

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

22, 37, 28, 25, 11

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 1, 0, 5

Evening picks: 8, 3, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 10, Solid Gold

2nd Place: 7, Eureka

3rd Place: 11, Money Bags

Race Time: 1:46.89



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

On Jan. 30, as Angel Eck, 20, drove her Pontiac Sunfire on Interstate 70 toward Denver, she suddenly could not slow down. The car was locked in overdrive and climbed to 100 mph; the ignition would not disengage; and the clutch and accelerator were stuck. A half-hour later, two enterprising Denver police officers, having been alerted by cell phone and reprising a tactic from the old "CHIPS" TV show, slowed the car by allowing it to repeatedly bump the rear of their squad car until it came to a stop. A few days later, idling in the shop at Green Mountain Auto Service, the car jumped gears and pinned a mechanic against an inside wall until a colleague set the emergency brake.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I like life.
It's something
to do."

— Ronnie Shakes



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Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Closed signs prevent a biker and rollerblader from entering the tunnel underneath the Santa Monica Pier on Tuesday. The bike path on both sides of the pier is closed to the public through May 28 so workers can replace pilings underneath. People are being re-routed to the pedestrian street known Ocean Walk until construction is complete.

Tipping the scale on crime: Anonymous call-in center established for SM

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

POLICE HDQRTS. — Local authorities hope a proven national crime fighting technique will help net arrests and deter would-be criminals in Santa Monica.

They've enlisted "WeTip," a 34-year-old phone center based in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., to take anonymous crime tips in Santa Monica. If information leads to an arrest, tipsters are paid up to \$1,000.

Here's how it works: Anonymous callers are asked a series of 65 targeted questions drafted by prosecutors and investigators. Bilingual operators, who are on the job 24 hours a day, seven days a week, then assign each tipster a three-part code name and give them a case number.

WeTip faxes the tips to local police departments, where officers review the information and decide whether to act on them. If a tip leads to an arrest, officers rate the quality of the tip from one to 10 and notify WeTip. Tipsters can then call WeTip, give their name and case number, and request the money — in cash —

which is made available at any post office in the country.

Fliers and stickers promoting WeTip have been distributed around town. Police are meeting with students, as well as local resident and business groups to get the message out, said Santa Monica Police

See WETIP, page 5

City Hall sues federal government

Officials worry warmer temps will lead to city's demise

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Local officials are suing the feds over global warming.

City Hall has joined a lawsuit against two federal agencies involved in foreign oil projects that are expected to produce more than 32 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

That output contributes to global warming, local officials argue, which threatens to erode Santa Monica's beaches and bluffs, batter the pier and overwhelm its state-of-the-art drainage system. In the lawsuit, they demand the fossil fuel projects be studied.

"The collective wisdom here is that nobody is aware of any occasion — at least in the past 20, 25 years — when the city has sued an agency of the federal government, until this one."

— ADAM RADINSKY
Deputy City Attorney

"Global warming is already having alarming effects on the environment that have been documented," said Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky. "All this lawsuit

See SUIT, page 4

Local attorney wins \$58M verdict

Law firm involved in Farmers' Market litigation

By Daily Press staff

WILSHIRE BLVD. — A Santa Monica lawyer representing victims from last summer's Farmers' Market tragedy on Tuesday won a \$58 million verdict for his client in an unrelated case.

Trial attorney Brian Panish, who works at 100 Wilshire Blvd., was successful in convincing a Los Angeles jury to find West-Pac Industries and Tools Exchange negligent in an accident that

severely burned his client, Joseph Bryant Griggs.

The jury awarded Griggs \$58,137,361.008 after three and a half days of deliberation. A heavy equipment operator, Griggs was burned as the result of a defective O-ring which had been imported from Taiwan by Tools Exchange of Chatsworth, Calif. and distributed by West-Pac Industries of Huntington Beach.

On Sept. 10, 1998, Griggs was operating a Caterpillar J-621 paddle wheel scraper, and was grading land for a self storage facility in Valley Springs, Calif. when the machine's O-ring failed.

See VERDICT, page 5

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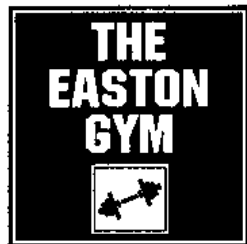
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Revamp your thinking so that new information will come forward. Experiment with new ways of thinking. Listen to suggestions. Use your lunch hour to buy a present or perhaps choose a card for an important friend or two. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Carefully consider your options that surround a partnership. For whatever reason, you might need to part ways. How you explain your action can make all the difference in the outcome. Use your charisma and magnetism. Tonight: Whatever makes the Bull happy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Take your time, especially if you want a different relationship between you and a key partner or loved one. You will see a lot being cleared out in front of you. A meeting resolves an awful lot, and quite quickly at that. Tonight: Catch up on sleep.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. You could be surprised by what heads down your path. Be open to changes in your work or daily life. Your openness becomes an asset. You might need to learn more. Eventually new techniques will shorten your workday. Tonight: Find your pals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your sense of direction emerges when someone does a total reversal. You hear news that forces you to question a close tie or association. Keep up the good work reading between the lines with associates and others in general. Tonight: It's your call.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Reach out for those at a distance. You need answers, and quickly at that. What you thought was OK proves to be a different story. Work with the facts as you see them now. Make a special effort toward a loved one. Tonight: Read between the lines.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ How you handle a personal matter could change once you get the full story. A partner or associate could be critical about what happens. Listen to others, but know that ultimately this is your decision alone. Tonight: Talk during dinner with a trusted associate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Others seek you out en masse. What you see happening is that you have little time for yourself. Know that your opinions make a difference, especially to someone in your daily life. Be sensitive to a loved one who makes a special effort. Tonight: The only answer is yes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Look within yourself right now, and you might want to re-evaluate in the next few weeks. You are transforming and eyeing changes. Listen to a child or someone very creative and who quite obviously cares about you. Tonight: Pace yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your creativity will emerge if you don't hold yourself back. Family and your environment play significant roles in your growth. Allow yourself to be more expressive, if possible. Someone lets you know how he or she really feels. Tonight: Play away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Express your ability to see beyond the obvious. A friend or associate does a reversal. Discussions help you understand where this person is coming from. You might want to become more independent. Tonight: Buy something for the house or a roommate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Speak your mind, even if you are not in tune with the boss. The words you choose could make a difference in whether he or she takes offense. Be smart and use your diplomacy. Others in general respond to this presentation. Tonight: Out and about.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New SM hospital underway

By Daily Press staff

Dr. James V. Luck, Jr., president and CEO, as well as the medical director of Orthopedic Hospital, has signed a one-ton steel beam adorned with an American flag during a ceremony for the new Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopedic Hospital.

The new 266-bed hospital will replace all but the Merle Norman Pavilion on Santa Monica-UCLA's existing campus on 15th and 16th streets between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue.

Under an alliance with UCLA Healthcare, Orthopedic Hospital's inpatient services will relocate from downtown Los Angeles when the new hospital is completed in 2006.

Orthopedic Hospital's outpatient services, including occupational medicine and pediatric care, will continue to remain at the current downtown campus.

For more than 90 years, Orthopedic Hospital has provided medical treatment for children with crippling disorders — regardless of their families' ability to pay, and no child in need has ever been turned away, according to officials.

For more information, visit www.orthohospital.org.



Dr. James V. Luck, Jr

'Good and evil' at SMC

By Daily Press staff



Dr. Michael Shermer

Santa Monica College will take a look at good and evil from a scientific view.

The free presentation is the third in SMC's spring "Distinguished Scientists Lecture Series" and will be held at 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, April 1 in the science lecture hall 145 at SMC, 1900 Pico Blvd.

"Skeptic" magazine founding publisher Dr. Michael Shermer will present his lecture "The Science of Good & Evil: Why People Lie and Cheat, Share and Care, and Follow the Golden Rule" — also the title of Shermer's recently published book.

Shermer is the director of the Skeptics Society, a monthly columnist for Scientific American, host of the Skeptics Lecture Series at Caltech and co-host and producer of the 13-hour Fox Family television series, "Exploring the Unknown."

Shermer's other books include "In Darwin's Shadow," "The Borderlands of Science" and "Denying History," which is about Holocaust denial and other forms of historical distortion. Shermer's book "How We Believe: Science, Skepticism, and the Search for God" presents his theory on the origins of religion and why people believe in God. Shermer also is the author of the best-selling "Why People Believe Weird Things" and other books.

He has appeared as a skeptic of weird and extraordinary claims on television shows including "20/20," "Dateline," "Charlie Rose," "Donahue," "Oprah" and "Unsolved Mysteries" — as well as on documentaries aired on A&E, Discovery and The Learning Channel.

The lecture series is sponsored by the SMC Associates, a private organization that funds speakers and special events on campus. For information, call (310) 434-4003.

How Jesus handled an adolescent

By Daily Press staff

The Rough Draft Theater Ensemble of Santa Monica will present a free reading of a Los Angeles playwright and filmmaker.

Emmett Loverde's comedy "Jesus Awakens the Little Girl" will be held on Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Family Theater, 7201 West Sunset Blvd. in Hollywood.

The play — lasting about 25 minutes — is appropriate for all ages and all faiths, according to officials, and the cast will feature Marta Kristen-Kane — star of TV's "Lost in Space." There will be an intermission followed by a reading of original poetry by Ron Version and a reading of "The Sheep and the Goats" by Sheila Verges.

"Jesus Awakens the Little Girl" is inspired by the stories from the books of Matthew and Mark in the Bible that told of Jesus bringing the 12-year-old daughter of a leader of the synagogue back from the dead.

To make reservations call (310) 207-4475 or e-mail ECLoverde@aol.com.

surf report

A mix of slowly fading SSE swell and some building WNW wind/ground swell hits local beaches today. Most breaks will have small surf.

OUTLOOK: New WNW swell fills in steadily on Thursday and peaks in the afternoon. Most exposed breaks will have waist- to shoulder-high waves, while the standout NW breaks (some in the South Bay) see some bigger sets in the afternoon.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

59°

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

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The Q-Line

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom recently made national and international headlines by defying state law to issue marriage licenses to gay couples. Newsom said he feels it's a constitutional right for gays to marry.

But some politicians at the state and federal level see things differently. With a hold on marriage licenses for gay couples in San Francisco ongoing and the same debate raging in communities across the United States, Pres. George W. Bush has made it clear that he doesn't

support gay marriages.

Pundits and moral crusaders alike see the hot-button issue shaping up to be a key debate in the 2004 presidential election. So, this week Q-Line wants to know, "Should gay couples be afforded the right to marry? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Friday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in the weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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LOCAL

Officials: Agencies create 32B tons of carbon dioxide

SUIT, from page 1

is asking is that the federal government conduct this environmental review, as required by law."

The lawsuit pits Friends of the Earth, Inc., a 20,000-member environmental advocacy organization, and Greenpeace, Inc., a 250,000-member environmental nonprofit — along with the cities of Boulder, Oakland, Arcata and Santa Monica — against the Overseas Private Investment Corp. and the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Both defendants are federal agencies that in the last 10 years have put about \$38 billion into fossil fuel projects overseas.

Officials said the stakes are high in Santa Monica. The health of a \$788 million tourist industry that employs more than 11,000 workers and pumps nearly

"OPIC's and ExIm's contributions to carbon dioxide loading of the earth's atmosphere are staggering," the lawsuit reads.

\$24 million a year into city coffers is at stake, they argued, adding increased storm activity will not only lead to erosion but require more upkeep, and, in the case of the Palisades Bluffs, endanger motorists and pedestrians.

That's why they've made a federal case out of it.

"The collective wisdom here is that nobody is aware of any occasion — at least in the past 20, 25 years — when the

city has sued an agency of the federal government, until this one," Radinsky said. "It is extremely rare that the city sues any other governmental agency. That is a matter that we take extremely seriously and the fact that we have sued a government agency in this case shows the city's commitment to environmentalism."

Senior United States Attorney Ann Navaro declined to discuss the pending litigation. She argued in court documents that the cause of global warming is unclear.

"Defendants admit only that carbon dioxide is one of many greenhouse gases and that critical uncertainties exist with respect to the science of climate change, including the contribution of greenhouse gas emissions to climate change, the effect of natural variations in climate, and the actual degree and rate of climate change in the future," Navaro wrote.

Navaro also questioned whether the defendants must, as the plaintiffs argue, observe the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to do a formal review of programs and decisions having a significant effect on the environment. That's because the agencies aren't actually in charge of the fossil fuel projects, but are facilitators encouraging private business overseas.

ExIm "provides loans, loan guarantees

and insurance to support the export of U.S. goods and services," Navaro wrote, while OPIC "encourages U.S. capital growth and employment by offering financial incentives, such as direct loan financing, loan guarantees, and risk insurance, for U.S. private investment in order to encourage economic growth in foreign countries."

In the past 10 years, ExIm and OPIC have invested 25 times as much money in fossil fuel as in renewable energy sources, the plaintiffs argue. The two agencies have approved funding for many of the largest and most recent oil field developments — as well as pipelines and refineries — in South America, Mexico, Russia, the Caspian region, southeast Asia and west Africa. A full 80 percent of the fossil fuels recovered is consumed in the U.S., western Europe and Japan, they added.

"OPIC's and ExIm's contributions to carbon dioxide loading of the earth's atmosphere are staggering," the lawsuit reads. "The estimated amount of carbon dioxide attributable to, or that will be directly released by, the projects supported by OPIC and ExIm is much higher than the entire amount of (carbon dioxide) that was released from worldwide consumption of petroleum, natural gas, coal, and the flaring of natural gas in the year 2000 (32.1 billion tons versus 23.5 billion tons)."

The case was originally filed in 2002 and Santa Monica joined it in January. A federal judge in San Francisco earlier this month ordered parties on both sides to enter into what's called "alternate dispute resolution" to try to reach a settlement. If that fails, briefing in the case will begin at the end of this summer, said Blaine Rethmeier, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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LOCAL



Police looking for tips in Jalonnice Carter murder

WETIP, from page 1

Department Sgt. David P. Thomas, who heads the community relations/crime prevention unit. He also is overseeing the contract with the nonprofit WeTip, which was signed in January for \$5,100.

"We always need witnesses and witness testimony in order to convict someone, so we're not trying to say you never need to come forward and talk to police," said Sgt. Thomas, who urged residents to call 911 to report crimes in progress. "WeTip was created for people that may be afraid to come forward, for whatever reason ... It's not taped. There's no trac-

"WeTip was created for people that may be afraid to come forward, for whatever reason."

— DAVID P. THOMAS
SMPD Sgt.

ing. There's no caller ID."

The fledgling local WeTip program already has been put into use. Police on March 13 passed out 1,000 fliers in the Pico neighborhood asking anyone with information about the Sept. 2, 2003 murder of 19-year-old Jalonnice Carter to call the WeTip line at (800)-78-CRIME. Though

police arrested Arthur Archuleta of Santa Monica immediately after the shooting, Archuleta has since been released and prosecutors have said there is insufficient evidence to press charges against him. SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega said Archuleta remains a suspect in the homicide.

WeTip is new to City Hall, but it's been used by the local school district for years. It helped police find an arsonist at Santa Monica High School two years ago who lit a dozen fires in bathrooms. Two days after police distributed WeTip fliers, a fellow student provided a specific tip, detailing the suspect, his class schedule, even what type of backpack he carried. That tipster cashed out for the full \$1,000, Sgt. Thomas said.

But it's not just in attracting tips that

WeTip has been so successful. Sgt. Thomas, who stressed that all tips are carefully investigated before acted on, said WeTip also helps deter crime. He pointed to a WeTip program at the school district in Compton, where after an intensive outreach campaign, tips didn't increase — but crime dropped by 41 percent.

Started by a retired Southern California police officer in 1972, WeTip originally stood for "We Turn In Pushers." But because of its success in netting tips for other types of crimes — including robberies, homicides and child abuse — the program was made available nationwide in 1982. An official at the WeTip office on Tuesday said the anonymous service has taken over 390,000 calls, resulting in nearly 15,000 arrests and 8,000 convictions. According to www.wetip.com — another place anonymous tips can be lodged — more than \$515,000 has been paid out to tipsters.

For more information on WeTip, call the SMPD at (310) 458-8474.

Top law firms to battle it out with SM City Hall

VERDICT, from page 1

The scraper's cab filled with fire and Griggs' body was fully engulfed in flames, forcing him to leap to the ground.

At the University of California Davis Burn Center, it was determined that he had suffered third-degree burns to more than 75 percent of his body. He was later transferred to the Grossman Burn Center and was treated by Dr. Richard Grossman. Griggs has undergone more than 25 surgeries and has incurred more than \$3.5 million in medical expenses. He will require several more years of burn reconstruction surgery.

"We applaud the jury's decision," Panish said. "(It) sends a strong message to parts manufacturers and distributors that they will be held accountable for the poorly made and defective products that they import and distribute in the United States. Defective O-rings were at the heart of the Griggs and Challenger tragedies, and it is our hope that this case will act as a catalyst to prevent this type of accident from happening again."

The trial began Feb. 2 and Superior Court Judge Victor Person presided over the case. Griggs was represented by Panish and Christine D. Spagnoli of the Santa Monica-based law firm of Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP.

The law firm announced in January that it filed 10 claims against City Hall in relation to the Farmers' Market crash, in which Santa Monica resident Russell Weller, 87, drove his car down a crowded Arizona Avenue, killing 10 and injuring 63 people. Lawyers said the city is responsible because it should have erected a protective barrier at both ends of the market.

Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler won the largest product liability suit of all time — \$4.9 billion in 1999 against General Motors for a defective engine — and has won numerous cases worth millions of dollars. West L.A.-based attorney Michael Piuze also is representing a handful of victims. Piuze won the largest settlement of all time, \$28 billion against Phillip Morris for a cancer victim in 2002.

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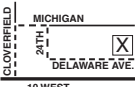
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Charter amendment is bad politics

Editor:

It is clear that the city of Santa Monica is experiencing a budget shortfall, especially with no new revenue sources put forth. Malibu, on the other hand, has made no such complaints, and it is presumed that that city is not experiencing such a dramatic budget deficit. How is it possible then that the SMMUSD and now CEPS are constantly claiming that they are in a budget crisis, and that the sole solution to the problem is to get more money from Santa Monica, and not equally from both cities who make up the school district, as would seem more fair? Why make extreme decisions to drastically change the charter of one city in the combined district, and not the other as well? Further, there are so many sources of funding for the schools — the 60 percent of property taxes, as well as the new parcel tax, the state mandated, full 40 percent of the general fund, the state lottery, numerous valuable income properties the school district owns, such as the Doubletree hotel, the huge corporate monetary gifts, the city of Santa Monica gifting on average \$3 million a year, and private donations to name many, but certainly not all — demonstrate that there is abundant money in the district to meet any and all student needs. Added up, these (and the many other) sources of school funds are easily in the billions of dollars annually. Mismanaging the huge school funding is clearly evident. We need a new school superintendent and a new school board. Time to downsize. We should replace them with people who can do the same job for less.

Ray Peterson
Santa Monica

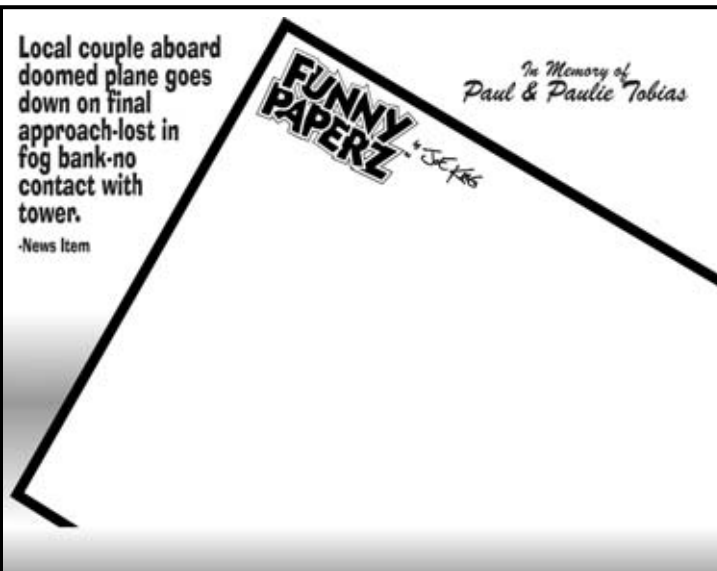
Put the homeless to work

Editor:

One very long overdue and highly beneficial business that Santa Monica should consider welcoming is temporary labor services — those geared towards employing the average service worker and tradesperson. Local employers, such as the hundreds of restaurants who always need an army of dishwashers and prep cooks, would be able to through contracting with them, have some reliable control over the quality and legality of their workforces, and any additionally supplemented temporary workforces. There would be no regular need to hire someone under the table off of a corner, like many do at 11th Street and Colorado Avenue. That makes the employer and

the worker both at fault legally. With a lot of new local construction now going on, especially the main library project at Sixth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, as well as the many hotels constantly needing documented and reliable service workers, City Hall, many businesses, apartment landlords, and all the private homeowners needing thousands of landscape and maintenance laborers annually, basic housekeepers, and janitors, it makes a lot of sense. Temp services have to keep tax records, and records of a person's legal employment and personal history. It is a good thing. There are a lot of otherwise hardworking recently unemployed people who would gladly use

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Children are victims of the Internet's darkest secret



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

Some months ago I was researching the rape of Muslim children that was used as part of a strategy of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina. One of the Internet search results was labeled simply: Forbidden. My curiosity was piqued and I selected the entry.

I was stunned, then horrified by a series of pop-up images of explicit child pornography. I frantically tried to exit out of these sites, but they were replaced faster than I could get rid of them. Imagining that the FBI would storm my home at any moment, I quit out of the program. The entire incident ended in less than 30 seconds, but two particularly disturbing images, which I will detail later, had been indelibly imprinted in my mind.

The Internet, with its privacy and anonymity, has resulted in an explosion of pornography. The medium also provides easier distribution of sexual content, particularly across international borders. Some of these countries permit the creation and distribution of child pornography. According to one report, nearly 7 percent of all pornography worldwide involves children.

I spoke with FBI Supervisory Special Agent Rick Denny of the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Team, a task force of local, state and federal agencies dedicated to combating sexual exploitation crimes against children. He informed me that in

the U. S. it is a crime not only to manufacture or distribute child pornography, but also to possess, download, save or archive any image that depicts a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. New harsh sentencing guidelines mandate prison terms of five years or more for violators.

According to Denny, it is not uncommon to encounter illegal images while exploring legitimate areas of the Internet. However, due to successful efforts by the SAFE team, and other law enforcement agencies and organizations such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, many of these illegal sites have been closed down, are being monitored by the FBI or have been forced underground.

If you should inadvertently come upon one of these sites, don't panic. You haven't committed a crime unless you download or save the images — even as evidence. You can write down the site address and report it, as well as any other crime against a child, to NCMEC's CyberTipline at www.missingkids.com. Shirley Goins, executive director of NCMEC's California branch, assured me that all information is treated confidentially.

Children also can be exposed to danger while using the Internet. One study estimates that 20 percent of all pornographic activity on the Internet may involve children. And sexual predators stalk the Internet, including child-only chat rooms, looking for unsuspecting victims.

"Among those targeted by unsolicited child pornography include children themselves," Denny said. "When a child sees a peer engaged in sexual activity it seems more acceptable and makes it easier for the predator to take advantage of them."

One study discovered that nearly one out of every five children who regularly use the Internet would be solicited for sex online. Even more disturbing is that 15 percent of those are believed to actually meet those adults they met on line.

Fortunately, the FBI and law enforcement agencies are fighting back. The FBI has launched several undercover sting operations. Agents often pose as children in chat rooms waiting to be approached. The wildly successful "Innocent Images" program was launched in Baltimore in 1995 and has been expanded across the country. As of 2003, they had initiated more than 9,000 cases with more than 2,500 arrests and convictions of pedophiles, and those involved in the child porn industry. And most recently, the FBI is posting the faces of adults who are featured in child pornography.

But enforcement is not enough. Goins advises that parents take specific steps to insure their child's safety on the Internet. She advocates that parents not put computers in a child's bedroom, but rather in a more public area such as the kitchen or living room where they are more easily monitored. Installing filtering software is essential, though not fool proof. She also advises that parents talk with their children and educate them about Internet safety.

Denny suggests specifically warning children not to provide their name, address, telephone number, password, school information or any other personal information to anyone they meet online. Nor should they post pictures of themselves, download pictures from any unknown source or respond to any messages or bulletin board postings that are suggestive, obscene or harassing. And

under no circumstance should a child arrange a face-to-face meeting with anyone online.

Parents also can visit the Netsmartz workshop (www.netsmartz.org) created by NCMEC, and the Boys and Girls Club of America. The site provides children, 5 to 17 with 3D interactive activities that teach them how to stay safe on Internet.

Children being exposed to such activities can suffer devastating psychological, emotional and even physical damage. Even as an adult, I was shocked by what I had glimpsed. Two of the images in particular were especially offensive and disturbing, and those who are easily upset might not want to read further.

The first image was a photo of a naked infant girl, maybe 18 months old. Above the picture was a bright red banner that invited the viewer to enter a site call: "Baby's First F---."

But more distressing was a web page with a dozen thumbnail photos. All but one, were images of children engaged in graphic sexual activities — presumably linked to other more specific sites. The images were appalling, but what has haunted me was a single disparate photo of a severed human head resting on a table: eyes and mouth gaping as if in horror.

I do not know, nor ever want to know, what manner of debauchery was tied to such a photo. But the inclusion of this image on equal footing with those of sexually exploited children clearly demonstrate the depths of depravity associated with those who victimize children and those who seek to view the results.

(Ed Silverstein can be contacted at edsincites@aol.com).

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

the services, and many homeless persons on the streets who would, if they had any means to do so, line up early for work at the agencies, (as is successfully done in many other communities) so that at a day's end of such dignified hard work, instead of receiving a small state unemployment stipend, collect welfare and food stamps, or otherwise daily spend their time hanging out on the Promenade, and as such, to even eat once a day, have to stand in the pathetic line at OPCC for a stale baloney or peanut butter sandwich. Instead of the homeless sleeping in a park or doorway as an illegal now, a lot of these displaced citizens could be able to independently basically house themselves in whatever affordable motel rooms can be found on Lincoln Boulevard and elsewhere. Temp agencies work well in San Diego, where about 60 percent of the male homeless population lines up at 4 a.m. usually for shipyard work, and get work just about every day they can. They are cleaner in appearance and frequently house themselves in a room, reducing the homeless presence on the streets.

Thom Trybus
Santa Monica

We need Canadian drugs

Editor:

The law barring us from importing medicine from Canada, where identical medications are available at much lower costs must be removed. The Bush administration

claims it is unsafe to import drugs from Canadian pharmacies because the FDA does not inspect them. So where are all the dead Canadians from their inexpensive prescription drugs? The issue is not one of safety but one of extra profits for the drug companies versus the ability of Americans to access affordable health care.

In addition, the outrageous prohibition that prevents Medicare from asking drug companies for a volume discount must be repealed. This provision appears particularly cynical and self-defeating in light of the success that the Veteran's Administration has had in using bulk discounts to reduce prescription prices. The VA has used its power as the largest purchaser of drugs in the U.S. to negotiate significant discounts for its clients, the same as private health insurers. This prohibition is a give-away to the pharmaceutical industry, allowing it to reap windfall profits at the expense of Medicare recipients and all American taxpayers. Let's encourage Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein to quickly pass new legislation to allow drugs from Canada to be imported and to allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices for its members.

Hoyt Johnstone
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.

Attention state highway patrol: Do not read this



POLITI-GIRL

By Beth Solomon

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A cop stopped me near Pt. Reyes National Seashore, north of San Francisco, the other day.

"That stop sign wasn't workin' for ya, I guess," he said dryly. I covered my mouth in embarrassment.

"I didn't even see it," I said.

"Uh, huh," he said. As in, "Right, lady."

"You've also got a brake light out and your license plate is improperly mounted," he frowned. "It's not gonna be a good day."

If only he knew. Since my license was taped to the inside of the tinted back window of the truck's camper top, the officer couldn't see that the my registration had expired two months ago. I didn't renew it, knowing I was moving out of state.

"Can I see your license and registration?" he said grimly.

I handed over my license and started to fumble for the registration. Truly, it was difficult to find, because the truck (which someone mistakenly called a "jalopy") is filled to the last cubic inch with stuff. My stuff — all my "I really don't have that much stuff" stuff.

"Just a sec, officer, as you can see, I've got a lot of stuff in here. I'm moving cross country."

He paused.

"In that thing?" he said, referring to the jalopy.

"Yes."

"You're moving ... where?"

"Back east. Washington, D.C."

He thought about it for a minute. "You'll make it," he said. He was trying to sound reassuring. I started fumbling again.

"I think the registration's in the back," I said. "Can I get it?" I didn't want him to think I was going to attack.

"Nah, never mind," he said, imagining a two-hour search. "There are plenty of other people on the roads out here."

A peach of a guy, the officer then pointed me to the next town and explained what "front end work" was, which I got

for my little jalopy the next week in Berkeley.

But I hadn't yet gotten around to mounting the back plate when another officer outside of Salt Lake City roared off the I-80 median, lights flashing, to chase me down. His shirt said "K-9," which I think means a dog unit, but there was no dog necessary in this operation, and sure enough, there was no dog.

"Uh, can I see your license and registration?" he said.

I enthusiastically handed over my license again and told the officer I would have to get the registration out of the back.

He held the back window flap up (the hinge doesn't hold anymore) as I rifled through my files, looking for the file marked "Nissan." See, I'm organized.

I took the offensive and told him I had let the registration expire since I was leaving California.

"You're driving where?" he said, impressed that it was further than 30 miles.

I told him I intended to fix the plate.

"Yeah, that's a red flag," he said. Actually, it's closer to black, due to the

tinted window. But I didn't want to get technical. Looking at my Nissan file, the officer pointed out that my insurance would expire the next day.

"I'm not going to give you a ticket," he said. I thanked him warmly. He thanked me for wearing my seatbelt. I realized Utah's minimum standards for legal vehicle operation were dropping rapidly.

Nonetheless, when I got to Salt Lake, I asked my friend Tom to take a look at the license plate. As I saw him walk from the house to the driveway with a huge toolbox — the kind guys have — I felt a glimmer of hope.

Tom worked on it a while, then announced that he didn't have the right bolts. Instead, he tied the plate on with thin climbing ropes — purple and brown.

"It's cute!" I said.

"It'll last about a week," he said.

So now I'm legal — or getting there. But one of the ropes is slipping, and might cause the plate to be illegal once more.

I guess I should fix it. But maybe I won't.

(Beth Solomon is a Left Coast writer reachable at bethsolomon@earthlink.net).

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How to strike a balance in the mortgage rate game



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

Do you know how mortgage rates are determined? Sure, you're quick to blame the usual suspects — the banks, the mortgage brokers, and mortgage packagers like Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac — not to mention Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve. The accused, in tandem with several dozen others would be what influences mortgage rates.

"Rates are moved by a number of related factors, and believe it or not, you — Joe or Jane Consumer — are one of those factors," observed a spokesperson for HSH Associates, the nation's largest publisher of mortgage and consumer loan information. "Mortgage money can come from many sources, including deposits at banks and brokerages, but most comes from investors through what is collectively known as the

'capital markets.' This is where investors interested in purchasing certain kinds of debt instruments — bonds, in this case — come to buy these items."

Mortgage rates are influenced by the value of money. To get investors to buy mortgage-backed securities, sellers must offer rates of interest that are competitive with alternative interest-paying investments such as treasury bonds. Thus, it is not uncommon for the mortgage originator to sell its loan to an institution that packages it with other mortgages into what's known as a mortgage-backed security. Then it sells that sweetened security to investors.

"That investor, whether it's a mutual fund or a large institutional investor, earns a return by collecting the principal and interest payments that you and all the other mortgage borrowers make," explains Walter Updegrave, a financial expert who writes for Money Magazine.

You might assume that, since a 30-year mortgage has the same term as a 30-year treasury bond, mortgage rates might track the rates on long-term treasury securities. On average, 30-year mortgages remain outstanding about 10 to 12 years, so rates on

30-year mortgages tend to track the yields on 10-year treasury notes.

The next variable — mortgage borrowers aren't as good a credit risk as the government, so rates on 10-year mortgages are higher than those on 10-year treasuries. In general, 30-year mortgage rates are about two percentage points higher, but that spread can vary.

Investors have hundreds, if not thousands of places to park their money, which is why supply and demand for a given kind of investment plays a considerable role in moving market yields. Dot.com, biotech, real estate — investor demand for a specific product rises and falls with changes in investment strategies. If demand falls enough, a change needs to be made to attract investors again. This means raising interest rates.

The delicate balance is that the mortgage market makers serve not one client, but two: Investors, who want the highest possible return on their investments and the homeowner who wants the lowest possible interest rate.

Simultaneously, rates need to be high enough to attract investors but low enough

to attract borrowers. Inflation is an additional factor that can affect interest rates. If inflation is on the rise, interest rates also will rise because inflation dilutes the future value of the fixed interest payments the investors will receive.

Investors want protection in the form of higher interest payments, thus higher rates for borrowers. If there are no inflation trends, investors may accept lower rates.

As interest rates decline, investors may lose interest — depending upon the direction of economic growth, inflation, supply, demand, etc. Typically, the lower the rate of return, the fewer investors are interested in committing.

Last week, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao told CNNfn, slow job growth would likely delay any interest-rate hike by the Federal Reserve.

For more details on the factors that go into mortgage rates, check out the HSH Web site:

http://www.hsh.com/pamphlets/mortgage_movements.html.

(E-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

SOLD	211 24TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	1127 12TH ST #303	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	922 14TH ST #103	SANTA MONICA	90403
Sold Date	SqFt: 2,485	List Price: \$1,950,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$598,500	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 811	List Price: \$389,000	Bed: 1
03/19/2004	Lot Size: 8,698	Sold Price: \$1,875,000	Pool Bath: 3	03/18/2004	HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$632,500	Bath: 2	03/19/2004	HOD: \$188	Sold Price: \$410,000	Bath: 1
SOLD	694 KINGMAN AVE	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	1133 24TH ST #2	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	2311 4TH ST #215	SANTA MONICA	90405
Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$1,575,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,462	List Price: \$559,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 701	List Price: \$375,000	Bed: 1
03/19/2004	Lot Size: 7,500	Sold Price: \$1,550,000	Bath: 2.5	03/18/2004	HOD: \$270	Sold Price: \$630,000	Bath: 2.5	03/16/2004	HOD: \$197	Sold Price: \$380,000	Pool Bath: 1
SOLD	3003 17TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	222 7TH ST #306	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	201 OCEAN AVE #402B	SANTA MONICA	90402
Sold Date	SqFt: 2,453	List Price: \$1,395,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 878	List Price: \$469,000	Bed: 1	Sold Date	SqFt: 510	List Price: \$315,000	Bed: 0
03/17/2004	Lot Size: 5,619	Sold Price: \$1,480,000	Bath: 2.5	03/18/2004	HOD: \$325	Sold Price: \$470,000	Bath: 1	03/15/2004	HOD: \$917	Sold Price: \$315,000	Pool Bath: 1
SOLD	2517 23RD ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1552 HARVARD ST #4	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	847 18TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90403
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,665	List Price: \$899,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,147	List Price: \$405,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 10,447	List Price: \$1,995,000	#Units: 6
03/16/2004	Lot Size: 6,750	Sold Price: \$912,500	Bath: 1.75	03/16/2004	HOD: \$210	Sold Price: \$440,000	Bath: 1.5	03/15/2004	Lot Size: 7,997	Sold Price: \$1,935,000	GRM: 16.32
SOLD	1033 OCEAN AVE #101	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	2231 20TH ST #2	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	830 HILL ST	SANTA MONICA	90405
Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$1,235,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,040	List Price: \$379,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 4,744	List Price: \$1,125,000	#Units: 5
03/17/2004	HOD: \$775	Sold Price: \$1,235,000	Bath: 2	03/18/2004	HOD: \$166	Sold Price: \$425,000	Bath: 1.75	03/17/2004	Lot Size: 8,498	Sold Price: \$1,050,000	GRM: 15.97
SOLD	1314 16TH ST #F	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	1440 23RD ST #303	SANTA MONICA	90404	Jodi Summers at Boardwalk Realty 310.309.4219 • jodis@boardwalkrealty.com Information received as per the MLS. Not all transactions may have been represented by Boardwalk Realty / Jodi Summers.			
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,545	List Price: \$689,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 980	List Price: \$429,000	Bed: 2				
03/18/2004	HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$717,000	Bath: 2.5	03/17/2004	HOD: \$225	Sold Price: \$420,000	Bath: 1.5				
SOLD	928 11TH ST #4	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1331 BERKELEY ST #7	SANTA MONICA	90404				
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,450	List Price: \$659,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,182	List Price: \$414,500	Bed: 2				
03/19/2004	HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$687,500	Bath: 2.5	03/17/2004	HOD: \$115	Sold Price: \$415,000	Bath: 2				

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REAL ESTATE



Don't underestimate the complexity of a commercial lease



IN YOUR SPACE

By Christina S. Porter

I recently contacted a client to discuss the renewal of her lease. Her response was that she felt that she could get a "better deal" if she handled it herself. I appreciated her honesty — she could have just put me off. On the surface, this way of thinking makes sense — no brokerage fees for the owner to pay, making a better deal for the tenant. However, committing to a lease is not something to take lightly. A lease or a lease renewal is an enormous financial commitment, and many times, it could be your largest. It's not just "renting" space. When you sign a lease you are committing to the "total value" or "aggregate value" of the monthly rent you pay over the term of the lease. You are entering into a legal contract and should seek expert advice. In most leases there are monetary obligations not included in the monthly rent and a variety of non-monetary commitments to consider. If you are personally guaranteeing the lease, it will expose your personal assets and if you are married, the owner also may require your spouse's signature.

When you are an existing tenant in a building and have (or don't have) an option to renew, owners, or owner's brokers — if they're smart — will start talking to their

tenants early, some of them even assuring the tenant a better rate if they do not involve a broker. There are many reasons for this. The obvious — and to a tenant the seemingly only one — is that he does not want to pay a commission. In a "landlord's" market you may be forced into that position. The current office leasing market is without a doubt a "tenant's" market. The truth is that there are many aspects of a lease that are negotiable, or not, depending on market conditions. Informing a tenant about the market conditions is not the responsibility of an owner or an owner's broker — unless the owner's broker is acting as a "dual agent," then the rules change. It's important to make sure that you receive advice from a commercial real estate broker who knows your area and product type (office, retail, industrial) and is on your side, exclusively. Many times you can find a broker who is more specialized and negotiates leases for specific industries, like law or medical space.

The point is that you take your car to a mechanic, you go to a dentist, and you go to an attorney for legal advice. Don't underestimate the power you give away when you sign a lease. In the end, a skilled commercial real estate broker will almost always save you money. Some might even give you a guarantee. But remember, you must always consult an attorney regarding the legal ramifications of the terms and conditions set forth in a lease. On the same note, it's imperative to find one that has experience in real estate law and practices in your neck of the woods. As much as we know and sound like

we know, most brokers are not attorneys and are not formally trained to advise you in the legal subtleties of a contract. Why have both? Its a broker's job is to structure the deal competitively and the attorney's job is to make sure the deal structured by the broker is legally sound.

Because of the current leasing environment, now is the time to start negotiations on the re-leasing of your space. If you have more than two or three years left on your current term it might be premature but don't assume that it is. Vacancy rates are high and owners should be very interested in any kind of a

commitment — some might prefer a short term lease in anticipation of higher rates.

I recommend that you get the longest term you can if you intend to stay in business that long because rates will go up. You as a tenant might be able to re-negotiate a better rate and the owner of your building gets a better night's sleep.

(Christina S. Porter specializes in the leasing and selling of office and industrial buildings on the Westside of Los Angeles and beyond. You can contact her at cporter@naicapital.com.)

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES LEASED OR SOLD

Location	Property	Date	Sq.Ft	Price
1148 4th St	Office	3/11/2004	7,500	\$2.35/mg
127 Broadway	Office	3/9/2004	320	\$3.05/+char
227 Broadway	Office	3/11/2004	1,791	\$2.75/fs
2525 Main St	Office	3/11/2004	2,800	\$2.65/mg
3250 Ocean Park	Office	3/11/2004	1,191	\$2.35/fs
201 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	3/10/2004	14,049	\$3.20/fs
201 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	3/10/2004	1,479	\$3.20/fs
429 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	3/11/2004	1,909	\$2.60/fs
429 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	3/11/2004	933	\$2.60/fs
2450-2454 Wilshire Blvd	Office	3/9/2004	944	\$1.75/mg
1631 Colorado Ave I	Industrial	3/11/2004	6,122	Warehouse \$1.40/ig



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

WE NEED INCOME AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

We have several clients looking to purchase income and commercial properties on the West side. Perhaps if we tell you a bit about our clients, you may know someone who is interested in selling or exchanging an income property on their behalf. One client has a Jack Russell terrier. She sold an income property in San Diego and is searching for a commercial space with C2 zoning that she can use as a creative retail space + classroom. Good parking essential. \$1.3 million or less. Another client is selling his property holdings in London and is looking to purchase an income property in Santa Monica. Their cap is \$1.9 million. Two other exchange buyers are looking to liquidate smaller income properties on the West Side and would like up legs with GRMs under 14 and an asking price of \$3 million or less. And there are more.

Have you got a property to sell? Contact:

The MoJo team: Monique Hitzman & Jodi Summers
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STATE

High-tech tools pinpoint gunfire, spur collaboration

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

AP Business Writer

ANAHEIM — The Pentagon is rushing into service in Iraq a pair of technologies developed under its advanced research arm: a Humvee-mounted sensor for pinpointing hostile gunfire and a “command post of the future” designed to cut down on combat leaders’ travel and streamline decision-making.

The tools come courtesy of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which is known mostly for its imaginative, over-the-horizon work. Current DARPA projects include underwater holograms that disguise submarines and artificial human “tissue” for testing vaccines against biological and chemical weapons.

But urgent war zone needs have prompted the Pentagon agency to get to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan inventions ranging from handheld computerized language translators to thousands of pen-sized water purifiers.

The sniper detector, named “Boomerang” and developed by BBN Technologies Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., is all about diluting the element of surprise in urban ambushes.

Sensors atop an aluminum pole on the back of a Humvee pick up supersonic shock waves to give an approximate location of gunfire, and sound waves measured from the muzzle blast narrow it some more.

A cigarette box-sized display on the dashboard or windshield then shows the findings. “Incoming, 5 o’clock,” says a speaker inside the box.

Assailants in urban Iraq are often inexperienced, missing on the first shot, said Karen Wood, who supervised development of “Boomerang” in just two months. They also tend to be armed with AK-47s rather than more accurate rifles, giving soldiers time to return fire or get out of harm’s way.

DARPA tested the Boomerang on a snowy December day at the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory in Quantico, Va. The Marines and Army in Iraq (DARPA won’t say which units) then volunteered to take 50, becoming the first to try them in battle.

DARPA’s goal is to lower the cost of a sniper detector from \$10,000 to \$3,000 and to link them in a network that lets soldiers throughout Baghdad know sniper whereabouts. And while hostile gunfire doesn’t pose near the lethal threat to U.S. troops as craftily rigged roadside bombs, every little bit helps.

“Is a 20 percent solution better than nothing?” Wood said. “If it saves lives, a partial solution is better than nothing.”

New computer systems designed to streamline the command bureaucracy — letting senior officers collaborate in real time with visual tools — will get tested in the field by the 1st Cavalry Division, which will take 50 such computer banks to Iraq in about a month. Half will go in the division’s Baghdad headquarters while the rest are sprinkled at eight command posts in the area. All will be connected by one overarching wireless network.

Each bank of computers has three

screens: one for the user’s own work, one for 3-D simulated battlefields and a third to peer into what’s happening on other systems throughout the city. Commanders will also be able to talk to each other using voice over Internet technology.

The network is designed to sharply reduce the need for commanders to criss-cross the city for meetings while hastening the flow of information. Instead of sending an e-mail request, for example, they can simply drop in on each other’s computers for data they need.

**“If it saves lives, a
partial solution is better
than nothing.”**

— KAREN WOOD

Development supervisor of “Boomerang”

“Right now we have to bring everyone to the same place to have a meeting, and Baghdad is a dangerous place,” said Ryan Paterson, project manager of DARPA’s “Command Post of the Future,” which is being developed by Maya Viz LLC of Pittsburgh and three other companies.

DARPA had been working with a few generals since 1999 but had no takers until wartime, said Steve Roth, Maya Viz’s chief executive officer. “It was limping along on pennies,” he said.

Then, Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the 1st Cav commander, invited him to Fort Hood, Texas, for a demonstration in October. Chiarelli immediately agreed to test it in Iraq.

Other inventions highlighted by DARPA earlier this month at a conference that coincided with the Grand Challenge desert robotic race were geared toward girding soldiers against the elements, improving their field nutrition and cleansing dirty water.

Special Operations forces recently tried a handheld vacuum chamber that sucks heat from the body, much like a radiator does for an automobile. They hit the treadmill in a 95-degree room at a Stanford University lab, saddled with backpacks. During breaks, they stuck their hands in the bubble-shaped vacuum, developed by Avacore Technologies Inc. of Palo Alto, Calif.

The Special Operations Command was encouraged enough by the results to ask for more devices, which they will test on their own, said Dr. Brett Giroir, deputy director of DARPA’s defense sciences office. DARPA’s next step is designing a body cooler small enough to fit inside a soldier’s boot.

DARPA operates a \$2.8 billion annual budget with only 240 employees. Project managers such as The Boomerang project’s Wood generally stay only four years, a practice aimed at preventing researchers from getting too comfortable.

“You have four years to make a difference and you feel the clock ticking the moment you walk in the door,” said Wood. “It guarantees that you have fresh ideas coming through the door.”

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Violence continues in Iraq

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen killed two policemen and wounded two others near their station Tuesday in the northern city of Kirkuk, Iraqi authorities said. West of Baghdad, U.S. soldiers fired shots to disperse a violent protest against Israel's killing of Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin.

The slain twin brothers were shot by assailants in a car in Kirkuk, north of the capital, police Capt. Abdul-Salam Zangana said. He identified the brothers as Ahmed and Mohammed Kadhim. The attack occurred as the police parked their car in a main square and worshippers left a nearby mosque.

In Ramadi, U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police fired shots after protesters burned two police cars and two hand grenades were thrown at a government building, witnesses said. At least two police and three protesters were injured.

Muslim clerics in Ramadi, where support for the anti-U.S. insurgency is strong, had urged followers to protest the targeted killing of Yassin, the spiritual leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, in Gaza City on Monday.

On Monday, gunmen killed two Finnish businessmen as they drove in Baghdad, and in the southern city of Basra, 14 British troops were wounded in two explosions during a demonstration.

Counterterrorism blamed in attacks

By The Associated Press

WANA, Pakistan — Attackers ambushed a Pakistani army convoy heading toward a counterterrorism sweep against al-Qaida militants near the Afghan border, killing at least 12 soldiers and wounding 15, officials said Tuesday.

The attackers fired rockets that hit at least six army trucks in the ambush near Sarwakai, about 30 miles east of Wana, the main town of the South Waziristan tribal region.

Pakistani officials said Monday they have discovered a mile-long tunnel leading from a besieged mud fortress that could have offered an escape route for top al-Qaida suspects at the start of the operation.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said last Thursday that a "high-value" target was likely at the site. Some senior Pakistani officials have told The Associated Press that they believe al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri may have been there, though the government has repeatedly said it does not know who is inside.

The Pakistani military has clamped a 20-square-mile cordon to seal the area and say they are confident nobody has escaped.

But the cordon did not exist at the disastrous start of the operation Mar. 16, when Pakistani forces who thought they were going to arrest local tribesmen were surprised by a ferocious barrage.

Nichols trial underway

By The Associated Press

McALESTER, Okla. — Prosecutors in Terry Nichols' state murder trial began their attempt to put the Oklahoma City bombing conspirator on death row by linking him to the blast — even though he was more than 200 miles away.

FBI lawyer Mary Jasnowski testified Monday that agents searching Nichols' Kansas home three days after the 1995 bombing found a receipt for 2,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, a main ingredient of the Oklahoma City bomb.

Agents also found four 55-gallon drums of the type prosecutors say were used to make the bomb, and traces of the bomb ingredient outside Nichols' home. Prosecutors allege Nichols also stole blasting caps to set off the explosion that killed 168 people.

The testimony came after prosecutor Lou Keel opened his case by arguing that Nichols hated the U.S. government and worked hand-in-hand with Timothy McVeigh.

Defense attorney Brian Hermanson countered that McVeigh and other conspirators were responsible for the bombing and Nichols was manipulated by McVeigh to take the blame.

Nichols, 48, is already serving a life sentence on federal charges.

Prosecutors brought the state charges hoping to send Nichols to the death chamber. McVeigh was executed in 2001.

Black pastors rally against gay marriage

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — More than two dozen black pastors added their voice to the critics of same-sex marriage, attempting to distance the civil rights struggle from the gay rights movement and defending marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"When the homosexual compares himself to the black community, he doesn't know what suffering is," said the Rev. Clarence James, an African-American studies professor at Temple University.

Jones and 29 pastors rallied late Monday with their supporters at an Atlanta-area church where they signed a declaration outlining their beliefs on marriage and religion.

The declaration is meant to pressure state representatives to approve a constitutional ban on gay marriages, which will be considered again by the Georgia House as soon as this week.

Meanwhile, in St. Paul, Minn., supporters of a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage gathered by the thousands in one of the largest Capitol rallies in memory.

Man killed by police was the criminal

By The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Prosecutors have closed the case of a man who died after police officers repeatedly struck him with nightsticks, saying he was the only one in the videotaped struggle who broke the law.

"It's a tragedy that he's dead," Hamilton County Prosecutor Mike Allen said. "But he is the one who committed the crimes."

Allen said at a news conference Monday night that his office found no evidence that the police who struggled with the 350-pound Nathaniel Jones Nov. 30 committed any crimes.

Attorney Kenneth Lawson, representing Jones' family, said he was not surprised by the prosecutor's decision.

"It was typical Mike Allen, demonizing another black male and making excuses for police misconduct," said Lawson, who is conducting his own investigation.

The Hamilton County coroner ruled Jones' death a homicide, but cautioned it did not imply that police used excessive force. An autopsy showed the direct cause of death was the struggle, but Jones also suffered from an enlarged heart, obesity and had intoxicating levels of cocaine, PCP and methanol in his blood that contributed to the death, the coroner concluded.

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Obituaries

CHUCK NILES
1927-2004

I've lost a great friend of 30 years and the world has lost the last of the great Jazz D.J's. Chuck was more than a radio personality, he was an encyclopedia of jazz music and the musicians who played it. Known and loved for years in the Southern California area and lately throughout the world because of satellite broadcasting, Chuck was a true Jazz icon. A true "Jazz Crusader", always out in the clubs supporting the music and the musicians, whom he always treated as his buddies, it was always fun to "hang" with Chuck. He was articulate and knowledgeable, and had a distinctive resonant baritone voice and infectious sense of humor that endeared him to millions of fans for several decades. Bob Comden and I will always remember the times years ago that he attended my big band gigs and announced them on his show. My brother Vic, Bob Comden, and the staff of Santa Monica Music Center will miss dearly. Our sympathy goes out to his daughter Tracy and the family.

Paul (Chico) Fernandez

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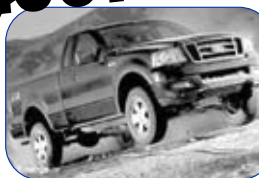
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