

FREE

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 98

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTTO

FANTASY 5

10, 17, 31, 32, 37

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 6, 2

Evening picks: 8, 5, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 09, Winning Spirit

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 08, Gorgeous George

Race time: 1:44.57



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ Anne Stanley filed a lawsuit in Westmoreland County, Pa., in December, asking \$90 million as her compensation for a period of time when she was unsure whether or not she had received a deadly infection. A defective bronchoscope was allegedly used on her at Latrobe Area Hospital in January and June of 2001, and one of the things that this particular defect (loose valve) permits is for bacteria to form in a pocket that cannot be reached by sterilization equipment.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sex is nobody's business except the three people involved.

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Election mistakes derided by critics

'Homeowner's Initiative' ballots due back by March 21

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Two weeks into Santa Monica's first-ever election by mail, residents Thursday expressed concern over flaws in the distribution of the ballot.

Representatives from both sides of Proposition A — the issue being voted on by mail — said several voters had not received the ballot at all. In addition, many of those who did receive it mistook it for junk mail.

The special election was called for by the Homeowners' Freedom of Choice Initiative, which proposes making historic preservation voluntary for own-

ers of single-family homes. Under the current law, such designations may be made over the owner's objections.

"This is something that comes up with all elections. It's not like there are 500 extra ballots floating around out there."

— MARIA STEWART
City clerk

Ballots were mailed out Feb. 20 and voters have until 9 p.m. on Friday, March 21 to get their ballots to the city clerk's office.

See PROP. A, page 6

College to protest cuts in Sacramento

By Daily Press staff

An estimated 150 Santa Monica College students and employees will board buses later this month for a one-day trip to Sacramento to join a massive statewide community college rally to protest budget cuts.

Organizers say they expect the March 17 rally — dubbed "March in March" — to be the largest such demonstration in the history of California community colleges.

SMC is in the process of cutting \$5 million from its budget this year and estimates it will have to make an additional \$15 million in reductions for 2003-04.

The college's budget was cut by \$8 million before the current school year began and the number of classes offered was reduced by 3 percent. Now —

to help plug California's historic \$34.5 billion deficit — SMC's level of state aid is being reduced again by \$5 million.

To cope, the college canceled raises for managers, who last received a pay increase in January 2002. SMC also reduced spring semester classes by 7.5 percent, closing 250 course sections. Every department must make a 10 percent reduction in their annual operating costs and all temporary employees were let go late last month.

The buses — which are being chartered by the SMC Associated Students — will leave the campus at about 10 p.m. on Sunday, March 16 for an all-night ride to Sacramento.

The rally, which will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March

See PROTEST, page 6



John Wood/Daily Press

The top photo shows the sinkhole that opened Dec. 28 on Ocean Park Boulevard after a water main broke. Above, the road as it looked Thursday after repairs.

Ocean Park Blvd. to re-open March 12

Sinkhole repairs on street nearly complete

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Ocean Park Boulevard sinkhole is patched up, which will allow one of Santa Monica's primary east-west arteries to re-open next week.

Work crews are finishing the installation of new sewer pipes and final touches to the roadway — paving and striping — are

planned for early next week, according to city officials.

On Sat., Dec. 28, a chunk of roadway at the intersection of Ocean Park and Euclid Avenue gave way, creating a hole approximately 15 feet deep. The following Monday, another section of Ocean Park — this time near 11th Street — also collapsed and the two holes merged to create a nearly 1,000-foot-long cavity.

On Wed., March 12, after more

See SINKHOLE, page 8

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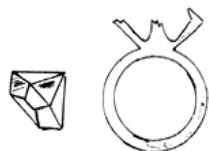


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HOROSCOPE

Reach out for someone, Virgo



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March 7, 2003:

Opportunities strike left and right, taking you in new directions. Reveal more of what you want. Verbalizing will help make it a reality. You will be unusually successful professionally, with the possibility of a pay raise and a promotion. Making decisions comes easily, especially when dealing with health and work matters. You often might be more confused than you realize. If you are single, you will meet someone quite special between fall and your birthday. If you are attached, your relationship evolves because of your ability to internalize suggestions. Share more of your dreams with your sweetie. Make them happen together. TAURUS keeps you talking.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Deal with money matters head-on. You could find that you hit extremes and often are pulled in very different directions. The issue for you is merging opposite interests into a satisfactory agreement. Use your negotiating talents. Tonight: Indulge yourself.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Use your strong personality to handle chaos, which seems to naturally erupt both personally and professionally. You might find ways of making everyone happy, producing a win-win situation. Don't hesitate to use your charisma and personality. Tonight: Whatever you want.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Take your time dealing with a loved one or a friend. This person has strong feelings. You come from a good place, but communicating it right now could be a lot different. Take your time investigating new facts. Get a consensus, if possible. Tonight: Sleep rather than play.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Keep your focus, especially regarding finances. Realize your limits within your budget. You might push way too often to have things tumble the way you want. Extremes hit within a partnership. Indulge another and let his or her feelings run with the moment. Tonight: Join your pals.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Step into the limelight. You know what needs to happen with a boss or an authority figure. You could feel as if everyone is tugging on you. You might not have the control you want. Just be your optimistic self, and you will see a turnaround. Tonight: A must show.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. Whether you're seeking out information or trying something totally different, you learn a lot. Remember, everyone has unique qualities. Learn from other styles. You instinctively understand where someone is coming from. Tonight: Read between the lines.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal on an individual level with different associates. You discover that others have different ideas and needs. The true test will be whether you can integrate everyone's agendas successfully. Take off your rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Happy at home with a friend or loved one.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Take your time with your dealings involving others. You could easily find yourself conflicted and not exactly sure which direction to head in. Let someone who wants to be the big chief make the necessary decisions. Flow with news. Tonight: Keep on yessing an associate.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ You might not be exactly sure what you want, but current events help you determine what you don't desire. Keep gathering information, especially if you think you cannot grasp what is happening. You'll know when you have the right answer. Tonight: Do your thing.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Be a problem-solver. Don't assume that anything is insurmountable. Consider your options with a monetary matter. Walk in the other direction if you think a deal is too good to be true. You are probably right. A partner might be overly willful. Tonight: Start enjoying your weekend.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Understand that someone close might not be trying to be difficult but is attempting to flash some reality into your life. Your expectations could vary depending on a partner and how enthusiastic he or she is. Be practical today. Tonight: Buy a new CD on the way home.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might not be as anchored as you would like to be. Review a decision carefully with an associate who tends to give you good information. Think positively. Know when to defer to someone else. Return calls. Reach out for others. Tonight: Where the action is.



FISH FaCTs:

Q: How much voltage can an electric eel generate?

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LOCAL



Kelly Hayes-Raitt/Special to the Daily Press

One of Saddam Hussein's palaces is a few hundred yards away from this ancient walled city of Babylon, which is 21 centuries old.

Iraq visit elicits marriage, laughter and tears for local

(Santa Monica resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt returned from Baghdad last month. This the third installment of a daily journal she kept while traveling through Iraq. Look for the next installment in the Daily Press next Friday.)

BY KELLY HAYES-RAITT
Special to the Daily Press

I got married today. Before the Gulf War, Iraqi soldiers were encouraged to marry and impregnate their new wives. Consequently, there are a lot of widowed mothers struggling in post-war Iraq.

Yet, here I am touring a very pre-war Babylon. The walled fortress was built 22 centuries ago — a city straight out of my early catechism days, a city that until today had seemed more mythical than real. Fingering its weathered yellow bricks, transversing its worn pathways, standing in the shadow of the blindingly blue gate of Ishtar, I realize that Saddam Hussein's nearby palace puts this ancient fortress at Ground Zero. In an instant, an errant bomb could reduce 21 centuries of history to rubble.

The destruction of the Tower of Babel in 482 BC is one of the few biblical stories I remember: Its destruction scattered people to the far corners of the world, mutating their language while maintaining an

ancient common thread. It's a childhood story that took root deep inside me and continues to challenge me to find common ground with those that seem so foreign.

Our translator on this trip is a 44-year-old Iraqi woman who is married to a Japanese man, lives in Dallas and has four children and two sushi restaurants. Amira has arranged for us to visit her mother, brothers and sisters in Babylon. She has nine remaining siblings; a brother is still missing from the mid '80s war with Iran and another brother died during the Gulf War.

Her family, like all Iraqis we have met, are warm and welcoming. I find it remarkable that we have encountered no anti-American sentiment. In what I consider an extraordinary show of tolerance, people automatically separate us from our government; perhaps it's because they feel their own government does not reflect them.

The hardest part of this trip is looking people in the eye, accepting their hospitality, allowing their easy friendship, knowing that my country may be bombing their country within weeks. How can I continually allow myself to get close to these people knowing my heart will break when I'm home in my cozy living room watching CNN's coverage of "Air Raids on

See BAGHDAD, page 8

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The swell will fade out on Friday with a small Southwest swell hitting some spots. Most breaks will see knee- to waist-high waves and below waist-high throughout the weekend. The conditions will be nice, with clean waves in the morning and moderate on-shore flow in the afternoon. Both Saturday and Sunday look to be fairly small surf days with a turnaround on Monday.

It may be another beautiful day but the beaches are still on a 72-hour advisory, which means high bacteria levels. The water temperature will be around 60 degrees.

Next week will bring big waves and clean water with a great swell hitting about March 13.



Today's Tides:

Low	5:32 am	1.1'
High	11:26 am	3.6'
Low	5:07 pm	1.5'
High	11:35 pm	4.5'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3' Fair	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	A
Zuma	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	A
Topanga	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	D
Breakwater	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	A
El Porto	2-3' Fair	1-2' Fair	1-2' Fair	F

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The QLine

Readers sound off on school district budget question

This past Sunday, Q-line asked:

"Should the city give the district more money? Why or why not?"

Here are your responses:

■ "I would like to see an audit of how many children and adults who attend the Santa Monica-Malibu School District actually live in those geographical areas. Not all I bet."

■ "I am completely in support of the city giving the school district

more money. I think that Santa Monica is being a sustainable city when it comes to education, life-long learning. If it's the homeless, if it's the college or the seniors, we everyday need to learn something new and

See Q-LINE, page 5

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OPINION

LETTERS

Sheen a progressive activist

Editor:

I participated in demonstrations for the farm workers with Martin Sheen in the mid-1980s. I remember one specific noon-hour picket line at a market in West Hollywood with a number of West Hollywood residents and City Hall staff members who carried signs asking for the sale pesticide-free grapes.

Martin was well known at that time as an activist for progressive causes. Perhaps those experiences have helped him in his role as president.

Judy Abdo

Former Santa Monica mayor

Shame on Hollywood

Editor:

I am amazed but most of all disgusted with the celebrities in the United States for their assumption that they are wiser than me, the average American. They may be rich and famous, but as far as I know, none of them have any background in Central Intelligence, military intelligence and national security etc. I don't know of any one of them sitting in on the national security meetings with the president and his knowledgeable staff.

They may have portrayed one of these professional figures in television shows or movies, but that does not make them one. Nobody wants war and I don't believe our top officials want war, including our president. He does not make these decisions alone or arbitrarily. He surrounds himself with people that know the depth of this situation and they make decisions based on that knowledge together.

The national security advisors cannot tell everyone all that they know or it would jeopardize lives and national security. We as Americans should trust those that we have put in charge and unless they prove otherwise, their knowledge is greater than ours. Perhaps their knowledge has made them believe that we cannot afford to wait for Saddam Hussein and other terrorists to carry out threats against not only Americans, but also other innocent people in the world.

The other countries that do not want to support the U.S. know that if they vote against us, they will not have to pay or sacrifice. The U.S. will carry the burden and make the sacrifices for them and then the world will be safe for those dissenting countries. Do we always have to wait for a tragedy like Pearl Harbor to take action in the world?

It is true that we have free speech in this country and that freedom should not be taken away. But these celebrities should be more responsible in their protests and rallies. It seems that the media is as irresponsible by only showing those that do not support the president. The impressionable youth and some people that think a celebrity knows more are most susceptible to this irresponsibility. I feel that it breeds disrespect for our president, his advisors, and our military men and women. These people are doing what those celebrities are not willing to do — stand up for what is right whether others will or not.

What about these feel-good movies and songs about standing up for what's right? Do these celebrities not really believe this principle that they sometimes portray?

I have a son and husband serving in the U.S. Army and both could leave at any time to serve this country when called upon. I feel I serve my country by supporting them. When did one of these "all-knowing," protesting celebrities send their sons, daughters, husbands, or wives off to serve this great country they live in. If 9/11 had happened in Hollywood and 3,000 of their family members and friends had died, would there be a difference in opinion?

Lisa Scovil

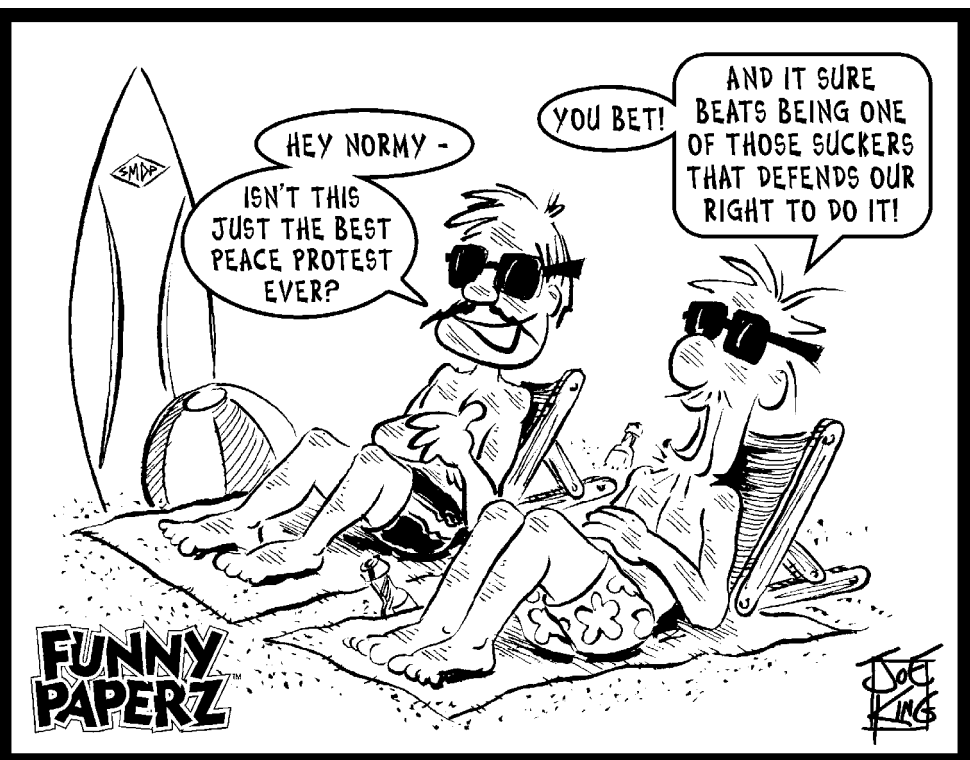
Centerville, Utah

Is library worth the sacrifice?

Editor:

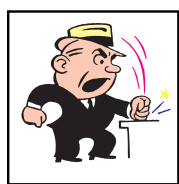
I agree with Joy Miller (SMDP March 4, 2003) that given the huge shortfalls of the city and the school district, it is disturbing that the library has \$56 million to trans-

See LETTERS, page 5



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Neighborhood groups: Where does the money go?



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

In addition to member dues, many neighborhood groups receive grants from the City of Santa Monica.

Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition, Northeast Neighbors, Friends of Sunset Park and the Pico Neighborhood Association have applied for and/or received city grants of up to \$4,000.

The North of Montana Association is expected to apply, according to assistant city manager, Judy Rambeau.

City grants are supposed to be used for outreach or projects for the neighborhood good. The city basically takes the association's word that grants will be used properly. Their use for political purposes is strictly prohibited.

Most associations co-mingle grant money and membership dues in one bank account. So, if as little as 37-cents is spent to mail a newsletter stating the group opposes (or supports) a ballot measure or candidate, they are in violation of the conditions of the grant and possibly their own by-laws, con-

stitution or articles of incorporation.

And their federal or state non-profit corporation status could be in jeopardy. Two grant receivers, Wilmont and FOSP, recently opposed Proposition A, which is on the current mail-in ballot.

Last December, Wilmont's directors entertained themselves at the Gaslight Pub on Wilshire Boulevard. The association's Articles of Incorporation state: "...no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefits of any director, officer or member thereof..." Yet, Wilmont's board annually "rewards themselves" and parties down at the organization's expense.

I'm sure W/MNC members will be happy to know their dues and city grant money is being put to good use.

Ocean Park Community Organization's credibility is in jeopardy because its chair, Rick Laudati, refuses to release financial data about the organization. A lawsuit was recently filed against Laudati and OPCO in an effort to find out how much money comes in to the association, its sources, current assets and how organization funds are spent.

Most groups use funds for outreach, but frequently monies are squandered on social events such as block parties, banked for a "rainy day," or spent without any explanation at all. This, in part, is

because some associations are governed by a small handful of active members who "take charge" and run them as their personal fiefdoms.

Those who association leaders dislike or disagree with are often excluded or ignored. Wilmont's board recently began holding their monthly meetings in a director's private condominium — one without disabled access. Pro Se, who is wheelchair bound, recently asked how he could participate in a meeting. One board member said, "We'll open a window and you can 'participate' from the sidewalk outside."

The practice of neighborhood organizations holding board of director meetings with little or no public notice and in private, as well as conducting business without the polling or participation of members and neighbors, is reprehensible.

There are other nefarious practices that some associations use to stifle dissent and limit debate.

Wilmont recently changed their by-laws to allow a long-standing board member to remain as a full voting director even though she no longer lives in the neighborhood. And, at least one OPCO board member is not registered to vote in Santa Monica and rumors have it that the reason why is that her primary residence is in Indiana.

Nonresident directors voting on associ-

ation issues tells me that these organizations are not neighborhood groups. Rather they are political organizations run by a small cabal out to promote a specific political agenda or philosophy.

Even when directors are from the 'hood, positions taken behind closed doors and without public participation are a terrible disservice.

For example, many north of Montana residents support Proposition A. At best, the neighborhood is divided on this issue. The fact that NOMA's board is loaded with City Council appointees on the Planning, Parks and Recreation and Landmarks commissions makes their vote against Proposition A seem suspect.

Friends of Sunset Park also opposed "A." Do you think that Landmarks Commissioner and FOSP director, Tom Cleys, might have influenced that group's position on the issue? While they'll probably say, "No," you'll never convince me their position is that of the majority of Sunset Park residents.

It's easy to see why residents complain that neighborhood organizations don't honestly reflect neighborhood opinions or values.

Next week in part 3 -- the Renters Rights power structure and new neighborhood organizations.

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

form itself into an institution that might be more at home on New York's Park Avenue. When voters approved the \$56 million, they probably never imagined that the library would use the money during a persistent near recession economy that causes the city and the school district to bleed deficits in the \$10 million to \$15 million range.

Joy Miller puts the question nicely: "Are we really willing to sacrifice our children's education for a pretty (library) facade?"

Joanne Gamlin
Santa Monica

A somber note of thanks

Editor:

I would like to thank Carolyn Sackariason for her sensitive coverage of the Kristi Johnson story. We, the employees of CNCG who love and miss Kristi, will always have a place in our hearts for her and her family. Thank you.

Edwin Ortiz
CNCG Operations Manager

Educate yourself before scuba diving

Editor:

The article concerning the unfortunate demise of Janice D'Amico while scuba diving contained a MAJOR, MAJOR falsehood. If she did suffer an 'arterial gas embolism' while underwater (as the article suggests), then she experienced a very UNCOMMON occurrence while on scuba. Divers just do not embolize as a matter of course while diving.

That being said, I must add that any time one is breathing compressed gas while undergoing an ambient pressure reduction (ascending), then there exists a very real risk of this type of injury. Anyone attempting scuba must be educated to this and other facts related to the sport; hence, scuba classes.

I am certain that Janice was properly trained (look at her background) and had a good deal of experience in scuba. Since I don't know the particulars of her accident, I submit that her respiratory difficulties could have been prompted by other causes (heart and lung disease, panic, bad air, and more). So if anyone reading this is contemplating taking up or renewing interest in scuba diving, PLEASE seek appropriate, thorough training and conditioning, and stay current with medical check-ups.

Maxwell von Klein

The Q-Line

Q-LINE, from page 3

I think that understanding and appreciating life-long learning starts in the early grades. That is my reason for wanting to fund the district."

■ "Yes. The city should definitely contribute additional dollars to help the school district. This distinction between city funding and district funding is really arbitrary. The fact of the matter is that we are a community and as a community we need to pull together to do everything we can to protect the quality of life for all of our citizens during this difficult time. No one would ask the city to go bankrupt trying to help the school district. But through some creative financing and an ability to shift the money we can accomplish what the school district is powerless to do. That is to help generate additional revenues."

■ "Absolutely yes. Reason number one: The money that we currently give the school district is for pre-school and after-school activities, not for the K-12 program. The city should do so. Reason

number two: Instead of spending the money on their social engineering projects, which the city likes to do, they should be funding the school district. The city does have the money, it's just a matter of priority. Instead of the low income SMRR vote housing or some of the other services, they could give the money to our schools."

■ "I think the City Council and the City of Santa Monica should give the schools as much money as they possibly can. Strong schools are one of the foundations of a community. The especially strong schools in Santa Monica are one of the reasons that property values are so high and the city attracts so many families with children. Not all of these families with children are homeowners, a lot are renters. The state's not going to do it. That leaves individual parents to make a choice — do they give the money to the schools or do they send their child to private school? A lot of them will send their children to private schools and that leaves the poor, the minorities, and children of renters who can't afford to send their kids to school."

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.



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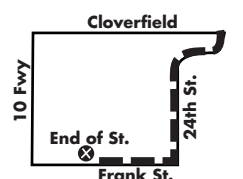


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Many residents may not know election is going on

PROP. A, from page 1

Victor Fresco of Save Our Neighborhoods, a group fighting the measure, said because this is a single-issue ballot, many Santa Monicans don't even realize an election is going on.

Those that do know about it may not see the ballot when it lands in their mailbox, Fresco said, because it comes in a white envelope with dull red writing that could easily be tossed aside with the mail's ubiquitous advertisements.

"The problem is we've become immune to those types of envelopes," Fresco said. "I wish it were in a bright orange envelope that screamed 'ballot' at me."

Greg Poirier, one of the initiative's sponsors and a homeowner who lives in the neighborhood north of Montana Avenue, said he and his wife never received the ballot. Poirier went to City Hall and voted in person and requested a duplicate ballot for his wife.

The duplicate arrived days later in a hand-addressed envelope, but the original ballots still haven't turned up — a common complaint, Poirier said.

"Probably one out of three or one out of four of the people I've talked to had no knowledge of receiving a ballot," he said. "It doesn't strike me as the best organized thing."

City Clerk Maria Stewart acknowledged that there have been some slip-ups in the city's first all-mail election, but said there were no more than the amount associated with absentee ballots in a standard election.

Stewart, who said one resident was mailed three ballots while others have complained of receiving none, said the city generally is doing a good job coordinating the election.

"This is something that comes up with all elections," she said, adding that residents can contact the city for a duplicate ballot or visit City Hall to vote. "It's not like there are 500 extra ballots floating around out there."

So far, roughly 11,000 ballots have been sent in by the city's 55,000 registered voters. And with almost two weeks left in the election, turnout is expected to be high for a single-issue election.

While single-issue elections typically attract fewer voters than regular elections, those held by mail tend to have a higher participation rate, according to Robert Stern, from the Center for Governmental Studies.

Stern said elections held by mail are

also usually cheaper, though city officials said the roughly \$110,000 that will be spent on the Proposition A election is comparable to the cost of running a traditional election.

The only notable downside to holding elections by mail is coordinating the timing of advertisements and other campaign efforts, Stern said.

"(Mail-only elections) allow campaigns to really target people," she said. "The problem is we have too many elections going on at too many times on too many issues."

Because the election lasts 30 days, groups opposing the measure had more time to motivate voters who may not have cast their ballot in a traditional election, Poirier said.

He called the mail-only election a "waste of everybody's time and energy" and said the city re-wrote the election code specifically to allow for a special election in order to "stack the results" against homeowners.

"I think they did it as a deliberate tactic to defeat the measure," Poirier said. "I would be very surprised if we ever see another (mail-only election)."

Ultimately, Poirier said more renters are likely to end up voting because of the nature of the election. But Poirier said the measure affects homeowners, not renters.

Bea Nemlaha, spokesperson for Save Our Neighborhoods, disagreed.

"It's a community issue," she said. "Don't presume that renters don't care about our community. They do."

Nemlaha said by holding the election by mail, the city was able to include people who otherwise might not have come out for a single-issue election — even if they had strong feelings on the proposition.

"This election was sprung on the voters at a very unfortunate time," Nemlaha said, noting that many residents are focused on the education crisis and the possibility of a war with Iraq. "Their attention is being devoted to a lot of other things right now — things that are not on the ballot."

Fresco, who lauded the city's decision to hold the election by mail, questioned the motives of the initiative's supporters.

"Perhaps (Proposition A supporters) forced a special election in the first place to suppress turnout," Fresco said. "I don't see why anybody would be against something that allows for greater democratic participation."

Rally expected to draw thousands of supporters

PROTEST, from page 1

17 on the steps of the state Capitol, is expected to draw thousands of community college students and supporters from throughout California. After the rally, the group from SMC will board buses for the 10-hour ride back to Santa Monica, returning late Monday night or early Tuesday morning.

"Community colleges are facing the most devastating cuts in their history," said Luis Barrera, president of the SMC

Associated Students. "With course reductions, deep cuts in counseling staffs, overcrowded classrooms, and the possibility of steep fee increases next year, many students are simply dropping out and giving up on their dreams. We cannot allow this to happen."

The march comes in the wake of Gov. Gray Davis' proposal to reduce California community colleges' budgets by \$288 million in the current fiscal year and \$530 million in 2003-04.

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REAL ESTATE



New property tax law now in effect in state



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

When you sell a second home, you may not get as much money as you had expected when the sale closes.

Under the new California Investment in Real Property Tax Act, residents and nonresidents who sell a home in the state other than their primary residence will be required to turn 3.33 percent of the sale price over to the Franchise Tax Board upon the close of the sale.

"Even if you win by making a wise investment in property, the state makes you feel like a less of a winner by deducting a healthy chunk of cash — whether they're supposed to get it or not," lamented Ocean Park property owner George Rieck.

This law, which demands the prepayment of the transferee's state income taxes, went into effect Jan. 1. It is expected to affect 300,000 California real estate transactions worth \$5.8 billion. According to information released by the Franchise Tax Board, the state expects this measure to increase revenues by \$225 million for fiscal year 2002-2003.

A version of this law, known as California's Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act was first enacted in 1988. It required tax withholding only for non-California residents. Now, thanks to Assembly Bill 2065, this law has been expanded to include state residents. It is patterned after a federal law that was adopted in 1980.

"As a taxpayer, I am not happy with this change. As an escrow officer, I dread it even more," said Debbie Brady, officer and assistant manager at GB Escrow in Santa Monica. "But, each time there is a big change, we all manage to adapt to it rather quickly. I assume that this remains true with this law."

The California Investment in Real Property Tax Act does not impose new taxes or increase existing taxes. Instead it accelerates the receipt of tax revenue by the state through withholding on investment properties.

Previously, home sellers paid taxes on the gains from the sale of a property when they filed their annual tax return. Those who owe less than the funds withheld will get a refund when they file those returns, which allows the state to draw interest on the money withheld.

Even if the seller can prove the with-

holding will exceed the gain, no waivers will be allowed by law, said June Barlow, vice president and general council for the California Association of Realtors.

The seller will complete the new 593-C withholding forms and have escrow transmit payment to the Franchise Tax Board. The penalty for non-compliance is \$500 or 10 percent of the required withholding amount — whichever is greater. The new law does not significantly change the rules for withholding relating to non-individual legal entities.

"As a taxpayer, I am not happy with this change.

As an escrow officer, I dread it even more. But,

each time there is a big change, we all manage to adapt to it rather quickly. I assume that this remains true with this law."

— DEBBIE BRADY
GB Escrow assistant manager

"Any way around the act would be a risky legal proposition," said real estate attorney Rich Besone. "You would have to advise the client that they could be liable for taxes, penalties and interest — plus they would have a legal bill to fight the imposition of the tax."

One of the few exemptions allowed is if the home sale price is less than \$100,000, or if the home is sold as a loss or exchanged for a like property in a 1031 exchange.

"This new law may lead us into the year of the 1031 tax deferred exchange," Brady said. "If a seller enters into a tax deferred exchange, the escrow company will be sending all the funds to the exchange accommodator and no funds will be sent to the state. This could add to an already healthy real estate investment market because when a property is sold, the seller would be in the market for a replacement property."

(Jodi Summers is a real estate agent at Boardwalk Realty. If you have local real estate questions or opinions you'd like to share, e-mail them to jodis@boardwalkrealty.com.)

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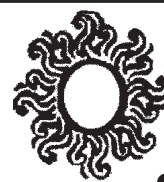
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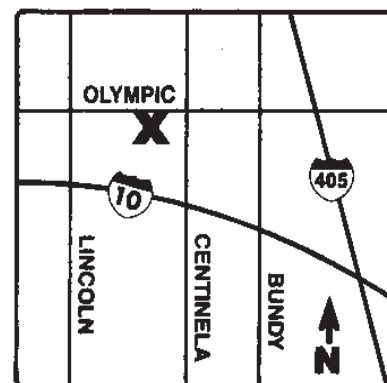
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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judyapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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LOCAL

Ocean Park Blvd. to reopen

SINKHOLE, from page 1

than two months, commuters and residents will once again be able to drive along Ocean Park between Lincoln Boulevard and 14th Street, city officials said Wednesday.

Repair work — which is expected to cost roughly \$1 million — was delayed during the past two weeks because of rain, according to the city's utility manager, Gil Borboa.

"We're almost there," Borboa said. "We had been fortunate (early in the year), but in the last couple of weeks the rain really hit us."

Completion of the project was originally scheduled for the end of February.

Kris Ladish, assistant director of Mount Olive Lutheran Preschool on Ocean Park Boulevard east of the sinkhole, said the street's closure was an inconvenience for her school's parents and staff.

But for the students, the orifice was a boon. Mount Olive pupils baked cookies for the workers, kept journals logging their progress and went out to peer into the massive crater on a weekly basis.

"It's been a great learning experience for the kids of our school," Ladish said. "They go out and watch the trucks and look at all the tools. They love it."

Officials believe sand beneath the street eroded when a 12-inch, high-pressure water main ruptured, releasing about 1.5 million gallons of water.

As the water sprayed out, it swept the sand beneath the roadway down the slope of Ocean Park Boulevard, until the pavement

above had no support and collapsed. No one was injured in the incident, and there was no serious damage to private property.

"It's been a great learning experience for the kids of our school. They go out and watch the trucks and look at all the tools. They love it."

— KRIS LADISH

Assistant director at Mount Olive Lutheran Preschool

The ruptured main initially left about 200 residents living on Ocean Park between Euclid and 11th Streets without water, which city workers were able to restore by the next afternoon, officials said.

Officials decided to push ahead plans to replace the sewage lines underneath Ocean Park while the roadway was ripped apart, rather than wait and start a new project later in the year.

Borboa said no determination has been made about why the water main, which was installed in 1975, ruptured. A geo-technical investigation is currently underway and Borboa said he expects answers soon.

Once the cause is determined, Borboa said the city will inspect other locations that may have a tendency to collapse.

Even rich Iraqis spend a majority of income on food

BAGHDAD, from page 3

Iraq: Day 3?"

Immediately we are embraced by Amira's family and ushered into the dining room that is decked out with a meal lavish enough to feed twice our group. I feel honored and guilty: 16 of the 26 million Iraqis rely solely on monthly government rations. Even the richest of families spend three-quarters of their income on food. In spite of these hardships, the Iraqis I meet are generous, resilient and joyous.

Some rituals transcend language: Eating. Flirting. Falling in love. Getting married and complaining about the size of the stone on the ring.

Ascertaining that I am the only single woman in our group, Amira's sisters immediately set about setting me up as the bride to their older, widowed brother with hilariously assertive gestures and enthusiastic, high-pitched "la-la-la-las." As is common in war-time, we transcend the flirting and falling in love and move straight to the marriage ceremony. War-time or not, I refuse to forgo a wedding ring; Amira's sister produces wedding earrings, straight from a J.C. Penny box. My make-shift wedding takes place in the dining room; fake roses adorned with birthday candles complete my trousseau.

He speaks only Arabic; I speak only English. He pantomimes a proposal; I order him to peel my wedding apple. With only Amira to translate through hysterical laughs, the entire family gets

in on the act, clapping and clowning, laughing so hard we cry.

Now connected to this fun-loving family by our side-splitting antics, I realize on the road back to Baghdad what they surely know: Initial war scenarios involve isolating Baghdad, which also serves to cut off outlying areas — like Babylon — from Baghdad's stockpiles of food and medical supplies. In the early stages of a new war, an estimated 500,000 people will need trauma care, overwhelming the already overburdened medical system. How many of them will be people I've met?

Leaving Babylon, I cry so hard, I laugh.

(Kelly Hayes-Raitt, a commissioner on the Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women, will speak on Saturday about her experiences in Iraq and what she learned on how the possible war will affect women and children there.)

Saturday also is International Women's Day, which will be recognized by women around the world by protesting the unilateral U.S. bombing of Iraq.

The event will be held between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at a private home on San Vicente Boulevard in Santa Monica

Photos from the trip may be previewed at www.communitycampaigns.com/iraq.

For more information, call (310) 581-4421.)



STATE □ NATIONAL



S.F. police scandal leaves residents angry, wary, afraid

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — At one of the few trendy restaurants remaining in a neighborhood once peppered with dot-com firms, patrons wonder how the city will weather the scandal of the chief of police and other top officers being indicted.

Some are not optimistic. "The mayor is protecting the police, and the police are protecting their friends," said Britta Cox, a business owner sitting at Cafe Centro in the South Park neighborhood. "I don't trust any of them as far as I can throw them."

Cynicism, anger and fear run deep

these days in the wake of felony indictments against Chief Earl Sanders and six commanders for allegedly conspiring to cover up a brawl involving three off-duty rookie officers.

"San Francisco is experiencing a world turned upside down," said Charles Marsteller, former San Francisco coordinator for the government watchdog group Common Cause. "The economy has been through the dot-com bust, and the impact of 9-11 on tourism. We have a geopolitical situation with Iraq that is making people nervous. The mood of the city is that we're under assault."

The scandal has all the melodrama the nation has come to expect of this quirky

city by the bay.

Three young officers, including the son of the assistant chief, are accused of assault and battery against two young men in an after-hours confrontation outside a bar last November. The brawl allegedly began when the rookies — one the son of Sanders' second-in-command — demanded the men's doggie bag of steak fajitas.

Police up the chain of command — including Sanders, who was appointed by Mayor Willie Brown, his longtime friend and patron — are accused of obstructing the investigation into the assault. Sanders has taken paid medical leave, and the six others have been suspended without pay. All pleaded innocent.

Some residents say the controversy has been brewing all along.

"It's always been a corrupt department," said Darrell Cornelius, who lives in the gritty Tenderloin district. "It just came back to haunt them because the guys they beat up were white."

And not only police have been buffeted by the fallout.

District Attorney Terence Hallinan, often criticized by police as unwilling to prosecute tough cases, is facing criticisms that he is trying to bring down the department over a street fight while leaving serious crimes uninvestigated or untried.

Brown and Hallinan, once allies during the civil rights movement, have been locked in a bitter rivalry for years. But their fractured relationship has led many residents to view the current crisis as proof both men are willing to put politics ahead of public safety.

"If you can't trust your own government, how can you trust any government?" asked Cox. "There aren't any role models in this city."

The newly appointed police leadership sought Wednesday to reassure a nervous city.

Heather Fong, a veteran officer temporarily elevated to assistant chief to run the department in Sanders' absence, introduced a half-dozen police commanders who will be filling the spots of the indicted officials.

"We cannot fail the people of this city," she said, insisting that police are still fighting crime and answering emergency calls.

It is not yet clear the public assurance will do anything to win back the city's confidence, or solve such intractable problems as homelessness. That issue shot back into the headlines this week with the assault of a pregnant woman by a homeless man. The woman was hospitalized in critical condition; her baby girl was saved.

"I guess I still feel safe here," said Stephanie Shmunes, who brought her toddler to an art class near the site of the attack. "Maybe I'm really naive, but I still think the police are doing their jobs."

At Cafe Centro, Cox and others say they've just about had it.

"This is such a beautiful city, and it has potential to be a great city," Cox said. "But right now it's too hard."

Her friend Sandra Turretta added:

"I love this city like I love a person. But I have a 1-year-old, and I don't want her to have to grow up in all of these problems."

White House: Remove image lampooning Lynne Cheney

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — An Internet lampoon of Vice President Dick Cheney's wife is no laughing matter at the White House, which has asked a satirist to remove pictures of her from his Web site.

The New York Civil Liberties Union struck back Wednesday on behalf of John A. Wooden, 31, threatening a lawsuit to protect his First Amendment rights to parody the White House and Bush officials on his site, whitehouse.org.

The official White House site is whitehouse.gov.

Cheney counsel David S. Addington warned Wooden's Chickenhead Productions Inc. that Lynne V. Cheney's name and pictures — altered to show her with a red clown's nose and a missing tooth — could not be used to make money without her consent, and asked Wooden to delete the photos and "fictitious biographical statement about her."

Instead, Wooden cautioned Web site visitors that the vice president "wishes you to be aware ... that some/all of the biographic information contained on this PARODY page about Mrs. Cheney may not actually be true."

And, it added, the editors of the Web site were "confident that any rumors about Mrs. Cheney formerly being a crystal meth pusher are 100 percent likely to be absolutely untrue. Similarly, any stories about her penchant for licking brandy Alexanders off the hirsute belly of her spouse are all lies, lies, lies!"

NYCLU lawyer Chris Dunn wrote the office of the vice president that the material was "fully protected by the First Amendment."

"With everything happening in the world, you'd think the office of the vice president would have something more important to do than sending letters to political satirists," Wooden said.

A spokeswoman for Cheney's office, Jennifer Millerwise, confirmed the letter from Addington was authentic but said she otherwise had no comment.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.S., Pakistani forces step up search for bin Laden

BY KATHY GANNON

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani and American forces intensified the search for Osama bin Laden along a southwestern stretch of the border with Afghanistan and carried out raids this week based on information from a newly captured al-Qaida deputy, Pakistani intelligence and military officials said Thursday.

Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, thought to be the No. 3 figure in the terror network, told interrogators he met bin Laden just weeks ago in a rendezvous set up through a network of phone calls and intermediaries, an intelligence official said.

At least two raids have been carried out in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan region based on information from Mohammed since his capture last weekend, another Pakistani intelligence official said, also speaking on condition of anonymity. There were no major arrests from the raids, the official said.

Telephone numbers taken from Mohammed's mobile phone are being tracked. The phone contained numbers inside and outside Pakistan, said a government official.

"The people he contacted in Pakistan have naturally been put under surveillance and we suspect the American agencies are doing the same," the official said.

Since Mohammed's arrest, joint Pakistani and U.S. forces have been searching for bin Laden and his son, Saad, along the 350-mile stretch of border from the Baluchistan town of Chaman to the Iranian border, a Pakistan military source said.

Villagers contacted in Dal Bandin, 170 miles south of the Baluchistan capital of Quetta, said two military aircraft landed at their small airstrip and American forces got off. There was no confirmation from the U.S. or Pakistani military.

The activity apparently generated rumors that bin Laden had been captured, but officials in Washington and in Pakistan said it was not true.

Since the weekend, residents in Chaman

said U.S. aircraft swarmed overhead, dropping Pashtu-language leaflets on both sides of the border reminding them of the \$25 million reward for bin Laden.

U.S. special forces and Pakistani soldiers are also farther north along the border, trying to flush out Taliban and al-Qaida fugitives in South Waziristan, in the North West Frontier province.

Mohammed's meeting with bin Laden took place somewhere in Baluchistan or farther north along the border, a Pakistani intelligence official told The Associated Press.

The official was one of a team of Pakistani and CIA agents who interrogated Mohammed for hours after he was nabbed in a pre-dawn raid in Rawalpindi on Saturday.

The intelligence official quoted Mohammed as saying of bin Laden, "The sheik is a hero of Islam and I am his tiny servant. Life, family, money, everything can be sacrificed for the sheik." The official did not reveal what Mohammed and bin Laden discussed.

Mohammed told his interrogators he didn't know bin Laden's exact whereabouts, but that he was in the remote border region.

On Monday, AP received similar information about bin Laden's supposed location from a former intelligence chief of the ousted Taliban regime.

In a telephone interview from Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar, the former Taliban said bin Laden had been seen less than two months ago meeting with Taliban members in South Waziristan. His report could not be independently verified.

Several sources say bin Laden moves with only a few guards, changing locations nightly and never using satellite telephones that could be used to pinpoint his location.

Instead, he reportedly sends messages through intermediaries, according to another former Taliban interviewed by AP.

Western diplomats say it's intriguing that Mohammed was arrested in Rawalpindi, a city of 4 million near Islamabad that is home to army generals,

top military officials and President Pervez Musharraf.

Mohammed was arrested at the house of Ahmed Abdul Qadus, an activist within Pakistan's oldest religious party, Jamaat-e-Islami, which has close links with the Pakistan's state InterServices Intelligence, or ISI.

Jamaat-e-Islami activists worked closely with Pakistan's intelligence service to help Afghan insurgents during the

1980s, when the United States bankrolled an anti-communist war in Afghanistan.

Arab and Pakistani sources have told AP that Mohammed may have been trying to raise money for terrorist attacks against U.S. interests.

A second al-Qaida suspect, Mustafa Ahmed al-Hisawi, a Saudi national suspected of financing the Sept. 11 attacks, was arrested with Mohammed. Qadus was also detained.

Bombing victims buried



Yaron Kaminsky/Associated Press

Family members mourn during a funeral procession for Kmar Abu Khamed, 13, in the Druse village of Daliat el-Carmel, Israel, Thursday. Abu Khamed was one of 15 people killed Wednesday when a Palestinian bomber blew up a city bus full of passengers, in Haifa, Israel.

Everest to get Internet cafe

BY BINAJ GURUBACHARYA

Associated Press Writer

KATMANDU, Nepal — It could be the most challenging Internet cafe project going. Fifty years after two men conquered Mount Everest, a native Sherpa is determined to set up a cybercafe at the 17,400-foot-high base camp of the world's highest mountain.

Besides freezing temperatures and storms, there is no electricity or plumbing at the site. There aren't any permanent buildings, either.

"The Internet cafe I am planning will be in a temporary shed built with stone walls and covered with a tent," said entrepreneur Tsering Gyalzen, whose grandfather was one of more than 100 Sherpas who carried equipment and supplies in the 1953 expedition.

Gyalzen said he is forced to build a temporary structure because the base camp sits on a glacier that moves a few inches a day.

The cafe will open only during the spring and fall, when hundreds of mountaineers come to climb Everest and surrounding mountains in the Khumbu region.

"If we have Internet access on the base camp it would be easy to call for helicopters to airlift injured or sick mountaineers and also check on weather forecasts," said Ang Tshering, who operates a trekking business.

To relay the Internet data, Gyalzen is building a second hut in the Kalapathar area, about a two-hour trek below the base camp, for satellite equipment that will transmit signals through radio links to the

Internet cafe.

"There are 19,000 to 50,000 trekkers that come to the Everest region every year. They would want to send a line of e-mail to their friends and family back home," Gyalzen said.

Since Everest was conquered by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay on May 29, 1953, more than 1,200 people have climbed the mountain and nearly 200 died on its unpredictable slopes.

Gyalzen, like most Sherpas, lives in the Everest region. His family owns a hotel at Namche village.

Sherpas were mostly yak herders and traders living high in the Himalayas until Nepal opened its borders to tourism in 1950. Their stamina and knowledge of the mountains makes them expert guides and porters for foreign mountaineers.

Gyalzen is an old hand at high-altitude Internet.

He already operates an Internet cafe at the 11,280-foot-high Namche village, also on the Everest trekking route. Using satellite links to the capital Katmandu, he provides access to foreign trekkers and local people.

A year after Namche's only telephone facility in the area was destroyed by Nepalese Maoist insurgents, Gyalzen set up a 48-line telephone exchange with lines enabling people in and around the village to communicate with each other.

The government has not allowed him to link his exchange to other parts of the country, so Gyalzen's Internet cafe is now the chief mode of communication between Namche and the rest of the world.

Developments in Iraq crisis

By The Associated Press

■ Trying to find a compromise on the divided U.N. Security Council, Britain explored a compromise proposal to amend the resolution and give Iraq one final deadline to disarm. Chinese leader Jiang Zemin gave his support to European-led opposition to war, telling France a new U.N. resolution on Iraq is not necessary.

■ President Bush scheduled a prime-time news conference Thursday as part of his effort to prepare the nation for the prospect of war. Secretary of State Colin Powell planned to go to the United Nations to try to overcome resistance to using force to disarm Iraq.

■ British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the United States and Britain would not take over Iraq's oil after any conflict there, saying the United Nations should supervise its use.

■ In an upbeat preview of his report to the U.N., chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said Iraq is showing "a greater measure of cooperation" by destroying missiles and granting interviews with seven Iraqi scientists.

■ Iraq was destroying six more Al Samoud 2 missiles, bringing the number

of demolished missiles to 34 out of an estimated stock of about 100. President Saddam Hussein called the missiles a "minor issue" and said the order to destroy them was a ploy to demoralize the Iraqi people before an American attack.

■ The United States ordered two U.N.-based Iraqi diplomats to leave the country and asked 60 countries to expel alleged Iraqi agents who, U.S. officials said, may be poised to attack American interests overseas.

■ Turkey's top politician Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his government would wait for the results of Friday's U.N. Security Council meeting before deciding whether to ask parliament to reconsider its refusal to allow in U.S. troops for a possible attack on Iraq.

■ Hundreds more Russians were leaving Baghdad on two charter flights in anticipation of war, the Russian Embassy said. Hundreds of Russians and Ukrainians have already returned home in recent weeks.

■ 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.

SPORTS



Kobe Bryant youngest to hit 10,000-point milestone

BY KEN PETERS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant flashed his boyish smile, then looked a bit sheepish as fans gave him a standing ovation, with some chanting "MVP! MVP!"

Los Angeles teammate Derek Fisher and Indiana's Reggie Miller — who traded punches with Bryant a year ago — gave the Lakers' star hand slaps.

The reaction to Bryant becoming the youngest NBA player to score 10,000 points was delayed, but roaring.

"I had no idea the crowd was going to stand up the way they did. It was a little embarrassing, but it was a good feeling," Bryant said Wednesday night after hitting the milestone in the Lakers' 97-95 win over the Pacers.

After Bryant, at 24 years, 193 days, got his 10,000th to replace Bob McAdoo as the youngest to reach the milestone, Shaquille O'Neal gave a nod to his teammate.

"It's a great accomplishment, especial-

ly for a guy that came out of high school right away. It's good for Kobe. He's going to be a Hall of Fame player," O'Neal said. "He's going to get his jersey retired next to all the other Lakers greats."

"I'm glad he's on my team."

Bryant reached the mark with a hanging jumper in the lane during the third quarter to give him 14 points for the game. The public address announcer didn't call attention to the milestone until a few moments later as Indiana's Ron Artest stepped to the free throw line, and the sell-out crowd of 18,997 erupted.

"Kobe played great," Artest said. "He hit big shots."

Bryant finished with 20 points, ending his streak of 16 consecutive games with 30 or more. That string included a nine-game stretch of 40 or more points, equaling a streak by Michael Jordan and topped only by Wilt Chamberlain, who had two stretches of 14 games and another of 10 games with 40 or more.

Bryant got an early start toward

10,000, playing his first NBA game about two months after his 18th birthday. McAdoo made his debut at 21 and was 25 years, 148 days old when he reached 10,000 on Feb. 9, 1977.

Bryant remains the second-youngest player to appear in an NBA game, behind only the Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal, who was about a month younger when he made his league debut with Portland.

The Lakers' O'Neal is third on the youngest-to-10,000 ladder. He was 193 days older than McAdoo when he reached the mark. Jordan is fourth at 25 years, 343 days, with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar fifth, one day older than Jordan was.

In the final minute against the Pacers, Bryant's accomplishment was in danger of being overshadowed by a loss. After blowing a 17-point third-quarter lead and falling behind 95-91 with 1:11 left in the game, the Lakers came back on consecutive drives by Fisher and a 20-footer by Robert Horry at the buzzer.

Fisher tied it at 95 with 31 seconds

remaining. Bryant appeared to put the Lakers up when he hit a running 30-footer with 2.8 seconds left. But the basket was waved off because Artest had fouled Bryant before he got the shot off.

After a timeout, the Lakers inbounded the ball and tried to get it to O'Neal under the basket, but the Pacers swatted the ball out to the perimeter — and straight to Horry.

His catch-and-release shot evoked memories of last year's playoffs, when Sacramento's Vlade Divac batted the ball out from the middle as the seconds ticked down, only to have the ball go right to Horry. Horry nailed a 3-pointer as time expired to beat the Kings 100-99 in the fourth game of that series.

"I've been watching Rob a long time, and he's been doing that since college," Bryant said after Horry's buzzer-beater against Indiana.

Bryant and Miller each were suspended for two games for trading punches after the buzzer of the Lakers' 96-84 win over the Pacers last March at Staples Center.

Rod Pampling makes easy work of Blue Monster

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MIAMI — Rod Pampling knows better than to get excited about leading after one round, although he wasn't about to trade his 8-under 64 in the Ford Championship at Doral.

Pampling made it look easy on the course known as the Blue Monster with eight birdies, only one of them longer than 12 feet, to take a one-stroke lead over Bob Tway on a balmy, breezy day in south Florida.

"I did everything quite nicely," Pampling said. "Everything was a tap-in on the par 5s, we made a couple of nice ones and ended up being 8 (under)."

It was the first time Pampling has led after one round of a PGA Tour-sanctioned event since his even-par 71 in the 1999 British Open at Carnoustie, the toughest links in golf.

What happened next is now part of golf trivia.

Pampling is the only player in the 142-year history of the British Open to lead after the first round and then miss the cut. He had an 86 in the second round.

"Obviously, it wasn't great," Pampling said. "It really didn't bother me because I knew I didn't play bad, the conditions were just unbelievably tough. You gradually progress in the game and learn to deal with different things."

"It's just nice to have one under my belt, to actually lead a major."

No one hands out a check after the first round of a regular PGA Tour event, either. Ernie Els is the only first-round leader to win this year.

"It will be exciting if we finish up leading," Pampling said. "It's not Sunday, so there is nothing to get excited about."

Tway, the former PGA champion, looked like he might be tied for the lead or even better after reaching 8 under through 14 holes. He tried to hit a hard 7-iron on the 15th, but the ball got caught up in the wind and buried in a bunker.

"I was scrambling to make bogey," Tway said after his 65. "We're always thinking it could be better. I think you have to be realistic."

Scott Hoch and British Open runner-up Thomas Levet were at 66, while Carlos Franco of Paraguay finally showed some life and was in the group at 67.

Hoch was happy to be playing.

His left wrist started bothering him Wednesday and got progressively worse. He tried to hit balls, with first alternate Vance Veazey standing by, and only when he got to the final 10 swings did Hoch feel good enough to go.

He birdied four of the first eight holes and was right in the mix.

Veazey ended up going home, but not without trying to get into the field.

"He said, 'Are you sure you're feeling all right? Looks like you're coming up on it, favoring it a bit,'" Hoch said. "He was kidding. He had a \$50 gift certificate to Morton's and said he would give that to me and buy me a nice bottle of wine."

Jack Nicklaus, 63, doesn't need to worry about taking someone's spot in the field. He birdied the last two holes for a 1-over 73, which left him nine strokes out of the lead but better off than several players half his age.

Nicklaus, still trying to decide whether to play in his 44th Masters, hit an iron into 30 feet on the 528-yard eighth hole for a two-putt birdie, then holed a 15-foot putt on his final hole, the par-3 ninth.

"I have a nonexistent short game and it showed," Nicklaus said, rarely satisfied. "I hit the ball decently, but I had some sloppy swings and that sort of killed the round."

Still, he was one stroke better than David Duval, who continues to struggle off the tee. Duval had to take an unplayable lie on the par-5 12th, leading to a double bogey, and he went out in 40 before rallying with an eagle-birdie start on his back nine.

"What do you do?" Duval said. "Come back and try again tomorrow."

He'll have to try hard to make the cut for only the second time in four stroke-play tournaments. Seventy-six players broke par on the Blue Monster, which no longer lives up to its reputation without blustery conditions.

"I just think players are getting better," Pampling said. "Maybe it's losing its reputation."



Hillery Smith Shay/Associated Press

David Duval tees off on the 15th tee during the first round of the Ford Championship at Doral in Miami on Thursday.

Pampling would dearly love to shed his reputation as the first-round leader who missed the cut at the British Open.

He already contended once this year, a tie for 10th at Pebble Beach, and his game looked plenty solid in the tame morning conditions at Doral.

On three of the par 5s, he was around the green in two and easily got up-and-down for birdies. The rest of the day, he was hitting wedges inside 12 feet. The only exception came at No. 17, where he blasted an 8-iron out of the rough to 30 feet and holed the putt.

The FIFA World Youth Championships postponed

By The Associated Press

ZURICH, Switzerland — The FIFA World Youth Championship in the United Arab Emirates was postponed Thursday because of the threat of war in Iraq.

The three-week soccer tournament, for players under 20 years old, had been scheduled for March 25-April 16. No makeup date was announced.

The United States was among 24 nations scheduled to compete and was grouped with Germany, Paraguay and South Korea in the first round. Argentina is the defending champion.

Soccer's ruling body approved a proposal by FIFA president Sepp Blatter to play the tournament at a later date. Blatter last month rejected the idea of staging the tournament elsewhere or canceling it outright.

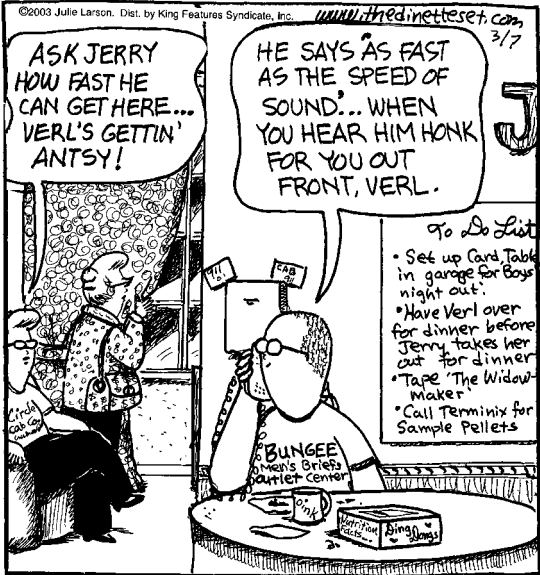
"FIFA regrets having to make this decision because the team of local organizers, who have worked tremendously hard, were more than ready to host this tournament," Blatter said.

"But FIFA must take into account its responsibility towards the players, officials and other parties, as well as towards the media and spectators."

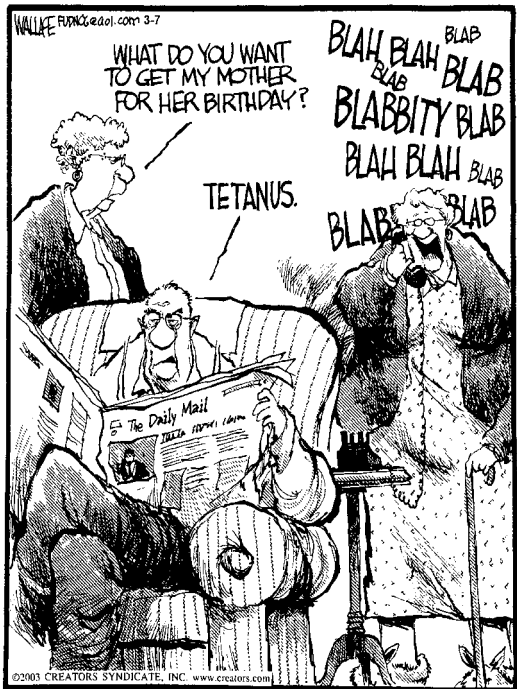


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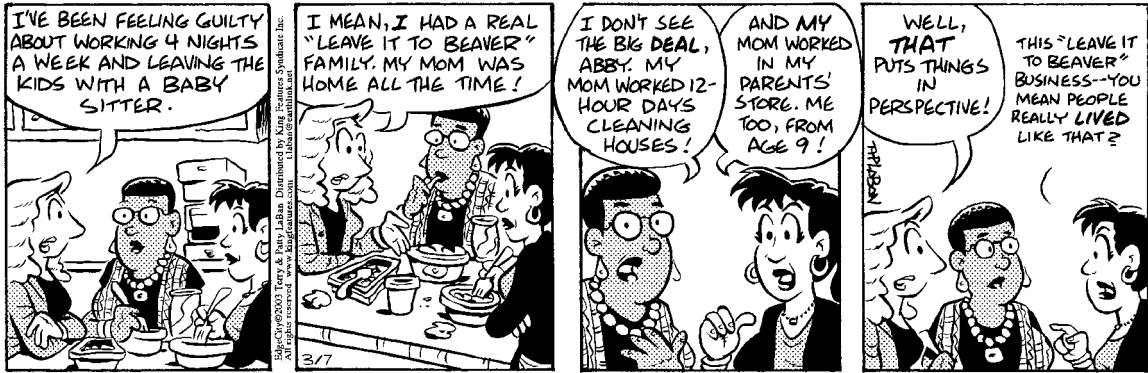
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NEW STUDIO Apartments available from \$1295.00 to \$1355.00. Six blocks from the beach. Three blocks from Third St. Promenade area! (310)656-0311. www.breezesuites.com

OCEAN PARK/ SM \$2000, 1907 Cottage. 2 blocks from beach. 1bdm + skylight loft deck! Stove, refrigerator, antique windows, preferential parking. 2932 2nd St. (310)399-8431 for appointment.

PALMS \$925.00 2bdm/2ba Upper unit, beautiful tree lined street, quiet building, mint condition, light, carpet, covered parking.

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PASADENA \$725.00 Spacious 1bdm/1ba, beamed ceilings, very private, hardwood floors, large closets, upper unit, air conditioning.

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SM \$1,995 Townhouse Condo in condominium complex with beautifully kept grounds. 3bdm/2.5ba. New carpet & paint. Very large unit w/private patio, private entry, gated subterranean parking, fireplace, dishwasher, stove and storage room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Im-maculate Unit, new carpet, origi-nal ceramic tile in kitchen and bath separate kitchen, laundry, facility, refrigerator, stove, street parking pets OK.

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STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Con-temporary lower 1bdrm/1ba cat ok, D/W, gorgeous building, gated parking, patio, A/C, tiled kitchen, new linoleum bath.

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VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00 1bdrm/1ba, super quiet bldg, BBQ, vertical blinds, new carpet very clean, parking laundry, gat-ed entrance, stove, swimming pool.

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For Rent

VENICE BEACH \$2,400 Resi-dential loft, completely renovat-ed. 1bdrm/2ba, oak wood floors, high ceilings, rooftop pat-io, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Ask about lease incentives.1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)466-7896.

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VENICE BEACH \$850 per month. Great office space locat-ed 1 block from beach and 1/2 block from Windward Avenue. Included are all utilities, T1 line, cleaning. 1 room with common area bathroom, concrete floors, exposed beamed ceilings. 1 year lease. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00 Townhouse 2bdrm/1.5ba. Front unit, new paint, new blinds, lots of kitchen cabinets. Off street parking, laundry facilities on premises, dishwasher, hard-wood floors, refrigerator, stove.

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For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 N. of Wilshire. Contemporary, spa-cious, 2bdrm/2ba, stove, dish-washer, parking, pet OK, W/D in unit, mini-blinds, fridge.

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

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WeHo \$750.00 Classic New York style brick building hard-wood floors, pet ok, stove, ceil-ing fan, crown molding. Close to shops and restaurants. Parking available.

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915 7th \$1500

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1706 Washington \$2100

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SANTA MONICA \$1795-\$2395 Prime location N. of Wilshire. Beautiful 3bdrm/2ba, 2bdrm/2ba. Newly redecorated, lower front unit. Spacious back-yard. (310)395-1495.

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SANTA MONICA \$875/mo. Single North of Wilshire. (310)395-4779

SANTA MONICA \$900 1bdrm/1ba, appliances, no pets, 2535 Kansas Ave. #211. Man-ager in #101.

SANTA MONICA \$950/mo. 1bdrm/1ba, furn., r/s, laundry, quiet, bright, gated parking, uti-lities included.

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For Rent

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SANTA MONICA Studio \$750/mo Parking, month to month, utilities included.

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SANTA MONICA Studio \$800/mo. Pet ok, balcony, laun-dry, parking.

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SANTA MONICA, N. of Wil-shire. Refurbished building for rent. 1,2,&3 bdrms from \$1500.00-\$3800.00. OBO. Open house March 8&9 12pm-3pm. 1214 Idaho (310)869-0468. Howard Management Group

TOPANGA: Small canyon cabin w/loft. Suitable for 1 quiet per-son. On side of hill with wonder-ful view. Peaceful spot. \$1500/mo (310)456-3275

VENICE \$1045.00 1bdrm/1ba duplex in quaint courtyard w/hardwood floors, private bal-cony, skylight, and stove. Close to Abbot Kinney, parking available. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 X102.

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VENICE \$1200 Great location, creative office space in between Main St. and Abbot Kinney. Perfect for small photography studio or graphic design firm. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

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VENICE BEACH \$1,125 Large 1bdrm/1ba w/parking. Upper unit with lots of sunlight. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

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VENICE BEACH \$795.00 Large single 1 block from the beach. New kitchen, new carpet & vinyl and new paint, bright and airy. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. Ask about our rent incentives. (310)396-4443 x102

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VENICE BEACH \$795.00 Single w/lots of charm and original hardwood floors. 1 block from the beach. Close to shopping and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets, paid parking available. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

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VENICE BEACH \$900 Studio w/ocean view in Tudor style building. Great location 1/2 block to the beach. All utilities paid. 39 Sunset. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443.

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For Rent

VENICE BEACH Single \$950. Totally remodeled with hard-wood floors and tile. New every-thing. must see to appreciate. 1/2 block to beach and close to Main Street. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

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VENICE DUPLEX \$1495 2bdrm/1.5ba upper w/courtyard views, 2 car parking, W/D hook-ups, hardwood floors and lots of charm. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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WeHo \$750.00 Character, gas stove, fridge, carport, laun-dry, secure entry, new carpet new linoleum floors. Close to the Grove.

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WeHo \$795.00 Spanish 1bdrm/1ba, high ceilings, stove, fridge, crown moldings, w/c, cat, carpet.

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Furnished

SANTA MONICA \$795.00 Low-er Unit, Part. Furn., safe neigh-borhood, bright, full kitchen, off of Wilshire Blvd., utils. inc., amenities include Street park-ing, Indry facilities, crpts, fur-nished, refrig., stv, storage.

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Houses For Rent

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA guest house \$850/mo. Studio, r/s, pool, yard, bright, utilities included.

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SANTA MONICA Triplex \$1200/mo 1bdrm/1ba, steps to beach, pet ok, r/s, hardwood floors, utilities included.

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Westside Rentals

LAW OFFICES OF NICHOLAS TEPPER
Nicholas Tepper [S.B.N. 169610]
233 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 400
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 395-5255
Attorney for Petitioner Newlon Rouge, L.L.C.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFOR-NIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

In the Matter of the Petition of Newlon Rouge, L.L.C. To Hve The Standing of the SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS as a Newspaper of General Circulation Ascertained and Established.

Case No. SS011597

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR ORDER DECLARING STATUS OF NEWSPAPER AS ONE OF GENERAL CIRCULATION FOR COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA [GOV. CODE §6021)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 3/20/03, at 8:30 am, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in Dpt. J of this Court, located at 1725 Main Street in Santa Monica, California 90401, Petitioner intends to apply for an order declaring the newspaper known as the Santa Monica Daily Press to be a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles and State of California.

DATED: February 5, 2003

Nicholas Tepper
Attorney for Petitioner
Santa Monica Daily Press, Inc

VERIFICATION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
I have read the foregoing VERIFIED PETITION TO ASCERTAIN AN ESTABLISH STANDING AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION FOR COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA and know its contents.
[X] CHECK APPLICABLE PARAGRAPHS
I am a party to this action. The matters stated in the foregoing document are true of my own knowledge except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.
[X] I am [X] an Officer [] a partner [] a [] of PETITIONER NEWLON ROUGE, LLC.
I am authorized to make this verification for and on its behalf, and I make this verification for that reason. [X] I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true. [] The matters stated in the foregoing document are true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.
I am one of the attorneys for a party to this action. Such party is absent from the county of aforesaid where such attorneys have their offices, and I make this verification for and on behalf of that party for that reason. I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true.
Excluded on 2/5/03 at SANTA MONICA, California.
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
ROSS FURUKAWA Type or Print Name Signature
PROOF OF SERVICE
I am employed in the county of _____, State of California.
I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is: _____
On _____ I served the foregoing document described as _____
on _____ in this action
[] by placing the true copies thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as stated on the attached mailing list:
[] by placing [] the original [] a true copy thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as follows:
[] BY MAIL
[] I deposited such envelope in the mail at _____, California.
The envelope was mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid.
[] As follows: I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing under that practice it would be deposited with U.S. postal service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at _____ California in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.
[] "NOT PERSONAL SERVICE" I delivered such envelope to hand to the office of the addressee. _____, California.
Excluded on _____ at _____, California.
[] (State) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.
[] (Federal) I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.
Type or Print Name Signature
NICHOLAS TEPPER Attorney for Petitioner Newlon Rouge, L.L.C.

LAW OFFICES OF NICHOLAS TEPPER
Nicholas Tepper [S.B.N. 169610]
233 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 400
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 395-5255

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

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFOR-NIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

In the Matter of the Petition of Newlon Rouge, L.L.C. To Have The Standing of the SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS as a Newspaper of General Circulation Ascertained and Established.

CASE NO. SS011597

VERIFIED PETITION TO ESTABLISH STANDING AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA. [GOV. CODE §§6000, 6020)

Petitioner, Newlon Rouge, L.L.C., alleges:

1. Petitioner is the California limited liability corporation which owns the newspaper known as the Santa Monica Daily Press, hereinafter referred to as the "Newspaper".
2. The Newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character in Santa Monica, California. The business address of the Newspaper is 1427 3rd Street Promenade, Suite 202, PO Box 1380 Santa Monica, CA 90406-1380.
3. The Newspaper has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers in Santa Monica. It is published every day except Sundays. The Newspaper has an average daily circulation of 15,000 copies.
4. For more than one year proceeding the filing of this petition the Newspaper has been established under the name of Santa Monica Daily Press. The Newspaper has been printed and published regularly six days per week (Sundays excluded) by the use of off-set internet "web" publishing in the County of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica.
5. During the whole of the one year period preceding the filing of this petition, the mechanical work of producing the newspaper through the use of off-set internet "web" printing has been performed in the County of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica. The Newspaper has been issued from the same city and county where it is published, namely the County of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica. The Newspaper has been published as a daily newspaper, Sundays excluded.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays for judgement ascertaining and establishing the Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation, as defined in Section 6000 of the Government Code, for the County of Los Angeles and State of California.

DATED: February 5, 2003

Nicholas Tepper
Attorney for Petitioner
Newlon Rouge, L.L.C.

CLASSIFIEDS



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OFFICE SPACE For Lease. 2,183 Sq Feet on Broadway. Call Bill Knight 239-826-4500 E-mail: BillK@findwhat.com.

SANTA MONICA Small office spaces. 127 Broadway, 290sqft -600sqft. Great rates. Arthur (310)395-2663 Ext. 101

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THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Accupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

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

Yard Sales

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.

Fitness

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

Personals

ASIAN WOMEN/ American Men Singles Club. Join now. Call Asian Partner (310)980-0760

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.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2003

TODAY

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.

TODAY

Organic Farmer's Market every Saturday. 8:30am to 1pm, Arizona and Third Street. (310)458-8712

Weekly Storytime, 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes & Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call 310-260-9110 for more information.

YU-GI-OH! Trading card game mall tour arrives in Santa Monica this weekend at the Santa Monica Place Mall, located at the South end of the Third St. Promenade on Broadway. Saturday & Sunday from 11am to 5pm. Registration begins at 10am. For more information please call (415) 394-6500.

TAG EVENT - Come hear music and see some great art at The Artist Gallery, 2903 Santa Monica Blvd (at Yale). Live music by: Barry Holdship Four, 8pm. Robbie Rist, 9pm. Art by: Anne M. Bray & Valerie Nielsen-Mendez. Admission is FREE! All are welcome. (310) 829-9556

The Red Ribbon Squares, Santa Monica's official

square dance club, invites you to enjoy an evening of plus level square dancing, alternating with round dancing, with an A-1 tip during break time. We dance every Saturday at Marine Park from 7:45pm to 10:30pm. Pre-rounds begin at 7:15pm. Admission is \$5 for dancers, including refreshments. Spectators are free. For more information, please call (310)395-3383

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 at 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

The Santa Monica Playhouse's Main Stage presents "Dorothy's Adventures in OZ," a musical matinee for kids from 2-92! Now extended through March 30th! Saturdays and Sundays 12:30pm and 3:00pm. Kids (12 and under) pay \$9.00; Adults \$10.00. Reservations are necessary. Call (310)394-9779 ext. 2 or visit SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com. The Playhouse is located at 1211 4th St. (between Wilshire & Arizona) in Santa Monica.

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

Scientist creates data mining software to dig up buzzwords

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

BERKELEY — Computer scientist Jon Kleinberg is taking a virtual stroll down the information superhighway, surfing cyberspace for verbal megatrends.

Did you wince?

Those hopelessly passe terms were passably hip just a few years back. Then, due to overuse or a feckless public, they fell out of fashion. (Linguists suspect Al Gore of wearing out the superhighway quip.)

Kleinberg's research is really rather scientific. He uses algorithms to identify sudden jumps in the use of words, offering a glimpse into the mechanics of language evolution — what makes a word hot, or not.

"It's a fun tool to aim at things and see what happens," says Kleinberg, a Cornell University associate professor.

Search engines that scour Web pages for specific words work pretty well, although there's a lot of weeding out of old and weird results. Kleinberg's software is different. It looks at data without being given a keyword and reports back on significant topics.

For instance, the program scanned State of the Union addresses going back to 1790 (they're all online) and produced a list of "word bursts," words that jumped in frequency.

The program found "depression," "banks" and "recovery" on presidential lips in the '30s. In the late '40s and '50s, "atomic" was the explosive catchword.

The speech scan was a test to show the software could come up with results that correlate to the real world.

The program is intended to look at data about which the searcher has no clue — say a mountain of unread e-mail or documents — and divulge a list of what topics were hot and when they started to heat up.

So far, the software detects trends in retrospect. Kleinberg is making it more predictive.

Prabhakar Raghavan, chief technology officer of the Sunnyvale-based software company Verity, has used Kleinberg's software to analyze Weblogs, online journals commonly known as "blogs."

Seeking emerging trends among cutting-edge bloggers, Raghavan looked for bursts of references and links to other people's Web sites. Raghavan found the software successfully identified such bursts, which could ultimately help advertisers target their sales pitches.

To Web word watcher Paul McFedries, the burst software sounds like a great idea. He's been using "wetware" — his wits — to trawl Internet databases for new uses of language.

McFedries posts the results on his site, The Word Spy.

"I kind of now have this sixth sense. I see a word I recognize as being new and then I check and see whether it's just something the writer made up or if it's something a lot of people are using," he says.

But, alas, new word-watching can pinch nerves in these days of closely protected Internet trademarks.

McFedries got into a spot of trouble when he noted that people have started using "google" — from the popular Google search engine — as a verb, meaning scoping out a subject or person, as in,

"Naturally, I googled him before I agreed to go out with him."

Google lawyers took exception to using "google" as anything but a trademarked proper name. Harmony was restored after McFedries agreed to reference the Google trademark on his site.

Some of the words spotted by McFedries are tech-related, e.g., "ham," which means legitimate e-mail that gets lost in spam filters because it contains some spam-like phrases. Others are free-floating jargon, such as "induhvidual," meaning one who acts foolishly.

(Spam, the now-mainstream label for junk e-mail, is believed to derive from a Monty Python sketch that made fun of the eponymous canned meat.)

The Internet both creates and propagates

new terminology, says "e-tymologist" McFedries. So, "dead cat bounce," an unlovely phrase referring to a stock that dives, starts to rise then falls back after leaving the trading floor for the world at large.

"Ping" evolves from the sound of a sonar pulse to a way of checking to see if a computer is running, to getting someone's attention online, as in, "I'll ping Frank to see if he's there."

Or there's bandwidth, which describes not just transmission but mental capacity. For instance, "I'm not sure he's up to the job. He's got awfully low bandwidth."

What makes a new word stick? Simple sells, clever crashes, says Allan Metcalf, author of "Predicting New Words: The Secrets of Their Success" and executive secretary of the American Dialect Society.

Some new, or newly prominent, words on the Web

By The Associated Press

Granular: Looking at something in finer detail.

Ping: To check if someone is available. From a software command that determines if a computer is running and reachable over a network. The term derives from the "ping" of sonar bouncing off an object underwater.

Blogger: One who writes an online journal, i.e. a Web log, or blog.

Multitasking: surfing the Web instead of working

From The Word Spy site, by Paul McFedries

Cracker: Hacker who uses talents for malicious or criminal ends, also dark-side hacker.

Crash test dummy: Someone who buys the initial release of a software package, likely riddled with bugs.

Dot snout: An arrogant young person who became rich by creating a dot-com. See also millionerd.

Feature shock: Computer user's reaction when

faced with a program with many features.

Internet: Someone who does not use the Internet.

Meatspace: Opposite of cyberspace, the real world.

Mouse potato: Someone who spends a lot of time at the computer.

Screenager: A young person who has grown up with TVs, computers, ATMs, etc.

From the American Dialect Society's 2002 Words of the Year

Word of the year: Weapons of mass destruction, or its abbreviation WMD

Most likely to succeed: Blog

Most useful: Google

Most creative: Iraqophobia, strong fear of Iraq

Most unnecessary: Wombanization, feminization

Most outrageous: Neuticles, fake testicles for neutered pets

Most euphemistic: Regime change

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