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Santa Monica Daily Press

March 20-21, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 111

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

3, 15, 32, 36, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 2, 0

Evening picks: 0, 7, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 3, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 5, California Classic

Race Time: 1:41.21



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Among the anticipated products at the February American International Toy Fair in New York City (according to the New York Post) were a gun that shoots boogers, a squeezable doll that smells like rotten eggs, a flea (based on a pro wrestling character) that emits rank body odors after warning "I'm gonna blow," and a dissectible brain that oozes slime. Also at the show, St. Petersburg, Fla., inventor Tim Engler was pushing his pump-operated, heavy squirt-gun artillery that mounts on bicycles. (Not at the fair, but currently a hot Internet pass-around ad is a color poster for Japan's Kaba-Kick, a pink toy gun shaped like a hippo that appears designed for children to play Russian roulette, but with the loser merely kicked in the head by the hippo. The Kaba-Kick was discontinued by Takara Toys in 1992, but its ad apparently lives on.)

INDEX

Horoscopes

Make a break for it, Cancer2

Local

2004: A jazz Odyssey3

Opinion

Eschewing the fat6

State

Regent races for multi-tudes8

National

Clinic gets white-washing10

People in the News

Prez still has air of authority20



John Wood/Daily Press

Police wait for coroners to remove the dead body of a homeless man, right, discovered Friday morning in an alley north of Wilshire Boulevard.

Identity of dead body found in alley unclear

By Daily Press staff

WILSHIRE BLVD. — Santa Monica trash collectors discovered the dead body of a man Friday in an alley between Ninth and Tenth streets north of Wilshire Boulevard.

It's unknown who the homeless man was or how he died. Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega said the man appeared to be in his mid-50s, but carried no identification. There was no evidence of foul play in his death.

The city trash collectors called

police at 7:54 a.m. after spotting the body on their morning route. By 9 a.m., police had roped off the area and were waiting for coroners to remove the body of the man, who wore a gray beanie and a brown jacket. A black suitcase was by his side. The man apparently died in his sleep, as he was partially covered by a green sleeping bag and tucked into a nook behind a large apartment building on the west side of the alley.

See BODY, page 5



INSIDE THE CHAMBER

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

Getting down to business a time-honored tradition

BY MICHAEL TITTINGER

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — At the turn of the 20th Century, the challenges facing Santa Monica were much the same as they are now — transportation and distribution, reliable communications, open space.

While the goal of developing

a seaport wharf has since given way to highway congestion, and the battle for free mail delivery has since evolved into one of escalating cell phone towers, the impetus for businesses to band together for the common good is much today as it was then.

See CHAMBER, page 4

Pie in the sky



Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press

As part of a weekly contest, the Daily Press will give away a free prize to the first reader who can accurately describe where in Santa Monica this photo was taken. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com.

District students making the grade, and then some

By Daily Press staff

DISTRICT HDQTRS. — Santa Monica's public school system is among the best in the state in preparing students for university, according to data distributed by the University of California this week.

Local students met course requirements for both UC and California State University systems at rates that surpassed other schools in similar communities, and far surpassed state averages, according to the report based on high school graduates in 2002.

That holds true for what officials term the "underrepresented" — minority and poor students. Only 22 percent of minority students statewide were eligible for the university systems, while in Santa Monica that number was 49

See STUDENTS, page 5

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Talk and get feedback, Pisces



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. You will work out a plan. Tonight: (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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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Popular teacher Vincent dies

By Daily Press staff

Leonard Forrest Vincent, a 37-year-old veteran of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, died recently after several years of poor health.

He was born on September 15, 1933 in Hollywood. After serving in the Army during the Korean War, he enrolled at Santa Monica College, and went onto take a bachelor's degree at UCLA and a master's degree at USC.

Vincent began his nearly 40-year run in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in 1960 at the Juan Cabrillo School in Malibu, and from 1966 to 1985, he taught U.S. government at Malibu Park Junior High.

Transferring to Santa Monica High School in 1985, he continued to teach classes about government until 1992.

At Samohi, he was named Teacher of the Year several times and was elected to the High School Hall of Fame.

In 1995, Vincent returned to work at Malibu High School as a part-time teacher until his retirement in 1997.

"Leonard personified the best qualities of a teacher," said Harry M. Keiley, president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association. "Not merely a fine educator who gave his students a strong working knowledge of how local, state and federal governments operate, Mr. Vincent urged his students to become involved with their school, the local community and society."

"Leonard was a tireless advocate for his students, a source of wisdom, encouragement, and humor, a moral compass for those he taught, and a true friend. Leonard's example of love, inspiration and commitment has transformed the lives of literally thousands of students, parents, administrators and his fellow teachers."

A memorial service will be held for Vincent on Sunday March 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Santa Monica High School Humanities Center, 601 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica.

A scholarship fund has been established. Contributions should be sent to the Leonard Vincent Scholarship Fund c/o SMMCTA at 1508 18th St., Santa Monica, Calif. 90403.

Gala drives cancer research

By Daily Press staff

A new car will be raffled off to raise funds for cancer research.

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. is donating a 2004 Lexus SC 430 at the 19th Annual John Wayne Cancer Institute Odyssey Ball, "Jazz Until Midnight," Gala will be held on April 3.

One hundred tickets will be sold and cost \$1,000 each. All proceeds will benefit the JWCI's cancer research and patient education efforts.

For more information, call (310) 829-8324.

Raising readers at SMC

By Daily Press staff

The nonprofit Connections For Children will present a festival with a variety of activities used to promote children's early literacy and language development.

Raising Readers — A Literacy Festival, sponsored by Verizon, will take place Saturday, April 3, from 12 to 4 p.m., at the Clock Tower Quad, Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica.

The event is free and open to the public and free parking will also be available.

Entertainment includes reading and storytelling, and children's singer and songwriter Dan Crow and his band will lead the program with two concert sets at 1:00 and 3:15 p.m.

Flights of Fantasy Story Theater will present a blend of comedy and multi-cultural storytelling to enhance language arts activities and promotes cultural awareness. Performances will take place at 12 p.m. and at 2:00 p.m. at the Clock Tower Stage.

The Amazing Magic Show stages a high-energy act with tricks are geared for young children — who will be able to help create the magic themselves, according to officials. Magic shows will take place at 1:45 and 2:45 p.m.

Characters from "Clifford the Big Red Dog" and "Curious George" will greet children at a Book Fair and sales table, sponsored by Scholastic Books.

Members of the Association for the Education of Young Children - North Bay will offer a variety of literacy-themed activities for preschool-age children.



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.

Today the water is:

61°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:38	0.6	3:03	-0.4	8:40	5.5	9:16	5.1
SUNDAY	3:15	0.3	3:28	0.1	9:18	5.1	9:41	5.2
MONDAY	3:53	0.2	3:52	0.6	9:55	4.6	10:04	5.2
TUESDAY	4:30	0.3	4:13	1.1	10:34	4.1	10:28	5.1
WEDNESDAY	5:11	0.4	4:31	1.6	11:17	3.5	10:53	4.9
THURSDAY	5:59	0.6	4:43	2.1	12:12	3.0	11:21	4.7
FRIDAY	7:03	0.8	4:28	2.5	1:56	2.6	11:57	4.4

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"Verizon recognizes the importance of introducing literacy early and making reading fun," said Tim McCallion, Pacific Region President for Verizon.

Additional festival co-sponsors include the Bear Stearns Investment Consulting Group, Metropolitan West Asset Management, Westcap Investors, the Peter Norton Family Foundation, Bob Gabriel Co. Insurance, the Aaroe Associates Charitable Foundation, Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, Rent.com and Santa Monica City TV.

Connections For Children is a child care resource and referral agency that serves the Westside and South Bay communities. The agency offers assistance to parents and educators seeking information, referrals and training. Connections For Children for nearly 30 years has linked children's advocates, service providers and parents about issues affecting children and families, according to officials.

For additional information, please contact Patti Oblath or Catherine Griffin of Connections For Children at (310) 452-3325 or Tony Prestby, Santa Monica College at (310) 434-4003.

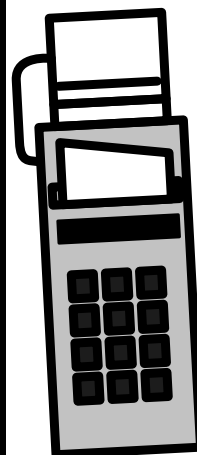
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LOCAL

Chamber provided pioneers chance to give back

CHAMBER, from page 1

Community business leaders first came together around fledgling plans for a wharf to supply Los Angeles. In December of 1888, the inaugural Board of Trade was formed. Within seven years, the board had been redubbed the Chamber of Commerce and consisted of a dozen committees charged with promoting the economic development of the city.

"Grandfather told me that 'you take a lot out of this city, you gotta put something back,'" recalled Jack Michel, who has deep ties to the chamber.

Herman Michel, a Swiss immigrant who started Edgemar Farms on Rose Avenue back in 1880, served as the chamber's first president when it was formally incorporated in May of 1925. The chamber consisted of 20 original incorporators, intent on pushing for a steady stream of community improvements and the development of the local school district.

From 1926 to 1932, Herman Michel presided as the mayor of Santa Monica, back before there was an elected City Council. Back then, the mayor was responsible for appointing such high-profile positions as fire chief and police chief.

Of course, the chamber traditionally worked hand-in-hand with the government of the city through the years, a distinction that can't be claimed by today's incarnations.

"It was always a good networking situation, a forum for people from businesses to come together, not necessarily in a political arena like today," says Monty McCormack, who served as the chamber



Photo courtesy of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

The annual banquet of the Santa Monica City Chamber of Commerce, circa 1913. Indicative of the era, no women or minorities were part of the group.

treasurer in the mid-1980s. "It wasn't so much a social thing, but more about promoting Santa Monica as a whole.

"It's changed in many ways over the years. I hope it's not in a state of decline."

Among some of the chamber's early achievements were the calling of the city's attention to the dire need for a civic auditorium and the conceiving of the first Santa Monica Mall, situated on what is now the bustling, retail-revolving Third Street Promenade. The chamber was instrumental in promoting a successful bond measure which secured funding for

the civic center. The mall, meanwhile, was a brainstorm by the chamber's retail sub-committee.

The rift between local government and the chamber of commerce, and their perceived opposing objectives, seems to serve as a rallying point for each of the members in the nearly 80-year-old chamber's present version. Where once the promotion of a small community was a unifying goal, special interests and urban expansion have driven a decided wedge between the two bodies.

Jack Michel considers himself a third-generation Santa Monican, with his grandfather playing such an integral role in the city's development. His father, Clarence Michel, served as national vice president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, or 'Jaycees', before becoming a long-time chamber member here.

"In the 1960s, City Council was a good ol' place," said Michel, a board member for seven years in the 1960s. "They had people with vision. I don't think any of them now know what it means to meet a payroll or stick their neck out."

By 1966, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce had earned a considerable level of distinction among its peer groups

throughout the state, as it was one of the first chambers in California to be accredited by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Five years later, it was the first in the state to be reaccredited.

"It was a base for meeting other businesses in the community. Back then, they were in a position to offer businesses insight into what was needed," said Bob Gabriel, who first joined the chamber back in 1955. "We were able to get along with City Hall, able to lobby City Hall, and you felt like you were talking to people who will listen.

"In the old days, Council looked to the chamber to see if we concurred on business-related things. Now, Council has its own feelings on stuff. They're not listening to us anymore."

By 1983, when banker Dick Lawrence first joined the chamber, that mall had become something of an eyesore in the years since its 1965 opening, replete with deteriorating facades and numerous vacancies. Lawrence is proud of the efforts of the chamber to help promote plans for what evolved into the renowned Promenade.

"When I first joined, the city and the chamber were very close," said Lawrence, the chamber's chief financial officer. "Many of the business leaders were on the City Council. They knew the businesses' positions. They knew they had to make a profit.

"In recent years, many on the City Council are not business owners. They don't know the problems businesses have."

McCormack attributes many of the changes to plain old time and expansion, with new needs replacing old, with small communities spelled by the vast metropolis.

"Some people today see Santa Monica as a grown city," said the former Henshey's department store controller. "Most people back then not only worked in Santa Monica, but also lived in Santa Monica. It was a genuine community.

"Also today you don't see the large businesses dominate anymore, businesses like Bell Telephone and Douglas Aircraft," McCormack reasoned. "They didn't always have a lot in common with the smaller businesses. Chamber membership has definitely become more diverse. A consensus was fairly easy in the old days, or came easier anyway."



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LOCAL



State of mind: Area students exceed standards

STUDENTS, from page 1

percent. In Malibu, it reached 55 percent. Among white and Asian students, eligibility statewide was at 44 percent, as compared to 81 percent in Santa Monica and 67 percent in Malibu.

"I am extremely pleased with the achievement of all of our diverse student body," said John Deasy, superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. "These results are validation of the success of the district's efforts to raise academic achievement while closing the achievement gap."

Local schools also exceeded the state target on standardized tests.

Called the Academic Performance

"I am extremely pleased with the achievement of all of our diverse student body."

— JOHN DEASY

Superintendent, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

Index, the rating reflects achievement in a variety of tests that cover the arts, mathematics, history and social sciences, among other subjects.

In 2003, every school in Santa Monica earned a mark of more than 680 on a scale that ranges from 200 to 1,000. Eight of the 14 district schools exceeded the state tar-

get of 800, eclipsing the state average. In addition, 70 percent of local elementary schools and half of the middle schools met the mark. High schools were close with scores of 688 at Samohi and 796 at Malibu, according to district officials.

Overall in 2002, eight of the district's then-13 schools — 61.5 percent — were above the state target, the same as in 2003.

That's compared to between 15 percent and 22 percent of schools statewide.

SMMUSD elementary schools in 2003 earned the most increases since 1999 — ranging from a 26-point increase at some schools to a 110-point increase at Will Rogers Elementary and a 161-point increase at John Muir Elementary. Lincoln Middle School's score increased by 15 points, while John Adams' increased 90 points, according to the data released Thursday.

"Our schools clearly are on the path of excellence," Deasy said. "As our work on secondary education and high school redesign proceeds, we expect to see all secondary schools reaching the state target, also."

Death of unknown man shines light on transients

BODY, from page 1

Nearby residents said the homeless are a constant presence in the alleys.

"We know these guys," said Glenn Sorgenstein, owner of the Wilshire Coin Exchange, which sits adjacent to where the body was found. "They're back there all the time — sometimes they're nuts, sometimes they're nice. They're usually drunk."

Asked how often transients die on the streets of Santa Monica, Fabrega said, "I wouldn't say it's common, but it happens."

"When a homeless person dies, they don't have anywhere to go."

Residents near the scene Friday morning said the transients should be given work and medical help. One 25-year resident of 11th Street recalls walking by a homeless man in the alley recently just as he was struck by a seizure, adding the homeless man refused an offer to call for

"They're back there all the time ... They're usually drunk."

— GLENN SORGENSTEIN

Owner, Wilshire Coin Exchange

help, so the resident sat with him for several minutes.

"He put himself together and walked on down the street," said the resident, a retired aerospace engineer who asked not to be named. "They sleep any place they can, that's out of the wind and dry ... Some of them have medical problems and no treatment for it."

— John Wood

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LETTERS

School board member closes the book

Editor:

It has been a great privilege to serve as a school board member since November 2000. With the extraordinary support of all of the many stakeholders in our education communities, I believe the district has made great strides in providing an excellent public education for all of our families, even in a difficult funding environment. My service as a board member was interrupted in Fall 2002 by two surgeries, including open heart surgery. Though I am fully recovered and doing fine, my doctors and my family are urging me to take a break from board service and reduce a little stress. Consequently, I will not be a candidate for re-election in the upcoming November election. This is a very difficult decision because I love my work on behalf of the children and families of our district, and I will miss working with them. They are truly dedicated public servants and it has been my privilege to serve with them. However, I realize this is the right decision at the right time.

Mike Jordan

SMMUSD school board member

That little short street, take two

Editor:

How about a contest to name the new street the letter on Tuesday alluded to? I prefer "Tongva Trail" because it honors the natives who lived here and the word "trail" will remind people what is not there anymore, replaced by concrete. Also, "Gabrielino" is too damned hard to pronounce.

Henry Rosenfeld

Santa Monica

Bauer doesn't tell it like it is

Editor:

The last thing I wish to initiate here is another op-ed war, but I do think the Daily Press should check its sources and facts more tightly before going to press. Bill Bauer's otherwise insightful column on developers and neighborhood groups went badly astray when Bill decided to line up Ana Jara (by the way Bill, Ana's name is pronounced "Hara" — but spelled "Jara" — it's a Spanish thing), Maria Loya and Oscar de la Torre in his sights (for reasons that are not altogether clear, but clearly appear to be personal).

You may agree or disagree with their politics, but these are three of the most passionate and hardworking individuals I have encountered to date in Santa Monica. That they volunteer many hours to the youth of their neighborhood hardly seems an indict-

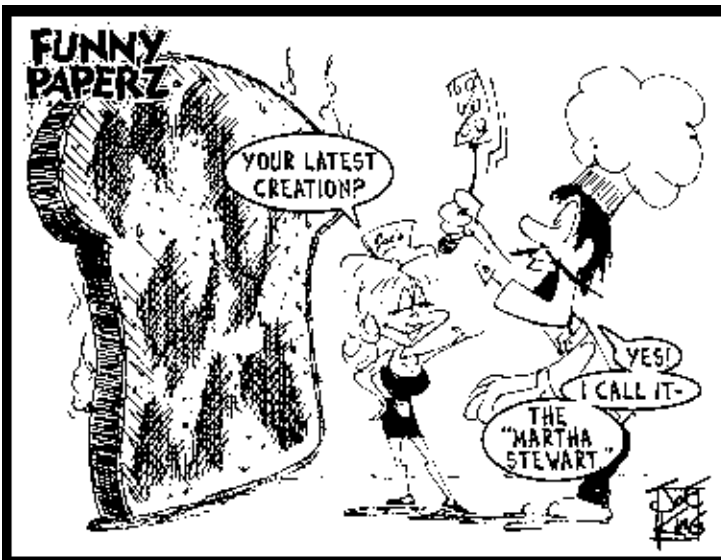
ment of their character. That they would like to do more of the same would seem even less so.

I sat with the small group from PNA who met for the very first time to discuss what mitigations our group might request from Lantana (this included Loya and de la Torre). Traffic issues were number one, along with improvements to Steward Park. I would estimate less than 5 percent of our time was spent on any aspect of how PYFC might benefit from these negotiations. Yet, Bill chooses to focus his column on this aspect and paint it as if PYFC will reap the lion's share of the mitigations at the expense of the rest of the neighborhood. This is disingenuous at best. If Bill has an axe to grind with these neighborhood leaders, perhaps he should fill his readers in on the whole story instead of trying to appear impartial.

Marc J. Sanschagrin

Santa Monica

See LETTERS, page 7



Member: AACC, NCS, SCS, SCS

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Two wrongs make a right in eyes of cigarette pushers



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

Obesity is quickly catching up to smoking as the number-one cause of preventable death in the United States. The Journal of the American Medical Association reports that rich diets and sedentary lifestyles contributed to 400,000 deaths in the year 2000 — just 35,000 behind tobacco. The Center for Disease Control believes that by next year, obesity will probably kill more Americans than smoking. This was probably the best news for tobacco companies since the invention of lying.

When I heard the report, an image quickly came to my mind. Remember those tobacco executives who faced a Congressional committee and — one after the other — said, "I don't believe that smoking is addictive?" Now I was picturing those same guys joyously toasting each other with champagne in one hand and cigars in the other. As they looked at graphs showing weight gain and bad diet catching up to smoking, I could almost

hear them shouting with glee, "Go, obesity, go!"

They're probably hoping that someday soon the sound of jiggling fat might drown out all the coughing. Maybe the companies will finally stop being harassed by annoying groups like the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association and, well, the American people.

Now the tobacco industry runs TV commercials and print ads in which they try to convince us that they are primarily concerned about our health and well-being, not about selling us cigarettes. Maybe if the obesity trend continues, they'll run commercials extolling the health benefits of cigarette smoking. Look for billboards that say things like: "Keep smoking and stop gaining weight" or "Stay healthy: Skip dessert and have a cigarette."

The day after the serious obesity problem was reported in the press, a bill was rushed through Congress to prevent people from suing fast-food companies for contributing to their obese condition (It's nicknamed the "cheeseburger bill," and it's obviously not "well done").

I understand the idea of an individual being responsible for his or her choices just as much as I understand a company being responsible for its choices. But why didn't Congress think our courts would be

capable of throwing out these cases if they were frivolous?

It's not like people are clogging our cities' arteries, lining up around courthouses with bags of greasy fries and burgers. There have just been a few cases of people blaming restaurants for their waistlines and extra chins, and they have been thrown out of court.

As I continued to read about this act of Congress, I learned that the "powerful food lobby" pressured Congress to pass the bill. I had never heard of a food lobby, let alone a "powerful" one. To me, the most famous "powerful lobby" was the tobacco lobby, and ... wait a minute. Could these lobbyists possibly be the same people?

The sponsor of the bill, Florida Republican Ric Keller, said, "The food industry is under attack and in the crosshairs of the same trial lawyers who went after big tobacco." Was this allying of the two industries supposed to make me feel more or less sympathetic towards the poor food companies?

I remembered that in the past several years, some tobacco companies have taken over, merged with or become involved to some extent with various food companies. After these moves they were happy to remind us that tobacco is just one

of their many products. They also sold healthy things.

Some of these healthy products that tobacco companies are involved with include Cheez Whiz, Taco Bell Home Foods, Denny's restaurants of Mexico, Burger King of Japan, Chips Ahoy, Kraft macaroni and cheese dinners, and Cool Whip.

So then I realized that in some ways the same companies were actually number one and number two in terms of selling products that help kill people. No matter what happens with the race to be the most dangerous, these guys will still be on top. Congratulations to them.

All of this brought a future image to my mind — those same executives in front of another Congressional committee. This time, each one will be saying, "I do not believe that French fries, cheeseburgers and milkshakes are fattening."

And like last time, they'll do it with a straight face.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarver-moderntimes.com.)

OPINION

The QLine

LETTERS

Bring the boys back home

This past week, Q-line asked:

"When should we pull out of Iraq and start a full-blown effort to find Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda operatives?"

Here are your responses:

■ "We should bring our troops home immediately, if not sooner. We should also impeach President Bush for saying there were weapons of mass destruction which we have yet to find. I think he should send his children to go fight, not send everybody else's to fight. We should also make a larger effort to find Osama bin Laden. We don't have to start a war to find this guy."

■ "Our invasion of Iraq did not go far enough or hard enough. We only took charge of Iraq, but we did not conquer Iraq. Now our troops are subject to sniper fire and blatant bombings. This means that American soldiers will be policing Iraq for some time in the future. For America to retreat while under fire would be cowardice. As far as bin Laden, I am certain that our intelligence community knows exactly where he is and will catch him when it is politically, militarily and economically most prudent."

■ "We should never have gone to Iraq in the first place. It was a blatant act of aggression and we should get out of there right now."

■ "We probably won't get out of Iraq until February, 2005. That's when that idiot Bush will be out of office. As far as looking for bin Laden, we will probably find him right before the election — that Bush tries to steal."

■ "I think that we are doing just fine. It's a very difficult situation and there is a lot more at stake in terms of terrorism around the world. I do not think we should pull out quickly. We should wait until there is a stable government and a group of people who can maneuver successfully in Iraq. I think the United States has done a good job so far."

■ "I believe we should stay in Iraq until the country is stable. I think the president knew what he was doing. I believe we will successfully capture and prosecute bin Laden."

■ "We can conduct in both Iraq and Afghanistan. We should pull out of Iraq when the transition of power to the Iraqi people is complete and the country is secure. Right now, a major effort involving thousands of U.S. troops is under way in Afghanistan with the support of Pakistanis on the other side of the border. Previous efforts have been restricted because of the lack of Pakistani interest."

■ "We should pull out of Iraq now ... right now, before the very last soldier of ours is killed."

■ "It's a little late to ask when we should withdraw. The issue is that we never should have gone there in the first place. I think bin Laden should have

been the first priority, not Bush's desire to finish his father's war and once and for all capture Saddam Hussein. When he was hell-bent on invading, I wrote letters to all the state congressmen and requested they did not support the president. They responded by stating that they 'had to,' and that we should all support the president. Well, I don't think so. Why should we support him when he's wrong? That's why we have the checks and balances. Unfortunately, even though I don't agree with the policy, congress backed him. There isn't much we can do."

■ "I don't think we should pull out of Iraq. I think we should repair the damage that we find and the damage we have done. I think Congress should fund and build a new department in accordance with the war department, or as they call it, the Defense department. Let this new department be in charge of behavior and peacekeeping in Iraq. If we could do that, then we wouldn't have to hunt down anyone. These terrorist organizations will have trouble finding followers when people no longer hate the U.S. That is the best plan of action."

■ "It's too late to get our priorities straight. Only 10,000 troops went into Afghanistan to hunt down Osama bin Laden, never found him and just sort of gave up. Instead, the Bush/Cheney/Rumsfeld/Wolfowitz gang, seeing oil in their oil-drenched glasses, seeing our dollars spent on Haliburton/Cheney no-bid reconstruction contracts, attacked Iraq with 150,000 troops who, along with innocent civilians, are being killed daily. The American people, deceived, are depressed. The self-proclaimed war president will be gone in November, and not a day too soon."

■ "I believe we should pull out of Iraq. Our mission there is over now. We should let the Iraqi people take care of everything else. Al Qaeda and bin Laden are a big threat. We should go after them with everything we've got and not stop until they are all dead."

■ "I started out in support of this war, but I have turned around 180 degrees. I think we should pull out immediately. They obviously don't want our help, and obviously are not ready for democracy. They just want to keep on killing each other like they have been for thousands of years. It's one thing to attack our soldiers, but why are they killing aid workers and people trying to get them clean drinking water? They won't even accept our help. Let them continue their tribal wars. We don't belong there. Next time we suspect weapons of mass destruction, I guess we have to wait until they actually use them. Then we should respond with a vengeance and attack with ferocity."

LETTERS, from page 6

Traffic is a neighborhood cancer

Editor:

I am writing about the proposed Lantana development and the developer's agreement.

I live on 28th Street near Pearl.

Our street, and nearby intersections, according to the Environmental Impact Reports, has unmitigatable traffic, in part generated by the Lantana and other projects. These mean that at peak times more traffic is trying to get through intersections than the traffic lights will allow. So traffic backs up. Some days traffic around 28th and Pearl and other nearby East-West streets is backed up for blocks. A short trip from 28th to Centinella, via Pearl or Pico or Ocean Park, can take 15 minutes.

I am unclear why the City Council feels that building a park, adding curb extensions and fixing traffic lights is a reasonable mitigation for a problem that, according to the city's own EIR, can't be fixed. If I had cancer, building a clinic in Washington is a nice idea, but it does not help cure my cancer. Traffic is a cancer that is making our city unlivable.

I am puzzled as to why we would want to add more traffic at the expense of public safety. How will emergency police, fire and ambulances get through jammed "F" intersections at peak traffic hours? Why should the response time of emergency traffic be placed behind building another few large office structures?

City Council, by allowing Hines Corporation — the Lantana developer — to "pay" for community services at the risk of our fire, health and other safety response times seems pretty irresponsible. Until city streets are unclogged it does not make sense to take developer's funding to support community "needs" at the expense of public safety. Response times to emergencies is critical. A few seconds can save a life. Why are our lives put at risk?

This development agreement does not make sense since the major problem of traffic can't be solved.

Mitchell Block
Santa Monica

Reader gets a life, wants more

Editor:

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Ricardo Foggia
Santa Monica

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STATE

UC regent playing his part to alter school applications

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — University of California regent Ward Connerly is part French, part Irish, part Choctaw and part African. But if he filled out a UC application, he'd be considered one thing: black.

Connerly says that's 19th century thinking and he's pushing to have UC change its policy and give students the option of declaring themselves multiracial or multiethnic.

"Why should the University of California or the government pretend they don't exist?" he asked. "The way we're doing it right now — it's just backward. It's anachronistic and at some point we're going to have to change."

Connerly's proposal, which was to be discussed by fellow regents at their regular meeting Thursday, follows his unsuccessful ballot initiative last year, Proposition 54, that would have stopped state and local governments from collecting race data on things like college admissions.

Previously, Connerly spearheaded the effort to drop race-based admissions at UC and led the successful campaign for Proposition 209, the ballot initiative banning consideration of race in public hiring, contracting or education.

His new suggestion to add more data collection boxes doesn't indicate a change of heart. "I don't like the boxes, but I'm accepting that as a given," he said. "If you're going to have the boxes, give people a choice to accurately depict how they perceive themselves."

UC collects race data on a voluntary basis and gives students the option of checking from 13 race/ethnic boxes including "other." But the data are reported to the government following the federally specified categories of American Indian, Asian, black, Hispanic or white.

UC spokeswoman Abby Lunardini said the problem with adding more boxes is that failure to follow the rules could jeopardize federal funding. However, she said UC officials are looking into ways to more accurately count the system's multiracial and ethnic students. "We're not all that far apart from Regent Connerly," she said.

Connerly is urging UC to lobby the government to change its reporting requirements.

While Connerly's proposal is still in the discussion stage, regents were expected to

vote on another admissions issue Thursday, a resolution affirming UC's commitment to a new system of evaluating applicants known as comprehensive review.

Adopted two years ago, comprehensive review looks at socioeconomic as well as academic factors. It has come under criticism following a report last fall by Board of Regents Chairman John Moores showing that highly competitive UC Berkeley accepted nearly 400 students with low SAT scores in 2002 while rejecting more than 3,000 with high marks.

**"The way we're doing
it right now — it's just
backward."**

— **WARD CONNERLY**
University of California regent

A recent UC analysis showed Berkeley and UCLA are admitting black and Hispanic students at slightly higher rates than expected. Officials said they don't know what is causing the discrepancy and are investigating to make sure race or ethnicity are not being considered in admissions.

Interestingly, the data being used for analysis is the kind of information that would have been eliminated by Proposition 54, which was vigorously opposed by UC.

Opponents of Proposition 54 said the problem was it would make it impossible to prove discrimination and there were some who wondered what was motivating Connerly's new initiative.

"At first blush this seems like a reasonable proposal, but because I know of Mr. Connerly's agenda to make us colorblind, which is simply not possible or advisable, I am very suspect of what the true motivations are," said civil rights lawyer Eva Paterson.

Connerly urged skeptics to "judge ideas by the ideas. Are there people who are multiracial in California? What do you want to do with people who are in that circumstance. Do you want to force them to be something that they're telling you they're not?"

"It's not that I'm confusing anything. It's the fact that the realities are becoming confusing. I'm just laying it out there."



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STATE

State in midst of unparalleled drive to keep the coast clear

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

PESCADERO — Tourists Mark and Dawn Kemp of Denver never thought such rural quiet was possible on a Pacific coastline just 20 miles from the hustle of Silicon Valley.

"I can't believe that we aren't seeing hotels and commercial growth scooping all this up," said Mark Kemp, making his second trip to an ocean.

The two visitors, marveling at miles of uncluttered oceanfront, didn't know about a small, powerful network of nonprofit land trusts, government agencies and foundations that have bought thousands of acres of California's coastline since 2000 to stop growth.

As experts predict nearly 50 million Californians within a generation, the state is in the midst of an unparalleled drive to steer its 1,100-mile coast clear of more development. Borrowing from a movement that created more than 250 miles of oceanfront state parks during the last century and tapping portions of \$11.1 billion in new state bonds, California preserved nearly 53,000 acres of coastal-area land last year, reports the California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency that seeded such projects with \$168 million and leveraged \$133 million more.

Among the buys were some of state's biggest and most politically charged deals: \$140 million for 193 acres of Ballona Wetlands near Los Angeles International Airport; \$135 million for the 2,800-acre Ahmanson Ranch on the Los Angeles-Ventura County line; and \$100 million for 16,500 acres of Cargill Salt Pond wetlands on San Francisco Bay.

This year land trusts have targeted the 128-square-mile oceanfront Hearst Ranch surrounding Hearst Castle in San Luis Obispo County. There, the San Francisco-based American Land Conservancy has promised the Hearst Corp. \$80 million in state bond money for preserving its open space for future generations.

"That's the context within which we're doing this work," said Sam Schuchat, director of the state's Oakland-based Coastal Conservancy. "I want to make sure my daughter has the same opportunity to enjoy the outdoors that I have."

But behind the lofty intentions are complex negotiations, land speculation, use of state bonds to bail out troubled projects of campaign contributors and charges of overpaying for land with public money. All helped hasten the downfall last year of recalled Gov. Gray Davis, who had received campaign funds from owners of the Ahmanson, Ballona and Cargill properties. The buying spree has also irritated coast farmers who feel they're being pushed off their land for the cause of empty space.

Indeed, for land trusts, it turns out that buying pieces of earth's most expensive and desirable real estate to prevent development typically requires the same fleets of Capitol lobbyists, political savvy and big league money that developers employ.

"The way you do it is buy it," said Audrey Rust, the \$220,000-a-year chief of Peninsula Open Space Trust, which keeps a Menlo Park office amid California's biggest venture capital firms, and aims to preserve two thirds of San Mateo County's 55-mile coastline. "That's the way you do it in the United States."

California's new binge of coastal land buying comes as the nation's 1970s environmental movement has matured into a

rich, formidable force to rival developers who have seen their power ebb amid bruising development fights and polls showing widespread support for open space.

In a phenomenon some have dubbed "Big Green," groups including the Arlington, Va.-based Nature Conservancy and San Francisco-based Trust for Public Land and American Land Conservancy and numerous local land trusts have translated 1970s idealism into hard-nosed business to compete with developers and millionaires seeking so-called "trophy houses."

Collectively, nonprofit trusts raised \$27 million to pass Propositions 12, 40 and 50 in 2000 and 2002. The three measures authorized \$11.1 billion to buy land for open space preservation, restore wetlands and wildlife habitat and create new urban parks.

Among them, the Peninsula Trust raised \$1.1 million for the three campaigns, according to state records, and reaped \$41.5 million in return. Rust's group has also coaxed \$100 million from private foundations of high tech moguls David Packard and Gordon Moore for its \$200 million, 20,000-acre campaign called the nation's largest land conservation effort by a local trust.

In 2000 the Peninsula Trust paid a San Francisco businesswoman \$3 million for three acres near the 1872 Pigeon Point lighthouse south of Half Moon Bay. Then it tore down her nearly finished motel, restoring both the oceanfront views and those of 7,000 acres of largely empty Peninsula Trust land east of Highway 1.

"We set out to get enough money to make an impact," said Rust, 59, who grew up romping a Connecticut coastline with her grandfather and waxes about the "expansiveness" that human beings feel at a continent's edge.

Today, the trust's impact can be seen in homes and hotels that will never exist along the rural San Mateo Coast, on places such as the 4,262-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra, bought for \$29 million and the 1,700-acre Bolsa Point Ranches optioned for \$29 million. All instead will be managed by a variety of government agencies.

But the Peninsula Trust's success has stirred resentment from county farmers, said San Mateo County Farm Bureau Director Jack Olsen.

"What we see happening is POST gets grant money and acquires property and then within a short time the property has migrated out of agriculture," Olsen said. "They like to use agriculture as a poster child for what they want to do and what they want to save, but there seems to be a hidden agenda to remove agricultural production from the ground."

Elsewhere on the coast, the Trust for Public Land and Packard Foundation paid Manhattan Beach land speculator Brian Sweeney \$43 million in 1998 for the 7,000-acre Coast Dairies farm north of Santa Cruz when he threatened to develop it.

Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., once accused Sweeney of "environmental terrorism" for buying land, threatening to develop it, then selling to preservationists for a profit. Sweeney, who owns 2,000 acres in the Santa Monica mountains, contributed nearly \$100,000 in 2002 to the California Conservation Campaign, which promoted Propositions 40 and 50.

In Monterey County, the Nature Conservancy and Big Sur Land Trust paid cellular phone mogul Craig McCaw \$37 million for his 9,000-acre Palo Corona Ranch near Big Sur in 2002. In Santa

Barbara County, the Trust for Public Land is trying to raise \$20 million for the 135-acre Ellwood Mesa in Goleta, where owners Comstock Homes and Santa Barbara Development Partners proposed 131 homes.

Conservationists bent on preserving the county's Gaviota Coast are also eyeing a 200-acre property where the California Coastal Commission rejected Orange County developer Hadi Makarechian's proposed Dos Pueblos Golf Course. Makarechian's Capital Pacific Holdings contributed \$100,000 last year to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's campaign and has sued

the state for \$35 million. But Schuchat said it's doubtful there will be money for the 200 acres in this round of bond funding.

But there will likely be another round. Land trust officials, buoyed by the "renaissance" of state money for land buys, are tentatively discussing a new bond measure, possibly in 2006 or 2008, to buy still more.

"We haven't anywhere come close to buying all the land we need, that's been identified by local government and state and federal agencies," said Reed Holderman, vice president and regional director of the Trust for Public Land.

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NATIONAL

Oregon migrant clinics now serve mostly Anglos

BY ANDREW KRAMER

Associated Press Writer

HOOD RIVER, Ore. — Charish Bailey was doubled up in pain in an exam room at La Clinica del Carino, a medical clinic originally created for Hispanics who work in the orchards dotting the Columbia River Gorge.

Bailey has never been a farm worker;

she has a \$17,000-a-year office job. But with coverage for state residents under the Oregon Health Plan slashed because of budget cuts, she has turned to the low-cost medical care at La Clinica del Carino.

"They don't make you feel uncomfortable here," said the 36-year-old. "They give you a bill, but they let you make small payments."

Bailey is among thousands of

"A lot of people are finding out about the services we offer. A lot of our patients have lost the Oregon Health Plan."

— DANIEL WARD
La Clinica's director

Oregonians who are using federally subsidized migrant worker clinics because they have lost benefits that were provided by the Oregon Health Plan, the state's health insurance plan for low-income residents.

The influx of Anglos has tipped the 20 such clinics in Oregon to treating a majority of English-speaking patients, although they retain their Spanish names and still welcome undocumented workers, no questions asked.

In 2000, 49 percent of the clinics' patients spoke English. By 2002, the last year statistics are available across the state, 70 percent of patients spoke English.

At the same time, the number of patients using the clinics increased dramatically — from 55,000 to 68,000, according to the Oregon Primary Care Association.

The growth coincided with the recession in Oregon that brought one of the highest jobless rates in the nation and cuts to state-paid care, including dropping roughly 42,000 patients from the Oregon Health Plan last year.

That sent thousands of low-income residents scrambling for alternatives. Some went to emergency rooms for basic care, running up huge bills that went unpaid. Others subsisted on free samples from drug companies.

"A lot of people are finding out about the services we offer," said Daniel Ward, La Clinica's director. "A lot of our patients have lost the Oregon Health Plan."

The signs in La Clinica's waiting room are in Spanish and English. The decorations are in orange and green, the colors of the Mexican flag. A notice promises patients they will not be reported to immigration authorities.

The nonprofit clinic charges on a sliding scale. Those with incomes well below the federal poverty level pay \$25 to see a doctor, \$35 for a dentist. Patients must show a pay stub or tax return. The staff of family doctors treat cuts, broken bones

and other urgent needs, but refer patients to a hospital for X-rays, and to specialists for some problems.

An unusual feature of the clinics are the outreach workers who visit migrant camps, where they find patients with undiagnosed diabetes, complications with pregnancy, and even gangrenous limbs in one case. The care is no-frills, low cost and accessible — and although tailored to migrants, very popular with all patients who pay out of pocket.

The trend toward Anglo patients is more dramatic at some clinics than others.

La Clinica del Valle in Medford had been narrowly focused on helping the migrant population, but this year began serving an English-speaking majority.

The Virginia Garcia network of clinics in Washington County was named after the daughter of a farm worker who died after her foot infection went untreated. These clinics, too, are now seeing large numbers of Anglo patients.

The federal subsidy makes the service affordable.

La Clinica, founded to treat migrant workers in cherry, apple and pear orchards in Oregon and southwest Washington, receives federal grants that pay 44 percent of expenses, such as salaries for bilingual doctors and a dentist. A mix of state money and patient fees covers the balance.

Bailey is typical of the Anglos who are showing up at La Clinica.

The last time she saw a doctor, in 1999, she qualified for the Oregon Health Plan. That changed when the single mother of one child got a job as an office manager, pushing her salary slightly above the threshold for public health insurance.

Bailey said she would prefer a personal doctor, and cannot afford dental work, but has no complaints about service at La Clinica.

"There are quite a few of us who know it's well worth it to support this place," said Bailey.

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NATIONAL

Mexico alarmed by worker death rates in America

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press Writer

Mexican government officials expressed concern following an Associated Press investigation that showed Mexican workers in the United States are far more likely than American workers to die from accidents on the job.

Mexican death rates have been rising even though the overall U.S. workplace has never been safer, the AP found, and have reached what one Mexican official called "very worrying" levels. In regions such as the Southeast, where immigrant laborers have filled low-wage jobs from construction sites to the fields, a Mexican is four times more likely to die on the job than a U.S.-born worker.

In response to those findings, several members of Congress said the Bush administration wasn't effectively enforcing workplace safety laws. The Labor Department defended its efforts and said preventing Mexican deaths is a priority.

Mexican diplomats stationed in the United States said the report, published in Sunday papers, troubled them.

"The findings of the report are very specific, are very worrying to us," said Miguel Monterrubio, spokesman for the Mexican embassy in Washington.

Mexican consular officials in California said the United States has good worker protections on paper, but suggested those laws are too often neglected.

"Legislation and recommendations and policies exist," said one Mexican official who asked that his name not be used. "We have to develop a culture of prevention and enforcement of the law."

The AP found that Mexicans are more likely than U.S.-born workers to be killed even when doing some of the same high-risk work.

Since the mid-1990s, Mexican deaths have increased faster than a growing population that is now spread across the United States.

The Mexican death rate has reached 1 in 16,000 workers even as the death rate steadily decreased for the average U.S.-born worker to about 1 in 28,000 workers, the investigation found. Mexicans now represent about 1 in 24 workers in the United States, but about 1 in 14 workplace deaths.

Among the reasons the AP found for these death-rate disparities: Mexican immigrants are less likely to receive job training or safety equipment and are more reluctant to complain — particularly if they are here illegally. Government officials say the deaths are almost always preventable, but the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is constrained by limited funding, few Spanish-speaking inspectors in key areas and federal laws that make preventive enforcement difficult.

The Bush administration did not directly address the findings of the stories.

Instead, the Labor Department released a statement that lauded its outreach to Hispanic workers and expressed concern over "the unique challenges" Mexican workers face in the United States.

Hispanics are a coveted constituency in this year's presidential election.

The issue of immigrant labor jumped into the election-year fray when President Bush proposed a guest worker program for immigrants now here illegally. That proposal, made in January, did not directly address the issue of immigrant worker safety.

In response to the AP's reports, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., wrote to ask Labor Secretary Elaine Chao to more rigorously enforce workplace safety standards — which do not distinguish between native-born and immigrant workers.

"Clearly these worker safety laws are not being enforced at a time when people are literally dying from hazardous working conditions," Boxer wrote Chao on Tuesday. She also told Chao to request more funding for Hispanic outreach efforts if her budget is insufficient.

A department spokesman said neither Chao nor OSHA head John Henshaw would consent to an interview for this article.

The administration asked Congress for \$2.2 million to fund immigrant worker outreach during this fiscal year, Henshaw said in an interview last fall. The Labor Department said Thursday it was working to total how much it spent on Hispanic worker safety or outreach.

"We care deeply about the unique challenges facing

Mexican workers in the United States," the Labor Department said in a written statement attributed to Henshaw.



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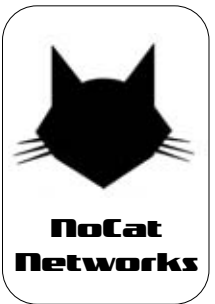
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NATIONAL

Federal official apologizes to rancher for trespassing

By The Associated Press

CODY, Wyo. — Saying it was an "honest mistake," a federal official apologized to a rancher whose land a government wildlife biologist ended up on while placing tracking collars on wolves.

"I apologize to you if our wolf monitoring team inadvertently used your land to place radio collars on four wolves we had tranquilized," Ralph Morganweck, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wrote to Ralph Larsen of the Larsen Land Co.

A copy of the letter was sent to Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., who has asked for an investigation by the departments of Interior and Justice at the request of the Park County Commission.

Enzi's action was prompted by Randy Kruger, a Larsen Ranch stockholder and employee, who filed a complaint with Park County Attorney Bryan Skorik. Skorik asked the state Division of Criminal Investigation to investigate and its results are still pending.

Kruger said the federal agency did not have permission to use ranch land for handling wolves on Feb. 14.

Morganweck's letter noted the site was "unfenced and unsigned."

"The wolf monitoring crew believed they were on public land," as it had caught the wolves primarily on public land, he added.

"It is never the Fish and Wildlife Service's intention to go onto private property without the express permission of the landowner. If our team was on your land while processing these wolves, it was an honest mistake," he said.

Morganweck said it was important that the wolves, which were from the Washakie pack, be collared because they had killed livestock in the past.

The radio collars allow biologist to find wolves and deal with problem animals and minimize depredation, he said.

"As a result of this monitoring, we now know the Washakie pack moved out of the immediate area and are back near their usual territory near Dubois," he said.

"As a result of this monitoring, we now know the Washakie pack moved out of the immediate area and are back near their usual territory near Dubois."

— **RALPH MORGANWECK**
Regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Meantime, a second Meeteetse ranch filed a trespass complaint against the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Daniel Ochsner and Susan Barret, owners of the Flying River Ranch near Meeteetse, and ranch manager Jim Gould said a green truck with government license plates drove on their land without permission on Feb. 15.

State and federal agency representatives said they are unaware of the incident.

The state Game and Fish Department uses green pickups, according to Gary Brown, a wildlife supervisor with the state agency, said. If department personnel are involved in a law enforcement action, they need not contact the landowner, he said.

If they are entering private land to collect specimens, he said, the state will contact the landowner.

Yellowstone bison to be sent to slaughter without testing

By The Associated Press

GARDINER, Mont. — A facility that has been used to hold captured bison near the northern border of Yellowstone National Park has no more room, and any additional animals captured in the area will be sent to slaughter without first being tested for brucellosis, the park said Thursday.

At least 40 buffalo captured earlier this week already were being sent to slaughter without brucellosis tests because of the lack of room at the corral, the park said.

Slaughtering the animals without testing is allowed under a joint management plan if the park's bison herd exceeds 3,000 animals. The park has estimated the population at about 4,200.

The Stephens Creek facility has been used to hold animals that were captured as they approached the park's northern boundary with Montana.

Even though the bison population cur-

rently exceeds 3,000, the park had agreed to continue brucellosis testing of animals captured at Stephens Creek, and to send only those that tested positive to slaughter.

Animals that tested negative were being held until spring, when they are to be released back into the park.

However, the number of animals being held at the facility hit nearly 200 Wednesday, prompting the park's decision to slaughter any additional captures.

The capture and testing of bison from Yellowstone occurs under a joint state and federal management plan. Montana ranchers fear the bison will spread brucellosis to their cattle. The disease can cause cows to abort.

So far this year, about 460 bison have been captured at the Stephens Creek site, the park said, and 215 of those were sent to slaughter. That does not include the roughly 40 animals the park said were being sent to slaughter this week.

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NATIONAL



As EU verdict looms, Microsoft more distracted than ever

ALLISON LINN
AP Business Writer

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. is facing a world of troubles.

The European Union is on the verge of imposing burdensome sanctions against the company, as antitrust challenges nag the software titan at home and in Asia. Plus, stiffer competition looms from open-source products led by the Linux operating system.

Amid all that, analysts wonder what the next big revenue stream will be for a company whose next major software launch may be two years away — while it has turned considerable attention to shoring up the security of its existing products.

"The company has a substantial amount of distraction, probably more distraction than they've ever had in their history," said Rob Enderle, principal analyst with The Enderle Group.

No one is suggesting that the distractions pose an immediate threat to the technology giant. After all, Windows still controls 90 percent of the world's desktop computers, and the company boasts \$53 billion in cash reserves.

"I think they're a pretty resilient company and they tend to rise to the occasion," said David Smith, an analyst with Gartner. But, Smith says, serious issues exist that could end up hurting Microsoft's business.

Microsoft's inability to settle its long-running antitrust case with the European Union sets the stage for what is expected to be a major ruling against the company. In addition to a fine that could be hundreds of millions of dollars, the ruling could force the company to sell a version of Windows without its multimedia-player software, at least in Europe.

Microsoft has vowed to appeal, which could take years.

In Minneapolis, Microsoft just went to trial over allegations that it overcharged Minnesota consumers for software licenses. That case is expected to take several months. And a divided Nebraska Supreme Court has just

revived a class-action lawsuit alleging the company violated the state's consumer-protection laws.

Seattle-based RealNetworks Inc., which makes a rival music and video player, has sued Microsoft for anticompetitive behavior.

Microsoft's Japanese division, meantime, was raided last month over concerns about anticompetitive behavior.

And the company still awaits a U.S. appeals court ruling to decide whether sanctions in its landmark U.S. antitrust settlement were adequate. One state, Massachusetts, is pressing for tougher penalties.

The legal battles are not unexpected given Microsoft's dominance — and the fact that it was found guilty of monopolistic behavior in the U.S. antitrust case — said Matt Rosoff, an analyst with independent researchers Directions on Microsoft.

They are simply "a condition of doing business for Microsoft," he said.

Microsoft argues that its legal woes have diminished. For one, the EU case — unlike the U.S. case settled in 2002 — is not seeking to break up the company, said Microsoft general counsel Brad Smith.

"Obviously, we had a far greater number of lawsuits two years ago, and those lawsuits put the continued existence of the company at stake," Smith said. "These issues are significant, but they don't rise to the same magnitude as what we had encountered before."

Still, facing antitrust allegations on several continents is taking time from the company's top executives, Enderle said. Chief executive Steve Ballmer canceled a Las Vegas appearance this week to fly to Belgium to try to broker a settlement with EU regulators.

That's left some decisions to the next level of executives — who Enderle said are still consumed with a companywide initiative to make Microsoft products more secure against viruses and hackers.

Microsoft sometimes has been "unable to focus on the issues that are really pertinent to them," Enderle said.

The distraction comes as Microsoft has to make impor-

tant decisions about its next-generation operating system. That includes how to compete with companies like Google Inc. on search engine capabilities, and how to create a strong presence in mobile computing software.

Meanwhile, analysts say Microsoft is in a valley between updates of some of its most popular products, which could stifle growth. A new version of Windows is not expected until at least 2006.

Another challenge is Linux, the open-source operating system whose blueprints are freely distributed on the Internet. Analysts say Microsoft is losing server business to Linux systems, and open source could someday threaten its Windows desktop dominance.

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NATIONAL

Bush urges allies around world to stick to their guns

JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Faced with wavering allies and a divided America, President Bush on Friday urged all to stand firm against terrorism in Iraq and around the globe. A visit to the bedridden of wounded soldiers underscored the one-year toll of 570 American deaths in Iraq.

The White House invited the ambassadors of 84 countries involved in the U.S.-led war on terror to the White House for Bush's call for resolve.

"We are the nations that have recognized the threat of terrorism, and we are the nations that will defeat that threat," the president said in a speech marking the one-year anniversary of his launch of the invasion of Iraq.

Hoping to emphasize unity over division, Bush recited six long lists in the 24-minute address of countries that have suffered terrorist attacks or been involved in the response to them. He allowed no room for hesitation, laying down what he called an inescapable choice between standing with or against the U.S.-led anti-terror battle.

"There is no neutral ground — no neutral ground — in the fight between civilization and terror," the president said. "There can be no separate peace with the terrorist enemy. Any sign of weakness or retreat simply validates terrorist violence and invites more violence for all nations."

Secretary of State Colin Powell reinforced Bush's warning from Baghdad, where he met with Iraqis, coalition leaders and U.S. troops.

"This is not the time to say, 'Let's stop what we're doing and pull back,'" he said. "It's time to redouble our efforts ... and not run and hide and think it won't come and get us."

Much of Bush's speech was devoted to defending the war in Iraq. He said the toppling of Saddam Hussein removed a source of violence and instability in the Middle East, and he linked Iraq to the broader war on terror, including the ouster of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"We've set out to encourage reform and democracy in the greater Middle East as the alternatives to fanaticism, resentment and terror," he said.

The past week has seen bombings, shootings and mortar attacks across Iraq, including a suicide bombing at Baghdad's Mount Lebanon Hotel that killed seven and an insurgent attack in western Iraq that killed two Marines.

The military said the death toll of American service members had reached 570.

After the speech, Bush and first lady Laura Bush went to Washington's Walter Reed Army Medical Center to visit with the "wounded who have made a decision to sacrifice for the nation's security." The hospital has treated scores of soldiers wounded in Iraq.

"There is no neutral ground ... in the fight between civilization and terror."

— PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

The French foreign minister, meanwhile, said the Iraq war made the world more dangerous, not less, by causing an upswing in terrorism. France and Germany had led the opposition to Bush's call for war.

"Terrorism didn't exist in Iraq before," Dominique de Villepin told Le Monde newspaper. "Today, it is one of the world's principal sources of world terrorism."

The "coalition of the willing" that the administration cites in Iraq — three dozen nations contributing military forces to the U.S.-dominated mission there — also showed some cracks.

South Korea announced Friday it would not send its troops to the area of Iraq that U.S. commanders had requested. Although the Defense Ministry said it would position them elsewhere in Iraq, the shift could pose a problem for Pentagon planners.

The incoming Spanish prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, has said he will pull his country's

1,300 troops from Iraq unless the United Nations takes control of the military mission.

And though Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski told Bush on Friday his country's 2,400 troops would stay put in south-central Iraq, that promise came a day after he said his country had been misled before the war over Saddam's suspected weapons of mass destruction. Though the weapons were a primary reason Bush gave for going to war, none has been found and they rated just 16 words of 2,314 in Bush's address.

At home, polls of the American voting public offer other reasons for Bush to endeavor to connect his actions in Iraq to the larger war on terror. While he receives the support of about two-thirds of those surveyed for his anti-terror campaign, Bush has about as many detractors on his Iraq policies as backers.

Sen. John Kerry, his Democratic presidential rival, has sought to seize on those doubts. Speaking on behalf of Kerry, former national security adviser Sandy Berger acknowledged that "Saddam is gone and that is undeservedly good."

"But all of this has come at a very heavy price — there is uncertainty as far as the eye can see," he said, faulting Bush for going to war without significant allied contributions and without a clear plan or sufficient troops for a postwar Iraq.

"It's increasingly clear that how we conducted the war in Iraq — hurried along unprepared for the day after — has made the terrorism problem more difficult," Berger said. "It took our focus off al-Qaida. It became a rallying point for jihadists in Iraq and elsewhere and we've been losing allies, not gaining them."

While Bush acknowledged the rift among allies and the continued presence of "violent thugs and murderers in Iraq," he spent much more time projecting confidence.

"Today, as Iraqis join the free peoples of the world, we mark a turning point for the Middle East and a crucial advance for human liberty," he said. "We will not fail the Iraqi people, who have placed their trust in us."



THE HOUSING DIVISION OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA ANNOUNCES THE REOPENING OF ITS AFFORDABLE HOUSING WAITING LIST

The Housing Division of the City of Santa Monica is reopening its Affordable Housing Waiting List. This list is used to fill vacancies in affordable units within privately owned developments.

Affordable units are generally available for either low-income or moderate-income households. To qualify, your household income must not exceed the limits shown below.

Household Size	Your household is Low-Income if you made less than this in 2003	Your household is Moderate-Income if you made less than this in 2003
1	\$23,700	\$38,550
2	\$27,050	\$44,100
3	\$30,450	\$49,600
4	\$33,850	\$55,100
5	\$36,550	\$59,500
6	\$39,250	\$63,900

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No. of Bdrms	Low-Income Rent*	Moderate-Income Rent
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1	\$661	\$1,102
2	\$785	\$1,309
3	\$897	\$1,495

*Section 8 vouchers may be applied toward Low-Income units.

Applications will be available from April 5, 2004 to April 16, 2004.

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2. **Complete and sign** the application.

3. Return the signed application to: Housing and Redevelopment, City of Santa Monica, P.O. Box 91510, City of Industry, CA 91715.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 17, 2004

QUESTIONS/DISABILITIES: If you have questions, or if you are disabled and need to have an application mailed to you, please call 1-866-279-3508 toll free between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from April 5, 2004 to April 16, 2004.



HOUSING DIVISION, CITY OF SANTA MONICA REAPERTURA DE LA LISTA DE ESPERA DE VIVIENDA A PRECIOS MODICOS

El Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo de la ciudad de Santa Mónica está abriendo otra vez su lista de espera de viviendas para personas de bajos recursos. Esta lista se usa para llenar los apartamentos vacíos en unidades para personas de bajos recursos dentro de edificios privados.

Unidades razonables están generalmente disponibles para familias con ingresos bajos o ingresos moderados. Para poder calificar, su ingreso familiar no puede pasar de los límites en la lista siguiente.

Cantidad de ocupantes	Su vivienda es Ingreso Bajo si usted ganó menos de esto en 2003	Su vivienda es Ingreso Moderado si usted ganó menos de esto en 2003
1	\$23,700	\$38,550
2	\$27,050	\$44,100
3	\$30,450	\$49,600
4	\$33,850	\$55,100
5	\$36,550	\$59,500
6	\$39,250	\$63,900

El máximo alquiler por unidades de ingreso bajo e ingreso moderado es lo siguiente:

Número de dormitorios	Alquiler de ingreso bajo	Alquiler de ingreso moderado
0	\$579	\$964
1	\$661	\$1,102
2	\$785	\$1,309
3	\$897	\$1,495

*Sección 8 vales pueden ser usados para unidades de ingresos bajos.

Las solicitudes estarán disponibles desde Abril 5, 2004 hasta Abril 16, 2004.

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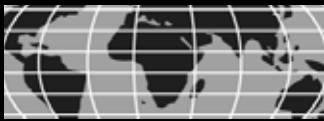
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WORLD BRIEFLY

Powell pops up in Baghdad

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Secretary of State Colin Powell made a surprise visit Friday to Baghdad, arriving during a weeklong rebel offensive coinciding with the first anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Among those killed in the past day were five local journalists, two of whom were apparently shot by U.S. troops.

Powell met L. Paul Bremer, the top U.S. official in Iraq, to discuss security and the scheduled June 30 handover of sovereignty to an Iraqi government. He also was to hold talks with members of the U.S.-picked Governing Council and American troops.

Powell's stop in Baghdad came during a trip to parts of Asia and the Middle East. He flew in from Kuwait.

It also came as support for the war appeared to be weakening among U.S. allies in Iraq.

South Korea said Friday it was canceling plans to send troops to the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, citing U.S. pressure to participate in "offensive operations," although it still plans to send the forces to a safer location in the country.

President, v.p. shot in motorcade

By The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — President Chen Shui-bian and his vice president were wounded Friday when shots were fired into their motorcade on the final day of campaigning for a landmark election and referendum that could be a turning point in Taiwan's tense relationship with China.

Chen was shot in the stomach and Vice President Annette Lu was hit in the right knee. Their injuries were not life threatening, said Chiou I-jen, secretary-general

in the Presidential Office.

No arrests were reported and it was not clear what the motivation was for the apparent assassination attempt, in a street choked with supporters of the president in his hometown, the southern city of Tainan. Officials declined to speculate about who fired the shots.

"They did not suffer life-threatening injuries. They urge the public to cool down," Chiou said at a news conference. He added that "the president is conscious" and "can still direct the nation's affairs."

The presidential vote will go ahead as planned on Saturday, an election official said.

Officials nab teen plotting massacre

By The Associated Press

MALCOLM, Neb. — School officials say they "got lucky" when authorities arrested a teenager with 20 homemade bombs and a rifle in the parking lot of his high school.

Josh Magee, 17, was also found with a note saying he wanted to injure everyone at the school except for three friends.

Magee was arrested Tuesday in the parking lot of Malcolm High School after a staff member saw him swigging liquor from a flask and putting on a black overcoat. He was charged Wednesday with attempted murder.

Police who searched Magee's car found a bolt-action rifle, several rounds of ammunition, small bottles of propane and rigged containers of a petroleum-based propellant.

"It had the potential of going badly," said Superintendent Gene Neddenriep. "With this student, at this school, on this particular day, we were successful. We got lucky."

Kerry drifts, Bush plows ahead

By The Associated Press

KETCHUM, Idaho — As John Kerry was snowboarding down Idaho's Bald Mountain, the Bush-Cheney campaign was racing headlong in challenging the Democrat's credentials, a contrast that raised questions about the timing of the presumptive presidential nominee's vacation.

President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and senior administration officials have been challenging Kerry's claims of support from foreign leaders while the campaign has criticized the four-term Massachusetts senator's votes on defense and foreign policy. The campaign also has unleashed ads casting Kerry as a waffler and weak on military issues.

After a grueling primary race that dates to last year, Kerry was spending six days with his wife, Teresa Heinz, at a family home in Sun Valley with no public events planned.

Campaign aides said that while Kerry was taking a break, the staff was putting together an aggressive strategy to highlight the differences with Bush.

FCC: Don't 'F' up on the air

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For broadcasters seeking more guidance on what is indecent, federal regulators have some warning: Don't use the F-word.

The Federal Communications Commission on Thursday overruled its staff and declared that an expletive uttered by rock star Bono on NBC last year was both indecent and profane. The agency made it clear that virtually any use of the F-word was inappropriate for over-the-air radio and television.

"The 'F-word' is one of the most vulgar, graphic and explicit descriptions of sexual activity in the English language," the commission said Thursday. "The fact that the use of this word may have been unintentional is irrelevant; it still has the same effect of exposing children to indecent language."

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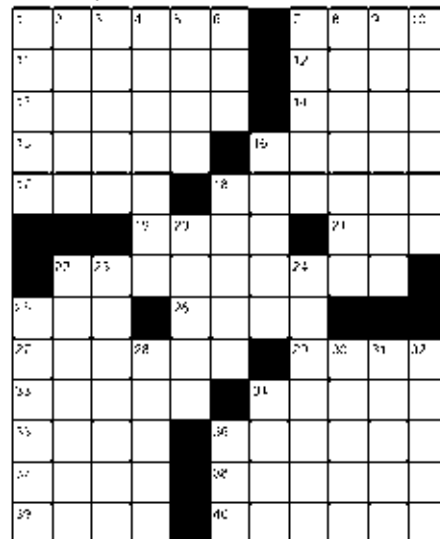
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31 Rival of Graf
32 Rendezvous
34 Paul Sorvino's daughter
36 Soak up

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Former president plans more 'air time' for birthday

By The Associated Press

■ **DALLAS** — Former President George Bush has n't had enough air time yet.

For his 80th birthday, he's planning his third skydiving feat since 1997.

The ex-president also plans a party in College Station on June 12 (his birthday) and June 13 so friends and admirers can watch the next leap. Tickets will be sold, with prices beginning at \$100 and the proceeds going to charity.

A Navy pilot during World War II, Bush made a jump at age 72, fulfilling a promise he made after bailing from a crippled plane during the military conflict. He'd vowed to skydive again just for fun.

In 1999, Bush marked his 75th birthday by jumping from an airplane.

"Clearly, after his first jump, I think he was hooked," Chris Needels, executive director of the U.S. Parachute Association and staff member on Bush's National Security Council, told The Dallas Morning News for Friday's editions.

Bush was decorated for heroism after his plane was shot down over the Pacific Ocean during World War II. That was also his first jump — into the Pacific Ocean on Sept. 2, 1944, when he bailed out of his torpedo bomber after it was disabled by Japanese fire.

■ **INDIAN WELLS, Calif.** — Andre Agassi isn't overly concerned about a British court ruling that will cost him some \$50,000 in taxes there on endorsement earnings.

"At the end of the day, it's nearly a dollar-per-dollar wash on the taxes you have to pay here (in the United States)," Agassi said this week after defeating Guillermo Coria 6-4, 7-5 to reach the Pacific Life Open semifinals.

"You're paying taxes there or you're paying taxes here. I don't really begrudge them for it; no financial cost to me," he said.

The ruling could affect other athletes such as Tiger Woods, Venus and Serena Williams, and other stars who

play in Britain.

Judge Sir Gavin Lightman of the London High Court on Wednesday ordered Agassi to pay taxes on income that Nike and Head Sports paid to his U.S.-based company, Agassi Enterprises Inc.

Turning down an appeal filed by Agassi's firm, the court ruled that any athlete or entertainer who competes or performs in Britain has a liability to pay a prorated tax on endorsement income. Athletes already pay taxes on prize money.

Paying taxes on endorsement earnings there, however, will be offset by a foreign tax credit that will lower the tax bill in the United States.

"What they're saying is, when I perform over there in England, because I'm wearing Nike, I play with Head products, that these are revenue sources for me," said Agassi, who has played Wimbledon 13 times and was the 1992 champion.

"In England, I'm going to get a lot of TV time, it's Wimbledon, and they deserve a percentage of what my contracts are with Nike and with Head. When I'm there for two weeks, they prorate it and figure it's worth about \$50,000. I'd be paying that one place or the other."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Randy Rhoads, the guitarist behind Ozzy Osbourne's most acclaimed solo work, was posthumously honored with a bronze bust on Hollywood's Rockwalk.

About 200 fans turned out to see the ceremony this week and hear from Osbourne himself, who praised Rhoads' virtuoso brand of heavy metal guitar playing.

"I will never forget Randy, he was a small guy with giant talent," Osbourne said. "Not a day goes by that my family doesn't think about him. He will never die in our hearts."

Added wife and manager Sharon Osbourne: "This is a testament to Randy after 22 years on how great his talent is that we don't forget him. We'll never forget him."

Rhoads' bust was set in a wall next to another rock guitar hero, Jimi Hendrix.

Barely into his 20s, Rhoads left the hard rock band Quiet Riot in 1979 and joined Osbourne, who was forming a group after leaving his former band, Black Sabbath.

Rhoads' guitar prowess, particularly his solos, was compared to a fusion of classical, heavy metal and blues. During his time as Osbourne's guitarist, he recorded the albums "The Blizzard Of Ozz," and "Diary Of A Madman."

The dedication was timed to the 22nd anniversary of Rhoads' last public performance. He died in a plane crash in Santa Monica in 1982 at 25.

■ **AUSTIN, Texas** — Two members of the Grammy-winning Ozomatli and their manager were arrested after the band's South by Southwest music festival performance spilled out onto 6th Street.

Near the end of its performance at the Exodus nightclub early Thursday, the Los Angeles band left the stage and marched through the crowd while beating drums and playing horns. Audience members followed behind the musicians, as is common practice at the band's shows, and the group moved out onto the street.

Once outside, police directed the group to return to the club. A scuffle followed, witnesses told the Austin American-Statesman, which reported the incident in its online edition. Percussionist Jiro Yamaguchi, bassist Willy Abers and band manager Amy Sue Blackman-Romero were arrested.

Witnesses said police used pepper spray to disperse the crowd.

Blackman-Romero was charged with a city ordinance violation and interference with the duties of a public servant, jail records show. Abers, 30, was charged with failure to obey the order of a police officer. Yamaguchi, 36, was charged with assault on a public servant.

The three were taken to the Travis County Jail. A jail spokesman said Blackman-Romero and Abers weren't in custody Thursday evening, but that Yamaguchi remained jailed on \$5,000 bond.

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