

FREE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 90

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

01, 18, 24, 25, 28

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 2, 0

Evening picks: 0, 9, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 03, Hot Shot

Race time: 1:46.00



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ On Jan. 6, according to police in Prestonburg, Ky., Quinton G. Bailey, 20, was caught preparing to re-enter the apartment below his, by way of a hole in his floor (obscured by removable ceiling tile in that apartment); a box of that tenant's jewelry was found in Bailey's apartment.

■ On Jan. 27, according to police in Plainville, Conn., Jimmy Tran, 32, saved through his own ceiling and the floor of the apartment above his and was caught by the female tenant after he had reached out and was dragging her purse along her floor toward the hole.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sex is natural, but not if it's done right.

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SMPD announce break in missing woman case

BY ANDY FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica police are searching for a purported photographer who may know the whereabouts of Kristine Louise Johnson, who has been missing for more than 11 days.

Police on Tuesday released the sketch of a man Johnson was reportedly meeting on Saturday, Feb. 15 — the day of her disappearance, said SMPD police chief James T. Butts, Jr.

Santa Monica police also recovered Johnson's white 1996 Mazda Miata on Monday, which had been valet parked at the St. Regis Hotel in Century City since Sunday, Feb. 16, the day after she disappeared.

Police said they have no reason to suspect foul play in Johnson's disappearance, but chances of her safe return are fading each day she isn't found, Butts said.

"It's our hope we'll be able to return her safely to her family," he said. "But that is tempered by the fact that the longer it takes to find her, the less likely the chances for that are."

Johnson's roommate told investigators the 21-year-old Santa Monica

College student left her 29th Street apartment on Saturday, Feb. 15, saying she was going to the Century City Mall to meet a man who claimed to be a photographer. The man wanted to audition Johnson for a part in a movie, according to police.

"It is very disturbing and so horrific to know that there is man that has captured my daughter and for me to think about what type of situation she may be in is absolutely overpowering, I can't think about it."

— TERRY WARK

Kristine Louise Johnson's mother

When Johnson didn't return home by Monday, Feb. 17, her roommate and her mother filed missing person reports with the SMPD, according to police.

After Johnson's disappearance

See MISSING, page 4



Andy Fixmer/Daily Press
(Above) Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. on Tuesday releases a composite of a man wanted in connection with the disappearance of Kristine Johnson. (Below, left) Kristine Johnson. (Below, right) The sketch of a man who claimed to be a photographer who supposedly met Johnson for a film audition.

Status quo for homeless who sleep downtown

Merchants 'fed up' with inaction

BY JOHN WOOD

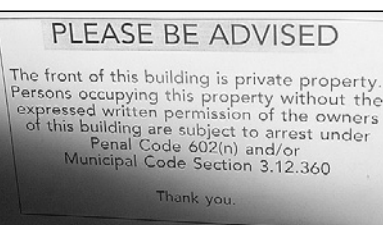
Daily Press Staff Writer

It has been four months since the City Council banned sleeping in downtown doorways, but local merchants say homeless people still use their front doors as rest stops.

Homeless campers still congregate in doorways overnight and use entryways as bathrooms, according to business owners anxious to see the new ordinance enforced.

No citations have been issued and no arrests have been made under the new law, said Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega. Fabrega said police are working collaboratively with the city attorney's office and the community cultural services to determine when enforcement should begin.

"Before enforcement begins officers will contact violators and educate them before actual enforcement begins," he said. "We must be mindful that the potential violators may not have access to modern technology and we want to ensure that they have been adequately informed of the new laws."



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Signs such as this one must be posted in stores for the new law to take effect.

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said the law — like all amendments adopted by the council — took effect 30 days after being voted into existence, which occurred in October 2002.

"I know of no reason (why the law would not be enforced)," Moutrie said. "Certainly there is no lag time in the city attorney's office, and no bar to enforcement."

As the law sits idle in City Hall, downtown merchants are frustrated over the number of homeless people camping in front of their stores.

"It's ridiculous," said Ruth Ewell, owner of Ye Olde King's Head on Santa Monica

Boulevard. "Every single night there's an encampment of homeless people (in our neighbors' doorways). And they use our stairways as toilets."

Ewell said downtown merchants generally support social services but see the homeless problem as a threat to their livelihood.

"It's not that we're against homelessness," she said. "We're out there, helping. But we have an obligation to our employees and it's hard to keep things going (with the homeless presence)."

Marie Scott, who manages Art One on the Third Street Promenade, said the homeless problem has gotten steadily worse over the 30 years she's lived in Santa Monica and the new law hasn't helped.

"It worked for about 10 minutes," Scott said. "Now you don't see the police presence and (the homeless) have come right back. I'm fed up."

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside Corp., a non-profit organization that manages downtown in conjunction with the city, said she doesn't know why the law isn't being enforced.

But she added that many merchants have contacted Bayside seeking protection under the law.

See HOMELESS, page 4

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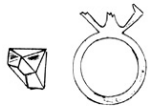
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HOROSCOPE

Gemini, dinner for two tonight



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2003:

Your intelligence and wit come through for you. Emphasize goals and see what you need to do in order to make your life work. Networking and groups often point the way to success. Other times, your inner voice directs you, especially with bosses and authority figures. You will make good decisions. If you are single, an important relationship will knock on your door after summer. This person could be it. If you are attached, your relationship will blossom, especially if you socialize more. Don't isolate yourself at any cost this year. CAPRICORN is your friend, no matter what.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You go to the head of the class. You excel with winning ideas. Others cannot thank you enough for your feedback. Others flock to you for answers and suggestions. You might not be exactly sure what you want. Take some time to reflect, please. Tonight: A must appearance.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others seek you out — specifically, one person who could mean a lot to you. This person might not always be easy. Gain a perspective through an enlightening conversation. Someone speaks about what is on his or her mind. Tonight: Read between the lines.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might not be able to push through an idea of yours right away. However, let an associate or partner think it's his or her idea, and the next thing you know, what you want is done. Sometimes you need to give others the opportunity to shine. Tonight: Dinner for two.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out with seemingly unique ideas and suggestions. You don't need to agree, but you do need to air out different ideas. What seemed like a valid piece of information might not be, as it turns out. Trust a close associate. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Let others filter in their ideas. Though you are 99 percent sure of what you want and where you're heading, you still need feedback. Revise an idea to an even better one. A flirtation that builds on the sidelines could develop into something more. Tonight: Put your feet up.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Understand much more of what makes you the person you are. Ask questions that really irk you. In some way, you might feel like a little kid with all your whys. Exploring possibilities comes via your questioning. Your creativity surges. Tonight: Just ask.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Stop and do some thinking rather than having a knee-jerk reaction. You often react, causing yourself a problem. If you talk through your feelings, you might get the type of response you desire. Otherwise, expect to be left in the dark. Tonight: Schedule some thinking time.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Realize what might be going on with a loved one or a friend. Not everything is as you see it. Loosen up and discuss a money- or security-related matter. Schedule some free time with a co-worker or friend just to think and evaluate. Tonight: Out.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Use special care with finances. You could see a matter in a totally different light. Use your instincts with those in your immediate circle as well as with communication involving funds. You need to step back some so you don't have the same reaction. Tonight: Do something special for a loved one.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your high energy helps you tackle any obstacles. Think in terms of solutions rather than problems. Others find you unusually accessible and direct. Your instincts lead you to make the correct decision, though you might waffle for a while. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Take your time making a decision. A friend asks unusually meaningful questions, drawing the right solution and the right answer. You can count on this person, for better or for worse. Still, close your door if you have any thought of getting your work done. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Head where the action is. A friend might push you beyond your limits, or a meeting might prove to be a real eye-opener. You have a lot to share, though you might be confused by what a boss is saying. Listen more carefully to a loved one. Tonight: Take a midweek break.



FISH FaCTs:

Q: How big are salmon?

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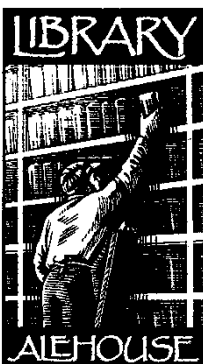
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1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackarison sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

Andrew H. Finner andy@smdp.com

REPORTER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alejandro C. Cantarero alex@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Angela Downen angela@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

William Patnosh william@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Plubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Keri Aroesty keri@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

STAFF MASCOT

Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dance studio raises thousands for City of Hope

By Daily Press staff



John Cassese and Deborah Fields

More than \$25,000 was raised last weekend to benefit the City of Hope at "An Evening of Romance and Dance" held at The Dance Doctor Studio.

Among the attendees at the dinner-dance fund-raiser were Sharon Berrick, senior vice president of development at the City of Hope and her husband Artie; Izzy Freeman, owner of Izzy's Deli of Santa Monica; Bob Cook, president of 20th Century Fox Television and wife Denise; Les Biller, recently retired president and CEO of Wells Fargo Bank with wife Sheri; and flying in from New Jersey, Ann Bialos, owner of Fran Lippy Jewelers, one of the oldest and largest jewelers in New Jersey.

The evening featured a special Salsa performance and instruction by the dance doctor, John Cassese and Deborah Fields.

Cassese donated more than \$50,000 worth of goods and services, including \$100 dance lesson gift certificates for everyone who purchased a ticket to the event. The silent auction featured a dining and dancing theme, and included gift certificates from Santa Monica eateries such as The Border Grill, Chicago Ribs, and The Broadway Deli, among others.

Election coverage on 16

By Daily Press staff

CityTV, the government access cable channel for the City of Santa Monica, has announced its "Vote 2003" line-up of Santa Monica election programming for the special mail-in ballot election that runs until March 21.

Proposition 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.

The channel has partnered with the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica Education Fund to produce the programming.

Two shows will be airing on the channel. The first program is a half-hour debate between a proponent and an opponent for Proposition A. The second program is coverage of the Proposition A forum to be held on Thursday, Feb. 27 at the Ken Edwards Center in Santa Monica.

Program schedules, as well as other election and Proposition A information are available on CityTV's election web site, smvote.org.

CityTV will provide election results coverage on Friday, March 21, beginning at 9 p.m., live from the City Council chambers where the votes will be counted.

CityTV is seen on cable channel 16 in Santa Monica. The channel reaches more than 24,000 cable television households in the city. In addition to election programming, CityTV airs a variety of local news, sports, performing arts and public meeting coverage.

Music to benefit Samohi program

By Daily Press staff

A choral gala is scheduled for this Sunday to benefit Santa Monica High School's choral music program, which is in desperate need of funding.

The gala will consist of Sixth Wave, Madrigals, Chamber Singers and Chorale will perform at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel on Sunday at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and includes the performance and the party. There will be food, drink, a silent auction and live music. A seven-night stay in Puerto Vallarta will be offered up.

The hotel is located at 101 Wilshire Blvd.

See BRIEFS, page 4

Information compiled by Jamie Seborer

The rains have swept in and brought rough conditions as well as high levels of bacteria to all the beaches. By Thursday, new waves will be arriving throughout the day. The swell will peak overnight, Thursday and into Friday with 4-5' surf for the average spots. Conditions will be cleaner as the last of the storm moves out of the area and high-pressure returns.

Because of the recent rains be aware of a 72-hour period after the rain stops before bacteria levels drop.

The tide will start to swing to abnormal highs and lows over the next couple of days as we approach a New Moon on March 3. Tides will go to highs near 6' in the early morning at the end of the week.



Today's Tides:

High	5:37am	5.5'
Low	12:16pm	-0.4'
High	7:14pm	3.5'
Low	11:26pm	-0.8'

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	1-3' poor	4-5' poor	NA
Zuma	2-3' poor	3-4' poor	NA
Surfrider	2-3' poor	3-4' poor	NA
Topanga	1-2' poor	2-3' poor	NA
Break Water	1-2' poor	2-3' poor	NA
El Porto	3-4' poor	4-6' poor	NA

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The QLine

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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LOCAL

Hope beginning to fade for Johnson's safe return

MISSING, from page 1

received media attention, a concerned woman called the SMPD hotline on Feb. 20 and said she had been approached in late January in the same mall by a man claiming to be a photographer who was auditioning women for the same film, Butts said.

But the woman said when she and her boyfriend, an ex-law enforcement officer, went to meet the man at a pre-arranged location in West Hollywood, he tried to forcibly move her to another location, Butts said.

The woman's boyfriend tackled the man and tried to find his identification, but the supposed photographer was able to free himself and run away, Butts said.

Neither the woman nor her boyfriend said the man ever carried a camera, and he didn't bring a camera to the West Hollywood meeting, SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega said.

Police don't have a name for the photographer, but he is described as a white male in his early- to mid-30s with a slender to medium build and a clean-shaven face. He was last seen wearing a dark blue suit, according to police.

Officers aren't releasing the names of the woman or her boyfriend, or the name of the film project the photographer is using to audition women.

Police won't say what they found in Johnson's car because the investigation is on-going. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Crime Lab is investigating the evidence recovered from the vehicle, according to police.

Bloodhounds from the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, the Torrance Police Department and the L.A. County Sheriff's Department were used by the SMPD to search the Century City Mall for evidence after Johnson's vehicle was recovered.

The valet person on duty the day Johnson's car was left at the St. Regis Hotel told police officers the car was parked in the valet area by a man "strongly resembling" the purported photographer's description, according to police.

When the valet approached the man to admonish him for parking in the valet zone, the man reportedly told the valet, "Here's the key," and threw him the keys. SMPD detectives have obtained surveillance video from various locations in West L.A. and Century City visited by Johnson prior to her disappearance, police said.

Terry Wark, Johnson's mother, said she is concerned

for her daughter's safety even more so now that police have additional details into her daughter's disappearance.

Wark continues to work with the local community in the search for Johnson.

She asks everyone to log onto www.lrcf.org, go to the missing person's flyer link and click on Kristy's image. She asks that everyone send her daughter's information in mass e-mails and blast faxes in an effort to find her.

"I was elated that they found the car and that this would be a clue to Kristy's whereabouts," she said. "But Kristy was not found and I was of course disappointed. We are making progress and I know the Santa Monica Police Department is working around the clock on this effort and they have continued to reassure me that they have all the resources to find Kristy. I have absolute faith in them."

Wark is making a public plea to anyone who knows where her daughter is to bring her back safely.

"It is very disturbing and so horrific to know that there is man that has captured my daughter and for me to think

about what type of situation she may be in is absolutely overpowering. I can't think about it," she said. "We will find her. No matter what is happening to her, we will find her. Who has ever taken Kristy, please release her gently."

Johnson's friends and family members have been actively assisting police in the missing woman's search. Johnson's co-workers have been meeting after work and on weekends to post "missing persons" fliers throughout Santa Monica.

Wark continues to work with the local community in the search for Johnson. She asks everyone to log onto www.lrcf.org, go to the missing person's flyer link and click on Kristy's image. She asks that everyone send her daughter's information in mass e-mails and blast faxes in an effort to find her.

"We need to get that out to any many as people," she said. "Kristy has been gone for 11 days and we need to extend our effort outside of the Los Angeles area."

Wark, who lives in Los Gatos, Calif., is expected to arrive in Santa Monica today and has scheduled a candle light vigil on her daughter's 22nd birthday, which will be on Thursday. The vigil will be held at 7:30 p.m. at St. Augustin by the Sea, an Episcopal church located at 1227 Fourth St.

Johnson is 5'9", 140 lbs., has blonde hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information about Johnson's disappearance is encouraged to call the SMPD's tip line at (310) 458-8449. Or anyone interested in helping Johnson's co-workers post fliers can call James LaPointe at (310) 822-4321.

Homeless still get shuteye in doorways

HOMELESS, from page 1

The ordinance calls for merchants to post a sign in their storefronts citing the code, which stipulates that it's illegal to lie or sit in doorways and vestibules from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. A violation of the law carries a maximum penalty of up to \$1,000 in fines, six month in jail, or both.

Wording for the mandatory sign can be obtained through Bayside or at the City Attorney's office.

Amidst widespread controversy, the City Council passed two ordinances in October aimed at appeasing business owners, tourists and residents, who complained the city had become a magnet for homeless people who aggressively panhandle and urinate in public. The council reasoned that the new laws are aimed at protecting public safety because of the unsanitary conditions that some people's anti-social behavior are creating.

The majority of the council voted

"The law's not on hold, it's been enacted and the council has not issued any injunction."

— RICHARD BLOOM
Santa Monica mayor

to make it illegal to sleep in front of downtown businesses' doorways, as well as requiring groups who feed the hungry in public parks to go through a rigorous government process to get a permit from the city and the Los Angeles County Health Department to provide meals in a public place.

Some people said by making it more difficult to serve food, it would reduce the number of charity groups who come to Santa Monica to help the homeless. City officials say the law is designed to protect the public from potential health problems associated with distributing food as well as to prevent one group from domi-

nating a public space.

The public feeding law is currently being challenged in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union. City officials have said enforcement may be delayed so health officials can educate the 30 private groups that regularly host feedings.

Mayor Richard Bloom, who co-authored the sleeping ordinance, couldn't say why the law wasn't being enforced.

"The law's not on hold, it's been enacted and the council has not issued any injunction," he said. "City staff has the obligation to follow through (on these laws)."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

High schoolers win photography awards

By Daily Press staff

Prizewinners have been selected for the high school photography contest sponsored by the Santa Monica Public Library Board.

First prize is awarded to Erin Neff and second prize to Carolyn Schneider. Cassandra McGrath and Kristen Robertson tie for third prize. Honorable mentions go to Destiny Almoguer, Ashlee Cline, Sivan Cohen, Liliana Felletti, Charlotte Froom, Mark Hunter, Stephanie Ishler, Lauren Kitz, Clay Lerner, Jonathan Mandanici, Hannah Rudolph, Erin Schneider, Ava Rose Tramer, Eva Vieyra-McDaniel, and Clay Willis.

The panel of judges consisted of photography professionals including Judith Keller, associate curator of photographs at the Getty Museum; JoAnn Callis, photographer and teacher at Cal Arts; Marissa Lopez, photography instructor at Santa Monica College and owner of LaFoto; and Rose Shoshana, owner of the Rose Gallery at Bergamot Station.

A private reception will be held on Thursday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Main Library, 1343 6th St. Gene Oppenheim, chair of the Library Board, will award prizes and the winning photographs will be on display at the library until March 21.

STATE



Entry-level housing demand fuels increase in home sales

BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — A sizzling residential real estate market showed few signs of cooling in January as the median price paid for a home in the state shot up 17.3 percent from last January to \$278,000.

Low mortgage rates and continuing strong demand in the face of short supply drove the market in January, according to figures released by DataQuick Information Systems.

But home buyers may also be sinking money into real estate as an alternative to stocks and other riskier investments as the nation continues to head toward war.

"It's the great factor 'X,'" John Karevold, a DataQuick analyst, said. "Because of the volatile stock market, there seems to be a little bit of safe haven investing going on."

Karevold said his statistics of home and condo sales during the month shows a strong second home market, especially in Southern California resort areas such as Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead.

That trend is also being seen by real estate agents.

"Where else are you going to put your money?" asked James Joseph, co-owner of Century 21 Grisham-Joseph in Whittier and four other offices. "A lot of people are taking whatever windfall they may have or money from a promotion and putting it in real estate because it looks pretty stable as a competing investment."

A total of 39,500 new and existing homes and condos were sold statewide in January, according to DataQuick. That figure is up 3.6 percent from last January, but represents a drop of 21.6 percent from the 50,400 units sold in December.

A significant drop from December to January is normal, Karevold said.

Similarly, while the median price paid for a home jumped compared to January 2002, the price was down 1.4 percent from December because of strong year-end sales of new homes.

Southern California saw the most activity, with 22,767 new and existing

homes and condos sold in January.

The median price paid for a home or condo in Southern California was \$283,000, a 19.9 percent increase from January 2002, but a 2.1 percent drop from December.

While the market for luxury homes remains fairly steady, demand continues to increase for entry-level homes, especially in fast growing areas such as Riverside and San Bernardino counties, according to DataQuick. While some of that growth may be due to people being priced out of homes closer to Los Angeles and Orange County, most of it is real growth fueled by economic activity in those counties, Karevold said.

Home prices rose the most in San Diego County, which saw a 23.1 percent jump during January. That was followed by a 19.8 percent jump in Orange County and a 19.4 percent rise in Ventura County.

Home sales in Northern California were down 0.7 percent in January compared to January last year, reflecting the lack of supply.

A total of 6,944 new and resale homes and condos were sold in the area's nine-county region, down 22.7 percent from December.

The median price paid for a Northern California home was \$404,000, up 8.9 percent from last January, but down 2.9 percent from December.

The tight supply and strong demand is reflected in the fact that while sales declined 19 percent in Napa County, the median price of a home increased 31.1 percent to \$405,000.

Median home prices rose 8.5 percent to \$539,000 in San Francisco County in January.

Karevold said that home sales should remain strong during the year, but probably not record-breaking. Mortgage rates, at their lowest since the 1960s, are not likely to drop as much as they did last year, he said.

Joseph said he will not be surprised if prices continue to rise as people sit on their homes longer, reducing the available inventory.

Judge allows water district to intervene in rights lawsuit

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A federal judge granted a request by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to intervene in a case against the Imperial Irrigation District in California's ongoing battle over the Colorado River.

Monday's ruling by U.S. District Judge Thomas Whelan allowed MWD to oppose the Imperial Irrigation District in a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in San Diego. The lawsuit deals with how much water from the Colorado River should be allocated to certain districts in California.

MWD, which supplies water to 18 million people in Los Angeles and San Diego, stated that its interests are at odds with Imperial County, a desert farm region in California's southeast corner.

Representatives of Imperial, the MWD and two other water agencies met again Monday in Sacramento to try to salvage a deal aimed at reducing the state's overdependence on the Colorado River, which is

shared by six other Western states.

MWD's general counsel Jeff Kightlinger has said that negotiations would probably end if both sides were suing each other.

"It would be extremely unfortunate and shortsighted if the Metropolitan Water District walked away from discussions at this juncture," said Byron Tucker, a spokesman for Gov. Gray Davis.

California water agencies missed a Dec. 31 deadline to approve a deal, which outlined how the state would reduce its dependence on the Colorado River. Interior Secretary Gale Norton responded by cutting Imperial's share of river water by 11 percent this year and earmarked most of it for the Los Angeles area.

Imperial's water board then sued Norton, claiming she lacked the authority to abrogate decades-old water contracts. The board asked that the federal government be stopped from cutting the region's share of river water. A hearing is set for March 10.

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STATE

Poll: Residents disillusioned by economy, elected leaders

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — It may be the Golden State, but California residents are singing the blues.

That's according to a new survey by the Public Policy Institute of California, which finds Californians deeply pessimistic about the state's economy, fearful of a war in Iraq, and skeptical of elected leadership at nearly every level.

The poll found 28 percent of Californians believe the economy and jobs are the biggest problems facing the state and 60 percent said their region of the state is in an economic recession. Seventy-one percent believed bad financial times will continue through the rest of the year. Last year, just 36 percent thought the state was on the wrong economic track.

"Californians have become increasingly negative about the state of the state since the beginning of the year," said the institute's survey director Mark Baldassare. "The budget deficit, in particular, seems much larger and more threatening than it did in the fall."

Indeed, 74 percent of those surveyed called the state's \$36 billion budget deficit a big problem, and are directing much of the blame at Gov. Gray Davis. Sixty percent disapprove of the way he is handling his job, compared to 43 percent who disapproved of his performance last October.

"It's a difficult time to be a leader," responded the governor's spokesman,

Steve Maviglio. "A governor has to make many tough decisions, and they're not always popular."

President Bush's popularity in California has also hit an all-time low — just 51 percent of those surveyed said they approve of his job performance. Only 50 percent approve of his handling of the Iraq crisis, which is significantly lower than his national approval rating on Iraq.

"Californians have become increasingly negative about the state of the state since the beginning of the year."

— MARK BALDASSARE
Public Policy Institute of California

While Californians are concerned about the state budget deficit, the poll shows they don't want to see taxes raised or important social programs cut. Scott Morrison, a 50-year old construction supervisor from San Mateo, reflects the sentiments of many Californians in the poll.

"Senior citizens, education — I don't want those programs to be hurt. But I'd sure like to see taxes go down," he said.

The findings of the poll are based on a telephone survey given to 2,004 adult California residents Feb. 6-17. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Federal judge tosses \$5-a-day forest Adventure Pass suit

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A federal judge threw out a lawsuit filed by six forest lovers who claimed the \$5-a-day Adventure Pass required to visit national forests was unconstitutional.

The U.S. District Court suit was filed in September by attorney Mary Ellen Barilotti on behalf of Jeffrey Pine of Santa Barbara, Frank Luran of Los Olivos, Colleen Hefley of Santa Ynez, Greg Kappos of Lompoc, Robert Bartsch of Pasadena and Debra Nakamoto of Temple City.

The suit said the Adventure Pass illegally charges people a fee to use something they have an inherent right to.

"I have a real problem with them saying you have to pay just to take a walk or enjoy the sunset," Pine said when the suit was filed. "I don't think bird-watching is a commodity."

But U.S. District Judge Ronald S.W. Lew ruled in favor of the government on Monday and dismissed the suit. Government attorneys said there was a legal basis for the fees and they cited an earlier appeals court ruling that the Adventure Pass was legal.

The Adventure Pass — \$5 per day, or

\$30 a year — was approved in 1996 for Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino and Cleveland national forests. Forest officials said money from the pass is crucial for offsetting budget cuts over the past decade.

"I have a real problem with them saying you have to pay just to take a walk or enjoy the sunset."

— JEFFREY PINE
Plaintiff

Since its inception in 1997, the fee has raised more than \$9 million in the four national forests where it is collected.

Rich Tobin, director of conservation partnerships for Los Padres National Forest, defended the fee.

"National park and forest recreation user fees provide needed revenues to protect the environment, maintain trails and facilities, and provide recreation information," Tobin said. "The fees are fair because only those who use parks and forests are required to pay a fee."

The Daily Press is losing its star reporter to explore the "real world."

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NATIONAL



Volunteers go to streets of NY to count homeless

BY DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — More than 1,000 volunteers ventured out on to the streets of Manhattan in below-freezing temperatures early Tuesday to help the city count its homeless.

The effort was New York City's first official attempt to come up with an official tally.

"We believe that if you have a problem, you have to know what it's all about in order to solve it," said Commissioner Linda Gibbs, who heads the Department of Homeless Services.

Advocates say homeless numbers are at record highs. More than 38,000 homeless people slept nightly in city shelters as of last month, 7,400 more than the previous year, according to official city figures cited by the Coalition for the Homeless.

"We believe that there is more we can do," Gibbs said, calling the effort "part of our renewed commitment to this vulnerable population."

The department divided parts of Manhattan into small sections of about 1/50th of a square mile — principally in areas known to have high numbers of homeless people — and assigned groups of volunteers to each one. The volunteers then interviewed everyone on the streets and in about 60 subway stations.

The count will eventually be expanded to the city's four other boroughs, Gibbs said. Her spokesman Jim Anderson said Tuesday that no time has been set to start counting the homeless in the other parts of the city.

Some homeless advocates, however, criticized the count as flawed.

"What they're really going to come up with is an estimate that's going to be nothing more than a guess," said Patrick Markee, senior policy analyst with the Coalition for the Homeless. "They're going to put a number out there that we're going to be stuck with and it's going to be wrong."

Larry Harrison, a team leader for the city count, said the county was an important step to take "just to show that we're trying to make an effort."

Four former executives from Qwest indicted for fraud

BY JONATHAN D. SALANT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Four former executives of Qwest Communications were indicted for fraud, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced Tuesday.

The four were indicted on 12 counts by a federal grand jury in Denver. They are accused of devising a scheme to create more than \$33 million in revenue by wrongly reporting a purchase order with the Arizona School Facilities Board, in violation of Securities and Exchange Commission rules.

The government says Qwest sold equipment including materials to create Internet access to the statewide school computer network, billed the customer and held the merchandise for later delivery. In violation of SEC rules, they booked the revenue before the merchandise was delivered.

The company also knowingly filed false documents to hide its actions, the Justice Department said.

"As we continue our efforts to battle corporate fraud, our message is clear. We will protect the integrity of our markets by punishing those who falsify financial information out of sheer greed," Ashcroft said in a statement.

Arrest warrants were issued for Grant Graham of Evergreen, Colo., chief financial officer for Qwest's global business unit; Thomas Hall of Englewood, Colo., a senior vice president in the global business unit; John Walker of Littleton, Colo., a vice president in the unit; and Bryan Treadway of Atlanta, an assistant controller.

Ashcroft said the indicted business figures have 48 hours to report to authorities. Qwest had been under investigation by both the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission and was the subject of congressional hearings into its financial practices.

The Justice Department said Tuesday that its investigation was continuing.

The probes have examined whether Qwest artificially inflated its revenues by

swapping network capacity with another scandal-plagued telecommunications company, Global Crossing Ltd.

The company said it was restating its financial reports for 1999 to 2001 because of accounting errors, including \$950 million in revenue booked from swaps.

The company fired Arthur Andersen LLP, the auditing firm that was convicted of obstruction of justice in the Enron collapse, and brought in KPMG LLP in June to look at its books.

"We will protect the integrity of our markets by punishing those who falsify financial information out of sheer greed."

— JOHN ASHCROFT
Attorney General

Last June, chief executive Joseph Nacchio resigned under fire. Thousands of workers have been laid off and the company's stock plummeted. Lawmakers have charged that Qwest executives cashed in millions of dollars in options before the stock fell.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee in December completed its own probe into Qwest's business practices.

Qwest has had other woes as well. In August, Qwest agreed to pay the state of Colorado \$1 million, plus payments to customers, to settle complaints that it failed to adequately inform consumers of the least expensive telephone service they could obtain, instead encouraging them to buy pricier packages. Others complained of poor customer service.

Qwest is the local phone company for 14 states extending from Minnesota west to Washington state and southwest to Arizona and New Mexico.



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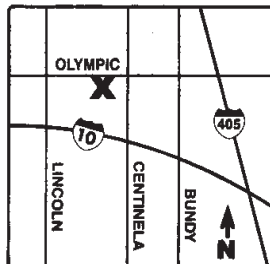


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LETTERS

Iraqi visit a lesson regardless of mission

Editor:

In a letter in response to the Daily Press' article about my recent trip to Iraq, Jan Tousignant raises several excellent points: Saddam Hussein is a tyrannical dictator who has committed terrible atrocities.

I believe there are many reasonable — and some unreasonable — opinions about how the United States should proceed in Iraq. As we contemplate such irrevocable decisions, I think it is important that as many viewpoints as possible are considered. I had heard a lot about Saddam Hussein's atrocities; I had not heard much about the impact impending war would have on women and children. I didn't want to simply believe what I read in the newspapers, so I traveled half-way around the world to speak to Iraqi women face to face.

What I learned is that not only did the 42 straight days of bombing take their toll, so have the 12 years of U.N. sanctions, which have prevented the country from rebuilding the many roads, bridges, electric plants and sewage and water treatments plants that the U.S. and coalition forces bombed. People regularly face electrical outages, drink non-potable water and suffer shortages of food and medicine. Infant mortality is so high that every other family loses a child under the age of 5, according to UNICEF.

I invite Mr. Tousignant to attend one of the many presentations I am giving about my experiences and hear first-hand what these women told me. I do have a point of view and we may disagree: I feel strongly that bombing and starving innocent women and children do not politically liberate them. I also recognize that there are many valid opinions and experiences that do not necessarily make one "naive." This is the time to slow down and listen to as many points of view as possible, not to resort to name-calling.

Kelly Hayes-Raitt
Santa Monica

Setting Bauer's record straight

Editor:

I would like to set the record straight regarding several erroneous allegations by Bill Bauer in his column in the Daily Press, Feb. 21.

In the case of the now famous 18th Street ... the city has done periodic updates of the Historic Resources Survey, first completed in 1983. It was revised in 1993. The goal is to survey the entire city every five to 10 years. In 2001-2002 the survey was updated north of Montana Avenue.

The Landmarks Commission made no recommendations regarding districts. It merely received a report from a professional historic consulting firm. This report was seized upon by preservation foes as proof that the Landmarks Commission wanted to take control of all of north of Montana and make it a historic district. This created fear among the residents. In fact, the report was inconclusive regarding the area around

18th Street.

Second, Mr. Bauer has questioned the make up of the Landmarks Commission itself. It is composed of some of the most specific seats of any commission. Of the seven seats, the following are required by the ordinance: 1) Registered architect 2) Real estate licensee 3) Architectural historian 4) Local historian. The current commission consists of seven homeowners.

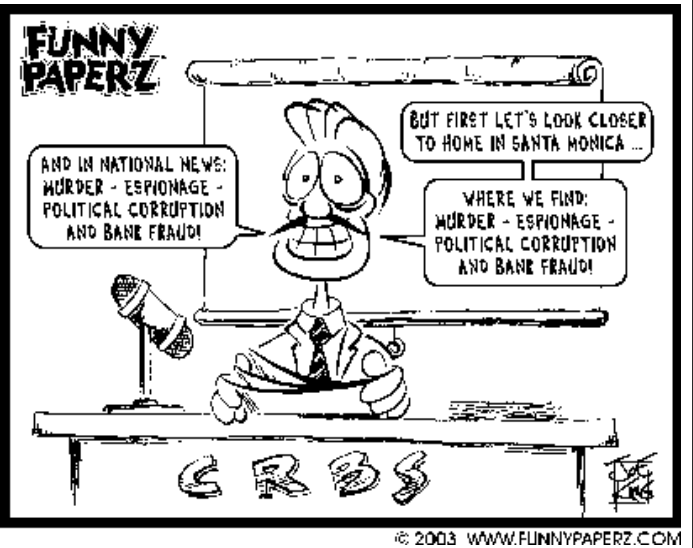
Lastly, I never discussed my appointment to the commission with Councilmember Genser, who, yes, is my third cousin. In fact, I was urged to apply by commission liaison and Councilmember O'Connor because of my knowledge of Santa Monica history and my previous city involvement. That involvement spans almost 25 years and pre-dates my meeting the other Mr. Genser in 1981. He is a hell of a nice guy, however!

Roger Genser

Chair Pro-Tem

Santa Monica Landmarks Commission

See LETTERS, page 9



It's not just the cheese that stinks over in France



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

The current rift between France and the United States over Iraq has left relations at the lowest ebb in recent history. Many French blame the split on George Bush. They claim he is arrogant and has shifted our country toward religious fundamentalism. They cite starkly opposing views concerning the death penalty, trade, the environment, missile defense and Islamic terrorism. Though I do not disagree with French on these points, it is simplistic to blame this tumultuous animosity strictly on the President, nor should the United States be too quick to surrender the moral high ground.

Shortly after 9/11 the headline of French newspaper, "Le Monde," gushed, "we are all Americans now," but on that same day 80 percent of phone calls fielded by one French radio talk show were saying that America got what it deserved. Although anti-Americanism is on the rise, the French love American music, television, movies, fashion, food and science and technology. So why the recent hostility? I think one of the reasons is that the French are jealous.

Despite their excessive pride in all things cultural, France has been steadily losing ground to America. Ever since the French co-opted Alfred Hitchcock to bolster their auteur theory of cinema, their film industry, notwithstanding heavy protectionism, has taken a nose-dive that would have given any other country vertigo. France's culinary supremacy, Michelin's chauvinism aside, has deflated like a bad soufflé against a new breed of American chefs. Nor has haute couture made any inroads on casual Fridays. And let's be honest, California wines kick French butt.

France's economy also is a disaster. The failed socialist welfare state has resulted in 9 percent unemployment. A 35-hour work week has nearly closed the country on Mondays and Fridays. Strikes and work stoppages are rampant. Out of 15 nations in Europe, France has dropped to 12th in wealth per capita. And France's faltering economy has resulted in drastic decreases in military spending; particularly frustrating for a country with pretensions of continuing global influence.

Though this may all be brie under the bridge, there is darker side of France that, well, stinks.

Though France accuses the United States of being a country of inequality, they have yet to integrate their own Muslim population. Most of these 5 million people live in crime infested ghettos and suffer from poor education and

exploding unemployment.

The French government's harsh anti-Israeli rhetoric (their ambassador to England referred to Israel as: "That shitty little country") is likely responsible for the rash of anti-Jewish acts in France. Starting in 2000, several major synagogues and many Jewish owned businesses were burned to the ground, cemeteries were vandalized, anti-Semitic graffiti has become pervasive and there have been dozens of physical assaults on Jews. For 18 months the French government did little. Even now, though there is much chest thumping, few perpetrators are arrested and those convicted tend to get light or no sentences.

But French anti-Semitism is nothing new. Under the Nazi occupation, the Vichy government rounded up more than 76,000 Jews and sent them to the death camps. Only 2,500 survived. To this day the French have never truly acknowledged their complicity in the Holocaust and there are several top officials today, as well as numerous university professors, that deny the Holocaust ever occurred. It also is hard to stomach attacks on Israel's human rights record by a country that supports Arafat, a known terrorist, and one that condoned the use of torture and murder to quell the 1957 Algerian uprising.

Even French opposition to war in Iraq is not all high-minded ideals. Calling for the end of the original inspections and subsequent sanctions, caused a rift in the UN that

Hussein was able to exploit. If France and the UN had remained united and determined it is unlikely that Saddam would have thrown out the original inspectors and might have even complied with the current ones. And though France accuses the U.S. of waging war for oil, it is France that currently has oil interests in Iraq and they are desperate to protect them.

I also take issue with France's position that the only justification for the use of military force is to defend a sovereign nation being attacked by another. This may sound noble, but on closer examination it would provide for no intervention were the holocaust to occur today. This might explain why the French were reluctant to get involved in the Balkans despite ethnic cleansing and the systematic rape of young women for the sole purpose of ostracizing them from their families and society. And what would France do if Saddam Hussein were again to commit genocide on the Kurds? Blame the United States, no doubt.

There is still much to be admired about the French. However, as long as they use the U.S. as a scapegoat for their own failures and maintain questionable opposition as proof of their continued relevancy, they will have little chance of being so in the future.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Comments and sources for decent foie gras may be e-mailed to: edsincites@aol.com)

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 8

Will soldiers disobey Commander?

Editor:

I wonder if all of our American soldiers will unquestionably follow the orders of their Commander-in-Chief and go to war when the majority of United States citizens and global citizenry, and the United Nations do not feel war is warranted as long as there are still unanswered questions and further options.

In the past, we have condemned soldiers of other nations for blindly following an evil leader. Will any of our own soldiers have the strength, the moral fortitude, to disobey their leader and take the high, moral, right road wanted by the majority of the world's populations?

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Rallying for peace

Editor:

Terrific peace rally coverage last week in the Daily Press. I found it wonderfully amazing that thousands gathered on our very own beach to create a Picasso like that. Joe King's Homer Simpson take on it was a nice touch, too.

I just read how in that touristic ski-haven Park City, Utah, they had Treat Williams and his wife and 88 other people show up for their anti-war gathering. They wanted to get their city council to pass a resolution similar to Santa Monica's. One councilmember said he didn't think it was a local issue. Another said they should think globally and act locally, and then added: "If you thought tourists stopped coming after Sept. 11, wait until we start dropping bombs on Baghdad."

Hank Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

A French critique

Editor:

At the United Nations Minister de Villepin reminded us that France is "an old country." His theory was the older the country, the smarter the politicians. Another theory is that France is suffering from senility.

France is making a lot of the fact they were America's first ally in our revolution. They fail to mention their assistance had little to do with a love of democracy. It had more to do with a French king who wanted to make life tough for an English king.

The French Revolution, replacing a monarchy with a democracy didn't take place until years after America declared independence. Instead of democracy, it turned into one of the most violent and tragic examples of mob rule ever seen. France was pretty old when that happened too.

In 1936 Hitler sent troops into the Rhineland. He had given the order that if France showed any resistance the troops were to pull back. France, reluctant to act and ready to delay a confrontation, did nothing. The last chance to stop Hitler was lost. An old country that according to Minister de Villepin, "has known war, occupation, barbarity" should also remember the horror of not acting.

Jacques Chirac insists his criticism of U.S. policy is nothing but "friendly advice." Yet, at the recent European Union summit he went on a tirade that belied his true goal, telling the countries of Eastern Europe that they "lost a good opportunity to keep quiet." He is not interested in opposing points of view or debate. He is interested in dominating Europe.

Jacques Chirac is demanding that his be the voice that speaks for Europe. By insinuating that these countries may have jeopardized their chance to join the European Union he is blackmailing and bullying smaller countries into allowing France to act unilaterally in the name of Europe.

The countries that are supporting the U.S. are also old countries. They have similar memories as France. But it's no coincidence that most of them have recently been freed from Soviet domination by a strong U.S. military presence in Europe. A presence that has often been the subject of protests in France and Germany.

Economically, militarily and culturally France has been on the decline for generations. Controlling a Europe that is united in competition against the United States is France's only hope of remaining a world power. Unfortunately for Mr. Chirac once countries are free to make decisions on their own they rarely want to go back to being dominated by another country — even one with a stellar Bordeaux vintage shipping

right now.

France's desire to encourage dissent at the U.N. and its tantrum when dissent surfaced at the E.U. will be remembered for what it is — desperate actions by a nation desperate to hold onto its past. And to do that, France appears to be willing to sacrifice the remaining credibility and usefulness of the United Nations.

Paul Corrigan
Santa Monica

More sleaze in campaign?

Editor:

Prolific letter to the editor writer, Joanne Gamlin disagrees with Daily Press columnist Bill Bauer when she states that the "No on Proposition A" supporters, "Save Our Neighborhoods" and Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, have not said that renters could lose their apartments if Proposition A passes. (Daily Press, Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2003)

I received a yellow flyer in the mail yesterday, ostensibly from SMRR and paid for by SON headlined, "An urgent message for Santa Monica renters about our neighborhoods." It features a section, "Is this why the Apartment Owners Association supports Proposition A?"

The flyer prominently mentions apartment owners and makes oblique references to demolition of apartments — neither of which is covered in Proposition A which only applies to single family homes in residential neighborhoods. This latest SON flyer is a blatant attempt to scare renters into thinking they will be evicted if Prop. A passes.

Bauer hit the nail on the head. SON's and SMRR's misinformation campaign is sleazy and dishonest no matter how many times propagandists such as Joanne Gamlin say "it ain't so."

Pro Se
Santa Monica

No homeless or smoking in parks

Editor:

I agree with the non-smoking ban in public parks, that's great! I agree with the letter John Kriess wrote. Santa Monica officials (police, coastal commission) should ban the homeless from camping out in public parks. There should be a shelter for the homeless. It's dangerous for tourists and residents who want to walk in the park in the evening. It is also very unappealing to such a beautiful place. One more thing — I really enjoy the surf report!

Jeannette Papineau
Santa Monica

Stop the fluoride insanity!

Editor:

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

I just read in the Daily Press where our city has plans to spend some \$82,000 to save the ocean Discovery Center from closing down, and also provide environmental education on ocean pollution prevention, and other related ocean topics to local students.

This may all be well and good BUT I wonder where you all think the substance "Hydro Fluosilic Acid" (hazardous wastes of the aluminum and phosphate fertilizer industries) that you plan to flood into our public water supply goes after it leaves the water drains throughout the city? Yep! That's right, into our ecosystem ensuring that our rivers, lakes and oceans will also be contaminated with excess fluoride, thus affecting all life within those systems ... not to mention what this toxic acid will be doing to all the humans and animals who ingest this toxic substance.

So again, as in much of what goes on in our city, hypocrisy rears its ugly head. You were given volumes of scientific data on the substance, Hydro Fluosilic Acid, and its toxicity and in spite of all the negative information, you continue to believe it's good for human consumption. It is not!

Hundreds of cities are rejecting fluoridation and countless numbers of cities are removing this acid from their already contaminated water supplies. What do these cities know that you all refuse to accept? Stop this insanity!

Joyce Martino
Santa Monica

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.N. report says illegal drug production keeps developing nations poor

BY KARL PETER KIRK
Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria — Far from making poor countries rich, illicit drug production keeps most people in developing countries trapped in poverty, says a United Nations report being released Wednesday.

The Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board — an independent U.N. body that monitors the global drug situation — called the idea that countries grow rich through the production of illegal drugs a dangerous myth.

"Generally, only 1 percent of the profits remains in the country of origin," Rainer Wolfgang Schmidt, a member of the INCB's board, told reporters. "Most money is made from the distribution of the drugs in developed countries."

Schmidt said that illicit drug production is a major factor in hindering long-term economic growth and destroying the fabric of society.

"It leads to an increase in violent crime, and the rule of law is compromised," he said. "Corruption distorts the climate for investment, and conspicuous consumption by a small elite leads to inflation."

Despite being labor-intensive, drug production failed in reality to provide widespread employment, according to the report. In Bolivia and Peru, only 3 percent of the population was employed in the illegal drug sector when production was at its height in the late 1980s.

The report pointed to Afghanistan and the countries of Central Asia as typical examples of the negative effects of production.

"Afghanistan is a prime example," Schmidt said. "As poppy growing has increased, the economy has slowed down."

In the 1990s, drug production fueled civil strife and living standards fell, the report says. In Pakistan and Iran, where poppy production was significantly reduced, economic growth proved positive and more sustainable.

The change of regime in Afghanistan has done little to change the situation, Schmidt added, and attempts by international agencies to address the problem have been thwarted by increased fighting between local groups.

The report called on European governments to extend more aid to Afghanistan to fight the problem and for the Afghan government to introduce tighter controls on drug production.

"The drug problem has to be considered in the overall economic and development context of a country ... and not just as a social problem," it says.

Calling economic development critical in tackling the problem, the report also called for greater international assistance for small-scale farmers to help them switch from illicit drug production to growing legal crops.

In the United States, illegal drug prices have been forced up by shortfalls in supply caused by increased security at airports and ports due to the fight against terrorism. The United States continued to be home to the highest number of drug users in the world, the INCB said; it did not offer a figure.

The report warned that the perceived easing of drug legislation in Western countries could send a misleading message to the rest of the world, often leading young people to believe that drug usage was now legitimate.

The report says illicit marijuana cultivation is widespread in Africa, particularly in Morocco. Cocaine use is rising in almost all the countries of southern and western Africa, particularly Nigeria and South Africa, and these regions are being used as supply routes for cocaine deliveries from South America to Europe and North America.

In Central America and the Caribbean, seizures of heroin and Ecstasy have increased although drug trafficking in the region mostly involves marijuana and cocaine, the report says; around 10 percent of passengers on flights from Jamaica to Britain are reported by author-



Peter Dejong/Associated Press

The minaret of a mosque is seen in the foreground as the U.S.N.S. Capella is moored in the port city of Iskenderun, Turkey on Tuesday, waiting to unload U.S. military equipment. Turkish and U.S. officials failed to agree on conditions for deploying tens of thousands of American troops in Turkey during overnight talks, likely delaying a parliamentary vote authorizing the move, diplomats said.

Key developments concerning Iraq

By The Associated Press

Developments in the Iraq crisis:

■ Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said Baghdad has shown new signs of substantive cooperation in recent days, including providing half a dozen letters containing new information on weapons.

■ President Bush predicted that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would try to "fool the world one more time" by revealing the existence of weapons that he has previously denied having.

■ British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Saddam has "one further final chance" to disarm in compliance with U.N. demands.

■ In an interview with CBS anchor Dan Rather, Saddam challenged Bush to a live, televised debate and indicated he did not intend to follow U.N. orders to destroy his Al-Samoud 2 missiles, according to excerpts quoted by CBS.

■ The Turkish government asked par-

liament to authorize the deployment of 62,000 U.S. combat troops, warplanes and helicopters, but disagreements on the conditions of the U.S. deployment delayed the vote.

■ American warplanes bombed surface-to-surface missile systems in northern and southern Iraq and attacked surface-to-air missiles in the south, the U.S. military said. The strikes were the most extensive on a single day since the U.N. Security Council in November passed its latest resolution demanding that Iraq disarm.

■ Undersecretary of State John Bolton, visiting Moscow, said he had not won Russian support for a new resolution on Iraq in the U.N. Security Council but held out hope that Moscow's position might change.

■ Spanish anti-war activists occupied Spain's embassy in Baghdad, saying diplomats who left Iraq while their country supported the threat of war have abandoned hopes for peace.

ities to be smuggling drugs.

In Colombia, guerrilla and paramilitary groups retain control of drug trafficking and are exchanging illicit drugs for firearms, although the anti-drugs ini-

tiative Plan Colombia, supported by the United States, seized more than 1,500 illicit drug laboratories and destroyed 55 clandestine runways in 2001 alone, the report says.

Vietnam's biggest corruption trial begins, eyes on mafia boss

BY MARGIE MASON
Associated Press Writer

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — In a courtroom full of green and white striped jumpsuits, Vietnam's reputed underworld kingpin and 154 others went on trial Tuesday in a highly anticipated corruption case that promises to go down in the country's history.

After the reading of charges, which took about an hour, Truong Van Cam, better known as Nam Cam, slowly approached the bench. Charged with murder, giving bribes, gambling, and sheltering criminals, the alleged mafia boss faces the death penalty if convicted.

The case is the largest to ever reach Vietnam's courts and entangles several high-ranking communist officials. The massive trial is regarded as a litmus test of Vietnam's resolve in fighting corruption.

Last year the non-governmental group

Transparency International ranked Vietnam as one of the worst nations in the world for rampant political corruption.

The country has been closely following every development since Nam Cam's arrest in December 2001, and the public finally got its chance to see the infamous gangster during an unusual live national broadcast of the trial's opening.

The silver-haired Nam Cam, 55, told presiding Judge Bui Hoang Danh he has two wives and eight children. He also said he was running a restaurant when he was arrested in December 2001 and that he's been in trouble with the law several times before for gambling.

Several other prisoners followed him to the bench for the same questioning. Up to a dozen other defendants, allegedly members of his gang, also face death sentences or life imprisonment for murder and giving bribes.

Nam Cam turned to watch his first

wife, Phan Thi Truc, walk past him after she addressed the court. She is charged with giving bribes, extortion and sheltering criminals. Nam Cam's son, daughter, son-in-law and cousin also are defendants.

Outside the courthouse, several hundred onlookers stood on the sidewalk in the morning heat to hear the charges and Nam Cam's statement broadcast over loudspeakers.

"I was here very early to make sure I had a glimpse of Nam Cam," said Nguyen Van Kim of Ho Chi Minh City, who arrived at 4 a.m. "I will come here all 55 days (of the trial). I think he will be sentenced to death."

The broadcast also was monitored by nearly 200 local and foreign journalists watching a big-screen television from a room adjacent to the courthouse.

Other defendants include 13 police officers, three prosecutors and three journalists. A vice minister of public security, the

director of state radio and a vice national chief prosecutor have also been implicated for their alleged ties to Nam Cam.

Dozens of other police officers were disciplined for allegedly taking bribes of as little as \$13 a week from the gang to ignore its illegal operations.

Nam Cam's connections with Ho Chi Minh City police were allegedly so tight that officers from other provinces were sent to arrest him.

During an afternoon break, Nam Cam chatted with security police officers seated behind him, and he joked with other defendants sitting around him.

So many prisoners were brought into the courthouse, they had to be packed into two courtrooms. Their wrists and ankles were unshackled during the proceedings, but each row of prisoners was followed by a row of uniformed police officers.

SPORTS



Torre, Santo, Miller could get Hall of Fame call

BY BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Until recently, Joe Torre thought he was too active to be considered for Cooperstown.

Come Wednesday, though, the New York Yankees' manager might be able to add yet another title to his resume — Hall of Famer.

"It was brought up to me the other day and I had no clue that I was even eligible, to be honest with you," he said this week.

"Because I figured: I'm still working, I'm still collecting a paycheck. All these other people that have gone in, they're done. They hadn't worked," he said.

Instead, Torre is a top candidate in this first election since the Veterans Committee revamped its rules to let actual Hall of Famers do most of the voting. Ron Santo, Gil Hodges and former players' union head Marvin Miller might also fare well when the results are announced at 2 p.m.

It's certainly set up well for Torre. A press conference is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday for new Hall members, and it will be held in Tampa, Fla., — about a 10-minute drive from the Yankees' spring training camp.

The 62-year-old Torre was a nine-time All-Star and an MVP as a player and a four-time World Series champion as a manager. The Hall even made a point of encouraging voters to combine all of those achievements in his candidacy — there may be some, however, who won't vote for him until he's retired.

"It's tough to say you belong because

"It's tough to say you belong because of one or the other. You'd like to think that everything should count. It certainly would be an honor because ... most of the people that are doing the evaluation are your peers."

— JOE TORRE

New York Yankees manager

of one or the other," Torre said. "You'd like to think that everything should count."

"It certainly would be an honor because ... most of the people that are doing the evaluation are your peers."

That's because of the Veterans Committee's new way of doing business.

For years, many baseball fans claimed the 15-member panel was full of cronyism, suggesting it met behind closed doors in Tampa to choose new Hall of Famers based on speeches, not statistics.

The criticism reached a crescendo in 2001 when they chose Bill Mazeroski, a career .260 hitter known for a great glove and his home run that won the 1960 World Series. His election was enthusiastically announced by committee chairman Joe Brown, who happened to be Pittsburgh's general manager when Maz played there.

So the Hall decided to try it a new way.

The new panel includes 85 members: the 58 living Hall of Fame players (newly elected Gary Carter and Eddie Murray don't get to vote yet), 25 Hall writers and broadcasters, and two members from the

former Veterans Committee whose terms had not expired.

"It certainly gives other people a voice in the process," Hall of Fame pitcher Jim Palmer said Tuesday. "I think it's probably a little fairer this way. I think it's a terrific idea."

Palmer said he spent a couple of weeks studying the candidates and wound up voting for about a half-dozen. Among his picks was Carl Mays, who pitched the Boston Red Sox to their last World Series title in 1918.

"I thought his numbers matched up very well to those of some pitchers already in the Hall," Palmer said.

Roger Maris, Tony Oliva, Joe Gordon and Bob Meusel were also among the 26 former players on the ballot. Charlie O. Finley, Dick Williams, Walter O'Malley and Doug Harvey were among the 15 former managers, executives and umpires.

Response was strong: The Hall got ballots from 81 voters. As always, it will take 75 percent for a candidate to be selected — in this case, a person must appear on

61 of the 81 ballots.

Under the old rules, the Veterans Committee met each year. With the new system, the Vets will pick players every two years and will consider managers, executives and umpires every four years.

Santo, who turned 63 Tuesday, was hoping for some good news. The nine-time All-Star and five-time Gold Glove third baseman had both legs amputated because of diabetes.

"I want it at this time because of what I've been through, to be honest with you, health-wise," the former Chicago Cubs star said.

Hodges, who died in 1972, will get consideration because of his achievements as a player and manager.

Hodges was an eight-time All-Star who hit 370 home runs, mostly as a first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He also guided the 1969 New York Mets to the franchise's first title.

The 85-year-old Miller might get support from many of the players he helped. Free agency came into effect while he was in charge, and salaries zoomed.

"Way back, I didn't think about it — it wasn't on the horizon," Miller said last month. "I began to think about it in a very peculiar circumstance — when Dick Young wrote an article saying I should be in the Hall of Fame. He was the foremost anti-union sports reporter in the country. To hear him say that surprised me very much."

Miller got Palmer's vote.

"He changed the face of the game," the pitcher said.

Rich Gannon still stung by Super Bowl loss

BY ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Rich Gannon knows he saved his worst game for last.

Gannon, who led the Oakland Raiders to the Super Bowl for the first time in 19 years, was the NFL's MVP last season, and set records for most completions (418), most 300-yard games (10) and most consecutive completions in one game (21).

But his season ended with a dreadful performance against Tampa Bay in the Super Bowl. Gannon threw five interceptions — half his regular-season total — and three were returned for touchdowns in the 48-21 loss to the Buccaneers.

"You would trade all those awards to hoist that Super Bowl trophy," Gannon said Tuesday before receiving the Maxwell Football Club's player of the year award.

"We didn't play well that night. I didn't play well. I made some mistakes and every time a bad play happened, it seemed to snowball. We just couldn't stop it," he said. "But you have to learn from it and move on, don't let it beat you down."

Philadelphia Eagles coach Andy Reid was awarded the Greasy Neale Award for professional coach of the year and Notre Dame's Tyrone Willingham won the George Munger Award for college coach of the year.

"You would trade all those awards to hoist that Super Bowl trophy."

— RICH GANNON
Oakland Raiders coach

Penn State running back Larry Johnson won the college player of the year award. Maryland E.J. Henderson linebacker won the Bednarik Award as the college defense player of the year. Broadcaster Pat Summerall won the Reds Bagnell Award for contributions to the game of football.

The Maxwell Club awards are decided by NFL coaching staffs and football personnel, members of the Maxwell Football Club, the Pro Writers of America Association and Philadelphia-area media.

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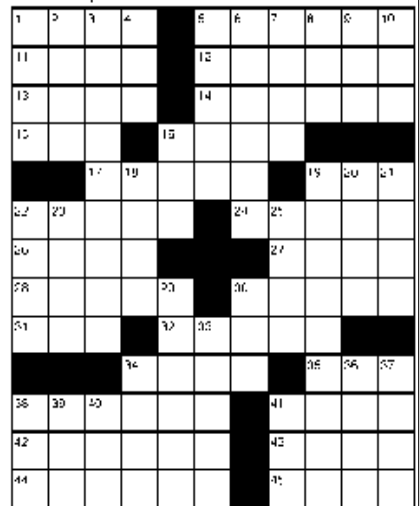
ACROSS

- 1 Networks
- 5 Tasks
- 11 Wheel connector
- 12 Devastate
- 13 Cameron of cinema
- 14 Round fruit
- 15 Catchall abbr.
- 16 Beckon
- 17 Jane Fonda film
- 19 Outlaw
- 22 Good quality
- 24 "Atlantic City" director
- 26 Benefit
- 27 Chow
- 28 Ring events
- 30 Almanac fill
- 31 Picnic pest
- 32 Plateau of Arkansas
- 34 Splotch
- 35 Workout site
- 38 Robin's love
- 41 Prod
- 42 Without delay
- 43 Glow
- 44 Pigeon perches
- 45 Goblet part

DOWN

- 2 Door sign
- 3 Faints
- 4 "— you!"
- 5 Eastern European
- 6 Manhattan section
- 7 Track
- 8 Used a track
- 9 Fabergé creation
- 10 Spot
- 16 Director's cry
- 18 Spring time
- 19 Plans a play
- 20 Scads
- 21 Cincinnati team
- 22 "Waterloo" band
- 23 Before long
- 25 Distantly
- 29 Comfort
- 30 Like the Beatles
- 33 Districts
- 34 Bob's co-star
- 36 Reduce fellow
- 37 First du
- 38 pays (home-sickness)
- 39 Had lunch
- 40 Angling aid
- 41 Balloon fill

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Elly Nesis Company, Inc. www.ellynesis.com

For Rent

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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N. HOLLYWOOD \$985.00 2bdm/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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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.breezesuites.com

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

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

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

LAW OFFICES OF NICHOLAS TEPPER
Nicholas Tepper (S.B. 169610)
233 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 400
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 395-5255

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

**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 §66000, §620)

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 preceding 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 6600 of the Government Code, for the County of Los Angeles and State of California.

DATED: February 5, 2003

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

2

VERIFIED PETITION: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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 CHECK APPLICABLE PARAGRAPHS

☐ I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true of my own knowledge except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

☒ I am [X] an Officer [] a partner [] a [] of PETITIONER NEWLON ROUGE, LLC.

I am one of the attorneys for a party to this action. Such party is absent from the county of Los Angeles 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.

Executed 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.

ROGER FURUKAWA (Type or Print Name) Signature

PROOF OF SERVICE
(This is a CDP Form 100)

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 _____

_____ 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 "ready, willing and able" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice I would be deposited with U.S. postal services on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid as follows: _____ California is the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on or 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 deposit for mailing in affidavit.

Executed on _____ at _____, California.

"BY PERSONAL SERVICE" I delivered such envelope by hand to the office of the addressee.

Executed on _____ at _____, California.

(Notar) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

(Notary) I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

Type or Print Name _____ Signature _____

For Rent

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

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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

SANTA MONICA \$2700.00
Spacious 3 Bdrum/ 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

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.

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

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

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

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

For Rent

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

VENICE BEACH \$1145.00
2BDR/1BA Totally remodeled apartment w/hardwood floors, new kitchen, new windows. Bright and airy, close to beach. 2 car off-street parking. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 x102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$2,195.00
Craftsman house, 2brdm/1.5ba with 3 car parking. Hardwood floors and tile w/large deck. 1/2 block from beach. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$2,400.00
Residential loft, completely renovated. 1brdm/2ba, oak wood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Ask about lease incentives. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)466-7896.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$795.00
Large single 1 block from the beach. New kitchen, new carpet & vinyl and new paint, bright and airy. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

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.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

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
www.ellynesis.com

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.

For Rent

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
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH Studio on 4th floor in historic building with exposed brick walls and ocean views. Unit has recently been remodeled. Laundry in building. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)450-1934

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE DUPLEX \$1495
2brdm/1.5ba upper w/courtyard views, 2 car parking, W/D hook-ups, hardwood floors and lots of charm. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
www.ellynesis.com

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 2brdm/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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www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

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.

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

WLA \$1350 On Barrington near National. Very spacious, 2brdm upper. Large closets, closed garage. New carpet, crown molding, appliances. Charming old building in attractive WLA area. Info/Owner (310)828-4481.

For Rent

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$2800
Charming 2brdm/2ba, W/D, new paint/carpet, hardwood floors, stove, ceiling fans, great location. Please call: (310)452-1116 M-F 10am-4pm.

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SANTA MONICA \$950.00
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Westside Rentals

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S.M. SHARE 2brdm furnished apt., all utilities paid including cable. 9th & Wilshire. Male only. \$675.00 (310)394-1050.

SANTA MONICA \$400.00
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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$450.00
Apartment, prvt rm, hrwd flrs, Indry, quiet, util. incld.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

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Westside Rentals

Commercial Lease

ABBOT KINNEY Design Offices, 1,2,3,4 decks, views, kitchens. 500-10,000sq./ft. 2 blocks from beach. Call for pricing. (310)399-9371

CLASSIFIEDS



Commercial Lease

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LARGE CORNER OFFICE w/great views in executive suite at 6th & Broadway, SM. Telephone, reception, conference room and kitchen provided. \$1,100. Call (310)576-1090.

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OFFICE AVAILABLE in 5 office suite. 1211 4th St., SM. Law/Library, (West), reception, copier, fax. \$825/mo. with secretary desk. Marcia, Agt. (310)394-4492.

SANTA MONICA Small office spaces. 127 Broadway, 290sqft -600sqft. Great rates. Arthur (310)395-2663 Ext. 101

Vehicles for sale

2002 CHEVY 1500 Z71, 18 Inch lift, full throttle suspension, Fox dual shocks, 40" Super Swamper tires, custom weld wheels, Kodiak steps, exhaust, tint, 4,000 miles, too much to list. Only serious inquiries. (818)807-4978.

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90/min, w/table, late night,
in/out. (213)303-8773

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STRONG & SOOTHING professional & therapeutic bodywork. Intro: \$35/75min. Will also trade massage. Paul: (310)741-1901.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Accupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

Announcements

"I SOLD it one day! When I put my fution for sale in the Daily Press, it took me one day to sell it...thanks!" Nina Stewart, Santa Monica.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2003

TODAY

Farmer's Market every Wednesday. 9am to 2pm, Arizona between Second and Fourth Streets. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California!

Santa Monica Public Library presents Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday at 11:15am, 1343 Sixth Street. Stories for children between the ages of three and five who are ready to participate on their own. (310)458-8600

Torah readings: Hosted by Rabbi Aaron Shaffier. This popular class examines the text of the Bible verse by verse with explanations. Every Wednesday at 12:15pm, 1111 Montana Ave. Fee is \$7 per class. Gourmet salad lunch is served. (310)488-7151.

Free Meditation Workshops sponsored by Sahaja Yoga. Every Wednesday night at 7pm in the Community Room at the Wilshire Wild Oats, 500 Wilshire Blvd. At 5th St. Open to all. (310)395-6443

Unurban Coffee House presents Poetry and Spoken Word every Wednesday evening. Hosted

by Tony Perez. 8pm, 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Canned food drive sponsored by Eclectic Ave. Furniture located at 2307 Main Street in Santa Monica. Now through Sunday March 2nd. A 15% discount is being offered on purchases with any donated food. Non perishable food items will be accepted and delivered to the Daybreak women's Day Center and Shelter. Donations can also be made at any time to the shelter located at 1610 7th street in Santa Monica.

THURSDAY

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

Johanna Israel presents Gotham Comedy Night! with top headliners every Thursday. February 27 will feature Brody Stevens. Gotham Hall, 1431 3rd Street Promenade, Santa Monica at 7pm. FREE + 2 item min., 21/over. (323)525-5254.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Men's Group. Thursdays, 11:15 to 12:45. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Dharma at the Clubhouse. A weekly book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 to 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santamonickaksg.org

O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

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

Unurban Coffee House presents Komedya Crunch every Thursday evening. Showtime is 7pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

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

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 11:00, 12:45, 1:50, 3:45, 4:45, 7:15, 7:45, 10:15, 10:35. The Recruit (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10. Gangs of New York (R) 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30. Old School (R) 11:15, 12:00, 1:45, 2:30, 4:15, 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) 2:10, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10. Chicago (PG-13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:20, 10:00. Daredevil (PG-13) 1:55, 2:45, 4:20, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:05. Dark Blue (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55. The Life of David Gale (PG-13) 1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00. Bowling for Columbine (R) 4:30, 10:15. Gerry (R) 1:00, 7:30.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
Till Human Voices Wake Us (R) 5:00, 7:30, 9:55. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 7:20, 9:55. All the Real Girls (R) 4:30, 7:15, 10:00. City of God (R) 1:15, 7:10, 9:55.

AERO THEATER

1328 Montana Ave.
Far From Heaven (PG) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

BACK PAGE



Official proposes to cut own position

By The Associated Press

DOLLAR BAY, Mich. — A school administrator has proposed a job cut to help the district fight its growing budget deficit.

Dollar Bay-Tamarack Superintendent Robert Barrette said he plans to recommend eliminating his position.

"I cost money," Barrette said. "I've looked at everything else but there's just not a lot to cut in our budget."

When the school board meets in March to develop next year's budget, Barrette plans to recommend his own termination and the consolidation of his position with that of principal William Tarbox.

"It's either that or cut teachers," Barrette said. "Schools are about kids. If we cut teachers we hurt the quality of education, but eliminating an administrator won't hurt kids."

Dollar Bay has 19 teachers for 262 students in grades kindergarten through 12. Barrette, who makes about \$100,000 per year said eliminating just one teacher would force the district to cut programs.

Alligator aid ends in arrest

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Leslie Strickland said she had nothing but good intentions when she loaded a badly hurt 6-foot alligator into the back seat of her car and took it

home to Port Charlotte.

The 49-year-old woman had hit the animal with her car Friday night and went back to rescue it Saturday — but wound up spending a night in jail, charged with possession of an alligator, a felony in Florida.

Police also charged her with driving with a suspended license and walking away from the scene of an accident, leaving the injured alligator in the back seat.

"I knew I was in trouble, and I panicked and I left," Strickland said by phone Monday. "I had a felony in the back seat, and I just didn't know what to do."

On Saturday, Strickland said she drove the gator home, wetted it down with hose and then tried unsuccessfully to reach somebody with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

After neighbors told her it was illegal to have the animal, she loaded it in the car again and drove off in search of a pond to release it.

The alligator started to thrash its tail, she said. Distracted, she veered off the road and hit a mailbox. Witnesses told police she tried to drive off, but her car got stuck in the ditch. So she got out and walked away.

Police arrested Strickland at her home nearby, adding a charge of resisting arrest after she struggled with officers who tried to handcuff her. She said she "freaked out" at the prospect of going to jail.

The game commission finally removed the alligator from the car; it died later.

Police sport beards for charity

By The Associated Press

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. — Things are getting a little hairy for some Nebraska officers.

The North Platte police force is sporting facial stubble in a friendly competition to raise money for a "No Limits" youth program. The program uses martial arts to teach at-risk children discipline and life skills.

Any officer taking part in the beard-growing contest donates \$5, Police Chief Martin Gutschenritter said. So

far, 14 are in.

Police have started an interagency competition and officers will accept competition from anyone who wants to donate to the cause, Capt. Jim Agler said.

Officers have three months to grow the facial hair, with judging to be held in two categories, goatee and full beard.

Gutschenritter said the public may be asked to help in the judging.

Farewell party turns into wedding

By The Associated Press

TAOS, Mo. — When family and friends gathered to bid National Guardsman Eric Wilde farewell, they didn't realize they were about to attend a wedding too.

Wilde set up the surprise by telling the crowd how he'd spent the past few days stopping by the bank, organizing the basement and visiting his priest.

Then came the shocker.

"I have to take one more step to make sure everything is in order," Wilde said. "We're going to turn this party into a wedding!"

Moments later, Wilde's fiancée, Adrienne Jeffries, clutching a simple bouquet of red tulips and dressed in an elegant white gown, entered the back of the hall escorted by her father, Mike Jeffries.

Judge Mark Richardson performed the ceremony Sunday at the Knights of Columbus lodge.

"These vows are beautiful words representing even more beautiful intentions," Richardson said. "You will find that as you live, these vows will be yours, investing your time, love and commitment to each other. The happy times of you life will be twice as joyous, because there will be someone to share this joy with."

Wilde, a Jefferson City police detective and a sergeant in the Missouri National Guard, learned last Tuesday he had been called to active duty. He's scheduled to leave Thursday.

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