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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Historic district debate heats up

Study to be released on city's housing inventory

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The neighborhoods north of Montana Avenue may soon officially become a piece of history.

A report completed by a historic preservation consulting firm will be released to the public in two weeks, which may suggest that some areas north of Montana should be designated as historic districts.

The study, conducted by West Los Angeles-based Historic Resources Group, is part of an effort to update the city's historic resources inventory. The last time an inventory was taken was in the late 1980s, according to Liz Bar-El, a city planner and the liaison to the landmarks commission.

The north of Montana neighborhood may be just one of several areas in the city that could be designated historic. The idea is to preserve the city's oldest structures so the city's character and history is preserved, Bar-El added.

"It's like they want your house to be a museum so they can drive by and look at it."

— TOM LARMORE
Santa Monica homeowner

"Every 20 years or so, a city really should update its inventory," she said.

Many of the residents who live north of Montana are gearing up to fight the anticipated designation, arguing that it's government intrusion at its worst. They say if homes are labeled historic, homeowners will be limited in what they can do to their properties because the status will prevent homes from being torn down or significantly changed on the outside.

"If you get caught in one of these, it's going to be a real problem," said Tom Larmore, a homeowner north of Montana.

Last month, about 200 homeowners gathered at Franklin Elementary School to discuss the possible changes to their neighborhood. Several homes now adorn lawn signs that read, "Say no to historic districts."

Roger Ginser, a member of the city's landmarks commission and a local historian, said the homeowner "hysteria" is unwarranted. He said the city wants to grant historic status to small clusters of homes and some individual houses that are important to the city. He added that the city is not attempting to change the status of entire neighborhoods.

Landmark designation only establishes design guidelines so that changes do not remove architectural features of a building, officials say. They also say that property values actually increase in historic districts because people know their neighborhood will always stay the same and be protected from developers that may want to build structures that are incompatible with the area.

But the idea that historic landmark restrictions devalue properties is a very real threat

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A St. Patty's Day feast



Nina Stewart Furukawa/Special to the Daily Press

Volunteers Steve Soto and Maria Luciani serve up a corned beef and cabbage dinner to hungry church patrons at St. Anne's yesterday. According to Sean Davila, Director of Youth Ministry, St. Anne's served over 200 traditional dinners.

One of Santa Monica's oldest homes lives on

BY TIM MURPHY AND LARRY HOFFING
Special to the Daily Press

On any given morning, if you walk past Georgina Avenue and Fourth Street, you'll likely see Zion Yu tending his gardens and 70-year-old bonsai pine tree.

Although Yu's home is a place for peace and serenity, it is located in an area that is turbulent with controversy.

The city recently hired a consultant to determine whether areas north of Montana Avenue should be considered historic, which means designated homes wouldn't be allowed to be altered on the exterior without heavy government scrutiny.

The consultant's report, scheduled to be released in April, has many homeowners fearful that the government will be able to rule over private property.

Situated in the middle of the dispute is Yu's home. The house is located in the

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SMMUSD security training heightened

Officers on campus now properly trained

BY ANTONIA BOGDANOVICH
Special to the Daily Press

Security officers at local schools haven't had the proper training to deal with potentially dangerous situations — until now.

Last month, 21 employees of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District were the first to complete a state mandated 24-hour training for campus security officers.

By July, all school security officers are required to take the training, under a new state law.

"I believe that school administrators all over need to take this class," said Bryan Astrachan, the public safety instructor who taught the course. "One problem is you have supervisors who don't quite understand the codes and sections that the officers (are hired to enforce)."

Before 1999, there were no requirements for school security at all, according to Astrachan.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and first aid have been the only requirements to become a security officer for Santa Monica and Malibu public schools.

"What's happened over the years is that their jobs have evolved into a quasi-law enforcement type — even though they don't carry weapons," Astrachan said.

Pam Davis, the Santa Monica Superior Court Juvenile Judge was a guest speaker for the course. She

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Any financial decisions made right now could backfire. Put off commitments until tomorrow, if possible. Review different propositions with an eye to success and new developments. Actions taken in the near future demonstrate togetherness and thought. Tonight: Put in overtime.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Though you might be full of snap, crackle and pop, someone else might not be up to snuff. Carefully consider options that involve work. You actually want more independence. If you don't handle this need properly, problems will ensue. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Your energy declines, making you more vulnerable in your dealings. Recognize that you are off-kilter. If you are to be successful, try to maintain a low profile in your dealings. Sometimes another might not agree with you. Count on it being now! Tonight: Cut back on commitments. Take better care of yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ As you focus on what you want, you hit a new pinnacle of success. You also might notice that another could be ill at ease with your gains. This person might worry that his or her relationship with you could be jeopardized by what is going on. Tonight: Catch up on a pal's news.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Reach out for another. You know what you want. Ask now. You cannot predict others' reactions, but you can make your wishes known in the ether. Somehow, verbalizing helps your desire become a reality. Let what you want happen. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Seek out different sources for answers. You might not be comfortable with another's version of what happened. Play private investigator and get down to basics. You will see a whole different panorama as a result. Perspective makes all the difference. Tonight: Visualize what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Work with another. Clearly this person means well. Deal with both a financial and an emotional matter. Consider refinancing or dealing with another's suggestion involving an investment. Seek dynamic ways to help your cash flow. Tonight: Listen to a pal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Let another lead, and just follow. Though you're usually the commander and this person your first mate, the roles reverse. What might be excellent is to see what each other experiences. Subtly zero in on what you want. You know how to do it! Tonight: Go along with plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Work through issues during the calmness. You can get far more done than anticipated. Pace yourself carefully with someone. Later in the day, you might find someone more volatile than you anticipate. Lay low and be more sensitive to another. Tonight: Watch a good TV show.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your creativity and imagination take you into new realms, if you wish. Recognize your limits when dealing with another who might be rather touchy at best. Choose your words with care, even if you feel somewhat frustrated. Tonight: Relax as if it were the weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Stay centered on your family, personal demands and your foundations. Taking a risk could only lead to trouble. Flirt with the idea of a home-driven business. Spruce up your office at home if already working from this base. Tonight: Pretend you're conservative.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Carefully consider your options that revolve around someone in your day-to-day life. This person needs that extra shove right now, in your opinion. Think through what is happening, and you gain tremendous insight. Tonight: Get together with friends for munchies.

QUOTE of the DAY

"I have my faults, but being wrong ain't one of them."
— Jimmy Hoffa *(1913-1975)*

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LOCAL

Georgina Avenue home faces historic designation

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center of the Palisades tract, which runs north of Montana and west of 7th street. It is one of the areas being examined by the consultant, Historic Resources Group, and Yu's home is likely to be rated as a highly significant historical building.

The city paid to have an inventory taken of Santa Monica historical properties in the 1980s. The result is the Historical Resources Inventory, a seven-volume report, which examined hundreds of houses in relation to their historical significance. It was updated after the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Currently, the inventory is being updated again.

Yu's home was rated a "No. 3 dwelling," which means it is eligible for individual designation in the National Register of Historic Places.

Liz Bar-El of the city's planning department, said the designation is highly significant, adding that when an owner applies for a building or demolition permit and the home is placed on the National Register, the city's planning commission will hold the permit for further consideration.

"The commission will talk with the owner and discuss possibilities other than demolition or significant changes to the home," Bar-El said.

The Historical Resources Inventory listed three reasons 404 Georgina is significant: its notable architecture, its rare construction material and its location in the historic Palisades tract.

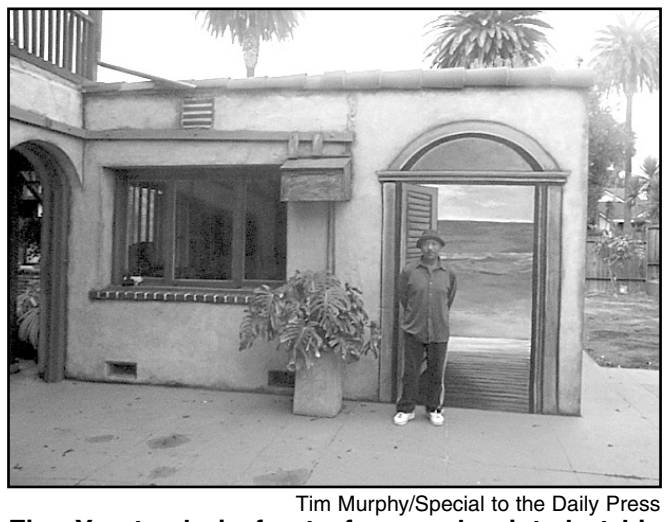
The Palisades tract first opened in 1905 after six developers spent $100,000 on improvements such as grading and oiling streets, cementing sidewalks, installing sewers and planting trees.

Shortly after Santa Monica annexed the tract in 1906, the city began keeping building records for the area, according to Luther Ingersoll, author of "Century History of Santa Monica Bay Cities."

Records indicate that in 1920 a Mrs. MacBennett "applied for a permit to build a dwelling for a cost of $7,000," at 404 Georgina, according to the resources inventory. MacBennett hired notable architect and builder John Byers, who was Santa Monica's foremost architect at the time.

Byers' forte was utilizing indigenous materials to recreate Spanish-style homes. Byers used adobe to build MacBennett's home, and traditional methods of construction were used. Byers' style was one of the earliest forays into this realm of building and it can still be seen at 404 Georgina today.

Even before MacBennett commissioned her house, there is evidence of a structure on that lot dating back to the 1800s.



Tim Murphy/Special to the Daily Press

Zion Yu stands in front of a mural painted at his home on 404 Georgina Avenue, one of the oldest structures in Santa Monica.

James W. Lunsford's "Looking at Santa Monica," states "Portions of the house are believed to date back to the 1840s as a shelter for ranch hands."

Yu's home could be among the oldest in Santa Monica's history.

Shortly after it was built, MacBennett sold the house to cowboy movie star William S. Hart. The Hart family owned the house until they sold it to Yu in 1990.

Yu opened the home as a place of healing where he teaches Tibetan chanting. Yu has been a "healer" in California since 1970, when then Gov. Jerry Brown legalized acupuncture.

One of his students, Danuta Rothschild, a Dutch Artist, became friends with Yu, and the two opened the place as an art house to display local artists' work. Four

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Historic districts to be publicly debated

DEBATE, from page 1

to homeowners, said Larmore, who pointed to a few cases that went before the landmarks commission earlier this month.

One woman wanted to add a garage to her home in a designated historic district in the Third Street neighborhood. But she had to meet with neighbors to discuss her plans and then go back to the commission for approval, making the process difficult and burdensome, Larmore said.

Another woman bought property in the Sunset Park neighborhood on Santa Monica's southeast side, but the commission frowned upon her request to tear down the old, dilapidated home because it was designated historic. One commissioner suggested she rehabilitate the structure instead of building a new one.

"It's like they want your house to be a museum so they can drive by and look at it," Larmore said, adding he thinks the commission has too much power over private citizen's homes. "What's kind of scary is that these commissioners think they are doing the right thing but it's almost too radical."

There are 256 homes in the neighborhood north of Montana. Some city officials fear that over time, developers will buy up the land, demolish the old houses and build bigger ones.

Bar-El has said in the past that historic districts are not generally designated if there is no support for them. There will be many community meetings to gauge the public's support after the study is released at the city's landmarks commission meeting scheduled for April 2.

There are two historic districts in Santa Monica currently — the Third Street neighborhood, which extends from Beach Street to Hill Street and the Bay Street cluster, which is four properties on Bay Street.

The next in line to be studied for historic designation could be Ocean Park, although that has not yet been determined.

(Editor's note: Tim Murphy contributed to this article).

Judge trains school campus security

SECURITY, from page 1

discussed juvenile court process, such as testifying in court, issuing citations for truancy, vandalism and fighting.

"Some of the officers were concerned about their role," Davis said. "They felt caught between what the administration wants and the things they felt they could just handle really informally."

Many of the security officers feel certain rules should be enforced like ditching school.

"I mean Santa Monica has a problem," Davis said. "We don't have a day-time loitering ordinance, it's not illegal for kids to be off school grounds during school hours.

John Sliss, the school districts' director of classified personnel, was instrumental in bringing the program to Santa Monica.

"I facilitated our campus security personnel and invited other districts to participate in the course," he said, adding it is difficult to get the training. "I knew other districts were searching and having to get this done."

The only school in the area offering the course is West Los Angeles Community College, although the actual classes were held at John Adams Middle School in Santa Monica.

The district employees, which range in age between 18-50 years old, are either security officers, or want to become officers. One student from Santa Monica High School enrolled.

The course trained the security officers their role and responsibilities, how to use their legal authority, how to conduct search and seizures, how detect weapons on campus, how to handle bio-terrorist threats, as well as how to understand the dynamics of gangs.

"We discuss searching students, due process, making sure they follow the law," Astrachan said. "We also talk about mandatory reporting of child abuse."

Judge Davis stressed the importance of the training at local schools because it addresses future generations.

"It's important that everyone is on the same team," she said. "And really we're all in it to make sure kids are getting what they need and become successful citizens."

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LOCAL



Nina Stewart Furukawa/Special to the Daily Press

Orchestra Director Chris Schwabe watches the Santa Monica High School Symphony Orchestra Sunday during the warm up for the send off concert held at Lincoln Middle School.

High school orchestra off to Carnegie Hall

BY CHRIS YOUNG
Special to the Daily Press

While playing in front of hundreds of people at Carnegie Hall in New York City may only be a dream for many young musicians, it is about to become reality for one group of Santa Monica high school students.

The chamber orchestra at Santa Monica High School is scheduled to perform Leonard Bernstein's Candide Overture and Tchaikovsky's 5th symphony at the legendary venue March 31.

"It's an honor to play there," said Micah Schub, a 10th grade double-bass player. "My parents wouldn't miss it for the world."

The 87-piece orchestra will share the concert program with two regional east coast youth orchestras. Each group will be allotted 40 minutes to perform their material.

Samohi was invited to perform after a former graduate of the high school, who is now an executive at the company which books the Carnegie concerts, saw one of the chamber orchestra's concerts last year and recommended his alma mater, said Chris Schwabe, the orchestra's conductor.

"To be at a level capable of (getting the opportunity to play Carnegie), you have to be one of the top groups," Schwabe said.

The entire trip will cost $140,000. To pay for it — which breaks down to $1,225 per student, not including meals or personal spending — orchestra members raised money by having car washes, selling raffle tickets and candy, as well as soliciting donations.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce donated $2,000 and the Santa Monica City Council gave $15,000, said trip coordinator Steve Burliegh. Kiwanis and Rotary also donated. The chamber orchestra performed at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel last month, which raised $2,500.

So far, fundraising efforts have brought in $150,000. The additional money will be used for the general orchestra fund. However, the orchestra needs to buy four new instruments, which will cost $30,000. One bassoon, which is "held together by bubble gum" needs to be replaced at an estimated cost of $7,000.

At least 35 people from Santa Monica are going to the performance, including 14 chaperones, Burliegh said.

A send-off concert, where the orchestra will play the Carnegie program, was held Sunday at the Lincoln Middle School auditorium.

Tickets for the Carnegie event are $75. Between 1,000 and 2,000 people are expected to attend, Schwabe said.

Home is center for 'healing'

HOME, from page 3

paintings were sold at the grand opening last year.

Rothschild felt that galleries were "robbing" artists by taking too much commission, and envisioned the Hart house as a place where artists could express, create, display and sell their work while at the same time keeping 70 percent of profits.

Yu envisions the house as a little art city, complete with a community kitchen and solar heating and lighting system.

Following his divorce in 1990, Yu was praying to God to help him find a home. Driving around Santa Monica, he happened to park his car next to the Hart house and saw a "For Lease" sign.

Yu, 53, had seen a courtyard in a dream and knew that the house would be a perfect fit for him. Bill Hart saw Yu approaching the house and said to him, "Howdy, I've been waiting for you," according to Yu.

Bill Hart had had many offers on the house, but didn't trust that they'd would take care of the landmark. His mother had told him, "Don't worry Bill, you will find a Chinese doctor."



The Fun Hog

BY DAN DUNN

Part one: Me and my Bottomfeeder

My roommate has a real name, but we've taken to calling him "Bottomfeeder" after a song by a friend of mine named Steve Skinner in Aspen, Colo. And, for the record, Bottomfeeder isn't sure this new column of mine is such a good idea. Of course, he's never been much a fan of the written word ... mine or anyone else's.

"All of us learn to write in the second grade," he told me. "Most of us go on to greater things."

"Interesting point," I replied. "Who said that?"

"I did," he said. "Quote me."

Then he polished off another of my Molsons, lit up a Pall Mall he'd shoplifted from a convenience store on Wilshire, and began frantically searching for the TV remote as though there was a cigarette fire in the couch cushions. It was 7:30 a.m. Good news. Nearly his bedtime.

Bottomfeeder is my landlord's nephew and he lives on my sofa here in Santa Monica. Not just sleeps there, LIVES there. Rent free. Like a homeless guy on a park bench, except with access to my fridge and beer and cable TV. Why? Well, due to a complex legal settlement — struck shortly after a cooking experiment gone wrong resulted in a large, ridiculously destructive grease fire in my building — well, I can't get into exactly why he lives on my sofa.

I CAN tell you that Bottomfeeder is unemployed, out of shape, quite possibly in need of some sort of intervention, AND spends nearly all of his non-supine time figuring out creative ways to grow facial hair. He's like the love spawn of Kramer and George Costanza from Seinfield.

He has several equally degenerate friends, and collectively they refer to themselves as the UBC — Unacceptable Behavior Club. They'll start up in a bar: "Hey, are YOU-BEE-CEE?" I always wonder if they know that it could be taken as "Are you Before Christ?" But crossing them in bars is a good way to get a quick head-butting lesson, so I keep my comments to myself.

None of them have jobs either.

They're also, perhaps because of the head-butting, very loud talkers. And they're always at my apartment, like somebody dropped off a group of agitated Doberman Pincers.

"Am I the only guy in the world who misses the bottom part of the screen?" the Bottomfeeder is shouting as I try in vain to complete this dispatch.

"What the hell are you talking about, man?"

"The bottom of the screen. THE BOTTOM OF THE FRICKIN TV SCREEN!" he shouts, rifling through the channels for emphasis. "CNN, MSNBC, ESPN ... they all got messages and numbers and reports and stuff constantly streaming across the bottom of the screen, blocking the view. Who cares about information? Most of it don't mean nuthin! The newsbabe has a great rack and I'm getting stock quotes! The best stuff on TV is actually happening at the bottom of the screen! AND WE'RE ALL MISSING IT!!!"

See what I'm up against?

The only reason I've not yet tossed Bottomfeeder out a window is that there exists the potential to make a lot of money off of his life. You see, despite his fantastic array of shortcomings, I have no doubt that Bottomfeeder will someday become famous. I know a few famous people, and they're very much like him.

Perhaps his fame will come as a new kind of streetwise philosopher, or a circus act (he can fart the theme songs to several popular TV shows), or as the host of one of those cable shows aimed at misogynistic, beer-swilling louts. Sort of "The Man Show" meets "The Gong Show." We'll call it "Who Wants to Marry Exotic Facial Hair."

Hell, with any luck at all he could be the Gen-X Bukowski. They say the best way to write a great novel is to live a great novel, so maybe Bottomfeeder's on the way to creating a nice psycho-thriller.

Failing all that, it's still fairly likely that Bottomfeeder will enter the public consciousness en masse in a "News of the Weird, Weekly World News cover story" sort of way. And when that happens, I'll be ready, with family photos and signed release forms and free-clinic admission records ...

... because I've got the film, TV and newsprint rights to his life. That's right — only cost me $500, too. Due to a burst of insane optimism triggered by a dream involving the Dallas Cowboy's cheerleaders, he made some poor gambling decisions, then desperately needed to pay off an irate bookie. And I needed ... well, something. He refused to move out in exchange for the dough, so we settled on a more creative, if somewhat long-term, option.

I bought his story.

We whipped up a common-law contract modeled after that warning they give on major league baseball games, so I have rights to "descriptions, photos and accounts" of his life. I immediately mailed the originals to a trusted family member who agreed to keep the document tucked under his bar.

And now I wait, like a literary vulture. Even my friends think it's a bit strange, but someday this sort of thing is bound to become common. Just watch, in five years the producers of shows like "Before They Were Rock Stars" will be running around the world signing buy-it-forward deals with every 12-year-old with a guitar and inferior playground skills.

And VH1 will own the first-time serial rights to one in three Seattle kindergarten students.

Or, not. I'm not saying it's a sure thing. But, come to think of it, I'm cashing in already.

Because Bottomfeeder is already column fodder.

And there's nothing he can do about it, even on the off chance somebody reads this to him.

(Dan Dunn, a Santa Monica resident, writes for Warner Bros Online. For more FunHog fun, check out www.thefunhog.com)

STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

HIV infection rates increase in border towns

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — New field surveys of Hispanic men in Tijuana and San Diego show an increase in HIV infection rates in gay and bisexual men who journey back and forth across the border with Mexico.

The rates of infection are as much as four times as high as those in other California cities, said George F. Lemp, director of the University of California's AIDS Research Program.

Infection rates in San Diego are particularly high, with more than 35 percent of gay and bisexual Hispanic men infected with HIV. In Tijuana, almost 19 percent were infected.

"Those numbers are alarming and shocking, and they come as a real surprise," Lemp told the San Francisco Chronicle. "While the AIDS epidemic exists so far only in pockets in Mexico, there's a danger that it will explode, so we need to look closely at the behaviors and the centers of infection in both border regions."

In comparable populations, previous studies have found infection rates of up to 9 percent, in cities such as San Francisco, Sacramento and Long Beach. Los Angeles County has a rate of about 16 percent.

The study, done by the Bi-National AIDS Advocacy Project, looked at 400 volunteers. It found that in Tijuana, only about 56 percent of the men had received information on preventing the spread of HIV and 46 percent had been tested for the virus. In San Diego, 77 percent received information and 63 percent had been tested.

Researchers plan to examine the prevalence of risky behavior, HIV infection rates, rates of infection of other sexually transmitted diseases and the availability of prevention and treatment services. They plan to look at two cities in Mexico known for sending a lot of men to work in California and two California counties with large populations of Mexican migrant workers.

Monastery fears firing range will rattle its peace

By The Associated Press

OCEANSIDE — Members of a hilltop monastery are up in arms over a proposal to build a police firing range near their religious retreat.

They usually avoid politics, but the monks of the Prince of Peace Abbey plan to go before the Oceanside City Council on Tuesday to ask that the project be stopped.

The 25 Benedictine monks spend most of their time in silence and they fear the firing range will rattle their peace, said the Rev. Charles Wright, the monastery's abbot.

"This is going to be within 2,500 feet of us, not only rifles and pistols, but Tommy guns and machine guns," Wright told the North County Times.

Oceanside's Planning Commission unanimously approved the project on city-owned property at the edge of the 130-acre monastery, which was founded in 1958.

Police have been using a temporary firing range on rented property, but the owner of the site wants to develop the land.

The proposed new range would be surrounded by walls to contain noise and the police have agreed to work with the monks to avoid target practice during special events at the monastery. But officials acknowledge that may not shut out all the sound.

"There is no doubt that the abbey will have some additional noise," said George Barrante, the chairman of the Planning Commission.

Brawl breaks out during martial arts boxing event

By The Associated Press

CABAZON — They held a fight, and a fight broke out.

Ten people suffered minor to moderate injuries late Saturday night in a brawl among fans attending a martial arts boxing event, said Deputy Lisa McConnell of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

It took dozens of law-enforcement officers to break up the fight during the Ultimate Athlete Fighting, which had drawn an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 people to a tent owned by the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

The event pitted contestants in no-holds-barred bouts.

A Riverside County deputy who was working at the event called for help around 9:45 p.m. Other deputies rushed to the scene along with California Highway Patrol troopers and police officers from Banning, Beaumont, Palm Springs and Hemet.

The tent was cleared out by 11:30 p.m., McConnell said.

Five people were treated at the scene and released, and five others were transported to a nearby hospital with minor to moderate injuries, McConnell said. No arrests were made.

"We don't know what triggered the fight, the investigators are still working on it," McConnell said.

A promotion company called Ultimate Athlete rented the tent, which is about a half-mile west of Casino Morongo. The casino, about 90 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, was not affected by the fight, said tribal spokeswoman Waltona Manion.

A message left for a representative of Ultimate Athlete was not immediately returned Sunday.

The company's Web site states the event is "intended to be a showcase of athleticism rather than a spectacle of violence and brutality."

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STATE

Fisherman's Wharf landmark catches fire

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A fire raged for hours at the Haslett Warehouse, a historic landmark on Fisherman's Wharf, destroying the fourth floor and roof.

The fire was contained Sunday, but firefighters continued to fight it.

"We're not calling it under control because we still have a lot of heat in the heavy timbers," said Capt. Pete Howes.

The fourth floor and roof of the building were completely destroyed, although the brick facade still stands, Howes said. Firefighters were keeping people away from the building in case of collapse. The building was built around 1907 and was undergoing renovations.

The Kimpton Hotel and Restaurant Group had signed a 57-year lease with the National Park Service, which owns the Haslett Warehouse, to transform it into the Argonaut Hotel.

The warehouse is adjacent to The Cannery shopping center, which remained closed Sunday. Some of the 30 shops and restaurants had smoke and fire damage and would remained closed until cleanup was finished, said Kris Kremers, marketing director for the shopping center.

There were no reports of injuries. Most businesses on the wharf were closed when the fire broke shortly before midnight Saturday, city fire Lt. Eric Richardson said.

Flames had caused burn damage to adjacent buildings.

Fire investigators did not immediately determine a cause.



Justin Sullivan/ Associated Press

San Francisco firefighters work the scene of a five-alarm fire that broke out shortly after midnight at The Cannery building, a historic landmark on Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco on Sunday. The fire was contained but about 90 firefighters continued to fight it.

Sale of Nixon home has some preservationists concerned

By The Associated Press

WHITTIER — A house where President Nixon briefly lived is up for sale, and some preservationists fear it will be knocked down to build commercial development.

"No one is going to spend $725,000 (the asking price) to live in that small house," said Whittier resident Jeff Stakee, who has researched the history of the three-bedroom, one-bathroom bungalow. "They're going to spend that to bulldoze it and put up a Kentucky Fried Chicken."

The 1,400-square-foot home on a 30,000-square-foot lot was the home of Nixon's mother, Hannah Nixon, before the future president lived there with his wife, Patricia, and their daughter Tricia.

"He used it as his official address when he ran for Congress and the Senate," Stakee told the Whittier Daily News. "His mom lived there, he lived there for about six months and he made his first political speech in the driveway."

Luis and Marie Dashwood bought the property in 1975 and ran an antiques store out of the house for the last 25 years. They have kept a copy of the deed, signed by Nixon, posted on a closet door, but resisted an unsuccessful effort last year to list the property on the local register of historic resources.

"We are selling it as is and for the new owners to decide what they want to do," Luis Dashwood said. He added that many people have asked about the property, including a historical society.

Charles Claver, president of the Whittier Conservancy, said the sale is an opportunity to save the Spanish and English Tudor-type home.

"There seems to be a lot of individuals and groups interested in saving that home, so now is the time for us to organize and find funding," Claver said. "The city needs to begin to recognize that important legacy Whittier has because not too many towns can claim to be the hometown of a president."

Karen Bennet, a member of the city's Historic Resources Commission, said the property is big enough that some of it could be developed without hurting the house.

The tiny house where Nixon was born in Yorba Linda, about 15 miles east of Whittier, is preserved at the site of his presidential library.

STATE

Farmworkers experience high rates of leukemia, cancer

BY KIM BACA
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO — Armando Sanchez had been healthy most of his life, until late last year when he noticed his body aches and headaches getting worse.

When he went to the hospital in October, he was diagnosed with leukemia. Now enduring chemotherapy, Sanchez said he wishes farmers had warned him of the dangers of pesticides.

"The cancer is because of the pesticides," said the 66-year-old farmworker, who spent 40 years spraying chemicals on grape and citrus fields in the Imperial Valley.

Hispanic farmworkers have higher rates of brain, leukemia, skin and stomach cancers compared with other Hispanics in California, according to a study by the Cancer Registry of California, a state agency that has collected data on cancer cases statewide since 1998. But the registry's study doesn't specifically link pesticide use to the higher rates of cancer.

Female Hispanic farmworkers also had higher cases of uterine cancer than the rest of the state's Latinas, according to the study, "Cancer Incidence in the United Farm Workers of America, 1987-1997" published in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine's November 2001 issue.

"The union's position is that it's directly related to pesticide usage," said Doug Blaylock, the union's medical plan administrator.

Growers disagreed with the finding of higher rates of cancer among farmworkers, saying they follow some of the strictest pesticide regulations in the country to protect workers.

And without discounting for family histories and lifestyles, there's no way to prove a direct link, said Bob Krauter, California Farm Bureau Federation spokesman.

"Just because workers work in an agricultural setting where pesticides were used, they say, 'We're attributing this to pesticides.' I just don't see the connection there," he said.

But Sanchez is convinced there is a connection.

"Normally, the employers did not tell workers how dangerous it is to apply pesticides. Normally, employers have the containers without the label. That way, the employees don't know what type of pesticides they are applying," he said.

Employers provided gloves and masks, but where Sanchez worked, near Palm Springs, temperatures rise over a 100 degrees, and he found them too hot to wear.

The Cancer Registry used data from 146,581 farmworkers who had been members of the United Farm Workers Union between 1973 and 1997 and compared it with the state's general Hispanic population.

The registry found that out of more than 140,000 farmworkers, 1,001 had been diagnosed with cancer between 1973 and 1997, with 59 percent more reports of leukemia and 69 percent more reports of stomach cancers than the general Hispanic population. The study also found lower incidents of breast and colon cancer, but did not offer an explanation.

"This report raises more questions," Krauter said, adding that rates of pesticide injuries and illness have declined in the past 20 years. In 2000, the state Department of Pesticide Regulation recorded 893 incidents, down 1,201 from 1999, according to a recent report.

"Obviously, worker health and safety is paramount in agriculture, and there is training to anyone involved using or applying pesticides," Krauter said. "All these things are geared at making the work place safe for the employee as well as the employer."

Joseph Wiemels, a cancer epidemiologist at the University of California at San Francisco, also said that with general population studies like these, "there are so many opportunities for bias because you're roughly putting data together."

While there have been studies that link pesticides to cancer, all chemicals have been tested on animals and "if it caused cancer in animals, then it won't be used," Wiemels said.

What's lacking is evidence proving pesticides have caused cancer in a particular population, said Margaret Reeves, a staff scientist with the Pesticide Action Network, a nonprofit group that advocates the reduction of pesticide use.

"The agricultural community and the agricultural chemical community continually argues the direct link between X pesticide and a cancer is very difficult to determine because people over time are exposed to many, many carcinogens," she said.

Paul Mills, the study's author and cancer epidemiologist at the Cancer Registry, said the study's results show the lack of health care and education available to farmworkers.

Farmworkers were diagnosed at a later stage than most of the state's Latinos, according to the study. Cancers, such as uterine cancer, are treatable with early detection, Mills said.

'Beautiful Mind' criticism draws ire of filmmakers, studio

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — The makers of "A Beautiful Mind" have objected to what they say is a whisper campaign to hurt the Oscar chances of their movie, which is up for eight Academy Awards including best picture.

Although no evidence has surfaced that proves a conspiracy, Universal Pictures, director Ron Howard and star Russell Crowe said they suspect some Hollywood rivals of secretly badmouthing their film to sway academy voters.

"If there's an attack strategy, that's an impolitic tool," Howard said. "It's not about reminding people of your virtues, it's about undermining the other candidate's credibility. That's a shame."

Competing studios have denied involvement in the alleged smear campaign.

Various news reports in recent weeks have noted that "A Beautiful Mind" leaves out some unflattering aspects of the life of John Forbes Nash, the Nobel Prize-winning mathematician whose life it chronicles.

In a CBS "60 Minutes" interview, Nash and his wife, Alicia, denied allegations that he was gay, anti-Semitic or a poor father. And Sylvia Nasar, author of the 1998 biography, "A Beautiful Mind," on which the film was based, wrote a commentary in the Los Angeles Times last week that accused many media outlets, including The Associated Press, of misstating details of Nash's life.

The film, which stars Crowe and Jennifer Connelly as the Nashes, portrays them throughout Nash's decades-long struggle with mental illness and its eventual remission, culminating in his winning the Nobel Prize for economics in 1994. Among its Oscar nominations are best director, actor, supporting actress and adapted screenplay, for Akiva Goldsman.

Both Nash and Nasar said his anti-Semitic remarks were made while he was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia.

"I did have strange ideas during certain periods of time," Nash, 73, said on "60 Minutes." "It's really my subconscious talking. It was really that. I know that now."

Other aspects of his life not mentioned in the movie were a son he fathered by another woman before he married Alicia, and the fact that Nash and Alicia later divorced. The divorced couple lived together for many years and eventually remarried in 2001.

Some reports, including one by the AP, implied that the affair took place while Nash was married, instead of before he was married, as Nasar wrote.

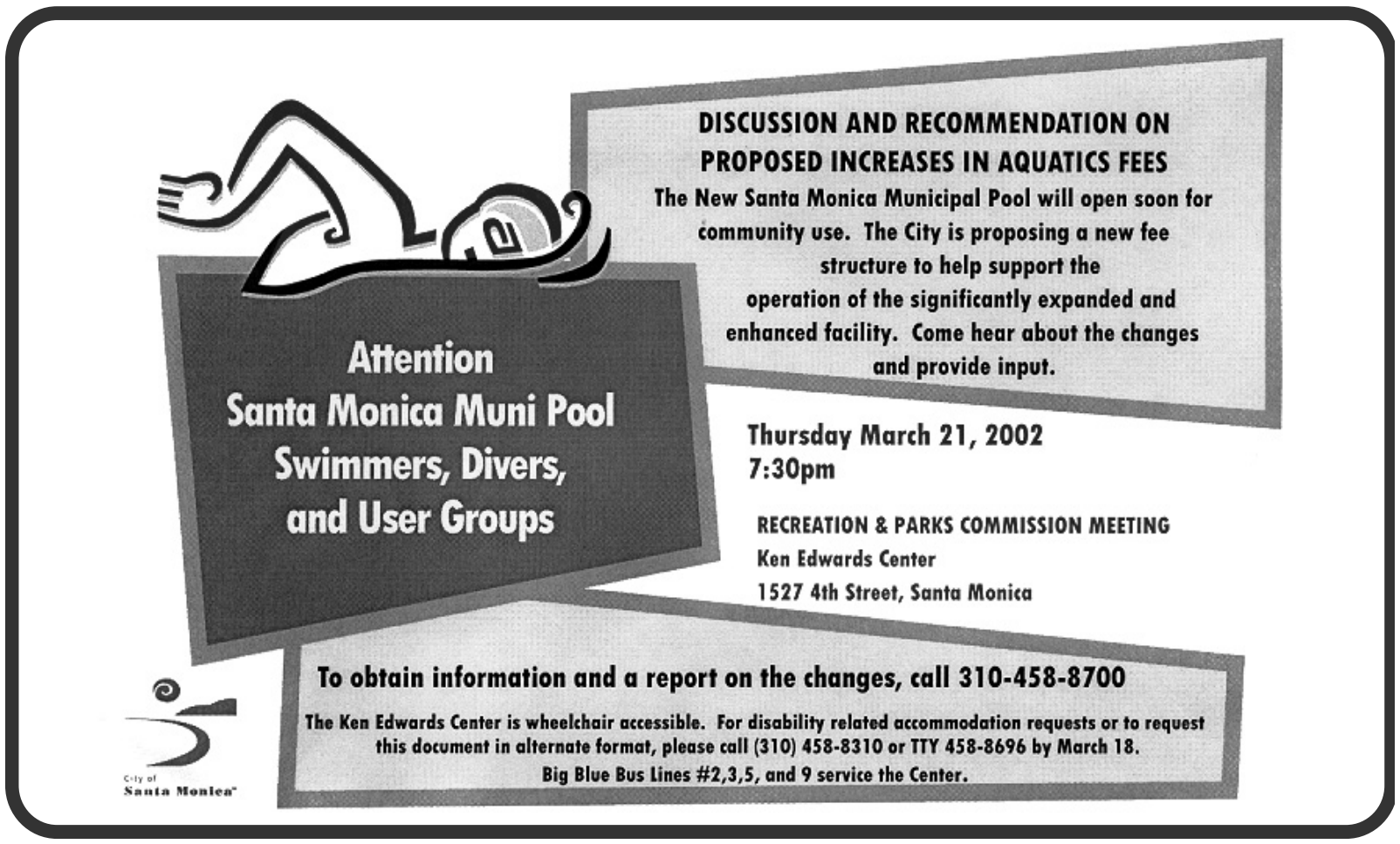
Nasar also criticized some reports that said Nash was a homosexual. Despite a 1954 indecency arrest and allusions in her book to his flirtatious behavior with men, she said he is an avowed heterosexual. The indecency charge was later dropped, she said.

Howard and screenwriter Goldsman said they changed some aspects of Nash's life to make the film more dramatic, and omitted other elements they considered unimportant to the story.

Oscar voting concludes Tuesday and the Academy Awards are given out next Sunday.

"The timing of this latest wave of missives and their orchestration has to be calculated," Universal Pictures chairwoman Stacey Snider told The Hollywood Reporter.

Films that win major Academy Awards can usually count on significant extra box-office sales and a long shelf-life on video, and studios spend millions to promote their films to Oscar voters.



NATIONAL

Priests allowed to work after sexual abuse accusations

By The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan allowed several priests accused of sexual abuse to continue their duties for years while he led a Connecticut diocese, a newspaper reported, citing court documents.

The documents show Egan did not refer complaints to criminal authorities and suggested during closed testimony in 1999 that a dozen people who accused the same priest of rape, molestation and beatings may have all been lying, The Hartford Courant said in a story prepared for Sunday editions.

"Allegations are allegations," Egan testified, according to the newspaper.

The court documents were sealed last year when the Roman Catholic Bridgeport diocese settled sex-abuse lawsuits, the newspaper said. Included were transcripts of pretrial testimony by Egan and previous Bishop Walter Curtis, internal diocesan memoranda and personnel files. The Courant did not say how it obtained the documents.

The records show that in addition to the eight priests who were originally sued, at least nine others were accused of molestation but not publicly identified. The documents name seven of the priests, one of whom currently leads a Connecticut parish.

The newspaper said the documents show that Curtis, who is deceased, testified in 1995 that the diocese deliberately moved priests accused of pedophilia among parishes to give them a "fresh start."

In pretrial interviews with plaintiffs' lawyers, Curtis was asked if he had ever transferred a priest "because of pedophilic conduct" and replied, "yes," the paper said. Curtis said the new parish was not notified of the allegations against the priest.

The newspaper said Egan did not respond to requests for comment, and his spokesman, Joseph Zwilling, referred questions Saturday to the Bridgeport diocese.

Zwilling told The Associated Press on Saturday evening that Egan would not discuss the Courant's story.

Joseph McAleer, a spokesman for the Bridgeport Diocese, told the newspaper that "this was litigated for 8 years and was in the newspapers practically every day."

McAleer told the AP that the diocese had no further comment.

Current Bridgeport Bishop William E. Lori said last week the diocese was examining the records of all clergy for signs of sexual misconduct and was creating an advisory board to address the issue.

The diocese settled complaints against six priests for an undisclosed amount last March, shortly after Egan was appointed to the New York archdiocese. Egan served in Bridgeport from 1988 to 2000.

The documents show Egan defrocked at least one priest for sexual offenses, and put in place the first written policy on abuse complaints. But he was slow to suspend or remove others, the newspaper said.

The Courant said that when a dozen complaints were made against the Rev. Raymond Pcolka of Greenwich, Egan allowed Pcolka to continue working as a priest until 1993. He suspended him after Pcolka refused to participate in psychiatric treatment.

The Rev. Charles Carr of Norwalk was accused in 1990 of fondling boys, but Egan allowed Carr to work as a priest until 1995, when a lawsuit was filed, the paper said.

Egan reinstated Carr in 1999 as a part-time chaplain at a church-run nursing home in Danbury. Lori defrocked Carr after another allegation about a long-ago incident surfaced earlier this year.

Pcolka and Carr had unlisted telephone numbers and could not be located for comment Saturday.

Under public pressure, dioceses in Boston and elsewhere recently began turning over names of all accused priests, no matter how old the incidents.

Ire over Nazi art



Robert Spencer/ Associated Press

Demonstrators try to dissuade visitors from entering the Jewish Museum, where an art exhibit that includes Nazi imagery opened in New York on Sunday. Museum officials said artwork criticized by Holocaust survivors will be placed in a separate area, and that before entering, visitors will see a sign that reads: "Some Holocaust survivors have been disturbed by these works."

Phony drug cases put Dallas police, prosecutors on hot seat

BY SUSAN PARROTT
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — The cases unfolded — and unraveled — one by one: drug bust after drug bust in which investigators later found little or no drugs in the evidence that was seized.

The FBI is examining the role of Dallas police and prosecutors in about 70 drug cases — involving more than 40 defendants — dismissed in recent months after lab tests revealed fake drugs or tiny amounts of the real thing mixed with large amounts of gypsum.

Whether it's a case of corruption or a massive system failure remains to be seen. But the botched cases have spilled over into the race for district attorney and angered the newly elected mayor. Some victims have threatened civil rights lawsuits, and Hispanic advocacy groups are calling for the resignations of the district attorney, city manager and police chief.

The scandal began unfolding last fall, when prosecutors notified Dallas police of evidence tests showing little or no illegal drugs. But defense attorneys say they had beseeched District Attorney Bill Hill to look into the cases long before that.

Hill defends his office, saying his prosecutors were first to discover the problem and send the evidence for lab tests. He said his staff found a pattern in some of the cases in early November and within two weeks halted all prosecutions involving two police officers and their informant, even though some of those cases may have been valid.

The Police Department placed the two narcotics detectives on administrative leave.

Police Chief Terrell Bolton has declined requests for interviews with The Associated Press. The FBI also declined to give details, citing its investigation.

Glenn White, president of the Dallas Police Association, defended his suspended colleagues.

"They went out and did their job and they happened to have an informant that is unreliable," White said. "The informant realized if he delivered large amounts, he'd get more money."

Critics say police and county officials had several clues that the busts weren't legitimate. They question why Hill's office had not ordered lab tests before indicting defendants based on uncorroborated field tests by the arresting officers.

"How did these field tests, if they were actually run, mistake gypsum for cocaine?" Coggins asked.

White said most district attorneys and federal agents in Texas require lab tests before indicting suspects in large drug busts. Field tests are notoriously unreliable; something as innocuous as aspirin can test positive as cocaine, he said.

"This is not a corruption case," White said. "It's a system failed."

Dallas County's policy had been to hold off on more conclusive lab tests until trial. In some cases, defendants pleaded guilty to lesser charges and were jailed or deported. The new policy calls for lab tests before indicting suspects.

Former Dallas County prosecutor Robert Montserrat blamed lack of supervision in the Police Department and poor communication in the overworked district attorney's office. Because the growing drug caseload is spread among several prosecutors, a pattern of inconsistency is harder to spot, he said.

"The cops are not watching each other," Montserrat said. "The DA's office is not watching the cops."

Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry said his office has always required a lab test before proceeding with an indictment. He called Dallas County's previous policy "a pretty sloppy way to handle it."

Bob Baskett, the attorney for Senior Cpl. Mark Delapaz, one of the narcotics officers, said his client did not conduct the initial field tests and didn't know the drugs were fake.

Miami police officers face charges in Federal court

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — Fourteen police officers facing federal corruption charges were investigated by their own department for at least 293 allegations of misconduct, a newspaper investigation found.

The police department's internal investigations cleared the officers of all the accusations, which included witness reports or physical evidence of pistol whippings, broken noses, and in one case, rape, The Miami Herald reported in Sunday's editions.

Critics say the Miami police department ignored the allegations to protect officers who have been with the force for the past 20 years.

"A small clique of police officers came into the department in the early 1980s, a small criminal element sneaked through and some of them have risen high enough so they can protect each other," said H.T. Smith, a lawyer who has sued the department in other shooting cases.

Miami Police Chief Raul Martinez defended his department and said while they may have done a "lousy job disciplining these cases," there was no evidence of protection.

"I certainly understand why people would perceive it," Martinez said. "Obviously, these officers have lied, and some of them were good at it."

Lawyers for the officers say the allegations by police suspects are false.

"They are aggressive," said Richard Sharpstein, who represents officers Arturo Beguiristain and Jorge Castello. "That doesn't upset the citizenry, but it upsets the criminals, and they make bogus allegations."

In September 2001, 14 members of special Miami police squads were charged in an FBI investigation into guns planted at crime scenes and lies to cover up wrongful police actions in four questionable shootings.

At least three people died in the shootings in the late 1990s. In one, a SWAT team fired 123 bullets into an apartment, then lied about finding a gun in a dead man's hand, the FBI said. Two unarmed robbers were shot in the back while fleeing, and a homeless man was shot in the leg.

Two officers pleaded guilty in the charges and will testify against their colleagues.

INTERNATIONAL

Two Americans killed in church grenade attack in Pakistan

BY DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A grenade attack on a Protestant church packed with Sunday worshippers killed five people — including an American woman and her daughter — in an assault clearly aimed at Pakistan's foreign community.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, in which at least one young man in black — some witnesses said two — ran through the center of the church hurling grenades. But suspicion fell on Islamic extremists.

Ten Americans were among the 45 people injured, most of whom were foreigners, police and hospitals said. One body remained unidentified late Sunday, and officials said it may be the assailant.

President Bush condemned the attack on the Protestant International Church and called it an act of terrorism. He pledged to find those responsible and bring them to justice.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the assault was aimed at undermining Pakistan's pro-U.S. president at a time when he is trying to quell Islamic fundamentalism following the Taliban's fall in neighboring Afghanistan.

The attack occurred at 10:50 a.m. during a sermon before 60 to 70 worshippers. Dozens of police and soldiers rushed to the scene.

The church, about 400 yards from the U.S. Embassy, is located in the guarded diplomatic quarter in the heart of Pakistan's capital and primarily serves the foreign community. The overwhelming majority of Pakistanis are Muslim and few Pakistani Christians live in Islamabad.

Survivors spoke of deafening blasts, choking smoke and pandemonium. They said terrified parents screamed for their children and stunned worshippers dived beneath chairs and behind cement pillars as bits of flesh were hurled through the air.

Parishioners sobbed and called out "Brother! Brother!" as they tried to find friends and family amid the chaos.

Parents groped to find their way downstairs, where their children were attending Sunday School. Other parishioners feared touching the wounded, because unexploded grenades lay near their bodies.

Witnesses gave conflicting reports on the number of attackers. Late Sunday, senior police superintendent Nasir Khan Durrani said authorities believed only one attacker was involved.

Durrani said the assailant may have died in the attack.

"There was blood, blood, blood, intestines lying on the floor," said Elisabeth Mundhenk, 54, of Hamburg, Germany as she awaited treatment for shrapnel wounds at a hospital. "It was horrific. There was a horrible smell and we could barely breathe."

Mark Robinson of San Clemente, Calif., who was being treated at a clinic for a minor leg injury, described "total pandemonium."

"Everyone panicked," Robinson said. "I saw one woman on the steps with a piece of shrapnel in her carotid artery. She bled to death right there."

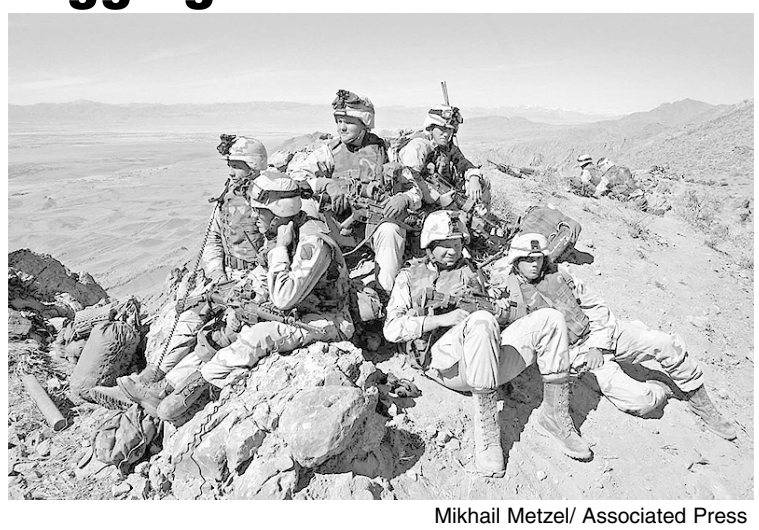
The U.S. Embassy identified the dead Americans as Barbara Green and her daughter Kristen Wormsley, a senior at the American School in Islamabad.

Green and her husband, Milton Green, worked at the U.S. Embassy — she in administration and he in the computer division. Milton Green and the couple's young son were also injured but not seriously, according to police.

The other dead included one Afghan, one Pakistani and the one unidentified, Pakistani officials said.

In addition to the Americans, 12 Pakistanis, five Iranians, one Iraqi, one Ethiopian and one German were injured, police said. The government said the injured also included Sri Lankans, Afghans, Swiss, Britons, Australians and Canadians.

Digging in



Mikhail Metzel/ Associated Press

American soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division hold their position 25 kilometers southeast of Gardez, Afghanistan on Friday.

Religious police blamed for blocking rescues in school fire

BY TAREK AL-ISSAWI
Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Government-run newspapers in Saudi Arabia have accused the country's religious police of preventing the rescue of girls trapped in a school fire because they were not wearing the long dresses and head coverings required in public.

Fourteen girls died in the catastrophe last Monday at the 31st Girls Middle School in Mecca, some 470 miles southeast of Riyadh. Fifty others were injured, while hundreds of others escaped.

The religious police, which have offices in every city, are routinely criticized privately in Saudi society, but this was believed to be the first time that newspapers in the kingdom have come out with harsh words against them.

The newspapers accused members of the religious police — the Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice — of blocking rescue attempts by male firefighters and paramedics because some of the girls were not wearing the mandatory Islamic dress, which covers the entire body and hair.

The government-run Saudi Gazette said 835 students and 55 teachers were in the building at the time of the fire, which broke out a half-hour after classes started. The Saudi Press Agency said students started screaming, setting off a stampede for the exits.

Initial reports said some gates were locked because a guard who had the key was away. But Al-Eqtisadiah quoted unidentified civil police officers as saying that religious police blocked the gate and refused to move even after rescuers tried to convince them that the situation was very serious.

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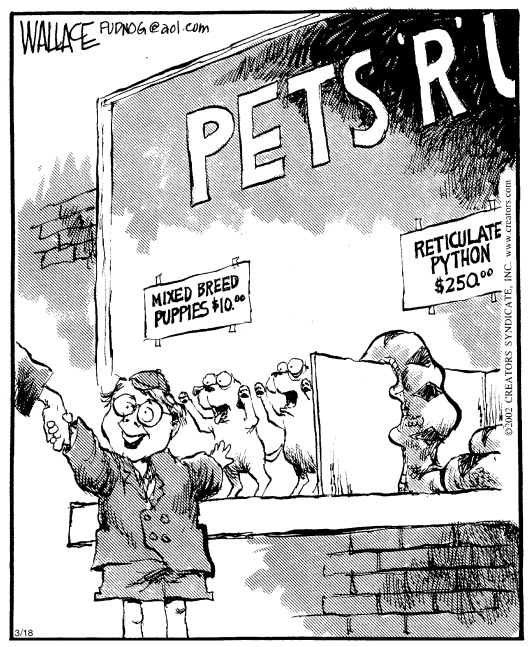
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The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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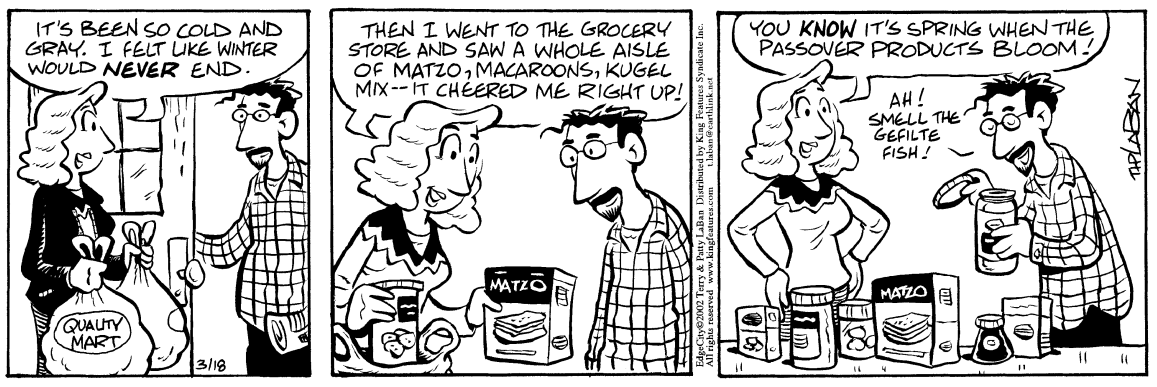
By Russ Wallace



"Oh, look, Mommy! They want to go home with me!"

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Custom
6 Bird's gullet
10 Not napping
11 Enraged
13 Jar sticker
14 Lower in esteem
15 Aunt in Acapulco
16 Distress letters
18 Agent, for short
19 Long way to travel?
22 Scoundrel
23 "Cold As Ever" rapper
24 Asparagus unit
27 High school students
28 Swindles
29 Droop
30 Last stage of an undertaking
35 Important time
36 Chiding sound
37 Regret
38 Like a slob
40 Blazing
42 German industrial city
43 Famous
44 Head, to Henri
45 Garden starters

DOWN
1 Ceases
2 Be patient for
3 Elephant of stories
4 Presidential nickname
5 Satellite launched in 1962
6 Come into conflict
7 Umbrella part
8 Greed
9 Bible journeyers
12 Train stops
17 Fall mo.
20 Clear a tape
21 Loyal subject
24 Plan
25 Most needy
26 As a group
27 Kilt patterns
29 Hockey's Grimson
31 Songwriter Jule
32 Hackneyed
33 Made sound
34 Pays attention to
39 Fixed
41 Opponent

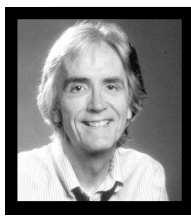
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E	M	U		H	U	S	B	A	N	D
D	A	S	H	E	D		A	N	T	S
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S	P	A	T		B	I	E	R	C	E
C	U	R	E	A	L	L		O	R	E
A	R	M		R	E	C	I	T	A	L
B	E	A	M	E		A	L	A	T	E
S	E	D	A	N		N	I	T	E	R
	D	A	T	A		S	E	E	R	

Saturday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■
10					■	11				12
13					■	14				
15			■	16	17		■	18		
19			20				21			
■	■	■	22			■	23			
24	25	26			■	27				
28				■	29			■	■	■
30				31				32	33	34
35			■	36			■	37		
38			39		■	40	41			
42					■	43				
■	44				■	45				

3-18

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

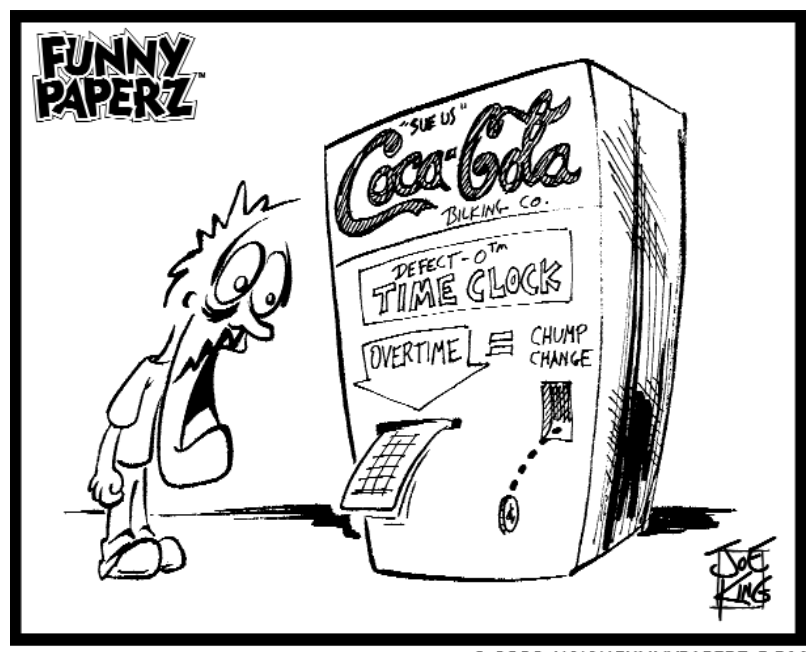


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Local loudmouth plots county official assassinations

After sheriff's deputies in Kalispell, Mont., arrested militia leader David Earl Burgert, 38, in February, they uncovered his group's "Project 7" plot, allegedly to assassinate several county officials (including the local dogcatcher) in a fanciful plan that Burgert is said to believe would eventually create enough local chaos to start a national revolution. Burgert (whose last job was as a snowmobile rental agent) had amassed a huge arsenal of machine guns and heavy weapons in order to carry out the assassinations, defeat the National Guard, and stanch the probable waves of what Project 7 called "Red Chinese" from Canada. According to Project 7 thinking, NATO would somehow then be called on to send troops to Kalispell. Law enforcement officials said Burgert was just a local loudmouth who this time had gotten in way over his head.



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SANTA MONICA $1195.00 House 1 bdrm, 1 bath, pet ok, W/D, north of Wilshire, gas & electric needed. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

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SANTA MONICA $875.00 Studio, refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, A/C, fireplace, walk-in closets, laundry, quiet neighborhood, bright, sun deck. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

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SANTA MONICA $995.00 Extra large 1 bdrm, 1 bath, pool, very quiet and safe neighborhood. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

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020	Legal Notices	300	For Rent	650	Health/Beauty
100	Employment	400	Real Estate		

BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Avalanche kills two in Utah

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — An avalanche fell in the backcountry near a Utah ski resort Saturday afternoon, killing two people, authorities said.

The two buried in the avalanche, ages 18 and 19, were in a party of about a dozen snowboarders, said sheriff's spokeswoman Peggy Faulkner.

The victims left a chair lift at Brighton Ski Resort to traverse 10,321-foot Pioneer Ridge. They triggered an avalanche 6-8 feet deep that swept 800 vertical feet down a slope.

The avalanche happened near Pioneer Peak, off Brighton property, Faulkner said. She said the party kept in contact with authorities using cell phones as they searched for the skiers.

Searchers used dogs to recover the bodies of the two snowboarders.

Train carrying hazardous chemicals derails

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Eight cars of a 79-car train derailed Saturday and leaked about 600 gallons of a hazardous chemical before it was contained, officials said.

Fire officials evacuated about 100 people from residential streets near the derailment, CSX spokesman Craig Camuso said. The residents were allowed to return to their homes about six hours later.

Hazardous materials teams were expected to work through the night to cleanup the spill.

The five cars on the train carried a corrosive chemical used in the production of nylon. The substance, hexamethylenediamine, can cause burns to respiratory tracts, eyes and skin.

A woman and her three children were taken to a hospital after they were exposed to vapors while standing at a nearby bus stop. They were fine, a fire department medical spokesman said later.

The train was traveling from New Orleans to Abbeville, S.C., CSX said.

Injured man kills two rescuers

By The Associated Press

ROSWELL, N.M. — A man injured in a house explosion shot at his rescuers, killing a paramedic and a neighbor and wounding the fire chief and a child before committing suicide Saturday.

Police said they do not know of any motive.

The shooter, whose identity was not released, had suffered burns in the house fire and had sought help from his neighbor Randy Houghton, said Officer Robert Giles, a police spokesman.

Steve Lovato, an emergency medical technician, and other fire officials were treating and questioning the man around 2 a.m. when he began shooting. Lovato and Houghton were killed.

Roswell Fire Chief Louis Jones and a 4-year-old boy who was in the home were wounded. Both were airlifted to a Lubbock Hospital. Jones was in critical condition after surgery. The condition of the boy was not released by the hospital.

The gunman killed himself, Giles said.

Other children were in the house, but authorities would not release any details other than to say none was wounded.

The cause of the explosion was still under investigation. The home was allowed to burn to the ground because of potential dangers involved in fighting a blaze of uncertain origins.

An investigative team was analyzing whether the explosion was caused by conventional explosives, natural gas or chemicals, including drug components, Giles said.

Iacocca wants to return to Chrysler

By The Associated Press

DETROIT — Former Chrysler Corp. chairman Lee Iacocca wants to return to the company he once helped lead, but said DaimlerChrysler AG chairman Juergen Schrempp has shut him out.

Schrempp and Iacocca have talked over the past few years about Iacocca's possible return to the automaker, The Detroit News reported Sunday.

Iacocca said Schrempp, the mastermind behind Daimler-Benz's 1998 acquisition of Chrysler, led him on for months about a possible role in reviving Chrysler. The company has struggled with sinking sales and profits since it was acquired by the German carmaker.

"I'd give my right arm to do it, to be honest," Iacocca said in the interview at his Los Angeles home. "Chrysler was my life. I really feel bad it is where it is today. People say well, it's just another German company. No. This was a great American company."

Schrempp was unavailable for comment, said DaimlerChrysler spokesman Hartmut Schick. While Schick confirmed that Schrempp had several discussions with Iacocca about Chrysler, he declined to provide details of the conversations.

"I know that Schrempp called him regularly to get his point of view about Chrysler," Schick said.

Asked if Schrempp ever offered Iacocca an active role at Chrysler, Schick said only that Schrempp "is comfortable with the relationship as it is."

Unbound in January from a five-year legal gag order dating back to billionaire Kirk Kerkorian's failed buyout of Chrysler, Iacocca told The News that Schrempp "stiffed" him after vaguely promising to make him a high-level adviser to the company he headed for 14 years.

Iacocca retired in 1992 after helming of the smallest of the Big Three U.S. automakers.





