

FREE

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 112

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTTO
SUPER LOTTO
3-4-20-33-44

 Megamember: 24
 Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5
04, 05, 15, 29, 31
DAILY 3

 Afternoon picks: **0, 2, 7**

 Evening picks: **6, 7, 4**
DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 07, Eureka

2nd Place: 04, Big Ben

3rd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

Race time: 1:46.59

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
 by Chuck Shepard

■ Two TV stations reported in February that Paul West of Winsted, Conn., had taken the then-current Homeland Security alerts very seriously and covered his entire house, top to bottom, with 3,500 square feet of plastic sheeting to "protect" against "radiological or biological or chemical attack," he said. West, his wife and two children live on a farm outside Winsted, in northern Connecticut, about 120 miles from New York City. Said West, "I just have all this energy from tension and anxiety (about terrorism), and I don't know what to do with it."

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

By the time we've made it, we've had it.


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Aero to undergo facelift with new operator

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

After years of searching, landlord James Rosenfeld has found a film operator that he hopes will keep the Aero Theatre's 65-year-old tradition alive.

Rosenfeld recently secured a 10-year lease earlier this month with American Cinematheque, a non-profit organization that plans to hold its first screening at the end of the summer. American Cinematheque will take over the Aero on April 14 and spend a few months renovating the Montana Avenue theater.

"I've been working for as long as I've owned the building to secure a tenant that could renovate the theater and operate it," Rosenfeld said. "It was obvious that they have a great amount of experience."

The American Cinematheque recently restored the historic 1922 Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood and many of the films shown there will make it to Santa Monica.

"We have a different concept ... it's about attracting an audience who want to see things that are different and are rare," said Barbara Smith, American Cinematheque director. "There will be

something different every night."

Cinematheque presents a diverse, year-round film series at the Egyptian Theatre featuring rare, unusual films and videos from around the world, Smith said.

By expanding its operation in Santa Monica, American Cinematheque hopes to broaden its audience by offering one-of-a-kind films.

"People on the westside don't necessarily get to Hollywood with all the traffic," Smith said. "Now we can show them films that you'll never see again in your lifetime."

The new operators plan to keep the Aero a single-screen theater, though they will upgrade the venue's concession stand and improve the audio and projection systems, Smith said.

The theater's old seats will be replaced with larger, more luxurious seats and the interior of the theater will be renovated. The symbolic marquee on the street, located at Euclid and Montana avenues, will remain intact, as will the theater's art deco interior.

Like any well-plotted drama, the recent history of the Aero is filled with twists

See AERO, page 7



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The landlord for the Aero Theatre on Montana Avenue has inked a deal with American Cinematheque to show one-of-a-kind films at the historic, World War II-era theater.

Samohi bathrooms leaving some grossed out

Many students prefer to 'hold it' all day rather than use them

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The bathrooms at Samohi are leaving some students feeling queasy and mighty uncomfortable.

Stall locks are broken, graffiti mars the mirrors and ceilings, stink bomb attacks are common and feces and urine adorn the walls and floors, students said.

Some students complain that the bathrooms are so bad they end up steering clear of them all day, opting to wait until they get home to relieve themselves.

"No one here likes to use the bathrooms because they're so

dirty," said sophomore Bryan Marquina. "There's defecation all over the floor and on the toilet seats."

"It sucks because sometimes you really have to go."

Administrators, concerned parents and students agree the

messiness is not acceptable. But despite their best efforts to remedy the situation, a handful of students appear to be bent on bathroom destruction.

See BATHROOMS, page 6

Footage of captured American troops aired

BY DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press Writer

DOHA, Qatar — Looking by turns frightened or stoical, five captured U.S. soldiers were thrust in front of an Iraqi TV microphone and peppered with questions Sunday. The footage also showed at least four bodies.

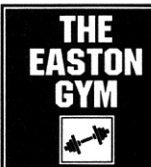
U.S. officials confirmed that 12 soldiers were missing after Iraqi forces ambushed an army supply convoy around An Nasiriyah, a major crossing point over the Euphrates northwest of Basra.

See TROOPS, page 9



John Wood/Daily Press

Phillipe Cueva, one of 11 custodians at Santa Monica High School, looks at the urinals in one of the boys' bathrooms at the school.


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HOROSCOPE

Make an appearance, Aries

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, March 24, 2003:

You know what you want. Take charge this year and head in the direction of your goals. You might want to cross your t's and dot your i's before you present an important project to others. You could be a bit stunned by the reactions you get this year. Understand those in your immediate circle better. A friendship could become much more if you simply relax and go for what you want. This person really does care deeply about you. Your career blooms in the second part of the year. Look toward a pay raise or promotion. If you are single, you are likely to meet "that person" at anytime. Be open. If attached, spend more time sharing together. Get past control games and power struggles. CAPRICORN pushes your buttons.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Get your facts together before you make a presentation this afternoon. Someone might toss a boomerang in your path. Pressure builds because you don't see situations as others do. Slow down and explain point by point where you're coming from. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A partner or associate wants greater say-so in your decision-making process. Work with others, especially a group, and you'll get surprising results. Accept an educational opportunity, which could involve travel. Tonight: Flip through travel brochures.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Others seek you out. Pressure spurs you to make decisions that you otherwise might not make. These decisions might be difficult to bring to fruition. Let a partner or associate have a greater part in your decision-making process. Tonight: Togetherness works.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Pace yourself nice and easy. Don't push too hard right now. The unexpected occurs when you least expect it. Be willing to absorb new information that appears on your plate quite suddenly. Let others run with the ball. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might want to re-evaluate what you want. Pressure builds among friends who really do care about you. Unexpected reactions revolve around a partner or key person. Use your creativity to help others understand what might be happening. Tonight: Work late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Stay anchored in your dealings. You might not always agree with loved ones, but how you tell them could spark different reactions. You want your message heard. Dig into your creativity to find solutions. Visualize what you want with a key tie. Tonight: Play away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Solutions might be readily available. All you need to do is recognize them. Discussions help you realize your potential professionally. If possible, head on a new course. Use your charisma, but also know when it's not working. Tonight: Finally, homeward bound.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Deal with finances first. You might want to indulge a family member but feel as if it isn't possible. Your sixth sense plays into your decision-making regarding communication. A child or loved one startles you with his or her quirkiness. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You roll into the day. Use the daytime hours to your benefit, acknowledging your limits. A call made early in the day gets the reactions you desire. Lighten up with finances, even if you feel that a family member is manipulating you. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Slow down in the morning, when you might not be up to snuff. You'll gain if you deal with a money matter more directly. Carefully consider your options that surround day-to-day life. Use caution with the purchase of a car, phone or computer right now. Tonight: Play away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Step back and take time to make what you want happen. Though you might be encouraged to take an action in the morning, by evening, you'll want to stand back. Question your goals within a financial situation. You pull the wild card financially. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might question what a boss wants. Your instincts help head you in the correct direction. Realize more of what you want from those at work. A meeting proves instrumental to your long-term goals. Ask for more of what you want from a loved one. Tonight: Where your friends are.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE William Pattnosh william@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER John Wood wood@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastrana del@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Keri Aroesty keri@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Alejandro C. Cantarero alex@smdp.com	CIRCULATION MANAGER Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Angela Downen angela@smdp.com	STAFF MASCOT Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL



Quarter supporters



Photo courtesy John Muir Elementary School

Students from grades 2 through 5 at John Muir Elementary School, 2526 Sixth Street, show their support Friday for one possible design that features the school's namesake for the soon-to-be-minted California commemorative Quarter. States are encouraged to submit designs that promote the diffusion of knowledge among the youth of the United States about the state, its history and geography and the diversity of our national heritage. Many consider John Muir the father of the national parks and one of the greatest figures in American conservation. The design for the John Muir/Yosemite California State Quarter was created by graphic designer Garrett Burke, a longtime West Los Angeles resident and Muir admirer. Gov. Gray Davis will decide within the next few weeks which of the six finalist coin ideas will be submitted to the U.S. Mint for further development.



Today looks like a mix of building swells, northwest and south. The northwest swell fills in today, peaking tomorrow, gaining size until then.

The south swell may show a little today, but expect it to get better Tuesday and possibly best on Wednesday.

Combination exposures will see the best surf today with good spots breaking around chest high.

Tuesday should see surf ramp up, hitting a foot or two higher than Monday.

Expect low winds in the morning, afternoon blow out and glassy evening conditions. Water pollution is still at high levels, so keep that in mind.

Today's Tides:

High- 1:08 a.m. 5.40'
Low- 8:43 a.m. 0.00'
High- 3:25 p.m. 2.89'
Low- 7:15 p.m. 2.34'

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

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

City manager to speak about economics

By Daily Press staff

City Manager Susan McCarthy will speak April 5 in front of the League of Women Voters about the city's current economic condition.

The talk is entitled, "Making Every Dollar Count: Adjusting City Hall to New Economic Realities"

McCarthy's first public appearance as city manager when she was hired in November 2000 was at a League of Women Voter's reception.

McCarthy will talk about how city staff is dealing with less resources and money. She welcomes the opportunity to answer questions and hear the views of the electorate.

Getting her start in Santa Monica government in administrative positions with the city's transportation and administrative services departments from 1975-76, McCarthy has served in a variety of positions with the city.

Before her appointment as assistant city manager in 1996, she was director of Community and Cultural Services, director of personnel, assistant director of admin-

istrative services and human resources administrator. In 1985, she took a six-year break from municipal service for graduate study and joined the L.A. County Natural History Museum in public relations and development positions.

McCarthy has a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College and a master's degree from USC's Annenberg School of Communications. She lives in Santa Monica with her husband, Kevin McCarthy, who works at the Rand Corp.

The meeting will be held on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in the Community Room of Village Park Town Homes at 2700 Pearl St., in Santa Monica. There is no charge and all are invited. Ample free parking is available.

Pier to be stabilized

By Daily Press staff

The city has launched a multi-year program to rehabilitate and restore the Santa Monica Pier.

In an effort to ensure safe access to the pier by delivery vehicles and emergency equipment, a lane of steel plates has been installed as a means to equally distribute the weight. The plates were recommended by the city engineer and the city consulting engineer. The plates will remain in place for about nine months while the first rehabilitation phase is completed.

See BRIEFS, page 6



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OPINION

Non-Prop A alternatives to historical preservation

Most of us agree that historical preservation is important. There may be other ways to provide for historical preservation beyond government-sponsored options represented in Prop. A, which was defeated last week.

In other words, there are creative solutions to the problem.

In a perfect world, everyone would agree on the need for cultural and historic preservation. People would all agree on houses and other structures that should be landmarked and everything would be voluntary. Covenants would be recorded on the title of properties that had landmark status and everyone would be happy. But things don't always work out that way.

Here are a few alternatives that might work. In fact, arguably these alternatives might be preferable to those outlined in Prop. A. And these alternatives are not mutually exclusive.

1. The City of Santa Monica could establish a fund to assist in landmarking of properties. Funds are tight, I know, but read on. The requirements could be minimal.

2. In addition, or as an alternative, a private charitable foundation could be established to assist in landmarking of properties.

The money in either of these two pools could be used in several ways. They could be used to buy properties, record covenants concerning landmarking and re-sell them. They could be used as a financial incentive to an owner to agree to record a covenant. They could be used to acquire alternative property to trade for a landmark property. Or they could be used in some combination of those three ways.

How would this work?

First, in a situation involving an owner willing to sell property of historical significance, the city fund and/or the private trust-fund could be used to purchase the proper-

ty. A simple covenant could be recorded on the title during the period of ownership by the city and/or the private trust, and the house could then be re-sold, with the historical covenant recorded. From that point forward, the house would be a historical landmark by recorded covenant.

In theory, since properties may go up in value with historical covenants recorded (many argue that this would happen, at least over time), and since many people are interested in acquiring historical properties, it is even possible that the property could be re-sold by the city or private trust at a profit.

And if the property could not be sold at a profit, the difference would be proof that the homeowner would have lost money in selling the house as a landmarked house. In that case, it

would be only fair that the community as a whole and/or private persons who care enough to contribute to the private foundation should bear the cost rather than the homeowner who bought the property without knowing it would be landmarked.

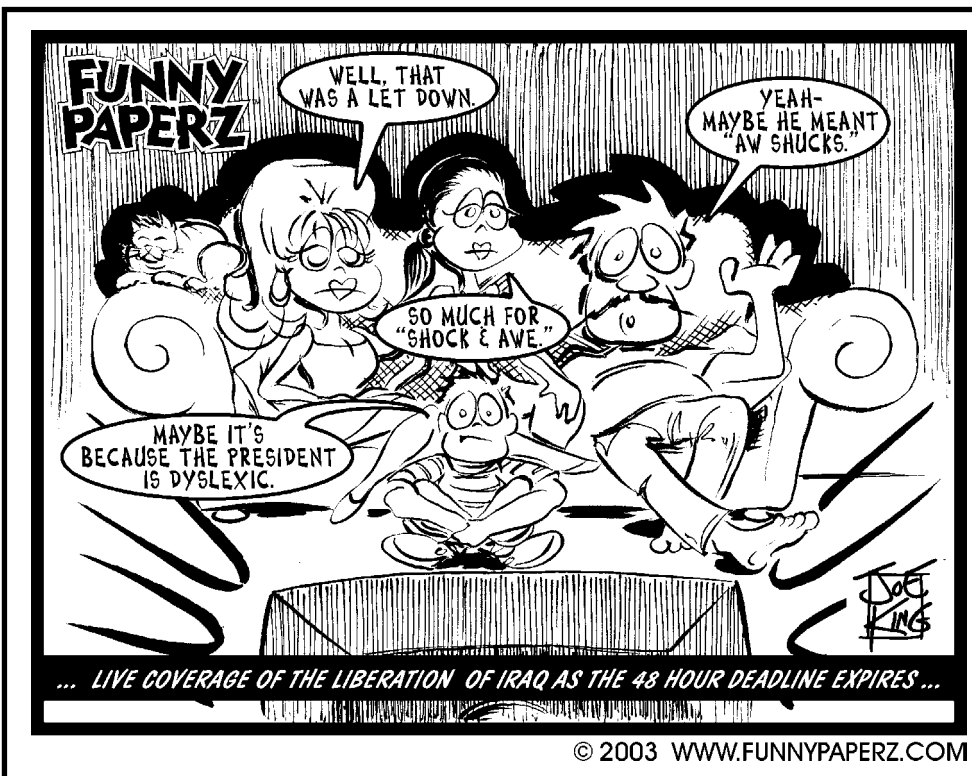
Second, in a situation involving an owner not interested in selling, but interested in some extra money in consideration of recording a landmarking covenant, the city fund and/or the private trust fund could be used to pay the owner to record a simple covenant. From that point forward, the house would be a historical landmark by recorded covenant.

Third, in a situation involving an owner not interested in recording a covenant or selling, but interested in staying in Santa Monica in a house to be built today, the city fund and/or the private trust fund could be used to finance the purchase of another piece of comparable property not having historical significance or not in the historical district acceptable to the owner for a trade.

The properties could be traded, a sim-

Guest Commentary

By Michael S. Klein



ple covenant could be recorded on title during the period of ownership by the city or the private fund, and the historically significant house could then be re-sold, with the historical covenant recorded. The non-significant house could then be developed in a location not having landmark issues. Again, as in the prior example, they might even make a profit for the city and/or private foundation on the sale.

Fourth, a combination of these strategies would be possible.

For example, if the third strategy were employed, but the value of the new property were less than the value of the old property, strategy two could be used to provide some additional compensation. In effect, the owner would be able to trade properties AND potentially have some cash to do the work required.

This type of program could achieve historical preservation in most cases without a majority voting to force something on a minority. All transactions would be voluntary, the costs would be more accurately placed on those who benefit (or think they benefit) and everyone would be happier.

The only logical problem would be the owner in a historical property unwilling,

for a reasonable price, to agree to either sell, trade, and/or take a payment to record a historical covenant. If the city still wanted to take a property in those circumstances, condemnation and payment of a fair price as determined by a court might be available.

A lot of people in this community have demonstrated that they really care about this issue. If we can translate that caring into some financial assistance, a program could be implemented along the lines of the strategy suggested above, modified, no doubt, by the many intelligent and caring city staff, commissioners and other caring Santa Monicans in this city that so brims with creativity and people interested in making the world better.

Note that the costs might be recouped from sales except in example two.

As a lawyer, I would be happy to volunteer some of the time needed to implement the private foundation aspects of this and to deal with the legal issues involved if there is interest in pursuing it.

(Michael S. Klein is a local attorney and a Santa Monica resident.)

The war will have major consequences for us all



It seems that our elected officials are not doing their jobs.

They do not listen to the U.S. people who ARE the REAL power in this country, state, county and city. Here in Santa Monica the impact of this war will be felt by ALL who do business.

With this war, in time, you will see the city become a virtual ghost town. People will be afraid to leave their houses to

come out and shop. People will be afraid to travel. People who once had respect for our country will not come here. People know what will eventually happen, they have seen it happening in Israel for decades now and it has ALREADY happened here with devastating consequences.

We have not forgotten Sept. 11 nor should we. We have a maniac of a "leader" running this country into the ground and making enemies of our allies, all for oil and "daddy's" honor. We shouldn't be spending money on war instead of our children's education. Our country's leaders need to focus on our health care and helping solve the homeless problem so we can get off the streets.

And cutting taxes for the rich at the expense of a country in deficit makes no sense. Now our country, which is in very

hard economic times, will be worse off than it was before this war. And everyone will feel the pinch eventually in some way shape or form. Whether it be economic, being involved in an attack on our soil again, or having a loved one come home either in a body bag or with some mental or physical trauma that war has a habit of causing, we will ALL feel the pain of it.

The homeless will suffer most of all.

We have no type of protection from any kind of attack. And there is a chance that we could become weapons ourselves. All one of these maniacs has to do is infect one of us who travels with a slow incubating, highly contagious virus and he or she will carry it to his or her destination — spreading it all along the way.

And I, for one, am not so arrogant to think that these people have not been here for at least a decade planning and study-

ing for such an occasion as this. Sept. 11 is all I need to know to tell me this is true.

So now that all you in Santa Monica who support this war got your wish, you can't complain when anything terrible happens in this country. If you own a business you will be affected. If you have children of drafting age, you will be affected. If you own property, you will be affected. If you play the stock market you will be affected.

And you can't blame the homeless for this because you backed this person who put OUR nation in this trick bag. And, in time, you will see through the "smoke and mirrors" to see how much of a fool he is making out of this great nation.

(Charles Springer is a freelance writer and artist living on the streets of Santa Monica.)

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.

COMMENTARY



How to legally start your own business



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pissarra

I'm starting a starting company, what do I want to be?

This is a very complex question and it involves funding the business, the tax implications, whether or not you have partners or want them in the future, whether or not you expect to be raising money later and what the risk level is for your business.

The type of business you are forming depends on several factors and as usual there are no easy answers. There are four main types of business entities: Sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies.

The type of entity a new company will choose to be is dependent on the goals of the company's founders, the type of product or service being provided and the need for capital. A competent business attorney will review all of these factors and more, including tax liability, growth potential of the business and the desires of the founders for flexibility, tax reduction, asset protection and capital funding possibilities.

SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS

A sole proprietorship is the simplest and easiest business to set up and to manage. It is just you hanging out an "Open" sign and waiting for someone to come pay you for your service or product.

The sole proprietorship has many benefits, not the least of which is that you are in charge and do not have to deal with someone else's opinions, feelings, thoughts and needs.

From a tax perspective it has many great attributes because the business creates many write-offs and will be filing what is called a Schedule C, which is filed with your annual 1040 tax returns.

It is the most common type of business for someone just starting out. You can be a sole proprietor using your own name or a made up name once registered with the county and you do not need to get a separate tax ID number.

PARTNERSHIPS

A good partnership is much like a good

marriage. Each partner compensates for the other's weaknesses. In order to find a good partner, one should look for someone who does well what you do not.

The biggest mistake most people make is choosing someone just like themselves, then assuming that because they have so much in common, they will get along well as partners. In practice this doesn't usually work, as each partner ends up fighting to do the things they do well and avoiding the things they do not do well, and the business suffers.

Ego plays a tremendous role in forming a partnership. You should have a healthy one and be secure in allowing your partner to have their own.

After you have found someone who has what you do not, you should then have a long, clear conversation about what you both expect in regard to the following areas:

1. Short term goals;
2. Long term goals;
3. Daily work schedules;
4. Daily work load expectations;
5. Vacation expectations;
6. Amount of capital each will bring to the partnership;
7. Amount and worth of other assets that each brings;
8. Clear division of responsibilities;
9. Clear understanding of each other's risk comfort levels;
10. Clear understanding of each other's business principles;
11. Clear understanding of each other's business ethics.

All of the above should be put in a written document as part of a partnership agreement. Every partnership should have what is called a buy/sell agreement between partners for estate planning purposes. This is a document that describes what is to happen to the business in the event of disability or death of one of the partners.

A partnership agreement and the supporting documents should be relatively inexpensive, however if you have more partners or special issues it will obviously cost more.

(David Pissarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pissarra & Grist, he welcomes questions, and can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or e-mailed at DPISARRA@PISARRA.COM.)

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LOCAL

County health dept. may monitor school bathrooms

BATHROOMS, from page 1

"It's too much," said Phillipe Cueva, one of 11 Samohi custodians responsible for cleaning the school's 17 student bathrooms. "Every single day it's like this. Every single day."

A recent survey of Samohi's restrooms by the Daily Press found the problems were not exaggerated.

By 3:08 p.m. Thursday, when the final school bell rang, all five boys' bathrooms visited were locked. One was recovering from a stink bomb explosion. Custodians, who asked not to be named, told horror stories of shoes and shirts wedged into toilets, bathroom supplies being scattered about and the improper disposal of human waste.

"Those kids don't give a damn," said one clean-up worker. "We lock (the bathrooms) as soon as the bell rings because that's when the damage is done."

Like many of his classmates, a ninth grader who identified himself only as Tyler reacted with frustration to a locked door and blamed fellow students for "messing up" the bathrooms.

A visit the following day revealed a slightly better situation. Though most of the boys' bathrooms were locked by the end of school, three were open. Of the three, two were in decent shape, suffering only from graffiti scrawl and scattered toilet seat covers and toilet paper.

The other bathroom, however, was a veritable cesspool. The puddle of urine on the floor was so large it threatened to spill out of the bathroom and claim the adjacent hallway, while the stink was overwhelming.

Custodians, students, parents and administrators say the girls' restrooms are generally cleaner, but not always.

Cueva said he is grateful that at least the bathroom fires — a persistent problem at Samohi last semester — have subsided. Administrators said they expelled the student they believe was responsible for the arson.

Troubled parents, who keep tabs on the dirty situation through an electronic mailing list, said the filthiness is a health risk. Kids forced to "hold it" all day are doing irreparable damage to their bodies and the distraction affects their studies, according to the postings.

"Kids should not have to suffer just to have a body function," one parent said.

One parent's posting last week called the bathroom problem "pervasive" and said her son, now in college, had experienced the same thing while studying at Samohi years ago. Another parent, who met with administrators on Friday, asked that signs be put in bathrooms spelling out prohibited bathroom behavior.

But Vice Principal Greg Runyon said negative signs aren't the answer because it's not realistic to expect kids responsible for the vandalism to respond.

"If you say 'No gunfire,'" he said, "the place will be riddled with bullets."

Runyon said positive signs that remind students the bathrooms are for all students could be a part of an overall solution.

A recent investigation by Channel 2 into more than 50 California schools showed the problems with bathroom cleanliness are not peculiar to Samohi. As a result of the expose, Michael D. Antonovich of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors spearheaded a campaign that would make enforcing the cleanliness of school bathrooms a task for

the County Health Department.

Currently, health officials can respond to complaints and shut down filthy bathrooms, but they have no jurisdiction to monitor them regularly. A state bill sponsored by Senator Marsha Escuttia could change all that.

"The school cleanliness issue was not confined to one school, it was spread around the county," said Tony Bell, a spokesman for Antonovich. "We have standards for restaurants. We have standards for animal control facilities. We have standards for jails."

"But right now we have no standards for bathrooms."

Some Samohi teachers attribute the bathroom problem to part of larger loss of community at the school.

"There's no respect for the sense of place," said English teacher Berkeley Blatz, who has taught at Samohi for 30 years. "I was here in 1960, and I just remember a different climate."

An article published recently in The Samohi, the school's newspaper, placed the blame for the appalling bathroom conditions mainly on the students and encouraged them to clean up their act.

In February 2002, parents banded together to create Samohi's "Bathroom Task Force." The parents examined the conditions of the school's sickly restrooms and set goals for recovery, while conducting regular checks to make sure the school was doing its part to remedy the situation.

"When all this stuff kind of hit the fan," said Inese Verzemnieks, the group's leader and the Parent Teacher Student Association's vice president of health and safety. "I wanted to first get my facts and then go to administration."

Following the first round of inspections, the task force found the school guilty of short-stocking the bathrooms. Soap receptacles were empty and toilet paper and seat covers were missing, Verzemnieks said.

"If we don't provide kids the bare minimum we will not get the respect returned," she said. "We cannot ask kids to clean up their act until we give them the supplies they need."

Verzemnieks said her Tuesday morning spot check showed the school appeared to be keeping supplies well stocked.

"It was in great shape," Verzemnieks said. "There were only two or three stalls that had run out of toilet paper in the whole school. I was shocked."

While bathrooms look a little better in the morning, Verzemnieks said there is still room for improvement — mostly by students.

"In the end we realize we can't control everything," she said. "It's like herding cats."

Runyon conducted his own bathroom inspection one morning last week and said he was actually "shocked" at how good they looked.

"I'm on a high note," he said. "We've made tremendous progress in the past two weeks. There's always room for growth on both sides but a lot of this rests on the young adults."

While parents and administrators may applaud the improvements in Samohi's bathrooms, those stuck holding the mop don't see it quite the same way.

"I don't know what's wrong with these kids," said Cueva, who has worked at Samohi for three years. "They just want to make problems."



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

The pier's normal weight limit of 10 tons will remain in effect during the rehabilitation program. Heavier loads and deliveries will be directed to the 1550 beach parking lot.

Santa Monica woman hits the square

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica resident Laura Page's skills in trivia, strategy, current events and tic-tac-toe will be put to the test when she steps in as a contestant on Hollywood Squares, beginning on Wednesday, March 26.

Page will be interacting with Howie Mandel, the star occupying the center square. To secure her spot on the popular show, she called the Hollywood Squares hotline and auditioned. Other Santa Monica-area contestant hopefuls can call the show's hotline in Los Angeles at (323) 850-0707 for an interview.

Page, a membership director for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, keeps busy by volunteering for Goodwill Industries and helps the homeless on the organization's behalf.

"It was very challenging and exciting," Page said. "I was a little nervous because it was my first time on TV."

Page also shared the stage with a wide range of television and film stars, including "Entertainment Tonight's" Roshumba Williams, actor Martin Mull, Lainie Kazan (My Big Fat Greek Life), singer Patti Austin, Ben Stein (Star Search), comedian George Wallace, "WWE's" Big Show, and Vicki Lawrence as "Mama." Emmy Award-winning Tom Bergeron hosts the show.

Festival scheduled for children's literacy

By Daily Press staff

A festival dedicated to children's literacy has been scheduled for next month. Connections For Children presents "Raising Readers," a literacy festival celebrating early education and school readiness.

The family festival focuses on the importance of promoting children's early literacy and language development as the foundation for all children's learning.

See BRIEFS, page 7

LOCAL

Non-profit organization to show rare, unusual films

AERO, from page 1

and turns.

In May 2000, a representative of Robert Redford announced to the Santa Monica City Council that the actor/director had plans to buy the theater and restore it as part of a planned chain of independent movie houses. Redford frequented the cinema when he was a young boy.

Theater fans were relieved the Aero, located on a street that is fast becoming the Rodeo Drive of Santa Monica, had been saved from conversion to a clothing store. But Redford's plan later unraveled because of financial problems.

Rosenfeld then began his search once again to find the right operator for his theater. He approached American Cinematheque in 1998 after visiting the Egyptian. But it wasn't until the end of 2001 that discussions between the two parties became serious.

"We weren't looking for another theater," Smith said. "But it seemed like it fit with us. It's a wonderful theater and seems to have enormous support in the community."

Last year Allen ran into financial problems and fell behind on the \$10,000-a-month rent. The community rallied behind the Aero at several fundraisers that Allen held to keep the theater going.

The Aero currently shows second-run blockbusters fans might have missed at big-name multiplexes, or independent films. But with only five or six people arriving for most showings, the theater's future was constantly at risk.

Single-screen movie houses have become a dying breed over the years. It's gotten increasingly difficult to find an operator that has access to and can afford films that aren't mainstream, Rosenfeld said.

"In the world of exhibitors, I didn't have my pick," he said, adding that even Steven Spielberg was interested in taking over the Aero but the financial realities

were even too risky for him. "It's fine to be interested in saving the Aero but no one wants to lose money."

Generating a profit isn't a concern for American Cinematheque because it's a non-profit arts organization that is funded through donations and grants, Smith said.

When residents learned last year that Allen was having financial difficulty, they feared the Aero would be replaced with a retail shop that can afford the high rent along Montana Avenue.

"The greatest problem and advantage for the Aero is that it's on Montana," Rosenfeld said. "There is a lot of economic pressure for it be a higher and better use."

Rosenfeld admits if he hadn't found a theater operator soon, the Aero could have succumbed to the simple reality of economics.

"People were concerned and I can understand why they were concerned," he said. "At some point, you have to accept defeat ... you can't keep going forever."

Rosenfeld, who lives and works in the Montana Avenue neighborhood said he's relieved that he was able to save one of the last single-screen theaters left in the area.

"There is nothing sadder than to see those marquees saying 'Gap shirts \$7' or 'William Sonoma blenders for \$39.99,'" he said. "I care about this neighborhood and this feels great."

Although he wouldn't say how much American Cinematheque will pay in rent for the 6,000-square-foot theater, it's lower than the average \$6 to \$7 a square foot price most properties along Montana Avenue currently pay.

"The rent is far, far, far lower than what market rent is on Montana," Rosenfeld said. "There's more to life than maximizing every business deal I get into."

"I think this is good for the street and it's good for the community. It's going to be a special movie going experience."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 6

The event will be held Saturday, April 5 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Clock Tower Quad at Santa Monica College, located at 1900 Pico Blvd. The festival is free and open to the public. Ample free parking will be available.

Entertainment emphasizes the joys of reading and storytelling, festival organizers said. Children's singer and songwriter Dan Crow and his band lead the program with a performance at 12:15 p.m. An entertainer who captures the attention of audiences from age 2 to 92, Crow serves up a fast-paced non-stop show of inspired zaniness.

John and Pamela Wood of JP Nightingale turn a bare stage into an international show, blending classics, fairytales, folklore and myths with original and contemporary songs.

Theatre of the Puppets continues a multi-cultural tradition for young audiences begun by master puppeteer Bill Sousa more than 20 years ago. The company combines magic, mime, storytelling, and audience participation to create theater that is geared toward education and entertainment.

Storyteller Leslie Perry and children's musical entertainers Molly Boyles and Michael Cladis round out the program.

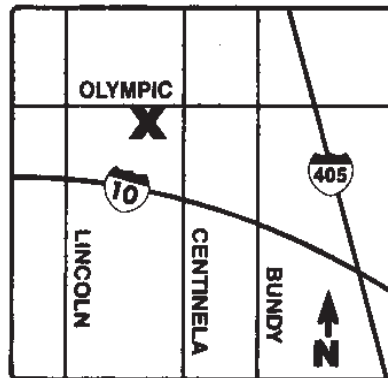
"Clifford the Big Red Dog" and "Curious George" also will attend.

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Library plans to be unveiled

By Daily Press staff

The latest design plans for the Main Library will be unveiled on Thursday, April 3 at the library board meeting.

Moore Ruble Yudell Architects and Planners will present their latest plan at 7 p.m. in the Santa Monica Public Library auditorium, located at 1343 Sixth Street. The meeting is open to the public.

The architects will be joined by the Main Library design team in presenting the interior design, public art, graphics and signage, landscape architecture, and sustainability features. The library has design and construction updates for the new Main Library on its Web site at www.smpl.org/construction.

The Main Library closes to the public today to prepare for the move to temporary facilities. However, for the April 3 Library Board meeting the Main Library auditorium will be open to the public. The temporary Main Library, located at 1324 Fifth Street, opens in late April or early May.

Big Blue Bus lines 1, 7 and 10 serve the Main Library. The auditorium is accessible for individuals with disabilities. For information or accommodation needs, the public can call (310) 458-8608, or contact the library's TDD (310) 395-8499.

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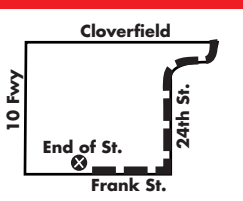
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STATE

Anti-French incidents sporadic, but rising

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press Writer

"Iraq first, then France," read an e-mail sent last week to the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

A California chain of three dry cleaning stores called French Cleaners was targeted by vandals on Wednesday. One shop was gutted by fire.

Relations between the United States and France have soured since the French government refused to participate in the Iraqi conflict and argued against war at the United Nations.

According to the French consulate in San Francisco, anti-French sentiment in America has increased substantially since the start of the war. Spokesman Yo-Jung Chen said the consulate has received hundreds of negative telephone calls and e-mails during the past week.

France is not alone in pushing for a delay in military action against Iraq. Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Greece, Ireland and Luxembourg have all said they would prefer to give U.N. weapons inspections more time.

But in America, it's France, the so-called "fickle ally," that seems to be taking all the heat.

"France has sort of taken the lead in adopting a firm position against the American desire to rush to war," said Shanny Peer, of the New York-based French American Foundation. "Now, these people think the French are the spoilers."

Peer said there has always been a sort of "love-hate relationship" between France and America.

"And now France is serving as the scapegoat," she said. "But the position taken by the French government represents the majority of opinions of most governments around the world and certainly the majority of public opinion."

Peer said the perception seems to be that France owes America. A caller to the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. said, "Without America, you'd be speaking German."

A Gallup poll in February found a nearly 20-point drop in the percentage of Americans who think favorably of France.

Germany does not seem to have produced the same level of disdain. Some 71 percent of Americans thought favorably of Germany, while 21 percent viewed it unfavorably.

A World War II veteran who was decorated by the French government for his D-Day bravery returned his medal Friday to protest what he called the country's cowardice for opposing the war in Iraq.

George Wilson, 80, placed the Jubilee

of Liberty medal at the gate of the French Embassy.

"This morning was rather sad," said embassy spokeswoman Agnes Vondermuhl.

Vondermuhl said though the embassy has received hundreds of hateful e-mails, letters and telephone calls, there have also been comments of support for France — and a few threats.

"They just tell us to go home," she said. "But this is about how to disarm Iraq, not a crisis between France and America."

Not all public opinion was against France. Some people opposed to war have offered support for the French.

Town leaders in Carrboro, N.C., unanimously approved a measure opposing U.S. action in Iraq. They followed that up by declaring April would be French Trade Month.

In San Francisco last week, a group gathered at a French bistro for a peaceful protest. The meeting, billed as French Friday, was organized to show support for France's decision to stay out of the war.

But there was plenty of French bashing elsewhere.

In West Los Angeles on Friday, five people waved American flags in front of the French Consulate. They held signs saying "What is France hiding?" and shouted at passing cars: "Boycott France" and "Support our troops."

Executives with Sofitel hotels, an upscale chain owned by Accor Hotels of France, have ordered French flags to be taken down at most of its U.S. locations, calling it a precautionary measure.

Last week, the chairman of the U.S. House Administration Committee, Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, ordered that House restaurants change their menus to read "freedom fries" instead of French fries. French toast would also become freedom toast.

In West Palm Beach, Fla., last month a bar owner dumped his entire stock of French wine and champagne into the street, vowing to serve vintages only from nations that support U.S. policy.

Fortunately for the import industry, the Florida incident seems isolated, said Bob Maxwell, president of the National Association of Beverage Importers.

Maxwell said wine and beer imports from France and Germany are still soaring.

"Bottom line is we believe consumers will separate their anger at the leaders of these traditional allies who are currently not supporting us from the people of those countries," Maxwell said. "But it's too soon to tell if sales will slump. Do I expect it? No. Is it possible? Sure."

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INTERNATIONAL □ NATIONAL



Captured American soldiers shown on Iraqi television

TROOPS, from page 1

The scenes of interrogators questioning four men and a woman were broadcast by the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera with footage from state-controlled Iraqi television. Each was interviewed individually. They spoke into a microphone labeled "Iraqi Television."

A senior defense official said the Pentagon did not know precisely how many captives there might be and would not identify the unit. Some of the prisoners are from Fort Blix, Texas, said Jean Offutt, a U.S. Army spokeswoman at the base.

Several families of the soldiers had gathered at the base Sunday evening, she said. "The mood, of course, is

very tragic."

The 507th Maintenance, part of the 111th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, is stationed at Fort Bliss, and at least two of the interviewed prisoners said they were with the 507th.

Al-Jazeera quoted unidentified Iraqi officials as saying the Iraqis are using a defensive tactic of falling back, allowing their enemy to overextend itself and become vulnerable to attack behind the lines.

President Bush, returning to the White House from Camp David, said he did not have all the details of what he called a potential capture but added: "We expect them to be treated humanely, just like we'll treat any prisoners of theirs that we capture humanely. If not, the people who mistreat the prisoners will be treated as war criminals."

Speaking on CBS, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld charged that if those seen on television were indeed coalition soldiers, "those pictures are a violation of the Geneva Conventions."

International Committee of the Red Cross spokeswoman Nada Doumani said the showing of the prisoners on TV violates Article 13 of the Geneva Conventions, which says prisoners should be protected from public curiosity. But she stressed that the priority at the moment is to get access to them.

"It does contradict the conventions because it's public curiosity," she said. "But our priority is not to put blame on any side but to check that the prisoners are safe."

Each prisoner shown on television spoke American-accented English.

One woman held her arms tightly in her lap as she was questioned, her eyes darting back and forth and her voice very shaky. She said she was 30 years old, from Texas, and part of the 507th Maintenance. At one point, the camera panned back, showing a big white bandage around her ankle.

Another prisoner, who said he was from El Paso, Texas, stared directly at the camera and spoke in a clear, direct voice. He often shook his head and cupped his ear slightly to indicate that he couldn't hear one of the questions being shot at him from around the room.

A 31-year-old sergeant from New Jersey sat bolt upright in a chair with brown armrests. His hands in his lap, he answered questions in a clipped fashion and said he was with the 507th.

One of the prisoners, sitting up, was interviewed by an unseen person holding a microphone labeled "Iraqi TV"

in Arabic. The prisoner at one point said: "I'm sorry. I don't understand you."

The narrator provided an Arabic translation, but it was possible to hear some of the comments in English.

Some of the prisoners looked terrified. One captive, who said he was from Kansas, answered all his questions in a shaky voice, his eyes darting back and forth between the interviewer and another person who couldn't be seen on camera.

Asked why he came to Iraq, he replied, "I come to fix broke stuff."

Prodded again by the interviewer, he was asked if he came to shoot Iraqis.

"No, I come to shoot only if I am shot at," he said. "They (Iraqis) don't bother me, I don't bother them."

Another prisoner, who said he was from Texas, said only: "I follow orders."

A voice off-camera asked how many officers were in his unit.

"I don't know, sir," the man replied.

Another prisoner, who also said he was from Texas, was lying on an elaborate maroon mat. The camera panned from his feet to his head, showing one of his arms to be wounded and folded across his chest.

Iraqi TV attempted to interview him, at one point trying to cradle his head to steady it for the camera. They eventually helped him sit up, but he seemed to sway slightly.

The camera showed four bodies on the floor of the room. The station said they and the prisoners were captured around An Nasiriyah.

U.S. officials said Sunday that U.S. Marines defeated Iraqi forces near An Nasiriyah in the sharpest engagement of the war. But they said Iraqi forces also ambushed an army supply convoy and 12 soldiers were missing.

Army Lt. Gen. John Abizaid said he believed some of the 12 missing soldiers "ended up on Baghdad TV."

In Cairo, Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri said the casualties "showed that we're not surrendering easily. It is proof we're strong and it is not an easy invasion."

Prior to the hostilities, the Iraqi government said it would give the International Committee of the Red Cross the freedom to move about the country to perform its traditional tasks, which include monitoring the care and treatment of POWs.

The U.S. military says it has more than 2,000 Iraqi prisoners of war.



Evan Vucci/Associated Press

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld speaks to the press after appearing on CBS's 'Face the Nation' on Sunday in Washington. Rumsfeld said, that if those are indeed coalition soldiers being shown on the Al-Jazeera TV footage, "those pictures are a violation of the Geneva Convention."

Support for troops on day after massive anti-war rallies

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A day after massive anti-war rallies attracted thousands across the nation — including more than 100,000 people in a march down Broadway — hundreds of people gathered in Times Square and other cities Sunday to show support for the war in Iraq.

About 600 people waved American flags and chanted "U-S-A! "U-S-A!" at the Times Square demonstration.

"Thank God we have a president who is a real global leader, protecting our liberty and security, relentless in his pursuit of justice and not bending to the appeasers," said Republican activist Michael Benjamin, who is considering a run for U.S. Senate against Charles Schumer in 2004.

"The entire world community has said time and again that Saddam Hussein is a danger and that he must be disarmed," said former Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler. "But it is the United States and the coalition of the willing which has finally been willing to stand up and say, 'What must be done, let it be done now.'"

On Saturday, a throng 30 city blocks long had marched down Broadway to oppose the war. Organizers put the crowd at 250,000; police said it was 125,000 strong. Police said 91 people were arrested, and 16 officers were hospitalized after they were sprayed with an unknown substance.

Near Richmond, Va., on Sunday, police said more than 5,000 people showed up to show their support for the war — something veterans Terry Steer said they could have used during Vietnam.

"I'm here to support the troops because I know what it

was like when people didn't," said Steer, 55, who fought during the 1968 Tet Offensive with the 1st Air Calvary Division of the Army. "That can't happen again."

Forrest Winks, a 14-year-old corporal in his high school's Junior Army ROTC program, said he sees the soldiers on television and hears duty calling.

"I really wish I could be out there with them taking part, but it's very scary, too. I know that," Forrest said, in his dark green dress uniform and black beret. "I'm stuck here, at home."

Onstage at the outdoor pavilion, a historical reenactor recited Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech. Supporters sang the national anthem, removed their hats and bowed their heads in prayer.

In Washington, about 300 activists turned out for a pro-military rally on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, waving signs saying "God bless our troops" and "Freedom is not free." Republican Congressman Steve King of Iowa said all Americans — even the ones opposing the war — need to stand behind the troops now that the war is underway, and that some protesters have been displaying "un-American values."

On a day when pro-war supporters made the most noise, anti-war demonstrators still made themselves heard. In Providence, R.I., about 200 people gathered on the Statehouse lawn, holding snapshots of Iraqi families to symbolize the suffering of those impacted by the war.

"This is the face of collateral damage," Karina Wood of Rhode Island Peace Action said of the pictures.

About 60 peace activists marched to city hall in Melbourne, Fla., including 9-year-old Ayasia Telesca-

Whipple, who led them, carrying a neon pink poster declaring "Save Iraq's kids."

"There are lots of kids in Iraq just like us, and they shouldn't get bombed," said Telesca-Whipple, who came with her mother and 6-year-old brother.

More than 200 people joined a demonstration in downtown Gainesville, Fla., where the sound of drums and anti-war chants rang through the streets.

"We're defying the United Nations, we are told, in order to enforce the will of the United Nations," said Pierce Butler, a member of the group Veterans for Peace. "Everything is turned upside down."

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INTERNATIONAL

Allied advance continues amid fierce and bloody battles

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press Writer

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq — U.S.-led forces suffered their worst casualties of the war Sunday in two bloody battles near An Nasiriyah that raged for hours before Iraqi

resistance was vanquished. Marines said they would move around the city rather than march through it on the road to Baghdad.

The battles at An Nasiriyah drew some attention from the relentless advance of the U.S.-led forces, now less than 100 miles from Baghdad after four days of the

ground war. Scores of American military personnel landed in Kurdish territory, as the move to open a northern front gathered strength.

"I think we're advancing more rapidly than anyone could have expected," said U.S. Maj. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf, who coordinates the coalition's air campaign.

But at An Nasiriyah — on the Euphrates River 233 miles southeast of Baghdad, near the ancient town of Ur, birthplace of the patriarch Abraham — the allied juggernaut sustained its worst casualties so far.

And in the face of that resistance, Marines officials said they expected to sidestep An Nasiriyah rather than fight to capture it — the same strategy they employed in Basra.

American authorities detailed two bloody battles:

■ Marines encountered Iraqi troops who appeared to be surrendering. Instead, they attacked — the start of a "very sharp engagement," said Lt. Col. John Abizaid, deputy commander of the Central Command.

These were, Abizaid said, a combination of regular and irregular forces — in fact, he said, it was one of the few times regular Iraqi soldiers have fought, instead of surrendering or deserting.

In the end, the Americans triumphed, knocking out eight tanks, some anti-aircraft batteries, some artillery and infantry, Abizaid said. But victory came at a cost: as many as nine dead, and an undisclosed number of wounded.

■ A six-vehicle Army supply convoy apparently took a wrong turn, ventured into dangerous territory and was ambushed. The vehicles were destroyed, and a dozen soldiers were missing; it was believed that it was they who were shown on Iraqi TV, some of them dead in a morgue and the others interviewed.

Four others were wounded, and were evacuated later by Marines passing by.

The Iraqis were jubilant. "Our valiant forces were lying in wait for them, inflicting heavy losses on the covetous invaders, killing at least 25 of them, and injuring a large number of them. Also, a number of their mercenaries were captured," the Iraqi military said in a communique.

An Nasiriyah was a hotbed of rebellion against Saddam Hussein in the Shiite Muslim rebellion that followed the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The Americans may have run into Saddam loyalists based there to keep a lid on the Shiites, along with some Republican Guard units.

The battles underscored the risks of the mission in Iraq, but U.S. military leaders insisted that they would not slow the drive to Baghdad.

Officials would not say when they expected to arrive at the capital city. "We'll arrive in the vicinity of Baghdad soon, and I prefer to leave it at that," Abizaid said.

Long columns of Marines and their equipment advanced along the main road from Kuwaiti border to An Nasiriyah, where units were crossing the Euphrates.

Part of the 3rd Infantry Division had reached the area of the Shiite holy city of Najaf — further ahead from An Nasiriyah in the approach to Baghdad — after a 230-mile, 40-hour sprint through the desert, killing 100 machinegun-toting militiamen along the way.

When more than 30 Iraqi armored vehicles were spotted heading toward the 2nd Brigade's positions, air support was called in; A-10s and B-52s hammered the Iraqis, and the Army didn't have to fire a shot.

Allied aircraft had flown more than 6,000 sorties, softening resistance in advance of the ground war and focusing on Saddam's elite Republican Guard.

Pilots who hit Baghdad on Sunday said ground fire was lighter than expected.

"It was less than the first night," said Lt. j.g. Scott Worthington, 25, an F/A-18 Hornet pilot from Seattle, Wash., and assigned to Strike-Fighter Squadron 151. "I'd say tonight was less intense. Not nearly as much."

In the early hours Sunday, Iraq fired a missile into northern Kuwait, but it was destroyed by a Patriot missile, Kuwaiti military spokesman Youssef al-Mullah said.

In the north, airstrikes were reported against strongholds of Ansar al-Islam, a militant Islamic group with alleged ties to al-Qaida and Baghdad. Bursts of anti-aircraft fire were heard from the direction of Mosul, and Iraqi television reported that Saddam's hometown, Tikrit, had been bombed several times.

Kurdish officials reported that scores of American military personnel had landed in the northern zone they control. Abizaid would only say forces were "reinforcing our presence and targeting elements of regime support units in the Republican Guard."

In western Iraq, he said, the forces went after Iraqi logistical targets, command and control facilities and command units.

Authorities said the number of Iraqi prisoners in allied custody was about 2,000. About 200 were being held at the Tillil Air Base, a dilapidated complex near An Nasiriyah that has been idle since 1991.

Sgt. 1st Class William Jordan of St. Mary's Court, Md., guarded three rectangular prisoner pens surrounded by concertina wire.

The prisoners sat impassively as identification tags were pinned on them. Most wore green Iraqi military uniforms, but some were also dressed in civilian clothing, including jogging suits and traditional Arab robes and headdress.

They were given MREs and water; ultimately, they were expected to be moved toward Kuwait for "processing," interrogation by military intelligence officials.

The war continued to be a strange mix. There was tough resistance in some spots, such as the southern Iraq city of Umm Qasr, where sporadic fighting continued days after the allies took effective control. But there was none at all in others.

As soldiers from the 101st Airborne division moved through the Iraqi desert, villagers lined up along the highway to greet the troops with two pressing questions: Are you friendly? And is food coming?

Through an interpreter, Col. Michael Linnington assured village leaders that U.S. forces were indeed friendly and that U.N. relief workers would bring food.

"We are here to help return the country to the way it used to be. we are here to help the Iraqi people. That's it. And to take out Saddam's government," Linnington said.

Villagers peered with curiosity at the soldiers — many waved and smiled. One young boy saluted to the troops; another said "welcome" in English. Their leaders nodded enthusiastically when they heard that food would arrive soon.



Ali Heider/Associated Press

Iraqi soldiers search through sugar cane growth along the banks of the Tigris River on Sunday, after reports that a U.S. jet was allegedly downed and that the pilot parachuted into the Tigris. The U.S. Central Command in Qatar and the Pentagon said there were no reports of any coalition aircraft being shot down or a pilot being missing.



The Guardian/Dan Chung/Associated Press

A British soldier stops and searches an Iraqi vehicle on the road to Basra, Iraq on Sunday. Allied forces have captured Basra's airport and a key bridge. But commanders say they are in no rush to storm the city, hoping instead that Iraqi defenders decide to give up.



Ian Jones/Daily Telegraph/Associated Press

A British Army Gurkha attached to 1 Royal Irish Regiment, 16 Air Assault Brigade, guards prisoners of war in the Ramala oil fields in Iraq on Sunday.

SPORTS



Butler upsets Louisville, advances to Sweet 16

By The Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A team of blue-collar kids with crew cuts from a tiny Indiana school beat a powerhouse in the big tournament.

Sound vaguely familiar?

Darnell Archey's brilliant shooting and Brandon Miller's deft ball-handling Sunday swept 12th-seeded Butler into the round of 16 for the first time with a 79-71 stunner over Rick Pitino and Louisville in the East Regional.

The Horizon League team that plays in the gym where the ultimate underdog movie, "Hoosiers", was filmed is writing a poignant script of its own with upsets of No. 5 Mississippi State and the fourth-seeded Cardinals (26-6).

Next, the Bulldogs (27-5) meet top-seeded Oklahoma on Friday in Albany, N.Y.

Archey shot 8-of-9 on 3-pointers — hitting all six in the second half — and tied his career high with 26 points to end Pitino's return to the NCAA tournament.

Butler, with an enrollment of about 4,000 — less than a fifth of Louisville's — made 14 of 22 3-pointers, including 9-of-13 in the second half, to erase an early 15-point deficit.

Reece Gaines scored 22 of his 26 points in the second half for Louisville.

SYRACUSE 68, OKLAHOMA STATE 56

BOSTON — Never count out Carmelo Anthony and Syracuse's other freshmen.

And don't write off the Big East, either. The conference remained unbeaten in the NCAA tournament when Syracuse overcame an awful start to advance to the regional semifinals.

Third-seeded Syracuse (26-5) will be joined in the round of 16 by three other teams from the Big East, 8-0 in the tournament. The conference received only four bids to the NCAA, which excluded one of its division winners, Boston College.

No. 6 Oklahoma State (22-10) rushed to a 14-2 lead, running after nearly every miss by the Orangemen. But Anthony, Gerry McNamara and Billy Edelin, all freshmen, brought Syracuse back.

Edelin scored 20 points, and McNamara finished with 14 despite missing nearly six minutes to have a wound bandaged above his nose. Anthony, perhaps the nation's top freshman, had 13.

AUBURN 68, WAKE FOREST 62

TAMPA, Fla. — Cliff Ellis can sing it proud. His Auburn Tigers really do belong in the NCAA tournament.

Feeding off their underdog status one more time, the team that many felt shouldn't have been invited to the tourney stunned second-seeded Wake Forest.

Marquis Daniels led the way, returning from a five-minute spell on the bench in foul trouble to score seven of his 18 points in the final four minutes. Reserve Lewis Monroe scored Auburn's last four points from the foul line to finish with 12.

The 10th-seeded Tigers (22-11) advanced to the round of 16 for the second time in five seasons under Ellis, a musician who's recorded several CDs that the coach likes to play in the locker room and on the team bus.

Auburn will face third-seeded Syracuse in the regional semifinals.

Freshman Justin Gray led Wake Forest (25-6) with a career-high 26 points. But the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season champions were unable to overcome another sub-par performance by Josh Howard, the ACC player of the year. He had 14 points and a team-high seven turnovers.

■ South

TEXAS 77, PURDUE 67

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Triple-threat T.J. Ford and his Texas teammates are going home — to keep playing in the NCAA tournament, that is.

Considered by some to be the best guard in college basketball, Ford scored 21 points and added nine rebounds and eight assists.

Now, he and the top-seeded Longhorns (24-6) can take their traveling party back to Texas. They're headed to San Antonio, where they'll take on fifth-seeded Connecticut on Friday at the Alamodome.

James Thomas contributed 11 points and 12 rebounds and Royal Ivey had 14 points as Texas reached the round of 16 for the second straight year, a first for the program.

Willie Deane scored 13 points for ninth-seeded Purdue (19-11), which fell short of the round of 16 for the fourth time in six seasons.

MARYLAND 77, XAVIER 64

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — No need to beat the buzzer this time.



Winslow Townson/Associated Press

Indiana's Jeff Newton (50) attempts to block Pittsburgh's Brandin Knight's (20) drive to the basket during first-half action Sunday in Boston, during the second round of the men's mid-west regional NCAA Division I basketball championship.

Maryland jumped ahead of Xavier right from the start.

The defending national champion Terrapins, who got a game-winning 3-pointer from Drew Nicholas in the most exciting finish of the first round, shut down David West early and beat the Musketeers to reach the round of 16 for the third straight year.

Nicholas and Ryan Randle scored 17 points apiece for sixth-seeded Maryland (21-9).

West, the three-time Atlantic

10 player of the year, finished with 22 points and nine rebounds for No. 3 seed Xavier (26-6), but most of it came way too late.

■ Midwest

PITTSBURGH 74, INDIANA 52

BOSTON — Pittsburgh's defense put the Panthers in the round of 16 for the second consecutive year and ended

Indiana's hopes of back-to-back trips to the NCAA title game.

Jaron Brown scored 20 points, and Brandin Knight added 17 points, seven assists and five steals for second-seeded Pittsburgh (28-4), which has won 11 straight. The Panthers will play No. 3 Marquette in Minneapolis on Thursday.

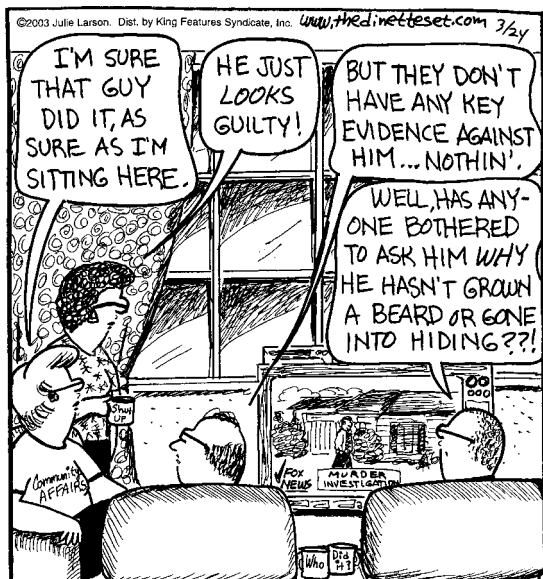
George Leach scored 15 points for the seventh-seeded Hoosiers (21-13), who lost to Maryland in the championship game last year.

DID YOU KNOW?: Ferenc Szisz from Romania, driving a Renault, won the first Formula One Grand Prix held at Le Mans, France in 1906.



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

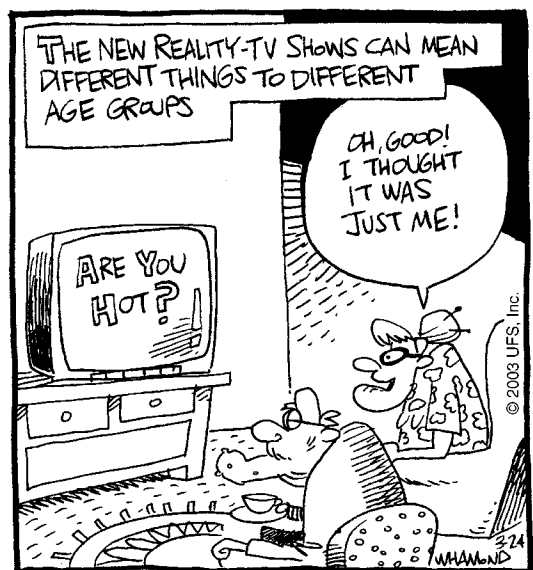


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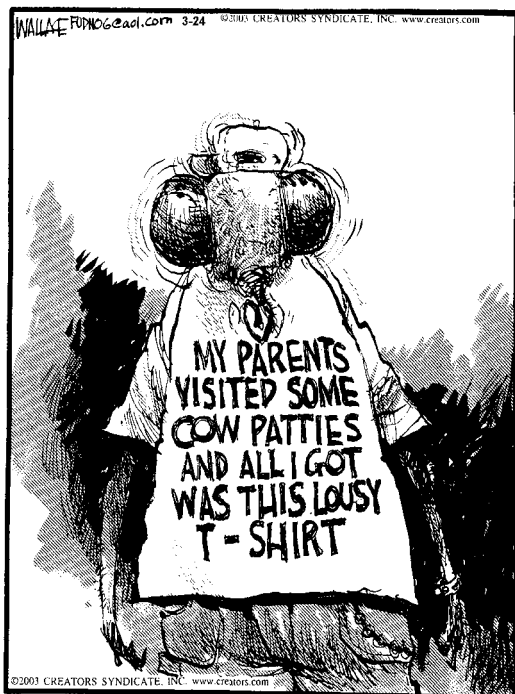
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Automotive buy
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 - 10 Clickable picture
 - 11 Oz visitor
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 - 14 Ruined
 - 15 Concisely
 - 17 Even score
 - 18 Is present
 - 19 Holders of power
 - 20 Writer Tan
 - 21 "... and — bed"
 - 22 Indian social class
 - 25 Mortise partner
 - 26 Make printing plates
 - 27 Memory unit
 - 28 Saloon quaff
 - 29 Kid transports
 - 33 Ninny
 - 34 As a lark
 - 35 Put in a mausoleum
 - 37 Gobi setting
 - 38 Sailor's protector
 - 39 Looting spree
- 40 Old English forest**
- 41 "Touched by an Angel" role**
- DOWN**
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 - 2 Defeatist's words
 - 3 Comical tribute
 - 4 Put away, as a dagger
 - 5 Rigid
 - 6 Colors
 - 7 Goal of the Braves
 - 8 Ardor
 - 9 Met by chance
 - 12 Actor Liam
 - 16 "Don't Tread —"
 - 21 Distinguish
 - 22 Stops
 - 23 Home of the
 - 24 Royal prop
 - 25 Nervous signs
 - 27 Sweet treat
 - 29 Greedy demand
 - 30 Patriotic riveter
 - 31 Singing groups
 - 32 Baseball card info
 - 36 Ancient

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1bdrm/1ba, pet ok, r/s, patio,
laundry, bright, parking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$1540
2bdrm/1ba, hardwood floors,
covered parking, very large
kitchen, refrigerator, stove.
(818)292-3158

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 N.
of Wilshire. Contemporary, spa-
cious, 2bdrm/2ba, stove, dish-
washer, parking, pet OK, W/D
in unit, mini-blinds, fridge.

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(310)394-1826.

SANTA MONICA \$1795 N.
Side. Large upper, 2bdrm/1ba,
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ate occupancy. (310)454-9627

SANTA MONICA \$1950-\$2400
3bdrm/1.5ba, R/S, dishwasher,
new decor, covered parking,
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Woody. (310)559-1213

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ment, parking, month-to-month,
utilities included.

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SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Im-
maculate Unit, new carpet, orig-
inal ceramic tile in kitchen and
bath separate kitchen, laundry,
facility, refrigerator, stove, street
parking pets OK.

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le North of Wilshire. (310)395-
4779

SANTA MONICA \$950
1bdrm/1ba, r/s, laundry, quiet,
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lease, utilities included.

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SANTA MONICA \$975
1bdrm/1ba, r/s, great location,
garage, month-to-month.

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SANTA MONICA \$975
1bdrm/1ba, r/s, great location,
garage, month-to-month.

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Westside Rentals

For Rent

SANTA MONICA Guest House
\$1050, studio, pet ok, r/s w/d,
close to beach, parking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA Studio \$675
Pet ok, r/s, balcony, quiet,
bright, parking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA Studio \$850
Pet ok, r/s, hardwood floors,
close to SMC, parking.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA Studio \$895,
r/s, laundry, great location, ga-
rage.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA Triplex \$1200
1bdrm/1ba, pet ok, r/s, patio,
hardwood floors, laundry, utilit-
ies included.

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unit, new bbq and sun patio w/
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VENICE \$900 1bdrm/1ba Bun-
galow w/grassy area. Newly
renovated w/lots of charm. 1
year lease, no pets, no smok-
ing. (310)396-4443 x102.

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For Rent

STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Con-
temporary lower 1bdrm/1ba cat
ok, D/W, gorgeous building,
gated parking, patio, A/C, tiled
kitchen, new linoleum bath.

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VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00
1bdrm/1ba, super quiet bldg,
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very clean, parking laundry, gat-
ed entrance, stove, swimming
pool.

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VENICE BEACH \$1,125 Large
1bdrm/1ba w/parking. Upper
unit with lots of sunlight. 1 year
lease, no pets, no smoking.
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ing 1bdrm w/large balcony.
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pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

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dential loft, completely renovat-
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tio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots
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2bdrm/1.5ba upper w/courtyard
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102.

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For Rent

W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00
Townhouse 2bdrm/1.5ba. Front
unit, new paint, new blinds, lots
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WeHo \$750.00 Character,
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WeHo \$795.00 Spanish
1bdrm/1ba, high ceilings, stove,
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York style brick building hard-
wood floors, pet ok, stove, ceil-
ing fan, crown molding. Close to
shops and restaurants. Parking
available.

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vate sun deck. Ocean view and
sunsets. Top of hill. (310)390-
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borhood, bright, full kitchen, off
of Wilshire Blvd., utils. inc.,
amenities include Street park-
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nished, refrig., stv, storage.

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nity logo.
www.apartmenthunterz.com
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Houses For Rent

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ities included.

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VENICE BEACH \$850 per
month. Great office space locat-
ed 1 block from beach and 1/2
block from Windward Avenue.
Included are all utilities, T1 line,
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area bathroom, concrete floors,
exposed beamed ceilings. 1
year lease. (310)466-9778 ext.
102.

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my futon for sale in the Daily
Press, it took me one day to sell
it...thanks!" Nina Stewart, San-
ta Monica.

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SANTA MONICA °SCENE MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2003

your guide to dining, entertainment and events



°EVENTS

BLUE 7 PRESENTS 'Near and Far - Photographic Images of Nature.' The featured photographers are Scott Connell, Michael Gordon and Gavin Lauchenauer. Exhibit ends April 5th. Blue 7, 3129 Pico Blvd. (310)449-1444

LAP TIME presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. Mondays at 9:30am. Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 633 Kensington Road. A series for children up to 24 months old. An early introduction to language and reading for parents and babies, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program. No fee or registration required. For more information, call (310)452-6132.

TODDLER TIME, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

SANTA MONICA STRUTTERS, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

SENIOR SUPPERS - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

HARVELLE'S BLUES CLUB present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

SANTA MONICA together with the Torah

Science Foundation, will be offering a lecture entitled, "The Science Connecting Body and Mind - an Evening with Dr. Yakir Kaufman Ph.D." Dr. Kaufman is a Neurologist from the Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem. 8pm, The Fairmont Miramar Hotel, 101 Wilshire Blvd. in Santa Monica. Fee: \$10 with advance reservation. \$14 at the door. For more info and reservations call The Academy at (310) 394-5699.

UNURBAN COFFEE HOUSE presents Hot Topics Night hosted by Ali every Monday evening. Signup is at 8pm. Open panel discussion and open forum. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

°DINING

EL CHOLO - Famous for award-winning margaritas & green corn tamales. Enjoy our lively bar, comfy dining rooms or sunny patio for lunch and dinner daily. 1025 Wilshire Blvd., 310.889.1106

LIBRARY ALEHOUSE - A gathering place for great food, hand crafted beer and friendly service. Beautiful garden patio. Daily specials. 2911 Main St., 310.314.4855

THE LOBSTER - A legend redefined! A local favorite serving classic American seafood, specializing in live Main Lobster. Open 7 days serving lunch & dinner. 1602 Ocean Ave., Reservations recommended. 310.458.9294

DK DONUTS - Best fresh baked donuts in Santa Monica. Also serving excellent breakfast sandwiches & muffins. Classic favorites include: refreshing ice blended mochas, smoothies and bobas. New sub sandwiches & more. Open 24hrs. a day, 7 days a week. 1614 Santa Monica Blvd., 310.829.2512

OMELETTE PARLOR - Best breakfast in L.A. This is where the locals go! 2732 Main St., 310.399.7892

PANINI GARDEN - "The Locals Favorite"

for gourmet European breakfast, lunch & dinner. Featuring fresh crepe, panini grilled sandwiches and delightful salads. dine on our charming patio, or call for delivery. 2715 Main St., 310.399.9939

THE SLICE - New York style pizzeria also serving pasta, salads, subs and wings. Voted best pizza in Los Angeles by AOL. Sit on our beautiful patio for great pizza and movie star sightings. 915 Wilshire Blvd, for fast delivery call 310.351.7542

WOLFGANG PUCK CAFE - Enjoy Wolfgang's favorite entrees, famous wood-fired pizzas, pastas, fresh salads, sandwiches, and of course, unforgettable desserts! Fun Happy Hour: 1323 Montana Ave., 310.393.0290

SONNY MCLEAN'S - A perfect Irish pub that attracts a variety of people. It's the hotspot to kick back, enjoy a beer and watch a ball game. Good Happy Hour specials. 2615 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.9839

ORIGINAL THAI DISHES - Best Thai food in Santa Monica! Family owned restaurant since 1980. A local favorite serving classic Pad Thai noodles, pineapple fried rice and seafood specialties. All dishes can be made vegetarian. 1910 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.5634

EARTH, WIND & FLOUR - "Great Italian cooking. Just slightly west of Italy." This restaurant celebrates 22 years in the neighborhood for its friendliness and freshness. Pizza, pastas, salads, subs and more. Lunch and dinner specials and happy hour. 2222 Wilshire Blvd., 310.829.7829

ACADIE'S - Voila! Fresh from the south of France, Homemade Crepes have just arrived in Santa Monica! Located right off the 3rd St. Promenade, this authentic French storefront radiates charm and ambience with indoor seating and a quaint side patio for an outdoor experience. The menu offers a range of options to suit your individual mood. 213 Arizona Ave. (310)395-1120

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA
1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. **City of God (R)** 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45. **The Hours (PG-13)** 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00. **Willard (PG-13)** 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15.

MANN CRITERION
1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:00, 11:30, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30. **How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13)** 12:45, 3:45, 7:20, 10:20. **Tears of the Sun (R)** 12:30, 1:00, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50. **Old School (R)** 11:15, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40, 10:15.

AMC THEATRE SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Jungle Book 2 (G) 2:10, 4:00, 6:05. **Shanghai Knights (PG-13)** 7:45, 10:15. **Agent Cody Banks (PG)** 1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:20. **Chicago (PG-13)** 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00. **Cradle 2 the Grave (R)** 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30. **Daredevil (PG-13)** 12:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55. **The Hunted (R)** 2:20, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05. **The Life of David Gale (R)** 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 10:10.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 3:45, 7:00, 10:00. **Laurel Canyon (R)** 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

LAEMMLE MONICA
1332 2nd St.
Irreversible (NR) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50. **The Quiet American (R)** 1:45, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55. **Bend it Like Beckham (PG-13)** 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20. **Talk to Her (R)** 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55.

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Ave.
Far From Heaven (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.



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