

FREE

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 110

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTTO

FANTASY 5

03, 07, 15, 27, 28

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: **3, 5, 9**

Evening picks: **7, 0, 2**

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star

2nd Place: 06, Whirl Win

3rd Place: 01, Gold Rush

Race time: 1:42.47



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ In Washington, D.C., in February, Ronald T. Stephenson, 20, was convicted of murder in an out-of-control June 2000 robbery. The key police evidence was a videotape of Stephenson subsequently confessing to the crime in a visit to the home of his partner, Dwight Walker (who had, unbeknownst to Stephenson, become an informant). On the tape, Stephenson is heard to tell Walker that there is no way the police can get him for the murder unless, for example, they somehow caught him admitting on videotape that he did it.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Housework can kill you if done right.



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Rules for downtown restaurants debated

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

A task force created to balance the mix of businesses downtown agreed to a handful of recommendations Thursday that could make life easier for downtown restaurateurs.

In addition, Promenade Task Force committee members shot down a list of recommendations that would have made life more difficult for downtown retailers.

The group, whose influence extends to the Third Street Promenade and along Second and Fourth streets, will now pass its comments on to the City Council, which will decide whether or not the suggestions merit further consideration.

The approved recommendations include restrictions on outdoor dining and signs, simplifying the permit process for new restaurants, increasing the num-

ber of vending carts, placing restaurant tables in the middle of the Promenade and re-examining the city's kiosks to promote more cafes.

"Retail is like a living organism. It constantly changes, and restricting it does not encourage change."

- BARBARA LEVY
Property owner

Exact details of the proposals will be worked out as the group's recommendations move along the approval process, officials said.

See TASK FORCE, page 5

Kids for peace



John Wood/Daily Press

With shouts of "No war!" about 25 elementary school students at Santa Monica Alternative School House in Ocean Park protested the U.S. invasion of Iraq on Thursday.

Bayside honored for its heart

Business group recognized for homeless efforts

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The organization responsible for instigating two laws designed to reduce the number of homeless downtown was

honored Thursday for showing its compassion toward those who live on the street.

The Bayside District Corp., a non-profit organization that works with and is funded by the city to manage downtown Santa Monica, was given the "Heart of the Community" award by a local social service program.

Step Up on Second, a

social service organization that serves about 1,000 people who live on the street and suffer from diseases like bi-polar disorder, depression, schizophrenia and other mental illnesses, presented the award to Bayside in front of 160 community members at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard.

The award is the first of its kind and was given to Bayside

See BAYSIDE, page 8



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Ann Greenspun, Bayside District Corp., board member, accepts the Heart of the Community Award on behalf of the organization on Thursday.

Election ends today

By Daily Press staff

Today is the last day for Santa Monicans to cast votes on Proposition A, the Homeowner's Initiative.

A city clerk official will be stationed on the sidewalk in front of City Hall to accept last-minute ballots from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"People won't even have to get out of their cars," said City Clerk Maria Stewart.

Residents who did not receive a ballot in the mail can request a ballot from the City Clerk's office inside City Hall.

The election officially ends at 9 p.m. Ballots will then be transferred to City Council chambers where they will be counted. A preliminary result is expected late Friday night, Stewart said.

See PROP A, page 8

Combat units cross into Iraq

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

American and British combat units rumbled across the desert into Iraq on Thursday and bombed limited targets in Baghdad. But military commanders withheld the massive onslaught that would signal all-out war as U.S. officials tried to talk the Iraqi regime into giving up.

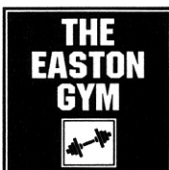
Coalition forces suffered their first

casualties in a helicopter crash that left 12 Britons and four Americans dead.

"The days of the Saddam Hussein regime are numbered," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld predicted, although he also said there was "no need for a broader conflict" if Iraqi leaders surrender.

On the second day of Operation Iraqi Freedom, American officials held out the tantalizing possibility that

See WAR, page 10



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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March 21, 2003:

You see life from a far different perspective than many of your friends. You don't need to push too hard to make others agree with you. Think carefully about what you need and expect from others. Frequently, your expectations get you in trouble. Verbalize more within friendships, partnerships and relationships in general. You will gain professionally the second half of the year. If single, you will relate more openly and dynamically with others. In fact, if you haven't met "the one" yet, you're about to. Share more of who you are. Relationships abound. Understand where someone is coming from. If you're attached, take frequent getaways together. SCORPIO understands you.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Speak your mind as directly as you possibly can. Your strong but sturdy leadership takes you down a new path. Swap ideas and brainstorm, even if it is a simple matter of plans for the evening. Making others part of the planning process can make all the difference. Tonight: Make nice.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You might want to defer to others, especially if too much drops in your lap. Consider surveying your options so you can make a good decision. Only then can you be sure what will work. Extremes punctuate your mood. Tonight: Out and about.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Emphasize getting the job done. Stay even, focusing on a friendship and a long-term tie. Be even with your dealings, as someone might surprise you with his or her feelings and choices. Brainstorm and have a long-overdue talk. Tonight: Stay even. Talk turkey.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your imagination takes you in a new direction. Visualize much more of what you want from a boss. Start talking about possibilities. A partner makes a big difference in how you feel. Work with others. Brainstorm with those in charge. Tonight: Be ever playful.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Stay in touch with your feelings. Express your caring in a way that others can hear. A partner or associate demonstrates his or her caring too. Talk about your long-term goals and where you're heading. Don't go to extremes. Stay anchored. Tonight: Happy as a clam.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Participate in talks. You get down to basics with an associate. Realize more of what others expect. Develop a stronger sense of a partner. This person feels like revealing more of him- or herself. Design plans together. Make a must appearance. Tonight: Talk over dinner and bubbly.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might be wondering what you can offer a partner. Add more honesty and clarity to your relationship. You will find that discussions open up when you're more interested in revealing yourself. Express your childlike caring. A loved one cannot help but respond. Tonight: Your treat.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to question a partner and find out what makes him or her tick. Be more nurturing, allowing him or her to open up. Clear out work and get as much done as possible. Your personality helps someone close relax. Tonight: Entertain in your lavish style.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Wonder less and ask more. You find that once a conversation is started up, someone might be more than ready to continue it. You learn a lot about what makes a loved one or friend tick. Gain insight through asking the right questions. Tonight: Why not kick up your heels? Fun will be had by all.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Through networking, talking and opening up, you will find your answers. Keep in mind what your common goals are with those you work with. Together you become an unstoppable team. Recognize when you have pushed too hard. Tonight: Hook up with the gang.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ A boss keeps throwing more work on you. You could question your limits, feeling somewhat overwhelmed. Know when you have had enough, but also work on gracefully pulling back and establishing your limits. Realize what might be needed. Tonight: A must appearance.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Understand what you expect from a child or loved one. Stability takes you in a new direction. Seek out experts and information. Don't play into gossip. Do more listening and understanding right now. Visualize walking in someone else's shoes. Tonight: Off to a concert or movie.

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LOCAL

School board expedites meeting after war begins

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District rushed its board meeting Wednesday night after the war with Iraq broke out.

"It just didn't seem appropriate to carry on business as usual," said Superintendent John Deasy, who concluded the meeting shortly after 8 p.m. School board meetings regularly run into the early hours of the morning.

Board members agreed to table one item on the agenda — the middle school algebra plan — and moved through the remaining items at a quickened pace.

The middle school algebra plan will be discussed at the next meeting, when it can receive the "due exposure" it deserves, according to board members. The plan proposes "accelerating" math requirements at middle schools so that all students can take geometry in their first year of high school.

Also discussed at the meeting was changing the budget reinstatement plan, which provides a potential "road map" for recovery from the \$13.7 million the district has cut from the 2003-2004 budget.

Deasy recommended five elementary school librarians be included in the first "bundle" of positions that will be brought back if money becomes available. The first bundle is worth \$6.3 million and currently includes:

■ 21 elementary teachers, two elementary assistant principals, one elementary principal, 20 middle school teachers, 25 high school teachers, two nurses, six and two-thirds elementary music teachers, fine and one-fifth music aides and accompanists, one fine arts coordinator, four groundskeepers, four administrative assistants, two fiscal service workers, two personnel positions, one career center specialist and five elementary librarians.

In order to make room for the librarians, four positions — two grounds keepers and two administrative assistants — that were previously in the first bundle were pushed into the second bundle.

The board is hoping that a proposed \$225 flat parcel tax — to be levied on all properties in Santa Monica and Malibu for the next six years — will be approved by voters in June. If it passes, the parcel would generate approximately \$6.5 million annually for the beleaguered school district, allowing it to bring the first bundle of positions back.

The district has also requested \$3.5 million from the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu. If both sources of revenue come through, officials say the second bundle of jobs will be reinstated.

The second bundle costs \$3.5 million and includes:

■ Two administrative positions, three and one-fifth nurses, four elementary librarians, one and two-fifths middle school librarians, two high school librarians, 10 and nine-tenths P.E. aides, one P.E. coordinator, three computer lab technicians, 1 and nine-tenths classroom aides, 12 groundskeepers, 11 administrative assistants, four fiscal services positions, two personnel positions, two special assignments staff positions, one personnel position, one fiscal services supervisor, one textbook coordinator and one-quarter of a position in the superintendent's office.

Positions in the third bundle will be reinstated as funds become available. They are:

■ One educational services position, one classified personnel director, seven and one-third athletic support staff positions, three groundskeepers, three administrative positions, two purchasing positions, one-quarter of a cafeteria position and 24 special service contracts for independent contractors.

surf report

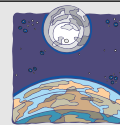
Information compiled by Jamie Seborer

In the north, expect waist- to shoulder-high waves, while the South Bay's west exposure pulls in more swell, meaning better consistency and size, chest- to head-high at good spots.

There's a chance of rain and a good possibility that wind will cause problems today.

Reports are tracking a northwest swell, expected to reach Southern California today. It's got a more westerly angle than the last swell, so size should improve, likely to reach overhead at good spots.

Rumor of the day: The ocean's really that dirty.



Today's Tides:

Low- 4:22 a.m. -0.24'
High- 10:30 a.m. 4.87'
Low- 4:23 p.m. 0.44'
High- 10:39 p.m. 5.67'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	3-3'/Fair	C
Topanga	2-4'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	B
Breakwater	4-5'/Fair	5-6'/Fair	A
El Porto	4-7'/Fair	5-7'/Fair	A

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today's horoscopes ... page 2**

170,000 homes to be built this year in SoCal



By Jodi Summers

Part of Santa Monica's growth includes the on-going development of affordable

“Given the need for additional housing for California’s growing population, and especially given the economic benefits of new home construction, the forecast for continued growth in housing starts is good news for our industry and the state as a whole.”

Even with all the new construction going on, analysts observe that the increase in production will not meet California's housing needs. California is the least affordable housing market in the United States.

(Jodi Summers is a real estate agent at Boardwalk Realty. If you have local real estate questions or opinions you'd like to share, e-mail them to Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com.)

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Election coverage live on City TV

By Daily Press staff

City TV, the government access cable channel for the City of Santa Monica, announced its "Vote 2003" line-up of Santa Monica election programming for the special mail-in ballot election that runs until today.

The channel has partnered with the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica education fund to produce the programming.

CityTV also will provide election results coverage on Friday, March 21, beginning at 9 p.m., live from the City Council Chambers, where the votes will be counted.

CityTV is seen on cable channel 16. The channel reaches more than 24,000 cable television households in the Santa Monica. In addition to election programming, CityTV airs a variety of local news, sports, performing arts and public meeting coverage.

Community clean-up scheduled

By Daily Press staff

The Main Street Merchants Association's second community clean up event is scheduled for Saturday, March 22 and will focus on the Ocean Park neighborhood.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Ocean Park Library on Main Street at 8:30 a.m., for registration. The City of Santa Monica will provide all support service for the clean up.

In addition, Tree People will provide instruction and guidance to volunteers as they perform tree care on the Cassia trees along Ocean Park Boulevard.

Last year more than 60 volunteers were rewarded for their hard work with gift bags containing goodies from Main Street businesses. The Merchants plan to build on the success of the previous clean up effort with an even larger selection of prizes and goodies for clean participants.

For more information on how you can volunteer please contact opcleanup-day@yahoo.com.

Board suggests rules to encourage restaurants

TASK FORCE, from page 1

A handful of merchants and property owners addressed the PTF Thursday night, urging the committee to make doing business downtown easier.

Barbara Levy, who, along with her husband Dr. Isaac Levy, owns the building at 1239 Third Street, read a letter signed by more than 50 downtown business and property owners, including Hear Music, George's Bistro and Monsoon.

"We are all committed to the long-term success of and viability of the Third Street Promenade and the Bayside District as a whole," she said. "And are deeply concerned about the regulatory measures being considered."

"Retail is like a living organism," she added. "It constantly changes and restricting it does not encourage change."

Committee members decided against: Requiring new retailers to provide on-site parking, increasing parking rates for retail stores and imposing other minor restrictions that would make life difficult for retailers.

Rather than subject retail businesses to complicated limitations, City Councilman Herb Katz, also a PTF member, suggested requiring businesses along the Promenade that want a storefront longer than 50 feet to obtain a variance.

"I personally am concerned with the scale of the stores on the Promenade," he said. "The goal is to keep the Promenade in the decent, livable shape that it's in."

But Katz said restricting certain types of merchants was the wrong way to approach the problem. He encouraged including smaller stores while still making room for large retailers that can lease out a portion of their storefront to smaller vendors.

"Let's not try to control this market,"

he added. "Every time we try to control it, we screw it up."

"I personally am concerned with the scale of the stores on the Promenade. The goal is to keep the Promenade in the decent, livable shape that it's in."

— HERB KATZ
City Councilman

City Councilman Mike Feinstein, chairman of the group, was the sole supporter of a recommendation that would have investigated possible limitations on major chain — or "formula" — retailers. Though other board members expressed an interest in the proposal, Feinstein failed to convince them that it was the best step to take.

Feinstein, who said chain stores take the money out of the local economy while driving away diversity and bankrupting small businesses, said the Promenade would benefit from more independent stores.

"A lot of people came for years because of the independents," he said. "And they're not coming now because of the mono-culture."



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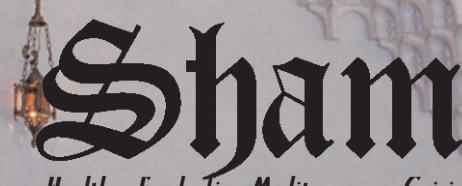
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OPINION

LETTERS

Bush hides from criticism

Editor:

To: President George W. Bush
With: Apologies to Emile Zola
On: The eve of war

J'accuse ...

J'accuse you of starting a holy war. Yes, Saddam is a bad man. Yes, he lies and cheats and tortures and gloats. But he is not Hitler, this is not 1939, and France and Germany and Russia and China and Mexico and Canada and Chile and Turkey are not appeasers.

J'accuse you of not finding those culpable for the intelligence failures leading to 9-11, not disciplining those responsible, not discovering systematic failures and copping out by building a bloated bureaucracy.

J'accuse you of believing war is a shoot-out at the OK Corral with you playing Wyatt Earp.

J'accuse you of putting the cream of our youth in harm's way, of relying on the Reserves and National Guard instead of building an adequate military.

J'accuse you of driving the nation into bankruptcy. How could you turn a surplus into a deficit over night? How far can you drive down the stock markets? How far can you run up unemployment? Now that you've doubled the price at the pump, can you triple it?

J'accuse you of bribing nations to join your cause while ignoring the states and the cities and the neighborhoods and the ghettos.

J'accuse you of building arms while schools and hospitals and bridges and roads and prisons and parks deteriorate.

J'accuse you of hunkering down in the oval office while clinics close in South Central Los Angeles, seniors go without medication or treatment, inner city kids go without books or classrooms or nutritious meals.

J'accuse you of connect-the-dots thinking that simplistically links the Taliban to Al Qaida to Saddam to war to peace to democracy throughout the Middle East.

J'accuse you of misleading the nation and undermining our values.

Paul Kuzniar
Santa Monica

Keep homeownership unfettered

Editor:

It has always been and will forever be the goal of all Americans to have a home of their own. All Americans include renters, Landmarks Commissioners, and city officials (whomever and wherever they may be).

Having your own home means more than land speculation. It means pride of ownership, security, a dream house for parents, something they can give their children, someplace children can be proud of having lived in, the bedrock of American society, the reward thrifty people can give themselves after a lifetime of saving and sacrifices, the epitome of individualism and creative expression, even a reflection of the

See LETTERS, page 7



"INSPECTOR GADGET"



Since the UN Inspectors couldn't find any W.O.M.D. in Iraq -- where did those SCUD Missiles come from that rained on Kuwait City this morning?

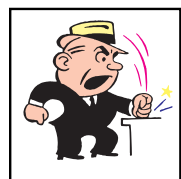


Yeah, right, sure, uh-huh.



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Eliminate wasteful Bayside District Corporation



MY WRITE

By Bill Bauer

David's picture was in a local newspaper a couple of weeks ago. He was holding a handmade sign on the Third Street Promenade: "Need to get Stoned. Please Help."

Maybe he was the guy who shouted to me, "Give me money, I want to get f****d up," the last time I was there in early December.

There's a big problem downtown with those like David, as well as with the mentally ill, the screamers, trashcan-rooting vagrants, drunks, dopers and social misfits. Adults and families with children are staying away in droves because they don't like being panhandled, insulted and forced to be unwilling witnesses to bizarre and anti-social behavior, foul language or threats.

You'd think the board of directors of the Bayside District Corp., the non-profit, city-owned entity that oversees the downtown area, would understand this and take positive steps to solve problems. Nawwww. They're too preoccupied with appearing "compassionate."

Last July, Bayside's board sent a request to the City Council requesting an increase in homeless services spending.

However, its mission is to encourage shopping, dining, entertaining and conducting business in a safe and pleasant environment — not advocate for the homeless.

A couple of weeks ago, the Bayside board voted to send another request to City Council once again requesting an increase in homeless services expenditures. Apparently, board members are under the impression that additional funding will get more people off the street.

Buzzzz. Wrong. Not so.

Santa Monica has spent nearly a \$100 million on homeless services over the last two decades. Year after year, the numbers of homeless increase while the number of people benefiting from services goes down. So how can anyone (except service providers) say with a straight face that spending more money means less people on the streets?

Each of the 11 Bayside directors are appointed by the City Council. They are a mix of property owners/managers, two restaurant owners, an entertainment attorney, a businesswoman, a representative from Macerich (owner of Santa Monica Place), a planner for a developer, the co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights and a downtown resident.

Bayside's annual budget is \$905,200, of which \$608,000 is a direct city subsidy and \$185,000 is raised from a special assessment collected from downtown businesses. Other income comes from film permits and miscellaneous sources.

Personnel expenses are \$388,944 including executive director Kathleen Rawson's nearly \$100,000 annual salary. Administrative expenses, including rent, phone and office supplies, is about \$162,790. Consultants cost \$35,000, monthly newsletters cost \$78,500 and \$95,000 goes for holiday promotions excluding decorations and other miscellaneous items.

Bad decision-making seems to be a Bayside forte.

Bayside's annual holiday decorations (last year's plastic icebergs cost \$450,000) are usually subject to a great deal of criticism and derision.

In August of 2001, Bayside's board proposed that downtown restaurants with under 100 seats should be able to obtain alcohol use permits administratively, excluding public input — a bad idea in an area with an over-concentration of alcohol licensees.

The clutter of swap-meet merchandise carts and mobs of overly-loud entertainers using amplified sound systems contributes to a honky-tonk atmosphere that attracts kids and alienates big spenders.

Last month, the Bayside board voted to ask the City Council to bring henna tattooists back to the Promenade — a move that will further contribute to the cheap carnival atmosphere and emasculate the last semblance of charm, class or style.

The entire area has developed a gray patina that has apparently escaped the notice of those who are supposed to be

responsible for an attractive entertainment and shopping destination.

The Bayside board has done little to mitigate the filthy, smelly alleys leading from the parking garages. Garbage stewing in alley dumpsters on hot, summer afternoons is particularly gross.

Then there's the pervasive smell of human waste from the vagrants residing downtown and who the Bayside wants to ply with even more services.

The latest request to increase homeless services spending spearheaded by Bayside board chairman John Warfel and director Rob Rader is another in a series of bone-headed missteps. They should both resign and join the Social Services Commission where altruism is more appropriate.

Then maybe the city should take Bayside's concern literally. The city's \$608,000 subsidy could be used for homeless services. Better yet, give it to our schools.

And, the city could disband the Bayside all together and reallocate merchant assessments to the Visitors and Convention Bureau or Chamber of Commerce.

Things couldn't get any worse. And look at the money we'd save.

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

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

LOCAL



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

Declaration of Independence “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” in a home of our own.

Homeowners don’t set out to build home that would someday be “extremely important and architecturally significant buildings.” If the Landmark Commission wants that, they can build replicas and leave the social experimentation for something else.

Freedom of choice should be kept open for the minority and private, unfettered home ownership should not be sacrificed on the alter of the majority.

YES on Prop. A.

David Hughes
Santa Monica

A thank you to Prop. A volunteers

Editor:

Whatever happens when the votes are counted tonight, I want to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of volunteers and individual homeowners who have given their time and money to the Yes on Prop. A campaign. It has not been easy. The opposition has lied extensively about who you are and what your interests are in this issue. One council member promised her support and then abandoned you, and another has made a habit of denying that you even exist. But I have seen your hard work. I remember dozens of you meeting in my living room to decide how to protect our homes, and hundreds of you meeting at Franklin School as our grassroots movement grew. I have seen you walking the districts, distributing flyers and talking to your neighbors. I have seen your checks for \$5, \$10, or \$15 that you have sent from your pension or social

security income. I have seen over 1,000 of you place “Yes on Prop. A” signs on your lawn. Whatever happens tonight, you should be proud of your hard work.

If Prop. A passes, we will have accomplished something great for our neighborhoods. We should continue to work together and foster the spirit of cooperation that has swept through our streets. Those who don’t live in our neighborhoods will continue to deny this spirit, but we know it is there. We have bonded in a way rarely seen in a community, and we should work hard to preserve that bond. The first thing we should do is start neighborhood groups that actually reflect the will of the neighbors, rather than the political agenda of the five or 10 people on the board of directors. I can only speak for the egregious failure of NOMA in this regard, but I am sure other neighborhoods have experienced the same thing. New neighborhood groups should be our top priority whether we win or not.

If Prop. A fails, we have still scored a victory of sorts. Granted, if we lose we can look for the cosmetic changes the city made to the Landmarks Ordinance to be quietly changed back within the next few weeks. After all, they carry no rule of law. But as I said before, we have come together as neighbors, and that is invaluable. We have identified one another, and we are here to help one another. This whole thing started on my street, when we were under attack by the city. Well, we’ve been through it, and we can help you. When the city comes to take control of your house, our experience can help you. Call us. We can help organize your neighbors, help you circulate a petition, and help you get lawn signs for your street. All is not lost even if Prop. A fails tonight, because from now on no individual homeowner has to fight this battle alone, ever again. And that is worth all of your hard work.

God bless and good luck tonight.

Gregory Poirier
Santa Monica

The Q-Line

Readers sound off on parking meter question

This past Sunday, Q-line asked: “Do you think the parking meter increase is fair? Why or why not?”

Here are your responses:

■ “I have less quarrel with the park-

ing fee increase than I do with the archaic hand turn meters that do not accept a denomination variety of coinage. The meters along Pacific Palisades Park only accept quarters. If a motorist has only two dimes and a nickel, that motorist is out of luck to legally park.”

■ “I own a store on Main Street and I have to say that an increase in unfair. Santa Monica already has pretty high meter rates. Main Street does not have very much parking anyway. It will be dif-

ficult for people to find parking and then when they do find parking they are going to be frustrated by how expensive it is to park there. It will drive away business and Santa Monica is already small business unfriendly.”

■ “The increase in some parking spots from 50-cents an hour to \$1 is a really short-sighted move by the City Council. There is tremendous opportunity to generate funds for the City of Santa Monica that I think probably over

the years the city has totally ignored, I don’t know why. There are opportunities to work with corporate partners on events on the Promenade. There are opportunities to sell advertising via banners along Wilshire Boulevard and other high traffic areas that would not distract from what Santa Monica is. Bottom line is that there are lots of marketing opportunities that the city just lets the money sit on the table. It’s crazy in this time of a budget crisis.”

Excerpts from editorial pages around the world

MARCH 18

Le Figaro, Paris, on war with Iraq:

In a few days, perhaps a few hours, weapons will speak...If the American President triumphs quickly in Baghdad, public opinion, as versatile as it is spontaneous, will view him differently. What then will one remember from the long months leading up to the military offensive?

Of course, the debate on the alleged legality, or illegality, of this war. Resolution 1441, adopted last November by the United Nations, demands disarmament of Iraq by weapons inspections. The resolution does not implicitly evoke war, nor does it call for the defeat of Saddam’s regime. International law has only a relative value: it can do nothing against force...

The diplomatic duel between George Bush and Jacques Chirac will have been the other big subject. A battle of positions that would almost eclipse the fact that the common enemy was the dictator of Baghdad. From both sides of the Atlantic, the media had harsh words for each of the presidents. Bush the crusader, Bush the simple-minded, versus Chirac the traitor, Chirac the friend of Saddam...

Chirac’s pacifism is no more absolute than Bush’s bellicosity: without the September 11 attacks, the President of the United States undoubtedly would not have initiated a war.

MARCH 18

Algemeen Dagblad, Rotterdam, on President Bush and war with Iraq:

In defiance of opposing views in his own country and everywhere else, Bush is religiously convinced war is the only remedy against the dictator of Baghdad. The theatrical negotiations in the U.N. security council, sharply waged, appear in retrospect to have had little meaning. It is disturbing that the U.N. only matters to Bush when it goes along with the plan-making in Washington, and is

otherwise shoved aside as meaningless. This arrogant attitude, more than the conflict over how to disarm Saddam, explains the distance in large parts of the globe and the division in Europe. But Washington doesn’t feel responsible for the consequences.

However sad this all is, it can’t be seen as a big surprise. Ever since Bush became president after an unconvincing election result, he has been surrounded with advisers who can’t be told anything by the outside world. The big question is what they will put on the agenda after Iraq: North Korea, Iran or other minor annoyances America wants to deal with.

MARCH 18

Business Day, Johannesburg, on going to war with Iraq:

There is no reason not to wait a little longer for a war (We cannot) live in a world where wars are lit by passion and hatred. Sometimes, humanity demands compromise and patience.

(Saddam) needs to be contained in the most comprehensive way. UN sanctions on Iraq should be tightened... And the UN weapons inspectors need to become a permanent fixture.

... Any government arguing, that Iraq must indeed disarm, but which does not also contribute to the pressure to disarm, is double-dealing. The US and Britain ... are the only nations actually forcing the disarmament required unanimously by the UN Security Council in Resolution 1441.

But the failure of diplomacy does not have to be final ... Many thousands of lives are at stake. Nothing is more important than that.

For diplomacy to work, however, the US and Britain need support. It is no good France and the rest of the Security Council idly opposing Bush, however crass his modus operandi may have been. The more united the pressure on Iraq, the longer war can be averted.

Saddam must go, yes. And his weapons too. But this week, this month, is too early for war. There are still stones left unturned. Wait a little and work on the French.

MARCH 18

Egyptian Gazette, Cairo, on U.S.-Iraq:

Emerging from a hastily called summit on Iraq in the Azores Islands in Portugal, U.S. President George W. Bush told a jittery world that “a moment of truth” was at hand.

With all signs pointing to an inevitable war, which has no good rationale or moral grounds, the aftermath will be most likely horrible. One reason is that the battlefield is an already volatile region. Another is these pervasive feelings of vulnerability across the globe. These feelings are bound to deepen.

If a moment of truth is already at hand, it is Mr. Bush who needs to grasp it and be cognizant of the fact that his unjustified war would open the Pandora’s box for the whole globe.

MARCH 18

Jordan Times, Amman, on U.S. plans in Iraq:

As the U.S. goes to war, Jordanians and Arabs find themselves haunted by the same question that they have been asking Washington for the past few months: What is the plan?

Speaking after the Azores summit on Sunday, President George W. Bush reiterated his commitment to a ‘unified’ Iraq. That was — like 95 percent of what Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said after their summit — nothing new.

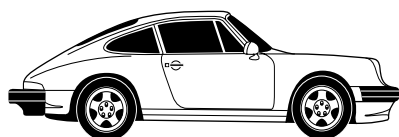
What Bush has failed to mention so far is how he intends to keep Iraq united, how he intends to foster the emergence of a representative administration, including all ethnic and religious components of Iraq society.



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Programs created to help homeless gain recognition

BAYSIDE, from page 1

because it has routinely worked with business interests, city officials and social service providers to find ways to deal with the growing number of homeless in Santa Monica.

Instead of turning a blind eye to those on the street, Bayside has set up several programs and been part of solutions in aiding homeless people to get off the street, supporters said.

"For Bayside, this has been a public safety issue and Bayside has made it a point of including Step Up and the social service community in their discussion of homeless issues," said Step Up On Second CEO Tod Lipka. "Step Up and others were asked to be part of the Bayside public safety committee from the very beginning as a way to craft collaborative solutions."

To Bayside officials, who are primarily concerned with keeping the downtown business district a safe and pleasant environment, the issues surrounding homelessness can be extremely political.

The group formed a public safety committee last year to address concerns over transients' anti-social behavior. Residents, tourists and business owners complained at the time that transients were urinating and defecating in doorways of downtown businesses and aggressively panhandling.

In response, the public safety committee recommended that the City Council pass two laws addressing the problems. The council passed those laws in October amid widespread controversy.

The first law forces charitable organizations running free meal programs in city parks to apply for a permit if the gathering is more than 150 people. Each organization must also get a permit from the Los Angeles County Health Department verifying that their program follows stringent health codes and is not conducted more than three times in a 90-day period.

Some believe the reason Santa Monica has such a high population of homeless people is because they are attracted by church groups from outside of the city who offer free food in parks and in front of City Hall several times a day.

The council also unanimously enacted a law that makes it illegal to sleep in doorways downtown and in the commercial zones along Main Street from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Thursday's award may be surprising to some given the amount of controversy and politics surrounding the issue. But city leaders say Bayside responds to the interests of the business community,

while at the same time showing compassion toward the downtrodden.

Bayside's executive director, Kathleen Rawson, who was recognized as being instrumental in many of the organization's efforts, has taken her fair share of criticism over the years, particularly when the homeless laws were introduced to the council.

Tim Alexander, who has worked with Rawson in the past, said Santa Monica has no choice but to help its less fortunate and Bayside plays a large part in that effort.

"There is absolutely no other place for these people to go and it's our responsibility as a society," Alexander said. "Kathleen understands that. She has integrity, is a person I can trust and she has intelligence to make the tough decisions."

A few years ago, Bayside developed the Dolphin Exchange Program, which was born from complaints by downtown merchants who were upset about panhandlers deterring would-be shoppers.

Bayside had four sculptured dolphin banks created downtown so people could deposit money in them instead of giving it to people begging on the street. The money collected is then given to local social service providers who help the homeless and the less fortunate through structured programs.

Bayside has collected more than \$100,000 from the dolphins, which has gone to various programs throughout Santa Monica.

Bayside also helped create work programs for homeless at the farmer's market on the Third Street Promenade twice a week, as well as employing them to help set up the kiosks placed on the outdoor mall every day.

When Bayside recently started exploring an outdoor cafe on the Promenade, one of the first groups it turned to was Step Up On Second, which has a catering service employed by its clients.

Bayside also recently asked the City Council to increase its funding to social service agencies.

Bayside also played a part in getting downtown businesses to donate excess food to Step Up on a regular basis. Step Up prepares more than 30,000 meals every year.

"In tough times, many organizations circle the wagons and watch over their own interests," Lipka said. "These few examples of Bayside symbolize a spirit of collaboration and coordination that is unique for an organization whose purpose is to represent the interests of a downtown business district."

"It's not only unique, it's exemplary."

Last day to vote on Prop. A

PROP A, from page 1

As of Thursday, 17,344 of Santa Monica's more than 50,000 registered voters had returned their ballots, a number election specialists say is high for a single-issue election.

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

Only 16 houses in Santa Monica have ever been deemed of historic significance. Nonetheless, the election has attracted a significant amount of money. Roughly \$200,000 has been donated this year alone to campaigns on both sides of the measure, according to campaign contribution disclosure reports.



STATE □ NATIONAL



Texas executes 300th inmate since resuming death penalty

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — An apologetic killer Thursday became the 300th inmate put to death in Texas since the state resumed the death penalty 20 years ago.

Keith Clay, 35, who gunned down a convenience store clerk during a 1994 robbery, prayed softly to himself as he was executed by injection. He was pronounced dead at 6:23 p.m.

Clay asked for forgiveness from three members of his victim's family, who watched through a nearby window.

"I know you have suffered a great loss and I am truly, truly sorry," he told the family of Melathethil Tom Varughese.

Clay also asked God to "forgive me of every single solitary sin I have committed."

Turning to his mother, he said, "Let everyone know that I love them. This is not goodbye. I will see you later."

Cynthia Smith smiled and flashed two thumbs up to him.

Clay was the 11th inmate executed this year in Texas, which is on a pace to surpass the record 40 lethal injections it carried out in 2000. Another execution is scheduled for next week.

It took nearly 13 years for Texas to reach 100 executions, four years get to No. 200 and now just over

"I know you have suffered a great loss and I am truly, truly sorry."

— KEITH CLAY
Inmate

three to reach the 300th.

The state accounts for more than one-third of the 839 executions in the United States since 1976, when the death penalty resumed under a Supreme Court ruling. Virginia is second with 87.

Clay was convicted of killing Varughese during a \$2,000 robbery in Baytown, near Houston. Varughese had come to the United States from India a year earlier.

Clay had said he was outside the store in a car when Varughese was killed, but a witness identified Clay as the gunman and evidence showed his gun was one of the two used in the shooting.

"I'm not happy to see someone put to death, but I know that the trial was a fair trial," said Marie Munier, who prosecuted

Clay. "I think it's justice."

Prosecutors also linked Clay to the fatal shootings of three people, including two children, on Christmas Eve in 1993. He denied any role in the killings and was not tried, but a companion was sent to death row for the crime.

The Supreme Court refused to review Clay's case last week. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles refused to consider a clemency request because it was filed late.

Earlier this month Texas had slated another convicted killer to become its 300th inmate executed.

Delma Banks, who says he was wrongly convicted of a 1980 slaying, was granted a last-minute Supreme Court reprieve.

Eyes in the sky



Reed Saxon/Associated Press

Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, left, and Police Chief William Bratton inspect the Scattergood Power Generating Station, the striped smokestack at left, one of several Los Angeles Department of Water and Power installations, during a helicopter tour of possible terrorist targets in the Los Angeles area Thursday.

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DID YOU KNOW?: in 1807 Britain abolished the slave trade because of the work of an active Christian legislator, William Wilberforce?



INTERNATIONAL

Onset of war sparks demonstrations across country

WAR, from page 1

Saddam had been killed in the initial Wednesday night bombing of Baghdad.

State-run Iraqi television said Saddam survived, and met with his top aides to counter the U.S.-led attack. "We are

resolved to teach the criminal invaders hard lessons and make them taste painful punishment," declared the Iraqi military.

Intelligence analysts tried to determine whether a man in military garb shown on state-run television was the

Iraqi leader or a double. U.S. intelligence believes Saddam and possibly two of his sons were present inside a suburban Baghdad compound when it was struck and that medical attention was summoned afterward. There was no definitive word whether Saddam was caught in the pre-dawn attack.

The onset of war sparked anti-war demonstrations across the country — more than 1,000 were arrested in San Francisco — and at U.S. embassies around the world. The State Department warned U.S. citizens abroad of an increased danger of terrorism.

Rumsfeld hinted that talks with Iraqi military elements, including some in the elite Republican Guard, may have been behind a delayed start to a planned massive aerial assault.

"We still hope" the Iraqi leadership can be replaced "without the full force and fury of a war," Rumsfeld said after meeting with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Robert Andrews, D-N.J., said following a House briefing with Rumsfeld that "the behavior of those who've not surrendered would suggest that they might."

In southern Iraq, white light glowed in the desert sky, and the sound of explosions could be heard from across the Kuwait-Iraq frontier as the 3rd Infantry Division unleashed an artillery barrage. Troops eager to cross the border into Iraq cheered — and units were soon on their way.

The 101st Airborne Division rumbled across the desert in a vast convoy — trucks, tankers, Humvees and more rolling along under a round white moon.

Iraq sent missiles toward Kuwait in retaliation for the pre-dawn attack against Saddam, and American officials said the Iraqis had set fire to some of their own oil wells. Protecting the oil-rich Basra region was one of the American military's goals as Marines and Army special forces headed into Iraq.

The Iraqi missiles landed harmlessly in the Kuwaiti desert. Officials said none of the Iraqi missiles caused injuries, and one was intercepted by a Patriot missile. Thousands of American and British troops donned protective gear, but there was no evidence the missiles carried chemical or biological weapons.

Prime Minister Tony Blair, Bush's staunchest ally in the war effort, went on television to tell his country that British forces were "engaged from air, land and

sea. Their mission: to remove Saddam Hussein from power and disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction," he said in the recorded address.

It was the second straight night that cruise missiles and bombs penetrated Baghdad.

This time, officials said the targets included facilities of the Special Republican Guard and the Special Security Organization. The organization, run by Saddam's younger son, Qusai, oversees most security and intelligence activities in Iraq.

Red and white anti-aircraft tracers lit the night sky and a huge plume of smoke rose from the west bank of the Tigris River in central Baghdad.

A senior defense official with direct knowledge of the operation said about two dozen Tomahawk missiles were fired from two American and two British submarines, plus one American surface ship. The vessels were in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.

But two officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the night strikes were not the beginning of the massive air assault that Pentagon officials have said they plan to unleash.

In Washington, the Senate unanimously approved a resolution supporting U.S. military forces, while protesters briefly blocked one of the Potomac River bridges carrying traffic into the capital. Outside the White House, demonstrators shouted, "No blood for oil."

In an unusual diplomatic move, the Bush administration called for the expulsion of Iraqi diplomats by all countries that recognize and deal with the government in Baghdad.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the diplomats represented a "corrupt and ruthless regime."

The Bush administration seized \$1.75 billion in Iraqi assets already frozen in the Gulf War, saying the money would be used for humanitarian purposes in Iraq.

A U.S. humanitarian effort already is beginning. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said the United States is sending 200,000 tons of wheat and rice to Iraq. "President Bush has assured the people of Iraq that they will have the food and medicine they need," she said.

Bush, who spent a full day, starting at 7 a.m., dealing with the war, planned to leave the White House early Friday afternoon for his customary weekend at Camp David.



Eric Draper/White House/Associated Press

President Bush, second from right, receives an update on the status of military action in Iraq on Thursday in the Oval Office of the White House. From left are, Vice President Dick Cheney, back to camera, CIA Director George Tenet, the president and Chief of Staff Andy Card.



Associated Press Photo

U.S. and British troops take shelter in "scud trenches" during an unconfirmed Iraqi missile attack in the Kuwaiti desert Thursday.



Associated Press photo

A fire is seen through a bridge in Baghdad, Iraq early Thursday after a nearby target was hit by U.S. airstrikes.



Photographer's Mate 2nd Class (AW) Richard Moore/Associated Press

The first Tomahawk missile to be fired into Iraq is launched from USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) on Thursday.

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SPORTS



NCAA tournament provides usual thrills, spills

By The Associated Press

■ East

CALIFORNIA 76, NORTH CAROLINA STATE 74

OKLAHOMA CITY — Richard Midgley hit a 3-pointer from the left side of the arc with 3.9 seconds left in overtime, sending the Golden Bears to the second round for the second straight year.

North Carolina State took a 74-73 lead after Scooter Sherrill hit a 3 with 12.8 seconds left. California quickly moved the ball up the court and Joe Shipp made a move to the basket before tossing it back out to Midgley, whose third 3-pointer of the game swished through.

OKLAHOMA 71, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE 54

OKLAHOMA CITY — Even though Hollis Price was clearly bothered by a strained left groin and played only 11 minutes, the top-seeded Sooners still advanced.

Price, who got hurt in the closing seconds of the Big 12 tournament title game Sunday, has another day to rest before Oklahoma (25-6) plays eighth-seeded California on Saturday. Cal (22-8) beat North Carolina State 76-74 in overtime.

■ South

STANFORD 77, SAN DIEGO 69

SPOKANE, Wash. — Matt Lottich scored 17 points and hit a big 3-pointer with 49.7 seconds remaining, lifting fourth-seeded Stanford in the first round of the South Regional.

The Cardinal (24-8), making their ninth straight NCAA appearance, came within a whisker of a first-round exit for the first time since 1992.

Josh Childress scored 22 points and Julius Barnes had 18 for Stanford, which blew a 19-point first-half lead but rallied after No. 13 seed San Diego (18-12) went ahead 66-63 on a bank shot by Roy Morris with 3:42 to go.

CONNECTICUT 58, BYU 53

SPOKANE, Wash. — Emeka Okafor scored 20 points and blocked seven shots to lead the fifth-seeded

Huskies over the No. 12 seed Cougars.

The loss by BYU (23-9) avoids a potentially embarrassing situation for the NCAA, which mistakenly put the Cougars in the South, where the Mormon-owned school would have had to play the fourth round on a Sunday.

Because BYU does not play on Sundays, the NCAA would have had to reshuffle the brackets if the Cougars make it to the third round, sending them to the Midwest.

UConn (22-9) made it moot and now will play the winner of the San Diego-Stanford game in Saturday's second round.

■ Midwest

MARQUETTE 72, HOLY CROSS 68

INDIANAPOLIS — Travis Diener scored a career-high 29 points and Dwyane Wade added 15 as Marquette won an opening-round game for the first time since 1996.

Holy Cross, seeded 14th, hasn't won an NCAA game since 1953, but for the third straight year it almost pulled off an upset of a higher-ranked team. The Crusaders lost to Kentucky in 2001 by four points and to Kansas last year by 11.

MISSOURI 72, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 71

INDIANAPOLIS — Rickey Paulding made one of two free throws with 4.1 seconds remaining as No. 6 seed Missouri survived an upset scare.

Kent Williams' potential game-winner from the left wing glanced off the side of the rim at the buzzer.

WISCONSIN 81, WEBER STATE 74

SPOKANE, Wash. — Kirk Penney scored 21 points to lead fifth-seeded Wisconsin over No. 12 Weber State.

Wisconsin's stifling defense gets most of the credit for the team's success this season, and the Badgers held the Wildcats (26-6) in check until the final minutes.

But it was sharp shooting that got the regular-season champions of the Big Ten out to a quick start. The Badgers shot 57 percent to take a 15-point halftime lead and finished at 53 percent.

Mike Wilkinson added 15 points and Devin Harris 14 for Wisconsin (23-7), which set a school record for wins.

Slobodan Ocokoljic, a transfer from Ohio State, led Weber State with 26 points and 14 rebounds. Jermaine Boyette added 25 points for the Wildcats, who had a 17-game winning streak snapped.

■ West

ARIZONA 80, VERMONT 51

SALT LAKE CITY — No. 1 seed Arizona ousted the weary, 16th-seeded New Englanders, who were stranded overnight by a snowstorm in Denver en route to their first NCAA tournament appearance in 103 years.

The Catamounts didn't get to Utah until 11 p.m. Wednesday. Thirteen hours later, they tipped off against one of the best teams in college basketball.

The results were predictable.

GONZAGA 74, CINCINNATI 69

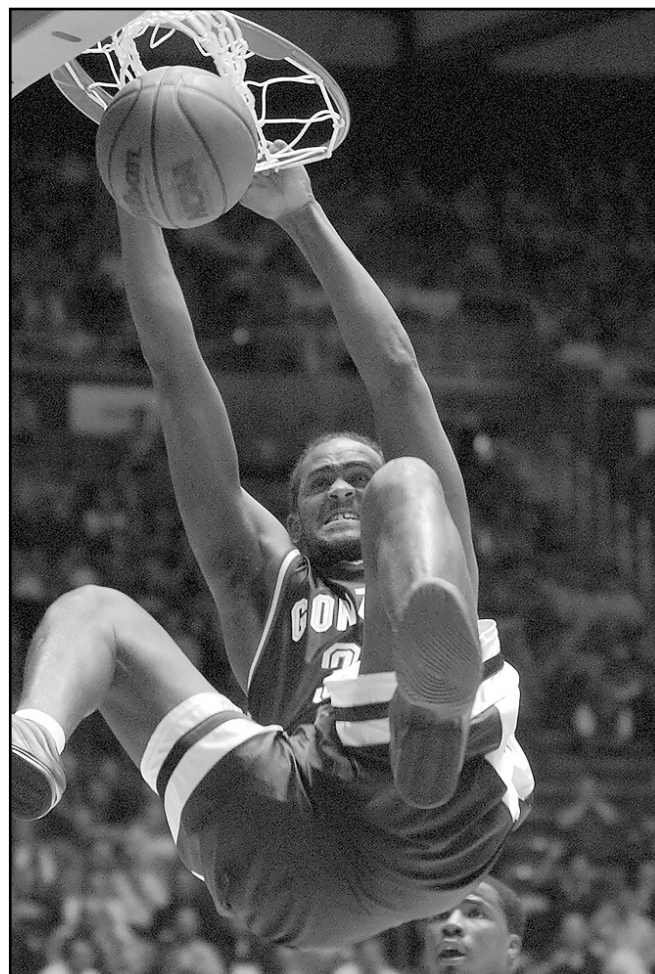
SALT LAKE CITY — Ronny Turiaf had 22 points, including a school record-tying 16 free throws, and 10 rebounds as ninth-seeded Gonzaga won its NCAA tournament opener for the fourth time in five years.

Gonzaga — which made surprising runs from low seedings to the round of eight in 1999 and round of 16 the next two years — has just one first-round loss in the past five tournaments.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN 79, CREIGHTON 73

SALT LAKE CITY — Mike Manciel scored a season-high 29 points as 11th-seeded Central Michigan pulled off a mild upset of Creighton despite nearly blowing a 26-point lead.

The Chippewas (25-6) allowed the lead to dwindle to



Ann Heisenfelt/Associated Press

Gonzaga's Ronny Turiaf dunks as Cincinnati's Kyle Bankhead looks on during the first half of their NCAA West Regional first round game on Thursday in Salt Lake City.

two before sealing the victory by shooting 5-of-6 from the free-throw line down the stretch.

It was the Chippewas' second first-round win in four NCAA trips. They hadn't been in the NCAA field since 1987.

It marks the fourth time in five years that a Mid-American Conference team has reached the second round of the tournament.

Kyle Korver scored 21 points in his final college game for Creighton (29-5), knocked out in the first round after drawing its highest seed in 14 NCAA appearances.

ARIZONA STATE 84, MEMPHIS 71

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ike Diogu scored 22 points, including 10 in a key second-half run, as Arizona State won in its first NCAA tournament appearance since 1995.

Diogu did it all against seventh-seeded Memphis, shooting 9-of-11 from the floor with a variety of post moves and even stepped out to hit a pair of 3-pointers in a 13-0 second-half run that opened up a 10-point lead for the 10th-seeded Sun Devils (20-11).

His two-handed dunk with 2:41 left made it 70-59, squelching any late rally. Chris Massie scored 20 points and had 13 rebounds for seventh-seeded Memphis (23-7).

ILLINOIS 65, WESTERN KENTUCKY 60

INDIANAPOLIS — James Augustine, Deron Williams and Dee Brown combined for 37 points, 16 rebounds and 13 assists, and Brown hit two free throws with 22.8 seconds left to seal the win for Illinois.

Big Ten player of the year Brian Cook, a senior, had his typical game with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

No. 4 seed Illinois (25-6) was the third higher-seeded team in Indianapolis to struggle Thursday, but like Marquette and Missouri in the Midwest Regional, the Illini escaped narrowly at the end.

No. 13 seed Western Kentucky (24-9) led 43-41 with 12:27 to go, but Cook tied the score with a dunk and Williams gave Illinois the lead with a 3-pointer. The Hilltoppers tied the score three times after that, but the Illini never trailed again. Nate Williams led Western Kentucky with 17 points.

NCAA shifts Sunday schedule so CBS gets an extra game

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — CBS will show an extra NCAA tournament game Sunday to make up for shifting some first-round action to cable channel ESPN because of war coverage.

The NCAA agreed to change starting times in Nashville, Tenn., and Tampa, Fla., to allow the network to add a fourth game to its schedule Sunday, beginning at about 7 p.m. Normally, only three games are aired on the tournament's first Sunday.

"60 Minutes" will be pushed to about 9 p.m.

The start of CBS Sports' tournament show Thursday was shown by ESPN. But CBS aired games Thursday night.

If CBS opted to switch games Friday night, they would be shown on ESPN2. ESPN's previous schedule included NBA coverage Friday night.

"We'll be updating our viewers frequently. We're working closely with the news division," Wade said.

In Nashville, Tenn., the new tipoff schedule Sunday is: Xavier-Troy State winner vs. Maryland-North Carolina-Wilmington winner at 4:30 p.m., and Kentucky-IUPUI winner vs. Oregon-Utah winner at 7 p.m.

And in Tampa, Fla., the new schedule is: Wake Forest-East Tennessee State winner vs. Saint Joseph's-Auburn winner at 4:30 p.m., and Florida-Sam Houston State winner vs. Michigan State-Colorado winner at 7 p.m.

All of those four games' starting times originally were two hours earlier.



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



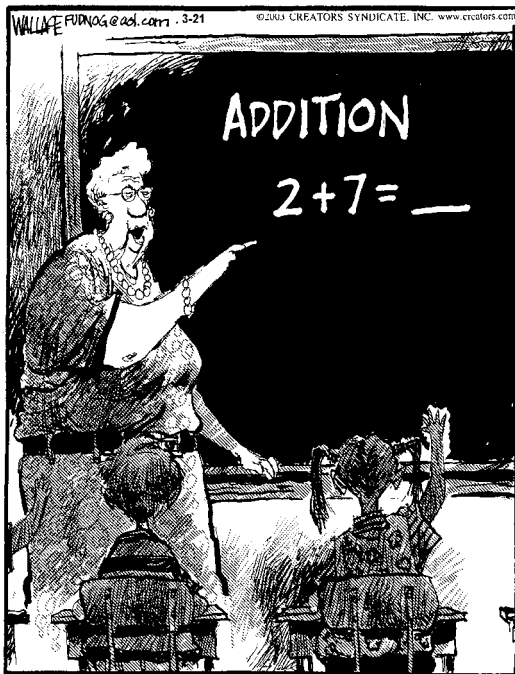
by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



"No, Tyler... the answer is NOT Wisconsin."

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Perma-nent con
- 6 Pool shot
- 11 Home
- 12 Sharp-shooting Shaq
- 13 Grinch's creator
- 14 Start of some poem titles
- 15 Muff
- 16 Dawn goddess
- 18 Femur's upper end
- 19 Umbrella part
- 20 Compass pt.
- 21 Mine find
- 22 Greet
- 24 Blown away
- 25 Check out
- 27 Traffic marker
- 29 Flower part
- 32 Terminus
- 33 Fabergé creation
- 34 Juan's wife
- 35 Rep.'s foe
- 36 Arthur of TV
- 37 Puppy cry
- 38 Digression
- 40 Bouquet — (herb mix)
- 42 Happen again
- 43 Draw out

DOWN

- 1 Surgical tools
- 2 Michener work
- 3 James Patterson book
- 4 Mag. workers
- 5 Takes offense at
- 6 Antlered animal
- 7 Addition-ally
- 8 James Patterson book
- 9 Swift work
- 10 Waived one's rites
- 17 Like a brief report
- 23 French article
- 24 Congress creation
- 26 Hires
- 27 Lebanon trees
- 28 "Hold on —"
- 30 Show clearly
- 31 Sword
- 33 Reviewer Roger
- 39 Pester for payment
- 41 Oklahoma city

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3-21

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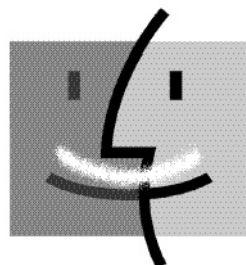
Obituaries



Taylor Mawr Brutzman, born on September 4, 1981 in Santa Monica, California, passed away on March 14th, 2003 in Marina, California. She was a compassionate, loving daughter and sister. She is survived by her beloved family, Barbara and Scott, and sister Ashlee. Taylor was a student at California State University Monterey Bay studying art and photography. Her love of photography and her artistic talents were unique. Taylor had many qualities that made her a beautiful person. Her natural abilities, empathy and compassion for people and her concern for animals will be greatly missed. Please say a prayer for Taylor, and in doing so, know she shall continue to live in our hearts as you remember her in life.

There will be a special viewing with shared memories from family and friends, Saturday, March 22, at the funeral home, Gates-Kingsley Funeral Chapel, 1925 Arizona Ave, Santa Monica. Viewing is from 7pm to 9pm. There will also be another viewing on Sunday, March 23, from 2pm to 4pm and from 7pm to 9pm. The memorial service is Monday, March 24 commencing at First United Methodist Church, 1008 Eleventh St. in Santa Monica. Memorial service begins at 11am.

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BACK PAGE

Study says binge-eating not solely caused by poor willpower

BY JEFF DONN
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — Binge-eaters who say they can't help it may be right.

A study suggests a weak gene, not feeble willpower, may be the cause for some people. The research may point the way to a future pill to tame their appetites.

The joint Swiss-German-American study makes the strongest case yet that genetic mistakes can cause an eating disorder, researchers say. Traditionally, eating behavior has been viewed as complex and cultural in its causes.

"Willpower is not always important to reduce weight. Some people can by willpower. Some cannot, and I think these patients have a hard time," said Dr. Fritz Horber, the leader of the binge-eating study at the Hirslanden Clinic in Zurich, Switzerland.

Researchers have been trying to understand the reasons for an epidemic of obesity, which raises the risk for heart disease, diabetes and many other ailments. About 30 percent of American adults are obese, up from 14 percent 25 years ago, according to government data. The surge is widely blamed on abundant high-calorie foods and sedentary lifestyles.

However, some researchers have also begun to link several genes to obesity, implicating heredity as an important

"Willpower is not always important to reduce weight. Some people can by willpower. Some cannot, and I think these patients have a hard time."

—DR. FRITZ HORBER

Leader of the binge-eating study at the Hirslanden Clinic in Zurich, Switzerland

underlying factor. Increasingly, eating problems are thought to stem from a subtle interaction of lifestyle and multiple genes.

Probably the most common eating disorder, binge-eating strikes up to 4 million Americans, according to the National Institutes of Health. Binge-eaters, who are usually but not always overweight, frequently and compulsively stuff themselves — often in secret — and feel ashamed afterward.

In this study, which was published Thursday in The New England Journal of Medicine, the researchers focused on a gene linked to obesity in earlier studies. Known as the melanocortin 4 receptor gene, it makes a protein by that name that helps stimulate appetite in the brain's hunger-regulating hypothalamus. If a mutated gene makes too little protein, the

body feels too much hunger.

The researchers considered 469 severely obese white adults — a quarter of them binge-eaters. However, the disorder was much more common among the 5 percent with the mutated gene. All of them were binge-eaters, compared to just 14 percent of those with no mutated gene.

In another study in the same journal issue, a British team reported finding mutations of the same gene in more than 5 percent of 500 severely obese children. The genetic link was so strong that the researchers could use results from chemical tests on their genetic DNA to predict how much the children would eat at a meal.

Horber, the Swiss researcher, said other eating disorders, including other types of bingeing, probably stem from a variety of genes and environmental factors. However, he said the still-unnamed binge-

eating syndrome tied to this gene is especially important because it is perhaps the most stubbornly resistant to dieting and exercise.

Horber said the binge-eaters in his study felt a wave of relief from guilt when they learned of the genetic cause behind their compulsion. Dr. Stephen O'Rahilly, one of the British study's researchers at the University of Cambridge, said one family in that study was so ecstatic over evidence of a physical cause that they made themselves T-shirts saying, "We've got an MC4 mutation."

Eric Ravussin, a Louisiana State University researcher on obesity genetics, said, however, that without more biochemical proof, he remains "a little bit skeptical" that these mutations — and not others located nearby on the same chromosome — are the syndrome's precise cause.

But Dr. Joel Habener, a diabetes expert at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital who co-wrote an accompanying editorial, said the Swiss-led study demonstrates either the "genetic cause or a very strong association."

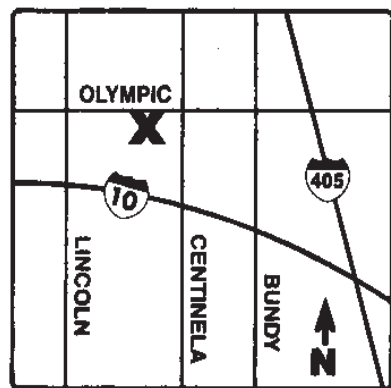
And he agreed with the researchers, who said future drugs acting like the melanocortin 4 receptor protein may compensate for the genetic defect. Habener said such chemicals are apt to be small molecules that can be delivered as pills.

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