

FREE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 91

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

04, 05, 23, 31, 37

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 8, 8

Evening picks: 2, 6, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star

2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

3rd Place: 08, Gorgeous

George

Race Time: 1:45.45



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ The race-discrimination lawsuit of two black sisters (Grace Fuller, 48, and Louise Sawyer, 46) against Southwest Airlines is scheduled to go to trial in Kansas City, Kan., in March. The sisters' entire case is that a white flight attendant, in a hurry to get passengers seated, recited Southwest's version of a rhyme that has a racist history: "Eenie, meenie, minie, moe / Pick a seat, We gotta go." The sisters felt degraded and believe they are due some money.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Self-abuse is the most certain road to the grave.



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Only \$2.50 a day! 13

The city dump?



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Pristine, sandy beaches in Santa Monica? Not after it rains. Hundreds of pieces of trash washed down to Bay Street Beach this week after the latest storm. A tourist took a stroll along the debris pile while seagulls picked their way through the mess looking for food scraps, but only found plastic and empty wrappers. Most of the trash will make its way out to the sea so marine life can have a taste of urban run-off.

City budget deficit swells by another \$2M

It's only going to get worse

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

City officials are bracing for a budget deficit that appears to be growing by the month.

It was announced on Tuesday that the city's \$9 million deficit for this year has grown by more than \$2 million and it could get worse before the end of the year.

In January, city officials estimated Santa Monica would be short at least \$9.1 million. But worsening economic conditions has led to higher payments to the city employees' retirement system and a severe loss in local sales tax revenues.

Millions of dollars in cuts for capital improvements were made last year and more are expected. Departments throughout City Hall have cut their budgets back by at least 3.5 percent last year.

More cuts are likely as officials warn of tougher times ahead.

City Finance Director Mike Dennis projects that the city's deficit will climb to \$21.3 million next year.

Revenue from sales taxes, business licenses and the hotel bed taxes are down, Dennis said. The city had estimated to bring in \$18.4 million, but it appears that figure will be off about

\$1.6 million. Sales tax revenue, which was projected to be \$25.6 million, is expected to be \$24.6 million.

Meanwhile, the cost of public pension funds, health insurance and worker's compensation claims are on the rise, forcing the city to pay its employees much more than what was estimated last year.

And if those scenarios aren't bad enough, the state is expected to cut \$4.1 million from the city's budget in motor vehicle license fees. The VLF is a tax paid to the state when a vehicle is registered and later distributed to California cities based on their

See DEFICIT, page 4

Parking meters and fines on the rise

By Daily Press staff

The little blue envelope on your windshield may be holding a more expensive ticket as early as this summer.

As part of its battle against a multi-million deficit, the City Council Tuesday unanimously approved raising the cost of parking tickets and increasing meter rates throughout Santa Monica.

The council said it aims to make the cost of parking tickets in Santa Monica comparable to the cost in neighboring cities.

Currently, Santa Monica charges \$28 for parking meter violations, while West Hollywood charges \$36. And Los Angeles' \$65 fine for disobeying posted street signs pales in comparison to Santa Monica's \$38 fee.

The council will discuss penalty amounts in June, which have remained the same since 1993.

The council also voted to increase parking meter rates to \$1 an hour downtown and along the beach, and to 75 cents an hour at all other locations throughout the city.

The meter rate increases are projected to generate \$3.3 million annually. It will cost about \$2.5 million to install new meters.

It also will cost \$200 for a person to appeal a planning commission decision that denies a development application. City staff recommended that the fee should be set at \$465 but the Council ultimately decided on a lower amount.

City Council prevents 'monster mansions' from being built in city

BY ANDY FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Some residents fear high real estate prices combined with low interest rates could spur a building and renovation spree that will cause a proliferation of "monster mansions" in Santa Monica.

That's why the Santa Monica City Council unanimously approved on Tuesday building restrictions to prevent small single-family homes north of Montana Avenue and in the Sunset Park neighborhood from being knocked down and replaced with large homes.

"We have had a number of complaints from people in those

"Some of the neighbors presented the council with a collection of photos of some of these buildings. It was pretty compelling."

— KEN GENSER

Santa Monica City Councilman

neighborhoods that people are building inappropriately sized houses," said Councilman Ken Genser. "People were looking for similar protections (from other areas of the city) for their neighborhoods too."

The new restrictions are a temporary solution that will last for two years. However, the City

Council can extend the interim ordinance until a permanent solution is enacted and put into place.

Over the last five years the Sunset Park neighborhood has seen the redevelopment of 16 parcels and the north of Montana neighborhood has experienced

See MANSIONS, page 4

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HOROSCOPE

Say 'yes' to an invite, Cancer



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:

New beginnings become possible through a special friendship. Networking takes you in a new direction as well. You become extremely attached to a friend who will make a difference in the quality of your life. Emphasize your goals and long-term needs. Take your time making decisions. Sit back and do nothing when you're unsure of yourself. If you are single, you will meet someone of significance in late 2003. You will learn a lot from this person. If you are attached, your relationship will flourish, especially if you opt to take weekends off together. Add an element of romance back into your bond. AQUARIUS reads you cold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Efforts to go far touch you on many levels. You find out where a key person falls with his or her feelings. Network and reach out for the many around you. Open the door and explore your options. Don't move too quickly; look around. It's time to smell the flowers! Tonight: Enjoy your friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Move in the morning, when you can make firm decisions and others are responsive. Responsibilities drop in your lap, creating new possibilities. Make sure you have the funds available to wave the green flag. Consider what you need from a loved one. Tonight: You could be out late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Visualize more of what you expect from a partnership and allow others to share this glimpse. Detach more and see what others want as well. You might want to rethink a decision more carefully that involves a pending trip. Tonight: Surf the Net.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ A partner demonstrates his or her softer side. You might want to listen to him or her more often. This person can be full of energy at times. Working on an individual level brings the best out of a partnership. What a team you make! Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Give 100 percent at work or with a project. By afternoon, you will have cleared out the majority of what needs to be done. You will find someone far more in touch with his or her feelings than he or she has been in a long time. Relate in a more open fashion. Tonight: Where the gang is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Make the most out of the morning hours, when all seems well in your world. Schedule some special time in the near future for a loved one or child. Dig into work with your innate enthusiasm in the afternoon. You don't need to agree with someone. You just need to work with him or her. Tonight: Work through stress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your soft side emerges with a family member. You're able to relate on a far deeper level than you have in the past. Stretch and share these feelings with a child or loved one. You can mend mend bridges at this particular moment. Now counts. Tonight: Where the fun is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Understand what might be going on with a neighbor or sibling. Realizing what is happening with this person might help you meet his or her needs more easily. Family and security gain a higher priority. Set aside work. Tonight: Happy at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Buy a card or opt for a simple indulgence this morning. You really don't need to break the bank. By afternoon, focus on excellent communication. You might have a lot to get done before the weekend. Plunge right in. Tonight: Visit with a friend on the way home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your best efforts do make a difference, whether you realize it or not. Do something special for a loved one in the morning. Focus on the financial aspect of your life in the p.m., whether it means working harder or dealing with other money issues. Tonight: Where the action

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Feelings easily could be hurt, whether you intend it or not. You might not really understand where this person is coming from. By afternoon, you have pulled yourself up by your bootstraps, making the necessary changes. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Handle whatever you can in the morning. Your vision of what might be right will help you in your dealings with an emotional tie or dear friend. Key in to a loved one who means a lot to you. Try walking in his or her shoes. Tonight: Rest up for the weekend.

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LOCAL



Adelphia Power Link gives more options on the web

By Daily Press staff

Adelphia is bringing more advanced Internet services to its customers in Santa Monica through enhancements to Adelphia Power Link, the company's high-speed Internet service, effective March 3.

With the launch, the service will be available to more than 1.4 million households that Adelphia serves in Southern California.

In addition to offering customers the speed and convenience of fiber optic-powered broadband, Adelphia will provide customers with remote access and bigger e-mail boxes on a new state-of-the-art e-mail system.

All Power Link customers will be able to take advantage of a new web-based e-mail system that replaces the old platform. Capacity for storage and downloading e-mail attachments has been increased. Customers can have up to 25 megabytes of storage, and the size of a single e-mail and its attachments can be as large as 10 megabytes. Also, customers are now able to gain access to their e-mail accounts from remote locations via the Internet.

The e-mail service has several other new features such as family mailboxes, vacation messaging and address book features. Adelphia Power Link customers also benefit from a new "Spam Patrol" powered by software leader, Brightmail. This feature automatically filters out unsolicited e-mails, commonly referred to as "Spam."

The Adelphia Power Page includes an Internet search engine, quick access to e-mail, newsgroups, on-line help and the Internet's best content. Customers can customize their pages for quick access to their favorite sites.

In response to many Adelphia customer families who are setting up Web sites to share pictures and news with each other, Adelphia is making available to each of its Power Link customers 10 megabytes of personal web space.

To assist beginners with web page design and set-up, Adelphia offers the Power Link "Web Wizard" design tool. Step-by-step instruction is offered to help customers set up a personal Web site. Adelphia also offers packages for the experienced web designer.

The Santa Monica Pier arts festival held this weekend

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Pier arts festival opens Friday and features lectures by artists and art experts, children's activities, musical performances and booths for local artists and craftspeople.

Artists applied for booths on the pier from which they will showcase their work or perform demonstrations.

Featured artists include mosaic artist Linda Milo, portrait artist Terence Healy, Emeritus College representatives and more.

A panel of artists, art educators and art enthusiasts will choose a selection of works for a "best of show" exhibit.

The festival also will feature an art class on Saturday at 1 p.m. taught by Chris Hero, a local artist and art instructor at Emeritus College.

The class is open to everyone and people wishing to attend should pre-register by calling (310) 458-8901 or checking in at the arts festival information booth by 12:45 p.m. on Saturday.

The festival hours are from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

On Friday morning, approximately 250 fifth-graders from Santa Monica schools will create impressions of the pier on 4 feet by 8 feet panels with the help of David Legaspi, a local artist who has helped students paint murals in all SMMUSD Elementary Schools.

The student sketched and painted panels will be installed between the Playland Arcade and the western side of Pacific Park.

At 1:45 p.m. on Friday, there will be a ceremony honoring Legaspi for his work with the students.

Ben Franz-Knight, acting executive director of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp., said the schools and the pier are excited about the project.

"This is a great opportunity to give students more experiences in the fine arts and create a beautiful mural for the whole community to enjoy," he said in a press release.

surf report

Information compiled by Jamie Seborer

There will be chest high surf at many exposed spots, with slightly overhead sets in the south bay. The waves should be choppy because of a cold front moving toward the coast.

Rain across the Los Angeles basin this week likely has polluted the water significantly. More rain is predicted for today.

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

Today's Tides:		
Low	12:28pm	2.3'
High	6:32am	5.8'
Low	1:46pm	-1.0'
High	8:21pm	4.1'

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

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The Q-Line

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

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

Now, more than four months later, the law isn't being enforced because City Hall hasn't outlined the process for

doing so.

This week, Q-Line wants to know:

"Has the homeless situation improved downtown? Is the law still necessary?"

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Santa Monica council members face growing deficit

DEFICIT, from page 1

population size.

Gov. Gray Davis has proposed that the state keep that money in order to help close its \$34.8 billion deficit.

Dennis warned that things could still get worse. He said this year's deficit is likely to grow even more if there is a terrorist attack or a war in Iraq.

"Pull on your boots folks," said Councilman Kevin McKeown, reacting to the new budget projections. "We're in deep."

To combat the growing deficit, parking meter rates, parking fines and various planning fees will be raised under the new plan, which was passed unanimously by the council.

"The next few years are not going to be business as usual in Santa Monica," City Manager Susan McCarthy said. "Despite the steady news about the budget situation, denial is alive and well here."

While council members wrestled with the budget, community leaders who attended the meeting asked the council to

"The next few years are not going to be business as usual in Santa Monica. Despite the steady news about the budget situation, denial is alive and well here."

—SUSAN MCCARTHY
City Manager

double the amount of money it gives to the cash-strapped school district — from roughly \$3.5 million to \$7 million annually.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District faces a \$13 million drop-off in state funding, and is looking for ways to recoup the lost money. One option currently being considered is laying off more than 200 school employees.

Sherri Orgel, president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District PTA Council, said the speakers at Tuesday night's meeting came "in lieu of hundreds" to voice the community's concerns.

"We're asking that you support our children and our collective future because we cannot afford to do less," she said.

Harry Keilly, president of the Santa

Monica-Malibu Classroom Teacher's Association, admitted budget decisions can be difficult but said the schools can't be ignored.

"It is a quality public education that is the great equalizer," he said. "As the quality of our schools declines, so shall the quality of life in our great city."

Nat Trives, former Santa Monica mayor and vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, also pleaded with the council to open its checkbook for the schools.

"People on opposite sides of political issues will come together (to support the schools)," he said. "Have the courage to save our children."

Brockovich, Masry allege cancer cluster at high school

BY AMANDA RIDDLE
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Erin Brockovich, who won the residents of a nondescript California desert town \$333 million in a landmark water pollution case, is launching another high-stakes pollution battle, this time on behalf of the residents of Beverly Hills.

Brockovich and attorney Ed Masry, whose environmental crusade on behalf of the people of Hinkley, Calif., was chronicled in the 2000 Julia Roberts movie "Erin Brockovich," said they plan to file a lawsuit in the coming weeks against the city of Beverly Hills, the Beverly Hills Unified School District and at least three oil companies.

The plaintiffs, dozens of people who were students at Beverly Hills High School from the 1970s through the '90s, either have or have been treated for Hodgkin's, non-Hodgkin's or thyroid cancer, Masry said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

"The percentage of these three types of cancers in this group are astoundingly high," he said.

Masry said air tests conducted by an environmental specialist over a five-month period found high levels of toxic fumes in and around the school's athletic fields, including benzene and n-hexane, byproducts of the oil industry.

He and Brockovich suspect an active oil rig that sits on the edge of the 2,100-student campus — where some of Southern California's richest and most famous people have gone to school.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District, which tracks air pollution for most of Southern California, disputes the Masry-Brockovich findings. The agency said it uncovered no evidence of unusually high levels of toxic pollutants in several air samples it collected after being contacted by a television station investigating the cancer cases.

"There should not be a rush to judgment that students on that campus are being exposed to high levels of toxic air pollutants from the oil well," AQMD Executive Officer Barry Wallerstein said. "It is unfortunate that there has been some level of panic created in the families and the students without having verification of samples."

School district officials declined to comment Tuesday, referring to a press release stating results of AQMD sampling "were consistent with levels of

chemicals obtained at other monitoring stations operated by the California Air Resources Board."

The oil rig, meanwhile, is no secret in Beverly Hills, which early in the 20th century was rich with oil.

Shielded by panels covered in brightly painted flowers, it produces about 450 barrels of oil and 400,000 cubic feet of natural gas a day. The oil is pumped to a Long Beach refinery and the natural gas is sold to the Southern California Gas Co., said Michael Edwards, a spokesman for Venoco, which has operated the rig since 1995.

"There should not be a rush to judgment that students on that campus are being exposed to high levels of toxic air pollutants from the oil well."

— BARRY WALLERSTEIN
AQMD Executive Officer

The company voluntarily shut down the site's 19 wells on Feb. 6, and Edwards said no significant change in air quality was detected.

"The air quality is consistent while we were operating verses while we were not operating," he said Tuesday.

Edwards said Venoco had planned to resume operations last week, but that was delayed for technical reasons. The air quality district plans to collect more samples when pumping resumes.

Wallerstein said some of Masry's results appear abnormal because pollutants not normally associated with oil production were found in high concentrations. That might indicate a contamination in the canisters used to collect the air samples, he said.

Not so, said Masry. "I believe that if they don't open the pumps it's perfectly safe to go to Beverly Hills High School," he said.

Years of persistence by Brockovich, an employee of Masry's law firm, won a \$333 million settlement from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. for more than 600 residents of Hinkley. The residents had accused the utility of allowing high concentrations of toxic chromium 6 to pollute their groundwater.

New restrictions limit size of single-family homes

MANSIONS, from page 1

15 older homes knocked down and renovated, according to city staff.

"Some of the neighbors presented the council with a collection of photos of some of these buildings," Genser said. "It was pretty compelling."

While the demolition of modest homes in the city is low, the economic conditions exist for "significantly more redevelopment," according to a city staff report to the City Council.

The new restrictions will require that a home can only cover 35 percent of a piece of land, as well as limit the size of a second story and offer incentives to homeowners who keep their homes single story.

Homeowners also will have to set aside 10 percent of the land for side yards.

"We believe that this requirement creates opportunities to provide more light and air on one side of the property, while retaining design flexibility," wrote Jay Trevino, the city's planning manager, in a report to the City Council. "Additional open space can accommodate more landscaping, particularly trees that cannot otherwise be accommodated in a standard five-foot wide side yard."

The City Council also set new design standards for garage doors to "ensure ... garage doors are not the primary architectural features visible from the street" and prevent streets lined with "monotonous garage door facades."

"We've done this before in North of Montana," Genser said. "It seems to have worked well there, so it should help neighbors in these areas."

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STATE



U.S. Attorney unveils anti-identity theft project

BY LAURA WIDES
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — As complaints of identity theft top the federal government's list of consumer frauds for a third year in a row, the U.S. Attorney's office is fighting back with an educational video on how to avoid falling prey.

"This is the first of its kind," U.S. Attorney spokesman Tom Mrozek said of the video, which was to be released Wednesday. He noted that while tip lists and hot lines exist to help victims, there has been no nationwide outreach program to prevent identity theft until now.

About 162,000 complaints, or 43 percent, to the Federal Trade Commission in 2002 involved identity theft, up from 86,000 in 2001.

"Every day you open the paper and see such a huge rash of identity theft crimes," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Sandy Klein, who spearheaded the video project. "I just thought maybe we can help some people not become victims."

The U.S. attorney's office for the central district of California plans to work with the U.S. Trustee's office — which oversees bankruptcy cases for the Department of Justice — in helping community groups and national advocacy organizations distribute the video.

According to authorities, some thieves steal identities simply by digging through people's trash. Others use bogus sweepstakes offers, requesting an individual's name, birth date and social security number to confirm the "prize winner's" identity. Still others steal mail out of unlocked mailboxes.

When it comes to protecting them-

selves against identity theft, Klein advises people to shred any financial statements before discarding them and to be wary of the Internet.

"Do not post personal information on the Internet, including on family trees and high school reunion sites," she warns in the video.

"Every day you open the paper and see such a huge rash of identity theft crimes."

— SANDY KLEIN
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Klein also suggests that those who want to buy things over the Internet keep a separate credit card with a low maximum spending limit for just such purchases to minimize losses if the credit card number is stolen.

Anyone who does become a victim of identity theft should immediately file a police report and contact their creditors and financial institutions.

"By taking the simple steps outlined in this program, you'll be able to reduce the amount of time it takes to repair your credit and restore your good name," she said.

She noted many people aren't aware of the consequences of identity theft.

"You could be arrested for a crime you didn't commit if an identity thief, while posing as you, commits a crime," she explains in the video.

Man posing as doctor indicted for identity theft, mail fraud

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man who allegedly impersonated a doctor while working at a medical facility has been indicted by a federal grand jury.

Gerald Barnes, 69, was named in the indictment, which was announced Tuesday by federal prosecutors. He was charged with 16 felony counts including mail fraud, identity theft and illegally dispensing controlled substances. If he convicted of all charges, Barnes faces a maximum possible penalty of 104 years in federal prison.

Barnes was hired at a medical center in the San Fernando Valley in September 2000. He allegedly used false identification documents and the credentials of a legitimate physician named Gerald Barnes, who until recently practiced medicine in Northern California.

The suspect was born Jerald Barnbaum, but legally changed his name to Gerald Barnes in 1970, authorities said. He never received a degree in medicine

and has never been licensed to practice medicine anywhere in the world.

Barnes claimed he was a qualified physician who graduated from the University of Wisconsin and had extensive experience, the indictment said. He is also accused of falsely telling his employers that he had received specialized clinical training at various institutions throughout the United States and had been certified by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency to dispense controlled substances.

While posing as a doctor, Barnes allegedly administered physical exams, provided clinical services and prescribed medications.

Barnes also fabricated his resume by stating he had been employed from 1995 to 2000 as the medical director of a clinic in Israeli-occupied territory, authorities said. But Barnes was serving a 12-year sentence at a federal correctional camp during that time for admitting he impersonated the real Dr. Barnes.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



STATE

Silicon Valley wary about paperless voting machines

BY RACHEL KONRAD

Associated Press Writer

SAN JOSE — At least one in 10 voters nationwide cast ballots in the last presidential election on electronic voting machines, whose popularity is growing fast as counties replace the kinds of antiquated systems blamed for Florida's hanging chad debacle.

But in Silicon Valley, computer scientists are calling for a halt to the trend — at least until voting machines are redesigned to produce a paper record of every vote.

The idea is to provide more protection against hackers — or political hacks — who might tamper with the results.

The Santa Clara County board of supervisors was expected to vote Tuesday on whether to invest \$20 million in 5,000 machines that produce paper receipts. Approval would make it the first county in the nation to purchase the so-called voter-verified paper backup system.

"Silicon Valley is looked to for answers in technology,

and you've got a ton of engineers out here who understand security issues better than anyone," said David Dill, a Stanford University computer science professor who spearheaded a petition demanding a paper trail. "I hope people notice the fact that we are taking this seriously."

Putting faith in systems that create no records outside cyberspace, they say, could undermine the democratic process, creating the opportunity for election fraud of unprecedented proportions.

"Every election system we've ever created has had someone rig it, but it's been only on a local basis," said Bev Harris, author of "Black Box Voting: Ballot-Tampering in the 21st Century." "Now it only takes one programmer to insert malicious code into a computer system that runs election machines all over the country."

Harris and other voter-rights advocates worry that with each local decision to adopt electronic voting machines, more power gets concentrated among the four companies that dominate the market: Election Systems & Software, Sequoia Voting Systems, Diebold Election Systems and Hart InterCivic.

Smaller companies also vie for county contracts, but the top four write proprietary software code and assemble the vast majority of machines at polling facilities nationwide.

The largest, Omaha, Neb.-based ES&S, installed 74,000 systems used in more than 30,000 elections worldwide in the last decade. In the 2000 presidential election, ES&S terminals tallied more than 100 million ballots. And Georgia, which bought 19,000 Diebold machines, is among the states counting on a single company for solutions.

The concentration of power opens up a variety of potential new hazards for voting integrity. Advocates worry that an unethical software developer could insert a back door into the code, allowing someone to hack in remotely and change results. Another fear: results could be transferred to an outside computer, altered, then moved back before the polls close.

Scientists also worry that paperless machines, like all computers, could fall victim to inexplicable server crashes, power outages, frozen screens, software bugs and other glitches.

On the other hand, if voters could scrutinize paper receipts, they would be much more likely to find errors, advocates say. In the event of an incorrectly registered vote, poll workers could trash both the receipt and the electronic record and the vote could be recast.

"Even my ATM has the courtesy of asking if I want a receipt," said Kim Alexander, president of Sacramento-

based non-profit California Voter Foundation. "My pay-at-the-pump Visa transaction is more secure than my voting ballot if my county goes to paperless voting."

In response to the concerns in Santa Clara, Oakland-based Sequoia built prototypes of machines that produce paper receipts. But meanwhile, elections officials across the country are buying paperless systems.

Congress has set aside \$3.9 billion for states to overhaul their voting systems, and elections experts say as many as 75 percent of voters nationwide will cast ballots electronically by 2010.

In California, voters approved an additional \$200 million to replace outdated systems, and nine counties, including Los Angeles, San Diego and Sacramento, have considered installing paperless touch-screen machines in time for the 2004 presidential primaries.

The companies that make electronic voting machines say the security concerns are overblown, noting that they must meet standards set by the Federal Election Commission and the National Association of State Election Directors.

And some see the paper trail as a waste of money at a time when state and local governments face their worst budget shortfalls in years.

Paper receipts, which punch-card voting machines never produced, create potential hazards as well: They could encourage power brokers to offer incentives or punishments to constituents who provide proof they voted a certain way.

Even if the records are never handed to voters and are instead kept with the county registrar, as is the plan for Santa Clara, they represent another layer of complexity for administrators.

Sequoia has offered to add the printers without raising Santa Clara County's \$20 million contract, said the company's spokeswoman, Kathryn Ferguson. But she warns of other problems.

"You'll have printer jams, you'll run out of paper, you'll have voters say, 'That's not how I voted,' and you'll have to have procedures for letting them re-vote and to determine which of the receipts you printed was the valid one, and which of those constitute the official recount in case of a contested vote," said Ferguson, a former voting administrator in three states. "It would create a lot more problems than it solves."

Elections officials nationwide should understand that all systems, electronic or manual, can be manipulated, said Kimball Brace, president of the Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm Election Data Services.



briefs

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STATE



Elderly inmate population and costs to soar, experts say

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Unless something changes, there will be nearly 50,000 elderly inmates in California's prison system in 20 years, a "ticking time bomb" that could cost the state more than \$4 billion a year — about the same as the entire current budget of the nation's largest and costliest prison system, a national prisons expert said Tuesday.

The state's "horrific" recidivism rate, aging population, budget problems and three-strikes life sentencing law will combine to create "crippling" overcrowding and budget-busting costs in the next decade, predicted George Washington University Law School professor Jonathan Turley.

"California is looking at a prison crisis that is the most severe in the nation," said Turley, executive director of POPS, the Project for Older Prisoners.

State corrections officials acknowledged the coming flood and their lack of preparation in testimony before a joint hearing of three Senate committees.

The state's prisons now hold about 6,400 inmates over age 55, a population that will grow to about 30,200 by 2022, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office. Older inmates will jump from 4 percent to 16 percent of the total prison population at current rates, the office projected.

Turley's study put the California population of inmates over age 60 at 47,647 by 2024, with a \$4 billion annual cost.

Both he and the Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill said older inmates are two to three times more costly to care for and statistically much less likely to re-offend if they are released, citing other states and federal studies. Both said inmates age faster than the general population, and have a higher likelihood of diseases and other health problems often due to their prior lifestyle.

But releasing such inmates early is not the only answer, said experts and lawmakers.

Of the 6,400 current older inmates, Hill recommended 250 elderly nonviolent and non-serious offenders be released to save the state \$9 million. But within 20 years, following the same guidelines would mean an estimated 12,000 fewer inmates and \$530 million less annual cost.

"California is looking at a prison crisis that is the most severe in the nation."

— JONATHAN TURLEY

George Washington University Law School professor

The crime is no less serious just because the criminal has aged, countered Larry Brown, executive director of the California District Attorneys Association: "The state budget problem should not be solved by jeopardizing public safety."

Even Turley cautioned that, "if that's your only (relief) valve, you're going to release people you shouldn't release," though he thinks the analyst is undercounting the number who could be freed with no danger to society.

Other states have found they can cut costs without early release by incarcerating elderly inmates in a single prison with onsite health care; housing such low-escape risks in minimum security facilities; using electronic bracelets to monitor inmates at home or in nursing homes; and converting surplus institutions to elder care more cheaply than building new prisons.

"California lags far behind other states in dealing with its older prisoner population," said Turley, who offered to set up a California POPS office to evaluate inmates and suggest reforms.

He started the nationally recognized program in 1989 after representing a single elderly inmate while a professor at Louisiana's Tulane Law School. POPS since has opened additional offices in Michigan, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia, and its volunteer law students have done studies for other states.

California corrections officials acknowledged in

their Senate testimony that the state is lagging in its elderly care and planning.

"We can't even tell you what (elderly) people are in what prison, unless we do a hand count," said Youth and Adult Correctional Agency Secretary Robert Presley, who blamed a lack of money.

The California Department of Corrections considered establishing a geriatric prison in 1999, but officials said the older population has since outgrown any single penitentiary and so remains scattered in the general prison population.

A 1999 study by the department listed older offender programs in 22 other states, and recommended setting up a task force to develop similar programs in California.

Four years later, the task force still hasn't been created, and Presley and other officials said they don't know why.

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A look at other states' programs for older inmates

By The Associated Press

Here's a look at some other states' programs for older prison inmates:

Colorado: Provides limited training for security staff on working with elderly and chronically ill inmates. Recently opened a 500-bed prison for geriatric and mentally ill prisoners.

Florida: Two men's prisons and a portion of a women's prison have evolved into elderly housing.

Illinois: Consolidated many older inmates in one prison with a health care unit for older infirm inmates. Has a special training program for dealing with special needs inmates including the elderly.

Indiana: Has two facilities for special needs and older inmates, and a special training program to care for them.

Kentucky: Has two special units for aging inmates and a nursing home placement program.

Maine: Sends most of its frail or seriously ill inmates to nursing homes. Remainder are in the general population.

Maryland: Has special training programs and physicals for inmates over age 50. Most older inmates consolidated in special units, including hospital units and special dormitories for the aged and infirm.

Minnesota: Has two units for elderly inmates, special training for dealing with older inmates.

Mississippi: Has two units for elderly inmates, and a formal policy to place all qualifying older inmates in geriatric units.

Nevada: Has two facilities for older inmates, and plans to build new prison units to serve as nursing homes for geriatric inmates.

North Carolina: Has a special geriatric facility, and provides special training, programs and resources for older inmates.

Ohio: Has two of the nation's largest facilities for older inmates.

Oklahoma: Is creating a private geriatric facility under contract.

Pennsylvania: Spent \$23 million to expand its geriatric facility; provides physical therapy, special recreation opportunities, special work assignments, and special release planning for elderly inmates.

South Carolina: Is working on a program for the release and placement of older inmates.

Tennessee: Maintains two geriatric units and offers special dietary and medical programs.

Texas: Has a special geriatric unit, units for mobility-impaired inmates, a 60-bed unit next to a regional hospital, special early release and prison hospice programs.

Virginia: Older inmates can apply for a geriatric unit, but face a long wait. Offers special training and resources for older inmates.

Washington: Exploring new programs and policies for older inmates; has a special housing unit and special training programs.

West Virginia: Has three special housing units, special training and dietary and medical programs for older inmates.

Wisconsin: Plans to open a 330-bed prison for geriatric inmates in 2005.

Wyoming: Two units for older inmates who meet certain criteria, some special training in handling older or infirm inmates.

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Christina S. Porter
Senior Associate



OPINION

LETTERS

Give it up, Ms. Rothstein

Editor:

Hey, Vivian Rothstein, give the voters some credit. From all the haranguing your failed Living Wage group is doing you would think voters are really stupid and have nothing better to do than search for asterixes on mailers to get confused. (SMDP, Feb. 21).

Wake up. In case you haven't noticed GG, another proposition championed by Santa Monicans For Renters Rights on the same ballot also failed with about the same margin. Were people confused into not voting raises or additional health coverage for the Rent Control Board members? No. The majority of the SMRR constituency as you've discovered only cares about one thing — keeping their rents below market level.

If the Living Wage proponents really wanted it to pass it should have been written to help renters and residents of Santa Monica exclusively, not people who only come here to work.

Thank God it didn't pass or the city would be in even worse shape financially than we are now. They estimated since the city is a large employer in the coastal district that it would have taken another \$3 million out of our budget. What a fine mess that would have been.

Please, Ms. Rothstein, you're a professional lobbyist and a good one, take your fees and stop insulting us that the vote was stolen. People knew what they were doing when they voted no. You can't win 'em all but you can learn by your mistakes.

Larry Mollin
Santa Monica

Let's pray we all get out alive

Editor:

Over the last 17 months there has been much said and done about what it means to be a citizen of this country. I now enter the fray.

For the last 23 years I have been a registered Independent and straight Democrat voter. However, I did spend three weeks in Columbia, SC, as a "Democrat-for-McCain" volunteer in January 2000. I very much support the rights of every citizen to express their political opinions for whomever they believe in. Most importantly I very much support each and every citizen exercising their right and responsibility to vote in all elections. Thirty-three years ago I worked with Vietnamese citizens who literally risked their lives to vote. To this day I get emotional when voting in national elections.

I believe there are persons on this planet who want power by any means necessary. Some of these persons have a history of conducting atrocities on their own citizens and neighbors. Their aim, like despots throughout history, is to achieve total power over all within their grasp. The allure for such power is an addiction that cannot be satiated. The urge to "go down in history" as someone great who transcends the

achievements of all others can be a heady and dangerous intoxicant. The really scary part is when such people use others' lives, bodies, and treasure to feed their voracious addiction.

George W. Bush has not now and never will be a butcher like Saddam Hussein — we U.S. citizens simply will not permit it. I asked the presiding judge at the My Lai Trials why we even conducted court martials of American soldiers during the atrocity-filled Vietnam war — by both sides. His response has stayed with me over the last 26 years, "In America, we aspire to a higher standard." To compare Bush with Hussein is not only a grave factual error but also a vicious belittling of this country and all that we have stood for, that we have aspired to over the last 227 years.

On 9/11 for the first time in 136 years the soil of this country was invaded and 3,000 citizens were murdered in broad daylight. The persons conducting this atrocity were intelligent, thoughtful, and driven to do what they believe will lead to a better life for their followers and families. They were wrong. They excelled beyond their expectations in the damage accomplished and the fear/anxiety spread throughout this nation. In my opinion, there is no adequate defense against suicide bombers. This was true against the Japanese Kamikaze pilots during World War II. The only option is to

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Blurred images send the world mixed messages



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

"I'm not a doctor, but I play one on TV," began a popular television commercial several years ago.

The tagline has lived on in America's lexicon, primarily because it unwittingly served as one of the most poignant satirical statements in regard to the trust we put in celebrities because of the roles they "play." Sometimes it's hard to stop playing, apparently.

Santa Monica's own Martin Sheen isn't the President of the United States, but he plays one on TV. I hope he knows the difference even when he called me last fall urging me to support the Living Wage ordinance. Now he's on TV telling me to write his counterpart, the actual President of the United States, and let some air out of the tires of George W. Bush's war machine.

There's Martin, looking presidential and dressed to the nines, telling us that "inspections work, war won't." Oh, really?

Inspections didn't seem to hold much sway in Iraq between 1991 and 1998,

before inspectors left in a fit of frustration over Saddam Hussein's refusal to abide by the terms of the cease-fire following the Gulf War. They were then told, in essence, not to come back until the United Nations demanded they be allowed back in this past November while American troops began digging in along the borders.

Inspections, in this case, do not seem to be working. But it is the fact that the veteran actor Sheen is being held up as the national champion of anti-war sentiment that is somewhat galling. It insults the American intelligence. There is little doubt the movement hopes to capitalize on the general public's association of Sheen with the presidency. And in some sad cases, it capitalizes on the confusion of the general public and their inability to separate reality from role-playing — a line blurred increasingly more as the nation gravitates towards reality-based programming.

Well, he's not the president, but he does play one on TV.

There is Sheen, alone, speaking intimately with the American viewers in some sort of quasi-State of the Union address.

Why aren't television's "Lou Grant" and B.J. Honeycutt of "M*A*S*H" standing at his side? Do the TV spot's producers fear dogged protesters and sometime fellow actors Ed Asner and Mike Farrell

might tip viewers off that they are being asked to put their faith in a handful of Hollywood's B-list leadership?

Everyone has the right to speak his or her mind on the impending war with Iraq, but it is the obvious intent by Hollywood's Wag the Dog spinmeisters to confuse in the interests of swaying public opinion that is so troublesome.

The problem with anti-war protests is that there is no viable alternative to handling the threats to American society that are real and present in the world today; there is no plan to diffuse the situation amicably that we can all rally behind. Inspections don't work; at least they haven't over the first dozen years since we ousted Iraq from Kuwait. Why should we be led to believe they would begin working anytime soon in the absence of military threats?

The fact of the matter is Iraq is a rogue nation with wealth and weapons of mass destruction and a hatred for the United States — all the makings of a regime perfectly capable and willing to support and assist terrorists worldwide.

At present, we appear to be a nation divided, struggling with the morality of an unprovoked war. At least one without any tangible provocation we can hold up as a flash point. In reality, this is just the latest battle of the Persian Gulf War, following a 12-year cease-fire, just as World Wars I

and II were essentially the same conflict, interrupted by two decades of mounting tension, broken treaties and dictator appeasement.

What is the image we are sending the rest of the world, a world already fearful of reigniting tensions in the bubbling cauldron that is the Middle East? More troublesome, what is the image we are sending our own troops poised at the front lines, ready to lay their lives on the line for a cause we say isn't worth it?

"We're confused," a Marine is quoted as telling Time Magazine this week. "Are the protesters going to spit on us when we go home?"

Hopefully, all the protesters on the beach of Santa Monica considered those troops in the sands of Kuwait the other weekend, when they attempted to right all the disturbed energies in the world by forming a human peace sign for the cameras.

To our troops overseas, on the precipice of battle, we may or may not be united against the war, but we are certainly playing the role of conscientious objector on TV. Of course, Hollywood has a way of distorting reality, making us think people are who they aren't.

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica.)

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 8

destroy them before they can attack, to hunt them down and assist them in dying for their cause. Make no mistake about it, the persons and groups who planned 9/11 have more in store for the U.S. and its allies.

They have sworn a blood oath and committed their lives to the destruction of the U.S. and have been doing so since at least the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993.

We have waited more than 12 years for Iraq to follow the rules and declarations of the U.N. They have not done so. Since they kicked out the inspectors in 1998, the Iraqis have intentionally built more missiles after the previous ones were destroyed by the U.N. We are now about to become engaged in a war to remove Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction, to remove another sanctuary for terrorists, and to remove the threat of terrorists acquiring such weapons to inflict even worse harm on our citizens and others around the world. It will not be easy and it will not be without loss of innocent life. That such will occur bothers me greatly. I pray every night for a quick and peaceful solution to this situation. And deep down I know that war, with all of its by-nature atrocities, is the least worse of two horrible choices.

To do nothing, to continue to wait will simply encourage Hussein and his adherents to hide, obfuscate, and build more weapons with greater horror, stealth, and tenacity. The terrorists are coming, like it or not. Stopping Hussein will not stop them. It will slow them down and show them we can and will match their resolve. Eventually they will simply wither away to much more manageable and less threatening levels as they are hunted down. Their allure and charisma will diminish as their invincibility is shown a lie.

When I see people wearing Che Guevara T-shirts I note few celebrate his statement that "Hatred is an element of struggle; relentless hatred of the enemy that impels us over and beyond the natural limitations of man and transforms us into effective, violent, selective, and cold killing machines." Che Guevara was hunted down and killed like a mad dog in the mountains of Bolivia, thus losing his bogus charisma. Sooner or later the same will happen to Osama bin Laden. Make no mistake about it.

If we are lucky, the impending war will be quick with minimal loss of innocent life and we will be welcomed as liberators, just as in Afghanistan. If we are lucky, Iraq will become a nation setting the example so the entire Arab world might at last increase its combined per capita income to a level greater than that of Spain. If we are lucky, a new, more democratic Iraq will arise from its ashes as a nation that embraces the 21st century.

Pray that we are lucky.
God Bless America and God bless us all.

John Medlin
Santa Monica

Historical perspective on Prop. A

Editor:

I grew up in Chicago, one of the great architectural cities of the world, in a regular working class neighborhood built largely in the 1890s. In the 1960s, I saw beautiful, irreplaceable old homes and commercial buildings, many of them in need of repair and updating, being torn down and replaced with bland, non-descript blonde brick buildings built as large as the law allowed. It is a phenomenon comparable to what we see going on in many areas of Santa Monica today.

Demolition in Chicago went on for some time. And then something changed. Slowly but surely, people began to realize the beauty in the old buildings; the craftsmanship, the unique quality of materials, and the more appealing scale and neighborhood-friendly character of the older structures. They also recognized that these older, beautiful buildings provided a sense of permanence for the community, and they became an example of the citizens' respect for their past.

Today, Chicago is filled with historic districts and landmarks. Not only have many new people moved into the city, but many of the long-time residents have come to appreciate what was special about their neighborhoods — qualities that they had lost sight of. This phenomenon is not unique to Chicago. As our cities age, historic preservation has become a growing trend across the country. And, yes, it has now come to California. In the case of Santa Monica, it came with the passage of our preservation ordinance 26 years ago when the Santa Monica Pier, a treasure to our citizens and Southern California as a whole, was threatened with demolition.

What California and Santa Monica are known for world wide is their residential architecture. We have unique Spanish Revival, Craftsman, and mid-century modern homes and buildings. We have some of the most innovative residential architects and builders found anywhere in the world.

Proposition A, however, advocates a backwards step for our city. An irreversible step. If we value our heritage of great residential architecture, we should vote against Proposition A. If we respect our California history, which goes back to the missions of Junipero Serra, we should vote against Proposition A.

Los Angeles has a preservation law that is similar to Santa Monica's, and Los Angeles has 14 historic districts plus 17 more that people are clamoring for. What do the people of Los Angeles see that some in Santa Monica do not? The people of L.A. have seen that the sense of community is enhanced by historic districts. They have acknowledged that their architectural past is worthy of respect. And they have experienced the increase in property values that, as independent studies have demonstrated time after time, occur as a result of historic preservation. Ask any savvy real estate broker including those that exclusively sell historic and architecturally significant properties.

Historic properties are unique. They carry a cachet and create a sense of community that people value and are willing to pay a premium for. To live in these proper-

ties, owners are willing to invest "sweat equity" and the money necessary to repair and restore them. All of this creates value for the individual property owner and for the community.

So when supporters of Proposition A come knocking on my door asking me why should anyone in City Hall tell me what to do with my house, I say:

■ What is at stake here is what we, the citizens of Santa Monica, want our city to look like — now and for future generations.

■ Historic preservation is a good thing.

■ It creates community.

■ It gives our neighborhoods a sense of character and permanence.

■ It allows us to save the best of our cultural treasures.

■ And yes, it's money in my pocket as a property owner.

Vote FOR history, FOR your neighborhood and FOR your pocket book.

I will be voting 'No' on Proposition A.

Tom Cleys

*Board member, Friends of Sunset Par
President of the Santa Monica Conservancy
Resident and homeowner*

Government has no role in property rights

Editor:

The Landmarks Commission has been in existence since 1976. During those 27 years, it has had a more than adequate opportunity to identify and protect those buildings in Santa Monica that are of legitimate historic and architectural significance.

Today, the Commission only exists as a tool for harassing people who want to improve their property.

By what right do the opponents of Proposition A presume to dictate to their neighbors what they can do with their property? They have no more right to enlist the power of government to force their neighbors to preserve old houses, than their neighbors have to enlist the power of government to force them to build new houses.

But it's worse than that. The opponents of Proposition A not only want to prevent development; they want impose all the burdens involved in achieving that goal on others, without any risk or expense to themselves.

If the opponents of Proposition A want to preserve old houses, they should either buy the houses themselves, or organize a group of their neighbors to do it. Then, they can do with the houses what they want.

Government does not have a legitimate role to play here.

Robert A. Philipson
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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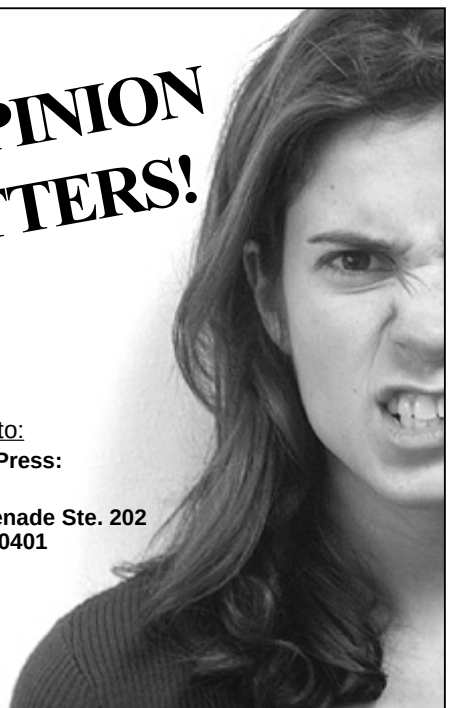
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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Gulf commander fine-tunes plan with key generals

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP Military Writer

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — The American general who would lead an Iraq invasion fine-tuned the battle plan Wednesday with his senior commanders.

The operation would be executed from a command post shielded by a chain-link fence hidden inside a warehouse on this remote desert base.

Army Gen. Tommy R. Franks met for several hours with the commanders of his naval, air, land and special operations forces, who normally report to him from their war-fighting posts in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Franks made no public appearance, but he indicated before the conference that he intended to review with his commanders their progress in preparing for the possibility that President Bush will order war to disarm Iraq.

If war comes, Franks would command the operation from Camp As Sayliyah, a 262-acre compound outside Doha, the Qatari capital, although he has the technological capability to direct it from either his permanent Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla., or a new airborne command post.

Although Franks' appearance at Camp As Sayliyah raised speculation in the Gulf that an Iraq war was imminent, aides said he intended to return to the United States this weekend for further consultations with Bush and others.

About 200,000 U.S. troops have gathered on Iraq's periphery, and more are en route from the United States and Europe. Britain is contributing 45,000 troops.

The bulk of the U.S. and British ground forces would invade from Kuwait, although the United States is hoping to complete a deal with Turkey that would

permit 40,000 or more U.S. troops to open a northern front.

U.S. Air Force fighters would attack mainly from bases in Kuwait, Qatar and Turkey. Bombers would fly from Oman and the island of Diego Garcia. Support planes would operate from Saudi Arabia and several other countries.

The Navy has five aircraft carriers within range of Iraq — each with about 50 strike aircraft aboard. The Marines would operate as part of the Kuwait-based ground force as well as the air effort.

Franks also held talks Wednesday with British Defense Minister Geoff Hoon, who said afterward that Saddam still has time to avert war, although "it's certainly getting to a late hour in the day."

Hoon told a news conference the British government is confident the U.N. Security Council will pass a resolution authorizing war against Iraq and he predicted anti-war sentiment around the world would subside in the days ahead.

Hoon also echoed Franks' comments, in an Associated Press interview Tuesday, that U.S. and allied military commanders cannot guarantee the safety of civilians who would position themselves near potential bombing targets.

"It is not the case that we would necessarily take account of human shields, so called," Hoon told reporters at a cavernous international press center.

"I would want to emphasize to you the need for anyone contemplating such a course of action to return home rather than play into the hands of Saddam Hussein," he said.

Franks has declined to say publicly which command post he would use to run an Iraq war, although it was clear from a tour of the Joint Operations Center here that Camp As Sayliyah would be the primary nerve center.

The highly restricted operations center, run by about 50 military personnel, uses advanced computer and communications technology to coordinate movements and planning among the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

"I use computers to break down barriers" between services and functional commands, said Air Force Col. Steven

Pennington, a senior manager of the operations center.

He and others said they have no doubt that U.S. forces are ready if Bush orders war.

"We're focused on being prepared for that," said Marine Corps Col. Tom Bright, director of the Joint Operations Center.

Reviewing the Turkish constitution



Bulent Uzun/Associated Press

Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul, left and his deputy Ertugrul Yalcinbayir, examine the Turkish constitution while attending parliament in Ankara on Wednesday. The leader of Turkey's governing party, Justice and Development, summoned lawmakers Wednesday to try and persuade them to agree to let in more than 60,000 U.S. troops for possible war with Iraq.

Population estimate reduced due to AIDS, lower birth rates

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations on Wednesday reduced its estimate of what the world's population will be in 2050 by 400 million, primarily because of the impact of the AIDS epidemic and lower than expected birth rates.

At the dawn of the new Millennium, the U.N. Population Division forecast that 9.3 billion people would inhabit the Earth at mid-century but a new revision of the estimate projects a lower population of 8.9 billion.

About half the 400 million drop is a result of an expected increase in the number of deaths, primarily from AIDS, the forecast said. The other half is due to a reduction in the projected number of births, mainly as a result of lower expected fertility rates.

"For the first time, the United Nations Population Division projects that future fertility levels in most developing countries will likely fall below 2.1 children per woman, the level needed to ensure the long-term replacement of the population, at some point in the 21st century," said the forecast.

By 2050, it projects that three out of four countries in less developed regions will have fertility levels below replacement levels.

The report, "World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision," confirms key conclusions from previous revisions about population growth.

Despite expectations of lower fertility levels and increased death risks, global population is still expected to increase from 6.3 billion today to 8.9 billion in 2050, it said.

"For the first time, the United Nations Population Division projects that future fertility levels in most developing countries will likely fall below 2.1 children per woman, the level needed to ensure the long-term replacement of the population, at some point in the 21st century."

— U.N. POPULATION DIVISION FORECAST

The Population Division warned, however, that the latest projections depend on ensuring that couples have access to family planning.

If fertility in all countries remained at current levels, it said, "the total population of the globe could more than

double by 2050, reaching 12.8 billion."

But based on the new estimates, the forecast predicts that the population of more developed regions, currently at 1.2 billion, will change little during the next 50 years.

Thirty three countries are projected to be smaller at mid-century than today — Japan losing 14 percent of its population, Italy 22 percent of its population, and Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Russia and Ukraine between 30 and 50 percent of their populations.

By contrast in less developed regions, the population is projected to rise steadily from 4.9 billion in 2000 to 7.7 billion in 2050, according to the forecast.

The populations of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Somalia, Uganda and Yemen, are projected to quadruple because of expected annual growth rates of more than 2.5 percent between 2000 and 2050, it said.

In the most populous countries, large population increases are expected even if fertility levels are projected to be low.

Between 2000 and 2050, the forecast said eight countries are expected to account for half the world's projected population increase — India, Pakistan, Nigeria, the United States, China, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Congo.

The 2002 Revision indicates a worsening of the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in terms of disease, deaths and population loss.

In the current decade, 46 million people are expected to die of AIDS in the 53 most affected countries, "and that figure is projected to ascend to 278 million by 2050," the forecast said.

DID YOU KNOW?: A study at the University of Utah concluded that a diet high in fatty foods can curb the production of testosterone in men (the hormone that fuels the male sex drive)?

SPORTS



Qualifying sprint



Alessandro Trovati/Associated Press
Andrew Newell of the United States skis during the qualification round for the men's 1.5K sprint race, at the Nordic Ski World Championships in Val Di Fiemme, Italy on Wednesday.

Kobe's history-making streaks end with class

BY JOHN NADEL
 AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — For just a minute, Kobe Bryant had that look in his eyes, and his teammates seemed ready to cooperate.

There would be a last-gasp effort to keep his history-making streaks alive.

But almost as quickly as the push began, it stopped.

That's because with the outcome decided and Bryant needing more than a basket or two, it wouldn't have been appropriate.

And he knew it.

"The most important thing obviously is playing the game the right way," Bryant said. "It's important to keep the emphasis on how we're playing as a team."

The 24-year-old Los Angeles Lakers star failed to extend his streak of scoring at least 40 points to 10 games Tuesday night, finishing with 32 in a 109-98 victory over the Clippers.

That would have tied Wilt Chamberlain for the second-longest such streak in NBA history.

Chamberlain scored 40 or more in 14 straight games twice in the 1961-62 season, when he averaged an NBA-record 50.4 points. He had his 10-game streak the following season.

Bryant's streak of nine straight was the longest since Michael Jordan scored 40 or more in the same number of games in the 1986-87 season.

"To be mentioned in the same breath with those guys is an honor in itself," Bryant said.

Bryant had also scored at least 35 points in 13 consecutive games. Only Chamberlain has longer streaks, having accomplished that feat in 33, 23 and 20 straight games.

"I think it's great for people to look back

and appreciate the greatness of the players that came before us," Bryant said. "Wilt was a monster. Everybody knows what Michael was capable of doing. It's good for today's fans to look back at the history of the game."

Just as fans will be doing with Bryant someday.

Shadowed closely by Corey Maggette and often double-teamed, Bryant shot 11-of-26, including 1-of-5 from 3-point range, and shot 9-for-10 from the line in 41 minutes. He also had six rebounds, three assists and five steals.

When Bryant scored on a breakaway dunk with 3:04 remaining, it gave him 29 points and his team a 100-89 lead.

With the Staples Center crowd of 18,997 roaring its approval, it was at that stage that the Lakers appeared to make every effort to help Bryant get to 40.

But the Clippers were swarming him on defense, and after a brief period, the effort was abandoned.

Two nights earlier, Bryant forced six shots after getting his 39th point with 4:32 left and missed them all before finally reaching 40 on a free throw with 23.6 seconds to play in a 106-101 victory over Seattle.

He apologized to his teammates afterward.

"He noticed the mistake he made in the last game and he wasn't going to make it a second time. That's a wise player," Rick Fox said.

"I'm proud of him. It's all about winning," Shaquille O'Neal said.

As Bryant noted, the three-time defending NBA champion Lakers are on a roll.

Two months ago, following a 105-99 loss to Sacramento, they were 11-19 and looking like anything but a playoff team.

Now, they're 31-25 and looking like the team to beat.

Again.

Tryon hopes low-key PGA event turns his season around

BY BOB BAUM
 AP Sports Writer

TUCSON, Ariz.— Ty Tryon has gone from teenage golf sensation to just another struggling pro on the PGA Tour, even though he's still a few months shy of his high school graduation.

Life in the big-time has not been easy for the 18-year-old golfer, and he hopes the relatively low-key atmosphere of the Chrysler Classic of Tucson, which begins a four-day run on Thursday, helps him turn his game around.

For the past three years, and 12 times in the event's history, the tournament formerly known as the Tucson Open has provided a golfer with his first PGA Tour triumph.

With most of golf's big names playing in the Match Play Championship this week, the opportunity is ripe for someone else to break through on the par-72, 7,109-yard course at the Omni Tucson National Golf Resort and Spa.

"The course is really set up good for longer hitters, like young players," Tryon said Wednesday, "because a lot of par 5s are reachable. I love the course a lot. It surprised me. It's not what I thought it would be. I thought it would be like a desert course."

Tryon has a medical exemption for 21 PGA events this year after he sat out most of last year with mononucleosis. He has missed the cut in the three tournaments

he's played this year. The worst was his latest, the Pebble Beach National Pro-AM on the first week in February, when he was 21-over-par 237 through three rounds.

"I don't want to talk about it," he said. "It was a bad experience."

Tryon said the mechanics of his game are far better than they were when in 2001, at 17, he became the youngest player ever to win a PGA Tour card.

"But I think my middle game, my emotional game, mental game, haven't been very good the last few tournaments," he said. "A few tournaments this year, I just didn't handle myself that well. Like I missed shots, stupid plays, stuff you shouldn't be doing. That's the problem, I think, junior golfer or amateur golfer type stuff."

Tryon has finished in the money only once in a PGA event, earning \$8,620 when he tied for 41st at the Tampa Bay Classic last year. He must top \$515,445 in tour earnings in his medical exemption events to qualify for the remainder of this year's PGA Tour.

The winner in Tucson earns \$540,000. "You play a good week and you've got it," Tryon said.

His father Bill is with him this week, but Tryon is trying to keep his entourage to a minimum to concentrate on his game.

"That's my goal, to just play good golf," he said.

Rain softened the course Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, and unless the

wind starts blowing and hardens the greens, scores should be low. Ian Leggatt won last year with a 72-hole score of 20-under 268.

"It's a golf course you can really pick apart when the wind's not blowing," said Arron Oberholser, a 28-year-old tour rookie who last played on the course in 1994 when he was a freshman at San Jose State.

Oberholser, 39th on the tour earnings list this year, finished tied for fourth at the Buick Invitational two weeks ago.

"It was awesome," he said. "If it was-

n't for a balky putter on the weekend, I could have contended there. I don't know if I would have won. I don't know if I would have beaten Tiger, but I think I could have come real close. I hit 27 greens on the weekend, and I shot 1-under."

While there is no Woods or Mickelson in Tucson, the competition will be fierce, Oberholser said.

"There are no weak fields on the PGA Tour," he said. "I can assure you that everybody out here, if given the opportunity, would do just fine at the match play."

Lakers coach Phil Jackson's return to bench is uncertain

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson visited practice Wednesday, but his return to the bench after having a kidney stone removed is uncertain.

Jackson missed his first game as an NBA head coach Tuesday night, when assistant Jim Clemons took over as the Lakers beat the Clippers 109-98.

Team spokesman John Black said he was uncertain when the 57-year-old Jackson would return. The Lakers host Detroit on Thursday night and travel to Seattle on Friday night before taking four days off.

"He stopped by practice and talked to the team a little bit," Black said. "He's doing better, but he's still in quite a bit of pain and discomfort."

Jackson had the stone removed Monday after having undiagnosed symptoms for as long as two years.

Black said Jackson would attend the morning shootaround Thursday depending on how he feels and decide after that whether he will coach that night.

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5 Film holders

11 New Rochelle college

12 King book

13 Young ones

14 Fit for farming

15 Housing

17 Future fish

18 Formerly snow

22 Mediter-ranean island

24 Thus

25 Yale player

26 Rather of news

27 Pianist Land-owska

30 Rose parts

32 Insolent look

33 Hockey's Bobby

34 They're not too bright

38 David of "CSI Miami"

41 Dreadful

42 Draws out

43 Use one's teeth

44 Hidden

DOWN 1 Levee

2 Stir up

3 Empha-size

4 School symbol

5 Battle reminder

6 Priest's place

7 Source of answers

8 Sphere

9 Like Abner

10 Catch sight of

16 Afternoon social

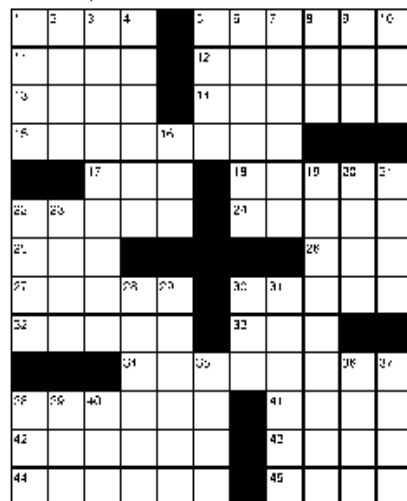
19 Lackey

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AXLE	RAVAGE
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LEDGES	STEM

Yesterday's answer

20 Con	35 Lion's share
21 Layers of a sort	36 Be boastful
22 Kitten cries	37 Stitches
23 Thicke or Bates	38 Animation frame
28 Emulate Holmes	39 Okla-homa city
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LAW OFFICES OF NICHOLAS TEPPER
Nicholas Pepper (S.B.N. 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. **SS011597**

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.

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 6000 of the Government Code, for the County of Los Angeles and State of California.

DATED: February 5, 2003

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

VERIFIED PETITION: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I, the undersigned, being a resident qualified person, do hereby certify that I am a party to the foregoing VERIFIED PETITION TO ASCERTAIN AN ESTABLISHMENT AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION FOR COUNTY OF L.A., and know the contents of the same.

I am a party to this action. 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, L.L.C.

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 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 2/26/03 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

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF

I am employed in the County of

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on

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Executed on

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great location, prknq.

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SANTA MONICA \$995.00
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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BACK PAGE

Lawmakers want to restrict cell phones at public events

BY BETH FOUHY

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Even a city famously enamored with techno gadgets can only stand so much cell phone noise, particularly at public events.

That's the view of San Francisco Supervisors Chris Daly and Aaron Peskin, who have introduced legislation to prohibit the audible use of cell phones in places of public performance.

Ringling phones and cell phone chatter would be banned during movies, theatrical shows, concerts and lectures. Sporting events would be exempt, and cell phone use would be legal in any venue in case of emergency.

"Every time I've gone to the movies in the last couple of years, someone's cell phone has gone off," Daly said Wednesday. "Making it illegal will serve as a reminder for folks to turn off their ringers."

The New York City Council passed a similar ban earlier this month, which will take effect in the spring. The council overrode a veto by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who complained such a law would be unenforceable.

Daly said strict enforcement of the law was never his intent.

"Sometimes lawmakers view laws as vehicles for behavior modification," he said. "That's how I view this cell phone ban."

But Kim Kuo, spokeswoman for the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association, warned the law could invite crackdowns that are more disruptive than the sound of a ringing phone.

"It's more distracting for moviegoers to have ushers come down the aisle and remove Grandma from the theater just because she left her ringer on one time," she said.

Kuo said the CTIA supports voluntary efforts to encourage cell phone etiquette, pointing to industry-financed movie trailers that remind patrons to turn off their phones.

"It's one of those basic truths — you can't legislate common sense and politeness," Kuo said.

Daly said his bill, which was introduced Tuesday, could come up for committee debate in about three weeks.

Officials in Montgomery County, Md., also are considering such a ban.

Anti-war protesters flood Senate, White House offices with calls in 'virtual march'

BY VANESSA PALO

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Anti-war protesters on Wednesday made hundreds of thousands of phone calls and sent faxes and e-mails to senators and the White House to voice their opposition to a war on Iraq as part of a "virtual march" on the nation's capital.

Senators, regardless of their position on the war, were barraged with calls. Other calls to both Democrat and Republican Senate offices could not be completed because of busy circuits.

"We will let our fingers do the marching and demand that our voice be heard," said Tom Andrews, the national director for Win for War, the group that organized the protest.

Andrews said about 400,000 people had registered through the group's web site for the call-in campaign. By Wednesday afternoon, he projected the number of calls made and faxes sent exceeded 1 million.

The office of Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., received more than 800 calls in a nearly four-hour span Wednesday morning, about twice the number of calls it usually receives. Durbin has opposed unilateral action in Iraq.

Durbin's spokesman Joe Shoemaker also said his office had received 18,000 e-mails since Tuesday afternoon, more than five times the number usually received.

The office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said their office was also flooded with calls, and some people were unable to get through. Feinstein voted to authorize the president to use military force to disarm Iraq if necessary.

"No one expressed annoyance," said Andrews, a former Democratic congressman from Maine. His group sent Senate staffers gift baskets for handling the increased calls and faxes.

House members were not targeted in the virtual protest.



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

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