

FREE

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 106

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

11-33-38-42-46

Megamember: 26

Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

06, 17, 18, 28, 32

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 7, 0

Evening picks: 9, 9, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 01, Gold Rush

Race time: 1:49:30



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A worker at the Brown-Forman Distillery sent 1,800 gallons of tequila into the sewer system when he mistakenly unloaded one tank into an already full one (Louisville, Ky.). Circus clown Gavin Riley, 37, was jailed for two years for beating up his girlfriend because she declined to go watch him perform (Newcastle Upon Tyne, England). Entomologists explained that warm weather was the reason that hordes of cutworms and army worms were slithering across northwestern New Mexico, covering roads and invading homes (but not to worry, in that they would turn into moths in a few weeks, anyway) (Shiprock, N.M.).



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Criticism is prejudice made plausible.



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Johnson mourned at SM memorial

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Dozens of friends, family and members of the community paid their last respects on Saturday to slain Santa Monica resident Kristine Johnson, whose body was found dumped in the Hollywood Hills on March 3.

Johnson's mother, Terry Wark, returned to Santa Monica this weekend to hold the memorial. She buried her only daughter Wednesday during a private funeral ceremony in Los Gatos, Calif.

Because of the outpouring of support Wark received from the Santa Monica community and police department during the two-week search for Johnson, the grieving

mother wanted to give those who helped a chance to say good-bye.

The memorial, held on Saturday in conjunction with another service in Johnson's hometown of Saugatuck Mich., attracted some people who didn't even know the 21-year-old. Some helped search for her, while others felt compelled by the widely publicized story of her disappearance.

But the pews at St. Augustine by the Sea church in downtown Santa Monica also were filled with her co-workers, family members and Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr.

Johnson's stepfather, Jeff Wark, said even though he only knew

See MEMORIAL, page 5

Pedestrian nuisance



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A young girl is consoled by her mother and Dee's Diner owner Serious "Bob" Moini Sunday afternoon after she tripped over a cement and tiled cone placed in the middle of the sidewalk on Santa Monica Boulevard. The permanent cones installed by the city are supposed to serve as a warning to pedestrians that they are approaching an alley. But as Serious Bob said, the cones are more of a hazard than a precaution. Each week, he said he watches several people injure themselves on the cone in question, which is directly in front of his diner.

Million-dollar man studied in Santa Monica

Game show winner spent years at SM library and Barnes and Noble

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Winning the grand prize on television's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" hasn't changed Kevin Smith.

The 53-year old retired truck driver still rides

the bus around town, wears his clothes until they're nearly worn through and gets a thrill out of obscure documentaries and thick almanacs.

A lot of people even mistake the 10th winner of television's top prize for a homeless person — like a woman downtown last year who stuck a \$5 bill in his threadbare coat as she breezed by.

Smith hobbled after her on his bad knee and tried to give her money back. He explained that he was just a "normal" guy and didn't need charitable donations.

"But she didn't believe me," Smith laughed. "So I pulled out four or five C-notes, and said 'Look — I'm okay, really.'"

The gray-bearded trucker — who says that he comes from "east of the mighty Mississippi" but now calls Los Angeles home — took home the top prize last month on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" after years of tireless study.

He said he expects a check for the full \$1 million to arrive "anytime between now and April Fool's Day" and is bracing for his biggest fear — tax day 2004.

Appearing calm on-screen, Smith said he walked on to the set of the show confident he had done everything he could to prepare. Adding to his easy demeanor was the fact that Smith was "so damn fatigued" from cramming during the nights leading up to the show.

"I just kept studying until I fell asleep in the books," said Smith, who brought several bags of reference books to his hotel room in New York. "I was so tired I was actually dozing off during the commercial breaks."

Smith began his rigorous game show training four years ago. He spent eight to 10 hours a day, five days a week in his two favorite libraries — Santa Monica and Brentwood. When the libraries turned people out at the end of the day, Smith strolled over to Barnes & Noble on the Third Street Promenade, using the bookstore as an after-hours library.

Woman raped by armed intruder

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica woman was raped early Friday morning by a man who broke in through her bedroom window, police said.

The assault on the 26-year-old woman occurred at approximately 5:30 a.m., in the 1200 block of 21st Street, according to a Santa Monica Police press release. The suspect brandished a weapon during the assault, though it was not a firearm, police said.

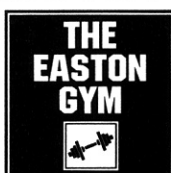
The suspect was described

as an African-American male, approximately 20-years old, 6-feet-one-inch tall, medium to heavy build, short, dark hair, facial hair (possibly a goatee), wearing a dark gray jacket, orange colored Hawaiian-print shirt, black pants, and a white visor-type hat.

Anyone with information leading to the identification of the person responsible for this crime is asked to call Detective Lucio at 310-458-8451 or 310-458-8218.



A sketch of the suspect.



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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, March 17, 2003:

You often wonder what would happen if you did or said something else. This year, simply give in to spontaneity, and you'll get positive results. You often question your limits and are likely to test them. Recognize when you have had enough, and others will pitch in. Never hesitate to ask for support. You will gain professionally. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone through your work. This person could prove to be very special. Romance becomes even more a part of your life this coming winter and fall. If you're attached, an opportunity heads your way as a couple. If you can work on it together, it will gain in meaning. LEO pushes you in the work arena.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You easily go to extremes right now, feeling optimistic and as if nothing can or will stop you. Well, you're right. Right now you're on a roll creatively and emotionally. With this type of energy backing your chart, the Force is with you. Don't allow someone to stop you. Tonight: Play away.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You find an unusual opportunity that could color your life ultimately and for the long term. Check out investments with greater care, keeping an eye open for those involving real estate. You might get an opportunity that could be too good to be true. Tonight: Visit with family.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out for those around you, even if it is just a neighbor. Others appreciate you checking in on them and seeing life from a renewed perspective. Allow greater happiness to enter your life by being less me-oriented. Tonight: Out and about.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Pay attention to what might be going on within your immediate circle right now. You might want to indulge yourself more often. Do something uniquely for yourself. Don't hesitate with a friend or loved one. Go more than halfway when dealing with others. Tonight: Let the good times flow.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You have the good fortune of tumbling in the right place at the right time. Just put your ideas forward, and everything seems to fall in place. Others succumb to your innate charm and ways. You know what you want; don't wait any longer. Tonight: Just keep smiling.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Knowing when to step back can make all the difference. Your mind could be working overtime, but you can handle whatever comes up. Information that heads in your direction could give you another point of view. Don't hesitate to mull over your decisions. Tonight: Smile away.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Follow your friends, understanding exactly what your limits are. What you thought was a serious meeting could break into a wild and happy happening. What is wrong with this? Don't make any judgments, and you will be much happier as a result. Tonight: Where your friends are.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Understand more of what you would like from a work situation. If you want to ask for a raise, there could be no better time than the present. Realize your constraints, but also use timing to achieve more. Others certainly are in a gracious mood. Tonight: Assume the lead.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Make calls and explore options involving travel or education. You might find the answers too good to be true, but that might not be so. Break past rigid thinking. Take an opportunity and run with it. You are the only person stopping you. Tonight: Make calls. Surf the Internet.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might not be comfortable with what is happening with a child or loved one. You've probably rarely seen him or her opulent or downright wild. You cannot stop this person, so you might as well enjoy him or her. Let the good times roll. Tonight: Just say "yes."



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Others seek you out, but you might be overwhelmed by what you hear. You also could have difficulty scheduling everything and everyone. Do your best knowing that the weekend is about to greet you. Enjoy a meeting that assumes a light tone. Tonight: Party the weekend in.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You manage to gain a much different perspective if you don't limit your options and only look at your possibilities. Don't use the word "impossible" or "no." Make your expertise finding solutions. Others respond to your open ways. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

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LOCAL



Court dubious of lawsuit

By Daily Press staff

A woman who decided to take on the police and two insurance companies appeared to elicit little sympathy in small claims court Tuesday.

Gulseren Dogu pleaded with Commissioner Roberta Kyman to reverse police and insurance conclusions that her Honda smashed into another car after failing to observe a stop sign.

Dogu sued Jakelin Lynn Flores for \$5,000 over the December 2001 fender-bender, even though Dogu's own insurance company had already paid Flores \$6,000 for the damage to her car.

"I've been cheated," said Dogu, whose Turkish tongue was translated in court by an interpreter. She claimed her case was

based on Flores' dishonesty.

Commissioner Kyman appeared dubious from the start.

"The police report said you were at fault. Your own insurance company said the same thing," Kyman noted in wondering why Dogu had shown up in court as the plaintiff. "Your company has already paid her."

Kyman didn't rule Tuesday, but appeared skeptical both of Dogu's claim for \$2,600 in damages to her own car and the \$2,400 she tacked on for the time she spent on the case, bringing the claim to the small claims limit of \$5,000.

Near the end of the case, the defendant, Flores, exclaimed, "I don't know why I'm here."

"You're here because you got sued," replied Kyman.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wilderness group to hold auction

By Daily Press staff

The Wilderness Fly Fishers, a Westside nonprofit club dedicated to conservation of local and national fisheries, will host its annual Super Auction on Tuesday, March 18 at the Olympic Collection.

A silent auction will be followed by dinner and a live auction. Among the items offered will be an assortment of two-for-one fishing trips to local and exotic destinations such as Alaska, Bahamas, Central America and New Zealand.

There will also be equipment, literature, clothing and non-fishing lifestyle items. The proceeds from the auction will be used to sponsor various conservation groups as well as the club's hugely successful Trout in the Classroom, a program that teaches elementary students conservation by having them raise trout from eggs to release in the wild.

The club is also involved in Adopt-A-Highway and spearheads local stream and waterway clean ups. Dinner is included in the \$25 admission. For information and reservations call (310) 280-3459.

Mothers For Justice establish Web site

By Daily Press staff

In an effort to increase its outreach within the community, Mothers for Justice launched a new Web site: www.mothersforjustice.com.

"We are extremely excited to expand our activism to the Internet," explained MFJ co-chair Maria Loya. "The Web site will help bring Mothers for Justice closer to the people."

The group is known for fighting for policy change to strengthen the civil rights of youths of color within the Santa Monica Unified School District community.

Mothersforjustice.com will serve as a portal for students, provide rights information and tools to help parents fight violations and establish links to resources within the community.

Visitors can contact MFJ through the Web site and sign up to receive e-mail updates. Also included on the site is an electronic copy of Institutionalized Racism in the Santa Monica — Malibu School District: Its Impact on Students of Color, a report submitted to the SMMUSD School Board by Mothers for Justice, which has led to major policy changes within the school district.

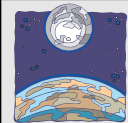


Information compiled by Jamie Seborer

Monday a west swell continues, though its direction should start to slowly shift throughout the day. Some spots will see overhead sets that may be several feet over-head at the better spots. The conditions, however, should be poor because of 10-20 knot winds.

Tuesday drops some, but the 10-20 knot winds remain. Expect blown-out waves that are head-high. The west swell will gradually fade and turn more northerly, shading some breaks.

Be advised that the recent rains have raised the bacteria levels and the beaches are on a 72-hour advisory until levels return to normal. On another note, expect the tides to swing dramatically because of the full moon on the 18th.



Today's Tides:

Low	12:43AM	2.0'
High	6:44AM	5.6'
Low	1:44PM	-0.9'
High	8:10PM	4.3'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County Line	6-10' fair	5-7' poor	NA
Zuma	4-6' fair	3-4' poor	NA
Surfrider	4-6' fair	3-4' poor	NA
Topanga	4-5' fair	4-5' poor	NA
Breakwater	4-6' fair	3-4' poor	NA
El Porto	4-6' good	4-6' poor	NA

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The Q Line

To deal with faltering budgets, revenues must be increased while expenses have to be cut. It's no different here in Santa Monica.

While the Santa Monica City Council continues to grapple with what else it needs to cut to close a growing \$11 million deficit this year, it's also looking for ways to make money.

Last week, the Council approved increasing parking rates for spots along the beach and downtown from 50-cents an hour to \$1 an hour. 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.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think the increase is fair? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them 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

McKeown's attitude produced Prop. A

Editor:

Councilman Kevin McKeown's letter to the editor is exactly why there is a Prop. A. Thousands of his constituents volunteer time and money to the Prop. A campaign. It was started by ordinary citizens meeting in private homes and seeking a solution to a problem. The very ad McKeown criticizes was signed by over 300 homeowners.

Yet the councilman simply pretends these homeowners don't exist, and writes our hard work and effort off to a phantom group of "developers" whose names he, or any other opponent of Prop. A, can't produce. This is because they don't exist.

I understand that McKeown doesn't need homeowner votes because he has the SMRR endorsement locked up.

But we are, in theory anyway, also his constituents. If he disagrees with us that's one thing, but for him to refuse to even acknowledge that we are here in the city is intolerable, especially when so many of us have been working so tirelessly on this issue.

It is McKeown's attitude, as shared by the Landmarks Commission, which produced Prop. A in the first place. If they had simply responded to us 18 months ago when we had concerns, we never would have written Prop. A.

But they didn't — they pretended we didn't exist, much as McKeown is doing now. Is it any wonder we felt a need to change the law to force them acknowledge our voices?

Gregory Poirier
Santa Monica

Note to city: Change drain location

Editor:

Congratulations to the City of Santa Monica for its new police station, snuggled up right next to the McClure Tunnel.

Now, could the geniuses who designed this structure do something about the runoff pipe that drains directly into the freeway?

Whenever it rains, a copious amount of water is channeled into a downspout that drains directly onto the Santa Monica Freeway just uphill from the tunnel entrance.

This causes the right eastbound lane to flood. Traffic backs up to the already-dysfunctional signals at the California Incline.

Last rainstorm, I spent 15 minutes in line trying to get around the City of Santa Monica's drain spout.

Is it too much to ask the City of 10,000 Traffic Calming Devices to send its water somewhere other than an interstate freeway?

Hans Laetz
Zuma Beach

Name the developers behind Prop. A

Editor:

Kevin McKeown's comment about lawyers and developers pandering to renters in the name of homeowners to support Proposition A would be laughable if it were not so concerning.

First of all, I didn't know that you couldn't be a lawyer and a homeowner at the same time. I am sure you do not have a problem with Save Our Neighborhood's

spokesperson Bea Nemlaha being a lawyer and a homeowner. As I am sure it's also OK for Santa Monica's Conservancy chair Tom Cleys to work for a financial institution that specializes in funding developers, and to also be a homeowner right? Give me a break. I am sure you didn't anger too many people with that comment.

Secondly, all the "real estate attorneys and developers" you and the other Prop. A opponents are referring to are Tom Larmore and myself. Tom Larmore, who is a land use attorney and longtime Santa Monica resident, has represented one — that's right one — developer since he has been practicing.

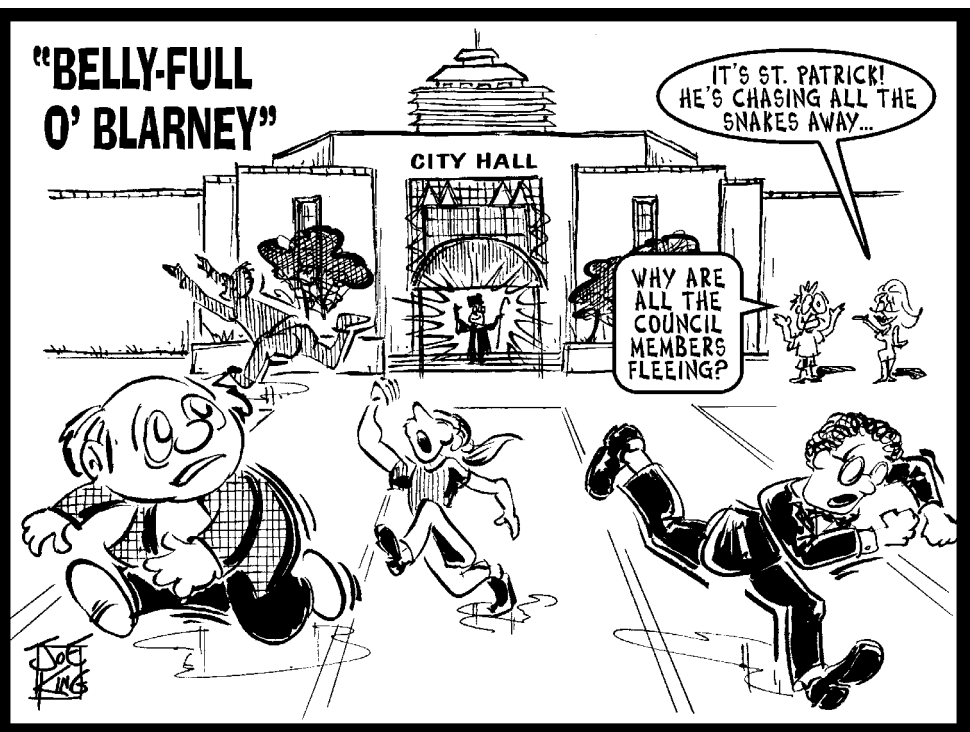
As a homeowner, he is concerned just like the other thousands and thousands of homeowners who support Prop. A. As for myself, I grew up in Santa Monica, have gone to schools and worked in this great city for many years, and in the course of my life, have built two homes. But in spite of my disclosed and current occupation of 12 years as a music video producer/editor, I am the only person they can single out when confronted to name the developers whom they claim back Prop. A.

Watch the debates and read the interviews. They have never named any developers when asked, not one, because there aren't any. Look at the disclosures, look where the money is coming from. Yes on Prop. A money is coming from hundreds of Santa Monica homeowners, while the majority of the No on Prop. A money is coming from outside conservancy groups and the National Trust.

The campaign disclosures are publicly available and yet they continue to lie in an effort to scare residents who they feel won't know any better into the fallacy of "the bulldozers are coming, the bulldozers are coming." Thankfully, not many residents have bought into that lie.

So Kevin, could you kindly respond by naming the developers you claim that back

See LETTERS, page 5



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Next it will be un-American to be American



What is the American dream?

Is it to live in comfort and have what you need for life — a steady job with security, and a home? Or is it living on the streets with talent, drive and the desire to work only to be held back by the very people who created this problem in the first place?

Everyday I wake up and face a day of work and school, like a lot of people do everyday, right? Well, doing school and work from the streets takes discipline and drive. It takes a commitment to self to bet-

ter my life. And there are people like me all over the world as I found out when I went to China.

There are people who starve daily while laws are passed and enforced to appease the corporate world who claim the homeless drive away business. There are single families who will become homeless in L.A. and have their children taken from them because of developers taking their low income hotel and turning it into a condo.

And when the panhandling becomes aggressive because they are making it harder to practice the right of religious freedom by doing what the Bible says by feeding the hungry and less fortunate, they complain more.

Meanwhile, the Midnight Special book store has closed its doors on the Promenade, as has the General Store, because of high rent. Both were like the "last living cell" in a dying body that is

the Third Street Promenade. I think that the corporate people don't get the fact that MOST people don't like to pay \$50 for a tee shirt or \$100 for a pair of jeans.

They refuse to see that people are starting to call the Promenade The Mall, and avoiding this place for more favorable and cheaper environments. And across from and next to Starbuck's the old UCLA Extension building is still for rent and office space is still available and the old Teasers Restaurant is still for rent.

I guess the homeless made the market prices go up and the huge amount of development has nothing to do with this. It's funny that the homeless hold so much power in the reasons why people don't rent here or want to come to the Promenade, yet some of us can't even get a place to sleep or eat or a job in our chosen professions to get our lives put back together.

Yet, in other countries people offered help to complete strangers, setting up jobs

and housing, showing compassion and understanding. And we're not made to feel like criminals for it.

I guess it's "Un-American" to help out people less fortunate and appease the corporations who constantly lay-off people so the CEO can keep his or her multi-million dollar paycheck and make it hard for small business people to survive in Santa Monica. I guess it's "Un-American" to have religious freedom and practice your faith by feeding the homeless and protesting the imminent war.

I guess it's "Un-American" to have a small business and not have to compete with mega-corporations who can easily afford the rent that their presence creates because their workers are FROM China and work for \$5 a day.

I guess that next it will be "Un-American" to be American.

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.

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

Proposition A? And please don't name me. I am still trying to get over the fact you denied my Landmarks Commission appeal by saying, "I don't care if the only thing keeping your house together is the termites holding hands, the rules are the rules" (City Council meeting Nov. 13, 2001).

Marc Schrobilgen
Santa Monica

Slain woman remembered during memorial service

MEMORIAL, from page 1

Johnson for a short time, he quickly understood that she was a special, compassionate woman.

"The year and a half I knew her — what a privilege to know such a beautiful, pure, honest and unselfish woman," he said, holding back tears. "She's the type of person everybody loved."

Terry Wark, who has remained composed since her nightmare began when Johnson disappeared Feb. 15, reflected on coming back to Santa Monica and how she and her daughter would have enjoyed spending the day together.

"I know Kristi's spirit is alive when I see things that she would have seen," she said.

Wark said that the last time she saw Johnson, they strolled the streets of San Francisco hand in hand.

"How I miss her next to me," she said. "Kristi's dance through life touched so many people in unique ways."

Wark reflected on the immediate bond she felt with her daughter when she was pregnant with her and remembered the countless late night talks they had when Johnson was young.

"Every minute detail of Kristi are in my thoughts," she said. "It is beyond the grace of God to understand how this happened."

Johnson's partially clothed, bound body was found covered by a sleeping bag in a ravine in Laurel Canyon two weeks after she disappeared. Johnson told her roommates on Feb. 15 that she was going to audition for a film with a man who she'd met at the Century City Mall and claimed to be a photographer.

Johnson never returned home. Her car was found a week later at the St. Regis Hotel in Century City, dropped off Jan. 16 by a man who matches the description of the suspect police now believe may have murdered Johnson.

The suspect, who is in custody on a \$1.15 million at the Los Angeles County Jail for parole violation and grand theft auto, is a three-time convicted felon who was released from state prison on Jan. 20.

Charges could be filed as early as this



KRISTI JOHNSON

week. Police are waiting for the results from the Los Angeles County crime lab on evidence recovered from 10 searches, including the suspect's West Hollywood residence and several vacant homes in the Hollywood Hills that he may have toured with a real estate agent prior to Johnson's disappearance.

Wark, who lives in Los Gatos, a suburb about 50 miles outside of San Francisco, came to Santa Monica the first week of Johnson's disappearance. She did countless interviews with media outlets around the country pleading with the public and her abductor to find Johnson.

Wark returned home on March 2 and was on her way to New York for more media interviews when the news hit the next day that two hikers found Johnson's body.

At the memorial service, Wark read a letter from her 24-year-old son Derek, who attended the ceremony in Michigan. Derek Johnson has been watching the events of his sister's murder unfold from North Carolina, where he is stationed at a U.S. Air Force.

"I miss Kristi so much," Wark read on behalf of Derek. "The sound of her voice, the magic of her laugh, the movements of her dance and the insights of her thoughts ... I will miss getting old with you."

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LOCAL

Ex-trucker spent years studying trivia in SM

TRUCKER, from page 1

Originally, Smith's goal was to compete on "Jeopardy!" But the first time he saw "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" more than two years ago, Smith said he knew the all-the-time-you-need format was better suited to his style.

"I thought, 'Hey, that's

a good show. And you don't have to hit a button like some Pavlovian specimen,'" he said.

Living on a Teamster's pension, Smith said he could never afford to actually buy the books he read at Barnes & Noble. But now, Smith said, he's paying for the books that interest him — and taking them home.

Roy Kotansky, a Barnes & Noble worker who holds a doctorate in classics from the University of Chicago, said Smith always has requests for special orders and questions about obscure texts.

"The first time he came into the store, I thought he was kind of a pain," said Kotansky, who Smith calls his "hero." "I didn't know

what to think of him because there are a lot of strange people here. But I soon realized that was just his way."

On the TV program, Smith employed the "50/50 lifeline" — when the computer automatically eliminates two wrong answers from the total of four — early on to answer the \$8,000 question about the rook piece in the game of chess.

He used the "Ask the Audience lifeline," his second, to poll the audience on a pop culture question: How many children does Ray Romano have on his television show?

Smith said pop culture is not his bag, even though he regularly reads People and TV Guide from cover to cover.

"You just know the question they ask will be from the one article you skip," he said.

Luckily, the audience came through, correctly answering "three."

Smith saved his final lifeline for near the end. On the \$500,000 question he used his "Phone a Friend lifeline" to ask a "very smart" doctor friend to help crack this doozy: "'And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free,' is inscribed in the lobby of what agency's headquarters?"

- A) FBI
 - B) CIA
 - C) Department of Education
 - D) Library of Congress
- After a long pause, Smith's friend suggested D.

Smith thought a bit longer, not sure if his friend's suggestion was right. Finally, he remembered something from the only movie he sneaked away from his studies to watch.

During a scene of "True Lies," the characters played by Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis pass through the headquarters of the CIA. Suddenly Smith had the answer.

He answered B and advanced to the \$1 million question.

"This is not the message to send to kids," he said. "I played hooky for two-and-a-half hours from my studies and I ended up winning \$500,000."

The million-dollar question was a bit anti-climactic for Smith, who said he's known the answer since he was a young boy.

The question: "The U.S. icon 'Uncle Sam' was based on Samuel Wilson, who worked during the



In a picture taken after he answered the last "Millionaire" questions correctly, Kevin Smith is showered with confetti.

War of 1812 as a what?"

- A) Meat inspector
- B) Mail deliverer
- C) Historian
- D) Weapons mechanic

Just to be sure he was reading everything correctly, Smith thought over the question at length, letting the crowd grow anxious as the pulse of the "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" soundtrack grew more and more intense.

Finally he answered "A," the confetti fell and Smith became the 10th winner of the grand prize on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" and the first winner since the show went into syndication last year.

After the commotion subsided, Smith's fatigue suddenly struck and he had to lie down backstage for three hours.

"I almost asked for an ambulance I was so tired," he said. "I could feel my heart — not stop beating — but after it beat, it didn't feel like it was going to beat again."

Smith has had two "holy grails" in his life. The first is to be as lucky as his father by finding the right girl. He's still searching. The second, Smith said, was to "make a lot of money" so he could take care of his mother and father, who Smith said gave him and his siblings "aplenty."

Smith's father passed away before he won the prize, but Smith said he intends to look after his mother and sisters.

"I didn't win this for me," Smith said. "I'm going to set something up so they're taken care of."

Smith, a middle child of five, was first attracted to trivia when his older brother gave him a used copy of the "Information Please" almanac when he was seven years old.

After graduating from high school, Smith bounced around a few universities "back east," studying film for a couple of years before dropping out to pursue a 20-year career as a trucker.

But rather than spend his time bantering with other truckers on the CB radio, Smith said he rigged up a contraption that received television audio and he spent hours each day listening to various documentaries and specials.

"If I hit it right," Smith said. "I could listen to a documentary or two, four network news shows and then Jay Leno's monologue — which is basically the same as the news, but funnier."

His career as a trucker came to an early end two years ago, when Smith banged his clutching knee into a closed door at a friend's house while rushing to fetch two Bud Lights from the refrigerator. Since then, Smith has devoted even more time to his quest for what he calls the "Trivia Tri-Fecta" — being a contestant on both the network and syndicated versions of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" and "Jeopardy!"

Smith lost an earlier bid at the million dollar prize on the network version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" in April of 2001, when he failed to make it to the "hot seat." All that's left now, Smith said, is to conquer "Jeopardy!"

But Smith said he wasn't sure if producers would give him the chance, even after what he called a studio-imposed "one-year game show prohibition" expires.

"I think I'll probably be black-balled," said Smith. "They've never had a million-dollar winner on 'Jeopardy!' before."



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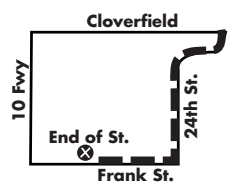
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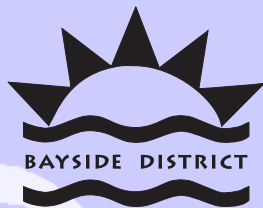
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STATE



Another deadline passes for redwood tree-sitters

BY RON HARRIS

Associated Press Writer

FRESHWATER — Tree-sitters positioned high in redwoods ignored yet another ultimatum from Pacific Lumber Co., scoffing Sunday at the company's offer of amnesty if the activists descended from their platforms.

Lumber company representatives shouted at the tree-sitters through bullhorns as they nailed the offer to the trees two days earlier.

Pacific Lumber had imposed a last-chance 2 p.m. Saturday deadline for the group to come down. It also demanded the 18 activists bring all of their belongings down with them and give their real names to authorities. In exchange, the company promised not to pursue a civil case against the activists.

None of the tree-sitters budged an inch, saying the offer was laughable.

"It's no deal at all," said 23-year-old "Opal," in a cell phone interview from tree she calls "Anastasia."

"Come down and we won't save your tree and we'll have your real name and identity." It's a joke," Opal said.

Pacific Lumber's latest offer, dated March 14, read in part:

"Landowners are willing to forgo their civil claims against you and to forgo their

right to make criminal complaints against you to the authorities. ... Landowners characterize this as an offer of amnesty."

The company added that the activists would have to promise never to return to the trees again.

A tree-sitter who goes by the name "Remedy" said Pacific Lumber's latest offer of amnesty did little to ensure the company would improve its logging practices.

"It's very weak. It's very lame," she said of the now-expired offer. "I can't imagine they would possibly think that we would go along with it."

"If all of us come down right now, more of us are going to go up and continue to protest," Remedy said. "As long as they're cutting ancient trees, people are going to protest."

A tight-knit band of ground support volunteers kept the climbers supplied with fresh cell phone batteries and food Sunday.

The activists claim aggressive logging and timber harvesting practices have packed local riverbeds full of silt, raising flood levels to new heights and harming residents. Remedy, Opal and others hope protests like theirs eventually will help halt all logging of old-growth trees in California.

Pacific Lumber claims it has improved its logging practices over the years and that the activists' claims of environmental damage are without scientific basis.

Report: State helps parolees gain questionable employment

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The California Department of Corrections helped a paroled kidnapper get a job caring for abused children, a convicted child molester get a job working with young adults and a felony rapist find work as a security guard, according to the agency's public records.

An investigation by the Orange County Register found about 200 questionable job placements for California parolees in 2001, the most recent year for which the Department of Corrections data was available.

The California Department of Corrections pays vocational programs \$7.4 million a year to find work for an estimated 120,000 ex-convicts who leave jail each year.

In most cases, the vocational programs match parolees with appropriate employment, but the Orange County Register found safeguards intended to keep parolees from getting inappropriate jobs were often either ineffective or not properly followed.

Drug offenders found work placing them close to prescription medication and sex offenders got jobs near children. In one case, a parolee convicted of robbing a man of \$48 at gunpoint found work as an assistant Boy Scout leader. More than three dozen felony drug offenders, burglars and thieves find jobs caring for the elderly or mentally disabled.

"Many of the placements are not only inappropriate, they are probably illegal," said Joan Petersilia, a criminology professor at the University of California, Irvine.

Parole agents are in charge of making referrals to the work programs. Agents are supposed to notify job counselors of any restrictions on the ex-convict and then approve the placement.

But state-hired job agencies rarely tell

employers about the crimes committed by parolees. Vocational counselors, who are supposed to ensure that job referrals don't conflict with a parolee's criminal past, are paid as much as \$560 for each ex-convict hired. The counselors instruct parolees to downplay their crimes during job interviews.

The Orange County Register investigation also found that California was charged for at least eight job placements of ex-convicts that apparently did not take place. A state investigation is underway to determine whether fraud was committed in those cases.

The inappropriate parolee job placements ranged from potentially dangerous to the absurd. A paroled burglar was permitted to work as a locksmith, a convicted drunk driver was given the keys to a limousine and a paroled car thief got a job washing cars, the Register reported.

"As you read that laundry list, it sounds horrifying," said Sharon Jackson, assistant deputy director of parole and community services for corrections. She said some of the placements records provided by the agency under the California Public Records Act may be listed incorrectly.

However, a number of placements were so troubling that corrections officials spent months conducting their own review before releasing the information to the Register. Parole administrators were ordered in a Feb. 3 memo to scrutinize every placement.

State records show that one Los Angeles parolee convicted of having sex with a minor under 16 now works providing security at an adult club. A man who served eight years for kidnapping an airport employee was given a job at New Ideas Community Home for abused, neglected and abandoned boys in Northern California. And a convicted child molester was assigned to work with young adults in a Fresno-area youth corps.

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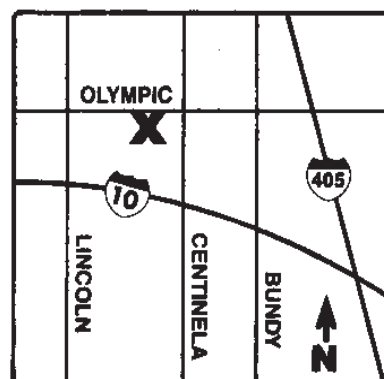
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STATE

Research group tries to engineer the end of spam

BY MATTHEW FORDAHL
AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE — To stem the unrelenting tidal wave of unsolicited, unwanted e-mail, people and companies are going to extraordinary lengths — at considerable expense.

They mask their e-mail addresses, install filters, create white lists of approved senders and blacklists of bulk mailers. An entire software sector has sprung up to try to defeat the spammers.

Yet inboxes are still bursting with unsolicited offers of prescription-free Viagra, get-rich schemes and pornography.

To halt spam cold, many experts agree, requires a radical technical solution at the heart of the Internet.

So an international organization best known for creating the Internet's plumbing has decided to explore fundamental changes in its architecture that would effect a fix. This would ultimately require a global consensus — and software updates for everybody.

The Anti-Spam Research Group holds its first physical meeting in San Francisco next Thursday. Members have already been discussing the problem over e-mail with such gusto that some participants complain they're getting more messages on anti-spam than from spammers.

The group was convened last month by the Internet Engineering Task Force, which in 1982 defined the standard known as the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, or SMTP, that still process all e-mail today.

"SMTP was developed some 20 years ago for a totally different type of Internet, one that was very open and trusting," said Paul Judge, the research group's chairman and director of research at the e-mail security firm CipherTrust Inc. "Today, the Internet is not those two things."

Jupiter Research estimates the average e-mail account received 2,200 spam messages last year. The antispam firm Brightmail Inc. estimates nearly 40 percent of all Internet e-mail is unwanted, an increase of 8 percent from 2001.

Dozens of companies — Brightmail, Mirapoint Inc., Postini Inc. and others — try to block spam before it reaches users' inboxes. Products from Microsoft Corp. and Apple Computer Inc. try to filter out unwanted spam after it has arrived. And at least 26 states have passed laws attempting to control spam but there is no federal regulation beyond anti-fraud rules from the Federal Trade Commission.

Still, many users find themselves continually exasperated, hitting the "delete" button time and time again.

Suggestions posed in the research group's mailing list range from replacing SMTP to adjusting other Internet standards in order to stymie unsolicited mass-mailings.

Some experts advocate changes that would demand the identity of every mailer or an alternative mail system altogether that involves trusted, verified senders. And some have gone as far as to suggest requiring paid postage.

The ideal solution would stop spam as close to the source as possible to limit its impact on the network, Judge said.

The research group's work could take years, though Judge is hopeful a consensus can be reached sooner. Problem is, there isn't even consensus on exactly what the problem is.

"One person's spam is another per-

son's newsletter," said Jeff Brainard, marketing manager at the e-mail provider Mirapoint Inc., a group member. "They have to find a way to allow the user to make a determination and not use a Gestapo-like, rigid approach."

"One person's spam is another person's newsletter. They have to find a way to allow the user to make a determination and not use a Gestapo-like, rigid approach."

— JEFF BRAINARD

Mirapoint Inc. marketing manager

The group must also consider how any proposed solutions affect other aspects of the e-mail ecosystem, said David Berlind, executive editor at the tech news site ZDNET and founder of JamSpam, an ad hoc group seeking solutions.

Berlind has firsthand experience.

In October, he tried to send a story to an editor but it never made it because an Internet service provider had blacklisted his mail server. Another person had used that server to send spam.

Berlind sees JamSpam working with the research group to identify problems that might emerge from proposed solutions, such as how his e-mail disappeared when an ISP tried to thwart spam by creating a blacklist.

Judge promises a structured conversation about the pros and cons of each approach before attempting to reach a consensus. After that, any recommendation would be submitted to standards-setting bodies.

So don't expect spam to disappear tomorrow.

"Changing the protocols is a very difficult task," said Brad Templeton, chairman of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and an expert on e-mail issues. "Some people have an unrealistic expectation about how easy that would be to change."

Initially, the research group won't be addressing legal issues, ranging from free speech to laws that could deter spammers. Ultimately, however, any solution would have to be both legal and technical, just like today's efforts to stop hackers, Judge said.

"If you look at the problem of hacking and attacks on computer networks, there are technological solutions such as intrusion detection and firewalls," he said. "But there are also a set of laws in place to prosecute persons who choose to circumvent those solutions. It's the union of these two approaches that give us a real solution."

But like halting hackers, stopping spam may be a never-ending game. As soon as a fix is identified, spammers, like hackers, find a weak spot.

So if there's a new mail system, will spammers try to get around that?

"Absolutely. Spammers have an economic incentive to get their message in front of people," said Jeff Schneider, chief technology officer at Brightmail. "That's what the whole game of spam is really about."

NATIONAL



Mormon faithful celebrate Elizabeth Smart's return

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Mormon faithful gathered to pray Sunday at Elizabeth Smart's church, where her grandfather declared that the 15-year-old was so robbed of her free will by her captors that she didn't try to escape even when left alone for a day.

Her bishop called Elizabeth "pure before the Lord."

Smart's grandparents and uncle spoke to about 250 people gathered for the service where the Smart family worships.

"As a doctor, it's amazing to me that you can become so brainwashed that you identify with your captor," grandfather Charles Smart said.

During her time with her abductors, "Elizabeth had the chance of escaping. One day she was completely by herself, but she didn't try to run away," he said. He did not elaborate on circumstances in which the girl was left alone.

Smart was snatched from her home June 5 and found by police Wednesday walking near Salt Lake City. Brian David Mitchell, a religious fanatic who did

handyman work at the Smart house one day in November 2001, is suspected in the kidnapping, as is his wife, Wanda Barzee.

Those two remained in jail Sunday awaiting charges, expected to be filed Monday. Federal and local authorities, meanwhile, refused to comment on the investigation for a second straight day.

At the church service, Bishop David Hamblin said despite anything that may have happened during the ordeal, the teen is "pure before the Lord. People who are in the control of others are not accountable."

No details have been released about any abuse Elizabeth may have suffered while captive. The girl has been interviewed several times by police, but her parents have not asked her for details, according to a family spokesman.

Charles Smart asked church members to be sensitive as Elizabeth gradually returns to her old life.

"Elizabeth has been through hell, and prying into those things brings it back," he said. "We'd like to invite everyone to show love, comfort and support to Elizabeth. Let's give her some time, let her do this in her own way."



Douglas C. Pizac/Associated Press

Amanda Smart, a cousin of Elizabeth Smart, talks with the media prior to a Mormon Church service in honor of the 15-year-old girl Sunday in Salt Lake City. Dave Smart, Elizabeth's uncle, slips through the crowd at center.

Producer missing after falling from Oregon cliff

BY JULIA SILVERMAN

Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — The creator of the reality television series "World's Wildest Police Videos" fell 300 feet from an Oregon cliff into the Pacific Ocean and was feared dead, authorities said Sunday.

Paul Stojanovich, 47, and his fiancée Kim Srowel were hiking Saturday at Treasure Cove, a bluff overlooking the ocean, when he slipped while stopping to pose for a picture, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Jamie Desanno.

Stojanovich grabbed a tree limb but plummeted into the surf below, said Sgt. Mike Zimmerman of the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office. Waves were 14 to 16 feet at the time, and rain over the past week had left the trail slippery.

Srowel called 911, and officers

searched for three hours but found no sign of Stojanovich, Desanno said.

Before he became executive producer of "World's Wildest Police Videos," Stojanovich had been an assistant field producer for the long-running show "COPS," which premiered in March 1989.

Stojanovich, whose home is in Portland, also is an honorary Special Reserve Officer for the Beaverton Police Department, said Beaverton police spokesman Mark Hyde.

"Paul was probably the first one to bring real police officers into your home and give people a real look at the stresses and strains that the street-level people come across, day after day, night after night," Hyde said. "He made police officers more alive."

Famous Irish tune actually written by English lawyer

BY ROBERT WELLER

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Sure an'begorrah, maybe it is just the luck of the Irish.

Across the nation on St. Patrick's Day the celebrations will start for hundreds of thousands, if not millions, with the wearing of the green. Late in the evening it may end with a solemn rendition of "Danny Boy," as tears and suds flow.

Trouble, is, the most beloved Irish ballad, at least on these shores, was written by an English lawyer, one of thousands of songs composed by Fred Weatherly.

And the music for "Danny Boy," was contributed by his sister-in-law, while

living in a mining town in Colorado.

"And yet this song probably does more to identify one group than any other music," said Andrew Guilford, director of the Center for Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College in Durango.

His center usually focuses on Native American history, but he got involved in the story of "Danny Boy" when he was contacted by a great grandson of Weatherly, Dr. Anthony Mann.

Mann believes Fred wrote "Danny Boy" partly to mourn the loss of one of his sons, and his father. "Before he died he wrote that he was pleased the song was being sung both by Irish Protestants and Catholics."

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INTERNATIONAL

Bush sets Monday deadline for U.N. authorization

BY RON FOURNIER

AP White House Correspondent

LAJES, Azores Islands — On the brink of war, President Bush and summit partners from Britain and Spain gave the United Nations a Monday deadline to endorse the use of force to compel Iraq's immediate disarmament.

"Tomorrow is a moment of truth for the world," said Bush, commander-in-chief of 250,000 troops ringing Iraq and ready to act with or without U.N. approval. He spoke Sunday after an Atlantic island summit with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

Though the leaders pledged to seek compromise with U.N. foes through the night and all day Monday, they offered little hope of a diplomatic breakthrough. Even if a compromise plan somehow secured approval of a U.S.-Britain-Spain resolution at the U.N., it would delay military action only a week or so, officials said.

Bush suggested the resolution might not even be put to a vote.

"If Saddam refuses even now to cooperate fully with the United Nations, he brings on himself the serious consequences," the leaders said in a joint statement. They went on to list their plans for Iraq after hostilities, including repairing damage that might be caused by Saddam Hussein and preserving oil and other natural assets.

The leaders gathered with more than 250,000 troops, a naval armada and an estimated 1,000 combat aircraft posi-

tioned in the Persian Gulf area, an American-led force ready to strike if and when the president gives the word.

"The Iraqi regime will disarm itself or the Iraqi regime will be disarmed by force," Bush said.

The summit, held at a U.S. military base on this dot in the eastern Atlantic, amounted to less than two hours of talks. No more was needed, U.S. officials said, because the conclusion was preordained.

Even as they flew to a meeting billed as a last-ditch bid at diplomacy, Bush and his advisers worked on a major war address that he could deliver as early as Monday night. The speech would give Saddam a final ultimatum to disarm or face war, probably within days, senior officials said.

At a post-summit news conference, Bush urged other nations to support "the immediate and unconditional disarmament" of Iraq.

France, Germany and Russia have opposed an additional United Nations resolution to set an ultimatum for the Iraqi leader to disarm — and the French have threatened to veto it. Efforts to win the votes of uncommitted nations at the U.N. Security Council have faltered in recent days.

Blair, speaking with reporters on his plane en route to London, said British diplomats would work through the night to try to persuade France to lift its veto threat of a war resolution.

At the United Nations, diplomats said it was unclear exactly what the United

States, Britain and Spain wanted from the Security Council on Monday. France, unmoved by the summit, planned to push ahead with its proposal, a 30-day timetable for Iraq to meet disarmament tasks that would be set by chief U.N.

weapons inspector Hans Blix. The plan doesn't include an ultimatum.

Blair, under the most domestic pressure to get U.N. backing, accused the resolution's opponents of weakening the alliance against Saddam.

War preparations



Brian Hendler/Associated Press

An Israeli Arab family collects protective gear in a gas mask distribution center in Jerusalem on Sunday. Israel has stepped up preparations ahead of a possible U.S.-led war on Iraq.

Central African Republic's capital in rebel hands

BY JOSEPH BENAMASSE

Associated Press Writer

BANGUI, Central African Republic — Rebels in the Central African Republic claimed to have captured the capital Sunday, and a spokesman called the insurgents' leader the country's new president.

The rebels began their attack on Bangui on Saturday while President Ange-Felix Patasse was visiting Niger for a meeting of African heads of state.

Rebel spokesman Capt. Parfait Mbaye said on the captured state radio station that the rebels controlled the entire city of 622,000 people by Sunday morning, though his claims could not be independently verified.

The insurgents imposed a 10-day dusk-till-dawn curfew in Bangui, an announcer said in a subsequent state radio transmission. Apart from that, the station played martial music.

Witnesses said Sunday they had seen many government soldiers shedding their uniforms and that Patasse's presidential guard had begun the looting at his home. After sporadic gunfire overnight, only silence could be heard Sunday morning.

Mbaye said rebel leader Gen. Francois Bozize has entered the capital and would speak to the country soon. Mbaye called him "the president of the republic."

"Anyone who refuses to comply with the new decisions will be considered a troublemaker," Mbaye said, without elaborating.

Mbaye directed all of the state's police, national security forces and military to return to their barracks.

Patasse flew later to Yaounde, Cameroon, where he remained Sunday morning, employees at his hotel confirmed.

After hours of intense small-arms and

mortar fire, Bozize's rebels overran the airport, much of the city and Patasse's Patasse's private and official residences Saturday.

Insurgents from neighboring Congo who helped Patasse repulse an attack by Bozize in October fled in canoes back across the nearby river border to their own war-riven country, citizens said.

The Congolese rebel leader, Jean Pierre Bemba, confirmed that his Congolese Liberation Movement, or MLC, troops

had withdrawn.

Patasse, elected in 1993 and re-elected in 1999, has been accused by opponents of rampant corruption, and his rule has proven increasingly divisive. He has survived repeated coup attempts as well as military mutinies over unpaid salaries and labor disputes.

Bozize, a one-time Patasse supporter, lost in the 1993 elections. In 2001, the former army general was accused of involvement in a failed coup attempt against

Patasse and went into hiding in rural northern Central African Republic and neighboring Chad.

Central African Republic, a country rich in raw minerals including gold, diamond and uranium, has been racked by military revolts and other uprisings since gaining independence from France in 1960.

The United Nations estimates that around 105,000 people have been displaced in the government-controlled part of the country since October.

N. Korea: U.S. pushing nuclear situation to war

BY JAE-SUK YOO

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea cannot remain "a passive onlooker" while the United States conducts military exercises in the region, the North said Sunday, claiming that Washington is pushing a nuclear crisis toward a second Korean War.

While vowing to counter any military attacks, Pyongyang also said Sunday it wants to avoid war and reiterated its demand for direct talks with Washington.

"The DPRK cannot remain a passive onlooker to the U.S. intensified military moves as they are a dangerous military racket to ignite the second Korean War," North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun said Sunday. DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name.

The U.S. military said the annual Foal Eagle exercises, which end April 2, are defensive and not related to the political situation on the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea blames the war games for heightened tensions on the divided Korean Peninsula. A dispute over North

Korea's nuclear programs has been spiraling since October, when the United States said Pyongyang had admitted having a secret nuclear weapons program in violation of a 1994 agreement.

The United States has gathered an impressive show of force for the games, including the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson and six U.S. F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighters, here for the first time in a decade.

In a separate commentary reported by South Korea's Yonhap news agency, Rodong said: "We do not want the standoff to lead to war and demand to resolve the issue through North Korea-U.S. direct talks."

The United States wants a multilateral approach that includes many countries. Vice President Dick Cheney, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," said he would travel to the region next month and stressed the importance of North Korea's neighbors dealing with the crisis.

"They're far more directly affected than we are — Japan, South Korea and especially China. The idea of a nuclear-armed North Korea with ballistic missiles to deliver those will, I think, probably set

off an arms race in that part of the world. And others, perhaps Japan, for example, may be forced to consider whether or not they want to readdress the nuclear question. That's not in China's interest."

He dismissed the notion that the United States should handle North Korea and Iraq the same way.

"Each set of circumstances we are faced with around the world is different," Cheney said. "It does not automatically mean an approach that makes sense in Iraq is necessarily an approach that would make sense in North Korea."

Despite the standoff, Washington promised to send 40,000 tons of food immediately to impoverished North Korea as part of its commitment to 100,000 deliver tons of food this year, a U.N. envoy said Sunday in Beijing.

The announcement by Maurice Strong, a Canadian aide to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, came after warnings by aid agencies that donations have dropped sharply, jeopardizing programs that feed millions of North Koreans.

SPORTS



Kentucky, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma top seeds for NCAAs

BY MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Kentucky, Arizona, Texas and Oklahoma were selected as the No. 1 seeds for the NCAA tournament Sunday, the fourth straight year two schools from the same conference earned a top spot.

Take that!



Paul Sakuma/Associated Press

Top seeded Kim Clijsters, of Belgium, returns a shot to fourth seeded Lindsay Davenport in the finals of the Pacific Life Open in Indian Wells on Sunday.

Texas, No. 1 in the South, and Oklahoma, the top seed in the East, are both from the Big 12.

Arizona of the Pac-10 was seeded No. 1 in the West. Kentucky, unbeaten in the Southeastern Conference and winner of the league tournament, was given the top spot in the Midwest.

Duke, the No. 3 seed in the West, ended its run of five straight years as a No. 1 seed in a season of parity on the court and troubles off it.

Georgia, expected to be a highly seeded team, Michigan and Fresno State declared themselves ineligible for the tournament over possible NCAA violations or academic fraud.

The Big 12 and Southeastern Conference each had six teams selected and Georgia would have given the SEC a seventh.

The Big Ten and Pac-10 had five teams each, while the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big East and Conference USA had four each.

UCLA (10-19) ended its string of 14 straight appearances, third on the current list behind Arizona's 19 and Indiana's 18.

"I don't think it ever gets old hat," Arizona coach Lute Olson said.

"When you get to the NCAA playoffs, I think it's the most exciting time in sports."

Bob Knight's streak of 16 straight trips to the tournament also ended with Texas Tech. He made it from 1986 to 2000 at Indiana, and last year with the Red Raiders. He didn't coach in 2001.

North Carolina holds the record with 27 straight appearances, but the Tar Heels are not in the field for a second straight season.

The ACC had two No. 1 seeds last season in Maryland and Duke. The Big Ten had Illinois and Michigan State in 2001 and the Pac-10 had Arizona and Stanford the year before.

Among the teams expected to get one of the 34 at-large but didn't were Boston College, Tennessee and Seton Hall.

The tournament begins Tuesday night in Dayton, Ohio, with the play-in game. Big South champion North Carolina Asheville, at 14-16 the only team in the field with a losing record, will play Texas Southern, the champion of the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

The winner will play Texas on Friday in Birmingham, Ala., and No. 8 LSU will face No. 9 Purdue.

In Spokane, Wash., on Thursday, No. 5 Connecticut plays No. 12 Brigham Young and No. 4 Stanford faces No. 13 San Diego.

The rest of the South will be on Friday with No. 6 Maryland, the defending national champion, against No.

11 North Carolina-Wilmington; and No. 3 Xavier vs. No. 14 Troy State at Nashville, Tenn. Also, No. 7 Michigan State plays No. 10 Colorado; and No. 2 Florida, a high seed despite losing its last three games, faces No. 15 Sam Houston State in Tampa, Fla.

Oklahoma perhaps helped itself move into a top spot by winning the Big 12 tournament Sunday. It got the biggest break from the "pod" system, which keeps the better teams as close to home as possible.

The Sooners will play South Carolina State on Thursday in Oklahoma City, a 20-minute ride from their Norman campus, while No. 8 California faces No. 9 North Carolina State.

In Birmingham, No. 5 Mississippi State plays No. 12 Butler, and No. 4 Louisville faces Austin Peay.

In Boston on Friday, No. 3 Syracuse goes against No. 14 Manhattan in a matchup of New York schools, and No. 6 Oklahoma State faces No. 11 Penn.

Wake Forest, the No. 2 seed after winning the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title, plays No. 15 East Tennessee State, and No. 7 Saint Joseph's faces Auburn in Tampa.

Kentucky enters the tournament on a 23-game winning streak. It will play No. 16 IUPUI, one of seven schools making their first NCAA appearance, in Nashville, while No. 8 Oregon faces No. 9 Utah.

In Spokane, No. 4 Dayton, which won the Atlantic 10 tournament on its campus, plays No. 13 Tulsa, and No. 5 Wisconsin goes against No. 12 Weber State.

On Thursday in Indianapolis, No. 3 Marquette plays No. 14 Holy Cross, and No. 6 Missouri faces No. 11 Southern Illinois.

The final Midwest group will be at Boston, with No. 2 Pittsburgh, the Big East tournament champion, against No. 15 Wagner; and No. 7 Indiana, last year's runner-up, against No. 10 Alabama, the top-ranked team in late December that dropped to 17-11, 7-9 in the Southeastern Conference.

Arizona opens against No. 16 Vermont on Thursday in Salt Lake City. Also, No. 8 Cincinnati plays No. 9 Gonzaga; No. 3 Duke, which won its fifth straight ACC tournament on Sunday, faces No. 14 Colorado State; and No. 6 Creighton plays No. 11 Central Michigan.

Notre Dame, despite being a No. 5 seed, gets a chance to play close to home, facing No. 12 Wisconsin-Milwaukee in Indianapolis. Also, No. 4 Illinois, which won the Big Ten on Sunday, plays No. 13 Western Kentucky.

The last West group will be at Oklahoma City: No. 2 Kansas plays No. 15 Utah State and No. 7 Memphis faces No. 10 Arizona State.

Kentucky gets 23rd win

By The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — No. 23 and No. 24 will add up to No. 1 for Kentucky going into the NCAA tournament.

The Wildcats extended their winning streak to 23 straight, holding off Mississippi State 64-57 on Sunday to win their 24th Southeastern Conference tournament championship.

Kentucky came to New Orleans ranked second in the country, but they will undoubtedly move up to the top spot after

a weekend of upsets.

Keith Bogans, the tournament MVP, scored 22 points as the Wildcats (29-3) became the first team in 51 years to go undefeated in the SEC and then win the conference tournament.

Winsome Frazier hit a 3-pointer to bring Mississippi State (21-9) within 56-55 with 2:42 remaining, and the Bulldogs had a chance to go ahead when Mario Austin was fouled with 1:51 to go.

But the star center missed both free throws and Kentucky hung on.

Oklahoma holds off Mizzou

By The Associated Press

DALLAS — Hollis Price led a hot start that put No. 6 Oklahoma up 22 points with 15:05 left, but the Sooners failed to score another field goal and needed two big defensive stands in the final minute to beat Missouri 49-47 in Sunday's Big 12 title game.

The Sooners (24-6) were more worried about a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament than winning this game after Price's 3-pointer made it 46-24. The Tigers (21-

10), sapped from playing three tight games in three days, didn't seem capable of having enough energy to rally.

Amazingly, Missouri did.

Oklahoma helped by missing 14 straight shots and turning the ball over seven times.

Arthur Johnson was the star of the Tigers' rally, scoring 21 points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

Price, who was named the tournament MVP, finished with 14 points.

UCLA cyclist killed during race

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — A cyclist from UCLA was killed in a head-on collision with a car after trying to avoid a group of riders who had fallen along the route of the Tucson Bicycle Classic.

Garrett Lemre was 22. His death Saturday was the first in the race's 18-year history.

The accident in Tucson happened during the second of three stages. The stage was immediately called off but racing resumed Sunday with a memorial lap in honor of Lemre.

Three days earlier, in the Paris-Nice race in France, top cyclist Andrei Kivilev of Kazakhstan died from head injuries after falling from his bike.

Lemre of Ojai, Calif., swerved into the opposite lane in an attempt to avoid the fallen cyclists, said Sgt. James

Ogden of the Pima County sheriff's department.

The race was on the eastbound side of Gates Pass Road, but the westbound side remained open to traffic during the race.

About 630 riders were in the three-day race, which is sanctioned by the U.S. Cycling Federation.

On the winding and hilly Gates Pass Road, the wind draft is often strong and riders have limited room to maneuver. Around curving hills, oncoming traffic is virtually unseen. The race has been held on the same course for 15 years.

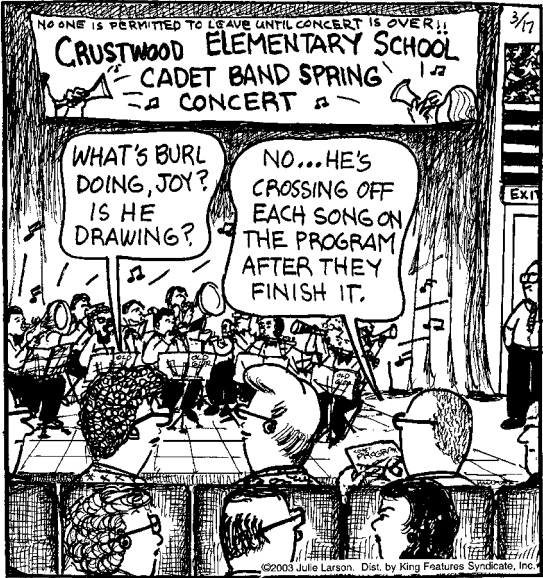
"Accidents are one thing, but when somebody dies, it's time to rethink your entire venue," race official Don Melhado said.

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COMICS

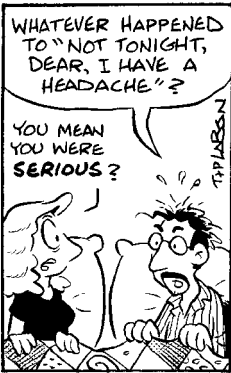
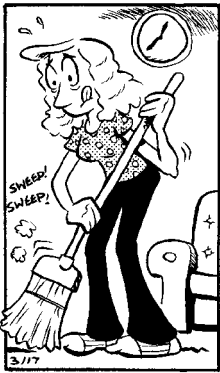
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



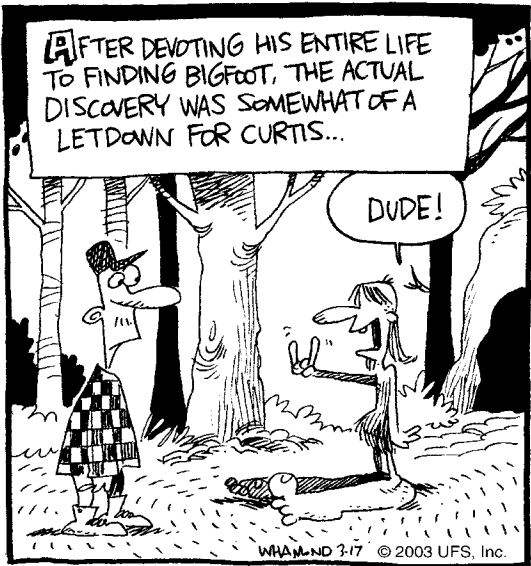
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- 1 Muscle woe
 - 6 Paul Sorvino's daughter
 - 10 Trail user
 - 11 Perfect places
 - 13 Sheeplike
 - 14 Lifeboat lowerer
 - 15 Slip preventer
 - 16 Take to the slopes
 - 18 Flightless bird
 - 19 Alternative to foil
 - 22 Auction buy
 - 23 Concerning
 - 24 Osaka setting
 - 27 Ranch critter
 - 28 Stove
 - 29 Gorilla, e.g.
 - 30 Music genre
 - 35 Bar staple
 - 36 Bad review
 - 37 In the style of
 - 38 Thrill
 - 40 Lustrous fabric
 - 42 Imp
 - 43 Choose
 - 44 Title paper
- 45 Takes the bus
- DOWN
- 1 Eat noisily
 - 2 Foe
 - 3 Muscular dog
 - 4 Fellows
 - 5 Movie sergeant
 - 6 Army doc
 - 7 Gilbert and Sullivan princess
 - 8 Overturn
 - 9 Bring to life
 - 12 Daze
 - 17 Young fox

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Saturday's answer

- 20 Loose talk
- 21 Lake loss
- 24 Used the track
- 25 Used
- 26 Mark Twain, e.g.
- 27 "Faerie Queene" poet
- 29 —
- 31 Use up
- 32 Gave a score to
- 33 Tea party guest
- 34 Slacks
- 39 Low digit
- 41 Will Smith film

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3-17

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"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

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2003



°EVENTS

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

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

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

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.

°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

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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-fired 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

ACADIE'S - Voila! Fresh from the south of France, Homemade Crepes have just arrived in Santa Monica! Located right off the 3rd St. Promenade, this authentic French storefront radiates charm and ambience with indoor seating and a quaint side patio for an outdoor experience. The menu offers a range of options to suit your individual mood. 213 Arizona Ave. (310)395-1120

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. **City of God (R)** 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45. **The Hours (PG-13)** 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00. **Willard (PG-13)** 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15.

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, 10:00, 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, 9:50. **Old School (R)** 11:15, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40, 10:15.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Jungle Book 2 (G) 2:10, 4:00, 6:05. **Shanghai Knights (PG-13)** 7:45, 10:15. **Agent Cody Banks (PG)** 1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:20. **Chicago (PG-13)** 1:30, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00. **Cradle 2 the Grave (R)** 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30. **Daredevil (PG-13)** 1:55, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55. **The Hunted (R)** 2:20, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05. **The Life of David Gale (R)** 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 10:10.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 3:45, 7:00, 10:10. **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. **Bend it Like Beckham (PG-13)** 12:99, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20. **Talk to Her (R)** 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55.

AERO THEATRE

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



BACK PAGE

Now playing: First sound in the world's longest concert

BY TONY CZUCZKA

Associated Press Writer

HALBERSTADT, Germany — First there was silence — 1 1/2 years of it.

But that was just a brief lead-in for last month's playing of the opening notes in what's planned as the world's longest concert, a 639-year piece being performed in a former church in east Germany.

With 72 years already mapped out, the concert inspired by the American avant-garde composer John Cage challenges the creativity of future generations to keep the music playing.

"This is a project that conveys optimism," said Michael Betzle, a businessman who helps run the private foundation behind the concert. "When you start something like that, you're counting on people's creativity 200, 300 years down the road."

The three notes being played Friday — G sharp, B, and G sharp — are the debut for an organ built for Cage's music, with keys being held down by weights and with organ pipes to be added over the years for new notes.

The project, driven by a group of German music experts and an organ builder, is centered around a Cage piece called "Organ2/ASLSP" — or "Organ squared/As slow as possible."

An unused church in Halberstadt, a town with a proud organ-building tradition dating to the Middle Ages, serves as

the performance space and the inspiration for extending the piece over centuries.

As the idea took shape in 2000, backers counted back to the 1361 inauguration of a famous organ in the Halberstadt cathedral — 639 years earlier.

They then stretched Cage's piece from a 20-minute piano concert to last just as long.

The concert actually began Sept. 5, 2001, the day Cage — who died in 1992 — would have turned 88.

But since the composition starts out with a rest — music language for silence — the only sound inside the church has been the tap-tap of the organ builders and the sound of air driven through the pipe-less organ by an electric fan.

It's a concept that Cage surely would have appreciated. Born in Los Angeles in 1912 and a student of avant-garde composer Arnold Schoenberg, he once wrote a piece consisting of 4 minutes and 33 seconds of silence.

Other Cage innovations included "prepared piano" performances, using a standard piano altered with noisemaking items like screws and wood placed between the strings.

Like with Cage, stretching the meaning of music is on the minds of the Halberstadt organizers.

"Others have eternal flames," Betzle said. "We have the eternal sound — or at least 639 years."

The foundation is seeking sponsors to fund the organ's estimated \$215,000 cost.

People can choose a year to sponsor with a \$1,080 donation.

Anyone who misses Friday's gala, which will include Germany's culture minister, has plenty of time to hear the opening E major chord, which will play continuously through August 2005. The

next notes will be added in July 2004.

German music scholar Heinz-Klaus Metzger, who knew Cage and was one of the project's advisers, said he thought his friend would have loved the concept.

"I imagine he would have been amazed," Metzger said. "Then he would have said: 'Yes, do it.'"

\$8 billion not his, Johnson says

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Actor Don Johnson says bank statements found in his car listing \$8 billion in transactions weren't his — and he is in no way involved in money laundering.

Johnson told CNN's Larry King on Friday that the papers, discovered by German customs officials in November when he crossed the border from Switzerland, belonged to potential investors with whom he was discussing a movie project.

The former "Miami Vice" and "Nash Bridges" star said he might sue a German tabloid and other media that published stories last week alleging he was involved in illegal activities.

"They perpetuated this story of money laundering based on no evidence, based on no investigation, and it's caused me an unbelievable grief, unbelievable grief," he said, adding that banks closed two of his accounts because of the story.

"My son called me crying," said Johnson, 53. "It's been terrible. This has been one of the most difficult weeks of my life."

Johnson said he was returning to Germany from a meeting in Switzerland when the officials made a routine check of his car.

Customs spokesman Wolfgang Schmitz said the officials returned the papers after making copies and are continuing to review them. He said there was no indication of any illegal transactions.

Johnson said he thought nothing of the incident at the time.

"I signed some autographs, we joked around," he said of the time he spent with customs officials.

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