forged checks.

Yvonne Tawfik took the bank to Santa Monica small claims court Wednesday to recover the money, which an employee had charged on a line of credit Bank of America had extended to her.

Bank of America officials said they shouldn't be held liable for the money because Tawfik didn't report the irregularities within the 60 days the bank gives customers to report suspicious charges on their accounts.

But Tawfik said she had been in China during April and May 2002 on business, and while she was there a man she hired to watch over her home wrote a check for \$1,500.

Then the man, whom Tawfik declined to name, changed the mailing address the bank had on file for Tawfik's account to his address. He then ordered more checks. Before Tawfik knew what had happened the man had passed nearly \$7,500 in fraudulent checks.

When Tawfik caught on to what was happening, she notified the bank, but officials there said it was a police matter. However, police told Tawfik it was a bank matter.

"I got tired of the run-around and I decided to take them to court," Tawfik said. "I figured I was essentially talking to a brick wall when it came to the bank."

Commissioner Roberta Kyman awarded Tawfik \$4,875 plus court costs. Kyman was not immediately available to explain her ruling.

But Tawfik said she hopes the ruling will send a message to the banking community that they have a responsibility when it comes to fraud and identity theft.

surf report

Information compiled by Jamie Seborer

On Monday look for a building NW swell to gain size later in the afternoon and through Tuesday. There will be chest high surf at many exposed spots, with slightly overhead sets in the south bay. The waves should be choppy because of a cold front moving toward the coast.

There is a 90 percent chance of rain in the beginning of the week, so watch out — the beaches are clean now but they won't be afterward.

Water temperatures will drop a little to the mid-50 degree range, while the waves could clean up by the middle of the week.



Today's Tides:

High	3:09AM	5.08'
Low	11:10AM	0.01'
High	6:22PM	3.03'
Low	9:47PM	2.66'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County Line	4-6'poor	5-7' poor	A
Zuma	3-5'poor	4-6'poor	A
Surfrider	3-5'poor	4-6'poor	A
Topanga	2-3'poor	3-4'poor	A
Breakwater	3-5'poor	4-6'poor	A
El Porto	4-6'poor	5-6'poor	A

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The Q-Line

Late last year, the Santa Monica City Council passed a law that would make it illegal to sleep in downtown doorways at night.

It was made law partially because of pressure from the business community and tourism industry who felt Santa Monica was too soft on the city's homeless population.

Now, more than four months later, the law isn't being enforced because City

Hall hasn't outlined the process for doing so. This week, Q-Line wants to know, "Has the homeless situation improved downtown? Is the law still necessary?"

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

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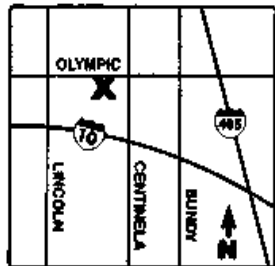
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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMRR says 'no' to Prop. A

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, the city's ruling party, has officially announced that it is opposed to Proposition A, currently being voted on by citizens through the mail.

Prop. A proposes allowing owners of single-family homes to opt out of having their residences deemed historic by city officials. Citizens will vote in a month-long election that will be conducted entirely through the mail. Ballots were sent to registered Santa Monica voters on Feb. 20. They must be turned into the City Clerk's office no later than March 21.

For the past 25 years, SMRR's guiding principal has been the preservation of affordable housing and the protection of Santa Monica's neighborhoods. In the face of extraordinary development pressures, SMRR has supported candidates for public office pledged to significantly reducing development densities in both commercial and residential areas. SMRR has long emphasized the goal of retaining and repairing older structures in both multi-family and single-family residential neighborhoods, as well as commercial areas, to preserve the character of our neighborhoods and our community.

SMRR officials said their opposition to Prop. A is consistent with that effort.

The existing, and recently updated landmark process should be maintained, SMRR officials say. Since its adoption in 1976 by a City Council led by moderates and conservatives such as Christine Reed, Nat Trives, Peter van den Steenhoven, Donna Swink and John McCloskey, the Landmark Ordinance has served the community well and has helped to preserve a few rare and important structures in our city, SMRR officials said.

Many members of SMRR and the SMRR steering committee are homeowners who do not believe the existing landmark process is a threat to homes or to other homeowners at all.

Prop. A debate to be broadcast

By Daily Press staff

A 30-minute debate presenting both sides of Santa Monica's Ballot Measure A and moderated by the Santa Monica League of Women Voters, will be broadcast on City TV, Channel 16 during several days throughout February and March. Speaking in favor of the proposition is Greg Poirier. Speaking against is Bea Nemlaha. The times and dates are as follows.

In February: 25 at 1 p.m., 26 at 6:30 p.m., 28 at 8:30 p.m.

In March: 2 at 6:30 p.m., 4 at 8:30 a.m., 7 at 6:30 p.m., 8 at 10:30 a.m., 10 at 7:30 p.m., 12 at 4 p.m., 13 at 10 p.m., 14 at 10:30 p.m., 15 at 11 a.m., 16 at 8:30 a.m., 17 at 6:30 p.m., 18 at 1 p.m., 20 at 8 a.m.

Applications being accepted for Catholic scholarships

By Daily Press staff

Millions of dollars in scholarship funds to help Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara families offset the cost of Catholic education tuition is now available from the Catholic Education Foundation's Tuition Awards and Advantage Plus programs.

Applications are being accepted until March 28 for elementary school students and April 16 for high school students.

To be eligible for tuition assistance, children must come from families whose annual earnings are no more than 15 percent above the Federal School Lunch Program guidelines. For example, a single parent with two children would qualify for assistance if his or her annual income was no more than \$22,148.

The foundation also considers the child's academic achievement, his or her character, the family's involvement in church and school activities and the recommendation of the principal at the Catholic school where the child attends or is hoping to attend. Elementary School Tuition Award applications must be submitted by the principal of the school where the applicant intends to enroll.

This year, tuition awards will enable more than 5,000 disadvantaged children to attend 227 Catholic elementary and high schools in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The Advantage Plus program was added last year to provide additional scholarships to students who attend the poorest schools in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. The scholarships offset the cost of enrollment in Catholic school with grants \$800 annually for elementary school students and \$1,500 annually for high school students.

The Catholic Education Foundation was founded in 1988 by Cardinal Roger Mahony and a group of business leaders and since its beginning, has awarded more than 51,000 scholarships at a cost of approximately \$42 million. For more information about the scholarships available, please call the Catholic Education at (213)637-7475 or log onto www.CatholicEd-Foundation.org.

COMMENTARY



Small claims court meant to be simple, easy process



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pizarra

America's fascination with all things legal begins at the lowest level of the civil courts in the small claims division. This is the arena where individual Davids and Goliaths meet on equal ground and neither one has the upper hand.

The rules for small claims are basic: Disputes are limited to a maximum of \$5,000, there is no jury, and individuals are not represented by lawyers.

In California, the small claims process is designed to be very easy because the courts want this to be the "self help" court. If you have a claim against someone for a breach of contract, a personal injury, a landlord/tenant dispute, or a bounced check, this is the place.

To file a complaint you need to have a current address of the defendant and the filing fee of \$22. The actual complaint, which you get at the court clerk's office, states why you think the defendant owes you money. In general, it is something as simple as: "The defendant borrowed \$4,000 from me and hasn't paid it back."

The form is one simple page where the plaintiff lists their address, that of the defendant, and the claim. A defendant must be sued in the correct venue, which means the district in which they reside, or where the contract was into. This is usually a defense used only by attorneys when you sue them.

After the form is completed and filed with the clerk, a trial date is set, and the defendant must be served with a copy of the summons and complaint. Serving the complaint means the defendant must be given a copy of the lawsuit against them. The defendant can be served by just about anyone but the plaintiff. The reason is that the courts don't want plaintiffs doing "trashcan" service, which is when the complaint goes into the trash and the proof of service is completed as if the defendant was served.

Once the defendant has been served, a "Proof of Service" must be filed with the court. This form tells the judge the defendant was served, who served them and when. This is a very important document and many a small claims case is thrown out of court when it is not filed.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will perform Service of Process for a fee, and if the plaintiff is trying to intimidate the defendant, there is little in life more intimidating than seeing a sheriff at your front door at 6:30 a.m.

On the day of trial, the plaintiff and the defendant will appear at court and usually will be asked to go out to the hallway to show each other all the evidence they have. It is also a time when the parties can possibly resolve the case.

If they can't and a trial is needed, then they will be sworn to tell the truth by the court clerk and they will each have an opportunity to prove their case.

The plaintiff goes first. Their job is to prove all the elements of their case with the help of documents and testimony of witnesses. The documents needed for trial are anything that proves or disproves an element of your case. Documents need to have a foundation laid for their admission by the judge as evidence. What that means is that a document must be authenticated. In general if you answer the who, what, when, why, where, and how in a document, it is authenticated.

Once you have all your documents in evidence, and you have described what happened, if you have witnesses, the defendant will have the opportunity to cross examine them. This is where most people try to be Perry Mason and blow their case.

A good judge will keep strict control of the proceedings and not allow useless questions. They just want to know what happened. They don't need to know all the drama and history between the plaintiff and the defendant. They want the facts quickly and in some sort of logical order.

The basic rule of dealing with small claims judges is: "Be quick, Be accurate, Be gone." Most plaintiffs will have won or lost their case in 10 minutes with the judge. A good judge can see through smoke screens of lies, deception and trickery.

If the plaintiff won the case, there is an automatic stay put on the enforcement of the judgment. This means the defendant does not have to pay the plaintiff for 20 days while they decide if they want to continue to fight or just pay the judgment. Once the stay is over, the plaintiff can proceed with trying to collect. This is usually harder than it should be, since the defendant is not going to just write a check for the amount of the judgment.

If the defendant lost and wants a retrial, they can ask for a trial de novo, which means a new trial, in superior court and the small claims case is reheard from the beginning.

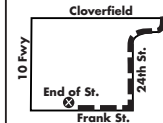
The collection process is difficult and very picky. Once a judgment is issued, the plaintiff can get what is called a Writ of Attachment which allows them to have checking accounts garnished, wages taken, property can have a lien put on it, and assets can be sold. If you can find the assets, they have a tendency to disappear after a judgment. If you can't find the assets there is a process called a Judgment Debtor's Examination, which can be used to find out where a debtor is hiding their money. But be warned, a debtor who is hiding money, is not likely to tell the truth at the Debtor's Examination.

A plaintiff who has a judgment should consider finding an attorney for the collection work. There are attorneys who will take the collection process on contingency since they now have something to work with. Expect to pay between 25-33 percent of the judgment to an attorney or collection agent.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at 310/664-9969 or by email at dpizarra@pizarra.com.)

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LOCAL

Campaign used anonymity to confuse voters, Cruz says

LIVING WAGE, from page 1

forced businesses in the coastal zone making more than \$5 million annually to pay their workers \$10.50 an hour with benefits and \$12.50 an hour without.

Luxury beach hotels, restaurants and other businesses formed a coalition to defeat the living wage ordinance, which voters narrowly did in the Nov. 5, 2002 general election.

In three years, the group spent more than \$2 million to convince voters to shoot down the ordinance, according to living wage supporters.

Living wage opponents didn't attend the hearing Saturday and were unavailable for comment over the weekend. But on Friday the campaign's spokesman, Seth Jacobson denied any wrongdoing.

The hearing was nothing more than "sour grapes" and a continued backlash by the Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees union for losing the election, Jacobson said. Opponents, like living wage supporters, ran a spirited campaign but they never misled voters or made any false misrepresentations in their mailers, according to Jacobson.

Witnesses at Saturday's hearing vehemently disagreed, and a few went as far to characterize some tactics used by the opposition campaign as violating California election law.

In particular, opponents may have broken the law by allegedly hiring a firm to create a series of slate mailers solely funded by the anti-living wage campaign that indicated another campaign had been responsible for creating them, some witnesses said.

Slate mailers are created by for-profit companies that sell space on the fliers to candidates and causes as an

inexpensive way to reach potential voters.

The mailers — which incorrectly inferred that the Democratic Party, women favoring abortion rights and education activists all opposed the living wage — indicated with an asterisk that a campaign favoring a parcel tax measure that was also on the ballot had helped pay for them.

However filings with the California Secretary of State's office revealed the anti-living wage campaign was the only group who paid to appear on the mailers.

Having an asterisk next to the parcel tax measure may have also confused voters into believing education activists and the anti-living wage campaign were in agreement, according to Paul Ryan, an analyst with the West L.A.-based Center for Governmental Studies.

"Given how these were paid for and which measures received asterisks, it appears all three slate mailers violate California law," he said. "They purposely misled voters to believe Measure EE supporters opposed (the living wage)."

Kent Wong, director of the UCLA labor center, gave an indictment of the living wage opponents' campaign managers at the Westwood-based Dolphin Group.

The company of political consultants is known for its work on behalf of conservative candidates and causes. The group is most famous for its Willie Horton ads for President George H.W. Bush during the 1988 presidential election.

The group has used the same "deceptive" tactics employed to defeat the living in campaigns throughout the state and country, Wong said.

"It's outrageous that in Santa Monica where strong support for the living wage existed, that this group was able to deceive voters and derail the living wage from

being implemented," he said.

Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante (D-San Joaquin) said at the hearing Saturday that slate mailers that receive more than 10 percent of its funding from one source should disclose who is paying for the flier.

He said the anti-living wage campaign hid behind the slate mailers and used that anonymity to confuse voters.

"You shouldn't be able to hide behind a name you make up for yourself," Bustamante said. "It makes sense that we should have laws that force such disclosures. There needs to be more truth in the advertising."

One living wage supporter delivered signed letters from Latino day laborers who were hired for \$10 an hour to stand outside polling booths with anti-living wage banners. The banners weren't translated for the workers into Spanish, so many said they did not know for what cause they were advocating.

"Work had been slow and we just wanted to make some money," said Armando Vega in a letter read by Rev. Ramon Cisneros. Another day laborer named Arturo Mundez wrote "We were confused because people would scream obscenities at us as they drove by."

The panelists will convene over the next week to discuss the four hours worth of testimony they heard and come up with recommendations for reforms at the state and local levels.

Some have suggested at the state level creating more public financing of elections and stronger election finance disclosure requirements, especially in regard to slate mailers. And possibly creating a local campaign ethics committee that would review any future questionable election practices in Santa Monica.

City may cut \$400K out of social services funding for homeless, poor

SERVICES, from page 1

has lost a \$35,000 grant, according to its executive director Todd Lipka. That organization is also facing a 10 percent loss of county funds and a five percent drop in funding from Santa Monica.

More than 83 percent of Step Up on Second's \$3 million total annual operating budget comes from public sources. Without the same level of funding, Lipka fears some people may have to go without treatment.

"It may mean waiting a bit longer for treatment or

trying to identify individuals with the greatest need and prioritizing our clients," he said. "We're assuming we are going to have to make cuts. We're just not sure how much."

At the Venice Family Clinic, funding levels were briefly threatened and then restored, Foyer said. For the time being, she said the group faces losing money from Santa Monica only.

"The need is growing and growing and with each level of government cutting services, we have more and more people coming to see us," she

said. "We can't absorb any cuts."

Many of the social service agencies said they likely have to begin looking for other, non-public sources of funding to keep their programs intact.

"We're having to find ways to make up the funding someplace else, which is very difficult," Maceri said.

Individual donors, other non-profits and foundations have all been hit hard by the economic downturn and can't give much more.

Maceri worries what the future holds for the homeless of Santa Monica and

the Los Angeles region. More are ending up on the streets and Maceri worries there may be few places for people to turn.

"I know the business community and residential community are worried about homelessness, but with all the cuts that are coming ... there's going to be an enormous increase in those numbers," he said. "The reality of the tremendous social impact this could have is enormous, and we all need to be worried about that."

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Housing prices could drive out state's middle class

HOMEOWNERSHIP, from page 1

the outside wonder if they'll ever get in.

Tammie Gibson, a single mom and child of Dust Bowl migrants to the Central Valley, feels she's letting her own three children down because that first home stays stubbornly out of reach.

She lined up a loan through a non-profit group to buy the older, 3-bedroom house she now rents in Atwater. Then she watched the price climb from \$89,000 to an unaffordable \$123,000 when plans for a college campus in nearby Merced lit a fire under property values.

Gibson, working a second job and still in the market, wants "something that I can pass down to them. That's important to me. I don't want to think I worked all my life and didn't have anything to show for it."

The price that's out of reach in Merced would seem modest to most househunters in the San Francisco or Los Angeles suburbs, where prices for similar homes are thousands and hundreds of thousands more. As for the desirable neighborhoods in big cities and along the coast, forget it.

The median price of a home in California — the point at which half the houses cost more and half costs less — was \$338,110 in December. That's up 20 percent in just the last year, and up from \$189,990 just five years before, according to the California Association of Realtors, which tracks sales of existing homes.

The state has three of the nation's five most expensive housing markets, according to the group: San Francisco (1), Orange County (2) and San Diego (4).

Just over 58 percent of Californians live in homes they own, according to a 2002 Census survey. That's well below the national rate of 68 percent and behind every state except Hawaii, New York and the District of Columbia.

California may be, for the first time, breaking a hopeful tradition that hard work and ambition leads to homeownership, stability and upward mobility.

"Earlier waves of migrants to California — from the homesteaders to the Depression-era Dust Bowl refugees, to the post-World War II generation — all found a California that could reward their hard work with the prospect of buying a home," write Joel Kotkin and Thomas Tseng in their 2002 Pepperdine University study, "Rewarding Ambition."

The duo says Hispanic immigrants, who face greatly inflated prices with less schooling and low wages, are the first broad group, "through no fault of their own," to suffer the closing of that dream.

Fewer than one-third of immigrant Hispanics own a

"My husband sometimes wishes there was an earthquake in L.A. so that home prices would go down."

— TRISHA READ
L.A. renter

home, compared to two-thirds of native-born Hispanics. At least half the state's middle-class Hispanic households are tapping three, not two, incomes to pay the mortgage, according to University of Southern California demographer Dowell Myers.

If current trends continue, housing prices could drive out much of the state's middle class, leaving a society polarized into housing haves and have-nots, say Myers and other experts.

"I love it here. But it's just really expensive," says Trisha Read, who's renting an apartment in the L.A. suburb of Valencia with her husband, Jason, and their baby son while he finishes his degree in computer programming. California natives, the Reads would love to stay in the state, but they're already looking — Utah, Arizona, Idaho, somewhere affordable.

"Either it will take us 14 years to save up for a down payment, or we will have to move out of the state," says Trisha, 24. "My husband sometimes wishes there was an earthquake in L.A. so that home prices would go down."

This exodus of potentially productive young people such as the Reads exacts a high cost, as homeowners tend to be more engaged, on every issue from cleaning up graffiti to voting for governor.

"If you get to be a homeowner, you care about your property values," says Luis Arteaga, director of San Francisco-based Latino Issues Forum. "You pay more attention. You pay more attention to the crack in the sidewalk, to health and education, the broader civic society."

California's affordability crisis is at root a matter of supply and demand.

The state needs about 220,000 new housing units a year to keep up with population growth, according to research by the Housing and Community Development Department in Sacramento. But construction lags far behind: As of Jan. 1, the state's estimated shortfall was 490,000 units, climbing to 540,000 by the end of 2003.

Population trends add to the pressure that's pushing prices up.

In addition to the overall growth in the number of Californians, there's a bulge moving down the hose that demographers call the "Baby Boom echo."

The children of the '50s and '60s Boomers are already overflowing from portable classrooms on public school campuses and starting to flood the state college system. Over the next few decades, this demographic wave will roll over the rental market and then break on the real estate scene as the "echo" generation hits prime home-buying age in their late 30s.

The imbalance between supply and demand results from a host of forces that hold back construction.

Prime real estate near the job centers in the big cities is largely built out, and a confusion of laws scares builders away from old industrial sites that might otherwise be redeveloped into homes. Desirable land near the coast gets harder and more expensive to develop as existing residents fight development that would affect their quality of life.

Less obvious forces also are at work. Since Proposition 13 limits local governments' ability to tax property, many jurisdictions work instead to attract commercial development and the sales taxes it brings to government coffers.

Condominiums — traditionally the first step into homeownership — have been avoided by developers through the '90s because of big payouts in lawsuits over alleged construction defects. The Legislature took a first step to remedy the problem last year, but the law hasn't had an impact yet.

The multi-family squeeze also affects rental apartments.

Apartments used to be almost half of all housing units built in California in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. But during the 1990s they fell to about one-fourth of all construction.

This drives up rents, draining the savings of those at the bottom of the economic ladder and putting that first down payment even farther out of reach.

As grim as this equation looks for first-time buyers, the out-of-whack market benefits the millions of Californians who already own homes. Half a million homes sold in the state last year, up 12 percent from the year before as low mortgage rates drove the market.

For every frustrated renter, there's a homeowner who's able to sell and trade up, or cash in to pay for college or a retirement home in a cheaper state.

Missing monkey in middle of biodefense lab debate

BY BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press Writer

DAVIS — When a monkey slipped from its cage at a University of California medical research lab, handlers peered into sewers, poked behind cages and baited traps to try to catch it.

A week and a half later, though, all they've found in their search is an angry town armed with new ammunition against a proposed biodefense research center that the university says would study the world's deadliest diseases for the effort to protect the country from bioterrorism.

The monkey, a rhesus macaque, disappeared from the California National Primate Research Center, which would supply animals to the proposed Biosafety Level 4 lab to study diseases with no known cure, such as the Ebola and West Nile viruses.

School officials promised that the runaway was disease-free — the center currently raises animals for research on level two and three diseases, which have vaccines or treatments — and would never have escaped from the proposed biodefense lab, which would have armed guards.

But that was little comfort to residents working to prevent the biodefense lab from being built. They learned about the disappearance Thursday, a week after the monkey got away.

The University of California, Davis, is one of about a half-dozen institutions across the country that applied this month to the National Institutes of Health for a grant to build the \$200 million disease research lab.

The United States already has five high-containment disease laboratories and two others are being built or

designed. UC Davis is competing against institutions in Texas, Maryland, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York to build another.

The proposed facility would have strict security.

Still, opponents fear a lab just 65 miles northeast of San Francisco could be a terrorism target or a rogue scientist could smuggle out a deadly pathogen.

Dr. Dallas Hyde, director of the primate center, said he can understand why the incident has fed fears, but he said the security level of the primate center and the lab would be quite different.

"Animals that go in there don't come out alive," he said.

University spokeswoman Lisa Lapin said critics are unfairly using the episode to target the university's grant application.

"People will make connections, but there truly is no

connection," she said. "There's no scientific connection, there's no security connection, they're two completely different kinds of facilities."

Campus police are looking into the possibility that, after the monkey got out, one of the primate center's 278 employees stole the animal, valued at \$5,000. Few other possibilities are left after days of searching the buildings and grounds that house 4,279 monkeys on 300 acres on the outskirts of the rural campus.

"It's certainly something that would be a disappointment and is, in my mind, highly unlikely, but it is something we need to consider," Hyde said of the possibility that the monkey was stolen.

The two-year-old female, which was to be used for breeding, escaped Feb. 13 while handlers were cleaning cages.

Tap water in L.A. is second best in world

By The Associated Press

BERKELEY SPRINGS, W.Va. — The public water in Montpelier, Ohio, was tapped as the world's best by judges who tasted samples from as far away as Bosnia.

Eight countries, 23 states and the District of Columbia were represented at the 13th annual Berkeley Springs International Water Taste, which honored winners in five categories Saturday.

Montpelier, Ohio, won in the municipal category, followed by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles; Desert Hot Springs, Calif.; Canora, Canada; and Kinross Charter Township DPW,

in Kincheloe, Mich.

The bottled-water prize went to Mountain Valley Spring Water of Hot Springs, Ark. The best carbonated water came from Harrogate Spa Water of Harrogate, Britain. Clear Creek Water Co. of Farmington, N.M., won for purified drinking water, and StoneClear Springs of Vanleer, Tenn., won for package design.

Each sample was weighed on six points: appearance, odor, flavor, mouth feel, aftertaste and overall impression. The ideal water is colorless and clear, odor-free, with a balanced mouth feel and no single overpowering taste or aftertaste.

OPINION

LETTERS

Prop. returns property rights to owners

Editor:

Proposition A, the Homeowners Freedom of Choice Initiative, is the measure that protects your property rights by requiring your consent as a homeowner before the city can designate your home as a historic building.

As you probably know, under current Santa Monica law, city government has the power to designate your home as a landmark or place it within a historic district, even if you object! Once your house is designated in one of these categories, changes to exterior cannot be made unless approved by the city bureaucracy.

Proposition A is simple — it returns your property rights to you by giving you the power to decide whether you desire such a designation. This is all it does.

Hundreds of your friends and neighbors gave their time and energy to put Prop. A on the ballot so we can vote to protect our homes.

On Feb. 20, 2003, the Santa Monica City Clerk will begin mailing ballots to all Santa Monica voters regarding Prop. A. The entire election will be conducted by mail — there will be NO voting at polling places. Therefore, it is imperative that you promptly return your ballot with a YES vote!

Please remember to vote. Should you have questions, or wish to volunteer to help pass Prop. A, please call the campaign office at 451-1490. Thanks for your attention.

We are 40-year plus residents of Santa Monica and strongly support Prop. A along with our 12 children, all raised in beautiful Santa Monica.

John R. Black
Santa Monica

Please fund our schools

Editor:

Despite California's ranking as the fifth largest economy on the face of the earth, our public schools are woefully under-funded. According to Ed Source, an independent non-profit organization, "California continues a two-decade long pattern of ranking below the national average on spending per student."

Moreover, "when compared to other large states, California ranks last in school funding. California spends approximately \$4,000 less per student than New York."

In addition to the inadequate state support, the federal government has failed to meet its financial obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. For more than two decades, the federal government has failed to honor its funding commitment as outlined in IDEA.

Tragically, the current federal funding rate for Special Education is 17 percent, well below the 40 percent required under IDEA. Somehow this reality does not align to the "no child left behind" rhetoric that is shouted from the "hill" in Washington.

Despite these facts, Santa Monica Malibu Unified has been able to provide a qual-

ity public education for our students. In recent years the drop-out rate has all but been eliminated, more students are attending colleges and universities, student achievement is on the rise and we continue to strive to improve conditions for all students.

It is unconscionable and unacceptable that the state of California is now looking to slash more than \$5 billion in school funding during the next 18 months. Our schools cannot sustain such reductions. These cuts will leave all children behind, in particular the economically disadvantaged and students of color.

The districts projected \$13 million shortfall is not the result of mismanagement, incompetence or corruption. It is the direct result of a state and federal government that is unwilling to adequately fund our public schools.

Without additional new revenue, class sizes will increase, programs will be eliminated and jobs will be lost. The students, families, and employees of the district will be the first to be impacted.

However, the negative ramifications of such cuts will not be isolated to the school

See LETTERS, page 9

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Falling off the wagon and marching to war

EDGE
of the
WEST

By Ron Scott Smith



Guy walks into a bar.

Uh oh. It's the President.

Don't look now, but has the new sheriff in town fallen off the wagon on his way to the war? There's something about the way he's been leaning those elbows on podiums where he speaks. Something about those elbows looking all too familiar in that position.

The man has endured a tumultuous first half-term, which has given us the devastating 9-11 attacks on New York and Washington, the crushing counter-attack on Afghanistan, the resulting erosion of civil liberties that had made this nation stand apart from others, and the nosedive of what was a high-flying economy prior to his inauguration. After all that, and the Axis-of-Evil too, has the pressure simply become too much to bear for the guy who got a half-million votes less than his opponent?

As the nation lurches drunkenly and irreversibly toward a massive preemptive

assault on the ancient kingdom of Mesopotamia — Iraq on modern maps — the President, representing all 290 million of us, continually speaks in the first person, "I," rather than the collective, "we." He's taking this leader-of-the-free-world thing personal. When addressing Saddam, he resorts to the language he might have used in the days when he would chastise and discipline his kids — language that, on the world stage, may not be playing as well as it did in his living room.

"I'm sick and tired of the game-playing."
"This is a rerun of a bad movie and I don't want to watch it."

"He wants me to play the game of hide-and-seek, but the game is over."

And then, just this week, with Superman's cape attached firmly to his shoulders, he vowed: "I owe it to the American people to defend this country. And I will do so."

Actually it's our 20-year-old sons and daughters who will be doing the defending, sir, if "attacking" is what "defending" means.

Those young troops, numbering over 150,000 and counting — along with the battleships, aircraft carriers, Stealth bombers, Apache helicopters, and who knows what other vehicles of mass destruction — now surround the enemy, which can barely keep its own children

fed. The Commander-In-Chief blindly ignores world opinion, but, unless he was in a stupor, he couldn't have missed what looked like the whole world out on the streets in protest last Saturday.

He disdains the United Nations as a stumbling block because they have the gall to question this obsessive rush to war. He degrades and undermines the embattled U.N. team on the ground in Iraq, referring to them as "these so-called inspectors," because they aren't telling him what he wants to hear. Who in their right and sober mind would not want to hear that inspections are on track, and that the deadly weapons in question, at this time, do not appear to be there? Is anybody else wondering why "these so-called inspectors" were not, months ago, given the evidence Secretary Of State Colin Powell recently brought in front of the U.N. Security Council, so they could inspect, verify, and bring that conclusive proof home to roost? They don't want to put sensitive intelligence sources in danger? OK. Instead, let's put millions of innocent lives in danger, including those of the Americans he vowed to defend.

On a red, white and blue platter, Osama Bin Laden, still "wanted, dead or alive," is being handed a feast — the intercivizational war he's been hungering for. If you think the radical Muslim world is united

and stirred to action now, what happens when the bombs and missiles start raining down in their geographical heartland and the toll on innocent life begins to mount?

Meanwhile, back in the home of the brave, America — terrorized at the dreaded level orange and seemingly scared to death of anything that moves — trades in freedom after freedom in the name of a murky and ominous homeland security strategy where Big Brother has been assigned as protector. Total Information Access, anyone? Like extras in a cheap horror flick, we're rushing to Wal-Marts across the nation to buy duct tape and painter's plastic in order to seal off windows and doors against the unseen monsters trying to get in. Bin Laden must be pinching himself, thinking, it can't be this easy, can it?

Guy walks into a bar. Uh oh.

Smacks a hornet's nest with a golf club and shouts out: "You're either with me or against me. You — you're good; and you — you're evil."

Nations scatter and run for cover. Over in the corner, barely visible in the shadow of Iraq, sits North Korea — nervous, with pockets loaded.

(To reach Ron Smith, e-mail him at edgeofthewest@aol.com).

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 8

community. The larger communities of Santa Monica and Malibu will be jolted in the years ahead. As the quality of our schools decline, so shall the quality of life in our cities.

During the weeks and months ahead, the citizens and elected officials of Santa Monica and Malibu will have the opportunity to prevent this calamity from happening. The choice will be ours.

Harry M. Keiley

President, Santa Monica Malibu Teachers Association

Setting the record straight

Editor:

Copies of letters being sent out by NOMA (North of Montana Association) and Save our Neighborhood, signed by Mayor Bloom and others, wrongfully convey the impression that support for Prop. A (Freedom of Choice), is from developers. I am not a member of either organization but received these letters and felt it was necessary to set the record straight.

On behalf of the homeowners in Santa Monica who have displayed on their property the sign in favor of Prop. A, this is to inform you that knowledgeable homeowners, many of whom displayed a copy of the sign, support Prop. A (Freedom of Choice). As indicated by the numerous supporters with signs, the support for Prop. A is not from developers, it is from informed homeowners. We are concerned with the potential of reduction in value of our homes without our consent by misinformation to the public. Residential lots in Santa Monica derive their values from the location and the land — not the residence buildings on them, which were built 40-50 years ago.

Howard C. Alphson

Santa Monica

No grudge in garage situation

Editor:

I am a Third Street Historic District resident and I am very disturbed by Greg Poirier's Feb. 13 letter that a property owner's proposed subterranean, on-the-street

garage addition was denied because of a personal grudge.

For me, this case was a true exercise in "principles over personalities." Until the project was opposed by the neighborhood, my husband and I had shared a friendly relationship with the owner and her spouse. In fact, the owner who is a real estate agent, had even graciously advised me on finalizing the purchase of my home in the district. In light of our neighborly-like relationship, it was very difficult to stick by our principles, which meant opposing the owner's proposed project — a project that was uncharacteristic of the neighborhood design.

Sadly, if there is a "grudge," it seems to have originated from the side of the property owner. The owner and her spouse have refused to even exchange greetings or eye contact since it became known that my husband and I were not in support of their project. Tragically, the owner closed down her side of a shared driveway right after her project was denied. This deprived her disabled senior citizen neighbors access to parking to the rear of their lots (shared driveways are common with the Craftsman design). Despite the city installing a disabled preferential parking space on the street, the disabled neighbors were forced to move because they just could not make it up the incline of the shared driveway nor the stairs to the front of their home.

In reality, the project was not denied because of a grudge. It was denied because a respected preservation consultant, the majority of neighbors, city staff, the Landmarks Commission and the City Council on appeal, all concluded that the garage design was fundamentally uncharacteristic of Craftsman design.

Contrary to Mr. Poirier's claim that the citizen "still has nowhere to park," there is in fact a city-permitted cement parking pad to the rear of the citizen's house. The citizen not only built the pad, but used it for two of her and her spouse's three vehicles. Recent photographs illustrating the citizen's vehicles parked on the pad were presented at the hearing. The citizen chose to make the pad unavailable so as to create a rear patio. Apparently, the owner's own architect had other design and location alternatives but for some reason, the citizen chose not to pursue them. She has chosen to lease out her house and relocate with her spouse on his boat in Hawaii. The cars, however, will be staying in the neighborhood — in rented garages down the street.

Lisa Langlois
Santa Monica

Duct tape can do a lot of things but it won't save your life



I'm sitting here at Santa Monica College, thinking of what to write. I have already written several pieces on this war and some observations when I was in China.

Hey, how about duct tape and plastic! Yeah, that's what the powers that be tell us to use in case of an attack by these evil terrorists. Do you think these people will send us an e-mail or flier telling us when

they are going to attack and what they will be using? If anyone who reads this column is a combat-trained and salted veteran as I am you would be laughing.

When I was in the Marines, I was in 3rd Recon, Force Recon. Basically what I did was go behind enemy lines and work. We were trained in N.B.C. which is nuclear, biological and chemical warfare. This was in the late 70s and early 80s. The things we had to do to prepare for an attack like the one that we are told will happen here is going to take a hell of a lot more than duct tape and plastic. There are suits designed to keep these agents out as well as gas masks. And from what I was taught in this training is that most everything else is useless against the chemical and biological agents.

And nothing is safe in the case of a nuclear attack, unless you have a lead-

lined fallout shelter in your house stocked with about two to three months worth of food and water. Fallout from even a dirty bomb will be around for months to years and the ground zero will be all but useless for far longer.

If you do not want a dirty bomb is, it is a low order detonation designed to deliver any type of agent into the atmosphere without destroying the majority of the agent used. And they can be made out of virtually anything that does not create much heat when it explodes, like cow manure. And outside of the bio and chemical agents you can get a type of radioactive pellet to use in medical supply stores. These pellets with a large enough explosion can irradiate a three- to 10-mile area and make it uninhabitable for months to years. I learned over 24 years ago.

I think the technology we have today is

far superior to what it was then and the people we are dealing with are only concerned with causing as much damage as possible to as many people as possible. And these are the people our nation's leaders are really agitating. So while we are looking to the skies for planes to ram buildings, they are going to start on the ground. They have already, in their minds, proven that we are not invulnerable to attack. And, as I have stated in a previous column, we would be fools to think that there are no sleeper cells here that have been recruiting for years. So, maybe we should be on alert for them to send out those fliers and e-mails telling us to prepare so we can protect ourselves with duct tape and plastic.

(Charles Springer is homeless and living in Santa Monica.)

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Wind, rain, snow wreak havoc on East Coast

BY JOEDY MCCREARY
Associated Press Writer

Flooding, high winds and fog hit swaths of the East Coast on Sunday, forcing evacuations and knocking Army skydivers off course at a North Carolina racetrack.

In Virginia, two people died over the weekend — including a man who was rescued after his truck was swept away but tried to return to the vehicle.

Overflowing streams in Virginia and West Virginia forced evacuations after a week of heavy rain and snow that swamped much of the northeast quarter of the country. High wind and fog caused havoc elsewhere, blowing skydivers off course in North Carolina and closing roads from Kansas to New Jersey.

Brian Quesenberry was rescued a second time Saturday from the North Fork of the Roanoke River near Blacksburg, Va., after being trapped in flood waters for about two hours, said Salem firefighter Tim Graham, part of the boat crew that pulled him out.

Quesenberry died later in the day at a hospital; the cause was not immediately released. His father, Stewart Quesenberry, who went with his son to reach the truck, also was rescued and remained hospitalized Sunday.

Flood waters also killed a man whose truck was swept away Saturday evening after he drove over a bridge that had been barricaded. The man, whose name was not immediately released, was found dead in his pickup early Sunday morning in the creek in Vinton, near Roanoke.

Both deaths occurred in southwest Virginia, which saw the state's most serious flooding. Twelve businesses were evacuated along the Roanoke River in Roanoke.

Minor flooding was reported throughout West

Virginia. About 40 houses in Charleston were evacuated Sunday and the National Weather Service warned of 50 mph winds at higher elevations with up to 4 inches of snow possible in places.

More than a foot of snow hit parts of Oklahoma and Kansas, shutting down roads and churches. The conditions contributed to a 30-vehicle pileup Sunday on

Interstate 44 in far northeastern Oklahoma, injuring at least two and stranding dozens for hours, authorities said.

Also Sunday, three Army skydivers entertaining race fans at the North Carolina Speedway in Rockingham were injured when 40 mph wind gusts blew them off target. Two hit parked vehicles, and a third had a hard landing on the asphalt track. All were in hospitals and in stable condition Sunday evening.

Police run over sunbathers; one killed

BY CORALIE CARLSON
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — A French tourist remained in critical condition Sunday, a day after she was badly hurt, and her sister was killed, when a police vehicle ran them over as they sunbathed on a beach.

Sandrine Tunc, 26, was being treated at Jackson Memorial Hospital, spokeswoman Conchita Ruiz-Topinka said. The Miami Beach police department and mayor have set up a Monday blood drive to help her, said police spokesman Bobby Hernandez.

Tunc and her sister, Stephanie, 27, were struck by the sport utility vehicle as they lay on a crowded beach Saturday, authorities said. Officer George Varon apparently didn't see the two as he searched for robbery suspects who had been reported nearby.

Varon, a seven-year veteran, was placed on administrative leave while the accident was under investigation. He wasn't using a siren and witnesses said the women didn't see his vehicle coming.

City officials have said speed did not appear to be a

factor in the death.

Police said the vacationing sisters lived in Britain, but did not say where in Britain or where they were from in France. Miami Beach Mayor David Dermer was expected to meet their family members when they arrived at Miami International Airport later Sunday, said Nannette Rodriguez, a city spokeswoman.

"We're trying to make the stay for the family that's coming in as comfortable as possible," Rodriguez said. "This has just been a horrible accident."

Few sunbathers were on the beach Sunday afternoon under overcast skies. Nothing remained at the accident scene except tire tracks.

Anthony Holdgate of Essex, England, was lying on the sand Sunday near where the sisters were struck. The vacationer said people were now driving more cautiously along the beach.

"They're looking twice now at least," Holdgate said.

Another European sunbather was killed in a similar accident in 1993. Christa Emilie, 67, of Berlin, was struck by a police car on New Smyrna Beach.

Venezuelan judge orders house arrest for strike leader

BY STEPHEN IXER
Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela — A leading opponent of President Hugo Chavez who helped lead a two-month national strike was put under house arrest Sunday after a judge struck down a treason charge but left standing two other serious counts.

Carlos Fernandez, president of the Fedecamaras business chamber, was seized Wednesday by federal agents. An arrest order was issued for another strike leader who remains in hiding.

A judge struck down three of the

charges against Fernandez, including treason, in a 13-hour closed-door hearing that ended early Sunday. The court upheld charges of rebellion and incitement, said Pedro Berrizbeitia, one of the business leader's defense lawyers.

Separately, gunmen loyal to Chavez ambushed a group of policemen overnight, killing one officer and wounding five others, said Miguel Pinto, chief of the police motorcycle brigade.

The officers were attacked Saturday night as they returned from the funeral for a slain colleague and passed near the

headquarters of the state oil monopoly, which has been staked out by Chavez supporters since December.

Chavez's government has seized thousands of weapons from city police on the pretext that Police Chief Henry Vivas has lost control of the 9,000-member department. Critics allege Chavez is disarming police while secretly arming pro-government radicals.

After Fernandez's overnight court hearing, uniformed federal agents rushed the business leader to his home in Valencia, 66 miles west of Caracas.

"I declared that all the accusations against me were false," the 52-year-old Fernandez told Globovision television, adding that he was being "politically persecuted."

Fernandez said he was well-treated in police custody and "they respected all my rights," but he insisted his midnight arrest on Wednesday was irregular.

Fernandez will remain under house arrest while prosecutors formalize the accusations against him.

Strike co-leader Carlos Ortega remained in hiding after a warrant for his arrest was issued. As president of the Venezuelan Workers Confederation, he and Fernandez spearheaded the work stoppage that paralyzed the vital oil industry and devastated the national economy.

Chavez has demanded 20-year jail sentences for Fernandez and Ortega, alleging they sabotaged oil installations, incited civil disobedience and trampled human rights.

"He is a terrorist and a coup-plotter," Chavez said of Fernandez during the president's weekly television address. "Let the decision be obeyed, it is the court's order. If it were up to me he wouldn't be at home, he would be behind bars."

The two-month strike, which ended Feb. 4 in all sectors but the oil industry, caused food and gasoline shortages nation-

wide and cost Venezuela an estimated \$4 billion. Before the strike, Venezuela was the world's fifth-largest petroleum exporter and a major U.S. supplier.

The arrest was ordered by a judge who previously served as a defense attorney for presidential supporters accused of shooting at opposition marchers before an April coup that briefly toppled Chavez.

The Organization of American States, the United Nations and the Carter Center, run by former President Jimmy Carter, have sponsored three months of talks to seek an electoral solution to Venezuela's crisis. The future of those talks was in doubt after Fernandez's arrest.

Chavez on Sunday reprimanded OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria for speaking out about the detention, saying his comments were "totally out of place."

He also had sharp words for foreign governments critical of Venezuela. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Thursday that Washington was concerned Fernandez's arrest could hinder peace talks.

Chavez singled out the United States, Spain and Colombia and warned, "Don't mess with our affairs!"

"Gentlemen of Washington ... we don't meddle in your internal affairs. Why does a spokesman have to come out and say they are worried? No, that is Venezuela's business."

Venezuela's opposition wants early elections and staged the national strike to back its demand. It collected more than 4 million signatures demanding an early vote, but the government dismisses the petition drive and accuses the opposition of "coup-plotting."

Chavez was elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2000 to a six-year term. He has vowed to distribute Venezuela's oil riches to the poor, but critics accuse him of imposing an authoritarian state and driving the economy into the ground.

Israeli warning



Brennan Linsley/Associated Press

Palestinian youths, who had been taunting Israeli soldiers inside a tank and armored vehicles, run as soldiers open fire with a machine gun in an apparent warning during an Israeli army incursion in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip on Sunday. Israeli troops raiding Beit Hanoun town blew up five homes of suspected militants Sunday, battled masked gunmen and shot from tank-mounted machine guns toward dozens of stone throwers. Five Palestinians were killed and 21 wounded in the incursion.

SPORTS



Mike Weir wins with another great comeback

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES — Mike Weir staged another unlikely comeback Sunday, making up a seven-stroke deficit against Charles Howell III and winning the Nissan Open with a birdie on the second playoff hole.

Weir closed with a 5-under 66 on tough Riviera Country Club, then waited nearly an hour as Howell played his final seven holes in 2 over.

The Canadian holed an 8-foot putt on No. 10, then claimed his second PGA Tour title in the last four weeks when Howell missed a birdie putt from 6 feet.

Howell, who closed with a 73, failed to make a putt longer than 5 feet all afternoon.

Weir, winless on the PGA Tour a year ago, won for the second time in four starts and moved to the top of the money list with just over \$2 million.

"It's a dream start to the year," Weir said. "Hopefully, I can keep it going."

A month ago in the Bob Hope Classic, he rallied from four strokes behind in the final round and won by two shots when everyone else around him made mistakes.

Sunday at Riviera was not much different.

Howell had a three-stroke lead going into the final round, and still led by three heading to the back nine. But he missed a few fairways and a couple of key putts, each one allowing Weir to slowly creep back into the picture.

Both finished at 9-under 275.

Nick Price had a share of the lead until bogeys on the 15th and 16th. He finished two strokes behind after a 72, tied with Fred Funk (68).

Tiger Woods had the best round of the day, a 6-under 65 that lifted him into a tie for fifth at 278. It was the eighth consecutive top-10 finish for Woods, dating to the British Open at Muirfield (tie for 28th).

Howell was stunned when his 6-foot birdie putt on the decisive playoff hole stayed left of the cup.

"Never at any point today did I think I wasn't going to win the tournament," Howell said.

As much as Howell squandered one chance after



Ric Francis/Associated Press

Tiger Woods watches his second shot on the second hole at Riviera Country Club in the final round of the Nissan Open in Los Angeles on Sunday.

another, Weir made a tough par on No. 13 to stay in the game and didn't make a bogey over his final 13 holes.

Weir appeared to have a clear advantage on the second playoff hole, the 311-yard 10th, by playing safe off the tee with a fairway metal. He hit a sand wedge to 8 feet.

Howell went with the driver and hit it right into a bunker, a position where few players manage to even make par. Still, he hit a tremendous shot from 35 yards to a skinny green, the ball trickling 6 feet past the hole.

"Charles hit a hell of a shot," Weir said. "It was just my day."

Two of Weir's five victories have come in a playoff, the other one in the Tour Championship two years ago in Houston.

Woods, meanwhile, now has played the Nissan Open

six times without winning, the most at any other PGA Tour event. He didn't lose his sense of humor.

"It definitely was a goal to get in the top 10 so I can get Ryder Cup points," he said.

It was the first time Howell took a 54-hole lead into the final round, and he kept his composure while holding off an early charge from Price.

Still, there were a few noticeable chinks.

"He was obviously unsettled," Price said. "You could see it."

Howell was in command with a three-stroke lead at the turn, and there was not much to suggest the rest of the day would be anything but a walk beneath the mansions atop Riviera.

Then came a bogey on No. 10, the short-but-tough par 4. Another followed on No. 12 when Howell hit into a bunker and barely got it out, having to chip close to make bogey.

When he three-putted from 50 feet on the par-3 14th, he was back to 9 under and no longer had the lead to him for the first time all weekend.

Ahead of them was Weir, who nearly holed from off the green at No. 17, tapping in for a birdie to get to 9 under. Weir left his approach about 30 feet right of the cup on No. 18, and the two-putt par figured to end his run.

"I thought I needed a birdie there because Charles still had the par 5 left," Weir said.

Howell failed to take advantage, though. From the middle of the fairway, his 3-wood flared into the right rough, and a delicate pitch didn't get past the fringe. He had to make a 4-foot putt just to get par. Divots: Vijay Singh, who injured his ribs last week, withdrew from the Match Play Championship. He will be replaced in the field by Carl Pettersson of Sweden, who gets to play Tiger Woods in the first round. Pettersson was the runner-up to Woods last week at the Buick Invitational. ... After narrowly making the cut, Darren Clarke had 68-68 on the week to finish 10th. ... PGA champion Rich Beem, five out of the lead to start the final round, bogeyed four of his first five holes and rallied for a 74.

Man with flag confronts player's anthem protest

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

AP Basketball Writer

PURCHASE, N.Y. — A Vietnam veteran came onto the court Sunday and held an American flag in front of Manhattanville senior forward Toni Smith after the Division III player again refused to face the flag during the national anthem.

"She disgraced herself and she disgraced the flag," said Jerry Kiley, 56, of Rockland County, N.Y., who was ejected from the arena after he walked onto the court during the first break in play.

Kiley approached Smith as she lined up while another player prepared to shoot free throws. He was escorted out of the gym by school security and local police. There were no further protests in Smith's final home game of the regular season, a 63-53 victory over Stevens Tech.

As she has done all season, Smith turned 90 degrees away from the flag as the anthem was played prior to tipoff. Six of her teammates stood at attention with their hands on their chests, while three other teammates stood with their heads bowed and their arms at their sides.

Smith declined to be interviewed after the game.

The sociology major previously released a 250-word statement outlining the reasons for her protest, citing "the inequalities that are embedded into the American system" and "the war American will soon be entering."

Her protest is similar to one employed

by NBA guard Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf of the Denver Nuggets during the 1995-96 season, which led to an indefinite suspension that was lifted two days later.

Athletes have periodically made political statements, from the black power salute at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics to Muhammad Ali's refusal to serve in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War.

Earlier this month, Dallas Mavericks guard Steve Nash of Canada wore an anti-war T-shirt to his interview session at the NBA's All-Star weekend.

"She wasn't political until she came to Manhattanville, but she's always had a sense of justice, and she's always been concerned with people who are discriminated against, and with the injustices in this country and in the world," said Smith's mother Naomi, a school administrator in Manhattan, where her daughter was raised along with two older siblings.

"Basketball has always been her passion, but she also reads the newspapers, and her professors have encouraged people to think for themselves," Smith's mother said.

Manhattanville (16-9) will play another home game Tuesday evening in the first round of the Skyline Conference playoffs.

Smith's protests have drawn national attention to the small liberal arts school in the suburbs north of New York, a school of 1,400 students less than a mile away from the public university where the New York Knicks formerly practiced.

School president Richard Berman has been supportive of Smith's right to

express her opinion, regardless of whether he or anyone else agrees or disagrees with her views.

First-year coach Shawn Lincoln has had to try to keep his team focused on basketball at a time when Smith's protest has caused discord in the locker room and provoked protests at several arenas.

He declined to comment on whether a collegiate playing field was an appropriate venue to express one's political views.

Before Thursday's game at Mount St. Mary, the student government handed out small flags before the game. More than 500 people filled the small gym, jeered Smith at every opportunity and sang "God Bless America" at the end of the game.

When Manhattanville played at the

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy on Feb. 11, more than 300 flag-waving midshipmen greeted Smith with chants of "USA" and "Leave our country."

By comparison, Sunday's protest was mild.

A handful of fans waving small flags were scattered among the crowd of about 200, and one 4-year-old boy wore a stars-and-stripes bandanna atop his head.

"I firmly believe she has the right to do what she wants, but she's doing it on Manhattanville's dime," said the boy's mom, Stacey Jacobson, whose outfit included flag lapels, flag pins and a flag wristwatch. "No one's questioning her beliefs, but she should take it outside."

Lakers' Jackson to have kidney stone removed

By The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO — Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson is scheduled to have a kidney stone removed Monday in a hospital procedure, a team spokesman said.

Jackson was expected to be on the bench Sunday when the Lakers face the Seattle SuperSonics in Los Angeles. He will miss practice Monday but should return for a Tuesday night game against the Los Angeles Clippers, spokesman

John Black said.

Jackson has coached the Lakers of Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant to three consecutive NBA championships after directing the Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan to six titles in the 1990s.

The procedure will be performed at Centinela Hospital Medical Center on an outpatient basis, Black said. Jackson, however, may have to spend Monday night in the hospital, depending on the outcome of the procedure and Jackson's "comfort level," Black added.

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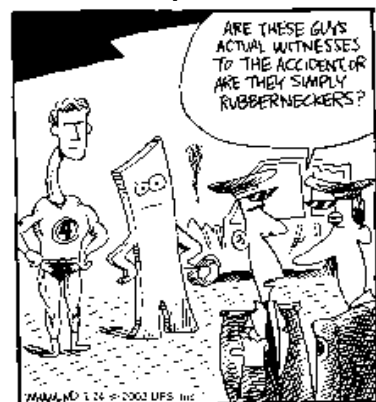


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CULVER CITY \$650.00 Quiet, single, remodeled building, pool, landscape, balcony, carpets. Convenient to shopping, premises, dishwasher, fireplace, refrigerator, stove.

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GLENDALE \$825.00 Remodeled 2bdrm/2ba near the Glendale Galleria. Complete renovation, air conditioning, carpets, stove, swimming pool.

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HOLLYWOOD Starting @ \$1025.00 to \$1050.00 Contemporary 1bdrm/1ba. Pet ok, living room, new carpet & paint. Jacuzzi, gated underground parking. Upper & lower units available, only some have fireplaces!

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HOLLYWOOD Starting @ \$1275.00 - \$1350.00. Contemporary 2bdrm/2ba, pet ok, living room, new carpet & paint, jacuzzi, gated underground parking. Upper and lower units available, only some have fireplaces!

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SANTA MONICA \$2700.00 Spacious 3 Bdrm/3 full Bath. Top floor, high ceilings, sunny, bright, double patio, views of Santa Monica Mountains. Quiet neighborhood, North of Wilshire. Security parking available. (310)451-2178

For Rent

LOS FELIZ \$1075.00 2+2, Courtyard sundeck, backyard w/lots of trees, exclusive professional building, A/C, carpets, D/W, fridge, stove, sauna, no eviction, bad credit OK.

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MARINA PENINSULA \$2,295.00 Very large and sunny. 2bdrm/2ba with huge loft, high ceilings, roof top patio and balcony. Unit overlooks the Grand Canal and the Silver Strand. 2 car parking. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

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MDR ADJACENT \$1375 2+2, gated building with gated, subterranean parking, AC, newer building w/ courtyard area, quiet neighborhood, laundry room, parking, 1 year lease, no pets. (310)578-9729

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MID-WILSHIRE \$675.00 Newer 1bdrm/1ba, new carpet, blinds, freshly painted & clean, gated parking, laundry facilities on premises, balcony, stove, gated entrance, controlled access.

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MID-WILSHIRE \$675.00 Charming, 1bdrm/1ba. Laundry facilities on premises. Gas range, hardwood, garbage disposal, stove, cable television.

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N. HOLLYWOOD \$985.00 2bdrm/1ba, new carpet, new appliances, all new, gated parking, A/C, balcony, stove, large closets, pool, no pets, walk to shops.

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For Rent

NEW STUDIO Apartments available from \$1295.00 to \$1355.00. Six blocks from the beach. Three blocks from Third St. Promenade area! (310)656-0311. www.breesesuites.com

PALMS \$925.00 2bdrm/2ba Upper unit, beautiful tree lined street, quiet building, mint condition, light, carpet, covered parking.

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PASADENA \$700.00 Tranquil 1bdrm/1ba, new carpet and kitchen flooring, laundry facilities on premises, air conditioning, balcony, carpets, refrig., stove.

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PASADENA \$725.00 Spacious 1bdrm/1ba, beamed ceilings, very private, hardwood floors, large closets, upper unit, air conditioning.

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SANTA MONICA \$2000/mo 2bdrm/2ba. Hardwood floors, washer, dryer. Large Patio. Available 3/1 (310)899-3402

SANTA MONICA \$1150.00- \$1250.00 1bdrm, brand new building, all appliances, parking. 1347 23rd St. (310)899-9917.

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 N. of Wilshire. Contemporary, spacious, 2bdrm/2ba, stove, dishwasher, parking, pet OK, W/D in unit, mini-blinds, fridge.

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SANTA MONICA \$250.00/wk Hotel, prvt rm, pet ok, gated, laundry, prking, local calls utilities and cable incld. (310)452-1469

SANTA MONICA \$900 1bdrm/1ba, appliances, no pets, 2535 Kansas Ave. #211. Manager in #101.

CLASSIFIEDS

1 LAW OFFICES OF NICHOLAS TEPPER
2 Nicholas Pepper (S.B.N. 166610)
3 233 Wilshire Boulevard
4 Suite 400
5 Santa Monica, CA 90401
6 (310) 395-5255

7 Attorney for Petitioner Newlon Rouge, L.L.C.

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

In the Matter of the Petition)
of Newlon Rouge, L.L.C. To Have The)
Standing of the SANTA MONICA DAILY)
PRESS as a Newspaper of General)
Circulation Ascertained and)
Established.)

CASE NO. **S0011597**

**VERIFIED PETITION TO
ESTABLISH STANDING AS A
NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL
CIRCULATION FOR THE COUNTY
OF LOS ANGELES AND STATE OF
CALIFORNIA**
(Gov. Code §§6900, 6920)

Petitioner, Newlon Rouge, L.L.C., alleges: **TERRY B. FRIEDMAN**

1. Petitioner is the California limited liability corporation which owns the newspaper known as the Santa Monica Daily Press, hereinafter referred to as the "Newspaper".

2. The Newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character in Santa Monica, California. The business address of the Newspaper is 1427 3rd Street Promenade, Suite 202, PO Box 1380 Santa Monica, CA 90406-1380.

3. The Newspaper has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers in Santa Monica. It is published every day except Sundays. The Newspaper has an average daily circulation of 15,000 copies.

VERIFIED PETITION: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

4. For more than one year proceeding the filing of this petition the Newspaper has been established under the name of Santa Monica Daily Press. The Newspaper has been printed and published regularly six days per week (Sundays excluded) by the use of off-set internet "web" publishing in the County of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica.

5. During the whole of the one year period preceding the filing of this petition, the mechanical work of producing the newspaper through the use of off-set internet "web" printing has been performed in the County of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica. The Newspaper has been issued from the same city and county where it is published, namely the County of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica. The Newspaper has been published as a daily newspaper, Sundays excluded.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays for judgement ascertaining and establishing the Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation, as defined in Section 6900 of the Government Code, for the County of Los Angeles and State of California.

DATED: February 5, 2003

Nicholas Pepper
Nicholas Pepper
Attorney for Petitioner
Newlon Rouge, L.L.C.

VERIFIED PETITION: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

VERIFICATION

I have read the foregoing VERIFIED PETITION TO ASCERTAIN AN ESTABLISH STANDING AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION FOR THE COUNTY OF L.A., and know its contents. I am a party to this action. I am authorized to make this verification for and on its behalf, and I make this verification for that reason. I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true. I am [X] an Officer [] a partner [] a [] of PETITIONER NEWLON ROUGE, L.L.C.

I am one of the attorneys for a party to this action. Such party is absent from the county of stores/where such attorneys have their offices, and I make this verification for and on behalf of that party for that reason. I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true. I am [] an Officer [] a partner [] a [] of PETITIONER NEWLON ROUGE, L.L.C.

Exemplied on 2/6/03 at SANTA MONICA, California.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

ROSS KUBIKAWA Type or Print Name
PROOF OF SERVICE
I have served the foregoing document described as _____ on _____ at _____ on _____ at _____ in this action.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF _____
I am employed in the county of _____, State of California.
I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is: _____
On _____, I served the foregoing document described as _____ on _____ at _____ in this action.

By placing the true copies thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as stated on the attached mailing list:
By placing [] the original [] a true copy thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as follows:

BY MAIL
I deposited such envelope in the mail at _____, California.
The envelope was mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid.
[] As follows: I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with U.S. postal service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at _____, California in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of Exemplied on _____ at _____, California.
[] "BY PERSONAL SERVICE" I delivered such envelope by hand to the offices of the addressee. Exemplied on _____ at _____, California.
[] (State) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.
[] (Federal) I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of the court of which the service was made.

Type or Print Name _____
Signature _____
NOTARY PUBLIC
"FOR PERSONAL SERVICE SIGNATURE MUST BE THAT OF ADDRESSEE"
Notary Seal
Notary Public
Santa Monica
Feb. 2003

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SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Immaculate Unit, new carpet, original ceramic tile in kitchen and bath separate kitchen, laundry, facility, refrigerator, stove, street parking pets OK.

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SANTA MONICA \$750.00 Studio, r/s, crpt, month to month, utilities incl.

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SANTA MONICA \$875.00 1+1, spacious, good location, parking incl.

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SANTA MONICA Spacious 2BDR/2BA, patio, southern exposure, security building, 1 block south of Montana. (310)451-2178

SM 2BDR/1BA. Private patio, large kitchen, laundry, attached garage, no pets. 1 year lease. \$1600.00 (310)479-0844

SM Studio/1BA Large closets, refrigerator/stove, private patio, near SMC/park. Parking included. 1 year lease \$895.00 (310)479-0844

SM \$1400 2bdrm/1bath available March 1. Lots of closets. Hardwood floors in living/dining room. Berber carpets in bedrooms. Triplex in quiet Sunset Park. Stove. Carport parking. Laundry room. (310)396-1644

SM \$2,195 Townhouse Condo in condominium complex with beautifully kept grounds. 3bdrm/2.5ba. New carpet & paint. Very large unit w/private patio, private entry, gated subterranean parking, fireplace, dishwasher, stove and storage room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

SM 1BDR/1BA Courtyard, laundry, close to SMC/park. Front unit, 1 year lease, no pets \$1050.00 (310)479-0844

STUDIO CITY \$1000.00 1bdrm/1ba New w/d in each unit, new bbq and sun patio w/fountain, central air & heat, mirrored wardrobe doors.

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STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Contemporary lower 1bdrm/1ba cat, gk, D/W, gorgeous building, gated parking, patio, A/C, tiled kitchen, new linoleum bath.

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(310)276-4663

VENICE BEACH \$1195 Large 1bdrm/1ba w/parking. Upper unit with lots of sunlight, new carpet and paint. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

For Rent

VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00 1bdrm/1ba, super quiet bldg, BBQ, vertical blinds, new carpet very clean, parking laundry, gated entrance, stove, swimming pool.

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VENICE \$1045.00 1bdrm/1ba w/hardwood floors, private balcony, skylight, stove, d/w. Close to Abbot Kinney, parking available. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 X102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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VENICE \$1200 Great location, creative office space in between Main St. and Abbot Kinney. Perfect for small photography studio or graphic design firm. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

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VENICE \$895.00 2bdrm/1ba Bright & airy. Quiet upper unit w/new carpet and paint. 2 car parking off street. Close to beach/shops/restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$2,400.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oak wood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 X102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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VENICE BEACH \$795.00 Single w/lots of charm and original hardwood floors. 1 block from the beach. Close to shopping and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets, paid parking available. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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VENICE BEACH \$850 per month. Great office space located 1 block from beach and 1/2 block from Windward Avenue. Included are all utilities, T1 line, cleaning. 1 room with common area bathroom, concrete floors, exposed beamed ceilings. 1 year lease. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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VENICE BEACH \$995.00 Single w/ ocean view in historic brick building on the beach. Exposed brick walls. Lots of windows and light. Recently remodeled w/ new paint and carpet. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)450-1934

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH Single \$1000 Totally remodeled with hardwood floors and tile. New everything, must see to appreciate. 1/2 block to beach and close to Main Street. Parking included. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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For Rent

VENICE/SM \$895.00 Large corner studio, secure building, parking, pool. 235 Main St. Senior citizen 62+ only. (310)261-2093.

W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00 Townhouse 2bdrm/1.5ba. Front unit, new paint, new blinds, lots of kitchen cabinets. Off street parking, laundry facilities on premises, dishwasher, hardwood floors, refrigerator, stove.

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W. LA \$975.00 Spacious 1 bedroom apartment. 1616 S. Bundy Dr. (310)497-4411.

WeHo \$750.00 Character, gas stove, fridge, carport, laundry, secure entry, new carpet new linoleum floors. Close to the Grove.

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WeHo \$795.00 Spanish 1bdrm/1ba, high ceilings, stove, fridge, crown moldings, w/c, cat, carport.

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WeHo \$750.00 Classic New York style brick building hardwood floors, pet ok, stove, ceiling fan, crown molding. Close to shops and restaurants. Parking available.

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WEST HOLLYWOOD \$795.00 Great 1bdrm/1ba, patio, 2 units available, patio, hardwood floors, stove, fridge, Spanish style.

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WLA \$1075 Large 1bdrm, ocean view on private driveway, top of hill. Private sundeck. (310)390-4610.

WLA \$600 Near Bundy/SM Blvd. Bachelor/efficiency. Walk-in closet, bar kitchen w/refrigerator. Sink/cabinets. Carpets, drapes. Attractive smaller building. (5 units) Convenient WLA area. Info/owner (310)828-4481.

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Houses For Rent

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SANTA MONICA \$490.00 Apartment, prvt rm, r/s, crpt, month to month, cbie.

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SANTA MONICA \$595.00 Bachelor, near beach, deck, Jacuzzi, month to month.

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SANTA MONICA \$600.00 House, prvt rm, r/s, hrwd flrs, r/s, quiet, Indry, yard.

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THE FIRST day I put my laptop for sale in your paper, I got several offers and sold it that day! Thank you Daily Press! Jamie Schuler, Santa Monica

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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2003

TODAY

Blue 7 presents 'Near and Far - Photographic Images of Nature.' The featured photographers are Scott Connell, Michael Gordon and Gavin Lauchenauer. Exhibit ends April 5th. Blue 7, 3129 Pico Blvd. (310) 449-1444

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

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people Age 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Harvelle's Blues Club present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

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

TUESDAY

Ann Sagan Tuesdays with Books Program will review "The Quiet Street" by Zelda Popkin. Reviewer: Juliet Popkin. Ordinary people living through the grueling 1948 siege of Jerusalem weave together into a dramatic portrayal of life in times of deep unrest. To be held at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 5th Street, Room 100, Santa Monica. Begins at 1:30 pm.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You

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

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

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

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 6:30, 9:30. The Hours (PG-13) 7:00, 9:45. The Guru (R) 7:30, 10:00. Gods and Generals (PG-13) 7:45.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 10:15, 10:35. The Recruit (PG-13) 7:10, 10:10. Gangs of New York (R) 7:00, 10:30. Old School (R) 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street

Jungle Book 2 (G) 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00. Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 5:25, 8:00, 10:25. Chicago (PG-13) 5:20, 7:55, 10:20. Daredevil (PG-13) 5:25, 7:00, 7:50, 9:30, 10:15. Dark Blue (R) 5:20, 7:55, 10:25. The Life of David Gale (PG-13) 6:50, 9:50.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.

The Pianist (R) 7:00, 10:15. Bowling for Columbine (R) 10:00. Gerry (R) 7:30.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.

Till Human Voices Wake Us (R) 7:30, 9:55. The Quiet American (R) 7:20, 9:55. All the Real Girls (R) 7:15, 10:00. City of God (R) 7:10, 9:55.

AERO THEATER

1328 Montana Ave.

Far From Heaven (PG) 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.



BACK PAGE

MTV expects to be war news source for young people

BY DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — The network of Eminem and "The Osbournes" is getting ready for war, too.

Much like the broadcast and cable news networks, MTV is laying out plans to cover a potential war with Iraq, expecting to be both a news source and sounding board for teenagers and young adults.

While many viewers are likely to turn to the traditional news networks for initial war reports, television outlets like BET and PBS are planning to bring their own takes to the story. MTV, with its special hold on young viewers, has a chance to reach those who might not regularly watch news.

Several MTV reports on the war buildup have aired already, and correspondent Gideon Yago is just returning from Kuwait after visiting soldiers and young Arabs, compiling a diary for MTV and its Web site.

MTV executives, who are constantly taking the pulse of their audience's ever-changing moods, were surprised at the level of interest in the conflict in a poll taken a few weeks ago. It ranked equal to drug abuse as the top concern of people aged 14 to 24.

This was the first time a political issue had scored so high. Usually, viewer concerns are more personal: drugs, sex, school violence, peer pressure. The potential Iraq war looms as a bigger worry than terrorism did in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, said Dave Sirulnick, MTV's vice president of news and production.

"It's very much on the minds of the young people," he said. "It's real. They all feel it. It's really seeping in. It's become more than just a political issue, it's a life issue."

Two-thirds of the young people polled said they knew somebody in the military, and were worried for their safety. These findings confirmed MTV's gut feeling that there was a hunger for news, Sirulnick said.

Much of the MTV News coverage works as a basic primer, with a rock or rap soundtrack — on what is going on. That's not often available in traditional news reports, consumed with the daily nuances of the story.

"If you're a 20-year-old, you're getting only pieces of it. Nobody is explaining this in a way that makes sense to you, in a way that is delivered specifically for you."

— DAVE SIRULNICK
MTV's vice president

"If you're a 20-year-old, you're getting only pieces of it," Sirulnick said. "Nobody is explaining this in a way that makes sense to you, in a way that is delivered specifically for you."

Two recent news reports give five arguments against a war, and five in favor. Another offered viewers five things they should know about Iraq, saying many young Iraqis listen to American music. That enabled a glimpse of a Britney Spears video.

MTV News wants to walk the delicate line of not going over their viewers' heads, and not talking down to them, he said.

Correspondent John Norris opens a more lengthy special report being aired repeatedly while standing in front of anti-war demonstrators in New York.

MTV tries to play it evenly, giving equal time to the Bush administration's views and that of anti-war demonstrators, Sirulnick said. The poll reflects the need for evenhandedness; among respondents aged 14 to 17, it found 46 percent favor military action to remove Saddam Hussein, and 45 percent oppose it.

The network, which aired a town meeting with Secretary of State Colin Powell after the terrorist attacks, has yet to persuade a prominent administration official to talk about Iraq.

"I think they know that the treatment they'll get is fair and that it's a direct outlet to young people," he said.

Since many in the military are MTV viewers, or peers of them, the network is spending much time talking about their experiences. The series, "True Life," will profile several young soldiers preparing for war in a segment called "I'm Shipping Out."

MTV hasn't requested that any reporters be embedded with military units. And it's not certain whether an on-air personality will be sent to Iraq. In those cases, MTV is relying on its partnership with corporate cousin CBS News.

It was a CBS crew, in fact, that caught the most striking moment on the lengthy special report. Three young Iraqi boys are interviewed, and they give a tour of their middle-class home, pointing out posters of Will Smith and the Backstreet Boys. But they have no sympathy for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

There's no age limit on which CBS News reporters can appear on MTV, said John Frazee, CBS' senior vice president of news services. But MTV prefers reporters its audience can identify with, he said. Translation: Don't expect "60 Minutes" reporters on MTV.

Since the CBS News and MTV audiences rarely overlap, the partnership provides a good opportunity for exposure, Frazee said.

Sirulnick said the partnership has been a boon.

"They respect us and we certainly respect them," he said. "They're our big brother and we like that. We like having that big brother to help us out."

On Sept. 11, MTV switched to a CBS News simulcast. Sirulnick said that's not as likely if war breaks out, but MTV will probably use parts of CBS broadcasts and hear from CBS reporters in the field. MTV will probably have a mixture of news reports, will take calls from viewers and show poignant music videos.

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Opening Ceremonies begin on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. and the Survivor's Lap begins at 9:30 a.m. in celebration of their victory, because cancer never sleeps. This lap demonstrates the importance and reason for Relay For Life celebrations. If you are a survivor, mark your calendar to participate in this heart warming first lap. Special T-shirts and a reception hosted by Shutters On The Beach and Casa Del Mar will be provided to all cancer survivors at this event.

For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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