

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Worth every ounce



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Baja Fresh's manager, Carlos Cortez, explains to the Mexican grill's employees (from left) Angel Zepeda, Victor Camacho and Jesus Rodriguez, how to calculate just the right amount of ingredients so customers get every bit of their money's worth.

Oscar nods at local director

ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Hollywood's Oscar has his eye on a Santa Monica documentary filmmaker.

Freida Lee Mock has been nominated for her fifth Academy Award.

If she wins Sunday it will be her second time taking home the film industry's highest honor.

Her film, *Sing!*, has been nominated for Best Documentary Short Subject — which honors documentaries under 45 minutes long.

Mock and her husband Terry Sanders — who live and work in Santa Monica — own and operate the American Film Foundation, which has made more than a dozen films and won three Academy Awards and an Emmy.

The couple's daughter, Jessica Sanders, was the film's producer and could win an Oscar for her work on the film as well.

Sing! begins with children auditioning for the Los Angeles County Youth Choir and tracks several students as their talents evolve through hard work and training from dedicated teachers to become part of one of the most highly regarded musical youth ensembles in the country.

The film also shows how the community-based choir struggles with the financial weight of running its organization as



Freida Lee Mock

public funds for the arts continually shrink.

"It makes you think about what we're losing when you see what these children can do," said Mock, as she frantically raced around town Friday to find a dress and jewelry for the awards ceremony.

"We thought they were symbolic of what is going on across the country — all these community-based organizations trying to make up for a public policy that defunds the arts," she said. "These same efforts are being made in communities across the country."

See FILMMAKER, page 3

School district settles out of \$25M lawsuit

Judge finds no fault by school district in child's tragic pool accident

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District recently settled out of a \$25 million lawsuit that accused the district of being partly to blame for an accident that paralyzed a student.

Even though Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Richard Neidorf late last month found the school district was not at fault because the accident occurred at a graduation party that was held on private property, attorneys for the school district still agreed to pay \$85,000 to be released from the lawsuit.

At the party, 12-year-old David Cueva was injured while playing in James B. Upchurch's Georgina Avenue swimming pool during a graduation party held last June.

According to the lawsuit's complaint, Cueva suffered severe brain damage, neurological defects, injury to his vision, hearing and balance. He was rendered a quadriplegic.

There were several adults and up to 30 children present when the accident hap-

pened, according to court records. The children had gathered for Karaoke in the guest house when a parent went to get an item outside and noticed something at the bottom of the pool. Upchurch jumped in and pulled Cueva out, said an attorney involved in the case.

Cueva's family is suing for \$2 million in medical bills and \$23 million in pain and suffering, emotional distress, loss of quality of life, and past, present and future medical and hospital related expenses.

The lawsuit now targets Upchurch and other adults at the party.

Mark A. Gottesman, who had just dropped his daughter off at the pool party, will appear in court on April 8 to convince Judge Neidorf to release him from the lawsuit.

"We do not feel he was involved," said Gottesman's attorney, Tim Walker, "and now they are trying to bring his wife into the case as well and she wasn't even there."

The school settlement clears the district from any future claims stemming from the incident.

"We didn't have to pay anything because the court agreed with us that we had no liability," said John W. Allen, a school district attorney. "That settlement was reached simply to buy our peace, but the district had absolutely no liability."

Jay Willinger, Cueva's attorney, said it

See SETTLEMENT, page 3

Newcomers change the face of marginal neighborhoods

Change does not go unnoticed in towns like Venice Beach

By The Associated Press

In the growing trend that's turning maligned, disreputable old neighborhoods into hot and hip urban places, nothing is so powerful newcomers.

Wearisome suburban commutes and soaring rents are prodding newcomers into neighborhoods that would have been unthinkable a few years ago. As a 1990s explosion of crime subsided, a strong state economy brought new investment

and remodeling.

Now, in a trend affecting urban settings across the nation and world, but especially in California, more people are choosing the ambiance, architecture and diversity of city centers.

Few changes are as dramatic as Venice, just south of Santa Monica.

A quiet oceanside town during the 1950s and 1960s' Venice turned to drugs and crime during the 1970s and 1980s. Just inland from tourists and beachgoers, gunfire dominated the night and drug trafficking kept families inside.

Now former drug houses sport adirondack chairs on front porches. Those who endured that turbulent period can hardly

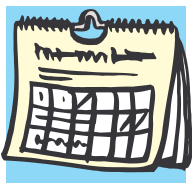
See NEIGHBORHOODS, page 6

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Santa Monica's Daily Calendar



Get Out!

Santa Monica Playhouse presents *Cinderella!* Every Saturday & Sunday through June. A delightfully romantic original classic. 1211 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. 12 p.m. and 3 p.m., \$9.00 for ages 2-92 (under 2 and over 92 get in free). (310) 394-9779 ext. 2

Puppetolio! hosted by Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center will be held Saturday & Sunday at 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Episode 2 plays at the 3:00 time. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet Museum and workshop. The program is for all ages, 3 and up. All seats: \$6.50. The Center is located at 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica, adjacent to the Third Street Promenade. Reservations/Information: (310) 656-0483 or www.puppetsmagic.com.

Seniors' Prom tonight at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. 1:00 p.m. To 4:00 p.m. 1855 Main Street, Santa Monica. For information (310) 458-8300.

Project Pride, an afternoon drop-in Social Center for ALL Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual and Transgender teens 13-18 years of age. Sundays from 4:30 p.m. To 6:30 p.m. 1424 4th Street between Broadway & Santa Monica Boulevard. The center is one block East of the 3rd Street Promenade, on second floor, room 220A. Free snacks! Sponsored by Jewish Family Service of Santa Monica. (310) 393-0723.

Ask for "Project Pride Info."

Get Your Learn On!

Marlou Russell, Ph. D., invites you to attend a lecture & discussion today at Santa Monica College from 1 p.m. To 4 p.m. Topic will be Adoption: The Lifelong Impact. Marlou Russell, Ph. D. is a psychologist and author of *Adoption Wisdom*. \$30 per person. 1900 Pico Blvd., Technology Building, Room #201. www.marlourussellphd.com, (310) 829-1438.

Shiatsu Massage School of California is offering Hatha Yoga FREE to the community! Increase your strength and flexibility, decrease stress and improve your posture. Sunday's from 6:45 p.m. To 8:15 p.m. 2309 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 396-4502



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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Realize what is going on between you and another. Excess feels right. Take time away from your normally hectic day to deal with a loved one or a family member. Gather around and simply enjoy those in your life. Trust that you don't have to go far. Tonight: Follow your whims.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Express your caring to those around you. An extra effort could make all the difference in a relationship. Schedule dinner and a movie with someone who might be a bit down. You make a difference. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Use less mind and more heart. You find others highly responsive to your overtures. Let a friend know all sides of you; don't hold back anymore. Indulge others and be less judgmental. Let go and just enjoy the moment. Tonight: Your treat.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Togetherness and indulgence mix well together. A parent or loved one might shrug off a problem. This person feels most indulgent right now. Your ways prove to make difficult people easy, and easy people even warmer and friendlier. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your intuition helps delight someone. Be willing to take a risk or two when it relates to a new friend. Express yourself softly but creatively. Walk in another's shoes. Listen carefully to another's sharing. Take a relaxing stroll. Tonight: Relax.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Plans to get together with friends delight you to no end. You could feel like indulging a partner, as if it were his or her birthday. Needless to say, what starts as a one-way street quickly turns two-way if involved in a cause. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Though you might not be up for visiting with another or a loved one, do so. In the long run, you know it's the right thing to do. Stay centered on the basics, not losing sight of immediate priorities. Stop in at work if you feel the need. Tonight: Do something ultimately fun.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Reach out for another at a distance. Review a personal matter with care. Your ability to adjust to different lifestyles and to understand others emerges. Consider an exotic vacation in the near future. Flip through some travel brochures. Tonight: Take in a new perspective.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Another's overtures touch you deeply. The issue remains to be what you would like to do about this person. If you can, schedule a day outing together, where you can enjoy each other to the max. Though you love to socialize, right now, stay on a one-on-one level. Tonight: Memories could be made.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others seek you out, even if you choose to stay close to home. If you don't want someone pounding on your door, pick up your phone! You know how to say "no" nicely. You also might opt to invite friends over for a fun dinner. Tonight: Let the party happen. Please.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Recognize your limits. Though you might want to socialize, you still have a lot of territory to cover. You seem to mix well with those you deal with. The Aquarian is known for his or her friendly touch. Express your universal caring. Tonight: Do something special for a loved one.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ No sign can be quite as romantic as the Fish. On the same level, others might find you ungrounded. Take a hard look at what you're projecting. Is this based on reality? Meanwhile, enjoy it until you decide to take off your rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Wherever you are, love the moment.



QUOTE of the DAY

“What this country needs is more unemployed politicians.”

— Edward Langley

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LOCAL



Local woman honored for homelessness efforts

BY CHRIS YOUNG
Special to the Daily Press

Homelessness is an obvious problem in Santa Monica. But unlike many residents, Karen Bauer is doing something about it.

Bauer this month won the Santa Monica Jaycee's Distinguished Service Award for her tireless community activism.

"Someone said, there's two kinds of people; the first complain how tough life is, the second say it's tough but do it anyway," Bauer said. "But there's a third type that says life is tough, but they try hardest to make life easier for those whose life is toughest."

The DSA annually honors a person in Santa Monica, aged 21-39, who has made a significant impact in the community in the past year. An independent group of judges elects the winner.

Bauer is noted for volunteering with the Chamber of Commerce, mostly raising money through the Homeless Task Force for homeless programs in Santa Monica.

"Past winners have gone on to be prominent business owners, city council members, and citizens, and it's truly an honor to be in the company of past winners," said Bauer.

Bauer has volunteered for the chamber for nine years. She represented local business interests to city government and served on the chamber's executive committee for five years. She served as president of the chamber last year and also worked on the political action committee, raising funds to support specific issues.

"Karen Bauer has done a lot for the chamber and is very involved with helping other people and supporting Jaycee events," said Nicole Swirsky, president of the Santa Monica Jaycees.

When Bauer's travel agency moved to Santa Monica in 1993, panhandlers and aggressive transients would approach the business and enter occasionally, she said. To address the issue, Bauer learned about the Homeless Task Force and joined. She co-chaired the group for

five years.

"Self-education is a good first step," she said. "But you need to back it up, too."

Services for the homeless in Santa Monica include a drop-in center, mental health counseling, emergency housing, assistance with longer-term housing, work counseling, and an annual graduation program for homeless people that successfully get off the streets with housing and jobs of their own.

Bauer said residents' attitude towards the homeless has improved and the number of homeless in Santa Monica has decreased in the past nine years.

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corporation, worked with Bauer on a number of committees, including the Homeless Task Force and the dolphin change program.

"(Bauer) was simply tireless, running meetings with incredible enthusiasm, always going to talk with the media or school lectures about the program," Rawson said. "If there was anything to be done, she'd personally do it."

Bauer also organized five of the six annual Super Bowl-A-Thons — "the only beer and pizza event the Chamber of Commerce does," she said. Companies around Santa Monica assemble teams for a day of bowling to benefit the Homeless Task Force. The event raises about \$15,000 a year. About 50 teams of five employees each participated this year.

Bauer helped organize a road rally for "Night Light," an outreach program for youth on the Third Street Promenade and Westside. A van with staffers hit the streets to make contact and give information to run-aways.

"When (these kids) need help, food, or medical attention, Night Light is the first step for them," Bauer said.

Additionally, social service agencies in Santa Monica benefit from grants from the Dolphin Change project, co-chaired by Bauer. Five dolphin sculptures around Santa Monica accept money that has yield-



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Karen Bauer won the Santa Monica Jaycee's Distinguished Service Award for her tireless community activism in helping the homeless.

ed \$85,000, which has been put towards homeless programs since 1993.

"She goes into things with a lot of enthusiasm and it's contagious," said Donna Gentry of the chamber board of directors.

The two women met through the Homeless Task Force and Dolphin Change project.

"She is a very good example to young people about getting involved with their community and in showing commitment toward volunteerism," Gentry said.

Local nominated for Academy Award

FILMMAKER, from page 1

The film was made with a \$200,000 grant from the Bing Foundation and it was a co-production between the American Film Foundation and KCET, the Los Angeles-based PBS station.

Helen Bing, of the Bing Foundation, came up with the idea for the documentary and hired Mock to write and direct the film. Bing has for years financially supported children's arts programs.

"It was really her inspiration and her idea," Mock said. "And I am grateful she asked me to work on the film."

One of the most powerful scenes is when choir children are chosen to sing at the Los Angeles Opera's production of La Boheme. In what appears to be a behind-the-scenes moment, Maestro Placido Domingo, walks in and directs the choir's rehearsal.

However, as it turns out, the scene was painstakingly planned out in advance, and it almost didn't happen at all.

"That was my favorite scene," said Mock. "We hoped it would happen. The children were background choir singers in La Boheme, and he was conducting that particular day."

The filmmakers had written in advance to everyone involved in the opera's production about their film, asking to capture the famous opera singer rehearsing with the children.

A morning and afternoon rehearsal were scheduled, but as the curtain time grew near it appeared the moment wasn't going to happen.

However at the last minute, Domingo delayed the curtain time so he would have a chance to run through the show with the children.

"It was incredible for the kids. He must have stayed with them for a good 20 minutes," said Mock. "Later, he told the group 'You're the best children's chorus I've ever heard.'"

For one of the film industry's most regarded documentary directors, the complement may be returned by the Academy on Sunday.

"Well," Mock said, "we've got our fingers crossed."

Family's lawsuit targets parents

SETTLEMENT, from page 1

is against his company's policy to talk to the press about pending litigation. He had no comment on the school district's settlement.

Calls to the student's father, Andres Cueva, a Santa Monica resident who works as a janitor at Crossroads School, were not returned.

The school district was originally named in the lawsuit because teachers at Roosevelt Elementary School passed out invitations to students advertising the party. And according to court records, at least one teacher was pres-

ent at the party.

"Basically, there are various immunities provided in the government code," Allen said. "The school had nothing to do with the party, therefore they are not at fault."

Paul V. Ash, an attorney for Upchurch, also declined to comment on the settlement and requests for an interview with Upchurch were not returned.

Upchurch had counter-sued the school district, but Judge Neidorf dismissed it when the school district was cleared of all wrong doing late last month.

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STATE

Family to prove woman is oldest living person

BY CATHERINE IVEY
Associated Press Writer

SPRING VALLEY — Her life has spanned three centuries and two continents. But is Adelina Domingues the oldest person in the world?

A passport puts Domingues' age at 113, but the woman's family believes the document is incorrect and the native of the Cape Verde Islands is actually 115.

If that's true, the resident of a San Diego-area nursing home would enter the Guinness Book of Records as the world's oldest person.

"She's certainly has earned the right to be known as the oldest person in the world — if she is," said her 60-year-old daughter-in-law Rosalie Domingues of Santee.

Family members were always amazed at her longevity. But only recently did they suspect she might deserve a spot in the record books, said Debbie Murphy, her 42-year-old granddaughter.

Murphy of Hookstown, Pa., has contacted authorities in Cape Verde, located off the coast of West Africa, and elsewhere to help authenticate the claim.

Earlier this week, Guinness dubbed 114-year-old Kamato Hongo of Japan as the world's oldest person, replacing Maud Farris-Luse of Coldwater, Mich., who died Monday. Hongo was born Sept. 16, 1887.

But if relatives are right and Domingues was born on Feb. 19, 1887, she is older than Hongo by seven months.

Murphy and others are searching for a baptismal certificate issued by the church in Cape Verde where Domingues was christened. Domingues apparently lost her copy.

Her family is optimistic. A researcher recently found a Cape Verde church registry that lists Domingues' birth year as 1887.

Verification from other documents has proven problematic: Like many from her era, Domingues was never issued a birth certificate. Her 1906 marriage license doesn't list her age. An old passport says she was born in 1889, but family members say Domingues' shaved off a few years to appear younger.

The title of world's oldest person is one of Guinness's most coveted, and solid proof is a must, said Della Howes, a senior researcher at the London organization, which is awaiting more documentation before verifying the claim.

Even if Domingues was born in 1888, she would be the oldest living person in America and the third oldest in the world, Howes said.

Other facts about Domingues' life are more concrete. She was born to an Italian sea captain and a Cape Verdean woman. At 18, she married Jose Domingues, a whaling captain. The couple moved to New Bedford, Mass., in 1907. They raised four children while Adelina worked as a seamstress.

Her husband died in 1950 and Domingues moved to Southern California to be near a son, who died in Palm Desert in 1998. She lived on her own in San Diego until she was 107.

Relatives describe Domingues as tough-minded and conservative. She often wrote admiring letters to Ronald Reagan and chided female family members if their skirts were too short or their makeup too heavy. She never smoked or drank alcohol.

These days, Domingues uses a wheelchair to get around, favors cardigan sweaters and refuses to wear makeup — even for the television crews who visited this week when news of her age emerged.

Foundation gifts to colleges soar despite economy drop

BY TOM HARRIGAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Private support to colleges and universities rose significantly during the 2000-2001 fiscal year to more than \$24 billion, although the U.S. economy was reeling, according to a partial study issued Friday.

The "surprisingly large" increase was due in part to family foundations. They enjoyed huge growth in the 1990s and then made bigger donations, said the New York-based Council for Aid to Education, an arm of the Rand Corp. in Santa Monica.

"Their (family foundation) assets bloomed during the mid- and late-1990s, and they scheduled larger payouts" over ensuing years, said Ann E. Kaplan, director of the council's voluntary support of education survey. The full report is to be issued in June.

Still the leader in private gifts was alumni contributions, holding nearly steady at \$6.8 billion.

The family foundation increase of 18.1 percent to \$6 billion was the biggest of any sector of private, corporate and religious organization giving to colleges and universities.

Overall private giving to higher education reached \$24.2 billion, an 4.3 percent increase of \$1 billion, in the fiscal year July

2000 to June 2001. The previous 12 months had a record increase of 13.7 percent

Over the same period ending last June, the New York Stock Exchange Index dropped 3.4 percent, Standard and Poor's Composite Index fell 15.9 percent, and the NASDAQ declined by 47.4 percent.

Gifts of appreciated property, mostly shares of stocks, declined during the 12 months by 8 percent.

In other donor categories: non-alumni personal gifts declined 4.1 percent to \$5.2 billion; corporate giving to higher education increased 4.8 percent to \$4.35 billion; and religious organization donations increased 4 percent to \$1.82 billion.

More gifts were received by Harvard University than any other university in the nation. It had a 40.8 percent increase to \$683 million to regain the top spot. Stanford University dropped to second with \$469 million.

Stanford was down 19.2 percent in private donations, after a huge increase of 81.6 percent in fiscal 2000.

Private giving to segments of the University of California rose significantly, with UC San Francisco up \$53 million to \$271 million, UCLA up nearly \$10 million to \$263.6 million, and UC Berkeley rising \$26 million to \$202.6 million in the year ending last June.

ENTERTAINMENT



Oscar security can't stymie 'bleacher creatures'

BY LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — For a few heart-stopping hours, Sandi Stratton thought security concerns had ended her three-decade tradition of cheering stars at the Oscar red carpet.

The 400 spots in the fan bleachers this year were to be filled through a strict application procedure — not the campout free-for-all that had worked for Stratton in the past.

When the letters came telling her and her sister, Glenice "Babe" Churchill, they hadn't made the first-come, first-served cut, "We were just sick. ... I thought, 'I can't believe we're not going,'" Stratton said.

"Yeah, we are," her sister soon reassured her. Churchill had called the movie academy and was told that an error had been made; the sisters would be in their rightful place outside the Kodak Theatre on Sunday.

"It mattered a lot. It gets to be this time of the year and our bodies just get in gear: 'OK, it's Academy Awards time,'" said Stratton. She will be part of a 15-member contingent of family and friends identifiable by their matching "Bleacher Creatures" T-shirts.

Because of Sept. 11 terrorism worries and the ceremony's re-location to the new Kodak Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard, the academy barred sidewalk campers this year and posted online applications instead.

It also was tougher to get seats inside this year. The 3,100-seat Kodak Theatre has about 900 fewer seats than last year's Shrine Auditorium, and hundreds of seating requests were refused, including a few hundred from academy members.

When Stratton, 59, of Escondido and Churchill, 71, of Chino made their first Oscar appearance in 1970 outside the downtown Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, they strolled past a handful of police officers the morning of the show and sat right down.

Times have changed.

Spots this year were to be awarded to early bird applicants after background



Associated Press

Ben Weiss, left, of Los Angeles, Samantha Finkler, from Long Island, N.Y., and Nargues Montamed, right, from Belmont, Calif., huddle in sleeping bags by the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles last year, after they spent the night to secure a good location for glimpses of their favorite stars at the Academy Awards. The 400 spots in the fan bleachers this year are to be filled through a strict application procedure, not via the camp out free-for-all of the past.

checks. Some 5,000 people applied.

"It's been quite a management job," said Ric Robertson, the academy's executive administrator. But keeping fans in the picture was worth the effort, he said.

"They are really an integral part of the red-carpet, Oscar-night experience. They bring a level of energy that is really pretty extraordinary and definitely adds to that whole phenomenon."

The chosen few will begin taking their places outside the theater nearly 11 hours before the ceremony begins, at 5 p.m.

The new seating system is part of increased Oscar security that includes more police officers; extensive street, business and subway stop closures; and a tighter credentialing process for media.

"The Los Angeles Police Department will be all over Hollywood and obviously helping maintain offsite security," said Robertson. The department is working closely with other agencies, including the FBI.

The ceremony is in a denser neighborhood compared to the area surrounding the

Shrine Auditorium. People hoping to drive or stroll by for impromptu stargazing will find themselves thwarted by barricades.

Stratton will be among the insiders. Which of the nominees will she cheer loudest?

"As much as I don't like Russell Crowe personally — he just seems obnoxious, rude and arrogant — he did a wonderful job in 'A Beautiful Mind.'"

Of the film's nominated director, Ron Howard, one-time child star of "The Andy Griffith Show," she said: "Opie has to win."

Polls: Beautiful Mind, Lord of Rings top public preference

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The public's favorites to win the Oscar for best picture of the year are "A Beautiful Mind" and "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," say polls released just before the Oscars are presented Sunday.

Those two movies tied for first in polls by ABC News and Gallup released Friday, with just over a fourth of people surveyed supporting each. The other best picture nominees "Moulin Rouge," "In the Bedroom" and "Gosford Park" finished far back, possibly because people are less familiar with them.

"Lord of the Rings" is the big earner of the group at almost \$300 million and "A Beautiful Mind" has

earned half of that.

Russell Crowe, who played the role of a schizophrenic math genius in "A Beautiful Mind," and Denzel Washington, who played a corrupt cop in "Training Day," are the popular choices for best actor — each chosen by about a fourth of the public.

Halle Berry, who plays an executed inmate's widow in "Monster's Ball," and Nicole Kidman, who plays a glamorous nightclub performer in "Moulin Rouge," were the public's choice for best actress — each chosen by about a fifth.

The Gallup poll of 1,009 adults was taken Monday through Wednesday and the ABC poll of 1,021 adults was taken March 13-17. Each have error margins of plus or minus 3 percentage points.



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LOCAL □ STATE



Urban revitalization gives neighborhoods new breath

NEIGHBORHOODS, from page 1

believe the changes.

Says Virginia Channels, who stayed through it all, "They're very surprised when they come back to see it's quieting down a lot. I'm not going to tell you the gangs aren't still there. But it's quieter."

She says people are painting, remodeling, fixing up and feeling upbeat. Rents are \$1,400 for two-bedroom apartments and houses are higher.

"Up to three years ago you could buy one of these older houses reasonably," she says. "But now they are very expensive. Don't even think of finding something for under \$250,000 because you aren't going to find it."

Los Angeles author Joel Kotkin calls them "new urbanites," people restoring economic vitality to formerly hard-pressed areas even as suburbs expand.

In "The New Geography," Kotkin writes, "The center, even as the traditional middle-class family has continued to decamp from it, is being revived by the in-migration of immigrants, singles, gays, creatives, and other educated, childless young people. These childless groups increasingly constitute the bulwark of the center-city population."

In Echo Park, a downtown Los Angeles neighborhood that Kotkin cites alongside New York City's Chelsea, Kevin Kuzma says, "Artists move in because there's a lot of space for relatively little money. When they get there and friends see it, how interesting it is, that sort of feeds upon itself. I've seen it happen in just the time I've lived there."

Next door in Silver Lake, 23-year resident Vince Brook says, "Most of us who have been around awhile, sense in the last

five years a lot of new people, young people, people in the film industry."

Only recently, both districts were scary places. Their names still pack images of graffiti and trouble.

"We had a lot of gangs and shootings, and a lot of helicopters overhead at night," says Brook. "With those hills, the gunshots really reverberated."

Robin Blackman, who opened one of four new art galleries that replaced a notorious Echo Park bar, says the crime stigma is weakening.

"Now it's like, 'oh, I've heard that area's coming up,'" she says. "Before, it was like 'it's not safe to park my car.'"

These shifts aren't lost on developers.

"There definitely is a change in the direction of interest with regard to urban revitalization," says Gary Binger, who heads the California Smart Growth Initiative for the developer-financed Urban Land Institute. "At the same time there's a great deal of pressure for development to move to the outskirts," he says. "We really expect both trends will continue."

Yet with widely praised resurgence also come side effects of displacement. Young, hip dot.com workers transformed the low-income Mission District in San Francisco. In Pasadena, where bungalows once rented, young buyers who could buy more in the suburbs plunk down \$400,000, says Realtor Allen Shay.

Silver Lake Realtor Maryann Kuk says prices there "squeeze out a lot of people because they can't afford it. They go to Echo Park, Eagle Rock and south of Sunset. And those neighborhoods get improved because people don't have quite enough money for Silver Lake, but they can improve it. And that squeezes out the even less affluent."

State urges compliance with cash-for-parking law

BY COLLEEN VALLES

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The state is increasing efforts to get companies with 50 or more employees to comply with a little-known 1992 law that says if the company pays for parking it must also offer cash to those employees who opt not to drive to work.

A report this week by the Legislative Analyst's office said more outreach is needed to inform companies that the law, designed to help clean up the air by decreasing the number of cars on the road, even exists.

About 290,000 parking spaces, or 3 percent of the state's free parking spots, fall under the law, and it could reduce vehicle smog emissions by about 2 tons per day.

But the law didn't have any provision or funding for enforcement or keeping track of how much or where it has been implemented. So the analyst's office has relied for estimates on information from several firms in Los Angeles that implemented the law.

The state's Air Resources Board

administers the program and is currently working on an outreach program, said Richard Varenchik, a spokesman for the board.

"We are trying to figure out a way to get the word out to businesses that would qualify for this," he said. "There are a lot of complications."

Developers and merchants are the people primarily interested in the program, said Shannon McEttrick, marketing coordinator for Traffic Solutions in Goleta. The organization deals with traffic and transportation issues for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments.

"A shop owner in a downtown tourist attraction spot would probably seek out those kinds of options because every parking space is costing them money," she said.

She said the organization points out the law to employers as a way to soften the blow of charging for parking.

"It's a great way to implement a parking program where you are going to start charging," she said. "A lot of people will choose to keep the money and find another way to get to work."

NATIONAL



'Power Rangers' creator donates \$7M to Democrats

BY SHARON THEIMER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A billionaire media mogul has given the Democratic National Committee \$7 million, believed to be the single largest donation ever to a political party.

The DNC also recently received a \$5 million check from Hollywood producer Steve Bing that would otherwise have held the record.

"I hope that my contribution will inspire Democrats that are much richer than me to step up to the plate higher than me."

— **HAIM SABAN**
Power Rangers creator

"I hope that my contribution will inspire Democrats that are much richer than me to step up to the plate higher than me," said "Power Rangers" creator Haim Saban, the \$7 million donor. "I will be very happy to be fifth in line."

Word of the seven-figure checks comes as President Bush prepares to sign a ban on such unlimited "soft money" contributions to political parties. It was passed by the Senate this week.

Anticipating the ban, DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe has been traveling the nation for several months raising money

for a new party headquarters to rival that of the Republican National Committee.

The estimated \$32 million building will feature state-of-the-art technology including computer systems and television and radio studios.

McAuliffe's sales pitch struck a chord with Saban, billionaire chairman of the Saban Capital Group and creator of the hit children's television show. Saban, a prolific giver to Democratic campaigns, sent his check in early February.

"The Democrats are in the Stone Age, the Republicans are in the 21st century" in technology, Saban said Friday. "We are for the most part a two-party nation and I thought it would be a disaster if one party were to play in an uneven playing field."

The checks take the DNC a long way toward its fund-raising goal, spokeswoman Maria Cardona said. Fourteen donors have pledged most of the money needed for the new building, she said.

Several contributors, including labor unions, gave \$1 million each.

The DNC plans to break ground on the building this spring and have it completed by December 2003, Cardona said.

Under the new campaign finance legislation, political parties cannot raise soft money after this fall's election or spend it after Dec. 31.

The DNC is talking with its lawyers about how it can use all the soft money it has raised for the building while meeting the spending deadline, Cardona said.

The previous party donation record was believed to be a \$1.7 million check the Republican National Committee received from Amway Corp. in 1996 to build a TV studio.

Saban, who gave Democrats \$1 million

for the 2000 election, is chairman of McAuliffe's capital campaign. Saban said he has asked his friends to donate for the headquarters and gave a big check in part because "you better be willing to put your money where your mouth is."

Campaign-finance watchdogs predict Saban's record will fall before the soft-money ban takes effect.

Political fund-raisers from both parties will likely play off it, telling big donors "you can do better than that," said Larry Noble, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics.

"It becomes a real game of one-ups-manship which is just magnified by the fact that this is the last time you can do it," he said.

Deadly shooting spree



Paul Rakestraw/Associated Press

An unidentified man is wheeled to a waiting ambulance outside the front door of Bertrand Products in South Bend, Ind., on Friday, following a shooting spree in the plant. A man shot and killed three co-workers and injured at least two others at the aircraft parts plant Friday morning, then fatally shot himself after leading police officers on a high-speed chase.

Thieves try to steal Liza Minnelli's diamond necklace

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Thieves tried to snatch a diamond necklace from Liza Minnelli as she and her new husband, David Gest, drove through London, where they are honeymooning, the singer's British publicist said Friday.

They tried to grab the crucifix-style necklace, believed to be worth \$15,000, through the open window of Minnelli's limousine as

the couple drove through the affluent Holland Park district of west London on Thursday night, David Freed said.

"They had stopped at traffic lights and Miss Minnelli's window was down," Freed said.

"Someone put their hand into the car and Liza, who is incredibly gracious to her fans, thought it was an autograph hunter."

"But the driver, who saw there were others with this person, immediately

rolled up the window. They tried the car door but he managed to speed away."

Afterward, the couple stopped for coffee, then went back to the Lanesborough Hotel where they're staying. They later attended a private dinner given in their honor before going to a club, Freed said.

In a statement, the couple laughed off the incident. "It all happened so quickly," they said, adding that they only learned the details in the coffee shop afterward.

"We're New Yorkers so nothing scares us," the couple said.

Minnelli, 56, who wed 48-year-old theater designer Gest last weekend in New York, launches a new European tour with five concerts at London's Royal Albert Hall starting April 2. It will be followed by dates in Denmark, France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

They're expected to return to the United States in the next few days.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.N. report: Water shortage threatens 2.7 billion by 2025

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria — Warning that 2.7 billion people face a critical shortage of drinkable water by 2025, the United Nations marked World Water Day on Friday with a call for a “blue revolution” to conserve and tap the seas for new supplies.

In fewer than 25 years, about 5 billion people will be living in areas where it will be difficult or impossible to meet all their needs for fresh water, creating “a looming crisis that overshadows nearly two-thirds of the Earth’s population,” a U.N. report said.

It was released in Vienna by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a nuclear watchdog organization leading the United Nations’ effort to draw attention to the world’s water shortage and the need to save water when-

ever possible.

“The simple fact is that there is a limited amount of water on the planet, and we cannot afford to be negligent in its use,” said the IAEA’s director, Mohamed ElBaradei. “We can’t keep treating it as if it will never run out.”

Already, an estimated 1.1 billion people have no access to safe drinking water, 2.5 billion lack proper sanitation and more than 5 million people die from water-borne diseases each year — 10 times the number of casualties killed in wars around the globe, the report said.

Less than 3 percent of the world’s water is fresh, and most of it is trapped in polar ice or buried underground in springs too deep to reach, it said. Freshwater lakes, rivers and reservoirs may seem numerous but provide just a drop in the bucket, the report said.

“Even where supplies are sufficient or plentiful, they are increasingly at risk from pollution and rising

demand,” U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a statement, warning that “fierce national competition over water resources has prompted fears that water issues contain the seeds of violent conflict.”

The worst-affected areas are the deserts and semiarid regions of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where fresh drinking water is extremely scarce, in part because of the region’s wildly variable climate and unchecked population growth, the World Meteorological Organization said.

“Without better management of water resources ... two-thirds of humanity will suffer from severe or moderate shortages by the year 2025,” added Koichiro Matsuura, who heads the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Water ministers from 22 African countries have called for a regional and global alliance, backed by international funding, to tackle water and sanitation problems.

Paralyzed woman wins right to switch off life-support

BY JANE WARDELL

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — A paralyzed woman who wants doctors to remove the ventilator that keeps her alive has a right to die, a British judge ruled Friday.

The case was apparently the first in Britain in which a mentally competent patient had applied for the right to terminate life-sustaining treatment.

The High Court ruling was relayed by video link to the hospital bedside of the woman, identified only as B.

B was paralyzed from the neck down when a blood vessel ruptured in her neck a year ago, and is unable to breathe unaided. She told the court she fully understood the implications of being removed from the ventilator and wanted to die.

Her doctors argued that it would be unethical to switch off the ventilator.

The judge ruled that B had the necessary mental capacity to give or refuse consent to life-sustaining medical treatment, adding that for someone as severely disabled as the patient, “life in that condition may be worse than death.”

“She is clearly a splendid person and it is tragic that someone of her ability has been struck down so cruelly,” said Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, president of the court’s family division.

“I hope she will forgive me for saying ... that if she did reconsider her decision, she would have a lot to offer the community at large.”

Earlier this month, Butler-Sloss visited the woman’s bedside so she could explain why she wished to die. The hearing was

broadcast on closed circuit television to the High Court from an unidentified London-area hospital.

In a statement issued through her lawyers, the woman said she was pleased with the judgment but upset she had been forced to take court action.

“The law on consent to treatment is very clear and this has been a long, and unnecessary and personally painful process,” she said. She hasn’t indicated when she will have the ventilator turned off.

The hospital said it did not plan to appeal the decision. Its lawyer, Robert Francis, said he regretted the distress, “however unintentionally caused,” to the patient.

Pro-euthanasia groups were quick to hail the judgment as a victory for their cause but medical and legal experts said the case had no direct bearing on euthana-

sia or assisted suicide cases.

Roger Leng, a lecturer in medical law at Warwick University, the ruling simply reinforces the right of mentally competent patients to retain control of their treatment over the wishes of their doctors.

“This case I think, and most other lawyers think, did not need to come to court. The law was very, very clear,” Leng said.

Dr. Anthony Cole, chairman of the independent Medical Ethics Alliance, said there were significant differences between B’s case and those made by relatives of a number of patients in the coma-like “persistent vegetative state.”

Pretty, 43, terminally ill and paralyzed by a degenerative disease, would need definitive action from her husband to assist her death, rather than an end to current treatment.

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INTERNATIONAL



On high alert



Roberto Candia/Associated Press
An unidentified man explains to police officers where he needs to go in downtown Lima, Peru on Friday. Peru put its security forces on high alert and closed off streets in the capital ahead of a weekend visit by President Bush, after Wednesday's deadly bombing near the U.S. Embassy raised fears of resurgent guerrilla violence. The sign reads "National Police of Peru — Restricted Area — No Trespassing."

Chelsea Clinton turns heads on London party circuit

BY JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — A few months ago, Chelsea Clinton said she found English people anti-American and complained of feeling homesick at Oxford University.

Now all, apparently, is forgiven.

Sporting a sleek new hairstyle and stylish clothes, the former first daughter has joined London's celebrity circuit, with sightings reported at the city's hottest hangouts. She has been voted the fifth most eligible woman in Britain, and her reported romance with another American student has spawned a new glamour couple.

"People don't want to stay geeky forever," said Mark Frith, editor of the celebrity magazine *Heat*. "Her confidence is obviously growing, and I think she wants to give herself a new start and a new look."

"She's gone from being this gawky kid to someone who's quite happy to be very exposed, sitting in the front row at fashion shows," he added.

Though she's caught the British eye, Clinton is several rungs down the tabloid celebrity ladder — well below Madonna, "Posh Spice" Victoria Beckham, Liz Hurley and a topless model named Jordan.

Clinton, 22, is in the second term of a two-year graduate degree course in international relations at Oxford, where her father was a Rhodes Scholar from 1968 to 1970.

The first few months were not easy. In November, newspapers in Oxford reported that Clinton was among a group of American students who heckled a meeting protesting the war in Afghanistan.

In an article for the magazine *Talk*, Clinton wrote that it was "hard to be abroad" in the months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Every day I encounter some sort of anti-American feeling," she wrote.

"Over the summer I thought I would seek out non-Americans as friends, just for diversity's sake," she added. "Now I find that I want to be around Americans — people who I know are thinking about our country as much as I am."

The comments generated some unsympathetic responses from Clinton's temporary home.

The Oxford Student newspaper accused Clinton of using "her fame to propagate her views."

"She's gone from being this gawky kid to someone who's quite happy to be very exposed, sitting in the front row at fashion shows."

— MARK FRITH
Heat editor

"Shame on you, Chelsea," wrote Jonathan Farley, an American academic at Oxford, in a letter to *The Guardian* newspaper.

"So Chelsea Clinton's surrounding herself with sympathetic Americans at Oxford? Isn't she supposed to be studying international relations?" asked another *Guardian* letter-writer.

But, as the year ended, Clinton and Britain began to warm to one another.

In December, *Tatler* magazine rated her Britain's fifth most eligible woman, two places behind "Titanic" star Kate Winslet and one behind Zara Phillips, daughter of Princess Anne.

In January, she attended a Paris fashion show, sporting a silken bob and slinky black dress. She sat in the front row for the Versace show, alongside Madonna and

Anthony Zinni makes progress in Mideast effort

BY BARRY SCHWEID

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — American mediator Anthony Zinni reported some headway in security talks with Israel and the Palestinian Authority, but Vice President Dick Cheney's return to the Middle East to see Yasser Arafat remained in limbo.

Contingency preparations for a Cheney-Arafat meeting in Egypt proceeded, but it depends on the Palestinian leader agreeing to U.S. terms for a cease-fire, administration officials underscored on Friday.

"As of now, the conditions have not been met," a White House spokesman, Sean McCormack, said.

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., organized a congressional drive to stop the Cheney trip.

Feinstein rounded up 51 senators to join her in a letter to President Bush. The letter said "there is no evidence, on the ground, that Mr. Arafat is willing to do what is necessary to help bring peace to Israel and his people."

And yet, they said, Cheney has offered to return to the region to see Arafat.

The senators also told the president that they supported the Zinni mission but hoped the retired Marine general "makes clear that the United States will not deal with those who do not live up to their commitments."

In a third suicide bombing in three days, a Palestinian man intercepted by border guards, blew himself up at a military checkpoint on the West Bank.

Truce talks resumed after Zinni complained to Arafat that he had not done enough to prevent attacks. Another meeting was set for Sunday.

Zinni reported to Assistant Secretary of State William Burns there was "some headway" toward a cease-fire, said a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The State Department, meanwhile, welcomed a promise by Arafat to end attacks on Israel.

"As of now, the conditions have not been met."

— SEAN McCORMACK
White House spokesman

"We expect that he and the Palestinian Authority will move immediately to reinforce these words with definitive action. It's that definitive action and results that we're looking for," spokesman Philip Reeker said.

In an interview for PBS' "NOW With Bill Moyers," Marwan Zalom, a commander in the Al Aqsa Brigades, which claimed responsibility for Thursday's bombing, pledged: "We will continue until we vanquish the occupation and until the creation of the Palestinian state. This is the message that the whole world has to understand."

Secretary of State Colin Powell, traveling with Bush in Mexico, has kept in telephone touch with Arafat.

Powell told him "he must punish the leaders of organizations responsible for recent attacks, making sure those responsible are brought to justice," Reeker said.

Gwyneth Paltrow.

The response was dramatic.

"Gone are the tidy checks and polka dots, the caterpillar eyebrows and the straw hats," wrote Emma Brockes in *The Guardian* newspaper. "Gone, most significantly, are the ringlets. In their place are a black Versace trouser suit, vampish, Sophia Loren eyeliner and a bob of fanatically flattened hair."

Since then, Brockes wrote, Chelsea Clinton "has been prominent on a circuit she used actively to avoid."

Clinton graduated in June 2001 from Stanford University in California with a history degree. During her four years at Stanford, she lived a relatively typical student life — studying in the library, cheering at basketball games and working out at the gym.

At Oxford, she has had to contend with Britain's robust tabloid press. In January one Oxford college, Trinity, passed a resolution condemning any student who revealed information about another to the press.

The proposer of the motion, Graham Webber, said there had been "bad rumblings" that students had sold stories about Clinton's private life to the media, according to Cherwell, the student newspaper.

The new-look Chelsea doesn't need informers to make the news, however. She has been spotted at film premieres, theater openings and in London's trendiest nightspots — The Ivy restaurant and the Met Bar; the Chinawhite and Stork

Rooms clubs. With her father, former President Clinton, and Bono from U2 she hung out at the Groucho, a private club for the media elite. The *Daily Telegraph* reported that the trio "wobbled out" at 3 a.m.

In February, Chelsea Clinton attended the London premiere of "The Shipping News," signing autographs and chatting to fans alongside stars Kevin Spacey — an old friend — and Judi Dench.

Afterward, *The Evening Standard* reported, Clinton asked a New York journalist to pass a message to her mother, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. "Tell her I'm healthy, I'm happy and I love England," Chelsea said.

She was accompanied by Ian Klaus, a history and literature graduate of Washington University in St. Louis who is now a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. Pictures of the two laughing together and reports of their intimate dinners at restaurants in London and Oxford have provided further fodder for the tabloids.

There has already been a backlash, with unsubstantiated reports recently suggesting the 900-year-old university was displeased with Clinton's party-girl reputation.

Oxford would not comment. Several newspapers have quoted Clinton as saying she spends most of her time studying.

"A lot of people can get lost in show biz, and it may happen that she accepts too many invitations and neglects her studies," Frith said. "But I think she's too bright to do that."

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



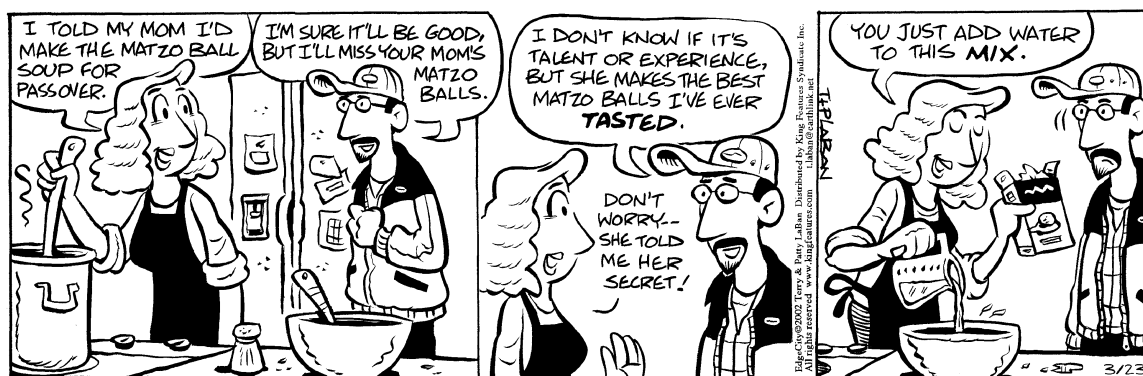
Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



"Just ignore him. He's always a party pooper. Let me at those wings."

edge city

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lenin's successor
 - 7 Word in an octagon
 - 11 Diplomatic
 - 12 Melt base
 - 13 Immediately
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 - 15 Judi of "Chocolat"
 - 16 Roeper's cohort
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- DOWN**
- 1 Digging tool
 - 2 One with a burden
 - 3 By the way
 - 4 Penny portrait
 - 5 Longing
 - 6 Born
 - 7 Rough guesses
 - 8 Sets the dial, perhaps
 - 9 Proceeding as planned
 - 10 Eclair, e.g.
 - 16 Some nobles
 - 18 Venomous reptile
 - 20 Writer Repplier
 - 22 Pisan scientist
 - 23 Texas city
 - 24 Originally

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Yesterday's answer

- 10 Eclair, e.g.
- 16 Some nobles
- 18 Venomous reptile
- 20 Writer Repplier
- 22 Pisan scientist
- 23 Texas city
- 24 Originally
- 25 Trump in business
- 28 Suit parts
- 30 Thrill
- 31 Computer key
- 32 Ocean areas
- 34 Collier's place
- 36 Card symbol

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39						40			

3-23

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Apparently some women need exams to drive cars

Lithuania's gender-equality ombudsman, Ms. Ausrine Burneikiene, announced in January that she would fight to end the country's requirement that women need a gynecological exam to get a driver's license. The exams apparently are based on the belief that some gynecological illnesses manifest themselves suddenly or cause unconsciousness and therefore would be dangerous to other motorists. (And a study reported in November in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh Daily, from a professor at Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah, concluded that women are responsible for about 50 percent of Saudi traffic accidents, even though they cannot legally drive cars; the professor was referring only to women as distractions and backseat drivers.)

FUNNY PAPERZ

"RABID TRANSIT"



Which is more likely to run amok causing widespread devastation?

- a) Circus Elephant ...
- b) Postal Worker ...
- c) Big Blue Bus ...



No transfers to other cartoons.

3-23

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Guest Houses

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020 Legal Notices	300 For Rent	650 Health/Beauty
100 Employment	400 Real Estate	



BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

'Give me your money and a ride'

By The Associated Press

SHREWSBURY, N.J. — Cash wasn't the only demand from a bank robbery suspect; she also was hoping the bank would provide a getaway driver.

Nira Kay Nevins, 52, of Perth Amboy, was captured less than 40 yards from the bank, just moments after she fled with \$5,000.

She was charged Wednesday with robbery, making terrorist threats and kidnapping. She could receive 55 years in prison if convicted on all charges.

Authorities said Nevins went to the Community Bank of New Jersey branch in Shrewsbury and gave the bank manager a plastic bag to fill with money. She claimed to have a gun.

Nevins then demanded that someone give her a ride, authorities said.

A teller left the bank with the suspect and employees immediately called police.

"Part of the reason why she was apprehended so quickly is the teller had an anti-theft device on her steering wheel which took a long time to unlock," Kenneth Keller, a prosecutor said.

Nevins, who did not have a weapon, was being held on \$250,000 bail.

Buzzard jailed for stealing birdhouse

By The Associated Press

ITHACA, N.Y. — Coincidences were flying when a man was arrested and charged with stealing a bird feeder from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology.

University police charged James Buzzard, 43, who lives on Cardinal Drive, with stealing the feeder from

the lab on Sapsucker Woods Drive.

According to police, Buzzard was apparently intoxicated when he entered a storage shed on the lab's property on Monday and tried to steal a \$300 bird feeder and a mo-ped.

Buzzard was spotted by someone who called the police.

He was arraigned and held on \$7,500 cash bail or \$15,000 bail bond.

He faces a felony third-degree burglary, as well as lesser charges involving the alleged larceny of the bird feeder and the mo-ped.

Residents unhappy about Amish poop

By The Associated Press

LOYAL, Wis. — Some residents are making a stink about droppings from horses that pull Amish buggies through town.

City officials are considering an ordinance that would require buggy operators to clean up after their horses or attach bags to catch the droppings before they can hit the pavement.

Mayor Art Olsen said he has talked to Amish elders about the matter, but "they say the cars pollute more than their horses do."

Emmanuel Miller, an Amish man who represented fellow Amish residents at a City Council meeting Tuesday night, said a waste catcher attached to a buggy to collect horse manure could pose a safety hazard, spooking a horse if it bumps against the animal's hind legs.

The police chief expressed concern that a manure ordinance would be difficult to enforce.

Will clerk win with stolen lotto ticket?

By The Associated Press

HILLSBORO, Mo. — A jury acquitted a convenience store clerk accused of stealing a winning jackpot lottery ticket.

Prosecutors said Chastity Cromer, 29, was stealing about 30 scratchers a day from the store until she scratched one she couldn't cash out of the register — a \$100,000 jackpot winner.

Investigators said she even turned back the store's surveillance video to cover up the crime.

The Jefferson County jury found her innocent on all charges Wednesday. Cromer's lawyer, Robert Taaffe, said the evidence against his client was weak.

Cromer isn't completely in the clear. Authorities said the store's owner was expected to file a claim to the \$100,000, saying the ticket was stolen. The matter will be decided in a forfeiture hearing.

Vending machines for canines

By The Associated Press

SIDNEY, Maine — Vending machines at a rest stop will offer a selection of candy, gum — and doggie treats?

Chomp Inc. on Wednesday began stocking Yip Yaps, a doggie breath mint, and Sniffers, a moist chewy candy for dogs, in machines along Interstate 95 in central Maine.

Within the next few weeks, machines at nine other I-95 rest stops in Maine will be stocked with dog candy.

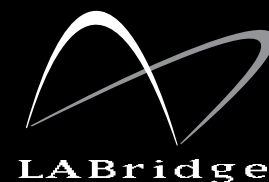
Chomp, based in Lebanon, N.J., said it is the first company in the nation to stock dog treats in vending machines that also contain candy for humans.



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