

FREE

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 97

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

13, 18, 33, 35, 37

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 4, 8

Evening picks: 7, 3, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 05, California Classic

2nd Place: 01, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 08, Gorgeous George

Race Time: 1:47.50



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ In December, Texas murder defendant Leonard Rojas' time for appeals ran out, and he was executed. Sixty-eight days later, three members of the state's highest court for criminal cases explicitly concluded that Rojas' appointed lawyer was woefully incompetent and that the court's majority had ignored that incompetence while Rojas was still alive. The lawyer, David K. Chapman, had never handled a death-penalty case, failed to investigate Rojas' case, rarely met with Rojas, admitted he missed filing deadlines (one of which barred Rojas from any federal appeal), and had had his license suspended three times by the Texas Bar (once during the time he was representing Rojas).



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Middle age is the awkward period when Father Time starts catching up with Mother Nature.



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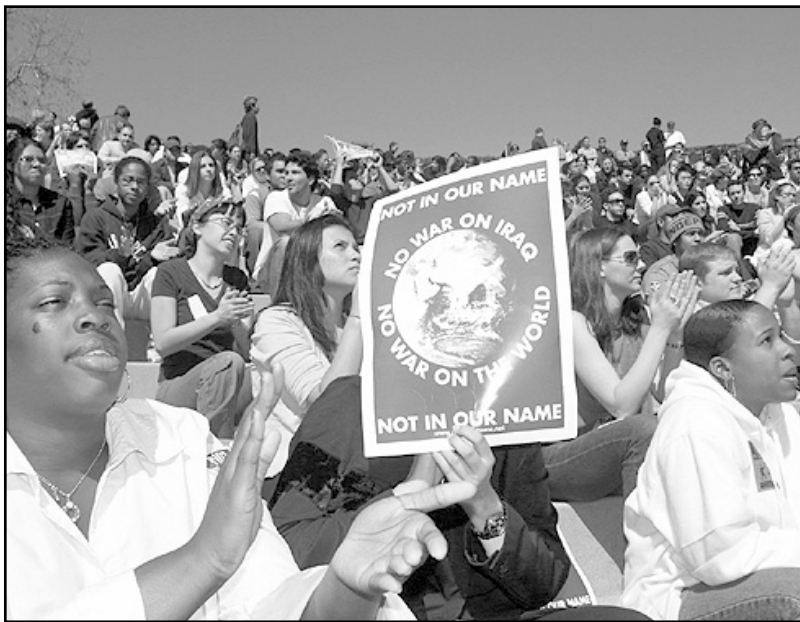
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Louisa Jensen/Special to the Daily Press

About 1,000 students protest a possible war in the Middle East at Santa Monica College Wednesday. Students nationwide rallied to show their opposition to the looming war.

Anti-war rally attracts thousands of students

Peaceful protest starts at SMC and winds throughout the city

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

More than 1,000 students converged on Santa Monica College Wednesday to voice their opposition to a possible war in the Middle East.

Protesters took to the streets in the morning, blocking Pico Boulevard before filling the SMC amphitheater for a four-hour rally that ended with a march to UCLA. SMC's 1,000-student event was part of a nationwide student protest against U.S. military action in Iraq. Thousands of protesters walked out of classes in schools across the country.

SMC faculty members and students spoke in front of the crowd between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the college's amphitheater.

"I protest for the families that are going to lose loved ones," said SMC student Nate Cox. "This is going to be a daily struggle, but if we keep making decisions like we did to come out here today, this war will not happen."

Chants of "Rise up with the people of the world" and

"Challenge Bush" were heard in unison by the steady roll of a hand drum, as onlookers waved signs reading "Peace: Back by popular demand!" and "Money for education, not war!"

"I protest for the families that are going to lose loved ones. This is going to be a daily struggle, but if we keep making decisions like we did to come out here today, this war will not happen."

— NATE COX
SMC student

The protest remained peaceful throughout the day. SMC stationed six police officers at the amphitheater, with reinforcements positioned nearby, officer Louie Ornelas said.

SMC President Piedad Robertson called the event a "teach-in" and invited teachers to

See RALLY, page 6

Suspected killer may have scoped out Hills before murder

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The man suspected of killing Kristine Johnson toured at least half a dozen vacant homes mainly in the Hollywood Hills shortly before the 22-year-old Santa Monica woman disappeared last month, sources said.

A real estate agent, who showed the homes to the suspect, called Santa Monica police after seeing the composite sketch of the man police were seeking in connection with Johnson's disappearance, according to a realtor familiar with the properties who asked to remain anonymous.

Some of the properties were reportedly broken into after the man — who claimed to be a computer scientist — toured the homes, the realtor said.

Police served 10 search warrants last week, but have only confirmed searches of the suspect's West Hollywood residence and a home on the same block of

Skyline Drive in Laurel Canyon where Johnson's body was discovered in a ravine.

Police remain tight-lipped about what was recovered in the searches and in Johnson's car, which was found on Feb. 16 at the St. Regis Hotel in Century City, the day after she disappeared.

Police are awaiting results from the Los Angeles County crime lab on evidence recovered from the searches before making an arrest, but investigators are confident the suspect is involved in Johnson's slaying.

After an initial autopsy on Wednesday, the Los Angeles County Coroner requested additional tests before determining a cause of death. Results are expected in six to eight weeks.

"It's not unusual to do toxicology reports on homicide cases," said county coroner spokesman David Campbell, adding that Johnson's body had been in the ravine for about two weeks.

See SLAYING, page 7

Two men shot in Santa Monica neighborhood

By Daily Press staff

Two men are recovering from gunshot wounds in an apparent drive-by shooting Tuesday night in a troubled eastside Santa Monica neighborhood.

At 8:35 p.m., Santa Monica Police officers responded to the corner of 16th Street and Michigan Avenue, where three victims said they were shot at while walking down the street.

Two of the victims, a 19-year-old white male and an 18-year-old white male, were shot in the arms and legs. The wounds are not life threatening, police said. An 18-year-old white male escaped injury.

The group told police that as the group walked on the sidewalk along Michigan Avenue, a burgundy colored Nissan or

Honda drove up and the passenger of the car shot multiple rounds at them.

The suspected shooter is described as a Hispanic man.

The location of the shooting, known as the Pico neighborhood, has been riddled with gang violence and drug dealing activity for years.

There were several shootings last year that resulted in serious injuries of the victims.

In response, the SMPD stepped up its patrols of the neighborhood, including nighttime patrols by helicopter.

Tuesday's incident doesn't appear to be gang related, police said.

"The victims claim not to be part of a gang affiliation," said SMPD Lt. P.J. Guido.

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HOROSCOPE

Leo, do something mentally relaxing



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 6, 2003:

Sometimes you don't realize your value. Work on building self-confidence and heading in a new direction. Evaluate what would help you feel better about yourself. Consider your options carefully. Don't always opt for easy. Take risks a little more frequently, and you'll greet more success. You gain insight into who you are. If you are single, you will meet an important person this year. This bond develops on a romantic level. If you are attached, be more vulnerable, aiming for more of what you need or want as a couple. Socialize more together. TAURUS proves to be a friend.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Work with the unpredictable. You will find a friend to be instrumental and direct in your dealings together. Take charge at work. Actually, others appreciate your strong stand. Review projects that are in progress. Survey opinions, but you make the decisions. Tonight: Your treat.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Assess rather than act. Take your time assessing and getting to the bottom of the problem. Review it carefully, understanding what might need to happen. Your willingness to explore new ideas defines you as a winner. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You could be taken aback by an associate's assertiveness. Get used to this pattern, as this person is on a roll for a while. Perhaps the challenge is how to incorporate this high energy into your work, goals and day-to-day life. This person plays a significant role in your life. Tonight: Detach, if possible.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Take a stand and make a new beginning. Review a matter that is close to your heart. A partner pushes you hard. This person or several others are likely to express exactly what is on their minds. You, too, tell it like it is. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Take charge with a personal matter. Be the leader here. You might be taken aback by someone's assertiveness at work. A partner or associate has a way of tossing reality into the air. Your strong drive keeps you heading in a new direction. Gather a new view. Tonight: Do something mentally relaxing.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ What you perceive as thoughtfulness might be taken as pushy by someone else. Perhaps you should revise your approach and change your style if you want someone to hear your message. Your strong drive takes you in a new direction. Tonight: Let another make the first overture.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Understand what could happen in your immediate circle if you don't calm down and stop taking out your frustration on them. Reach out for others calmly and patiently. You might need to do more listening than talking. Tonight: Keep working with others.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Reach out for others. In fact, someone depends on you finding the right answers. You might need to do more exploring and seek out unusual solutions. Avoid a tendency toward rigidity, and you'll accomplish more. Tonight: Follow the crowd.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your spending could go a bit overboard in the next few months. The unexpected works for you, not against you. Emphasize greater security and your family life. Deal with others in a more creative fashion. Do a better job of listening. Tonight: Put your feet up.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You have unusually high energy and want to make a difference. Deal with family head-on, establishing a better sense of well-being. You will want to make a difference with your choices. Establish more trust between you and those in your immediate circle. Tonight: Play away.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Speak your mind, asking appropriate questions. Also be willing to answer to someone in your immediate environment. This person might not have the same agenda as you. Discuss feelings of frustration and a need for a change. Tonight: Schedule an early dinner.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You could still be juggling your finances with the hope of getting a personal matter under control. Not everything is as you would like it to be. You need to take an action for others to follow your direction. Sometimes a soft style doesn't go far. Tonight: Make an effort toward a sibling or friend.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Local kids finish LA Marathon

By Daily Press staff

Several Santa Monica teen-agers affiliated with a local police program successfully ran the LA Marathon this past weekend.

Police Activities League officials trained the group of kids for six months. The teen-agers trained three times a week, beginning with one-mile runs and ending with the 26.2-mile race.

The group prepared shortly before last Sunday's race by eating a high carbohydrate meal of pasta on Friday at the PAL facility, located at Olympic Boulevard and 14th Street.

PAL is a citywide program administered by the Santa Monica Police Department and the city's community cultural services office. PAL's Santa Monica facility offers a wide range of activities for local youth, including a computer lab, a recreation room, a gymnasium and a host of other activities.

Here are the results:

PAL staff:	Diego Godinez, 15, — 4:26:38
Don Condon — 7:36:59	Bryant Villa, 13, — 4:39:53
Karen Humphrey — 7:37:01	Ever Meyer, 14, — 5:23:13
	Leonardo Zaldivar, 14, — 6:01:49
PAL friends:	Nancy Olmos, 18, — 7:20:50
Frank Fabrega — 4:17:31	Amy Larkin, 17, — 7:20:50
Gary Condon — 5:03:17	Monique Gutierrez, 11, — 7:36:49
Shirley Tse — 5:45:45	
PAL youth:	PAL student volunteers:
David Ortiz, 16, — 4:24:50	Leon Caballero SMC — 6:16:49
	Wendy Escobar CSLB — 6:41:15

Diamond luncheon held for young teeth

By Daily Press staff

The 55th annual fund-raiser for the benefit of dental treatment of needy youngsters in the community is being held on Sunday, March 9.

Sponsored by the Santa Monica Breakfast Club's Welfare Fund, the annual Diamond luncheon will be held at the California Yacht Club in Marina Del Rey.

Funds received from the luncheon will go towards children's dental needs in local schools. Dentists in the community volunteer their time to go to local schools and screen children for dental problems. The children with dental needs are referred by the Breakfast Club to the UCLA Dental Clinic for care.

This year, Margie and Dick Moore will be honored at the luncheon. Margie Moore has spent countless hours organizing dentists to examine the teeth of children in schools, as well as coordinating the program with personnel at the schools.

There will be a reception and silent auction at 11:30 a.m.

Students harvest fruits of labor

By Daily Press staff

Third graders from the Westside Waldorf School in Santa Monica came to St. Joseph Center last Wednesday to harvest the fruits of their labor.

They planted radishes, carrots, and spinach last October with pre-school children, ages 3 to 5, in the center's child care and parenting program.

"We came to cultivate the soil back in September," said Patrick McMahon, Waldorf's Third grade teacher. "Twenty-three students in all are involved. We realize at Waldorf that in order to have a complete educational experience, we have to take the children out beyond the four walls, to provide some benefit to the community."

Waldorf students have been involved in community service with St. Joseph Center before, providing snacks for kids in the child care program and survival kits for the homeless clients.

St. Joseph Center has 11 programs on seven sites in Venice, Santa Monica, and West Los Angeles, providing case management, childcare, job training, and senior outreach to homeless and low-income individuals who are working toward self-sufficiency.



Information compiled by Jamie Seborer

A weak NW swell rolls through today but should keep the wave sizes around waist- to chest-high, with some occasional overhead waves at the better-exposed west facing breaks. Friday will be much of the same as the swell begins to recede. Next week, looks to have some great waves as a SW/NW swell rolls through Southern California.

Although it was clear Wednesday, the beaches are still on a 72-hour advisory, which means high bacteria levels. The water temperatures will be around 60 degrees.

Today's Tides:		
	Low	4:50am 1.0'
	High	10:47am 4.2'
	Low	4:49pm 1.0'
	High	11:09pm 4.6'

Location	Thursday	Friday	Water Quality
County Line	2-4' fair	2-3' fair	NA
Zuma	2-3' fair	1-2' fair	NA
Surfrider	2-3' fair	1-2' fair	NA
Topanga	1-2' fair	1-2' fair	NA
Breakwater	1-3' fair	1-2' fair	NA
El Porto	3-4' fair	2-3' fair	NA

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The Q Line

It seems as though every week the news gets worse for our city and school budgets. Deficits grow by the millions and officials say it's going to get to much worse before it gets better.

The local school district is asking the City of Santa Monica to kick in an extra \$3.5 million this year. The city already gives the district \$3.5 million annually. Both entities are facing about the same deficit this year — between \$10 and \$15 million — based on ever-changing estimates.

And as the city continues to fund proj-

ects like the new \$56 million voter-approved library, the schools will lose up to 200 employees because of lay-offs and many educational programs plan to be cut.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should the city give the district more money? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday'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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— GEORGE CARLIN

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OPINION

LETTERS

Stop with the street dividers

Editor:

(This letter was originally written to the city's traffic management division and the City Council.)

Please stop installing center street dividers. I live on 22nd Street just south of Montana Avenue and the new center street dividers on Montana Avenue are a real traffic hazard to me and other folks whom I have talked to. I urge you to remove the divider now.

I have been turning left onto Montana Avenue from my street for 40 years with no problem but now it's no longer safe for me to do so. You can no longer make a gentle normal turn without hitting the divider. Now as you turn left, you must drive straight across the first two lanes — then and only then can you attempt a sharp left turn squeezed between the parked cars and the center divider. Even if the divider had been set back from the intersection by 20 or more feet, then a normal turn would be possible.

The safest way to turn left onto Montana Avenue is to turn into the center lane then merge into the traffic lane when safe. This is now impossible.

With this new hazard on Montana Avenue, I'm now forced to drive Washington Avenue going west. Yes, I can still use Montana Avenue going east but I more often drive west on Montana Avenue. Generally, traffic is discouraged on Washington Avenue with its speed bumps, etc., but now I have no safe choice.

It's really irritating that I have paid taxes for years to help maintain Montana Avenue and now I am prevented from using it. Who came up with this hair-brained idea of installing traffic hazards? Did you know that driving behind a bus means that when it stops to pick up passengers at a bus stop that you have to also stop until the bus goes again because they either can't or at least never pull out of the traffic lane when stopping? This is not only inconvenient but also hazardous. Fire trucks will also be slowed and lives put at risk.

At a time when we face lay-offs in our schools, you are spending great sums of money on unwanted, unwise hazardous center street dividers. Not only does it cost to install these dividers but they require too much resources to maintain these areas over the coming years. Too many dollars and too much needed water when we face water shortages.

There were either no public hearings on the creation of these center dividers or the issue was not clear what was intended. I hear that there are dividers to be installed on Colorado Boulevard and I strongly object to the center street dividers and demand that you remove them now and stop creating new dividers.

Gale T. Williams
Santa Monica

Peace is alive and well

Editor:

I don't know where Joe King was on September 11, but his Q and A yesterday

("FUNNY PAPERZ," March 3, page 4) certainly took me aback. Here in Santa Monica where I was on that day the peace movement was alive and well.

I first learned of the attack on the twin towers by a telephone call from a friend who invited me, along with many others to her home for the day.

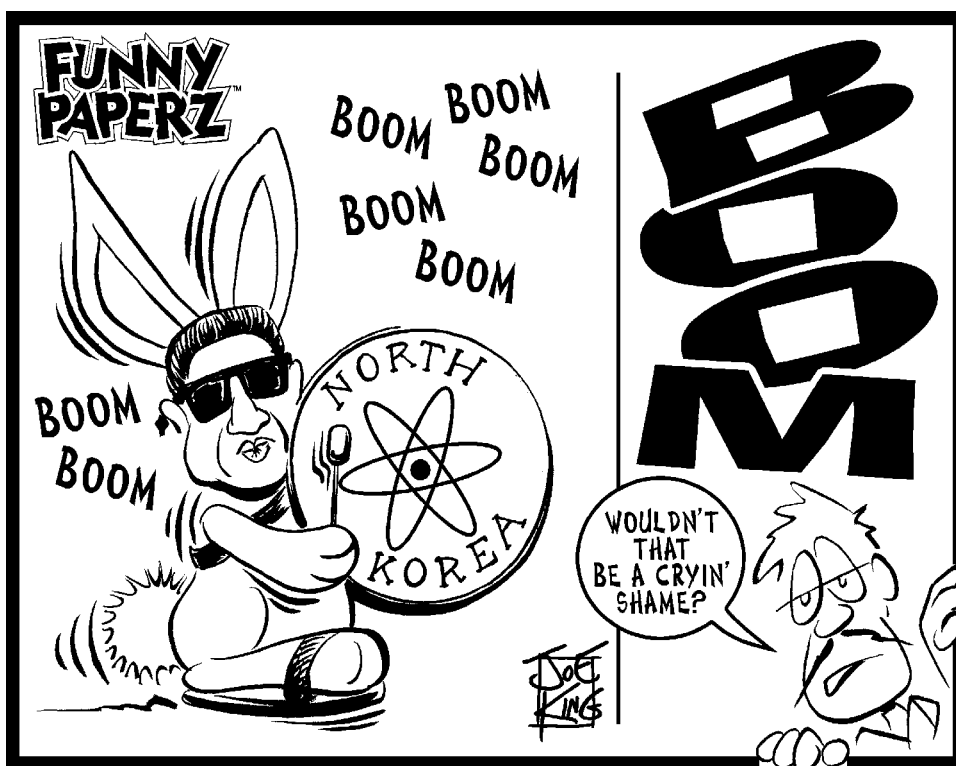
Indeed, all day and long into the night friends came and went in her home sharing our grief and our hope for peace. I feel sure this was going on in many other homes that day.

Not long after the telephone call I went for a walk in my neighborhood and on Rose Avenue not far from the Venice Family Clinic I encountered two young women wearing white and carrying peace signs. I did not ask them what group they represented, I simply greeted them with thanks and walked on.

In the evening there was a vigil on the lawn in front of City Hall, convened by ministers and others in the peace movement. Joe King may not have been there but it is a little strange that he doesn't remember reading about it in the paper or seeing it on the news. Perhaps Joe lives in a cave somewhere and just dreams things up.

The Sunday afternoon following September 11, 2001, I took part with hundreds of others in a peace vigil on the Third Street Promenade. We sat in silence with our signs,

See LETTERS, page 5



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Exiles need to be rousted on downtown streets ASAP



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

The night sky begins to lift from Santa Monica, California.

The smell of coffee perks from just about every street corner, motorists begin converging on the lattice work of streets and highways, the bread trucks hurry about town to complete their stops before the veil of darkness disappears completely.

And the homeless begin shaking off the cobwebs from their nights spent in storefront entryways.

Some facets of Santa Monica life just operate like clockwork.

With all due apologies to the family of Kristi Johnson, whose case justifiably garnered the bulk of the police force's attention in recent weeks, city officials have been hemming and hawing about enforcing a new ordinance against transients for the better part of four months

now. The deliberations are over; it is not City Hall's place to decide when and if the provision should be enforced.

The City Council ruled last fall that "Thou Homeless Shall Not Sleep in Business Storefronts and Walkways Downtown." Where's the wiggle room here?

Officers began to enforce the law just this past Friday, and I use the word "enforce" very loosely.

Some four months after the council adopted the measure, which bans people from sleeping in front of businesses in the downtown district between Ocean Park and Wilshire boulevards, and Lincoln Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, and commercial zones along Main Street, a curious thing has happened. Business owners are still shooing transients from their storefronts and still washing urine from their respective sidewalks.

It had become increasingly apparent that the transients in the shopping districts had more teeth than the law passed to combat their sleeping there.

It seems City Hall is reluctant to engage in the political debate that is sure to follow the sight of their whisking away seeming-

ly harmless homeless people in the cover of the night. No doubt, activists and protesters will take up the transients' plight anew when such images emerge. For city officials, a public relations battle looms, yet it is their duty to take that on as they work to uphold the laws of Santa Monica.

And not just the laws they agree with.

Last week, Santa Monica Police Sgt. Ira Rutan said his department would begin educating the unwanted campers about the new stipulation before making any arrests.

A second law, banning public feedings unless a group receives hard-to-acquire permits from both the city and the Los Angeles County Health Department, is currently being challenged in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union. But officials noted enforcement of that law might be postponed as well, even barring the lawsuit, as health officials act to educate the 30 or so private groups that routinely host public feedings on the new regulations.

Educating those affected and giving people ample time to adjust to change is all well and good, but this could have been accomplished months ago. The excuse of taking time to educate future exiles on Main Street doesn't hold water four

months after the education process could have begun. Shopkeepers could be worrying about their storefront displays tomorrow instead of their storefront delousings.

Congratulations to the area's business leaders who kept city officials' feet to the fire until they felt compelled to start acting.

No one relishes the idea of pulling someone cold and hungry and weary off the pavement in the middle of the night, but there are plenty more suitable places for him or her to rest their head each night than on the concrete in the city's center. Because when tourism and retail suffer, the economy suffers and then we all suffer. When the civil liberties of the individual begin to impede on the freedoms of all, then those liberties are in need of curbing.

City Hall needs to bite the bullet on this one and ensure that the laws it is obliged to enforce are enforced, not weigh the possible consequences and public sentiment. City officials' obvious foot-dragging on the issue has left affected business owners incredulous, which they have a right to be.

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

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

LOCAL

LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

then listened to speakers, spokespersons from every religion imaginable, praying for peace. Some of the Muslim speakers had Christian bodyguards in case of unexpected violence from hapless uninformed would-be avengers. There was inspiring music. I saw many people there that I would not have expected to see at such an event, including not only Green city councilmembers but some of their fellows of a different political persuasion.

Of course, I didn't see Mr. King. Still, just because I didn't see him I would not doubt his existence, nor does he have the right so publicly to doubt mine. I hope he and you will apologize to me and all the other peace protesters.

Frances Dean Smith
Santa Monica

Vital music program on its own

Editor:

A letter published on Feb. 28 seems to be based on the erroneous assumption that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is paying for choir trips by students at Malibu High and Samohi. Nothing could be further from the truth. The travel expenses for students, staff, and adult chaperones are paid for by the students, the staff, and the adult chaperones. Choir students and parents also organize fundraisers such as Cafe Samo.

All of the SMMUSD secondary music departments have been doing fundraisers for decades to pay for basic instructional materials and supplies such as music, music folders, choir robes, instruments, music stands, chairs, other equipment, and travel expenses for competitions and adjudicated music festivals. The fine arts coordinator has also brought in about three times his salary in matching funds, but grants cannot be used to pay for the ongoing salaries of certified teachers.

As a result of the current budget crisis, the following will be eliminated in June 2003: The fine arts coordinator, all the elementary instrumental music teachers, the choir accompanists, the music aides who help with secondary classes reaching enrollments of up to 90 students, and the coaches for the Color Guard of the award-winning Samohi Viking Marching Band. These staff positions support an enrollment of about 3,500 music students, or nearly 30 percent all students districtwide. The district is known statewide for the excellence of its music program.

Regarding the suggestion that SMMUSD students travel to perform at Boystown, the state of Nebraska has excellent music education programs in its public schools and needs no help from California. However, school music ensembles from SMMUSD and LAUSD perform regularly at local elementary schools, at convalescent and retirement homes, and at community events such as the National Night Out Against Crime.

Regarding the unwarranted attack on John Deasy, SMMUSD is extremely lucky to have a hardworking superintendent with the intelligence, skill, determination, and caring attitude toward students and staff that Mr. Deasy exhibits day after day, especially during this time of budgetary crisis.

Zina Josephs, Donna Block
SMMUSD Advisory Committee on the Fine Arts
Sue Lloyd-Davies
Samohi choir parent and volunteer fundraiser

Stop building and pay for schools

Editor:

Santa Monica's building like a Pharaoh on the backs of SMMUSD employees, who for nearly 20 years have been working with a drastically-reduced staff thanks to budget cutting. Now the state deficit will force more lay-offs while Santa Monica is rebuilding its scarcely antediluvian library for \$74,000,000.

And the library is the last of Santa Monica's good buildings, along with the Civic Auditorium. Go look at the new Beverly Hills Public Library, go look at the Klown Kollege UCLA has turned into — CAD plans don't look the same when they're built any more than Kaufman & Broad's "Simpson House" resembles Homer's home, though it helps if you're yellow and drawn.

Meanwhile, SMMUSD has to hire non-union employees with PTA money, according to some reports. Herb Katz may not be much of an architect, but that doesn't make him a great city planner, either.

Christopher Mulrooney
Los Angeles

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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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Photo courtesy

Vietnam veteran Carl Rogers leads a demonstration on the steps of City Hall Wednesday evening. About 250 Santa Monica high school students gathered to promote peace in the Middle East.

Peace rally takes to the streets

RALLY, from page 1

hold their Wednesday classes at the protest. She said the event could be used as a vehicle for education in nearly any discipline.

"There are different presentations of different perspectives and points of view," Robertson said. "(The students and staff have) created an environment for people to talk about the issue with respect."

Professors who spoke to the crowd praised the student's passion and encouraged them to stay involved on a local level.

"You inspire the students," politics professor Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein cheered as he addressed the excited crowd. "You inspire the staff. You inspire Santa Monica."

Tahvildaran-Jesswein told students there is a direct correlation between humanitarian work done in the U.S. and the money spent abroad in war. He asked students to be wary of the downfalls of globalization.

"This is more than just oil," he said. "This is about globalization."

Professor Mario Padilla, who brought his poetry class to the protest, said students shouldn't misinterpret why many professors didn't join the protest.

"We are from a different generation," he said. "And these young people are the ones that need to carry this torch."

Padilla said being involved in the protest was an individual choice for teachers and students in his morning class, which he held despite the strike.

"(Students) that walked out, I allowed to walk out," he said. "And those that stayed, I continued to teach."

Students from Samohi, Venice, Malibu, Ocean Park, Palisades and Crossroads high schools also skipped class to protest alongside SMC students.

"We are not blinded by any propaganda," one Venice High School student said to a cheering audience. "And we refuse to be tools to an administration."

SMC students who helped organize the event said their actions will go well beyond Wednesday's strike.

"We're going to take actions in the school and we're going to take actions in the community," said student organizer Pachanda, who declined to give his last name.

Other organizers said their message is

not just anti-war.

"Our mission is to educate the students so they are more capable of changing society," said Jordan Bloch of Progressive Alliance, a self-proclaimed radical student rights group.

Some SMC students declined to be involved in the protest.

Laughlin Elkind, who was waiting for a class to begin across the lawn from the protest, said he didn't want to be a part of the event.

"I won't support the protest until I feel there's an alternative (to war)," he said. "There is a power play going on, and sure oil is a part of it, but I don't think that's what this war is about."

Other students on campus said classes were "pretty full" despite the crowds amassed at the amphitheater.

After the rally, protesters planned to march past the Federal Building and the Veteran's Cemetery in West L.A., and then join a separate protest that was being held at UCLA.

A group of about 75 protesters broke off after the rally and marched down Fourth Street towards the beach, past City Hall and down Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade.

In a separate protest, roughly 250 Santa Monica high school students met on the steps of City Hall Wednesday evening.

The event, titled "No business as usual at schools, work or in the neighborhoods," was intended to "convey how stopping the war is a democratic commitment and a local imperative," according to a flyer distributed by the Westside Students and Anti-War Activists, who arranged the event.

Activists Blase Bonpane and Ted Daley, as well as Vietnam veterans Ron Kovic, author of "Born on the Fourth of July," and Carl Rogers, and Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown spoke to the high school pupils.

McKeown said students marched to City Hall carrying home-made signs, including a peace symbol made out of hula hoops.

"I'm very moved by this," he said. "Teachers and students have woven peace and non-violence into the curriculum and come together to listen to people speak quietly about peace."



LOCAL □ STATE



Charges could be filed this month in Johnson murder

SLAYING, from page 1

Johnson's family has been asked to provide dental records to confirm her identity, he said.

Police still won't release the name of the suspect for fear of accusing an innocent man or tainting future criminal proceedings.

However, several L.A.-area media outlets have released his name and his criminal record, which includes previous convictions for using false pretenses to victimize young, attractive women. Often, these pretenses have included claims of connections in the entertainment industry.

The Daily Press is not naming the suspect because police have not yet charged him with a crime.

The 40-year-old suspect was reportedly released from state prison on Jan. 20, then arrested by Beverly Hills police on Feb. 17 for suspicion of auto theft, violating parole and resisting arrest. He is reportedly being held on \$1.15 million bail at the Los Angeles County Jail.

Police believe the suspect in custody is the same man who in late January tried to lure a woman into his clutches in West Hollywood by posing as a publicity photographer for a film. The title of the film the woman reported was the same one Johnson told her roommates she was going to audition for and the same one the suspect has been known to use previously.

The woman in the West Hollywood incident, suspicious of the man's behavior and aggressiveness, was able to escape after her boyfriend intervened.

Johnson, who apparently met the suspect prior to telling her roommates she was going to the Century City Mall for the film audition, wasn't as fortunate. She was found by hikers Monday, her body

partially clothed, wrists bound and covered in a sleeping bag.

Even though Johnson's body was found in Los Angeles, SMPD remains the lead investigating agency on the murder case.

"I really want to commend the detectives involved. They have treated this as a mission. We will do everything in our power to bring justice."

— JAMES T. BUTTS JR.
Santa Monica police chief

"When we arrived at the crime scene, (SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. and Los Angeles Police Chief Bill Bratton) had a brief discussion and it was determined that Santa Monica would be handling the investigation," SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega said.

Butts said on Tuesday that his department is keeping the case because multiple Santa Monica investigators have already worked hundreds of hours tracking down evidence.

"I really want to commend the detectives involved," Butts said. "They have treated this as a mission. We will do everything in our power to bring justice."

SMPD is working closely with the district attorney's office as the prosecuting agency for the criminal investigation. Charges could be filed within the next two weeks.

Paralegic on his way to L.A. Marathon finish-line on hands

BY TOM HARRIGAN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — He started first and he'll finish last, but Bob Wieland is providing inspiration to everyone else who ran in Sunday's Los Angeles Marathon as the legless Vietnam war veteran covers the 26.2 miles on his hands.

"There were thousands of runners who stopped. They wanted to touch my shoes, pat me on the back, shake my hand, get a picture with me," Wieland said Wednesday of the race won by Mark Yatch of Kenya.

"But I'm not the story. Eddie Ray is the story," he added, pointing to a man pulling a small wagon loaded with liquids, snacks and energy bars to sustain Wieland and his support team. "We stopped and talked to Eddie Ray for about five hours. He's been homeless and was sleeping near some garbage. Now he's been with us for three days."

Eddie Ray Cole, who said he was touched by the kindness of Wieland and his team, added he has "made a commitment to go all the way with them."

"They also assured me if there's any assistance I need, they'll be there for me," said Cole, 49.

Wieland lost his legs to a mortar round explosion in 1969, and he is equally modest about that sacrifice, which came as he

was trying to rescue a mortally wounded soldier.

"Some gave all. I was one of the guys who gave some," Wieland, 57, said as he moved along a sidewalk with his five-person team.

He started 22 1/2 hours ahead of the pack on Saturday. By Wednesday afternoon he had logged more than 100 hours, with two or three days and more than 10 miles to go.

Through the midday haze, his team could see the downtown skyscrapers, where the finish line is located.

Wearing his official entry No. 5888 on the back of his T-shirt, Wieland dedicated his effort to the current members of the U.S. armed forces.

"We hope it's inspiration to the men and women who are serving right now," he said. "They face an abundance of challenges. This is a sort of a challenge."

"One mile on your hands is like 25 miles on your legs," he added. "And I've slept only six hours or so since Saturday morning."

"But it's all downhill from here," he said of what is actually one of his shorter journeys.

Propelled only by his hands, Wieland crossed the United States from Southern California to Washington, D.C., over a period of three years, eight months and six days in 1982-86.

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STATE

Davis threatens to pull \$20B bid for Vivendi Universal

BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Former oil tycoon Marvin Davis has threatened to withdraw his \$20 billion bid for Vivendi's Universal entertainment assets if the Paris-based company does not negotiate exclusively with him.

The issue is expected to be resolved Thursday at a Vivendi Universal board of directors meeting in Paris, according to people familiar with the negotiations.

Davis, annoyed with the slow pace of talks and Vivendi's effort to consider competing bids for its U.S.-based entertainment companies, sent a letter to Vivendi Universal last week with his ultimatum, according to a source.

Davis would not comment on the negotiations. A spokesman for Vivendi Universal did not immediately return a phone call for comment.

Cash-strapped Vivendi wants to sell Universal Studios, its Universal theme parks and television production company. According to a recent report in the Financial Times, Vivendi has decided not to sell its Universal Music Group. Rumors have also circulated about interest in its games division, which would likely be sold separately.

Davis is only interested in buying all the assets and will likely withdraw his offer if the music group is not for sale, the source said.

Reports have also circulated about Vivendi courting other possible buyers, including Viacom, for parts of its entertainment portfolio. There has reportedly been a lot of interest in acquiring specific assets, including the Sci-Fi channel and USA Networks.

A Viacom spokesman declined to comment.

Davis, who once owned Fox Studios, has offered to buy all the entertainment assets for about \$15 billion in cash and the assumption of about \$5 billion in debt. Analysts have questioned whether Davis could raise the financing for such a deal.

Last week, the Davis camp let it be known that the Carlyle Group, a top private equity firm, had joined its bid, an attempt to remove any doubt Davis could complete the ambitious deal.

But the offer could be removed Thursday if the Vivendi board does not agree to deal exclusively with Davis, creating a bidding war for the entertainment assets.

"Either the board will communicate to the Davis group they are prepared to enter into an exclusive negotiation or they won't and if they don't the Davis offer will be off the table," the source said.

One wild card is whether Barry Diller, who owns or controls nearly 7 percent of Vivendi Universal Entertainment — the joint venture that holds Vivendi's entertainment assets — will make his own bid.

Diller heads USA Interactive, which comprises the online businesses that were peeled off from his USA Networks last year. In December 2001, USA sold its entertainment assets to Vivendi Universal in a \$10.3 billion deal, which closed last

May. The transaction gave USA Interactive a 5.4 percent interest in VUE. Diller himself retained a 1.5 percent stake in VUE.

Diller told The Associated Press he would consider bidding for some of the assets as long as he would not have to run them full-time.

"USA has both an equity and preferred interests in the Universal assets that are not insignificant, so their disposition is of importance to USA," Diller said. "Beyond that, if there is opportunity and if, in fact, it would not require my executive services, we'll pursue it."

"Either the board will communicate to the Davis group they are prepared to enter into an exclusive negotiation or they won't and if they don't the Davis offer will be off the table."

— UNNAMED SOURCE

USA Interactive runs a variety of Internet businesses, including Ticketmaster, Match.com and Expedia. It also runs the Home Shopping Network.

Diller serves as co-chief executive officer of VUE, along with Vivendi Universal CEO Jean-Rene Fourtou, a position that creates an apparent conflict since he advises Fourtou on the fate of Universal while holding a substantial financial stake in the assets.

"A lot of people would say this is absurd, this person has a prima facie conflict," Diller said. "I don't see it that way and I don't think my partners see it that way. If they did, since I don't receive any compensation for services in this dual role and since we each could end it instantly, I think they would."

If Davis were to buy the Universal assets, Diller would almost certainly be replaced at VUE. Davis has made it clear he wants a full-time executive running the company, most likely Universal veteran Brian Mulligan. David and Diller dislike each other, a division that dates back to when Davis owned Fox and Diller ran the studio.

While not commenting specifically on the Davis bid, Diller said any of the possible outcomes, including one that leaves him with no control over Universal, would be acceptable.

"While there can always be consequences that are not knowable and that are not good for us, me and my colleagues cannot figure out anything that can happen in this that is against our interests," Diller said. "And consequently, any of the options that everybody speculates about, every single one of the options, they are all essentially OK with us, plus a nickel, minus a nickel."

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NATIONAL



Victim of schoolyard brawl dies after nine years in coma

BY JAMES PRICHARD

Associated Press Writer

WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. —

Nearly nine years ago, Desmon Venn threw a single punch at a high school classmate and put him in a coma. Venn pleaded guilty to assault, spent two months in a boot camp and figured he had paid his debt to society.

Last month, though, a new bill arrived.

Prosecutors brought involuntary manslaughter charges against Venn after the victim finally died of his injuries without ever coming out of his coma.

Venn, now 26, could get up to 15 years behind bars in the death of Zuhair Pattah.

Venn's lawyer, Elbert Hatchett, said the charges violate Venn's constitutional protection against double jeopardy, or being prosecuted twice for the same crime. He also said the state's six-year window for filing an upgraded charge after such a crime has long since slammed shut.

"When they elected to prosecute him then, they forfeited the right to prosecute him thereafter for the same behavior," Hatchett said.

John Skrzynski, an assistant Oakland County prosecutor who has handled the case from the beginning, said there is no double jeopardy because Pattah's death generated a new crime, which also rules out any statute-of-limitations argument.

But Skrzynski, who successfully prosecuted assisted-suicide proponent Dr. Jack Kevorkian for murder in 1999, said: "This is not an easy case. It's a very difficult case. It's a very sad case."

Pattah was 16 and Venn 17 when Venn punched him between the eyes during a melee in the parking lot of West Bloomfield High in 1994. Pattah fell backward, hitting his head on the pavement with such force that his brain stem was severed.

In 1995, Venn pleaded guilty to misdemeanor aggravated assault. In addition to serving time in boot camp, he received two years of probation and was fined \$1,000.

On Jan. 8, however, Pattah died at age 25 of what the medical examiner listed as complications from the head injury. Venn, now a restaurant worker in the Atlanta area, turned himself in after learning of the new charge. He was jailed on \$250,000 bail.

Venn's lawyer said he never warned his client about the possibility of new charges. "I always felt that once the original case had been adjudicated, it was not at all likely that they could bring a viable charge against him

again," Hatchett said.

Stephen J. Schulhofer, a law professor at New York University, said that such cases have occurred from time to time in other states, and that the federal courts have repeatedly ruled that the homicide charges do not constitute double jeopardy.

"I always felt that once the original case had been adjudicated, it was not at all likely that they could bring a viable charge against him again."

— ELBERT HATCHETT
Attorney

He said the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that double jeopardy exists only if the two crimes have the same elements. And in this case, death is an element of the manslaughter charge but not the assault charge.

Pattah, who was called Steve, was a Chaldean Catholic whose parents emigrated from Iraq to the United States about 30 years ago.

During the nearly nine years he lay in a coma, his deeply religious family never lost hope that one day he would wake up, said his sister, 22-year-old Lana Murad. They regularly dabbed holy water on his lips. They locked up his bedroom and left its contents untouched.

Murad and her parents stood vigil at Pattah's bedside nearly every day, and she insists that he could hear and

understand his visitors. When asked to squeeze a hand, his fingers would gently press into the flesh, she said; when he was told an emotional story, his always-open left eye would tear up.

Murad insisted Venn should be charged with murder, but the prosecutor said the evidence indicates Venn did not mean to badly hurt the victim.

According to prosecutors, the melee began after Pattah and another boy traded insults about their female relatives and acquaintances. Venn told authorities that he hit Pattah because he thought Pattah had struck him during the fray. Witnesses said Pattah did not hit him.

Though Pattah was Iraqi and Venn is black, the punch was not believed to be racially or culturally motivated. The high school is in affluent West Bloomfield Township, which is about 25 miles from Detroit and is a generally harmonious mix of races and religions.

Soon after Pattah was injured, the school system set up conflict-resolution programs to prevent similar tragedies.

After high school, Venn had more run-ins with the law. At the time he turned himself in, he was wanted on charges that included cocaine possession and driving with a suspended license. He was convicted of assaulting an Atlanta-area security guard in 2001.

Venn feels bad about what happened to Pattah and prays every night for his victim and his family, according to his lawyer, who would not allow a jailhouse interview with Venn.

"It's been a haunting experience for him that he'll never get over no matter what happens in the courts," Hatchett said, "and it has had a significant impact on his life."

Securities broker sentenced to prison

By The Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — A millionaire securities broker was sentenced to 8 1/2 to 25 years in prison for trying to hire a hit man to kill his estranged wife.

Joel Sandler, 52, of Bryn Mawr was motivated by greed and didn't want to split his fortune with his wife, who was seeking a divorce, Judge William T. Nicholas said in sentencing him Tuesday.

"This was a highly calculated, studied plan to have Linda (Sandler) killed," the judge said. He said Sandler showed no remorse.

A jury in January found Sandler guilty of criminal solicitation to commit murder and four counts of illegal use of a telephone. Prosecutors said he had offered an undercover detective \$25,000 in March 2001 to kill his wife to prevent her from collecting half of their \$4.5 million estate.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bomber blows up bus, killing at least 16 in Israel

BY JASON KEYSER

Associated Press Writer

HAIFA, Israel — A bomber blew himself up aboard a bus filled with students in this northern Israeli city Wednesday, killing at least 16 people and injuring 55. The blast spread blood-splattered debris throughout a prosperous hilltop neighborhood, ending a two-month lull in suicide bombings.

Police identified the bomber as Mahmoud Hamdan Kawasme, 20, of the West Bank city of Hebron, and said he was carrying a letter praising the Sept. 11 attacks. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack, and it was not known whether he was affiliated with a militant group.

The attack followed the establishment of a new hard-line government in Israel and a government pledge to step up military strikes against militant strongholds in the Gaza Strip. Dozens of Palestinians have been killed in more than two weeks of raids, including at least 10 civilians.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called an emergency meeting of senior Cabinet ministers late Wednesday to discuss the bombing.

Bus No. 37 was packed with students from Haifa University when it stopped in the hilltop neighborhood of Carmelia at 2:17 p.m. to let off passengers.

"I suddenly heard an explosion," said



Brennan Linsley/Associated Press

Police forensics officers are seen working through the remains of a bombed bus in the northern Israeli city of Haifa on Wednesday. A suicide bomber blew up aboard the crowded bus, killing at least 15, wounding dozens and ending a two-month lull in suicide bombings in Israel, officials said.

bus driver Marwan Damouni, an Israeli Arab, who was being treated at a hospital. "I tried to move, to see if there were wounded. I couldn't hear anything because of the force."

The explosion blew off the bus roof, shattered all its windows and toppled

nearby palm trees. Floodlights cast an eerie glow on the scene, illuminating the charred skeleton of the vehicle.

The bomb was laden with metal shrapnel for greater deadliness, according to Police Commissioner Shlomo Aharonishki. Crime lab technicians were investigating, but early reports said the blast was caused by 130 pounds of explosives.

Rescue workers and police said they believed one of the 16 dead was the bomber. Dozens were seriously injured, among them passers-by.

Ovadia Saar, who was driving a bus behind the one that was attacked, said he saw "the back of the bus fly into the air, and the windows blew out and a great cloud of dust covered the bus."

"I got out and ran toward the bus. It was a horrible sight. There were a few bodies in the street," he said. "Those we saw breathing, we evacuated."

A spokesman for the Islamic militant group Hamas, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, praised the bombing but did not claim responsibility. "We will not stop our resistance," he said. "We are not going to give up in

the face of the daily killing" of Palestinians.

Some Palestinians in Gaza called each other on cell phones, spreading news about the Haifa attack. Some were jubilant.

"It's about time. They've kept on hitting us and killing us, and now we've struck back," said an ice cream vendor in Gaza, who refused to give his name.

The Haifa blast was the first terror attack in Israel since Jan. 5, when a pair of suicide bombers killed 23 people in Tel Aviv.

There have been 87 suicide attacks in Israel in 29 months of violence that has left 2,160 people dead on the Palestinian side and 743 on the Israeli side. The violence ended talks on a final peace settlement and helped Sharon win re-election.

In the past, Israel has reacted with tough military measures after such attacks and has blamed Yasser Arafat, saying the Palestinian Authority does nothing to prevent terrorism.

"Once again the bestial hand of Palestinian terrorism has struck at the heart of Israel," said Mark Sofer, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, adding that Israeli forces had thwarted almost 100 attempted attacks in the past two months.

Israel might be constrained in any reaction by the possibility of an imminent U.S. strike against Saddam Hussein, because the United States has made clear it wants to keep a lid on Israeli-Palestinian fighting until the Iraq issue is resolved.

President Bush denounced the Haifa bombing, saying terrorists would not prevail. "The president condemns in the strongest terms today's attack on innocents in Israel," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "His message to terrorists is that their efforts will not be successful."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw urged Israel and the Palestinians to work toward peace. "There is no justification for attacks on innocent civilians," he said. "Attacks like these will not help the Palestinian cause."

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat condemned "any attack that is targeting civilians, whether Palestinian or Israeli." But he added: "We reject the Israel government finger-pointing that the Palestinian Authority is responsible."

Developments in Iraq crisis

By The Associated Press

■ The foreign ministers of France, Germany and Russia said they will "not allow" passage of an American-backed U.N. resolution to authorize war against Iraq. German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said the attempt to avert war may fail, but he pledged to fight "to the last" for a peaceful solution.

■ Secretary of State Colin Powell accused Saddam Hussein of trying to divide the U.N. Security Council and "split us into arguing factions." Powell, who will travel to the United Nations on Thursday, said Saddam had thrown away his "one last chance."

■ Saddam said the U.N. order to destroy his Al Samoud 2 missiles was a ploy designed to demoralize Iraqis before an enemy attack. "After they could not find weapons of mass destruction because they do not exist, the enemy has begun to focus on minor issues, including the rocket," the Iraqi president told a group of army commanders in images shown on the state television.

■ The chief U.N. weapons inspector said Iraq is showing signs of complying with its obligations to disarm and is cooperating with inspectors in some areas. Hans Blix said seven Iraqi scientists have submitted to private interviews under his terms.

■ In a strategy Pentagon officials are calling "shock and awe," U.S. forces plan to drop 10 times the bombs in the opening

days of the air campaign in Iraq than they did in the opening days of the first Persian Gulf war, officials said.

■ Pope John Paul II, in his Ash Wednesday address, appealed for efforts by all to avert a "dramatic conflict" over Iraq. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said President Bush rejects the Vatican's argument that pre-emptive war with Iraq has no moral justification.

■ A top Iraqi official told a Kuwaiti official to "shut up, you monkey" at a meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference aimed at preventing war. The meeting ended with a statement welcoming Iraqi cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors and expressing hope it would continue.

■ The head of Turkey's powerful military said the army favored allowing U.S. troops to deploy in preparation for an invasion of Iraq. Turkey's parliament rejected the U.S. request on Saturday.

■ High school and college students around the United States walked out of class to protest the moved toward war. Teenagers chanting "No war for oil" staged a rowdy sit-in outside British Prime Minister Tony Blair's official residence in London. Thousands of students also rallied in France, Sweden, Spain, Australia, Bangladesh, Switzerland and Senegal. Half a million Egyptians took part in a state-orchestrated demonstration against war in Iraq.

Bomb rocks downtown shopping center, killing at least seven

By The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Suspected rebels set off a bomb Wednesday in a shopping center in northeastern Colombia, killing at least seven people and wounding 20 others, authorities said.

Cucuta Mayor Manuel Guillermo Mora told RCN Radio that the number of victims had risen to seven from an initial report of one fatality.

Police Gen. Luis Alfredo Rodriguez blamed rebels of the National Liberation Army, or ELN, for the attack in Cucuta, 250 miles northeast of Bogota.

The bomb was left in the basement parking lot, leading authorities to initially believe the explosion was caused by a car bomb, police said.

Television images showed shocked survivors wandering around the shopping stalls, Ash Wednesday marks still on their foreheads. Firemen, rescue crews and police officers worked their way through the smoke as frightened passers-by looked on.



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SPORTS



Lo Duca persevered despite partially torn ligament

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Paul Lo Duca had a terrific first half and a subpar second half last year. It's likely an injury that wasn't discovered until the offseason contributed to the dropoff.

"I thought I had a hernia. It wound up being a partially torn ligament in my groin," Lo Duca said Wednesday in publicly discussing the injury for the first time.

"It was bothering me a little bit most of the year," he said. "I had a couple of MRIs and it didn't show. At the end of the year, I went to a specialist and that's when it was diagnosed."

In his second season as the Los Angeles Dodgers' starting catcher, Lo Duca hit .326 before the All-Star break and .233 after.

"I have no excuses, I just didn't perform," he said. "I struggled in the second half and it just kept snowballing. It was just one of those things where I got in a rut and couldn't get out of it."

Would he have gone on the disabled list had the injury been diagnosed during the season?

"Probably not," Lo Duca said. "I've played with worse pain before."

But he also said he was startled to hear he played with that kind of injury.

"I didn't think you could play with something like that," Lo Duca said. "I was told to rest and then start rehabbing. It had to heal on its own. It couldn't heal as long as I was catching. It was back and forth. There were days I didn't feel it and days I could feel it. I could play with it. I thought I had a hernia."

Lo Duca was told he didn't, and had a difficult time believing that. He would find out later he had a different problem.

Team physician Dr. Michael Mellman said it's common for injuries such as Lo Duca's not to be apparent at first.

"Players constantly have complaints during the season and we constantly do studies," he

said. "You can take an X-ray and maybe you won't see a fracture. Two weeks later, as tissue changes or something gets worse, an injury becomes visible. What the impact is on the player, only he can tell you."

Reliever Paul Quantrill isn't surprised Lo Duca played through whatever pain he felt.

"I knew it was bothering him," Quantrill said. "I've had a hernia before, it sounded like that. Dukey's a tough guy, he battles through. He gets beat up more than any catcher I've ever seen. We call him the human pin cushion. He's as tough as they come."

Given the starting catcher's job two years ago, the 30-year-old Lo Duca hit .320 with 25 homers and 90 RBIs.

He was rewarded with a \$7.25 million, three-year contract, and despite his tough second half, he wound up hitting .281 with 10 homers and 64 RBIs last year — pretty good numbers for most catchers.

Despite the tough second half, Lo Duca made one of baseball's finest defensive plays of the season on Sept. 17, a sliding catch on a popup just before he tumbled into the Dodgers' dugout in the seventh inning of a game against San Francisco.

The thought of it made him smile.

"It was something I'll never forget, it was awesome," he said. "It was a big adrenaline rush. The best thing about it was it came against the Giants in an important game."

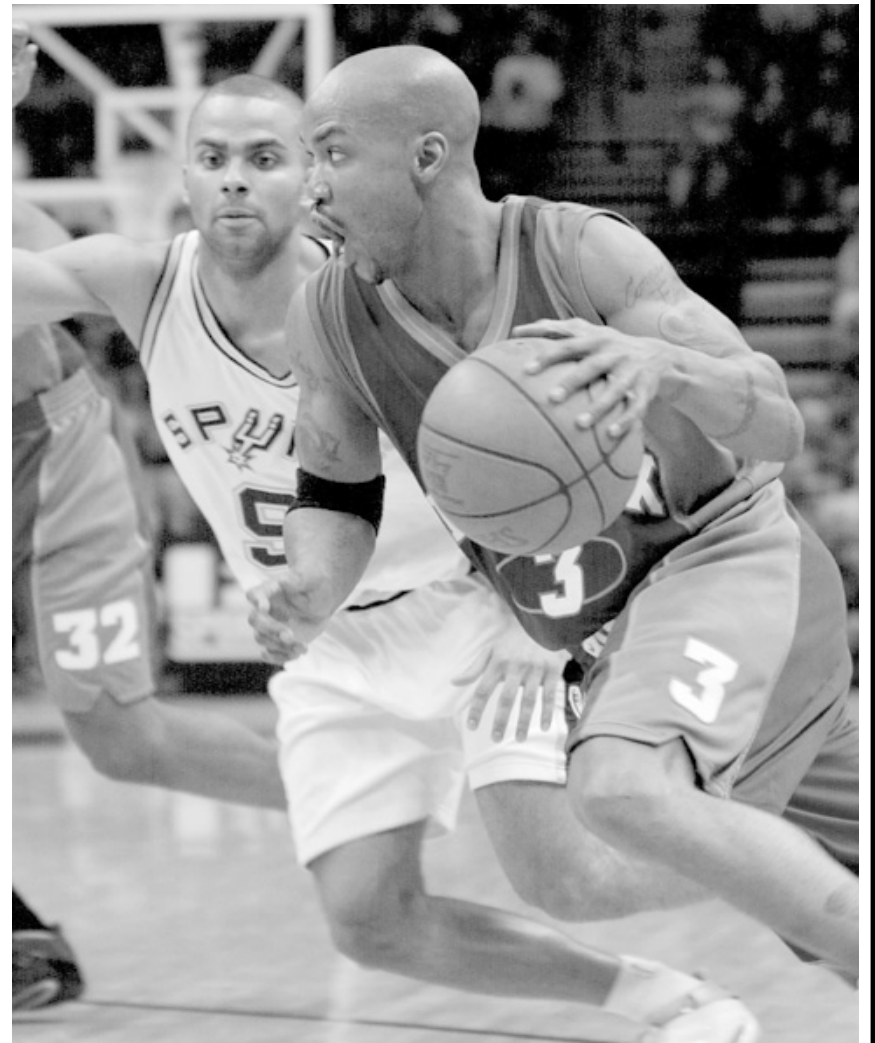
The Dodgers won 92 games, but fell out of contention on the next-to-last day of the season, when the Giants clinched the NL wild-card berth.

Lo Duca dropped about 15 pounds during the offseason by working out nearly every day and going on a strict diet.

"I feel great," he said. "I was in good shape the last two years, you can always get better."

"This year, with our pitching staff healthy, my job is to do the job behind the plate. I've always felt that, I take pride in that."

Quick move toward victory



Eric Gay/Associated Press

Phoenix Suns guard Stephon Marbury (3) races around San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker of France (9) during the fourth quarter in San Antonio on Tuesday. Phoenix won 104-97. Marbury scored 35 points and handed out 13 assists.

These Warriors believe they can beat anybody

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND — It's among the longest of long shots, the Golden State Warriors winning an NBA championship. Even a passing reference of such would have been laughable around here in recent years.

But these Warriors believe they can beat anybody, so they figure why not think big?

Always-confident guard Gilbert Arenas is bringing up the possibility — no matter how silly it might seem.

It's tough to blame him. At 30-30, the Warriors are at .500 for the first time in nine years. They're riding a six-game winning streak heading into Thursday's game at Chicago, the franchise's longest since 1994 — when it last made the playoffs.

And Golden State is still in the post-season hunt in the Western Conference.

"We all thought we were going to be here. We didn't know when," Arenas said after Tuesday night's 107-100 win over Central Division-leading Indiana. "Anything's doable in this league right now. We're playing with a lot of confidence. We're playing like we're going for a championship and nothing can stop us."

The Warriors haven't had so many victories since they were 30-52 in 1996-97.

First-year coach Eric Musselman has a lot to do with it, though he is

always quick to point out the credit has to go first to his players.

Musselman has overhauled the entire organization. At 38, he is the league's youngest head coach in charge of one of the youngest rosters.

He assigned every player a new locker. He changed the dress code and upgraded the video system, purchasing state-of-the-art basketball technology for studying other teams. He even improved the lighting in the training facility and also made the locker room brighter.

The walls above the practice courts now feature paintings of uniforms worn by Wilt Chamberlain when he was with the San Francisco Warriors, and Rick Barry. There's a huge bright yellow painting of a banner with blue lettering reading "1974 1975 NBA World Champions."

That serves as a constant reminder that this franchise has been a winner before.

"They're definitely much more confident," Indiana's Reggie Miller said. "They're becoming well disciplined and they play extremely hard."

Musselman lived in Rapid City, S.D., and was coaching in the CBA the last time the Warriors had this much success. He admits he didn't follow them then, or even the NBA much for that matter.

"I don't know if we had cable TV then," he said with a smile. "I think we got two channels."

Chargers exercise power to renegotiate stadium lease

BY SETH HETTENA

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — In a move that angered the city's mayor, the Chargers exercised a clause in their Qualcomm Stadium lease to start talks with the city about a new venue.

The decision to trigger the renegotiation clause, which had been expected, opens a 90-day window to reach a stadium deal with the city. The process could end with the team leaving San Diego.

"The start of this process does not signal that the team intends to leave San Diego," said Mark Fabiani, a former Clinton White House lawyer who is serving as special counsel to the Chargers. "We have no intention of talking to any other city as we begin a negotiation process with the city of San Diego."

Mayor Dick Murphy said the team was short-circuiting the city's good-faith process to review the Chargers' demand for a new stadium. The City Council had scheduled a March 18 hearing on a final report on ways to keep the team in the city.

"I'm outraged by the Chargers triggering today," Murphy said. "I think the Chargers' action is a slap in the face of the Chargers task force, the San Diego City Council and the public."

The mayor said there would be no formal stadium negotiations before the March 18

hearing and added the timing of the Chargers move Tuesday could hurt the process.

If no agreement is reached during the next 90 days, the Chargers could seek offers in the next 18 months from another city, such as Los Angeles.

San Diego has the right to match another city's offer. Otherwise, the Chargers can terminate the lease. The team could not leave San Diego — its home since 1961 — before the end of the 2003 football season.

The Chargers say they are prepared to discuss ways the team could cover the full cost of a \$400 million stadium, Fabiani said.

A citizens' task force recommended last month that the team pay for the construction of the new stadium in exchange for the right to redevelop the 166-acre Qualcomm site.

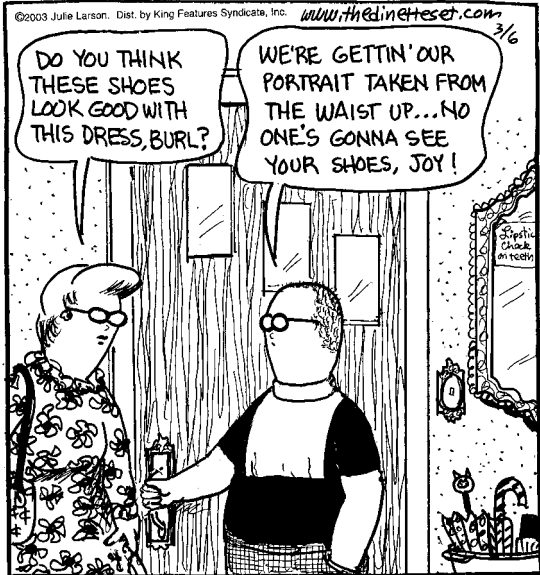
The Chargers say they need a new stadium to remain economically competitive with other NFL teams that have moved into 19 new stadiums in the past decade. The team has been criticized for failing to fully disclose its finances that justify the claim.

The Chargers' current lease is controversial because of the trigger clause and a section that guarantees the team revenue equal to the sale of 60,000 general admission tickets for each home game until 2007. The city already has paid the Chargers more than \$25 million under the guarantee.



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- 1 Fret
5 Neatniks' counterparts
10 Role for Leontyne
11 Appear
12 Commotion
13 Coily mannered
14 Places of action
16 Peppery condiment
20 Gents' dates
23 Utter
24 Blow
25 one's top
25 Prolonged attack
27 Candle count
28 Like some whiskey
29 Exceptional person
32 Winter drink
36 Hit to the catcher, perhaps
39 Uncommon
40 Concert bonus
41 Privy to
42 Lab work
43 Night music

DOWN

- 2 Challenger of Stalin
3 Fix copy
4 Cruiser, e.g.
5 Closes
6 "— luck!"
7 Have debts
8 Clear tables
9 Mole, e.g.
11 Fife fellows
15 Burns, e.g.
17 Not new
18 Batter's backdrop
19 Looked over
20 Remini of "The King of Queens"
21 Jason's ship
22 Love song, perhaps
25 Cushy
26 Due to be punished
28 Montana city
30 Fire
31 Sees the sights
33 Comic Carvey
34 Plummet
35 Itches
36 Favorite start
37 Count
38 RAM holders

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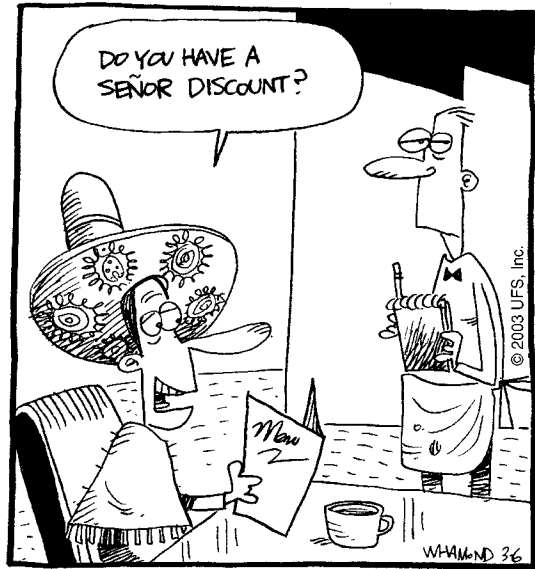
Yesterday's answer



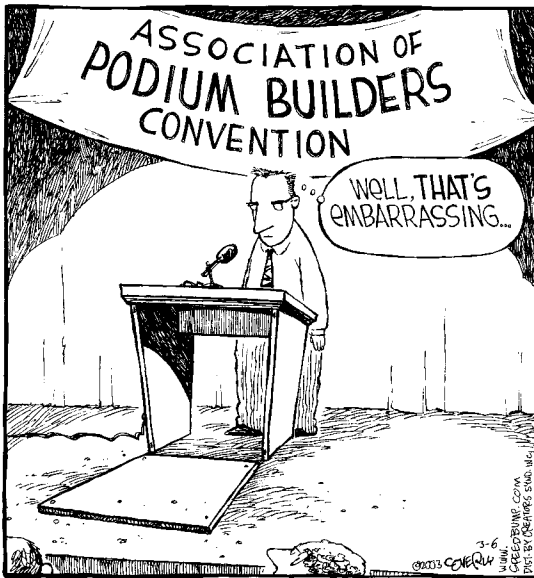
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Announcements

"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.

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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Yard Sales

MARCH 5-8 Beautiful photographs, rugs, great t-shirts, clothes, furniture, etc. 911 2nd St. Inside Apt. 12. Fantini call (310)395-9581.

VENICE HIGH School flea market. 13000 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. Antiques, toys, crafts, collectibles, jewelry, clothes. March 8, second Saturday each month. 9am-4pm. Free admission & free parking. Vendor information call (310)390-5851. Sponsored by Venice HS Booster Club. (310)306-7981.

YARD SALE - Saturday, March 8, 8:30am - Noon. 931 Euclid St. - between Washington and Idaho in Santa Monica. Household items and clothing.

HUGE 3 Family yard sale. Don't miss this! Furniture, appliances, books, clothing, maternity clothes, kid's stuff, etc! 356 Grenola, Pacific Palisades, West of Sunset, turn on La Casa. Saturday & Sunday, 8am to 2pm.

Fitness

FITNESS GURU: Rob Greene (310)422-6718 Specializing in weight management, body sculpting, firming & toning. Spiritual enhancement.

Obituaries

RANDY BRADLEY'S Funeral is Saturday, March 8 at 11am, 2109 Chickasaw, St. Barnardos Church, Eagle Rock. Emeritus Band members please arrive early and bring instruments as widow requests marches to be played.

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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2003

TODAY

1st Annual Westside Business Expo presented by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The day program themed "Success at Work" features expert-led sessions in marketing, finance, technology and more. 8am to 6pm, Olympic Banquet and Conference Center, Olympic and Sawtelle, WLA. Tickets are \$60, (includes lunch and all breaks). For more information call (310)394-9825.

Blue 7 presents 'Near and Far - Photographic Images of Nature.' The featured photographers are Scott Connell, Michael Gordon and Gavin Lauchenauer. Exhibit ends April 5th. Blue 7, 3129 Pico Blvd. (310)449-1444

Johanna Israel presents Gotham Comedy Night! with top headliners every Thursday. March 6 will feature Jay Convente. Gotham Hall, 1431 3rd Street Promenade, Santa Monica at 7pm. FREE + 2 item min., 21/over. (323)525-5254.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Men's Group. Thursdays, 11:15 to 12:45. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in

groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Dharma at the Clubhouse. A weekly book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 to 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santamonickaksg.org

O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

TOMORROW

Theatre Palisades Kids & Theatre that Matters presents a new children's musical, "The Medicine Tree," directed by Barbara Bentrete. Remaining performances for this weekend are: Friday, March 7 @ 7pm; Saturday, March 8 @ 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, March 9 @ 2pm. Tickets are \$10.00/To charge, call the theater at

(310)454-1970. Theatre Palisades is located @ 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

MAGICOPOLIS presents HOCUS POCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

BEDROOM FAIRY TALES: "LEILA IN RED" and "THE TWIN SISTER" opens today at the SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE, 1211 4th Street in Santa Monica. Continues Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, through March 22nd. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Opening night tix are \$25 and include an after-show party. For advance tickets, call (310) 439-2487.

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. **The Hours (PG-13)** 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. **Poolhall Junkies (R)** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. **Gods and Generals (PG-13)** 1:00, 7:15.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 11:00, 12:45, 1:50, 3:45, 4:45, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:35. **The Recruit (PG-13)** 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10. **Gangs of New York (R)** 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30. **Old School (R)** 11:15, 12:00, 1:45, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:15.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Jungle Book 2 (G) 1:45, 3:30, 5:10, 7:00. **Shanghai Knights (PG-13)** 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50. **Chicago (PG-13)** 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10. **Daredevil (PG-13)** 1:30, 2:25, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10. **Dark Blue (R)** 4:10, 7:05, 9:55. **The Life of David Gale (PG-13)** 1:25, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15. **Cradle 2 the Grave (R)** 1:35, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00, 9:45.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15. **Bowling for Columbine (R)** 12:00, 4:30, 7:30. **Lost in La Mancha (R)** 2:30, 10:30.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
Till Human Voices Wake Us (R) 4:25, 9:45. **The Quiet American (R)** 1:45, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55. **All the Real Girls (R)** 1:45, 7:00. **City of God (R)** 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05. **Spider (R)** 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10.



BACK PAGE

At age 80, this persistent skier keeps hitting the slopes

BY DAVID SHARP
Associated Press Writer

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine — Paul Schipper has skied through rain, ice and blizzards. He has skied through sickness, pain and injury. Whatever the cost, he has skied every single day that Sugarloaf USA has been open since 1981.

Schipper, age 80, admits that it is not always fun. But with a streak of more than 3,600 days, he is not about to stop now. So every day, he drives the two miles to Sugarloaf, tugs on ski boots and carves his way down the slope.

"I've always said if I quit, I'll be sorry," the retired airline pilot said. "I don't want to have any regrets."

Schipper's eyesight is not as good as it used to be, so he wears prescription goggles to compensate. At an age when other skiers have abandoned the slopes for fear of breaking bones, Schipper adjusts by wearing a helmet and slowing down a little to avoid spills.

"He's a tough old bugger," said Richard "Crusher" Wilkinson, vice president of mountain operations at Sugarloaf, Maine's tallest ski mountain.

Wilkinson came to work at Sugarloaf in 1981, the year Schipper's streak began. He said his good friend is a role model because he's doing something he loves.

"He's a good example. He sets a goal and sets his mind on something and he doesn't give, no matter what the weather," Wilkinson said. "He doesn't let up."

Schipper started his streak after retiring and buying the Lumberjack Lodge, a stone's throw from Sugarloaf. His passion was skiing, and he wanted to do it as much as possible.

In 1981, he and some buddies were relaxing in the ski lodge, recounting how many days they had hit the slopes. Schipper vowed to try to ski every day, and the others said they would try it, too.

A year later, Schipper was the only one to keep his promise, having skied all 174 days in the 1981-82 season.

"In those days, it was easy," Schipper said. "These days, it's not so easy."

Somewhere along the way, he picked up the nickname "Iron Man." Others have called him the "Cal Ripken of Skiing," a reference to the Baltimore Orioles star who played in 2,632 straight games.

It's no surprise that family and friends describe Schipper as goal-oriented, fiercely determined and full of energy. His wife, Chris, calls him "bullheaded."

"He knows better than anyone when it's time to stop. But he's not going to sit around and watch 'Oprah.'"

— RICHARD WILKINSON
Mountain operations at Sugarloaf

Those traits served him well in his days in the Air Force. He completed training as a fighter pilot in the waning days of World War II and flew into the jet age in F-86 Sabres.

Along the way, he picked up a passion for skiing. He skied whenever and wherever he could, and he taught his children how to ski while working as an Eastern Airlines pilot based in New York City.

He continued skiing after breaking his ribs, wrists and several vertebrae in 1969, when he was injured jumping to safety after his airliner caught fire and its landing gear collapsed on a runway in New York.

He continued to ski after breaking his leg in 10 places, the result of hitting a rock on a ski slope in upstate New York.

Keeping the streak going may be his toughest challenge ever, though.

One day last season, he didn't feel well but tried to ski, anyway. Before he could get on the lift, he was doubled over, retching in the snow. He managed to ski down to the parking lot and was taken to the hospital, where he spent the day in the emergency room being treated for pneumonia.

The next day, he was back skiing.

Perhaps the best story is how he managed to attend his son's wedding in 1987. His solution: He skied at midnight, drove 7 1/2 hours to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., for the wedding, and was back on the slopes the next day.

In 1993, he delayed surgery for removal of a cancerous kidney for a few weeks so he could keep skiing until the season ended. The cancer has not recurred.

In 1995, he underwent bypass heart surgery during the offseason. The surgeon also replaced one of his heart valves with a valve from a pig. He was back on the slopes in the fall.

In 1997, Schipper broke a thumb when he was hit by a snowboarder. He brought the handle of his ski pole to the doctor's office so he could be fitted with a special cast that let him keep skiing.

These days, Schipper's eyesight is his biggest worry. Glaucoma and macular degeneration have left him almost blind in one eye, so his depth perception has suffered. He no longer skis the expert slopes.

Cheryl Fullerton, Sugarloaf's communications manager, worries about Schipper when the temperature dips to 20 below and the wind howls.

"In some ways, I wish he'd give himself permission to stop. Every time I think of wild weather, I think of Paul," she said. "We just want to make sure he goes out on a high note."

A devilish grin grew behind Wilkinson's mustache as he sat inside a snow-grooming machine and talked about Schipper's exploits. But he grew serious when the subject turned to calling it quits.

"He knows better than anyone when it's time to stop," Wilkinson said. "But he's not going to sit around and watch 'Oprah.'"



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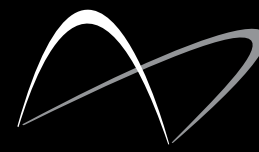
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