

FREE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 96

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

27, 24, 34, 4, 36

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 1, 9, 0

Evening picks: 1, 0, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 6, Whirl Win

2nd Place: 1, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 10, Solid Gold

Race Time: 1:49.15



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ The 48-year-old father of a high school basketball player, riled at the officiating of a game, was charged with assault after allegedly biting two of the three referees in an on-court brawl (Colorado Springs, Colo.).

■ Crude oil bubbled up from the toilet and sinks of Leila LeTourneau's home, covering the floors (possibly from an old, uncapped well under the home) (Longview, Texas).

■ Two Cubans who had tried to land in Florida last year on their pontooned 1951 Chevy truck (but were turned back by the Coast Guard) tried again with a pontooned 1959 Buick (but were again turned back).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You gotta walk while you pee so you don't leave a hole"

— Mexican Proverb



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Schwarzenegger toasts success in SM

Billion-dollar bond passes statewide on 'Super Tuesday' despite controversy

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Surrounded by hundreds of invited guests in a Santa Monica hotel ballroom, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday night celebrated the passage of a controversial \$15 billion bond.

Schwarzenegger, who spent \$8.5 million campaigning for his proposal, credited strong bipartisan support for the victory and pledged to carry that consensus forward. He plans next to tackle issues like workers compensation reform, the state's energy crisis and environmental problems.

"You are the greatest power lifters in the world, you did it," he said in a victory speech at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue. "This is tonight, the people's victory ... We have taken away the credit cards from the politicians in Sacramento. And we took them away and tore them up and threw them away."

Listed on the ballot as Propositions 57 and 58, the governor's plan involves borrowing \$15 billion and setting up an \$8 billion reserve. It also requires the state to pass a balanced budget in future years.

About 100 print and television journalists were on hand for the election night event, which was held in the Miramar's ballroom. Schwarzenegger also used the hotel last month to push the proposal with U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein, a leading Democrat.

It's just that bipartisan support that Schwarzenegger

See VICTORY, page 5



Associated Press

State controller Steve Westly (left) and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger celebrate their victory over the passage of Propositions 57 and 58 at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica on Tuesday night.

Workers return to local grocery stores

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK — After four and a half months on strike, Randy Babb, a grocery clerk at the Albertsons on Lincoln Boulevard, finally returned to work Tuesday.

"It felt like we were rotting away out here," said Babb, 40, standing in front of the store during a break. "It's better working in there than holding a sign out here."

Workers at Albertsons were the first to return to their posts after a new contract was approved by union members over the weekend, ending a regional strike that affected more than 70,000 grocery store employees. Ralphs workers are expected to be back on the job today and Vons employees back at work this weekend.

"We're getting everything cleaned up and ready, and then

we'll get normal loads by the end of the week," said Roxanne Tambern, 31, a floral clerk. Tambern added she had mixed feelings about the contract worked out between the United Food & Commercial Workers Union and supermarket executives, but said it was a matter of time before workers were asked to give up some benefits.

Union officials said shoppers can expect "explosive" deals in coming weeks as the grocery giants try to lure back customers lost during the protracted dispute.

"The merchandise and the pricing that they're going to have on their ads starting next week are going to be gigantic," said Richard Cowan, secretary and treasurer for the UFCW, whose office is in Santa Monica.

That's good news for shoppers like Steve Tipps. Tipps said he avoided the Ocean Park

"I'm not exactly sure how this is working out."

— GERREN EVANSON

Union worker who broke the picket line

Albertsons, which is just around the corner from his home, during the strike — instead shopping at Food 4 Less, Trader Joe's, Co-opportunity and Smart & Final.

"I supported (the strikers) because I think that medical benefits are important for every employee," said Tipps, 52, a Santa Monica resident and teamster who drives trucks for the movie industry.

But the end of the strike may not be good news for everyone. Temporary workers at all stores were on short notice Tuesday that

they soon would lose their jobs. At Vons on Lincoln Boulevard, temporary worker Dale Logan, 20, said he doesn't know what he'll do next — adding he hasn't been told by managers how much longer he'll have a job.

Logan's supervisor, Gerren Evanson, 23, said he quit the union so he could cross the picket line because he couldn't afford not to work. Union workers earned \$240 a week to picket at the beginning of the strike. That amount

See STRIKE, page 5

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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)

★★★★★ Observe how others help charge your thought process. Express your thoughts and don't hold back, as in stream of consciousness. Brainstorming brings forth many ideas, especially involving work and daily living. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You appear to be on the verge of accomplishing something you have considered worthwhile and significant. Friends and family push you across the line. Live up to your value system, making choices accordingly. Tonight: At home, enjoying a change of pace.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might feel pulled between two major concerns. Worry less, and zero in on what you deem to be important. Communication remains critical, as you will cover a lot of ground physically and/or mentally. Tonight: Head out of work as soon as you can.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Expenses give rise to concern. You might want to detach some and seek out expert advice. Clearly, someone else might have a totally different perspective from you. Verify news or information before acting on it. Hearsay won't help. Tonight: Clear out bills.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your smile dazzles many. Use that innate charm to your benefit. You could discover that someone close might have an entirely different outlook on a key partnership issue. Be careful when saying "yes" if you are not totally sure. Tonight: Treat and indulge yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Stand back, even if someone keeps trying to pull you into his or her problem. Know when you need to say enough is enough. You can listen, but you don't have to take action or become involved if you don't want to. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You hit a home run wherever you choose to place your energies. Your superb instincts and intuition about what course will work help you ferret out choices. No matter what, at this point you land on your feet. Tonight: Where the action is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Investigate and ask questions before committing to a course of action. Many will follow your lead. Others look to you for guidance and direction. Understand the nature of your leadership role and responsibilities. Tonight: Play away. Take a midweek break!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to take a break from the demands on the home front as well as at work. The only person who can create just that opportunity is you. Detach from the immediate pressure and think wonderful thoughts — vacation or whatever suits your fancy. Tonight: If you can, create what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Let associates reveal their true colors or play their cards first. Investigate what is happening with a key relationship. You might want to open up a discussion after you find out the lay of the land. Play to win. Tonight: Find a favorite person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Let others play things out the way they want, understanding that you cannot change anyone. The cards are stacked in your favor. Understand what others want, but be clear about your expectations and what you can offer. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Dig into work and integrate a high level of mental and physical energy. Be wise and discuss what you want with those around you before setting out "to do." Feedback might prove to be more important than you think. Tonight: Put your feet up.

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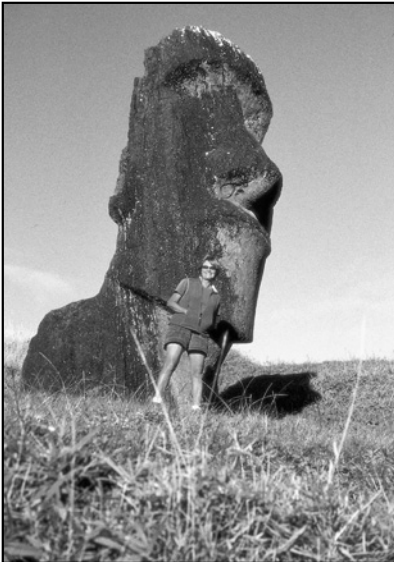
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Archaeologist digs into Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

Easter comes in March at Santa Monica College.

SMC will present a free lecture exploring the Easter Island statues, given by a UCLA archaeologist whose work has been featured on national television programs.

"Among Stone Giants: The Easter Island Statues," by Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg, will be presented at 11:15 a.m. on March 16 in Science Lecture Hall 140, 1900 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica — the second in SMC's spring "Distinguished Scientists Lecture Series."

Van Tilburg, who holds a Ph.D. in archaeology from UCLA, is the director of the Easter Island Statue Project and the world's leading expert on Easter Island statues, according to school officials. She also is the author of the book "Among Stone Giants: The Life of

Photo courtesy of SMC

Jo Anne Van Tilburg in Easter Island.

Katherine Routledge and Her Remarkable Expedition to Easter Island."

Convinced that the harmonious and ordered symmetry of the statues would reveal the secrets of their past, Van Tilburg has spent two decades documenting every detail of the stone giants' placement in the island landscape. Her work advanced the understanding of the structure of the Easter Island chiefdom and integrated the symbolism of the great statues into Easter Island's history and ecology, according to officials.

Winner of the 2001 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation, she has been featured on numerous educational programs and documentaries created for BBC, PBS' Nova, The Learning Channel, Discovery Channel and History Channel.

The lecture series is sponsored by the SMC Associates, a private organization that funds speakers and special events on campus.

For more information, call (310) 434-4003.

Artists wanted to design park 'element'

By Daily Press staff

An artist is needed to help design a new park.

City Hall is seeking experienced, professional Los Angeles County-based public artists to submit qualifications for the design of an art element for the new Euclid Park.

City Hall wants an artist who has the demonstrated ability to serve as an effective collaborator within a team of architects, landscape architects and other design consultants.

The artist must be available to meet with the project architect on a schedule to be determined by the architect and city staff, and will be expected to attend public meetings to gather community input on design. The artist may have experience in any media. The artist will be paid \$10,000.

A downloadable copy of the request for qualifications may be found at the Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division Web site, <http://www.arts.santa-monica.org>.



This is not shaping up to be a very good surf week. Winds and semi-funky conditions — not to mention periods of rain and nasty run-off — have plagued the region. There doesn't look like much improvement on the horizon. Expect many areas to remain small today as we see a mix of leftover windswell and background SW swell. Expect 2 to 3', knee- to waist-high, and poor to fair conditions.

Outlook: A new, but very steep, NW swell shows on Thursday and Friday but many spots will be bypassed due to the swell angle. Smaller surf is expected for the weekend.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break. Epic.

Today the water is:

58°

	LOW TIDES		HIGH TIDES	
	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
SATURDAY	11:21 AM	N/A	2:33 AM	N/A
SUNDAY	12:11 PM	11:06 PM	4:04 AM	7:42 PM
MONDAY	12:49 PM	N/A	5:12 AM	7:48 PM
TUESDAY	12:04 AM	1:22 PM	6:02 AM	8:05 PM
WEDNESDAY	12:43 AM	1:46 PM	6:39 AM	8:18 PM
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The QLine

The recent debut of Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ" has sparked a fervent debate in religious and non-religious circles.

Some feel the film is a true depiction of the end for Jesus Christ. Others feel it is anti-Semitic and inaccurate.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know,

"What do you think of 'The Passion' and why?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your responses before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Saturday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS

OPCO should answer

Editor:

Upon reading your article regarding the continuing OPCO saga (SMDP, March 1, page 1), it never ceases to amaze me the complete disregard this organization has for the rule of law.

It appears that Rick Laudati, Mario Bonardi, the former OPCO board, et al. blame anything and everything except themselves for OPCO's demise. Their complete lack of understanding on how an organization of this type (nonprofit corporation) can function without proper due diligence, financial oversight and accountability speaks volumes on how they perceive their mission and their responsibility. Moreover, it illustrates what a total lack of respect they have for the citizens that they claim they represent.

Mr. Laudati is lucky Tom Fuller does not press criminal charges on him and the rest of the OPCO board. If it were me, I wouldn't hesitate to send a message to these individuals that this type of apparent malfeasance will not be tolerated whether it evolves Enron or a community organization.

Ben Jacobs
Santa Monica

Feed them and they will come

Editor:

I'm responding to Janet Phelan's "From the Street" column (SMDP, March 2, page 5) how the homeless are "under attack by the government." She writes that 140 homeless are fed a cooked pasta dish, with fruit and salad, etc. every Wednesday in Palisades Park. The "picnics" have been hosted by local businessman Paul Grymkowski for the past four years. Let's not forget the City Council has passed a law banning feeding in parks yet Grymkowski says he will continue his program.

Palisades Park is yet another park ruined by this type of activity. Reed Park is a joke now. Early one Sunday morning, I visited a friend who lives across from Reed Park and we watched as a group of five "good-hearted" people passed out sack lunches to a line of about 30 homeless. Another man even passed out pairs of socks. My friend told them he's tired of looking out his window and seeing the park filled with people sleeping, their sleeping bags, bedrolls and people's worldly belongings. They looked at him like he was from Mars. How could he be so insensitive? Further discussion found that only one of the five actually lived in Santa Monica. It's easy to help when the problem isn't in your own backyard and you don't have to face it every day with people going through your trash, urinating on the streets and other types of antisocial behavior. Feed people and they will come. Yes, they will come from all over the country as they do. I've been a lifelong resident of Santa Monica and the quality of life here has greatly diminished in the past decade.

The good old days are over. I found it hilarious that news of the council's ordinance has traveled "as far as India where it was met with shock and disbelief." Yes, Santa

Monica is beginning to look like New Deli in that respect with homeless beggars on the streets.

The article goes on to say Mr. Grymkowski lives in Topanga Canyon. Exactly. If these "picnics" are for his "friends and family" as he says, then invite your "friends" up to your land in Topanga Canyon, not in our local park where our quality of life has been dramatically affected. Yes, there are folks who need help and they should receive that help, but there are others who live on the streets as a "lifestyle" choice. For those who make it a choice, it's not this city's responsibility to subsidize your actions. You don't find this problem in West Los Angeles, Palms, Malibu, Culver City, or any other city nearby. We can't legalize personal responsibility, but if people know they can come to Santa Monica and be taken care of by "good-hearted" people who don't require them to start a path of recovery, then they will continue to come and live on the streets.

Mark Sanderson
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Please send letters to:
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Let's try affirmative action for corporate contracts



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

The Supreme Court last year stated that diversity could result in a broad social value and upheld the right for the University of Michigan to use race as a factor in admissions. Affirmative action proponents had argued that colleges were already using non-academic criteria by giving preferences to the offspring of large contributors or famous alumni, even if those offspring — as was the case with George W. Bush — were only average students.

President Bush, in turn, has incorporated similar factors in affording the inside track on government contracts to large

campaign contributors or those who bailed the president out of one of his many failed enterprises. And Halliburton, the company that employed Vice President Cheney as CEO and later awarded him an overly generous severance package despite his poor performance, was permitted to forgo the bidding process entirely.

However, with America having lost nearly 3 million jobs and the economy trying to struggle out of a recession, it might be a good time to try "corporate" affirmative action. This would allow the government to give weight to an assortment of factors when awarding government contracts other than the fact that a company donated millions to political campaigns.

The way the system would work is that contracts would be awarded to the lowest effective bid. The effective bid would be the actual bid minus 1 percent for each business policy embraced by the bidder that are positive for the U.S. economy and

American workers and by adding 1 percent for each factor that is detrimental.

Say for instance two companies were bidding for a contract. Company A's actual bid was \$2 billion and Company B's was \$1.9 billion.

Company A manufactures its products predominantly in the U.S. It provides employees a comprehensive health plan. And within the last five years, it has made capital improvements to clean up polluting plants. These three factors would allow it to reduce its bid by 3 percent, for an effective bid of \$1.94 billion.

Company B employs foreign workers at substandard wages. Accounting, payroll and other backroom operations have been out-sourced to foreign entities. Earnings within the last five years were restated due to accounting irregularities. Executives or board members have received lucrative compensation packages despite poor corporate results. And the company has an offshore address to avoid

U.S. taxes. These five negative factors would result in a 5 percent increase to its actual bid for an effective bid of \$1.995 billion.

Company A would be awarded the contract. And even though the contract would cost Americans an additional \$100 million, it would stimulate our economy, rather than China's. It is also likely that the entire \$100 million difference would be returned in the form of corporate and income taxes. More importantly, corporate affirmative action would encourage broad social value by supporting minority companies.

By minority companies I mean those corporations that put the interests of Americans ahead of their own greed.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. His compensation package is directly linked to his performance. Comments can be restated to: edsincites@aol.com).



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LOCAL



Union representatives to meet with local grocers

STRIKE, from page 1

later dwindled to \$125, workers said.

Evanson said he made \$17.90 as a cashier before the strike and \$17.90 as a supervising cashier during the strike. But now that the strike is over, Evanson said his standing with the UFCW is uncertain.

"I'm not exactly sure how this is working out," he said during a work break. "I'm being given two options — layoff or demotion, and neither is acceptable ... Either way it goes, we're (out of luck)."

While Evanson and temporary workers figure out what step to make next, Cowan said his office is dealing with a minimum of two month's worth of paperwork as a result of the strike — everything from processing picket line complaints to creating educational pamphlets. The coming weeks may get busier, as Cowan said he

hopes to meet with officials from Gelson's, Vicente Foods and Bob's Market — all unionized stores with contracts set to expire soon, he said.

Cowan added workers who broke the picket line to return to work likely will be hired back at their old wages. Union dues range from \$24 to \$37 a month, he added.

Meanwhile, Babb, a 20-year veteran of Albertsons, said he's generally pleased with the way the strike panned out. He said he spent as many as 16 hours a day on the picket line — doubling up his shifts so he could spend free time with friends and family, especially around the holidays. Asked about the cut in health benefits, Babb said it wasn't ideal — but it was predictable.

"We got away with it for a long time," he said.

Prop 56 losing in early returns; Prop 55 winning

VICTORY, from page 1

said he is so proud of. More than 250 organizations — from taxpayer groups on the left to unions on the right — threw their weight behind the twin propositions, which passed by a strong margin.

State Controller Steve Westly, a Democrat and co-chair on the campaign in favor of the propositions, said party affiliation wasn't an issue.

"I did it because it's the right thing to do," he said. "People call us the political odd couple ... Here's the real political odd couple — the breadth and diversity of groups that came together to do the right thing."

The success of Schwarzenegger's propositions bodes well for his political future. Joel Fox, a political consultant who was instrumental more than 20 years ago in the campaign for Proposition 13, said the overwhelming success of Schwarzenegger's plan is a sign to the state Legislature that he can win public support if faced with a political deadlock.

"It's going to hit, if they don't do anything about worker's comp, so they better view it as a hammer," Fox said as votes were being tallied.

Former Gov. Pete Wilson agreed. He said the success of Props 57 and 58 show that Schwarzenegger has clout with the voters.

"It's not the only test, but it says a lot about the type of person he is — forceful, honest, direct," Wilson told reporters.

Schwarzenegger was accompanied on stage by more than 30 key supporters, including Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn and California Police Chiefs



John Wood/Daily Press

About 100 journalists — including more than 30 news cameras — covered the election night celebration at the Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica.

Association President Cam Sanchez. At the close of the victory speech, a blue banner dropped behind the group on stage that read, "California is back on track."

At presstime, with 50 percent of California's precincts reporting, the proposal to issue the bond, Prop 57, had 61.5 percent support. Prop 58, which would require the state legislature to pass a balanced budget and set aside a reserve, had 70.4 percent support. Both of the ballot initiatives must pass in order for either to take effect.

The initial voter returns were much closer on Prop 55, a proposal to issue \$12.3 billion to fund repairs to schools. Support for that proposal was 50.3 percent of the early vote.

Prop 56, which would have allowed the California Legislature to pass a budget with a 55 percent majority, instead of the two-thirds currently required, was losing with only 35.9 percent of votes.

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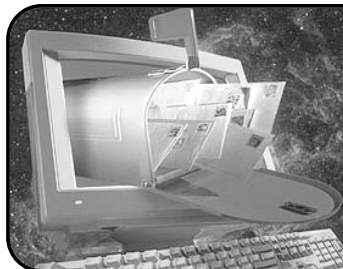
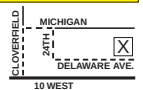
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STATE □ NATIONAL

Hutchinson looks forward on first anniversary of Homeland Security dept.

BY MICHELLE MORGANTE
Associated Press Writer

CORONADO — One year after 180,000 government employees were banded together to form the new Department of Homeland Security, Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson said last week that the department will continue to work on enhancing the nation's safety through new technology and programs.

"We have been given a task to accomplish that will be judged by history. And that task ... is to better secure the United States of America," Hutchinson told a gathering of Homeland Security employees at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado.

Top priorities for the department's second year include improving information-sharing among agencies, states and major urban areas to fight terrorism and devising a terrorist watch list for border agents and law-enforcement officers.

The department will begin using biometric technology, such as fingerprinting, to identify foreigners crossing through the 50 busiest land ports of entry by the end of 2004. New express lanes will be opened along the Mexican and Canadian borders to ease crossings for travelers and cargo carriers who have undergone background checks.

The biometric program — known as the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology, or U.S.-VISIT — will not be applied to the thousands of frequent Mexican travelers who have U.S. issued border-crossing cards, he said.

San Diego is home to two of the world's busiest border crossings that link the city with Tijuana, Mexico. More than 165,000 people enter San Diego from Mexico each day, many of whom wait in long border lines to reach jobs or schools.

"People are concerned about any changes that, understandably, might cause additional delays. That is not our intent and that is not what we will be designing," Hutchinson said.

The San Diego area is home to more than 5,000 Homeland Security workers.

Hutchinson said the department will devote new resources to protecting the U.S.-Mexico border, as well as working with Mexico to improve safety.

In the 2003 fiscal year, the Border Patrol reported 346 people died while trying to illegally enter the United States, a new high. Increased security along populated parts of the border, such as San Diego, have pushed illegal immigrants into more remote and dangerous territory, such as the Arizona desert.

"We are working very quickly on a high-level basis to build better border security measures as we head into the dangerous summer months," Hutchinson said.

Plans include increasing patrols along remote areas and working with Mexican agencies to advise would-be illegal immigrants against crossing. The department also intends to target immigrant-smuggling organizations and help Mexico return deported immigrants to their hometowns in the interior of the country, rather than to border towns.

The department also intends to continue with plans to complete additional fencing along the westernmost 3.5 miles of the U.S. Mexico border. The California Coastal Commission recently rejected the idea, saying the fencing and plans to fill in canyons to build patrol roads would harm environmentally sensitive habitat.

The project, he said, "does need to be complete. But we will do it in a way that ... is not in violation with the current environmental requirements."

Hutchinson, who was a federal prosecutor in San Diego in 1982, credited the increased security along the border with dramatically reducing illegal crossings in the area.

"I was out on the border and saw the openness of it at that time," he said. "The more than quadrupling of Border Patrol presence has helped us, but also the building of that fence has helped us to control this border."

Governors back plan to hold regional caucuses in 2008

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Western governors have agreed to work to set up a series of caucuses in Western states on one day early in the 2008 presidential primary season.

The governors believe unifying Western delegates would allow them to draw attention to common issues involving water, the environment, energy, agriculture, wildland fires and border security.

Former Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt pushed for a similar proposal in the 2000 campaign, but several states balked at the cost of paying for state primaries. The change cost Utah \$600,000 in that election.

But New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said that party-funded caucuses would alleviate concerns about costs.

"New Mexico and Arizona both held early caucuses this year, and I would hope

other Western states would consider an early February date for caucuses," Richardson told members of the Western Governors Association.

New Mexico moved up its caucuses on the calendar so it could play a larger role in picking a presidential candidate. Roughly 106,000 voters turned out, more than twice what was expected.

"It makes so much sense for a group of states to go together, not only for the benefit of helping select the party nominees, but also because our issues will get lost if we don't," said Utah Gov. Olene Walker. "When you make no difference in the process, there is not much enthusiasm."

The governors plan to discuss the issue in more detail when they meet in Santa Fe, N.M., in June.

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LISA GRACE-KELLOGG SBN 191988 Attorneys at Law 210 S. Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (213) 628-4384 Attorney for Petitioner, SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES IN RE THE PETITION ROSS FURUKAWA TO ESTABLISH THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION and NO. BS087128 NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO ESTABLISH A NEWSPAPER AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION: MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES (Government Code §6000) NOTICE IS GIVEN that on March 17, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner Ross Furukawa, will move for an order pursuant to Government Code §6000 adjudicating The Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. The hearing will be held in Department 45 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The Petitioner sets forth the following: 1. Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is editor of the newspaper known as The Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudication under Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. 2. The Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character in the County of Los Angeles, California. It is not devoted to the interests, or published for the entertainment or instruction of a particular class, profession, trade, calling, race, or denomination, or for any number thereof. 3. The Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers numbering 26 in the County of Los Angeles for a total of 26 bona fide paying subscribers. 4. For more than one year preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established and has been printed and published at regular intervals in the County of Los Angeles. 5. During the whole of such one-year period, the mechanical work of producing the petitioning newspaper, that is, the work of typesetting and impressing type on paper, has been performed in the County of Los Angeles; the newspaper has been issued from the same county where it is printed and sold; it has been both printed and published in the County; and it has been published as a daily newspaper on each weekday and Saturday and has a daily paid circulation of 26. WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that The Santa Monica Daily Press be adjudicated pursuant to Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, State of California. DATED: January 13, 2004 LISA GRACE-KELLOGG Attorney for Petitioner

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Big tax incentives to be had on investment properties



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

More and more people are investing in real estate. Some go for income producing properties, others retirement homes. According to a study by the National Association of Realtors, between 1992 and 2002, annual sales of second homes grew by 36 percent. American Demographics magazine forecasts that the market will grow nearly 50 percent by 2010.

"The straightforward explanation is that the number of people age 55 to 64 — the ones with the greatest propensity to purchase a second home — is rising at 5 percent a year," says American Demographics founder Peter Francese.

Think about our historically low interest rates and the assumption that real estate is a safer place to park cash than the stock market then plug in the myriad of tax benefits, and that is why everybody is out looking for more property. Truly, it doesn't matter what type of real estate investment property you own — rental houses, commercial buildings, shopping centers, apartments, warehouses, or land — they all offer big tax incentives.

LOSS DEDUCTION

A real estate investor who is not a "real estate professional" is legally limited to a

maximum annual \$25,000 realty investment property loss deduction against their ordinary taxable income — providing this non-professional investor's annual adjusted income does not exceed \$100,000.

Above the six-figure adjusted income level, the allowable tax loss deduction phases out, flat lining at \$150,000. Comfortably, IRS Notice 88-94 allows those in that tax stratosphere to suspend their undeducted real estate investment tax loss until the property is sold. The suspended tax loss is then subtracted from the capital gain to lower the taxable profit at the time of sale.

To qualify, part-time investors must own at least 10 percent of the investment property and must "materially participate" in property management decisions.

A real estate professional (who spends at least 750 hours per year, or more than 50 percent of their business time in qualified real estate work) has deductions galore.

"There is no limit to the allowable tax deductions from your properties that can be subtracted from your other ordinary income," according to real estate expert Bob Bruss.

DEPRECIATION

The government has gifted property investors the opportunity to depreciate their investment properties. Depreciation is a "paper loss" required for estimated wear, tear and obsolescence. Keep in mind, land value is not depreciable.

Residential income property is depreciated over 27.5 years on a straight-line basis (equal annual reductions in the book value of a property). Commercial property is depreciated over 39 years. Personal items used in operating the property, such as apartment appliances, are usually depreciated over five to 10 years. Automobiles and trucks used in the investment operation can be depreciated over their useful lives. There is also the new first-year 100 percent deduction for up to \$100,000 of business equipment.

Depreciation is a non-cash expense deduction, which reduces taxable income from the investment property. According to Bruss, depreciation expense deductions can turn a positive cash flow property into a tax loss for income tax purposes, thus creating a "tax shelter" for that income property's tax flow. While most investment properties appreciate in market value each year, on paper their "book value" depreciates as the property ages. Accounting shows that the book value declines while the market value goes up.

RECAPTURED DEPRECIATION GETS TAXED WITH THE SALE

The 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act reduced the federal capital gains tax rate to 20 percent. In 2003, the government again reduced the capital gains tax rate to 15 percent for assets owned more than 12 months. By the way, the special 25 percent depreciation "recapture" tax rate remains unchanged. Those depreciation

deductions you've taken are taxed when a property is sold.

Bruss points out that if you bought an investment property for \$300,000 and deducted \$100,000 of depreciation during your ownership years, the book value, also known as the "adjusted cost basis," declined to \$200,000. Then you sold for \$450,000. Your capital gain is therefore \$250,000 (\$450,000 minus \$200,000).

Of that \$250,000 capital gain, the \$100,000 depreciation deducted is "recaptured" and taxed at the 25 percent special federal tax rate. The \$150,000 remainder of your capital gain will be taxed at the new 15 percent maximum tax rate.

"In tax circles, this little adjustment is known as depreciation 'recapture,' and essentially it's the government's way of making sure you don't take advantage of depreciation deductions twice," observes CNN/Money columnist Walter Updegrave.

Many investors will avoid paying the 25 percent federal recapture tax rate for deducted depreciation by exchanging the property for another investment property, better known as a 1031 exchange.

Beyond pride of ownership, so many tax benefits can be had from real estate investment properties. Talk to your accountant about which tax deductions may be right for you.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

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SOLD 331 22ND ST SANTA MONICA 90402	SOLD 901 10TH ST #308 SANTA MONICA 90403	SOLD 1950 CLOVERFIELD BL #8 SANTA MONICA 90404
DATE SOLD: 02/27/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/24/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/26/2004
SQFT: 5,934 LIST PRICE: \$2,895,000 BED: 6	SQFT: 1,380 LIST PRICE: \$599,000 BED: 2	SQFT: 783 LIST PRICE: \$289,000 BED: 2
LOT SIZE: 7,548 SOLD PRICE: \$2,800,000 BATH: 5.50	HOD: \$315 SOLD PRICE: \$667,500 BATH: 1.75	HOD: \$182 SOLD PRICE: \$295,000 BATH: 1.00
SOLD 927 25TH ST SANTA MONICA 90403	SOLD 1338 STANFORD ST #E SANTA MONICA 90404	SOLD 2621 CENTINELA AVE #2 SANTA MONICA 90405
DATE SOLD: 02/27/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/28/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/26/2004
SQFT: N/A LIST PRICE: \$1,300,000 BED: 3	SQFT: 1,868 LIST PRICE: \$595,000 BED: 3	SQFT: 649 LIST PRICE: \$239,000 BED: 1
LOT SIZE: 8,350 SOLD PRICE: \$1,485,000 BATH: 1.00	HOD: \$200 SOLD PRICE: \$655,000 BATH: 3.00	HOD: \$220 SOLD PRICE: \$250,000 BATH: 1.00
SOLD 213 PACIFIC ST SANTA MONICA 90405	SOLD 930 CALIFORNIA AVE #206 SANTA MONICA 90403	SOLD 1148 STANFORD ST SANTA MONICA 90403
DATE SOLD: 02/24/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/27/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/26/2004
SQFT: 0 LIST PRICE: \$1,050,000 BED: 2	SQFT: 1,460 LIST PRICE: \$639,000 BED: 2	SQFT: 0 LIST PRICE: \$3,695,000 #UNITS: 10
LOT SIZE: 0 SOLD PRICE: \$1,000,000 BATH: 2.00	HOD: \$250 SOLD PRICE: \$630,000 BATH: 2.00	LOT SIZE: 10,201 SOLD PRICE: \$34,437,000 GRM: 13.00
SOLD 2350 HILL ST SANTA MONICA 90405	SOLD 1039 GRANT ST #5 SANTA MONICA 90405	SOLD 2219 4TH ST SANTA MONICA 90405
DATE SOLD: 02/25/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/27/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/24/2004
SQFT: 1,723 LIST PRICE: \$929,000 BED: 4	SQFT: 1,569 LIST PRICE: \$569,000 BED: 2	SQFT: 0 LIST PRICE: \$1,799,000 #UNITS: 10
LOT SIZE: 6,978 SOLD PRICE: \$942,000 BATH: 2.00	HOD: \$200 SOLD PRICE: \$575,000 2.50	LOT SIZE: 5,209 SOLD PRICE: \$1,800,000 GRM: 13.80
SOLD 310 AMALFI DR SANTA MONICA 90402	SOLD 2411 3RD ST #C SANTA MONICA 90405	SOLD 1844 17TH ST SANTA MONICA 90404
DATE SOLD: 02/25/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/24/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/26/2004
SQFT: 4,000 LIST PRICE: \$2,350,000 BED: 4	SQFT: 693 LIST PRICE: \$489,000 BED: 1	SQFT: 2,436 LIST PRICE: \$683,000 #UNITS: 2
LOT SIZE: 6,000 SOLD PRICE: \$0 BATH: 5.50	HOD: \$100 SOLD PRICE: \$489,000 BATH: 1.00	LOT SIZE: 7,496 SOLD PRICE: \$675,000 GRM: 0.00
SOLD 311 OCEAN AVE #305 SANTA MONICA 90402	SOLD 935 9TH ST #935 1/2 SANTA MONICA 90403	
DATE SOLD: 02/23/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/27/2004	
SQFT: 1,422 LIST PRICE: \$989,000 BED: 3	SQFT: 900 LIST PRICE: \$429,000 BED: 1	
HOD: \$245 SOLD PRICE: \$940,000 BATH: 2.00	HOD: \$240 SOLD PRICE: \$456,000 BATH: 1.00	
SOLD 125 MONTANA AVE #307 SANTA MONICA 90403	SOLD 848 PACIFIC ST #1 SANTA MONICA 90405	
DATE SOLD: 02/27/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/26/2004	
SQFT: 1,334 LIST PRICE: \$699,000 BED: 2	SQFT: 578 LIST PRICE: \$379,000 BED: 1	
HOD: \$265 SOLD PRICE: \$725,000 BATH: 2.00	HOD: \$207 SOLD PRICE: \$410,000 BATH: 1.00	
SOLD 140 OCEAN PARK BLVD #426 SANTA MONICA 90405	SOLD 1217 20TH ST #303 SANTA MONICA 90404	
DATE SOLD: 02/27/2004	DATE SOLD: 02/26/2004	
SQFT: 1,502 LIST PRICE: \$775,000 BED: 2	SQFT: 1,021 LIST PRICE: \$399,000 BED: 2	
HOD: \$540 SOLD PRICE: \$700,000 BATH: 2.00	HOD: \$230 SOLD PRICE: \$399,000 BATH: 2.00	

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REAL ESTATE



LA's office market explodes, will continue to stay on top



IN YOUR SPACE

By Christina S. Porter

The Los Angeles Basin office market is huge — the fourth largest market in the United States, with approximately 314 million square feet of multi-tenant space.

It is highly decentralized, with only 17 percent of the space in downtown Los Angeles and 83 percent dispersed throughout the region, and with most of the space in low or mid-rise buildings. It also is a relatively young market, with 63 percent of the square feet built since 1980. The market softened considerably in 2001 and 2002 due to the completion of a large amount of new space (12.2 million square feet, which expanded the base by 3.9 percent), as well as significant negative net absorption (a total of 3.6 million square feet, for shrinkage in occupied space of 1.3 percent) due to a weak economy.

Vacancy rates climbed to 17 percent, which includes sublet space and effective rental rates dropped by 5 percent to 10 percent on average, and by more than that in high-rent areas, particularly West Los Angeles and South Orange County. However, the market reached bottom in mid-2003, and is now starting to recover. Net absorption in 2003 totaled 3.1 million square feet, up from negative 1.2 million square feet in 2002. Square feet completed totaled 2.6 million square feet, down from 3.6 million square feet in 2002. The vacancy rate dropped from 17 percent at year-end 2002 to 16.7 percent at year-end 2003, which includes space available for sublease, with the entire decline taking place in the last half of the year. Asking rental rates continued to drop during the first half of 2003, but by a relatively small amount — 1 percent to 2 percent. They stabilized in most areas in the second half of the year. Vacancy rates today are highest in high-rise buildings (18 percent), followed by mid-rise buildings (17.8 percent) and low-rise (15.2 percent).

They also are highest in Class A buildings (18.6 percent), followed by Class B buildings (14.8 percent) and Class C (7 percent). This pattern is due to:

■ Most of the new construction in recent years has been in high-rise Class A buildings, and this space has not yet filled up.

■ Tenants shifted requirements toward lower-cost space during the recent economic downturn. Only 1.8 million square feet is currently under construction, which, when complete, will expand the base by 0.6 percent — a level that can be readily absorbed if the economy remains strong. Market conditions are projected to continue to tighten in 2004. From a tenant's perspective, these are opportune times to expand or to lock in long-term rates. They also are excellent times for firms to take advantage of very low mortgage rates to purchase office buildings that meet their needs. Within the Los Angeles Basin, demand has been strongest in Orange County, the San Fernando Valley and the tri-city area (Glendale/ Pasadena/ Burbank). It has been weakest in the South Bay and Central Los Angeles. Vacancy rates are lowest in Ventura County (12.1 percent) and the San Fernando Valley (12.3 percent), and highest in the South Bay (21.7 percent).

THE MEDICAL OFFICE NICHE

One segment that is generally healthy is the medical office niche. Demand for this space has been strong and, in Los Angeles County, vacancy rates are low — 8 percent. In Orange County, vacancy rates in medical office buildings are somewhat higher — 10.7 percent due to a high level of construction in recent years, rental rates are climbing.

West Los Angeles commands the highest rental rates in the Los Angeles Basin. It has a concentration of high profile firms — including those in entertainment, computer programming and finance — and is in the midst of some of the most exclusive residential neighborhoods in the nation. It has a large office base, with 47.8 million square feet. It is a relatively young market, with 57 percent of its space built since 1980. It also is moderately dense, with 62 percent of its space in mid- or high rise buildings. Net absorption turned positive in West Los Angeles in 2003 (+350,800 square feet), following very significant negative numbers in 2001 (-1.9 million square feet) and in 2002 (-1.2 million square feet). The implosion of the dot.com and entertainment sectors is finally over, and the market is starting to recover. A large amount of new space came on line in 2003 (1.0 million square feet), including the 775,000-square-foot MGM.

The Tower in Century City caused the

vacancy rate to continue to climb, despite the positive net absorption. The vacancy rate peaked in the summer 2003, at 18.6 percent, up from 17.4 percent at year-end 2002 and up very sharply from 8.9 percent three years ago. By year-end, however, it had dropped slightly to 18.4 percent. Asking rental rates finally stabilized following a freefall in 2001 and 2002, and actually increased slightly in the second half of the year. The amount of construction activity currently underway is relatively small, just 386,200 square feet. This will enable market conditions to tighten in 2004 and 2005.

(The above is an excerpt from NAI Capital's "Year End-2003 Market Report." The market report is published quarterly and covers all different types of real estate in the Los Angeles Basin, Ventura County and Orange County, with the exception of single family residential. Call (310) 806-6104 if you would like a copy. Christina S. Porter specializes in the leasing and selling of office and industrial buildings on Los Angeles' westside and beyond. E-mail at cporter@naicapital.com.)

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02/24/2004	1821 Wilshire Blvd.	\$2.85/fs	2,149

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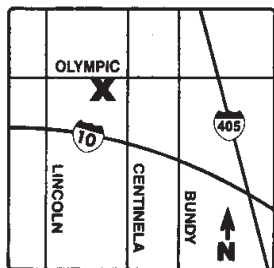
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INTERNATIONAL

Rebel declares himself Haiti's new military chief

BY PAISLEY DODDS
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Rebel leader Guy Philippe on Tuesday declared himself the new chief of Haiti's military, which had been disbanded by ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Flanked by other rebel leaders and senior officers of Haiti's police force, Philippe told a news conference: "I am the chief." Asked what he meant, he said, "the military chief."

"I am not interested in politics," he said. "The president is the legal president, so we follow his orders."

Philippe also said the rebel forces that participated in the uprising that sent Aristide into African exile would disarm.

Haiti's Supreme Court Chief Justice Boniface Alexandre was installed as interim leader Sunday, just hours after Aristide fled under pressure from the United States and France. Alexandre has kept a low profile since.

Exiled Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier said he wanted to return to his homeland.

"This is my country," Duvalier told Miami's WFOR-CBS4 television in an interview in Paris. "I'm ready to put myself at the disposal of the Haitian people."

Duvalier said he doesn't plan to run for president.

"That is not on my agenda," he said.

The deposed dictator said he requested a diplomatic passport several weeks ago

and is in constant contact with people in Haiti.

"I think I'm getting close and that I will soon have the opportunity to go back to my country," he said.

Philippe, a former provincial police chief during Aristide's tenure, has said he wants to reconstitute the army that ousted Aristide in 1991. Aristide disbanded the military in 1995, a year after he was returned to power by 20,000 U.S. troops.

Human Rights Watch has said Philippe has a "dubious human rights record," pointing to executions of gang members committed by a deputy while he was police chief of Port-au-Prince's Delmas section.

Aristide told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Monday that he was "forced to leave" Haiti by U.S. military forces. He added that they would "start shooting and be killing" if he refused, but it was unclear if he was referring to rebels or U.S. agents.

American officials dismissed Aristide's claim. Secretary of State Colin Powell called the allegations "absolutely baseless, absurd." U.S. officials acknowledged privately, however, that Aristide was told that if he remained in Haiti, U.S. forces would not protect him from the rebels who wanted to arrest him and put him on trial for corruption and murder.

At least 143 killed when explosions rock shrines

BY TAREK AL-ISSAWI
Associated Press Writer

KARBALA, Iraq — Simultaneous explosions ripped through crowds of worshippers Tuesday at Shiite Muslim shrines in Baghdad and Karbala, killing at least 143 people on the holiest day of the Shiite calendar, a U.S. general said. It was the bloodiest day since the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

A "prime suspect" in the attacks was al-Qaida-linked militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who U.S. officials claim is trying to start a Sunni-Shiite civil war, said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt. In Iran, which lost at least 22 countrymen in the attacks, Iranian vice president Mohammad Ali Abtahi also blamed al-Qaida.

The attacks, a combination of suicide bombings and planted explosives during the Shiite festival of Ashoura, coincided with a shooting attack on Shiite worshippers in Quetta, Pakistan, that killed at least 42 people and wounded more than 150.

Police in the southern city of Basra kept the wave of violence from being even bloodier, arresting four would-be suicide bombing suspects.

Monday night, a bomb was defused in the holiest Shiite city, Najaf, officials said.

Tuesday was the climax of the 10-day Ashoura festival. It is the most important period in the Shiite calendar and draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims in Iraq,

Iran, Pakistan and other Shiite communities.

The devastation Tuesday included the work of three suicide bombers who set off explosives in and around Baghdad's Kazimiya shrine, killing 58 and wounding 200, Kimmitt told reporters. In Karbala, at least one suicide attacker blew himself up and pre-set explosives detonated, killing 85 and wounding more than 230, he said.

A fourth suicide bomber whose explosives did not detonate was captured at Kazimiya, and six people were arrested in connection with the attack in Karbala, Kimmitt told reporters in Baghdad.

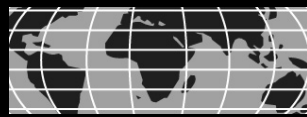
Iraqi police also arrested four would-be suicide bombers in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Tuesday. Two men were arrested after a car bomb was found outside the Seyed Ali al-Musawi Mosque. Later in the day, police arrested two women who were wearing explosives-laden belts as they marched in a procession to mark Ashoura.

U.S. soldiers who arrived at Kazimiya were attacked by angry crowds throwing stones and garbage, injuring two Americans.

"This is the work of Jews and American occupation forces," blared a loudspeaker outside the Kazimiya shrine. Inside, cleric Hassan Toaima told an angry crowd, "We demand to know who did this so that we can avenge our martyrs."



NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Palestinian adviser killed in ambush

By The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gunmen killed an adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in a street ambush early Tuesday, feeding fears of growing lawlessness and chaos ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Khalil al-Zaben, 59, was hit by 12 bullets as he left his Gaza City office. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the killing, seen as one of the most serious challenges yet to Arafat. Security officials said they had no suspects.

The Palestinian Authority has been weakened by more than three years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting, and armed gangs, including gunmen with ties to Arafat's Fatah movement, are increasingly controlling the streets.

Al-Zaben, a local publisher, had recently criticized the growing chaos and spoken out against the rogue armed gangs roaming Gaza. He was the best-known Palestinian to be killed in the internal fighting and power struggles in Gaza City.

The Palestinian Cabinet and national security council were to discuss the killing at a meeting Tuesday, said minister Saeb Erekat.

Family's bodies found in woods

By The Associated Press

YAZOO CITY, Miss. — More than two weeks after a family of three vanished on Valentine's Day, authorities found their bodies in a wooded area and charged the father's cousin with capital murder.

Earnest Lee Hargon, a 43-year-old truck driver, was arrested on unrelated drug charges Friday, and authorities rushed to the search area in southern Mississippi on Monday morning.

Teams of law officers using portable lights searched through scattered rain and into the evening hours. What they found there ended an intense search that began Feb. 14 when Michael Hargon, 27, his 29-year-old wife Rebecca and their 4-year-old son, James Patrick, went missing.

District Attorney James Powell told The Associated

Press late Monday that the bodies had been identified. An autopsy was scheduled.

In a Yazoo County courthouse, while authorities were still searching for the bodies about 100 miles away, Earnest Lee Hargon — a cousin of Michael Hargon — heard the three capital murder charges read and was ordered held without bond.

Stewart prosecutors: 'It was all a lie'

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Martha Stewart and her stockbroker concocted a flimsy cover story about why the home-making icon sold her ImClone Systems stock and left a "trail of evidence" exposing their lies, a federal prosecutor said in closing arguments.

In a methodical three-hour closing argument, prosecutor Michael Schachter told jurors that Stewart and broker Peter Bacanovic believed they would never get caught.

"But Martha Stewart and Peter Bacanovic were wrong," Schachter said. "They left behind a trail of evidence exposing the truth about Martha Stewart's sale and exposing the lies they would tell."

Stewart and Bacanovic face nine federal counts related to the sale of about \$225,000 worth of stock on Dec. 27, 2001, the day before the stock tanked.

On Monday, Schachter tried to dismantle the centerpiece of the pair's defense — that they had struck a deal before Dec. 27 to sell Stewart's shares when ImClone stock dropped below \$60. The prosecutor called the story "phony," "silly" and "simply an after-the-fact cover story."

Stewart took notes during the arguments and, as she has done throughout the trial, maintained a grim poker face. Her lead attorney was to make his case Tuesday, with the jury to begin deliberating as early as Wednesday.

Search for crewmen called off

By The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The search for 18 missing crewmen who vanished when their tanker carrying industrial ethanol exploded and sank has been abandoned, bring-

ing the total number of presumed dead to 21.

The Coast Guard gave up hope this week that the men might be found alive following two days of searching the 44-degree waters off the Virginia coast with aircraft.

The 570-foot Bow Mariner went down Saturday night more than 50 miles east of Chincoteague. The Coast Guard said that the explosion was accidental but that the exact cause was under investigation.

Guardsmen don't yet know how much of the fuel aboard the ship spilled, but they say it was carrying 3.5 million gallons of ethanol, 48,000 gallons of stored diesel fuel and 193,000 gallons of fuel oil.

Six survivors were plucked from a life raft on Saturday.

Most of the industrial ethanol spewed from the tanker evaporated immediately, but Coast Guard officials said Monday the ocean was covered in places with a sheen, likely from the remaining ethanol.

Ban on assault rifles considered

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats say they hope to renew a ban on military-style assault rifles even as the Senate considers a popular bill to give gunmakers immunity from liability lawsuits.

But many Republicans don't want to combine the two bills.

The impasse is building to a showdown in the closely divided Senate.

The Senate was voting Tuesday on whether to continue an expiring ban on the manufacture and importation of at least 19 types of common military-style assault weapons. Democrats think they have the votes needed to add the 10-year assault ban renewal to a GOP bill that would keep gun makers and distributors from being sued over gun-related crimes.

Democrats also want a vote on requiring background checks on everyone who buys weapons at gun shows, where unlicensed sellers do not have to check buyers' backgrounds.

President Bush supports reauthorizing the assault weapons ban, and also supports requiring background checks for those who buy weapons at gun shows. But the White House also wants the gun maker immunity bill to pass the Senate without any amendments to ensure it makes it through the House and to Bush's desk for his approval.

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 - 30 Bother
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Yesterday's answer

edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



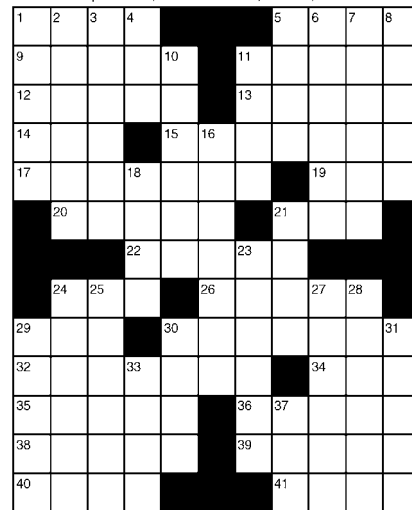
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Obituaries

RADISSON HUNTLEY HOTELPALFY, TOM: Born Sept. 6, 1952 in Cleveland, Ohio. Tom was the only child of Sandor & Ysabel Palfy and was the last surviving member of his family. Tom was employed at the Radisson Huntley Hotel for 13 yrs., and Restoration Hardware, SM for 3 years. He was a regular at Gold's Gym in Venice. Prior to his move to LA, Tom lived in NY, Boston, and Europe with his longtime companion: Peter Hamburger. He was a radio disc jockey in New Hampshire after graduating from WIXY School of Broadcasting. Tom will be greatly missed by many friends and co-workers. A memorial service was held Sat. Feb. 28, 2004, at St. Augustine's By the Sea, 1227 4th Street, S.M. at 2:00pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made, in Tom's memory to APLA or the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

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SANTA MONICA, dng rm, r/s, micro, W/D, bright, prking, 6-unit bldg, \$700 www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA, hrwd flrs, courtyard apt, tile entry, clean, laundry, parking, \$850 www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA, r/s, new paint, prking, utl incld, great loca, near nightlife, \$795 www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA, upper, hrwd flrs, vert blinds, laundry, prking, near shopping, \$950 www.westsiderentals.com

STUDIO CITY \$1000.00 1bdrm/1ba New w/d in each unit, new bbq and sun patio w/ fountain, central air & heat, mirrored wardrobe doors.

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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Do Not Use #2

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Houses For Rent

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SMALL COUNTRY HOME IN MONTANA NEIGHBORHOOD Designer one bedroom in a private garden with brick patio. Exquisite attention to detail, high beamed ceilings, wood floors, fireplace, new stainless steel appliances and limestone bath. Completely secured and gated environment, near 14th & Montana. Enclosed garage, no pets. 310-826-7960

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ROOMMATE WANTED Beach Front \$1500/mo share bath. All utilities included No pets, n/s Darren 310-451-8256

ROOMMATE WANTED to share a large 3 BR/2BA house in West LA, Rancho Park area. Large Yard, sunroom, washer/dryer, dishwasher. We are professional twentysomethings, M/F, a couple of well-behaved dogs. \$750 per month. Call 310-55-1151. Available 4/1

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Santa Monica Daily Press Classifieds

310.458.7737 Ask for Mitch

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SM/OCEAN PARK: room available in well located Chiropractic & Acupuncture office 3 days per/wk \$500/mo. Jasmine (310)392-9596.

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"I SOLD it one day! When I put my futon for sale in the Daily Press, it took me one day to sell it...thanks!" Nina Stewart, Santa Monica.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting. Last Wednesday of the month; at Sunrise Assisted Living, Pacific Palisades call (310)573-9545/Linda.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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MSRP\$30,630

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Dealer discount\$4,000

Net Cost
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1 at this cost
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**Tire Rotation &
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\$19.95

Inspect brake friction material, caliper operation, rotors, drums, hoses and connections. Inspect parking brake for damage and proper operation. Rotate and inspect four tires. Dual-rear-wheel vehicle extra. See Service Advisor for details.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
Expires 6/30/04

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OFF**

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**2-wheel alignment
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& Tire Inspection**
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