

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

1, 9, 13, 25, 38

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 2, 8

Evening picks: 2, 3, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 1, Gold Rush

2nd Place: 7, Eureka

3rd Place: 4, Big Ben

Race Time: 1:45.77



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ The owners of FM 106.7 in York, Pa., having ended the station's country-music format but not yet having introduced a new one, played "Pop Goes the Weasel" 24 hours a day during the interim (February).

■ A recently active methamphetamine lab (fuel, tubing, foil, coffee filters and a liquid compound) was discovered in a search of cells in the Pikeville, Tenn., county jail (December).

■ A Pacifica, Calif., father filed a \$15,000 claim against the school district, saying officials have not stopped students from taunting his 12-year-old son, who is an internationally acclaimed ballroom dancer (September).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I used to be a virgin, but I gave it up because there was no money in it."

— Marsha Warfield



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Neighbors, friends recall couple who perished in crash

BY JAMIE WETHERBE
AND JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writers

NORTH OF MONTANA

The pilot of the private plane that crashed into a house in Mar Vista this week was a veteran psychologist who worked out of a Santa Monica office at 26th Street and Georgina Avenue.

Colleagues described Paul Tobias, as a vibrant man in his early 70s who was devoted to his practice, and loved fly fishing, collecting photography equipment and driving his Porsche Boxer. Paula Tobias, his 60-year-old wife, was described as a former dress designer and artist who exhibited her work at area shows. The Malibu couple had no children.

"He was a man of many interests — music, the arts, cameras

and people," said Bruce Gordon, a psychologist who for the past 15 months shared an office with Paul Tobias at 270 26th St. "And flying was also a passion."

The couple, who lived for more than 15 years near Coastline Drive behind the old Getty Villa, both perished in the 5 p.m. Tuesday crash. The Mooney Mark 20 plane they co-owned smashed into a house in Mar Vista a few blocks southeast of the Santa Monica Airport, where they were headed from Mammoth.

Authorities are investigating whether encroaching fog played a role in the fatal crash. The plane circled overhead before plunging into the kitchen of a home on Mountain View Avenue that neighbors said belongs to James and Pat

See PILOT, page 4



John Wood/Daily Press

(Top) War protesters join hands Thursday morning around a pile of thousands of shoes, meant to represent the 8,000-plus civilians killed since the war in Iraq began last year.

(Right) Combat boots line the lawn of the Federal Building in Westwood, representing the 560 soldiers who have died in combat during the Iraqi conflict.



INSIDE THE CHAMBER

A month-long series that examines the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber board members must earn their stripes

BY MICHAEL TITTINGER

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Each Thursday morning they gather in their Colorado Avenue office and discuss the business at hand, but it's anything but usual.

Nat Trives, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's chairman-elect, likens the weekly confabs between president and CEO Kathy Dodson and the triumvirate of board leaders — chairman-elect, chairman and past chairman — to a cross-country trek across a wide-sweeping and

unknown landscape.

"With three drivers at the ready, you can cross the country with ease," said Trives, due to be installed as chairman June 10. "But with just one driver, then you're asking for trouble. If any hot spots come up, as they tend to do here in Santa Monica, we're ready for them."

According to Trives, who served on the Santa Monica City Council from 1971 to 1979 and as mayor from 1975 to 1976, the annual rotation of board chairs and

See CHAMBER, page 4

War, remembrance: Tribute paid to fallen

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

WESTWOOD — One year after President George W. Bush declared war on Iraq, dozens of protesters gathered on the lawn of the Federal Building here Thursday afternoon to honor more than 9,000 fallen soldiers and civilians.

"Bush lied and who died?" asked Fernando Suarez del Solar, father of Lance Corp. Jesus Suarez del Solar, 20, killed just one week into the war. "My son — my Aztec warrior — and 560 beautiful American boys died because Bush lied."

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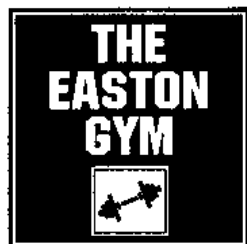
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ If you are ready to take a back seat, you will be on cruise control. Spend your time focusing on private matters or a project that can be done alone. You might really enjoy yourself. Your instincts provide insight into a loved one or finances. Tonight: A friend reaches out (or you do!).

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others might see a situation considerably differently from you. You learn and gain insight as a result. Understand that there is no "right" way. Flow with others, learning more of their ideas. You will work out a plan. Tonight: Lead the way out the door into the weekend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others demand a lot from you because you generally come through for them. Realize limits within your immediate circle. Look for other sources, experts and different perspectives. You might be delighted by what you turn over. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Take an overview, and you will gain. Don't get into a problem, just figure out the solution. Also, understand where others are coming from right now, and you will know what to do. Someone key lets you know how great you are. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your sensitivity comes through during a conversation. In fact, you might want to help too much, if that is possible. Understand what is going on before you jump in. An associate or loved one gives you powerful feedback. Tonight: Dinner for two.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others come through for you. Someone has a soft spot in his or her heart for you. Be careful with this person, as his or her feelings could be easily hurt. Your nurturing could be misinterpreted. Quit daydreaming about more meaningful work. Go out and make it so. Tonight: Say "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your responsiveness to associates could cause a problem in your personal life. Slow down and make time for someone key who makes a difference in your life. Gain a different perspective by not jumping to conclusions. Tonight: Easy does it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your innovative style magnetizes many. Use this gift not only in your personal life but also professionally. You seem to have the answers. You could mix work and your personal life. Careful. Tonight: Have a ball.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You find yourself in demand. The resulting pressure might be a little difficult to handle or juggle. Bosses want something. A key appearance could be in store. You want some time at home and with family. Can you do it all? Tonight: Chill out and recuperate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your ability to organize, clear your desk and make sense of what others cannot marks your day. Conversations about security and funds have their place, but make time to enjoy those around you. Tonight: Hook up with friends at a favorite spot.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You have a way of phrasing requests that delights those around you. Others seem only too happy to pitch in or respond. You might need to bottom out about a relationship before you make a worthwhile decision. Tonight: Stick to your budget, even if you don't want to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You have a way about you, with the Moon in your sign. Use this lunar magnetism to zero in on what you want. Your intuition serves you with a monetary risk. Talk and get feedback. Note how everyone wants to please you! Tonight: What ever the Fish desires.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

CHILD DEVELOPMENT COLUMNIST

Margie Altman margiealtman@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Steve Averill steve@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alejandro Cantarero alex@smdp.com

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Heather Rich heather@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Kitty Seeger kitty@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Robert DeAmicis robert@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Glenn Bolan glenn@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hug a tree, clean a park

By Daily Press staff

Volunteers are needed at California state parks on April 24 for the seventh annual California State Parks Foundation's Earth Day 2004 restoration and cleanup. The Earth Day program encourages California residents and businesses to actively participate in environmental improvement projects in their communities. Statewide, thousands of volunteers each year plant native trees and community gardens, restore trails and wildlife habitats, install recycling bins, remove trash and debris from beaches and parklands, and make overdue repairs to fences and boardwalks. Thirty-four of California's state parks and community parks will complete environmental improvement and maintenance projects in honor of Earth Day. Volunteers of all ages are needed.

As part of the event, the participating sites received grants from corporate sponsors including Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the California Department of Conservation, Whole Foods Market, Oracle Corporation, Southern California Gas Company, Wal-Mart Foundation, ChevronTexaco, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, The Irvine Company, Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Marin Community Foundation.

Local state and community parks where this year's Earth Day restoration and cleanup will take place include Baldwin Hills State Park, Malibu Creek State Park and Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park in Los Angeles County.

Resident author honored by Aztecs

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica resident and children's book author Sid Fleischman has been honored as a San Diego State University Distinguished Alumnus.

He received the award at the 32nd annual Montys Award Gala at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina on March 6. The Montys award is a symbol of achievement and success presented to distinguished alumni and honors those who have made significant contributions to San Diego State University, the San Diego community or California, nationally or internationally.

Fleischman graduated from San Diego State University in 1949 with a degree in English. A giant in the field of children's literature, Fleischman has garnered countless awards for his fanciful novels, which have become classroom standards. In 1987, he received the Newbery Medal, the American Library Association's most prestigious honor. This year, he received the first annual Sid Fleischman Award for Humor, a tribute established by the Society of Children's Book Writers. Fleischman has donated many of his books to the SDSU Library. This year he will lend materials from his personal collection for a display of his life's work in the main exhibit hall.

Pioneering nurse to be laid to rest

By Daily Press staff

Funeral services for Nursing Professor Emeritus Maurine Brown — the first African American instructor in Santa Monica College's nursing program — will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday at Holy Tabernacle of God Church, 6701 West Blvd., Inglewood.

Brown had a profound effect on the lives of the hundreds of students she taught during her 35-year tenure. She passed away last Thursday at the age of 75.

Brown is remembered by coworkers and students as a person of strength who worked hard to achieve her dream of becoming a nurse and who broke ground for African Americans. She had to drive from her home in Los Angeles to what was then called Fullerton Junior College to get her nursing training, even though she and her husband were raising their two young sons. At the time, nursing schools in Los Angeles were not accepting African Americans.

Brown started teaching in a federally funded licensed vocational nurse program at SMC in 1965. In 1968, the registered nurse program was started at SMC, and she began teaching advanced medical-surgical nursing, a subject she continued to teach until her retirement in January 2001.

While a clinical instructor for SMC at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica in the mid-1960s, she was the first African American registered nurse at the medical facility.

Brown helped guide hundreds of students — and, in many cases, the sons and daughters of her former students — through SMC's nursing program.

surf report

Look for a weak mix of leftover SW swell to go along with a steep, new NW swell today. Most spots will be below waist-high.

OUTLOOK: The small surf will continue on Saturday off the same minor mix of NW and SW swells. By Sunday, a new mix of SW and steep NW swell will build in. Most breaks stay small.

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

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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
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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?"

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LOCAL

A new era begins for the chamber and its board

CHAMBER, from page 1

constant input from members both past and present is the best of both worlds — allowing for a sense of security and continuity within a framework that encourages fresh perspectives and regular turnover.

Needless to say, no one gets too comfortable in the chairman's chair.

At present, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce has 1,060 member businesses, and technically, each employee of those businesses is an individual member, representing a vast array of interests and ideas. While Dodson and her staff of five and a half, which includes a part-time bookkeeper, handle the day-to-day duties, a 37-member board of supervisors culled from a wide swath of Santa Monica businesses are charged with deciding the direction of the nearly 80-year-old chamber.

"Board members tend to come from the ranks of the committees," said Dodson, alluding to the 14 present committees that serve as watchdogs on everything from government affairs to education and public safety, weighing current events and their potential effects on area businesses. "You have to earn your stripes."

The committees are the meat and potatoes of the chamber's stance-taking. If the committee on government affairs finds any proposed legislation that might adversely affect local business, for example, they will likely recommend the board's executive committee take a position, and then take it to the full board. Nothing is passed without the full board's inclusion.

The chamber's nine-member executive committee, appointed by the board, is

comprised of the three chairs — elect, present and past — the board's chief financial officer and five vice-chairmen.

"It all sounds very complicated," laughed Dodson, "but it makes logical sense."

Board members serve two-year terms at a time, but some are required to stay on longer, ensuring continuity. When a member is in line to be chairman, for example, they'll typically stay on a year as chairman-elect, a year as chairman and a third year as past chairman. There are six past chairs still currently on the board to provide veteran leadership.

Trives has been with the chamber, off and on, for more than 20 years, chairing the committee on government affairs, among numerous other roles. In fact, counterparts refer to him as "the man of many hats" for his participation in the chamber and his other volunteer efforts.

When Trives is installed as chairman in June, along with 17 new board members at the chamber's annual installation dinner, it will represent a new era in the body's history. Trives, who became Santa Monica's first African-American mayor in 1975 — when there were but 13 African-American mayors in the entire country — breaks new ground again as the chamber's first African-American chairman.

"Well, we've come a long way, in a way," remarked Trives this week. "I'm proud of Santa Monica. It's one of the finest little communities around."

A separate nominating committee within the chamber is charged with determining a potential board member's merit based on a variety of factors, as the cham-

ber makes every effort to maintain a board that is diverse and represents all businesses in the city, not just the large and powerful, or those that enjoy prime locations and notoriety, Dodson said. There is representation from hospitals, small retailers and nonprofits. The committee then submits candidate names to the executive committee for approval, before mailings are provided to each current board member for final approval.

Trives is pleased with the chamber's current "procession plan" of board leader-

ship, with chairmen graduating from the board and committee work and making their way up through the ranks.

"I'm pleased to see all the new people, as well as the senior members and past presidents," he said. "When we have a healthy debate, we have people that have been there and done that, but we also have new faces that allow us to see things through new lenses."

The full board of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Neighbors remember couple killed in crash with memorial

PILOT, from page 1

Whiting.

James Whiting is a college professor who was at home during the crash, but escaped unharmed.

Though the plane was in contact with FAA control towers, it never touched base with officials at the Santa Monica Airport tower, manager Bob Trimborn said. Trimborn added the plane may have been south of the runway because it missed its initial approach. Both Paul and Paula Tobias were trained to fly the airplane, but only Paul Tobias was a certified instrument-rated pilot trained to maneuver through inclement weather.

Resident activists are gearing up for a Monday meeting of the Santa Monica Airport Commission, where they hope to address safety issues — as well as air pollution near the airport, a long-standing issue for some neighbors.

Will Bredberg, a dentist who owns the medical building where Paul Tobias worked, also happens to live on Mountain View and was there the night of the crash.

"We were home," said Bredberg, who's known Paul Tobias for 15 years. "We heard the sirens. We had no idea who was in the plane ... until the next day."

Officials from the LA County Coroner's

Office said Thursday they were comparing dental records for Paul and Paula Tobias against remains found at the crash. David Campbell, a spokesman, said he expects confirmation within the next few days. Authorities from the National Transportation and Safety Board said they were continuing their investigation.

Both Paul and Paula — a sculptor some friends called "Paulie" — worked with Stop Cancer, a charity that promotes alternative cancer treatments. They also volunteered in the arts and were outgoing, energetic socializers and world travelers, friends said. Colleagues said Paul Tobias was well-liked by his clients, and frequently worked with troubled youths.

"He was a cool guy. He was very young for his age," said Nancy Rosser, a psychiatrist who has worked in the 26th Street building for 32 years. "He was youthful and full of energy. He always had a smile ... We all knew him."

A 90-minute memorial service was held Wednesday evening in front of the Tobias' home in Malibu, where they'd lived for more than 15 years. Hope Stevenson, 37, their next-door neighbor of 13 years, said the couple will be missed.

"They were wonderful people," she said.

Protesters give war the boot

ANNIVERSARY, from page 1

Organizers laid out a grid of more than 560 combat boots in honor of the dead soldiers and stacked thousands of men's, women's and children's shoes of all colors and sizes to represent the estimated 8,500-plus dead Iraqi civilians. A makeshift Memorial Wall was also set up, listing the names of each soldier downed within the past year.

"People are dying — that's why we're here today, because people are unnecessarily dying," said Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic. "We need to get out. We're creating more problems, being there. We're creating more enemies, being there."

Kovic, 57, is a former Marine Corps

sergeant and author, and the subject of the acclaimed film "Born on the Fourth of July." Kovic was shot twice on Jan. 20, 1968 while in Vietnam and is paralyzed from the waist down. He urged America's leaders to learn from mistakes made in Vietnam, withdraw from Iraq and let the United Nations take over.

The rally featured several anti-war speakers and singers.

The names of each of the 560 American soldiers killed were read aloud, before an interfaith service and candlelight procession later Thursday evening. Organizers said a larger protest will be staged at Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street at 12 p.m. this Saturday.

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STATE



Cheney blasts Kerry for being indecisive, inconsistent

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press Writer

SIMI VALLEY — As a bombing destroyed a hotel in Iraq this week, Vice President Dick Cheney argued that President Bush has scored important victories in the war on terrorism and portrayed rival John Kerry as indecisive.

"Had the decision belonged to Sen. Kerry, Saddam Hussein would still be in power today in Iraq. In fact, Saddam Hussein would almost certainly still be in control of Kuwait," Cheney said in a speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

Cheney, making the case for Bush's re-election, portrayed Bush as a decisive, firm leader in the mold of Reagan during the Cold War. In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Cheney cited as Bush successes the eviction of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and an agreement with Libya to rid itself of weapons of mass destruction.

"He saw America through tragedy. He has kept the nation's enemies in desperate flight and under his leadership, our country has once again led the armies of liberation," Cheney said.

His remarks, days before the first anniversary of the start of the Iraq war, came as an explosion at a Baghdad hotel left more than 25 dead, several injured and others buried beneath the rubble.

"The thugs and assassins in Iraq are desperately trying to shake our will. Just this morning, they conducted a murderous attack on a hotel in Iraq," Cheney said. "Their goal is to prevent the rise of democracy. But they will fail."

Cheney criticized Kerry's votes and remarks on foreign policy as inconsistent, noting that he opposed the 1991 Persian Gulf war but voted in 2002 to authorize military action in Iraq.

"Whatever the explanation ... it is not an impressive record for someone who aspires to become commander in chief in this time of testing for our country," Cheney said. "Senator Kerry has been one vote of 100 in the United States Senate and fortunately on matters of national security he was very often in the minority."

Unable to directly question Kerry's patriotism — he is a decorated Navy Vietnam War veteran — Cheney described the Massachusetts senator as someone who repeatedly had voted against military pay increases and weapons programs.

Cheney also implied that if elected, Kerry would be beholden to "unnamed foreigners" in determining U.S. policy — a reference to Kerry's assertion that some foreign leaders hope he defeats Bush in November.

"He speaks as if only those who openly oppose America's objectives have a chance of earning his respect," Cheney said.

By contrast, Cheney said earlier in his speech that "the United States will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our country."

Kerry on Wednesday said there was "no end in sight" to the Iraq occupation.

"Today we know that the mission is not finished, hostilities have not ended, and our men and women in uniform fight on almost alone with the target squarely on their backs," Kerry said at George Washington University. "Every day they face danger and death from suicide bombers, roadside bombers, and now, ironically, from the very Iraqi police they are training."

Kerry said Bush's use of

the armed services has been reckless and has left the military spread far too thin.

"We are still bogged down in Iraq and the administration stubbornly holds to failed policies that drive potential allies away," he said.

"Had the decision belonged to Sen. Kerry, Saddam Hussein would still be in power today in Iraq."

— **DICK CHENEY**
Vice President

That was echoed by former Democratic candidate Wesley Clark, who defended Kerry's credentials and said the Bush administration gave al-Qaida "a breather spell" by shifting attention to Iraq, which allowed the terrorist

network to recover and diversify.

"We did not finish the job on al-Qaida when we should have," Clark said in a conference call arranged by the Kerry campaign. "It was a strategic mistake."

Cheney's speech was part of a broad White House offensive this week. The president is spotlighting the war effort — in speeches by Cheney and others, visits with troops and a new campaign ad — to draw contrasts on leadership and foreign policy with Kerry.

The touchstone message: The Iraq campaign, which began March 19, 2003, and the broader anti-terror effort have produced results and made America more secure.

The weeklong effort culminates Friday with a Bush speech at the White House, which is expected to be attended by ambassadors from several countries that backed Bush in the Iraq war, including Britain, Italy and Spain.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Chamber of horrors

Editor:

Kathy Dodson and her chamber of commerce support CEPS wholeheartedly and to the very end. And she wants to knock those liberal homeless-lovin' city council members right back where they came from in November and replace them with her members. Well, with all her education and degrees as reported in the month-long "Focus on Santa Monica, Inside the Chamber" in the Santa Monica Daily Press, she can't even get what CEPS stands for right in The Santa Monica Mirror (March 3-7). It's Community for Excellent Public Schools, not 'Committee for Excellent Public Schools,' as she stated. I even know that, and I was homeless for two years here on the streets of Santa Monica. Why doesn't she wake up and smell the blooms? I wouldn't vote for one of her chamber of horrors, oops, I mean chamber of commerce members for all the bull_____ in Texas.

Susan Fraser
Santa Monica

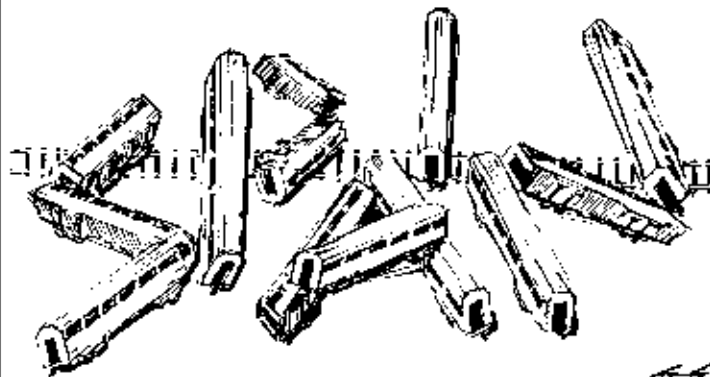
Message in a boycott

Editor:

(President) Bush failed to defend America on Sept 11, 2001, and 2,750 people lost their lives. For this reason, George W Bush does not deserve reelection in November 2004.

I'm calling for those people who do not like the scam Medicare prescription drug law that the Republicans passed last year to boycott the Eckerd, CVS and Walgreens pharmacy chains. If you have Internet access, go to google.com and do a search on the statement. Tell Congress we want a prescription drug benefit under Medicare Part B. and you will find a link for a petition to sign.

Dennis Baer
Santa Monica

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Neighborhood groups feast from developer platters



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

When it comes to new development, everybody — from those who live near the proposed projects to the neighborhood associations — want it their way.

Take the Lantana project between Olympic and Exposition boulevards on the eastern edge of the city. Three existing buildings already house world renowned entertainment, production and post-production companies who lease office and studio space there.

Two additional buildings are pending. In December 2002, the city council sent them back to the drawing board, mainly due to the traffic they would generate. Fears persisted that sizable expansion could add hundreds of extra car trips, noise and pollution to an area already overwhelmed by traffic.

The city prevails upon developers to mitigate traffic impacts which can include instituting carpool plans, upgrading streets and intersections (including traffic signals), encouraging the use of shuttles

and mass transit, to name a few. The goal is to offset the negative impacts a project will generate.

Developers are also often asked to do something unrelated to the project as additional compensation to the neighborhood. Neighbors' suggestions, as well as requests from the usual special interest groups who always have their hands out and politicians themselves seeking extra funds for pet projects, are all considered.

In the case of Lantana, in addition to traffic mitigation, the development agreement could call for upgrades to nearby Stewart Park, funding a child care center for low-income neighbors living near the project and installing or repairing sidewalks on adjacent residential streets, according to planning officials.

The process of coercing developers to subsidize city services and programs unrelated to their development borders on extortion to begin with — and that's without neighborhood associations and their cronies horning in. City Hall also strongly suggests developers outreach to "official" neighborhood associations in the area where their project is located.

City Hall currently recognizes seven official neighborhood associations. They represent almost every section of town

from Sunset Park to north of Montana. They're required to have bylaws, be incorporated as 501(C) nonprofits, have public meetings and democratically elected officers. While they're supposed to reflect neighborhood interests, most of them are run by small cliques of individuals more interested in furthering personal agendas.

City policy opens the door for association leaders to request favors from developers in return for support. Failure to meet demands could mean association opposition. This doesn't necessarily spell doom for a project, but neighbor support boosts the chances for City Hall approval.

Lantana is located on the eastern edge of Pico Neighborhood Association territory. So a contingent from the PNA Board of Directors has reportedly sought funding for the Pico Youth and Family Center, along with other requests such as a mural.

But there might be a problem. PNA co-chair Ana Hara is employed as the PYFC's leadership coordinator and PNA director Maria Loya is an active volunteer for the PYFC, which is located near Pico and Lincoln boulevards. The PYFC is funded by a \$360,000 annual city grant and its director is school board member Oscar de la Torre.

While one can argue that PYFC's

youth services provide community benefit, PNA requests on behalf of the PYFC do nothing for neighbors living across the street or around the corner from Lantana. And with the tight relationship between PNA leaders and the PYFC, their request seems to be exceptionally self-serving and raises serious conflict of interest issues. Besides, aren't there more appropriate uses for developer largesse?

Last fall, when a large group led by Hara, Loya and members of Mothers for Justice, and backed by de la Torre, executed a takeover of the PNA by block-voting themselves onto the governing board, many observers alleged that sooner or later PNA resources would be redirected to benefit de la Torre, his agenda and a small, activist faction more focused on personal issues than on benefiting the Pico area at large. It looks as if that time has come sooner, not later.

The development approval process and the roll of neighborhood associations both need review. City Hall does a disservice to all concerned when they allow neighborhood leaders to act and think "me," rather than "we."

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

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OPINION

Green's Feinstein needs to leave the room, for good

At the March 14, 2004 meeting of the County Council of the Green Party of Los Angeles County, newly re-elected member Michael Feinstein, also currently a city councilman in Santa Monica and long-time member of the Green Party, participated in and voted on a motion to drop the lawsuit the council filed against him in December. The bitter and contentious discussion was punctuated by what appears to be a \$4,000 bribe.

The controversy surrounding Michael Feinstein and a \$10,000 donation has hindered the Green Party in Los Angeles for the last 2 years, crippling the County council's ability to function and raise funds. It also led to an investigation by the District Attorney's office. Bill Pietz and several county council members allege the donation, made by Bill Pietz, was appropriated by Michael Feinstein improperly and never correctly reported. Bill Pietz has repeatedly stated the funds were intended to support and be spent by the County Council, not Feinstein. Records show the donation was deposited by Feinstein into a local credit union he created and controlled. Although the DA's office did not press for an indictment, an investigation by the California Fair Political Practices Commission is pending.

Will Yeager, a long-time Green Party member who was active when Feinstein first got involved with the Greens, claims the \$10,000 donation is simply the latest in a long string of financial shenanigans perpetrated by Feinstein, stretching back over a decade — well before the pony-tailed politician ran for city council. At the meeting, Yeager alleged that Feinstein appropriated funds raised at Green Party events, that Feinstein's financial records were always kept secret and that the conflict of interest perpetrated by Feinstein in voting to give city of Santa Monica funds to Barrios Unidos was still unresolved. Yeager stated he had ample documentation and could give anyone who cares to check the names and contact info of the "bodies Mike has stepped on to get to where he is."

Feinstein has not been on good terms with the County Council for many years.

For years, the council has asked and pressured Feinstein for information on

funds raised in its name, expenses incurred, and financial reportings made (or not made) to the proper agencies. Council members estimate roughly \$40,000 of funds donated to the council have been run through Feinstein's account instead. The council formally censured Feinstein in over his treatment of a fellow council member years ago. More recently, when Feinstein continued to ignore requests by the County Council to come clean regarding the \$10,000 donation and return the money to its intended recipient, the council's treasurer and former candidate for Lt. Governor, Donna Warren, suggested a small claims suit might help to settle the issue and allow the council put the matter to rest. At its Dec. 14, 2003 meeting, the County Council decided unanimously to file the lawsuit, all the while leaving the door open for a mediated settlement.

With a new County Council taking office after the March 2 election, including the re-election of Michael Feinstein to the council, supporters of Feinstein seemed eager to reverse course. Sara Amir, a frequent candidate for the Green Party and spokesperson for the Green Party of California, immediately requested an agenda item to drop the lawsuit, which was placed at the March 14 meeting and set the stage for a conflict that threatens to tear the Green Party apart.

The item dominated the agenda — after an hour of discussion the three-hour meeting had gone well over the proposed time limit. Several council members suggested Feinstein should leave the room, including fellow Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown. However, Feinstein stated boldly that he had no intention of leaving the room, even if asked to. When Joe Crompton, co-coordinator of the local Green Party County Council, asked if Feinstein intended to vote on the item, Feinstein affirmed that he did. When it was clear the discussion was not moving forward, a straw poll was taken as to whether Feinstein should be asked to leave. Seven council members raised their hands signifying they

did not want to ask Feinstein to leave.

After refusing to recuse himself from the vote, Feinstein and his supporters began to lobby the council intensively. Nancy Pearlman, an elected member of the Community College Board of Trustees, claimed she was afraid of losing her house or otherwise being financially harmed if the lawsuit continued, even though she had been a part of the unanimous decision to file the lawsuit in December. Newly elected council member Sara Amir then dropped a bombshell, claiming that San Francisco Supervisor Matt Gonzalez offered to fundraise on behalf of the County Council and raise \$4,000, but only if the lawsuit was dropped. When Feinstein spoke, he reiterated the alleged bribe offered by

Gonzalez, and further stated that he would not only appeal the lawsuit if not victorious, but that he also planned to sue an number of people in the room if the lawsuit continued. The impact

of the threat was amplified when Feinstein assured the group that Gonzalez had already agreed to represent him pro bono. Gonzalez did not answer requests for comment.

Although several council members argued against the motion to drop the lawsuit, the discussion was cut short because the meeting location was closing for the night. A vote was called, with only four council members voting against the motion. Seven council members, including Feinstein, voted to drop the lawsuit. Rather than settle the matter, the vote only stirred up anger, frustration and confusion even more. Green Party rules say that if a vote changes Green Party policy, it requires a two-thirds majority to pass. Others argue the entire vote is invalid since Feinstein's participation tainted the process. The blatant conflict of interest characterized by Feinstein participation in this vote has also sent shock waves through the Green community, with a number of outraged Green Party members expressing their displeasure to the County Council.

Immediately after the vote, Council-

man Coby Skye resigned his position as member of the Council. In a statement sent to the council by e-mail later that night, Skye stated "Mike Feinstein voted not to sue himself tonight. No one seemed to consider this blatant conflict of interest a problem, so long as it helped their side to win. We were offered a bribe by one of the highest elected Greens in the country. The credibility of the Green Party as an 'alternative' to the two corrupt corporate parties is destroyed beyond repair. Tonight, I am ashamed to be a part of it." Co-coordinator Joe Crompton also resigned his post in disgust, saying he could not be a co-coordinator to the party, however Crompton remains a member of the council.

Gabrielle Weeks, the fourth council member to vote against the motion to drop, felt disillusioned by the vote. Weeks felt the seven members voting to drop the lawsuit "seemed to be missing even the fundamentals of transparency, accountability, democracy, and fairness. This contradicts all the values that the Green Party stands for. Actions speak louder than words — when members of the Green Party allow unethical behavior like this to happen unchecked, it speaks volumes. All the poetic words and inclusive rhetoric in the world won't make up for it."

A number of Greens are starting to organize a grassroots campaign to put pressure on Feinstein to resign as City Councilman and Green Party member, and to return all the funds in question. They are calling on the County Council in particular to maintain the lawsuit and to press for an investigation by the FPCC into Feinstein's donations. They also urge Santa Monica's (prosecutors) to investigate whether Feinstein's conflict of interest requires him to step down as City Councilman.

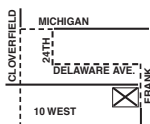
(Skye and Weeks are members of the County Council of the Green Party of Los Angeles County. They can be reached at cobster@verizo.net and gabrielle@toughguy.net, respectively. Yeager is a founding member of the County Council. He can be reached at gardenbeekeeper@yahoo.com.)

Guest Commentary

By Coby Skye, Gabrielle Weeks and Will Yeager

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Entertainment

Bit of 'Sunshine' brightens the day

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Once in a great while a film comes along with which it's difficult to find any fault. "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" is just such a movie. Written by the ingenious Charlie Kaufman ("Being John Malkovich," "Adaptation"), with deft direction from music video auteur Michel Gondry (who previously collaborated with the author on "Human Nature"), this reality-bending bizarre dramedy is the magnum opus of the filmmakers, as well as stars Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet. Though lost memories are central to the nonlinear narrative of "Eternal Sunshine," it's a safe bet all of the aforementioned talent will be fondly recalled when it comes time to hand out award nominations next year. What they have collectively wrought is a quasi-surrealist gem in the spirit of Godard that will no doubt leave audiences breathless.

Opinions vary on how Carrey has fared in previous dramatic turns, but here he is unequivocally magnificent as Joel Barish, an inverted working stiff suffering from a



Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet in "Eternal Sunshine."

wicked case of the blues ... or perhaps "the grays" is more apropos given the film's plaintively washed-out mien. After he discovers

that his prismatic, nonconformist girlfriend Clementine (an equally brilliant Winslet) has had all evidence of their tumultuous relationship scientifically erased from her memory bank, Joel contracts Dr. Howard Mierzwiak (Tom Wilkinson) to have his mnemonic slate wiped clean of Clementine. But as the doctor's quirky support team (Mark Ruffalo, Elijah Wood and Kirsten Dunst) progressively zap episodes from his past, Joel rediscovers his passion for Clementine and attempts to thwart the procedure by hiding with her inside memories that predate their first meeting.

This Kaufman-esque contrivance may sound convoluted, but the message it was designed to convey is simple and delivered with absolute clarity: We are what we've experienced, and to lose our past is to lose ourselves. Joel doesn't truly realize what he and Clementine had 'til it's literally almost gone, and his desperate struggle to hold on to her is alternately sweet and hilarious, and profoundly moving.

(Rated R for language, some drug and sexual content. Running time: 108 minutes)

'Eternal' beauty Winslet wings it her way

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Once upon a time Kate Winslet was a young and virtually unknown actress who looked up at the marquee and suddenly saw her name in lights above the title of what would become the top grossing film in movie history. Rather than cash in on her "Titanic" fame, however, the fiery Brit defiantly turned her back on the fairy tale life of a Hollywood A-lister and set out to make inconspicuous, almost epigrammatic films such as "Holy Smoke" and "Hideous Kinky."

It's been seven years since Winslet helped make James Cameron the king of the world, and the immensely talented star is still eschewing the sure things in order to do worthwhile things. Her latest film is "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" — a fantastic fable from director Michel Gondry and writer Charlie Kaufman that teams her with Jim Carrey, Tom Wilkinson, Elijah Wood and Kirsten Dunst.

QUESTION: Screenwriter Charlie Kaufman is Hollywood's most eminent heteroclit. What, in your experience, separates his material from all the rest?

KATE WINSLET: The genius that is Charlie Kaufman is that he actually creates these very simple stories and then gives the characters very complex minds. That's what makes them kind of crazy and wild and sort of abnormal in that way. They go against the grain.

Q: Your character, Clementine, voluntarily has pieces of her past erased. Are there any memories in your life that you wish you could go back and remove?

KW: I don't really like talking about my own relationships and my past. All I can say is that I'm very, very happy, and there's nothing I've been through — whether it was a good thing or a bad thing — that I would erase, because those are the things that make



Kate Winslet

us stronger and change us as human beings.

Q: You might say that the memory-erasing doctor in the film (played by Tom Wilkinson) is akin to a plastic surgeon. Both, in essence, offer their patients a new identity by altering the old one.

KW: That's a very accurate comparison. You watch programs like "Extreme Makeover," and they'll say, "Listen, all we're going to do is take out all of your teeth, and give you a lovely, natural smile." And you completely buy it. They're going to change this person's mouth around, and in the process they're probably going to numb half the nerves in their face and the feeling will probably never come back. But they don't tell you that part.

Q: How do you prepare for a role?

KW: Every character is different, and it's the actor's great privilege to explore the different levels of emotion and to take bits from other people — friends or relatives — if the role demands that you do that. With the period pieces that I've done, there's a lot of text book reading that goes on, and just researching the period to fully have an understanding

of where that person came from.

Q: What went into playing Clementine?

KW: For this part I applied some rather different rules. I didn't prepare much at all. I had to stop myself from writing down the ideas that popped into my head, because I knew that no single thing was going to work for Clementine. She's kind of a boiling pot of so many things. I just had to have a ton of ideas, keep them up there, and then try them all out. The most I did was read the script a ton of times so I had it in my head, and just went with it and left a lot to chance. It was important that I did that, because it meant that I could then be as open to Michel's ideas as possible.

Q: You and your "Eternal Sunshine" co-stars — particularly Jim Carrey and Elijah Wood — have appeared in some huge blockbusters and created memorable characters with whom you'll likely always be associated. So how do you deal with being Rose from "Titanic"?

KW: At the time, it was really difficult because I was younger, for starters, and probably less adept at describing things. But it was also very hard kind of bearing the burden of this massively successful film and trying to keep up with it. It was a huge machine, and I really didn't know how I was supposed to deal with it at the time. How I did deal with it was to run off to Morocco to make "Hideous Kinky," which was a tiny, tiny movie. And that kind of helped me hang on to my sanity.

Q: Has it gotten easier, now that several years have passed?

KW: So many people still love "Titanic." Even the most unlikely of people who I would have thought would have found it incredibly cheesy, will say "I just love that film, and I've seen it so many times." It's a tremendous feeling to be able to say I'm in that film. Me — Kate from Reading. How could that happen?

'Taking' money: Thriller is waste



Angelina Jolie in "Taking Lives."

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

FBI profiler Ileana Scott (Angelina Jolie) is good at what she does. Damn good. Like, glance at a picture of a hamburger and tell you who slaughtered the cow type-good. She's such a pro, in fact, that when the Montreal police enlist her to help solve a grisly murder (apparently the Canadians don't have any comely preternatural sleuths of their own to call upon), Ileana need only lie in a victim's makeshift grave for a moment to deduce that a serial killer is on the loose and that he's "life-jacking" his victims. This is not to be confused with a "life jacket," which would have come in handy whilst I was drowning in "Taking Lives" interminable silliness.

The film's biggest mystery is not the identity of the killer, rather what an Academy Award-winner like Jolie is doing squandering her talent in a second-rate whodunit that even Ashley Judd would have turned down. Okay, might have turned down. And there are plenty of other head-scratchers in "Taking Lives." Take, for instance, Scott's inexplicable involvement in a Canadian homicide investigation. Montreal police chief Hugo Leclair (Tcheky Karyo) has some sort of prior relationship with the American agent, but neither it nor his lack of faith in his own detectives' abilities are ever revealed. One of the French-Canadian cops, played by Olivier Martinez, is apparently as flummoxed by this slight as I was, and spends the bulk of his screen time directing insults and sideways glances at Scott. Not that she notices — she's busy intimately investigating a local art dealer named Costa (a semi-conscious Ethan Hawke), a witness who may turn out to be the culprit.

On the bright side, thanks to some fine cinematography by Amir Mokri ("Bad Boys II") "Taking Lives" maintains an effective noir-ish feel, and director D.J. Caruso musters a few good scares. But overall, the film disappoints.

(Rated R for strong violence including disturbing images, language and some sexuality.)

ENTERTAINMENT



“Get A Life ... A Nightlife, That Is”

BY THOMAS YOUNG & MAUREEN TOBIN

Special to the Daily Press



Review

“Couch Potatitoitis,” as defined by the leading authorities in the medical field, physics, and gravitational sciences, is the condition of being attached to a sofa or couch directly facing one’s television. To overcome this complicatedness requires you to follow our lead at least once in a while or face becoming a relic on the Antiques Road Show.

Going out should be fun and effortless. We’ve discovered a wonderful world out there on the Westside, with a never-ending supply of restaurants, music and other evening diversions for all discerning tastes. It’s our desire that you enjoy night life to the fullest.

■ Boogie on into Harvelle’s in Santa Monica where it’s dark, a little shadowy but steaming when it comes to music. The oldest blues club on the Westside, Harvelle’s lets you know that powerful vibrations are about to erupt from some of the hottest show bands of funk, soul and R & B. Staying power? You have to be impressed that it’s been here since 1931.

Our favorite time here is Sunday evenings

to see “The Toledo Show,” a performance that will floor you. This is a must-see show. Let us be clear: A MUST SEE. This soul act with a five-piece band drives home a beat so deep it will shake your very essence, with a lead singer that radiates pure talent. Then there are two of the hottest dancers in town — dressed like cabaret/burlesque, moving deliciously to every sizzling, sexy beat. It’s hot! Hot! You will step to a rhythmic heart pounding beat that sets your dancing and toe tapping mood on its heel. This show is Las Vegas quality and is easily the best deal in town at only a \$5 cover. Harvelle’s is open every evening for music and dancing with a different band every night. Some of the bands are regulars, some are new. So it’s fun to come to this terrific place often. Gourmet tapas are served to nibble on, but you are welcome to bring your own, or have it delivered to you at your seat. Neat. Most of the staff has been here for years and all proclaim to love their jobs. Yes. Really. They say it’s like working for a big family. Feel comfortable coming here single or in groups. Usually bands play from 9-9:30 till 1:30. We suggest getting there early as Harvelle’s fills

up fast and you’ll want a good seat. Generally cover charges are small. So much is going on here we suggest checking their web site at www.harvelles.com. 1432 4th St. (310) 395-1676.



■ Big overstuffed red booths, soft lighting, fireplaces, romantic music, and marvelous food. Are you getting the hint? Old fashioned is in. La Marina in Playa del Rey has been putting out the welcome mat since 1959. This traditional style and service is what you’ve been craving for your evening out on the town. Since 1982, owner/chef Helfried Fahrenholz has overseen this wonderful spot with great aplomb and cachet. La Marina deserves every accolade it has received over the many years. General manager Patty Yessner has been here since 1977, and her commitment and determination to keep this place humming is apparent.

We especially love the lounge, and planted ourselves into a booth to enjoy our food and music. Of course, there is a full bar for your enjoyment. Soup or salad is served with all entrees. The clam chowder is thick and creamy, the way it’s supposed to be and the starter salad is large and fresh. Oysters Rockefeller will surely arouse your appetite. The ahi with a ginger/chive/soy sauce was served as a huge portion of flawlessly prepared that tasted just as good the next day after bringing some home. The pork chops in a port wine sauce was considered as good as the best steaks, which, by the way, are celebrated here along with the rack of lamb

and prime rib. Desserts here are excellent, but if you want the piece de resistance, order the soufflé when you order dinner, as it takes a while to make. This is Helfried’s special recipe and it is a divine way to end your meal. Across the board, this is one of the most exceptional nightspots anywhere in Los Angeles with its superb food and music every night. Adolpho, a first-rate pianist and vocalist, holds your attention with all kinds of music on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. On Fridays and Saturdays, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., two-guitar players accompany your dining experience and savvy DJ’s work the room starting at 9 p.m. A big dance floor beckons for those who really like to move. On Sunday, Smitty is the man, playing piano and singing from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Many locals have been coming here for years and most of the staff has been here for a long time. Our waitress, Erin, is adept at keeping everyone happy, along with the rest of the staff. No wonder La Marina has such staying power. Not only is this great for dinner, but come just for drinks, coffees and desserts. Lunch is served every day, except Saturday and they have a popular Sunday brunch. There are a couple private banquet rooms for your special events. Dinner entrees range from \$16-\$32. Valet parking is \$3. Check www.delrey-menus.com for menus.

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INTERNATIONAL

Iraqi insurgents target another Baghdad hotel

BY DANIEL COONEY

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide bomber blew up a car Thursday near a hotel in the southern city of Basra as a British military patrol passed by, killing three bystanders.

In Baghdad, the U.S. military lowered the death toll in Wednesday's suicide bombing at another hotel to seven, after initially putting it at 27.

On Thursday night, several explosions were heard in the central Baghdad area near the U.S.-led coalition headquarters, and a U.S. military official said an attack had taken place. There was no immediate report of casualties.

A man suspected of being involved in the Basra bombing and who got out of the vehicle shortly before the blast, was caught by passers-by and stabbed to death, Lt. Col. Ali Kazem of the Iraqi police said. Two others also spotted getting out of the vehicle before the explosion were caught by members of the public and later arrested.

At least 15 people were wounded, hospital officials said. Ambulances rushed to the area, and Iraqi police and British forces tried to push the crowd back.

The three civilians killed were two men and a boy, police said. The body of the suspected suicide bomber was still in the vehicle. No British soldiers were hurt.

In Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, gunmen opened fire on a minibus, killing three Iraqi journalists and wounding nine other employees of a coalition-funded TV station, said Sanaa al-Daghistani, information director of Diyala TV.

Insurgents also fired mortar rounds at two U.S. military bases on Wednesday, killing three American soldiers and wounding nine others, the military said Thursday. The deaths brought to 567 the number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq since the start of hostilities last year, according to Defense Department figures.

In the Baghdad bombing, the military had first said 27 people were killed, but on Thursday, U.S. Army Col. Jill Morgenthaler put the toll at 17, and Brig. Gen. Mark

Kimmit later lowered it to seven.

Kimmit said 35 people were wounded in the suicide bombing at the Mount Lebanon Hotel in the heart of Baghdad. Scott Mounce, 29, from Inverness, Scotland, was killed and another Briton was wounded, the British government said.

A Moroccan, three Jordanians, two Lebanese and an Egyptian also were registered at the Lebanese-owned hotel, duty manager Bashir Abdel-Hadi said. Among those killed, he said, were the hotel's three security guards, who were standing in front at the time.

Kimmit said the hotel may not have been the intended target because the car bomb was in the middle of the street and not parked in front of the hotel when it exploded.

"There is a chance and there's a likelihood that this might not have been the target, that the vehicle may have prematurely detonated, or may have been hit by another vehicle, rear-ended, causing the detonation," Kimmit said at a briefing.

The explosion, which left a jagged 20-foot crater, also set ablaze nearby homes, offices, cars and shops, sending dazed and wounded people stumbling from the wreckage.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Governing Council, Hamid al-Kafaai, blamed al-Qaida but offered no proof. Governing Council official Rowsch Shawayas said the attackers were foreigners, but he also did not disclose any evidence.

A U.S. counterterrorism official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said al-Qaida-linked Jordanian Islamic militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is among those suspected of playing a key role.

Asked about the involvement of foreign fighters, Coalition spokesman Dan Senor told CNN that Wednesday's bombing "has the look and feel of similar terrorist attacks we have seen." He also referred to a document attributed to al-Zarqawi that he quoted as saying "more terrorist attacks must be carried out" as the handover of sovereignty to Iraqis draws near.

An unidentified Jordanian suspected of having links with al-Zarqawi was arrested recently on the western outskirts of Baghdad, Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of 1st Armored Division, said Thursday. The detainee was caught trying to lay an ambush for Iraqi police.

Kimmit said there is no proof if Wednesday's attack was al-Zarqawi, al-Qaida or Ansar al-Islam.

Dempsey suggested the bombing's target bore a closer resemblance to targets of Ansar al-Islam, the Kurdish Iraqi extremist group with apparent links to al-Qaida.

He said it was less likely committed by al-Zarqawi's network.

The Mount Lebanon was a so-called "soft target" because it did not have concrete blast barriers and other security measures that protect offices of the U.S.-led coalition and buildings where Westerners live and work.

The U.S.-funded Arabic Al-Hurra TV station captured the blast on video.

Rescuers pulled two more bodies from the rubble before dawn Thursday and smoke poured from the site 12 hours after the 8:09 p.m. explosion.

Much of the damage was done to surrounding buildings. Across the street, the one-story house of a Christian family of seven was virtually destroyed.

"I was sleeping in the room and then I heard a huge explosion, I ran out and then I was hit against the wall," said Jihad Abu Muslah, from a bed in Al Kindi Hospital, bandages on his face.

A U.S. soldier less than a half-mile away said the blast felt as though it were next door.

Kimmit said the bomb contained an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives and was a mixture of plastic explosives and artillery shells.

In Fallujah, insurgents clashed with U.S. troops Thursday, leaving a civilian dead and another wounded, witnesses said. U.S. military officials said eight U.S. soldiers and a Marine were wounded.

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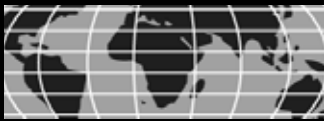
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WORLD BRIEFLY

Spanish leader takes shots at U.S.

By The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Spain's new leader condemned America's "shock and awe" strategy for combatting terror, while U.S. politicians accused the Spaniards of appeasing terrorists by voting out of office the governing party that supported the war in Iraq.

Rather than defeat terrorism, U.S. military actions risk fueling it, said Spain's Prime Minister-elect Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who has made clear he prefers Democratic challenger John Kerry over President Bush in the White House.

Zapatero said this week that the U.S.-led occupation in Iraq "is turning into a fiasco" and he will stick by his decision to pull 1,300 Spanish troops out of Iraq unless the United Nations takes control of peacekeeping.

"Combatting terrorism with bombs, with operations of shock and awe, with Tomahawk missiles, is not the way to beat terrorism. Not like that. It is a way of generating more radicalism, more people who can wind up being tempted by using violence," Zapatero said.

"Terrorism is fought by the state of law," he said in an hour-long interview with Onda Cero radio. "I believe this is what Europe and the international community must debate."

Pakistan back on offensive

By The Associated Press

WANA, Pakistan — Pakistan army troops and paramilitary forces launched a new assault Thursday against al-Qaida and Taliban suspects in a tribal region near Afghanistan, two days after a fierce assault that left dozens dead.

The new push began at around 10 a.m. local time in Azam Warsak, Shin Warsak and Kaloosha villages in

South Waziristan, the tribal region that borders Afghanistan, said Brig. Mahmood Shah, the chief of security for the area.

The offensive follows a clash between security forces and suspected Taliban and al-Qaida holdouts in a fortress-like compound in the village of Kaloosha, just miles from the border. Some 39 people — including 15 troops and 24 militants — died in the raid.

Shah said fighting had broken out again Thursday.

The fresh operation began as Secretary of State Colin Powell opened talks with Pakistani leaders in the capital Islamabad on Thursday.

Powell was meeting with President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a key ally in the campaign against terrorism. He was expected to discuss the operation in Kaloosha with Musharraf, as well as U.S. efforts to track al-Qaida and Taliban holdouts on the Afghan side of the border.

Sniper snagged after pizza push

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — An unemployed salesman with an extra slice of pepperoni pizza and bulldog persistence was being credited with pointing police to a man suspected in a string of shootings along Ohio highways.

Charles A. McCoy Jr., 28, was arrested early Wednesday in the parking lot of a motel near the Stardust hotel-casino, less than 36 hours after Ohio authorities identified him as a suspect.

Conrad Malsom, 60, of Las Vegas, said he recognized McCoy the day before from news reports linking him to the Ohio attacks, and did a little amateur detective work to locate McCoy's car parked at the motel.

"He provided the information. He was persistent with it," police Lt. Ted Lee said. "He did a little of his own investigation, apparently going to the (motel) and locating the vehicle."

The arrest brought relief to Ohio residents who have been living in fear since the 24 shootings began in the Columbus area last year. The gunfire pierced homes and a school, dented school buses, flattened tires and shattered windshields. One woman was killed.

Malsom and a friend were gambling at the Stardust and found they couldn't finish a free pepperoni pizza. Malsom said he offered a slice to a man a few seats away and recognized him instantly. McCoy was reading a copy of USA Today, which featured the fugitive's picture, Malsom said. Malsom said he spent the rest of Tuesday alerting authorities and playing sleuth.

Lesbian pastor has own cross to bear

By The Associated Press

BOTHELL, Wash. — Despite efforts by dozens of protesters to block it, the United Methodist Church trial of an openly lesbian pastor got under way with one witness warning clergymen not to "replicate the crucifixion of Jesus."

Dozens supporters of the Rev. Karen Dammann were arrested this week in this Seattle suburb as they tried to block the start of the trial before a church panel that will determine whether she should continue her ministry. Dammann, 47, is charged with "practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible to Christian teachings."

Dammann is on leave as pastor of First United Methodist Church in Ellensburg, 95 miles east of Seattle. Last week she married her partner of nine years, Meredith Savage, in Portland, Ore., where officials began allowing gay marriages earlier this month.

One of her first witnesses Wednesday was Mary Ann Tolbert, a professor of biblical studies at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif., and executive director of its Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies. Tolbert reminded the jurors that Jesus was killed because he disagreed with the religious norms of his time.

"We have to be very careful, you have to be very careful, that you don't replicate the crucifixion of Jesus in what you do," she said.

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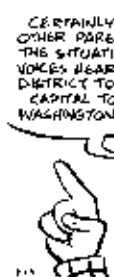
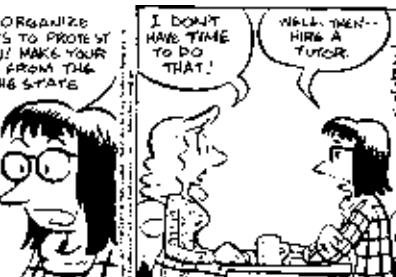
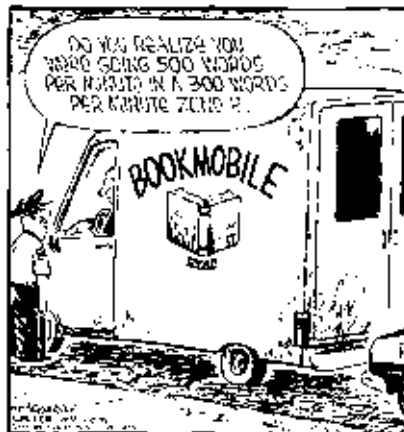


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27 Company
29 Fear
32 Good serve
33 Arthur on TV
34 Before, to bards
35 Perfect rating
36 Thanks-giving veggie
37 Forty winks
38 Church law
40 Following
42 Visibly stunned

ACROSS

- 43 Morris from Arizona
44 Bedouin homes
45 Window sections

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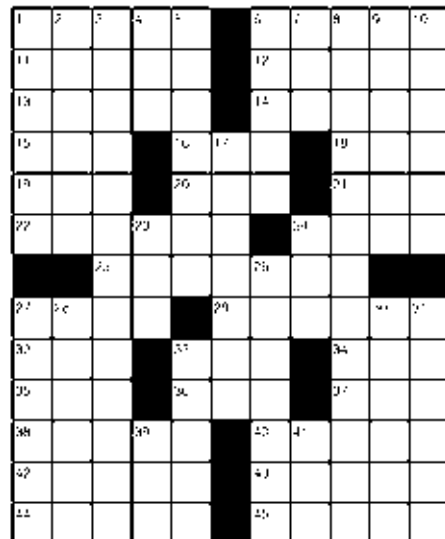
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For Rent

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For Rent

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Houses For Rent

2BR 1BA House, 1507 18th Street, new paint & blinds, carpet. \$1500/mo NO PETS 310-532-3876

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ROOMMATE WANTED Beach Front \$1500/mo share bath. All utilities included No pets, n/s Darren 310-451-8256

ROOMMATE WANTED to share a large 3 BR/2BA house in West LA, Rancho Park area. Large Yard, sunroom, washer/dryer, dishwasher. We are professional twentysomethings, M/F, a couple of well-behaved dogs. \$750 per month. Call 310-55-1151. Available 4/1

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Announcements

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting. Last Wednesday of the month; at Sunrise Assisted Living, Pacific Palisades call (310)573-9545/Linda.

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Factory Rebate ... \$6,000

**Net Cost
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1 at this cost**



2004 42529
4F140200
Mustang Conv.

MSRP \$22,295
Dealer Discount ... \$3,000

**Net Cost
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MSRP \$21,185
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Credit Bonus Cash ... \$1000*

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1F4F116930
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MSRP \$20,065
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