

FREE

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 101

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5

03, 09, 16, 21, 32

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 3, 2

Evening picks: 3, 6, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 05, California Classic

2nd Place: 07, Eureka

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race time: 1:48.69



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

■ Seduction Techniques of Priests: (1) Tell the 17-year-old girl that intercourse is a therapeutic method to help her forget her bad experience in a previous sexual assault (allegedly used by Catholic priest Roman Kramek, 40, visiting from Poland, who was arrested in New Britain, Conn., in December). (2) Tell teenage girls planning to become nuns that having sex with him would bring them closer to God, that undressing with him would "link spiritual stages with sexual acts," and that she should imagine Christ (and not him) touching, kissing and having intercourse with her (allegedly used by Father Robert V. Meffan, according to Boston Archdiocese documents released by plaintiffs' lawyers in December).



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

It is easier to stay out than get out.



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Police name City Hall bribery suspect

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Police last week named the City Hall employee who allegedly took cash in return for covering up possible building code violations. Martin Aguirre, a 29-year old from South Gate, is suspected of soliciting bribes while working as a temporary building inspector during a three-month stint working for the city.

Officials are not releasing the scope or magnitude of Aguirre's reported misdeeds while the investigation is on-going, but confirmed Monday the allegations were serious.

"It was a significant amount of cash," said building officer Tim McCormick.

Aguirre could not be reached for comment Monday.

Police refused to comment on the specifics of the case Monday.

His alleged scam worked like this: After being called to a site and finding a violation, Aguirre would solicit cash in exchange for not reporting the violation, according to police.

The suspect was arrested in the middle of February after resident complaints led to a police investigation, according to city officials, who are re-inspecting all the sites Aguirre visited.

Aguirre mainly covered the Sunset Park and Pico neighborhoods on Santa Monica's eastside as a field inspector, though he may also have ventured into other areas of the city, said Suzanne Frick, who heads the city's plan-

ning department.

The city currently employs seven code compliance inspectors and seven construction inspectors. Three of the 14 workers are temporary employees, though Frick said she aims to have all positions manned by full-time employees.

Aguirre worked as both a code compliance inspector and a construction inspector during December, January and the early part of February of this year, Frick added.

Responsibilities for those positions include investigating building and safety violations, work permits, maintenance complaints, work-related noise complaints, zoning violations, nuisance complaints, sign violations, outdoor merchandising compliance and construction sites, McCormick said.

Santa Monica City Councilmember Herb Katz said he was "upset" by Aguirre's actions but said the suspect's behavior shouldn't reflect on the city.

"Our city is a clean city," Katz said. "We watch our people. If someone goes out and asks for a bribe, I guarantee he'll be turned in."

"Here's one person who allegedly did something (illegal). It's sad, it's too bad — but it's an individual."

Frick said police were currently working on the investigation and said more information would be available after it was complete.

Any person with information regarding this investigation should call SMPD Detective David Hunscke at (310) 458-8949.



Martin Aguirre



Above, a representation of how the main library will look after renovations are complete. At right, the building at 1324 5th St., that will house the library in the interim.

\$8M plus expected in expenditures by council

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series tracking the city's expenditures that appear on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The City Council is expected to sign off on more than \$8 million in expenditures tonight that will cover costs ranging from a new skate park design to retrofitting a

building that will serve as a temporary library.

However, the largest expenditure is a \$295,000 emergency repair bill for Ocean Park Boulevard, which was the site of a 15-foot-deep sinkhole that grew the length of two blocks during two days in December.

The street, which is expected to open again on Wednesday, has been under construction since Dec. 28 when a 12-inch water main broke and swept away sand underneath the road.

The council is expected to pay an additional \$95,700 to ETZ Construction for tenant improve-

See AGENDA, page 5

Lawsuit filed against 'living wage' ordinance

By The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — The city of Santa Fe is being sued by business owners who contend the local economy will be crippled by the city's sweeping new minimum wage ordinance, intended to provide a living wage for people working low-paying jobs in an expensive community.

The lawsuit, filed Monday in state district

court here, argues that the ordinance violates the state constitution, state minimum wage and antitrust laws, and the city code.

The City Council approved the ordinance in February after a marathon meeting attended by hundreds of people. The ordinance calls for phasing in a \$10.50 an hour minimum at businesses and nonprofits with 25 employees or more by Jan. 1, 2008, starting with \$8.50 an

hour in January.

Albuquerque attorney Zachary Rigdon, who represents New Mexicans for Free Enterprise, the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce and several local businesses, said the lawsuit is not a knee-jerk reaction.

"We have been scrutinizing statutes, case law and the (state) constitution for quite some time

See SUIT, page 8

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HOROSCOPE

Find answers tonight, Scorpio



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, March 11, 2003:

You'll discover just how many options you have coming your way. Think in terms of success and gain. Let go of inefficient patterns and look toward better ways of handling your life. Emphasize the quality of your home life. You might often be overwhelmed by what is occurring on the home front but feel unable to change it. You can opt to renew a situation, especially after the first six months of the year. Others seem more affable. Curb your sweet tooth if you don't want to add inches to your waistline. If you are single, a significant relationship will become a strong likelihood in late 2003 or early 2004. Be open to letting this person in. If you are attached, your relationship flourishes if you don't get bogged down in your daily routine. Add more fun to your life. CANCER makes a fine playmate.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You could be overly serious, but you do get your message across. Friends tend to create a roller-coaster ride, even if you don't want to be part of it. Keep smiling until you can vanish, which will be soon enough. Screen your calls. Tonight: Order in.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Deal with a financially difficult situation or decision. Have more confidence in your abilities. Air out a problem with someone who could make a difference. Give up frustration, and understand more of what you expect and desire. Tonight: Out where your friends are.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max — within your limits — and especially get all the facts. Empower yourself by acknowledging your faults more directly. Others pitch in as a result. Look to effectiveness and efficiency. Tonight: Treat yourself on the way home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You see what a difference a positive attitude can make with those in your immediate circle. Still, something might be ailing you on a deeper level. Take your time dealing with an unpredictable associate or partner. You could like the results. Tonight: You bloom more the later it gets.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Emphasize your goals during the daytime hours. You could find that someone close takes you down a new path. You might be resistant to someone's suggestion. Others act in an unexpected manner. Know that you need to flex rather than judge. Tonight: Take your time.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Realize what might be going on with someone in the office. Realize when you don't have control. Sit back and be an observer. Flex with a changeable work arrangement. You find that you're heading in the right direction. Tonight: Where your friends are.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You seek answers, but might be blocked from getting the precise facts. Think carefully about your potential. Consider signing up for a course or seminar. Others admire your willingness to get to the core of an issue. Use ingenuity, too. Tonight: A must appearance.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Revise your thinking after a most lively discussion with an associate. With increased insight, you see many new possibilities. Consider how you can open the door, especially professionally. Might more training be appropriate? Tonight: Find answers. Surf the Web.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Let others seek you out, rather than you seeking them out. As a result, you remain in control and find new ways to handle a problem. Flow with the unusual, understanding your limits. Know what is important for others. Tonight: Get feedback from a trusted partner.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Be more aware of your decisions and long-term goals. Postpone an important money talk till later in the day, or even tomorrow, if possible. New beginnings become possible by allowing others more rope. Hear what someone has to say. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might want to examine someone's idea more carefully, even if your immediate reaction is no. You have a lot to learn, though you might not be exactly sure of what you want. Express your multiple thoughts. Seek feedback. Tonight: Easy does it.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Take your time making a decision. You might be taken aback by someone else's approach. Process more of what is happening. Flow with your thoughts more carefully. Don't allow a sense of being down to pervade your well-being. Tonight: Lighten up.

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LOCAL

Former realtor, veteran of Iwo Jima passes away

By Daily Press staff

Seymour Aaron Cohen passed away peacefully Feb. 27 at his home in Avalon, Calif. He was 78.

Born on April 1, 1924 in Denver, Colo., Seymour moved to Venice where he was a star center on the football team at Venice High School.

After graduating in 1942, Seymour became staff sergeant, chief petty officer, rifle and pistol sharpshooter and cook in the Marines. He was involved in the assault and capture of Iwo Jima.

Seymour married his bride, Helen Patterson, on Nov. 7, 1948. Soon after they settled in Santa Monica, where Seymour practiced real estate and was very active in the community and civic events. He was on the Planning Commission for several years, supported local school initiatives and served as Mayor Pro Tem. Additionally, Seymour was president of Kiwanis, president of the Santa Monica Board of Realtors and president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica. He was honored by these and other organizations, including the NCCJ.

Seymour and Helen moved to their home in Avalon on Catalina Island in 1997. He was active in the VFW of Avalon and played poker with the "boys". He loved Avalon, where he could golf two



Seymour Aaron Cohen and Barney.

times in one day if he wanted, was a big supporter of the Avalon Municipal Hospital, and could often be seen in town with "Barney."

Survived by his wife, Helen; children Diana and Mark Wright, Jay Cohen, Sandi Cohen, Terri and Jay Decker and 10 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; his brother Marvin Cohen and many loving nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica and Avalon Municipal Hospital.

New leader appointed for PRC

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Pier has a new leader — sort of.

Ben Franz-Knight, who has served as the interim director of the Pier Restoration Corp., since July, was officially named the permanent replacement for former PRC executive director Jan Palchikoff.

The PRC oversees all operations of the Santa Monica Pier, including leases of the businesses located there.

PRC board chair Linda Sullivan said Franz-Knight won the job as the pier's caretaker because he most closely shared the board's vision for future developments and community activities.

"His enthusiasm and energy during his time in the interim position was also decisive," Sullivan said. She added that in seven months, Franz-Knight has re-ener-

gized the PRC staff, formed partnerships with key organizations, created cost saving measures and launched new events.

"Although we had several candidates with wonderful credentials and truly impressive backgrounds, the board unanimously selected Ben because his overall performance has been so outstanding in so many different areas," she said.

Prior to being interim director, Franz-Knight was assistant to Palchikoff, where he gained his knowledge of event production and pier operations.

The position also brings a level of politics that Franz-Knight will most likely face in the future. One challenge will be dealing with ramifications of the city's eviction of the Boathouse Restaurant, which until last April had been a 50 year tenant on the pier.

The pier's board decided to end the



Today, 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	Tuesday	Wednesday	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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month-to-month lease with the Boathouse to rent instead to Bubba Gump Shrimp, a movie-themed chain restaurant.

Boathouse owner Naia Sheffield has filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the city and the PRC, claiming her restaurant was kicked off the Santa Monica Pier unfairly.

Sheffield is demanding a jury trial, claiming breach of contract.

Officials say they are working to make the pier a more family-friendly environment, a direction the pier has been steadily moving in since Palchikoff was brought on board in 1996.



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.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Convinced on Prop. A

Editor:

My wife and I watched the debate on Proposition A that was on Channel 16. It seems that the major argument of the people supporting Proposition A is that there is uncertainty under the current law and that this uncertainty will cause property values to fall. They argue that people will be uncertain about whether or not their houses will be declared landmarks and that this uncertainty will deter people from paying top prices for their homes.

This argument made sense to me, until I thought about it for awhile. The existing law has been in place for over 25 years. But, property values certainly aren't falling in Santa Monica! If this uncertainty has existed for more than 25 years, why hasn't this drop in property values occurred?

The more I think about Proposition A, I don't think it makes sense for Santa Monica. The television debate has convinced me to vote against it.

Patrick Berger
Santa Monica

Use fluoride money for schools

Editor:

The money the city plans to use to add Hydro Fluosilic Acid (a toxic waste product containing fluoride) to our water supply should be given to our schools to be used for children's health programs for dental hygiene and nutrition. Also, can the city really afford to spend unknown amounts of money to defend lawsuits as a result of accidents, contamination, etc., which other cities have encountered. Furthermore, given the fact that the Metropolitan Water District plans to fluoridate all water to Southern California and there are lawsuits being filed against them, the City Council needs to immediately stop all plans to add Hydro Fluosilic Acid to our water and give that money to our schools for the health benefits of our students.

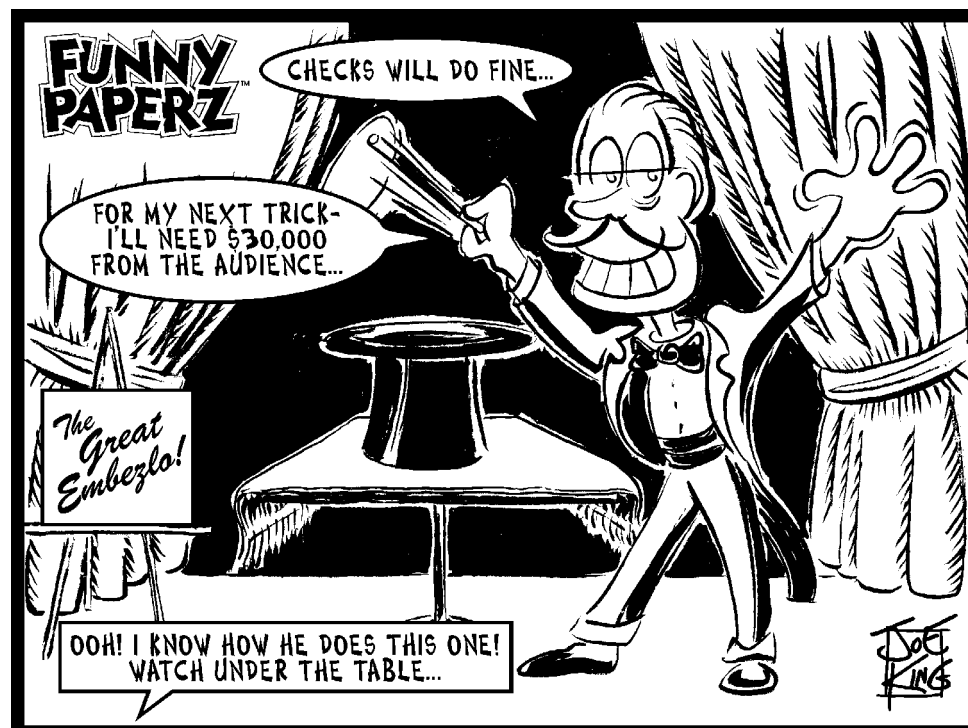
Z. Grund
Santa Monica

Enjoying Garver's point of view

Editor:

Although I always pick up your paper for local news, I especially enjoy Lloyd Garver's humorous views on current events. They cheer me up. Thanks for printing them!

Joyce Horowitz
Santa Monica



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Election day voter registration at issue



Evelyn Jerome

■ What if we held an election and no one voted?

Los Angeles held municipal elections last week, and about 13 percent of registered voters showed up at the polls. And we know that only about half of those who are eligible to vote are actually registered.

Our Santa Monica vote-by-mail election, currently in progress, seems to be plagued with problems: Too many ballots to some voters, no ballots to others and people mistaking their mail ballots for just another dry cleaner or pizza coupon.

How is it that third world dictatorships

have better voter participation than the greatest democracy on earth (fewer options, but better turnout)?

Do American voters just not care? Should we make it easier for people to vote?

The root of the problem is that people don't feel connected to government. We don't see how government decisions affect our everyday lives. And elected officials rarely go out of their way to show us.

We tell people they have the right to vote without telling them that it's also a responsibility. So elections come and go and most people don't take the time to educate themselves about the candidates or the issues. We get slick mailers from one side or another and pre-recorded phone messages yammering into our answering machines.

Straight into the trash, hit delete. There is little, if any, media coverage of local elections until the day before the election (except, of course, for the excellent political coverage provided by the Santa Monica Daily Press). And we want them to make decisions based on this pitiful cache of information?

While I do support some ways of making voting more convenient, I strongly feel that voting takes effort. Huge voter turnout by an uninformed electorate isn't any better than low turnout among a slightly informed one.

So should we hold elections on weekends? Or over the course of a week at the local library? Yes. Read up on the issues in the Sunday paper and then cast your vote. Should we let people register on election day? No.

Why is it prohibitive to fill out the registration form two weeks before an election? Impulse voting doesn't accomplish the goal of better, more informed turnout.

Don't get me wrong, here, and read between lines I haven't drawn. I'm not calling for literacy tests or for only land-owning-white-males to be eligible to vote. What I'm saying is that democracy, and the right to vote, are kind of like a Christmas present with some assembly required.

Put in the effort and it's a great gift.

(Evelyn Jerome is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a member of the New Democrat Network. To respond to or reach Jerome, e-mail her at evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

■ Will the low voter turnout trend ever end?

The governor's race inspired a new exercise craze — "fingers pinching nose." Recent Los Angeles city elections barely captured the imagination of die-hards.

Still, some are trying fresh ideas — the Santa Monica City Council has in recent years called a special Saturday election and is currently turning to an all mail-in election on Proposition A. Vote by mail is the exclusive practice in states like Oregon, where a higher turnout has resulted. But for the most part, voter participation trends point consistently downward. Our democracy is at risk.

If we're serious about reversing this trend, we must reform electoral politics and our system of campaign finance.

Reliable voters must first put aside their contempt for non-participants.

Voters' rejection of Election Day registration last fall was clearly an example of this. To understand non-participants and win them back, we have to appreciate their apathy. Think about it — do you enjoy participating in a system that allows big donors and well-healed special interests to "buy access" to candidates that most of us can't afford?

I believe we elect generally good people to office. But our electoral system forces candidates to dedicate half of their campaign to raising funds and to continue raising funds throughout their term in office. As a result of this "constant campaign,"

otherwise well-meaning elected leaders hear only the priorities of the "donor class." By tolerating this rotten system — preferring instead to bash politicians — we have only ourselves to blame. But "it's the system, stupid," and it needs to be fixed.

Among other reforms, public funding of election campaigns would help democracy make a comeback. The "clean money/clean elections" model offers candidates for state office public funds to compete if they can gather a high threshold of small, \$5 contributions to prove they have a genuine base of public support. Additional public funds are granted if a wealthy opponent or non-participating candidate outspends the "clean money" candidate.

Among the benefits of this reform: a

defined, qualifying period for candidates to gain public support (shorter election cycles), lower overall campaign spending, and renewed public confidence that candidates are accountable to ALL voters. Further, clean money will encourage a greater, more diverse pool of qualified candidates to run for office that have shied away because of fundraising hurdles.

Radical? Or isn't it time we invest in good government like we do schools and parks and, as a result, probably improve both?

(Todd Flora is the former state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, and the former western regional director of the Concord Coalition, a fiscal watchdog organization. To respond to or reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.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



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

A proposed skatepark is slated to be built in this playground area of Memorial Park. The playground will be moved to another part of the park.

City expenses increase while deficit deepens

AGENDA, from page 1

ments to a building located at 1324 Fifth St., which will be used as the temporary main library while a new facility is built on Sixth Street. The expenditure now brings the total contract with the construction company to \$600,276, which will make the building on Fifth Street adequate for public use.

When plans for the temporary library were submitted to the city's building and safety department, officials realized the building required seismic retrofitting to comply with codes. City staff said the improvements to the building must occur in order to keep the main library project on schedule.

The main library project has been estimated to cost upwards of \$56 million. One of those costs is \$205,139 to re-route a sewer line behind the building so a new parking garage can be built. The council is expected to allocate \$150,135 plus a \$55,004 contingency to re-route the line on Sixth Court from Arizona Avenue to Santa Monica Boulevard.

The subterranean parking structure that will be built with the new library will extend from Sixth Street to Seventh Street, which requires that the sewer line be reconfigured so it flows north to Arizona Avenue then west to connect to the existing line on Sixth Street. The re-routing must happen before excavation of the parking structure, which is scheduled to begin in early June.

The council also plans to pay \$46,075 to California Skateparks to design a skate park facility to be located at Memorial Park, a decision made last July.

City officials believe there is a strong demand for places to skate in Santa

Monica, but kids are limited in where they can go. Skateboarders tend to congregate at Clover Park, Douglas Park, the Boys & Girls Club, Santa Monica State Beach, area schools and the Third Street Promenade, which forbids skateboarding.

While expenditures continue to mount, the City Council faces an uphill battle in its attempt to close an \$11 million deficit this year.

To respond to the increased demand for skating opportunities, the city allocated money in the 2001-2002 capital improvement project to build a permanent skate park. The entire project is expected to cost \$572,000 and construction could begin as early as this fall.

The council has been asked to modify a \$230,000 contract with a consulting firm that offers specialized and technical environmental services for work to be done at the city yards. The city maintains various facilities at the maintenance yard on Michigan Avenue and as part of its ongoing operations, the city undertakes environmental assessment investigation and monitoring of the site, which is expected to cost \$230,000.

While expenditures continue to mount, the City Council faces an uphill battle in its attempt to close an \$11 million deficit this year.

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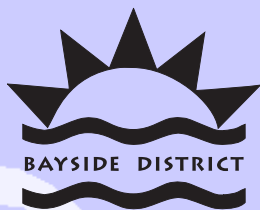
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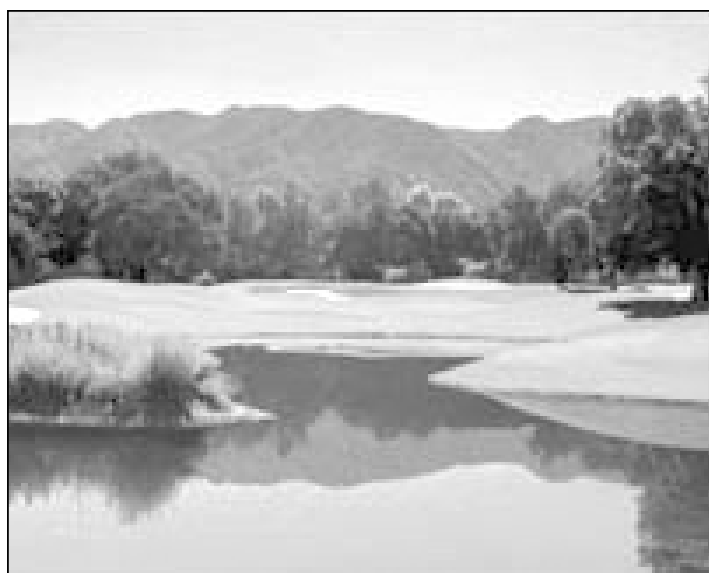
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STATE

States become hooked on tobacco money in tight times

BY JESSICA BRICE
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — As states throughout the nation face budget shortfalls in the billions of dollars, California leads the way in pushing to raise a popular tax on an increasingly unpopular commodity: cigarettes.

Long considered an anti-smoking pioneer, California has some critics worried that the tight budget times are forcing it and other states to become hooked on tobacco, as they use tobacco money to close budget holes while cutting spending on anti-smoking programs.

Last year, California cut its smoking prevention program by \$46 million and papered over part of its budget gap by selling its share of a 1998 tobacco settlement — estimated between \$10 billion and \$12.5 billion over the next 22 years — for a one-time lump sum of \$4.5 billion. Seventeen other states also sold their rights to future settlement payments.

Paying off the bonds with tobacco settlement money means the state depends on continued cigarette sales, said Dennis Eckhart, head of the tobacco litigation unit of the state attorney general's office. The settlement money is tied to national cigarette sales, meaning when sales drop, so does state settlement money.

While that's of interest more to bond holders now, the state's ability to repay the bonds "depends on how many cigarettes the tobacco companies sell."

This year, California officials are again looking at tobacco to help cushion the blow of a budget gap that could reach \$35 billion. Gov. Gray Davis wants to raise cigarette taxes by \$1.10 per pack, bringing the total tax to \$1.97 — the highest in the nation. That could pad the state's general fund with an extra \$1.17 billion during the next fiscal year, officials estimate.

If it's approved, California would join at least 37 other states — including tobacco-friendly states such as Tennessee and Kentucky — that already passed or are considering new tobacco taxes.

Budget experts, however, say the tax won't result in proportionate gains in revenue, with revenue dropping off in years to come unless the downward trend in cigarette sales levels off or another tax increase is passed.

"Part of the reason cigarette taxes are so popular is because it does encourage people to quit smoking," said Kim Rueben, a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, a San Francisco-based think tank. "On the flip side, if everyone stopped smoking, we would be out of a major source of revenue."

It's unclear what effect an additional \$1.10 per pack tax would have on sales, but retailers worry it will drive more smokers out of state to buy their cigarettes.

"I'm the tax collector. They put me on the spot and they benefit," said Sam Massri, owner of the Capitol Cigarette and Cigar Shop in Sacramento, adding that he expects many of his customers to find cheaper ways to buy cigarettes. "It that happens, I'm changing my shop into an ice cream parlor."

Already, California is losing an estimated \$40 million to \$50 million annually from consumers looking to avoid the tax by buying online or traveling to Nevada, where the tax is only 35 cents per pack, said Dennis Maciel, chief excise tax director for the state Board of Equalization.

The biggest drop off in cigarette tax revenue after a tax hike followed a 1999 voter-approved 50-cent tax increase. Tobacco revenues spiked to \$1.17 billion during that fiscal year, but dropped by \$56 million the year after.

"Part of the reason the drop off was so dramatic was because there was a change in technology giving people more ways to buy cigarettes, such as the Internet," Rueben said.

However, Rueben said California has an easier time collecting taxes from consumers than other states because California's size makes it difficult for many people to drive across state lines to buy cheaper cigarettes.

Academy Awards ceremony will go on in event of war

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP Entertainment Writer

BEVERLY HILLS — Oscar organizers are hoping the movie awards ceremony doesn't become a casualty in a U.S.-led war with Iraq.

The United States, Britain and Spain proposed a March 17 deadline for Iraq to prove it has disarmed — which means a military strike could be dominating the news by the time Hollywood kicks off its annual awards extravaganza on March 23.

Gil Cates, executive producer of ABC's live Academy Awards telecast, told a gathering of nominees on Monday that "the show will go on."

He acknowledged in an interview that it's possible the network may interrupt the ceremony with periodic announcements or run a news crawl at the bottom of the screen.

"Who knows?" he said. "We're going to do the show. And if they run things under the screen indicating what's going on in the world, that's fine. If something happens and they have to go away, they'll

go away and come back."

Cates, who has produced the event 10 previous times, added that he has a number of contingency plans that he won't disclose before the event. "I'm contingenced up the gazoo," he joked.

ABC executives declined to give specifics about their plans. "As is always the case, if there are world events that warrant coverage on the night of the Academy Awards, ABC News will bring them to the American audience with the full support of the academy," network spokesman Kevin Brockman said.

The Oscars were delayed for one day in 1981 because the event was scheduled the day President Reagan was shot, and the assassination of civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 pushed the ceremony back two days.

Massive flooding in Los Angeles delayed the Oscars by a week in 1938, but the annual celebration continued throughout World War II, although planners chose to make the celebration less ostentatious than previous years.

STATE



Davis' high-speed rail shift faces rough track in Legislature

BY STEVE LAWRENCE

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gray Davis' plan to save some money by merging California's ambitious high-speed rail project with the Department of Transportation has hit some rough track in the state Legislature.

The Legislature's budget analyst is recommending that lawmakers reject the proposal, saying the better move would be to leave high-speed rail under an independent board and cut some of the department's funding.

The attorney general's office has also sounded alarms about Davis' plan, saying it could create administrative problems and delay completion of an environmental impact report on the 700-mile, \$26 billion rail project.

A vocal supporter of high-speed rail, state Sen. Dean Florez, is more critical, saying Davis' plan would undermine efforts to persuade voters to approve a \$9.95 billion bond measure next year to help finance the first leg of the project.

"If this project does not win on the ballot next year it's dead," says Florez, D-Shafter. "I don't believe anyone out there wants to give Caltrans \$10 billion to build a system when they have shown no history of being successful in rail."

Sen. Kevin Murray, a Culver City Democrat who chairs the Senate Transportation Committee, doubts lawmakers will go along with the governor's proposal.

"It doesn't save enough money to match the amount of havoc it's going to cause," he says.

Florez has introduced legislation that would go in the other direction by taking away the department's control over conventional, intercity rail service and giving it to the high-speed rail board.

The administration says making the rail board, formally known as the California High-Speed Rail Authority, part of the department would save \$589,000.

The board's executive director post, now occupied by a part-timer who is planning to retire, would be eliminated, but three other staffers could transfer to the department, officials say.

"It's simply a consolidation to help ... alleviate the (budget) shortfall," says Anita Gore, a Department of Finance spokeswoman.

Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill uses a lower "savings" figure — \$400,000 — and says most of that would

come about by redirecting \$250,000 in excess Caltrans funds to the high-speed rail project. She suggests lawmakers shift that money to the authority to help cover its staff costs.

Gore says placing the board in the department wouldn't eliminate its power to run the high-speed rail program, which envisions a system linking California's major cities with trains running at top speeds of more than 200 mph.

"If this project does not win on the ballot next year it's dead."

—DEAN FLOREZ,
State senator

But the analyst and the attorney general's office say the shift would create administrative problems, including who would hire and fire staff and what would happen if the board and Caltrans officials disagreed on some aspect of the project.

"The proposal would have the practical effect of limiting the board's ability to carry out its mission while still holding it responsible for doing so," the analyst says.

Hill also says "Caltrans does not possess any expertise in high-speed rail development or planning that it can bring to the project."

For that reason, the attorney general's office says if the shift goes through the board should delay issuing its environmental impact report to ensure inexperienced staff work doesn't make the document more vulnerable to court challenges.

A draft EIR is due in August, with the final document scheduled for release in December.

Mehdi Morshed, the board's executive director and a former state Senate aide, says lawmakers created the authority as an independent board to prevent the project from becoming bogged down in the Caltrans bureaucracy. "If most of the work we've done so far had to be done

within the structure of Caltrans, we would still not have a plan," he says. "There would be too many people involved, too many checks and balances."

But a Caltrans spokesman, Dennis Trujillo, says concerns about the department's ability to develop rail projects are "20-year-old issues. They are not representative of today's Caltrans. We have the skills, knowledge and capability to deliver any project."

A couple of rail advocate groups split on the proposal. The Train Riders Association of California, a group of 1,500 rail advocates that has differed with the board on routing of the high-speed trains, supports the shift.

"Caltrans is always a mixed bag," says the group's executive director, Alan Miller. "But I'm convinced that they want to do something good with the high-speed rail project."

The group's president, Richard Tolmach, is a rail consultant for Caltrans, but Miller says Tolmach is "very critical of Caltrans when it is appropriate."

The 2,500-member Rail Passenger Association of California opposes the governor's proposal and supports Florez's bill.

"What needs to be done is a rail agency and a highway agency," says Richard Silver, the group's executive director. "Certainly there is enough rail going on in the state that there needs to be one agency focused on that."

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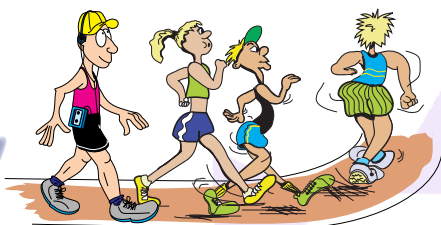
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NATIONAL

Public employees told to stop using cell phones

BY MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press Writer

Government employees around the country are being told to share cell phones, get better calling plans or give up their phones altogether as officials try to balance their deficit-ridden budgets.

State audits have found frequent abuse and mismanagement of cell phones, making them an obvious item to cut.

"When the budgets get really tight, that's when a lot of the silly stuff goes away," Missouri Auditor Claire McCaskill said.

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell hopes to shave more than \$1 million from the state's annual bill for more than 5,000 cell phones. For starters, he will try to consolidate the myriad contracts entered into by state agencies to get a better deal.

"If we accept the premise that we need such a heavy reliance on these cell phones, why in the world are we not making these cell phone companies compete for a bulk deal?" asked spokesman Ken Snyder.

Similarly, Maryland plans to put its cell phone contracts up for re-bid later this year.

In Rhode Island, where state agencies spent nearly \$270,000 on cell phones last year, Gov. Donald Carcieri recalled all executive branch cell phones while he reviews their use as part of an overall cost-cutting plan.

The move follows similar action in the Rhode Island Statehouse, where House legislative aides are sharing five phones, down from the 22 they used to carry.

The mayors of cash-strapped Atlanta and Kansas City, Mo., have also ordered broad recalls of city cell phones, telling workers to justify their need for them.

Many public agencies fail to take advantage of falling monthly rates, keep track of personal calls or review who really needs the devices, audits show.

The St. Louis Election Board, for example, failed to collect 90 of 387 phones distributed to poll workers for an August election, leading to \$35,000 worth of unauthorized calls. The board also kept

service on between elections for the past two years, accumulating \$350,000 in bills.

"A grand jury determined that a crime was committed, but records were so bad that they couldn't tell who committed it," McCaskill said.

A former labor department official in Pennsylvania made more than 1,000 personal calls on his state cell phone to a friend in Montana, the auditor's office found. One call lasted nearly 7 hours.

"When the budgets get really tight, that's when a lot of the silly stuff goes away."

— CLAUDE MCCASKILL
Missouri auditor

In Maryland, a recent audit found about a third of the state's 6,700 cell phones went to people who used them less than three hours a year, at an annual cost of \$122,000.

A Maryland audit showed the state could save at least \$500,000 a year by keeping better track of things like contract terms, excess usage and reimbursement for personal calls.

"People couldn't even tell us how many phones (their agencies) had, much less whether they're getting paid for personal phone calls," said legislative auditor Bruce Myers, who estimated the state spent \$5.3 million on cell phones last year.

The audit showed that 74 high-volume users paid \$164,000 for calls that would have cost about \$34,000 under plans with higher calling limits.

Wireless work calls will not completely come to a halt. Cell phones are essential for emergency workers and are seen as a cost-effective tool for others.

"You can't do these management and productivity analyses with a cleaver. You need a scalpel," Pennsylvania's Snyder said.

Living in Santa Fe more costly than national average

SUIT, from page 1

to determine the constitutionality of the city's action," Rigdon said. "We have been unable to find any legal support for the ordinance."

Supporters of the ordinance say a higher minimum wage will help several thousand Santa Fe workers better provide for their families.

Santa Fe, which draws thousands of tourists each year, has become increasingly expensive. According to city councilors, the cost of living in Santa Fe County is 18 percent higher than the national average, but average earnings per job ranks 23 percent below the national average.

Business leaders, however, say a higher minimum wage will make it harder for Santa Fe to rebound from the effects of a slumping national economy and a downturn in tourism sparked by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Paul Sonn with New York University's Brennan Center for Justice said that because Santa Fe is a "home rule" municipality, it can exercise its independent powers to impose a city minimum wage. He said the ordinance also conforms to state and federal constitutions.

"We believe there's no legal substance to the challenge," Sonn said Monday. "We're confident the law will be upheld by the court."

The Brennan Center, which served as an adviser to the council in crafting the ordinance, is helping defend against the lawsuit.



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NATIONAL



Franks agrees to redouble efforts to protect secrets

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander who would run any U.S. war against Iraq, has agreed to "redouble" his efforts to protect sensitive information after a Pentagon investigation found that highly classified information was discussed in his wife's presence.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has decided to take no official action against Franks after reviewing the investigation's findings, Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Gary Keck said Monday.

The Pentagon's inspector general found that Franks "inadvertently allowed classified information at a level for which Mrs. Franks was not cleared to be discussed in her presence," Keck said.

Rumsfeld discussed this with Franks, "who agreed to redouble his efforts to safeguard such information," Keck said.

Rumsfeld issued a statement reaffirming his confidence in Franks, who, as commander of U.S. Central Command, is running the war in Afghanistan and planning for possible war in Iraq.

"I regard this matter as concluded," Rumsfeld said.

Keck said he could not discuss the specific circumstances in which Franks' wife,

Cathy, was present during a discussion of classified information. Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said she was present when Franks was given highly classified information in his compartment on his military aircraft. The official said she has a security clearance but not at a level that would entitle her to hear the information discussed on that occasion.

Keck said the Pentagon investigation also examined, but did not substantiate, two other allegations. He would not specify those allegations since they were determined to be unfounded. Other officials said Franks was accused of providing unauthorized security for his wife and not properly reimbursing the government for all of her travel expenses on official trips with him.

Even before the investigation was finished, Rumsfeld made clear that he did not expect it to interfere with Franks' war planning.

"There isn't a chance in the world that it will have any possible interference with his role as the combatant commander in the Central Command," Rumsfeld told a Pentagon news conference in February. "Tom Franks is doing a superb job for this country, and we are lucky to have him there. He is a man of great talent and skill."

New York landlord accused of arranging to kill tenants

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A landlord who wanted two brothers out of a rent-controlled apartment so he could raise the rent has been arrested for hiring two other tenants to beat and stab them, authorities said.

The landlord, Juan Basagoitia, was arraigned Sunday on charges of conspiracy and burglary. He was ordered held without bail.

Basagoitia, 47, was arrested after last Tuesday's attack on William and David Lavery in the borough of Queens, police said.

Prosecutors said Basagoitia wanted to evict the brothers and raise the monthly rent by more than \$1,400. He agreed to pay David Robles and Danny Machuca to sneak into the brothers' apartment, police said.

The attackers were arrested on attempted murder charges and told police that Basagoitia promised them \$2,500 to kill the brothers, said Patrick Clark, a spokesman for prosecutors.

Basagoitia told authorities he only wanted the men to be injured.

The brothers were hospitalized in stable condition Monday.

Feds to demolish brothel

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH
Associated Press Writer

MUSTANG, Nev. — Three years after seizing Nevada's most celebrated brothel, the federal government announced plans to demolish the Mustang Ranch.

The pink stucco main building and a smaller unit will be destroyed rather than renovated, said Mark Struble, spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management. The buildings are in violation of safety codes, he said.

"It would take too much money to rehabilitate the buildings because they're of shoddy construction. They certainly didn't pump their profits back into the buildings," Struble said.

The legal house of prostitution 15 miles east of Reno has been closed ever since the IRS seized the place in 1999 following the conviction of the bordello's manager and its parent companies in a fraud and racketeering case. The women

who worked there were evicted and the brothel was padlocked.

The BLM obtained title to the property on Feb. 21. BLM officials earlier had said that the buildings would no longer be used for prostitution, but that they were willing to entertain ideas for other uses. Among the ideas suggested: converting the buildings into a home for battered women or an educational center about wild horses.

Struble said the agency has not decided when the buildings will be demolished.

The BLM will gather ideas for what to do with the property along the Truckee River.

The 104-room Mustang Ranch was taken over by Joe Conforte in 1967 at a time when prostitution was illegal. In 1971, it became the state's first legal brothel and led to the movement that legalized prostitution in 12 of Nevada's 17 counties.

Conforte fled to avoid tax charges more than 10 years ago and lives in Brazil.



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INTERNATIONAL

Missile test likely a ploy to draw U.S. into dialogue

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — In an apparent attempt to push the United States into talks, North Korea test-fired a short-range missile Monday amid tension over its suspected efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

Analysts said the widely anticipated launch from a base on North Korea's east coast fit a pattern of unusual military maneuvers in recent weeks that seemed designed to pressure Washington into dialogue.

Those maneuvers include the March 2 interception of a U.S. reconnaissance plane by North Korean fighter jets in international airspace off the North's east coast. The North said the move was defensive. There was no hostile fire, and the U.S. plane returned to its base in Japan.

"In the big picture, North Korea is trying to draw the United States to the negotiating table," said Paik Hak-soon, a North Korea expert at Sejong Institute, a private research center in Seoul.

"In the short term, North Korea is trying to send a message to Washington saying, 'We are determined to defend our territory.' It's because of suspicion that North Korea is next after Iraq," Paik said.

North Korea wants a nonaggression treaty and economic aid from the United States, which is preparing for war against Iraq. Washington says the U.N. Security Council should handle the North Korean nuclear problem.

In Washington, top Bush administration officials said Sunday the time still isn't ripe for one-on-one talks with North Korea and any lasting solution to the nuclear dispute will need the support of Russia, China and other nations.

"I think eventually we will be talking to North Korea, but we're not going to simply fall into what I believe is bad practice of saying the only way you can talk to us is direct-



Yun Jai-hyoung/Associated Press

U.S. Army soldiers prepare equipment on an armored vehicle for a joint military exercise with South Korea in Paju, South Korea, near the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas Monday.

ly, when it affects other nations in the region," Secretary of State Colin Powell said on CNN's "Late Edition."

Democrats are pressing the Bush administration to begin direct talks immediately.

National security adviser Condoleezza Rice said on ABC's "This Week" that the United States isn't afraid to talk, "but we need to do so in a way that will bring maximum pressure on North Korea to actually this time not just freeze its weapons of mass destruc-

tion, but begin to dismantle them."

The Pentagon had expected a missile launch, citing a North Korean warning to ships to stay out of a sector off the east coast from Saturday to Tuesday.

Maj. Kim Ki-Beom, a spokesman at the South Korean Defense Ministry, said the missile was believed to be an anti-ship missile similar to one that North Korea test-fired on Feb. 24, the eve of the inauguration of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

South Korean officials said the second missile was launched from a pad at Sinsang-ri and flew 68 miles. It had a range of 99 miles.

U.S. and South Korean officials are more concerned about a possible North Korean test of a Taepodong-2 missile, which analysts believe is capable of reaching parts of the United States, though there are widespread doubts about its reach and accuracy. In 1998, North Korea test-fired a Taepodong-1 missile over Japan and into the Pacific.

In October, U.S. officials said Pyongyang admitted having a covert nuclear program in violation of a 1994 deal. Washington and its allies suspended fuel shipments; the North retaliated by expelling U.N. monitors, withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and restarting a nuclear reactor.

OPEC would boost output to avoid wartime crude shortage

BY BRUCE STANLEY

AP Business Writer

VIENNA, Austria — OPEC will ratchet up its oil production and possibly even suspend its current output quotas to keep the world supplied with ample supplies of crude in the event of a war with Iraq, the group's president said Monday.

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries can pump an additional 3-4 million barrels of oil a day, and they are prepared to exhaust this spare production capacity if a war seriously disrupts exports from the Persian Gulf, said OPEC President Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiah.

OPEC's secretary general and oil ministers from Iran, Algeria and Venezuela played down the possibility that the group might suspend its output ceiling, currently set at 24.5 million barrels a day. Al-Attiah expressed a greater degree of flexibility, without actually endorsing a temporary suspension.

"OPEC will do the most it can to avoid any shock in the market," he told reporters ahead of an output policy meeting Tuesday at OPEC headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

The United States and other major importing countries want OPEC to maximize production if a war threatens supplies and causes prices to spike. U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, due in Vienna Tuesday on separate business, said in London that he might meet here with oil ministers from leading OPEC producers. Al-Attiah said Abraham had so far not requested to meet with him.

OPEC, which pumps about a third of the world's crude, is already exceeding its target as members cash in on prices that have soared to 12-year highs amid fears of a war-induced supply shortage from Iraq.

A conflict would almost certainly disrupt Iraq's daily shipments of 2 million barrels, but at least one OPEC member — the United Arab Emirates — expressed doubts about the group's ability to cover a larger shortfall if fighting spreads beyond Iraq's borders.

"OPEC should not be blamed," Al-Attiah said. "We will do whatever we can, but this is in accordance to our capacity. When we reach a level that we cannot exceed, then we cannot do anything."

Al-Attiah said the market was already well supplied with crude. Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Ali Naimi, speaking to reporters upon his arrival, agreed but gave no further details.

However, the United Arab Emirates' Oil Minister, Obaid bin Saif Al-Nasseri, warned it would be "very difficult" for OPEC to pump enough oil to cover a simultaneous shortfall in crude exports from Iraq and northern Kuwait.

Kuwait, which hosts most of the U.S. troops that are poised to attack Iraq, has said that in the event of war it would shut down its northern oil fields as a precaution against a possible Iraqi counterstrike. Such a step would reduce Kuwait's output by around 700,000 barrels a day, or about a third of its current production.

Al-Nasseri's comments suggested that the United States and other major oil-importing countries would need to rely on their own strategic petroleum reserves as a cushion against a serious disruption in supply.

Despite Al-Attiah's claim that OPEC has "3-4 million barrels" in daily spare capacity, it was not clear how much higher the cartel could go in satisfying U.S. demands. Al-Nasseri said the United Arab Emirates' capacity of about 2.5 million barrels a day was already "about full." Aside from Saudi Arabia and perhaps Nigeria, most other OPEC members are already believed to be producing at their limits.

OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia, which by some estimates is pumping at a rate of 9 million barrels a day, could raise its output to 9.5 million barrels a day within a month and 10.5 million barrels a day within three months.

Yet, not all of OPEC's extra capacity is likely to be available right away. Al-Attiah's figure for OPEC's production potential appeared to include Venezuela's nominal capacity of 2.35 million barrels a day, yet Venezuelan exports are still recovering from a crippling strike.

OPEC raised its output target by 6.5 percent in January, in an unsuccessful effort to keep a lid on rising prices. Prices for U.S. light, sweet crude have since reached a post-1991 peak of \$39.99.

Key developments with Iraq

By The Associated Press

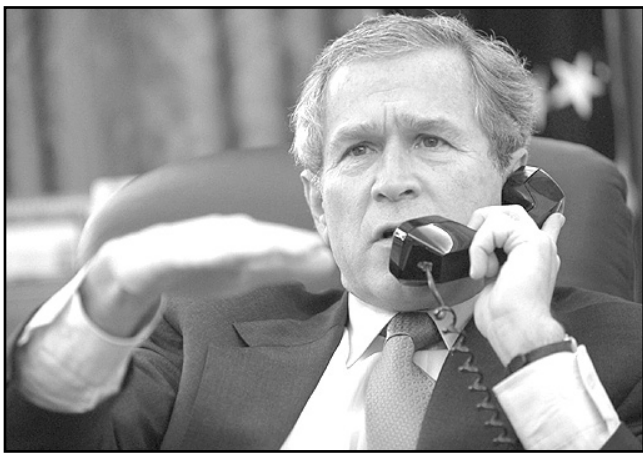
■ Russia and France, which both hold veto power on the Security Council, said they would vote down the U.S.-British-backed resolution setting a March 17 ultimatum for Saddam Hussein. Russia left open the possibility of approving an amended proposal.

■ The United States and Britain said they were open to compromise on the resolution. The White House also said a show-down Security Council vote would not come Tuesday, but could come anytime later in the week.

■ French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin flew to Africa to persuade Angola, Guinea and Cameroon to reject the resolution. President Bush made an urgent round of phone calls to world leaders, trying to salvage the measure. Secretary of State Colin Powell voiced alarm over the U.N. inspector's report that Iraq has unmanned drone aircraft capable of dispensing chemical weapons.

■ Pakistan said it will not support the resolution but didn't make clear if the country would vote no or abstain.

■ U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan warned the United States it



Eric Draper/White House

President Bush gestures while speaking with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi from the Oval Office of the White House Monday. The president along with members of his administration are working the phones. They're trying to drum up support for the U.N. resolution that gives Saddam Hussein until March 17th to prove he's disarmed.

would be in violation of the United Nations charter if it attacked Iraq without Security Council approval.

■ Chief U.N. nuclear inspector Mohammed ElBaradei said he would send an Arab delegation with a message to Saddam this week, suggesting several changes in attitude to avert a war. "The next two weeks will be decisive and the ball is still in the Iraqi court," he told a Saudi-owned newspaper.

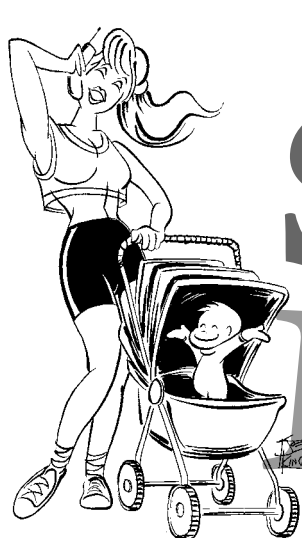
■ Iraq urged U.N. Security Council members to stand up to Washington's "bloodthirsty whims" and oppose the March 17 deadline.

■ A senior Iraqi Information Ministry offi-

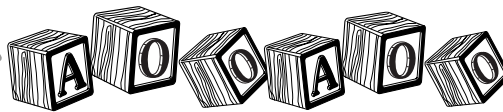
cial said Iraq was destroying more banned Al Samoud 2 missiles, crushing six of them. Iraq has destroyed 46 of the missiles, almost half of its original arsenal.

■ Turkey's governing party leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan won a seat in parliament by a huge margin, a crucial victory that opens the way for him to become prime minister and strengthens his hand in uniting the government behind deployment of U.S. troops for an Iraq war.

■ Five Iraqi diplomats were expelled from Romania for "activities incompatible with their status," diplomatic jargon for spying.



Santa Monica Mom



A weekly look at events and programs for Santa Monica mothers and mothers to be



MOM'S THE WORD
MATERNITY WEAR

SANTA MONICA
910 Montana Avenue
310.451.9604

SCHEDULES:

MONDAY

Storytelling

Santa Monica Main Library (programs for the Main Library are being presented in off-site locations during renovation) Lap Time for parents and children up to 24 months, 9:30am, Joslyn Park/Craft Room/633 Kensington - 310-452-6132

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Cuentos Para Pequenos - 11:15 am, March 24 - April 28 - Stories in Spanish for toddlers and pre-schoolers. No registration required.

Barnes and Noble - 3rd St. Promenade - Toddler Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group

the Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 11am - 12:30pm. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13 Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me(infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150
Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com
Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm

TUESDAY

Storytelling

Santa Monica Main Library Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:45am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire - 2 yr-olds with parent. 310-458-8922

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443 Lap Time - 11am - Mar 4-April 8 - 6- wk series for parents & children up to 24 months. Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Cuentos Para Pequenos - 10am - Mar 4- April 8 - a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 24-36 months old
Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081 Family Story Time - 7pm Stories for the entire family

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Toddler Story Time - Feb. 25-April 1, 24-36 months, series, registration required, call for info.

Breastfeeding Group

the Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free.
Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13 Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150
Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443 Preschool Story Time - 10:30am - March 5-April 9, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081 Lap Time - 10 and 10:30am - 6 week series for children up to 24months, current series ends April 2.
Toddler Story Time - 11:15 am - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Twilight Story Time - 7:00 to 7:30pm - for working parents with 3-5 year olds.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 7pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free.
Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13 Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me(infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150
Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com
Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Santa Monica Main Library Preschool Story Time - 10:15am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th & Wilshire. Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. 310-458-8922

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443 Toddler Story Time - 10:30am - March 6-April 10 - 6 week series for 24-36 month olds with adult.

La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081. Toddler Story Time - 10:15am - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult. Preschool Story Time - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804.
Lap Time - 9:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774. No pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381. Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13. Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150.
Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15. Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

FRIDAY

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381. Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13
Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me(infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150.
Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Classes

The Pump Station - 2415 Wilshire Blvd, SM, 310-826-5774 - HOT TOPICS FOR MOMS with babies 6-12 months - 1:00 - 2:30pm, \$15, no registration required, space is limited. March 14 - Developmental Stages and Landmarks in Infants.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Children's Book World - 10580 - W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-BOOK. 10:30 am, ages 3-8 (March 8, 15, 22)

Barnes and Noble - 3rd St. Promenade - Toddler Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble - Westside Pavilion - 10am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381
Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:30am, and 10:45 - noon, \$13
Santa Monica Yoga - 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. - 310-396-4040. Prenatal yoga - 12:30 - 2:00pm, \$14

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
"Dorothy's Adventures in Oz" - Santa Monica Playhouse - 12:30 and 3:00pm - 310-394-9779 (thru March 30).

SUNDAY

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
"Dorothy's Adventures in Oz" - Santa Monica Playhouse - 12:30 and 3:00pm - 310-394-9779 (thru March 30).

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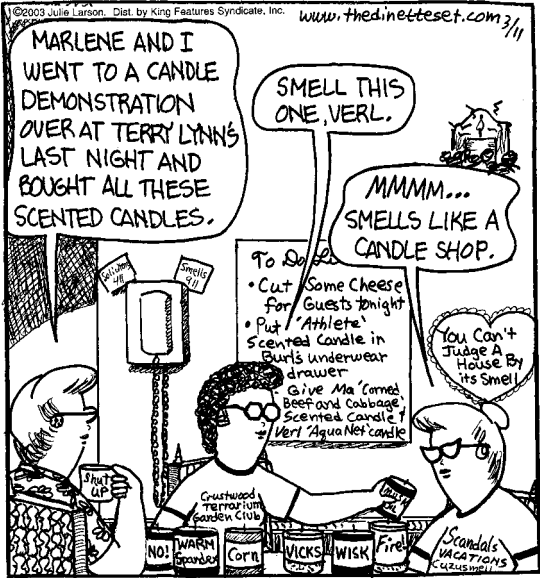
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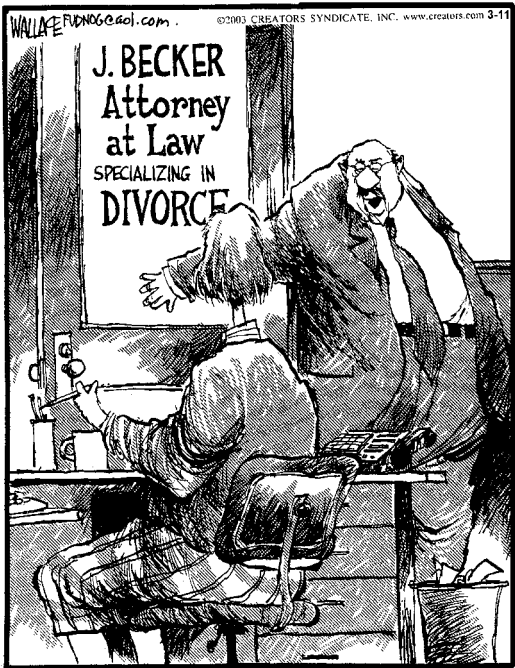


COMICS

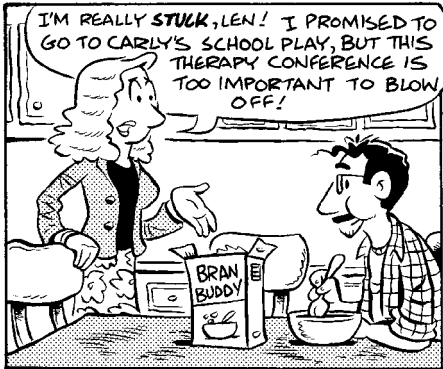
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



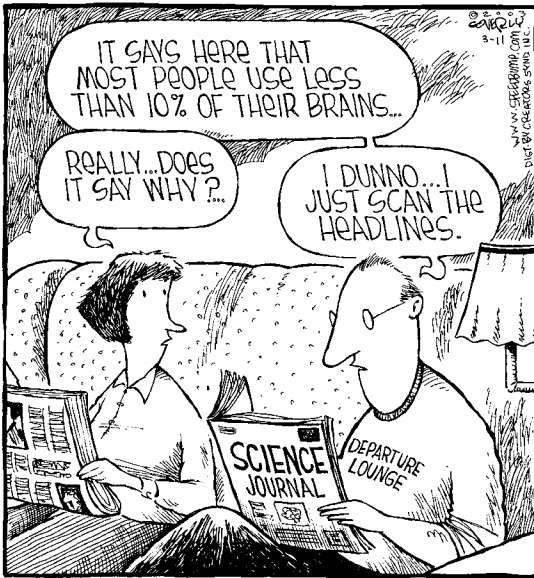
by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Book feature
- 6 Funda- mental
- 11 Baja "bye!"
- 12 Battery end
- 13 Tenant's protection
- 15 Utter
- 16 Crude home
- 17 Building wing
- 18 Gauge
- 20 Permit
- 23 Competitor
- 27 Horse line
- 28 Rob of "The West Wing"
- 29 Comb parts
- 31 Stitched
- 32 Seasonal greenery
- 34 Volcano output
- 37 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 38 Honest Prez
- 41 Campaign concern
- 44 Asian peninsula
- 45 Fine-tune
- 46 Take the wheel
- 47 Emulates Icarus
- 2 Brainstorm
- 3 Minuscule
- 4 Parking place
- 5 Shun
- 6 Playful talk
- 7 Aardvark snack
- 8 Ticked off
- 9 Matinee star
- 10 Prisoner's place
- 14 Ump's call
- 18 Calendar page
- 19 Hoosier poet
- 20 Skill
- 21 Grant's foe
- 22 Whopper

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Yesterday's answer

- 24 Oath
- 25 Reverent fear
- 26 Went ahead
- 30 Chop shop
- 31 Inclines
- 33 Summer sign
- 34 Invites
- 35 Ocelot feature
- 36 Take on
- 38 Region
- 39 Sow's mate
- 40 Moose cousins
- 42 Born
- 43 Binary base

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3-11

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For Rent

BEVERLY HILLS ADJ. \$1550.00 Vintage 2 story 1920's duplex. Master Bedroom, entertainment center, 2bdrm/1ba, living room, eat-in kitchen, bright, Mexican tile, faux fireplace, lots of architectural detail, hardwood floors. Permit street parking.

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For Rent

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BRENTWOOD ADJACENT \$775 Large single w/balcony. large kitchen and lots of storage. 1 car off street parking, laundry room, close to everything. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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CONTEMPORARY \$1550.00 2bdrm/2.5ba 2-story townhouse w/fireplace, balcony, high ceilings, gated entry, 2 car gated parking. Fireplace, stove, dishwasher, laundry facilities, 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

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For Rent

MID-WILSHIRE \$675.00 Charming, 1bdrm/1ba. Laundry facilities on premises. Gas range, hardwood, garbage disposal, stove, cable television.

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N. HOLLYWOOD \$985.00 2bdrm/1ba, new carpet, new appliances, all new, gated parking, A/C, balcony, stove, large closets, pool, no pets, walk to shops.

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

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

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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PASADENA \$700.00 Tranquil 1bdrm/1ba, new carpet and kitchen flooring, laundry facilities on premises, air conditioning, balcony, carpets, refrig., stove.

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SANTA MONICA \$1900/mo 2bdrm/2ba. Hardwood floors, washer, dryer. Large Patio. Available 3/1 (310)899-3402

SANTA MONICA \$1100.00-\$1250.00 1bdrm, brand new building, all appliances, parking. 1347 23rd St. (310)899-9917.

SANTA MONICA \$1095/mo 2bdrm/1ba, pet ok, r/s, a/c, bright, yard, gated entry.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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SANTA MONICA \$1750/mo 2bdrm/2ba. N. of Wilshire (310)394-1826.

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

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Immaculate Unit, new carpet, original ceramic tile in kitchen and bath separate kitchen, laundry, facility, refrigerator, stove, street parking pets OK.

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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(310)276-4663

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

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

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$975/mo. 1bdrm/1ba, pet ok, r/s, hardwood floors, month to month.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA Studio \$800/mo. Pet ok, balcony, laundry, parking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA Studio \$950/mo. Pet ok, r/s, w/d, yard, laundry, utilities included.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA, N. of Wilshire. Refurbished building for rent. 1,2,&3 bdrms from \$1500.00-\$3800.00. OBO. By appointment only. 1214 Idaho (310)869-0468.

Howard Management Group

For Rent

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

SOUTH VENICE \$2200/mo Ocean front, 2bdrm/1ba. New paint, refrigerator/stove, dishwasher, fireplace, balcony, laundry, parking. (310)823-6349

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

[www.apartmenthunterz.com](#)
(310)276-4663

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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

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(310)276-4663

For Rent

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

For Rent

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc
[www.ellynesis.com](#)

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

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

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(310)276-4663

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

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

[www.apartmenthunterz.com](#)
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WeHo \$750.00 Classic New York style brick building hardwood floors, pet ok, stove, ceiling fan, crown molding. Close to shops and restaurants. Parking available.

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

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(310)276-4663

SANTA MONICA \$1300/mo Furnished 1bdrm, kitchen, living room, laundry, garage. Available April/May. No smoking. (310)452-3131.

Roommates

MAR VISTA S. Near Centinela & Culver Blvd. Own bedroom, medium size. Share bath \$495. Female preferred. House cat. No smoking, no drugs. (310)391-1563

Furnished Apts.

SANTA MONICA \$795.00 Lower Unit, Part. Furn., safe neighborhood, bright, full kitchen, off of Wilshire Blvd., utils. inc., amenities include Street parking, Indry facilities, crpts, furnished, refrig., stv, storage.

Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.

[www.apartmenthunterz.com](#)
(310)276-4663

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA cottage \$950/mo. 1bdrm/1ba, patio, hardwood floors, yard, great location, parking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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

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

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

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Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 395-5255

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

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

In the Matter of the Petition) CASE NO. SS011597

of Newlon Rouge, L.L.C. To Have The)
Standing of the SANTA MONICA DAILY)
PRESS as a Newspaper of General) NOTICE OF INTENTION TO
Circulation Ascertained and) APPLY FOR ORDER DECLARING
Established.) STATUS OF NEWSPAPER AS ONE
) OF GENERAL CIRCULATION FOR
) COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND
) STATE OF CALIFORNIA
) [Gov. Code §6021]

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

DATED: February 5, 2003

Nicholas Tepper
Attorney for Petitioner
Santa Monica Daily Press, Inc.

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Announcements

"I SOLD it one day! When I put
my futon for sale in the Daily
Press, it took me one day to sell
it...thanks!" Nina Stewart, San-
ta Monica.

THE FIRST day I put my laptop
for sale in your paper, I got sev-
eral offers and sold it that day!
Thank you Daily Press!
Jamie Schuler, Santa Monica

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Obituaries

THOMAS AYLESWORTH
May 16th 1968 - February 28th
2003

Thomas passed away at St.
John's Hospital, after a valiant
battle with melanoma. Thomas
grew up and lived in the Malibu/
Santa Monica area, off and on
since 1969. He lived life to the
fullest and enjoyed skiing, ten-
nis, and fishing. He attained his
life long goal of becoming a
"head chef" at both the Babalu,
and Ocean Ave. Seafood res-
taurants in Santa Monica.
He is survived by his parents:
Nancy & John, his brothers:
Billy & John, his sister Cynthia,
and nephew Robert. Thomas'
website: www.aylesworth.us

A memorial service for Thomas
is being held at:
"Malibu Presbyterian Church"
3324 Malibu Canyon Road
(near Pepperdine) Saturday
March 15th at 11:00am.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2003

TODAY

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 activities 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 appre-
ciated. 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 internation-
al 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.

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

TOMORROW

Santa Monica Public Library presents Preschool
Story Time, every Wednesday at 11:15am, 1343
Sixth Street. Stories for children between the ages
of three and five who are ready to participate on
their own. (310)458-8600

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet
& Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical
revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic
and more. Shows are always followed by a demon-
stration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop
and Museum. Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and
3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are
\$6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica.
Reservations/Information (310)656-0483.
www.puppetmagic.com

Torah readings: Hosted by Rabbi Aaron Shaffier.
This popular class examines the text of the Bible
verse by verse with explanations. Every Wednesday
at 12:15pm, 1111 Montana Ave. Fee is \$7 per class.
Gourmet salad lunch is served. (310)488-7151.

Free Meditation Workshops sponsored by Sahaja
Yoga. Every Wednesday night at 7pm in the
Community Room at the Wilshire Wild Oats, 500
Wilshire Blvd. At 5th St. Open to all. (310)395-6443

Unurban Coffee House presents Poetry and Spoken
Word every Wednesday evening. Hosted by Tony
Perez. 8pm, 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

The O.A.O. T's (pronounced oh ay oh tees) will
perform this evening at 14 Below, 1348 14th St. in
Santa Monica, 10pm. Don't miss this high energy,
powerful pop punk trio!

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) 4:00, 10:15. **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)** 12:30, 6:45.

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



Best man a real tiger

By The Associated Press

PARKER CITY, Ind. — Eileen Oren's maid of honor was peaceful as a pussycat, but Bob Taylor's best man was one wild cat.

The newlyweds chose tigers as their top cats when they tied the knot Saturday at ME's Zoo, home to 213 animals. The bride owns the zoo about 50 miles north-east of Indianapolis.

During the ceremony before 100 friends and relatives, Bobbi the tiger became agitated and nearly overturned his cage while serving as best man.

But the maid of honor, a female tiger named Massai, remained tranquil. Omar, a camel tapped to be the ring-bearer, also performed his duties peacefully.

"Eileen has a real passion for animals, so this style of wedding is exactly her," said Maria Cooper, a seasonal employee at the zoo.

Oren and Taylor met about nine years ago when Taylor, then a Ball State University architectural professor, brought students to the zoo to design and build different projects.

The pair soon recognized their shared love for animals.

Adopted Minnesotan a prince

By The Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — In Minnesota, Marty Johnson is a mortgage broker and father of two. In Nigeria, he's a

prince, next in line to be chief.

Johnson, 38, was adopted, and over the years he made a few fruitless attempts to find out about his background. Then two years ago his birth mother contacted him.

The Cedar Falls, Iowa, woman said she had fallen for a Nigerian who was studying for a master's degree in education at Northern Iowa University. He had to go home; she put the baby up for adoption.

With that information, and with heavy prodding from his wife, Laura, Johnson began to make some contacts in Nigeria.

He discovered that his father is one of a line of chiefs who, in the days before central government, were so powerful they could declare war. Johnson's great-grandfather founded a school; his grandfather and father continue to run it.

Johnson said he is now regarded openly by the chief and dozens of other relatives — including three brothers — as the chief's first-born son. When his birth father dies, Marty Johnson will be known in Orlu, Nigeria, as Ude-Ekeh, which means chief. And someday so will his 6-year-old son, Jacob.

The Johnsons are planning to go to Nigeria in December, but they also plan to come back. The future Ude-Ekeh, after all, still has a job and a mortgage.

Troops receive only the best meat

By The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — U.S. troops stationed in Kuwait may be accustomed to peasant conditions, but they are eating like kings.

They're feasting on 10-ounce T-bone steaks and 7-ounce beef loins from a small meat-processing plant near downtown Omaha.

Needham Meats has a contract to supply prime cuts of beef for soldiers stationed in the tiny oil country along the Iraqi border.

"We do everything that we can do to give them only the best," said Bill Needham, president of the 50-

employee plant on the south side of Omaha's historic Old Market district.

The plant's workers chop 12-pound slabs into sought-after delmonico steaks, rib-eye rolls and T-bones of various sizes. The steaks are frozen and boxed up.

Military officials and Needham declined to say how many steaks are shipped to the troops in Kuwait. However, the Department of Defense confirmed that Needham is the primary supplier of steaks being fed to troops in the Persian Gulf country.

"The troops are eating extremely well," said Frank Johnson with the Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia, which ensures U.S. servicemen have enough food, clothing, personal hygiene products and medical supplies.

Protesters support security guard

By The Associated Press

GUILDERLAND, N.Y. — A fired mall security guard has some unlikely supporters — peace protesters.

Robert Williams was fired from his job at a suburban Albany mall following the arrest of an anti-war protester.

Williams told lawyer Stephen Downs to take off a T-shirt that read "Give Peace a Chance." Downs, 61, was charged with trespassing a week ago after refusing to leave the mall or remove the anti-war shirt.

On Sunday, about 100 protesters returned to Crossgates mall, urging that Williams be rehired. Downs says there was no justification to fire Williams, who was professional and polite.

Protest leaders said they met with mall management for almost two hours but reached no resolution on their demands.

There were no arrests reported in Sunday's peaceful protest, monitored by Guilderland police and security guards.

A call to Crossgates offices Sunday wasn't immediately returned to the Daily Gazette of Schenectady.

VISITORS DAY BREAKFAST MEETING



We cordially invite
all professionals in the area to
attend the upcoming Visitors Day
breakfast meeting of the local
Business Network International (BNI).

The meeting will be held at:



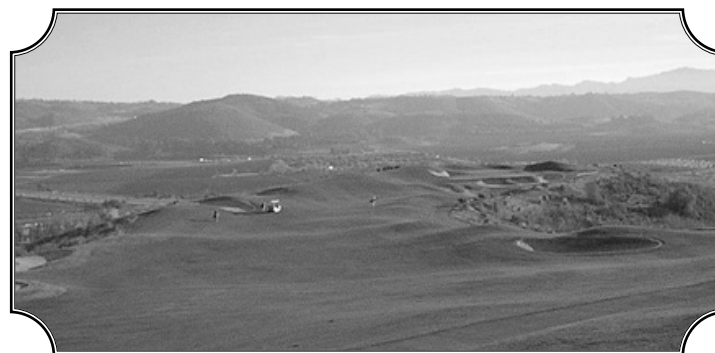
TOPPERS
RESTAURANT & CANTINA
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Radisson Huntley Hotel

1111 Second Street in Santa Monica
(between California St. and Wilshire Blvd.)

Wednesday, March 12th at 7 a.m.

There will be a \$13.00 charge for the breakfast.

For more information, please contact:
Bill Keane at 310-712-7811



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