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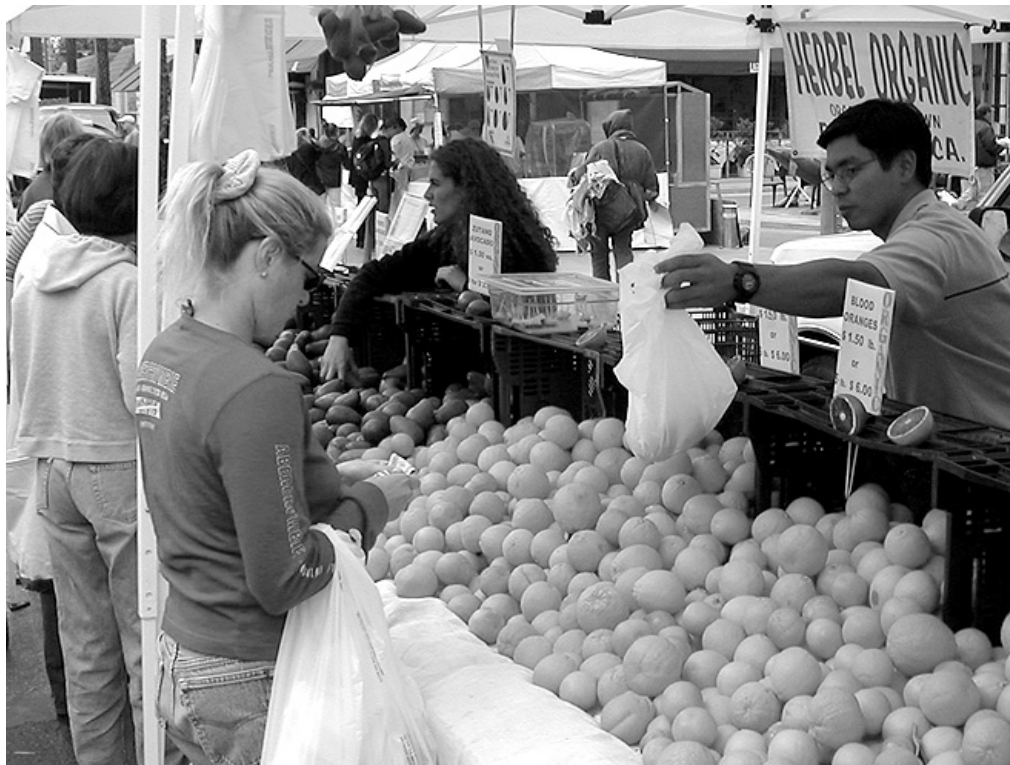
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2002

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Organic origins



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
Roz takes time out of her busy day to pick up organic oranges and avocados from Carlos Sasaki of Fallbrook on the Third Street Farmers Market Wednesday.

Santa Monica election turn out lowest in years

Over 70 percent of city's registered voters didn't cast ballots in primary

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica voters stayed away from the polls in droves Tuesday, resulting in a record low-turnout.

Only 23 percent — 16,827 out of the city's 73,279 registered voters — went to 83-citywide polling stations to cast ballots.

Not for over a decade has resident interest in an election dipped to the level expressed this week, one city official said.

Some elected officials theorized that because the majority of city voters are registered Democrats and the Democratic primary was nearly unopposed, residents didn't feel a need to vote.

"There was less reason to turn out this time because the gubernatorial election was not contested," said Mayor Mike Feinstein. "With Gray Davis a sure winner, it made

things even worse than if there had been a contested race."

Feinstein said low voter turn out at spring elections is why the city decided in the 1980's to change city council elections to November, when statewide races would draw more voters to the polls.

Others felt voters did a great disservice to the nation by not getting out to the polls.

"In the post 9-11 era this is an abomination," said Peter Tigler, a 'No on Prop U' leader. "I guess all the flag wavers were still at the malls shopping for patriotism when it came time to vote."

Besides the political party primaries for governor and an assortment of initiatives, local voters were asked to decide the fate of a \$160 million Santa Monica College bond.

The measure was overwhelmingly approved, receiving 70 percent of the vote.

"I think that many residents who are disappointed by the college simply did not vote," said Councilman Richard Bloom in an e-mail. "It was predicable that this election would have low voter turn out as the community is largely Democrats and there was no hotly contested Democratic race in the primary.

Overwhelming approval for bond measure cast by underwhelming minority

16 percent of voters pass Santa Monica College bond

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Voters overwhelmingly approved a \$160 million bond that will pay for expanded facilities and a new campus for Santa Monica College.

Nearly 70 percent — or 11,688 residents — voted for the bond measure Tuesday, surpassing the 55 percent required by law for approval. Only 30 percent — or 5,144 residents — opposed the measure.

"This is an incredible vote of confidence," said SMC President Piedad Robertson. "It was good to see that people appreciate the college and want to encourage us to be even better."

However, only 16 percent of total registered Santa Monica voters approved the measure. Some critics of the proposal have said that is hardly a majority of support.

"We were a lot smaller than they were, but I think broadly speaking that under 25 percent of the electorate came out," said Peter Tigler, a 'No on Prop U' leader.

Opponents said that the bond would spur more uncontrolled growth at the college. The idea of more satellite cam-

pus concerns many residents who have been impacted by the school's expansion over the years.

Also, opponents said the local community shouldn't be funding a college that has 32,000 students, many of whom commute from outside Santa Monica. Their third argument was that the measure would reduce local bonding capacity.

Opposition to the measure came late, with an ad campaign estimated at under \$1,000 and little public protest until just weeks before election day.

The advertising war chest for "Vote Yes on Measure U" reached about \$200,000, with \$115,000 raised by SMC's Associated Students over the past two years. The funds are collected through student fees.

By dividing what the college spent on pro-measure U advertising by the number of votes, they spent \$13.64 cents per vote. If the same mathematical equation is applied to the opposition party, they spent under 20 cents per vote.

Tigler said he hopes SMC will have a "congenial" relationship with nearby residents.

Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein said the fall is the time when important ballot issues, like the bond measure, should go before voters.

"In general its better to put a meas-

See MEASURE, page 3

GOP could have tough time winning statewide offices

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The once mighty California Republican Party is now facing the prospect of being shut out of statewide offices in the November general election.

Four strong Democratic incumbents are running for governor, attorney general, treasurer and lieutenant governor.

Other races for controller, secretary of state, insurance commissioner and

superintendent of public instruction feature well-financed Democratic contenders.

"It's fair to say the symbol of the California Republican Party is not the elephant. It's the underdog," said Jack Pitney, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College and an expert in Republican politics.

Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley's upset win Tuesday over March Fong Eu for the Democratic bid

See GOP, page 3

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 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ Stay on top of work. Strong resources back your ideas; use them to ensure your plan. Opportunities strike from out of the blue. Readjust your schedule, if need be. Right now, go with Lady Luck and the promise of success. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ Your energy and enthusiasm mix, making you a driving force at work or at play. Read between the lines when dealing with another. Speak your mind, but also do a better job of listening to what another says. Don't be overly sensitive. Tonight: Relax to music or a movie.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★ An offer might be too good to be true. Investigate what you think is going on through observation, listening and doing adequate research. A friend comes through, leaving positive feelings and perhaps an occasion for celebration. Tonight: Spend quality time with a loved one.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★ Carefully revise your opinions involving an associate and an opportunity. Zero in on what you want. Remain positive and direct in your dealings involving a dear friend. Surprises surround meetings and groups in general. Don't hesitate. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ An associate drives a hard bargain, or so he or she thinks! You know you have what it takes to meet this demand. Reach out to someone. Do your best to contact a loved one at a distance. Indulge an in-law. Hop on the Internet for additional information. Tonight: Work late.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ An associate thinks carefully about a problem and has strong feedback. Review a matter that is close to your heart with a trusted friend. Detach from the passion and intensity. You come up with wonderful answers. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ Others give you the benefit of the doubt. Listen carefully to a partner who might not be as easygoing as you are. Strong passion surrounds this relationship. Nothing is halfway here. Don't say "yes" to a professional option unless you can maintain your personal commitments at the same time. Tonight: Talk with a family member or loved one.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ Reach out for another at a distance. Extremes mark your decisions. A co-worker opens the door, allowing a new option. This person might want more than a friendship here. Tread carefully. You might be more alluring than you're aware. Tonight: Consider a weekend getaway.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ Expenses go slightly out of whack. Think in terms of gains. A child or loved one shares the depth of his or her feelings. Be gracious when handling this person. A partner could feel jealous or possessive. Indulge someone, and he or she indulges you. Tonight: Treat another to a good time.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ You're all smiles. Others seem to pave your path to success and happiness. Another, however, has expectations. Use your creativity, and you'll discover more about what someone desires from you. A family member helps you sort through options. Tonight: Whatever makes the Goat smile.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★ You don't have to be a major participant; you will be a major recipient. Sit back and think more about what you want from a situation. Sugar goes much further than vinegar. Be careful revealing your frustration. You might inadvertently cause yourself a problem. Tonight: Rest up.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ Carefully listen to another who could be on the warpath. Refuse to be angry. Rather, express your gentleness and caring. Review a decision that impacts your long-term desires involving a friendship. You might decide to buy something special for a loved one. Tonight: Follow your friends.



QUOTE of the DAY

"We can't all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by."

— Will Rogers (1879-1935)

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Bond money to repair and replace facilities

MEASURE, from page 1

ure of this kind of importance on the November election ballot because a larger portion of the community is likely to express their view points," he said.

Both Feinstein and City Councilman Richard Bloom said they were happy the college's ballot measure was approved, but they warned that the city would be moni-

"Residents will expect the college to spend this money wisely and in a manner that respects their community."

— RICHARD BLOOM
Santa Monica city councilman

toring how the money is spent.

"Residents will expect the college to spend this money wisely and in a manner that respects their community," said Bloom. "They will be watching closely to make certain that the many commitments by SMC during the campaign are kept."

Part of the money will be used to renovate buildings at the campus on Pico Boulevard that were damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Another portion will partially fund the purchase of a 10-acre site the college recently bought for \$30 million near the airport. Plans call for a satellite campus and more parking at the site.

"There will be modernization of the campus and improvement of safety," Robertson said.

College officials said some of the money would also be used for safety improvements around campus. There is some talk of building pedestrian bridges over dangerous intersections or even putting in underground tunnels.

"Perhaps bringing in cars underground so students can walk freely above on a plazas is one idea," Robertson said.

The bond's average cost to taxpayers will be \$1.12 per month for renters and \$77 per year for the average homeowner in Santa Monica and Malibu, according to Graham Pope, the co-chair for the committee supporting the measure.

The bond issue in the first year is estimated at \$16.21 per \$100,000 in assessed valuation. The average cost over the bond's life will be \$19.21 per \$100,000.

Delaware on Third Street



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Armed Forces Network shot a public service announcement for soldiers from Delaware on The Third Street Promenade Wednesday. According to one worker on the set, on a rainy day The Promenade looks a lot like "The Blue Hen" state.

A facilities assessment completed earlier this year outlined 21 projects at the college. Priorities are to replace the earthquake-damaged liberal arts building and temporary buildings with modern labs and classrooms. Facilities for the nursing, environmental studies, earth sciences and math programs also need upgrades and improvements are needed to

meet standards for campus lighting, security and the American Disabilities Act.

Other pressing needs are to find space for student parking and the emeritus college program, which is geared to students ages 55 years or older.

The emeritus program is housed on the ground floor of a city parking structure on Second Street and the city has

plans to turn property into a park at Santa Monica Airport, where students park and ride shuttles to the main campus a mile away.

Renovations are expected to be completed over the next 10 to 12 years. The college's last bond issue was for \$22 million in 1992 to build an addition to the science building and library.

New symbol for California GOP is the underdog

GOP, from page 1

for secretary of state eliminated a soft spot in the party's armor, said Mark DiCamillo, director of the Field Institute.

Eu, who previously held the office, lacked Shelley's fund-raising strength.

In the race for insurance commissioner, Democrat John Garamendi can run on his credentials as the state's first insurance commissioner from 1991-1994.

Steve Westly, the Democratic nominee for controller, has never held elective office. But the former executive at Internet auction site eBay has a personal fortune estimated at \$100 million. He financed his primary campaign with \$3 million of his own money.

"It looks like potentially a big year for the Democrats,"

DiCamillo said.

The GOP's lone statewide officeholder, Secretary of State Bill Jones, has to give up his seat because of term limits. He placed a distant third Tuesday behind Bill Simon and Richard Riordan in the run for the Republican gubernatorial nomination.

For the GOP, a poor showing in November could stall efforts to rebuild the party in the nation's most populous state. It also could leave few viable Republican candidates for future statewide races.

"You need the statewide offices to get the attention of the general public and fill the war chests," Pitney said. "Without that, it's hard to build a bigger party."

With the help of the Bush White House, the GOP has been trying to repair relations with Hispanics that were damaged in 1994 when then-Gov. Pete Wilson backed

anti-immigrant Proposition 187.

In addition to support from the growing Hispanic population, Democrats now enjoy a big edge in voter registration and can depend on widespread support by women, said Mark Baldassare, a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California.

Riordan, the former mayor of Los Angeles who lost the GOP nomination to the more conservative Simon, said the GOP needs to embrace moderate stances such as support for abortion rights or risk becoming "an extinct species."

In November, Republican fortunes will hinge on the race for governor.

The hope is that an upset victory by Simon over Gov. Gray Davis would lead to wins in other races for the GOP.

"It's going to be a tall order," DiCamillo said. "This is a Democratic state."

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STATE

Shaky strategy, Davis attacks doomed Riordan

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — An ineffective appeal to Republicans, combined with Democratic attack ads, turned Richard Riordan's 30-point advantage in polls into an 18-point loss in the California GOP gubernatorial primary.

The moderate former mayor of Los Angeles lost Tuesday night to conservative businessman and political novice Bill Simon, an outcome few predicted until the final days of the campaign.

"I think the message (Riordan) had was not a message people were too interested in."

— **SAL RUSSO**
Simon campaign strategist

But it was also an outcome Riordan courted, according to analysts, by neglecting the conservative Republicans most likely to vote in the primary.

Nudged into the race by state and national party leaders and confident that he would face Democratic Gov. Gray Davis in November, Riordan often acted as though the general election had already begun.

He virtually ignored Simon and Secretary of State Bill Jones, the third major candidate and, like Simon, a conservative, and emphasized his own socially liberal positions, such as support for abortion rights.

Riordan challenged fellow California Republicans to embrace such stances or, in his words, face extinction. As it turned out, GOP voters weren't interested in participating in his vision of change for the party.

"You had an effort by many of the leaders of the Republican Party, both conservative and moderate, to transform the image of the Republicans in California through the Riordan candidacy," said Kevin Spillane, Riordan's political director. "The only problem is we didn't let Republican primary voters in on the plan. They clearly had a different idea."

And while Simon campaigned on education, the economy and infrastructure, Riordan's main theme in the final days of the race was that if Republicans wanted to beat Davis they would vote for him. It proved an unsuccessful message.

"Very few people are motivated to go to the polls because of a candidate's electability," said GOP consultant Dan Schnur, who worked briefly for Riordan. "Generally you'll find that issues like jobs and taxes and education are much more motivating to them."

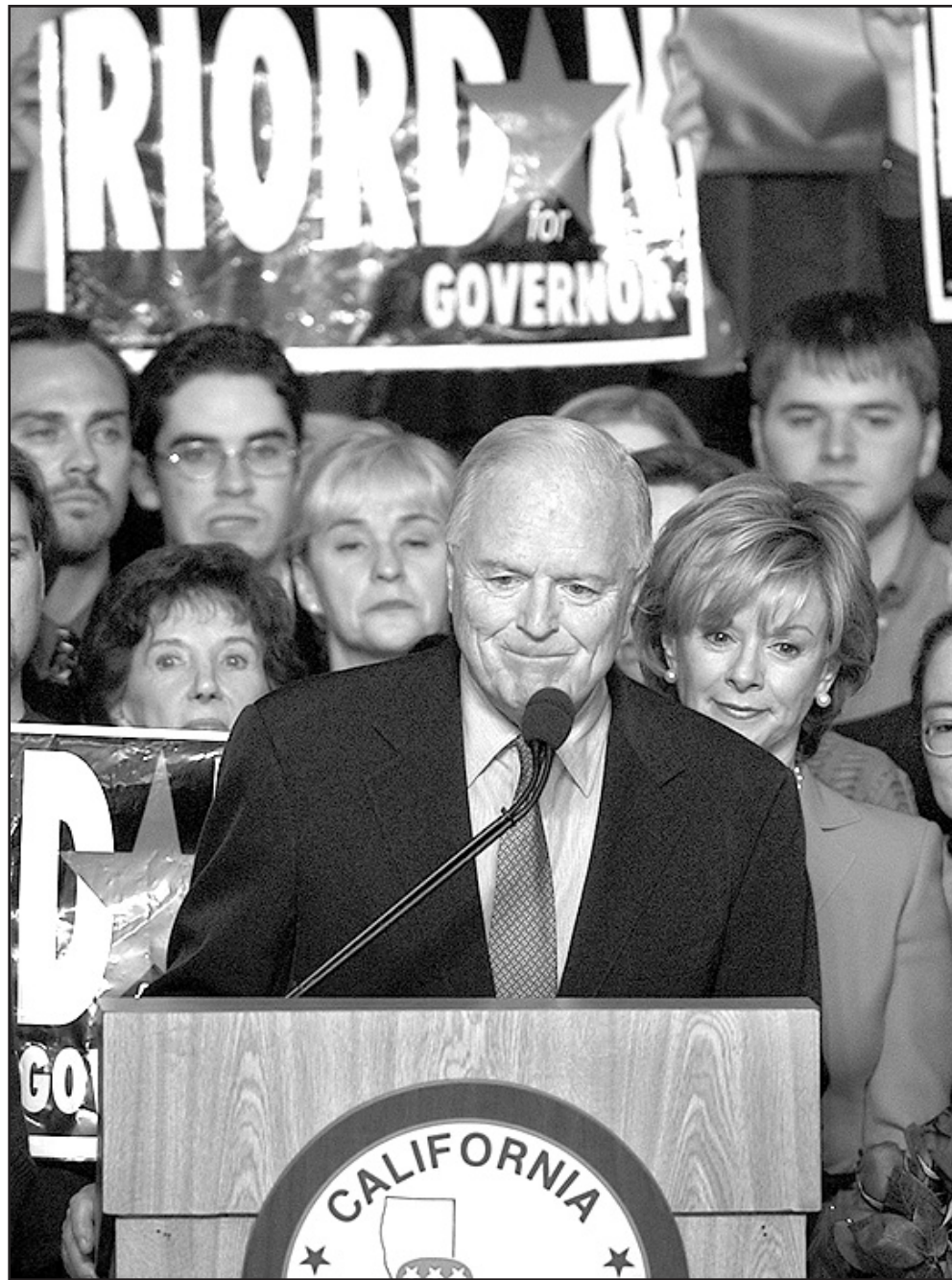
Riordan was also hurt by an unprecedented, \$10 million barrage of attack ads funded by Davis, who had only token opposition in the Democratic primary.

With ads slamming Riordan as untrustworthy in his support for abortion rights and the death penalty, Davis aimed at first only to damage Riordan as a challenger, but succeeded in helping eliminate him altogether.

Compounding matters, Riordan was a haphazard campaigner who was given to gaffes and refused the advice of strategists who feared his tactics were wrong for the primary.

The factors combined to transform a shoo-in into an also-ran.

"I think the message he had was not a message people were too interested in," said Sal Russo, Simon's chief strategist. "Whereas our message, sticking to the three issues we talked about the entire campaign, we were in a steady ascendancy. So I think if we talk about the issues people care about we're going to do quite well."



Mark J. Terrill/Associated Press

Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, center, is joined by his wife Nancy, right rear, as he concedes defeat in the Republican gubernatorial primary to opponent Bill Simon in Los Angeles Tuesday.

Latinos, Asians and gays gain in state legislature

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Latinos, Asian-Americans and gays continued 1990s gains in state Senate and Assembly primaries, setting the stage for a Legislature that looks more like California's increasingly diverse population. Women, too, boosted chances to expand their legislative presence.

Asian-Americans, approximately 11 percent of the state's population, could raise their representation from four to six members in the Nov. 5 election.

Gay men and women are almost certain to hold five seats later this year.

And Latinos, representing one-third of California's 35 million people, expect to increase their numbers in the 120-seat Legislature to 27. That's up one from current numbers, and a major gain from seven Latino legislators a decade ago.

"It's been tremendous. Since 1992 the Latino Caucus has grown 350 percent," said Sen. Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles, a legislature veteran since 1986 who is being termed out this year.

Polanco said the increasing Latino presence has spurred new lawmaking regarding low-performing schools, healthy families and safe neighborhoods. Last year the Latino Caucus prevailed over environmen-

tal opposition to force cleanups of contaminated inner-city industrial areas commonly called "brownfields."

Democratic Latinos expect to gain three seats in November, Polanco said, raising their numbers in the Senate to nine and the Assembly to 16.

Latino Republicans, by contrast, will lose two of their four seats. Veteran Assemblywoman Charlene Zettel, D-Poway, lost her bid for a Senate seat, while Assemblyman Rod Pacheco, R-Riverside, is termed out.

November's general election is also nearly certain to bring one and possibly two new Asian-Americans into the state Assembly. China-born San Francisco Supervisor Leland Yee, running in an assembly district dominated by Asian-Americans, easily won nomination.

In a Sacramento Assembly race, conservative Lodi Mayor Alan Nakanishi won the Republican nomination and will face Latino Democrat Katherine Maestas.

Blacks, meanwhile, with seven percent of California's population and the speakership of the Assembly, maintained their current legislative numbers. Former assemblyman and lieutenant governor Mervyn Dymally won the nomination in South Central Los Angeles, blocking a Latino primary challenge in the longtime

African-American district.

November's general election is also certain to bring the first openly gay males to the state's Assembly, following in footsteps pioneered in recent years by four gay women. Termed-out San Francisco Assembly Democrat Carole Migden will be replaced by one of two gay activists in a close contest. Openly gay former Santa Cruz councilman John Laird is also expected to win in November.

And women expect to claim four new legislative seats in November, adding to their current total of 34.

"I think it's very profound," said Suzanne Wierbinski, chief of staff to Sen. Martha Escutia, the Commerce Democrat who heads the Legislative Women's Caucus. "Child care would not be the main issue that it is for working and low-income working adults if it wasn't for the women's caucus."

Stolen George Washington letter found in New York

By The Associated Press

ORANGE, Va. — A letter written by George Washington in 1788 and stolen from a home in Virginia has been found in New York City.

The letter, valued at \$500,000, had been sold to a collector in New York for far less than its value, authorities said Tuesday. It was to be retrieved Thursday by Orange County sheriff's officials.

Thomas Paytes, 35, of Orange County, was charged with grand larceny in the Feb. 25 theft. Paytes worked for

the owner of the letter and had access to his home, the sheriff's department said. He was arrested in Washington during the weekend.

Orange County Sheriff C.G. Feldman would not identify the letter's owner.

The letter was written to Washington's personal secretary, Tobias Lear, nine months before Washington became president. In it, Washington discusses Virginia's ratification of the U.S. Constitution, which had taken place three days earlier on June 26.

STATE



Report: Letterman getting \$31 million ABC offer

BY LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — ABC reportedly offered late-night host David Letterman \$31 million a year and his own studio in the network's Times Square complex to lure him away from CBS.

ABC executives thought they would close the deal at a meeting with Letterman in late February but he hesitated and decided to mull the offer over on vacation, according to Entertainment Weekly. He was scheduled to return from vacation to CBS' "Late Show" next week.

The raise would be a relative pittance: Letterman reportedly earns \$30 million a year from CBS now.

He has been at the network since 1993 and his contract is up for renewal this summer.

ABC also offered to pick up the roughly \$40 million annual production cost of Letterman's show if he jumps ship, according to Entertainment Weekly, which cited unidentified sources at ABC and CBS.

CBS' counter offer is "just north of \$30 million," according to the Entertainment Weekly story, which is to appear in next week's edition.

The magazine report is "totally inaccurate on all money points" and in other points on the negotiations, an ABC source who spoke on condition of anonymity told The Associated Press.

A source at CBS, also speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP that CBS has offered Letterman \$31.5 million for the first year, with increases in subsequent years and performance bonuses.

In addition to his salary, Letterman reportedly receives substantial licensing fees, which offset production costs, under his current deal with CBS. The network also refurbished Times Square's Ed Sullivan Theater for him when he left NBC's "Late Night" to move to CBS.

Letterman, who has long been No. 2 in the late-night ratings to NBC's Jay Leno, has been unhappy with CBS' older prime-time audience and the weak local news programs on CBS affiliates that lead in to his show.

The Letterman tug-of-war has put the fate of ABC's 22-year-old news show "Nightline" in doubt and drawn angry criticism from its host, Ted Koppel.

"Nightline" began as a regular show in 1980 as an outgrowth of ABC's Iranian hostage crisis news coverage. Although it still regularly outdraws Letterman's "Late Show," ABC executives are concerned that "Nightline" doesn't reach the young viewers favored by advertisers.

According to The New York Times, Robert Iger, president of ABC's parent Walt Disney Co., told Koppel in a meeting Monday that if the network fails to win Letterman ABC would move "Nightline" only for a top quality show.

Condit's wife demands apology for 'Law & Order'

BY LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — The producers of "Law & Order" on Wednesday rejected a demand from Rep. Gary Condit's wife for an apology and retraction for an episode about a politician and a missing aide.

"We believe there's no basis for her claim. The show is fictional," said Neil Schubert, spokesman for Studios USA, which produces the series for NBC.

The network concurs, an NBC spokeswoman said. The episode aired Feb. 6 and carried the series' standard disclaimer that the story "does not depict any actual person or event."

Attorneys for Studios USA are investigating the matter and plan to respond, Schubert said.

Carolyn Condit's demand became public Wednesday, a day after Condit lost his re-election bid for the congressional seat he held for six terms. In the Democratic primary, he was swamped by Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza.

Condit was unchallenged until Chandra Levy, 24, vanished from her Washington, D.C., apartment last May. Police sources say Condit admitted having an affair with the political intern, but he's not a suspect in her disappearance.

In the "Law & Order" episode, a 24-year-old state senator's aide disappears from her Manhattan apartment. The ending implies that the wife of another official, the state gaming board chairman, was involved in her death.

A letter titled "Demand for Retraction" was sent to "Law & Order" executive producer Dick Wolf and to NBC attorneys by the Los Angeles-based law firm of Johnson & Rishwain.

"It is undeniable that the viewing public would identify Mrs. Condit as the wife depicted on the episode," according to the letter, which calls the episode "defamatory."

Mrs. Condit wants a retraction aired that apologizes to her on behalf of NBC and states that there is no factual basis to assert that Mrs. Condit ever contacted Levy or was involved in her disappearance.

The retraction should be featured at the start of a "Law & Order" episode airing reasonably soon, attorney Brian A. Rishwain said Wednesday.

Told that the studio and network had rejected the demand, Rishwain replied: "We either go away or file a lawsuit."

Rishwain said he hadn't spoken to Mrs. Condit Wednesday. She did not return messages left by The Associated Press at the family's home.

There is a California appellate case supporting such a suit, Rishwain said, in which the court found that fiction clearly drawn from real events can be actionable as libel.

Rishwain's firm filed a \$10 million, Feb. 21 lawsuit on behalf of Mrs. Condit over a National Enquirer headline and story that Rishwain said implied she had spoken to and attacked Levy. The two have never spoken or met, he said.

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More troops, weapons may soon join Al-Qaida battle

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. commander of the war in Afghanistan raised the possibility Wednesday of ordering more troops and fire-power into the 5-day-old battle against a spread-out and dug-in force of al-Qaida fighters.

Gen. Tommy Franks, after briefing President Bush on the war, told a Pentagon news conference he is confident the U.S.-led assault will succeed but he would not predict how long it might take. He described the situation on the ground as "very messy," increasingly dangerous.

"The days ahead are going to continue to be dangerous days for our forces that are committed to this effort."

— GEN. TOMMY FRANKS
U.S. commander

The four-star Army general said he was certain that Bush and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld will support him in expanding the U.S. force in Afghanistan if that is necessary. Franks stressed that he had not sought any increase but had thousands of troops available in the region.

Of the 5,300 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, about 1,100 are committed to the fight in the snowy peaks south of the city of Gardez. Franks said the U.S. force, which began at about 800 men, has grown by 200 or 300 in recent days. They are regular troops from the 101st Airborne and 10th Mountain divisions, as well as special operations troops.

Eight American and three Afghan troops have died since Operation Anaconda began March 1, but none since Monday.

"The days ahead are going to continue to be dangerous days for our forces that are committed to this effort," Franks said. "But the alternative to taking such risk is not acceptable in my view."

U.S. officials have not ruled out the possibility that the enemy forces, described by Franks as fierce, dedicated fighters, are protecting a senior al-Qaida leader, perhaps even Osama bin Laden.

Giuliani kids can't sleep at his home when girlfriend is there

BY SAMUEL MAULL

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A judge overseeing Rudolph Giuliani's divorce case ruled Wednesday that the ex-mayor's two teen-age children can't stay at his Manhattan residence while his girlfriend is visiting.

State Supreme Court Justice Judith Gische said the children have already met Giuliani's girlfriend, Judith Nathan, several times.

But in an eight-page ruling Wednesday, the judge said 16-year-old Andrew and 12-year-old Caroline weren't "psychologically ready" to stay overnight when Nathan, 46, was also staying over.

"They can hardly be said to have a comfortable, familiar relationship with her," Gische wrote. "The children need to establish a new routine of time spent with their father without worrying about competing for his attention."

The judge set a temporary visitation sched-

On Tuesday, five Marine Corps Cobra attack helicopters were added to the fight, as well as two Marine Corps CH-53 transport helicopters. Air Force A-10 ground-attack planes also have joined the battle in recent days — marking the first time the Thunderbolts have seen action in Afghanistan.

The Air Force also is flying F-16 and F-15 fighters and B-52 and B-1 bombers, and Navy F-14 and F/A-18 fighters are flying from an aircraft carrier in the North Arabian Sea. About a dozen additional Apache attack helicopters are being sent to the battlefield, in part to replace a number of Apaches damaged by enemy fire in the opening days of the battle, defense officials said.

Air Force AC-130 gunships armed with howitzers, cannons and Gatling guns also are in use as American, Afghan and other allied ground troops seek out al-Qaida positions and search cave complexes.

Franks said that in addition to the Cobra and Apache attack helicopters, the need may arise for even more such weapons. He also raised the possibility of more transport aircraft, infantry and special operations troops.

Appearing with Franks, Rumsfeld said it was possible that the several hundred al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who are targeted in the offensive could be joined by more al-Qaida.

"It's possible that additional al-Qaida or Taliban could come from the mountains or from the villages or from across the borders," Rumsfeld said. "And to the extent that happened, that could change the situation, and that's fine, because we're looking for them wherever they are. And to the extent that additional forces are needed, we'll put what is needed to do the job."

Franks, who commands all U.S. forces in an area that includes the Horn of Africa, the Persian Gulf and Central Asia, said he has about 60,000 forces in the vicinity of Afghanistan. Most of the 5,300 inside Afghanistan are at Kandahar or Bagram air base. Other troops are in Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Air Force B-52 and B-1 bombers are stationed on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, and hundreds of aircraft are based in several Persian Gulf nations, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Many allied nations have forces in Afghanistan, including Britain, Germany, France, Canada and Australia.

ule that lets Giuliani, 57, and his estranged wife Donna Hanover, 51, spend alternate weekends with the children.

The judge assigned each child a separate midweek dinner date with Giuliani, so each can have time alone with him. School vacations and holidays will be shared evenly between Giuliani and Hanover.

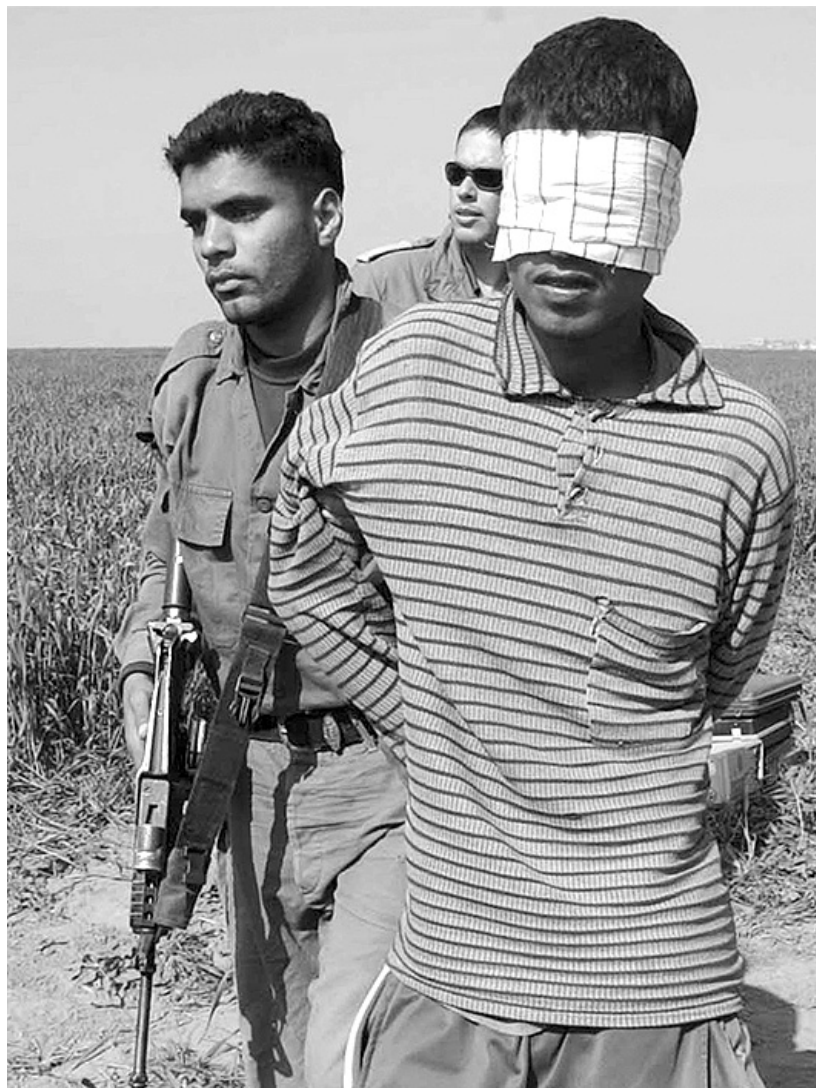
A psychologist will also be appointed to evaluate custody and visitation issues, the judge ruled.

Last May, on a request by Hanover, the judge barred Nathan from appearing anywhere that the Giuliani children would be.

At Giuliani's request, the judge lifted that prohibition, saying the children's future contacts with Nathan should be gradual and suggesting that Giuliani talk to the children about their feelings on the matter.

A permanent custody and visitation schedule will be set later.

Assaults intensify



Gadi Kabalo/Associated Press

Israeli soldiers walk with a Palestinian detained in operations in the Gaza Strip at the Kissufim junction Wednesday. Israeli planes, helicopters and warships pounded Gaza on Wednesday in one of the fiercest assaults of the Palestinian uprising. Twelve Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers were killed in violence in Gaza and the West Bank. Seven of the Palestinians died in fighting in Gaza Wednesday. Five others died in separate incidents, including a Hamas activist killed in an explosion at his Gaza City home. Amid the worst spate of violence since the start of the conflict 17 months ago, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon promised Israel would strike "without letup" until Palestinian militants' attacks on Israelis are reined in.

Marion Barry says he'll seek council seat

BY DERRILL HOLLY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Marion Barry, the national capital's four-term former mayor, says he's ready to come back, this time as a member of the District of Columbia Council.

Barry, who served six months in prison after a 1990 misdemeanor drug conviction, said Wednesday he will pursue an at-large seat on the 13-member council.

"I love this city, and I intend to make a difference."

— MARION BARRY
Politician

"God has blessed me with a ministry to serve unselfishly," said Barry, who marked his 66th birthday by confirming rumors of his anticipated candidacy.

Barry is taking aim at the seat

now held by Phil Mendelson, a former council aide who was elected in 1998 as the city struggled under a congressionally imposed administrative overhaul.

A successful run for the Democratic nomination would be tantamount to a win in November in a city where fewer than 20 percent of the registered voters are Republicans.

"Barry is a formidable candidate. He's not to be underestimated," said Councilman Jack Evans, who does not face re-election this year.

Barry denies he has interest in running for mayor again. He said he could be comfortable at home but is choosing to represent what he calls "the least, the last and the lost."

"I love this city, and I intend to make a difference," Barry said. "I'm now prepared to lead on City Council."

Incumbent Mayor Anthony Williams is expected to seek a second term this year. At this point, he has no serious political opposition.

NATIONAL



World Bank wants rich to double aid to poor

BY HARRY DUNPHY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Rich countries should see global poverty as an enemy that must be fought just as they have banded together to fight international terror, World Bank President James Wolfensohn said Wednesday.

He urged these nations to double foreign aid over the next five years, tear down trade barriers and eliminate agricultural subsidies that rob poor countries of markets for their products.

Wolfensohn spoke in advance of a March 18-22 international conference on financing development in Monterrey, Mexico, that President Bush and other world leaders will attend.

In a speech at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, Wolfensohn said that since the Sept. 11 attacks the world

has acted strongly to confront terrorism and increase security.

"We will not create that better and safer world with bombs and brigades alone," he said. "We will not win the peace until we have the foresight, courage and political will to redefine the war."

Wolfensohn rated poverty as the greatest long-term challenge the world faces.

While it does not necessarily lead to violence, he said, it can "provide a breeding ground for the ideas and actions of those who promote conflict and terror."

Wolfensohn said it is time to tear down the wall that divides the rich world from the poor. He said the September attacks started that process, but more effort is needed.

"It is time ... to recognize that in this

unified world, poverty is our collective enemy," he said. "Poverty is the war we must fight. ... Its existence is like a cancer, weakening the whole body, not just the parts that are directly affected."

He said he recognizes that tight budgets make it impossible for wealthy nations to double aid to poor countries overnight.

These nations could help poor countries trying to improve their economies and citizens' lives, however, "with a phased-in increase in aid, say an additional \$10 billion a year for the next five years, building to an extra \$50 billion a year in year five."

He said rich countries also must move toward trade openness, "recognizing that without market access poor countries cannot fulfill their potential no matter how good their (economic) policies."

He said that in the face of powerful political lobbies ranged against such openness, political leaders should remind voters of benefits they receive from free trade, which are far greater than the short-term adjustments would cost.

"Rich countries must take action to cut agricultural subsidies that rob poor countries of markets for their products," Wolfensohn said.

He said these subsidies, which total hundreds of millions of dollars annually, go to a relatively small number of agribusinesses, many of them large corporations.

"Agriculture subsidies constitute a heavy burden on the citizens of developing countries," Wolfensohn said. "With skillful political leadership, they can be cut back."

Laser technique detects 3.5 billion-year-old microbe fossils

BY MARK EVANS
Associated Press Writer

Researchers using a highly sensitive laser say they have detected microscopic remnants of life dating back 3.5 billion years — a find that could push back by 1 billion years the earliest definitive evidence of life on Earth.

Other scientists dispute the claim.

The apparent "microfossils" of bacteria were found in shale-like formations in western Australia in the early 1990s by a team that included J. William Schopf. The evidence consists of microscopic, filament-like strands in the rock.

Shortly after the find, Schopf, a paleobiologist at the University of California at Los Angeles, said that the material appeared to be one of the earliest recorded bits of life on Earth.

In an article in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*, Schopf reported that he and colleagues at the University of Alabama-Birmingham further analyzed the samples with a tool known as a laser-Raman imaging.

"This pushes back by a billion years the prior definitive evidence of the earliest life on Earth," said University of Alabama astrophysicist Thomas Wdowiak, a member of the research team.

Wdowiak said the laser technology can measure the molecular vibrations of very tiny particles and map the chemical makeup. Tests found the material to be made up of organic carbon — evidence that the substance was once alive, the researchers said.

"The organic matter that we detected is to very ancient microbes as coal is to less ancient plants," Wdowiak said.

In a separate paper in *Nature*, a team of researchers in England and Australia cast serious doubt on the claim.

They said other tests show no evidence that the formations were once ancient life.

They said the filament-like strands might instead be just traces of the mineral graphite.

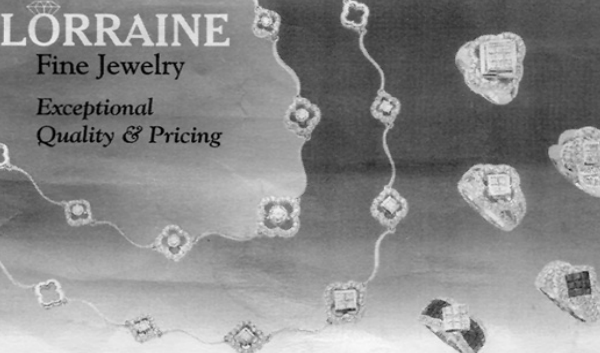
The structures "should not be accepted as being of biological origin until all possibilities of their non-biological origin have been exhausted," wrote the English-Australian team, led by Dr. Martin D. Brasier of the University of Oxford.

Even if proven to be remnants of life, at 3.5 billion years, the microfossils would not necessarily be the earliest life detected on Earth.

Scientists have found earlier signs of possible life in chemical signatures hidden in microscopic mineral grains more than 3.85 billion years old — a time when Earth might have been pummeled by asteroids.

Some scientists believe that asteroids delivered life — or the ingredients necessary for life — to Earth.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. security chief calls for 'fast lane' across the border

BY TRACI CARL
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said he expects the United States and Mexico to reach an agreement creating a "fast lane" of preapproved travelers across the their common border, easing delays caused by heightened security after Sept. 11.

Wrapping up two days of meetings Tuesday in Mexico City, Ridge said the way the United States' southern border is managed is "outdated." He added that officials were making progress on a border security accord with Mexico similar to one reached with Canada in December.

"I think we are going to reach an agreement," he said.

Heavy traffic at border crossings has hurt businesses both in Mexico and the United States, and Ridge called for a new plan that would use technology to clear goods in factories, rail yards and seaports instead of waiting until they reach the border.

He said customs officials were also looking at the possibility of screening and pre-approving cargo and people, giving them a "fast lane" across the border.

"Once you've got the no-risk and the low-risk set aside, then you can direct your human and your technology resources to the cargo and the people that you know nothing about," he said.

Ridge said Mexico's drug and migrant smugglers created challenges that would be difficult to overcome.

"We cannot guarantee a foolproof system," he said.

After meeting with Mexican President Vicente Fox, Interior Secretary Santiago Creel and Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda, Ridge was scheduled to tour the Bridge of the Americas border crossing in El Paso, Texas, on Wednesday.

President Bush is scheduled to continue discussions on the border security plan with Fox during the U.N. International Conference on Financing for Development later this month in Monterrey.

Commerce has tripled along the U.S.-Mexican border since the start of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, and Ridge said both Mexico and the United States aren't happy with how the border is managed today.

"This is not only an opportunity to secure our border, but we ought to view it as an opportunity to facilitate and enhance the commercial integration between the two countries," he said. "If we come up with the right, smart, 21st century accord, we will advance both interests."

He said he will continue to push for consolidating agencies that manage the border despite strong opposition in Washington.

Ridge said Fox's government has been responsive to U.S. needs, sharing "unprecedented" amounts of information with its American counterparts.

At a news conference with Ridge, Creel said Mexico would continue to cooperate with the United States to "unite efforts on this side of the Rio Grande." Fox also pledged even greater cooperation in the future.

United Nations gives green light for harvesting caviar

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS
Associated Press Writer

GENEVA — Countries on the Caspian Sea won permission Wednesday to resume harvesting caviar from sturgeon because they have made progress in protecting the fish, a U.N. body said.

Authorities halted the trade in June to give Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan time to survey stocks and improve efforts to curb rampant illegal trading.

"The spring season starts any day now, so as soon as caviar becomes available from that catch, they can start exporting it," said Willem Wijnstekers, secretary-general of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES.

The four nations and Iran agreed to lower this year's export quota by nearly 10 percent to 142 tons of caviar from 157 tons last year, Wijnstekers said.

He said CITES also gave the go-ahead after finding that the four countries have made adequate progress with Iran on overall management of the fish.

At the time of the ban, the legal trade was estimated to be worth \$100 million a year, and the illegal catch 10-12 times that amount, Russia being the main market.

On the world's legal wholesale market, 2.2 pounds of caviar costs an average

\$500. The same amount of premium beluga caviar costs \$1,000.

Iran, the remaining nation on the Caspian, has taken part in the program to give a coordinated response even though its management system was already judged adequate. Iranian exports were unaffected by the CITES ban.

The resumption of caviar exports will bring the former Soviet republics much needed money to pay for the expansion of hatcheries regarded as vital to the sturgeon's long-term survival, Wijnstekers said.

"We are now satisfied that ... those quotas are acceptable," said Wijnstekers, but added that "Greater efforts are needed to combat illegal fishing and corruption."

Azerbaijan has made great strides in improving its enforcement procedures, and Russia is moving in that direction, he said.

Jim Armstrong, CITES deputy secretary-general, said the cooperation was a "breakthrough" in countries that in communist days treated fish stocks as "a carefully guarded state secret."

Until 1991 the Soviet Union and Iran controlled virtually all of the world's caviar market, investing heavily in maintaining fish stocks. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the system collapsed and many entrepreneurs sprang up to replace the state-owned companies.

ENTERTAINMENT



Screen Actors Guild spat: when '70s TV stars attack

BY MELISSA RAYWORTH

For The Associated Press

I got a note from Rhoda the other day, and let me tell you — she wasn't happy. Lately, Laura Ingalls from "Little House" has been annoying her no end. Officer Reed from "Adam 12" has chimed in — he popped up between my sister and my mother in my incoming e-mail. And even B.J. Hunnicut, Hawkeye Pierce's soft-spoken roommate, is up in arms: "Vote against this chicanery," he snaps.

These days, this is the life — and inbox — of a member of the Screen Actors Guild.

Growing up in the '70s, I understood certain undeniable TV truths: Honesty and kindness won out on "Little House on the Prairie." The doctors of the 4077th could be relied upon to take care of us. Rhoda could broker peace between her gravel-voiced mom and her beleaguered husband. And when in doubt, call one-Adam 12; within minutes, you'd be safe.

Now I'm not sure who to trust. Judging by the flurry of angry, impassioned e-mails streaming in lately from folks who have come to call "Nick at Nite" home, it seems something's gone terribly wrong in TV Land. My incoming mail reads like the script of a Fox show titled "When '70s TV Stars Attack."

For those of you not following the Screen Actors Guild's latest brawl of an election — which concludes with a vote count Friday — let me catch you up:

Shortly after last fall's election for SAG officers, some ballot irregularities surfaced. The union's Election Committee called for a revote. (Are you having jarring flashbacks to the 2000 presidential election? This time there were no dimpled Chads, unless you count Everett and Lowe.)

The newly elected president, Melissa ("Little House") Gilbert, and her supporters — led by Mike ("M-A-S-H") Farrell — were furious. They accused the Election Committee, chaired by Fred ("Wonder Years") Savage, of calling for the re-vote simply because Valerie ("Rhoda") Harper didn't win.

Harper and her supporters — led by Elliott Gould and Kent ("Adam-12") McCord, both of whom had won offices in the initial election — considered the re-vote necessary and appropriate. Thus began the war of words.

SAG members like me began to get inundated with e-rhetoric from those directly involved, those tangentially involved, and those who maybe wanted to get some publicity because they're not on television anymore.

A few of the past and present luminaries I've received e-mail from: Alan Alda, Barbara Bosson, Ed Begley Jr., Bruce Boxleitner, William Christopher, Peter Coyote, Jill Eikenberry, Shelley Fabares, Morgan Fairchild, Jamie Farr, Greg Germann, Sara Gilbert, Ken Howard, Jane Kaczmarek, Camryn Manheim, Kent McCord, Loretta Swit, Christopher Titus, Michael Tucker, Bradley Whitford and Noah Wyle.

Needless to say, if someone had told me when I was 13 that both Father Mulcahy and The White Shadow would be writing me on the very same day, I wouldn't have believed it.

I'm getting dizzy from the nostalgia.

I'm convinced that before this imbroglio is over, I'll hear from Kaye Ballard and at least one Van Patten. I open my mail wondering, "Who will it be today? George Jefferson's neighbor Bentley? Maxwell Smart? Isaac from the Love Boat?"

(Frankly, I wouldn't mind the wise counsel of Merrill

Stubing at a time like this. He always knew just what to say when Vicki faced a dilemma.)

And why have I heard from the entire "M-A-S-H" cast except Radar? What are his thoughts on all of this?

Despite the nasty accusations, despite my surreal inbox, I take this seriously. I'm being asked to vote again for the leadership of a union I'm proud to be a member of. I want to know my dues are spent carefully and my working conditions will remain protected. Here I am, a dutiful union member, being told by both sides that the other can't be trusted. So I read every lengthy, angry missive that my childhood heroes send. And I'm left wondering if the in-your-face immediacy of e-mail has done every candidate a disservice.

You know how when your husband or co-worker or friend infuriates you and you dash off a diatribe about how incredibly WRONG they are and what an idiot they can be, and then three hours later you sort of wish you hadn't hit "Send"?

While I can't say for sure whether the e-mails from "Mike Farrell" or "Kent McCord" were written by them alone or at all, the notes seem to be written without the measured restraint that usually keeps political candidates from looking histrionic.

I think it's time I answer all that mail I've been getting. So here's my reply-to-all, not nearly as long or vitriolic as theirs but just as heartfelt:

Dear Candidates:

I'm betting that none of you are quite as horrible as you've been depicted by the other side. I wish you well and hope this rerun election satisfies you all, though I know that's a lot to ask. And I hope whichever of you ends up in charge, you'll keep the struggling, as-yet-agentless actors in mind as you make decisions that affect us.

Baseball star Steve Garvey blamed for deceptive tactics

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former baseball star Steve Garvey made flagrantly false and deceptive claims for a weight-loss product when he said people could eat "forbidden foods," a federal attorney said.

The Federal Trade Commission is suing the former Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres first baseman for the \$1.1 million he received for endorsing the Enforma weight-loss system in infomercials in 1999 and 2000.

"Our product is backed by years of scientific research."

— **ANDREW GREY**
Enforma's chief executive

Garvey was not in court Tuesday, the opening day of the non-jury trial before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Feess.

FTC lawyer David P. Frankel quoted Garvey as telling viewers:

"Look at all these delicious supposedly forbidden foods — barbecued chicken and ribs, buttered biscuits. Foods you can eat when you crave them, without guilt,

without worry, and it's all because of a few little capsules."

Feess said his decision would hinge on whether Garvey made a serious effort to support the claims. Harvey I. Saferstein, one of Garvey's lawyers, said such a requirement would have a chilling effect on commercial free speech.

Enforma's chief executive, Andrew Grey, said the Los Angeles-based company has sold more than 7 million bottles of the supplements since 1998.

"Our product is backed by years of scientific research," he said.

Enforma Natural Products Inc. settled a deceptive advertising lawsuit with the FTC two years ago. Without admitting wrongdoing, the company agreed to pay \$10 million and promised to refrain from deceptive claims.

Garvey no longer promotes Enforma products.

NEW YORK — Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and model Kim Porter, the mother of his youngest child, have reached a child support settlement that ends a year of litigation in Manhattan Family Court.

The support agreement for 3-year-old Christian Casey Combs was sealed, but the rap impresario's lawyer, Eleanor Grosz, said it runs until the child turns 21 and provides for his education, medical care and other needs.

The parents have joint legal custody, but Christian's primary residence will be with his mother in Columbus, Ga., Grosz said. The agreement "allows for full involvement by both parents" in his upbringing, she said.

Combs, 32, runs the Bad Boy Entertainment music publishing and recording company and has his own fashion line, Sean John, and several restaurants. He reportedly earns several million dollars a year.

While the financial details of Tuesday's agreement were not divulged, Combs reportedly pays \$5,000 a month to hip-hop fashion stylist Misa Hylton-Brim, of Mount Vernon, N.Y., for the support of their 6-year-old son, Justin Combs.

Family Court Hearing Examiner David Kirshblum had said earlier that if he had to decide the case, he would order more child support than the record \$12,825 a month that cosmetics billionaire Ronald Perelman was ordered to pay for his daughter.

Tuesday's session marked the first time the rapper had come to court in the case. The judge noted his appearance and said, "Mr. Combs, welcome to Family Court. This is the first time we've seen you here."

Combs replied, "Yeah. I finally got around to coming." He later told the court

he meant no disrespect by not coming earlier, but he wanted an agreement in place to avoid wasting his time or the court's.

NEW YORK — Alanis Morissette has swept away the competition, debuting at the top spot with "Under Rug Swept."

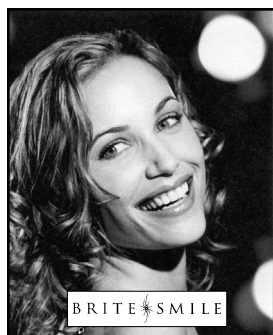
Morissette's third studio album sold more than 215,000 copies for the week ending Sunday, according to SoundScan figures released Wednesday.

Grammy winners also got a bump in sales after last week's awards. The "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack, which won five awards including album of the year, jumped from No. 15 last week to No. 2, selling more than 200,000. The bluegrass and folk compilation has gone quadruple platinum.

Alicia Keys, who won five Grammys including song of the year for "Fallin'," moved from the 20th spot to No. 4. Her debut album, "Songs in A Minor," which won the R&B album Grammy, sold nearly 103,000 this week. It's also gone quadruple platinum, selling 4.7 million copies.

Australian pop singer Kylie Minogue debuted at No. 3 with her latest release, "Fever," selling nearly 115,000 copies.

Jennifer Lopez' "J To Tha L-O!" album of remixes fell from the top spot last week to No. 7, with just over 88,000 copies sold.



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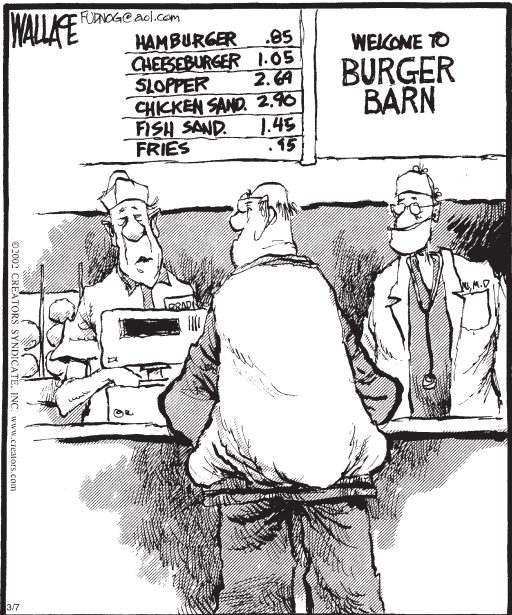


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



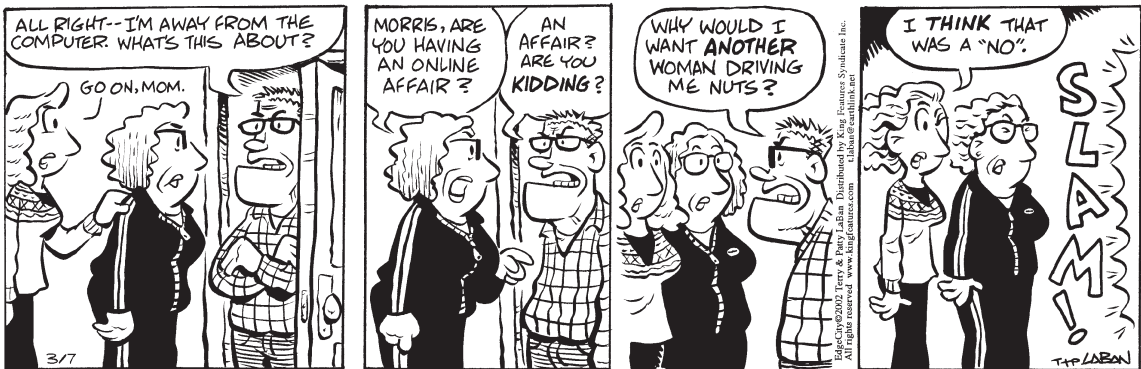
Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



"OK, that's a double bacon cheeseburger and fries. Would you like an angioplasty with that?"



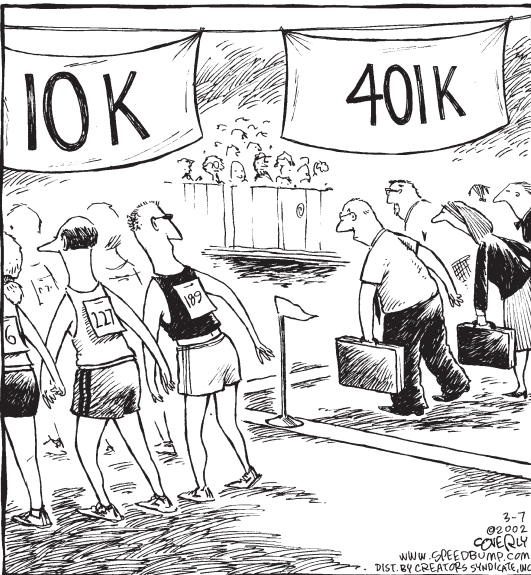
by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Big galoots
- 5 Big ruffians
- 10 Long sandwich
- 11 Brain cases
- 12 Opera highlight
- 13 Tea choice
- 14 Hunting ammo
- 16 Hockey ploy
- 20 "Turn Me Loose" singer
- 23 Playwright Burrows
- 24 By the way
- 25 Idiot
- 27 Altar promise
- 28 Soaked up
- 29 Risky venture
- 32 Actor's pic
- 36 Open, in a way
- 39 Notoriety
- 40 Spunky
- 41 Pizzeria fixture
- 42 Playwright Clifford
- 43 Budget amount

DOWN

- 1 Melville character

- 2 Andean nation
- 3 Actor Stoltz
- 4 Penetrates
- 5 Scouting group
- 6 Ceases
- 7 First numero
- 8 Bar basic
- 9 Droop
- 11 "Over There!" writer/composer
- 15 Metal scum
- 17 Stringed instrument
- 18 Wind instrument
- 19 Look after
- 20 Bomb
- 21 Actor Ray
- 22 Blessing
- 25 State of mind
- 26 Chooses
- 28 Ques-tion-able
- 30 Haunted house resident
- 31 Church offshoots
- 33 Possess
- 34 Sign
- 35 Big top, e.g.
- 36 Topic for an X-file
- 37 Homer's neighbor
- 38 Untruth

A	S	E	S				B	E	T	H				
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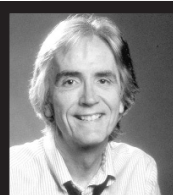
Yesterday's answer

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40						41			
42						43			

3-7

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Bicycles used as getaway vehicles for 500 pound safe

Three Alaskans were charged recently with ill-thought-out thefts:

- Todd Shobe, 38, was arrested in Anchorage in January when his SUV got stuck in the mud at a construction site after being weighed down with all the tools he was trying to drive away with.
- Roger D. Yost, 40, and William Isberg, 40, were arrested in Fairbanks in February when they tried to get a 500-pound safe out the door of a Moose Lodge hall, seemingly forgetting that they had arrived at the Lodge only on bicycles.

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SANTA MONICA \$575.00 Bachelor, close to all, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

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SANTA MONICA \$1150.00 (upper) 2 bedrooms, fresh new paint and carpet. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1175.00 Newly remodeled triplex, 1 bedroom, hardwood floors, yard, keys are available at Westside Rentals. 1110 Wilshire Blvd. 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 Remodeled duplex apartment, 2 bedrooms, hardwood floors, private yard. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

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SANTA MONICA \$450.00 Private room. W/D, private yard, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$550.00 Duplex to share 8 blocks to beach. Private bedroom. Pet ok. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

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100 Employment	400 Real Estate	



BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Coin-operated laundry owner nabs alleged thief

By The Associated Press

HERMOSA BEACH — The owner of the Espresso Wash gives no quarter when it comes to thievery at his coin-operated laundry.

Peter Buccoleri, a retired policeman, staked out his own business, peering at his change machine from behind a door to nab an alleged thief who he said admitted he'd stolen about \$2,000 worth of quarters.

Buccoleri, 43, sat on a stool in a cramped space by a water heater from 8 a.m. last Thursday to 10 p.m. the following day, hardly eating or drinking so he wouldn't have to abandon his post for the bathroom. When that failed to yield results, he installed a surveillance camera.

Just before noon Tuesday, his efforts paid off when Buccoleri said he saw a man slip a \$20 bill into the change machine, then yank it back while the quarters poured out.

"I snuck out and I told him, 'You are under arrest. Get your hands up against that wall,'" Buccoleri recalled.

"He said, 'I'll give you your money back. I'll give you your money back.'"

Police identified the alleged thief as Zaprian Kostadino Kitchkov, 39, a transient from Bulgaria.

He was booked for investigation of burglary, and officers said they found about \$325 worth of quarters in his car.

Bible paper makes for a good smoke

By The Associated Press

MEDFORD, Ore. — Some prisoners at the Jackson County Jail haven't exactly found religion in the Bible. They've discovered that pages ripped from the Bible

make excellent rolling paper for smoking tobacco products and anything else they can get their hands on, jail officials said.

Homemade cigarettes and tobacco are the most common form of contraband that correctional deputies find. But sauerkraut, lettuce leaves, coffee grounds and orange peels have also been smuggled out of the cafeteria, dried and substituted for tobacco.

"It's much more of a problem than drugs, although they still try that, too," said jail Sgt. Dan Penland. "They do everything they can to find something to smoke."

The screening process for inmates' mail has reduced the amount of contraband smuggled in over the years but the inmates can be creative.

They even have a recipe for making alcohol with rotting fruit that is stashed away and stored. The concoction isn't as common as cigarettes, mostly because of the strong, foul odor that emanates when a batch is fermenting.

Police nab microwave popcorn thieves

By The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Police have recovered 15 tons of microwaveable popcorn, worth \$50,000, that was stacked from floor to ceiling in a two-car garage.

The 1,920 cases of popcorn were stolen a month ago along with an unmarked trailer from ConAgra Foods, the plant in Marion, Ohio, where it was produced, company officials said.

James Conway Jr., 48, and his daughter, Jennifer, 22, both of Columbus, each were charged with one felony count of receiving stolen property. They were scheduled to appear Wednesday in Franklin County Municipal Court.

ConAgra sent a tractor-trailer Tuesday to pick up the

popcorn. The original white trailer is still missing, plant manager Tony Jones said.

Police said they found the food while searching Jennifer Conway's home because the elder Conway's son has been charged in the Jan. 19 shooting death of an Ohio State University student.

Backyard tidying yields box of cash

By The Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Diane McCarthy has discovered how much it pays to clean up debris from her backyard.

McCarthy found a box containing \$1,300 stolen two weeks earlier from a Colchester High School hockey game.

The Colchester High School Hockey Boosters had reported the theft to police, believing that the money was gone forever, Booster member Cheryl King said.

McCarthy turned the treasure over to Burlington police, who returned the cash to the Booster club.

"To get \$1,300 back is absolutely amazing," King said Monday. "It's nice to know that there are some pretty honest people in the world."

King was working the Saturday night game Feb. 16 when a teen-ager approached the door, she said. The cashier told the boy it would cost \$3 to get in to the game, King said. The boy grabbed the cash box and fled, according to police.

When McCarthy first saw the gray metal box, it looked like cardboard, she said. Then she moved closer.

"I saw it was more like a cash box, and I could hear some change, some coins, in there, and opened it up," she said. "I was like, 'Wow, there's a lot of money in here; I better call somebody.'"

Police have not arrested anyone for the theft.

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- 14th and Santa Monica Boulevard
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- Santa Monica Courthouse
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- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

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