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Charges delayed in Maran murder case

Prosecutors want to speak with victim's parents before filing charges

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

It could be another month before charges are filed in connection with 15-year-old Deanna Maran's murder, which occurred more than three months ago.

Deputy District Attorney Alex Karkanen said Wednesday that prosecutors will sit on the case until they speak with Maran's parents, Harriet and Ilja, who live in Santa Monica's Ocean Park neighborhood.

Charges may be filed against a 15-year-old Brentwood girl who allegedly held Maran down while her half-sister,

17-year-old Katrina Sarkissian, attacked and stabbed her. Sarkissian died of an overdose while in police custody the day after the murder, a recent autopsy has shown.

"We want (the victim's family) to feel they have some input," he said. "We want them to be part of the process."

But the Marans haven't been part of the process since their daughter, known affectionately as "Lala" was murdered Nov. 17.

Since the investigation began, the Marans have had minimal interaction with authorities handling the case. They are frustrated about what they perceive as a lack of effort by the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office to keep them abreast of developments in the case.

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Main Street to be developed

Despite denial by commission and staff, massive project gets approved

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The city council on Tuesday gave its final approval for what is characterized as the largest Main Street development Santa Monica has seen in years.

Though the council voted to approve all the necessary permits required for the project, the city's Architectural Review

Board will still rule on the development's overall conformity with the neighborhood — a controversial issue that led the Santa Monica Planning Commission to originally deny the project Dec. 5. But Jacobs appealed to the city council.

"We have been through this process before and (conformity) seemed to be a controversial sticking point," said Jacobs. "We ask that the council give direction to the ARB on this very point."

The council did not address Jacobs' concern and gave no direction to the ARB on Tuesday. Officials said a letter from

See MAIN, page 3

Serial gas station robbers in jail

By Daily Press staff

Two Los Angeles men were arrested last week in connection with a dozen westside gas station armed robberies, including ones in Santa Monica.

Police have linked Oscar Adolfo Rosales, 19, and David Scott Henriques, 20, to the robberies through a vehicle that was used at one of the gas stations, said Santa Monica Police Department spokesman Lt. Frank Fabrega.

Rosales and Henriques are accused of 12 armed robberies at gas stations in Los Angeles, Culver City and Santa Monica.

The suspects had been under surveillance as part of a lengthy investigation involving all three police departments. Evidence recovered during the arrest linked the suspects directly to the Santa Monica robberies.

Rosales was booked for armed robbery and a military desertion warrant. He is being held in the Los Angeles County Jail without bail.

Henriques was booked for armed robbery and he is being held in the Los Angeles County Jail on \$222,000 bail.

Criminal charges were filed in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Crews film a scene of a new movie, starring Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck, at Will Rogers State Beach Wednesday.

It's not your typical beach

At least not while 'Gigli' is filmed

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A multi-million dollar film production starring Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck just north of Santa Monica has drawn the attention of beach enthusiasts.

For the past couple of weeks portions of Will Rogers State Beach have been closed to the public and people using the bike path have been re-routed while the final scene of "Gigli" is filmed.

But the inconvenience is worth it if one considers how much money is thrown into the local economy, say industry officials.

The production company, Revolution Pictures, pays Los Angeles County \$400 a day to rent the beach, said Entertainment Industry Development Corporation spokesman Morrie Goldman.

"The city and county always endeavor to be competitive in pricing those productions," he said.

The EIDC coordinates and issues film shooting permits.

According to one source at Parking Concepts Inc., which contracts with the county to manage the Will Rogers beach parking lot, the film company has paid more than \$30,000 to rent the lot, which has turned into a mini-city complete with a screening theater trailer, food tents, wardrobe and equipment trucks.

"Film entertainment generates \$30 billion a year into the LA economy," Goldman said. "And the ability for Jennifer Lopez to have her production at Will Rogers State Beach is the strength of Los Angeles because within an hour, you can have just about any scene you need."

With the recent warm weather, the beach has been unusually crowded, which has created a lot of attention to the movie set.

Ron Stanley, a Los Angeles Police Department officer stationed at the bike path detour, said most people are understanding. Of the 1,000 or so people who travel through the parking lot, about 5 percent of them complain.

"You just smile and say, 'good afternoon,'" he said. "If you respond to them in kind, it's not a problem."

The film is expected to be released next year.

Editor's note: As the vote on Proposition U nears, the debate surfaces. Check out page 4 for guest commentary on Santa Monica College's \$160 bond proposal.



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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Allow someone to indulge you. Why not? Stop putting barriers in front of a relationship, or better yet, ask yourself why you put these barriers up. Let others lead for a change. Try the role of follower, as hard as it might be. Tonight: Say "yes."



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Build a better relationship with those in your day-to-day life. You might not be able to change someone, but you can learn to understand him or her better. Communication sizzles with options and possibilities. Just listen! Tonight: Off to the gym.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ As you feel lucky, you're likely to decide to spend some money on a risk. Use care and limit this "wildness" to lottery tickets or perhaps a game. Don't get involved in anything that is threatening. Be smart and enjoy your whimsical nature. Tonight: Charge some of your electricity into a relationship.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Let your positive state of mind float into your work and personal lives. You find someone far more responsive. Deal with basics, especially if you find yourself overwhelmed. Think in terms of success and an addition to the quality of your life. Tonight: Your home is your castle.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Follow your instincts, and you'll be found smiling. Though you might ask a lot of questions and survey others' opinions, you act on what you feel. Opportunities strike in a unique way. Use this occasion for networking. Tonight: Meet a friend after work.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Reach out for a friend who is an unusual source of information. You find this person delightful as well. Make time for a leisurely chat over coffee, where you can discuss options. Be careful about how much of a money commitment you make. Tonight: Your treat.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your efforts gain someone's applause. You've worked long and hard to achieve certain results. As a result of your successes, someone asks you to do more. Ask for that pay raise or promotion while the going is good. Someone listens. Tonight: Do what makes you happy.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You might not want to reveal everything that's on your mind. Think carefully and investigate different sources of information. Success happens because of your thoroughness and research. Sort through your many e-mails and phone calls. Tonight: Skip on out the door and happily vanish.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ An associate goes out of his or her way for you. In many ways, you could feel quite touched and cared about. Financial problems could wither away if you allow them to. Answer more questions, zeroing in on long-term goals. Tonight: Surprises await.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Reach out for someone who might care more than you realize. Invest more time in getting to the bottom of a problem. Lighten up during a discussion with a boss who you often give "strong" advice to. Right now, you're not in the driver's seat. Tonight: Clear your desk.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your strength is your ability to assume an overview and understand what others don't. Your positive, upbeat manner draws many for advice and help. Decide what is necessary here in order to make a plan workable. Tonight: Listen to a favorite piece of music.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You can count on someone to come through for you. What seemed impossible now could become a reality. Brainstorm together, designing a long-term plan to achieve a key goal. Do not sell yourself short. Listen to feedback. Tonight: Make someone happy.



QUOTE of the DAY

**"It is dangerous to be sincere
 unless you are also stupid."**
 — George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

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LOCAL



Family frustrated with no information from officials

MARAN, from page 1

And now the parents of the popular and high achieving Santa Monica high school student are even more frustrated to learn that the case has been put on hold.

They wonder why they haven't been contacted by prosecutors or the families of the teenagers suspected of having a role in their daughter's murder.

The grieving parents want to move forward and find justice for Maran's death, while sending the message of non-violence.

"I would really like to know who I am dealing with," Harriet Maran said. "I need to make sure Lala didn't die for nothing."

Maran was stabbed with a knife after she found a 15-year-old girl breaking potted plants behind an upscale Westwood home where the party was held. Maran told her to stop, but the girl began fighting with her.

Partygoers tried to break up the confrontation but the fight continued after Sarkissian and her friends showed up at the party. According to witnesses, Maran was

allegedly jumped by Sarkissian, the 15-year-old and a Santa Monica high school senior.

They allegedly pinned Maran down to the ground,

"We want (the victim's family) to feel they have some input. We want them to be part of the process."

— ALEX KARKANEN

Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney

beat her and stabbed her with a knife. Sarkissian is believed to have been the one who stabbed Maran.

Maran's friends drove her to Santa Monica Hospital

where she was pronounced dead at 12:15 a.m. on Nov. 18.

Sarkissian and the 15-year-old were arrested about 14 hours later. But after collapsing while being questioned by police, Sarkissian was rushed to UCLA Medical Center and died at 5:26 p.m., police said.

The Los Angeles County Coroner's office ruled earlier this month that Sarkissian committed suicide. According to the toxicology report, Sarkissian died from nortriptyline intoxication. The drug also is known as "Pamelor," a narcotic widely used to treat depression.

Families of the accused could not be reached for comment.

Harriet Maran told the Daily Press last month that she was frustrated and disappointed that she hasn't been contacted by either the family of the girls who allegedly attacked and murdered her daughter or the owners of the house where the killing occurred.

"They have not once talked to us," Harriet Maran said. "To me, these people are beyond hope."

Residents have mixed views on Main Street project

MAIN, from page 1

council could be issued at a later time.

It has taken nearly two years for the city planning department to review the 133-unit housing and commercial development, located at the former Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery site at the north end of Main Street and across the street, just south of Pico Boulevard.

Jacobs' plan originally was rejected by senior city staff, who said the building was too large for the neighborhood and wasn't compatible for the area.

However, after the developer met privately with council members to outline the changes he would make in exchange for the council's approval, the city council voted Feb. 12 to conditionally approve the project once those changes were in writing.

Since then, senior city staff members changed their recommendation to grant all necessary permits and allow the project to move forward.

"I think this is a project that, though it's not perfect, fits our community's general goals," said Councilman Ken Genser.

At Tuesday's meeting, an almost equal number of residents spoke both in favor and against the project.

Those in favor said the apartments will rejuvenate a dilapidated and dangerous empty lot.

"I'm all for this project," said resident Paul Pierson. "It's a blighted place right now. All kinds of nasty things are going on at those two lots."

However, those opposed said the new apartments would inundate the neighborhood with new traffic and construction noise.

"This is Santa Monica's version of drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," said Kathleen Masser. "By selling out, the city will befoul our neighborhood with a monument to greed."

Jacobs filed a lawsuit against the city



File photo

The abandoned Pioneer Boulangerie building will become apartments.

in early November. The suit claims the city delayed the environmental impact report on the project, which is supposed to be done within 12 months, as prescribed by state law.

Jacobs has not dropped his lawsuit against the city, but has told the Daily Press in the past that the suit's status is unclear.

Some residents criticized the council for rushing to approve the project in order to avoid Jacobs' lawsuit, which some officials said could have forced the city to pay millions in damages.

Residents contend the council may

have muddled the process when developments are approved in Santa Monica, a charge staunchly denied by city officials.

"The public actually saw what happened here two weeks ago, and that's unfortunate thing," said Arthur Harris. "I am sorry, very sorry, that I saw it. It was the first time I left the council (meeting) embarrassed."

Genser addressed the criticisms of the council's handling of the Jacobs' approval process, saying nothing improper had occurred.

"It's a complete myth," he said. "I believe we did our jobs here."

City revokes all parking tickets issued on Sept. 11

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The city of Santa Monica has withdrawn all parking tickets issued on Sept. 11, 2001.

Anyone who received a parking ticket on that fateful day has been excused from paying.

And those who already sent their tickets in will have their money refunded to them, a city official said.

"It was a joint decision of the managers office and the police department," said Judy Rambeau, a city spokesperson. "It was not a good day for people to be concerned with putting money in a meter, but mainly this is out of awareness that it was a difficult day for everybody."

Many residents who received parking tickets on 9-11 called the city and the police department to complain. According to city officials, many residents thought ticketing on such a tragic day was unfair.

After rescinding the tickets, some residents e-mailed officials to say how appreciative they were.

"Yes, it was a tragic and distressing day, and your recognition and display of sensitivity at this time is why Santa Monica continues to be a city with vision and concern for its citizens," said one resident. "Thank you."

By noon on Sept. 11 the police department had written 487 parking citations before informing its traffic officers to stop issuing the tickets.

"There probably wouldn't be very many tickets issued because by noon we weren't giving them any more," said Rambeau. "We made sure every shift got the word that we weren't giving tickets out anymore that day."

The exact value of the tickets being rescinded could not be determined by police officers because there are so many different values attached to parking violations. Police officials also could not say how many tickets on average are issued on a given day in Santa Monica.

Fabrega said the city revoked all parking tickets one other time — after the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

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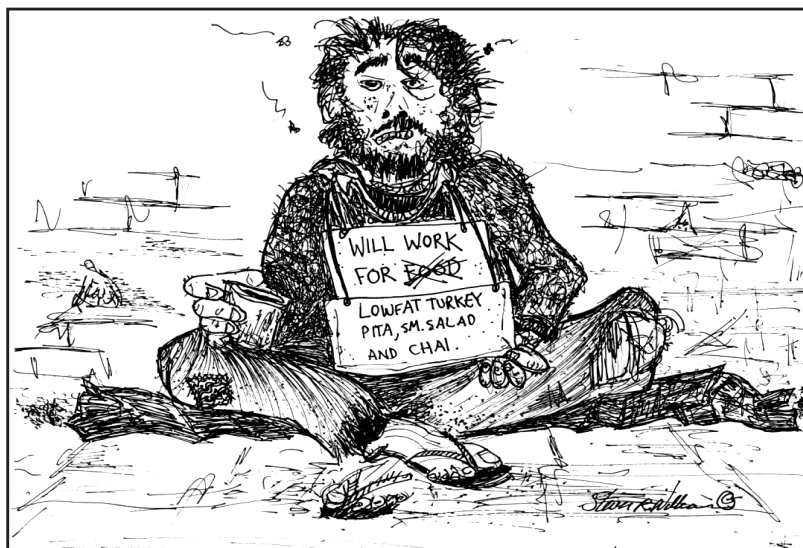
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OPINION



Self questioning and answering on SMC bond proposal

Editor's note: The vote for a \$160 million bond for Santa Monica College is Tuesday, March 5. Santa Monica and Malibu residents will be asked to approve the bond so SMC can use the money to renovate buildings at the aging campus on Pico Boulevard. It also would partially fund the purchase of the 10-acre BAE Systems property that the college recently bought for \$30 million near the airport for a satellite campus and more parking. The bond's average cost to taxpayers would be \$1.12 per month for renters and \$77 per year for the average homeowner in Santa Monica and Malibu.

The Daily Press welcomes commentary and letters to the editor supporting or opposing the measure. Please send all submissions to: sack@smdp.com.

Regarding SMC Bond Measure U, I am not opposed to the college or to increased funding for higher education, but I have had some questions related to the continued growth in enrollment at the college, the resulting increase of traffic in the neighborhood surrounding the college, and the resulting danger that increased college traffic poses to school children in the nearby SMMUSD schools. What follows are the questions, plus the answers, as best I can determine.

Q1. What is the total enrollment (full and part-time) at SMC?

A1. Total enrollment in fall 2001 was 33,568 (9,446 full-time and 24,122 part-time), compared to 24,403 (6,003 full-time and 17,280 part-time) at El Camino College in Torrance.

Q2. What is the total number of faculty and staff?

A2. about 1,600 at SMC, compared to about 1,500 at El Camino.

Q3. What is the total area of the main campus?

A3. about 39 acres at SMC, compared to 126 acres at El Camino.

Q4. How many parking spaces are there on the main campus?

A4. Total on the SMC main campus is about 2,095 (1,455 student, 640 staff, and 80 handicapped) compared to a total of 4,641 parking spaces at El Camino.

Q5. What percentage of SMC students live in Santa Monica and Malibu?

A5. 15 percent live locally, 85 percent are commuters. This compares to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, where about 80 percent of students live within the district and 20 percent have out-of-district permits.

Q6. El Camino College is bordered by three major arterial streets (Crenshaw Boulevard, Redondo Beach Boulevard, and Manhattan Beach Boulevard) and a large county park. What are SMC's borders?

A6. One arterial (Pico Boulevard), two residential streets (16th Street and Pearl Street) and the back of the residences on 20th Street (a two-lane residential street between Pico and Pearl).

Q7. How many SMMUSD schools are located near SMC?

A7. Four: John Adams Middle School (directly across the street from SMC), Will Rogers Elementary (the rear entrance on 16th is one block from SMC), Grant Elementary (at 24th and Pearl, it is 5 short blocks from SMC), and Edison Elementary (at 24th and Kansas, many of its students have to cross Cloverfield

Boulevard at Virginia Avenue, one block south of the Cloverfield exit from the 10 freeway).

Q8. How many SMMUSD students are affected by college traffic as they try to get to school in the morning?

A8. A total of 2,952 — 1,167 at Adams, 676 at Rogers, 673 at Grant, and 436 at Edison.

Q9. Will Measure U provide any of the following pedestrian safety measures for the school children?

a. An analysis of the SMC student parking fees and the number of empty parking spaces in the college parking structures.

b. A drop-off zone on the south side of Pearl Street near 17th, so John Adams parents can safely drop off their children near the music building entrance without worrying about them being run over by college students.

Guest Commentary by Zina Josephs

c. A two-hour time limit on the free head-in parking spaces on Pearl Street between 16th and 17th, so that college students will not be so anxious to park in those spots in the morning. Currently, parents dropping off children at John Adams have to dodge college drivers suddenly stopping, starting, backing up, and making unsignaled U-turns as they try to grab the coveted free day-long parking spaces.

d. A stop sign at 17th and Pine, where many John Adams students cross 17th to enter their campus through the cafeteria gate and risk getting run over by college drivers.

e. A different location for the SMC shuttle bus stop, in order to reduce right-of-way confusion at 17th and Pearl.

f. A permanent elimination of the driveway entrance onto the SMC campus on the north side of Pearl, just west of 17th Street. Right-of-way is confused by the fact that this driveway does not line up with 17th Street.

g. A traffic signal at 16th and Ocean Park, so that Adams and Rogers students can safely cross Ocean Park Boulevard. Many college drivers seem to roar up Ocean Park from Lincoln Boulevard and turn north on 16th to park on Pearl between 16th and 17th, or to reach the parking structures near 16th and Pico. This brings them onto a collision course with Rogers students trying to reach the back entrance of their campus on 16th Street, as well as Adams students trying to reach the main entrance of their campus, also on 16th Street.

h. Improved safety measures to protect Edison students crossing Cloverfield at Virginia Avenue and Grant students crossing Pico at Cloverfield from college drivers speeding south on Cloverfield from the freeway exit.

i. Staggered starting times for morning classes so that SMC and SMMUSD students are not all trying to get class at the same time.

A9. No, the college does not seem to be interested in working with the principals of the nearby schools on

these safety issues. These pedestrian safety problems are caused by the increasing number of commuter students at the college, and none of the solutions seem to be included in Measure U.

Adding more shuttle buses from college parking lots at Santa Monica Airport parking lots to SMC by way of narrow two-lane streets will not be appreciated by residents of Sunset Park. Reorienting the main entrance of the campus from Pearl to Pico may reduce traffic somewhat in Sunset Park, but it will move more traffic into the Pico neighborhood. Moving a problem is not the same as solving a problem.

Q10. How will a \$160 million bond measure for the college affect the passage of future SMMUSD bond measures?

A10. In 1998, supporters of SMMUSD's Prop X worried that voters might not approve a \$42 million bond measure. SMC staff says that passing future bond measures will not be a problem and cites Santa Clarita, which passed both a school district and a college bond measure in November 2001.

There are some differences. New housing developments in Santa Clarita and the resulting shortage of school facilities had led to year-round scheduling. The enrollment at College of the Canyons was growing at 20 percent per year.

In Santa Monica-Malibu, the school district has capped enrollment at 12,500 and is contemplating the gradual reduction of out-of-district permits (currently at 2600). The district's Financial Oversight Committee is suggesting both new parcel taxes and facilities bond measures, even without enrollment growth.

Meanwhile, the state sets enrollment growth targets of about 4 percent each year for community colleges, and it rewards colleges that meet the growth targets with millions of dollars. SMC grew by 6 percent this year (an additional 1964 students).

With continued growth at this rate, the college will need to continually ask residents to pay for more and more land, more and more buildings. Where will it end?

Q11. Are there no other two-year colleges for students in the Los Angeles area to attend?

A 11. There are at least 12 other two-year colleges: East Los Angeles College, El Camino College, Glendale Community College, Los Angeles City College, L.A. Harbor College, L.A. Mission College, L.A. Pierce College, L.A. Southwest College, L.A. Trade Tech, L.A. Valley College, Pasadena City College, and West L.A. College.

Q12. What do some Santa Monica residents who live near SMC want?

A12. a) A college administration which, for safety considerations, is willing to set an enrollment cap that is appropriate for a community college with a very small main campus located in a residential neighborhood.

b) A college administration which accepts responsibility for the danger its student drivers pose to the pre-school and K-8 students at the nearby elementary and middle schools.

c) A college administration which is willing to work with principals and PTAs at those nearby schools and with the City of Santa Monica to improve pedestrian safety for both SMMUSD and SMC students.

STATE



Musician Bob Dylan in talks for new film role

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Music legend Bob Dylan is in talks to take on his first major film role in 15 years, a producer on the project said.

Dylan, whose career has seen a resurgence, could star in an Intermedia Films project tentatively titled "Masked and Anonymous," said Nigel Sinclair, one of the film's producers.

"He is very interested in the project," Sinclair said. "We're working out some of the details with him."

A spokesman for Dylan did not return a call seeking comment.

The film, which has been in development for about a year, would feature Dylan in the role of Jack Fate, a troubadour who is brought out of prison by his former manager for one last concert.

It is uncertain whether Dylan would write new music for the feature. But some old tracks could be used in a scene where the lead character performs with his band, Sinclair said.

Shooting is scheduled to begin in June.

Dylan's last starring role came in the 1987 Warner Bros. release "Hearts of Fire." He also costarred in Sam Peckinpah's 1973 western "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid."

Developer unveils plans for new desert community

By The Associated Press

THOUSAND PALMS — The dream of developing a new desert community of 7,000 homes, a high-tech center and a university may be just that, say experts.

Project developers unveiled plans Tuesday for the proposed 9,000-acre Joshua Hills community northeast of Palm Springs.

The \$5 billion project, scheduled to begin construction in 2004, also would include 12 golf courses, resort hotels and a trade center.

But growth analysts and environmental activists say the project may be stopped before it ever gets started because of its location between Joshua Tree National Park and the Coachella Valley Preserve.

"It's urban sprawl at its worst," said Sierra Club spokeswoman Joan Taylor. "The consultants and the attorneys will make a lot of money but nothing ever happen in this location."

The proposed development also would face stiff competition from other regions to lure business, said Michael Bazdarich, an economist and director of the Forecast Center at the University of California, Riverside.

But backers of the plan dismiss environmental and economic concerns, saying the project would create thousands of

jobs, attract research firms and draw trade experts, students and visitors from around the world.

"It'll become the single largest economic engine in the history of the Coachella Valley," said Michael Bracken, executive director of the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership.

Project developer Richard Oliphant, whose California Intelligent Communities firm is heading up the project, said the Joshua Hills development will protect a wildlife corridor between the two preserves.

Lead planner Marvin Roos said the project's plans also address traffic, noise and water concerns. The 12 proposed golf courses would consume about 6 million gallons of water a day.

Built over a decade or more, Joshua Hills would accommodate more than 7,000 full-time residents, a university enrollment of 15,000 plus guests and seasonal residents. The project includes plans for shopping areas, public schools, a utility cooperative and emergency services, Oliphant said.

World Trade Center University, which has offered classes through the Internet, would anchor the development. It would eventually serve 15,000 students, said Al Palmiotto, dean of academic affairs for the 6-year-old online university in Washington, D.C.

Academy posts final ballots for Oscar voters

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS — Final ballots have gone out to voters for next month's Academy Awards.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences mailed ballots Wednesday to about 4,300 members living in California. Ballots to members who live outside of California went out last week.

Voters must return ballots by 5 p.m., March 19, to the academy's auditing firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers, which will tabulate the results.

This year, PricewaterhouseCoopers veteran ballot partner Greg Garrison will be joined by Rick Rosas, the 11th Oscar ballot partner in the firm's 67-year association with the awards. Rosas replaces Lisa Pierozzi, who left PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Before winners are announced March 24, Garrison and Rosas will be the only two people who know the Oscar results. On Oscar night, they each will carry briefcases with sealed envelopes containing the winners' names and will be driven to the show in separate cars under armed guard.



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ENTERTAINMENT

'O Brother' soundtrack wins; U2 gets record of the year

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES — Oldtime country and neosoul were the big winners at Wednesday's Grammy ceremony, with the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack winning five awards and R&B newcomer

Alicia Keys winning four.

The "O Brother" soundtrack scored a surprise victory by beating Keys and U2 for album of the year. The album that country music radio shunned also earned producer of the year for the man who conceived it, T Bone Burnett.

It proved there is an audience for tradi-

tional country music, Burnett said.

"Everybody thought I was insane," he said.

Keys, whose debut disc "Songs in A Minor" dazzled critics and fans with its sassy soul and classical influences, was named best new artist. Her other awards included best R&B performance by a female for her No. 1 smash, "Fallin'," and best R&B album.

"I'd like to dedicate this to just thinking outside the box and not being afraid of who you are no matter what you do," the 21-year-old Keys said after winning for best rhythm 'n' blues album.

U2, which had a leading eight nominations, won three awards. After opening the telecast with "Walk On," the band walked off with best pop performance by duo or group, for their wistful song, "Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of."

"Being Irish, if you get eight nominations and got no awards they wouldn't let you back in the country," lead singer Bono joked. "So this is a public safety issue."

Host Jon Stewart poked fun at the show's increased security, pretending to set off a metal detector while walking on stage, and poignantly reminded the audience of how the world had changed since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Two large guards stripped him and left the comedian in his boxer shorts.

"Remember when security was tight because Eminem was going to sing with Elton John?" Stewart joked. "Those were the days, right?"

The folk country act Alison Krauss and Union Station won two awards, for best country performance by a group and best bluegrass album for "New Favorite."

"O Brother" won best compilation disc and garnered 75-year-old Ralph Stanley, who sung "O Death," best male country vocal, his first Grammy win. It also won the Soggy Bottom Boys the award for best country collaboration with vocals.

Traditional country also trumped more commercialized fare in the majority of the country field; "Timeless," a tribute disc to Hank Williams featuring Sheryl Crow,

Bob Dylan, Ryan Adams and others, won best country album; Dolly Parton won best female country vocal for "Shine," off her bluegrass disc "Little Sparrow"; and "The Lucky One," by Krauss and Union Station, won best country song.

Winners were Eve and Gwen Stefani, who won the inaugural best rap/sung collaboration for "Let Me Blow Ya Mind"; Sade, who won best pop vocal album for "Lovers Rock"; and best-selling rock group Linkin Park, which won best hard rock performance for "Crawling."

Canadian newcomer Nelly Furtado bested veterans like Sade and Janet Jackson with a win in the pop female vocal category.

"Cool! Highly unexpected," said a buoyant Furtado.

U2 won album of the year for 1987's "The Joshua Tree" and was vying for that award again Wednesday. Their disc, "All That You Can't Leave Behind" competed against India.Arie's "Acoustic Soul," OutKast's "Stankonia," Bob Dylan's "Love & Theft" and "O Brother Where Art Thou."

Though Keys' top-selling debut was shut out of the album of the year category, she did have a chance to take home the night's other top honor: record of the year.

Her No. 1 hit "Fallin'" was up against India.Arie's "Video," OutKast's "Ms. Jackson," Train's "Drops of Jupiter" and U2's "Walk On."

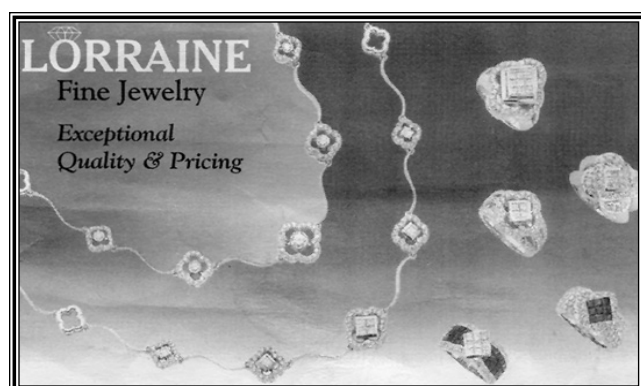
The hoopla of the ceremony was a temporary relief from the industry's headaches. Music sales for 2001 were down 5 percent, the first decline in more than a decade. Recording companies blame the slump mainly on free downloading from the Internet.

At the same time, some musicians are trying to win more rights for artists in relation to record companies; in particular, they're trying to repeal a California law that lets labels bind performer to contracts longer than seven years. On Tuesday night, the Eagles, Joel, Sheryl Crow, No Doubt and others gave four concerts around the Los Angeles area to raise funds and awareness for that cause.



Ric Francis/Associated Press

Patti LaBelle, center, joins the Lady Marmalade ladies Christina Aguilera, left front, Maya, left background, Lil'Kim, right front, and Pink, right background, as they rehearse, "Lady Marmalade" for the Grammy Awards Show at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. The song "Lady Marmalade," which Patti made famous, was recorded by the Lady Marmalade ladies for the movie Moulin Rouge.



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NATIONAL



Doomsday Clock moves closer to ‘nuclear war’ time

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The hands of the Doomsday Clock, a symbolic gauge of the threat of nuclear annihilation, were moved for the first time in nearly four years Wednesday because of the Sept. 11 attacks, increasing tension between India and Pakistan and other threats.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which keeps the clock, set the hands at 11:53, two minutes ahead of the time its had since 1998.

Stephen Schwartz, publisher of the Bulletin, said the board originally defined “midnight” as nuclear war. In recent years, however, it has been redefined as the use of nuclear weapons anywhere on earth, he said.

It was the 17th time the clock has been reset since it debuted in 1947 at the same position it was set to Wednesday.

George A. Lopez, the publication’s chairman of the board, said it has never been moved in response to a single event.

The Sept. 11 attacks combined with evidence that terrorists were attempting to obtain the materials for a crude nuclear weapon should have served as a wake-up call to the world. He said the world has

focused on short-term security rather than solving long-term problems.

“The international community simply hit the snooze button rather than raising the general alarm,” Lopez said.

He said such factors as the concern about the security of nuclear weapons materials stockpiled around the world and the crisis between nuclear powers India and Pakistan also figured into the decision.

The board started meeting in November, Bulletin spokesman Steve Koppes said, but did not reach a decision until recently “because of the uncertain nature of what is going on in the world.”

The clock is a 1 1/2-foot-square wooden mock-up in the magazine’s office at the University of Chicago. It was started two years after the bulletin began as a newsletter among scientists of the Manhattan Project — the top-secret U.S. effort during World War II to develop an atomic bomb.

It came closest to midnight — just two minutes away — in 1953, after the United States successfully tested the hydrogen bomb. It has been as far away as 17 minutes, set there in 1991 in a wave of post-Cold-War optimism.

Cash-strapped states ask employees to go without pay

BY STEVE LEBLANC

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — When the state urged welfare caseworker Jo Irvine to take two weeks off without pay, there wasn’t any question of whether to accept. Irvine knew if she didn’t, it would mean more layoffs.

“The only incentive was to save our co-workers’ jobs. We would never do this for any other reason,” said Irvine.

Irvine, 42, is one of more than 700 case-workers who are doing their part to help ease Massachusetts’ budget crunch by voluntarily taking unpaid furloughs or accepting early retirement. The welfare department said those measures will help close a \$3 million gap and avoid 160 layoffs.

“I’ll tighten the belt a little, but there’ll be food on the table,” said Irvine, who will receive three weeks of paid vacation in the new fiscal year as compensation.

From coast to coast, cash-strapped states are pressing employees to work extra hours for no pay, defer some of their wages, or take unpaid vacations — or furloughs — to help balance the budget.

States are, of course, also resorting to hiring freezes and layoffs. But furloughs are often seen as preferable to layoffs, in part because they can yield more immediate savings. Laid-off workers have to be given severance pay of six months or more in some cases.

“In the short term you spend more money on layoffs,” said Chye Calvo of the National Conference of State Legislatures. “You can also lose a lot of talented people.”

In New Jersey, state workers are being asked to voluntarily take unpaid furloughs of up to 90 days to help close an estimated \$2.9 billion deficit. The state also plans to lay off part-timers.

In Indiana, which is facing a budget

deficit projected to top \$1 billion by 2003, some agencies will ask employees to voluntarily work 30-hour weeks instead of the regular 37.5.

In Iowa, the state faces a \$120 million shortfall in this year’s budget and Republicans running the Legislature have proposed forcing most state workers to take one day a month off without pay, saving roughly \$13 million by the end of the budget year. Some workers would be exempted, including prison guards and hospital employees.

The University of South Carolina is weighing a plan to stretch the work week from 37 1/2 to 40 hours for about 2,300 support staff, including maintenance crews and office workers. Also, the state Senate is furloughing 113 employees for three days without pay.

Massachusetts welfare workers are being asked to volunteer to work two weeks and then defer their pay for up to four years.

Also, the state’s court system has asked employees to work eight days without immediate pay and either defer their wages to 2003 or take 12 days of paid vacation over the next year. Two unions pushed for the option.

“We knew around December that layoffs were coming,” said Mary Babic, spokesman for a Service Employees Union local that represents 2,500 court workers.

The unions criticized judges because few initially agreed to take the salary hit, despite their high pay and lifetime appointments. A majority of judges eventually agreed to defer eight days’ pay.

The courts also encouraged employees to seek early retirement, but in the end it was not enough to close a \$25 million shortfall. The courts are now preparing to lay off 200 employees.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Crowe loses temper after poem is cut from speech

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Actor Russell Crowe lost his temper with a television executive after his acceptance speech at the British Academy Film Awards was edited out of a delayed transmission, officials said Tuesday.

Crowe, 37, won best actor award for his role as a schizophrenic scientist in "A Beautiful Mind," and during his speech read a poem called "Sanctity," by the late Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh.

Crowe was unavailable for comment about reports of his outburst.

When television company Initial Productions edited out the poem for the British Broadcasting Corp.'s one-hour delayed telecast of the Baftas, Crowe was abusive to the show's director Malcolm Gerrie, the company said.

An Initial Productions spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said people were told three times that they must keep their speeches to a minimum because of time constraints. The spokesman said Crowe was not the only winner who was edited because his speech went long, and he noted that Crowe's speech is uncut in the international versions.

The decision to edit Crowe's speech was made in collaboration with the BBC, the spokesman said.

The Sun newspaper reported Tuesday that Crowe swore at Gerrie, 51, at the postawards dinner and pushed him against a wall.

Asked about the reports, a London-based spokeswoman for DreamWorks, one of the studios behind "A Beautiful Mind" had no comment.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts is Britain's leading organization for film, television, and interactive entertainment.

TORONTO — Michael Jackson's Neverland Entertainment is putting as much as \$20 million into a Montreal company that will operate a new movie production division called Neverland Pictures.

Mark Damon, chief executive of MDP Worldwide Entertainment Inc., said the deal announced Monday will allow MDP to produce major films with Jackson's involvement.

Jackson, who will become a major shareholder in MDP, has appeared in films including "The Wiz" and also intends to co-direct a film with Canadian filmmaker Bryan Michael Stoller.

According to Damon, Jackson will be a producer, actor and director for Neverland Pictures.

"Films have always been a passion for me," Jackson said in a statement. "There is nothing in the world like the magic captured forever in a time capsule like motion picture images."

Damon, an independent producer and distributor, has been involved in films including "9 1/2 Weeks," "Never Say Never Again," and "Prizzi's Honor."

He and Jackson were introduced by Raju Sharad Patel, Jackson's partner in Neverland Entertainment.

MDP is "in a stronger position because we've had a capital infusion by Michael Jackson and because his name will make our company so much more visible," Damon said.

LOS ANGELES — Elizabeth Taylor, who became a 12-year-old star in "National Velvet," is 70.

"I had a party last night," Taylor, who turned 70 on Wednesday, said Tuesday night. "I'm having one tomorrow. And I think I'll have one over the weekend."

Taylor has gone through eight marriages and seven divorces, one widowhood and several life-threatening illnesses.

"I feel like 45," she said. "I don't look too bad for someone my age, with my history of illnesses and operations and all those anesthetics. When they knock you out, it gives you time to catch up on your beauty sleep."

Being 70 is "no different from being 69," said Taylor, who won best-actress Oscars for "Butterfield 8" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

"It's a round number, and there's something about roundness that has always appealed to me."

As for future plans, she'll continue raising money to fight AIDS.

"AIDS is challenge enough until they find a cure," she said. "It's the challenge of a lifetime for anyone. And I'm not going to give up until there is a cure."

Taylor is also willing to do another movie, but added, "When you're 70, they figure you should be out to pasture."

The actress, who was born in London on Feb. 27, 1932, is happy to accept honors like the one bestowed by Queen Elizabeth II two years ago.

"You can call me Dame Elizabeth," she quipped. "I've been a broad all my life. Now I'm a dame."

DETROIT — Inez Andrews, Yolanda Adams and Lee Williams & The Spiritual QC's are among 10 inductees into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame & Museum for 2002.

The other inductees are Daryl Coley, Eula Jean Dunkin Hurley, the Rev. Cleophus Robinson, Bill and Gloria Gaither, Harold Smith and The Majestics, Charles Fold & The Charles Fold Singers, and Dr. Charles Hayes and The Cosmopolitan Church of Prayer Choir.

"This year's inductees represent some of the world's most accomplished gospel music artists and we are excited to be celebrating their lifetime achievements," founder David Gough said in a statement.

Fans were invited to vote on the Internet and by mail in ballots for up to 10 individuals, groups, choirs, radio personalities and promoters who have contributed at least 25 years to the growth and development of gospel music and entertainment.

The induction ceremony will be held Oct. 26 at the Marriott Hotel at downtown Detroit's Renaissance Center, Gough said Tuesday.

The Gospel Music Hall of Fame & Museum was founded in 1995.

NEW YORK — He's nominated for an Oscar for best director, but Robert Altman says some of the best moments in his films happened by accident.

"The best six, seven moments in any film that I've ever done have come from left field, or someplace that I

had nothing to do with them," the 77-year-old director said. "Suddenly it was just, 'Wow, what was that?'"

Altman is nominated for "Gosford Park." The other best-director contenders are Ron Howard, "A Beautiful Mind"; Ridley Scott, "Black Hawk Down"; Peter Jackson, "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring"; and David Lynch, "Mulholland Drive."

If he gives actors tips on how to play a scene, it ruins the spontaneity, Altman told reporters.

"That's why I don't talk to actors very much. I don't give direction. What I'm looking for is something I've never seen before, so how can I tell them what that is? So I just lay back and wait for the accidents to happen."

Altman, whose films include "M.A.S.H.," "Nashville" and "The Player," added, "If an actor comes to me and says, 'How do you want me to play this scene?' I'll say, 'Oh, are you comfortable in those shoes?' I'll do anything to avoid answering that question."

NEW YORK — NBC has extended "Late Night" host Conan O'Brien's contract for four more years in a deal that reportedly doubles his salary to nearly \$8 million a year.

It was more sweet vindication for O'Brien, who was almost fired after his disastrous start replacing David Letterman in 1993 but has since come to dominate his late-night time slot.

"Late Night" may soon be available to others besides insomniacs and adept tapers. As part of his new deal, NBC is in discussions to allow a cable network to rebroadcast his shows at an earlier hour.

NBC recently made a similar deal for Carson Daly's late-night talk show, which will be repeated on E! Entertainment Television. NBC has not said where O'Brien's show will air again, but a spokesman said it won't be on E!

NBC will also continue to help finance O'Brien's production company, Conaco, which has pilots under consideration for next fall at NBC and Fox.

The Fox network, which has been out of the late-night TV game for a couple of years, reportedly approached O'Brien, offering him a time slot an hour earlier than his current 12:35 a.m. start. O'Brien instead decided to stick with NBC.

"Conan is very loyal to NBC," said his manager, Gavin Polone. "His show is going well. That factored into his decision."

O'Brien wasn't talking Tuesday, except to release a prepared quip: "I'm very excited to be staying at NBC. By my 13th year, we should really know if this thing works or not."

His salary increase comes more than a month after his marriage: His wedding to ad executive Liza Powell, whom he met when she appeared on a skit in his show, took place in Seattle Jan. 12.

O'Brien's on-camera sidekick, Andy Richter, left "Late Night" two years ago and hasn't been replaced. Richter stars in a sitcom that will premiere on Fox this spring.

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A STEP AHEAD OF THE INDUSTRY

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U.S. seeks DNA samples from bin Laden's family

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government is seeking samples of DNA from Osama bin Laden's family to determine if human remains found in Afghanistan belong to the terrorist leader, law enforcement and other U.S. officials said Wednesday.

Remains have been collected from a number of locations, including the site of a Feb. 4 Predator missile strike on a meeting of suspected al-Qaida leaders, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government has been seeking the DNA samples from bin Laden's family for months and stepped up the effort following the CIA's Predator strike, one official said.

It is unclear exactly what avenues are being used. A State Department official said no request for DNA from bin Laden's family was delivered to Saudi Arabia through State Department channels. Nor was a senior military official aware of any such effort.

In theory, it wouldn't take much of a sample. A blood specimen, a scraping from the inside of the mouth, even a hair follicle could provide enough DNA for a match.

Who from bin Laden's family might provide a sample is also unclear, although

there are many candidates. While Osama bin Laden is believed to be the only child of the union of Mohammed Awad bin Laden and a Syrian woman, he has dozens of half-brothers and half-sisters.

Samples from his mother's side of the family could provide the most certain match, though those from his father's side could provide a close match as well.

Bin Laden's father, who is dead, had 54 children by several wives. The family runs a prominent construction conglomerate based in Saudi Arabia, and has publicly disowned Osama bin Laden for many years.

A New York spokesman for that part of bin Laden's family, Tim Metz, said he was unaware of the government making any formal request to family members for samples. He suggested samples could be obtained from hospitals or other sources.

Bin Laden's Syrian mother apparently now has little association with the bin Laden family. She is believed to live in Saudi Arabia and to have remarried and had children by that marriage.

Requests for DNA samples may be a culturally sensitive matter in Saudi Arabia, where family privacy is important.

U.S. officials suspect the three people killed by Feb. 4 Predator missile strike in

Do not pass go



Pier Paolo Cito/Associated Press

An Israeli army soldier shouts at a Palestinian man to backup as he was approaching the Kalandia checkpoint, south of Ramallah on Wednesday.

the Zavar Kili area of eastern Afghanistan were terrorists, but some Afghans say the strike killed innocent scavengers.

The U.S. officials say the heavy security and deferential treatment given a central figure suggest it may have been an al-Qaida leadership meeting.

On Wednesday, Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the military has obtained DNA samples

from remains at the strike site but he did not know if the government has sought DNA from bin Laden's family.

The DNA collection effort isn't simply to determine who died in the Predator strike; other remains found after U.S. bombing in Afghanistan have yet to be identified as well, one official said.

Defense officials have said for months that they are unsure if bin Laden is dead or alive.

Muslim attackers burn train; killing Hindu nationalists

BY SIDDHARTH DARSHAN KUMAR
Associated Press Writer

GODHRA, India — Muslim attackers armed with stones and kerosene descended on a train carrying hundreds of Hindu nationalists on Wednesday, setting fire to four cars and killing 57 people.

Fourteen of the dead were children and 43 other people were injured, many critically, when a mob attacked the train as it pulled out of Godhra shortly after 6:30 a.m., Gujarat state officials said.

Fearing the attack would ignite sectarian riots, Indian officials immediately stepped up security across this vast, religiously divided nation. The prime minister urged Hindus not to retaliate.

The nationalists belonged to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, or World Hindu Council, a group seeking to build a temple at the disputed holy site of Ayodhya. Ten years ago, fighting between Muslims and Hindus over Ayodhya killed 2,000 people.

Most of the 2,500 Hindu activists on board the Sabarmati Express were returning from Ayodhya and were bound for Ahmadabad, 95 miles to the south.

Smoke was still pouring from the train Wednesday

afternoon as relief workers gingerly removed the charred bodies, which were piled on top of one another, their limbs entangled.

State officials and witnesses said the Muslims appeared incensed by Hindu chanting on the railroad platform in Godhra.

The cars they destroyed were detached, and the train continued on to Vadodara, 60 miles to the south. There, a Hindu crowd that had gathered at the station fatally stabbed a man as he got off the train, hospital officials said. Several other people were beaten with sticks, they said.

Later Wednesday in Godhra, a 17-year-old boy was killed when police fired shots and tear gas to disperse mobs looting shops and setting them ablaze, officials said.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee called on Hindu nationalists not to retaliate. "We need to protect Indian brotherhood at every cost," said Vajpayee, who canceled a trip to Australia for a Commonwealth summit after the attack.

Uttar Pradesh state officials said 3,000 paramilitary troops were sent to Ayodhya to help police seal off the

town. Only residents with passes were allowed in.

Most of Godhra was placed under curfew Wednesday night.

Gujarat Home Minister Gordhan Zadaphia said security was tightened in Muslim areas of the state, and that police were ordered to shoot on sight to prevent rioting.

"It is clear from the statements of survivors that the attack was carried out by local people belonging to the Muslim community and, for this reason, because of chances of retaliation, we have already instructed our police officers to arrange special security cover for the Muslim population," Zadaphia said.

Police also deployed extra patrols in cities where Muslims and Hindus live in close quarters. In Old Delhi, the Muslim section of India's capital, security was tightened in the congested lanes of the ancient walled city.

The World Hindu Council alleged that the Godhra attackers were retaliating for its plans to build a temple in Ayodhya. Hindus razed a 16th-century Muslim mosque at the site a decade ago, sparking the deadly nationwide riots that killed more than 2,000 people.

The council called a statewide general strike on Thursday.

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 - 14 Found lodging
 - 15 Got more energetic
 - 17 Delight
 - 18 Shaving goofs
 - 22 Tea accompaniment
 - 24 — Lama
 - 25 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
 - 26 Traveler's stop
 - 27 Diner offering
 - 30 Sleeveless garments
 - 32 Crowd scene player
 - 33 Sphere
 - 34 Free
 - 38 Deceived
 - 41 Angel's topper
 - 42 Went fishing
 - 43 Tabriz's nation
 - 44 Bets
 - 45 Anxious
- DOWN**
- 1 Memo letters
 - 2 Vase item
 - 3 Over-priced business
 - 4 Bestow lavishly
 - 5 Deck unit
 - 6 In the neighborhood of
 - 7 Perfect place
 - 8 Tot up
 - 9 Before, in odes
 - 10 Turf
 - 16 Needle hole
 - 19 Pollster's aid
 - 20 Role for Welles
 - 21 Moral no-nos
 - 22 Mall come-on
 - 23 Main feature
 - 28 Phone part
 - 29 Tea party attendee
 - 30 Dove call
 - 31 Jughead's pal
 - 35 Auction actions
 - 36 Metal dross
 - 37 Theater award
 - 38 Bar concern
 - 39 One — million
 - 40 Meringue base

R	I	D	S		V	A	L	E	T	S
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Yesterday's answer

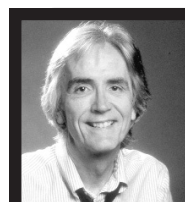
- 20 Role for Welles
- 21 Moral no-nos
- 22 Mall come-on
- 23 Main feature
- 28 Phone part
- 29 Tea party attendee
- 30 Dove call
- 31 Jughead's pal
- 35 Auction actions
- 36 Metal dross
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- 38 Bar concern
- 39 One — million
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44							45			

2-28

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

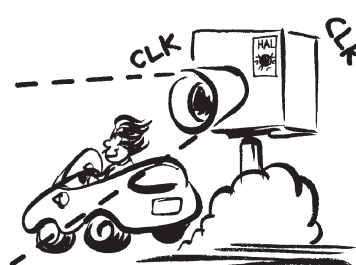
Board game requires corrupted strategy

- Under Oregon's system of grading its public schools' performance, 99 percent scored satisfactory or better last year, including schools in which half to two-thirds of students failed state reading and math tests.
- Former Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic, still being hunted by the United Nations for war crimes, published a book of poetry, "From the Crazy Spear to the Black Fairy Tale" (January).
- In the new "Dibbles and Dollars" board game, on sale in prominent stores in England, players earn money-points by selling drugs and bribing the police, and can actually draw a card that awards them about \$250,000 in points for kidnapping a young blond-haired girl (December).



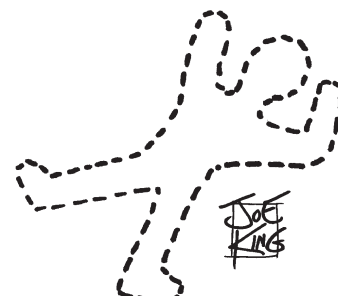
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BACK PAGE

Some say new building will be bad feng shui

By The Associated Press

SAUSALITO, Calif. — A new public safety building is on the ballot in this upscale Marin County town, but some say it just won't do because it's simply bad feng shui.

Come Tuesday, voters in the quaint waterfront town will decide whether the \$7.8 million, 22,500-square-foot police and fire building fits into the ancient Chinese art of placing things to ensure a harmonious energy flow.

Advisory Measure B will be on the ballot, and those opposing the new facility have gone before the City Council to pitch their arguments.

"If you put that up, it will be bad feng shui!" said Nancy Bennett, an expert called to testify against construction. "They are cutting off the mouth of Qi."

The building would extend 242 feet across one of the main streets in town, incorporating the old police and fire stations. The police have been working out of portable trailers for seven years and the fire house is not seismically sound.

But feng shui aside, some residents object to the building, saying it will injure the neighborhood's charm and character.

"It's so huge, it looks more like a mall building," said John Ferrell, of Citizens for Alternative Public Safety Structures. "It certainly does not retain the village-like quality of Sausalito. It belongs in a much bigger city."

"It's so huge, it looks more like a mall building. It certainly does not retain the village-like quality of Sausalito. It belongs in a much bigger city."

— JOHN FERRELL

Citizens for Alternative Public Safety

City officials understand residents' concerns but say something has to be done to improve the police force's working environment.

"My concern is that if we don't build this, we will lose the police force," said Vice Mayor Amy Belser. "How

long are they going to wait in these trailers? If this is not built, there is no guarantee that we will come to any agreement on what will be built. The opposition does not have a plan."

\$1M bake-off prize goes to sandwich for first time ever

By The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. —

An accountant was awarded the \$1 million top prize Wednesday in the Pillsbury Quick & Easy Bake-off for Chicken Florentine Panini, the first winning sandwich.

The entry was among 100 finalists in the baking competition, which has been held for 53 years.

The sandwich is made with refrigerated pizza crust, sauteed chicken breasts, spinach and garlic-flavored mayonnaise.

The winner, Denise Yennie, of Nashville, Tenn., will also receive kitchen appliances worth \$5,000. A certified public

accountant, Yennie said she will use the prize to finance her business consulting company.

The grand prize winner is selected from four \$10,000 category winners.

Yennie's entry won the Luscious & Lighter Main and Side Dish category.

Mille Meehan of Richmond, Va., won the Easy Weeknight Meals category for her Bow-Thai Chicken; S. Lea Mead of San Mateo, Calif., won the Fast & Fabulous Desserts & Treats category for her Grands Little Pies; and Pat Murphy of Modesto, Calif., won the Casual Snacks & Appetizers category for his Mexican Party Wings.

Red ketchup is out; pink is in

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Apparently committed to more colorful meals, the folks who brought you purple and green ketchup are ready with three more colors: Pink, orange and teal.

H.J. Heinz Company in late April will roll out a limited supply of one million EZ Squirt bottles, each camouflaging one of three new colors of ketchup inside.

Buyers won't know, until they squirt it on a burger or fries, which color they have. Customer reaction will help

decide which of the three becomes Heinz' new permanent hue and is added to the current palette of red, green and purple.

The Pittsburgh-based company figures that, by producing only a limited amount of the mystery bottles, they'll fly off the shelves, reproducing the buzz that accompanied the creation of green and purple ketchup in recent years.

Adding more colors is widely viewed as an attempt to give kids even more say over their parents' grocery store lists.



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