

FREE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 108

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

10, 14, 15, 32, 37

DAILY 3

Afternoon: 3, 1, 3

Evening: 8, 6, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 02, Lucky Star

3rd Place: 10, Solid Gold

Race time: 1:48.20



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Making a claim on British television in March that should alarm all News of the Weird readers, James Watson (co-discoverer of the structure of DNA) said he saw no reason why "stupidity" could not some day be corrected by gene therapy just as other "disorders" are now being addressed. "If you're really stupid, I would call that a disease," he said, on the Channel 4 documentary "DNA." "I'd like to get rid of (stupidity)."



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

He who knows he is a fool is not the biggest fool; he who knows he is confused is not in the worst confusion.



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File photo

The City Council passed an ordinance last year that prohibits public feedings, like the one above, without the proper permits.

Next step unclear in public feedings lawsuit

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The two sides of a lawsuit over outdoor public feedings in Santa Monica both said this week that it's up to the other to act next.

Carol Sobel, attorney for the plaintiffs in the case, said she is waiting on the city to file two responses to the lawsuit before making her next move. But the city attorney's office said it's already responded to the lawsuit and that it is up to the plaintiffs to make the next move.

However, with the lawsuit pending and concerns over imple-

mentation of the new law, feeding programs in Santa Monica's parks are carrying on uninterrupted.

The City Council in October adopted an ordinance that gives police the ability to break up food distribution programs that lack the proper permits. That ordinance was challenged in a federal lawsuit filed in January by the non-profit organization, Santa Monica Food Not Bombs, and other charities.

Homeless rights activists say the law steps on the constitutional rights of charities and other organizations by providing the city unilat-

See FEEDINGS, page 5

Proposition A funds continue to pour in

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

With just three days left in Santa Monica's first mail-in election, both sides of the ballot's only measure continue to amass sizable war chests.

Since March 4, Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation, which favors Proposition A, has received two donations of more than \$1,000, including a \$2,500 contribution March 17 from Jerry Monkarsh, an executive at EJM Development Co., in Los Angeles, according to campaign contribution reports filed with the Santa Monica City Clerk.

Also, Gregory Poirier, one of the initiative's sponsors, paid for a \$1,390 ad in Santa Monica Mirror, a weekly newspaper, on March 10.

Though campaigns are not required to report contributions under \$1,000 until after the election, the report also listed two smaller donations, both on March 14. Viceroy Hotel and Starwood Hotels and Resorts each gave \$500 that day, according to the report.

Since March 4, Save Our Neighborhoods — representing the other side of the issue — has received four donations totaling \$4,500. On March 7, Barbara

Schnitzler, a landmarks commissioner, donated \$1,500, while La Jolla man Rolfe Wyer and the Hollywood Heritage Organization each donated \$1,000, the reports indicate. Victor Fresco, a member of Save Our Neighborhoods, donated \$1,000 on March 10, according to reports.

The election, which will decide whether City Hall or homeowners should have the final say on preserving historic houses, has attracted nearly \$200,000 in donations this year and \$314,000 in total, according to the contribution reports.

Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation, which collected nearly 10,000 signatures to get Prop. A on the ballot and force a special election, has raised more than \$129,000 since Jan. 1, and nearly \$69,476 during the reporting period from Feb. 5 to March 4, according to the documents.

Save Our Neighborhoods, the committee fighting against Prop. A, has raised nearly \$70,000 since Jan. 1, and \$29,453 during the February-to-March reporting period, according to the group's documents.

The special election was called for the Homeowners' Freedom of

See PROP. A, page 6

Police talk homeless man from cliff's edge

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica police officers talked a homeless man known only as Tim out of jumping off the cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean on Tuesday afternoon.

Tim stood on the edge of the cliff at Arizona Avenue and Ocean Avenue for at least an hour before police got there, witnesses said. After arriving, police cleared and taped off the area 50 feet around the scene.

It took officers an additional half-hour to talk Tim into leaving the edge of the cliff.

Tim was described as "usually upbeat" by his friends who were present on Tuesday.

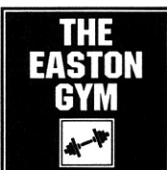
As he was being taken into police custody, three friends chanted "We love you Tim."

It was not known what drove him to attempt suicide.



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Santa Monica police talk Tim out of a suicide attempt Tuesday.



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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, March 19, 2003:

You might want to deal with partners more directly. You discover that others come toward you. Consider new possibilities that head your way; don't automatically nix choices. Friends will help open doors if you remain more open. Work stars through August, when promotions become possible. Your career will evolve as a result. Use care with a sweet tooth during this same period. If you are single, you will meet someone quite significant after September. You could be on overload with all your choices. If you are attached, your relationship will become much warmer as you reveal more of yourself. LIBRA understands you.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Defer to others. Your mind develops a new process. Follow through on a project. Schedule a meeting. Listen to a conversation or a communication that comes your way involving a group project. Others seek you out. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Stay on top of work and a project. Deal on a one-on-one level. A boss will relate openly, discussing a money issue or greater commitment. Find your answers by asking question. Go for a walk to release stress. Keep an even pace. Tonight: Be easygoing.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Energize your creativity and dynamic energy. You might want to add that special touch. Evaluate more of what you want from a friend or love relationship, but not on the boss's time. Separate church and state. Don't mix business and pleasure. Tonight: Have a long-overdue discussion.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your sign cares about home and family first. Your priorities come out in the next few days. You might want to convince a partner to add to your home or make an investment. Business-oriented Moon Children eye financial advancement. Tonight: Order in. Make it easy.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Keep on reaching out. Others respond to what you want, or rather to your charisma. You ask; you receive. Aim for more of what you want while others seem inclined to go along with your wishes and desires. A partner or friend would like more from you. Tonight: Visit with a friend during dinner.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Recognize that money makes the world go around, at least in your book. Financial tightness could be a bit uncomfortable. A boss might not be able to give you any more than titles or promotions. Understand a limiting situation as well. Tonight: Your treat.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Extend yourself toward others. You might not be sure what you need to do next with someone at a distance. Proceed when you do know what to do, and you can make a difference. Tap into your imagination, and you'll find answers. An in-law might be holding something back. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Investigate what someone means by exploring ideas. You don't need to ask questions. You need to listen rather than judge. You tend to judge more than you realize. Work on positive thinking rather than falling into an abyss of negativity. Tonight: Share with your best friend.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might not be able to break past a problem that touches you on a deep level. Try to understand where a partner or loved one is coming from. You might need to revise your thinking about a key personality in your life. Work on possibilities. Tonight: Find your friends.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You are still the major figurehead in your dealings with others. Expect some attitude from an associate or co-worker. Visualize more of what you want. As a result, you will convey your ideas better. Use words that paint pictures. Tonight: Dinner out.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ If someone is unusually evasive or difficult, you might need to walk in his or her shoes. You'll understand why you might be getting the cold shoulder. Expectations could be the problem within a relationship. Share long-term goals. Tonight: Try something new.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Deal with those close to you on an individual level. Gain a better understanding of what is necessary. Your instincts could be off. You'll express unusual sensitivity if you just open up. A boss changes his or her mind. Resist struggles. Tonight: Dinner for two.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New MTA program available for jurors

By Daily Press staff

Instead of receiving vehicle-mileage reimbursement, jurors serving on downtown Los Angeles trials can now request a weekly pass to ride all Metropolitan Transportation Authority buses and trains.

Los Angeles Superior Court's Juror Services Division proposed the Juror Pass Program, approved Thursday by the MTA Board of Directors.

"The innovative Juror Pass Program is an added benefit for jurors serving on trials in downtown Los Angeles," said Los Angeles Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert A. Dukes.

"MTA's buses and trains offer close-to-home service for thousands of jurors who will undoubtedly favor public transportation over potential traffic and parking problems," Dukes said.

In June, representatives from the court and MTA will evaluate the Juror Pass Program and consider offering it to jurors serving at other courthouses.

The Juror Pass will be valid throughout MTA's service area on all local, limited-stop and Metro Rapid buses, as well as on the Metro Rail system, which includes the Red, Blue and Green lines.

"The Juror Pass Program will provide a convenient travel alternative to many jurors who otherwise would be driving alone to downtown Los Angeles," said Roger Snoble, MTA chief executive officer, "and the program is also an excellent way to introduce county residents to the benefits of using Metro Bus and Metro Rail for their day-to-day travels."

The Juror Pass Program is currently restricted to jurors serving at the following Los Angeles courthouses:

- Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 Temple St.
- Stanley Most Courthouse, 111 N. Hill St.
- Metropolitan Courthouse, 1945 S. Hill St.

JuryLink, an existing juror-transportation pass program with Metrolink, will continue. The pass program is available to jurors who prefer riding Metrolink commuter trains from the county's suburbs instead of driving downtown.

Juror Pass Program benefits include increased mobility for jurors, an expanded range for their lunch break dining and shopping opportunities and decreased downtown traffic congestion.

Group to hold 2nd Annual Malibu Creek Trail Challenge

By Daily Press staff

Because of the overwhelming success of last year's Malibu Creek Trail Challenge, the Trail Runners Club will host the event again this year.

The event was founded last year to raise money for the Kiwanis International Foundation 911 Victims Children's Fund. More than 500 runners participated in the event, which raised over \$12,000.

This year, the proceeds will benefit the Children's Hospital Los Angeles and The Lorsch Foundation. The Palisades-based Trail Runner's Club is a local running group founded in 1998 and has more than 150 members.

The Malibu Creek Trail Challenge will be held Saturday, May 10 in Malibu Creek State Park. The event includes a 14-mile run and a 4-mile trail run, which both begin at Malibu Creek State Park.

Great views of the Pacific Ocean, stunning rock formations, and beautiful scenery in the Santa Monica Mountains are all part of the 14-mile course. There will be several aid and water stations.

Awards are given for both races to the top three male and female finishers in all age categories. All race participants will receive a race T-shirt.

This event sold out last year, and is expected to sellout again. Advance registration may be completed online at www.active.com. A downloadable application can be printed by visiting the race Web site, at www.trailrace.com. Course map, directions, photos, sponsor listings, and further information can be found on the race website.

Advance registration prices are \$25 for the 4-mile event and \$40 for the 14-mile event. Online registration closes May 1, or when the event reaches capacity. Applications are also available at local area running stores.

For safety reasons, no walkers, no strollers, baby joggers or bikes are allowed. For more information, call (310)281-6083, or e-mail blondnr@pacbell.net.



On Wednesday, northwest winds should continue, so expect poor waves that are shoulder-to-head high with an occasional 6-footer.

Thursday should see a slight decrease as the swell decreases. Expect a northwest swell to build by Friday with 5-10 knot winds expected in the morning and increasing up to 20 knots in the afternoon.

Please be advised that the recent rains have elevated bacteria levels and the beaches are on a 72 hour advisory. On another note the tides will swing dramatically because of the full moon on March 18.

Today's Tides:		
Low -	2:47am	0.3'
High -	8:54am	5.9'
Low -	3:18pm	-0.6'
High -	9:31pm	5.3'

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	3-5' poor	3-4' poor	NA
Zuma	3-4' poor	2-3' poor	NA
Surfrider	3-4' poor	2-3' poor	NA
Topanga	3-4' poor	2-3' poor	NA
Breakwater	3-4' poor	2-3' poor	NA
El Porto	4-5' poor	3-4' poor	NA

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

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

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

meters will be raised from between 35-cents and 50-cents to 75-cents an hour in compliance with new parking zones designated by the city.

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

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

NEED SOMETHING FUN TO DO? CHECK PAGE 15!

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OPINION

LETTERS

Deny Prop. EE, mandate 'real' school reform

Editor:

If Prop. EE fixed the problems plaguing our Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District it would deserve your vote. But it doesn't.

It throws good money after bad — in fact it quadruples the Parcel Tax increase you just passed in 2000. If EE passes, you'll pay \$498 in parcel taxes — on top of payments for \$300,000,000 in school and college bonds.

And with this \$300 increase, school board representatives opted for a ballot taxation option that was 50 percent larger than needed. Their rationale? You wouldn't notice the difference.

Recommendations to make the school district more efficient and responsible were developed two years ago. Since then, none of them have been instituted! However, the district has opted to waste money on such boondoggles as hiring a public relations officer at \$100,000 a year.

Yearly deficits, raises for administrators, bond construction disasters, bogus public opinion polls, legally suspect home loans to administrators and unrealistic promises to teachers — this is how they've been spending funds for our children's education!

Despite our student's needs, none of the proposed additional funding is slated to deal with the problems such as racial profiling and discrimination, nonresident permit preference, resistance to off-hour playground access or the cost overruns for campus improvements.

Contrary to district claims, there is money available: The City of Santa Monica's budget is over \$370,000,000 this year. A reduction in the millions spent on nonresident "services" to outsiders and making the City of Malibu pay their fair share for the school services they utilize would solve our school's financial problems without heavier tax burdens or pass-along rent hikes for tenants.

Doesn't it make more sense to mandate real school reform first and demand our city support our schools rather than indulge and reward ongoing district mismanagement? Show them they're wrong.

Vote "NO" in Proposition EE!

Don Gray
Santa Monica
Bill Bauer
Santa Monica
Mathew L. Millen
Santa Monica

'I hope that lady in the neck brace feels better'

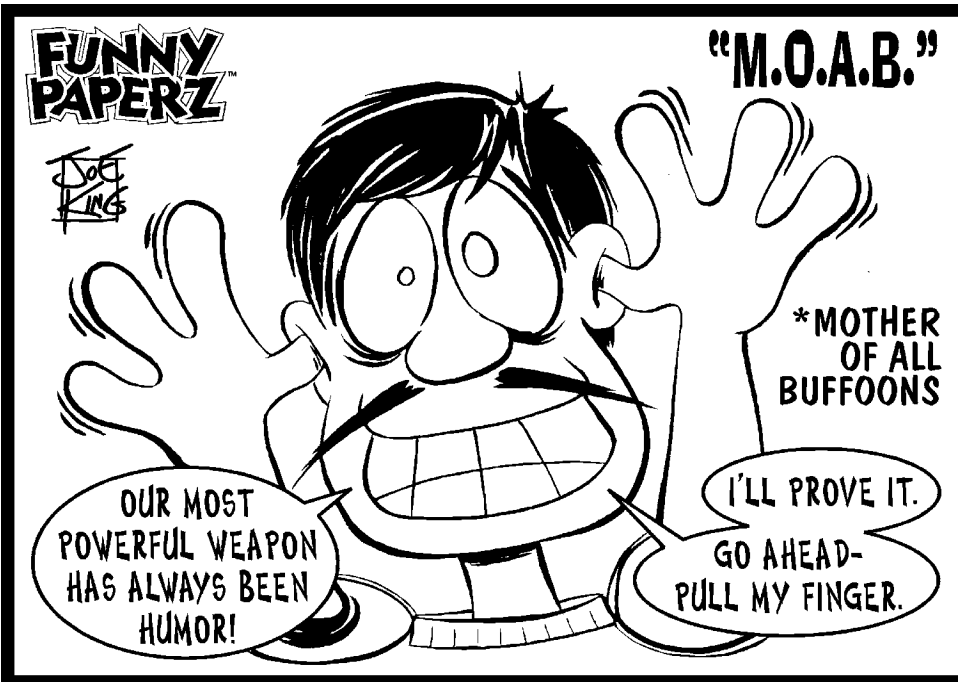
Editor:

On Monday, you kindly printed my letter to the editor about the City of Santa Monica's new police station, which has a drainpipe that floods the freeway at McClure Tunnel. That letter was written on a nice, dry Friday afternoon.

Lo and behold, Saturday afternoon as I passed west through the zigzag in the rainstorm, there it was: The drain pipe from the police station, running like a fire hose. Also seen: a big puddle, a stalled-out-car and the other car that rear-ended it. I hope that poor lady in the neck brace feels better.

Then, I hope she sues the City of Santa Monica for having flooded the freeway lane in the first place!

Hans Laetz
Zuma Beach



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What you don't know about George Bush may kill you



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

In 1984, a methyl isocyanate gas leak from a chemical plant in Bhopal, India claimed 20,000 lives. Many others were blinded or disabled and in all, 150,000 Indians suffered health effects.

And this was from a leak. Imagine the outcome had a group of terrorists blown up the plant, or worse, intentionally released tons of these deadly chemicals.

Of course this could never happen in the United States. George W. Bush has made homeland security his "top priority."

If you believe either of these two statements, you would be wrong... perhaps even dead wrong.

Jonathan Chait, in his eye-opening article for The New Republic (3/10/03), details just how low a priority Bush has made Homeland Security. After anthrax attacks on Washington, the House Appropriations Committee's ranking Democrat, David Obey, and ranking Republican, Bill Young, went to all major security agencies including the FBI, CIA, NSA and CDC.

From those meetings they determined the prime terrorist targets that remained vulnerable and were neglected during the initial \$20 billion of homeland security spending. The two congressmen whittled down the list

to those items deemed absolutely necessary for security, such as computer upgrades for the FBI, improved security for ports, airlines and nuclear facilities. The total cost for the measures was \$10 billion.

Obey and Young, along with their counterparts, Senators Byrd and Stevens, went to Bush with their proposal. Bush responded that he would veto any measure that proposed spending even one cent more than was already approved for homeland security. Bush then had Vice President Dick Cheney (successfully) lobby Republicans to not even allow debate on the Obey-Young proposal.

Bush has also vetoed several other cost-effective measures that would have strengthened security, including a \$5.1 billion bill passed overwhelmingly by Congress.

The obvious question is: Why would Bush actively fight against security measures that would make you and I safer? The answer is simple: Tax cuts.

The first round of tax cuts will cause record deficits, possibly in excess of \$400 billion a year. According to Chait, even Republicans are becoming leery of voting for Bush's new tax cut proposals. As a result, Bush is dead-set against anything that will increase the deficit and thus stymie further tax cuts, regardless of the human costs.

This leaves our ports, which receive 95 percent of the country's imports, extremely vulnerable. Only 1 in 50 containers are inspected.

That means a biochemical weapon or a nuclear bomb in one of those containers has about a 98 percent chance of getting through. The Coast Guard has stated that it needs \$1 billion immediately and \$4.5 billion in the

next 5 years to make the ports safe.

Bush doesn't seem to care.

There is also poor security at facilities that build and/or store nuclear materials and bombs.

Terrorists could steal radioactive materials or even capture and set off a nuclear bomb. This prompted Bush-appointed Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to request \$379 million to protect those weapons. The White House approved only \$26 million, or a bare 7 percent of what was asked for.

Currently there are only 14 agents pursuing 1,200 illegal aliens from countries in which Al-Qaeda operates. The INS wants a mere \$52 million to hire additional agents. Bush said no.

And it isn't only new spending that the President is against.

Bush has cut 10 percent from the \$1 billion the United States uses to secure risky Russian nuclear material and hire that country's unemployed weapons scientists. This was despite a nonpartisan Energy Department study urging an increase to \$3 billion.

Bush promised \$3.5 billion in new funding for first responders, but only came up with \$800 million in new funds. The rest was shifted from existing funds and grants already given to police and firefighters.

Bush's new budget reduces spending on many previously approved homeland security measures or fails to fund programs Bush had publicly endorsed, such as the Container Security Initiative that would screen cargo at foreign ports. Bush has attempted to shift the blame to Congress, but in a March 6 letter, Republican Steve Young blasted White House officials, call-

ing their statements factually inaccurate.

Bush has also obstructed corporate security legislation.

An article in the Daily News revealed that a chemical release from Matheson Tri-Gas facility in New Jersey could endanger 7.3 million people. Chemical facilities across the country, which Al-Qaeda has studied, could affect many times that number. But Bush and fellow Republicans, kowtowing to an intense lobbying effort by chemical companies, voted down a bill by Senator Corzine to require those companies to increase security standards.

Bush also refuses to consider bans of 50-caliber sniper rifles that can take down an airliner as effectively and with greater ease than a shoulder launched rocket.

America is about to go to war. It is almost certain this will result in increased terrorism. And while I like having a few more dollars as much as anyone, and probably benefit from tax cuts more than most, that extra money won't do me a bit of good if I'm blind, disabled or dead.

We need these security measures now. And all can be easily funded if the President is willing to roll back just a small part of his tax cut. But it seems Bush's top priority — maybe his only priority — is to have tax cuts that predominantly make the rich richer. Even if it kills us.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Comments and confessions from atoning Bush supporters will be accepted at: edsincites@aol.com.)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

LOCAL

Charities continue to conduct feedings in SM

FEEDINGS, from page 1

eral power to block feeding in public parks.

The city last month denied the lawsuit's claims and requested a jury trial. The next step, according to the city attorney's office, is for the plaintiffs to schedule a pre-trial meeting. The issue will then be brought to a judge, who will set the lawsuit for trial, according to city officials.

But Sobel, attorney for Food Not Bombs and the other charities attached to the case, said Monday she was waiting on Santa Monica Chief of Police James T. Butts, Jr., and City Manager Susan McCarthy to file responses to the lawsuit before moving forward. Butts and McCarthy were named as defendants in the lawsuit along with the city, according to court documents.

Deputy City Attorney Jannette Schactner said the city's response, which was filed Feb. 11, included all three defendants.

"The next step is for the plaintiff to schedule a meeting," she said. "So far we've got nothing."

While attorneys wrestle with procedures, social services groups have vowed to continue feeding poor and homeless people outdoors in Santa Monica's parks.

"We have volunteers who are willing to get arrested over this," said Moira LaMountain, a team leader for Helping Other People Eat, a plaintiff in the lawsuit that has served food at Palisades Park twice a week since 1992. "We intend to continue to challenge this."

"The eye of the nation is on Santa Monica over these inhumane laws. I cannot tell you what strong support we have."

LaMountain said HOPE hasn't encountered any resistance from city officials since the ordinance was adopted by the City Council.

"There has been a stronger police presence, but all they're doing is monitoring," said LaMountain, who added that there has been no education or outreach to charities regarding the new law. "I believe this was a political ploy during an election year. It isn't about health and safety."

City officials said they are working with the health department to educate the roughly 30 social service organizations that hold public feedings before the law is enforced.

"There was never a plan to enforce (the law) before April," said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie. "The city wants to do training because (the organizations) may choose to abide by these rules."

As to the pending lawsuit, Moutrie said it was up to the plaintiffs to make the next move and said she knew of no injunction or stay currently in effect against the ordinance.

"We're kind of in a waiting, see what happens mode," she said of the case.

Christine Schanes, who works with Children Helping Poor and Homeless People, a plaintiff in the lawsuit that has been serving canned food in Memorial Park for 16 years, said she is confident the

city will lose.

"The charitable giving of food cannot be made criminal," said Schanes, who pointed to a 1973 law that banned gatherings of 35 or more people in Santa Monica parks that she said was overturned as unconstitutional. "The next step is to stand by and pray that the court recognizes that these are unconstitutional laws."

"We have volunteers who are willing to get arrested over this. We intend to continue to challenge this. The eye of the nation is on Santa Monica over these inhumane laws. I cannot tell you what strong support we have."

— MOIRA LAMOUNTAIN
Helping Other People Eat team leader

The council passed two ordinances in October responding to complaints that the city had become a magnet for homeless people who panhandle and urinate in public.

The first ordinance, which is now being enforced, makes it illegal to sleep in front of business doorways downtown from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. The second law requires groups who feed the hungry in public to go through a rigorous government process to get a permit from both the city and the Los Angeles County Health Department.

Mayor Richard Bloom, a proponent of the ordinances, said city staff was "moving forward" with the enforcement of the feeding law.

"The law is in effect," he said. "It was passed by the City Council and enforcement of the law depends on our staff and the county coordinating their efforts."

Bloom said the law was intended to get charities to work in conjunction with the city to provide services, not to stop feedings altogether or chase homeless people out of Santa Monica, as some opponents have alleged.

"We've gone to great lengths to ask (the charities) to work with our non-profits, and in most cases they've denied us outright," Bloom said. "We spend millions of dollars every year supporting (these programs)."

"For me, the main issue is that the homeless population in Santa Monica is not receiving the benefits in the way that the city policy envisioned. (The charities) show up, provide food, pack up and leave. The city's programs are there 24/7."



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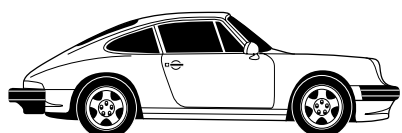
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Mail-in election turnout is particularly strong

PROP. A, from page 1

Choice Initiative, which proposes making historic preservation voluntary for owners of single-family homes. Under the current law, such designations may be made over the owner's objections.

Ballots were mailed out Feb. 20 and voters have until 9 p.m. on Friday to get their ballots into the city clerk's office.

By Tuesday, 15,810 of Santa Monica's 50,000 registered voters had returned their ballots, a response that election specialists said is particularly strong for a single-issue ballot.

Reports from 2002 show that Prop. A supporters raised \$111,527 coming into 2003, while the opponents of the measure raised \$5,000.

The majority of donations to Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation were between \$100 and \$500. Also, most donors are Santa Monica residents who live in single-family homes, many of which are located north of Montana Avenue, according to the group's campaign disclosure report.

But Bea Nemlaha, a spokeswoman for Save Our Neighborhoods, said Tuesday that Prop. A's supporters have obscured the real players funding the initiative. She said that two-thirds of the group's funding has

come from "real estate interests, corporations, businesses and individuals wealthy enough to contribute \$1,000 or more."

"They consistently deny that this campaign is development driven," Nemlaha said. "They claim it's retired people and homeowners and people giving \$5, \$10, or \$100."

"Well you don't get \$237,000 with little contributions like that. You don't even get \$80,000."

Nemlaha said the campaign contribution reports show the measure was written for developers and not for homeowners.

Supporters of the measure disagreed.

"That's a ridiculous statement," said Poirier, who owns a home north of Montana. "Most of our money is coming from individual homeowners, hundreds and hundreds of homeowners."

Tom Larmore, a local land use attorney and an author of Prop. A., also balked at the allegations.

"It's nonsense," said Larmore, a 28-year Santa Monica homeowner. "It's like if (opponents of Prop. A) say it often enough then people will believe it."

"It's a complete and utter fabrication. We have people that are generous, people that are concerned."

San Diego men to stand trial for 'Bumfights' case

By The Associated Press

EL CAJON — Three filmmakers who paid homeless men and women to beat each other up before the camera, then sold videotapes of their fights over the Internet have been ordered to stand trial on misdemeanor charges.

The defendants — Ryan McPherson, 19; Zachary Bubeck, 25; Daniel J. Tanner, 21 — appeared in court on Monday where a Superior Court judge ordered them to stand trial in June.

A fourth man involved in the enterprise, Michael Slyman, 21; pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of conspiracy to

illegal fight promotion. Prosecutor Curtis Ross said it was unlikely he would serve jail time.

The defendants rejected a plea bargain that would have required them to plead guilty to soliciting battery and a count of promoting an illegal fight.

In January, a judge threw out felony battery and soliciting charges against the men, citing insufficient evidence.

More than 300,000 copies have been sold of the films, which depict homeless men and women engaged in humiliating, self-destructive acts, including ripping out teeth and ramming themselves into doors.

Flights over Disney parks restricted by government

By The Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Most aircraft will be prohibited from flying directly over Disney theme parks in Florida and California under security restrictions implemented Tuesday by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The restrictions will be in place indefinitely, FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said in Atlanta.

"The Disney parks are a potential target of symbolic value," Bergen said.

The restrictions prohibit aircraft from flying within 3,000 feet of ground level over the Disneyland or California Adventure parks in Anaheim, Calif., and the Walt Disney World resort in Orlando, or within three nautical miles of the Florida park.

Exceptions will be made for aircraft belonging to the Department of Defense, local law enforcement, aeromedical flights and other flights for public safety as long as those aircraft maintain communication with air traffic control workers, Bergen said.

Waivers also can be granted to Disney officials who need to fly in equipment or personnel.

The nation's terror alert status was raised from "elevated" to "high" Monday night after President Bush said the U.S. military was ready to attack Iraq unless Saddam Hussein and his sons left the country by 5 p.m. PST on Wednesday.

Walt Disney World spokeswoman Jacquee Polack didn't immediately return a phone call.

STATE



Nick Ut/Associated Press

A Los Angeles Airport Police officer patrols Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday. Travelers are finding tighter security at airports and other public spaces after President Bush warned Monday night that a war with Iraq could prompt terrorist attacks at home.

Vehicle inspections begin anew at nation's airports

BY LESLIE MILLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Random vehicle inspections will resume at airports throughout the country and more law enforcement officers will be posted in and around terminals because of fears that a war with Iraq could lead to terrorist attacks on commercial aviation.

The Transportation Security Administration on Tuesday was in the process of issuing a new security directive to airlines and airports, according to Robert Johnson, agency spokesman.

Passengers will see more canine patrols in airports where extra dogs are available, Johnson said. They also may see temporary signs alerting them to the threat and urging them to look out for unattended baggage or suspicious behavior.

Airlines are being urged to more carefully check the identification of workers allowed into secure areas.

Flights are being restricted near two Disney amusement parks and within 35 miles of New York City's three big airports. The restrictions mostly will affect small private planes.

Planes can't fly lower than 3,000 feet above Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., and Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., within a three nautical mile radius.

"It's because these are potential targets of symbolic value," said William Shumann, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

The restrictions in the New York City airspace are similar to those that have

been in effect over Washington since Feb. 10. Planes must be in constant contact with air traffic controllers within a 35-mile zone, and near both cities they must now file flight plans.

Pilots flying into all three small civil aviation airports near Washington must land first at another airport and be checked by the TSA.

Small private planes have been subject to flight restrictions over dams, nuclear power plants and stadiums throughout the country in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The TSA may take more security measures at airports as intelligence becomes available.

"We'll remain flexible to respond with security measures that meet the latest intelligence head on," Johnson said. "Where necessary, we will tailor specific responses to locations that perhaps warrant additional security measures."

Some airports have their own checklists for things to do if the terror alert is raised. Boston's Logan International Airport, for example, increases the frequency of the random vehicle searches it conducts even when the threat alert is lower, said Logan spokesman Jose Juvies.

Random vehicle inspections on roads leading to airports were first imposed after the threat alert was raised on Feb. 7. Some airport managers complained the TSA didn't give them enough guidance and began the checks weeks after the directive was issued or didn't do them at all.

Johnson said the TSA has worked to improve its communication with airports.

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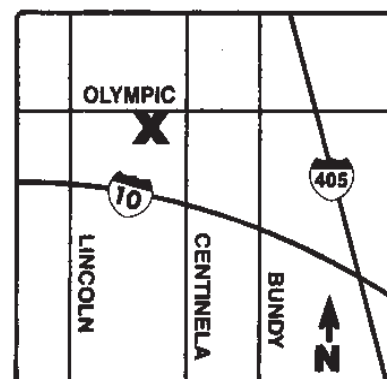
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Santa Monica Daily Press



NATIONAL

Anti-abortion extremist convicted of murder

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. — An anti-abortion extremist was convicted of second-degree murder Tuesday in the 1998 sniper slaying of an abortion doctor after an unusual trial in which no jury was used and both sides agreed the defendant fired the fatal shot.

James Kopp, 48, had waived a jury trial in favor of much shorter proceedings in which the judge issued a verdict based on a list of facts agreed to by the prosecution and defense.

After the verdict was read, Kopp, who was wearing a bulletproof vest, smiled at his attorney.

"Jim and I were disappointed by the verdict but not shocked by it," said his lawyer, Bruce Barket. An appeal was planned.

Kopp was found guilty of intentionally killing Dr. Barnett Slepian, 52, who was struck by a single bullet fired from a high-powered rifle through a window of his suburban Amherst home. Kopp had claimed he had intended only to wound Slepian to prevent him from performing abortions.

Shortly after the shooting, Kopp fled to Mexico and then Ireland and was one of the FBI's most-wanted fugitives until his capture in France in 2001.

Slepian's widow, Lynne, watched from the front row as Judge Michael D'Amico issued the verdict, a day after he heard the case in a single court session.

At sentencing, set for May 9, Kopp faces a minimum of 15 years to life and a maximum of 25 years to life. Erie County District Attorney Frank Clark said his office would seek "not a day less" than the maximum.

Abortion-rights supporters applauded the guilty verdict.

Marilynn Buckham, executive director

of GYN Womenservices, the Buffalo clinic where Slepian practiced, said the verdict showed Kopp "to be the cold calculating premeditated murderer that he is."

Betsy McDonald, one of a few Kopp supporters at the trial, said justice was not served.

**"Jim and I were
disappointed by the verdict
but not shocked by it."**

— BRUCE BARKET
Attorney

"I can't say I'm surprised but certainly I'm disappointed that Jim did not get justice," McDonald said, "because what he did was justifiable. It was an emergency measure to prevent the killing of innocent human beings."

Barket said Kopp probably will address the Slepian family at his sentencing hearing. The district attorney said it was unknown whether family members would break their silence and respond.

Kopp still faces a federal trial on a charge of interfering with the right to an abortion related to the Slepian shooting. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter said the trial on that charge — which carries a maximum life sentence — probably will take place this year.

Kopp also is a suspect in the nonfatal shootings of four abortion providers in Canada and Rochester between 1994 and 1997. He is charged in one of the Canadian shootings.

United Airlines: Liquidation possible without labor cuts

BY DAVE CARPENTER
AP Business Writer

CHICAGO — United Airlines warned that it could be forced out of business this year if it's unable to secure deep labor cuts — its bleakest assessment yet of its prospects in bankruptcy.

The world's No. 2 airline requested in a court filing late Monday that its labor contracts be scrapped unless new agreements can be worked out by the first week of May.

"Liquidation is a distinct possibility if United does not achieve its proposed labor cost reductions," said the company, which is seeking \$2.56 billion in annual labor reductions.

It was one of the company's first direct acknowledgments that liquidation is a possibility as United struggles to stem its continuing losses in bankruptcy, and attempts to recover at a time of crisis in the airline industry.

"We've all known it was a possibility," said Nicolas Owens, aerospace and defense analyst for Chicago-based Morningstar. "They need to reduce revenue and costs. They're just spelling it out."

United said it projects an operating loss of \$877 million for the first three months of 2003, scarcely improved from the \$927

million operating deficit in the fourth quarter despite aggressive cost cuts and interim wage reductions.

**"They need to reduce
revenue and costs."**

— NICOLAS OWENS
Morningstar aerospace and defense analyst

Prospects of a war in Iraq and rising fuel prices have compounded United's problems, along with those of other carriers. Standard & Poor's said Tuesday it may lower its ratings for 11 airlines because war looks imminent.

United said in its court filing that, like other carriers, its international bookings have fallen drastically in recent weeks.

United continued negotiating with its unions, some seven weeks ahead of its cutoff deadline. The pilots' and flight attendants' unions criticized United's court motion on Monday, but spokesmen for the unions and the company had no comment on the status of talks Tuesday.

Shares of UAL Corp., United's parent, fell 2 cents Tuesday to close at 84 cents on the New York Stock Exchange.

NATIONAL

Self-proclaimed prophet, wife charged in Smart case

BY PATTY HENETZ

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Prosecutors charged a self-proclaimed prophet and his wife Tuesday with aggravated kidnapping and sexual assault in the abduction of Elizabeth Smart, disclosing for the first time details of the girl's nine-month ordeal.

Brian Mitchell and Wanda Barzee also were charged with burglary and attempted aggravated kidnapping — a charge stemming from what prosecutors said was an attempt to later abduct Elizabeth's 18-year-old cousin.

"We are not dealing with just a religious zealot, we are dealing with a predatory sex offender," District Attorney David Yocom said in announcing the charges.

Mitchell, 49, and Barzee, 57, could receive life in prison if convicted. They were scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday, and bail was set at \$10 million each.

Before Tuesday's charges, no details had been released about any abuse Elizabeth, now 15, might have suffered during her disappearance.

Prosecutors contend Mitchell, a drifter whose writings promote polygamy, entered the Smart home June 5 after using a knife to cut a window screen. Elizabeth, dressed in pajamas, was forced at knifepoint to walk four miles up a mountain trail behind the Smart family home to a concealed campsite, according to court papers.

Mitchell threatened to harm or kill the girl's family members if she resisted, the papers said.

"She was under the threat of death," Yocom said.

Prosecutors said that when the trio reached the campsite, Barzee tried to remove Elizabeth's pajamas. When the girl resisted, Barzee threatened to have Mitchell forcibly do it, they said.

Mitchell then "raped or attempted to rape her, or commit forcible sexual abuse against her," with Barzee's help, Yocom said. At some point, the girl was restrained with a cable around her foot that was tethered to a tree,

he said.

The couple held Elizabeth against her will at the campsite until Oct. 8 with little or no shelter, water or food, prosecutors said. They then took her to California, where they stayed until March 5, according to the court papers.

Elizabeth was found with the couple on March 12 in Sandy, a Salt Lake City suburb.

"But the important thing is they have Elizabeth back. They did everything they did to find her, but they felt her destiny wasn't in their control."

— CHRIS THOMAS
Smart family spokesman

Yocom said it was unclear why Mitchell would have picked Elizabeth. He could have seen her during his five hours of handyman work on the Smart home in November 2001 or when Lois Smart, possibly accompanied by her daughter Elizabeth, hired Mitchell as he handled outside a downtown mall, the prosecutor said.

A Smart family spokesman called the charges "disheartening."

"But the important thing is they have Elizabeth back," Chris Thomas said. "They did everything they did to find her, but they felt her destiny wasn't in their control. Now they have some control."

Attorney Larry Long, who initially claimed to represent Mitchell, said Mitchell told him that he considers

Elizabeth his wife and that her disappearance was a "call from God" — not a kidnapping.

Yocom said Mitchell had told him that Long wasn't his attorney "and had no authority to speak for him. With that in mind, (Long's) comments are, without using a vulgar term, bull-something."

Prosecutors said Mitchell and Barzee also attempted to kidnap Elizabeth's cousin on July 24. A window was cut with a sharp instrument, but the attempt was foiled when the family heard the noise and called police.

Mitchell, an excommunicated Mormon, wrote a rambling manifesto last year espousing the virtues of polygamy. The Mormon church has long distanced itself from polygamy and excommunicates those who practice it.

Family members have said repeatedly that Elizabeth was brainwashed and that her loss of free will prevented her from escaping despite several opportunities to do so.

Prosecutors said Elizabeth may be asked to testify at trial.

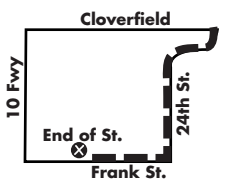
"Of course the defendants in this case are entitled to confront witnesses, that is an important constitutional right," Yocom said. "Close the courtroom, videotape, do other things to protect her privacy and interests. We will attempt, if it comes to that, to do that. It is very important that Elizabeth move on with this, and that her privacy rights be protected."

Smart family spokesman Chris Thomas said the family "would rather her not take the stand, obviously because of the impact. But they're willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that these two individuals receive the proper punishment for their crime."

Thomas said the Smarts "empathize with the D.A.'s office. It's a difficult position to balance prosecuting to the full extent of the law and assuring that the victim's privacy is a top priority."

The family will no longer answer questions from reporters about what happened to Elizabeth, Thomas said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Troops prepare as Saddam mocks Bush's ultimatum

BY DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

In an edgy prelude to war, Saddam Hussein mocked an American ultimatum Tuesday to surrender power, and the Bush administration claimed public support from 30 nations for its international coalition supporting Iraq's disarmament.

The streets of Baghdad captured the moment — panic buying by residents bracing for a fearsome U.S.-led attack, side by side with a government-prompted, mass demonstration in support of Saddam.

"This war, in short, is tantamount to genocide," charged Mohammed AlDouri, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, in one of a string of insults the Iraqi high command hurled at Bush.

It was a daylong act of defiance in the face of an invasion force of more than 250,000 troops ringing Iraq, a nation of more than 23 million that Saddam has ruled brutally for nearly a quarter century.

One day after President Bush set his deadline of 8 p.m. EST on Wednesday, troops in the Kuwaiti desert loaded their ammunition and combat gear into fighting vehicles, ready to invade on short notice.

"I think I'd probably have a better chance of being elected pope than we have of Mr. Saddam Hussein leaving the country," Capt. Thomas A. Parker said aboard the USS Kitty Hawk — an aircraft carrier preparing

to take on a supply of 1,000-pound, satellite-guided bombs from a nearby munitions ship.

"So this is probably going to follow to its logical conclusion."

As the hours dwindled toward Bush's deadline, the White House worked to keep Saddam guessing.

Presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer would not rule out a U.S. attack before Bush's 48-hour clock ran out. "Saddam Hussein has to figure out what this means," he said.

One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush was leaving the door open in case Saddam makes a pre-emptive attack or U.S. intelligence warns that one is likely.

Underscoring what Bush said on Monday night, Fleischer said U.S. troops would enter Iraq, either as an invading force or as part of an unmo-lested effort to locate weapons of mass destruction.

At the same time the administration prepared for an invasion, it announced a series of steps at home to protect against terrorist attacks.

"We know that our interests have been attacked abroad. And we should prepare for potential attacks, either here or abroad at this time," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

The plan, dubbed "Operation Liberty Shield," heightens security at the nation's borders, airports, seaports and railways, at nuclear and chemical plants, and in elements of the nation's food supply and distribution system. Ridge said governors are being asked

to deploy National Guard troops or extra state police to help.

At the State Department, Secretary of State Colin Powell said 30 nations had joined the administration's "coalition of the willing," and that another 15 had quietly pledged support.

But at least two of the 30 nations, Spain and the Netherlands, have explicitly ruled out the use of troops to invade Iraq. Another, Japan, was identified as only a post-conflict member of the coalition.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said some of the countries "may put troops on the ground" and others may take on roles such as assisting in a defense against the use of chemical and biological weapons. Intelligence reports indicate that Saddam has given his field-level commanders the power to use chemical weapons, without instruction from the leadership, Pentagon officials said Tuesday.

With war looming in the Persian Gulf, the diplomatic and political fallout circled the globe.

In London, the House of Commons backed British Prime Minister Tony Blair's strong endorsement of Bush's policy, defeating an anti-war resolution and then voting in favor of using "all means necessary" to disarm Saddam. Blair has suffered in public opinion over his support of Bush, a stance that led three ministers to resign from his government this week in protest.



House of Commons TV, Via APTN/Associated Press
Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair addresses the House of Commons in London, in this image taken from television Tuesday.



Steve Helber/Associated Press
Ordnance specialists load an AIM-120 AMRAAM missile onto a rack next to a set of JDAM bombs, at right, which will be loaded on an F/A-18 hornet.

Eight killed as violence escalates in oil-rich Niger Delta

BY DULUE MBACHU

Associated Press Writer

LAGOS, Nigeria — Ethnic clashes in an oil-rich area of Nigeria have left eight people dead, including an employee of ChevronTexaco, officials said Tuesday.

The clashes between ethnic Ijaws and Itsekiris came as the country prepared for presidential elections. The campaign for the vote, set for next month, has already been marred by political violence.

Ijaw official Alhaji Dokubo-Asari said Tuesday Ijaws were increasingly angry at the government and Itsekiris, accusing the two groups of working together to create voting boundaries that are unfavorable to the Ijaws.

The Ijaws, with 8 million people, are the largest ethnic group in the oil-rich Niger Delta. They accuse Nigeria and multinational companies of unfairly favoring smaller, rival tribes with lucrative contracts and development projects.

The latest violence started when Ijaws raided two Itsekiri villages Monday, torching homes. Most of those killed were women and children who were unable to flee, resident Tuoyo Ineh said by telephone.

An unidentified catering worker for ChevronTexaco was hit by a stray bullet and died Tuesday, company executive Sola Omole said in a statement. Another ChevronTexaco worker was injured, the statement said.

One Shell contract worker was missing and feared dead, a Shell official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity. A Shell spokesman said he could not immediately confirm the account.

On March 12, Ijaw militants traded fire with government troops in a village near the oil port of Warri, where several oil multinationals are based. Seven people, including five civilians and two soldiers, were killed in that clash.

The latest casualties bring to at least 15 the number of people killed since the fighting erupted last week. Chevron was not a direct target of the bloodletting, Omole said, describing the dispute as a "political protest" that "degenerated into inter-ethnic feuding."

Boatloads of Nigerian troops and armored vehicles were seen heading for the conflict-torn area Tuesday.

On Monday, Shell shut down three oil pipeline stations, bringing to five the number of facilities closed. ChevronTexaco said its production was not affected by the violence.

A number of civilians fleeing fighting had taken refuge at ChevronTexaco's main Escravos export terminal, the company said.

"We have begun to evacuate the dis-

placed people ... to a more conducive location where their immediate needs can be better addressed," the company statement said.

The previous decade has seen an upsurge of violence in the Niger Delta, a desperately poor region of swamps and rivers where nearly all the country's oil is drilled.

With production of 2 million barrels of crude a day, Nigeria is the world's sixth-largest oil producer and fifth-largest supplier to the United States.

Russia nuclear weapons treaty put on hold

BY ERIC ENGLEMAN

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — Russian lawmakers postponed indefinitely a vote Tuesday to ratify a U.S.-Russian nuclear arms treaty, as the parliament speaker warned that a war against Iraq could endanger the pact.

The treaty, agreed to last May by Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Bush, requires that the two nations cut their strategic nuclear arsenals by about two-thirds, to 1,700 to 2,200 deployed warheads each, by 2012.

The treaty was seen as more advantageous to Russia than the now-defunct START II agreement, which specifically banned Russia from deploying land-based missiles with multiple warheads. The new deal would leave it to each nation to decide which weapons it will scrap. That would let Russia keep its Soviet-built multiwarhead SS-18 and SS-19 missiles at the core of its nuclear arsenal.

Russia's lower house, the State Duma,

had been expected to take up debate on the treaty Friday. But the Duma Council, which sets the legislative agenda, put off the vote indefinitely and did not set a new date.

"We consider ratification very important, but now this step is not justified," said Sergei Shishkaryov, the deputy chairman of the Duma's international affairs committee. He added that "in essence, we are standing on the threshold of World War III."

The U.S. Senate unanimously approved the treaty earlier this month, a move widely seen as part of a diplomatic effort to win Russian support for a tougher line against Iraq. But Russia opposed a U.S.-backed draft resolution at the U.N. Security Council threatening the use of force against Iraq.

President Bush has abandoned diplomatic efforts at the United Nations and given Saddam Hussein until Wednesday night to leave the country or face war.

"In the event of an American strike on Iraq the fate of the entire treaty will be in question," Gennady Seleznyov, speaker

of the Duma, said during a visit to the Czech capital, Prague.

"The Americans are striking at international law," he said, according to the Interfax news agency.

Tuesday's postponement reflected the ambivalence of post-Cold War Russian-U.S. relations. Washington and Moscow have pursued closer ties, but the Kremlin bristles at what it regards as a U.S. penchant for unilateral action, such as its withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Some Russian lawmakers lashed out at the United States over Iraq.

"Let them know there is a serious nuclear power that will really provide for the security of the entire world community and will never allow itself to act by the laws of the jungle," Interfax quoted Seleznyov as saying.

Other lawmakers cautioned their colleagues against making rash decisions that could imperil the nuclear treaty and strain the overall U.S.-Russian relationship.

SPORTS



Who da man?



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, right, controls a pass as Los Angeles Clippers' Lamar Odom looks on during the first quarter on Monday in L.A. Kevork Djansezian/Associated Press

UCLA Bruins begins its search for basketball coach

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero went in one direction when he hired a football coach. He expects to go the opposite way in the search for the Bruins' next basketball coach.

"It's likely we're going to hire someone with excellent head coaching experience," said Guerrero, who began contacting candidates Tuesday.

Steve Lavin was fired Monday after seven seasons in which he failed to get the Bruins to the Final Four despite reaching the NCAA tournament's final 16 five times in six years.

Guerrero said he wants the next coach to run "a program that offers a level of consistency and gives us the best opportunity to get to the Final Four and hopefully give you the opportunity to compete for a national championship."

Lavin was a 32-year-old graduate assistant when he was made interim coach after Jim Harrick was abruptly fired in November 1996.

In December, Guerrero hired career assistant Karl Dorrell nine days after firing football coach Bob Toledo. Dorrell, 39, was one of three NFL assistants who were finalists.

For UCLA's first basketball coaching search in 15 years — since Harrick was hired in 1988 — Guerrero said, "There is no

favorite. We'll bring in someone of magnitude who deserves to take the mantle."

Among those Guerrero plans to consult is 92-year-old John Wooden, who coached UCLA to 10 NCAA championships before retiring in 1975. Guerrero also wants any finalist to interview with Chancellor Albert Carnesale.

"He needs to have the confidence in me that the right person is selected," he said.

The first-year athletic director said he won't talk with any coaches while they are participating in the NCAA tournament and won't seek permission from athletic directors before their teams have lost.

Guerrero won't say who he's talking to. He doesn't expect to hire someone before the Final Four ends April 7.

He began receiving e-mails, phone calls and faxes from individuals anticipating Lavin's firing when UCLA's season unraveled several weeks ago.

"There's obviously interest out there," he said. "I don't have a list of coaches yet."

Names that have popped up as potential candidates include Ben Howland of Pittsburgh, Mark Few of Gonzaga, former NBA and college coach Lon Kruger, Rick Majerus of Utah, Pat Douglass of UC Irvine, Roy Williams of Kansas, Mike Montgomery of Stanford and Rick Pitino of Louisville.

Guerrero interviewed Howland and hired Douglass when he was athletic director at UC Irvine.

Baseball cancels season-opening series in Japan

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX — Major league baseball canceled the season-opening series in Japan between Seattle and Oakland because of the threat of war in Iraq.

"Given the uncertainty that now exists throughout the world, we believe the safest course of action for the players involved and the many staff personnel who must work the games is to reschedule the opening series," commissioner Bud Selig said. "It would be unfair and terribly unsettling for them to be half a world away — away from their families at this critical juncture."

The teams had planned to leave Wednesday for games March 25-26 at the Tokyo Dome. But plans were put on hold Tuesday morning as Selig and major league officials talked to government and security agencies.

"While I don't doubt the exemplary security efforts that the city of Tokyo and the government of Japan were prepared to provide for our players and personnel, I had to weigh those security precautions against a very unpleasant and potentially dangerous set of variables that go along with a nation on the brink of war," Selig said.

Baseball opened its 2000 season in Tokyo, with the New York Mets and Chicago Cubs playing two games.

Seattle's visit was highly anticipated because of two Japanese stars on the Mariners: Ichiro Suzuki and Kazuhiro Sakaki. It would have been the first time Seattle owner Hiroshi Yamauchi, who lives in Japan, saw his team play.

The games were rescheduled for April 3 and June 30 in Oakland.

"With world tensions so high, this is

the prudent course of action," union head Donald Fehr said.

Baseball had already been planning to have the New York Yankees open the 2004 season in Japan, probably against Tampa Bay, Toronto or Baltimore.

Other sports also discussed contingency plans, but the NCAA said Tuesday that it would not change its schedule for the men's and women's basketball tournaments, which start this week.

There also has been talk that NCAA games and other sports events might be moved from network television to cable if war breaks out in Iraq.

Even though several baseball officials already were in Japan, setting up for the series, many players had been jittery about going.

"We've got guys going to war for our country," Oakland third baseman Eric Chavez said before the decision. "I want to be here. Call me patriotic or whatever, this is where I want to be."

Seattle outfielder John Mabry was ready for any decision.

"I would have loved to have seen Japan, but I wasn't looking forward to the 15-hour plane ride," he said.

On Monday, President Bush said Saddam Hussein must leave Iraq or face a U.S.-led invasion. In an evening speech to the nation, Bush gave Hussein 48 hours.

Unlike the 2000 Japan trip, where many players took their families to see the sights, the traveling parties for the A's and Mariners had shaped up to be much smaller.

AL MVP Miguel Tejada and Athletics outfielder Jermaine Dye were among those who planned to leave their families at home.

"It's a tough decision," Tejada said. "We're a team. We all have to stick together."

NCAA will not postpone games if Iraq war breaks out

BY MARK JEWELL
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — The NCAA will not postpone or move any men's and women's basketball tournament games or other events if the United States goes to war with Iraq.

"From everything we know right now, it's in the best interests of the country to go forward," NCAA president Myles Brand said Tuesday, a day after telling reporters the NCAA was still exploring options.

The tournament games that begin this week "will go on as scheduled without any changes in time, venue or format," Brand said.

Brand consulted Tuesday with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and members of the NCAA's governing bodies before deciding.

"We felt that this was the right decision, and have no hesitation whatsoever having made it," he said.

The NCAA has spent four months reviewing options in case of war. The latest ultimatum President Bush delivered to Saddam Hussein in a television speech Monday night "heightened the urgency of our considerations," Brand said.

"We are also concerned that life go on

as normal," Brand added. "We see no reason, after consulting with Secretary Ridge, to make any alterations to our plan."

Brand kept open the possibility of reconsidering if unforeseeable threats emerge in coming days.

Because of the current security climate, the NCAA is taking "extraordinary steps to ensure the safety of the athletes and fans," Brand said.

He said it was up to television networks whether their coverage of the tournaments take second billing to war coverage if a U.S.-led coalition attacks Iraq.

CBS holds the rights to the men's tournament. But the network, which is owned by Viacom, has discussed switching the games to ESPN or other outlets if CBS needs more air time for war coverage.

ESPN and ESPN2 already are scheduled to show the women's tournament.

The first men's game, a play-in contest between North Carolina-Asheville and Texas Southern, was scheduled Tuesday night in Dayton, Ohio.

The rest of the first round begins Thursday, which would be after the 48-hour deadline President Bush set for Hussein to leave Iraq or face war.

The women's tournament begins Saturday.

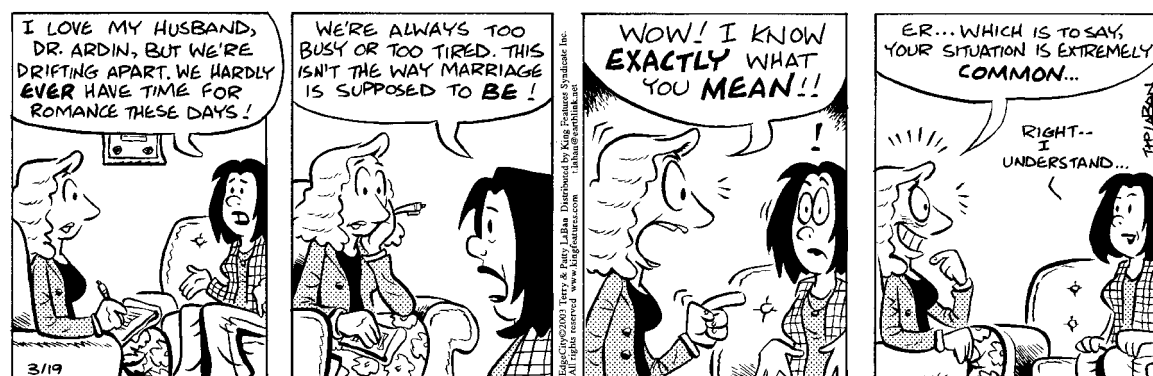


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



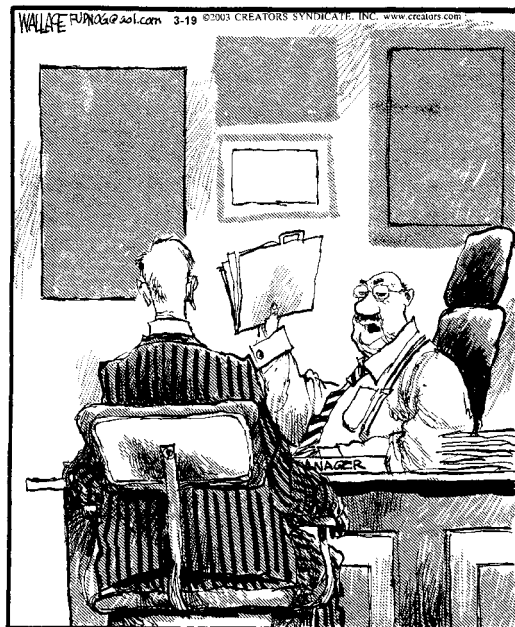
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ACROSS

- 1 Loses color
- 6 Jury member
- 10 Limerick people
- 11 Eagerly optimistic
- 12 Bizarre
- 13 Misbehave
- 14 Sister of Linus
- 15 Jason's quest
- 16 Application
- 17 Jiffy
- 18 Blushing
- 19 Forewent
- 22 Incline
- 23 Warty critter
- 26 Did layout work
- 29 Quick-cooking pan
- 32 Brewed beverage
- 33 Singer Shannon
- 34 Fridge, once
- 36 Moon of Jupiter
- 37 Actor Burton
- 38 Flying reptile of movies
- 39 Posts
- 40 Keen
- 41 Charles' sister
- 42 Church leaders

DOWN

- 1 Occupy
- 2 Stirring state
- 3 Bishop's realm
- 4 Spot
- 5 Bashful
- 6 Clip
- 7 Stage direction
- 8 Bring out
- 9 Caught in a rodeo
- 11 Indian city
- 15 Nourished
- 17 Capitol collection
- 20 Easy target
- 21 "Tamerlane" author

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Yesterday's answer

- 24 Totaled
- 25 Library book
- 27 Scandal subject
- 28 Runway sights
- 29 Fred's wife
- 30 Shark's home
- 31 Bacon of film
- 35 Cotton unit
- 36 Frenzied
- 38 Jay-Z's music

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3-19

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SANTA MONICA °SCENE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2003

your guide to dining, entertainment and events



°EVENTS

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

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

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

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

SANTA MONICA STRUTTERS, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

°DINING

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

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

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DK DONUTS - Best fresh baked donuts in Santa Monica. Also serving excellent breakfast sandwiches & muffins. Classic favorites include: refreshing ice blended mochas, smoothies and bobas. New sub sandwiches & more. Open 24hrs. a day, 7 days a week. 1614 Santa Monica Blvd., 310.829.2512

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

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MOVIE °GUIDE

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

MANN CRITERION
 1313 Third St.
 Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:00, 11:30, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30. How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 7:20, 10:20. Tears of the Sun (R) 12:30, 1:00, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50. Old School (R) 11:15, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40, 10:15.

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

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE
 1314 Wilshire Blvd.
 The Pianist (R) 3:45, 7:00, 10:00. Laurel Canyon (R) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

LAEMMLE MONICA
 1332 2nd St.
 Irreversible (NR) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55. Bend it Like Beckham (PG-13) 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20. Talk to Her (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55.

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



BACK PAGE

Oscar planners scale back red carpet in face of war

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — The Academy Awards ceremony will go on despite the looming war with Iraq but organizers Tuesday canceled most of the red carpet arrival as part of an effort to make Hollywood's biggest party more somber.

Gil Cates, producer of Sunday's live Oscar telecast on ABC, said many celebrities had called to request entrance to the event away from the usual barrage of photographers and interviewers.

"We got a bunch of calls from celebrities already asking if they can come in the back way," Cates said.

Nicole Kidman, lead actress nominee for "The Hours," and Daniel Day-Lewis, who is up for lead actor for "Gangs of New York," have told the AP they would feel uncomfortable appearing cheerful and stylish in the midst of war.

The traditional splashy arrivals and bleachers for hundreds of fans in front of the theater will be gone, Cates said. "Guests arriving by limousine will exit their cars on Hollywood Boulevard and enter the Kodak Theatre directly through the arrivals arch."

The red carpet will remain but the fans and fanfare will be gone.

"I think we all agree it would be very inappropriate to have 500 fans screaming

'Julia' or 'Tom,' Cates said.

The show is unlikely to be canceled or postponed, however.

"If you're a betting man, the show's gonna be on Sunday," Cates added.

However, "all of us in this room are at the mercy of the winds of war and we just simply don't know," Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences President Frank Pierson said.

The ceremony, from host Steve Martin's monologue to the celebrity presentations and film clip montages, are being changed to reflect the nation's mood.

"To do something that will be self-serving or frivolous on a night when our troops are in bloody combat would be absolutely inappropriate," Pierson said.

Some celebrities and their representatives had asked how to behave during the event, Cates said.

"One celebrity said, 'Is it OK if I tone down my dress?' and I said, 'Sure. It's OK. You decide what you want to wear.'"

He said celebrity presenters should not diverge from their scripts to talk about the war, Cates said, but winners will be free to say whatever they choose in their accept-

ance speeches.

If the show does proceed, there is a chance ABC's live broadcast of the event could be postponed for airing at another date, Cates said. But the decision will be made jointly by the network and the Academy.

ABC has said it will do whatever is necessary to report breaking news to the public, which could involve breaking away from the Oscar telecast. Cates has previously acknowledged that the Academy Awards could be interrupted by news or that the network may run a headline crawl at the bottom of the screen.

Morgan Freeman gets a star in Hollywood

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Actor Morgan Freeman said it felt like "high cotton" as he unveiled his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Tuesday.

The Memphis-born Freeman, who was an Academy Award nominee for his roles in "Driving Miss Daisy" and "The Shawshank Redemption" expressed surprise when told he's already appeared in 47 films.

At 65 his career continues to climb with five upcoming films, including

"Dreamcatcher" opening Friday.

Freeman's movie highs include starring in "Lean on Me" as a reforming high school principal and major roles in "Glory," "Seven," "Unforgiven" and "Amistad."

"This is not something you expect in life. This is a gift. This is serendipity," he said of star No. 2,200, located on Hollywood Boulevard. "If you wait around for it you may die waiting."

Freeman's star is two blocks west of the Kodak Theater where the Academy Awards will be awarded Sunday. Although he did not win an Oscar for his

two nominations, he did receive a Golden Globe from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for "Driving Miss Daisy."

Freeman noted that his star is only a few feet away from a film veteran he admires — Donald O'Connor.

After attending college in Los Angeles and serving four years in the Air Force, Freeman began his acting career over 40 years ago on stage in New York. He became nationally known when he created the character Easy Reader on the PBS children's educational series "The Electric Company" from 1971-1976.

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March 14th ~ 19th

Magellan's

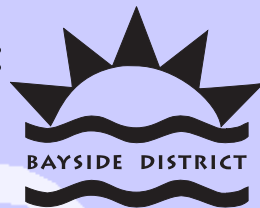
AMERICA'S LEADING SOURCE OF TRAVEL SUPPLIES

1006 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica
(Wilshire & 10th - Ten blocks up from the beach.)

Extended Hours During Sale
Monday ~ Saturday from 9 to 6. Sunday 11 to 4

1st annual Heart of the Community Award Luncheon

Honoring:



They will be honored for their collaborative efforts in working with Step Up and local Santa Monica social service agencies to achieve common solutions to the issues affecting Santa Monica.

Thursday March 20, 2003

at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel
in Santa Monica

Emceed by CBS Channel 2
Morning News Anchor, Suzanne Rico



For reservations or to purchase ad space in their Tribute Book please contact Kimm Baersch, Development Director at 310-394-6889, you may also visit their website at: www.stepuponsecond.org. All proceeds will go to support the programs of Step Up on Second.