

FREE

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 111

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5

01, 17, 18, 30, 34

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 8, 6

Evening picks: 1, 3, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 01, Gold Rush

2nd Place: 08, Gorgeous George

3rd Place: 11, Money Bags

Race time: 1:41.55



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Timothy Baker was back in jail in Waco, Texas, in January, hours after he had escaped while being held for aggravated robbery. His getaway had taken him to Baylor University, where he broke into a building in order to find a change of clothes from his orange jumpsuit. The building was the Fine Arts Center, where Baker raided a costume closet. He apparently thought he would be inconspicuous if he changed into a 19th-century green wool costume (with rubber galoshes) that made him look like a "leprechaun," said the sheriff later, after Baker was spotted on the street and re-arrested. Said the chairman of the theater department, "He just really stood out."



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Nothing is more intolerable than a wealthy woman.



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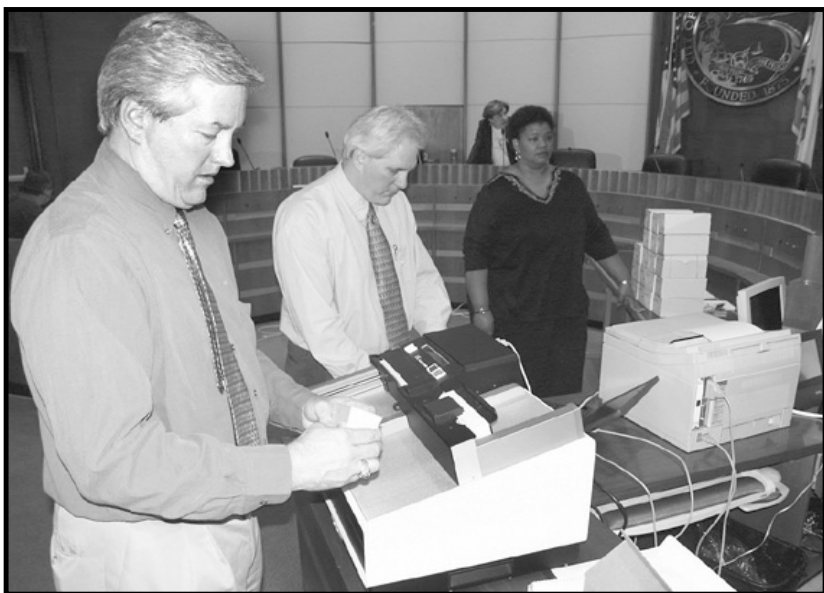
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Preservationists prevail in landmarks election



John Wood/Daily Press

Scott (left) and Pat Martin of Martin & Chapman Company count ballots Friday as Deputy City Clerk Denise Warren watches from the background. 18,562 residents voted in the special election, which narrowly defeated Prop. A.

Homeowners lose their 'freedom of choice'

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Preservationists won a special election Friday that upholds the city's power to designate private homes as historic, which could limit a property owner's development rights.

Proposition A asked whether homes can be designated historic by the city without the owner's permission — a power that the Landmarks Commission has held for more than two decades.

The measure lost by a margin of 6 percent with 8,649 people voting for it and 9,913 people voting against it.

After City Clerk Maria Stewart read the final tally at City Hall, a

group of about 25 opponents broke out in applause. A handful of supporters sat quietly in their seats.

"This has been a wonderful time for our city," said Bea Nemlaha, spokeswoman for "Save Our Neighborhoods," the group opposing the measure. "It's enabled people who care about our community to come together and protect it. The community's awareness of preservation has really been raised by this campaign."

Nemlaha said she wasn't nervous for a minute about the early returns, which showed the measure's supporters slightly ahead.

Because of the way Santa Monica's voting districts are numbered, neighborhoods with heavy concentrations of homeowners

See PROP. A, page 6

Councilwoman treks to capitol to lobby for light rail

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A local politician went to the nation's capitol last week to lobby for \$165 million to fund L.A. County's transportation system, including \$20 million for a light rail line in Santa Monica.

City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor spent three days rubbing elbows with politicians on behalf of the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, whose budget is expected to go in front of Congress later this year.

The funding would go towards the preliminary engineering of the first phase of the Expo Line, connecting downtown L.A. to the intersection of Venice and Robertson boulevards in

West L.A. The second phase of the project would extend the rail line from West L.A. to Santa Monica along Exposition Boulevard.

"It's taken decades to move forward," said O'Connor, indicating that some type of action may finally be near. "Mobility is getting tougher and tougher, and speeds are getting slower on the freeway."

The MTA also is seeking assistance from Congress through the transportation equity act, which has provided more than \$215 billion in transit and highway funding nationwide over the past six years. Dozens of cities are competing for the money and funding is in jeopardy because the act expires Sept. 30.

"California is kind of the harbinger," said

O'Connor, who represents L.A.'s 19 western cities on the MTA board. "What happens in California and our economy here has implications for the country."

Santa Monica has for the past few years also retained a full-time lobbyist in Washington D.C. who lobbies for funding of local projects like the Expo Line and other capital improvements in the city.

O'Connor, who was joined by MTA's CEO Roger Snoble and two other MTA board members, John Fasana of Duarte and Beatrice Proo of Pico Rivera, said she went to eight or 10 short meetings each day, getting to know

See LIGHT RAIL, page 6

U.S. launches ferocious aerial assault in Baghdad

BY DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

The United States launched a ferocious, around-the-clock aerial assault on military targets in Baghdad and other cities Friday, and invading ground troops penetrated 100 miles into Iraq. The ancient capital's skyline exploded in balls of flame, leaving Saddam Hussein's Old Palace compound and other symbols of his government ablaze.

Coalition commanders accepted the surrender of the 8,000-member 51st Iraqi Infantry Division near the southern city of

Basra, officials said, and U.S. and British troops encountered little resistance as they seized Iraq's only port city and moved to secure key oil fields.

After an overnight reprieve, a huge explosion shook the center of Baghdad, a city of 5 million, before dawn Saturday and aircraft could be heard overhead. A halo of smoke hung in the sky.

Units moved into western airfield complexes where Iraq was believed to have Scud missiles capable of reaching Israel, and possibly weapons of mass destruction as well.

"We're going at it hammer and

tongs," said Capt. Mark Fox, back aboard the USS Constellation after a bombing run that was part of a widely heralded Pentagon effort to "shock and awe" the Iraqis.

Military commanders reported that two Marines were killed by enemy fire, the first coalition combat deaths in the 3-day-old Operation Iraqi Freedom. One died trying to secure an oil pumping station; the other fell in the battle for Umm Qasr, the port city taken after a fight.

Iraqi troops surrendered in large numbers — some so eagerly that they turned themselves in to

See ASSAULT, page 10

Polls suggests public rallies behind Bush after Iraq invasion

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Public approval of President Bush has surged after the start of the war with Iraq, but not to the levels of support his father enjoyed during the Persian Gulf War a dozen years ago, polls suggest.

About two-thirds of Americans approve President

See POLL, page 10

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 22, 2003:

Do your research and explore your options, making firm decisions. Others respect your mental acumen and ability to process ideas. Your jovial side emerges with friends, though you might find that a key associate will let you down. Stay focused on what you want this year, or you could easily be side-tracked. Work with the changes around you. If you are single, you will encounter many new friends. You will naturally draw people to you left and right. You could meet someone you might want to stop and take your time with. If you are attached, you will develop a greater closeness because of your willingness to play and try different things. You might be the most open you have been in years.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out to those around you. Unexpected news heads you in a new direction. Let your inventive, intellectual capacities emerge. Hop into the car. Opt for an adventure. Listen more often to what others whisper in your ear. Tonight: Try something new.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Deal with a loved one as if he or she is the most important person in the world. This person might very well be. Treat someone to a delightful adventure, something quite out of the ordinary. Reveal more of your personality. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Others seek you out, which you find refreshing and different. Lighten up about what you want from others. You'll find that humor might be the most effective manner of asking. Partake in the happiness of the moment. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Perhaps you have pushed a bit too hard in recent days. Taking a break might be just what the doc ordered. A friend might want you to pitch in and try something different. You know how to say "no" nicely. Take care of yourself. Tonight: Get plenty of R and R.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You have high energy, though it could be squelched by a partner's or friend's behavior. Listen and lighten up right now. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Let your hair down and share more of your fun personality. Bring friends together as a group. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Family and/or a domestic matter needs to take a higher priority. Learn to understand an associate. This person might cry wolf one time too many. Investigate a potential investment. Get feedback from someone who might have had a similar experience. Tonight: Relax at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Defer to others. Make the most of a friendship with a close associate. You could be uncomfortable with a friend who might be pushing you a bit too hard. This person wants what he or she wants. Discussions reveal yet another perspective. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You often think you have to do more than you really need to. Don't go overboard with a child or loved one. Caring can be expressed in many ways. Put your feet up, making the most of an affection between you and a special friend. Tonight: Make it easy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ The Moon in your sign helps you radiate and express the depth of your caring. You also seem to have a good time naturally, no matter where you are. Hang out with your pals, go to a game or take off for the movies. Give up your couch-potato status. Tonight: Your smile attracts many.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Take your time. You can be sure you're not getting the whole story. Be careful when dealing with finances. You might want to hear from a loved one. Don't stand on ceremony. Make the first call. Catch up on news. Tonight: Play it low-key.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your lively manner comes out with friends. You seem to have a good time no matter where you are. Get together with others and swap news. Schedule a late lunch or get-together and then go off and do something the two of you really enjoy. Tonight: Where the gang is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Take charge and listen to a child or loved one. Nevertheless, you might need to go in to work or take over some responsibility. You enjoy yourself wherever you are. Financial matters drive you right now. Say "yes" to a boss or parent. Tonight: Play away.

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LOCAL

The fate of the Iraqi people will be in 'God's hands'

BY KELLY HAYES-RAITT

Special to the Daily Press

The Columbia explosion occurred right after I'd arrived in Baghdad. I felt guilty. One is supposed to be home to share tragedies. I was half a world away and helpless.

I can't shake the faces and the voices of the people who touched me during my 10 days in Iraq. There's a national tragedy occurring there, and I'm half a world away and helpless.

I find myself praying more. When I asked Iraqis what they were doing to prepare for war, they cupped their hands, looked skyward and said "Insha'allah." ("It's in God's hands.") I was struck by both their helplessness and their strength of faith.

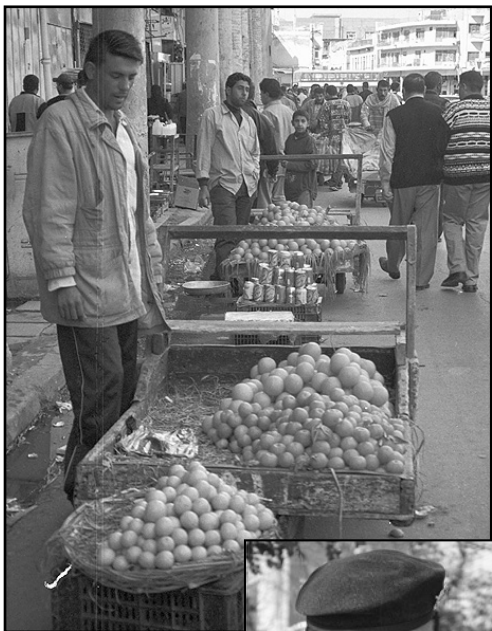
I thought I'd be numb watching Wednesday's bombings, but it didn't take me long to move from despair to fury. Listening to President Bush's attempt to justify his own unleashing of weapons on unarmed civilians, I was incensed by his insistence in invoking God's blessing for his very ungodly acts. Given that nearly every major Christian religious leader (including the Pope) has denounced this war, the President's piety feels blasphemous.

I am livid that the President insists on invoking the memory of firefighters and other emergency workers who died at the Twin Towers as justification for terrorizing Iraqi children, women and men. Of all his explanations for initiating this war, fighting terrorism is by far the weakest. In fact, by his aggression, President Bush has made the United States more vulnerable to extremist anti-American attacks and may alienate Arab allies in joining us in fighting terrorism.

One of my scariest moments in Baghdad was when North Korea threatened to launch a first strike against the United States if we launched a first strike against Iraq. Here I was, standing at Ground Zero in Baghdad, preparing to go home to Ground Zero in Los Angeles.

The President's language infuriated me. He throws around terms like "collateral damage" which divorce us from the impact of our actions. Collateral damage means dead moms and dads.

I'm incensed by his platitudes to the families of our soldiers. The greatest support he can give our young men and women in the Gulf is to bring them home



Kelly Hayes-Raitt
16 million Iraqis rely solely on monthly government food rations, which do not include fruits, vegetables and meat. In a new war, Iraqis fear roads, bridges and ports may be bombed, crippling food transportation.



(Inset) Police arrived daily to station themselves outside the hotel where American delegates were staying. This officer requested to have his photo taken.

— unharmed and immediately.

While watching the first wave of bombings, I called Amira Matsuda, our Iraqi guide who now lives outside Dallas. I hadn't spoken with her since our return. We had visited her family in Babylon. She reached a brother Tuesday morning, but was not able to get through after that.

Phones are down. She's very worried about her mother, who is old and in ill health. If hospitals are overwhelmed with civilian casualties and injuries, who will care about an old woman with bad circulation?

Amira reported that schools and offices were closed after President Bush's speech Monday night and people were encouraged to stay indoors. People in Baghdad are reluctant to leave. They remember the looting that occurred during the Gulf War. After 12 years of sanctions, there's not much left to defend, but it's all they have.

In 1991, we dropped 90,000 tons of explosives over 42 days. Between 50 per-

cent and 70 percent of our bombs missed their military targets and hit instead roads, bridges, food transportation routes, sewage treatment facilities and drinking water plants. The President's current plan is to drop 10 times that amount to fulfill his shock and awe strategy.

I am shocked. I feel an acute responsibility to the generous people I befriended to do everything I can to lessen the impact of our bombing — and then to do a little more.

Iraqis we met wouldn't let us leave our Baghdad hotel. Waiters came out for one last photo, our government minders lingered to pose for pictures, the bread guy going by on the street asked for a photo — even the police officers stationed on the corner wanted pictures. I realized we were their lifeline. They had so much faith in our ability to come home and stop the

bombing. One of the waiters picked me a bouquet of dusty marigolds.

On Flight Day 15, a message was sent by the astronauts of the Columbia: "From our orbital vantage point, we observe an earth without borders, full of peace, beauty and magnificence. And we pray that humanity as a whole can imagine a borderless world, as we see it, and strive to live as one in peace."

Insha'allah.

(Santa Monica resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt traveled in Iraq during the first week of February, meeting with women to learn the impact impending war has on their lives. She will be discussing her trip and showing her photos at the Pacific Palisades Library today from 10 a.m. to noon. For information, call (310) 581-4421.)

surf report

Information compiled by Scoop Lichtenstein

Friday's northwest swell built through the day, adding size as it approached its peak sometime Thursday night.

Today we see similar conditions to Friday. North breaks should be in two- to four-foot surf most of the day. Swell forecasts are predicting a slight decline in strength, but surf should remain decent. Expect waist- to sometimes shoulder-high sets in the north, chest- to occasional head-high and over in the South Bay.

Sunday, swell will begin to show more of a visible decline and we can expect to lose a foot or two of height.

Right now it looks like there's a good-size mix of northwest and southwest headed this way Monday, so west facing spots may start going off early next week.

Rumor of the day: Word is lots of guys were getting worked at Porto on this swell, even good surfers were taking punishment trying to paddle out.

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	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	NA
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	NA
Surf	1-3'/Poor	1-3'/Poor	NA
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	NA
Break	3-4'/Poor	3-4'/Poor	NA
Porto	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Poor	NA

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COMMENTARY

BEYOND BAGHDAD



Amira reported that schools and offices were closed after President Bush's speech Monday night and people were encouraged to stay indoors. People in Baghdad are reluctant to leave. They remember the looting that occurred during the Gulf War. After 12 years of sanctions, there's not much left to defend, but it's all they have.

In 1991, we dropped 90,000 tons of explosives over 42 days. Between 50 per-

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OPINION

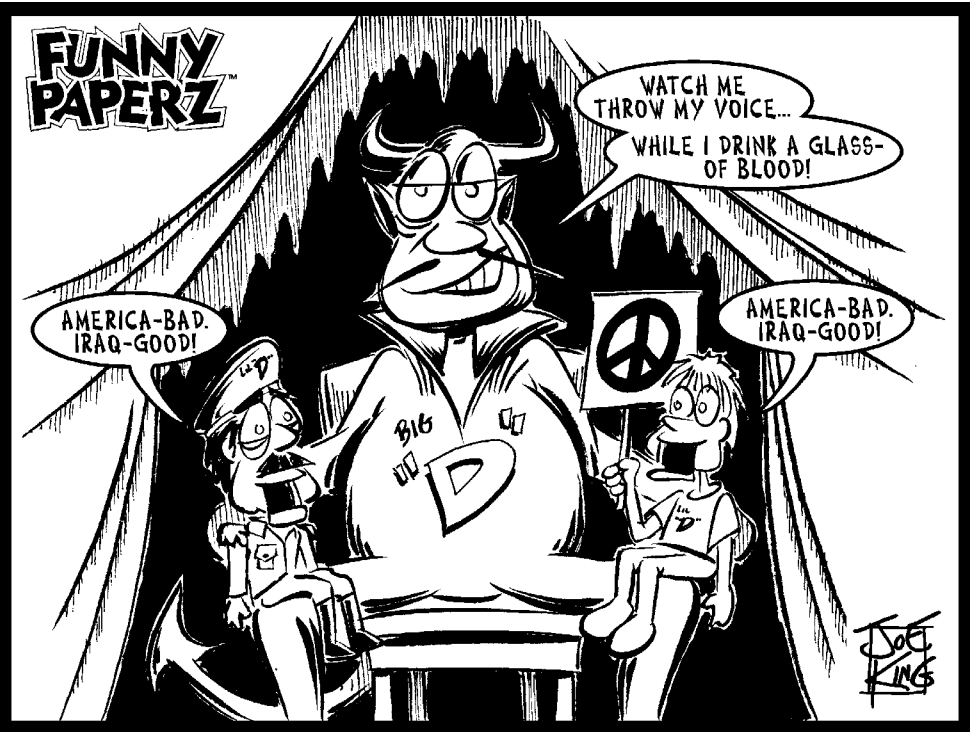
LETTERS

Suck it up, Mike

Editor:
To the Mike Kirwan's of the world (SMDP 3/20): Enough is enough! Free partisan speech is a right intrinsic in our Democratic society. However, common civility, courtesy of simple "American" decorum, need not be scrubbed so that cheap pot shots can be discharged at a president you obviously don't support. A more appropriate time, to flash such cynicism, is 2004, at the ballot box. But, as we enter a perilous period in our history — a prelude to or initiation of a war — citizens need to table their simmering bias and suck it up!

Jan Tousignant
Santa Monica

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What should we tell the children about war?



MODERN TIMES
By Lloyd Garver

I feel bad for the children. I feel sad that some of them will have to grow up too fast. Things have changed so much since I was a kid.

I'm not sure what we should tell children about this war, our country, and the world we live in. Whatever we tell them, each of them will be a little less of a child after we talk to them.

When I was a kid, I was taught that the United States was so strong and secure that it could never be attacked. But then I grew up.

I was told that if I were anywhere in the world and had any kind of problem, all I had to do was shout out, "I'm an American citizen!" and everything would be OK. But then I grew up.

I never would have believed that any

president in my lifetime could have been involved in a scandal. But then I grew up.

I never would have believed that any president would look directly into a television camera and lie to the American people. But then I grew up.

I was taught that the United States had never lost a war, and never would. But then I grew up.

When I was a kid, the United States seemed to be eternally optimistic, and everybody believed that anything was possible if we Americans just put our minds to it. But then I grew up.

When I was a kid, I learned that other countries would want to be on our side because they shared similar beliefs, not because they'd like to get paid. But then I grew up.

When I was a kid, I thought that every person in the world looked up to the United States. But then I grew up.

When I was a kid, I learned that centuries before, religious wars were fought with both sides declaring, "God is on our side," and that they were

"good" and the enemy was "evil." We were taught that these kinds of wars and this kind of rhetoric would not exist in our lifetime. But then I grew up.

When I was a child, there was a relatively new institution called the United Nations. It made us kids feel good because we were taught that the United Nations would prevent future wars because the world would be governed by international consensus from now on. No country would attack another country just because it could. But then I grew up.

After Vietnam, many members of the government admitted that they had been wrong to characterize war protesters as unpatriotic people whose opinions should be discounted. So I never thought I would hear a president say that the number of war protesters was completely irrelevant to him. But then I grew up.

I never thought I'd hear people give as reasons for war things like, "the soldiers over there are getting restless," or "we have to do it before the weather

gets too hot." But then I grew up.

I was taught that the United States would always look for ways to preserve peace and we'd always be the last country to give up on diplomacy. But then I grew up.

When I was a kid, I was taught that the United States believed that the lives of all human beings were incalculably valuable, not just the lives of Americans. But then I grew up.

So, whatever we decide to tell our children at this time, if we're truthful, we can't tell them the same things about America and the world that we were told. And that's sad. Not just the children, but our whole country has had to do a lot of growing up this week.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has 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@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

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

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Want to be a lifeguard?

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Swim Center is currently offering lifeguard training through the American Red Cross. This program is available to youth, ages 15 years and older who have the desire to become certified lifeguards.

The two-week course begins Tuesday, April 15 and ends on April 26 at the Santa Monica Swim Center, located at 1700 Pico Blvd. Participants will meet Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesdays for five hours over the two-week period followed by an eight-hour class on Saturday, April 26. The costs for Santa Monica residents is \$100 and \$110 for non-residents. Registration forms are available on the swim center Web site, www.swim.santa-monica.org. More information also is available by calling (310) 458-8700.

Upon successful completion, participants will receive American Red Cross certifications in the following: Lifeguarding, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, and Title 22 First Aid. There will be a swim test on the first day of class. Participants must be able to swim 500 yards and tread water.

The swim center is wheelchair accessible and all programs and services welcome persons with disabilities. To request an accommodation, call the swim center at least three business days before the event or first class meeting. To request the document in alternate format, call the swim center at (310) 458-8700 or (310) 458-8696. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines #7 and #11 serve the swim center.

‘Rudy’ gives a ‘day of inspiration’

By Daily Press staff

Rudy Ruettiger, the real-life Rudy from the movie “Rudy,” will be the keynote speaker at a “Day of Inspiration” at the Santa Monica Family YMCA on Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m.

The purpose of the afternoon is an opportunity to bring families together and motivate and inspire the parents of youth. The event will be hosted by Steve Wizan, a Santa Monica parent and Santa Monica Family YMCA advisory board member, who has been coaching kids at the YMCA for the past several years. Wizan also is the founder of COACHWIZ.com, a Web site dedicated to parents applying the principles and fundamentals of parenting.

The event will be held at the Santa Monica Family YMCA, 1332 Sixth Street in Santa Monica. Tickets are \$5 with all proceeds going to YMCA youth programs.

Boys and girls, 10 years old and older, are encouraged to attend with their parent(s). Space is limited. For reservations and more information contact Scott Andrews, youth family program director at (310) 393-2721, ext. 123.

Chamber has new Web site

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, along with designer Tommydew Design, Inc., have announced the launch of the Chamber’s new Web site at www.smchamber.com. The thousands of visitors, residents and business people who visit the site will be treated to a variety of wide angle and panoramic photos of the beauty of Santa Monica.

The online presence facilitates the chamber’s mission to improve the local business environment, provide marketing and networking opportunities for members and serve as a resource on state and local business issues.

Sen. Kuehl to be recognized for saving parks

By Daily Press staff

California State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, (D-Santa Monica) will be recognized by the California State Parks Foundation for her commitment to protecting and preserving state parks.

She will be the first ever recipient of the California State Parks Foundation’s Legacy Award on April 7.

Her many efforts on behalf of state parks have included support for the creation of two new urban state parks: Taylor Yard and Cornfields in Los Angeles.

Sen. Kuehl has been at the forefront of efforts to protect California’s parks from being exploited for commercial use. She has sponsored legislation to prevent road building in state parks, and was instrumental in the defeat of a Department of Defense Rider that would have allowed a toll road to be built in San Onofre State Park in Southern California.

Sen. Kuehl has supported every park bond act since taking office and has fought to increase salaries for state park rangers.

The California State Parks Foundation is the only statewide non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and advocating for California’s 274 state parks.

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LOCAL

Homeowners won't challenge election results

PROP. A, from page 1

were counted first. Districts with a higher percentage of renters were counted later.

"I knew that my home neighborhood of Ocean Park would come through with a bang," Nemlaha said.

Tom Larmore, an author of the Homeowner's Freedom of Choice Initiative, acknowledged that the odds were against him before the final votes had been counted. When the final results were posted, a resigned Larmore said the next step was to "rest and recover."

"A lot of people really poured their hearts and souls into this," he said, referring to the canvassing by supporters that lasted through election day. "It was very disappointing but I'm just very proud of everyone that worked so hard."

The measure's backers have no plans to pursue the issue further, Larmore said.

Property owners throughout the city last fall forced the measure to the ballot box after they collected nearly 13,000 signatures for a special election.

When a city-hired consulting firm found in 2002 that hundreds of homes in Santa Monica could have the potential to be historically significant, residents became nervous that the future of their properties could be controlled by the Landmarks Commission.

They argued that the Landmarks Commission has made it too difficult to remodel their homes, and in some cases, prevented them from tearing down old, dilapidated structures because they are considered historically significant.

But preservationists argued they want to protect the character of Santa Monica by keeping its buildings and architecture intact. If a home is deemed historic or a structure of merit, there are limitations to what can be done to its exterior, but not its interior.

Voters in 1976 passed a historic preservation law intended to save the Santa Monica Pier. But it also gave power to the Landmarks Commission because it's required to review demolition permits and proposed changes to buildings older than 40 years old.

The goal, officials said, is to ensure that important architectural and historic buildings are not torn down, or changed significantly.

Only 16 Santa Monica homes have been deemed of historic significance since the law passed. Only two historic districts exist in Santa Monica today: The Third Street neighborhood, which extends from Beach Street to Hill Street and the Bay Street cluster, made up of four properties on Bay Street.

But homeowners feared that hundreds of properties in Santa Monica could become officially historic after a study identified them as having the potential.

The debate over historic districts surfaced when the city hired Historic Resources Group, a West L.A.-based consultant, to conduct a study of the single-family homes north of Montana Avenue.

The city hadn't taken inventory of buildings and homes that could be potential landmarks or historic structures of merit since 1986. In its recent study, the consulting group found that nearly two-thirds of the 158 homes identified as historic had been either demolished or altered enough to render them historically insignificant, officials said.

Consultants looked at 3,900 homes and found about 9 percent of the residences, or 358 homes, were of historical merit. The report said less than 1 percent of the potential historic properties in the area had been designated or preserved.

The report identified six potential areas for designation as historic districts — the Palisades Tract between Ocean Avenue and Seventh Street, the San Vicente Apartment Group, parts of Adelaide Drive and Georgina Avenue, several homes along 18th Street, and parts of La Mesa Drive.

Homeowners banded together in September of 2002 and gathered 12,947 signatures to petition for a special election that challenged the Landmark Commission's power to designate homes as historic.

The City Council voted to make the special ballot Santa Monica's first mail-only election, a move that officials said increased voter turnout. It cost the city \$100,000 to hold the election.

The two sides raised more than \$300,000 during the campaign, but two-thirds of the money came from supporters of the measure, who are mostly homeowners, developers and real estate interests.

MTA asks Congress for funds for Expo Line

LIGHT RAIL, from page 1

Congressional members and staffers.

"Our goal was to open that door," O'Connor said. "To let them know who we are. It's putting a face to the region. We care we're here. We're taking time out of our lives."

The group, which also addressed the Appropriations and the Transportation and Infrastructure committees, was in Washington D.C. during the American Public Transportation Association's legislative conference that attracted officials from all over the world.

The MTA plans to use \$25 million in homeland security funding, \$70 million for the Eastside Light Rail Project, which will connect Union Station to East L.A.,

\$44.2 million to buy buses and construct bus divisions and \$5 million for the MTA's bus system.

O'Connor said reactions to MTA's request were mixed.

"Some folks were more optimistic," she said. "Others seemed pessimistic. It was all over the board."

O'Connor also attended the weekend meeting of the National League of Cities, a bi-annual gathering of about 200 city officials nationwide.

O'Connor, who is on the 25-member steering committee of league of cities, said the group discussed possible FCC limitations on cable, cable modems and privacy issues. Members will meet again in December to suggest future legislation.

STATE



Judge suggests sex-abuse cases be ‘coordinated’

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — With the potential for hundreds of sexual abuse lawsuits being tried statewide against Catholic priests, a judge on Friday recommended the cases be coordinated and given to a single judge in Los Angeles to preside over.

Superior Court Judge Elihu M. Berle said this will streamline the legal process and avoid duplicate and inconsistent rulings.

“Los Angeles is the appropriate site because it is the location of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, a defendant in seven of the cases,” Berle ruled. “It is the place where records and witnesses are located, and the location of the court where mediation and/or settlement proceedings are being conducted.”

Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald M. George is expected to make a decision on Berle’s recommendation, then assign the case to a single judge in Los Angeles.

Some lawyers embraced Berle’s decision. Others opposed it.

The idea of coordinating the sexual-abuse lawsuits began in January, when a Costa Mesa lawyer filed a petition asking the state Supreme Court that a single judge hear what could amount to hundreds of cases. The petition was prompted by a new state law extending through 2003 the statute of limitations for alleged victims of child sexual abuse to sue.

In the past, the procedure had been used to consolidate asbestos lawsuits and to

combine nearly 4,000 breast implant cases.

Lawyer Raymond P. Boucher, who represents about 180 people who say they were sexually abused by Roman Catholic priests, said he’s against consolidation. The state’s 11 dioceses are legally distinct, each with its own bishop, finances and policies on priests who were known pedophiles, he said.

“If anyone thinks uniting 400 some cases from around the state is going to solve everything, it’s just not true,” said Boucher.

Lawyer Katherine Freberg wants separate trials for victims.

“Our victims want to be heard separately,” said Freberg, who represents 107 alleged sex abuse victims with claims against some 50 priests. “Our victims want to make sure that on an individual basis they get their day in court.”

Venus Soltan, attorney for plaintiffs in Los Angeles and Orange county, petitioned for the coordination.

“The plaintiffs share unfortunate circumstances in that they are minors who were sexually abused by members of the clergy,” Soltan said. “There would be an enormous amount of duplication.”

Michael Hennigan, the attorney for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, said he hopes to have all the claims resolved by the end of the year.

“It is the desire of the archbishop to move quickly to settle all claims, especially with the expected avalanche of cases to come,” Hennigan said.

Celebrities to hit the Oscars in alternative fuel vehicles

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — With no glitzy red-carpet arrival planned for this year’s Academy Awards, environmental activists are hoping they can toss out another Oscar tradition — of arriving in stretch limousines.

By providing gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles for celebrities, they’re trying to start a new trend in which movie stars arriving for the Academy Awards help promote the use of fuel-efficient cars.

Cameron Diaz, Harrison Ford, Susan Sarandon and Robin Williams were among those who committed to arriving at Sunday’s Academy Awards in such a

vehicle, a chauffeured Toyota Prius, said Matt Petersen of Global Green USA, an affiliate of Green Cross International.

Alternative fuel vehicles “are part of the solution to global warming, pollution and lowering our gas bills,” Petersen said.

With the United States at war with Iraq, Oscar organizers are doing away with the fan bleachers that line the red carpet heading into the Kodak Theatre for Sunday’s Academy Awards. And while the red carpet will remain in place, organizers said celebrities won’t stop along it to talk with reporters, pose for photographers or wave to fans.

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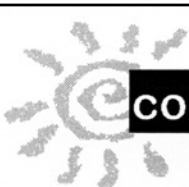
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STATE

Three Marines killed in Kuwait copter crash

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER
 Associated Press Writer

CAMP PENDLETON — Three of the first six Americans to die during the war against Iraq had been stationed at Camp Pendleton, military officials said Friday.

Capt. Ryan Anthony Beaupre, 30, of Bloomington, Ill., was one of four U.S. Marines killed in a helicopter crash in Kuwait. Beaupre was the pilot of the CH-46 helicopter that went down about nine miles from the border with Iraq.

The other Marines on board from Camp Pendleton were Staff Sgt. Kendall Damon Waters-Bey, 29, of Baltimore, a specialist in helicopter maintenance, and Cpl. Brian Matthew Kennedy, 25, of Houston.

The fourth Marine was identified as Capt. Jay Thomas Aubin of Waterville, Maine, who was based at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

“Today Camp Pendleton and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force mourn the loss of members of our Marine Corps family,” said Maj. Curtis Hill, the base spokesman. “For all those who have lost someone in this conflict, our hearts are with you. We are very grateful for your sacrifice and the sacrifice your loved ones have made.”

Hill would not release any information about the families of the Marines killed. Morale on the base remained high, he said.

The crash also claimed the lives of eight British Marines being transported in the helicopter. The cause was under investigation, military officials said, adding that hostile fire had not been reported in the area.

Two other U.S. Marines have died in combat in Iraq, the U.S. Central Command said.

The first, from the 1st Marine Division, was killed leading his infantry platoon in a firefight to secure an oil pumping station in southern Iraq. The second, from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, died while fighting enemy Iraqi forces near the port of Umm Qasr.

Further information on those deaths was not immediately released.

At a Washington news conference, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld also expressed gratitude for the sacrifice of those who had died.

“The world will be a safer place because of their dedicated service,” he said.

In Oceanside, near Camp Pendleton, Deby Alexander, the owner of Dorothy’s Military Shop and Laundry, checked her computer records and found that Beaupre had been in the shop on Jan. 31 to have name tags sewn on his desert camouflage uniforms.

“I just got a knot in my stomach when his name popped up,” she said.

American flags lined Pacific Coast Highway. Signs in the windows of businesses read, “We support our president and our military” and “This property protected by Americans.”

The community was feeling the war in Iraq very personally because so many of its Marines had been deployed. Regina Leiss, 36, the wife of a Marine, held out shaking hands to show how upset she

was by news of the deaths.

“It’s not easy. I’m really worried,” she said. “My 7-year-old asked me, ‘Is Daddy going to get shot?’ I tell him, ‘No. He’s tough. He’ll be home.’”

Robert Alexander, 44, who runs a military uniform and surplus store, said his 5-year-old daughter was aware of events in Iraq.

“We tell her the Marines go to war and sometimes they go to heaven,” he said.

A 19-year-old female Marine questioned the war.

“I think war is stupid,” said the pregnant woman, who declined to give her name for fear of retribution. “I know I’m in the military and I’m supposed to support our troops, but it’s pointless. It’s an awful thing. I don’t think anyone in my unit is happy. We get all scared when we hear the news.”

The father of Waters-Bey also said he did not support the war. Asked what he would tell President Bush about his son’s death, Michael Waters-Bey said: “This was not your son or daughter. That chair he sat in at Thanksgiving will be empty forever.”

His son had been living in California with his wife and had a 10-year-old child.

The helicopter carrying the Marines was part of six CH-46 squadrons at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego and Camp Pendleton in northern San Diego County.

The crash occurred as U.S. Army and Marine units, joined by their British counterparts, surged across the Kuwaiti border into southern Iraq on Thursday and Friday, working at first to secure the region’s oil wells.

The Marines use the bus-like helicopter with two large rotors to fly troops from ships at sea or base camps to forward positions. The helicopter is from the Vietnam-era and has been beset in recent years by mechanical troubles that have forced more frequent inspections and driven up operating costs.

A number of soldiers serving at Miramar and Camp Pendleton have died in recent years in military operations and training.

Miramar lost two aircraft and 16 service members in fatal crashes overseas in January 2002. Seven crew members were killed when a Marine Corps KC-130 airplane crashed into a mountain in Pakistan. Just days later two more died when a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter crashed in Afghanistan.

A Camp Pendleton-based Marine was killed in October 2002 by gunmen in Kuwait. A second Marine was wounded in the drive-by attack.

Three Marines from Pendleton’s 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance battalion were wounded in December 2001 by a land mine explosion near the airport at Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Southern California-based Marine units suffered 31 other casualties in operations and training in the United States in recent years.

Gabriel Thomas, 24, a former Marine who now works as a cook in Oceanside, said he knew there was a possibility that Camp Pendleton personnel could be killed in Iraq.

“You know it’s a possibility,” he said. “You just don’t want to see it happen.”

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NATIONAL



Feds launch new raids against financing schemes

BY JOHN SOLOMON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal agents arrested nine people at businesses from New York to California that they allege were smuggling money abroad or selling fake passports in schemes that could aid terrorists, officials said Friday.

Among the operations that authorities said they cracked was one in New York that allegedly moved \$33 million, including some illegal drug proceeds, to Pakistan. Another was a network of tobacco stores in Minnesota that allegedly smuggled cash to Lebanon and Jordan.

Authorities said while none of those who were arrested over the last three days are being charged with being terrorists, the schemes they used and the countries they were involved with have been “exploited by terrorist organizations.”

“By dismantling these illegal networks, we are denying avenues for terrorist groups to raise and move funds in this country,” said Michael Garcia, a top official with the new Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which oversees the Operation Green Quest task force charged with stemming the flow of money to terrorist groups.

The task force is made up of several federal agencies on the front lines of the war on terrorism, including the FBI, IRS, Secret Service, Naval Intelligence Service, Coast Guard and Postal Inspection Service.

To date, the task force has arrested 93 people and seized \$11 million said to have been involved in terrorist financing operations. It has seized \$24 million more in smuggled cash, most headed to countries with terrorist problems, officials said.

In a Friday morning raid in Los Angeles, agents arrested one man after agents intercepted more than 270 money orders totaling nearly \$136,000 that were being shipped to Beirut via private parcels.

In New York City, agents arrested four people in raids Thursday night that resulted from an 18-month under-

cover operation that authorities said showed a business named Manhattan Foreign Exchange moved \$33 million to Pakistan.

Authorities said some of the money was from illegal narcotics.

Associates of the business, located in the basement of a restaurant, also sold fake U.S., Pakistani, Canadian and British passports and other fraudulent travel documents, officials alleged.

Manhattan Foreign Exchange’s owner, Shaheen Khalid Butt, was arrested on money laundering, currency reporting, conspiracy and immigration fraud charges, officials said.

Authorities said law enforcers used electronic surveillance to show that Butt and his unlicensed business “received frequent cash deliveries, tens of thousands of

dollars at a time, from various people,” U.S. Attorney James B. Comey said.

Also Thursday, agents arrested four people and searched five tobacco stores and one home in Minnesota. Authorities said they had evidence the business had engaged in tobacco stamp fraud and had smuggled hundreds of thousands of dollars to Lebanon and Jordan.

In one instance, agents discovered nearly \$157,000 in cashier’s checks sewn into the lining of a handbag that was to be brought aboard a flight destined for Lebanon, officials said.

In New Jersey, agents seized more than \$48,000 on Wednesday from two bank accounts from which numerous checks were being sent in packages to Yemen, site of the 2000 terrorist attack on the American naval ship USS Cole, authorities said.

Northwest Airlines to cut 4,900 jobs

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI

Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Northwest Airlines said Friday it will cut 4,900 jobs and reduce its flight schedule by 12 percent because of a drop in passenger demand because of the war in Iraq.

Northwest said it was making the moves as it idles 20 planes.

The airline cited “a drop in passenger demand due to both the threat of and now the commencement of hostilities with Iraq.”

“As world events unfold, Northwest will continue to monitor passenger demand to determine whether additional actions are necessary,” it said.

Other carriers also are reducing

flying schedules and staffing as a result of the war.

American Airlines, the world’s No. 1 carrier, said Thursday it will cut international flights by 6 percent in April to meet a downturn in travel bookings due to the war in Iraq and could make additional reductions if traffic remains slow.

No. 2 United Airlines had warned its employees Thursday that layoffs could come as early as Friday. The airline, which declared bankruptcy in December, gave no details on expected cuts in flights or personnel, but union officials said about 2,300 flight attendants and 1,150 mechanics were among those being put on leave.

Earlier in the week, Continental Airlines announced it will cut its

work force by about 1,200 people by the end of the year to save \$500 million. The company said more layoffs are planned if war with Iraq is prolonged and air travel remains soft.

Northwest said it would make the cuts through layoffs, attrition, voluntary leaves and by leaving open positions unfilled. A relief package will be offered to the affected employees, the airline said.

The cuts include 2,000 mechanics, 1,400 flight attendants, 250 pilots and 300 management positions, said Paul Volker, legislative officer for the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association Local 33.

Northwest already had laid off about 12,000 employees due to the slump in the airline industry.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. forces target military commands in Baghdad

ASSAULT, from page 1

journalists accompanying American forces. But the regime gave no clear sign of quitting.

Asked whether Iraqis plan a counterattack, Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf said, “Our leadership and

our armed forces will decide this, in what guarantees the defeat of those mercenaries, God willing.”

“This criminal (Bush) in the White House is a stupid criminal,” he added.

The Iraqi regime released a video of Saddam in his uniform meeting with his

son Qusai, the commander of the Republican Guard, and the defense minister, Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad, but it was unclear when the video was made.

There was continued debate among U.S. intelligence officials over the fate of Saddam, and whether he had been wounded or even killed in a Wednesday night strike on a building in Baghdad.

Whether or not Saddam was alive, U.S. intelligence officials said the Iraqi command and control system was in disarray, and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said, “The regime is starting to lose control of their country.”

The aerial onslaught was designed to accelerate that.

The U.S. Central Command, which is running the war, said the targets included military command and control installations and buildings in and around Baghdad, as well as targets in the northern cities of Mosul, Kirkuk and Tikrit, Saddam’s hometown.

One senior defense official said U.S. and British warplanes flying from more than 30 bases would fly about 1,500 strike missions during the first 24 hours of the accelerated campaign. Plans called for the launch of nearly 1,000 Tomahawk cruise missiles from the Persian Gulf and Red Sea.

After weeks of delay, Turkey relented and agreed to let combat aircraft fly over their territory. At the same time, however, Turkey sent 1,000 troops into northern Iraq, and the government said it would send more to prevent Iraqi Kurds from creating an independent state. The United States strongly opposes any unilateral move by Turkey into northern Iraq.

In a strike at terrorism in northern Iraq, U.S. forces fired five missiles at the base of an Islamic militant group allegedly linked to the al-Qaida network, Kurdish officials said. Washington has claimed that the group, Ansar al-Islam, connects Saddam to al-Qaida.

In Washington, President Bush said, “We’re making progress” toward the goal of liberating Iraq. Before heading to Camp David for the weekend, Bush also sent lawmakers formal notification of his decision to send troops into combat.

Anti-war sentiment flared in the United States, major European cities and across the Middle East and Asia.

Police clashed with thousands of anti-war demonstrators trying to storm the U.S. Embassy in Yemen, leaving a policeman and two protesters dead amid a barrage of bullets, rocks, water cannons and tear gas canisters.

Large-scale protests also occurred in San Francisco and Chicago and police took about two dozen protesters into custody near the White House.

In Iraq, the government-run news agency said Saddam had decreed that any Iraqi who kills an enemy soldier would get a reward equivalent to \$14,000. The reward for capturing an enemy soldier was put at \$28,000.

But that was more bluster than bounty, as most Iraqi units offered no resistance, and those that did were overwhelmed by American and British troops and their high-tech weaponry.

In the southern town of Safwan, Marines hauled down giant street portraits of Saddam, and some local residents joined Maj. David Gurfein in a cheer.

“Iraqi! Iraqis! Iraqis,” he yelled, pumping his fist in the air.

American units advancing west of the southern city of Basra secured the Rumeila field, whose daily output of 1.3 million barrels makes it Iraq’s most productive.

“All the key components of the southern oil fields are now safe,” Adm. Michael Boyce, chief of the British defense staff, told reporters in London. “We have specialist civilian contractors on their way who will be in the area very shortly, in a day or two, to deal with the oil well fires.”

One military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said U.S. Navy SEAL commandos took control of two terminals in the Persian Gulf where Iraqi oil can be loaded onto huge tanker ships. At least one of the terminals contained explosives that had not yet been wired for detonation, the official said.

Not far away, Australian forces intercepted an Iraqi patrol boat filled with sea mines and other equipment.

Control of Umm Qasr, located along the Kuwait border about 290 miles southeast of Baghdad, gives U.S. and British forces access to a port for military and humanitarian supplies and helps speeds the clearing of Iraqi resistance in the south.

Pentagon officials have long planned for an attack they called “shock and awe.”

They held off for two nights, first because Bush ordered Wednesday night’s opening strike against Saddam and then because officials hoped Iraqi capitulation would make it unnecessary.

Majority believes in war with Iraq

POLL, from page 1

Bush’s handling of the Iraq situation and think he did enough diplomatically before invading, according to polls released Friday.

An ABC-Washington Post poll found the president’s job approval rating at 67 percent, up from prewar polls that showed his approval level ranging from the middle 50s to about 60 percent.

A CBS-New York Times poll found that 62 percent say they think the United States did the right thing about Iraq. Slightly more in a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll, 70 percent, said they agreed this country acted at the right time.

The public rallying around the president is typical in wartime, although President George H.W. Bush, father of the current president, got a bigger boost in his war with Iraq a dozen years ago.

Polls still indicated that the onset of war is giving this president a boost. An Ipsos-Reid Poll done for the Cook Political Report indicated that more than half in the poll, 53 percent, said the country is on the right track, a reversal from recent polls on this key measure of public optimism. Almost half, 46 percent, said in the poll in late March that they would vote to re-elect Bush as president, the highest number on that measure since the spring of 2002.

Prewar polls showed the public was split on whether the military should have gone into action without the backing of the United Nations.



Jerome Delay/Associated Press

A building explodes during heavy bombardment by US-led forces in Baghdad on Friday. The blurring was caused by the shock of the explosion.



Laurent Rebours/Associated Press

Maj David “Bull” Gurfein, of New York City, right, with 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, tears down a portrait of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein while Sgt Jason Lewis, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion Company, from Denver, Colo., looks on, in the southern border city of Safwan, Iraq, on Friday.



Laurent Rebours/Associated Press

U.S. soldiers keep their rifles ready as they search surrendered Iraqi soldiers near the southern border city of Safwan on Friday.



COMICS

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7 "Smallville" name
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Yesterday's answer

- 20 Ancient Scots
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24 Israeli city
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32 Fake ID users, often
34 Stallion's mate
36 Crony

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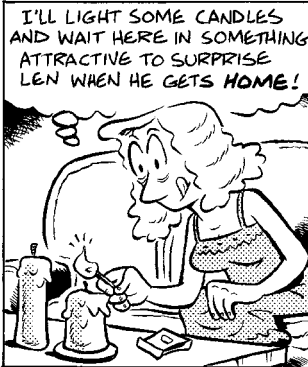
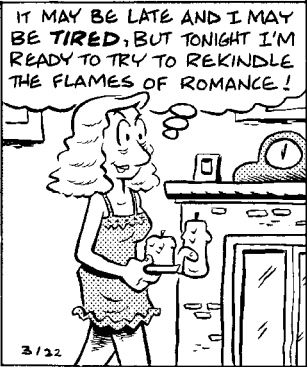
3-22

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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. She is also survived by her loving grandfather John Nesevich, aunts and uncles; Jean Nesevich; Peter and Peggy Nesevich; Andrew and Brenda Nesevich; Charles Jones Brutzman and wife Eleanor Brutzman; cousins Amy Nesevich; Kristy Nesevich; Sunshine Nesevich; and Heather Nesevich; Kirsten Brutzman Livak; Kimberly Brutzman; Kourtney Brutzman; Hilary Alexandria Metcalfe and Warren Richard Metcalfe. Taylor was a student at California State University Monterey Bay studying art and photography. She had a love for books and 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.

The temporary address for the Brutzmans:
1107 Montana Ave.
P.O. Box 705
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Scott Brutzman: cimcrsb@speakeasy.net (310)663-4433
Barbara Brutzman: bnb2@speakeasy.net (310)403-9541
Ashlee Brutzman: acbrutzman@ucdavis.edu (530)753-6672
In Lieu of flowers donations may be made in her honor to:
Guide Dogs For the Blind
P.O. Box 3950
San Rafael, CA 94912

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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