

FREE

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 103

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

4-5-12-18-37
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: \$13 million

FANTASY 5
03, 14, 15, 19, 31

DAILY 3
Afternoon picks: 3, 0, 4
Evening picks: 2, 9, 5

DAILY DERBY
1st Place: 05, California Classic.
2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit.
3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win.
Race Time: 1:42.78.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

■ In her Daily Telegraph (London) column of Jan. 16, Medical Editor Celia Hall reported that a family doctor in western England has been summoned to a formal hearing before his local primary-care trust because he refused to certify a male patient for a Pap smear to screen him for cervical cancer. The man sincerely believes he is a hermaphrodite, but his doctor said he can find no evidence of that (and in fact, the man once fathered a child). At least one colleague suggested appeasing the patient, which the doctor said he might do if someone would teach him the procedure for performing a cervical smear on a 34-year-old male.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Join the service, see the world, meet interesting people ... and then kill them.



INDEX

Horoscopes

Be more open, Gemini 2



Local

Main Library to close 3



Opinion

Iraq alternatives no good 4



State

Fresno pols dis Jackson 6



National

Young girl found alive 7



International

Serbian minister killed 10



Sports

NFL refs asked to resign 11



Classifieds

The classiest gig in town 13



Calendar

Keep your date straight 15

Vigil canceled as home agrees to talks

Convalescent hospital accused of mistreating residents, workers

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

The threat of a clergy-sponsored vigil on its front lawn was enough to force a local nursing home accused of mistreating residents and underpaying workers to the negotiating table Wednesday.

Officials from the parent company of Oceanview Convalescent Hospital, located at 1340 15th St., agreed to talks with members of the Service Employees International Union Local 434 B, which represents long-term health care workers.

After the agreement, clergy

members and union organizers canceled the afternoon vigil and said they hoped to make progress in "good faith negotiations" with the company next week.

"It's about patient care," said Gilbert Ramirez, an SEIU organizer from Local 434B. "And it's about better service."

Ramirez said nursing homes statewide are facing a 15 percent budget cut from the state, which could translate into even tougher times for both workers and patients.

Members of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice said they called the vigil because they are worried about the quality of assisted living at the 150-resident home and the subpar wages paid to workers.

"Ultimately it comes back to

See VIGIL, page 5



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The Oceanview Convalescent Hospital, located at 1340 15th St., was the site of a planned, clergy-sponsored vigil Wednesday.

Ruthie! neither temp nor comic anymore

BY DAVE DANFORTH
Daily Press Staff Writer

A temp who quit her job as a legal secretary to go back to work at her original job, only to be dismissed because she showed up in "pajama bottoms," apparently

brought her entire legal office to a standstill Tuesday.

The law office of David Reeder — a bankruptcy lawyer in Century City — is a one-partner office. He appeared to bring the bulk of his staff, including his wife and a temp, with him to court.

Ruthie! — exactly her legal name — complained that Reeder got her to quit her job last December, luring her back to work, only to refuse to hire her because the replacement temp felt she showed up to work in "pajama bottoms."

Ruthie! has 28 years under her belt as a legal secretary, lives in Marina Del Rey, and moved from Berkeley to pursue her dream of becoming a stand-up comic. Today, she is neither temp nor comic, the victim of a stagnant market overstocked with both. She claims she hasn't had a job since Reeder dissed her in January.

She worked for Reeder until March of last year, when she asked for a raise from the \$19 an hour she was making as a temp to the \$25 she said she needed. Reeder, noting he had a contract with the temp agency that penalized him for hiring its temps directly, declined. Ruthie! then said she left and got a job at a law office a stone's throw from her Marina Del Rey residence.

But last December, both she and Reeder agreed, he called her pleading for her to quit the job and return to his law office, offering

See RUTHIE!, page 5

Trashy traffic



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

City workers haul dumpsters on Santa Monica Boulevard to a new locale near the beach.

Council okays higher parking fees, new meters

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Parking meters in Santa Monica will cost a bit more as early as this summer.

Rates for spots along the beach and downtown will be bumped up from 50-cents an hour to \$1 an hour and remaining meters will be raised from between 35-cents and 50-cents to 75-cents an hour in compliance with new parking zones designated by the city Tuesday.

See PARKING, page 6

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HOROSCOPE

Be more open today, Gemini



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 13, 2003:

Your ability to find solutions and toss problems in the air draws success and others' admiration. Trust your capabilities, and you will gain as a result. Understand when you need to say "enough" to someone or let him or her know he or she has pushed way too hard. You've got to stay focused in order to create more of what you want. If you are single, you will discover you have the potential this year to meet that certain someone. This person could bring a life-long relationship. Though the first encounter could happen anytime, it is likely to happen sometime this year. You could be hooked before you know it. If you're attached, your relationship will blossom this year. You might add something new to your life. CANCER adores you.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Handle family matters first. Discussions take you in a new direction if you don't clam up. But what you don't say could cause a problem. Stay anchored. Build a better relationship with those around you. Check out an investment. Tonight: Happy at home.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Reach out for others. You could feel a bit tight with finances. Discussions head you in a new direction. Information comes forward within a friendship or in a meeting. Your knee-jerk reaction takes you into a new role. Tonight: At a favorite spot.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You could easily have a difficult time relaxing and heading in the right direction. Review what needs to happen with a boss, parent or higher-up. You could find that if you're more open, opportunities will head your way, both professionally and emotionally. Tonight: Balance your checkbook.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Don't allow a feeling of being down to get the best of you. Think in terms of making the possibilities happen, rather than closing a door that could impact you with an in-law or someone at a distance. Avoid gossip, and you'll be much happier. Tonight: Do your thing.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ Keep information to yourself. A partner gives you new insight into arriving at a goal. Listen to his or her ideas. Networking points the way to success. You could be pulled between two different concerns. Consider options, but don't announce them just yet. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Your vision of what might be possible could change considerably because of a discussion with a partner. Still, you know what you want. Enlist a special associate's support in making what you need happen. Tonight: Where the action is.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Take charge in your customary manner. Realize your image of what needs to happen with a boss or supervisor. Have you pushed the envelope? This looks like a strong possibility. Be honest with yourself, especially with a work-related matter. Tonight: Easy does it.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Though a partner could be stiff and rigid, you wonder exactly what your limits are. Realize more of what you would like through identifying with this person. Charge your creativity into your work and life. Tonight: Know that anything is possible.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You're not in control. An associate or partner lets you know that loud and clear. As you have no choice, allow someone else to run with the ball. You find that success comes to those who choose to let go. Don't get stuck on having something your way. Tonight: Just say "yes."



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others run with the moment, though you might question what might be happening with a partner or associate at work. You might not be getting his or her message. Let others display their colors like an ostrich. You will learn a lot. Tonight: Out and about.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your focus on work could push someone away from you. Is this what you really want? You might want to rethink your concerns here. Visualize the type of life you want. A money matter comes through for you. Go with opportunity. Tonight: Work late, if need be.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might be a bit down. Lighten up and look at what life is about. Your sense of humor emerges. Creativity allows you more opportunities, if you will just use it. Re-energize a relationship, if you're attached. Tonight: Develop your flirting skills.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Main Library to close March 24

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Public Library's Main Library, 1343 Sixth Street, will close to the public on Monday, March 24, in order to prepare for a move to temporary facilities.

The Temporary Main Library will be located at 1324 Fifth Street (between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue). Library service from this downtown location is expected to begin in late April, while the new Main Library, designed by Moore Ruble Yudell, is built. Construction of the new library is expected to take approximately two years.

During the move to the temporary facility, service will be available at these branches:

- Montana Avenue Library, 1704 Montana Avenue (310) 829-7081.
- Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Boulevard (310) 450-0443.
- Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main Street (310) 392-3804.

Branch hours are: Noon to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Branch libraries are closed Friday and Sunday.

Until the Temporary Main Library opens to the public, Telephone Reference Service will be offered Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Telephone Reference phone number is (310) 451-8859.

Reference service is also available via e-mail and "24/7 Live Reference" through the library's Web site at www.smpl.org. Patrons can also access the online catalog and a host of online databases from work, school, or home through the library's Web site.

The Temporary Main Library will offer reference, readers' advisory, and Internet service. About one-third the size of the existing Main Library, the temporary site will house 18 public access Internet stations, new library materials, and selections from the following collections: nonfiction, fiction and genre, paperbacks, current newspapers and magazines, videos, DVDs, CDs, audio books, language learning materials, reference materials (including microfilm of the Evening Outlook and other California resources), and young adult as well as a small, core collection of children's materials.

The Main Library's children's collection will be largely relocated to the Ocean Park Branch and the large print book collection will be expanded at the Montana Ave. Branch. The rest of the Main Library's collections, including bound magazines, international language books, and government documents, will be stored off-site and will not be available until the new Main Library is completed in 2005.

Temporary Main Library hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

Parking is available at nearby city parking structures. For up-to-date information, check the library's construction Web site at www.smpl.org/construction or call the library's general information line (310) 458-8600.

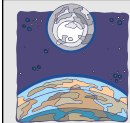
surf report

Information compiled by Jamie Seborer

Look for south swell build up from Wednesday coming in from a steep southerly angle that could miss some breaks. The well-exposed breaks should see waves in the 3'-to-4' range. The rest of the breaks will be knee-high.

Our next northwest swell is coming Friday. This swell should hit in the early morning with sessions looking at head-high surf, possibly a 1'-2' overhead. The swell is coming at a westerly angle so it's going to hit all breaks. The sets could have walled-up conditions if the break faces directly west.

Watch for morning and afternoon fog. The beaches are as clean as they are going to get and the water temperatures should stay about 60 degrees.



Today's Tides:

High	5:05AM	4.7'
Low	12:40PM	-0.2'
High	7:32PM	3.6'

Location	Thursday	Friday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4' good	5-7' good	A
Zuma	2-3' Fair	4-6' good	A
Surfrider	2-3' fair	3-4' fair	A
Topanga	1-2' fair	4-5' fair	A
Breakwater	2-3' fair	4-6' fair	A
El Porto	1-2' fair	4-6' good	A

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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.

DID YOU KNOW?: In Sparta, citizens under 60 were considered too immature to serve in the Senate?



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OPINION

LETTERS

Calling all foreign policy wonks

Editor:

Can you please explain our foreign policy to me? I understand that we do not approve of North Korea's government and that they have kicked out the U.N. weapons inspectors. Also they have threatened us with nuclear weapons and we are going to resume shipments of food to them because we are compassionate and care about their starving children. I also understand that we do not approve of Iraq's government, that they currently have dozens of U.N. weapons inspectors searching for their weapons of mass destruction, that they have not threatened us with any of these weapons and that we are planning to bomb them with our own weapons of mass destruction. Do we not feel any compassion for their children? If you can explain this to me I shall be most grateful.

Carole Bailey
Los Angeles

Dropping Davis reference a 'smart move'

Editor:

I noticed that Todd Flora's political description no longer mentions that he was an aide to Governor Davis.

Smart move.

Joe Weichman
Santa Monica

Arsenic contradictions at state level

Editor:

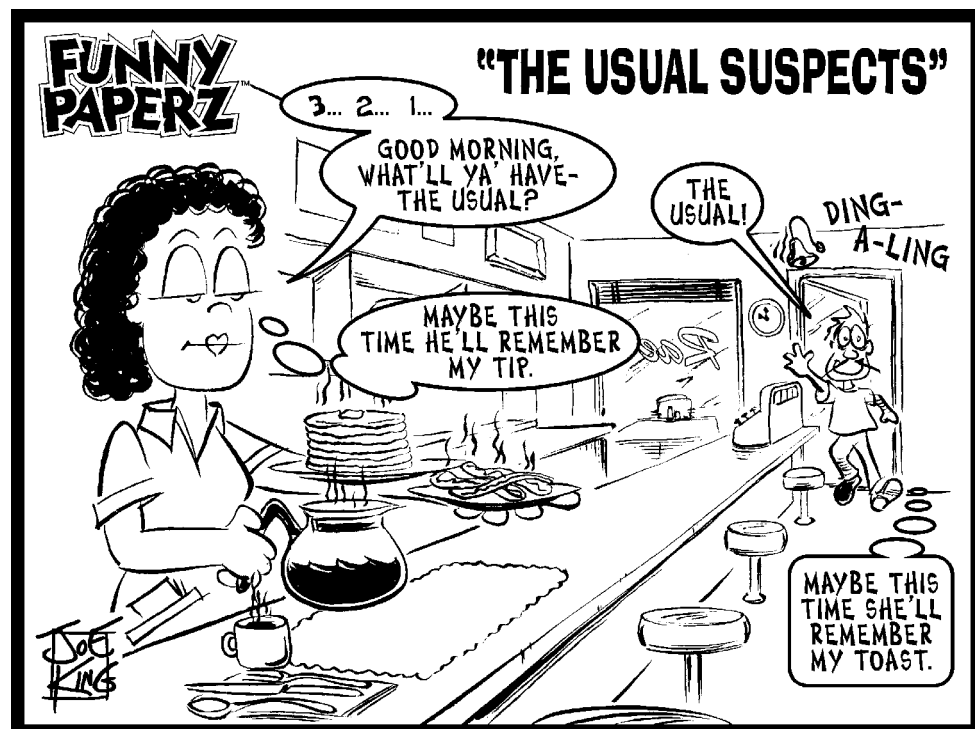
In relation to the article in March 8th's Daily Press ("State reduces goal for arsenic in drinking water"), I definitely approve of toughening the state standards as far as how much arsenic is allowed to be present in water supplies in California. It was good to see that Cal-EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's proposal would allow just 4 parts per trillion of arsenic in California's water systems.

There are two ironies in regards to this goal. While the Santa Monica City Council has voted to toughen arsenic standards in water, it also voted 4 to 3 to add hydrofluosilicic acid to Santa Monica's water supply. This substance, which is caught in

smokestack scrubbers at a super-phosphate fertilizer facility in Florida, contains arsenic!

The other irony is that the California Department of Health Services will supposedly take into account Cal-EPA's goal, and then will set arsenic standards that are "as close to the public health goal as is economically and technically feasible." Unfortunately, the Department of Health Services is the same agency that has approved the dumping low-level radioactive waste at municipal landfills in California and is in cahoots with trying to force hydrofluosilicic acid onto water consumers of our state.

Bruce Campbell
Brentwood



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Iraq alternatives make 'Sophie's Choice' seem simple



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

While I remain committed to seeing Saddam Hussein ousted from power, my support for the war has become increasingly fragile.

I continue to believe that Saddam represents a threat to the region and the world. I still believe that his people are desperate to be liberated from his brutal regime that, according to one report, is responsible for the deaths of a million and a half people.

And I believe that it is likely that the war would be over quickly and the civilian casualties will be far fewer — unless Saddam unleashes the chemical and biological weapons he claims no longer exist — than if this despot is left unchecked.

My problem with going to war lies in the credibility and motivations behind the Bush-Cheney, or as some people contend, the Cheney-Bush administration.

President Bush has exhibited all the diplomatic subtlety of a steamroller. There seems little question that, had it been George W. Bush, rather than John F. Kennedy, facing the Cuban Missile crisis, the world would have been plunged into a nuclear Armageddon.

Bush's obstinacy and unwillingness to compromise has created the appearance of a recalcitrant 8-year-old who digs his heels in so deep he has left no room to maneuver. He continues to ignore the burgeoning worldwide peace movement as

well as requests from our staunchest allies to find some sort of compromise.

I am even more concerned about the president's credibility. Bush still clings to his assertion that his tax cut has nothing to do with record deficits or that his proposed new tax cut would not add to that deficit.

If you don't believe these are bald-face lies just look at Texas. Then-Governor Bush ushered in tax cuts that transformed a \$5 billion state surplus into a \$12 billion deficit.

The missile defense program is another prime example. Under the guise of national security, the Bush administration has had a suit by a former TRW worker dismissed. The suit alleged that the company was falsifying test results and that the system was fatally flawed.

Rather than proceed cautiously, Bush has rushed to implement the program, yet eliminated all the normal checks and balances and shrouded the program in unheard-of secrecy. In fact Bush's entire administration is more secretive than any other in memory including Nixon's. It functions more like a clandestine intelligence agency than as a representative of the American people.

Another case in point is Vice President Dick Cheney's desperate fight to keep secret the names of those who met to advise on Bush's energy policy. The policy, which reads like Enron's corporate mission statement, was obviously created by the executives of energy conglomerates.

Further, as Arianna Huffington pointed out in a recent column, Cheney, when he was secretary of defense in the first Bush Administration, was all for war. Post-Gulf War, as chairmen of oil service giant Halliburton, Cheney cozied up to Saddam and (though he denies it) lobbied hard to

end sanctions against Iraq.

Halliburton was rewarded with millions in reconstruction contracts. Now as vice president he is again beating the war drum. Huffington further asserts that Cheney's staff has already met secretly with U.S. energy concerns, including Halliburton, possibly to discuss divvying up post-Saddam Iraqi oil and reconstruction. It leaves one to wonder if it is President Bush or these energy conglomerates who are making our military policy.

France and Russia's integrity are equally in question.

It is impossible to believe that the billions Iraq owes to these countries and the very favorable future oil contracts negotiated by Saddam for the express purpose of creating this very rift we see in the United Nations has nothing to do with the positions taken by these countries. It is conceivable they fear post-war disclosures that would reveal their complicity in creating the weapons that threaten the world. Certainly Russia is abetting Iran's nuclear (weapons?) program, which could result in a crisis potentially far worse than Iraq.

I applaud the peace movement for finally awakening from two decades of apathy and hope it translates into activism concerning the more odious of Bush's domestic agenda. But at the same time this movement must understand that it cannot prevail without blood on its hands.

Peace has consequences — often deadly. How many Vietnamese and Cambodians were massacred after the U.S. pulled out? And for those of us who railed against apartheid, what about the millions of Africans who were murdered in tribal genocide?

And where are the protests against cor-

rupt black leaders who have stolen white family farms and created food shortages that could result in millions of Africans starving?

There are no easy answers in this conflict. The issues are so complex that it often seems as if "Sophie's Choice" (a mother forced to make a life and death choice between her two children) would be simpler.

Bearing this in mind, I have a possible solution that could somewhat appease all sides.

Create a resolution, as suggested by the England, that provides realistic but firm timetables for Iraq to destroy or offer concrete accounting of the destruction, of each of its weapons systems, including anthrax, VX, mustard gas, missiles exceeding the 90-mile range and biochemical delivery systems.

France and Russia can determine just what constitutes a reasonable time frame, but they must also agree that if Saddam fails to meet these strict timetables they will support military action.

Finally, in order for Bush to save face, France and Russia, as well as Germany and China, must agree to pony up at least 50 percent of the cost of maintaining the current military build-up in Iraq for as long as the inspections continue. It is only with such compromises that we might have any chance of averting a war, and be able to trust the motivations of all the parties concerned.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in an increasingly scary world. Comments, column ideas and sales on duct tape can be e-mailed to: edsincites@aol.com.)

LOCAL



Company agrees to talks after vigil is threatened

VIGIL, from page 1

the patient," said Rev. William Jarvis Johnson. "We believe that if workers are treated fairly, then the patients will get better care."

A spokesman for Golden State Health Centers, which also runs other nursing homes in Southern California, refused to comment on the vigil, saying he didn't know about it.

More than 15 clergy members and 50 community activists were confirmed to attend the vigil before it was canceled and many others were expected to show up, according to CLUE officials. Despite the cancellation, about 20 members of the community arrived to support the union.

In a press release sent out before the vigil was called off, CLUE publicized Oceanview's documented history of "patient care deficiencies." On Feb. 27, Oceanview was fined \$12,000 by the L.A. County Department of Health Services for negligence and abuse of a resident, the press release said.

Golden State Health Centers spokesman Dan Durazo acknowledged there had been a recent incident but said patients at Oceanview receive the best care possible.

"The hospital did everything possible to insure that appropriate regulations were followed," Durazo said. "The hospital wants to assure the community, its patients and their families that it has an excellent safety record and is doing everything possible to insure the health and safety of its patients."

In January, a certified nursing assistant "willfully disregarded" instructions to use a hoist to transfer a patient, he said. The patient was injured, but received immediate medical care and the nurse was fired, Durazo said.

Oceanview is currently appealing the citation filed by the Department of Health Services in relation to the mishap, Durazo said.

A Department of Health Services spokeswoman said she could not comment Tuesday on specific citations, but confirmed Oceanview has received complaints.

She also said the agency investigated the site and issued citations for violations of state code but that all complaints had been corrected and no issues were currently outstanding.

A hospital resident on Wednesday said the hospital wasn't perfect, but that it was better than "some other places."

One complaint, said another resident, was the high-rate of turnover among certified nursing assistants, some of whom seemed to have no previous training.

"Sometimes they don't know what they're doing," said the resident, who relies on CNAs to help change his clothes and wash him. "And you have to tell them what to do."

Another resident complained the food is "pretty drab," but said overall the service is good.

"We ate hamburgers last week," the resident said. "They were so tough you couldn't eat them. I took one bite and spit it right out."

The Daily Press isn't identifying the residents for fear that they will be retaliated against for the criticism.

Johnson warned that CLUE won't hesitate to again "call out the troops" if negotiations don't progress.

"We called this vigil to let Oceanview know that the community is watching," he said. "We are in support of worker's rights and the respect that workers deserve."

Pajama bottoms at issue in case of temp worker

RUTHIE!, from page 1

her the \$25 hourly she sought.

When Ruthie! showed up in late December, she found another temp, Regina Woods, filling in, so she agreed to let Woods work a couple of days and start later instead.

But Reeder, who was in Israel at the time, said he'd heard from his wife, who'd heard from Woods, that Ruthie! had shown up with an armful of office supplies looking "unkempt" and made disparaging remarks about how Reeder was chronically short of them.

Commissioner Kyman became skeptical of Reeder's defense because the attorney based his refusal to take Ruthie! back on the say-so of his wife and a temp. Such say-so is known as "hearsay" in legal circles and doesn't carry much water in court cases. Kyman also lectured Reeder that he lacked "standing" when he tried to impeach her credibility by bringing a temp recruiter in as a witness.

Ruthie! miffed the temp agency by appearing to quit another job at \$19 an hour, then appearing on the payroll at \$25. It's a ruse commonly used by employers

and employees to eliminate the temp agency's markup. But when the recruiter was brought in as a character witness against her, he didn't get very far under the scornful eye of Commissioner Kyman.

Kyman noted that the temp agency's beef against Reeder and Ruthie! wasn't the issue in the case. The move by Reeder to call the recruiter as a witness appeared to work against Reeder, although Kyman didn't rule on the case Tuesday.

Ruthie! appeared in court Tuesday in a purple smock and print pants which could have been mistaken for pajama bottoms. She noted that the outfit was fine with her later employer and that when she returned in late December to Reeder's office, others in nearby offices were excited to see her.

Her complaint asked for the \$5,000 limit in small claims court in damages. She noted that her new employer was so "hurt" when she quit to return to Reeder that he wouldn't even speak to her when she tried to return after Reeder's rebuff.

The case isn't over. Kyman must now rule on it, while the temp agency could sue Reeder, or Ruthie! or both.

DIVORCE LAW

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING DIVORCED:

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LOCAL □ STATE

Fresno City Council not welcoming to Jackson

By The Associated Press

FRESNO — The Rev. Jesse Jackson was welcomed by Fresno residents Wednesday, but not by Fresno city leaders.

Only two of the seven City Council members signed a proclamation welcoming Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

The civil rights leader attended a rally in support of thousands of home-care workers seeking higher wages and benefits from Fresno County.

The proclamation hailed the accomplishments of the civil rights leader, but some council members said they didn't know about it and at least one said he had no interest in signing.

"I believe his leadership is not to unite people but to divide people," Councilmember Mike Dages said. "I think his track record has proven that."

Hundreds of members of the Service Employees International Union Local 250 gathered at the Fresno County Hall of Records to rally for increased wages.

Fresno County and the union that represents 10,000 workers in the In-Home Supportive Services program have been negotiating a contract since June. The program provides assistance to elderly and disabled residents.

County officials said granting increases could divert funds from other social service programs.

Humboldt County tree sitters ordered to abandon perches

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A logging company has given environmental activists occupying redwood trees in Humboldt County 24 hours to come down.

Pacific Lumber Company formally served the tree sitters with a temporary restraining order Wednesday afternoon, according to company spokeswoman Mary Bullwinkel.

Humboldt County Judge Dale Reinholdsen granted Pacific Lumber's request for the temporary restraining order on Monday. The order called on the tree sitters to "immediately and permanently" remove themselves and their personal property from the trees within 24 hours of being served.

One tree sitter, a woman who goes by the trail name Remedy, said she refused to acknowledge that she had been served.

Company representatives "came and

yelled through a bullhorn that they nailed something to the tree," she said. "It could have been a picture of Mickey Mouse for all I know."

She also said she does not intend to vacate the tree, which she has occupied since March 21, 2002.

Bullwinkel said the company has no immediate plans to remove the tree sitters if they refuse to come down.

Activists have been protesting Pacific Lumber's logging practices by sitting high in the branches of at least 18 trees near Freshwater Creek, which empties into Humboldt Bay. They complain the company is harvesting the area too aggressively, causing flooding and erosion that is damaging property and local waterways.

In requesting the temporary restraining order, the company argued the tree sitters were trespassing on private property, blocking roads and interfering with its ability to log.

Fees a response to deficits

PARKING, from page 1

In addition, the city will install 360 new parking meters along Pearl Avenue and 16th Street adjacent to Santa Monica College and on side streets off of Wilshire Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard downtown.

Officials said the city will install new mechanisms in old meters beginning this spring and expect everything to be in place by December.

While the higher cost of parking is sure to raise a few eyebrows around town, the new meters will simplify the parking experience by accepting a wider range of payments, city officials said.

The new machines will accept a variety of coins as well as "stored value cards," which officials say work like parking debit cards. In addition, the new machines — which have yet to be chosen by the city — may accept credit cards, according to the city.

The meter overhaul is expected to cost \$2.45 million and bring in an additional \$3 million in annual city revenue.

"This is a response to the need for money," said Lucy Dyke, transportation planning manager. "People want to have

(public) services and this is one of the few revenues that the council has control over raising."

The new zones were approved by councilmembers Tuesday but the proposal to increase fees and add more meters was approved in December.

To set the new parking rates, city staff compared prices in neighboring areas and said Santa Monica's meters — which haven't increased since 1991 — were behind the times.

"In most places, it costs less to park for an hour than it does to take the bus," Dyke said.

Manhattan Beach, Venice Beach, Old Town Pasadena, Beverly Hills, Sunset Village, Redondo Beach, West Hollywood and West Los Angeles all charge more for metered parking, the city's report said.

While the main goal of the price bump is to increase revenue, officials said the higher prices may have a beneficial impact on parking in Santa Monica by eliminating chronic meter "stuffers," who plug change into a meter all day rather than park in a day spot.

City officials stressed that no meters will be placed in front of residences.

NATIONAL



Elizabeth Smart found alive 9 months after vanishing

BY PATTY HENETZ

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who vanished from her bedroom nine months ago, was found alive Wednesday in a Salt Lake City suburb with a drifter who had once done work at the family's home.

The man, recently identified by Elizabeth's sister as the potential abductor, was taken into custody and the teenager was whisked away to a long-awaited reunion with her family.

"All of the children out there deserve to come back to their parents the way Elizabeth has come back to us," father Ed Smart as he broke into sobs. "It is nothing but a miracle. I just held her, held her the whole way home."

Authorities said Elizabeth, the drifter known as Emmanuel and a woman were all wearing wigs when they were stopped along a street in suburban Sandy, about 20 miles south of Salt Lake City.

Relatives of Emmanuel, whose real name is Brian Mitchell, have described him as a self-appointed prophet for the homeless who has lived in a teepee in the mountains outside the city. He was hired

by the Smarts in November 2001 to work on their roof. Elizabeth disappeared seven months later.

Mitchell and the second suspect, identified only as Wanda Barzee, were in custody at the Sandy police station. No charges were immediately filed, but Salt Lake City Police Chief Rick Dinse said: "We are convinced she was kidnapped."

At 12:52 p.m., Rudy and Nancy Montoya of West Jordan, another Salt Lake suburb, called the police after they saw three people carrying bedrolls and bags walking down the street.

A minute later, Sandy police received a second call, from Anita and Alvin Dickerson.

Anita Dickerson, thinking that the man resembled the suspect, left her car and looked him in the eye. She didn't know at the time that the girl was Elizabeth, but instead thought she was an older woman wearing a scarf, she told The Associated Press.

"Lots of people had to see them, they just didn't put two and two together," Alvin Dickerson said.

Asked whether he believed Elizabeth was held against her will, Salt Lake police chief Dinse said: "At this point, yes, I do." He did not offer a potential motive.

Witness John Ferguson said the arrest involved a man who looked like a transient and two women wearing unusual clothing.

He said the women had "longer clothing on, blue almost like a pillow case ... over the face almost like a veil. They were all just kind of calmly talking to the police," Ferguson told KSL television.

Elizabeth disappeared last summer, part of a frightening string of incidents involving children that included the slayings of 7-year-old Danielle van Dam of San Diego and 5-year-old Samantha Runnion of Orange County, Calif.

Ed Smart said his daughter's return "is going to be absolutely wonderful. I don't know what she's gone through, and I'm sure she's been through hell."

Smart then urged lawmakers to pass a nationwide Amber Alert, the system many states use to notify the public to missing children cases through media outlets.

News that Elizabeth was alive touched off a celebration in front of the Smarts' home in affluent Federal Heights, with neighbors and members of the family's Mormon ward holding blue and yellow balloons.

"How can I even talk? This is such a miracle," said Lynne Godfrey, 57, a neighbor. "I had given up hope — I mean, where would she have been? Who would have taken care of her for a year?"

A month ago, the Smarts held a news conference and released a sketch of a long-haired, bearded Mitchell. As recently as Tuesday, the family openly criticized police for not devoting enough attention to the former handyman.

Mitchell's sister called authorities with

his identity after the family's Feb. 3 news conference. The man's stepson, Mark Thompson, gave investigators photos of a clean-shaven Mitchell and said his stepfather was "capable" of kidnapping a child.

He also said Mitchell believes he is a prophet who needs to preach to the homeless and has no source of income other than handouts.

Mitchell was often seen panhandling and preaching to the homeless in downtown Salt Lake City before Elizabeth's disappearance.

Elizabeth's mother, Lois Smart, has said she met Mitchell downtown when he asked for money. She gave him \$5 and hired him to help her husband work on the roof. He worked for about five hours and the family didn't see him again.

Elizabeth was 14 when she vanished early on the morning of June 5. Her 9-year-old sister, Mary Katherine, said Elizabeth was taken by a man who may have gotten into the house by cutting a window screen near the back door. The sister pretended to be asleep, and she said the gunman threatened to hurt Elizabeth if she didn't keep quiet.

Last month, Elizabeth's parents said Mary Katherine had come to them recently to say "Emmanuel" bore some resemblance to the kidnapper. This week, they chastised police for not going after Mitchell.

"It is truly a miracle to me that she was able to come up with him," Ed Smart said Wednesday. "It is nothing but a miracle."

Smith had earlier expressed his "frustration" at public statements made by police dismissing Mitchell as a potential suspect.

Grease on the slide



Lunch-hour customers leave a McDonald's restaurant in downtown Chicago on Wednesday. Sales at McDonald's restaurants slid for the 12th-straight month in February, continuing the fast-food chain's worst slump in history, the company reported Wednesday.

Ted S. Warren/Associated Press

Monkeys flee research center, seek refuge in nearby forest

By The Associated Press

COVINGTON, La. —

Two dozen monkeys escaped from a research center and holed up in a forest, where animal-control workers used bananas and oranges to try to lure them out.

The monkeys are classified as disease-free and posed no health risk to humans, but workers trying to capture the animals wore protective gowns and gloves as a standard precaution, said Fran Simon, a spokeswoman for the Tulane Regional Primate Center.

By Wednesday, eight of the 24 rhesus macaques remained on the loose.

"When they get hungry enough, they'll come back," Simon said.

The Tulane Regional Primate Research Center, established in 1964, is the largest of eight federally funded primate research centers, with 500 acres of land, eight buildings and about 5,000 monkeys. Its main study area is infectious diseases caused by viruses, bacteria and parasites.

It was not clear how the

monkeys escaped from a fenced area outside the research facility Tuesday, said James Hartman, a spokesman for the St. Tammany Parish sheriff.

In the past, animal-rights

activists have freed or attempted to free monkeys, but there were no signs that vandalism played any role in Tuesday's escape, Hartman said.

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NATIONAL

Relatives seek justice for executed Georgia woman

BY ELLIOTT MINOR

Associated Press Writer

CUTHBERT, Ga. — Lena Baker claimed she was being held against her will by a drunken white man and acted in self-defense when she wrested his gun away and shot him.

For a black maid in the segregated South in 1944, her story was a tough sell to a jury of 12 white men. And rumors that she was romantically involved with victim E.B. Knight did not help. Her murder trial lasted just a day, without a single witness called by her court-appointed lawyer.

She was convicted and sentenced to death.

Now relatives of the only woman ever executed in Georgia's electric chair are returning to Cuthbert to honor Baker and try to clear her name with the Georgia Board of Pardons and Parole.

"The family doesn't need to go down in history with a bad name," said Roosevelt Curry, 59, the grandson of Baker's brother.

Since 1943, the board has granted only two pardons for people who have proved their innocence. One also was granted posthumously for Leo Frank, who was lynched in 1915 while appealing a murder conviction.

Board spokeswoman Heather Hedrick said Tuesday the agency has not received a pardon application from Baker's family. Pardon requests usually are filed by living people convicted of less severe crimes, such as drug offenses or robbery, who want to restore such rights as voting and owning a gun.

"I can understand why that would be important for her family to get a pardon for her," Hedrick said. "But the point is to restore political and civil rights, and in this case, I don't know if that would be appropriate."

Prosecution witnesses at her trial said that Knight and Baker went on trips together and that he would often go to her house and demand that she leave with him.

After she was sentenced, her court-appointed attorney filed an appeal, but it was dropped after he withdrew from the case.

John Cole Vodika, director of the Prison and Jail Project, an inmate advocacy program, said the family has a strong case for getting her exonerated.

"She should never have been tried for murder," he said. "It was an obvious injustice. That's what the system did with African-Americans who dared resist white men's authority."

"She was a victim of racism, white man's domination over African-American women," he said. "In an effort to cover up what really happened, the county moved to treat it as capital murder. It sure appears they wanted to get rid of her quickly and to limit or eliminate anything happening that would further embarrass the family of the deceased."

The undertaker who brought her body back to Cuthbert buried her in a grave that went unmarked for five decades, until the congregation of Mount Vernon Baptist Church raised \$250 for a concrete slab and marker.

The family is planning a memorial service on Mother's Day, May 11, at Mount Vernon, where Baker sang in the choir. Her grave is behind the church.

They will place an empty casket in the church, symbolizing the funeral "our family and friends were cheated of," said Curry, who has returned to Georgia after living for years in Newark, N.J.

A family friend took Baker's three children away from Cuthbert after the shooting. Other relatives moved to Florida, to New Jersey and to other Georgia towns, he said. "Back then, people were scared," Curry said.

Baker's last living child, Nelsie, now 66, lives in Florida, but Curry refused to be more specific.

"Nobody is to go there and mess with her because she is not well," he said. "She's already been hurt enough. Nelsie doesn't even know where her mother is buried, or where her grandfather or uncle are buried."

Baker, who had a sixth-grade education, proclaimed her innocence to the very end. "What I done, I did in self-defense," she said in her final statement. "I have nothing against anyone. ... I am ready to meet my God."

Census now estimates overcount instead of undercount in 2000

BY GENARO C. ARMAS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — After crunching more numbers, the Census Bureau now says it overcounted by 1.3 million people in 2000 instead of missing more than 3 million.

The findings released Wednesday show an overcount of whites, Asians, American Indians on reservations and young children, while many blacks and Hispanics were missed during the once-a-decade count.

The estimate will not affect the government's official population count of 281.4 million in 2000, Census Bureau Director C. Louis Kincannon said. Neither will it affect how the federal government distributes at least \$185 billion to the states for social services and programs such as Medicare. Those distributions are based on state population breakdowns.

Nevertheless, the latest figures repre-

sented the most accurate estimate of how the government did in counting residents three years ago, Kincannon said.

How well the Census Bureau counts the population — and what to do about errors that are uncovered — has been a contentious issue. Congressional Democrats and civil rights leaders maintain the bureau has not done adequate work to ensure minorities are counted fully.

Critics say the bureau should have used a complicated statistical method called "sampling" to make up for historic undercounts of minorities. Opponents of that method, mainly Republicans, have said sampling actually inserts more error into a census.

The government takes a census each decade to reallocate the 435 House seats among the states based on population shifts. The Supreme Court ruled in 1999 that only the raw, unadjusted count could be used for that purpose.

INTERNATIONAL



Search for bin Laden and al-Qaida intensifies

BY KATHY GANNON
Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The United States and its allies have intensified searches along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan for Osama bin Laden and other terrorists they fear may respond to war against Iraq with attacks, intelligence sources say.

The sweeps followed the March 1 arrest of al-Qaida's third most powerful man, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed — suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

In the hours after his arrest, a belligerent Mohammed praised Osama bin Laden and warned that "America will burn if it goes into Baghdad. Americans everywhere will not be safe," Pakistani intelligence officials told The Associated Press.

Pakistani officials Wednesday denied an Iran Radio report that bin Laden had been captured in Pakistan.

Murtaza Poya, deputy leader of the Islamic Awami Tahrik Party in Pakistan, who was quoted by Iran Radio, gave AP in Islamabad similar information.

"He (bin Laden) is in the custody of those who were chasing him and the announcement to that effect will be made between March 17 and 18th when the war in Iraq is expected to start," Poya said in a telephone interview.

He refused to identify the source of his information and said he was not told where bin Laden was apprehended or being held.

Pakistani officials said Poya was wrong. "It is not correct," Interior Ministry Secretary Iftikar Ahmed told AP. "This is just not true," said Brig. Javed Iqbal Cheema, Pakistan's intelligence coordinator in the war on terror.

Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed also denied the report and also told a news conference earlier that "Osama is not in Pakistan; we have no information about Osama bin Laden and if someone has this information he should tell us."

In Washington, the CIA said there was no truth to the reports. "We have absolutely no information to substantiate that," said spokesman Bill Harlow.

At Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, the headquarters of the U.S. military there, knew nothing of bin Laden's arrest.

"We have no information that Osama has been captured," U.S. military spokesman Army Master Sgt. Richard Breach said.

The Pakistani spy agency in a rare briefing for journalists this week, said Khalid Shaikh Mohammed admitted meeting bin Laden last December but didn't say where. A video was shown depicting the arrest of Mohammed, whose face was never shown and whose head was covered by a black hood.

An intelligence source told AP that Mohammed was questioned at a "safe house" belonging to the Pakistani spy agency. They said his head was covered in a black hood and he spoke in English and Arabic. American interrogators were present, but Mohammed did not see them.

Since launching the stepped-up assault along the border, Pakistani sources said "we are making arrests everywhere." They did not elaborate.

A European intelligence source said

Pakistani military and paramilitary forces have staked out the tribal corridor that runs between Pakistan and Afghanistan, sweeping through rugged pockets that could provide a haven for Taliban and al-Qaida fugitives.

"Osama is not in Pakistan; we have no information about Osama bin Laden and if someone has this information he should tell us."

— SHEIKH RASHID AHMED
Pakistan Information Minister

While the entire border is suspect, Pakistani forces are concentrating in southwestern Baluchistan province between Quetta and the Iranian border. They're also focusing on the North West Frontier Province, near Balikot, 120 miles (190 kilometers) northwest of the federal capital of Islamabad, and farther northwest in the Chitral area, according to Pakistani intelligence officials.

Bin Laden is not the only focus of the hunt. They also are searching for other al-Qaida operatives, Taliban and loyalists of renegade Afghan rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

A poster depicting 16 wanted men, including Hekmatyar, bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Omar has been circulated in the region, as well as leaflets reminding people of the US \$25 million reward for their capture.

The posters are written in Persian and Pashtu, the predominant languages of the region.

In Afghanistan, U.S. operatives are working with allies in southern and north-eastern Afghanistan.

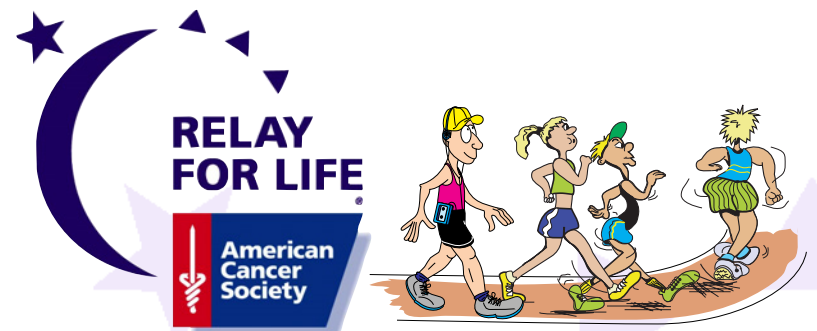
In Afghanistan's southwestern Nimroz province, U.S. and Afghan forces carried out an operation near Rabat after picking up satellite images of men on horses. A firefight ensued and several people reportedly were killed or captured.

Hekmatyar and his men are the focus of the hunt in Afghanistan's northeastern Kunar province, where U.S. special forces have been based for months, and directly across the border in Pakistan.

In Peshawar last week, raids were carried out in Afghan refugee camps, including Shamshatoo Camp, which belonged to Hekmatyar's group during Afghanistan's 1980s war against Soviet forces and continued to house his supporters until now.

Pakistani villagers living near the border with Afghanistan also reported stepped up activities, helicopters swooping in low and paramilitary troops in all-terrain vehicles roaring around.

This new equipment comes from the United States. Pakistan's paramilitary Frontier Corps has only recently begun to employ US\$73 million worth of equipment given to them by the United States to patrol the border with Afghanistan. The equipment included helicopters, 483 vehicles, including troop carriers and ambulances. It also included hundreds of radios and other communication equipment.



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INTERNATIONAL

Serbian prime minister assassinated in Belgrade

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press Writer

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic — who spearheaded the revolt that toppled former President Slobodan Milosevic in October 2000 — was assassinated Wednesday by gunmen who ambushed him outside the government complex.

Djindjic, 50, died of his wounds in a Belgrade hospital after having been shot in the abdomen and back, said Nebojsa Covic, a deputy prime minister. The Cabinet, meeting in emergency session, held a minute of silence.

Witnesses said two suspects were arrested.

The government building where Djindjic was ambushed was sealed off by heavy state security, and three ambulances were parked in front. Police carrying machine guns and wearing bulletproof vests stopped traffic in downtown Belgrade, searching through cars and checking passengers.

All bus, rail and plane traffic from Belgrade was halted as police, unsure whether the suspects they arrested were the gunmen, cast a wide net for the assassins.

The hospital where he was taken was blocked by police, and Djindjic's sobbing wife, Ruzica, was seen being led away from the hospital building.

Djindjic appeared to have been targeted last month, when a truck suddenly cut into the lane in which his motorcade was traveling to Belgrade's airport. The motorcade narrowly avoided a collision, and Djindjic later dismissed the Feb. 21 alleged assassination attempt as a "futile effort" that could not stop democratic reforms.

"If someone thinks the law and the reforms can be stopped by eliminating me, then that is a huge delusion," Djindjic was quoted as saying by the Politika newspaper at the time.

The assassination of Djindjic heralds turbulent days



Miroslav Todorovic/Associated Press

A police officer with a machine gun guards Ruzica Djindjic, left, the wife of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, as she leaves the emergency unit of the hospital where the fatally wounded Djindjic was brought after he was ambushed by gunmen on Wednesday in Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro. Ruzica is flanked by Vladimir Beba Popovic, a close ally of Djindjic.

for Serbia and a bitter power struggle for his successor. Otpor, or Resistance, an independent pro-democracy group, said the shooting means "criminals have won the battle" in Serbia.

President Bush expressed his condolences to Serbia.

"Prime Minister Djindjic will be remembered for his role in bringing democracy to Serbia and for his role in bringing Slobodan Milosevic to justice," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Djindjic had many enemies because of his pro-reformist and Western stands. He was key in Milosevic's extradition to the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Djindjic, a pro-Western leader, saw Serbia's fate as linked to the West and favored greater cooperation with the U.N. war crimes tribunal, where Milosevic now is standing trial on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

He was pivotal in arresting and handing Milosevic to the war crimes tribunal in June 2001. For this, he was blasted by Serbian nationalists, including his former ally Vojislav Kostunica, who stepped down as Yugoslav president earlier this month after the formation of a new state, Serbia and Montenegro.

Djindjic recently promised Western envoys that he would try to arrest former Bosnian Serb military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, the No. 2 war crimes fugitive wanted by the tribunal. Mladic is believed to be hiding somewhere in Serbia.

Djindjic's feud with Kostunica had virtually paralyzed the country's much-needed economic and social reforms.

Kostunica told B-92 radio Wednesday that while he disagreed with Djindjic on many issues, the assassination was "awful ... this shows how little we have done to democratize society." He called the killing "a warning to look ourselves in the eye and ask how much crime has permeated all the pores of society."

Djindjic was often criticized by his opponents for seeking too much power and for "mercilessly" attacking his political rivals.

A German-educated technocrat known to supporters as "The Manager" for his organizational skills and as "Little Sloba" to his detractors for his authoritarian tendencies, Djindjic nonetheless managed to gain some political capital from his willingness to surrender Milosevic despite a constitutional ban on extraditing Serbian citizens.

Djindjic's trade of Milosevic for \$1.2 billion in international economic aid appeared to have won respect from people desperate to improve a living standard that ranks among the lowest in Europe.

Shortfall in Iraqi exports makes for tight oil market

BY BRUCE STANLEY

AP Business Writer

VIENNA, Austria — A surge in world oil output last month has left producer countries with too little spare capacity to fully offset a wartime halt in supplies from Iraq, the International Energy Agency warned Wednesday.

Output increased 2.5 percent worldwide in February and oil inventories tightened in major importing nations, the agency said. Fears of a U.S.-led attack on Iraq propelled prices to their highest levels since the 1991 Gulf War.

International oil markets are "running on empty" as war clouds gather again in the Persian Gulf, the agency said in its monthly oil market report.

"A further supply disruption would tax a system operating at close to capacity," the report said.

The only reliable cushion for consumers may be the 4 billion barrels in strategic stocks of crude that IEA members have amassed for use in an emergency, it added.

On Tuesday, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries decided to leave its oil production quotas unchanged at 24.5 million barrels a day. OPEC, which pumps about a third of the world's crude, made clear that it would boost its output to try to cover any shortfall arising from a war.

The IEA is the energy watchdog of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group of the world's wealthiest oil-importing countries.

While highlighting many causes for concern in oil markets, the IEA expects that the end of winter will reduce demand for crude by about 1.6 million barrels a day. Such a decrease would in itself offset a loss of Iraq's current exports under the

U.N. oil-for-food program, the report said.

The IEA acknowledged efforts by OPEC and independent producers to put additional crude on the market. World production rose in February by 1.96 million barrels a day to 79.41 million barrels, and OPEC contributed more than three-fourths of the increase, the agency said.

OPEC member Venezuela boosted its daily production by 850,000 barrels as its oil industry continued to recover from a crippling strike. Saudi Arabia's output grew by 330,000 barrels a day, and of OPEC's 11 members, only Iraq and Indonesia failed to pump at higher levels last month, the report said.

"If the IEA's numbers for OPEC production in February are correct, there's a lot of oil on the water that should be hitting inventories in a few weeks. That's the good news for consumers," said Adam Sieminski, an oil price strategist at Deutsche Bank in London.

Sieminski agreed that OPEC's limited amount of spare capacity could be a problem if markets suffer a serious supply disruption. Most producers are pumping all they can, and only Saudi Arabia has significant room to pump more.

OPEC claims to have 2 million to 4 million barrels in additional production capacity. The IEA argued that OPEC's "effective spare capacity" was much smaller.

The agency said OPEC's effective spare capacity fell last month to 1.72 million barrels a day from 2.37 million barrels in January, as the cartel produced more oil to make up for the outage from Venezuela. With OPEC increasing production to cash in on current high prices, this extra capacity has probably diminished in March to fewer than 1 million barrels a day, the report said.

It warned that OPEC would therefore be unable to quickly cover a war-induced shortfall from Iraq, which produced 2.49 million barrels a day in February. If U.S.-led forces attacked Iraq during the second half of March, the IEA suggested that it would be May before OPEC could offset the shortfall.

U.S. spot prices for light, sweet crude climbed by an average of 8.4 percent in February to \$35.75 a barrel, while futures prices peaked at \$39.99 on Feb. 27. The average spot price of North Sea Brent, the European benchmark crude, rose by 4.3 percent to \$32.67, the report said.

Key developments concerning Iraq

By The Associated Press

■ Britain set out a list of conditions for Iraq's disarmament, hoping to break an impasse at the United Nations that has left Prime Minister Tony Blair vulnerable at home because of his support for the tough U.S. line. The conditions include a TV appearance by Saddam Hussein renouncing weapons of mass destruction.

■ President Bush spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Blair and the leaders of Mexico, Chile and Pakistan, all members of the Security Council, the White House said. The Bush administration suggested for the first time that voting against the U.S.-backed Security Council resolution could damage a country's relationship with the United States. The administration also said French President Jacques Chirac was sending "precisely the wrong signal to Baghdad" by threatening to veto the resolution.

■ Asked about the British conditions and an expected new deadline, Russia's U.N. Ambassador Sergey Lavrov told CNN: "We would not be really in favor of considering some artificial dates if they are not coming from inspectors, or accepted by them." Russia also said it will not take part in the "dangerous precedent" of supporting regime change in Iraq.

■ Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio said the U.S.-backed resolution may be withdrawn because of France's threatened veto. A Foreign Ministry official later played down Palacio's remarks, saying she was talking about a hypothetical situation, and declined to say what kind of disarmament deadline Saddam might get if no resolution is voted on.

■ U.S. aircraft dropped 120,000 leaflets over several sites between Baghdad and the southern Iraqi city of Basra. The messages included a warning to the Iraqi military not to use chemical or biological weapons against U.S. or allied troops, according to U.S. Central Command.

■ Iraq displayed a pilotless aircraft that resembled a large model plane with wings apparently made of balsa wood. It said the drone was the one the U.S. claims was designed to deliver chemical and biological weapons.

SPORTS



Martha Burk sues after protest request is denied

BY RUSS BYNUM

Associated Press Writer

Martha Burk's request to protest at Augusta National's front gate was denied Wednesday, prompting her to sue the city to get permission.

Burk rejected a compromise from Sheriff Ronald Strength that would have allowed her to use another nearby location to protest during the third round of the Masters on April 12 in Augusta, Ga.

Instead, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit on Burk's behalf. The suit says Augusta's law regulating public protests violates free-speech rights by investing "virtually unbridled discretion in the sheriff to grant or deny a permit."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/

PUSH Coalition applied through the sheriff for permission to place nearly 100 protesters near the club entrance — the same spot Burk had requested.

Burk, chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations, plans to stage a one-day protest against the private golf club's all-male membership.

She asked the sheriff last week for permission to post 24 protesters at the club's front gate and an additional 200 across the street. Strength offered a new location closer to the gate than sites previously proposed by the sheriff, but still not close enough for Burk.

"The men of Augusta National Golf Club come through the front gate," Burk said in Atlanta. "To influence those folks, that's where we need to be."

Strength said the stretch of Washington

Road directly facing Augusta National is too clogged by traffic to ensure safe protests.

"Every year with the masses of people around Augusta National Golf Club, we have many auto accidents — some involving pedestrians — during tournament week," Strength said. "We have the right and obligation to balance public safety issues with freedom of speech issues."

Instead, he wants all groups protesting during the Masters to use a 5-acre tract in front of an apartment complex that's about 2,000 feet from the Augusta National front gate along Washington Road.

People traveling to the club from downtown Augusta would see the protesters on their way in, but those traveling from hotels east of town and from Interstate 20 would enter the club without passing the protest site.

Augusta National leases the property and

agreed to let the sheriff reserve it for public demonstrations during the tournament.

The ACLU filed suit in U.S. District Court federal court Wednesday, said Debbie Seagraves, executive director of the Georgia ACLU chapter.

The suit seeks a temporary judge's order blocking the city from enforcing the protest ordinance, amended last month to require groups to apply 20 days in advance for permits to protest on city property. The law gives the sheriff power to approve or deny requests and to dictate the location of demonstrations.

Strength also gave two groups permission to protest at the location rejected by Burk. One is a splinter group of the Ku Klux Klan based in Cordele, Ga., that supports Augusta National's all-male membership. The other is an anti-Burk group from Tampa, Fla.

Eight officials asked to resign by football league

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK — Eight NFL officials have been asked by the league to resign by March 20 or they will be dismissed.

A football source, who requested anonymity, confirmed Wednesday that request came from the league as part of its annual review of officiating performance.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello would not confirm that the eight had been asked to resign. However, he noted that the NFL turns over its officials yearly, letting some go for failures in performance, others because of retirement.

Mike Arnold, a labor lawyer representing the NFL Referees Association, told The New York Times it was the largest number of officials ever asked to resign at one time.

Arnold also said the league did not give a reason for its decision to the officials or the union, except that the move was connected to the officials' performances.

Arnold did not return repeated calls for comment from The Associated Press.

Aiello disputed Arnold's claim.

"When it involves performance, the union is informed in advance and both the union and any individual official are told it is performance related," Aiello said.

According to Aiello, last year 16 of the league's 119 officials were either dismissed or retired. Two longtime referees, Dick Hantak and Bob McElwee, retired

after last season.

Neither Aiello nor Arnold would disclose the names of the officials, but Arnold told the newspaper each of the officials received satisfactory performance ratings from the league last season and were angered by the decision.

Each official filed a grievance against the league, according to other game officials who spoke to the newspaper on the condition of anonymity. They also identified the dismissed officials as James Duke, Dave Warden, Tom Johnson, Dave Anderson, Lloyd McPeters, Bill Spyksma, Ron Spitler and Tommy Moore.

According to the NFL's record and fact book, they range in experience from 21 years (Johnson and Spitler) to five years (Warden). None of those identified officiated a playoff game last season, an indication that they were ranked at the lower end of the range.

Game officials are not allowed to speak to the media without permission from the league.

The forced resignations come after league officials expressed concern over several highly controversial calls last season, especially a missed pass interference call at the end of a wild-card game between the New York Giants and San Francisco 49ers.

None of the officials involved in that game was among those identified by the newspaper.

New England signs prize free agent LB Colvin

BY BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

Rosevelt Colvin might be just what Bill Belichick needs for his defense. Rodney Harrison should help, too.

The New England Patriots slumped from Super Bowl champions to a 9-7 record last season, and a major reason was the lack of a pass rush. By signing Colvin, the former Chicago Bears linebacker, Belichick might have found the solution to that problem Tuesday.

The team also signed Harrison, the Pro Bowl safety released by the San Diego Chargers in a salary cap move. Harrison was hampered by a groin injury last season, but he still managed 88 tackles, with two interceptions and two sacks.

One of the NFL's best pass rushers at outside linebacker, Colvin had 10 1/2 sacks last season to lead the Bears. New England managed only 34 sacks last season; just 11 teams were worse.

So bringing in the league's No. 2 linebacker in sacks last season — trailing only the 11 by LaVar Arrington of Washington — makes plenty of sense.

"They're very talented on defense. They're coming off a Super Bowl run two years ago," the 6-foot-3, 245-pound Colvin said. "I'm not the answer to any questions they have. I'm just a piece of the puzzle."

That piece will cost nearly \$30 million over seven years. But Colvin is the kind of player who can swing the balance of power in a division.

The 25-year-old Colvin spent four seasons with the Bears. In each of the last two years, he had 10 1/2 sacks. He's also younger than New England's incumbents at the position: 35-year-old Roman Phifer, 30-year-old Ted Johnson, 29-year-old Tedy Bruschi and 27-year-old Mike Vrabel.

"I've been in Chicago for four years, playing in a defense that's pretty good," Colvin said. "We took a step backwards in 2002. I wish them the best of luck."

"It's tough, but being a professional you have to be able to do your job at any given place."

Another veteran on the move is safety Damien Robinson, who signed with Seattle for four years. He replaces Marcus Robertson, who was released last month.

Robinson, 29, spent two troubled seasons with the New York Jets after playing in Tampa Bay from 1997-2000.

In 2001, Robinson was stopped amid high post Sept. 11-security at Giants Stadium after an assault rifle and ammunition were found in his car trunk. The Jets fined him one game check, about \$30,000.

Later in the 2001 season, he was fined \$20,000 by the NFL for twisting the facemask of New Orleans quarterback Aaron Brooks and sparking a fight near the end of a game.

Atlanta Falcons fullback Bob Christian retired Tuesday. Christian sustained two concussions last season. The nine-year veteran, primarily a blocker, ran for 831 yards in his career with Chicago, Carolina and the Falcons, but had 230 receptions for 2,049 yards.

Of course, the Redskins made a move Tuesday, acquiring safety Matt Bowen after Green Bay refused to match an offer sheet from Washington, the busiest team in free agency.

Bowen got a four-year, \$6 million contract, and the Packers will receive a sixth-round draft pick. He gets a \$1.6 million signing bonus.

Jacksonville signed receiver Donald Hayes to a one-year contract. He comes off a disappointing season in which he caught only 12 passes for New England after signing a deal worth a \$1.2 million signing bonus.

He played for Carolina from 1998-2001, where he caught 132 passes. In 2000, he had 66 receptions for 929 yards.

Safety Bracey Walker re-signed with Detroit. He played in 14 games with one start in his first season with the Lions in 2002 and had 31 special teams tackles.

Miami backup safety Shawn Wooden was released. He played in all 16 games last season, making two starts.

Fullback Jim Finn, who spent the past three years with Indianapolis, signed with the New York Giants. He was the final player selected in the 1999 draft, by Chicago.

Houston re-signed defensive end Corey Sears and safety Kevin Williams, both reserves for the team last year. Sears played in all 16 games. Williams, signed in Dec. 2001 as one of the team's initial players, played in 13 games.

Oldest Brooklyn Dodgers' alumni Alta Cohen dies age 94

By The Associated Press

MAPLEWOOD, N.J. — Alta Cohen, the oldest member of the Brooklyn Dodgers Alumni Association, has died. He was 94.

Cohen, who died Tuesday at his home, played a total of 10 games as an outfielder in 1931 and 1932 with the Dodgers and played 19 games for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1933.

Born in Brooklyn on Christmas Day in 1908, Alta Albert Cohen played several seasons in the minors and came to Brooklyn from Toledo, where he was a Triple-A all-star. A left-handed hitter, Cohen batted .194 in 29 major league games.

After his playing career, he went into business in New Jersey and founded his own Tcompany in 1940.

He is survived by two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Private services were held Wednesday in Livingston.



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 - 17 Parrot
 - 19 Spanish hero
 - 22 Kneeler's words

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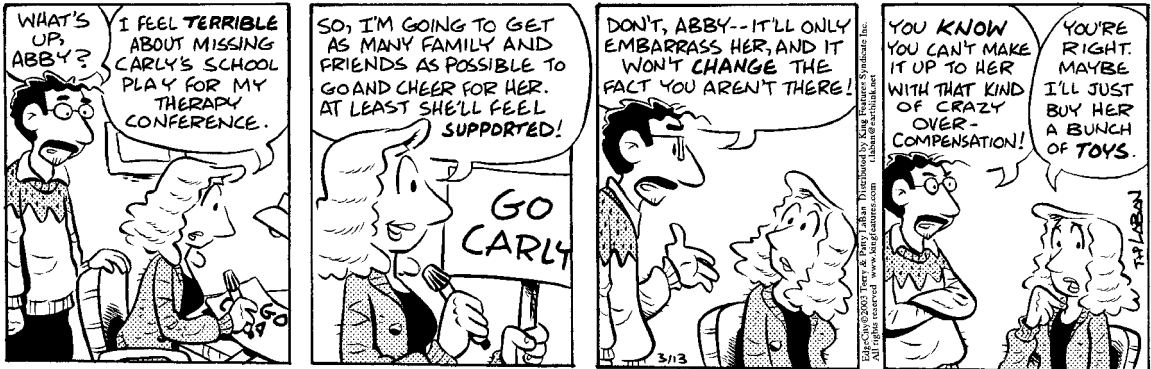
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CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SM, PRIME LOCATION N. of Wilshire. Beautiful 2 & 3BDR/2BA Lower front. Backyard . Hardwood flooring. Open Sat/Sun 10-1pm 917 Lincoln Blvd. #1 (310)395-1495

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

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
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For Rent

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.

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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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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.

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

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

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

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For Rent

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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, Santa Monica.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to set appointments for salvage pickups for California counsel of the blind. Call Manny at (800)417-4711 or (310)753-4909.

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(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	)	NOTICE OF INTENTION TO
Standing of the SANTA MONICA DAILY	)	APPLY FOR ORDER DECLARING
PRESS as a Newspaper of General	)	STATUS OF NEWSPAPER AS ONE
Circulation Ascertained and	)	OF GENERAL CIRCULATION FOR
Established.	)	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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SANTA MONICA °SCENE

your guide to dining, entertainment and events

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003

°EVENTS

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.

FARMER'S MARKET every Wednesday. 9am to 2pm, Arizona between Second and Fourth Streets. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California!

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.

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.

°ENTERTAINMENT

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.

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS for people 55 and older. Current openings in Parents of Adult Children. Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30. 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.

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!

°DINING

EL CHOLO - Famous for award-winning margaritas & green corn tamales. Enjoy our lively bar, comfy dining rooms or sunny patio for lunch and dinner daily. 1025 Wilshire Blvd., 310.889.1106

LIBRARY ALEHOUSE - A gathering place for great food, hand crafted beer and friendly service. Beautiful garden patio. Daily specials. 2911 Main St., 310.314.4855

THE LOBSTER - A legend redefined! A local favorite serving classic American seafood, specializing in live Main Lobster. Open 7 days serving lunch & dinner. 1602 Ocean Ave., Reservations recommended. 310.458.9294

OMELETTE PARLOR - Best breakfast in

LA. This is where the locals go! 2732 Main St., 310.399.7892

PANINI GARDEN - "The Locals Favorite" for gourmet European breakfast, lunch & dinner. Featuring fresh crepe, panini grilled sandwiches and delightful salads. dine on our charming patio, or call for delivery. 2715 Main St., 310.399.9939

THE SLICE - New York style pizzeria also serving pasta, salads, subs and wings. Voted best pizza in Los Angeles by AOL. Sit on our beautiful patio for great pizza and movie star sightings. 915 Wilshire Blvd, for fast delivery call 310.351.7542

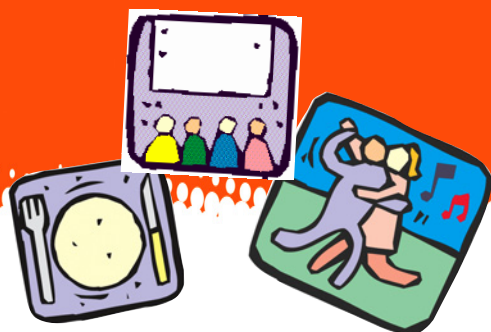
WOLFGANG PUCK CAFE - Enjoy Wolfgang's favorite entrees, famous wood-fried pizzas, pastas, fresh salads, sandwiches, and of course, unforgettable desserts! Fun Happy Hour: 1323 Montana Ave., 310.393.0290

SONNY MCLEAN'S - A perfect Irish pub that attracts a variety of people. It's the hotspot to kick back, enjoy a beer and watch a ball game. Good Happy Hour specials. 2615 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.9839

ORIGINAL THAI DISHES - Best Thai food in Santa Monica! Family owned restaurant since 1980. A local favorite serving classic Pad Thai noodles, pineapple fried rice and seafood specialties. All dishes can be made vegetarian. 1910 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.5634

EARTH, WIND & FLOUR - "Great Italian cooking. Just slightly west of Italy." This restaurant celebrates 22 years in the neighborhood for its friendliness and freshness. Pizza, pastas, salads, subs and more. Lunch and dinner specials and happy hour. 2222 Wilshire Blvd., 310.829.7829

THE SLICE - New York style pizzeria. Also voted best pizza in Los Angeles by AOL. Sit in our beautiful patio for great pizza and movie star settings. 915 Wilshire Blvd., 310.451.7542



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



Shrimp shells to help on battlefield

By The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Fried shrimp, shrimp scampi, shrimp gumbo — shrimp bandages?

A company is using crushed shrimp shells in the production of bandages that help stop bleeding wounds on the battlefield.

HemCon, which received U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for its bandage last November, is gearing up for production as the military prepares for a possible war in Iraq.

Made partly from shrimp shells, the bandage is designed to promote blood clotting and stop bleeding for up to 48 hours so a patient can be transported to a field hospital for surgery. About half of battlefield deaths stem from blood loss.

Cotton gauze and tourniquets remain standard supplies for military medics. Bleeding from serious wounds can't be controlled with rolls of cotton. Tourniquets, while effective at stopping blood loss, can lead to loss of a limb and can't be used on neck or abdominal wounds.

The bandage is among several under study or development that promote blood clotting and use substances extracted from plants, animals or human blood.

HemCon's bandage is made with chitosan, the building block of chitin, which helps form the hard shells of many insects and crustaceans. The chitosan in the HemCon bandage comes from the shells of shrimp harvested near Iceland.

Professor discovers cheese enzyme

By The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A University of Wisconsin-Madison professor says he's found a way to take the bitterness out of cheddar — a discovery that could save cheesemakers some serious bread.

Food science professor Jim Steele said an enzyme reduces the bitter taste that afflicts low-grade cheddar cheese.

"It has the potential to give consistency to the quality of cheese that we produce, and save us a whole lot of money," said John Umhoefer, executive director of the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association.

Cheesemakers start by mixing a medley of bacteria called a starter culture with warm milk. They sometimes add a second batch of bacteria, called an adjunct culture. To make cheddar, they mix in an organism called *Lactobacillus helveticus*, which smooths out the cheese's taste and reduces bitterness.

Steele and his team have worked to identify what in the organism produces this desirable effect. They hoped they could then find a way to produce the effect in the starter culture, which would drop the cost and improve the cheese.

The researchers sequenced the 2,400 genes in *Lactobacillus* in 2001, and Steele's team identified the desired gene within six months. Cheesemakers can now add that gene to starter cultures.

Accordionist free to polka

By The Associated Press

CHAGRIN FALLS, Ohio — After two run-ins with police for playing his accordion on the village's streets, Jacob Kouwe has been cleared to polka.

The Village Council ruled Monday night that street performances by a 16-year-old Chardon High School sophomore do not disturb the peace.

Kouwe began playing polkas and hymns in December

in the quiet downtown of the suburban Cleveland village. On Feb. 8, a Starbucks coffee shop employee complained to police that Kouwe was "soliciting."

Kouwe said that he does not ask for money, but some people drop cash in his accordion case. He moved away from Starbucks.

Then a resident complained that Kouwe's music was "tacky."

Police looked into the possibility that Kouwe was disturbing the peace. Chagrin Falls has a 1935 ordinance that prohibits the loud playing of a musical instrument or "other sound-making device."

"I admit street performances are not the polished, perfected, album-quality fare served up by formal concert venues," Kouwe told council members. "However, my street performances are from the heart."

Promising alien signals re-examined

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A project using shared home-computing power to search for alien signals from outer space will give a second listen to the most promising radio sources detected in four years of work.

Scientists on the SETI(at)home project will use the giant Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico this month to revisit up to 150 spots identified as potential sources of radio signals from aliens. SETI stands for Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.

The chosen signals were among billions detected since the project, based at the University of California, Berkeley, began in 1999.

The project harnesses the computing power of more than 4 million volunteers to scan the data collected at Arecibo, the world's largest telescope of its kind. That cuts the cost and time needed to sift through the telescope's data.

Dozens of signals were designated as particularly promising for several reasons, including the number of times they were detected, their strength and proximity to known stars.

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