

FREE

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 100

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

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DAILY 3

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DAILY DERBY

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3rd Place: 01, Gold Rush

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

News of the Weird has several times reported on Postal Service letter carriers who get so far behind on their routes that they believe their only way out is to destroy their many bags of backlog. In January, two Immigration and Naturalization Service supervisors in Laguna Niguel, Calif., were indicted for allegedly ordering subordinates to shred their office's 90,000-document backlog (and to continue to shred incoming paperwork so that the office kept current).



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

If you want to look young and thin, hang around old fat people.



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Boys of spring



John Wood/Daily Press

Santa Monica Angels teammates listen to guest speaker and former catcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Steve Yeager, on Saturday at the 2003 Pony Baseball League opening day ceremonies. Twenty-five teams with players aged five to 14 years old will play in this year's Santa Monica Pony League. Mayor Richard Bloom, school board President Maria Leon Vasquez, fire department President Ettore Berardinelli and Principal of Community Services Rich Rollins threw out game balls to commence the season, which will run until June 14.

Pavilions trial scheduled for next month

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A lawsuit accusing Pavilions on Montana Avenue of overcharging customers is set to go before a Malibu jury next month.

Superior Court Judge Lawrence J. Mira continued the case last week at the request of the Santa Monica city attorney's office, after denying the city's motion to exclude evidence by the defense.

Pavilions, which is owned by Vons Companies, Inc., is accused by the City of Santa Monica of charging "ValuePlus" members more at the check-out line than was advertised in the aisle.

Deputy City Attorney Eda Suh requested Friday

that Vons' attorneys be banned from arguing that customers should have read the fine print on the advertisements in question, where the discount dates were allegedly listed.

"It is unlawful to charge a price that is more than what is advertised, posted or quoted," she said. "If the store chooses to put up more than one price, the store risks having to sell the item at the lower price (whether or not it has expired)."

Vons attorneys maintained that the expiration dates were perfectly legal. They argued that shoppers could clearly read the labels and said they were only left up because Pavilions workers were

See TRIAL, page 7

Elementary music programs may be reinstated

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

School district staff last week recommended including elementary music programs in the first "bundle" of areas to be reinstated if a proposed school funding initiative passes later this year.

Board members will debate the particulars of the three bundles — which they said will serve as a "road map" for possible program reinstatements — at their March 19 meeting and make a final decision before the initiative goes to voters in June.

The local school board is facing a \$19 million reduction in state funding this year and next year, which has had a severe effect on programs and staff positions throughout the district.

Members of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District voted last month to ax next year's music instruction for fourth and fifth grade students as part of a plan to slash the district's budget by \$13.7 million for the 2003-2004 school year.

The proposed \$225 flat parcel tax — which would be levied on every property in Santa Monica and Malibu for the next six years — would generate approximately \$6.5 million annually for the beleaguered school district.

Parents, teachers and students descended on Thursday's school board meeting to plead with

board members to keep the current music programs alive and healthy.

Andrew Brown, a trumpet player from McKinley Elementary School, was one of many young students who asked the board not to cut music from his school.

"I really enjoy music," he said. "It makes me happy and my family very happy too."

Madison Feddersen France, a ninth grader at

Samohi who plays the cello and the French horn, spoke to the board on behalf of the younger musicians.

"If the children benefit from this, then why are you taking it away?" she asked. "Children are the future. If you take away the music then your future won't be so bright."

Parents and teachers who attended the meet-

See MUSIC, page 5

War of public opinion waged on Southern California streets

BY PAUL WILBORN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — As the country teeters closer to a war with Iraq, supporters and opponents of an armed Middle Eastern conflict took to the streets again Sunday in Southern California.

In East Los Angeles about 1,000 mostly Hispanic anti-war protesters marched for 2 1/2 miles along Whittier Boulevard chanting "Guerra no! Paz si!" (War, no; Peace, yes).

In Orange County, a small group of demonstrators waved signs just outside Disneyland in support of an attack on Iraq, while fans at a National Hockey League game in Anaheim signed postcards being sent to troops stationed in the Middle East.

The East Los Angeles protest, organized by Latinos against The War On Iraq, ended with a rally at Salazar Park, the site of a Chicano protest against the Vietnam War in 1970.

See WAR, page 5

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HOROSCOPE

Do long-term thinking, Scorpio

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Dealing with the basics could be overwhelming. You gain new insight into what motivates you. Don't resist the inevitability of what you're seeing. Be more honest with yourself. Pressure builds when dealing with your perspective. Tonight: Return a pal's call.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Emphasize security. In fact, it might be a perfect time to make a long-term wish list, as a major planet moves into the sector that rules your goals and friendships. The key to your success will be knowing what you want. A partner questions a decision. Tonight: Your treat.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your smile attracts many. Focus on what you want. Don't be surprised by events that head your way. The unexpected occurs when dealing with your career and parents in the next few years. You're about to be on quite the roller-coaster ride. Tonight: What would you like, my dear Twin?

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Take your time right now, especially if you feel a bit off-kilter. Revise your thinking and be open to new experiences. A major planet change will encourage you to walk in others' footsteps more often. Tonight: Consider taking that class.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Meetings and a group of friends play substantial roles in what is occurring. Avoid a risk that could impact love and/or finances. Walk a conservative path right now. A partner wants it his or her way. Tonight: Go for what you want.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You might very well be in a pressure cooker, whether you like it or not. Others have as distinct ideas as they want. Allow a loved one or those close to you more space in the next few months. You will create many of your desires using the back path. Tonight: Work late.

♏ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Your work situation might dramatically change in the next few years. With all the high energy that surrounds you, stress could develop into an issue. Start practicing better health habits before a problem arrives. Tonight: Do a lot of long-term thinking.

♐ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Relate on a one-on-one level, especially with your creativity peaking. Pressure builds with finances. Someone might be pushing you beyond your financial abilities. Don't negotiate here. Simply say "no." Tonight: Talk to a trusted loved one.

♑ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Don't push beyond your limits right now. Deal with the basics first, and don't push everyone away. People do care about how you feel. You might decide that you need some profound changes in your life. Think before acting. You have time on your side. Tonight: Let others make offers.

♒ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Get into work, not letting others push your buttons. Your understanding of a neighbor or associate might not be exact. Consider the possibility that someone is transforming right before your eyes. Tonight: Off to the gym.

♓ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You suddenly experience a breath of fresh air running through your life. Your ruling planet, Uranus, moves out of your sign after seven years of excitement and change. Use special caution with risk-taking right now. A love relationship could be more unstable than you're aware of. Tonight: Play as if it is Friday.

♈ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Be more sensitive to a roommate or family member. Your ability to adjust and flex becomes even stronger. Excitement surrounds work and/or a key relationship. Your intuition takes the lead. Deal with others on a more open level. Tonight: At home.

Correction - Because of an editing error, the subject line on the e-mail edition of Saturday's Daily Press was wrong. Criminal charges have not been filed against Santa Monica City Councilman Mike Feinstein.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Release urged for kidnapped volunteer

By Daily Press staff

Doctors Without Borders will hold a public celebration today on the Third Street Promenade honoring the birthday of one of its volunteers who was kidnapped more than six months ago.

Arjan Erkel was kidnapped Aug. 12, 2002 while volunteering on one of the organization’s aid programs in Dagestan, a republic of the Russian Federation.

Neither Doctors Without Borders nor Erkel’s family have received any information since then as to why he was kidnapped, who took him or where he is being held.

Today, friends and colleagues in more than 80 countries around the world will celebrate Erkel’s 33rd birthday and call for his release. Also, Doctors Without Borders will gather signatures on a petition calling for Russian and Dagestani authorities to give his abduction a higher priority.

The event will take place today on the Promenade from noon to 2 p.m., between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue, near the old Midnight Special Bookstore.

For more information, call 310-399-0049.

Fire department offers disaster training

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Fire Department is offering a day-long course to residents on what do in the event of a disaster.

The course — which is free — is designed to provide citizens with the skills to save themselves, their loved ones, neighbors and co-workers in the event of an emergency, according to a press release.

The course will include training in light search and rescue techniques, shutting off utility connections, rescuer safety, disaster first aid and use of fire extinguishers.

The course will take place on April 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is open to all adults who live or work in the City of Santa Monica. Pre-registration is highly recommended for those interested in attending.

Call 310-458-2221 to enroll.

The Q-Line

With the news dominated by the looming war with Iraq and severe budget problems affecting local Santa Monica schools, other important issues inevitably become lost in the shuffle.

So, this week, Q-Line wants to know: **What issues here in Santa Monica — other than war and school district budget woes — are you concerned about?**

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

CHECK OUT YOUR ASTROLOGICAL FORECAST!

HOROSCOPES. PAGE 2



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On Tuesday, the NW swell will increase and bring chest-to-shoulder-high sets on west-facing breaks and more consistency in the waves.

Bacteria levels are back to normal levels and expected to stay that way until the next rainstorm, which may arrive as soon as the end of the week. Water temperatures are around 60 degrees.

Today's Tides:

Low	9:36 am	1.2'
High	11:26 am	3.6'
Low	5:07 pm	1.5'
High	12:53 pm	4.2'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4' fair	4-5' good	A
Zuma	2-3' fair	3-4' good	A
Surfrider	2-3' fair	2-3' fair	A
Topanga	3-4' fair	3-4' good	A
Breakwater	2-3' fair	3-4' good	A
El Porto	3-4' fair	4-5' good	A

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OPINION

LETTERS

‘Don’t you know how it works?’

Editor:
It's just really sad to see how vengeful and jealous Green Party insiders have coaxed a tiny little spark into a conflagration to destroy Michael Feinstein's long record of public service over this \$10,000 check.
I can believe Feinstein may not have kept good records. I can believe he was over-zealous in pushing the Green agenda in Santa Monica. Michael Feinstein a common criminal, guilty of embezzlement? You'll never convince me.
Come on, people. See this for what it is. It's nasty infighting and behind-the-scenes Green Party maneuvering to knock out a public-spirited citizen of true accomplishment. Don't you know how it works?

Mar Preston
Santa Monica

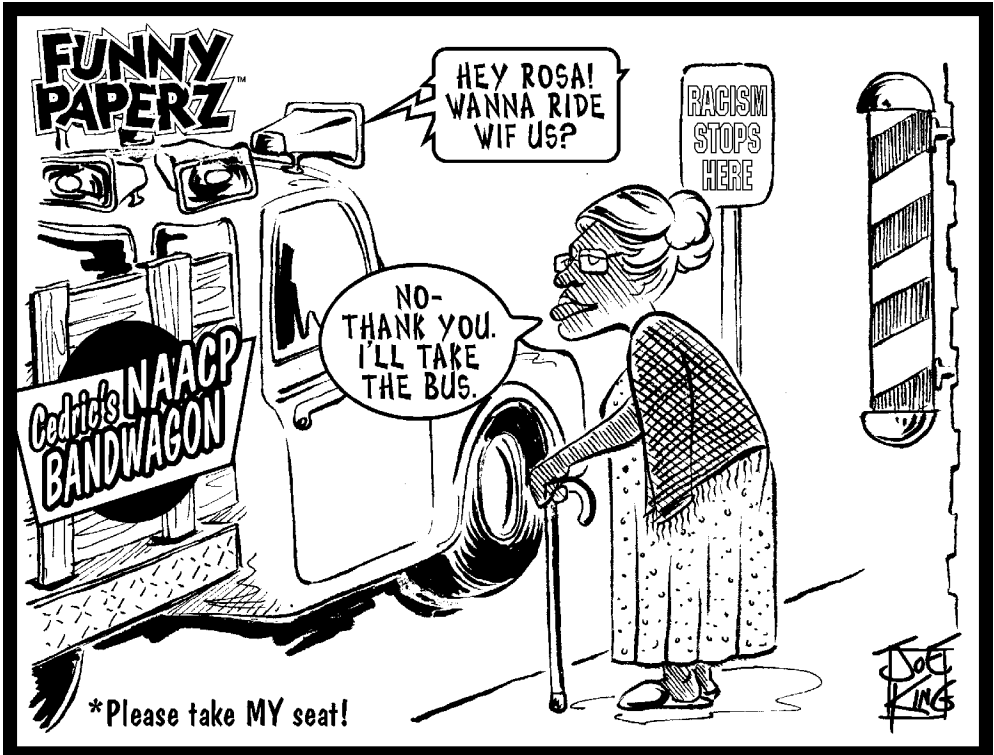
Prop. A argument ‘beside the point’

Editor:
Ken Breisch apparently believes that Proposition A should be opposed because the United States Supreme Court upheld the validity of New York City's landmarks ordinance in the 1978 case of Penn Central Transportation v. New York City (SMDP letters, March 8). Ken's argument is, however, entirely beside the point.
First, just because the Supreme Court has upheld the validity of a law doesn't meant the decision, or the law, is right — remember “separate but equal” in Plessy v. Ferguson?
Second, Ken should remember that Penn Central dealt with a commercial building — Grand Central Station in New York — not with individual homes. And the New York ordinance, unlike Santa Monica's, included a method of compensating the landowner for the value of what was lost as a result of the landmark status.
Third, and most importantly, the campaign to pass Proposition A has nothing to do with the constitutionality, or lack of same, of the city's landmarks ordinance — it has to do with its lack of basic fairness.
I do not believe I have a right to tell my neighbors that they must leave their homes the way they are simply because I think they have such historical or architectural significance that they should be preserved. And because I don't think I should have that power, I don't think I have the right to give the city bureaucracy that same power.
I have no quarrel with the notion that historic preservation programs, when properly administered, can enhance the community's quality of life. I just don't think I have the right to enhance my quality of life over the backs of my neighbors by subjecting them to restrictions not applicable to all of us.

Tom Larmore
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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Understanding what it’s like to be divided, conquered



What is understanding?
Is it simply a word we use to console someone who has troubles in their life? Is it a word we throw around during conversations to identify with the speaker? When someone tells me they understand, I usually think that this person is showing compassion.
In fact I truly believe that when one understands another's problems and the causes for these problems, it breeds compassion. When people say they understand homelessness and its causes I know that that person is compassionate to some

degree. I know that person has or at least can put themselves in my or any homeless person's shoes and see the struggle that is there. It also has more to do with knowledge of the situation either through education or personal experience.
I feel very strongly that people should really look at the causes of homelessness before they try to label a homeless person as being not worth anything in life. You are seeing it right now in what the government and big business is doing here in Santa Monica, as well as the state and the nation. They really don't want you to see the causes of this national dilemma.
They want you to focus on the bad parts of the homeless population — the urinating in doorways, the drug and alcohol abuse and the wild bunch who aggressively panhandle. Yet, more than a few of us would not be homeless if it were not for the downsizings, the government opening the doors of the mental institutions, the huge cuts in the funding of the V.A. system and the lack of watch dogs for the

homeless shelters, where your money is spent to “help” us move into housing.
You seem to feel that all the politicians tell the whole truth and the homeless agencies function perfectly and none of these agencies make mistakes. And if they do make mistakes, do you think they are going to let you know when they rely on your naiveté for votes and donations?
Look around you at what is happening now with the education system. Our own children are being pushed aside so the national government can fund a war, the state can sleep with special interests and the local government can keep developing and raising rent. The funny thing is, it all started at THE BOTTOM. With the homeless and the poor. And it is now working its way up to affect ANYONE who is seeking an education.
The prevailing attitude is this: Education, along with food, shelter, clothing, power and basically ALL that is needed to sustain LIFE. It is being sold to you at higher and higher and higher prices,

while the economy is blatantly being ignored and keeps degenerating. Now this “attack” is coming right into your very middle class lives. Now you will understand what it is like to be divided and conquered. With Proposition A and Proposition Z and Proposition H and who is right and who is wrong for your neighborhood's welfare.
Meanwhile the out of towners who helped to create this development BOOM in Santa Monica, force the REAL locals out so they can gobble up the property for their own selfish interests. I have watched this happen for the past six going on seven years. I have no television to keep me occupied so I watch REAL “reality based” television. I watch the signs that I see and not just the “For Rent” signs.

(Charles Springer is homeless in Santa Monica.)

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

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

LOCAL



Parcel tax is the key to return of music program

MUSIC, from page 1

ing pointed to similar elementary school music cuts in the Redlands, Calif., school district and said the middle and high school music programs suffered drastically because of them.

Others attributed higher test scores among musician students to the programs and reminded the board that musical aptitude is set by age nine.

Still others argued on behalf of music for music's sake, saying it held an intrinsic value as a "language of it's own."

Zena Joseph, the volunteer chair of the district's Fine Arts Committee lauded the board's decision to consider including music in the first bundle.

"We're concerned about the cuts but we're encouraged that we see four of the eliminated (music) areas in the first bundle," she said. "We're really hoping the parcel initiative will pass in June so we can see those music programs back, as well as other important programs (district wide)."

Tom Whaley, fine arts coordinator for the district, said he was glad to see his position included in the first bundle, but even happier that the district came out in support of music for elementary students.

"The music program gives all kids the opportunity to progress," he said.

If the district receives the \$3.5 million in additional revenue it is requesting from the City of Santa Monica and the City of Malibu, the board will reinstate a second bundle of previously cut positions and programs.

A third bundle proposed by district staff includes items that will be reinstated when the school board finds additional funding sources. School officials are currently exploring several avenues for generating more money.

Here is a breakdown of the district's proposed bundles, as of last week.

■ First bundle: 21 elementary teachers, two elementary assistant principals, one elementary principal, 20 middle school teachers, 25 high school teachers, two nurses, six and two-thirds music teachers, five and one-fifth music aides, the district's fine arts coordinator, six grounds keepers, six administrative assistants, two computer service workers, two personnel workers and one career center specialist.

■ Second bundle: Two educational services administrative positions, three and one-fifth nurses, nine elementary library coordinators, one and two-fifths middle school library assistants, two high school library assistants, 10.88 physical education aides and specialists, one health coordinator, three computer lab technicians, one and nine-tenths classroom aides, 10 grounds keepers, nine administrative assistants, four computer service workers, two personnel positions, one personnel commission office, one fiscal services officer, one textbook coordinator, and one-quarter of a superintendent's office.

■ Third bundle: One educational services administrator, one classified personnel director, seven and one-third athletic supporter positions, three grounds keepers, three administrative assistants, two purchasing positions, one-quarter of a cafeteria position and 24 special services and independent contractor contracts that total \$1 million.

All of the above cuts — and more — have been approved for the 2003-2004 school year. Only if additional funding becomes available will these positions and programs be reinstated.

Pro and anti-war feelings on display in Southland

WAR, from page 1

Henry Gutierrez, 54, who attended the 1970 Chicano moratorium, which drew tens of thousands of protesters, also marched in Sunday's protest.

"If we go to war, Hispanics in particular are going to suffer," said Gutierrez. "It will mean cuts in public transportation, health care and education. Those are things we depend on."

Cristal Ramirez, 11, joined the protest along with other members of the Chicano Heritage Club at El Sereno Middle School.

"I did it because I don't want my loved ones to go to war," she said. "I worry what war will do to innocent children over there."

Adrian Garcia, an elementary school teacher, said the growing anti-war movement is attracting more Hispanics and immigrants.

"Everyone is feeling more confident coming out to protest because they know they aren't just an isolated voice," Garcia said.

For the second Sunday in a row, fans of the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim signed postcards with a picture of the American flag on one side and the words "USA" and "FREEDOM" on the other side prior to a 1 p.m. game with Detroit. The postcards will be mailed to troops stationed in the Middle East.

Charles Harris, a Mighty Ducks spokesman, said the team wanted to let fans "take an active role in letting our troops know we care."

Outside of Disneyland early Sunday, a small crowd of demonstrators waved signs, many of them painted red, white and blue, in support of the Bush administration policy toward Iraq.

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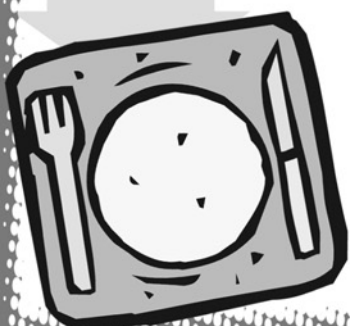
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Gas prices in west drive up nationwide average

By The Associated Press

CAMARILLO — Gasoline supply problems in California contributed to a 5 cent per gallon increase in the average price at the pump over the past two weeks, an industry analyst said.

The average weighted price for gas, including all grades and taxes, was about \$1.75 per gallon Friday, according to the Lundberg Survey of 8,000 stations nationwide. That price is within 2 cents of \$1.77, the all-time high recorded by the survey on May 18, 2001.

But that doesn't mean consumers nationwide were paying such high prices. Some parts of the country enjoyed relative price stability, while California's pump prices jumped almost 14 cents between Feb. 21 and March 7, Trilby Lundberg said.

"The increase of just over a nickel in the U.S. average is nearly entirely due to California refineries switching over to corn-based additives," Lundberg said.

California is phasing out the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, an additive that is blamed for polluting drinking water after it leaked from storage tanks. Some refineries are beginning to replace it with ethanol, a corn-based fuel

additive that is more expensive but better for the environment, Lundberg said.

That change has temporarily cut the state's gasoline supply by 10 percent and helped drive up prices, Lundberg said.

Federal law requires gasoline to contain a 2 percent oxygen additive — such as MTBE or ethanol — to cut down on air pollution.

In some U.S. cities, including Atlanta, Birmingham, Ala., Boston, Dallas and New Orleans, pump prices remained steady or dropped a few cents over the past two weeks, Lundberg said.

The nation's highest price for self-serve regular gasoline was in San Francisco, where drivers were paying \$2.10 per gallon. The lowest price was in Atlanta, where a gallon of self-serve regular cost about \$1.51, according to the survey.

Gasoline prices are likely to remain high until the international crisis over Iraq is settled, Lundberg said.

"While some of the upward pressure on prices is easing, war jitters in the Middle East are keeping crude oil prices high," Lundberg said.

The national weighted average price of gasoline, including taxes, at self-serve pumps Friday was about \$1.72 per gallon for regular, \$1.82 for mid-grade and \$1.90 for premium.

Report: Private contributors paying for LAPD consultants

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police Chief William Bratton has turned to private contributors to raise \$1.6 million to pay for his hand-picked consultants to reorganize the LAPD, it was reported Sunday.

Bratton, who took office in October, is using the nonprofit Los Angeles Police Foundation — founded by his predecessor to fund youth, community and other police support efforts — to finance the mostly East Coast-based consultants, the Daily News of Los Angeles reported.

He said the department's budget doesn't have the money to pay for the expertise he needs.

Bratton defended calling on some of the city's wealthiest individuals to pay for the consultants as a way to reorganize the LAPD quickly without hearings and bidding procedures that could delay change.

But some experts said the approach could undermine open government safeguards.

"The problem with this is it circumvents all the protections in the city charter and codes in regard to contracting," said University of Southern California law professor Erwin Chemerinsky. "I think Bratton is well-intentioned, but I'm very concerned about his use of the private foundation to circumvent the usual way of contracting."

Bratton dismissed concerns, saying the nonprofit foundation's board, the Police Commission and some members of the council were "intimately aware" of his plan.

"I'm very comfortable with it. My interest is getting the city safer than it's been," Bratton said.

Former Chief Bernard Parks, a newly elected city councilman, said the foundation he created was not meant to pay for personnel.

"The intent of the foundation was for a couple of specific things: safety equipment for police officers and to help fund

our youth and community relations program," Parks said. "If they're using it for consultants for the Police Department, from my judgment, they're going well outside the scope of the intent."

Foundation President Karen Wagener said the nonprofit made an initial grant of \$125,000 from existing funds for consultants, and so far has raised \$300,000 of the \$1.6 million it hopes to get from major donors. The foundation's board approved both grants.

Wagener said the use of foundation funds for consultants was vetted by city lawyers and administrators and police fiscal officials.

"I dotted all the i's and crossed all the t's before we did anything. A lot of people know about it and went through the process to make sure it's kosher," Wagener said.

"My experience with donors, all they care about is that we're helping the cops," she said.

The foundation's board members are some of the city's wealthiest individuals, including Jerrold Perenchio, chairman and chief executive of Univision; Ron Burkle, supermarket mogul and head of The Yucaipa Companies; and Bert Boeckmann, president of Galpin Motors in North Hills.

The fund-raising drive for the consultants has also drawn contributions from billionaire Eli Broad and Casey Wasserman, grandson of the late movie mogul Lew Wasserman and owner of the Avengers arena football team, the paper reported.

The consultants who have been hired include Linder & Associates Inc., PSComm, Harnett Associates, Athena Yerganian and Joan Brody. Bratton said they were coming up with strategies to cut crime, change the department's culture, communicate with minority communities and reduce the city's "horrific" murder rates.



Zeta-Jones, Walken win SAG honors for roles

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Crime paid at the Screen Actors Guild awards on Sunday, as supporting actor honors went to Catherine Zeta-Jones for playing a jazz-singing murderess in “Chicago” and Christopher Walken won for playing the father of a smooth con artist in “Catch Me If You Can.”

Zeta-Jones said the extensive dance numbers in the film resulted in her and her co-stars being “bruised and iced frequently. If I wasn’t pregnant I’d do it all over again, I promise you,” she added. Her second child with husband Michael Douglas is due in April.

Zeta-Jones’ competition in the category included “Chicago” co-star Queen Latifah, who played a prison matron.

Walken thanked the audience of mainly actors for honoring his work. “I love all of us. We are family and I hope we all work together soon,” Walken said.

Walken, Latifah and Zeta-Jones are also nominated in the supporting actor class at the upcoming Academy Awards, set for March 23.

“Chicago” also had Screen Actors Guild nominations for best ensemble, and stars Renee Zellweger and Richard Gere were nominated in the lead actor category.

The Screen Actors Guild Awards is the last of Hollywood’s major self-congratulatory events before the Oscars, where “Chicago” also leads nominees with 13 bids, including best picture.

Since the guild ceremony only recognizes performances, its ensemble category is regarded as the equivalent of a best-picture prize. In addition to “Chicago,” other films competing for that honor were the fantasy epic “The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers,” the surprise blockbuster “My Big Fat Greek Wedding,” the suicide drama “The Hours,” and the offbeat screenwriting comedy “Adaptation.”

Along with Zellweger, the best actress contenders were Nicole Kidman for playing Virginia Woolf in “The Hours,” Julianne Moore for playing a frustrated 1950s housewife, Salma Hayek for “Frida,” a film biography of painter Frida Kahlo, and Diane Lane for the adultery

thriller “Unfaithful.”

Besides Gere, the remaining best actor nominees were Nicolas Cage for the screenwriting comedy “Adaptation,” Adrien Brody for the Holocaust drama “The Pianist,” Daniel Day-Lewis for the 1860s epic “Gangs of New York” and Jack Nicholson for the downbeat comedy “About Schmidt.”

“I love all of us. We are family and I hope we all work together soon.”

— CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
To fellow actors in the audience

Nominees for best TV dramatic ensemble were “24,” “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,” “Six Feet Under,” “The Sopranos” and “The West Wing.”

TV comedy ensemble picks were “Everybody Loves Raymond,” “Frasier,” “Friends,” “Sex and the City” and “Will & Grace.”

Nominations are chosen by 4,200 randomly selected members of the union. The guild’s full membership of 98,000 was eligible to vote for final winners.

The program for the show, televised live on TNT, also featured a lifetime achievement award for Clint Eastwood, who made his breakthrough on the 1959 TV series “Rawhide” and became a film star playing mysterious gunslingers in Westerns such as “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly,” (1966) and the rogue cop in the “Dirty Harry” movies.

Since 1971, he has directed 24 films and starred in most of them, including “Pale Rider,” (1985) “The Bridges of Madison County” (1995) and “Unforgiven,” (1992), which won Academy Awards for best picture and director.

Lawsuits pending in other Southern California cities

TRIAL, from page 1

too busy to take them down.

“There were sales tags adjacent (to the items), but they had expiration dates clearly visible,” attorney Fred DiBernardo said. “(The city attorney) basically wants to pretend that that date doesn’t exist on the sign.”

Mira denied Suh’s motion, ruling that Vons is able to present the evidence in question to jurors.

Suh then asked the court for the extension. Suh said she hopes to win an appeal on the denied motion before the case goes to trial next month.

Vons currently faces similar lawsuits in the cities of Ventura, Pasadena and Van Nuys.

Santa Monica filed criminal charges after an Oct. 31, 2001 investigation by the

Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures revealed that six of the 20 items selected were incorrectly scanned, resulting in overcharges.

During the investigation, an official chose items that were advertised as on sale, but the offer had expired between one and three days prior, Suh said.

Pavilions’ policy is that a customer can get a refund if he or she realizes they paid for an item that was not on sale thinking it was. However, bottles of wine can’t be returned, according to state law.

Vons Companies, Inc. is charged with six counts of violating the business and professions code for charging higher than the posted price on sale items. Vons also is charged with one count of violating of the business and professions code for disseminating false and misleading advertisements.

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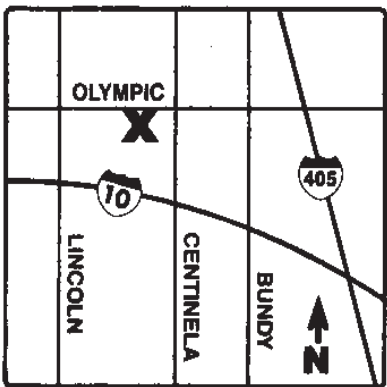
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Santa Monica Daily Press



NATIONAL

Clinton on '60 Minutes:' tax cut is bad economics

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Clinton, in his first televised mini-debate with Republican Bob Dole on Sunday, said that a tax cut at a time that war is looming in Iraq is “bad economics.”

Dole, Clinton’s opponent in the 1996 presidential election, said the Bush administration has launched a global war to protect the American way of life, “which means, among other things, the freedom to save or invest our own money.”

The retired politicians have agreed to revive the “Point-Counterpoint” segment on “60 Minutes,” television’s most popular newsmagazine.

In the two-minute debate, the two will face off on a subject of their own choosing. Sunday’s segment was the first, and Clinton chose to talk about his successor’s proposed tax cut; Dole gets to choose the next segment.

Clinton said a conflict with Iraq and the subsequent rebuilding will cost many billions of dollars when the country is at a deficit.

“Now when we’re cutting back on everything from homeland security to education and with Iraq still to pay for, your

party wants another big tax cut,” Clinton said. “Never before have we had a big tax cut in times of national crisis. Lincoln didn’t. FDR didn’t. With over 200,000 young Americans in the Persian Gulf, we shouldn’t. It’s wrong and it’s bad economics.”

Dole responded that it didn’t have to be one or the other.

“For President Bush to practice the economics of “either/or” would not only invite political attack from your friends who want his job, it would risk winning the battle and losing the war,” the former Senate majority leader said.

After their initial 45-second segments, both politicians were given 15 more seconds to make another point.

“Leadership is about choosing,” Clinton said. “So let’s give up our tax cut.”

No way, said Dole, arguing that many of the nation’s economic problems could be traced to an economic hangover from the roaring ’90s.

“The Bush tax cut has barely kicked in,” Dole said. “But I’ll tell you what. I’ll gladly donate my tax cut to a worthy charity, if you will. Maybe even to the Clinton library.”

Texas set for 300th execution since revival of death penalty

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press Writer

LIVINGSTON, Texas — Convicted killer Delma Banks could become a historical footnote Wednesday, when he is scheduled to die in what would be Texas’ 300th execution since the state resumed capital punishment in 1982.

So far this year, Texas has put nine men to death, setting the state on a pace to break its one-year record of 40 executions, in 2000. Last year, 33 inmates died by lethal injection.

“It’s not shocking any more,” said Michael Dewayne Johnson, who was scheduled to be No. 300 until he and another death row inmate got temporary reprieves last month. He was condemned for killing a gas station attendant near Waco in 1995.

“Most people don’t even know unless they’re involved. There’s just a vague mention of it in the paper,” he said.

The Texas total is more than one-third of all the executions in the nation since 1976, when a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court allowed states to resume capital punishment.

Over that period, the pace of executions in Texas has accelerated.

Almost 13 years passed between Charlie Brooks, execution No. 1 and Harold Lane, No. 100, in 1995. It took less than five years for Texas to get to No. 200, Earl Heiselbetz, in January 2000.

Now it will be just over three years to reach the 300th execution, if not Banks — sentenced in 1980 for killing a 16-year-old and stealing his car — then almost certainly one of 10 other convicts on the current execution schedule.

The faster pace is fueled mostly by changes in appeals procedures since the mid-1990s that have imposed stricter deadlines on court filings and allow appeals to be considered simultaneously in state and federal courts.

Also, as the death penalty has survived

court challenges, fewer areas of appeal are left.

When the Supreme Court opens a new door to avoiding the death penalty — such as last year’s ruling barring execution of mentally retarded inmates — prisoners swarm to it.

Sometimes it works. Gregory Van Alstyne, scheduled to be No. 298, received a reprieve last month by asserting he is mentally retarded.

Sometimes it doesn’t. Richard Head Williams instead became No. 298 on Feb. 25 after unsuccessfully raising the same claim, among others.

Capital punishment has been undergoing closer scrutiny nationwide as recent studies have questioned the fairness of the process and new technology, such as DNA testing, has revealed its errors.

Former Illinois Gov. George Ryan issued a blanket commutation of sentences for the nearly 170 inmates of Illinois’ death row. In that state, 13 men who had been condemned to death after 1977 were later exonerated.

In Texas, the scrutiny has focused on cases like that of Calvin Burdine, who was condemned by a Houston jury for the 1983 murder of his gay lover. A federal judge threw out the conviction and ordered a new trial because Burdine’s court-appointed lawyer slept during parts of his trial.

Banks has argued that his court-appointed trial attorney didn’t present adequate evidence to keep him off death row, but the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said there was other evidence to support the jury’s decision.

Texas also has come under fire for executing foreign nationals who weren’t allowed to contact their consulates for legal assistance, a violation of international agreements, execution foes say. Prosecutors say murder in Texas makes foreigners subject to Texas law.

NATIONAL



Children viewing TV violence linked to aggression

BY MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

Both boys and girls who watch a lot of violence on television have a heightened risk of aggressive adult behavior including spouse abuse and criminal offenses, no matter how they act in childhood, a new study says.

While the results may not be surprising, experts say the study is important because it included hundreds of participants and showed the effect in females as well as males.

The participants were interviewed at ages 6 to 9 and again in their early 20s, making the study one of the few to follow children into adulthood to gauge the long-term effects of televised violence.

The findings are presented in the March issue of the journal Developmental Psychology by psychologists L. Rowell Huesmann and colleagues at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

Huesmann said televised violence suggests to young children that aggression is appropriate in some situations, especially when it is used by charismatic heroes. It also erodes a natural aversion to violence, he said.

He recommended that parents restrict viewing of violent TV and movies by young children and preteens as much as possible.

The analysis argued against the idea that aggressive children seek out TV violence, or that the findings were due to the participants' socioeconomic status or intelligence, or their parents' childrearing practices.

The study involved 329 adults who were initially surveyed as children in the late 1970s. Researchers interviewed them again as adults, along with their spouses or friends, and checked crime records.

As children, the participants were rated for exposure to televised violence after they chose eight favorite shows from 80 popular programs for their age group and indicated how often they watched them. The programs were assessed by researchers for amount of physical violence. Programs such as "Starsky and Hutch," "The Six Million Dollar Man" and Roadrunner cartoons were deemed very violent.

As young adults, men in the study who had scored in the top 20 percent on childhood exposure were about twice as likely as other men to have pushed, grabbed or shoved their wives during an argument in the year preceding the interview. Women who had scored in the top 20 percent were about twice as likely as other women to have thrown something at their husbands.

For one or both sexes, these "high TV-violence viewers" were also more likely than other study participants in the previous 12 months to have shoved somebody in anger; punched, beaten or choked an adult, or committed

a crime or a moving traffic violation.

Along with viewing of violent TV, the participants had been asked as children how much they identified with violent TV characters and how realistic they judged various violent TV shows to be.

Researchers found that high ratings on any of the three childhood measures predicted higher ratings of overall aggression in adulthood. It made no difference how aggressive the participants had been as children.

Dennis Wharton, spokesman for the National Association of Broadcasters, said not all studies find a relationship between TV viewing and violent behavior. "I think the jury is still out about whether there is a link," he said.

The American Psychological Association, however, has concluded that viewing violence on TV or other mass media does promote aggressive behavior, particularly in children. Other mental-health and medical groups have taken similar stands.

Germ resistant to antibiotics are becoming more common in U.S.

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Drug-resistant germs are on the rise in the United States and experts predict a sharp jump in the strains of a dangerous form of strep that can overcome two common antibiotics.

By the summer of 2004, as many as 40 percent of the strains of Streptococcus pneumoniae could be resistant to both penicillin and erythromycin, researchers warn. That form of strep causes thousands of cases of meningitis, sinusitis, ear infections and pneumonia every year.

Researchers based at the Harvard School of Public Health studied reports from sites in eight states, measuring how common the drug resistance was in 1996 and how it increased by 1999.

Penicillin resistance rose from 21.7 percent of strep strains in 1996 to 26.6 percent in 1999, and for erythromycin it increased from 10.8 percent to 20.2 percent, the team reports in a paper appearing in Monday's online edition of the journal Nature Medicine.

The report provides further support for arguments against unnecessary antibiotic use, said Marc Lipsitch, one of the researchers.

For years, public health experts have warned that overuse of antibiotics — often when they are not needed — is leading to more and more drug-resistant bacteria.

For example, many people demand antibiotics when they have a cold, even though colds are caused by viruses, which are not affected by antibiotics.

Just last month the Food and Drug Administration announced plans to require a new warning on antibiotics,

pointing out that overusing them makes them less effective.

Doctors must be sure a patient is suffering a bacterial infection, not a virus with similar symptoms, before prescribing antibiotics, the warnings say. The government estimates that half of the 100 million antibiotic prescriptions written in physician offices each year are unnecessary.

The new research "puts it on the doctor's plate," said Dr. Donald Low of Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. "Can we change the future? Yes, there are things we can do, but can we do them quickly enough?"

Doctors need to make the decision to use antibiotics the right way, in the proper dose, he said, and to encourage vaccination, which reduces illness and thus the need for antibiotics.

Vaccines against that form of strep are recommended for infants and older persons, the two groups most likely to get the infection.

Germ resistant to just one of the antibiotics can still be killed by the other, so the researchers project either a slow growth or a decline for these bacteria.

But using a new statistical formula that takes into account how the bacteria are transmitted, the researchers forecast rapid growth for strains of S. pneumoniae that are resistant to both of the antibiotics, reaching 40.6 percent by the summer of 2004. That's up from just 8.6 percent in 1996.

"That's a bit of a chilling message," said Low, who was not part of the research team. "Within a year and a half, we'll know whether they're right or wrong," he said. If the technique works, it will be a valuable tool in the future, he added.

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INTERNATIONAL

Violence mars elections in largest Mexican state

BY SANDRA NOTARIO

Associated Press Writer

SAN SALVADOR ATENCO, Mexico — Protesters wearing ski masks and waving machetes demolished voting booths and fought with authorities Sunday during municipal elections in Mexico’s largest state.

More than 8 million voters were choosing 124 mayors and 45 lawmakers in the

state that borders Mexico City. The vote comes four months before congressional elections that could determine the success of President Vicente Fox’s administration, which has struggled during its first three years against hostile lawmakers.

Though polls opened without incident in most of Mexico state, elections never got started in the city of San Salvador Atenco.

A group of 300 farmers, anarchists and

students ripped apart all three voting booths. Fights broke out when election officials tried to keep protesters from stealing and burning ballots.

There were no reports of serious injuries.

“We are right and we have the force of the people behind us,” said farming leader Ignacio Del Valle, who addressed a group of protesters who fired a cannon to celebrate the destruction of the voting booths.

Located just outside the Mexican capital, officials had planned to expropriate farmland in Atenco for the construction of a new Mexico City airport. Fox scrapped the idea in July, after hundreds of farmers took several police officials hostage for four days.

There has been no government presence in Atenco since the hostage standoff,

and authorities only circled the area in police helicopters Sunday.

The protests left the town deeply divided and saw many residents head to other areas to vote. In neighboring San Francisco Acuixcomic, locals formed a human chain to protect voting booths, but protesters eventually stormed the village and destroyed all voting materials.

“People here want to vote but these radicals won’t let them,” said Atenco resident Maria Janez, who said she was shoved when she tried to enter a voting booth. “Atenco is peaceful. Most of its people don’t agree with what’s happening.”

Experts are expecting a tight race between the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, and Fox’s National Action Party. Many also expect a strong showing from the leftist Democratic Revolution Party.

Before war, Kuwait begins preparing for postwar boom

BY RAVI NESSMAN

Associated Press Writer

KUWAIT CITY — The prospect of war in Iraq has cast a pall over most of the Arab world. But here in frontline Kuwait, it has fueled a roaring stock market, with businessmen dreaming of a postwar boom.

As war between U.S.-led forces and neighboring Iraq draws near, Kuwaiti businessmen are confident that the United States will remove Saddam Hussein swiftly and painlessly — and open the door for lucrative commercial deals.

Cement and construction companies are planning to help rebuild Iraq from the devastation of a third war in two decades. Banks hope a new, friendly government in its northern neighbor will need massive loans to fund a rebirth. Food wholesalers are getting ready to feed hungry Iraqis.

Mobile phone networks, insurance firms, transportation companies — nearly everyone here has fantasies of a post-Saddam golden age in Kuwait.

“When that regime goes, everything will be prosperity,” said Saleh al-Saleh, a 49-year-old stock trader.

The stock exchange’s trading hall, a three story room ringed by digital boards and electric tickers showing rising stock prices in Arabic numbers, was infused Sunday with the combined murmur of hundreds of chatting traders and the percussive clack, clack, clack of their swinging worry beads.

The traders — all men — wore brown and gray robes and white headscarves as they milled about, speaking into their cellular phones or sitting in plump leather chairs drinking coffee delivered by a team of waiters.

Since the possibility of a U.S.-led war against Iraq became serious — and Kuwait was designated the launch pad for the attack — the stock exchange has soared.

At the end of October, the exchange’s index was 2,060. On Sunday, it closed nearly 30 percent higher at 2,642.

Aside from a brief bull market in 1996 and 1997, when many Kuwaiti companies were privatized, the market here has not been this strong since 1979, just before the eight-year Iran-Iraq War began.

The regional instability that conflict caused made many investors wary. It got far worse after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and took over the whole country in a matter of hours.

When Saddam’s forces were driven out seven months later, he left Kuwait’s oil wells in flames and its economy in tatters.

The exchange itself shut down after Saddam invaded and only reopened on Sept. 28, 1992, more than a year and a half after Iraqi troops were pushed out.

Saddam’s continued grip on power in Iraq and his almost routine threats to invade have pushed many Kuwaitis to invest their money abroad, where it might be safer.

“We’ve been living in fear for the last 12 years. Saddam is not a very good neighbor and we know he’s got bad ambitions about Kuwait,” said Wafa Mohamed al-Rasheed, an official at the stock exchange.

While most of the Arab world is dreading a war because of the potential for economic and social upheaval, many Kuwaitis feel that with Saddam gone, Iraq and Kuwait could restore their once-deep economic ties: Iraq used to export dates and water to Kuwait, while this tiny desert emirate’s large port served as a transit point for imports headed to Iraq.

Kuwait, with its 2.1 million people, could use its northern neighbor of 26 million people to diversify its oil-based economy, strengthen its industries and perhaps reclaim its role as a regional trading hub, analysts and traders said.

Kuwait is not “looking forward to destroying Iraq so we can rebuild it and benefit from that,” said Abdul Mohsen al-Hunaif, Kuwait’s undersecretary of finance.

But the dividends of “regime change” will surely be huge, he said.

“If there is stability there and security, this will benefit not only Kuwait and the Emirates and the Gulf, but everyone in the whole area,” he said.

War also could have disadvantages for Kuwait.

If a pro-American government is installed in Iraq, Kuwait could be forced to write off \$50 billion it lent the country before the 1990 invasion, said independent economic analyst Jasem al-Sadoun.

Kuwait would also likely have to forgo the nearly US\$180 billion it wants in compensation from Iraq for the invasion, he said. The war could also send millions of displaced Iraqis streaming toward Kuwait.

“The humanitarian situation in Iraq would lead us to think in a different way,” al-Sadoun said.

Inspections continue



Ali Mohammed/Associated Press

A Iraqi woman walks past guards at the entrance of the Al Tweitha site, Iraq’s former nuclear program center, on the outskirts of Baghdad on Sunday after U.N. inspectors entered the site.

Maltese government claims victory for EU membership

BY FRANCES D’EMILIO

Associated Press Writer

VALLETTA, Malta — Malta voted in favor of joining the European Union in a referendum tallied Sunday, the first popular test among 10 nations invited to become EU members next year.

According to official, hand-counted results, 53.65 percent, or 143,094 Maltese, voted “yes,” with 46.35 percent, or 123,628, voting “no” — a narrow margin reflecting concerns that joining the EU might jeopardize this island nation’s fiercely prized independence.

The outcome of Saturday’s vote was watched closely by EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and the nine other candidates seeking to join the 15-nation bloc amid fears that enthusiasm for an expanded Europe was flagging.

Voter turnout was 91 percent, with only about 20,000 of the approximately 290,000 eligible voters failing to cast ballots.

European Commission President Romano Prodi said the result bodes well for ratification in other countries.

“This is a choice for stability and growth, as well as for the peaceful reunification of Europe and the European people,” Prodi said in a statement from Brussels.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer hailed the outcome as a “successful start for the coming referendums in the other candidate countries.”

Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami applauded the vote, although a defiant opposition led by socialist Labor leader Alfred Sant challenged him to call elections soon for another test of voter sentiment.

The conservative Adami, swept into power in 1998 on a pro-membership campaign, said Maltese voters made “the decision that was expected, to guarantee a stable future” in Europe.

The prime minister said his Nationalist government would meet Monday to make an “opportune decision” on Sant’s demand

But it was widely expected that the Cabinet would call for elections in a few weeks, possibly to be held just before Malta is to sign its EU accession treaty in an April 16 ceremony in Athens, Greece.

SPORTS



Aziz Shah/Associated Press

Netherland's Robert-Jan Derksen plays a shot during the final day of the Dubai Desert Classic at the Emirates Golf Club on Sunday. Derksen clinched his first European tour title Sunday with a one-shot margin ahead of defending champion Ernie Els.

Els stunned at Dubai by unknown Dutchman

By The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Tiger Woods’ withdrawal made it possible for Robert-Jan Derksen to even play in the Dubai Desert Classic. The real treat came Sunday, when the unheralded Dutchman stole the show from Ernie Els.

Derksen, the first alternate until Woods decided to skip Dubai for safety reasons, hit a delicate pitch to 5 feet for birdie on the 18th hole for a 7-under 65 and a one-stroke victory over Els.

“It’s the biggest shock of my life — unbelievable,” Derksen said.

He was in tears as he left the 18th green, even though Els still had a chance to catch him.

Derksen was not even ranked among the top 3,000 in the world going into the tournament. He never had finished in the top 10 at a European tour event, and only four months ago made it through qualifying school for the sixth time.

He looked like a world-beater Sunday, taking the lead with a 60-foot eagle putt on the 13th and playing error-free when the pressure mounted over the closing holes.

“Before this year, I never thought I could win,” Derksen said. “But I started believing in myself a bit more this year. I needed a bit of luck, but that is what I got today.”

Derksen finished at 17-under 271 and

earned about \$300,000.

Els lost control of the tournament with a poor chip that led to double bogey on No. 12. He had a chance to force a playoff with a birdie on the par-5 18th, a hole that had given him trouble the previous two rounds.

Els easily cleared the water with his 3-iron, but it ran through the green and his chip stopped 25 feet short of the hole. His birdie putt missed badly.

“I couldn’t hit two better shots than the two into the 18th,” said Els, who closed with a 69. “But what can you do? One guy comes out of the pack and beats you. He played well, so it’s one of those things.”

Els has won four of the six 72-hole tournaments he has played this year, including both PGA Tour events in Hawaii and both European tour events in Australia.

It’s the no-name guys that keep giving him fits.

His other loss this year came to Zhang Lian-Wei of China in the Singapore Masters, which featured a two-shot swing on the final hole.

Derksen owes a small debt of gratitude to Woods.

Woods was supposed to receive \$2 million to play in Dubai, but decided a week ago to stay home because of the looming war against Iraq, about 900 miles from Dubai. That got Derksen into the field, and the Dutchman took it from there.

Lakers down Sixers

BY KEN PETERS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Shaquille O’Neal again seems virtually unstoppable, and the Los Angeles Lakers again look like the three-time defending NBA champions.

“We are the hottest team in the league,” O’Neal said Sunday n after he had 39 points and 10 rebounds in the Lakers’ 106-92 victory over Philadelphia. “My teammates have done a better job with the ball and I have done a better job with the ball.

“We are playing good defense and moving the ball around. We just have to get better at staying consistent.”

Kobe Bryant added 28 points and nine assists for the Lakers, winning for the ninth time in 10 games and 16th in their last 19. Now 35-26, they were a .500 team just over a month ago.

Allen Iverson scored 30 points on 12-of-28 shooting, and Keith Van Horn had 19 points for Philadelphia, losing for only the second time in 13 games since the All-Star break.

O’Neal went 14-of-24 from the field and 11-of-19 from the free throw line, and Iverson said the Lakers’ center was simply overpowering.

“He’s the hardest man in the league to guard. Nobody can guard him. If you double on him, you have so many guys out there just licking their chops for the opportunity to hit a wide-open shot,” Iverson said. “Just imagine if they kept throwing him the ball on every play? Nobody could do anything.”

The game was tight most of the way until the Lakers opened their first double-digit lead when Iverson, coach Brown and Tyrone Hill each were called for technical fouls five minutes into the third quarter.

Iverson protested when the Lakers were awarded the ball after he and Derek Fisher dove for it near the sidelines. When referee Derrick Stafford slapped Iverson with a technical, Brown complained to referee Joe Forte and Forte called a technical on him. While Bryant was making the two free throws, Hill complained and Stafford gave him a technical.

Bryant then converted the third free throw to give Los Angeles a 64-54 lead,

and the Lakers were up 80-70 heading into the fourth quarter.

“I don’t think we had a shot after that. It is just frustrating,” Iverson said. “I think that referee, Derrick, has a vendetta against us and it was evident today. We weren’t able to talk to him at all. When we asked about things, he gave us smart comments and pretty much juked us.

“My head was mentally out of the game after that because I felt like we didn’t have a shot.”

Brown said: “One of the officials has it personal for some of our players and if that wasn’t the greatest forum to see that, nothing is. He’s been personal with us for a long, long time.”

Stafford had already left the arena when the Sixers made their complaints and was unavailable for comment.

O’Neal drew a technical foul of his own nine minutes into the game when he yelled at referee Gary Zielinski to protest a lane violation called against him. Although there was a timeout immediately following the lane call that wiped out a layin by O’Neal, the Lakers’ center kept jawing at Zielinski from Los Angeles’ huddle.

Los Angeles led 53-48 at halftime, thanks in part to scoring 12 points on 13 Philadelphia turnovers. The Lakers committed seven turnovers that led to five points for the 76ers.

The 76ers finished with 19 turnovers, the Lakers with 13.

Iverson had 16 first-half points and Van Horn had 13, while O’Neal and Bryant had 15 apiece for the Lakers.

Notes: O’Neal is shooting 61 percent from the field (82-of-135) over the last seven games. ... Los Angeles opens a six-game road trip in Chicago on Tuesday, while the 76ers finished a five-game road trip. ... O’Neal was coming off a season-high 40-point performance in a 106-96 win over Minnesota on Friday. Iverson also scored 40 on Friday in the 76ers’ 108-99 win at Seattle. ... The 76ers beat the Lakers 107-104 in overtime at Philadelphia on Dec. 20.

Wildcats perfect in SEC

BY CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — In the final minutes of a rout in the home finale, Kentucky’s fans launched into what suddenly has become a familiar refrain at Rupp Arena: “TUB-BEE! TUB-BEE! TUB-BEE!”

Wildcats coach Tubby Smith tried hard to conceal a wry smile during that 62-point victory over Vanderbilt last week, but he couldn’t — not when the crowd finally was chanting his name in adulation. The oft-embattled coach had won ’em over. Funny what a perfect Southeastern Conference season can do.

The Wildcats capped their 16-for-16 run through the toughest league in the country by winning at Florida 69-67 Saturday.

As tight as that one was, Kentucky made its SEC dominance look downright easy, winning those 16 games by an average of 16 points.

“That puts a real asterisk, a real stamp on this team,” Smith said. “Future Kentucky teams will measure themselves against what this team accomplished.”

Maybe Kentucky’s fans will lighten up and appreciate their coach a bit more, laying to rest all of those unfavorable comparisons to predecessor Rick Pitino.

When Smith won the 1998 NCAA championship in his first season after Pitino’s departure for the NBA’s Boston Celtics, critics said he did it with Pitino’s players.

Now Smith has matched another of Pitino’s more impressive accomplishments at Kentucky — an undefeated trip through the SEC regular season. Pitino did it in 1995-96, and that team went on to win the NCAA championship.

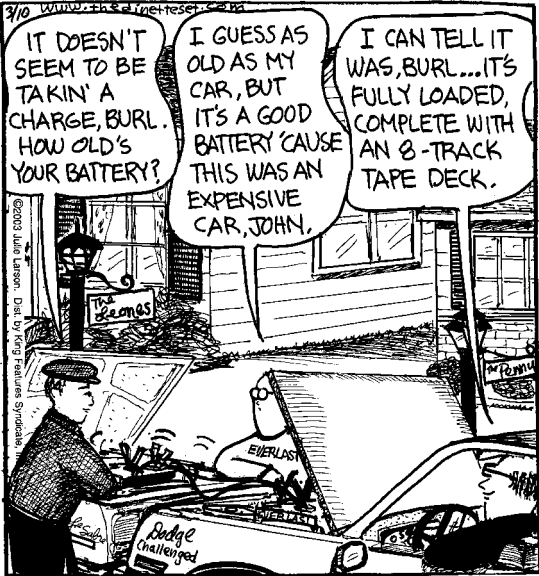
“With the way the road is in college basketball, it’s such an incredible thing to do,” said Pitino, now coaching Louisville. “It’s a tribute to the outstanding job of Tubby and his staff that they’ve been able to put all of the ingredients together to do it.”

Pitino’s Cardinals were the last team to beat Kentucky.

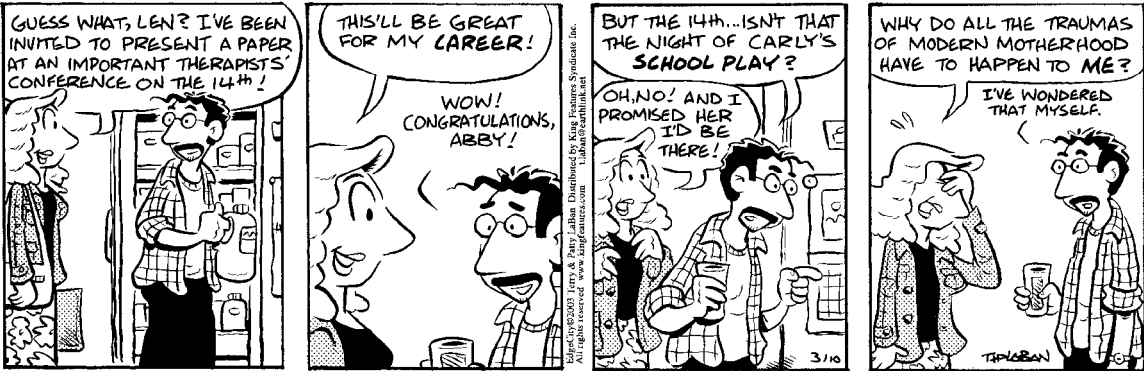


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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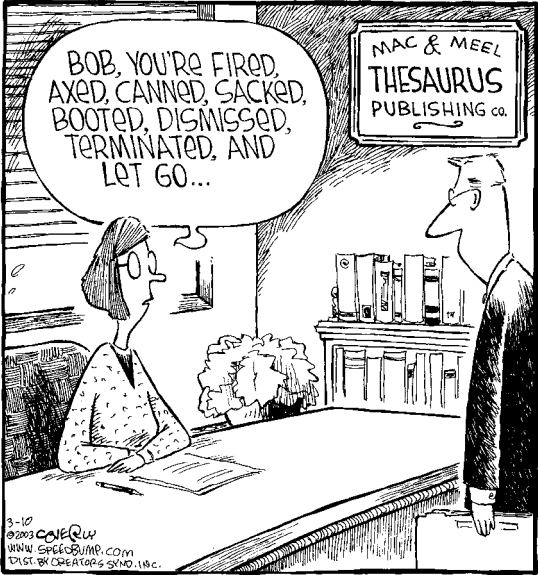
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 - 23 Vision
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 - 32 "Hold on —"
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Obituaries

**RANDY BRADLEY'S Fu-
neral is Saturday, March 8
at 11am, 2109 Chickasaw,
St. Barnardos Church, Ea-
gle Rock. Emeritus Band
members please arrive ear-
ly and bring instruments
as widow requests march-
es to be played.**

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2003

TODAY

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

Lap Time presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. Mondays at 9:30am. Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 633 Kensington Road. A series for children up to 24 months old. An early introduction to language and reading for parents and babies, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program. No fee or registration required. For more information, call (310)452-6132.

Toddler Time, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

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.

Harvelle's Blues Club present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

Boy Scouts Troop 2 Spring Open House, tonight at 7:15pm, Lincoln Middle School Gym, corner of 16th St. & California Ave. in Santa Monica. Learn to become a leader. Join the most active troop in Boy Scouts. Please bring your parents! RSVP: Joe Pundyk (310) 453-2959

TOMORROW

Leprechaun Laughs! Smile your way through Saint Patrick's Day with a few wonderful stories and a puppet show. This program is for ages 3-7. Shows from 3:30pm to 4:15pm and 4:30pm to 5:15pm. The program is free, but you will need to pick up tickets. For more information please call the Ocean Park Library, 2601 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310)392-3804

Toddler Story Time presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. Tuesdays at 10am and 10:45am. Reed Park, Reed Auditorium West, corner of 7th St. and Wilshire. Stories and activ-

ities designed especially for 2 year olds who are accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (310)458-8922.

The California Retired Teacher's Association (Santa Monica Bay Area Chapter) welcomes guest speaker Ann Kerr, author of two books on the Middle East. Topic will be "Painting the Middle East." The social hour begins at 11:30am with a luncheon served at noon. The cost is \$7.50. United Methodist Church, 1008 11th St., Santa Monica. Reservations are appreciated. Please call Linda Owens at (310) 828-2674.

Magellan's presents "Safety and Security in Traveling in Today's Political Environment". Speaker will be LT. Steve Huss, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Ret.). Learn what to do, and no to do, on your domestic and inter-national trips. 1006 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, 6:30pm. Admission is FREE! For more information call (310)394-9417.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40. City of God (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. The Hours (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20. Poolhall Junkies (R) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:00, 11:30, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:05, 10:30. How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 7:20, 10:15. Tears of the Sun (R) 12:30, 1:00, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:45, 10:25. Old School (R) 11:15, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:30.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Jungle Book 2 (G) 1:30, 3:15, 5:00, 7:25. The Recruit (PG-13) 1:35, 7:20. Shanghai Knights (PG-13) 2:20, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10. Chicago (PG-13) 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55. Daredevil (PG-13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:00. Dark Blue (R) 9:20. The Life of David Gale (PG-13) 1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05. Cradle 2 the Grave (R) 1:50, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30. Gangs of New York (R) 4:00, 9:40.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 4:00, 7:00, 10:15. Laurel Canyon (R) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
Irreversible (NR) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55. The Safety of Objects (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50. Spider (R) 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10.

AERO THEATRE

1328 Montana Ave.
Far From Heaven (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.



BACK PAGE

Drug use in parks another headache for rangers

BY BECKY BOHRER
Associated Press Writer

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. — When Christopher Cranford came to Old Faithful, it wasn't as a tourist; it was to make money peddling drugs. And in the heart of the world's first national park, officials say he found a market.

By park standards, Cranford's arrest last spring was a big-time bust — one that investigators say crimped the flow of drugs into Yellowstone National Park. But they know, too, there are others like Cranford ready to step in to sell drugs to the mostly young workers who spend their summers at park hot spots, busing tables, selling souvenirs and cleaning guest rooms.

"I think it's a matter of users drawing suppliers," said Chris Fors, a Yellowstone special agent. "Service workers create demand."

Drug use among service workers is among the many headaches law enforcement officers in Yellowstone and nearby Grand Teton National Park must deal with. Park officials say drug cases in the park each summer largely involve seasonal workers, many of them young college students on summer break, employed through private concession companies.

And while most arrests are for simple possession charges, park officials and the concession companies that hire the workers take each case seriously, aware that those involved with drugs also are more likely to be involved in other crimes in the park.

"Someone with a significant illegal drug habit is more likely to embezzle and steal from

guests' rooms and cars," said Brian Smith, supervisory special agent at Yellowstone.

Employers and park officials tell workers upfront the consequences of drug use — which range from being fired to facing federal drug charges.

Park officials say the concessioners cooperate in investigations and that other employees often provide tips.

Fors said drug use among workers is not an overwhelming problem in Yellowstone, but is a persistent one. And busy rangers, whose duties range from directing traffic at "bear jams" to patrolling the park boundaries for poachers, may not be able to devote the time some law enforcement agencies can to go after drug sellers and users.

Investigators said Cranford was selling marijuana and other drugs in the park for several years before he was finally arrested last May. He often timed his visits to coincide with employee pay days, officials said.

Found with 93 grams of marijuana, he pleaded guilty to a federal drug distribution charge in December and was sentenced to a year in prison, officials said.

Possession, often of marijuana, comprised the bulk of the 72 drug cases at Yellowstone last year, and the 26 cases at Grand Teton, officials said. While they do not keep a tally of how many of those arrests were of seasonal workers, Fors said they make up the "overwhelming" number of the arrests.

Dennis Burnett, the Park Service's law administrator, said the type of drug activity that occurs varies with each national park, and often depends on its proximity

to urban areas.

The situation in Yellowstone and Grand Teton pales, for instance, to the problems faced in California's Sequoia National Park, where investigators last year found an unheard-of 37 marijuana gardens and makeshift campsites for growers within the park's boundaries. The campsites contained guns and chemicals.

Investigators at Sequoia believe tighter security at border crossings with Mexico

since the Sept. 11, 2001 is fueling a trend of growing drugs closer to their markets. Just three marijuana gardens were found in 2001, park spokeswoman Kris Fister said.

At Yosemite National Park in California, drug cases, including investigations and arrests, have increased 10 percent to 20 percent in each of the past five years, said Don Coehlo, the deputy chief ranger for law enforcement services. Many cases involve the use of methamphetamine.

Mel Gibson building a church for his Catholic movement

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Actor Mel Gibson's father isn't shy about admitting his belief in conspiracy theories.

Hutton Gibson, an 84-year-old activist and author, says he believes the World Trade Center was destroyed by "remote control," not airliners hijacked by al-Qaida terrorists. He insists that every pope in the last 50 years has been illegitimate, and he denies that six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

"Go and ask an undertaker or the guy who operates the crematorium what it takes to get rid of a body," the elder Gibson says in Sunday's editions of The New York Times Magazine. "It takes one liter of petrol and 20 minutes. Now, six million?"

Gibson and his son, the star of blockbuster films like "Braveheart" and "Lethal Weapon," are practitioners of an ultraconservative Catholic movement known as traditionalism. The small splinter group seeks to revive orthodox practices that were abandoned several centuries ago by mainstream Catholicism.

The actor has been especially forthcoming about his religious affiliation recently. Gibson is building a traditionalist church on a 9,300-square-foot complex in Malibu, Calif., for about 70 members, the Times said. He is serving as the director, chief executive officer and sole benefactor of the church, which intends to conduct its Sunday Mass entirely in Latin. The property was purchased by a church group called Holy Family.



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

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