

FREE

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 93

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

07, 21, 27, 35, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 5, 7, 5

Evening picks: 5, 9, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 06, Whirl Win

2nd Place: 04, Big Ben

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race time: 1:45.89



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Benny Zavala, 34, was convicted of animal abuse for dissecting his daughter's pet guinea pig because he said he thought it was a government spy robot (Oxnard, Calif., October).

■ Christopher Campbell, 42, was arrested and charged with mutilating his beloved house cats because, he said, he thought they were supernatural entities that had changed shapes (Cedar Crest, N.M., November).

■ Gary Damon Stephens, 28, admitted that he killed his parents five years ago but said he stands by his earlier explanation, that the deceased were not his real parents but only the pod people of his parents (Harlan, Ky., October).

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The most dangerous food is wedding cake.



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Photos courtesy of Terry Wark
Kristine Johnson, pictured above and below, with her mother, Terry Wark, has been missing since Feb. 15.

Command center set up for missing woman search

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

As the investigation for a missing Santa Monica woman continues, a search center has been established in Culver City at the Ramada Inn.

Terry Wark, the mother of 22-year-old Kristine Johnson who has been missing since Feb. 15, has enlisted the help of a missing person's organization that aided in the search of Danielle van Dam, the missing San Diego girl whose body was found last year.

Wark made a plea on Friday for someone to donate a facility to serve as the nerve center in the search for Johnson. The Ramada Inn, located at 6333 Bristol Pkwy., offered a room where volunteers and search organizers will work out of. Phone lines have been established so people can call in with tips. Anyone interested in volunteering in the search should call (310) 484-7000 and ask for the Kristine Johnson flyer distribution center, or show up at the hotel today after 11 a.m. The hours of operation for the weekend will be today from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Johnson, who turned 22 years old on Thursday, disappeared two weeks ago after she reportedly went to meet a man claiming to be a photographer for a film audition at the Century City Mall.

Wark is working with the Texas-based Laura Recovery Center Foundation, a missing person's organization that helps form community-based search efforts. The organization offers support, guidance and trains volunteers in missing person searches.

People are asked to help post flyers throughout the westside and answer phones with potential tips.

See MISSING, page 6

To help find Kristi Johnson:

To volunteer in the search, contact the command center at the Ramada Inn in Culver City at (310) 484-7000, or contact the Laura Recover Center Foundation via its Web site, www.lrcf.org, or call (281) 482-LRCF (5723).

To get the word out about Johnson's disappearance, log onto www.lrcf.org, go to the missing person's flyer link and click on Kristi's image. Send the information in mass e-mails and blast faxes.

Anyone with information about Johnson's disappearance is encouraged to call the SMPD's tip line at (310) 458-8449.

Johnson is 5'9", 140 lbs., has blonde hair and blue eyes. The man who may know her whereabouts is described as a white male in his early- to mid-30s with a slender to medium build and a clean-shaven face.

Man accused of rape arrested

By Daily Press staff

Local police have arrested a transient who allegedly raped and robbed a woman in her Santa Monica home earlier this week.

Santa Monica Police officers arrested Samuel Arias Jr., 28, on Thursday after police connected him to the sexual assault of a 28-year-old woman in her home located in the 1300 block of 14th Street at about 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The woman reported to Santa Monica police that she was sexually assaulted and robbed at her residence located between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard on 14th Street.

On Thursday at about 7 a.m., SMPD officers responded to a call from Santa Monica Place security personnel who requested assistance with a transient who refused to leave the area. Responding officers recognized Arias from a law enforcement bulletin and took him into custody.

Santa Monica Police investigators recovered evidence which connected Arias to the crime and he also matched the physical description provided by the victim.

Arias was arrested and transported to the Santa Monica Jail.

Employees get a break at Bayside stores, restaurants

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica merchants are making it less expensive for local workers to shop downtown this spring.

Hoping to drum up business during a typically slow time of year, almost 50 businesses have agreed to give employees of local businesses a break.

The Bayside District Corp., a non-profit that manages downtown in conjunction with the city, announced earlier this month the "Downtown Santa Monica Employee Discount Program," which will run until May 31.

Forty-seven retailers and restaurants — from Arcana Books to Planet Funk to Zales Diamond Store — are offering discounts to Santa Monica residents and workers through the program.

The vast majority of the businesses are offering either a 10 percent, 15 percent or 20 percent discount on their goods, with some limitations.

Santa Monica workers hoping to capitalize on the discounts must show a business card or pay stub to verify their local employment.

David Munyon, managing partner of Ocean Avenue Seafood, said he has high hopes for the discount program.

"It's such a good deal," he said, who is encouraging his employees to take advantage of the deals at other retailers. "We all share and give back to each other and keep the business in downtown. I think that's what we should all be doing."

Eddie Guerboian, whose store, Readers Fine Jewelers, has been in Santa Monica for 76 years, said the program is

See DISCOUNTS, page 6

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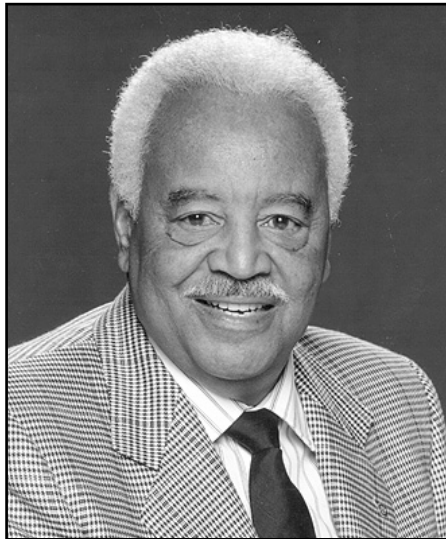
City's first black teacher dies at 80

By Daily Press staff

Dr. Alfred T. Quinn —the first African American teacher in Santa Monica and a former Santa Monica College trustee, dean and professor — passed away Wednesday at the age of 80.

Dr. Quinn was deeply committed to education and civil rights, SMC officials say. He was regarded as an institution in Santa Monica and Malibu, where he devoted countless hours of service to a wide range of community organizations.

Friends remember that Dr. Quinn was almost killed by a mob in Alabama in 1942 when he challenged a white man who used a racial slur against him. The experience sparked an early commitment to civil rights that he carried with him throughout his long and distinguished career as an educator in Santa Monica.



Dr. Alfred T. Quinn

Born Sept. 21, 1922, he spent all but 13 years of his life in Santa Monica and Malibu. The first African American teacher in Santa Monica, he started teaching at local elementary and junior high schools, as well as SMC in 1951, becoming a full-time sociology professor at the college in 1964. In 1974, he started SMC's Extended Opportunities Programs and Services program, and from 1976 to 1982 he was the college's affirmative action officer, as well as an instructor. He served as dean of student services from 1982 until his retirement in 1988. Two years later, he came back to the college as an elected trustee and served one term, including one year as chair and one year as vice chair.

Dr. Quinn received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from UCLA. He also served in the U.S. Air Corps for three years during World War II.

He was the author of two books on race relations in public schools and received many awards for his teaching and community service from such organizations as the NAACP, Santa Monica mayor's office, National Conference of Christians & Jews, and the League of United Latin American Citizens.

He is survived by his wife, Sylvia "Dottie" Quinn.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 7 at First United Methodist Church, located at 11th Street Washington Avenue Santa Monica. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Al Quinn Scholarship Fund at Santa Monica College. Checks should be made out to the SMC Foundation/Al Quinn Scholarship Fund and can be mailed to the SMC Foundation, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica 90405.

'Dino Fair' scheduled for May 3rd

By Daily Press staff

The "Dino Fair," a free family festival benefiting low-income families who need scholarships to attend the non-profit Growing Place child center in Santa Monica, is scheduled for Saturday, May 3.

Pony rides, dinosaur games, a petting zoo, "volcano arts," face-painting and a moon bounce are among the features of the annual festival which will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Growing Place, located at 401 Ashland Avenue, is a non-profit child-development center with a mission of providing quality child care for working families.



surf report

Information compiled by Jamie Seborer

Expect many of the beaches to see surf in the three-to five foot range. The surf will drop slowly today with a further fade expected through tomorrow. Some spots will be fairly slow in the morning because of the extreme tide swings as the new moon approaches on March 3. As the tide drops, many breaks should see inconsistent surf in the waist-chest and occasional shoulder-high range.

Because of the recent rains, bacteria levels in the water are exceptionally high. The standard general advisories have been posted in most areas for 72 hours after the rain ends.

Today's Tides:		
High	12:04 a.m.	7'
Low	5:27 a.m.	2.5'
High	10:59 a.m.	7.9'
Low	6:04 p.m.	-0.3'

Location	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	4-5' fair	3-4' fair	NA
Zuma	3-4' fair	3-4' fair	NA
Surfrider	3-4' fair	2-3' fair	NA
Topanga	2-3' fair	1-2' fair	NA
Breakwater	2-3' fair	1-2' fair	NA
El Porto	3-4' fair	3-4' fair	NA

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The festival's activities are aimed especially at children aged 3 to 7 years old. Fees collected from the various booths and games are earmarked for scholarships for low-income families and for educational materials.

The Growing Place provides partial scholarships to approximately 20 percent of its families, who can enroll their children for pre-school on weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. year-round. Parents volunteer to run all the booths at the "Dino Fair," which is one of Santa Monica's most popular family events.

The mission of The Growing Place is to offer an emotionally secure, educationally challenging environment for pre-school children aged 2 1/2 to 5 years old. The school is committed to maintaining a racially, culturally, ethnically and economically diverse curriculum and enrollment. Other goals at the school are to maintain an exceptionally qualified and stable staff, provide parent education, and enrich the surrounding community. The Dino Fair is the school's main community fund-raiser of the year.

For more information, please phone (310)399-7769 or visit www.growingplace.com.

DID YOU KNOW?: "Politics" breaks down as "poly" (many) and "tics" (parasitic blood suckers) so does that mean politicians are "blood sucking parasites?"

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OPINION

LETTERS

Get rid of the dictatorship regime

Editor:

World politics is very complex. As laymen we can only view slivers of what goes on in other countries. Therefore much of our opinion is formed from emotional suitcases packed with ideology of what we want to believe.

Even though Iraq has had sanctions for over a decade, money for humanitarian aid was never stopped. Food and medicine was sent. But, it was intercepted by a brutal, unfeeling government, the Baath party led by Saddam Hussein, before it could reach and help the people it was intended for — the Iraqi people. This is a frequent occurrence in heavily corrupted third world countries like Somalia, or, dictatorships, such as the one in Iraq.

Indeed, there is also wealth to be had in Iraq. But this is not shared with the common citizen, but mainlined into the coffers of its leader and his military. Before Saddam took control of Iraq in 1979, it was a wealthy country and one of the most culturally evolved in the Middle East. But oppression and fear crushes a people and diminishes their way of life. Iraq's present day circumstances, Ms. Hayes-Raitt (SMDP 2/26), was caused by the inhumanity exerted on the Iraqis by their own leader, not by the leaders of this country. Why aren't you in favor of dismantling such a regime and allowing the people to find their way back to a better life?

Currently, the common Iraqi man or woman has little straight forward information from the outside world. Consequently, when shortages exist most Iraqis probably believe it is due to the effects of sanctions, rather than a denial of goods from their own government. It is factual breeches and lapses, such as this, that, when left uncorrected by representatives from the United States, just fosters the spread of more misinformation in a place already being deceived from the inside.

Has anyone noticed that only individuals with anti-war credentials are being admitted into Iraq? Why? Because anyone else would pose a threat of introducing an empathetic, knowledgeable, free spirited personality who was there for the Iraqi people, working for their freedom, rather than for an antiwar movement who wanted to produce a slide show for back home protesters.

Jan Tousignant
Santa Monica

Educators could bankrupt state

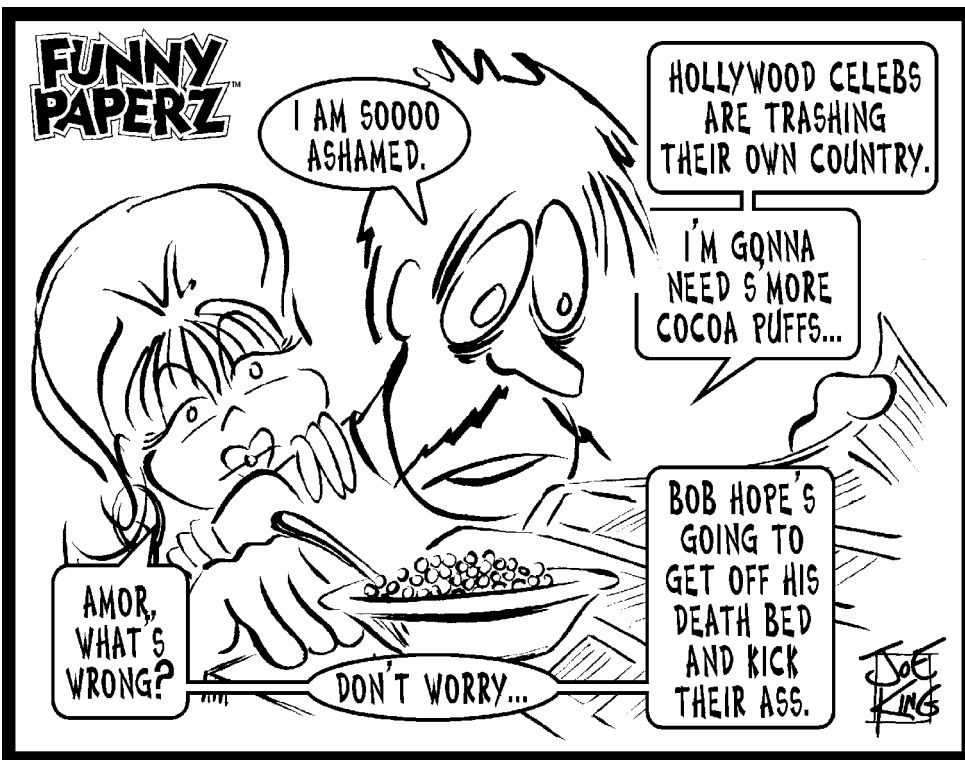
Editor:

Harry M. Keiley, president of the Santa Monica Malibu Teacher's Association, and others like him offer no tangible proof that reducing school budgets to more easier and properly manageable levels is actually harmful to communities. What they are really expressing is that they are only concerned about their jobs. A modest increase of five students or so per class size is not something for them or anyone else to lose sleep over. Fifty maybe, but not five. Teachers are employees. Subject like all others to the harsh realities of the working world. They can be laid off, fired, and by choice go on

strike, or do something besides teach. They ought to get off of the "making people who disagree with them feel guilty in the name of children" crap already. Home schooling ought to be promoted more. All of our early and great presidents were home schooled. With no public funding.

The practice of endowing educators with tenure ought to be abolished. No other job protections exist outside of the education systems in any occupation that we know of except federal judges. Doctors and lawyers, lower court Judges, politicians, and all types of tradesmen do not enjoy anything nearly as sacred as a teacher's tenure. Although the longshoremen are close. Why do we so easily become persuaded to enshrine the teachers with it? From the very beginning, educators were never meant to control the entire community's finances. Passively allowing them to regularly propose ludicrous ballot initiatives, and cleverly confuse issue after issue regarding ever so more heavy funding; having so many irons in the fire so to speak that no one can keep up with it all, and there is room for no more. Having convinced themselves, and they hope all others, that they ought to be the stewards of great sums of public monies,

See LETTERS, page 5



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Campaigning for political office turns to Hollywood



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

The tease on the news last week said, "Democratic presidential hopeful, Howard Dean, picks up an important endorsement today." As I sat through two minutes of commercials, I wondered what influential Democrat had endorsed the former Vermont governor. Was it Gore? Clinton? Jimmy Carter? It was none of them. It was apparently someone more important than a mere former president or vice president. The endorsement was that of former actor and current director/producer, Rob Reiner.

Since the candidates are going for '70s television stars this year, I guess we'll soon be seeing a press conference with "Klinger" from MASH, wearing a ball gown as he endorses his favorite candidate. And if these guys are signing up, can "Potsie" be far behind?

Rob Reiner has participated in political and social causes for years. I don't doubt

his sincerity or passion anymore than I doubt the commitment of Republican celebrities like Arnold Schwarzenegger. What I'm concerned about is that in this celebrity-worshipping culture of ours, the importance of star endorsements has risen to an absurd height.

Bo Derek was at the last Republican National Convention, and Christie Brinkley was with the Democrats. Next year, look for both parties to be vying for Sports Illustrated's swimsuit model Petra Nemcova.

Celebrities can raise lots of money for candidates, and candidates need lots of money to win. But — and I know this is dangerous to say when it comes to politics — I don't think it's just about money. For one thing, politicians like to hang around famous people and get some of that Hollywood glitter on their perfectly-coiffed heads. But more cynically, political experts have obviously determined that some people vote for candidates because their favorite stars support them. That's not a good thing, especially in these days of close elections when every vote counts (or, at least it's supposed to).

I'm sure some people voted for Kennedy in 1960 because Frank Sinatra

and friends supported him. Some basketball fans probably voted for Nixon in 1968 because Wilt Chamberlain campaigned for him. And now, some people (who probably never heard of him before) are going to vote for Howard Dean just because they liked Rob Reiner when he played "Meathead" on "All In The Family."

We're about to see a signing frenzy as candidates chase after celebrities. Campaigns will start grabbing up people like Bruce Willis, Rick Schroder, Kevin Costner, Mike Farrell, Heather Locklear, Clint Eastwood, Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn. After the big celebrities are gone, candidates will have to start settling. We may see Al Sharpton posing with "Newman" from "Seinfeld," or President Bush with "That Guy Who Went Out With Phoebe Once In The Second Season of 'Friends,'" or Dennis Kucinich being endorsed by "The Lady From The Bladder Control Commercial."

And I'm sure political advisers will want to attract young voters. So, we shouldn't be too surprised to see things like Eminem up on a podium, introducing his "dawg," Dick Cheney.

With so many candidates — not just for President, but for lesser positions as

well — you'd think they might run out of celebrities. Don't worry. Today, there's a whole new category of celebrities — those who have appeared on reality shows. They're the big stars of this decade, the ones on the covers of magazines and in the gossip columns. And they're the ones who might make a difference in the next election. Think I'm exaggerating? What candidate wouldn't love to have Rudy from the first "Survivor" on board for the campaign?

We can definitely look for all the various "American Idols," "Bachelors," "Bachelorettes," "Millionaires," and "Moles" to be in the next campaign. Actually, the one who's perfect to get involved with a political candidate is that Joe Millionaire guy. After all, he became famous for deceiving people and pretending to be somebody he's not.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the Modern Times column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

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

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

to be dispensed freely at their sole discretion; and not by the will and specific outline of the very public which generated them — on their inflated salaries, created overtime, duplicity in programs, unnecessary programs, that bleed precious funding from the school budgets such as free computer classes, free G.E.D. and ESL classes, as well as free daycare to those who can afford to pay for their own.

In reality, if a large segment of a school system's population has parents who can afford to regularly send monthly substantial amounts of money back to their countries of origin, it is a given that they can also afford to pay for any classes that they or their children participate in within the school systems and not ride on the backs of others who do so.

Additionally, the practice of allowing school employees, other than teachers of a school district to have all of their children (whether they have one, two, or eight or more) to attend that particular school that they work at for free as a perk (presumably because it is a better school than the one in the neighborhood that they actually live in) ought to be stopped. Joey the janitor, and Betty the cafeteria lady, each with six kids in school for free, being bused across the entire city of Los Angeles each day to and from school for free has become too much of a burden for the school systems.

It appears that Gray Davis was right to check the schools budgets at this time. Otherwise, left uncontrolled, the educators would bankrupt this state and the country before accepting or agreeing to necessary funding cuts.

Thom Trybus
Santa Monica

Disappointed in the SMDP

Editor:

When you first arrived in Santa Monica we were all looking forward to some scrutinization of our City Council and our city administrators.

We felt that it was only the lack of a local paper which allowed some of the shenanigans to proceed.

While your advertising department seems up to the task, sadly the reporting settles for "after the fact" descriptions of events, which hardly qualifies as journalism.

My wife and I are amazed at the stories you have "described" in passing. (While the perpetrators of some fairly silly and, in at least one case, criminal behaviors get by your editing unscathed.)

Will the Daily Press be a newspaper or a shill for the status quo? Are you here for the money, or the business of journalism?

Our city is all but "cooked" at the hands of an expansionist council. We are \$25 million short over the next three years, yet we have \$50 million for an unnecessary library. We are cutting music and arts in our schools, yet our homes are unaffordable. We are cutting back in all departments, yet certain council members feel entitled to travel to South Africa at our expense.

Liberal town? We don't think so. High prices, low funding of education, and sweetheart inside deals between administrators and the Council to profit contractors with public monies, all sound pretty much Republican to us.

How does this escape print?

Dr. Warren Wolcott M.D.
Santa Monica

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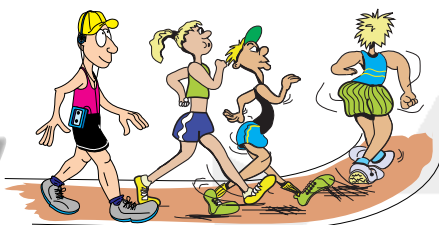
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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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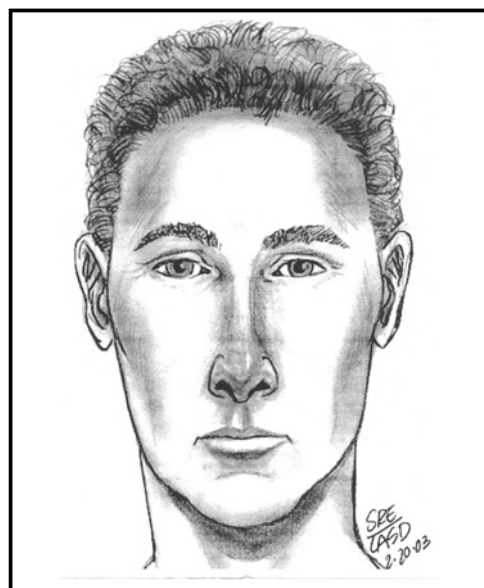
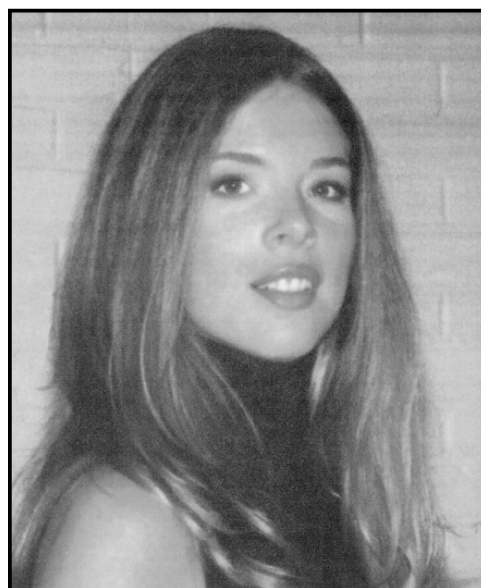
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LOCAL

Mother of missing woman asks for help in search



Kristine Louise Johnson, left, disappeared Feb. 15 after allegedly going to meet the man in the sketch at right at the Century City Mall.

MISSING, from page 1

"This is a volunteer, civilian search and any information that is generated at the search center is given to the police department," said Bob Smither, a co-founder of the Laura Recovery Center Foundation. "We will help train local volunteers for the search."

Wark wanted the command center established this weekend in an effort to keep the search's momentum going strong.

"The immediacy of it has to be stressed," she said on Friday. "We've made such headway at this point and we have to continue to escalate the efforts. I don't want to miss a tip that could lead to us finding Kristi."

Police know the name of the man who may know where Johnson is but aren't releasing it because it could compromise the investigation.

Police served 10 search warrants in Los Angeles County on Thursday and detectives are investigating the evidence recovered from the raids.

"We are waiting for the analysis from the crime lab," said SMPD Lt. P.J. Guido. "We hope to have evidence that links the person to her disappearance."

A composite sketch of the purported photographer was released earlier this week and the man is wanted for questioning. While police aren't calling him a suspect, Wark and authorities believe Johnson has been abducted.

Police found her car this past Monday in the valet parking garage of the St. Regis Hotel in Century City, which had been parked there since Sunday, Feb. 16, the day after she disappeared. Police aren't releasing any information about the vehicle or its contents.

A significant lead in the case came from a concerned woman who told local

police on Feb. 20 that she had been approached in late January in the Century City Mall by a man claiming to be a photographer. He was reportedly auditioning women for the same film that Johnson told her roommates she was going to audition for, according to police.

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

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

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

Wark said she feels more anxious now that police are zeroing in on a suspect. She said she is relying on her family, friends and her faith to get through each day her daughter is missing.

"Of course nothing is moving fast enough for me," she said. "I see every moment as being critical. Every moment that passes is a moment that's too long. Every time the phone rings I hope it's Kristi ... I'm confident they will find her and who ever has abducted her."

The supposed photographer is described as a white male in his early- to mid-30s with a slender to medium build and a clean-shaven face. He was last seen wearing a dark blue suit, according to police.

A valet parking attendant at the St. Regis Hotel confirmed that the man who dropped off Johnson's car strongly resembled the purported photographer's description, according to police.

Workers enjoy downtown deals

DISCOUNTS, from page 1

about enhancing the community — for both businesses and employees.

"It helps our employees (to have the discounts)," Guerboian said. "They deserve it, and at the same time it helps keep dollars in Santa Monica."

Names of participating shops are posted on Bayside's Web site, www.downtownsm.com, and printed in the non-profit's monthly newsletter, The Bayside Beat.

Bayside's marketing manager Marivi Magsino said the program was created as a courtesy to businesses downtown. It is open to any merchant in the Bayside district, including those in Santa Monica Place.

"We're trying to promote more business in a typically slow period," said Magsino of the first-time effort. "We're going to check it out and re-evaluate this summer, and perhaps include residents (in future discount programs)."

STATE



Appeals court rejects Pledge of Allegiance reconsideration

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court Friday rejected the Bush administration's request to reconsider its decision that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional when recited in public classrooms because it includes the phrase "under God."

The ruling means the case could go to the Supreme Court. In Washington, a Justice Department spokesman said no decision had been made about whether to appeal the ruling there.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it would not accept any other petitions to reconsider last June's ruling by a three-judge panel.

Ruling on a lawsuit brought by Sacramento atheist Michael Newdow, the panel decided 2-1 last June that Newdow's daughter should not be subjected to the words "under God" at her public school.

The court said the phrase was an endorsement of God, and the Constitution forbids public schools or other governmental entities from endorsing religion.

Seven of the 24 active judges wanted the full circuit to reconsider that ruling. Writing for the dissenters, Judge Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain noted that the earlier decision

provoked a public outcry across the nation.

O'Scannlain said the decision defies common sense, and "contradicts our 200-year history and tradition of patriotic references to God."

Judge Ferdinand F. Fernandez, the lone vote against the initial 9th Circuit ruling, said the words "under God" have caused no real harm over the years, "except in the fevered eye of persons who most fervently would like to drive all tincture of religion out of the public life."

Judge Stephen Reinhardt, one of the two judges who last year outlawed the pledge, lashed out at the dissenters' "disturbingly wrong-headed" suggestion that public outcry over the pledge ruling should have persuaded the circuit to reconsider.

"The Bill of Rights is, of course, intended to protect the rights of those in the minority against the temporary passions of a majority which might wish to limit their freedoms or liberties," Reinhardt wrote.

After the original decision last year, President Bush and Congress immediately condemned the ruling, which would prevent public schoolchildren from reciting the pledge in the nine western states covered by the nation's largest — and, critics charge, most liberal — appeals court.

Those states are Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Newdow's lawsuit began as a challenge to a 1954 decision by Congress to add the words "under God" to the pledge. The lawsuit later sidestepped into a parental rights case over a custody dispute between Newdow and his 8-year-old child's mother, Sandra Banning of Elk Grove.

In response to the court's original ruling, Banning asserted that her daughter is not harmed by reciting the pledge and is not opposed to God. Banning, who now has legal custody of the child, urged the court to consider whether Newdow even had legal standing to bring the case on behalf of his daughter. The court said Newdow did have such legal standing.

Newdow could not immediately be reached for comment Friday.

Man who threw dog into traffic in a road rage fit sues dog's former owner

By The Associated Press

SAN JOSE — A man who threw a dog to its death in a fit of road rage is suing the dog's former owner and a newspaper, alleging mental anguish and seeking more than \$1 million in damages.

The dog's former owner, Sara McBurnett, responded by calling Andrew Burnett a "pathological liar." An attorney for the San Jose Mercury News called the lawsuit frivolous.

Burnett was sentenced in July 2001 to three years in jail in the death of Leo, a bichon frise whose owner tapped Burnett's bumper in

rainy-day traffic in February 2000 near the San Jose Airport. Burnett threw the little dog into traffic before driving off.

Burnett, who is still in prison, filed the complaint Feb. 19 in Santa Clara County Superior Court, and is representing himself.

The suit claims Burnett suffered spinal and neck injuries when McBurnett's car bumped his. He claims that McBurnett tried to hide the extent of damage to her car to make the accident seem less dramatic and to minimize the possibility of his injuries.

Burnett also says McBurnett

defamed him to the media, and blames the Mercury News for "knowingly and maliciously" printing libel about him. He says all this has caused him "mental pain and anguish, humiliation, embarrassment, fright and shock, and mortification," and says he also has lost wages.

"Everything he says is a lie," McBurnett said. "He was found guilty in a court of law by a jury."

A judge has denied Burnett's request that the county waive all court fees and costs.

"This is pretty much the definition of a frivolous lawsuit," said Mercury News attorney James Chadwick.

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STATE

Study: California workers pay less for health care

BY BETH FOUHY
 Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Despite the weak economy and rapidly rising health care costs, the percentage of California employers offering health coverage to their workers remained constant between 2001 and 2002. And Californians on average paid less for their health insurance than other Americans because of the state's high rate of HMO enrollment.

These are some of the findings of a survey of California-based employers released Friday by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The foundation publishes the study annually, in conjunction with the Health Research and Educational Trust.

The study found that about 65 percent of California businesses offer health coverage to their employees, slightly higher

than the national rate of 62 percent. And premiums in California for both individual and family coverage are lower than the national average.

Individual coverage in California costs an average of \$2,845 per year, compared to a national average of \$3,060. The average family premium in California is \$7,471 per year, compared to \$7,954 nationally.

Some 54 percent of Californians are enrolled in HMOs, compared with 26 percent nationally.

But the survey also found that the weak economy and rapidly rising health care costs have contributed to a 13 percent premium increase in California, and a higher share of costs for many workers. Sixty-one percent of firms have increased the amount employees pay for coverage, and 55 percent have increased the amount they pay for prescription drugs.

Former senator, actor Fred Thompson films pro-Bush ad

BY LYNN ELBER
 AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — With Hollywood's anti-war views making headlines in recent weeks, actor and former Republican Sen. Fred Thompson decided it was time for someone from the other side of the political spectrum to speak up.

"Thank goodness we have a president with the courage to protect our country," Thompson says in a 30-second TV commercial he filmed supporting President Bush's Iraqi policy. He said the ad may begin airing Monday in Washington, D.C., and New York.

Thompson, who retired from the Senate in 2002 and returned to his previous career as an actor, plays a district attorney on NBC's drama "Law & Order."

Friends and supporters paid for the commercial, he said in a phone call Thursday from Washington.

The former member of the Senate Intelligence Committee said he's been increasingly concerned about threats to national security.

"I think the president is pursuing the right policy. ... It's something I feel rather strongly about and it seems like so much publicity, so many ads, are being taken

out attacking the president, attacking the policy," he said.

A number of actors, including Martin Sheen of NBC's "The West Wing," have protested possible U.S. military action against Iraq. Thompson said his ad, filmed Wednesday, isn't a "direct rebuttal" to Sheen or the others.

"It's not one person against another, or one TV show against another," he said. "It's something I've been dealing with for a long time."

NBC was remaining neutral. "Mr. Sheen and Mr. Thompson are both active in their capacity as private citizens. We respect their opinions and right to free speech," the network said in a statement.

A friend pointed out to Thompson that, as an actor, he may garner more attention for his political views than he did as a U.S. senator from Tennessee.

"He may be right. It's a strange world we live in," Thompson said.

An attorney who helped investigate the Watergate political scandal, Thompson got into acting playing himself in a 1985 movie. He went on to appear in some 20 films, including "The Hunt for Red October," "In the Line of Fire" and "Days of Thunder." He was elected to the Senate in 1994.

Tourist falls to death from hot air balloon above Yountville

By The Associated Press

YOUNTVILLE — A Scottish tourist died Tuesday morning when he fell from a hot air balloon floating about 300 feet to 500 feet above a winery.

Brian Stevenson, 33, of Coatbridge, Scotland, was hanging from the basket as the balloon was inflated with air in the parking lot of the Domaine Chandon winery.

"As the balloon began to inflate and ascend into the air, the victim didn't let go, nobody knows why," said Napa County Sheriff's Lt. Jean Donaldson.

Stevenson landed in the center of an asphalt parking lot, officials said.

The balloon belongs to Bonaventura Balloon Company of Oakville. Donaldson said the company had canceled morning flights because of the fog. It was just filling the balloon with air to bring it up and let tourists take pictures.

Detectives believe the pilot could not hear the crew's warning from below because of the loud noise created by the burner that makes the balloon rise. He landed the balloon safely about 200 yards from the accident.

The FAA will investigate the cause of the crash.

NATIONAL



Video of Columbia astronauts' final minutes released

BY MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston — In a videotape released Friday by NASA, Columbia astronauts in the final minutes of their lives sipped drinks, put on their gloves, joked and mugged for the camera, unaware of the catastrophe awaiting them.

The cassette was found among shuttle wreckage three weeks ago.

"Looks like a blast furnace," commander Rick Husband comments to his crew, referring to the bright flashes outside the cockpit windows as Columbia re-entered the atmosphere.

"Yep, we're getting some G's (gravity)," replies his co-pilot, William McCool. "Let go of the card and it falls."

"You definitely don't want to be outside now," Husband adds.

Says Laurel Clark, seated behind them: "What, like we did before?" drawing a big laugh.

The digital tape was discovered near Palestine in East Texas on Feb. 6 — five days after the shuttle disintegrated just 16 minutes away from its landing in Florida. The investigation board suspects a breach somewhere in the left wing let in superheated gases.

The 13 minutes of tape also shows flight engineer Kalpana Chawla. All four are clad in orange flight suits, with their helmet visors up, and seen going through routine checklist activities in the cockpit. The other three astronauts were seated on the lower deck.

Husband is seen sipping from a drink pouch and, along with McCool, putting on gloves. The two women take turns smiling for the camera; Clark gives an especially wide grin.

NASA broadcast the tape on its television service early Friday afternoon. It was



Image from television released by NASA Friday from the flight deck of the shuttle Columbia as the shuttle passed over the central Pacific Ocean on Feb. 1, 2003, shows Commander Rick Husband, right, and Pilot Willie McCool going through routine checklist activities in the shuttle's cockpit. The videotape was recovered on Feb. 6, 2003 near Palestine, Texas, during search and recovery efforts after the tragedy.

introduced by astronaut Scott Altman, who commanded the previous mission of Columbia, a year earlier. Altman said of the more than 250 tapes flown during the doomed flight, this was the only one recovered that had any recording left on it.

Because of heat damage, the tape ends four minutes before the first sign of trouble, said an official close to the accident investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity.

NASA acknowledged the existence of

the tape on Tuesday. Officials wanted to make sure all the astronauts' families saw it before broadcasting it to the public. It holds no investigative value, officials said.

The tape shows routine flight-deck activity beginning around 8:35 a.m. Feb. 1, as Columbia soared 500,000 feet above the south-central Pacific Ocean, and continues until 8:48 a.m., when the shuttle was over the eastern Pacific, southwest of San Francisco, at an altitude of less than

300,000 feet.

Eleven minutes later, Mission Control lost contact with Columbia. And 32 seconds after that, all communication ceased as the spaceship shattered over Texas.

The video was shot with a small onboard camera mounted to the right of McCool, at the front of the cockpit, NASA said. He removes the camera at one point and hands it to Clark to continue filming.

Columbia was 38 miles up, traveling Mach 18 or 18 times the speed of sound, when it came apart. The fact that the video cassette was preserved is "remarkable," said Charles Figley, director of the Traumatology Institute at Florida State University.

"Some might view it as a miracle," Figley said. "Suddenly here is a postcard of these men and women." He added that the video should provide additional peace of mind for the astronauts' families, because it shows them happy and doing what they loved.

It is clear that none of the astronauts had a clue about their impending doom. NASA officials said Husband was notified about the tank debris that smacked into the left wing barely a minute after liftoff on Jan. 16 and also the results of the engineering analysis that concluded any damage to the thermal tiles posed no safety threat.

Flight controller Jeffrey Kling, who was the first one in Mission Control to report problems in the left wing during Columbia's plunge through the atmosphere, said earlier this week that Husband seemed to be satisfied with the engineering results that were relayed to him.

The astronauts seated in Columbia's lower deck were Michael Anderson, David Brown and the first Israeli in space, Ilan Ramon.

Bible college gets 666 prefix removed from phone number

BY ROGER ALFORD

Associated Press Writer

VANCELEVE, Ky. — After months of asking for a new telephone number, the Kentucky Mountain Bible College has finally dropped the 666 prefix that disturbed Christians who recognized it as the biblical mark of the beast.

"We're just elated that the number has been changed," said Rob Roy MacGregor, the college's vice president of business affairs. "It was like we had this Scarlet Letter attached to us."

The college is now removing the number from printed material, including its official letterhead.

The 666 prefix had been the only one available in Vanceleve since telephone service arrived here. The need for more phone lines forced telephone companies to add new numbers, and the college tried for several months to get the new 693 prefix.

"We were glad we could finally get a

number that the school is happy with," said Kaye Davis, general counsel for Access Point, a North Carolina-based telephone company that serves the college.

In the Book of Revelation, 666 is stamped into people's foreheads or right hands during the last days. Those who receive the mark, according to Scripture, are damned to eternal punishment.

MacGregor said the beast represents Satan. True Christians, he said, will not accept the mark.

Davis said it took longer than expected to change the prefix because the college wanted to keep the last four digits of its number — 5000.

The Rev. Vaughn Rasor, pastor of First Baptist Church in nearby Jackson, said this week that most people seemed to see the 666 prefix as a curiosity.

"If people start giggling when I give my phone number, I know they have at least read the Bible," Rasor said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Iraq to destroy missiles could be significant, Blix says

BY DAFNA LINZER

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said that if Iraq carries out its pledge to begin destroying its Al Samoud 2 missiles Saturday — as he demanded — it was “a very significant piece of real disarmament.”

“They say they accepted in principle, and it is to start tomorrow, so maybe tomorrow evening or Sunday we will have more to say,” Blix said Friday.

The chief inspector told reporters that if Iraq carries forward with the promised destruction, its cooperation on a major disarmament issue would be reflected in his next report to the council.

He will appear before the council next week to discuss the findings in his 17-page report on the past three months of inspections.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the Blix report — written before Iraq apparently agreed to destroy the Al Samoud missiles — in which he said Baghdad’s disarmament efforts were “very limited so far.”

Blix’s report also made clear that the Al Samoud missiles were only one of many unresolved issues with Iraq.

He said Iraq had not provided crucial evidence about its chemical, biological and missile programs and declares that Baghdad has not fully cooperated with U.N. inspectors on substantive issues.

Nevertheless, Blix said after Iraq agreed to destroy the missiles, he would have to take that action into account when reporting to the Security Council.

“By next week, when I’m introducing my report in the Security Council, there surely are going to be more (updates),” he told reporters.

But the chief inspector refrained from drawing definitive conclusions on Iraq’s compliance and made no recommendation on the future of inspections.

Earlier Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Moscow was prepared, if necessary, to cast a veto in the



Laura Rauch/Associated Press

British soldiers don their gas masks and take cover in a bunker at Camp Fox in the Kuwaiti desert south of Iraq following a chemical attack alert called by the American military on Friday. An all clear was given moments later.

U.N. Security Council which is considering a U.S.-backed resolution authorizing war with Iraq.

“Russia has the right to a veto in the U.N. Security Council and will use it if it is necessary in the interests of international stability,” Ivanov said at a news conference in Beijing.

Later French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin told reporters in Paris that the missile-destruction agreement was “an important step” and “confirms that inspectors are getting results.” He would not say whether France would use its veto against the U.S.-backed resolution.

Friday’s developments did nothing to heal deep divisions in the Security Council, likely to be exacerbated by the Iraqi decision.

Since Blix demanded the destruction of the Al Samouds, Baghdad had grumbled that the missiles do not violate U.N.-imposed 93-mile-range limit.

The United States, Britain and Spain are pushing a resolution that would open the

door for war, while Russia, China and France are calling for continued weapons inspections and a diplomatic end to the crisis.

At the White House, press secretary Ari Fleischer dismissed the idea that the Iraqi decision reflected progress toward disarmament. “This is the deception the president predicted. We do expect that they will destroy at least some of their missiles,” he said.

But President Bush won’t settle for anything less than full disarmament, Fleischer said. “The Iraqi regime is a deception wrapped in a lie.”

Before the missile decision Blix said Baghdad’s disarmament efforts had been “very limited so far,” fueling U.S. and British arguments that Iraq is failing to comply with its obligations.

In Islamabad, a senior government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that Muslim Pakistan will likely vote with the United States at the council.

Pakistan is a key U.S. ally in the war on

terror, but its powerful religious leaders oppose war with Iraq. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf met separately Friday with envoys from both the United States and Iraq, each seeking to sway Islamabad.

Musharraf “underlined Iraq’s responsibility for complete and immediate verifiable disarmament,” said a government statement.

Pakistani officials say voting against the United States is not an option, though they say it could abstain.

But despite signs of new support, Washington is still shy of the nine votes it needs to get the resolution adopted. Some council members said they could support the U.S. plan if it was open to negotiation. A senior U.S. diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, hinted there may be some wiggle room but not on substance.

The leaders of the United States’ strongest backers, Britain and Spain, dismissed Baghdad’s decision to comply with the missile order.

Saddam Hussein “never makes any concessions at all other than with the threat of force hanging over him,” British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Friday after talks with his Spanish counterpart, Jose Maria Aznar.

Aznar said he was confident the resolution would win approval.

“We want to find the biggest and the widest agreement within the Security Council,” he said. “We hope that increasing pressure on the Iraqi regime will be the best way to serve the wishes of peace of so many millions of people and countries around the world.”

In a letter to Blix on Thursday, Iraq agreed “in principle” to destroy the missiles, and sources in Baghdad on Friday confirmed the destruction would begin Saturday, the deadline set by Blix.

Iraq maintains some of the missiles over-shot the limit because they were tested without warheads or guidance systems, making them lighter. In the letter, Iraq said it believes the decision to destroy the missiles was “unjust,” and politically motivated.

North Korea disparages offers of economic aid by U.S.

BY HANS GREIMEL

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea disparaged offers of economic aid in return for nuclear concessions as “misinformation” Friday and branded upcoming joint U.S.-South Korean war games a “test nuclear war.”

The United States and other countries have proposed giving economic, food or energy aid to the impoverished, communist North if it freezes its controversial nuclear development programs.

A newspaper commentary decried that as a “trick.”

“The U.S. is floating misinformation that the DPRK’s just measure is aimed at wresting a sort of ‘concession’ and getting ‘economic benefits,’” said the commentary from the North’s Rodong Sinmun newspaper, carried by the official news agency, KCNA.

“Base and ridiculous is the U.S. trick.”

DPRK, or Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, is the official name of North Korea.

“No matter what misinformation the U.S. floats to slander the DPRK, it will not withdraw its principled stance,” the report said. “The further the U.S. escalates its military threat and pressures the DPRK, the tougher countermeasures it will take.”

Adding to tensions on the Korean peninsula, North Korea has reactivated a 5-megawatt nuclear reactor at Yongbyon that produces raw materials that could be used for atomic weapons, South Korea said Friday, confirming earlier reports by Japan and the United States.

With the reactivation, disclosed by Seoul officials familiar with Pyongyang’s military activities, North Korea could build a bomb in about a year. That announcement, combined with a North Korean missile test, marked a tough first week for Seoul’s new government, led by President Roh Moo-Hyun, who took office Tuesday.

“The U.S. is floating misinformation that the DPRK’s just measure is aimed at wresting a sort of ‘concession’ and getting ‘economic benefits.’”

NORTH KOREAN NEWSPAPER

In a separate dispatch carried by the North’s news agency, Pyongyang also criticized plans for joint war games next month between South Korea and the United States.

Minju Joson, another North Korean paper, called them a “test nuclear war.” It discounted Washington’s stand that they are annual drills unrelated to the current nuclear standoff as a “trick to fool the public opinion at home and abroad.”

The U.S. military announced the exercises earlier this month, calling them “defense-oriented” and designed to

improve the U.S.-South Korea forces’ ability to defend South Korea against “external aggression.”

North Korea has repeatedly condemned the exercises, saying they would increase tensions on the divided Korean peninsula and undermine a fragile reconciliation process with South Korea that includes reunions of separated families and cross-border rail and road links.

One joint exercise — called “Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration,” or RSOI — will take place March 19-26. A second, called Foal Eagle, is scheduled for March 4-April 2.

“This proves that the U.S. is only keen to provoke a war of aggression against the DPRK, utterly indifferent to solving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula,” the Minju Joson report, as carried by KCNA, said. “With nothing can they conceal the criminal nature of the war drills or realize their wild ambition to invade.”

The exercises coincide with a dispute over North Korea’s atomic weapons development, which flared in October when the U.S. government said North Korean officials had admitted pursuing a secret nuclear program.

U.S. intelligence claims North already has one or two nuclear weapons as well as missiles that could hit the U.S. West Coast.

Washington and its allies cut off oil shipments in response, and the North then said it would reactivate its frozen nuclear facilities. It also expelled U.N. monitors and withdrew from the global Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

SPORTS



Ndungu looks for third win in L.A. Marathon

BY LOUINN LOTA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Kenyan Stephen Ndungu, the Los Angeles Marathon's first back-to-back winner, returns Sunday for the marathon's 18th annual run and was nonchalant about a potential third victory.

Marathon security wasn't nonchalant, however, and was operating under terror alert orange, the nation's second highest alert level, even though U.S. officials on Thursday dropped the level to yellow.

"We organized under orange, we will operate under orange, and we paid for orange," said marathon president Bill Burke.

There will be about 220 uniformed police officers and an undisclosed number of plainclothes officers and private security guards in the most sensitive areas, Burke said Thursday.

Although he declined to provide details, Burke said the public will notice increased security at the start of the race and increased inspections of people and personal property in the so-called "corral" areas closest to the runners. He said bomb-sniffing dogs and metal detectors may be deployed.

Dan Rowan, an 18-year veteran of the New York fire department, will ride in a bike tour of the marathon course at 6 a.m. PST Sunday. Then Rowan, who's assigned to Engine 33 Ladder 9, will run the marathon at 8:30 a.m.

Rowan said he runs in memory of the 51 men in his fire company who died responding to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. For this marathon, he's running in memory of firefighters Bobby King and Tim McSweeney.

Ndungu leads a group of 18 Kenyans, including 2000 Los Angeles Marathon winner Benson Mbithi, Joseph Kariuki,

Godfrey Kiprotich, Julius Kimtai, Clement Kipbor Koech, August Kavutu, Mark Yatch and Peter Chebet.

Among the 41 elite athletes in the men's field, there was one from Tanzania, two each from Japan, Guatemala and Great Britain; and three U.S. entries — Joshua Small, whose hometown wasn't available; Ryan Bolton of Boulder, Colo.; and Ryan Hayes of Oakland, Calif.

Ndungu finished the 2002 marathon in two hours, 10 minutes and 27 seconds — 1:02 slower than the course record of 2:09:25 set by fellow Kenyan Simon Bor in 1999.

For the women, Romanians Aurica Buia, who was fourth in 2000, and Nuta Olaru, who was seventh in the Boston Marathon last year, will lead a field of 12 elites, including 47-year-old Ukrainian Tatyana Pozdnyakova and Lithuanian Zivile Balcunaite.

In the women's pack are: 26-year-old attorney Erika Aklufi of Santa Monica, who will be running only her third marathon with a personal best of 3:06:59 and who will try to qualify for the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials; and 8-year-old Anna Zerpoli of Whittier, who was last year's youngest finisher.

The 26.2-mile course combines the flatter, faster terrain of the 2002 race, beginning with a four-mile downhill stretch, and for the first time it will pass through historic Leimert Park.

Also for the first time, runners will have their first names on their bibs. Los Angeles was the first marathon in the world two years ago to use computer timing chips on runners' shoes to e-mail results to participants in real time.

The men's and women's winners will earn \$25,000 and a new car.

Augusta National Golf Club gets KKK's support

BY RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press Writer

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The leader of a Ku Klux Klan splinter group said Friday he will demonstrate in support of Augusta National Golf Club's all-male membership during the Masters, whether the club likes it or not.

"This equal rights stuff has gotten out of hand," said Joseph J. Harper of Cordele, imperial wizard of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. "We're not concerned with whether they want us there or not. We're concerned with their right to choose who they want to choose" as members.

Harper wrote the Richmond County Sheriff's Department on Thursday, requesting a permit to protest during the Masters in April.

Augusta National, a private club that hosts the Masters each year, issued a statement disavowing any group that seeks to use the tournament as a political soapbox.

"Anyone who knows anything about Augusta National Golf Club or its members knows this is not something that the club would welcome or encourage," said club spokesman Glenn Greenspan.

Martha Burk, the lead advocate in pressing Augusta National to admit

women members, said the club and the Klan deserve one another.

"It is not a surprise that the KKK supports Augusta National Golf Club, since the club embraces and flaunts discrimination," said Burk, chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations. "It must expect support of a like-minded group."

But some say Harper's Klan group is nothing but a one-man show.

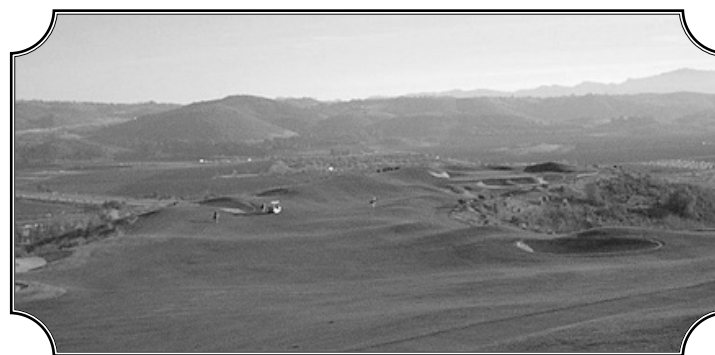
Harper says he formed his own Klan offshoot after a falling out with national Klan organizers in January. The Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate groups, says Harper appears to be the only member.

"He's the only member we're aware of," said Joe Roy, intelligence director for the law center. "He's a very small fish in a big sea of hatred."

Harper declined to discuss how many members his group has, though his request to the sheriff for a protest application said he plans to bring up to 25 people for the Masters.

But Harper said people expecting his Klansmen to wear white hoods and robes have the wrong idea.

"We'll probably be in either blue jeans or suits," Harper said. "We're tired of poor, white trash calling themselves the Ku Klux Klan and the negative image the Ku Klux Klan is getting."



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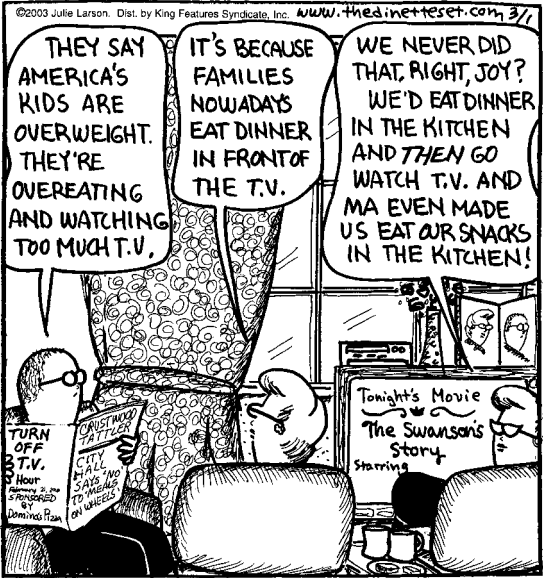
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COMICS

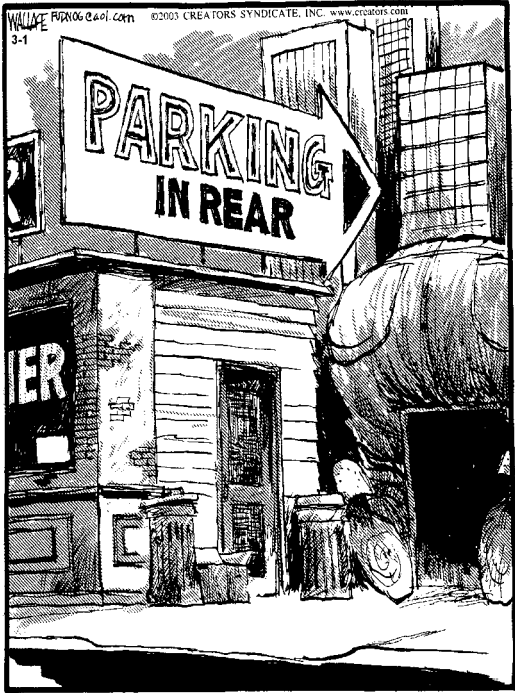
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ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Early method of travel
6 Shire of "Rocky"
11 "C'est —!"
12 Block-head
13 Geriatrics study
14 Resort pad
15 Fall, perhaps
17 None too smart
18 Took a load off
19 Connects
22 Devoured
23 Wolfish
24 The Evil One
25 Kind of weight
27 Computer key letters
30 Trickle
31 Fib
32 Play part
33 African antelope
35 Bulls and stallions
38 Assumed name
39 Ryan of film
40 Kitchen fixture
41 Mean
42 Dandling spots
- 1 Superior
2 Show anger toward
3 Fly high
4 Takes the trophy
5 Restaurant order
6 Peculiarity
7 Fuss
8 Ornamental tree
9 Thyroid need
10 Molecule makeup
16 Spiral shells

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Yesterday's answer

- 20 Another name for the pound sign
21 Light metal
24 Express despair
25 Secret stuff
26 Championships
27 Pal of George and Jerry
28 Cow chow
29 Halts
30 "The Bourne Identity" star
34 Scheme
36 Erode
37 Crafty

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41						42			

3-1

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6 (310) 395-5255

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

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THE FIRST day I put my laptop for sale in your paper, I got several offers and sold it that day! Thank you Daily Press! Jamie Schuler, Santa Monica

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Westside/Central Sectors

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) will hold a public hearing. Metro Westside/Central Sector service changes will be discussed on Tuesday April 1, 2003 at 6:30 PM in Hoffman Hall at Westwood Presbyterian Church, located at 10822 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. The hearings are being held in conformance with federal public hearing requirements and public hearing guidelines adopted by the MTA's Board of Directors in 1993, as amended.

The purpose of the hearings is to receive public comment on proposed service restructuring.
The proposals under consideration are listed below.

METRO WESTSIDE/CENTRAL PROPOSALS EFFECTIVE JUNE, 2003 or LATER

LINE NUMBER	LINE NAME	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
Line 2, Route 3	Sunset Boulevard	Eliminate Route 3 portion of Line 2 (Canon Drive, Beverly Hills) and other minor route change.
Line 4/304	Santa Monica Boulevard	Increased service and minor route changes.
Line 22	Century City – Brentwood Shuttle	Cancel line.
Line 33/333	Venice Boulevard	Increased service and minor route changes.
Line 220	Robertson Boulevard – Culver Boulevard - LAX	Cancel line.
Line 720	Metro Rapid Wilshire/Whittier Boulevards	Proposed schedule modifications.

These proposals may be approved in whole or part at a date following the public hearing. Approved changes would become effective on or about the program dates shown. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the upcoming hearing and provide testimony on these matters. Persons unable to attend either hearing may submit written testimony postmarked through March 25, 2003. All testimony presented will be transmitted for inclusion in the public record.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

LACMTA Metro Westside/Central
One Gateway Plaza, 99-4-5
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2932
Attn: April 1, 2003 Public Hearing for FY 2004 Service Changes

E-mail can be sent to customerrelations@mta.net with FY2004 Service Changes as the subject line.
Facsimiles can be sent to 213-922-1212, Attention: FY2004 Service Changes.

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BACK PAGE



Duck gets prosthetic foot

By The Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Daffney the duck lost one foot to frostbite and was close to losing the other.

So the owner of the 8-month-old Muscovy duck turned to Kirkwood Community College students to give Daffney a second chance at waddling.

Linda Kennedy, the duck's owner and also a surgical technology instructor at the college, asked her students to create a prosthetic foot for Daffney.

On Tuesday, four dental hygiene students took a mold of Daffney's stub foot. Surgical technology students will use the mold to design a fake foot and its method of attachment.

"It's a great learning experience," Kennedy said. "It gives (dental students) a chance to pour molds, it gives my students a chance to learn about anatomy."

Industrial technology students are making a movable joint and attachment system for the prosthesis, and veterinary staff will install it, Kennedy said.

Parkway puts stop to bird droppings

By The Associated Press

WOODBIDGE, N.J. — For the pigeons, cars cruising through some Garden State Parkway toll lanes have been sitting ducks since E-ZPass was installed.

But they will soon be induced to fly the coop.

Electrified wire mesh that thwarted roosting will soon be humming again at four toll plazas under a

\$69,999 contract approved Thursday by the New Jersey Highway Authority.

The "pigeon deterrent system" was disconnected while a contractor started to install the E-ZPass system, the agency said.

The contract with Avian Flyaway Inc. also covers installation of the system at a fifth toll plaza that has recently become a pigeon haven, said Timothy C. McDonough, executive director of the agency that operates the 173-mile highway.

The work is to be completed by the end of April and is not expected to close any toll lanes or cause traffic delays, McDonough said.

Avian Flyaway, of Rockwell, Texas, had installed the system in the late 1990s because the droppings posed a health hazard to toll takers and diminished the quality of life for drivers, McDonough said.

"This we think is the most humane way of handling the situation," McDonough said.

PETA promotes beer over milk

By The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals wants Gov. Jim Doyle to change Wisconsin's official beverage from milk to beer, saying milk is harmful to humans and is meant for calves.

PETA said in a letter to Doyle that beer is healthier than cow's milk, which the group argued could cause heart disease, cancer, allergies, diabetes and obesity.

Milk consumption causes dairy cows stress because they are kept in a constant state of impregnation, the letter claimed.

Cows also suffer because their calves are "ripped" away from them so humans can have the milk meant for the calves, PETA claimed.

PETA first came up with the beer-for-milk national campaign two years ago, but it was retired after being criticized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and other groups. The animal rights group renewed the campaign last spring.

Hair products for your pooch

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — John Paul wants to do for your pooch what he did for your 'do.

Paul, co-founder Paul Mitchell salon products, decided to branch out with a new line of designer hair products — for dogs.

His new line, John Paul Pet, offers a variety of formulas for every pet care need, including a tea tree treatment and an oatmeal conditioning rinse, priced \$5.99 to \$8.99.

"It's pennies a day to give him the very best," he said. "This is luxury pet care at affordable prices."

Paul's pet project wasn't the only one at the 45th annual American Pet Product Manufacturers Association's trade show to give furry friends the human touch. The show, which ends Friday at Atlanta's Georgia World Congress Center, featured the latest trend of pet versions of human products, with everything from designer cologne to kosher cuisine.

CAT scan discovers mummified dog

By The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Using a CAT scan, of course, a veterinarian discovered a 2,000-year-old mummified feline is actually a dog.

The mummy at the Albany Institute of History & Art was scanned using computerized tomography tests by Douglas Cohn, who heads an animal experiment lab at Albany Medical Center.

"Much to my surprise, I realized this was not a cat," he said Wednesday.

The popular Egyptian mummy was acquired by the Institute in 1958. For decades, it was believed to be a cat.

Cohn said the images showed the skull structure resembled a dog, not a cat. He says his findings have been verified by experts at Cornell University.

Mummified cats were more common in ancient Egypt because felines were more highly regarded than canines.

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