

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

1-3-22-36-44

Megamember: 18
Jackpot: \$17 million

FANTASY 5

3, 6, 21, 24, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 1, 6, 9
Evening picks: 8, 0, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 1, Gold Rush
2nd Place: 11, Money Bags
3rd Place: 6, Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:44.30



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A 46-year-old motorcyclist, speeding, yelling obscenities, and shaking his fist alongside an 18-wheeler that had made a left turn of questionable etiquette on a Corpus Christi, Texas, street, lost control of the cycle, fell off, and was fatally dragged underneath the truck (October).

■ In Tampa, Fla., a 20-year-old man chased down another driver (both in pickups), finally jumping onto the first driver's door so he could punch him through the window. The distracted driver continued on for two blocks but finally hit a tree, which caused the truck to roll over onto the man clinging to the door, and he died at the scene (October).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Mirrors and copulation are abominable because they increase the number of men."

— Jorge Luis Borges

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Green Party may drop its lawsuit against Feinstein

City Councilman could be off hook for missing \$10,000 party donation

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Councilman Mike Feinstein may finally be off the hook for a \$10,000 donation to the Green Party of Los Angeles County he deposited into a personal bank account more than three years ago.

Local Green Party leaders on Sunday voted 7-4 to drop a small claims lawsuit against Feinstein seeking to recover \$5,000, the maximum allowed. They said they hope to resolve the matter through mediation.

But Feinstein himself cast one of the votes to drop the lawsuit,

prompting harsh criticisms from some of his Green Party colleagues.

"Feinstein did not recuse himself. He did not leave the room," said Joe Crompton, who sits on the County Council of the Green Party of LA County with Feinstein and nine others. "It's a clear conflict of interest that Mike voted on something to which he personally has a financial stake."

State law prohibits elected officials from voting on government matters that directly affect their finances. Though the Green Party donation is not a government matter, those who voted against dropping the lawsuit said Feinstein's participation lacked integrity and violated the



Michael Feinstein

See FEINSTEIN, page 6

Couple circled airport before fatal plane crash

By staff and wire reports

MAR VISTA — A suburban street near the Santa Monica Airport remained roped off Wednesday while officials cleaned up the aftermath of a fatal plane crash.

The remains of the private plane's pilot and his wife were removed by officials from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office, who said the identities of the victims would not be released for at least another day.

A federal investigator said Wednesday the single-engine Mooney Mark 20 missed its approach to cloud-shrouded Santa Monica Airport and circled at least once before plunging to the ground.

The cause of the Tuesday afternoon crash was still under investigation. The victims were identified only as a Malibu couple in their

"... the pilot indicated to the controllers that he was going to execute a go-around and not land at Santa Monica."

— WAYNE POLLACK
National Transportation Safety Board investigator

60s or 70s, said Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey. National Transportation Safety Board investigator Wayne Pollack said both were certified pilots, but only one was rated for instrument flying.

See CRASH, page 7

Meat-and-greet



John Wood/Daily Press

Hector Martinez cooks up traditional corned beef and cabbage at Finn McCool's Irish Pub on Main Street Wednesday. Owner Geraldine Gilliland said more than 200 people lined the street by 4:45 a.m. Wednesday, waiting to take part in St. Patrick's Day celebrations that included an on-location broadcast by radio station K-Earth 101. The bar opened for business at 6 a.m.

Tower, Sally Beauty latest stores fined for overcharging patrons

By Daily Press staff

SM COURTHOUSE — Two Santa Monica merchants were ordered to pay more than \$17,000 in fines and penalties on Wednesday after pleading no contest to overcharging a customer in an undercover sting.

Tower Records on Santa Monica Boulevard overcharged an undercover officer by a total of \$9 on three items, according to court documents. Sally Beauty on

Lincoln Boulevard charged a total of \$4.59 more than what was advertised on two of nine items at checkout.

A total of 15 local retailers have been prosecuted by the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office, following a sting last summer by officials from the Los Angeles County Weights and Measures bureau. To date, Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Bernard

See FINE, page 6

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Your tumultuous and somewhat aggressive energy starts early in the day. Do not put yourself in a place of frustration. Take your time before discussing what you feel is a problem. Go on an information-gathering search. Tonight: Get some extra relaxation and sleep.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might be pushed by a need to get your work done this morning. Feel less pressured and eye what must happen, remembering that you are only one person. A meeting provides substantial insight. Ask for what you need. A boss might have a very creative idea; work with it. Tonight: Gather with friends. Be a little wild.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Be aware that you could be acting out of anger. Choose another basis for decision-making, if possible. You understand what few others do. Be willing to make an investment in your outward presentation. Spruce up your image. Tonight: Willingly work late.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ A friend might disappoint you. You also might need to take another route to the same end. Experiment with ideas as opposed to getting immobilized by a challenging situation. Understand what you need to accomplish. Tonight: Where your friends are. Start talking "weekend."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You can chill out and not go to bat on a key issue if you choose to. You find that others will approach you. Your intuition serves you well with a money matter and a partnership. Be very direct in your financial dealings, and you'll succeed. A partner wants what he or she wants. Tonight: Enjoy a loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Work closely with others. You might be put out by what is going on with an associate who, at times, can be pushy. Remember, there are a lot of ways to skirt around this issue and this person. Your creativity flows, despite a restriction. Tonight: Brainstorm with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might not believe another's reaction this morning. Also, pleasing this person might not be possible. Concentrate on areas where you can succeed. Work and health matters star as important issues this busy day. Tonight: Try togetherness. Indulge in a favorite pastime.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Dip into your creativity for problem-solving. Analyze what needs to happen and find a path to this point. Your flirtatious nature attracts many. Be careful what you start, as someone else might not be coming from the same place. Tonight: Start thinking "weekend."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others seek you out, though you might be a little put off by a demand that comes along. Emphasize your work and greater success. An associate or partner could be touchy and difficult to work with. Avoid commitments involving real estate. Tonight: Head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Another might push you too hard when it comes to your funds and participation. As a result, you're likely to pull back. Expect some moodiness or attitude. Evaluate what you want and how you want to invest. Explore options. Tonight: Catch up with a friend for dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You could irritate someone more than you realize. The ramifications might not be comfortable. A serious attitude toward work could have you rethinking your finances. Make an adjustment in your daily life to make yourself comfortable. Tonight: Pay bills before you spend any money.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ The morning and afternoon provide unusual excitement, though an element of controversy comes with the turf. You might not be able to come up with a solution immediately, but your charisma and magnetism will soar. Try charm and a smile. Tonight: Whatever you want.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ocean Park merchants clean up their acts

By Daily Press staff

It's time to clean up Main Street.

The Main Street Merchants Association is sponsoring its fourth community clean-up event, which is scheduled to take place this Saturday and will focus on the Ocean Park neighborhood. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Ocean Park Library located on Main Street at 8.30 a.m. for registration. In an effort to beautify the neighborhood and business district, while at the same time improving community relations, volunteers will collect trash and recyclables. The city of Santa Monica will provide all support service for the cleanup.

While pollution prevention is the main goal of the event, there are many advantages to cleaning up the neighborhood, area merchants say. Not only does it improve relations between a thriving business community and its residents, it's also good for merchants.

"As a business owner, I feel it is important to take responsibility for the trash being generated as a result of the public visiting Main Street," said Dave Lackman, owner of the Library Alehouse and chairman of the Main Street Merchants Association. "By maintaining a clean street, we create a friendlier and healthier environment for people to shop, eat and visit with their neighbors."

Lackman is just one of many business owners who are starting to realize the connection between a healthy environment and a healthy bottom line.

Volunteers will be rewarded with "\$15 Library Alehouse Dollars," in addition to other gifts, and there will be a raffle for larger prizes, too.

For more information on how you can volunteer, contact opcleanupday@excite.com.

Stringing, dancing and all that jazz

By Daily Press staff

It'll be all jazz and dance this weekend at a local middle school.

The Santa Monica College music department will present "String Theory," a modern dance concert accompanied by an original arrangement of jazz music at 8 p.m. this Saturday at the Lincoln Middle School auditorium, 1501 California Ave.

The concert will feature works by Cecil Taylor, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Joe Pass, Uri Caine and Jaco Pastorius.

Using Plexiglas boxes and red string, the dancers will explore constraint, power struggles, compromise and trust.

Performing the concert are New York-based dancers Thania Acaron, Maria Breza, Jennifer Twilley and Kindra Windish, who is also the choreographer.

Tickets are \$10. Call (310) 434-3000 for tickets and (310) 434-4323 for more information.

Crones at the crossroads

By Daily Press staff

The crones are coming.

Women of all ages are invited to celebrate this Saturday the Vernal Equinox with "Angel City Crones a.k.a. Elderwomen's Council," an organization that honors the value of older women's wisdom and accomplishments.

The Vernal Equinox, which is the first day of spring, marks the beginning of nature's season of renewal and growth. The gathering will welcome mental, spiritual and emotional growth into women's lives with song, drumming, movement and joyous creativity. Participants will dress in either black or white to honor this time of equal day and night.

At 9:30 a.m., women will gather to share refreshments in Chaffee Hall at La Crescenta Church of Religious Science, 4845 Dunsmore Ave., La Crescenta. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at noon. Women are asked to bring a journal and pen for self-expression, facilitated by artist Robin Rector Krupp. A donation of \$10 is suggested.

Angel City Crones a.k.a. Elderwomen's Council is a Los Angeles organization inspired by Crones Counsel, a national group with the mission to reclaim the crone archetype through the creation of gatherings of women that promote equality, encourage diversity, support personal empowerment and honor the value to society of older women's wisdom and accomplishments. Younger women are welcomed as "crones in training."

For more information, contact Evelyn Robison at (818) 502-2077, or evlynrobison@aol.com, or Eva Trapani at (818) 248-2824, kiwiet1@aol.com. (www.cronescounsel.org).

surf report

The SW swell fades today and mixes with slight NW wind swell. Most breaks see waist-high and below surf. New NW swell also pulses up through Thursday afternoon.

OUTLOOK: That NW looks best Friday morning — but most spots miss it.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

61°

	LOW TIDES		HIGH TIDES	
	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
SATURDAY	11:21 AM	N/A	2:33 AM	N/A
SUNDAY	12:11 PM	11:06 PM	4:04 AM	7:42 PM
MONDAY	12:49 PM	N/A	5:12 AM	7:48 PM
TUESDAY	12:04 AM	1:22 PM	6:02 AM	8:05 PM
WEDNESDAY	12:43 AM	1:46 PM	6:39 AM	8:18 PM
THURSDAY	1:17 AM	2:16 PM	7:18 AM	8:40 PM
FRIDAY	1:45 AM	2:37 PM	7:50 AM	9:00 PM

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The Q Line

This week marks the anniversary of the U.S. invasion in Iraq. For a year, we've been at war and have still found no weapons of mass destruction — the main justification for the bombing. Meanwhile, thousands of civilians have been killed and hundreds of soldiers have sacrificed their lives. At least we got Saddam, most say. The main threat to the U.S., some argue, is still Osama bin Laden, who has disappeared.

Billions of dollars are being spent to turn Iraq into a democracy and yet one of our biggest enemies is still lurking in the

Middle East — probably planning the next attack on the U.S.

Many wonder when the war will end and how far we'll go. So this week, Q-Line wants to know: "When should we pull out of Iraq and start a full-blown effort to find Osama bin Laden and his al Qaida operatives?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Friday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in the weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

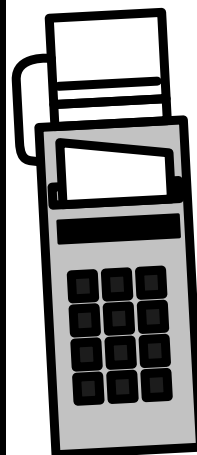
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LETTERS

Stop whining, and get a job

Editor:

I read the article about the SMC students protesting cuts and tuition increases (SMDP, March 16, page 1) and I have a practical suggestion. Instead of spending your time riding buses to and from Sacramento, and attending protest rallies, teach-ins and going to movies, why not do what I and many others did when we were in college? Get a part-time job to help support yourself and help pay for your education, and stop standing around whining looking for a handout.

Leah Harris
Santa Monica

Smoking is a right? My foot!

Editor:

Reader Brian Gray wrote in opposition to the proposal to make the beaches and the pier smoke-free zones based on his assumption that smoking is a "right" (SMDP, March 15, page 4). Prior to noting the fallacy on which his argument is based, it is necessary to explain my potential bias. In the summer of 1963, an 11-year-old street kid from Brooklyn (whose both parents and three of four grandparents all smoked) began pinching his mother's "Luckies" and his dad's Camels. I smoked for almost 39 years — mostly hi-test Kools.

My last cigarette was on Feb. 15, 2003. I extinguished the butt with my right hand as my left hand was opening a door on 16th Street that was to become home for the next two months. The bruise on my ankle had infected. Two of the three arteries that supply the lion's share of blood to the extremity were hopelessly compromised. The staff at UCLA-Santa Monica Hospital performed a bypass to try to restore circulation to my left foot. They were as successful as they could have expected to be. Now all that remained was to gain control of what turned out to be several infections.

The second surgery resulted in the various small wounds being debrided into one large one. At that point, I was transferred to UCLA Medical Center in Westwood where Dr. Thomas Watson would make several attempts at a free flap closure of the wound. It would require a graft of skin running from the underside of my wrist to just short of my elbow and extending half way around my forearm, about 10 inches by 8 inches. Before the free flap could be completed, the progress of the infection into the ankle joint was discovered. Surgery five was the guillotine amputation of the foot with surgery six the final revision. I was transferred back to UCLA-Santa Monica for rehab. I hopped out of the hospital 58 days after walking in.

I recently celebrated a year of being smoke-free. Not one day of it has passed that I have not craved a smoke. I know that, in my case, to smoke is to die. That is not what keeps me away from tobacco. The distress that my wife endured during my confinement and subsequent disability provides the impetus to keep me clean. Annette deserves much better.

In 39 years of smoking, I heard all about lung cancer. I heard about heart disease. I sometimes heard about emphysema. Once in a blue moon I may have heard about circulatory problems. Not once in 39 years did I ever hear of a linkage between smoking and loss of body parts. It would not have mattered if I had. I am addicted to tobacco, which brings us to the fallacy in Mr. Gray's screed.

Rights in their exercise require an application of free will. Addictive substance use can never, by definition, be classed as an exercise of a right. Our society enables the use for any number of reasons, not the least of which is the several dollars per pack in tax revenue generated. Despite irrefutable proof of harm and health hazard no government so fully invested in tobacco revenue will regulate the use of the weed. It is not a matter of "choice" because the substance is addictive in nature. That fact alone is more than ample justification for regulation. So when Mr. Gray says smoking is a right, I can only reply, "My foot!"

Bob Abernethy
Santa Monica

Appalled by SMDP

Editor:

I was completely saddened after reading the article (SMDP, March 9, page 1) relating to the homicide on Ashland Avenue on March 7. After reading the follow-up story (SMDP, March 10, page 1), my sadness was swallowed by anger. I understand the community's security concerns relating to the event, however, I do not understand your actions to publish the victim's past troubles with the law to exemplify their concerns. Wasn't the crime enough to justify their concerns?

Too often we lose sight of the brutality of crimes by dehumanizing the victims, usually by attacking their character. Once again, the very brutality of the crime in itself has been overshadowed by the victims' past indiscretions with the law. Mr. Wood, shame on you. It was a disgusting act by you to lessen the value of the victim's life because of his past rap sheet.

Regardless of the victim's past run-ins with the law, this was a crime and a life was lost, and I assume that many other lives have been affected by this tragedy. The reality, Mr. Wood, is that the victim was someone's son, was he not? Was he someone's brother, a father, a friend? As a reader, I viewed your spewing of the victim's "rap sheet" as being completely insensitive to the victim's family. If you deem it necessary to create a villain for this tragedy, perhaps you should begin with the parents of these children being held for this crime.

My sincerest condolences go out to all the families whose lives have been touched by this tragic event and may the healing begin for all of you.

Mercey Marie
Santa Monica

And then there was one? American alienation continues

NEWS
on the
EDGE

By Ron Scott Smith



KRLA, part of a murderer's row of local right-wing AM talk stations, held a radio-thon last week. They devoted a whole day's programming to the noble task of raising funds for down-trodden and struggling families in Southern California — ones whose breadwinners happen to be soldiers currently stationed in Iraq.

It was a stark revelation into the hidden casualties of the great bottomless war. Thousands of military families are left in the precarious position of being inadequately supported by the meager salaries paid to loved ones fighting the deadly fight for freedom halfway around the world. At least, that's the new stated mission now that the eradication of mass-murdering weapons is no longer it.

Ironically, our soldiers' lives are on the line in an attempt to put families way over there on the same road to freedom and prosperity that many of their own families are suddenly unable to travel here.

With rent to pay and mouths to feed, many servicemen's wives — the mothers of their babies — are on welfare, using food stamps for the groceries, and welcoming whatever public handouts may come

their way through the charitable hearts of a radio audience full of bravado, one that blindly supported the rush to a totally avoidable war that marks its one-year anniversary this week. As those wives and mothers struggle to get through each next day, so do the soldiers trying to send home the bacon — dodging roadside bombs and drive-by shootings, seeing their potential killer on every street corner in every face they look at.

Meanwhile, their commander-in-chief travels this great land he's ordered them to leave, go far away and defend, looking always for his next handout, too. Last week, President Bush was in Long Island, attending a memorial tribute to some of the fallen firemen of 9/11, and before the tears were even dry, he headed directly to a black-tie fundraiser where a few more million were tucked away into his reelection account, now totaling a record \$150 million or so.

Might he not think about throwing a buck or two of that bounty into some sort of emergency safety net for the children of the soldiers he's sent off into harm's way?

In another of the many ripe ironies flying all around the Bush presidency, not one of the caskets of the 560 killed in action thus far have been allowed to be photographed on their return home. Yet, in the first TV spot for Bush's reelection campaign, a flag-draped casket holding one of those fallen fireman is the dominant image as it's carried out of the rubble. There's some kind of "good casket- bad casket"

policy in effect here, and we're left with little doubt as to which ones best serve the President's purposes.

The uniquely Bush-American phenomenon of "Europe-bashing" suddenly has new fuel for its fire. Along with the backstabbing, anti-war French and Germans, there go the Spaniards now, the latest reviled ex-friends of ours. With the dust not yet settled from the brutal terrorist attacks in Madrid last week, Spain is already being labeled by that contentious American-ruling right as cowardly and traitorous, after declaring they've had it with the Iraqi death trap.

Just days after the tragedy that took 203 Spanish lives, the nation's voters rose up and knocked Jose Maria Aznar — one of Bush's most ardent supporters — right out of his prime ministry. The incoming Jose Luis Zapatero immediately promised to withdraw all 1,300 Spanish troops from the coalition by the end of June, saying, "You can't bombard a people just in case they pose a perceived threat. You can't organize a war on the basis of lies." Ouch. Other allied nations are making similar noises as it becomes clear that aggressive American military action, instead of making the world a safer place as promised, is quite possibly doing just the opposite.

Spain joins Germany and South Korea as the third U.S. ally around the globe to elect the candidate who ran directly against Bush policies. "If there is a message here for political leaders, it is don't go and visit Crawford, Texas," said Ivo Daalder, a

spokesman for the Brookings Institute, a Washington think tank.

If there is a message here for American athletes, it may be don't go and visit Athens, Greece, this summer. That's apparently what the U.S. Olympic Committee has been thinking, as a report surfaced Monday on NBC suggesting America may stay home from the games that start on August 13. Our ambassador to Greece, Thomas J. Miller, has registered serious concerns about security at the games, and was quoted in the London Mail newspaper as saying that "all American athletes would be withdrawn" if the concerns were not met.

Many nations preparing to compete in the Athens Games are said to be secretly hoping the U.S. will indeed stay home, believing our mere presence would put the games at their highest possible security risk. Is this what we've become then — a lightning rod for global fear and hatred, unsafe and unwelcome at the very event that brings the whole world together for a celebration of sportsmanship?

Maybe George W. Bush will heed the words of the bold new leader of Spain, who told his nation on election night that the American president "needs to engage in some self-criticism." That would at least put him in step with what seems to be the rest of the world on one thing.

(Ron Scott Smith is all hot and bothered about something. E-mail him at EdgeoftheWest@aol.com).

BUSINESS

Taking your lumps can be a good thing ... or not



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

By John Kim

Many companies today are offering their employees the option of taking a "lump sum" distribution from their retirement plans when they leave a company or retire. Having what may be a substantial sum of money all at once can give you a false sense of wealth. You now have to deal with such issues as taxation, your continued plans for retirement and your prospects for employment that could easily cut into your nest egg.

For many people, receiving a lump-sum distribution can be a temptation. You may think you "deserve" that new car, an expensive vacation or, perhaps, you want to be generous with gifts to family members. You may be under the misconception that the sum alone is large enough to support you during retirement.

In the instance you are not yet ready for retirement, you may even rationalize that you still have the opportunity to build up another retirement fund at another company.

These reactions are typical. According to a 2001 report from the AARP, fully 60 percent of 401(k) participants who change jobs take cash payments rather than roll their balances over into their new employers' plan or an IRA, jeopardizing their long-term economic security. There seems to be little recognition among the general population that a lump-sum distribution comprises funds that were built up over the years and should remain earmarked for retirement.

One pervasive myth is that retirement represents just a small portion of your life. The reality is that we're all going to live longer on average than our grandparents did. The National Center for Health Statistics reveals that Americans can expect to live nearly 20 years or more after they retire. This is not bad news. It simply means that the dollars you save during your working years must sustain you during your retirement years — more years than many of us may have been anticipating.

What steps can you take to better prepare for a secure and comfortable retirement? Since the largest single source of retirement funds will most likely come from your company's retirement plan, such as a 401(k), it's

important to understand your options when you receive a lump-sum distribution.

Basically, there are four alternatives available to you:

1. You may elect a direct rollover into an IRA.
2. You may take receipt of the funds and then perform a rollover within 60 days.
3. You may roll over a portion of the funds.
4. You may elect to receive the funds and pay current taxes on the distribution.

Here's how a lump-sum distribution of \$100,000 adds up under each scenario if you receive it when you are less than 59 years of age:

CHOICE 1: DIRECT ROLLOVER INTO AN IRA

If you transfer your distribution to an IRA or another qualified plan, your entire distribution will continue to grow tax deferred.

\$100,000	Plan distribution
0	Taxes withheld
0	Taxes owed
\$100,000	Total rolled over into an IRA

CHOICE 2: 60-DAY ROLLOVER

If you take your distribution and roll it over within 60 days, you will have to add back the 20 percent your employer was required to withhold in order for your entire distribution to continue growing tax deferred.

\$100,000	Plan distribution
(20,000)	20 percent mandatory withholding*
\$ 80,000	Distribution received
\$ 20,000	Withheld amount replaced with your own funds
\$100,000	Total rolled over within 60 days

* \$20,000 may be refunded at tax time

CHOICE 3: PARTIAL ROLLOVER

If you roll over part of your distribution and take the remainder, you will defer taxes on the portion you roll over, and pay taxes, and possibly incur a penalty for early withdrawal if you are under age 59, on the portion you take.

\$100,000	Plan distribution
(20,000)	20 percent mandatory withholding
\$ 80,000	Total rolled over within 60 days
\$20,000	20 percent withheld

(7,000)	35 percent income tax on \$20,000 withheld**
(2,000)	10 percent early withdrawal penalty on \$20,000 withheld**
\$11,000	Potential refund after taxes (cannot be rolled into an IRA)

* Assumes 35 percent tax bracket with 10 percent early withdrawal penalty

CHOICE 4: NO ROLLOVER

If you take your entire distribution in cash, you will pay taxes on the distribution (unless you qualify for a preferential tax treatment) and will probably pay a 10 percent tax penalty if you are under age 59.

\$100,000	Plan distribution
(35,000)	Income tax (including 20 percent mandatory withholding) ***
\$(10,000)	Early withdrawal penalty (under 59)***
\$ 55,000	Amount of after-tax distribution

* Assumes 35 percent tax bracket with 10 percent early withdrawal penalty

As you can readily see, you can keep as much as \$100,000 of your distribution or only about half that amount (assuming you are in the tax bracket used in these examples), depending on the decisions you make.

The tax laws surrounding lump-sum distributions can be complex. Retirement planning is a lifelong process, and you will like-

ly encounter equally complicated decisions regarding distributions from your IRAs and perhaps additional lump-sum distributions throughout your lifetime. How can you manage this distribution process effectively? A prudent course is to seek professional help from a tax advisor, estate-planning attorney and a financial consultant before making any decision, which in many cases could be irrevocable. Once you run your own numbers and match them with your present situation and future goals, then you can see for yourself what choice is best in your individual circumstances.

The bottom line is that your future, and that of your family, depends on the intelligent retirement planning decisions you make today to preserve the value of your lump-sum distributions.

(John S. Kim is a Financial Consultant with Smith Barney in Beverly Hills. For a complimentary retirement planning consultation, please call 310-205-4939 or visit his webpage at www.fc.smithbarney.com/jkim.)

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DID YOU KNOW?: Genghis Khan started out life as a goat herder.

LOCAL

Future of lawsuit against city councilman is unclear

FEINSTEIN, from page 1

spirit of the law.

What will happen next is unclear. Green Party members disagree over whether a two-thirds majority is required to formally withdraw from the lawsuit, an issue that ultimately may be forced to a vote. But with the next meeting of the local Green Party scheduled after the April 7 date for the small claims hearing, it's uncertain whether the case will be put off or heard.

Feinstein didn't return calls seeking comment. He has maintained in the past he spent the money on Green Party business, but hasn't produced bank records or accounted for how the money was spent.

That refusal prompted officials from the Green Party of California to urge Feinstein last year to step out of Green Party business until the matter was resolved, a request Feinstein apparently ignored. It also sparked a criminal investigation that ended when prosecutors decid-

ed not to press charges.

Green Party officials described the small claims lawsuit as a last-ditch effort to recover the money when they launched it last year. They said Feinstein was owed some of the \$10,000 for rent on a Pico Boulevard office the party used. But the party estimated that Feinstein still owed it a balance of more than \$6,000.

Voting to drop the lawsuit Sunday was Feinstein, along with County Council members Sara Amir, Jeffrey Drummond, Tera Little, Genevieve Marcus, Nancy Pearlman and Denise Robb. Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown, along with Crompton, and County Council members Coby Skye and Gabrielle Weeks voted against dropping the lawsuit at the meeting of the Green Party of LA County, held in the Gay & Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach.

Discord over the \$10,000 check has drawn deep divisions in the cash-strapped local Green Party. It prompted the donor of the \$10,000 check, Bill Pietz, to resign

from the party out of frustration over how the matter was handled by people on both sides of the dispute. Pietz has said he thinks Feinstein acted wrongly by taking the money, but added that, in his opinion, it wasn't a criminal error.

State and local Green Party officials have tried unsuccessfully for years to use mediation to mend the rift. The issue repeatedly centered on documents that show how the money was spent. Green Party officials, who regularly report their finances to the Fair Political Practices Commission, a government group that enforces campaign laws, said Feinstein

must hand over bank records.

Pearlman said she's optimistic Feinstein will work towards resolving the dispute internally once the lawsuit is dropped.

"There are bills on both sides and we just have to figure it out," Pearlman said. "It's not all clear cut and it's not all so easily handled ... I'm optimistic that it can be resolved through mediation, with the legal issues out of the way."

Asked if she thought Feinstein's vote in the matter constituted a conflict of interest, Pearlman said, "It obviously affects him in other ways, but it affects all of us ... so I don't view it as a conflict of interest."

Four stores to be arraigned next month for overcharging

FINE, from page 1

Kamins has ordered 11 of the merchants to pay a combined \$60,006 in fines.

Four other Santa Monica retailers — Borders on the Third Street Promenade, the 99 Cent Only Store on Pico Boulevard, Puzzle Zoo on the Promenade and Planet Funk in the Santa Monica Place Mall — will be arraigned next month, prosecutors said.

Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky, who heads up City Hall's Consumer Protection Unit, said customers should always double check receipts, adding merchants mischarge on 20 percent to 30 percent of items.

"These overcharge cases are among the most serious that we prosecute," Radinsky said. "It's a stealth crime, because consumers often have no idea that they have paid too much, let alone that it's crime for the store not to honor its posted price."

Each violation of the misdemeanor law — charging more than \$1 in excess of the advertised price — carries a maximum

penalty of \$3,300. Under Los Angeles County ordinance, violators must also post a notice of violation in their window for 60 days.

Owners and managers at several of the 15 stores have said the overcharges were accidental. Many have taken additional steps to ensure the overcharges don't happen again. Still, others simply attribute the errors to unavoidable "human error."

The sting was conducted last summer by investigators from the Weights and Measures bureau, a division of the LA County Department of Agriculture. About \$400 will be paid to the bureau for each of the charges, covering the costs of the investigation, officials said.

Jeff Humphreys, deputy director of the Weights and Measures bureau, said his team of 14 inspectors regularly patrols all 8,400 LA stores with scanners. Since February of 2002, stores have been required to pay a sliding-scale registration fee for scanners to cover the costs of the investigations.

— John Wood

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LOCAL □ STATE



Adopt-a-vine idea grows on buyers

BY BOB NORBERG

Associated Press Writer

ST. HELENA — Hundreds of dormant vines in Peter Story's St. Helena vineyard wear stainless-steel tags bearing the name of the vine's "owner," part of an adopt-a-vine marketing program which has paid big dividends.

For \$80, the adoptive owner gets the tag, a certificate, a picture of the vine and a bottle of St. Helena Winery's \$80 wine or two bottles of its \$40 wine.

The payoff for the tiny winery, which for its 2003 vintage will produce 500 cases of cabernet sauvignon, is in the wine sales it generates by the adopting owners, Story said.

Story said the program "has raised \$48,000, but quadruple that amount in people who have received it as a gift and then wanted to buy another half case or case. The vine adoption program is one way of getting me into the market."

Since the program was introduced a year ago, Story said they have sold 600 adoptions, of which 70 percent were to individuals and 30 percent to corporations giving them as gifts.

Bourassa Vineyards in American Canyon, which produces 1,800 cases, is the only winery with a similar program, which it began in January.

So far, 20 people have paid \$90 to adopt a vine, for which they get the plaque, certificate and, at the end of the growing season, a cutting that they can replant.

Jaime Douglas, executive director of the Sonoma County Wineries Association, said the program was not in use by Sonoma County wineries.

Pam Nigliazzo, Napa city clerk, said she initially received an adopted vine from St. Helena Winery from her mother as a present, and since then has herself given them to her children, friends and colleagues.

In all, she said her family has adopted 10 vines and have a picture taken every year in their adopted vineyard for their Christmas card.

"It is the perfect gift for the person who has everything, for the person who loves wine," she said.

Nigliazzo also said she thought it was a clever marketing technique.

"He is a small winery competing with the bigger names and he has come up with a unique way of promoting his wine. I think it is a pretty slick deal," she said.

Story, a retired Sun Microsystems sales director,

bought 18 acres in St. Helena in 1992, building a house, guest cottage and 750-square-foot winery, and planting 15 acres in cabernet sauvignon grapes.

The bulk of his grapes are sold to five wineries, with just about a third going into his own wines.

Using custom-crush facilities, Story said he produced 75 cases in 2000, 120 cases in 2001, and 350 cases in 2002.

Doomed pilot never talked with tower

CRASH, from page 1

The plane went down around 5 p.m. following a flight from Mammoth, Calif., to Santa Monica Airport. An encroaching, thick cover of clouds was pushing in from the ocean at that time. The pilot had received an instrument-flight-rules clearance to Santa Monica and had stayed on that plan through the flight, maintaining contact with federal radar controllers, Pollack said.

"Arriving here at Santa Monica, the pilot picked up the local weather conditions and was advised that the visibility was one-half mile and the ceiling was approximately 200 feet overcast," Pollack said.

The pilot was told he was cleared for an instrument approach and then descended to 500 feet, the investigator said.

"At that point the pilot indicated to the controllers that he was going to execute a go-around and not land at Santa Monica," Pollack said. "Following that, the pilot was observed to climb to about 700 feet and for the next one minute, approximately, he stayed in this area."

The pilot never got in touch with the Santa Monica tower, Santa Monica Airport Manager Bob Trimborn said Tuesday. Preliminary radar information indicated the plane made one or more 360-degree turns before disappearing from radar at an altitude of 700 feet, an account verified by witnesses.

The plane fell into the kitchen of a home in Mar Vista, a neighborhood near the east end of the airport. Neighbors said James Whiting, who was home at the time, escaped as flames engulfed his home.

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STATE

CalTech student charged in massive attack on SUVs

BY RYAN PEARSON

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A college student charged with committing arson and vandalism that damaged and destroyed 125 sport utility vehicles will remain jailed without bond, a judge ruled Wednesday.

The order came a day after a federal grand jury indicted Billy Cottrell, a 23-

year-old California Institute of Technology student, of nine felony counts linked to the destruction of SUVs at San Gabriel Valley car dealerships and homes last August in apparent support of radical environmentalism.

Cottrell, of Pasadena, faces one count of conspiracy to commit arson, seven counts of arson and one count of using a destructive device, specifically a Molotov

cocktail, said Thom Mrozek, spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office. The indictment charges that Cottrell vandalized and destroyed vehicles with "known and unknown co-conspirators," who were not identified by the U.S. attorney's office.

The first eight counts each carry penalties ranging from five to 20 years in prison, and the last carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 years.

Cottrell, jailed since being arrested on March 9, was scheduled to be arraigned on March 29.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Carolyn Turchin denied requests to release Cottrell during a 45-minute hearing Wednesday despite testimony from his attorney and father, who said they didn't think he was a flight risk.

"Human life is risked by the nature of these offenses," Turchin said.

William Cottrell of Concord, N.C., testified he would be willing to put his home and \$200,000 in cash for bond to get his son out of jail.

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly Reid-O'Connell argued Cottrell should be held because of the "arrogance" he displayed during the investigation and at court appearances.

Reid-O'Connell told the judge that Cottrell proposed marriage to friend and fellow student Claire Jacobs to prevent her from testifying against him. Jacobs refused the proposal, court documents say.

Cottrell told Jacobs he started the fires and that two other people were involved, FBI agents said in court filings.

The indictment said there was evidence Cottrell's co-conspirators had fled the country as a result of the FBI's investigation and would help Cottrell flee as well.

Cottrell, a second-year graduate student in the physics department at Caltech, used an alias when he contacted the Los Angeles Times by e-mail and informed the paper he was involved in the SUV firebombings, the FBI alleged in an affidavit.

In messages sent to the newspaper, Cottrell confirmed he was affiliated with the Earth Liberation Front, a radical group of environmentalists that has claimed responsibility for other acts of arson and vandalism, the affidavit said.

The August vandalism spree hit car dealerships in West Covina, Duarte and Arcadia, and four privately owned vehicles in Monrovia. A fire set at the West Covina dealership destroyed or damaged 72 vehicles, mostly SUVs, and a parts warehouse.

Words such as "ELF," "Fat, Lazy Americans" and "I (heart) pollution" were painted on the SUVs. Prosecutors estimate the total damage was about \$2.3 million.

Authorities initially arrested Josh Connole, 25, of Pomona but he was later released because of lack of evidence.

The ELF has claimed responsibility for a string of arsons in Detroit, Philadelphia and San Diego, where last year fire destroyed a 206-unit apartment complex under construction. The \$50 million worth of damage made it the single largest act of property destruction by a radical group in U.S. history, the FBI said.

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Mother's arrest in C-section case alarms women's groups

SALT LAKE CITY — Melissa Ann Rowland has been called callous, indifferent. The kind of mother who would refuse surgery to save her unborn twins because she didn't want a scar. The kind who would use drugs while pregnant.

Women's groups have nevertheless taken up her cause in the week since prosecutors charged Rowland with murder for allegedly delaying a Caesarean section and causing one of her babies to be stillborn.

The National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood, the American Civil Liberties Union and others have accused prosecutors of going too far. The case, they say, is a back-door effort to undermine abortion rights, an assault on the right to privacy, and an attack on a poor, possibly mentally ill person.

"Part of this assault on motherhood is to portray certain women as selfish people without regard for their babies," said Lynn Paltrow, executive director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women.

Legal experts said they do not know of any other instance in the United States in which a woman was charged with murder for refusing or delaying a C-section.

The Salt Lake district attorney's office denied that politics are at play and said the case is not about abortion rights.

"I don't know of anybody who rationally believes that a baby who has come to term is something a mother can destroy," said Kent Morgan, a spokesman for District Attorney David Yocom.

Rowland, 28, could get five years to life in prison if convicted. She was jailed on \$250,000 bail.

Rowland has said she never intended to kill her baby and was never informed she needed immediate surgery. She denied prosecutors' allegations she was worried about a scar, saying she delivered two previous children through C-sections.

Her attorney has said Rowland has a history of mental illness, but he has otherwise declined to comment on the charges.

Prosecutors said Rowland acted with "depraved indifference" when she allegedly ignored doctors' urgings to undergo a C-section to save the babies' lives. Rowland eventually underwent a C-section, but one of the babies, a boy, was stillborn. The other baby, a girl, survived, but traces of alcohol and cocaine were found in her system.

Prosecutors brought a child-endangerment charge against Rowland over the drugs in the girl, but dropped it on Tuesday. Morgan said the evidence that Rowland used

cocaine during her pregnancy will instead be used to bolster the murder case.

The case may hinge on whether the baby's legal rights trump those of his mother.

Civil liberties groups and women's organizations said the case is an effort to reopen the battle over fetal rights and assign personhood to a fetus.

"If you personify the fetus in the law, there's no limit on the raw power of the state to take custody of women's bodies and punish them," said Paltrow of National Advocates for Pregnant Women.

However, the district attorney's office said Rowland's full-term baby was not a fetus at delivery, but a child. In any case, Utah's murder statute covers "an unborn child at any state of development."

Around the country, there have been cases in which women were forced to undergo C-sections after their

doctors obtained court orders. There have also been cases of women charged with murder for harming their babies through drug use.

Mary Mahowald, a professor emerita at University of Chicago in the department of obstetrics and gynecology, said the fact that a mother may have a moral obligation to care for her fetus does not give the state the right to force her to undergo a certain course of treatment.

Critics also warned that prosecuting women for drug use during pregnancy will drive them away from prenatal care, and said the case raises questions for pregnant women who smoke or fail to follow their obstetrician's eating recommendations.

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DID YOU KNOW?: A cat's jaws cannot move sideways.

NATIONAL

For cycling devotees, it's not the years but the mileage

BY TERRENCE PETTY

Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — He's a yellow streak, legs pumping, hurtling his racing bike at 20 mph down a stretch of highway as straight as a shotgun barrel. Rain-slick pavement hisses as Art Peterson racks up the miles.

This is what Peterson loves — a morning of swift cycling through the valleys and over the hills of the Pacific Northwest countryside. He does it even during Oregon's notoriously rainy winters.

Such behavior might be expected of a younger man, not a 74-year-old.

Yet Peterson was honored recently for the 80,000 miles he has ridden with a local cycling club since he joined in 1989. That's more than 5,000 miles each year. And he rides hard, giving his cardiovascular system a thorough workout.

Mid-way through this particular ride, Peterson pulls up to a coffee shop for a cup of joe. But first he checks the heart rate monitor/calorie counter bolted to his Klein bicycle.

"I've burned 1,015 calories over the past 20 miles," said Peterson, standing there like some cycling gladiator in his helmet, sunglasses, yellow rain jacket, black tights and cleated racing shoes.

"I feel great."

Across the nation, aging Americans are working out at gyms, in swimming pools, on tennis courts and other athletic venues. You'll see them on bicycles as well — often riding in touring clubs with cyclists half their age.

Many are people who began cycling years ago and are keeping it up because they want to stay fit, said Patrick McCormick, communications director for the League of American Bicyclists.

Others are turning to cycling because it's easier on aging bones and joints than many other sports.

"A lot of people as they age, they start having knee problems," said McCormick. "Because cycling is a fluid motion, it's much easier on the knees, bones and joints than running, for example."

Of the 700 or so members of the Portland Wheelmen, at least a half-dozen are in their 70s. Many more are in their 60s. The average age of the club membership is somewhere in the 50s. The club organizes at least one group ride a day. Chances are good several of the riders who show up are retired, or close to it.

They don't let age get in their way — or at least they

try not to. The older you get, the longer it can take to recover from crashes. Peterson, a retired county sheriff's investigator, has been in three since 1993 — including one that left him with a concussion, three broken ribs, a collapsed lung, and other injuries. In 1994, he won the gold medal for his age group in a national race for active and retired law officers and firefighters.

McCormick estimates that more than 7 million bike riders are over age 50, and at least 3 million are over 60. They range from people who might ride a puddle-jumper on occasional trips to the grocery store to people who put in hundreds of miles each week on bikes that cost \$2,000 and up and are as finely-tuned as Ferraris.

For the latter, cycling almost seems like a fountain of youth.

"I've burned 1,015 calories over the past 20 miles."

— ART PETERSON
74-year-old cycling gladiator

"They enjoy the wind in their face, the adrenaline rush, the exercise rush," says Andrew Pruitt, director of the Boulder Center for Sports Medicine, a former champion cyclist who was once chief medical officer for the U.S. national cycling team.

"These guys are what I aspire to be if I'm lucky enough to be 80," says the 53-year-old Pruitt.

Many older riders have been serious cyclists over the years and have discovered that age isn't necessarily a reason to give it up.

Betty Lou Bailey, 74, rides with the Mohawk Hudson Cycling Club in upstate New York. She became a serious cyclist at age 29, and has been riding ever since.

A retired engineer, Bailey rides her custom-made Serotta bicycle from March into the fall over hilly terrain around the Mohawk and Hudson valleys and into the Adirondacks. "This isn't just my way of pursuing fitness. It's my way of pursuing fun," she said from her home in Schenectady, N.Y.

A couple of years ago Bailey was asked to give a talk at the annual meeting of the Society of Women

Engineers. Her topic: "Lifetime Sports."

Her message was that age does not have to prevent you from pursuing athletic activities.

It's a message that long ago found a home among riders with the Portland Wheelmen.

One of them is Bob Sahleen. At age 65, he's another high-mileage rider, accumulating somewhere around 80,000 since buying a bike in 1989. Back then, when he was 51, Sahleen got into cycling because he was staring at an aging process that could turn him into a couch potato unless he did something about it.

"You don't have to lay around," says the retired printer. "If you go out and do something, you'll feel better."

Sahleen rides about 12,000 miles a year — participating in daily rides organized by the Portland Wheelmen as well as long multiday tours through scenic places like the Canadian Rockies.

Health experts say it's essential for people age 50 and up to know their physical abilities before embarking on strenuous or long-distance cycling.

"If you're an older person, and just starting a new activity, you're more prone to pick up an overuse injury," says Bryan Pasternak, a 34-year-cyclist and physical therapist at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.

"Tendons will take a little longer to adapt to the new exercise," a process that can produce aches and pains, he says.

People older than 50 with risk factors — such as heart disease and high cholesterol — should consult with their doctors before buying a bike with the intention of becoming a serious cyclist, he says. Also, the time it takes for an older cyclist to react to the unexpected — a car that appears out of nowhere — could well be longer than for a younger cyclist.

Still, Pasternak heartily supports the idea of older people taking up serious cycling.

At age 80, Paul Roscoe may be the oldest member of the Wheelmen. He has also chalked up somewhere around 175,000 miles since he first started riding seriously in 1981. He has been just about everywhere on his bike: Russia, Hungary, Germany, Belgium, Australia ... the list goes on.

A few weeks ago he broke his leg while skiing. He's recovering and hopes his doctor soon gives him the go-ahead to get back on his bike.

"I'm going to keep cycling," he says. "I've got an expensive bike. I've got to do something with it."

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DID YOU KNOW?: Andy Warhol created the Rolling Stone's emblem depicting the big tongue. It first appeared on the cover of the 'Sticky Fingers' album.



Suspect in highway shootings arrested in Las Vegas

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — The man suspected in two dozen sniper shootings that have terrorized motorists along Ohio highways was arrested at a Las Vegas motel early Wednesday.

Charles A. McCoy Jr., 28, was taken into custody two days after he was named as a suspect in the shootings that pierced cars and homes and left one woman dead in the Columbus area, said Las Vegas police Lt. Christopher Van Cleef.

"We got him in custody without incident," Van Cleef said.

Police were told of McCoy's whereabouts by a man who spotted him at the Stardust casino, recognized him from media reports and found out where he was staying, Van Cleef said. Las Vegas police stalked out the motel and arrested McCoy in the parking lot.

"He wasn't armed, but we haven't been in the motel room or his vehicle yet," Van Cleef said. He said police have impounded the car that McCoy was driving.

Authorities had said McCoy had a history of mental illness and was believed to be armed, with "suicidal or homicidal tendencies." His family disputed that description, calling McCoy troubled but peaceful.

"I knew it would happen without incident because he was a very passive individual," McCoy's sister Amy Walton said on NBC's "Today" show. "This came as a

"In my heart and mind, I knew this was the man the police in Ohio were looking for."

— CONRAD MALSON
Las Vegas resident

great shock to our family."

When asked what she would say to her brother, Walton said, "We can't wait to talk to you. Everything will be OK."

Police have not suggested a motive for the sniper attacks, and few details have emerged about their suspect.

Conrad Malsom, 60, of Las Vegas said he told authorities he met McCoy at the Stardust casino Tuesday. He said he offered McCoy a slice of pizza but recognized the disheveled-looking man with a darkening beard from photographs in newspapers.

"In my heart and mind, I knew this was the man the police in Ohio were looking for," Malsom told The Associated Press.

He said McCoy told him his name was "Mike" and that he was staying at the nearby motel. When he left the casino, Malsom found "bizarre writing" on an 8 1/2 by 14-inch sports betting sheet the man left behind.

"It filled the whole sheet — about 30 lines," Malsom said. "Each line started with 'You' or 'You are' but you can't read

it, you can't read any of it."

He said he turned the sheet over to authorities.

FBI special agent Todd Palmer said McCoy is being processed in the agency's office and likely will be transferred to the U.S. attorney's office. Authorities said McCoy had been questioned about the shootings, but not charged.

An arrest warrant accuses McCoy of felonious assault in a shooting with a 9 mm handgun that damaged a house Dec. 15.

The 24 shootings around several highways on the southern outskirts of Columbus pierced homes and a school, dented school buses, flattened tires and shattered windshields. They began in May.

The shootings prompted commuters to take detours and schools to cancel classes or hold recess indoors. Police increased patrols and the state installed cameras on poles along Interstate 270.

The only person struck, Gail Knisley, 62, was killed as a friend drove her to a doctor's appointment Nov. 25. Lab tests showed that bullets from nine of the

shootings were fired from the same gun.

Edward Cable of Lucasville, whose minivan was hit by a bullet as he was driving on Nov. 21, said Wednesday he was glad to see McCoy was picked up, "not so much for myself, but for anybody else whose worried about getting him off the street."

Authorities haven't said what evidence led them to McCoy. Newspaper and television reports Tuesday said McCoy's family gave investigators at least one of his guns.

In a missing person's report filed Monday, McCoy's mother, Ardith, said her son withdrew \$600 from a bank account and left home Friday for a mall restaurant and bar with video games.

Neighbors on McCoy's street said they didn't know much about the suspect or his mother. A check of court records in nearby counties turned up a handful of traffic tickets for McCoy, but no other criminal or civil charges.

The tan garage doors at the house were splattered with three eggs Tuesday. Police said they did not know who hurled the eggs or when they were thrown.

McCoy's high school football coach said he's praying for his former player.

"He was an ornery kid, but a lot of kids are ornery at that age," said Brian Cross, who coached McCoy for four years at Grove City High School. "I don't remember him doing anything extreme."



WORLD BRIEFLY

Military moves with 'Iron' fist

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. and Iraqi military forces backed by helicopters and armored vehicles launched a big operation in Baghdad on Wednesday, raiding suspected rebel hideouts in an effort to weed out insurgents and capture illegal weapons.

The campaign comes a day after gunmen killed two Europeans working on a water project. On Monday, assailants shot to death four American missionaries also working on a water project, suggesting the insurgents are going after civilians as a means of undermining reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

The new operation is called "Iron Promise" and is expected to involve thousands of U.S. troops from the Fort Hood, Texas-based 1st Cavalry Division, which has recently arrived in Iraq, and the outgoing Germany-based 1st Armored Division. Scores of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers are also involved.

A German and a Dutch national were killed in a drive-by shooting near the town of Mussayab, 45 miles south of Baghdad on Tuesday, officials said. Their Iraqi driver and a police officer also were killed, and two police were wounded.

Leaving Lavalas: Aristide's party dissed

By The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haiti's U.S.-backed leader formed an interim government that excludes ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Lavalas Party — one that still commands a formidable following.

Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue's 13-member Cabinet was to be sworn in Wednesday, aides to Latortue said after a meeting with President Boniface Alexandre, who temporarily assumed the post after Aristide fled on Feb. 29.

Locking Lavalas out of the government risked further polarizing this Caribbean nation shaken by a rebellion

and Aristide's sudden departure under U.S. and French pressure, warned Latortue's predecessor, Yvon Neptune.

"There should at least be a sincere expression of accepting Lavalas as an organization," Neptune said in a telephone interview Tuesday before the Cabinet announcement. "The plan was to try to set the stage for reconciliation."

After Neptune resigned on March 10, Latortue had pledged to include members of Lavalas in a unity government.

Latortue had no immediate comment.

Windy City match of wits

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A state senator will face an investment banker-turned-teacher after each emerged as their parties' nominee for a U.S. Senate race that could shape the balance of power in Congress.

"This is going to be a contest of ideas," state Sen. Barack Obama said after rolling up more than 50 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary, crushing six rivals.

The 42-year-old former civil rights lawyer, who could become only the third black U.S. senator in a century, faces Republican Jack Ryan, a 44-year-old millionaire high school teacher who has been dogged by questions about his divorce from actress Jeri Ryan, a star on Fox's "Boston Public."

The race for the seat of retiring GOP Sen. Peter Fitzgerald is rated as must-win by Democrats who have made it one of four key targets in their drive to capture control of the Senate, now narrowly divided with 51 Republicans, 48 Democrats and one independent who leans Democratic.

Man charged with murdering family

By The Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — A man accused of shooting nine family members at his home last week was charged with

murder and could face the death penalty if convicted.

The charges against Marcus Wesson were outlined by prosecutors in a document filed with the court Tuesday and were to be formally read at his arraignment Wednesday.

Wesson, 57, is accused of shooting a 25-year-old woman and eight children Friday before he surrendered. Authorities said he was being held on \$9 million bail.

Police have not disclosed a motive but said that Wesson may have engaged in incest and polygamy. Officers were called to the scene when several of the children's mothers were unable to take their children away from him.

Authorities said Wesson appeared to wield absolute authority over his household and his large clan. The women would walk dutifully behind him in dark robes, did not speak in his presence and apparently worked to support him. The children were home-schooled because he did not trust public education.

Kerry displays veteran moves

By The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry promised to be a "veteran's veteran" this week as the White House tried to sour his support among a key constituency by airing a commercial accusing him of rejecting funding for soldiers at war in Iraq.

Kerry warned an audience of veterans that President Bush has misled the country on everything from the war to the economy and had broken promises to veterans needing health care. From the Oval Office on Tuesday, Bush questioned Kerry's own truthfulness by calling for him to identify the world leaders Kerry has said would rather see him as president.

The Massachusetts Democrat later went to Charleston to accept his near-uncontested win in the Illinois primary, which his campaign says gives him the delegates needed to mathematically clinch the nomination.

The Bush campaign released a television ad accusing Kerry of being "wrong on defense" by not supporting bills that would have ensured troops had body armor and higher combat pay and given reservists and their families better health care.

Kerry labeled the ad "another distortion."

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- 17 Jargon suffix
- 19 Harden
- 20 Vampire
- 23 Ellington vehicle
- 25 Make over
- 26 Surpass
- 28 Barn area
- 29 English university town
- 30 Will Ferrell movie

- 31 Nile snake
- 32 Before, in verse
- 33 Bombast
- 35 Come to a point
- 38 Taboos
- 41 Ship sinker
- 42 Cussed
- 43 Bright fish
- 44 Consumed

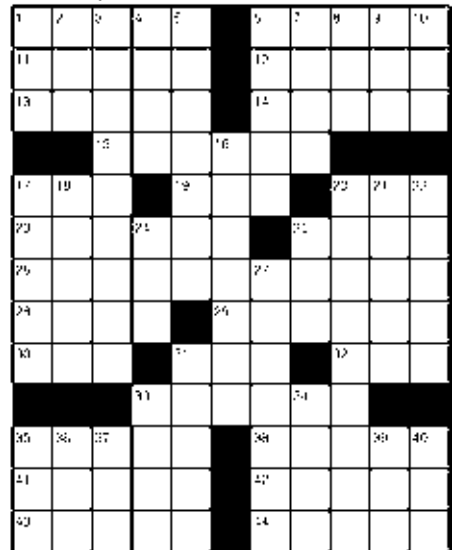
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- 1 Wholly

ACROSS

- 2 Book jacket item
- 3 At an advantage
- 4 Chemist Hahn
- 5 Hoffman movie
- 6 So far
- 7 Den
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Kinks' Davies eager to give people what they want

■ **LONDON** — Singer-songwriter Ray Davies of The Kinks, shot in the leg by a mugger two months ago, said he hopes to be "jumping around on stage" soon.

Davies, 59, leaned on a walking stick Wednesday as he appeared at Buckingham Palace to accept an honor from Queen Elizabeth II.

"I will get better and I'll be back jumping around on stage," said Davies. But, he added, "There is a lot of doubt whether I can perform in the near future."

Davies wore a dark suit and tortoiseshell sunglasses as he was awarded the title Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

"This is for the people who supported my music over the years," he said. "I'm kind of reluctant to collect rewards. I usually back out of ceremonies. I'm kind of a shy person."

"This is for the fans of my music. It's theirs." Davies founded The Kinks with his brother Dave in the early 1960s. Their hits include "You Really Got Me" and "Lola."

He was shot by a thief who snatched his friend's bag as the pair walked in New Orleans in early January.

"I chased after him. I have been asking myself 'why.' One never knows how to react," he said. "Other people have said they would do the same. That's all I want to say about it."

■ **STOCKHOLM, Sweden** — Brazilian author Lygia Bojunga was named the winner of the second annual Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for Literature Wednesday for dissolving "the boundaries between fantasy and reality."

Bojunga, a children's book writer, was invited to Stockholm to collect the \$663,400 prize from Crown Princess Victoria on May 26.

"Lygia Bojunga dissolves the boundaries between fantasy and reality with all the exhilarating ease of a child at play," the prize jury said in its citation. "In a deeply original way, she fuses playfulness, poetic beau-

ty and absurd humor with social critique, a love of freedom and a strong empathy with the vulnerable child."

Her works include "Os Colegas (The Companions)," "Angelica," "Corda Bamba" and "Retratos de Carolina."

This year's award was elected by a jury of 12 Swedish researchers, authors and librarians, including one of Lindgren's relatives.

Established by the Swedish government, the prize is presented annually to promote children's literature and books focusing on the rights of children.

It was named for the beloved Swedish children's author whose Pippi Longstocking, a strong-willed girl with braided hair, freckles and mismatched stockings, captivated generations of children around the world.

American Maurice Sendak and Austrian Christine Noestlinger shared the first Lindgren award last year. The prize can be awarded to individual writers and groups that promote reading among children.

■ **LONDON** — A Canadian man accused of stalking supermodel Claudia Schiffer at her mansion in rural England is being deported, police said Wednesday.

Louis Alexandre Brisette, 21, was arrested after repeatedly calling at Schiffer's home near Bury St. Edmunds in southeast England last week and handing two letters for her to the staff, Suffolk Police said.

Brisette, who is unemployed, appeared before a magistrates' court Saturday on harassment charges, but returned to Schiffer's property hours later, a spokesman for the force said.

On Sunday, officers visited the hotel where Brisette was staying in Bury St. Edmunds and handed him over to immigration officers.

Brisette "was staying here illegally and he is now being deported. It is not known how long he had been here," the Suffolk Police spokesman said. "Ms. Schiffer and her family have asked for their privacy to be respected and do not want to discuss the details of the case."

■ **NEW YORK** — Frances Sternhagen, Betsy von Furstenberg and Dan Lauria will be among the readers at a March 26 tribute to World War II poets.

"World War II, as with all great human events, inspired poets to commemorate actions both great and unknown, and the broad range of emotions raised by the experience of battle and its aftermath," program organizer Stanley Eugene Tannen said in a statement Wednesday.

Tannen is the founder of the nonprofit organization Toward International Peace Through the Arts.

The reading, to be held at St. Peter's Church in midtown Manhattan, will also mark the Library of America's publication of an anthology of World War II poetry. Some writers featured in the book, including Harvey Shapiro and Louis Simpson, will be in attendance.

■ **GABTOLI, Bangladesh** — Mary Wilson visited a charity school near Bangladesh's capital Wednesday, singing popular Supremes hits such as "You Can't Hurry Love" and "Baby Love."

"We were told that some singer from abroad is coming today — we don't know who she is," said Al Amin, 9, who attends school when he isn't chipping bricks by hand at construction sites.

But when Wilson started singing, Amin and his classmates clapped along with big smiles on their faces.

"I enjoyed it, although I didn't understand a word," Amin said as he squatted with the rest of the audience under a canopy in the yard of the tin-and-brick schoolhouse.

The 60-year-old singer is visiting Bangladesh as a cultural ambassador, part of a State Department initiative to promote American culture.

"I know you work very hard," Wilson told her newest fans. "When I was young, we were very poor and my family had to work very hard, picking cotton. But I grew up to be a rich lady."

Wilson started singing as a teenager with her friend, Diana Ross. They went on to form The Supremes.

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