

FREE

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Affordable housing goes off the grid

Newest development is solar-powered

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The new Colorado Court apartment building is much greener than the color of its stucco facade lets on.

Only a few of its kind in the country, the new apartment building will operate 92 percent of the time without electricity from power lines. Its power will be generated by solar power cells and a generator that runs on natural gas — called a micro-turbine.

During the day, when the building's residents are at work, the solar cells will generate more electricity than will be needed. That new power will be sent into the general power grid for use.

"Basically, the meter will run backwards," said Jim Kemper, a senior administrative analyst in the city's housing division. "What would be

pulled off the (electricity) grid would only be the difference between what the turbine creates and what is needed."

The 44-unit building, which is located on the corner of Fifth Street and Colorado Avenue, has been situated to catch cool sea breezes. Windows will be placed so they are in the shade, and the plants around the building's exterior were chosen for their ability to go long periods without water.

The insulation is made of shredded newspapers and the floors are covered in recycled carpeting. The glass in the window panes has been specially designed to be energy efficient, blocking the sun's heat from getting through.

"This is very much an experimental building," said Joan Ling, executive director of Community Corporation of Santa Monica. "What we want to do is share our stories as we manage the building to find out what works and what doesn't. We see this as a community resource that everybody can learn from."

The project's architect, Angie



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

The solar panels at the new Colorado Court apartments on Colorado Avenue and Fifth Street allow the building to use almost no electricity from power lines.

Brooks, said much of the planning was done with an emphasis on energy conservation and the building's designs were based on old skyscrapers.

"We started looking at the building before we put any of the (energy) systems

on it," she said. "We based our design on old skyscrapers in New York City when they were designed to let light and air flow through them."

See SOLAR, page 3

Labels say jobs will be lost if musicians can break contracts

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

BEVERLY HILLS — A group of independent record labels and small businesses that serve the recording industry believes jobs will be lost if recording artists are allowed to break their contracts before labels recoup their investments.

The newly formed group calling itself the California Music Coalition said Tuesday its members oppose efforts by high-profile musicians to repeal a state law that prevents recording artists from terminating contracts after seven years.

The group is backed by the major record companies. But the smaller labels and companies that press compact discs, make packaging and even provide limousines fear hundreds of jobs will be lost if the law is repealed because labels will not have enough money to nurture and support new acts.

"We're already in a soft economy, we're already experiencing cuts and we can't afford to lose any more jobs," said Gary Suzuki, who operates a printing press at Ivy Hill Packaging in Vernon, a company of 250 employees that prints inserts that accompany CDs.

Smaller companies believe it's unfair for successful musicians such as Don Henley and Courtney Love to paint the major labels as villains who force artists to produce recordings and refuse to let them seek more lucrative deals elsewhere.

Henley and other artists claim the California law is unfair because it binds musicians to contracts longer than

it holds other people who work under so-called "personal services" arrangements.

The exception was granted after record labels argued it often takes as many as seven recordings, which can take more than seven years to produce, before they recoup their investment on artists.

"We're already in a soft economy, we're already experiencing cuts and we can't afford to lose any more jobs."

— GARY SUZUKI
Ivy Hill Packaging

Henley and other artists, including Billy Joel, No Doubt and the Dixie Chicks are demanding new relations with record labels, including more equitable contracts and oversight of accounting practices.

At a time when record sales are plummeting and profit margins are thin, the record companies want assurances that the millions of dollars they spend to promote and nurture new acts will be repaid from the profits generat-

ed by the few musicians who find major success.

"The idea that these are long-term contracts that enslave artists for decades is just not true," said Miles Copeland, head of the independent record label ARK21.

See MUSICIANS, page 3

Anti-violence message continues

By Daily Press staff

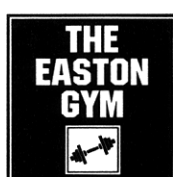
The commitment to end violence in Santa Monica continues to grow.

As a follow-up to a gathering that involved kids, teachers and community leaders on Jan. 28 at Santa Monica High School, community leaders are holding an "anti-violence task force" gathering on Thursday at Virginia Avenue Park.

In response to the violence area youth have

dealt with over the past few years, most recently shootings in the neighborhood near Virginia Avenue Park and the murder of a high school student last November, community leaders believe it's time to start addressing violence in the city.

The anti-violence task force meeting will be held from 3:30-5 p.m. For more information, attend the meeting or contact Kathy McTaggart at mctaggart@smmusd.org.



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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You could easily be zapped of energy, yet score high in intensity. Mix this combo with care. Your self-expression could come out in a less-than-positive manner. Ask someone for support or to pitch in and help. Don't make more of an incident than need be. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Express your happiness with someone. This person needs positive feedback from you. Use your unusual perspective to clear out excess work, which could be a problem on some level for you. Relate on a one-on-one level for success. Tonight: Play the night away.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Pressure builds. In some way, you could feel as if you're in a pressure cooker. Scheduling takes skill right now. Build in a little extra time for confusion and, if need be, a problem. Manifest your calm manner with others. Tonight: Vanish as fast as you can.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Speak your mind if you wish, but don't be surprised at others' reactions. Upward appears to be the nature of the moment. You cannot change those around you, but you might detach. Hop on the Internet. Make phone calls. Tonight: Swap war stories.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Listen to someone's feedback, especially about funds. Nix risking for the moment, but explore options. No commitment works right now. Someone expresses his or her caring in an unusually meaningful manner. Let someone take the lead. Tonight: Play it low-key.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ The Full Moon emphasizes you. Though usually you're more than pleased to be the center of attention, right now you might not be. Flak arrives from different sources. You might wonder what to do as a close associate or friend goes on a tirade. Tonight: It's your decision.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Step back and let others take the lead. Someone will challenge any conclusion you reach right now. Debate ideas, perhaps only with yourself. Do what you can with your door closed. You get much more accomplished this way. Be open to others' input. Tonight: Let your computer or television keep you company.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your friends and associates seek you out. Your help and insight might be needed. The tone you choose and what you say determines how your message is received. Lighten up about a key friendship in your life. Act with caring. Tonight: Where the fun is.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Pressure builds around work. You have your plate full. Answering to someone could be exhausting. Listen to the feedback you get from those who care a lot about you. Good news surrounds the home front. Focus on the positive in your life. Tonight: Work late.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Integrate news that comes forward. Someone might not have the same way of looking at a situation as you have. Laughter surrounds communication later on when you swap war stories of the day. Flow with uproar. You can't change it. Tonight: Take a drive and visit with a friend.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Reach out for an important financial adviser. You might not be getting all the information you need. Think through a decision that surrounds a long-term goal with care. How important is this really? Consider alternatives. Tonight: Accept someone's invitation.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Someone plays into your hands if you simply sit out of a problem. Adapt your plans accordingly, realizing a change could be most appropriate. Be thoughtful with a loved one who could be having a hard time. Give others space. Tonight: Smile away.



WEATHER

Today ...	Partly Cloudy	High—76°F	Low—51°F
Tomorrow ...	Partly Cloudy	High—72°F	Low—51°F
Friday ...	Sunny	High—73°F	Low—48°F



QUOTE of the DAY

**“Eat drink and be merry,
for tomorrow we may diet.”**

— Anonymous

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LOCAL



Green building costs can deter developers

SOLAR, from page 1

Because of air conditioning and modern lighting, many of those elements are no longer taken into consideration.

"The way we used to build 10 years ago is inadequate and wasteful," she

"We are leasing right now," said Ling. "Since we got over 3,000 applications (for affordable housing) at the beginning of this year, we won't have any problem filling those units in a short amount of time."

Most of the approximately \$5.8 mil-

of the building did not come cheap — using them cost roughly \$14,000 more per apartment unit than if the building had been designed regularly.

The added costs were so high that Kemper believes developers won't jump to do similar buildings any time soon.

"Right now though, I don't think you will have developers jumping at projects like this because the initial prices are so high," he said. "If utility prices skyrocket, maybe then it would become more feasible sooner, but for the time being it doesn't seem realistic."

"This is very much an experimental building. What we want to do is share our stories as we manage the building to find out what works and what doesn't. We see this as a community resource that everybody can learn from."

— JOAN LING

Executive director of Community Corporation of Santa Monica

said. "Most developers don't think of long-term costs, they think of initial costs. I think as a society we need to focus on the long-term costs and the benefits buildings like this make to our environment."

All of the building's apartments will be 350-square-foot studios that will rent for between \$300 to \$350 a month. The apartments are intended for people who make less than \$15,000 a year.

lion project, which should be completed by the end of March, has been paid for by money from federal, state and local grants. The city provided the land for the building and Community Corp. is overseeing the project.

"The credit for this project has to go to the city," said Ling. "Their desire to do a demonstration project like this is very commendable."

The environmentally-friendly aspects

LA grants culture to SMC

By Daily Press staff

The city of Los Angeles has infused \$4,500 toward Santa Monica College's cultural programs.

Santa Monica College has announced that it is offering its first-ever "Spring Opera Intensive," a one-week intensive workshop for high school students that will be taught by Los Angeles Opera professionals. It will culminate with a public performance with Los Angeles Opera singers and musicians.

The college said the program has received a \$4,500 grant from the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department.

People can register for the workshop, which will be held March 25-30 at SMC's Madison campus, located at Santa Monica Boulevard and 11th Street.

The opera intensive is sponsored by the SMC Community Services Department, Los Angeles Opera, City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, and the Madison project, which is SMC's proposed 500-seat arts and education facility.

Participants in the opera intensive — ages 13 to 18 — will receive voice, movement and dramatic training from Los Angeles Opera professionals.

The cost of the workshop is \$225, but a limited number of scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis to families meeting the financial aid qualifications.

For information call (310) 434-3431.

Home sweet home



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

With rents in Santa Monica on the high end, this 'loft' at the California incline has an ocean view and is considered by some to be extremely affordable.

Recording industry pumps cash into local economy

MUSICIANS, from page 1

"Why would I invest the millions that are necessary in a new artist if the law tells me I'm going to lose them after three records?"

Copeland and others said they formed their group to bring attention to the smaller companies that would be hurt if the California law is changed.

According to the coalition, the recording industry directly employs 27,000 people in California and pumps billions of dollars into the economy through contracts with sound engineers, graphic artists, shipping companies and other small businesses.

Copeland argued that the recording industry deserves the special legislative break.

"If you're a film company and you want to hire a nobody, you pay him nobody wages," Copeland said. "You don't spend millions to put the guy into the business."



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STATE

Negligence to blame in Fallbrook fire, investigation reveals

By The Associated Press

FALLBROOK — Criminal charges may be filed in a wildfire that destroyed 45 homes and caused millions of dollars in damage earlier this month.

The Feb. 10 wildfire was sparked by floating embers from a small fire set to burn debris two days earlier that was not properly extinguished, according to the California Department of Forestry.

The manager of the Evans Ranch, a small avocado and persimmon grove, had a permit to burn clippings. But he set the fire Feb. 8, even though it had been designated a "No Burn Day" because of high winds, said Gary Eidsmoe, a CDF arson investigator.

Investigators declined to name the grove manager, who may face misdemeanor charges of allowing a fire to escape. CDF attorneys and county prosecutors are reviewing the case.

"We're looking at what legal options we have," Eidsmoe said.

The manager told investigators he telephoned the North County Fire Department before setting fire to cuttings as required, to check whether he could legally burn. However, a check of tapes of the department's phone calls failed to turn up the manager's call, Eidsmoe said.

"The manager of this ranch, for about 20 years he's burned legally and safe," he said. "Unfortunately, it's just one of those things."

A person convicted of such a charge

also could be liable for the costs of suppressing the fire, Eidsmoe said. Suppression costs were estimated at \$2.1 million, most of which will be covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, officials said.

It took as many as 900 firefighters four days to contain the fire, which blackened more than 5,700 acres across northern San Diego County.

Driven by Santa Ana winds blowing up to 55 mph, the blaze did most of its damage in its first few hours Feb. 10 as it exploded in canyons about 40 miles north of San Diego and quickly roared down on dozens of expensive homes. Thirteen people, including two firefighters, were injured.

The CDF investigation also revealed that firefighters twice visited the scene of the blaze just hours before flames tore through Fallbrook.

Firefighters were dispatched to the Evans Ranch in the early hours of Feb. 10 to extinguish some leaves that were burning on the property. Again, around 7:30 a.m., firefighters were dispatched to the scene to investigate what turned out to be a false alarm, but a check of the burned area found nothing, Eidsmoe said.

The investigation also proved Fallbrook resident Peter Lissaman correct. Lissaman, who watched the fire break out in an area where workers had been burning cuttings two days earlier, believed that the flames had not been properly put out.

"I think somebody is very culpable in this," he said.

Investment firm sues children's magnate for Fox-Disney deal

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Morgan Stanley & Co. sued children's entertainment programmer Haim Saban for allegedly giving financial advice during last year's sale of Fox Family Worldwide to Walt Disney Co. and not receiving payment.

The investment banking firm is seeking \$12 million in the Superior Court lawsuit, alleging breach of contract, failure to act in good faith and failure to pay for services rendered.

Disney bought Fox Family from News Corp. and Saban Entertainment Inc., which each owned 49.5 percent of the company. The \$5.2 billion purchase finalized in October came after Saban's company, which created the "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers," exercised its right to have News Corp. buy out its share.

The dispute focuses on whether

Saban agreed to pay Morgan Stanley if the sale went through or only if he exercised an option to sell his stake to Fox.

Saban said in a statement released Monday that Morgan Stanley did not help the sale to Disney and that the investment firm is "overreaching."

The suit claims that Morgan Stanley was hired by Saban in October 2000 and the firm was involved in extensive fee negotiations with him. The two parties agreed that Morgan Stanley would receive a percentage scaled on the value of the final sale as an incentive to obtain the highest price for Saban, the suit alleges.

After the sale was finalized, Saban's camp allegedly informed Morgan Stanley that Saban was obligated to pay a fee to another advisor in relation to the deal. Morgan Stanley was then asked to split its fee, which it refused to do.

Political war heats up



Rich Pedroncelli/Associated Press

Secretary of State Bill Jones, a Republican candidate for governor, criticizes Gov. Gray Davis for his handling of the last year's energy crisis during an appearance Monday at the Capitol in Sacramento. Jones bashed Davis' decision last summer to negotiate long-term power contracts with utility companies that could cost the state as much as \$40 billion over the next 20 years.

Ex-topless dancer pleads guilty to Web-stalking ex-lover

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A former Las Vegas exotic dancer, who authorities say harassed her ex-lover by creating a Web site with photos of their trysts, pleaded guilty to stalking and extortion, a prosecutor said Monday.

Robin Kelly changed her plea from innocent to guilty last week, authorities said.

"She pleaded guilty to attempted extortion and two counts of stalking," Ventura County Deputy District Attorney Tom Temple said. "And she pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of witness intimidation."

The 43-year-old Simi Valley woman has no criminal history and is expected to be placed on probation when she is sentenced in March. She remains jailed in lieu of \$200,000 bail.

Authorities say Kelly, who danced topless under the name "Ruby Tuesday," began harassing Jim Day, an editorial cartoonist for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, after he

ended their seven-year affair in April 2000 when she moved.

For months, she made annoying phone calls and sent threatening letters and e-mail, before setting up a Web site that featured photographs of their sexual trysts, police testified. The site included photographs of Day's cars and a map with directions to the married man's Las Vegas home.

Kelly, who pleaded innocent Jan. 4, also sent postcards advertising the Web site to Day's family, neighbors and co-workers. The site was ordered shut down.

Before her arrest Nov. 13, police said Kelly told them she never intended to harm anyone, but only wanted an apology from Day.

Authorities said her case was believed to be the first of its kind in Ventura County, noting that electronic communications have only recently been included in state stalking laws.

Rap mogul Knight's attorney pleads guilty in tax case

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An attorney who once counseled rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight has pleaded guilty to tax evasion charges.

David E. Kenner, 60, of Los Angeles, pleaded guilty Monday for failing to disclose to the Internal Revenue Service that he made \$4.1 million in 1994. He will be sentenced April 29 in U.S. District Court and faces a maximum of one year in federal prison, a \$100,000 fine and additional taxes.

The case is connected to a 6-year-old racketeering probe by the U.S. Justice Department that focused on Knight's Death Row Records.

Knight, who ran the Los Angeles-based record label, was not charged in connection with the government investigation.

Kenner was advised in February 1997 that he was under criminal investigation by the IRS, but didn't file an income tax return until December of that year.

Knight, released in August after serving nearly five years in state and federal prisons, has two felony convictions for armed robbery and assault with a gun, according to county prosecutors.

Tupac Shakur, one of Death Row's biggest stars, was shot to death in Las Vegas in September 1996 as he was riding in a BMW driven by Knight. Six months later, rapper Christopher "Notorious B.I.G." Wallace, a star for a rival East Coast label was shot and killed 20 blocks from Death Row Records.

STATE



Southern California Briefs

Someone didn't like the coverage

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — About 2,200 copies of the Daily Trojan newspaper were stolen from kiosks at the University of Southern California in an incident campus police believe could be linked to coverage of student elections.

Before the morning drop-off had been completed last Friday, copies of the Daily Trojan were disappearing from various distribution sites on campus and dumped into nearby garbage cans. Although hundreds were found, most were never recovered.

"It definitely makes me angry," editor in chief Jennifer Medina said. "Regardless of what people say about student newspapers — if 2,200 papers are missing, then 2,200 people are missing the news."

The 9,000-circulation Monday-through-Friday paper is usually distributed from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., said Mona Cravens, director of student publications. By 8 a.m., she became aware of the trashed newspapers.

Cravens said a janitor told her that he had found a bundle of 300 to 400 Daily Trojans in the student union trash bins and put them back in the kiosks. Later that morning, Trojan staff members discovered that other kiosks along the mall of the main campus were missing newspapers. They also retrieved hundreds of copies from garbage cans.

Campus police Deputy Chief Robert Taylor said the culprits could be charged with misdemeanor theft, which can carry a \$500 fine and six months in jail.

Taylor said the thefts were likely connected to Friday's lead story in the 12-page Daily Trojan, which was headlined "Debate fuels heated race: Students gasp at verbal confrontation as candidates aggressively defend their platforms."

The article focused on Thursday's debate between student body presidential candidates Andrew Compton and Matt Weir.

Dumbbell killer sentenced to prison

By The Associated Press

PASADENA — A woman accused of bludgeoning her lover to death with a dumbbell pleaded no contest to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Deputy District Attorney Lee Mitchell said Monday's plea deal made sense because Leslie Rich-Clark might have convinced at least some jurors that she killed Teresa Patton in self-defense. The beating occurred Feb. 20, 2001, during a lovers quarrel, he said.

Rich-Clark, 33, later tested with a 0.37 blood-alcohol level, which Mitchell said was high enough for a defense attorney to argue that she blacked out or was too impaired to think rationally.

"When you have no witnesses of any kind, a dead body, a violent struggle and an alcohol level of 0.37, you've got wiggle room," Mitchell said.

Rich-Clark and Patton, 36, lived together and in the weeks before the killing they had argued about finances and other issues, Mitchell said.

City gets monkey off its back

By The Associated Press

WEST COVINA — The city may finally get a monkey off its back.

The city filed a motion to dismiss a civil rights lawsuit against it in the long-running case of Moe the chimp, saying Los Angeles County health workers — not West Covina police — made the decision to remove the chimp from his home.

The Feb. 15 motion was filed by City Attorney Arnold Alvarez-Glasman.

"Based upon the animal biting an individual on Sept. 2, 1999 and the prior history of the animal biting individuals in September 1998, I made the decision to order the animal removed and quarantined," county Public Health Officer Robert Ruiz said.

The pet chimpanzee, treated as a child by owners St. James and La Donna Davis, was removed by county health workers, police and other officials from the Vincent Avenue back yard on Sept. 3, 1999, one day after Moe bit visitor Sheryl Ortiz.

Moe, now 34, has been living in a cage at the Wildlife Waystation in Lake View Terrace. The Davises sued the city, saying it violated their civil rights, but the city wants to be dropped from the suit because it was Ruiz who ordered the chimp's removal.

A hearing on the motion is set for March 25. If the judge denies the motion, both sides head for trial May 8.

Comptroller pleads guilty to insider trading

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The comptroller of a venture capital firm pleaded guilty to a federal insider trading charge involving \$76,000 in proceeds derived by using secret information about the Tribune Co.'s purchase of Times Mirror Co.

Daniel J. Wooten III entered the plea Monday in a deal allowing him to plead guilty to one count of securities fraud.

Wooten, who lives in Torrance, will be sentenced May 20 by U.S. District Judge Margaret Morrow, who will likely order him to home detention rather than prison, prosecutors said.

Wooten was the comptroller of Santa Monica-based Rustic Canyon Group, a venture capital company that took part in the Chicago-based Tribune's March 2000 takeover of Times Mirror, which formerly owned the Los Angeles Times.

Rustic Canyon was hired to advise the Chandler Family Trust, which owned a majority of the Times Mirror voting shares. A few days before the sale, Wooten purchased 2,285 shares of Times Mirror stock.

After the sale, the stock price rose 60 percent and Wooten sold his shares to receive a profit of \$76,652, prosecutors said. Wooten has resigned from Rustic Canyon.

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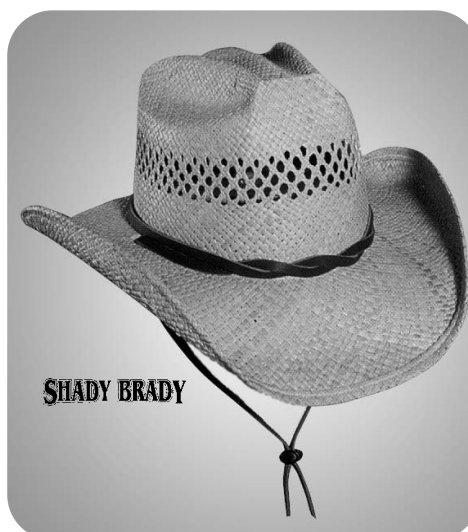
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New coalition lobbies Congress for more park money

BY CHRISTOPHER THORNE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush has proposed \$107 million in new spending on the nation's parks, but a new coalition is launching a campaign for more money, saying the president's budget falls short.

Local chambers of commerce, business groups and environmental organizations have formed Americans for National Parks. Their aim is to lobby the administration and Congress for millions more in new spending on the National Park Service.

Members hope to persuade Congress to increase the president's parks budget not only for badly needed maintenance, but also for general operations, such as hiring new biologists and park guides.

"As long as I can show where their interests come together, I've been able to work across both sides of the aisle," said Jen Coken, the coalition's executive director.

"What it comes down to is that every park unit across the board has some need," she said. "On that issue, everybody I've talked to (in Congress) has come on board."

Coken said her goal this year is to persuade Congress to add \$280 million in new spending.

The coalition is targeting both Democratic and Republican lawmakers, arguing that pollution-free parks are good not only for wildlife, but also for the businesses that depend on park visitors.

Among the backers is Sen. Fred Thompson, the Tennessee Republican who this week referred to a smog problem in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in calling for greater park spending.

"We're clearly not living up to our obligation to protect our national treasures," Thompson said. "The thing that concerns me is that it's happening on my watch. That's not the kind of legacy that any of us want to leave."

The Park Service has identified a \$4.9 billion backlog in deferred maintenance — from crumbling sidewalks to leaky latrines — which park advocates say is the result of a \$600 million annual shortfall in federal appropriations.

Park Service Director Fran P. Mainella said in a speech Monday that Bush intends to erase the backlog eventually. But even the \$107 million in Bush's budget is not entirely for rehabilitation, repair and maintenance. Much of it is for law enforcement following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Internet drug trafficking a growing threat, agency says

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria — Czech drug traffickers arrange deals at Internet cafes. Australians use courier Web sites to track illegal packages of pills. American dealers swap recipes for amphetamines in restricted-access chat rooms.

Worldwide, drug traffickers increasingly are taking advantage of encrypted e-mail and other Internet technology to sell their stashes, launder money and trade tips and techniques, the U.N. International Narcotics Control Board warned Wednesday in a report.

Because Internet use doubles every six months and 700 million people were online at the end of last year, greater vigilance and international cooperation are needed "to prevent the Internet from turning into a worldwide web of drug trafficking," said Hamid Ghodse, the INCB's president.

Among the Vienna-based agency's causes for concern:

— In the United States, Internet swapping of techniques for manufacturing amphetamines in underground laboratories has become so widespread, the drugs are now being made by people who are not college-educated chemists.

"In the past, drug recipes were closely guarded secrets, but with modern computer technology and chemists' increasing willingness to share their knowledge, this information is now available to anyone with computer access," the report said.

— In the Czech Republic, authorities are reporting a spike in drug sales and purchases arranged online at Internet cafes or via text messages transmitted between cellular telephones. "Because illicit drug deals are arranged instantaneously and over short distances, interception by law enforcement authorities is much more difficult," it said.

— In Australia, traffickers are using Web-based package tracking services offered by international courier companies to keep tabs on the progress of their shipments. Any undue delay could signal that authorities have intercepted the drugs, giving the dealers time to cover their tracks.

— In Hong Kong, narcotics police say detecting money laundering of cash earned by drug traffickers has gotten tricky now that so many dealers are using electronic commerce and Internet banking facilities. In one case, Chinese authorities said traffickers penetrated a customs database and electronically altered the details and status of a freight shipment in an attempt to avoid detection.

Dealers are using the Internet "to move large sums electronically around the world with speed, ease and secrecy — ideal attributes for launderers of illicit drug funds," said the INCB, which was set up by the United Nations to monitor compliance with international drug treaties.

Other agencies are noticing the same trends.

The Internet has become the most

widely used medium for expanding production of synthetic drugs in some Central and South American countries, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission said in a recent report.

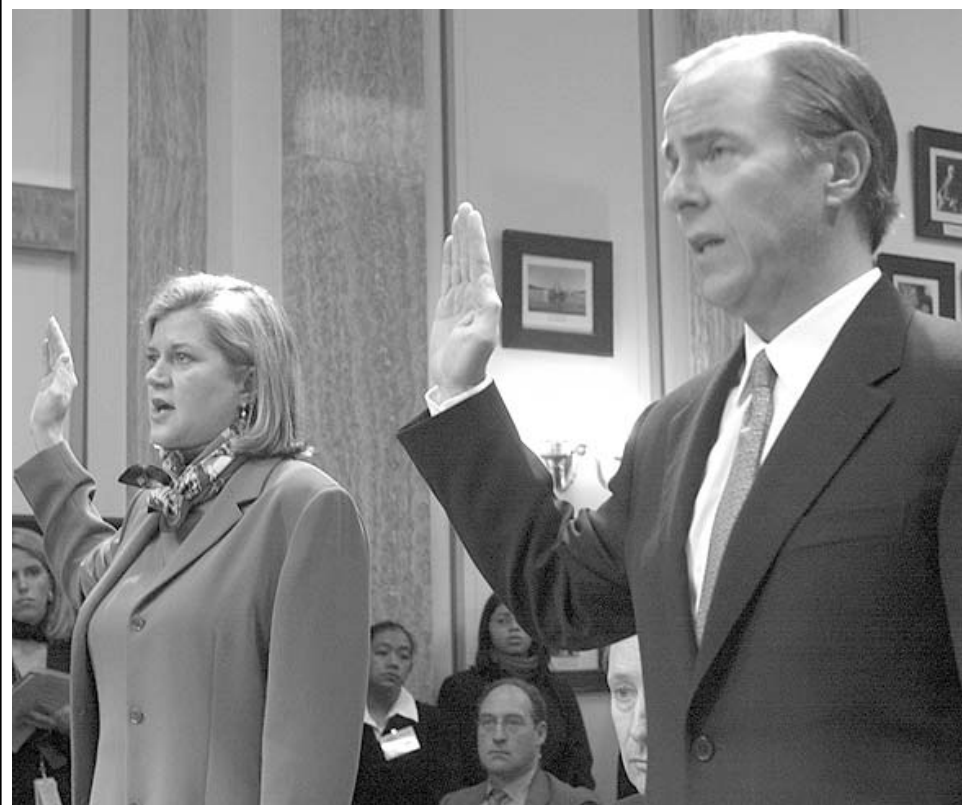
And Interpol says more than 1,000 Web sites worldwide — most based in Switzerland and the Netherlands — are selling cannabis, Ecstasy and other illicit drugs.

"When the approach is 'virtual,' the warning signals that might deter or

frighten a young person in the real world are minimized, and the filtering process by which an individual moves into physical contact with a criminal organization disappears," the INCB said.

A patchwork of laws that vary widely between countries gives traffickers an opportunity to use the Internet "to trail their activities across several jurisdictions to minimize law enforcement risks and maximize profit," it said, calling for a U.N. convention on cyber crime.

Sworn to the truth



Kenneth Lambert/Associated Press

Former Enron Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Skilling, right, and Enron Vice President of Corporate Development Sherron Watkins are sworn in on Capitol Hill Tuesday prior to testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee hearing on Enron.

Crematory operator facing 100 more criminal charges

BY ERIN MCCLAM

Associated Press Writer

LaFAYETTE, Ga. — Authorities filed 100 more criminal charges Tuesday against the operator of a crematory where hundreds of corpses have been discovered.

Ray Brent Marsh already faced 16 counts of theft by deception for allegedly taking money for cremations he never performed at Tri-State Crematory.

The 100 additional theft by deception charges were filed by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and issued in a warrant by Walker County Magistrate Judge Shelia Thompson.

The new counts were connected to 50 of the corpses found at Tri-State. For each

body, one count was filed for taking money from the families and another for failing to give the ashes to the families, officials said.

So far, 339 corpses have been found on the crematory grounds. Only 70 of the bodies have been identified.

Gov. Roy Barnes was notified Tuesday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will not give the state money for clean-up. FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh said "an emergency declaration is neither appropriate nor warranted."

Officials have said they cannot estimate the cost of the clean-up until all the bodies have been recovered, but believe it will surpass \$10 million.

Also Tuesday, the House unanimously voted to make it a felony to abandon a

body intended for cremation or burial. The bill now goes to the Senate.

The latest charges were filed just hours after a separate judge ruled Marsh could leave jail on \$100,000 bond on the original 16 theft charges. Marsh was still in jail Tuesday afternoon and could be arrested again if he makes bail.

Meanwhile, recovery workers began another day of clear-cutting the 16-acre crematory grounds.

Authorities have said it could be late summer before all the bodies are identified. Some workers are growing weary and occasionally sick as the emotional toll mounts.

"Everybody involved in this process, from the word go, is suffering some kind of emotional strain," said David Ashburn, the Walker County emergency director. "It's things that you and I were never meant to be exposed to."

Officials estimated they had searched only three or four acres of the Tri-State grounds, which comprise at least eight acres, excluding buildings and a small lake. Authorities are working on a plan to drain the lake.

Family members lined up Monday to give blood samples, hoping their DNA would help investigators identify more bodies.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Dave Matthews spends \$5 million to preserve land

By The Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Dave Matthews has completed a \$5.3 million deal to buy 1,261 of the 7,379 acres that billionaire John W. Kluge donated to the University of Virginia Foundation.

The musician's manager, Coran Capshaw, said Monday in a news release from the university that Matthews plans to preserve agriculture and forest lands on the five farms he purchased, and to emphasize organic farming.

The lead singer of the Dave Matthews Band also has started the process of placing an open-space easement on the farms, Capshaw said. The easements preserve some degree of open space and limit a property's development rights.

The land consists of five adjoining farms just north of Scottsville in southern Albemarle County. Along with homes and cottages, the farms include cattle and storage barns, silos, equipment and grain sheds and a feed complex.

Kluge gave his Albemarle County estate to the foundation in May on the condition that the university use the so-called "core property" of Morven Farm's 749 acres for academic purposes.

Albemarle County officials welcomed word of Matthews' purchase. "It's just really one of the best possible outcomes for those pieces of property to have their rural uses preserved and easements placed on them," said county spokeswoman Lee Catlin.

MILWAUKEE — Eliminating terrorism could still take years, but America has made great strides in its fight and Britain will always back the United States, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said.

"America's cause is and always will be our cause," Thatcher said in a speech Monday evening. "This enterprise must be carried through to its conclusion, a process that won't take months, but years."

Thatcher, 76, spoke to a sold-out crowd of about 2,300 people at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Milwaukee, as part of a lecture series called "Unique Lives and Experiences."

Dubbed the "Iron Lady" while in power from 1979-90, Thatcher now is a baroness with a seat in the House of Lords.

She said she's confident America "has both the will and the means to strike back at its enemies."

But she said more should have been done before Sept. 11, since "Osama bin Laden's terrorists have been carrying out

their outrages for years and somehow our intelligence didn't find out."

"In short, the world has never ceased to be dangerous. But the West had ceased to be vigilant. Surely that is the most important lesson of this tragedy," she said.

ASBURY PARK, N.J. — Thousands of e-mails, petitions and telephone calls apparently have convinced the city and the firm working on its redevelopment plan that the Stone Pony shouldn't be moved as part of the remaking of Asbury Park's beachfront area.

The club made famous by Bruce Springsteen and other New Jersey rockers is a shrine to its devotees, and they mobilized to save it.

The City Council is scheduled to vote in April on an ambitious plan that calls for some 3,000 housing units to be built or refurbished. The new buildings are to be erected around the Pony, instead of in its place.

"I would be very surprised if the (redevelopment) plan was approved without the Pony staying where it's at," city manager Terry Weldon told The New York Times for Monday's editions.

Such salvation seemed unthinkable just two months ago. Even the Pony's owner, Domenic Santana, was resigned to accepting a buyout and a moving down the street to a new site.

"The Movement," as Santana calls it, became too big.

"It's weird, it's eerie to know how many fans around the world obsess with that facility," he said. "I decided that I couldn't put a dollar amount on something that means so much to so many."

PASADENA — The fall of the Taliban has brought closure for Mavis Leno, who focused attention on the brutal treatment of Afghan women years before the regime received worldwide exposure.

There are hurdles facing Afghan women, she said. The keys to restoring women's rights in Afghanistan are providing education for Afghan children and keeping pressure on the U.S. government to improve conditions for women.

"There are some very conservative members of the northern alliance. They helped us get rid of the Taliban, but we can't allow them to use that to promulgate the same kind of limited thinking toward women the Taliban had," the wife of "The Tonight Show" host Jay Leno said Sunday.

Mrs. Leno, who works with the Feminist Majority Foundation dedicated to women's equality, commented on Afghan women during a forum at All Saints Church.

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INTERNATIONAL

Afghanistan war boosts security budget to 30 billion

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon could need an extra \$12.6 billion in the months ahead to continue the war in Afghanistan and tighten security at home, according to a Defense Department report obtained by The Associated Press.

According to the documents, the Pentagon is estimating that it will spend \$30 billion this fiscal year for the Afghanistan conflict and its efforts to protect cities, airports and military bases in the United States. Other agencies are spending billions more.

President Bush and Congress have so far provided \$17.4 billion for those Defense efforts for fiscal 2002, which ends Sept. 30. That leaves an estimated \$12.6 billion gap.

"If operations continue to accrue as experienced to date, available funding will be exhausted by April or May," said the 50-page report, which Pentagon officials have used to brief lawmakers and Bush administration budget officials in recent days.

Bush is expected to ask lawmakers next month for extra funds for the conflict in Afghanistan and efforts to improve domestic security. The White House budget office has not yet decided how much it will seek.

"We will submit the information to Congress when we're ready," said Amy Call, spokeswoman for the White House

budget office.

Even so, the Pentagon report offers a first glimpse of the magnitude of expenses that officials believe they are facing this year.

Members of both parties have been strongly supportive of the fight against terrorism but have clashed over spending levels. Some Democrats have begun questioning details of the Afghanistan conflict and have said they will demand answers when the administration formally requests more money.

"Before administration officials ask for billions of dollars in additional money this year, I expect them to tell Congress where we are headed in this war and what exit strategy is envisioned in Afghanistan," Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., said Monday.

At Bush's urging, congressional Republicans defeated efforts by Byrd and other Democrats in December to provide billions more than the president wanted for anti-terror efforts. In the end, Congress provided more than Bush proposed for domestic security efforts but nearly \$4 billion less than he wanted for defense.

The report assumes that activity levels as of Jan. 31 would continue through the year in Afghanistan and at home. Actual spending would change if operations intensify or are reduced.

According to the paper, of

Weeping soldiers



Associated Press

Two U.S. Air Force soldiers weep during roll call of their fallen friends during a memorial service with over 300 attending U.S. servicemen, Tuesday, at the Mactan Air base in the southern Philippine city of Cebu. Ten soldiers were killed when a MH47E Chinook transport helicopter went down in the Bohol Sea 150 miles north of Zamboanga Island where the U.S. military is training Philippine troops how to fight Muslim extremists.

the \$17.4 billion provided to the Pentagon, \$11.9 billion had actually been spent or committed to contracts as of Jan. 31.

That includes about \$5.3 billion for Enduring Freedom, the military's name for the Afghanistan operation. Another \$5 billion has been spent for

Pentagon activities at home, including \$1.9 billion for the mobilization of thousands of National Guard and Reserve troops and \$503 million for combat air patrols over some major U.S. cities.

Through Jan. 25, the report says, other costs include \$61

million for humanitarian supplies; \$19 million for the costs of holding al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners at the U.S. military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and \$100 million for a murky category called "additional security assistance and defense cooperation expenses."

Colombia rebels wage more attacks

BY SUSANNAH A. NESMITH
Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombia's military pushed deeper into a former rebel safe haven Tuesday as guerrillas intensified sabotage attacks and kidnappings. The mayor of a town just outside the zone said he was the target of a failed assassination attempt by rebels.

Puerto Rico Mayor Walter Castro said two of his bodyguards were shot to death in

the attack on him as he left the town's church. Puerto Rico's two previous mayors were killed by rebels.

Five other people died in separate attacks around the country blamed on the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. Four police officers and a child were killed in an ambush and an attack on a small town. Two people were kidnapped at a FARC roadblock, army officials said.

Witnesses reported FARC rebels also killed seven civilians over the weekend in the town of La Macarena — one of five inside the former rebel sanctuary — as the guerrillas retreated ahead of an army advance.

Troops moving to retake the former rebel enclave reached La Macarena, a dusty outpost, for the first time Tuesday and were investigating the reported killings, said army spokesman Capt. Jorge Florez.

Rebels, meanwhile, kept up a bombing campaign against bridges and power stations begun last week after President Andres Pastrana ended the peace process and launched the military offensive to retake the zone. The president ceded the area, a Switzerland-

size swath of southern ranchland and woods, three years ago in hopes the rebels would end their 38-year war.

The FARC dynamited a bridge about 31 miles north of Bogota on Tuesday, said Alvaro Cruz, the governor of Cundinamarca State.

The government offensive was launched after Pastrana canceled the peace process when a popular senator was taken hostage after an airliner hijacking.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer expressed support Tuesday for Pastrana's actions.

"Regrettably, the goodwill of the Pastrana government and the Colombian people has not been reciprocated by the FARC," Fleischer said.

Pastrana has asked the United States to lift restrictions that allow him to use U.S. military assistance only in the fight against drugs. He hopes to win approval to use helicopters and other U.S.-donated equipment against the FARC.

Fleischer said the United States has legal constraints but is trying to determine "where we can be helpful, how we can be helpful."

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INTERNATIONAL



Egyptians mourn after building collapse kills 22

BY NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD
Associated Press Writer

DAMIETTA, Egypt — Multicolored party lights were still hanging from Heba Maamoun Orabi's balcony Tuesday, strung out for what was meant to have been a wedding celebration. Instead, they were a macabre backdrop for a funeral.

Orabi was one of 22 people killed Monday in the collapse of an aging, Nile-front building that housed, among other things, a hair salon that was popular with brides. At least five women preparing for their weddings died in the four-story building.

Hundreds of people converged on mosques around the town of Damietta, 105 miles north of Cairo, to pray over coffins. All but one of the 22 dead were women; 25 other people were injured.

A mother of one victim screamed wildly and beat her fists on the door of an ambulance covered with flowers. The vehicle bore the coffin holding her daughter — 17-year-old journalism student Basma el-Efny.

"She was an angel, she prayed all the time, she used to kiss me all the time. Who is going to kiss me now?" said the woman, who only identified herself as Manal.

Manal said her daughter had been at the salon with bride-to-be Shireen Said el-Sarta and el-Sarta's sister, Rasha, when the building collapsed. All three died, the mother said.

At another funeral procession, the coffin of 18-year-old Marwah el-Khouli was draped with a white satin sheet. A relative said that was a sign both of a wedding and of a bride-to-be who dies prematurely.

"We were preparing for a wedding, now we are having a funeral," said Orabi's uncle, who identified himself only as Ahmed.

Angry residents said ambulance and rescue crews took more than an hour to arrive at the scene, by which time locals had found bulldozers and begun their own rescue operation.

"Where were our Egyptian emergency experts?" said Emad Said Rishk, a 36-year-old carpenter. "The bulldozers brought in (by the locals) were just killing the people underneath."

While pinned under the rubble, medical student Rasha Mohammed Sarhan said she spoke to an emergency police

operator in Cairo by cellphone, who told her to call from a landline.

"How can I do this?" the 22-year-old told the operator. "I'm calling from under the debris."

She said the operator put her on hold. After several minutes she hung up and called her father, fiance and brother, who all went to the building to help.

**"She was an angel,
she prayed all
the time, she
used to kiss
me all the time.
Who is going
to kiss me now?"**

— MANAL
One victim's mother

Police officials speaking on condition of anonymity later confirmed Sarhan's account and were questioning the operator.

"Rescue efforts were primitive, the whole operation was primitive. There was no expertise, and this caused the high number of casualties," said a local council official, Sameer Abu Hussein.

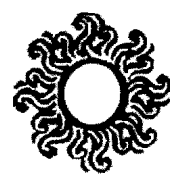
Damietta Governor Abdel Azim Wazir denied there were any delays in the rescue. "The rescue effort could not have been any better. I followed it myself."

It wasn't clear what caused the building to topple. Collapses are not unusual in Egypt, often being blamed on shoddy construction or the unauthorized addition of extra stories.

A local building committee in 2001 had ordered that an apartment on the fourth floor be demolished.

Wazir said Tuesday he ordered five committee members suspended pending an investigation by the prosecutor-general, questioning why they only suggested one floor be altered when the whole building collapsed.

The district attorney will release details of the final investigation report next week, police said.



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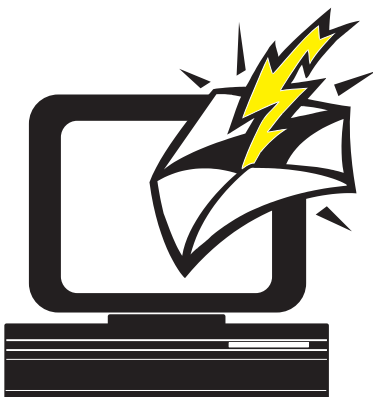
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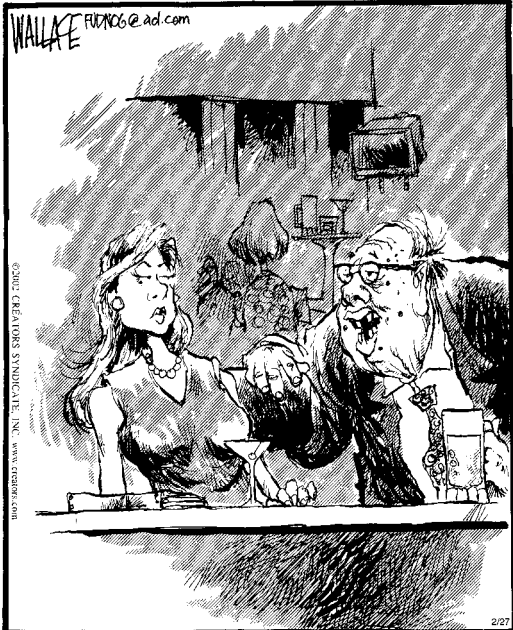


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



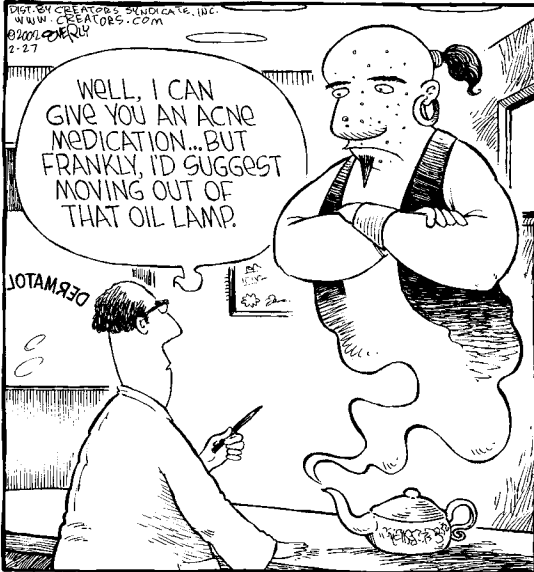
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 - 5 Parking atten-dants
 - 11 Brainstorm
 - 12 Turkish peak
 - 13 Banner
 - 14 Repetitive chant
 - 15 Nourished
 - 16 Prepare to be shot
 - 17 French river
 - 19 That girl
 - 22 Impetus
 - 24 Impover-ished
 - 26 Hamlet, for one
 - 27 Fury
 - 28 Turn away
 - 30 Flanks
 - 31 Common response
 - 32 Shake-spearean spirit
 - 34 Writer Haley
 - 35 Descartes conclu-sion
 - 38 Maze walls, at times
 - 41 Cuzco native
 - 42 The East
 - 43 Come together
 - 44 Gains by force
- 45 "You there!"
- DOWN
- 1 Musical phrase
 - 2 Not busy
 - 3 Editor's concerns
 - 4 Droop
 - 5 Bravery
 - 6 No longer in bed
 - 7 Tardy
 - 8 Important time
 - 9 Neutral color
 - 10 Pig's digs
 - 16 Diner treat
 - 18 Finished
 - 19 Editor's concerns
 - 20 Advantage
 - 21 Bread choices
 - 22 Attack time
 - 23 Dance party
 - 25 Buffalo's lake
 - 29 Gift
 - 30 News hour
 - 33 Takes it easy
 - 34 Gets on
 - 36 High pair
 - 37 Newsman Lauer
 - 38 Question of method
 - 39 Blunder
 - 40 Go out
 - 41 Mischief maker

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Yesterday's answer

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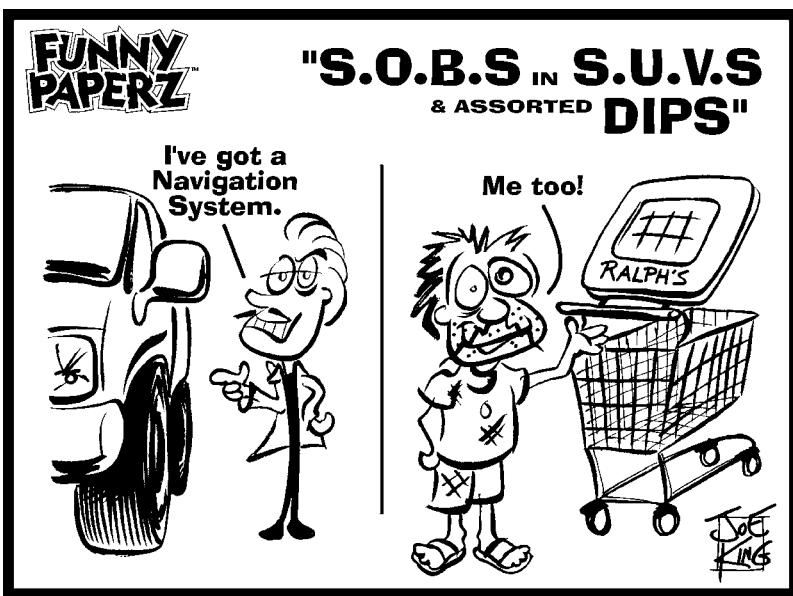
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Art is in the eye of the beholder

Britain's most prestigious annual award for unconventional art (the Turner Prize, with more than \$30,000 in prize money) went in December to Martin Creed, 33 (who once described his work as about the qualities of "nothing" and who was described in a news report as "looking utterly bewildered" upon being named the winner), for an installation consisting only of an empty room in which lights switch on and off automatically every five seconds.



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BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Mascot mayhem breaks out at game

By The Associated Press

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — A dare from friends apparently led a community college student to chase after and tackle two costumed mascots after a basketball game.

Nathaniel Winston, 18, is charged with two counts of misdemeanor battery and is free on \$1,000 bond pending an appearance Friday in Municipal Court.

The alleged attacks happened Saturday, after a game between Hutchinson Community College and Colby Community College.

The mascots — a bear played by Gerald Devine, 39, and an orange-headed boy played by Devine's son, Jeremy, 14 — were walking in a hallway at the Hutchinson Sports Arena when Winston attempted to tackle the elder Devine, Police Sgt. Lee Fesler said.

When Devine was able to fight him off, Fesler said, Winston rushed Jeremy Devine — pushing several children aside in the process — and slammed the teen-ager to the floor, police said.

The younger Devine refused treatment for chest and leg injuries, Fesler said.

"The excuse he gave us for the first one was he thought it was a classmate," Fesler said. "He never did explain the other one, though."

Dance 'till you drop

By The Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — When the music finally stopped, Paul Sharkey just fell backward. And who could blame him?

He was one of 600 dancers, aided by thousands of volunteers and supporters, who raised a record \$3,613,178.61 in this year's Penn State dance marathon, about \$3,300 more than last year, organizers announced.

Many dancers still looked active even an hour before

Sunday's end of the two-day event, taking part in line dances and singing along with the songs.

After the final countdown and tally announcement, however, many didn't hesitate to drop to the floor, feeling the effects of 48 hours of nonstop dancing.

"I didn't care who was behind me," said Sharkey, a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. "I just fell back."

Elizabeth Engelbret was still sprawled on the floor an hour after the event ended, but considered her exhaustion unimportant compared to the goal of helping children cope with cancer and supporting research to find a cure.

"Those kids were all the encouragement I needed," said Engelbret, who collapsed into the arms of a cancer patient shortly after the music stopped. "I was thrilled to be able to make it through. It was absolutely amazing."

New meaning to cash drawer

By The Associated Press

HINSDALE, N.H. — The wooden shelf support caught home inspector Stan Edmunds' eye the first time. And the second and third time.

So Edmunds finally inspected it. What he found was a hidden drawer containing about \$20,000.

"It's every kid's dream to find buried treasure," said Edmunds.

Home inspectors check for hidden problems in houses that are being sold. A home inspection is usually part of a sales agreement.

On Jan. 29, Edmunds was inspecting a home on Brattleboro Road with a buyer and real estate agent Lewis Major.

Walking through the house, Edmunds had to go through a closet to get to the attic. The unusual shelf support kept catching his eye.

"I tugged on it, and it came out and it was a drawer," he said.

Inside were some papers and four bank deposit bags. Edmunds unzipped one of the bags and found money

envelopes and some \$100 bills. When a second bag revealed more \$100 bills, Edmunds called in Major.

"He had us come in and get it. He didn't want anything to do with it," said Major. "He could just as well have put it in his pocket."

Major turned it all over to David Ward, the lawyer for the estate of the former owner. Heirs to the estate have divided the windfall and one sent Edmunds a \$50 reward, which he vowed to give to a charity.

Edmunds said he never thought about taking the money.

"That's the nature of my business," he said. "You're in people's houses. There's no room for crooks there."

Library the last straw

By The Associated Press

MATTAWA, Wash. — No one huffed or puffed and tried to blow the new library down — even though it's built out of straw.

This little farm town got a 1,500-square-foot library on Saturday with the help of volunteers and directions from IronStraw, a nonprofit group that promotes building with straw.

The building was constructed with posts and beams and 330 bales of straw that will be covered with wire mesh and stucco. Such buildings have benefits over more traditional structures, advocates said.

"They're a dream to keep warm in the winter and cool in the summer," said IronStraw co-founder Spring Thomas.

The library will stock Spanish periodicals and bilingual materials for many of the Spanish-speaking people who call this Columbia River town home or stay here during the summer fruit harvest.

The library cost \$150,000 to build, with money from the state Office of Community Development and the Community Foundation of North Central Washington.

The folks who promote constructing with strawbales point to the materials' ease of construction, stability, good insulation and fire prevention benefits.

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