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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Local retailer sweating over workers' claims

Forever 21 sued after workers claim sweatshop conditions

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A local retailer is defending itself in court against claims that it sells clothing produced in area sweatshops.

Forever 21, a retailer of women's and junior's clothing in the Santa Monica Place shopping mall, has been sued by 19 Latino garment workers who worked in six Los Angeles-area sweatshops.

The workers, both legal and illegal immigrants, claim they were paid less than minimum wage, weren't paid for overtime and worked in unhealthy conditions.

The Garment Worker Center, which is an independent Los Angeles-based non profit organization, has enlisted several local Green Party politicians to help fight against Forever 21. Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein and Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown have signed a boycott

against the retailer. Other signatories are Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg and Los Angeles City Council member Eric Garcetti.

"We were never a direct employer. They should have sued the right people."

— CHRIS LEE
Forever 21 spokesman

The Westside Greens will meet next week to hear several garment workers' stories and more about their planned protest in Santa Monica, which is scheduled for March 10 at Broadway Avenue and Third Street. The Forever 21 store at Santa Monica Place is one of a chain of more than 100 stores in the United States.

Forever 21 spokesman Chris Lee said the claims are meritless. The workers were employed by subcontractors who were hired by the manufacturers who make the clothing his company buys, Lee said.

"We were never a direct employer," he said. "They should have sued the right people."

Lee said he could not reveal who the subcontractors are because of the pending lawsuit, which asks that workers receive back pay and better work conditions. However, he added that he admires Garment Worker Center, but added that it is barking up the wrong tree by alleging Forever 21 mistreats its employees.

"They have a great cause," he said. "But they are hurting us in the public, picketing the owner's house, our stores ... they are basically trying to ruin us financially."

But the workers claim they are the ones being financially harmed.

"At first they promised that I would be paid \$300 to \$350 per week, but when I went to pick up my first paycheck it was only for \$250 even though I had put in extra

See FOREVER 21, page 3



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Student art hangs above the food court area at the Focus Art Gallery in the Santa Monica Place Mall.

Students art work reflects events of September 11th

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The terrorist attacks Sept. 11th in New York and Washington D.C. reached westside children 3,000 miles away, culminating in expressive artwork and poems.

Work from students in Santa Monica, Culver City and Los Angeles is currently on display at the Focus Art Gallery in the Santa Monica Place Mall until

March 25.

The art work, done by students from ages eight to 18, reflects everything from images of the World Trade Center towers to patriotic symbols of American flags and the Statue of Liberty.

"It's time for us to pray for all the thousands we lost that day," wrote Kenny Cogo, 17, of Culver City High School on September 11th. "We bow

See ART, page 3

Two wells ready to re-open

City says drinking water now free of MtBE and ready for residents

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Six years after they were shut down because of contamination by a suspected cancer-causing chemical, two of Santa Monica's drinking water wells are scheduled to begin pumping again within weeks.

Water from the Arcadia wells, located 100 feet south of the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Bundy Drive, has been running through a city water treatment facility for a year and has been clear of Methyl tertiary-Butyl Ether, or MtBE, said Bob Harvey, a chemist at the water treatment plant.

The city is now in the process of obtaining a permit from the state of California that will allow it to use that water, Harvey said. The state has approved an operating plan for the city's water treatment facility, but it hasn't allowed the city to begin using water from it.

"Probably it will take another couple of weeks," Harvey said.

In 1996, seven of the city's wells tested positive for MtBE, a colorless chemical that at very low concentrations in water smells like turpentine and is a suspected carcinogen. The wells were closed while officials investigated the extent and source of the contamination, which was eventually determined to have come from a nearby gas station.

Once the permit is issued, the treated

water will be blended with other groundwater and treated again before it is distributed to Santa Monica residents, officials said.

Before the contamination was discovered, the city imported only 20 percent of its daily water supply and produced the rest from its wells.

Now Santa Monica must import 80 percent of its water from other sources, mainly from the Metropolitan Water District. The opening of the two Arcadia wells will be able to provide 10 percent of the city's water, or about 300 gallons per minute, officials said.

"It's a small portion of our water supply," Harvey said. "The others are still closed down from pollution and, in the scope of things, the other wells put out five to six thousand gallons per minute."

On an average day, Santa Monica uses 13 million gallons of water.

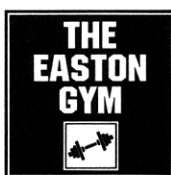
Another set of drinking water wells, located in Mar Vista and known as the Charnock wells, also were shut down in 1996 because of MtBE contamination. They continue to sit idle while the city pursues litigation against 18 refiners, manufacturers and suppliers of MtBE and MtBE-laden gasoline.

The MtBE contamination in the Arcadia wells was traced to a Mobile gas station at the corner of Wilshire and Bundy. The station's underground storage tanks leaked gasoline into the water table, which seeped into the wells.

"It was just a regular gas station," said Gil Balboa, a utilities manager for the city, "and it has taken all this time to design and implement a treatment plant to clean the water."

The levels were found to be at 70 parts per

See WELLS, page 3



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HOROSCOPE

Scorpio, take off ASAP!



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You decide to spend some funds in order to make some. You're remarkably driven. Your family and home take precedence. Prepare to focus on a domestic or personal issue. Unusual communication comes through Aquarius. Tonight: Go along with plans.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Mars moves into your sign, adding an unusual vitality or direction. Recognize what you want, and zero in on that. Make your first priority your day-to-day life. After that, take a hard look at what you want. A parent or boss shares his or her perspective. Tonight: Mosey on home.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Use your creativity. Expenses could go out of whack if you're not careful. You have a devil-may-care attitude right now, which could be fun, but later it might be problematic. Listen to someone's opinion. Tonight: Do exactly what you want.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Jupiter goes direct in your sign. You might want a little more control, but right now an impetuous attitude takes over. Take action in the next few days on a long-desired goal. Your timing works. Do listen to a partner's feedback. Tonight: Happy at home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You enter a cycle where you can clear out many of the negatives in your life that have gone on far too long. You might not opt to take action today, but in the next few months. You enter a new life cycle in August and will want to jump on many opportunities. Tonight: Join friends.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Finances preoccupy the Virgin. In the next few weeks, something you really want could become a reality. Don't kid yourself about funds. Create a money reserve. Carefully review a problem with others in a meeting. Tonight: Do errands first.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You're empowered by the moon. You could be heading in every direction, especially at work. A career option appears on the horizon. Be ready to jump on it. An emotional opportunity also could appear. Tonight: Wind down with friends.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ Slow down first. How you see a situation could change as a result of someone's overwhelming reaction. Remember this. Get insight into this person and what he or she is about. Review a personal matter with care. Don't leap to any conclusions. Tonight: Take off ASAP.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Where a partner or associate has been reticent, his or her tune will change today or in the near future. Don't ask how, why or what. Just accept your good fortune and run with the ball. Gather others together in an important meeting. Tonight: Celebrate the good luck that is heading your way.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You finally make the impact you desire with a group or one specific person. Instead of getting the "deaf ear," now you find a highly responsive person. Move on a career matter right now. Charge more creativity into your thinking. Tonight: Someone awaits.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Detach from the immediate and eye the long term. Your decisions have an impact on your career and well-being. Don't take someone for granted. Recognize what is happening here. Add more lightness to a situation involving a family matter. Tonight: Follow the music.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might be more abrupt than you realize, drawing a strong reaction from someone. You also might not be sure of what to do. Jupiter goes direct involving your romance, creativity and risk-taking. Go with spontaneity. Tonight: Play along with a loved one.



QUOTE of the DAY

**"Never miss the chance to have sex
or appear on television."**

— Gore Vidal

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LOCAL



Protest against local retailer planned for next week

FOREVER 21, from page 1

hours in overtime," said Araceli Castro, a former employee who sewed clothing for Forever 21. "My boss claimed that she would pay me more when there was more work, but she never did."

Garment Worker Center spokeswoman Kimi Lee said the organization opened a hotline three or four months ago for garment workers to air their grievances. Kimi Lee said a few people from several different factories throughout Los Angeles came forward with the same claims about Forever 21. She said they didn't know

each other and came forward individually.

After the organization learned of the claims, it tried to work with Forever 21, but the two sides were unable to come to an agreement. Forever 21 maintained it wasn't the direct employer and no evidence could be found to prove otherwise.

"They said they didn't know who the subcontractors were," Lee said. "Obviously it's your business so you should know who is working for you."

There are 140,000 garment workers in Los Angeles, making it the largest city in the country for clothing production.

Arcadia wells provide ten percent of city's water

WELLS, from page 1

million, well above the state's mandatory limit.

The state has since banned MtBE for use as an additive in gasoline.

Exxon, which merged with Mobile last year, paid to clean up the damage and built the city a water treatment plant, which is

located where the gas station used to be.

Getting all the wells online again should be considered a serious security issue for the city, Harvey said.

"If an earthquake hits and we lose our (outside) water supply, we would have to turn the contaminated wells back on or go completely without water," he said.

Child's plea: 'Heal the world'

ART, from page 1

our heads down in sorrow, praying for a better tomorrow."

But reflection wasn't limited to just high school students.

Some kindergarten classes had their students draw pictures of what they saw on television and heard at home. Then they were asked to write what they hoped would happen in the future.

One child drew a picture of the school he attends with an American flag flying out front and an airplane flying overhead.

Underneath that, Jackson Koerber, 8, of Santa Monica wrote, "America is the land of the free and I am glad to be an American. No more wars, no more killing, no more fighting, for we are Americans."

Koerber ended his writing simply with, "Heal the world."

Shortly after the terrorist attacks, Jackie Wolf, the exhibit's curator, called art teachers at area schools and asked if their students' work expressed what was going on

in current events. Collectively, she gathered over 250 pieces and had to whittle that number down to the 40 that are on display today.

"We wanted to show the children's point of view on the events," Wolf said. "Some of this was done by children the day of the events, and some was done weeks afterwards. But all the pieces really show the impact this had on students."

None of the art work will be sold, and all the pieces will eventually be returned to their creators. However, Wolf said after the exhibit finishes its run in Santa Monica, it may move to a location in San Diego.

"Even the little kids did a great job," Wolf said.

The purpose of healing art is to give people who typically do not have a strong voice in the community a chance to express themselves, she said. Her next exhibit will deal with the pressures veterans of the Vietnam War felt when they returned home.



CrimeWatch

'Good police work' nabs three thieves red-handed

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica police caught three Los Angeles men in the act early Thursday after they broke into a car.

At 3:40 a.m., while stationed on 12th Street between Idaho Avenue and Washington Avenue, officers watched two of the suspects placing items in the back of a parked vehicle. The vehicle then pulled away from the curb and headed north with its lights off.

Police pulled over the vehicle a few blocks later and recovered stolen merchandise from at least five auto thefts that had occurred that night, said Lt. Frank Fabrega a spokesman. The suspects allegedly smashed car windows to gain access to the vehicles.

The suspects are Leonardo Perez Camacho, 21; Carlos Guerrero, 20; and David Bantista Dominguez, 30.

Officers routinely patrol an area of the city where illegal activity may be likely.

"It was good police work on their part," Fabrega said of the arresting officers.

■ An armed robber got away with cash and clothes from a San Vicente store last week after he pulled a gun on employees.

At roughly 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 20, a man entered Dunagrees on the 2500 block of San Vicente and began talking to the store's employees. The man then displayed a handgun and demanded money from the cash register and the employees.

The suspect made off with \$150 in cash and \$418 worth of merchandise. Police say the suspect is Hispanic, 5 feet 8 inches tall, 170 pounds and about 24 years old with a mole on the left side of his mouth.

■ A man had his backpack stolen out from underneath him while standing at the corner of Main Street and Ashland one afternoon last week.

Police responded to a robbery at 3:45p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17. The victim said he placed his backpack on an outside

table and went inside a business. When he came out, the suspect was standing next to his backpack. The victim asked what he was doing and the suspect yelled at him, grabbed the backpack, pushed the victim, and fled on foot.

■ A Dominos pizza delivery man was stripped of his money and pizza pies after two men threatened him with a weapon.

At 1 a.m. on Feb. 16, police were on a traffic stop at Euclid Avenue and Pico Boulevard when the delivery man approached them and said he'd just been robbed.

The victim reported he went to the 1400 block of 12th Street to deliver four large pizzas but was unable to find the customer. He went back to his car and was approached by two suspects who indicated they had a weapon and demanded the money in his pocket and the pizzas.

The victim lost about \$40 in cash plus the value of the pizzas.

The suspects are two male Hispanics, both roughly 5 feet 10 inches tall and in their 20s.

■ A man with a cane held off three armed assailants while in a beach bathroom.

On Feb. 15 at 3:27 p.m., police responded to the 1200 block of the beach where they found the victim. The victim told police he was in the bathroom three blocks down when three Hispanic men approached him, brandished a knife, and threatened to assault him. The victim raised his cane and told them to leave him alone. They did.

The suspects are described as three male Hispanics. One in his 40s, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 210 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. Another in his 30s, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 160 pounds with black hair, and the other in his 30's, 5 feet 6 inches tall with a medium build.

"I think art has a way of helping people, both for those who are creating and for those who are just looking," Wolf said. "It can be a real cathartic experience. It takes us out of our heads and puts us into our hearts."

The Community Focus Gallery is located at the right-hand side of the Third Street entrance of the mall. The space, which is shared with seating from food court restaurants, isn't very large, but many people

pass through it daily.

"It might seem strange to have something like this in a mall, but everybody comes through here," Wolf said. "It opens up this world to people who normally wouldn't go to a gallery or tourists who are just passing through."

For more information on Healing Art or to find ways you can help, go to www.healingthruart.com.



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Measure U has its supporters

I'm grateful for an opportunity to inform Santa Monica Daily Press readers about Measure U, a bill that would fund safety and modernization improvements at Santa Monica College that will appear on the Tuesday, March 5, primary ballot.

As we head into this final weekend, I'm proud to tell you that our volunteers and campaign staff have spoken to more than 25,000 Santa Monica and Malibu residents about Measure U; our students and faculty have addressed more than 50 community groups, providing information and answering questions.

I'd like to share their observations about Measure U with you:

"One hundred percent of the money raised by Measure U stays in Santa Monica and Malibu — available to Santa Monica and Malibu students forever. Not one dime leaves our community," said City of Santa Monica Councilmember Herb Katz.

"Our students deserve to attend classes in buildings that are earthquake safe," said housing activist and architect Ralph Mechur.

Louise Jaffe, past PTA president, offers the following thoughtful response about Measure U: "Since September 11, there's been a lot of flag-waving and a lot of talk about things Americans can be proud of. For me, Santa Monica College definitely makes the list: an institution of first class higher learning that invites, welcomes, and supports the full community — regardless of race, ethnicity, economic status, gender, age, or achievement — in pursuing their personal interests, goals, and dreams through learning."

Joyce Jurin, Chair of the Emeritus College Advisory Board Policy Committee, echoes Louise: "Emeritus means so much to our students and gives focus and meaning to their lives every day — intellectually, physically, and in terms of mental health and social involvement. I fully support the efforts to give Emeritus College a home and I want Measure U to pass. My committee members who live in Santa Monica join me in this express of support."

The college bond measure has been reviewed by the Editorial Board of the Santa Monica Mirror. Here is their conclusion: "We support Measure U and urge District voters to approve it because (1) in concert with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and area private schools, SMC gives our children wide-ranging educational opportunities at very low cost; (2) it offers residents of all ages access to a rich college curriculum as well as vital vocational training at the same low cost; (3) its presence in the community enriches it in both tangible and intangible ways; (4) it fuels the local economy; and (5) it is in need of major renovations if it is to maintain and continue to improve

the quality and diversity of its curriculum."

Our own State Senator Sheila James Kuehl, a Santa Monica resident, has not only endorsed Measure U, but has this to say: "Measure U will make it possible for Santa Monica College to continue offering outstanding services to our community for years to come."

Beth Shir Sholom's Rabbi Neil Commes-Daniel, St. Anne's Father Michael Gutierrez, A Church That Studies (ACTS)'s Rev. Joe Metoyer, Church in Ocean Park's Rev. Sandie Richards, St. Monica's Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson, First AME Church By The Sea's Rev. Ron Williams, and First Presbyterian's Rev. Bill Wood have not only endorsed Measure U, but appear together in our campaign literature to emphasize its importance to our community's youth and families.

Guest Commentary By Dr. Piedad Robertson

We spoke before the Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education in January at their invitation. The board adopted the following resolution unanimously: "Whereas Santa Monica College modernization and facility improvements will be viewed as an investment in the welfare of the entire lifelong learning community; and whereas Santa Monica College has long been a valued partner with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in defining the superior educational landscape of our communities; therefore be it resolved that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education SUPPORTS Measure U."

We met with the executive board of the Santa Monica Parent-Teachers' Association in early February in an extended conversation about Measure U that included facility improvements and a discussion about traffic and safety. We received the unanimous endorsement of this group.

We met yet again with the Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs, the full governing body for the PTA, and received a commendation for our immediate actions to improve traffic flow and parking opportunities for parent drop-off near our neighboring schools. The Council of PTAs provided us again with a unanimous endorsement: "Santa Monica Malibu PTA Council strongly supports Measure U."

In late February, we met with the editor of the Malibu Times, and received the endorsement of the Malibu Times' editor Arnold York in this week's issue: "I strongly support Measure U. This is the way a bond ought to be written. It's a bond for specific projects, all of

which are local. The money can't be used for administrators' salaries. It requires annual performance audits to ensure that funds have only been spent on approved projects. It requires an annual financial audit. It requires an independent oversight committee from a cross section of the community. There is a cap on how much can be assessed in any year and it's paid locally. It proves the Legislature knows how to write a good bond and it's totally different than the pork barrel bond called Proposition 40. Most of all, it's a one-timer to fix what many think is long overdue, and the college district hasn't and won't be coming to us again and again for more money."

We have met with the Chamber of Commerce in Santa Monica and have received their unanimous endorsement. We have met with the Chamber of Commerce in Malibu and received their unanimous endorsement. We have met with the Malibu Board of Realtors and received their unanimous endorsement. We have received the endorsement of ACTION, the Santa Monica-based apartment owner's association. We have received the unanimous endorsement of the Rent Control Board. We have received strong and vocal support from the leadership of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights. We have received the endorsement of the members of the Commission on Older Americans. We have received the endorsement of the Santa Monica Democratic Club. We have received the endorsement of our collective bargaining units on our own campus, the Faculty Association and CSEA, and the endorsements of our shared governance units, including the Academic Senate, the Classified Senate, and the Management Association. We have received the endorsement of our General Advisory Board, made up of 170 members of our local community, and the endorsement of the SMC Foundation, and independent board of College supporters.

And finally, and of great symbolic importance, we have received the support of the Associated Students at SMC. Let me end with SMC student Jeff Gordon's words. Jeff is the current student body president at the College and a tireless worker for the campaign: "I was born and raised in Santa Monica, and my mother, uncle, aunt and sister all went to SMC before transferring to UCLA. Measure U offers us an opportunity, as Santa Monica residents, to say thanks to the college for what it's done."

Please vote "Yes" on Measure U on Tuesday, March 5. Every vote is important. Thank you for your time.

Dr. Piedad Robertson is the president of Santa Monica College.

LETTERS

Spiritual man: Was it worth the trip?

Editor:

The city of Santa Monica has tripped me up one time too many. Having fallen, and not been able to get up on a number of occasions last week's mishap was the last straw. As I sprawled flat on my stomach, having tripped over an uneven pavestone and having had witnesses and a camera, it seemed to me that if I did not draw their attention to the condition of the street nobody else would.

After the swelling had subsided and my nerves had gone back to the spiritual condition of tranquility that I am usually in, I decided to take it to the city. I spent over two hours talking to clerks in departments who said it was not their responsibility and finally I screamed down the line "No, do not put me on hold while you find out what department I should be speaking with, I REALLY SHOULD BE SPEAKING TO MY LAWYER" and with that I threw down the phone and I thought the towel, as well.

Frankly I did not think I would hear from the city on this matter again. Today however, there are men with tar-mac stuff covering cracks and holes and broken pavement pieces in the street. The question is did I get my message over? Was it worth the trip?

Mo Potok
Santa Monica

Landmarks letter writer misheard

Editor:

Seriously inflammatory misinformation about the scope of the Landmarks Commission's responsibility to review and approve changes to buildings in Historic Districts is asserted in Gregory Poirier's 02/26/02 letter to the editor headed "Be careful of historic district proposal." I live in the Third Street Neighborhood District and was one of many homeowners and tenants who cooperated to seek designation as an Historic district in 1990. I am familiar with the ordinance designating the district. It does NOT give the Landmarks Commission control over "any" inside or outside changes to buildings in a district.

The Landmarks Commission absolutely does NOT have a review and approval responsibility for interior changes to buildings in a Historic District (although other city agencies do if building permits are involved). The Landmarks Commission absolutely does NOT have review or approval responsibility for "any" exterior changes. The ordinance which designates an Historic District spells out which changes do not require approval at all and which require staff approval. Folks who are interested in knowing the difference should get and read a copy of the Third Street Historic District Ordinance so Mr. Poirier's letter does not needlessly panic them.

No one from the Third Street Historic District was forced to have paint or shingles removed from her property at the Feb. 11, 2002 Landmarks Commission meeting or at any other time. I was at the Feb. 11, 2002 Landmarks Commission meeting. Mr. Poirier misheard and misinterpreted a discussion about another city altogether.

Preserving and protecting the best of our neighborhoods and our past for all Santa Monicans to enjoy is a valuable and legitimate public function. The Landmarks Commission is entrusted with that task. I encourage citizens who care about their community and a considered balance between the public good and private property use rights to get themselves informed about how Santa Monica, other cities, California and other states, and our federal government handle issues of preservation of historic resources. A good place to start would be to read materials made available by the Landmarks commission, including the Santa Monica Landmarks Ordinance and the Third Street Neighborhood Historic District Ordinance.

Beatrice H. Nemlaha
*Third Street Neighborhood Historic District
Santa Monica*

STATE



Autopsy confirms body is that of missing San Diego girl

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — An autopsy confirmed Thursday that the body of a child found by a rural roadside is that of 7-year-old Danielle van Dam, who allegedly was abducted from her San Diego home nearly a month ago.

Based upon a comparison between the missing girl's dental records and X-rays taken from the body, "the identification of Danielle van Dam was made certain," San Diego County District Attorney Paul Pfingst said Thursday.

The cause or time of death could not immediately be determined, and authorities said there was a chance they may never know due to the body's state of decomposition. Further examinations were underway.

Police Chief David Bejarano informed Danielle's parents, Brenda and Damon van Dam, of the confirmation shortly before it was announced publicly. The couple did not speak with reporters Thursday.

"They mentioned that Danielle's in good hands now," said Bejarano, who called it one of the most difficult notifications he has ever made. "There's a lot of tears and a lot of anger at dealing with the loss of their daughter."

Both the police chief and the district attorney thanked the volunteers whose unflagging efforts helped find Danielle's body Wednesday in a remote area 25 miles east of San Diego. Searchers covered a vast search area that stretched from the ocean to the desert.

"It has been one of the most extraordinary things I have seen in my years of law enforcement," Pfingst said. "They found that needle in a haystack."

Danielle disappeared after her father put her to bed Feb. 1 in her family's north San Diego home. She was discovered missing the next morning. A neighbor, David Westerfield, 50, was charged Tuesday with murder, kidnapping and possession of child pornography. He has pleaded innocent and is being held without bond.

Authorities said they found traces of Danielle's blood in Westerfield's motor

home and on an article of his clothing.

The self-employed engineer spent the weekend of Danielle's disappearance traveling around San Diego County in his motor home, stopping in the desert east of the city.

A hunch led volunteers to the area where Danielle's body was found about 2:15 p.m. Wednesday. The remote road was one Westerfield might have taken the weekend Danielle disappeared, said Bill Garcia, a private detective who coordinated searches in the area.

"Someone who would try to evade or stay low-key would have picked that route," Garcia said.

Volunteers first checked the site Saturday but found nothing. Ten volunteers returned to the site Wednesday after investigators decided the area needed to be checked again. Searchers found the body about 25 feet from the road under a cluster of oak trees across from a sand mine.

Westerfield, a twice-divorced father of two grown children, has a 1996 drunken-driving conviction but no violent criminal history.

He has said he was at the same bar where Brenda van Dam was spending time with friends the night Danielle disappeared. Van Dam's husband was home with their daughter and two sons.

The van Dams' neighbors hoped for an end to what has been emotional ordeal for the community.

"As unlikely as it was, everybody was still harboring some hope that she was still alive," said Jane Hurst, who lives near the van Dams. "Now that's gone, and at least we can start dealing with that."

A memorial to Danielle was posted Thursday morning on a Web site dedicated to her recovery. A message on the site quoted singer Sarah McLachlan: "You're in the arms of the angel. May you find some comfort there."

Damon and Brenda van Dam on Thursday thanked volunteers whose unflagging efforts helped locate what authorities believe is the body of their daughter. They left a real estate office that served as a base of the searches without speaking to reporters.

Reports shows school crime up for third straight year

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Criminal and drug offenses on school campuses rose for the third straight year in California, a state report released Thursday showed.

The California Safe Schools Assessment conducted by state Department of Education showed that drug and alcohol offenses increased 32 percent, crimes against people jumped 16 percent and property crimes went up by 1 percent.

The fourth category, other crimes, dropped by 5 percent. Those crimes included bomb threats, trespassing and weapons possession.

Crimes against persons were the most frequently reported crimes in California public school campuses in 2000-01, with battery remaining the most common indi-

vidual crime reported. It jumped 18 percent from the previous year. Vandalism was the second most common crime reported, increasing by 8 percent.

In the report, Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin said that six years of collecting and reporting school crime data has allowed her office to see trends that indicate more must be done to improve school safety.

The crime rates are based on reports from 1,043 school districts and county offices serving more than 6 million students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Ninety-two percent of the incidents reported occurred on school campuses. The remaining happened on students' direct route to and from school (4 percent), 3 percent at school-sponsored activities and 1 percent on the school bus.

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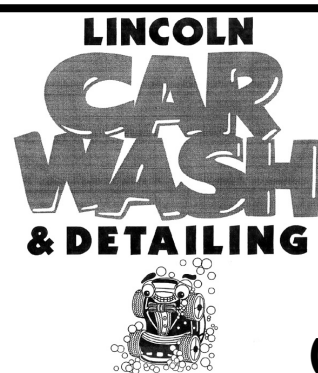
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NATIONAL STATE

Senators to industry: Curb piracy or we will

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Senators on Thursday warned bickering technology and entertainment leaders that the government would step in if they can't work out differences over how to stop Internet pirates.

Walt Disney Co. Chief Executive Michael Eisner, News Corp. President Peter Chernin and Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, represented the entertainment industry at the hearing, which explored the role of piracy in the slow development of digital television and the disappointing use of high-speed broadband Internet.

"There is not a lot of content available because the owners of the content are afraid of piracy," said Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ernest Hollings, D-S.C.

Borrowing a page from Wednesday's Grammy Awards, Hollings used the example of the three computer-savvy students that Grammy officials hired to test how many songs they could download from illegal file-sharing Web sites.

In two days, the students grabbed nearly 6,000 songs, which Hollings said demonstrated the need to address copyright violations. Recording Academy President C. Michael Greene related the story in his speech at the awards ceremony.

Negotiations among entertainment, technology and consumer electronics executives to find a way to end or at least reduce digital piracy have been going on

since 1995. The entertainment industry claims technology companies are reluctant to develop anti-piracy hardware because it would limit what's available to their customers.

Eisner said computer companies advertise the ease of using their products to copy music and movies.

"It's hard to negotiate with an industry whose growth, short-term growth, is dependent upon pirated content," Eisner said.

"If we don't protect content on the Internet, it will kill the entertainment business," he said, calling on Congress to set a deadline as a way to spur an agreement.

Hollings has draft legislation that would impose a deadline by which the government would choose the best way to protect copyright materials if private sector groups cannot agree.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., noting that most of the executives at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing were from Hollywood or Silicon Valley, said, "It's symbolic of what this means to my state. I do stand ready to act if we must act."

Representatives of computer hardware and software makers and the consumer electronics industry said a government solution would raise privacy concerns, unduly infringe on consumers' ability to make copies for home use and stifle technological innovation.

"It will create irreparable damage," said Leslie Vadasz, an Intel Corp. vice president.

Controversial sex class reinstated at UC Berkeley

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

BERKELEY — A male sexuality class at the University of California, Berkeley, that was suspended after reports of lurid extracurricular activities will resume on a probationary basis.

The class, run by students and sponsored by the university, was shut down in February after the campus newspaper reported there was an orgy at a class party last fall and some students went to a strip club for their final project.

The decision to reinstate the class came after officials investigated and found that most of the questionable activities reported weren't directly related to the course, said university spokeswoman Janet Gilmore. Officials did confirm some students visited a strip club for a class project.

The course is offered under a program known as "democratic education," or "DeCal." The courses are not funded by the university, but can be taken for up to two credits.

The male sexuality course is listed as a "safe environment in which men may learn about their own bodies and male sexuality." The course aims to "create a greater community of men and women who are empathetic, understanding and supportive of each other's sexuality."

DeCal class subjects vary widely, from "History of Israel," to "History of Hip-Hop."

Administrators point out that fewer than 2 percent of student credit hours awarded at Berkeley stem from DeCal courses.

The university has appointed a task force to review the program and recommend any changes needed to ensure faculty oversight and course quality. A second faculty sponsor is joining the original sponsor, Professor Caren Kaplan, in overseeing the courses.

Kaplan, who led the review into the classes, has recommended that an independent faculty committee take a closer look at what exactly happened in the male sexuality course.

The resumed classes will be under much stricter supervision. Student coordinators of the male sexuality class will have to meet weekly with faculty sponsors and faculty will have to approve any extracurricular activities. Similar requirements are being made of a DeCal class on female sexuality.

E-mail and telephone messages left by The Associated Press with course organizers were not returned Thursday.

Berkeley administrators said continuing the classes allows students to continue their studies without jeopardizing financial aid or planned graduations.



Economic slowdown trims list of world's billionaires

BY HOPE YEN

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Even the world's richest people feel the sting of a depressed economy and shrinking stock portfolios.

The world's rarefied club of billionaires dropped 83 members this year to 497 as recession and fallout from the terrorist attacks reduced their wealth. The group's combined worth fell to \$1.54 trillion from \$1.73 trillion last year, according to Forbes magazine's 16th annual ranking of billionaires released Thursday.

Among the missing: AOL Time Warner Chairman Steve Case, whose company stock has declined by about half since last year, and Gary Winnick, chairman of Global Crossing, which filed for bankruptcy protection in January.

They led a second year of decline in the number of billionaires since the tech downturn began pressuring the world economy in 2000. The largest drop of 91 came last year.

"Talk about churn, creation and destruction at work," said Louisa Kroll, who edited Forbes' March billionaires issue, which hits the newsstands Friday. "For two years in a row, it's been falling fortunes."

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates lost \$6 billion last year, but that didn't stop him from being the richest person in the world for the eighth year in a row. With a net worth of \$52.8 billion, Gates remained comfortably ahead of Warren Buffett, who held the No. 2 spot with \$35 billion.

German retailers Theo and Karl Albrecht climbed two notches to No. 3, with a net value of \$26.8 billion. They pushed Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, ranked third last year with a value of \$30.4 billion, to No. 4 after he lost \$5.2 billion, partly in the stock market bust.

Oracle Corp. founder Larry Ellison had the fifth spot, while five heirs of the Wal-Mart fortune created by founder Sam Walton rounded out the top 10.

Only 25 members of the list are under age 40, led by 37-year-old computer founder Michael Dell at No. 18. The highest-ranking rich woman was No. 8, Alice Walton, with assets of \$20.5 billion.

The list was set using stock prices and exchange rates as of Feb. 4.

Among countries, the United States led the list with 243 billionaires, down from 272 last

year, and their combined net worth fell by \$111 billion. One of the bigger losers was CNN founder Ted Turner, now a vice chairman at AOL Time Warner, who lost 50 percent of his net worth to \$3.8 billion. He dropped 62 places on the list to No. 97.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, founder of the financial information company Bloomberg, spent \$70 million of his own money to win his first political campaign last fall. Still, with assets of \$4.4 billion, he saw his ranking move up 10 places to No. 72, despite losing a total of \$100 million.

Europe had 121 billionaires, headed by the Albrechts and Germany's Johanna Quandt and family, whose 46 percent ownership of automaker BMW helped put them at No. 12.

Asia, led by Saudi Arabia's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Al Saud at No. 11, notched 70 billionaires. A loser was Japan's Yasuo Takei and family, whose \$3.1 billion in losses dropped him 14 places to No. 51 as the country battles deflation and a decade-long economic slowdown.

Japan accounted for five of Asia's 15 former billionaires

who dropped from the list this year.

Of the 497 total billionaires from 43 countries, 260 inherited

some or all of their wealth, and the rest made their money themselves. Twenty-seven are college dropouts.

The world's top 25 billionaires, according to Forbes magazine

By The Associated Press

The ranking of the world's richest people as estimated by Forbes magazine. Listings include rank, name, home country, age where known, wealth in billions of dollars and source of the money.

1. Gates, William H. III, United States, 46, \$52.8, Microsoft
2. Buffett, Warren E., United States, 71, \$35.0, Berkshire Hathaway
3. Albrecht, Karl and Theo, Germany, \$26.8, retail
4. Allen, Paul G., United States, 49, \$25.2, Microsoft
5. Ellison, Lawrence J., United States, 57, \$23.5, Oracle
6. Walton, Jim C., United States, 54, \$20.8, Wal-Mart
7. Walton, John T., United States, 56, \$20.7, Wal-Mart
8. Walton, Alice L., United States, 53, \$20.5, Wal-Mart
8. Walton, S. Robson, United States, 58, \$20.5, Wal-Mart
10. Walton, Helen R., United States, 82, \$20.4, Wal-Mart
11. Al Saud, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, Saudi Arabia, 45, \$20.0, investments
12. Quandt, Johanna and family, Germany, 74, \$18.4, BMW
13. Bettencourt, Liliane, France, 79, \$14.9, L'Oreal
13. Thomson, Kenneth and family, Canada, 78, \$14.9, publishing
15. Ballmer, Steven A., United States, 45, \$14.8, Microsoft
16. Kamprad, Ingvar, Sweden, 75, \$13.4, Ikea
17. Slim Helu, Carlos, Mexico, 62, \$11.5, telecom
18. Dell, Michael S., United States, 37, \$11.1, Dell
19. Rausing, Kirsten and family, Sweden, 49, \$10.7, packaging
20. Kluge, John W., United States, 87, \$10.5, media
21. Anthony, Barbara Cox, United States, 78, \$10.1, media
21. Chambers, Anne Cox, United States, 82, \$10.1, media
23. Li Ka-shing, Hong Kong, 73, \$10.0, diversified
24. Kwok, Walter, Thomas and Raymond, Hong Kong, \$9.2, real estate
25. Ortega, Amancio, Spain, 66, \$9.1, apparel

Woman who died in dog-mauling was terrified of neighbors' pets

BY LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — A woman who was mauled to death by her neighbors' dogs had been so terrified of the two Presa Canarios she wouldn't leave her apartment without looking outside to ensure the animals were not in the hallway, her partner testified Thursday.

Sharon Smith recounted how Diane Whipple was bitten on the hand by one of the dogs in December 2000 — about a month before her death — and after that "she was very scared of those dogs, terrified."

Under cross-examination, defense attorney Nedra Ruiz suggested Whipple might still be alive if Smith had complained about the previous dog attack.

Marjorie Knoller and her husband, Robert Noel, are on trial in the death of Whipple, a 33-year-old college lacrosse coach who was killed by the couple's dogs in the hallway of their San Francisco apartment building Jan. 26, 2001.

Knoller, 46, who was present during the attack, is charged with second-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter and having a mischievous animal that killed a human being. Noel, 60, faces the latter two charges.

Smith testified Thursday that if they encountered the dogs, Bane and Hera, in the lobby, Whipple would flatten herself against the wall and then leave quickly.

Knoller's attorney, Ruiz, questioned Smith about whether she had complained to the couple or anyone else about the previous attack.

"You did nothing to remedy the situation where your life partner lived in fear?" Ruiz asked Smith.

"We took action," Smith said. "We stayed away from the dogs. I didn't make a complaint. Now I wish I had."

"Do you consider that had you made a complaint, Diane Whipple might be alive today?" Ruiz asked.

Smith responded by shaking her head back and forth.

"I never spoke to Mr. Noel or Ms. Knoller before the bite or after the bite," Smith said. "I wanted nothing to do with them."

Smith said Whipple told her she had warned Noel, "to control your dog" but that he just stared at her.

She also testified that one of the dogs once lunged at her but Noel pulled the dog back. Ruiz focused on that during cross-examination, saying Noel had protected her.

Earlier, prosecutors showed jurors photographs of the mouths of two dogs, but dropped plans to display Bane's skull when Superior Court Judge James Warren suggested it would be "ghoulish."

Forensic dental expert Greg Mar showed plaster casts of the dogs' teeth and matched puncture wounds on

Whipple's neck to Bane. Other wounds could have been made by either dog, he said, though he could not include or exclude Hera as a biter in the attack.

Jurors also saw police photos of the death scene, including one that showed the defendants' doormat bearing the inscription "Ask not for whom the dog barks, it barks for thee."

The trial, which was moved to Los Angeles because of extensive publicity, was to resume Monday.

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NATIONAL

Court overturns officers' convictions in torture case

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — In a stunning turn in one of the nation's most shocking police brutality scandals, a federal appeals court Thursday threw out the convictions of three of the four white officers sent to prison in the torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima.

A three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unanimously that Charles Schwarz's lawyer did not defend him adequately and that the jury was tainted by news reports when it convicted him of violating Louima's civil rights by holding him down during the 1997 assault in a police station bathroom.

The court also said there was insufficient evidence to sustain the obstruction-of-justice convictions of Schwarz, 36, and officers Thomas Wiese, 38, and Thomas Bruder, 35. Wiese and Bruder had been accused of lying to cover up Schwarz's role.

The ruling did not affect the guilty plea of the main attacker, Justin Volpe, 37, who admitted he sodomized the handcuffed Louima with a broken broomstick in a fit of rage. Volpe is serving 30 years.

Civil rights leaders and Louima supporters expressed outrage over the ruling, which reopens an explosive case that inflamed racial tensions and touched off street protests.

The Rev. Al Sharpton called the decision "a shocking display of how the judicial system continues to fail to protect citizens from police abuse."

Louima, at his home in Miami, had no

comment.

The appeals court entered a judgment of acquittal for all three officers on the obstruction charges, effectively bringing an end to the case against Wiese and Bruder. The two men had been given five-year prison sentences but have been free on bail during their appeal.

However, the court ordered a new trial on the civil rights charges for Schwarz, who is serving 15 years behind bars in Oklahoma.

U.S. Attorney Alan Vinegrad said that he was disappointed by the ruling but that his office is prepared to retry Schwarz.

The Police Department had no comment.

Louima had been arrested in a melee outside a Brooklyn nightclub. According to testimony, Volpe was enraged because he believed Louima had punched him from behind. Louima was brutalized in the bathroom and spent two months in the hospital with a ruptured bladder and colon.

The attack touched off a federal investigation that cracked the vaunted "blue wall of silence" that was said to protect rogue officers in the Police Department. In addition to the four men sent to prison, two other officers were placed on probation for misleading investigators.

Schwarz's wife, Andra, said the family is looking forward to having him home. "It's like a dream," she said. He could be freed on bail as early as next week, his lawyer said.

Joseph Tacopina, Wiese's attorney, said his client wants to "resume his normal life and possibly return to the force."

Schwarz has denied ever being in the bathroom. Even after his conviction, he insisted that Louima and the government's other star witness, a fellow officer, confused him with Wiese. Volpe himself indicated Schwarz was not there.

In its ruling, the appeals court suggested that Schwarz's attorney at the time, police union lawyer Stephen Worth, did not call Volpe as a witness because he wanted to avoid implicating Wiese, a union delegate.

The court said there was a "distinct possibility" that "Worth would sacrifice Schwarz's interests" for those of the police union.

Worth did not immediately return a call for comment.

The appeals court also said that the jury was tainted because it found out about Volpe's plea from a juror who learned of it through news reports.

Sanford Rubenstein, a lawyer for Louima, said his client would "look to the federal government to retry the case and we will be supportive of their efforts as we have in the past."

Louima sued the city and the police union and settled in July for \$8.7 million — the largest payout in a police brutality case in New York.



Associated Press

Two police officers stand guard outside of the 70th Precinct in the Brooklyn borough of New York, Thursday. In a stunning turn in a major police scandal, a federal appeals court overturned the convictions of three white police officers in the Abner Louima torture case, finding insufficient evidence they obstructed justice.

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INTERNATIONAL



Detainees refuse to eat after inmate stripped of turban

BY ANDRES LEIGHTON

Associated Press Writer

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Incensed that two guards stripped a detainee of his turban during prayer, nearly two-thirds of the prisoners captured in the Afghan war refused lunch Thursday and chanted “God is great” in Arabic in their first mass protest since arriving at the base.

In addition, some detainees pushed sheets, blankets, sleeping mats and other items through the small openings in the chain-link walls of their cells in protest, Marine Maj. Stephen Cox, the detention mission spokesman, told reporters.

Thursday night, Brig. Gen. Mike Lehnert, the Marine general running the detention mission, used the camp loud-speaker to tell inmates they would be allowed to wear turbans. Cox said, “We will reserve the right to inspect (turbans) at any time.”

Cox reported that Lehnert promised the

military would respect detainees’ religion and the Quran, the Muslim holy book.

Afterward, reporters could see several detainees wearing turbans fashioned from white bed sheets. Eighty-eight detainees refused their evening meal Thursday night even after Lehnert’s address, Cox said.

Tension has been building among the 300 inmates who have been held at Camp X-ray, the remote U.S. naval base in eastern Cuba, since January.

In recent days, some have been ignoring a taped call to prayer and instead have picked individual detainees to announce and lead prayer, which Muslims do five times a day.

Cox said Lehnert spoke with the captives to address some of their concerns.

“He told them at this point he could not tell them how long they will be here or what will happen to them in the future,” Cox said. But “Gen. Lehnert also told the detainees that they will be judged fairly” when the time comes.

The detainees told a duty officer their

protest was in response to an incident that took place Tuesday, Cox said. A detainee had fashioned a turban out of a sheet and was wearing it on his head during prayer. Two military guards ordered the inmate to remove the turban, but the inmate ignored the order, he said. Even after a translator repeated the same order, the inmate refused to acknowledge it.

The guards shackled the inmate and then stripped off the turban, Cox said.

“We don’t allow fashioning of a head-dress that would allow them to shroud any type of item or weapon,” he said. The detainees have been issue prayer caps or can drape towels over their heads, Cox said.

He said 159 detainees skipped lunch and 109 skipped dinner on Wednesday. On Thursday, 107 skipped breakfast and 194 refused lunch.

Medical personnel have been monitoring the detainees and are prepared to feed them intravenously if needed, Cox said.

Cox said the protest appeared to be

about more than just the turban, but inmates have made no demands.

Amnesty International said the protest “highlights the dangers of the legal limbo into which the prisoners have been thrown.

The military says the prisoners are fighters of the international al-Qaida terrorist network and the deposed Afghan Taliban regime that harbored it.

U.S. officials say they are determining whether and how to prosecute the men, and that those not tried by a military tribunal would either be prosecuted in a U.S. court, returned to their home countries for prosecution, released outright or held indefinitely.

Officials say the men pose a danger not only to the troops but also to themselves. Some Islamic groups preach that dying in a holy war guarantees a place in heaven — the mantra of suicide bombers in Israel and that of the hijackers who flew passenger jets into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon on Sept. 11.

Scores dead as Hindu rioters attack Muslims in India

BY ASHOK SHARMA

Associated Press Writer

AHMADABAD, India — Angry Hindus set fire to homes in a Muslim neighborhood Thursday and then kept firefighters away for hours, dragging out one former lawmaker and burning him alive. At least 58 people died in revenge attacks triggered by a Muslim assault on a train.

Police in western Gujarat state appeared outnumbered or unwilling to act to quell what appeared to be the worst rioting to hit the country in nearly a decade.

The officers stood in bunches, watching as groups of Hindus, wielding iron rods and cans of gasoline or kerosene, roamed Ahmadabad attacking Muslims in their homes, shops and vehicles.

The government promised to send the army to Ahmadabad, the region’s main city, to end the rampage. But there were fears the violence would spread Friday, when Hindu nationalists called for a nationwide strike.

In Thursday’s worst attack, 38 people — including 12 children — died when some 2,000 Hindus set fire to six homes in an affluent Muslim neighborhood.

Some trapped residents made frantic telephone calls to police and firefighters. But police said they arrived two hours later and firefighters were delayed by more than six hours because of blockades by rioters.

A former lawmaker, Ehsan Jefri, fired at the rioters when they tried to enter his house, but he was dragged out and burned alive.

Elsewhere in Ahmadabad, rioters pulled a Muslim truck driver out of his vehicle and killed him at a roadblock, police said. Other Hindus made bonfires with goods looted from shops, and 20 men tore down a small mosque.

J.S. Bandukwala, a Muslim and human rights activist, said his house was attacked by Hindus who “lobbed burning rags and pelted stones,” before his Hindu neighbors took him to safety.

In a few instances, police opened fire on rioters, killing two and wounding six in Ahmadabad and two other towns, police said.

The violence was in retaliation for an attack Wednesday in Godhra, a town south of Ahmadabad, where Muslims set fire to a train carrying Hindu nationalists, killing 58 people, including 14 children.

Tensions have been growing between Muslims and Hindu nationalists who have been using the train to go back and forth to Ayodhya, in northern India, where the World Hindu Council plans to start building a temple next month on the ruins of a 16th-century mosque.

The 1992 destruction of the mosque by Hindus sparked nationwide riots that killed 2,000 people — and the government has called for calm, fearing bloodshed could spread quickly in this nation of more than 1 billion, where Hindu-Muslim fighting killed nearly a million people after independence in 1947.

This week’s violence is believed to be the worst



Manish Swarup/Associated Press

Protesters burn vehicles in Ahmadabad, India, Thursday.

Hindu-Muslim fighting since 1993 riots in Bombay — also related to the destruction of the mosque in Ayodhya — killed at least 800 people.

Narendra Modi, chief minister of Gujarat state and a member of the ruling Hindu nationalist party, called the assault on the train earlier this week an “organized terrorist attack.”

Indian officials often blame longtime rival Pakistan for internal strife. Some police and state officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, suggested that Pakistan’s spy agency, or the Islamic militant groups with which it is linked, may have incited Muslims to attack the train.

They provided no evidence, and no official has drawn

any link between the violence in India and the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

Wednesday’s attack came after Hindus on the train refused to pay for food taken from Muslim vendors at the station and shouted slogans — a common occurrence in recent days that has fueled Muslims’ resentment, police said.

Officials said 58 people died in Thursday’s violence, and at least 150 people were admitted to Ahmadabad hospitals, mostly with stab wounds. Police gave no estimate of how many people were arrested.

On highways in the state, Hindus set up roadblocks, stopping cars to look for Muslims. Smoke billowed across Ahmadabad’s skyline from 70 burning buildings.

In many areas, rioters prevented firefighters from putting out fires, said Mayor Himmatsinh Patel. “There was a complete breakdown of law and order. I have been calling for the army but no action has been taken,” he said.

Modi said soldiers would deploy in Ahmadabad on Friday and may also move into 26 other towns that saw violence and were placed under curfew.

The chief minister denied police had been derelict in dealing with the riots, saying the region’s Hindu majority had “shown restraint” in their response to the train attack. His state government supported a strike called by Hindu nationalists on Thursday.

Hindu activists called for that strike to be extended across the country on Friday to protest the train attack, and they said they would set up barricades in the capital, New Delhi.

Bomb targets wife of anti-terror official

BY JAMAL HALABY

Associated Press Writer

AMMAN, Jordan — A bomb blew up the car of the wife of a senior anti-terrorism official on Thursday, killing two passers-by.

The bombing apparently was meant to send a message to the Jordanian security leadership at a time when the government is supporting the U.S.-led campaign against international terrorism, a senior security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mohammad Ali Abdul-Kader Shihadeh, 26, an Egyptian, and Badr Khader, 19, an Iraqi, were walking past the car at about 7:30 a.m. when it exploded, police said. Both men were killed instantly.

The owner of a nearby food shop, Majdi Abu-Jbara, said the two men worked for him.

The bomb was set in a Toyota car in the commercial district of Jebel Amman, the police officer said.

The Interior Ministry said in a brief statement that it was investigating the motives of the attack.

Several suspects were rounded up for questioning, the official Petra news agency reported without further detail.

The agency quoted a source as saying that such “cowardly acts ... will not dissuade Jordan from continuing its role in the defense of national issues and combating terrorism in all its forms.”

The car belonged to Yasmin Abdul-Latif al-Surabi, wife of Lt. Col. Ali Burjak of the Anti-Terrorism Unit, and was parked near their house, the security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The bomb was a “primitive” device, made in Jordan and detonated by a timer, the security official added.

Burjak played a prominent role in the investigation that led to the trial of 28 men charged with conspiracy to carry out terror attacks on U.S. and Israeli targets in Jordan during the millennium celebrations. The trial ended in 2000 with the judges condemning six of the accused to death and acquitting six others. The remaining defendants received sentences of between 7 1/2 years in prison and 15 years with hard labor.

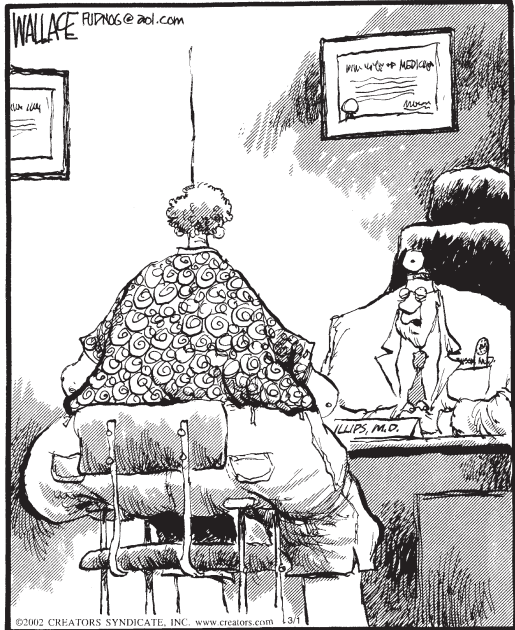


COMICS

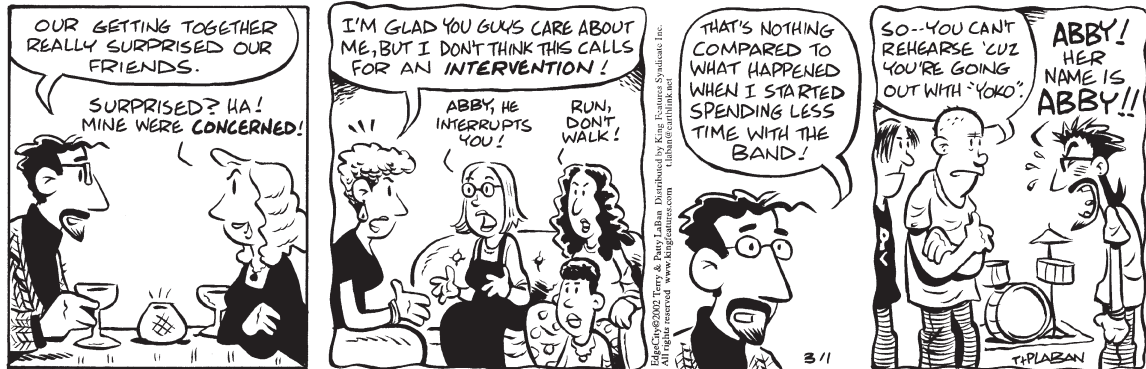
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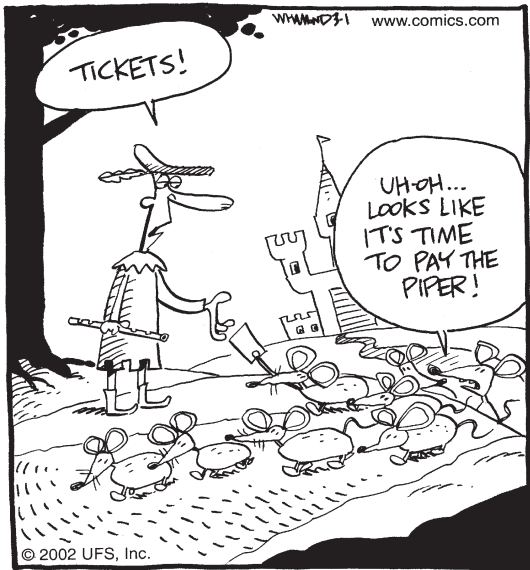
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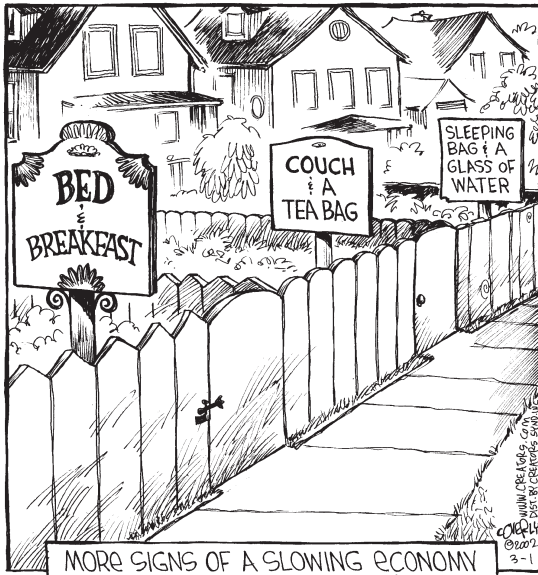
by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fidgety
 - 6 Candy counter choice
 - 11 Instructive kind of book
 - 12 Strike group
 - 13 Cheering
 - 14 Computer shortcut
 - 15 Staff symbol
 - 17 Distort
 - 18 Painter Paul
 - 20 Pot start
 - 22 Charged bit
 - 23 Pittsburgh pro
 - 26 Common retirement gift
 - 28 In the know
 - 29 Tersely
 - 31 Minimal taste
 - 32 Use a sponge
 - 33 March time
 - 34 Heaps
 - 36 Affectionate
 - 38 Tedious folks
 - 40 Rap sheet item
 - 43 "— luck!"
 - 44 Bucca-neers' base
- DOWN**
- 45 Lucy's pal
 - 46 Adorable
 - 1 Cry of insight
 - 2 Negative link
 - 3 Opinion
 - 4 Hackneyed
 - 5 Days gone by
 - 6 Uncommunicative
 - 7 Worried
 - 8 Weaken gradually
 - 9 Rent
 - 10 Winter blanket
 - 16 Dietary no-no
 - 18 New Zealand native
 - 19 Bank offering
 - 21 Without ice
 - 23 Mall business
 - 24 Pennsylvania port
 - 25 Agents, briefly
 - 27 Asian language

ARCH	CAUSES
SOLE	ARTURO
ASIA	ROOMED
PEPP	EDUP
JOY	NICKS
SCONE	DALAI
ARI	INN
LUNCH	CAPIES
EXTRA	ORB
ATNO	COST
LIED TO	HALO
ANGLED	IRAN
WAGERS	EDGY

Yesterday's answer

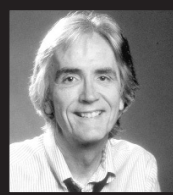
- 30 Man in stripes
- 33 Acquired relative
- 34 Fit
- 35 Horn output
- 37 Stable diet
- 39 Gal of song
- 41 Mimic
- 42 Stopped standing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
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34	35				36	37			
38				39		40		41	42
43						44			
45						46			

3-1

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Displaying violence in protest of violence

- A 40-year-old man smashed a theater's soda fountain and cash register and a plant in the lobby because he was upset at the excessive violence in "Lord of the Rings" (Terrace, British Columbia).
- Researchers found that men with high levels of the pollutant PCB in their bodies are more likely to father boys than girls (East Lansing, Mich.).
- A 32-year-old man (5-foot-6, 160 pounds) became the first inmate to escape by squeezing through a prison's "escape-proof" cell windows only 6 inches wide (Frostproof, Fla.).
- Two female streakers were acquitted of indecent conduct because state law penalizes only "exposure" of the genitals, which, said the judge, almost never happens to females since their organs are mostly internal (Bangor, Maine).



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