

FREE

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Privately boarded horses told to giddyup

Horses booted from Will Rogers Park over environmental fears

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Efforts to prevent the eviction of privately boarded horses at Will Rogers State Park were side-saddled Friday.

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Terry B. Friedman ruled that removing the privately housed horses in the public park located in the Santa Monica Mountains in Pacific Palisades would not decrease equestrian activities there.

Judge Friedman gave the horses' owners until April 5 to find new homes for them. Judge Friedman also ruled the state's parks and recreation department doesn't have to put a time limit on the temporary removal of the horses — something critics said could create a "permanent temporary" eviction.

State officials announced in October that it would suspend overnight horse boarding while a new management plan for the park is developed because they believe the horses are hurting the environment. The state claims that the horses generate nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous, which ecologists fear are chemicals that are being carried by run-off into adjacent streams.

"You can see horse manure running down into that creek," said Steve Capps, the deputy director of commu-

nications for the state's department of parks and recreation. "We don't know the full extent of what's going on there and that's why we want the horses out for a bit so we can study this fully.

"It was in the discretion of the director to make this decision and it did not constitute any major change in the use of the park," he added.

Genesses Rievera, an 8-year-old Los Angeles girl, along with 34 other plaintiffs and the support of 1,300 petition signing members of the public, filed an injunction in December in Santa Monica Superior Court to prevent the department of parks and recreation, as well as its director, Rusty Areias, from terminating horse boarding and other equestrian activity at the park. They also say it

See HORSES, page 3

Suit filed against local film producer

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The family of a Los Angeles man who was killed when a chartered jet crashed in Aspen, Colo. last March filed a wrongful death lawsuit Friday against the plane's owner and operator, as well as the estates of the pilots.

The family of Mario Aguilar, represented by Santa Monica-based attorney Brian Panish, sued Airborne Charter Inc., the company to which the jet was registered and Avjet Corp., which housed the plane in a hangar at Burbank Airport.

"They tried to beat the curfew and hurried a risky landing in Aspen to avoid the expense of getting detoured to a safer, but less convenient airport."

— BRIAN PANISH
Plaintiff's attorney

On March 29, 2001, the 20-year-old Gulfstream twin engine jet, which was en route from Los Angeles to Aspen, slammed into a hillside just 500 yards short of Aspen's runway in a light snow-storm. All 15 passengers and the three crew members aboard were killed.

The passengers, mostly in entertainment and media businesses in the Los Angeles area, had chartered the plane for a weekend birthday party for one of them in the resort town, which was nearing the end of its winter season.

Airborne Charter is run by Santa Monica-based Cinergi Pictures founder and producer Andrew G. Vajna, who is responsible for films like "First Blood," "Total Recall," "Air America" and "Jacob's Ladder."

The estates of pilot Robert Frisbie and co-pilot Peter Kowalczyk also are targeted in the suit, which was filed in downtown Los Angeles Superior Court.

The families of several other victims have filed similar lawsuits, some of which have been settled, according to Panish.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages, claiming the plane was flown "in a negligent, wanton, reckless, tortious and unlawful manner."

See SUIT, page 3

What a racquet



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Desmond Harding gets ready to return a shot from Johanna Josetsson in the new YMCA's racquetball courts. The multi-million dollar facility on Sixth Street recently opened.

Voter turnout may be lowest in state history

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California's primary election may have attracted the lowest voter turnout in state history, officials said Friday.

Incomplete figures show that only one in three registered voters cast a ballot on Tuesday. The figure of 33 percent could climb a point or two as counties finish tallying absentee and provisional ballots next week but "it is shaping up to be a historic low," said Shad Balch, spokesman for Secretary of State Bill Jones.

The previous low of 35 percent was recorded in June 1994. Projections on Tuesday called for a turnout of 36 percent.

Election officials were disappointed that the surge of patriotism after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks didn't bump up the vote.

"It was our hope that we could translate all that flag-waving into increasing democracy at the ballot box," Balch said. "That's what the (soldiers) abroad are fighting to protect."

California's voter turnout has been falling for three decades but Tuesday's election may have had additional strikes against it, Balch and others said.

The early primary may have caught some people off-guard. California moved its primary from June to March in 2000, but this year was the first time a gubernatorial primary was held that early.

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 ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Stop and smell the flowers. Don't always run around busy. Kick back and enjoy your day, visiting with friends and perhaps indulging in too much living. You go overboard, but in a very different way. A loved one might criticize you. Tonight: Where the gang is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ You could fuel another's flame without intending to. Do you want the War of the Roses? We think not. Stop pushing your weight around, and let others reveal their true colors. You actually might like what a loved one presents. Not everything is serious. Tonight: Put in a much-needed show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ If you're not in a different setting from usual, organize a day trip right away — whether you fill your picnic basket with goodies or explore a town near you makes little difference. Replenish your perspective and energy with some distance. Tonight: Certainly try a new spot.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ A partner does whatever he or she can to get your attention. Understand what is happening with this person and what he or she expects from you. Don't be pushed by a friend with strong opinions. When out, someone indulges you. Express your feelings. Tonight: Go along with another's desires.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Others seek you out, but not every contact is friendly. Listen to an irate boss or parent, but don't let what this person says ruin your day. Maintain a high profile, zeroing in on what you want. A caring, loving attitude makes waves. Tonight: Accept an invitation where you will be among the throngs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Someone at a distance might seem neutral, but by the end of the day, you'll know otherwise. This person could be a relative. Use delicacy when dealing with him or her. Once you focus on what you ultimately want, you're a force to behold. Tonight: Go for what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Play away. If attached, a loved one might have a strong reaction to your footloose-and-fancy-free attitude. You don't want to cause yourself trouble, do you? Be gracious with others without causing a major uproar in your life, unless you like the high passionate levels here. Tonight: There's no stopping you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Deal with basics. You could find someone agreeable at first, and then later, grumpy. Do what gives you pleasure. Count on the fact that you cannot change this person's mood. Express feelings through actions and nurturing. Tonight: Stay close to home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Handle a situation evenly. You might go to work at the last minute. A partner appreciates your willingness to chip in and get the job done. Don't stand on ceremony with a pal who is out of whack. Tonight: At your favorite hangout.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Expenses might need examining before you hop on out the door and try something really perverse or risky. You'll find that another could be sweet one moment and difficult the next. Center on your priorities. Tonight: Be extra sweet with someone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Your sunny personality first draws someone, then repels him or her. What is going on here, you ask? You also might not be the only one questioning this person's attitude. Flow, yet do what makes you happy. You could be surprised by the results of a sensitive talk. Tonight: It's your night to howl.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Assume a low profile for the moment. You might not be comfortable with what's happening with someone. At first, this person could be unusually caring, and the next moment, insulting. Steer clear of this individual and enjoy a favorite pastime. Tonight: Hide away. Be mysterious.

QUOTE of the DAY

"I like a woman with a head on her shoulders. I hate necks."
 — Steve Martin

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LOCAL



Horse eviction will be appealed to higher court

HORSES, from page 1

was always the intention of the late Will Rogers and his family to have equestrian activity at the park, where they used to live.

Lawyers for Rievera said they planned to appeal Judge Friedman's decision to the Third Circuit Appeals Court in downtown Los Angeles.

"Respectfully, we disagree with the judge's decision," said Eric M. George, attorney for Rievera. "We knew this would be a long fight and we knew this would likely be settled in the court of appeal anyway, so I guess that's where the next round will be held."

The public is still allowed to bring their horses to the park for use on the trails and polo fields, but state officials want horses permanently stationed there removed so environmental testing can be performed, government officials said.

"We're not suspending all activities, just suspending one activity," Capps said.

**"We knew this would be a long fight
and we knew this would likely be
settled in the court of appeal
anyway, so I guess that's where the
next round will be held."**

— ERIC M. GEORGE
Plaintiffs' attorney

The appeal would be based on the state's "thin" evidence on how removing the boarded horses would affect

the overall equestrian activities at the park, and the lack of a time frame in the state's temporary eviction of the horses, George said.

"Our argument is that your average visitor to the park doesn't have an opportunity to see horses," he said.

The eviction of the horses and the completion of an environmental impact study, which was delayed because of the lawsuit, will continue as scheduled, said officials.

Parks officials wanted the study to be done during the rainy season, which is during the winter months. Now officials may have to wait to perform the study until next winter to get accurate information.

"It seems like the damage that is being done is being lost in all this," Capps said in an earlier interview. "Pasture is a packed-down, barren field, and if you compare it to pictures from the past you can see that."

Pilots had extensive flying experience, Avjet says

SUIT, from page 1

Panish said he has asked the court for a jury trial in the next 120 days because Aguilar's father, Julius Szabo, who is one of the plaintiffs, is 80 years old.

Panish said the plane attempted to land in bad weather to avoid a costly detour.

"They tried to beat the curfew and hurried a risky landing in Aspen to avoid the expense of getting detoured to a safer, but less convenient airport," he said.

Szabo said he filed the lawsuit because

his son meant "the world to me."

"I want to know how this could have happened, and why this reckless behavior was allowed," he said.

Officials from Avjet declined comment.

Federal authorities have not yet issued a report on the cause of the crash. However, transcripts of the cockpit recorder and facts revealed in the investigation indicate that the pilots failed to consider vital information as they attempted to beat Aspen's 7 p.m. curfew.

The Aspen airport does handle smaller commercial jets but is known for its demanding approach procedure.

The plane, which took off from Burbank, stopped at LAX to pick up more passengers, but already was running late. The flight plan showed the plane landing in Aspen at 6:46 p.m., 12 minutes before the curfew.

The voice recorder box picked up conversations that indicate the two pilots didn't want to miss curfew but the weather in Aspen was worsening as a light snow was coming from the north, the same direction from which they were approaching, according to an article on AINONLINE.com, an Internet site for aviation news.

Aspen's control tower informed the pilots that a couple of planes ahead of the Gulfstream missed the runway because the visibility was poor. Knowing that their fuel was low, the pilots couldn't circle above Aspen for very long before making a decision about whether they would have to land at another airport 50 miles away or shoot for Aspen's runway, according to AINONLINE.

The voice recorder shows that the pilots were having a difficult time seeing the runway and discussed amongst themselves and the flight attendant about whether they were anxious. The pilots said they weren't overly concerned, but just couldn't see the runway, according to AINONLINE.

According to investigators, the black box showed the pilot contacting the local airport tower and asking whether the runway lights were on.

Minutes later, the recorder picked up a

configuration alarm that continued to sound for nine seconds. The Gulfstream's microphone picked up unidentified background noises and the sounds of people screaming, according to AINONLINE.

Frisbie had more than 10,000 flight hours, according to Avjet officials. Kowalczyk had recorded more than 5,500 flight hours.

"The aircraft was operated by a highly experienced crew and as the primary crew assigned to the aircraft, had flown multiple trips to and from Aspen during the month of March," Marc Foulkrod, president of Avjet, told the Aspen Daily News in a prepared statement days after the crash.

The weather around Aspen that night was fairly clear, but the area off the west end of the runway was experiencing swirling snow squalls, which could impede visibility.

Witnesses say they saw the airplane approach the runway and then bank sharply to the left, as if avoiding a ridge of hills known as Shale Bluffs to its right. The plane crashed into a bluff directly in front of the runway and next to the only highway leading into the ski resort.

The plane was shredded with only the tail remaining partially intact. A ball of metal debris believed to be the cockpit and a clipped wing were visible from the highway. Wreckage and bodies were strewn across the road and a nearby hillside. Two victims still strapped to their seats were ejected from the plane, landing on the shoulder of the highway.

(The Associated Press contributed to this article).



Stefanie Deutsch/Aspen Daily News

NTSB investigators scan the scene of the plane wreckage in Aspen last March where 18 people from the Los Angeles area died.

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STATE

Actors guild re-stages election for top officers

BY LYNN ELBER
 AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — Melissa Gilbert and Valerie Harper faced off for a second time Friday over the Screen Actors Guild presidency, an election rerun forced by questions over voting procedures.

The deadline for receipt of ballots was Friday morning, said SAG spokeswoman Ilyanne Morden Kichaven.

A new company, American Arbitration Association, was retained to oversee the mailing, collection and tabulation of ballots, she said.

AAA was hired after a guild national elections committee decided in January that administrative oversights caused problems in the voting process and may have affected the outcome of some or all of the elections.

The committee voted unanimously that the election for the positions of president, treasurer and secretary be rerun, but the results of the 12 vice presidents and the national board seats remained official.

In the results announced in November, "Little House on the Prairie" star Gilbert, 37, won over Harper, 61, of "Rhoda" fame. Gilbert received 45.3 percent of the vote to Harper's 39.4 percent.

Also seeking the top post in the first and second elections were Eugene Boggs and Angel Tompkins.

Kent McCord, who was elected treasurer in November, again faced Amy Aquino and Kathleen Haigney. Elliott Gould, who was elected recording secretary, ran against Kevin Kilner and Renee Aubry.

The guild represents more than 98,000 movie and television performers nationally.

The elections committee criticized polling administrator Sequoia Voting Systems and top SAG executives for rule violations. Some of the problems included a two-day extension for New York members to mail in their ballots.

"It is regrettably the case that all those who ran for office were the innocent victims of these two groups, namely SAG staff and Sequoia representatives," the

panel said.

Gilbert remained SAG president pending the results of the new election, which has been marked by an intense e-mailing campaign and vitriolic war of words.

The Harper-Gilbert contest came at a tense time, in the aftermath of a lengthy commercial actors' strike and an averted walkout by movie and TV actors under one-term SAG President William Daniels ("St. Elsewhere," "Boy Meets World").

The strike against commercial producers cost actors undetermined millions of dollars and the Los Angeles area at least \$125 million in lost production as it drove commercial work abroad.

Harper supported Daniels and his record. Gilbert was critical of the union's direction and called for change. The candidates also differed over a proposed pact with talent agents, which Gilbert supports and Harper opposes.



John Hayes/Associated Press
Melissa Gilbert, president-elect of the Screen Actors Guild, is seen in this file photo from Sunday, Nov. 11, 2001, in Beverly Hills. Gilbert and Valerie Harper faced off for a second time Friday over the Screen Actors Guild presidency.

Ryan's stalker declared competent to stand trial

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man who was ordered to stay away from actress Meg Ryan has been found competent to stand trial for allegedly breaking into a home he believed belonged to the movie star.

John Michael Hughes, 30, of Navarre, Fla., is scheduled to return to court Thursday in Malibu to have a trial date set, said Deputy District Attorney Loni Petersen. He faces a misdemeanor charge of unauthorized entry.

Hughes is accused of breaking into the Malibu home of Tomas and Andrea Ryan on Jan. 6, thinking it was Meg Ryan's house. The actress is not related to the couple.

According to court documents, Hughes was dressed all in black and had \$2,700 in cash, a night vision scope and open bottles of alcohol in his car when he was found eating a meal of ham and green beans in the couple's home. He told police

he had broken in because the actress forgot to leave a house key under the doormat for him.

Hughes was convicted last year of trying to sneak firearms into the Crawford, Texas, ranch of then President-elect George W. Bush in December 2000. He served six months in jail for the offense and also spent several months in a federal psychiatric hospital, according to court documents.

Ryan, the star of "Sleepless in Seattle" and "You've Got Mail," won a three-year restraining order against Hughes last month.

During the restraining order hearing, Hughes claimed he married the actress last November at a ceremony in Vancouver, Canada.

Hughes' mother, Stephanie Hughes, of Mobile, Ala., has said her son is not dangerous but has a history of mental illness.

NATIONAL



Group to call for Mirage boycott on Las Vegas Strip

BY LISA SNEDEKER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — For the second time in three weeks the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network will call for a boycott of all MGM Mirage Inc. hotel-casinos over what the group says is racism by the gambling giant.

"This is a justice issue over the company's hiring practices and hostile working environment," said the Rev. Tom Grey, executive director of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, who said he will attend the noon protest Saturday in front of the MGM Grand hotel-casino.

Grey, an antigambling lobbyist from Rockford, Ill., said he also voiced his concerns Thursday to the Nevada Gaming Control Board regarding MGM Mirage's bid for an Illinois riverboat license in Rosemont.

In addition, the board heard from nine current and former workers who criticized MGM Mirage's employment policies.

Franklin Morgan Jr. told control board

members he was beaten by a white co-worker at The Mirage in July 2000 after looking at a white woman. Mirage security workers did not respond, he said.

Other workers recounted racial insults and unfair treatment.

"I don't discount their feelings, but I don't believe a Gaming Control Board meeting is the time or place to discuss personnel matters," said Alan Feldman, MGM Mirage spokesman.

"In each one of their cases, their circumstances were viewed and handled in accordance with long-standing company policies."

Control board members Dennis Neilander and Scott Scherer told the Las Vegas Review-Journal during a break that the panel has limited jurisdiction in such matters, but expressed concern.

"I don't like hearing allegations of racial discrimination. It's troublesome," Neilander said.

Four other MGM Mirage employees told the Gaming Control Board about their positive experiences with the company.

Michael Page, who is black, said he

was hired as a golf course landscaper and was later promoted to chauffeur, a tip-earning position.

Terry Lanni, MGM Mirage's chief executive, reported last month on the company's efforts to increase diversity include promoting more minorities into management and employing more minority vendors and contractors. More than 50 percent of MGM Mirage employees are minorities.

MGM Mirage established the gambling industry's first "diversity initiative," Lanni said.

"We recognized the importance of diversity to the success of our business," he told about 270 minority group and business representatives at a Feb. 25 luncheon.

Members of the National Action Network's Las Vegas chapter, led by state chairman Gene Collins, held a protest outside MGM Grand on Feb. 16, calling for a boycott.

The Las Vegas Strip's largest hotel-casino corporation implemented its diversity initiative following criticism of its minority business practices when MGM

Grand announced its \$6.4 billion merger with Mirage Resorts in May 2000.

Collins, first as a local chapter leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons and now the National Action Network, has been a critic of MGM Mirage, charging "racist policies toward African-Americans in hiring, promoting and contracting."

MGM Mirage's diversity efforts have been too few and too slow, Collins said.

Sharpton has said the boycott stems from discrimination claims at the company's Detroit casino.

MGM Mirage executives believe it's because the company rejected Collins' request for \$100 million to help the black community in Las Vegas.

"Rather than make them go away by giving them money, we responded with a strong commitment to our diversity initiative," Feldman said.

"Where they would call for boycott of a company that the majority of employees are minorities and the majority of them earn income from tips I think is sad and misguided."

Outspoken former mob attorney reigns over Las Vegas

BY ANGIE WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — The mayor of Las Vegas is sipping a martini with his wife, talking about the horse he bet on and the tractor-trailer he drove down the Strip.

Usually, Oscar Goodman doesn't call it a day until he's clashed with someone, but sometimes even the self-described world's happiest mayor gets lucky in Vegas.

"It's wonderful," he says of being the mayor of the nation's fastest-growing city. "You get up in the morning, you're out and about, you're making the city a better place. It's the perfect life."

He is a mix of the old and the new Las Vegas, a reminder of the city's shady past and the biggest cheerleader for its future.

He gambles. He drinks. He says the wrong thing. And he's popular. Really popular.

"I represent the city of Las Vegas the way it should be," Goodman says. "It's not a mundane, run-of-the-mill place. I feel I am the people's mayor."

It's been almost three years since Goodman came out of nowhere to run a populist campaign that culminated in a landslide win over a veteran city councilman. It was his first try at public office. Before 1999, he was a high-profile criminal defense attorney whose mob clients included Meyer Lansky and Anthony "Tony the Ant" Spilotro, who once reputedly placed a rival's head in a vise and

squeezed his eyeballs out.

Goodman grew bored with his other cases after Spilotro was killed in 1986 and was looking for a change. When he suggested running for mayor, even his four kids were surprised. They told their father he had more baggage than airport sky caps.

Valet car attendants and taxi drivers know his name, so do casino pit bosses and gamblers. "He's not afraid to speak his mind," says limousine driver Ken Herrera, who greets Goodman outside a casino. "It's what we need."

On this day, a casino valet shakes the mayor's hand, lifts his shirt to show his bullet wounds and talks about an uncle on vacation in Chicago.

"Prison?" the mayor asks.

The worker nods. "I know some of the people you know," he says.

Goodman, 62, arrives at Bally's hotel-casino on the Strip to welcome the United Auto Workers. The Strip is actually outside the city, but Goodman is a popular choice for convention speeches and promotions.

"What am I speaking about?" he asks his spokesman, Erik Pappa.

Good question since Goodman, 62, doesn't write speeches, except for the annual state of the city address. He gets by telling funny stories and maybe making a few bold remarks that usually make local headlines.

"It's cool. It's like you're a star. Whenever I go anywhere, everyone wants to meet the mayor of Las Vegas. It gets no better than that," Goodman says.

He's leaving the casino when he remembers he wants to bet on a horse.

So, he plops down \$100 on Beefeater Baby, the favorite to win at Santa Anita this day. Beefeater is a favorite brand of gin, and the mayor likes his martinis — straight up, ice on the side. ("I drink more gin than any human being," he says.)

Beefeater even asked the mayor to be a spokesman for the gin, but Goodman says he and the company couldn't agree on a price and he's now considering touting another brand. Any money he receives would go into the city's general fund, he says.

Once the mouthpiece to the mob, it's often his mouth that gets him into trouble. He says what he wants, no matter the audience.

Facing criticism, Greenwich adopts new beach policy

By The Associated Press

GREENWICH, Conn. — Amid criticism that this wealthy New York suburb is elitist, town officials approved a new plan Friday that will make it much cheaper for out-of-towners to visit its beaches.

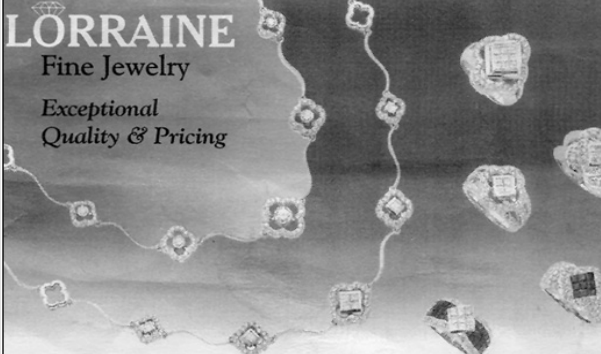
The Board of Selectmen voted 2-1 to adopt a plan that will allow nonresidents to buy a day pass for \$10 per person and a day parking pass for \$20.

A plan adopted Feb. 14 had required nonresidents to buy a seasonal pass for \$308, plus \$100 for parking. The earlier plan did not allow day passes.

The earlier fee structure was widely criticized by radio talk show hosts, newspaper editorial writers and a state lawmaker.

Greenwich's previous residents-only policy was ruled unconstitutional in July by the state Supreme Court.

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NATIONAL

ODDS & ENDS

Man tries to rob cop

By The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — A would-be robber learned an important lesson: You never know who might be a cop.

Police Spec. Dennis Ficker wasn't in uniform when a man approached from behind, stuck something sharp in his side and said, "Gimme your money!" Ficker told investigators.

Ficker, a 30-year cop, couldn't believe what he heard. He asked, "What?"

The man repeated: "Gimme your money," Ficker said. That's when Ficker reached for his gun, and the man ran.

Ficker said he chased David Joseph Moore for a couple of blocks until, knife still in hand, Moore got on the ground and gave up.

As he was in pursuit, Ficker said it occurred to him that Moore fit the description of a suspect in a convenience store robbery a week earlier. He asked Moore, who allegedly admitted it.

Moore, 21, of Highland Heights, Ky., has been charged in both crimes.

Love displayed in council chambers

By The Associated Press

FALKVILLE, Ala. — Town Council member Matt Stiles is known for speaking his mind. On Tuesday, he let his heart do the talking.

After completing a department report, Stiles rose from his chair. "I've got something else, but I'll have to be excused to take care of it," he told Roy Coley, mayor of the north Alabama town of some 1,200 people.

Stiles then walked over to a woman in the audience, dropped to one knee and popped the question to an obviously surprised Rene Smith.

"Rene, you've brought a lot of love and joy and grace

into my life," Stiles said. "I would be honored if you would become my wife. Rene, would you marry me?" With a smile, she answered, "I will."

Stiles gave her a ring and two red roses, and the audience burst into applause.

Latte looters sought

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago police are on the lookout for a band of latte looters.

Since January, thieves have walked into six Starbucks coffeehouses and made off with brand new espresso machines. The latest theft happened Tuesday, just after police visited the store to warn employees.

A man who appeared to be about 30 walked in and said he was waiting for someone, said Cassandra Clay, a "barista" who prepares drinks at the coffee bar.

A little later, Clay said she looked up and saw the man walk out the door and hop into a car without license plates. Clay then noticed the display model of the machine — marked down from \$399 to \$299 — was gone.

Police say they believe more than one person is at work, and while it's possible the bandits are simply fans of a good cup of java, police don't think that's the case.

"It's somebody who apparently wants to make some quick money," said Francis Kehoe, commander of the city's Belmont police district.

Senator expects 14th child

By The Associated Press

SPRINGDALE, Ark. — Another year, another mouth to feed.

Senate hopeful Jim Bob Duggar and his wife are looking forward to their fourteenth child in as many years.

The state Representative's wife, Michelle, made the announcement that she's expecting to her family during

a "praise report" while they gathered for weekend worship at home.

"I paused and everybody looked at me. Jim Bob turned around and his eyes got real big," she said.

Duggar, 36, and his wife, 35, gave each of their children names that begin with the letter "J." The oldest is 14, and they've had two sets of twins.

Duggar is seeking the Republican nomination for the Senate seat currently held by Sen. Tim Hutchinson, also a Republican.

"We figure by November it will be a good election baby. We'll win either way," Michelle Duggar says.

Drugs may be forced on dentist accused of fraud, murder plot

By The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A dentist accused of Medicaid fraud and plotting to kill a witness and an FBI agent can be forced to take anti-psychotic drugs to make him mentally fit to stand trial, an appeals court ruled.

The 2-1 decision Thursday by a 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel upheld a federal judge's ruling last year that Dr. Charles Sell would be delusional and incompetent for trial without drugs the government wants to give him against his will.

Judge Gerald Heaney wrote in the majority opinion that "the government may forcibly administer anti-psychotic medication for the sole purpose of rendering a pretrial detainee competent to stand trial without violating the accused's due process rights."

The same standard might not apply in all cases, Heaney said, particularly if the issue involved medicating a prisoner to make him fit for execution.

Assistant public defender Lee Lawless told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch he would appeal. Lawless did not immediately return calls Friday.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Mariah Carey negotiating for a new record label

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Mariah Carey, seeking a career rebound after the back-to-back flops of her debut movie and its soundtrack album, is negotiating with new record companies just weeks after her last label dropped her.

Two of Warner Music Group's labels, Elektra and Warner Bros. Records, are among the companies that have made offers to Carey, according to sources familiar with the talks. Universal Music Group's label Island Def Jam is also reportedly interested.

"She is meeting with a lot of different labels. She's a very smart businesswoman and is taking her time before she makes a decision," Carey's spokeswoman, Cindi Berger, said Friday.

Carey, 31, agreed in January to end a \$100 million contract with Virgin Records with a \$49 million pay-out following the weak debut of her semi-autobiographical musical drama "Glitter" and its accompanying album.

Before that, she suffered a psychological breakdown that resulted in some erratic public behavior and resulted in her being hospitalized for exhaustion.

Any new recording deal is expected to be tens of millions of dollars less and cover fewer albums than her contract with Virgin, which had been set for four CDs.

Warner executives would not comment on Carey and calls to Universal were not immediately returned.

Carey's attorney, Donald Passman, said he could not comment on any of his client's negotiations until a deal was finalized.



Sue Adler/20th Century Fox
Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor perform a song-and-dance number in the musical "Moulin Rouge," one of the five films nominated for a best-picture Oscar. "Moulin Rouge" was the first live-action musical nominated for best picture since "All That Jazz" 22 years ago.

Smith glad to be nominated for Oscar

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Actor Will Smith doesn't expect to win an Oscar. He's just glad to be nominated for his work in "Ali."

Smith was honored Thursday night as male star of the year at ShoWest, an annual convention for theater operators meeting in Las Vegas.

Smith, a best actor nominee for his portrayal of boxer Muhammad Ali, acknowledged he and fellow Oscar nominees Denzel Washington and Halle Berry represent a breakthrough for black performers.

"If you go to a French film festival, French films are nominated and French actors are going to win," Smith said. "The majority of the Academy (members) are white

Americans, and white American actors are going to win. The breakthrough is an acknowledgment of what the level of work truly is. ... It's completely an honor."

Also honored at ShoWest were: Jennifer Lopez, female star of the year; Ron Howard, director of the year; Marisa Tomei, supporting actress of the year; Nicole Kidman, award for a distinguished decade of achievement in film; and Chris Tucker, comedy star of the year.

Josh Hartnett and Naomi Watts were honored as male and female stars of tomorrow. Douglas Wick was producer of the year and Julian Fellowes was screenwriter of the year. Steven Spielberg was given a lifetime achievement award.

The Academy Awards will be presented March 24 in Los Angeles.

Lucie Arnaz buying her mom's New York home

By The Associated Press

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. — Lucie Arnaz, daughter of the late comedian Lucille Ball and actor Desi Arnaz, is planning a bigger museum dedicated to her parents.

Arnaz said Thursday she plans to leave their memorabilia in Jamestown, 58 miles south of Buffalo. She said a new not-for-profit group headed by her and her brother, Desi Arnaz Jr., will take over operation of the Lucy-Desi Museum, with plans to open a larger museum in the next few years, possibly with a theater attached.

The storefront museum opened in 1996.

During a news conference at the Holiday Inn in Jamestown, Arnaz said her family has bid on her mother's former home in the nearby Chautauqua County village of Celoron. The two-story house at 59 W. Lucy Lane has been for sale on eBay.

It was Lucy's home from the time she was 8 years old until she was midway through high school. The asking price was \$98,500. It has been a stop for many tourists over the years, especially during the annual Lucy-Desi Days in Jamestown.

CORNING, Iowa — Skateboarders in a small southwest Iowa town will have Johnny Carson to thank when their new park is built.

The former talk show host responded to a request for a small donation to help build the skate park in his hometown with a check for \$75,000 — enough to pay for nearly the whole project.

Lori Goldsmith, who's organizing efforts to raise money for the park, wrote to Carson several weeks ago seeking a small contribution.

Goldsmith said she was shocked when she opened an express mail package from Carson and found the check. The project will cost about \$90,000.

A committee was formed to raise money for the park after officials in this town of 1,783 people threatened to ban skateboarding downtown.

Carson, who was born in Corning in 1925, donated \$15,000 to an elementary playground a few years ago. He hosted "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" on NBC from 1962-92.

NEW YORK — A gay foster couple in Florida helped inspire Rosie O'Donnell's decision to talk about her own homosexuality.

Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau are challenging a state law that bans gays from adopting children. O'Donnell, who has a home near Miami and briefly was a foster parent to a Florida toddler, is helping in their fight, People magazine reports in its March 18 issue. She's expected to take part in an American Civil Liberties Union campaign this month.

"I think that Rosie will help people understand that gay parenting is not a bad thing," Croteau told the magazine. He and Lofton are parents to five foster children they want to adopt, ages 5 to 14, for whom O'Donnell threw a pizza party at her Manhattan offices last month.

O'Donnell, 39, has three adopted children: Parker, 6; Chelsea, 4; and Blake, 2. She's raising them with her longtime girlfriend, 34-year-old Kelli Carpenter, in Nyack, N.Y.

Although it's long been known that O'Donnell is a lesbian, the comedian and talk show host is expected to discuss her homosexuality for the first time publicly in an

interview with Diane Sawyer, scheduled to air on ABC's "Primetime Thursday" on March 14. She's declining comment until the show airs.

SYDNEY, Australia — A court ruled Friday that an Australian private investigator defamed international fashion house Versace and its directors Santo and Donatella Versace in a book claiming they were involved in their brother's murder.

Sydney private eye Frank Monte implied in his memoirs "The Spying Game" that Versace family members were involved in organized crime and money laundering.

Monte also claimed Versace boss Gianni was slain by the Mafia, working with Donatella and her other brother, Santo.

Gianni Versace was shot to death outside his Miami home in July 1997. The gunman, Andrew Cunanan, who also was wanted for four other murders, killed himself soon afterward.

Monte had claimed Versace had employed him as a private investigator.

Giving his verdict, Federal Court judge Brian Tamberlin said he was convinced that Monte never had "any relationship, contact or communication of any type with Gianni Versace."

"I have found that each of Frank Monte's statements complained of lacks any credibility whatsoever," he said.

Tamberlin granted an injunction against further publication of book, which was released last year but withdrawn after 800 copies were sold. The judge will decide what damages should be awarded to the Versaces at a later hearing.



Circling the troops



Mikhail Metzel/Associated Press
A U.S. soldier, no name available, stands atop a vehicle as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter takes off at Bagram Air Base, in Afghanistan, 65 km (40 miles) north of Kabul on Friday.

Bush proposes more aid to NYC to help recover from Sept. 11

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's offer of nearly \$21.4 billion to help New York recover from the Sept. 11 attacks drew praise from lawmakers who had previously criticized the administration for dragging its feet on aid.

"I don't write newspaper headlines — which should be obvious to everyone — but maybe tomorrow's headline would be, 'Bush to New York: Help is on the way.'"

— HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
Senator

"Thank you for staying with us," Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., told the president after his Thursday announcement. "I don't write newspaper headlines — which should be obvious to everyone — but maybe tomorrow's headline would be, 'Bush to New York: Help is on the way.'"

Bush previously had promised \$20 billion to the city to help it get back on its feet, and about \$10.7 billion has been received so far. The new aid Bush proposed includes \$2.75 billion from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which could be used for cleanup and rebuilding costs,

\$1.8 billion for transit upgrades and \$750 million in community development money, which could be used to reimburse utilities, said Rep. James Walsh, R-N.Y.

The proposed new spending brought the federal package to nearly \$21.4 billion, including a \$5 billion "Liberty Zone" tax relief plan for lower Manhattan. The assistance is subject to congressional approval.

Bush stood with New York's mayor, the state's governor and its congressional delegation to announce the package.

"It is essential that New York City come back, and come back strong," he said.

Gov. George Pataki assured Bush that the state's elected officials "will make sure every nickel is spent appropriately, and intelligently, to help the people of New York."

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., also said he is happy with Bush's response.

"They have just been fabulous. They haven't tried to haggle on the little details. ... Downtown (Manhattan) is now going to come back like gangbusters," Schumer said.

Bush made the \$20 billion pledge in the days following the attacks and reiterated the promise on a recent visit to the city. But Clinton, Schumer and others have complained that money is not coming fast enough and questioned whether full Bush's promise would be kept.

White House budget director Mitchell Daniels further upset New York lawmakers last month when he likened the quest for aid to a "little money-grubbing game." He later said he regretted making the comment, which he said was misconstrued.

Businesses start hiring again, signaling recession's end

BY LEIGH STROPE

AP Labor Writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. companies added jobs for the first time in seven months in February, helping push down the unemployment rate to 5.5 percent in the strongest signal yet that the recession is over.

"It's over. This is it," said Mark Zandi, chief economist for Economy.com, a consulting company. "This is the final nail in the recession's coffin."

But economists also cautioned that the pain hasn't ended for people looking for work.

The Labor Department reported Friday that businesses added 66,000 jobs in February, breaking a string of losses that had averaged 146,000 a month since the recession started in March 2001. It was the largest employment increase since February 2001.

Warm weather, a slow holiday hiring season and reopening automobile factories all contributed to the February increase, which probably won't be sustained.

"The 66,000 job increase overstates the case for the economy's recovery, but it clearly makes the case that the economy is recovering," Zandi said.

The report sent stock prices higher. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 47 points and the Nasdaq up 48.

Economists say January will probably be seen as the month in which the recession ended because of February's job gains. The National Bureau of Economic Research, the traditionally recognized arbiter of when recessions begin and end in the United States, declared March as the starting date because employment peaked then, and has steadily dropped until now.

February's jobless rate dropped by 0.1 percentage point to 5.5 percent, the lowest level since October.

President Bush welcomed the decline, but said that Americans out of work or on the brink of being laid off still need help.

"I'm not going to let the numbers lull me to sleep,"

Bush told workers at an electronics company in Florida.

The new jobs report coincided with Senate passage of a recession relief package that would extend regular 26-week unemployment benefits by 13 weeks and allow additional automatic extensions in states with high unemployment rates.

"The unemployment situation won't truly improve until businesses increase hiring a lot more than they did in February."

— BILL CHENEY
John Hancock Financial Services

The House broke months of partisan gridlock Thursday and passed the legislation. Bush said he will sign the bill, which also gives businesses tax cuts. The legislation would pump \$51 billion into the economy this year, \$43 billion next year and \$29 billion in 2004, congressional analysts say.

But economists cautioned that clusters of help-wanted signs won't be popping up just yet.

Companies are being cautious about hiring back workers and many businesses are still struggling. Kmart Corp. said Friday it is closing 284 stores across the country and eliminating 22,000 jobs.

"The unemployment situation won't truly improve until businesses increase hiring a lot more than they did in February," said Bill Cheney, chief economist with John Hancock Financial Services. "It takes roughly 150,000 new jobs per month just to keep the unemploy-

ment rate steady."

As it did during the last recession that ended in 1991, the nation's unemployment rate still could rise in coming months as businesses regain financial strength. Some economists think the rate will climb to more than 6 percent before a prolonged drop-off occurs.

"There are still very few new jobs and minimal wage gains," Cheney said. "It will be a few more months before things feel a whole lot better for all those people who lost their jobs over the past year, or who still fear losing them."

The drop in the unemployment rate occurred even as the work force grew. In February, 821,000 people returned to the job market after nearly 1 million gave up looking for employment in January.

The largest increase occurred in retail, with 58,000 new jobs added, but analysts cautioned against too much optimism. Large seasonal layoffs always occur in retailing in January and February following the holiday-season buildup. But holiday hiring last year was well below normal, so there were fewer workers to lay off.

Job gains also occurred in health services, with 34,000 new jobs. And mild weather last month helped boost the number of jobs in construction by 25,000.

But manufacturing shed jobs for the 19th straight month, losing 50,000. Since the recession began, 88 percent of the job losses have been in manufacturing. February's loss was about half the average pace of the previous 12 months.

Employment in motor vehicle manufacturing jumped by 26,000 last month, fueled by the reopening of automobile plants that had shut down for inventory control in January.

Manufacturing's smaller decline last month "is another positive sign that a recovery is beginning to form in manufacturing, albeit more slowly than in the overall economy," said David Huether, chief economist with the National Association of Manufacturers.

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INTERNATIONAL



36 Palestinians and six Israelis are killed in raid

BY KARIN LAUB

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — In the deadliest day of fighting in 17 months, Israel raided Palestinian towns and refugee camps Friday, while a Palestinian gunman opened fire on a Jewish settlement. Amid the carnage, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon hinted at new flexibility in reaching a truce.

Thirty-nine Palestinians were killed in Israeli raids on towns and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Six Israelis were slain by Palestinians.

The U.S. administration, which has announced a new Mideast mediation mission, demanded Friday that Israel immediately halt the strikes.

Israeli troops in a Gaza village and two West Bank refugee camps used machine-guns, tanks and helicopters to attack the Palestinians positions.

"The sky was raining with bullets from all directions," farmer Hatem Abu Teir said of the Israeli assault on the Gaza village of Khouza, where 16 Palestinians, including a general, were killed. The army called Khouza a "center of terrorist activity."

In the West Bank refugee camp of Tulkarem, dozens of Palestinian gunmen were pinned down in alleys and in homes, surrounded on all sides by Israeli forces, including helicopter gunships firing from above. Israeli troops called on the gunmen over loudspeakers to surrender. About 250 Palestinians were rounded up in a local school.

Israeli troops barred Palestinian ambulances from entering the camp to retrieve casualties, and a count of six Palestinians killed in the camp — including a 9-year-old boy — was expected to climb. An Israeli soldier was also killed in the fighting.

In the Jewish settlement of Atzmona in Gaza, a Palestinian gunman killed five Israeli teen-agers during a 15-minute rampage that began just before midnight Thursday.

The assailant, a 19-year-old member of the Islamic militant group Hamas, emptied nine ammunition clips and threw six grenades before he was shot dead by Israeli troops. Four of the teen-agers were killed while studying religious texts, and the fifth was burned to death by a grenade hurled into his dormitory. The five were slated to become army officers — likely in an elite unit.

In Jerusalem, police caught a Palestinian man carrying large amounts of explosives. Police said officers killed the man as he was about to detonate the device.

Friday saw the highest one-day death toll to date — and it capped the bloodiest week since September 2000, with 111 Palestinians and 36 Israelis killed in the past seven days. The next deadliest day was last Dec. 2, when 24 people were killed, including 15 Israelis in a suicide bombing.

Secretary of State Colin Powell phoned Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Friday, ahead of the renewed mediation mission by U.S. envoy.

Powell's spokesman issued a tough statement.

"It's important for the Israelis to think hard about their policies, think through the consequences of things like going into heavily populated areas with heavy military force. Because those consequences can be tragic," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Sharon suggested Friday that he was dropping his insistence on a week of calm before the two sides begin implementing a truce. "Negotiations to stop the shooting will be held under fire," Sharon told Israel TV's Channel Two.

Mideast envoy Anthony Zinni, who is returning to the region next week, has failed twice before, but a senior administration official said that the risks of sending the envoy now were considered less than the dangers of standing aloof.

The Israeli Cabinet was to convene Sunday to give formal approval to two U.S.-backed plans for reaching a cease-fire and resuming peace talks. The plans were drawn up last year by CIA chief George Tenet and an international commission headed by former Sen. George Mitchell.

Arafat, meanwhile, pleaded with Powell to intervene in the fighting, telling him "the United States should work immediately to stop this Israeli escalation," said Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat.

Palestinian intelligence officials said Friday they had arrested Majdi Rimawi, the fifth and final suspect that Israel had demanded be arrested in the October assassination of Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi.

Israel has said Arafat must arrest all suspects before it will lift its travel ban on the Palestinian leader, who has been confined to the West Bank town of Ramallah since December. Arafat is pushing hard to be able to attend the Arab Summit in Beirut later this month.

In Cairo, Arab foreign ministers were working on a draft for a new peace initiative to be presented to the summit, Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said.

The draft details Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah's proposal to offer peace and pan-Arab recognition if Israel withdraws from all Arab lands conquered in the 1967 Mideast war. The draft would spell out that a peace deal must be based on U.N. resolutions and that the fate of Palestinian refugees must be addressed, said Shaath.



Nasser Nasser/Associated Press
A Palestinian boy carrying a sling shot ducks to avoid rubber bullets fired by Israeli soldiers, during clashes in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Friday. In the bloodiest day of 17 months of fighting, Israel raided Palestinian towns and refugee camps with tanks and helicopter gunships, killing 34 Palestinians. On the Israeli side, five teen-agers and a soldier were killed by Palestinian gunmen.

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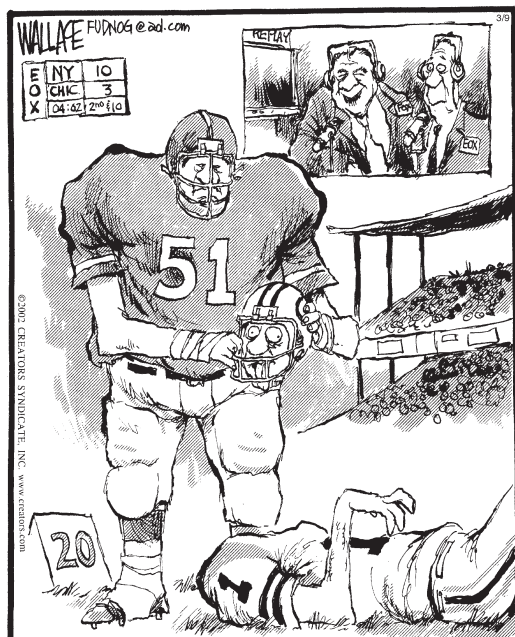
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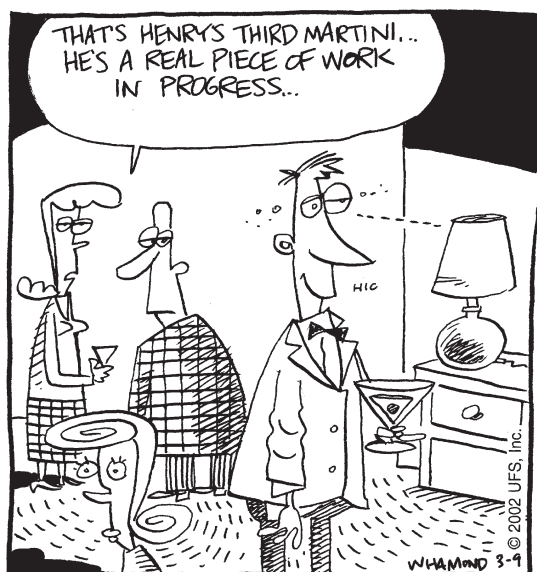
"Ooooff ... that one's gonna cost him the 15 yard face mask penalty, Pat!"

edge city

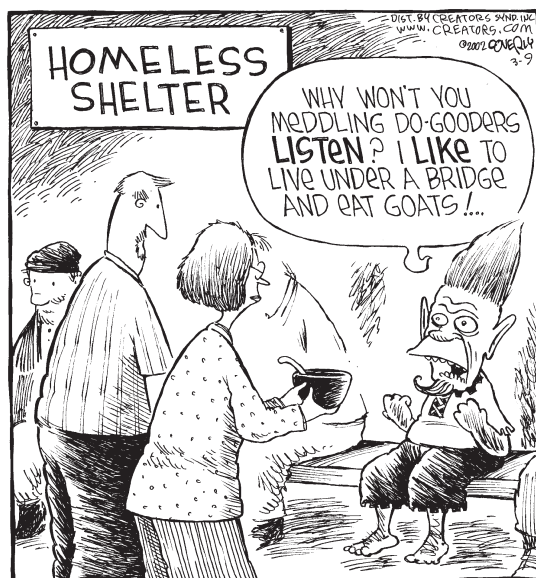
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ACROSS

- 1 Tiff
- 5 TV grouch
- 10 Procrastinator's word
- 12 Large swimmer
- 13 Maine town
- 14 Admit
- 15 Light metal
- 16 — de deux
- 18 Surfing spot
- 19 Blitz participant
- 21 Moving vehicles
- 22 Fun fantasies
- 24 Awaits
- 25 Monthly mail
- 29 Beach crawler
- 30 Clip
- 32 — up (excited)
- 33 Louis XIV, e.g.
- 34 Copy
- 35 Silly
- 37 Red Square name
- 39 Blender setting
- 40 Pollster's find
- 41 Emulated 007

42 War god

DOWN

- 1 Casino attractions
- 2 Outcast
- 3 Immediately
- 4 Decimal base
- 5 Night fliers
- 6 Haggard novel
- 7 Siesta
- 8 UFO fliers
- 9 Doesn't own
- 11 Inveigled
- 17 Erté's work
- 20 Skewered meal
- 21 Drop in on
- 23 Mended, in a way
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- 26 John Wayne film
- 27 Temporary car
- 28 Wolfish
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- 31 Cares for
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Yesterday's answer

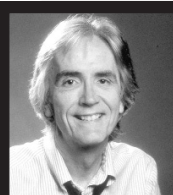
- 20 Skewered meal
- 21 Drop in on
- 23 Mended, in a way
- 25 Fiancée's agreement, for short
- 26 John Wayne film
- 27 Temporary car
- 28 Wolfish
- 29 Fish side dish
- 31 Cares for
- 33 Oboe part
- 36 Born
- 38 Historic time

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39						40			
41							42		

3-9

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Date service in Korea delivered by waiters

Now operating in Seoul are at least eight "booking clubs," in which males and females pay waiters to forcibly introduce them to each other because South Korean social rules discourage voluntary contact with strangers. According to a January Wall Street Journal report, men may pay several hundred dollars a night to demand introductions, and women pay a similar amount knowing (and preferring) that they will be physically delivered by the waiters to prospective suitors' tables.

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BACK PAGE

The 'Fro' is back; trendy hairstyle symbolizing freedom

BY MARTHA IRVINE

AP National Writer

CHICAGO — Rocker Lenny Kravitz sported one, round and full, on a recent cover of Ebony magazine. Basketball player Ben Wallace has been known to tie his up like a pineapple stalk, much to the amusement of his fans in Detroit.

The Afro, a hairstyle that shouted "black is beautiful" back in the day, is popular again. Students, young professionals and celebrities are wearing it.

For those born well after the civil rights movement, the decision to go naturally curly, and sometimes big and bold, is often more about being trendy than any big political or social statement. The trend fits right in with other popular "retro" styles from the 1960s and '70s, from bell bottoms to mutton chop sideburns.

Having an Afro can also be about self-expression, says William Humphrey, a master stylist at Loop Styles salon in suburban St. Louis. Today's Afros come in all shapes and sizes and sometimes incorporate braids, twists and beads.

"It's more of an accepted thing, but it's also kind of rebellious. It's, 'Now you're letting me do it, so I'm going to go all out with it,'" says Humphrey, who's getting more requests for Afros lately.

Several football players and even a few cheerleaders at Ferrum College in Virginia arrived at school last fall with Afros. And at a recent talk given by poet and activist Nikki Giovanni in Chicago, many young, black audience members had Afros and other hairstyles — like

braids and dreadlocks — that don't require hair to be chemically straightened.

Jennifer Coates, a 23-year-old Chicagoan, says the trend made it easier for her to get a short Afro — and finally make peace with hair that, she believes, didn't look good long and straightened.

It's a decision that is an especially big deal for black women, she says. Many spend hundreds of dollars a month to get their hair straightened and softened — a ritual that some say is a misguided attempt to fit a white "ideal" of beauty.

"We accept that our bodies don't look the same. We accept that our facial features are often different. But our hair has been a hard thing," says Coates, a marketing professional who has given talks on

images of black women in popular culture.

New Yorker Cheryl Bronson says that despite pressure from her family to blend in with straight hair, she opted last month to have about six inches of straightened hair cut off. Now she has an Afro, and says the decision has been very freeing.

"Not necessarily from societal restraints," she says, "but from my own personal hang-ups of what I should look like that were passed on to me from my family."

Even men sometimes feel the pressure.

Dante Dottin, who lives in Orange County, Calif., says he still gets grief from his wife about his Afro, but proclaims himself "happy to be nappy."

Humphrey says black people aren't the

only ones who like the style. He has white and Hispanic customers, too.

And down in Houston, Ted Beam, who is white, sports a head of curly, six-inch locks. Many of his friends call his hair an Afro, though he thinks it's more "Afro-esque."

"It's not the classic eight-ball shape," says Beam, a fourth-grade teacher and musician who wears it loud, proud — and bushy — after school and on weekends.

He tries to keep his mane slicked back at school — and has even gotten compliments on his hair from the principal.

His students aren't so kind.

"One asked if I was going to get a haircut," Beam says, chuckling. "I told him I wasn't planning on it."

Hollywood gets handbook on war, terrorism

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An industry advisory group that counsels Hollywood on responsibly handling issues such as substance abuse and auto safety has added terrorism and war to its list.

"Spotlight on a New Normal," a handbook from the Entertainment Industries Council Inc., will be distributed to more than 3,000 industry members who create and distribute films and television programs.

It includes suggestions for depicting terrorism and conditions of war. Among them: Promote preparedness for future vulnerabilities or attacks and consider story lines that promote volunteerism and flag displays in memory of terrorism victims.

The handbook was developed in response to the Sept. 11 attacks and is intended to help define the role Hollywood can

play in the war on terrorism, the council said.

"While we do not endorse or encourage government interference with the creative process, we do, however, believe that government can be a reliable resource for information that writers can draw upon for character and story line development," council president Brian Dyak said Thursday.

In the past, the EIC has worked to encourage the accurate depiction of drug, alcohol and tobacco use in movies and TV and to encourage depictions of such safety measures as seat belts in cars.

The Bush administration has asked Hollywood executives to take part in the war on terrorism by boosting the spirits of citizens and entertaining soldiers at home and abroad.

Although some in the industry have expressed uneasiness about acting as government propagandists, the White House has said it doesn't see Hollywood in that role.



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