

FREE

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 115

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO
SUPER LOTTO PLUS
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Megamatch: 20

Jackpot: \$10 million

FANTASY 5
12, 15, 17, 28, 38
DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 1, 7

Evening picks: 8, 6, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 07, Eureka

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 04, Big Ben

Race time: 1:44.35


NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ In January, Devon Harris, 19, and Shemone Gordon, 23, were charged with kidnapping millionaire investment manager Edward Lampert outside his office in Greenwich, Conn., and attempting to ransom him, but Harris' mother and Gordon's aunt both told reporters later that their boys are just not smart enough to pull off a kidnapping like that. The kidnapers abandoned their plan after three hours and released Lampert, but were arrested a short time later when police traced their whereabouts after the men used Lampert's credit card to order a pizza delivery.


THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Advertising is the rattle of a stick inside a swill bucket.


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Smoking in parks snuffed out by Council

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Smoking in Santa Monica's parks will soon be an illegal act punishable by a \$250 fine.

The Santa Monica City Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to ban smoking in its 15 parks because of health risks associated with second-hand smoke and the likelihood that children could ingest discarded cigarette butts.

The Recreation and Parks Committee brought the idea to the Council last June. It recommended the ban from "curb to curb" in every public park.

"It's based on very grave health and safety concerns relating to smoking and second hand smoke, as well as children observing adults smoking," said Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky.

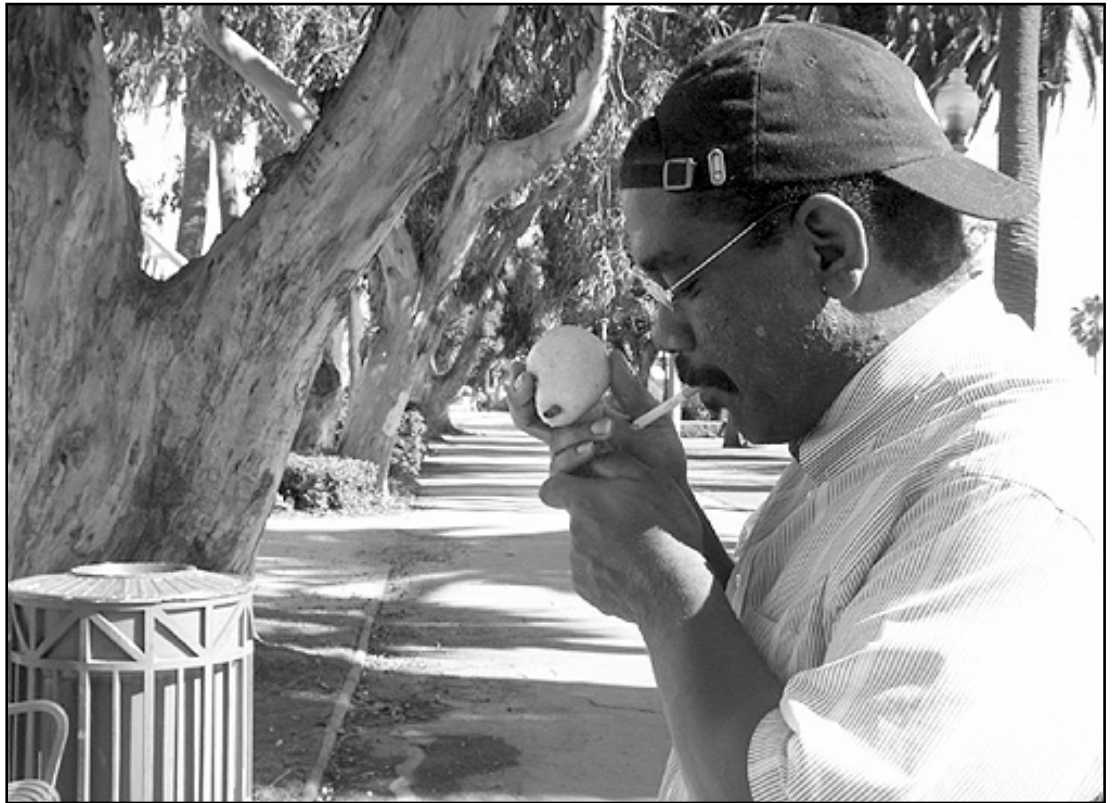
Radinsky — who heads the city attorney's consumer protection unit — said it will be illegal to not only smoke in parks, but also to throw smoking products on the ground.

The city attorney's office will first launch an educational campaign so the community has time to accept the new law. That will be followed by random, periodic checks in the parks by the attorney office's consumer protection unit and the Santa Monica Police Department.

Anyone caught smoking or throwing cigarette butts on the ground will be charged with an infraction and could be forced to pay the \$250 fine.

The Council also included chewing tobacco in the ordinance on Tuesday because the act is harmful to an individual's health and could pose a public safety risk because people spit frequently when chewing.

The council will review the law a second



Otis Johnson lights up a cigarette Wednesday in Palisades Park. The action will soon cost him \$250 when a law passed unanimously by the Santa Monica City Council goes into effect.

time in April and then it will go into effect within 30 days.

Councilman Bob Holbrook said the smoking ban should help police enforce the frequent marijuana smoking that occurs in Palisades Park.

"It will make it a lot easier because anyone

blowing any kind of smoke will be subject," he said.

Santa Monica's law is not new. The state already enacted legislation, which took effect

See SMOKING, page 5

Money will be diverted to pay for library

Some residents would like to see money spent on other priorities

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The new \$77 million Main

Library will be built — but not without about a dozen capital improvement projects being put off so enough money can be made available to pay for it.

The Santa Monica City Council voted Tuesday to divert \$21 million from various community projects to pay for the new library,

which will begin construction May 1 and take two years to complete.

The original estimate for the library was \$56 million, with a possible \$9 million cost overrun. Voters in 2000 overwhelmingly approved a \$25 million bond to pay for part of the library, while the rest was to come from down-

town redevelopment funds.

But city officials decided to add "enhancements" to the project, such as more spaces in a below-ground parking garage underneath the library, as well as 5,000 square feet for the historical society and more space to display the murals

of artist Stanton Macdonald-Wright. Better security and environmental features like natural lighting also added to the \$12 million budget addition.

The city, which is facing a \$11 million deficit this year, enjoyed a cash surplus during the past 10 years that allowed officials to allocate millions of dollars for capital improvement projects. About one-third of the funds are earmarked for maintenance and replacement programs and two-thirds are for one-time projects.

In January, city staff gave the Council a list of potential projects that could be delayed because \$12 million more would have to be found to pay for added amenities to the library.

The council voted to divert funding from the following proj-

See LIBRARY, page 5

Army troops parachute into northern Iraq, seize airfield

BY DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

Army airborne forces parachuted into northern Iraq on Wednesday, seizing an airfield as a prelude to opening a northern front against Saddam Hussein. British warplanes bombed an enemy convoy fleeing the besieged city of Basra in the south.

One week into the war, the possibility of a major battle loomed within 100 miles

See WAR, page 10


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 ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 27, 2003:

Friendship extends all through your life this year. Read between the lines when dealing with loved ones. Often, you might take what others say personally when they didn't intend their message to be that way. You could be misreading others' intentions. Aim for what you want more often. Others will be responsive, especially when you involve them in the scope or the details. Your verbal skills come into play as a result. New beginnings become possible through networking and relating. Others break patterns as a result. If you are single, a relationship will build in significance. You might have already met this person. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy each others' company more than ever before. Party and enjoy each other more. AQUARIUS really enjoys you.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ You have so many options that you might feel as if extremes punctuate your life. You can choose a course in the middle, if you want. Revise your decisions surrounding your desires. What will get you where you want to be? Follow that course. Tonight: Follow the crowds.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Though you might be somewhat taken aback by what you hear, your intuition feeds your decisions. You might see a new friend as more than just a friend. Be careful about just how much you push this person. You're in the limelight forging new ground. Create more of what you want. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Don't hesitate to reach out for more information. Try the Internet, search the Yellow Pages, find experts. Do not settle for half an answer. Your imagination might distort some of what you hear. Be willing to break ground and head in a new direction. Tonight: Listen to a favorite piece of music.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Others have plenty to say, whether you want to hear it or not. Your ability to clear out problems and get past immediate issues allows greater flow and creativity. Someone could be distorting a money situation. Be sensitive to a loved one at a distance. Tonight: Listen to your best friend.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Deal with others directly, or they will deal with you directly! Form a plan more to your liking, discussing options with a close friend or associate. Confirm all agreements in writing, as confusion could hit even when everyone has the best of intentions. Tonight: Go along with plans.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might want to deal with others more directly, especially regarding your work situation. A partner or loved one expresses his or her diligence and caring. Please notice. Please respond accordingly. A brilliant financial idea takes you in a new direction. Tonight: Off to the gym.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Reach out for others; be more nurturing. Listen well to what is going on on the creative front. Allow your imagination to rock 'n' roll. You'll come up with unusual solutions as a result. Associates, friends and partners give you feedback of all kinds. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Get in touch with your feelings on a deeper level. Stop pretending and take off your rose-colored glasses. You might be surprised by what is going on. Allow your imagination to speak for a change. A relationship could be warming up. Tonight: Happy at home.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Reach out to those in your immediate circle. You're in the mood to make a difference. Others discuss what is on their mind. Take advantage of the moment to express your deeper feelings. Your intuition leads you in the right direction. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ How you actually follow through on a decision could be a lot different than you realize. You demonstrate your unusual savoir-faire and sense of diplomacy. Experiment with a money matter. Financial matters add to your security and well-being. Tonight: Balance your budget.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Consider options that surround an idea. Brainstorming with those in your immediate environment brings surprising results. Stop and buy something special for someone who means a lot to you. Your sense of humor takes you in a new direction. Tonight: Laugh. Be with whom you want to be with.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Determine more of what you think might ultimately be important. Express your softer side. Your charisma draws others to you. Your instincts come through for you in a big way. Trust, no matter what you do. Tonight: Take a deep breath.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free books on Main Street

By Daily Press staff

A group of Main Street merchants has banded together to form a free book exchange.

The Main Street Book Exchange is billed as an unregulated library where people can exchange books at participating merchants.

People are encouraged to bring back the books they take, though they don't have to, according to a press release from the Main Street Merchants Association. In addition, people don't have to contribute a book to take a book.

The effort was the idea of former MSMA board member John Gabree, who used to own L.A. (The Bookstore). It began recently at The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, 2901 Main St., and the Library Alehouse, 2911 Main, but will be expanded to include several nearby businesses.

Other locations participating will include Napoleon's Cafe and Bakery, 2301 Main, Mani's Bakery, 2507 Main, and Peet's Coffee and Tea, 2439 Main. MSMA plans to also create a book club with readings and discussions in conjunction with the book exchange.

Liberty Hill Foundation to receive Brown award

By Daily Press staff

A local social justice organization will receive the Pat Brown Institute of Public Affairs' Community Advocacy Award next month.

Liberty Hill Foundation was established in 1976 and has since given away more than \$17 million to grassroots community organizations throughout Los Angeles County. The foundation's executive director, Torie Osborn, also will be recognized in conjunction with the award.

"My grandfather believed that California was a place where people came to seek a better life," said Zeb Rice, grandson of former California Gov. Pat Brown. "The foundation motto is 'Change not Charity' and that's exactly what Liberty Hill funds — the work of community leaders determined to solve the problems of hunger, homelessness, low wages and bigotry — and solve them once and for all."

The award will be presented by Rice on April 3 at the institute's 22nd Annual Awards Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown L.A.

Osborn has been with Liberty Hill since 1997, in which time she has doubled the amount of grant money distributed each year and increased the institute's public profile on social justice issues, according to a press release.

The Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs, located on the campus of California State University, Los Angeles, is a non-profit, non-partisan center for applied public policy research and community engagement.

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surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

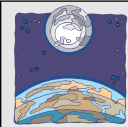
Wednesday saw pretty weak conditions as we rode out the very tail end of the south swell. Today new swell is building so we'll see some better waves.

New northwest swell (300 degrees) fills in this afternoon. Size is expected to increase by about two feet at exposed breaks, but onshore winds this morning may cause surf to get blown out early.

Sets show the most consistency on Friday when the swell peaks. Waves average waist- to chest-high today. Expect occasional shoulder and head-high sets at best exposures.

Minor pulses of south and southwest swell will mix in with northwest Friday and through the weekend.

South Bay breaks do the best in this type of swell, so El Porto has a chance to be on today if winds allow for it. Manhattan Beach could get good too.



Today's Tides:

High- 5:31 a.m. 4.90'
Low- 12:45 p.m. -0.59'
High- 7:25 p.m. 4.06'

Location	Thursday	Friday	Water Quality
County1-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	N/A	N/A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	N/A
Surf	3-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	N/A
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	N/A
Break	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	N/A
Porto	2-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	N/A

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The Q Line

Now that the United States is engaged in a full-blown war with Iraq, tensions at home are running high.

State and local governments around the country are taking extra precautions in case more terrorist attacks hit U.S. soil as a response to what some see as acts of aggression by us.

So this week, Q Line wants to know:

"Do you feel safe? Are you confident that Santa Monica is prepared to deal with a possible attack?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. 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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OPINION

LETTERS

Who elected Bush?

Editor:

Charles Springer says the homeless didn't elect President Bush. I agree. But Mr. Springer forgot something: The rest of us didn't elect him either. Remember the stolen election, chads, Supreme Court pals "electing" Bush?

Mike Kirwan
Venice

Irony discovered in library overrun

Editor:

It is quite ironic to me that the front page of [Wednesday's] paper featured an article regarding the latest estimate of a \$12 million cost overrun for the new library, and an article on the possibility of instituting a local sales tax to help close the estimated \$11 million municipal budget deficit.

Dave Thomsen
Santa Monica

Correcting weapon statements

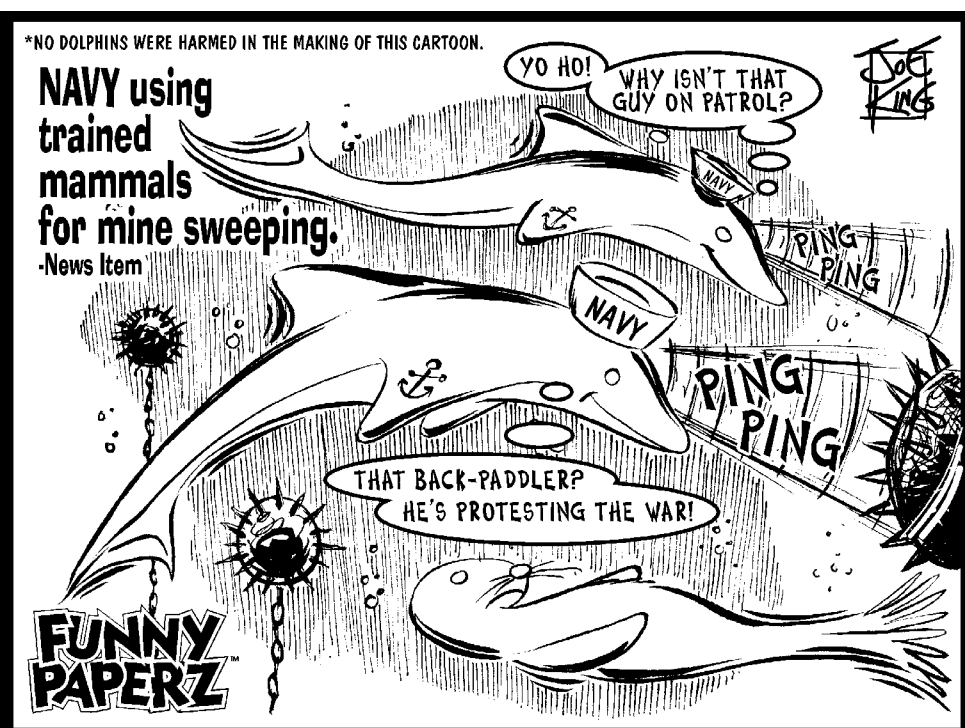
Editor:

Only in Santa Rosenfeld would a signature at the bottom letter of piffle be considered a "byline," but I guess some folks need to see their names in public to reaffirm something or other.

FYI...as a retired artillery officer and former adjutant at Redstone, allow me to correct you. A SCUD is indeed a viable platform for delivering conventional explosives as well as ANY payload you wish it to carry. The Chinese modifications (post 1979) make them fully capable delivery systems for chem/bio/nuclear payloads.

Mr. Rosenfeld, I served 30 years defending this place in order that your voice can be heard (over and over). But the ability to speak does not guarantee the accuracy or the integrity of what is spoken.

If you are against the president and or the war, fine. But given your naiveté, I am dumbfounded that you consider yourself conversant in modern weaponry. In point of fact, the Cold War was based upon the myth of Soviet missile capabilities. While, in



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reality the Scud system is highly inaccurate (and therefore never considered to be a threat to the U.S.). Its capabilities in delivering mass destruction (wherever it hits) have never been a question.

Mr. Rosenfeld, like so many pundits, confuses the message with the messenger, as it were. I am sure the citizens of Kuwait and Israel are comforted by Mr. Rosenfeld's insightful pronouncement.

P.S.: As far as I can tell a 747 is not technically a weapon of mass destruction. But I'll leave that to Mr. Rosenfeld, the expert.

Col. Aubrey Maillon
U.S. Army Ret.

We now return you to our regularly scheduled war



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

It was a surreal setting in a Santa Monica watering hole last Sunday as two televisions behind the bar competed for patrons' attention. One showed Hollywood's elite sucking it up for the rest of the country, accepting their ill-timed Oscars. The other showed the war in Iraq.

The dichotomy was inescapable, yet they were equally compelling on a night the rest of the world watched what it both loved and loathed about the United States.

Vying for the nation's attention were war and protest, bravado and humbleness, mortality and immortality. At times it was hard to tell which was the slicker production.

Watching the Academy Awards seemed to bring forth an almost palpable sense of embarrassment for the actors and actresses, writers and directors, producers and technicians who bothered to show up, pose and claim their awards on a night

few would have suggested they salute excellence in film. But to the Academy's credit, the broadcast ditched some of the pomp and circumstance by foregoing the red carpet and those in attendance seemed to temper their tones.

Even still, there's only so much show biz you can siphon out of Tinseltown. The opening line of Steve Martin's monologue at the Kodak Theater seemed to encapsulate the general mood of reserved celebration: "At least we did away with the glitz," he said.

It was the television in the other corner of the bar that held everyone's attention, spewing hyberbole like it was a Don King Production — "Shock and Awe," "Saddam to make 'historic' speech," "The Mother of All Bombs."

With television and journalism continually blurring the lines between fiction and reality, one can't help but wonder if American television viewers have finally settled in for the ultimate in reality TV — watching "embedded" personalities broadcasting from war-torn lands around the clock.

The "tabloidization" of television news, with often out-of-context soundbites and screaming headlines, has been

long in coming. News agencies have always sought out innovative and creative ways to grab the attention of their audience. After all, the dissemination of news to as many people as possible is the ultimate goal. But viewers need to be mindful of the potentially treacherous road they are traveling down en route to Baghdad.

War has a way of producing the unexpected. It is the most inexact of sciences. A massive undertaking like the invasion, occupation and regeneration of Iraq is loaded with more variables than an advanced Algebra dissertation.

No doubt viewers of the conflict's opening days felt somewhat envious of the "embedded" reporters along for the ride with coalition forces, riding shotgun with the most powerful army in history as it storms through the desert unopposed. No doubt some viewers had difficulty separating the ceaseless bombings of Baghdad night after night from an overblown Jerry Bruckheimer blockbuster, even if the explosions were just a bit less spectacular.

America's seemingly insatiable thirst for reality TV might just be culminating with the coverage of the war on television 24/7. We are with our armed forces every

step of the way. We are being put in the middle of the battlefield as the U.S. wages war before the court of public opinion, as journalists broadcast details seldom divulged in previous wars with wanton routineness. We are being made to feel a part of this conflict by the TV news and it is fascinating.

The haunting video and photographs of U.S. servicemen lying dead on the floor was a wicked dose of reality that will burn in our memories for some time and that may just be the price of such in-depth war coverage. There will be some price to pay for access. The video of POWs so bothered the Pentagon that they finally decided to take out Iraqi television on Tuesday.

War is the most inhumane of human pursuits and most of us, thankfully, don't have the stomach for it. Americans living stateside during World War II were not inundated with pictures of battlefields and videos of their battered neighbors being held as prisoners of war overseas.

American viewers who can't get enough of reality TV might just be getting what they wished for and wishing they hadn't, as they are faced with the gravest of reality checks where the conclusion is anything but scripted.

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



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LOCAL

Santa Monica joins other cities with smoking ban

SMOKING, from page 1

last year, that forbids smoking on playgrounds. The law also allows municipalities to extend smoke-free zones to the entire park or just certain areas.

Public officials worry about the affects second-hand cigarette smoke may have on children playing nearby. A recent study suggests second-hand smoke contains far more suspected carcinogens than previously believed.

Two years ago, Beverly Hills banned smoking in its parks entirely. And the Los Angeles City Council is currently consid-

ering legislation that would ban smoking within 25 feet of where children play. Los Angeles' ordinance would even forbid smoking at dog runs, public swimming pools and golf courses.

Both cities were convinced of the ban by the Committee for Smoke-free Zones, which broached the issue with Santa Monica's Recreation and Parks Committee. The organization is currently working with 10 other municipalities in Southern California on creating bans in those cities as well.

New library project is \$21 million over budget

LIBRARY, from page 1

ects:

- \$400,000 for traffic calming measures on city streets.

- \$2.6 million for improvements to downtown parking structures.

- \$6.7 million in improvements to Santa Monica Boulevard.

- \$3.1 million for a City Hall expansion and retrofit.

- \$300,000 to rehabilitate a historic beach club on Pacific Coast Highway.

- \$150,000 to replace city signs.

- \$1.3 million dedicated to landscaping Airport Avenue.

- \$3 million in financing for the \$120 million Civic Center area, as well as \$1.4 million dedicated to planning the project.

City staff also was able to free up \$940,000 that was given to Santa Monica as redevelopment money from the federal government as a result of the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

While prioritizing the cuts, the Council voted to keep some projects alive.

The Council allocated \$520,000 to upgrade restrooms at the city's parks, \$250,000 to build a new 15,000-square-foot park on Euclid Street, \$2.1 million toward rebuilding the breakwater north of the pier and \$774,000 for pedestrian improvements on certain city streets.

Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson said the library isn't experiencing a deficit as the media has recently suggested. He added that the Council and the community were aware of the additional costs three months ago when elected officials decided to make upgrades to the library facility.

However, that doesn't change the fact that other projects and programs are being delayed as a result of those upgrades, some citizens suggested. Residents told the council on Tuesday that the money going toward the library should be spent on more critical necessities, like helping the financially-strapped school district.

"There is no library emergency in this town," said resident John Petz. "How can you look at the community and say, 'We

have an \$11 million city budget deficit and we have a school system falling apart based on projected state budget deficits but, no, we need to build this library,'"

"I say eat the costs and keep the money and delay it until we can afford it because it's clear we can't afford it right now," he added. "Stick close to home This is not the time to build a monument. Get your priorities straight."

Anderson pointed out that \$4.2 million already has been spent on planning and designing the new library. And because the city has entered into a construction agreement, delaying it would cost \$6,000 a day.

"These economics associated with delaying the project could be fairly extensive," Anderson said.

Tricia Crane, a local parent, also asked the Council to put the diverted money toward schools instead of the library.

"It seems unseemly while our children's reading specialists are given pink slips, we are discussing building a new, nicer library and demolishing a perfectly good one," she said. "I ask the (Santa Monica for Renter's Rights) majority Council to honor your expressed commitment to social justice."

Supporters of the library defended the funding of the new facility, saying it will benefit everyone in the community and is crucial to educating local children.

Councilman Ken Genser reminded the public that it's not as simple as just giving additional money to the school district because the money in question is dedicated to certain programs and projects in specific accounts within the city budget.

The Council also agreed that it wouldn't be wise to issue debt on the library in an effort to avert putting off capital improvements given the city's current financial situation.

Council members agreed with city staff that issuing debt nearly doubles the amount that will ultimately be paid and would require 20 years of debt service of \$2.4 million annually. However, issuing debt on the facility could be an option at a later time.



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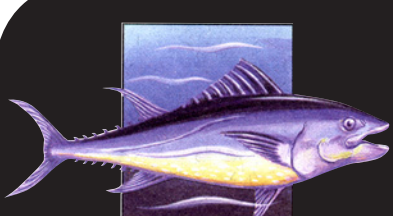
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Santa Monica Daily Press



STATE

Calif. radio reporter aids wounded civilians in Iraq

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A radio reporter embedded with U.S. troops became more than a passive observer Wednesday when he helped rescue civilians during sniper fire in Southern Iraq.

Greg Jarrett, a reporter for KGO Radio, flew with Marines on the mission during a sandstorm that made visibility close to zero. He described his flight in vivid detail in a phone call to the San Francisco-based station.

"Someone has tried to kill me at least three times today," he told the station in a live phone interview. "We were fired at with anti-aircraft fire at one point. At another point, we settled near a village where a fire fight was taking place."

During that fire fight, several civilians were severely injured, as were some Iraqi soldiers. As Marines, aided by Jarrett, loaded the casualties onto helicopters, the Iraqis continued to fire.

"They opened up on us with small arms fire as we were loading their people

onto helicopters to bring them back for medical care," Jarrett said.

Many of the civilians were missing limbs, including one little boy whose right leg was blown off.

"The little boy, I held him all the way back. He was so light, he was bouncing off the litter in the helicopter. I held him all the way back," Jarrett said.

Another child was also wounded badly, according to the Marine piloting the mission, who identified himself only as "Lumpy" from the Sacramento area. Lumpy told KGO he didn't mind getting into a dangerous situation if it meant saving civilian lives.

"That's definitely worth the risk," he said.

The wounded were brought to a small U.S.-controlled airstrip inside Iraq. Doctors told Jarrett the wounded were expected to survive.

Jarrett is embedded with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, and flying with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, nicknamed "Purple Foxes."

Largest Christian network ordered to be better neighbor

By The Associated Press

COSTA MESA — The world's largest Christian television ministry has been ordered to be a better neighbor.

Residents near the Trinity Broadcasting Network's operations in Costa Mesa have complained about street parking, glaring lights and noise for years.

The sprawling complex next to the San Diego Freeway is ablaze at night with extensive lighting, giving it the visual impact of a Las Vegas casino. Neighbors complain tour buses routinely honk as they make nighttime departures from the compound.

Because of the ongoing dispute, the city's planning commission has postponed consideration of a network request to conduct outdoor tapings on its property.

The goal of the nine-month delay is to give the two groups a chance to find common ground, said commission member Katrina Foley.

The commission this week gave the network a list of two dozen good-faith restrictions intended to appease neighbors.

Among the requests: limit street parking by visitors arriving in buses and cars; establish a 10 p.m. curfew for churchgoers; provide on-site security to direct traffic; and limit nighttime hours of the million-light display.

TBN officials say they never veered from the network's original permits, which city records show allow for "an administrative office complex including TV-production facilities, screening and meeting areas."

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STATE

Actor Sheen tapes mouth shut in protest of Iraq war

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Actor Martin Sheen covered his mouth with a piece of duct tape that said "peace," then led about 60 protesters in a prayer vigil Wednesday.

Sheen, star of the NBC series "West Wing," carried a huge painted cross during the protest. He did not speak but the Rev. Michael Kennedy of Delores Mission Catholic Church in East Los Angeles read a statement from him.

"Nationalism and militarism have become the gods of our idolatry at the expense of our humanity," Sheen wrote. "By some demented form of logic the men, women and children of Iraq are relegated to 'collateral damage' as the dogs of war slouch toward Baghdad."

The vigil was held to pray for the safe return of U.S. soldiers and to express solidarity with two Catholic priests and one peace activist who have been fasting on a liquid diet since March 5, organizers said.



Nick Ut/Associated Press
Actor Martin Sheen carries a cross as he marches in a procession around the Federal Building in Los Angeles during a prayer vigil for peace Wednesday.

EPA alright with military environmental exceptions

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman said Wednesday her agency was "very comfortable" with legislation sought by the Pentagon that would exempt it from a broad range of environmental laws.

The Pentagon, supported by the Bush administration, want laws governing endangered species, marine mammals, air and water quality and the cleanup of explosives and munitions eased at defense facilities around the nation.

In seeking the exemptions outlined in the Readiness and Range Preservation Initiative, the Department of Defense claims that the need to adhere to environmental laws crimps military training and preparedness.

The Pentagon sent the proposed legislation to Capitol Hill last year and further outlined it in hearings held earlier this month.

Whitman said the EPA has worked closely with the Pentagon and is confident the proposed exemptions still give her agency the latitude to intervene when military training might pose a health or environmental threat.

"We are very comfortable with the language," Whitman said after an address to Town Hall Los Angeles, a nonpartisan forum. "We believe we will still have the ability to be proactive in protecting the public's health and the environment while still allowing the military to do the work they need to do."

Her answer came in reply to a question from Hacienda Heights high school senior Andrea Chang, 18.

"It was the answer I kind of expected. She is in the Bush administration," Chang said later.

Environmentalists echoed that sentiment. "(Whitman) works for the most anti-environmental president in history. He is her boss and it's pure politics. I think she is trying to toe the administration line: 'My boss wants this and we don't have a problem with it,'" said Daniel Patterson, a desert ecologist with the Idyllwild-based Center for Biological Diversity.

The California EPA, a state agency, worries the proposed legislation could hinder its efforts to regulate and clean up defense training and industrial sites around the state.

"I am concerned that (the Pentagon's) proposal could lead to an open-ended inclusion of environmentally damaging activities under the umbrella of 'readiness,'" Edwin Lowry, director of the state Department of Toxic Substances Control, a California EPA department, said March 13 in Senate testimony.

"Obviously, we understand and fully support the need of the armed forces to do their job, but we do not believe that the Pentagon should take advantage of a situation to try to break down safeguards, which protect not only the environment but the health and safety of Americans," California EPA spokesman William Rukeyser said.

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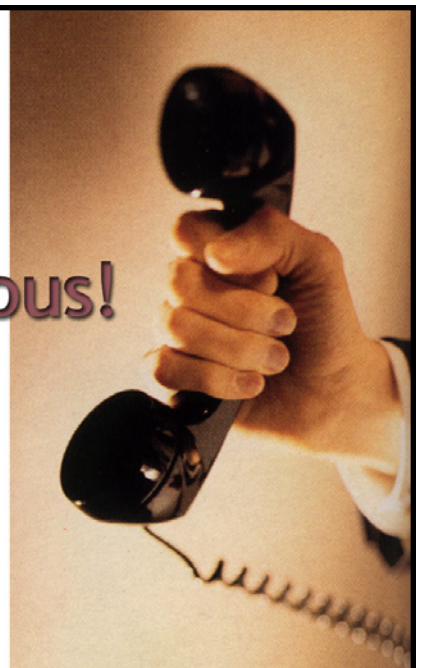
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NATIONAL

Tyson Foods acquitted in immigrant conspiracy case

BY BILL POOVEY
Associated Press Writer

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — A federal jury acquitted Tyson Foods and three managers Wednesday of conspiring to hire illegal immigrants from Mexico and Central America to fill \$7-an-hour jobs at the company's poultry plants.

Jurors deliberated for less than a day before acquitting the defendants of all charges in a case stemming from a four-year investigation during which undercover agents posed as immigrant smugglers.

"The verdict confirms that Tyson Foods made a concerted effort to hire properly and abide by the law," company spokesman Gary Mickelson said in a statement. "While we're pleased with today's verdict, it's unfortunate that Tyson Foods and our team members were needlessly subjected to this ordeal."

U.S. Attorney Harry Mattice Jr. said the verdict was "frustrating. ... We are consoled by the fact that we did the right thing by bringing this prosecution."

Federal prosecutors presented jurors with hundreds of secretly recorded conversations in which undercover agents and managers of Tyson poultry plants arranged for illegal immigrant workers.

Tyson denied any wrongdoing, contending the illegal activity involved only a few plant managers who independently violated the Springdale, Ark.-based company's "zero tolerance" policy on illegal hiring.

After issuing the verdict, jurors said prosecutors were unconvincing.

"We felt like the government didn't properly present its case. There were a lot of loopholes," said Debra Goldston, 43.

The company and six managers were indicted in 2001. One defendant fatally shot himself and two others — Spencer Mabe and

Truley Ponder — reached plea agreements.

Mabe and Ponder testified for the government, saying they were doing what the company demanded when they went along with hiring illegal immigrants at the Shelbyville plant.

Juror Barbara Hailey, 46, said prosecutors failed to prove a conspiracy at Tyson that went beyond the managers who pleaded guilty.

The government alleged a conspiracy began in 1994 after Tyson managers had trouble hiring legal workers willing to take poultry plant jobs.

U.S. Border Patrol Agent Benito Maldonado told jurors how he and other undercover agents posing as smugglers delivered 136 illegal immigrants to Tyson plants in six states.

The individual defendants — Tyson regional vice president Robert Hash, 50, plant manager Keith Snyder, 44, and former manager Gerald Lankford, 64 — testified they were unaware that illegal immigrants were being hired.

Tyson attorneys said the company and its managers were victims of the government's imperfect system of tracking immigrants.

Most charges in the 36-count indictment were dismissed by federal Judge R. Allan Edgar before the case went to the jury. Left intact were charges of conspiracy, transporting illegal immigrants and document fraud.

If they had been found guilty, the managers would have faced jail time and Tyson would have faced millions in fines and the loss of government contracts.

Tyson, which produces about one-third of the nation's chicken, employs about 120,000 people in 29 states and 22 countries. Last year, the company generated sales of more than \$23 billion.

Court: Janet Reno cannot be sued over Elian Gonzalez raid

BY CATHERINE WILSON
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — Former Attorney General Janet Reno and other federal officials have immunity from an excessive force lawsuit filed by the Miami relatives of young Cuban refugee Elian Gonzalez, an appellate court ruled.

Reno, former Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner and former Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder cannot be sued for their official actions unless it can be shown that they knew the agents would violate the Gonzalez family's rights when they seized the boy, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in a ruling made public Wednesday.

The family failed to meet that standard, the Atlanta-based court said, reversing a lower court ruling.

Family attorney Larry Klayman said a new version of the lawsuit would be filed with language that would meet legal scrutiny.

Armed federal agents removed Elian, then 6, from the family's home before dawn on April 22, 2000, five months after he was rescued from the Atlantic Ocean. His mother and others died trying to reach Florida by boat.

He had been turned over to his Miami relatives pending a ruling on whether he

would be returned to his father in Cuba, but the family balked when the government decided he should go.

Reno ordered the raid, and within hours Elian was reunited with his father. The pair soon returned to Cuba.

The Miami relatives alleged the agents used excessive force. People who were at the house said they were kicked, punched, thrown to the ground, gassed with pepper spray and tear gas, held at gunpoint and restrained.

The court emphasized that it was not ruling on whether excessive force was used.

Holder, now in private practice in Washington, D.C., said he hoped the ruling would help put the issue to rest. Reno and Meissner did not immediately return phone calls. Officials at the Justice Department, which pursued the appeal, declined comment on the ruling.

Armando Gutierrez, who served as a spokesman for the Gonzalez family, said the ruling was "a bad decision, and I hope that the lawyers appeal it."

Kendall Coffey, a former U.S. attorney who was in the house during the raid, acting as a third party negotiating for Elian's surrender, said, "There should be greater accountability rather than immunity when public officials direct operations that result in illegal and unconstitutional actions."

NATIONAL



Cops seek man accused of murder, abducting two nuns

BY SONJA BARISIC

Associated Press Writer

NORFOLK, Va. — The mutilated body of a nun was found Wednesday in a parking lot here Wednesday, three days after she and another nun were abducted in Georgia by a man suspected of slaying his father, authorities said.

The second nun was located in a motel Tuesday, shaken but unharmed, Norfolk police said.

Adrian O'Neill Robinson, 25, was last seen early Wednesday when Norfolk police spotted him driving alone on a dead-end street in the nuns' car. He fled on foot into a marshy area and a search was under way.

Police said human remains were discovered in the car, but did not describe what they were.

A half-hour later in nearby Virginia Beach, the body of Sister Philomena Fogarty, who was in her 60s, was found in an office building parking lot. Authorities said her head, hands and feet had been cut off.

The other nun, 72-year-old Lucie Kristofik, was found Tuesday at a Norfolk hotel. She told authorities Robinson had left the motel sometime Tuesday with Fogarty.

Norfolk police spokesman Chris Amos said no additional murder charges had been filed against Robinson, but said he is the primary suspect in Fogarty's slaying. He also said a rifle was found in the hotel room.

Police have searched for Robinson since Sunday, when he allegedly shot his 56-year-old father, Henry, at

the home they shared in the western Georgia town of Hamilton.

Family members told authorities that Robinson accused his father of sexually assaulting him before shooting him 16 times. He then allegedly abducted the nuns, apparently to use their car.

Kristofik told investigators that the two women came home Sunday to find Robinson inside their home. She said he took \$900 in cash, bound and gagged them, put them in their car and drove to Norfolk, some 570 miles away.

"We don't know if there are any indications that he knew two old ladies would pull up or if this was a sheer crime of opportunity on his part," Amos said.

The search for Robinson focused on the wooded marsh where he was last seen, an area less than a mile from Norfolk State University.

University administrators closed the campus while police searched building to building. No one was to be allowed on campus without proper identification until early Thursday.

Police issued national alerts for Robinson's capture and went through Norfolk streets distributing brightly colored flyers with his picture.

Amos said Robinson is familiar with southeastern Virginia because he briefly attended Old Dominion University in 1997. He also is wanted in Norfolk on a 1998 forgery charge.

The FBI said in a statement that Robinson could be

traveling to Stamford, Conn., with the intention of killing his estranged wife. Police said Robinson faces pending assault and burglary charges in Stamford.

The Rev. Ronnie Madden said the nuns lived alone in a mobile home near Christ the King Catholic Church. Both were members of the order of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Kristofik was a missionary in Pakistan and has lived in Hamilton for about 12 years, he said. Fogarty was from Ireland and was a missionary in Japan. She had lived in Hamilton about 16 years and was well-known in the community, Madden said.

"Sister Philomena was a saint," he said. "She is probably one of the greatest women I have ever met in my life."

Fogarty would have celebrated her 50th anniversary as a nun this year. Residents said she worked to feed the hungry, sold clothes to pay for senior citizens' utility bills and counseled inmates.

"She was considered the Mother Teresa of Harris County," said police Chief Dan Colberg.

Former Senator Moynihan dead at 76

BY DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Former Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a New York City shoeshine boy who became an iconoclastic scholar-politician and served four terms in the Senate, died Wednesday. He was 76.

Moynihan's death was announced on the Senate floor by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who two years ago was elected to the Senate seat Moynihan had held for 24 years.

"We have lost a great American, an extraordinary senator, an intellectual and a man of passion and understanding for what really makes the country work," she said.

The New York Democrat died from complications stemming from a ruptured appendix at 4:15 p.m. Wednesday at the Washington

Hospital Center, hospital officials said. He had undergone surgery on March 11 to remove his appendix, and was moved into intensive care later that week, suffering from infection and pneumonia.

The lanky, pink-faced lawmaker, who preferred bow ties and professorial tweeds to the Senate uniform of lawyer-like pinstripes, reveled in speaking his mind and defying conventional labels.

Known for his ability to spot emerging issues and trends, Moynihan was a leader in welfare reform and transportation initiatives, and an authority on Social Security and foreign policy.

His intellect, and his emphasis on principle before politics, won him the respect of both parties. In more than 30 years of watching the Senate, said former Senate Republican

leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, "I have not known a more brilliant and a more erudite senator."

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said Moynihan was "larger than life," citing a description in the Almanac of American Politics that Moynihan was "the nation's best thinker among politicians since Lincoln and its best politician among thinkers since Jefferson."

Moynihan, said current New York Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer, was "a giant as a thinker, a giant as a senator and a giant as a human being."

Moynihan served in the Senate from 1977 to 2001. After retiring from politics, Moynihan became a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center. Fellow legislators named Manhattan's new federal courthouse in his honor.



briefs

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Public Hearing Set For Westside

Metro Westside/Central is holding a public hearing April 1 on proposed bus service changes for June 2003. It begins at 6:30 p.m. in Hoffman Hall at the Westwood Presbyterian Church, 10822 Wilshire Boulevard. For further information, call 213-922-1200 and press 5.

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MTA Fare Hearing Set For April 12

A public hearing is being held for comments on proposed Metro fare changes. Options being considered are lowering the base fare to \$1.25, replacing transfers and tokens with a \$3 day pass, and increasing pass prices. The hearing will be Saturday, April 12, beginning at 10 a.m. at MTA Headquarters, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles.

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INTERNATIONAL

First humanitarian supplies enter southern Iraq

WAR, from page 1

of the capital as a larger convoy — this one made up of elite Republican Guard forces — moved in the direction of American troops aiming for Saddam's seat of power.

Jumping from low-flying jets into the Iraqi night, an estimated 1,000 paratroopers landed near an airstrip in Kurdish-controlled territory less than 30 miles from the Turkish border.

Hundreds of miles to the south, the unchallenged bombing of Iraqi forces leaving Basra raised hopes that ground troops could soon enter the city, feared at risk for a humanitarian crisis.

The military developments unfolded as the first humanitarian delivery of supplies rolled into southern Iraq, greeted at the border by hungry children.

With American and British forces massing to the south, west and now the north of Baghdad, the Iraqi regime kept much of the news from its own people. Instead, it emphasized a claim that two American cruise missiles had killed 14 civilians in Baghdad and wounded dozens more.

"This war is far from over," President Bush said in a quick trip to the Florida headquarters of U.S. Central Command, which is overseeing the war. Still, he said vic-

tory was only a matter of time, adding, "There will be a day of reckoning for the Iraqi regime, and that day is drawing near."

For the second straight day, swirling sandstorms hampered American units. The bombing campaign was crimped, as well, but Baghdad television was knocked off the air for several hours, and explosions were heard, as well, near the oil-rich city of Kirkuk in the north.

Lt. Col. Thomas Collins, spokesman for the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, confirmed that paratroopers were on the ground, many of them elite Rangers.

"I can only tell you yes, they've gone in. They're on the ground," he said.

American commanders had hoped to move a large force into northern Iraq from Turkey. But the parliament refused to allow that, and the parachute drop was the beginning of an alternative plan.

Harriers and Tornado jets flying out of Kuwait attacked the Iraqi convoy leaving Basra, a city of more than 1 million people in southern Iraq, according to a British military source. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the column included as many as 120 vehicles, tanks and other armored vehicles.

Irregular Iraqi troops have prevented British troops from entering Basra, Iraq's second-largest city and site of a reported uprising by local civilians against Saddam's defenders. International aid officials have repeatedly expressed fears of an outbreak of disease, given the interruption of power and water supplies.

Details were sketchy, as well, about Iraqi troop movements to the north. Some officials said a huge convoy of perhaps 1,000 vehicles and members of Saddam's elite Republican Guard were moving south, in the direction of Marines making their way toward the capital.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said a "few vehicles" were moving south toward Karbala, site of a major land battle on Tuesday. "They're being engaged as we find them," he said.

U.S. officials blame the Fedayeen units for much of the resistance that has hampered the American-led advance through Iraq, accusing them of faking surrender only to shoot Americans and enforcing discipline among regular Iraqi army troops who may be less willing to fight.

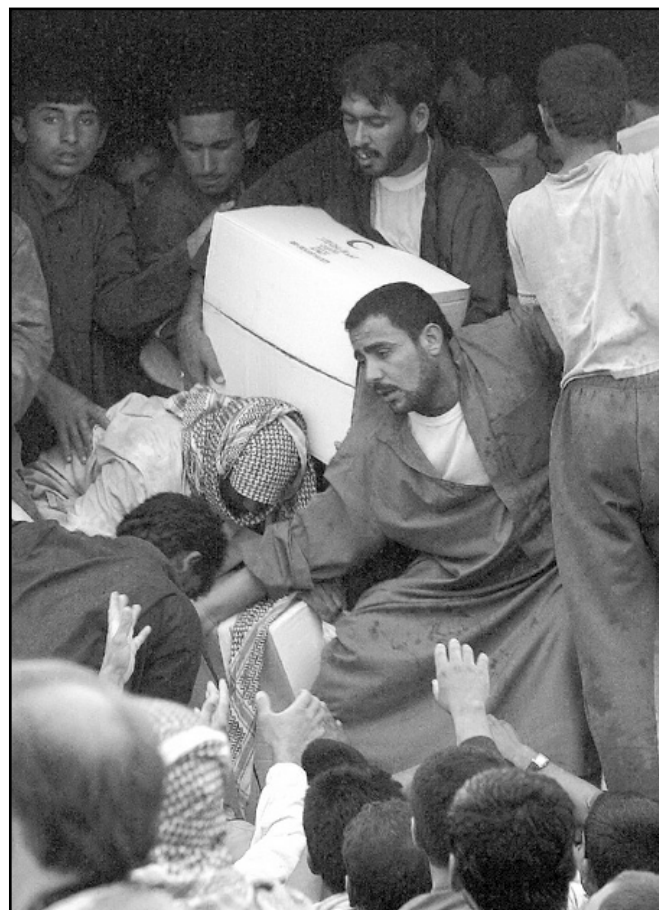
One Defense Department official said commanders were surprised by the Fedayeen's capability and military commanders were changing their tactics.

"We're going into a hunting mode right now," said Marine Lt. Col. B.T. McCoy in Iraq.

Iraqi officials said 30 civilians were injured, some badly, when two American missiles landed in a residential Baghdad neighborhood of homes and small shops.

Associated Press Television News video showed bodies wrapped in plastic sheeting in the back of a pickup truck and streets that had flooded after water pipes ruptured. Flames rose above the burning buildings, mixing with smoke from fires Iraqis have lit to try to obscure targets for American combat pilots.

American military officials issued a statement saying that civilian damage was "possible" after an aerial attack aimed at nine Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles. "The mis-



Gustavo Ferrari/Associated Press

Iraqi young men struggle to get boxes of food from a trailer brought to Safwan, Iraq by the Kuwait Red Crescent on Wednesday.

siles and launchers were placed within a civilian residential area," it said.

The first sizable relief convoy rolled across the border toward the southern port city of Umm Qasr, laden with water, boxes of tuna, crackers, sweets and other food.

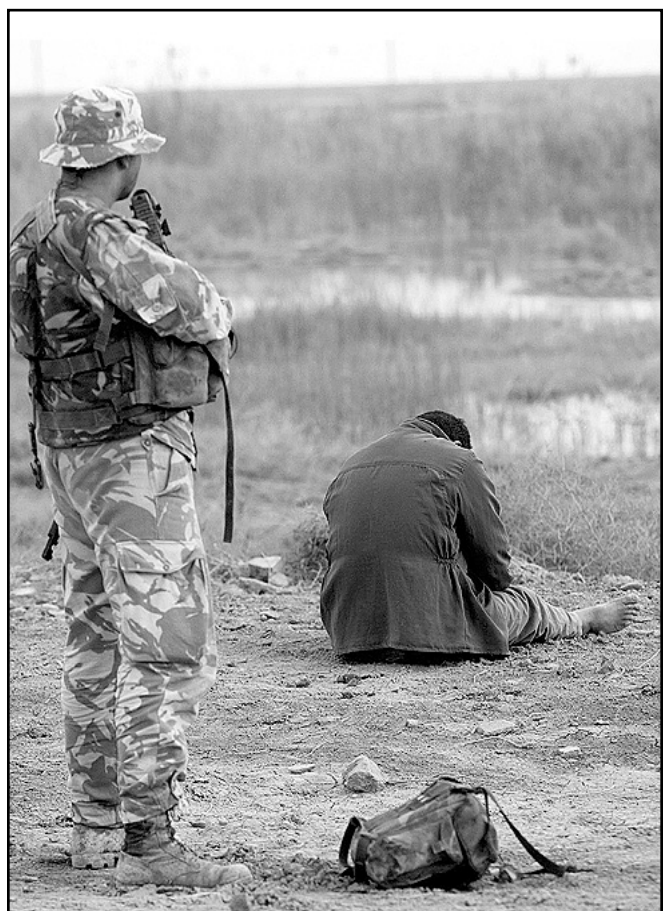
Children greeted the trucks as they rumbled into Iraq from Kuwait, including a boy of about 10 who pointed to his mouth and shouted "Eat, eat."

In the border town of Safwan, the arrival of a relief convoy from the Kuwait's Red Crescent Society triggered fighting among young Iraqis, some shoeless and dirty, over the white boxes of supplies.

Bush was greeted with enthusiasm by hundreds of members of the armed forces on his trip to MacDill Air Force Base, home of the U.S. Central Command.

He offered a bullish account of the war effort to date, saying U.S. and British forces "have taken control of hundreds of square miles of territory to prevent the launch of missiles and chemical or biological weapons."

Even so, he tempered his prepared remarks, according to one official who spoke on condition of anonymity, deleting a phrase that said the operation was "ahead of schedule." Bush is aware, this official said, that humanitarian supplies did not flow within the 36-hour timetable he set Sunday, and that Iraqi tactics and resistance are tougher than military planners had hoped.



Terry Richards/POOL/Associated Press

British corporal Steve Ritson looks on at an Iraqi Baath Party member, captured by 40 Commando Royal Marines, south east of Basra, Iraq on Wednesday.

Pakistan, India trade nuclear-capable missile tests

BY PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan and India conducted tit-for-tat nuclear-capable missile tests Wednesday, pushing their decades-old conflict to the fore with a whoosh of steel and a payload of charged invective.

The United States may be focused on the war in Iraq, but the dual missile tests served as a reminder that the world's other conflicts continue.

India on Wednesday also accused Pakistan of having a hand in this week's murder of 24 Hindus in disputed Kashmir, and the two countries exchanged heavy artillery across the cease-fire line dividing the Himalayan province between them.

Pakistan condemned the massacre by

suspected Islamic separatists and called for an independent inquiry. Analysts in Pakistan said they feared New Delhi might be trying to take advantage of the U.S. war in Iraq to ratchet up tensions over Kashmir.

"There is always the danger that India will try something while the United States' attention is on Iraq. We would be foolish not to be wary," Shireen Mazari, head of Pakistan's Institute of Strategic Study, said after Wednesday's tests. "If the international community does not come down hard on India, tension could rise."

Ironically, one of the only things Pakistan and India have agreed on recently is their opposition to the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Leaders of both countries have called for a quick end to the conflict while avoiding outright criticism of Washington.

The South Asian rivals have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947 — two of them over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

Tension spiked following a December 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament that New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-backed Islamic militants and Pakistan's spy agency. Pakistan denied the charge.

Both sides rushed hundreds of thousands of troops to the border, raising fear of a nuclear exchange, before the conflict was averted amid intense international diplomacy.

Most of the troops have withdrawn but missile tests, charged rhetoric and diplomatic expulsions continue.

On Wednesday, India fired first — announcing it shot off a Prithvi missile from

its Chandipur testing range in the eastern state of Orissa. The missile has a range of 95 miles and can carry a nuclear payload.

Pakistan followed hours later with an announcement that it tested its Abdali surface-to-surface missile, which has a range of 132 miles with similar nuclear capabilities. Officials would not give details about where or when the test was conducted.

Pakistani officials complained that India had fired the Prithvi without prior warning — a breach of the normal etiquette in South Asia's complex game of nuclear bravado.

"They didn't tell us about it beforehand," Foreign Ministry spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan said.

Khan said India was informed Tuesday of Pakistan's plans to conduct its missile test.

SPORTS



Kickin' it



Roberto Borea/Associated Press

Michelle Kwan of the United States competes in the ladies qualifying free skate event of the World Figure Skating Championships at the MCI Center in Washington D.C., on Wednesday.

No change in overtime, playoff expansion tabled

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

PHOENIX — NFL owners changed nothing.

The league closed its annual spring meeting Wednesday by voting down a proposal to give both teams a shot at the ball in overtime. And it tabled a proposal to expand the playoffs from 12 teams to 14.

The plan to change the overtime rule got 17 votes, seven short of the 24 required for passage.

"They made the decision because the current system presents a tremendous reward or risk. That's something that adds a lot of excitement to the game," said Indianapolis general manager Bill Polian, who helped convince the other teams by citing the Colts' 23-20 win overtime win over the Broncos in the Denver snow.

The expansion of the playoffs got more support than either commissioner Paul Tagliabue or competition committee chairman Rich McKay expected.

But it was tabled until the league's May meeting in Philadelphia because, Tagliabue said, the league had to study the ramifications for both competition and television coverage involved in adding two wild-card teams.

Some teams also are concerned that only one team would have a bye under the proposed system. And both Tagliabue and McKay noted it was a change in an agreement to wait two years with the new eight-division alignment before tinkering with the playoffs.

"We had no problems last year with the alignment," said McKay, Tampa Bay's general manager. "The teams that made the playoffs were the teams with the best records."

The change in overtime was proposed after a record 25 games went into an extra session last year. Ten of those were won by a team on its first possession and 58 percent were won by the team that won the coin toss at the start of the OT.

One of those was the game in Denver,

which seemed to sway many teams.

In that contest, which was televised nationally, the Colts' Mike Vanderjagt tied the game with a 54-yard field goal in regulation. Indianapolis then won the coin toss in overtime and moved the ball far enough for Vanderjagt to try a 51-yarder into the wind, which he made.

Polian said that if it wasn't sudden death, coach Tony Dungy certainly would have chosen to punt; he sent the punting team on the field until Vanderjagt convinced him to try the field goal.

"That game made our season," Polian said. "It's probably the main reason we made the playoffs. If there had been two possessions, a defensive-minded coach like Tony certainly would have tried to pin them back. That would have been the right call. But the reward for kicking was much greater — we won the game on the spot."

In another move, the league changed the rules involving onside kicks in the final five minutes of games.

In the past, if a ball did not go 10 yards, went out of bounds, or was touched illegally, the kicking team was penalized, but had a chance to kick again from five yards back. McKay said that while that was rewarding a team for an illegal play, coaches wanted it retained; the coaches feared teams would stop trying surprise onside kicks.

It finally passed when it was amended to cover only the final five minutes, when a trailing team often tries to get back in the game by getting another possession through an onside kick.

The owners also spent considerable time discussing racial diversity in hiring practices. There was no agreement, however, on what discipline to take against the Detroit Lions, who hired coach Steve Mariucci without meeting the new guidelines to interview at least one minority candidate.

The Lions said that five prospective black candidates turned them down because it was clear that Mariucci was the first choice for the job.

Tomjanovich takes leave for cancer treatment

BY MICHAEL A. LUTZ

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich knew what he had to do, for himself and the team: He is taking an indefinite leave to treat his bladder cancer.

The 54-year-old coach broke the news to his players Wednesday in an emotional team meeting. The Rockets are vying for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

"At this critical part of the season, this team, any team, needs a coach who has got to give 100 percent of his thoughts to helping the team," Tomjanovich said. As much as I love this team, I know my thoughts would be on some other things."

Tomjanovich missed the team's recent five-game road trip and had been expected to rejoin the team for Wednesday night's home game against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Assistant Larry Smith will continue to coach the Rockets during Tomjanovich's absence.

When Tomjanovich was asked if he saw any possibility of not returning next season, he said "not in my mind."

Tomjanovich, in his 12th season as head coach, led the Rockets to consecutive NBA titles in 1994 and 1995. He's acrobatic on the sidelines and he said that would be hard to contain.

"When I coach, I put everything I have into it," Tomjanovich said. "I come out of games and need ice packs. With all the Adrenalin flowing, that can't be good for a healing situation. It just doesn't make sense."

Guard Steve Francis said the team meeting was difficult.

"I didn't look at him in the face," he said. "It was hard. Then again, it wasn't like he was on his sick bed. Coach is real-

ly an emotional guy whether he's telling you you did something wrong or explaining that he's not feeling well."

Tomjanovich was diagnosed on March 18 with the transitional cell cancer on his bladder that doctors said would be treatable with medication.

Team physician Dr. James Muntz said there had been no change in the diagnosis.

"The only change in his condition is he's calm, he's optimistic," Muntz said. "One of the issues that came up was that treatment should start next week. It became obvious that his treatments should come on time and not juggling something at 10 at night that should have been done at 3 p.m."

Smith says the Rockets can do Tomjanovich a favor by winning.

"I love the guy," he said. "I'm just happy that he's going to be OK. Now, this is our job to go and get wins and we'll do everything in our power to do so. He wouldn't want it any other way."

The team initially said Tomjanovich would rejoin the team during the West Coast road swing, then announced he would miss the entire trip. The Rockets went 2-3 under Smith.

Until his absence on the road trip, Tomjanovich had not missed a game in 11 seasons as a head coach.

Tomjanovich said he got over a bladder infection about a month ago and went for routine follow-up testing. One came back negative but another was positive. That led to the more extensive test March 17 that confirmed the abnormal cells.

"It's hard to deal with," forward Glen Rice said. "What makes it easier is to deal with it and talk about it, and that's what we've got to do. I think we'll react good. Just seeing him gave the team a lift, to see him being strong."

Dodgers' Carrara on waivers

By The Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Right-hander Giovanni Carrara, a stalwart in the Los Angeles Dodgers' bullpen the last two years, was placed on waivers by the team Wednesday for the purpose of giving him his unconditional release.

"I never thought this was going to happen," Carrara said. "I knew I was struggling this spring."

Carrara was 1-0 with an 8.31 ERA this spring, allowing 12 earned runs in 13 innings. He was 6-1 with a 3.16 ERA in 85 1-3 innings in 2001 and 6-3 with a 3.28 ERA in 90 2-3 innings last year, working as a long reliever and setup man.

The 35-year-old Carrara had a non-guaranteed contract of \$790,000. He will receive \$194,262 from the Dodgers. Wednesday was the final day teams were allowed to put players with non-guaranteed contracts on waivers to avoid paying their full salary.

"He can still pitch and help major league baseball teams. This is a sign of the times. Our pitching staff has improved itself," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said.

Dodgers general manager Dan Evans said the team has offered Carrara a spot in the starting rotation for Triple-A Las Vegas if he clears waivers.

"This is a really good person, he's a real pro," Evans said. "But from a personnel standpoint, it just didn't fit."

Evans said the Dodgers are moving right-hander Andy Ashby to the bullpen, meaning Hideo Nomo, Odalis Perez, Kevin Brown, Kazuhisa Ishii and Darren Dreifort will comprise the starting rotation to begin the season.

The move makes it possible for the Dodgers to include a left-hander, perhaps Wilson Alvarez or Tom Martin, in their bullpen.

"Nobody knows what's going on," Alvarez said. "They say they're going to let us know in L.A."

The Dodgers have a strong bullpen. Eric Gagne had a franchise-record 52 saves in 56 chances last year in his first season as a closer and Paul Quantrill and Paul Shuey were effective in setup roles.

"I think this tells you about the depth we have here. If you have to release Giovanni Carrara because of numbers, then it must be phenomenal. Gio's a front-line guy on most teams," Quantrill said.



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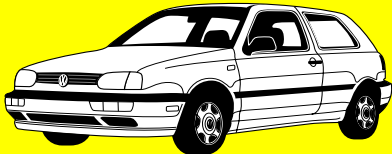
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ESTATE SALE: Kitchen, furni-
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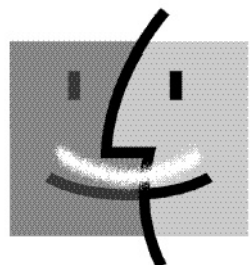
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SANTA MONICA SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2003

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

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PEOPLE 55 AND OLDER.

Current openings in Men's Group. Thursdays, 11:15 to 12:45. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

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THE WELLNESS LECTURE SERIES hosted by the SM Family YMCA presents ANXIETY DISORDERS. Dr. Maidenberg will discuss how to cope with panic attacks, shyness, and anxiety disorders. 12pm to 1:30pm, Santa Monica YMCA, 1332 Sixth St., Community Room, 2nd Floor. FREE admission for YMCA & Community Members. Register in advance at the Member Service Desk, or call Santa Monica Family YMCA at (310)393-2721.

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.

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MOVIE GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
About Schmidt (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. **View From the Top (PG-13)** 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15. **The Hours (PG-13)** 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. **Willard (PG-13)** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:20. **How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13)** 12:45, 3:45, 7:20, 10:15. **Tears of the Sun (R)** 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00. **Old School (R)** 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. **Dreamcatcher (R)** 12:30, 1:30, 3:40, 4:45, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Piglet's Big Movie (G) 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:45. **Agent Cody Banks (PG)** 1:35, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15. **Chicago (PG-13)** 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:05. **Daredevil (PG-13)** 1:50, 7:25. **The Hunted (2003) (R)** 1:40, 4:10, 9:50. **The Life of David Gale (R)** 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15. **Boat Trip (R)** 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:25. **Gangs of New York (R)** 4:05, 9:45.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 3:45, 7:00, 10:15.

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, 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.



BACK PAGE

Rialto parents saw Marine son's body on television

BY SANDRA MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

RIALTO — Rosa and Mario Gonzalez were flipping through TV channels on Sunday when they saw footage of an Iraqi soldier showing off the dead body of an American serviceman.

When they took a closer look, they thought they recognized the body as their son, Marine Cpl. Jorge A. Gonzalez.

"I said to myself, it's not him," Mario Gonzalez said Wednesday. "All day Sunday, we were in shock. We would close our eyes and see those images."

Military officials went to the Gonzalez's home 60 miles east of Los Angeles on Monday to inform them of their son's death. For the parents, it was a painful confirmation of what they had suspected.

"I ran them out of here," Rosa Gonzalez said. "I told them, 'Leave. I want my son. Alive, like you promised him to me.'"

Gonzalez, 20, was killed over the weekend near the town of An Nasiriyah. Based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., he was married and his first child, Alonso, was born on March 4, just weeks after he left for the Middle East.

A letter from Gonzalez arrived at the family home on Tuesday, written while he was still in Kuwait. He had just spoken to his wife by phone and learned about the birth of their son.

He told his family not to worry and said he looked forward to coming home: "If you can wait a little longer, we'll see each other in summer. God willing," the letter states.

In tears, Rosa Gonzalez called the letter a "gift."

Both parents are originally from Mexico but met in California and married in 1980. Mario Gonzalez is a

truck driver and Rosa Gonzalez is a housewife. Their son was the second-oldest of six siblings and graduated from El Monte High School.

His father described him as an obedient son who loved watching over his brothers and sisters. The avid soccer fan had long dreamed of joining the Marines and using that experience to become a police officer.

"I said to myself, it's not him."

— MARIO GONZALEZ
Father

His father warned him of the dangers of joining the military, but his son wouldn't be talked out of it.

"He always admired the Marines," his father said.

The family last saw Gonzalez and his wife at Christmas and were surprised to see that she was pregnant with their child.

"It was really beautiful," Mario Gonzalez said. "It's a memory I will hold on to."

During the visit, Jorge took his siblings to the mall, bought them toys and played in the backyard swimming pool.

The parents said they saw their son on footage originally shown on the Arab network Al-Jazeera that was rebroadcast on Spanish-language Telemundo on Sunday. In the footage, four bodies could be seen lying on the floor of a room.

Over the weekend, Al-Jazeera aired video footage provided by the Iraqi government that showed dead and cap-

tured soldiers. At least two of the interviewed prisoners said they were with the Army's 507th Maintenance Company, part of the 111th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

A senior defense official said the Pentagon did not know precisely how many captives there might be and would not identify the unit.

The footage was broadcast around the world. U.S. networks initially declined to show it, but some have since shown parts of the tape that does not reveal identifying features.

It is not clear whether Al-Jazeera has aired any footage of dead Marines.

Stephanie Thomas, manager of the Al-Jazeera bureau in Washington, D.C., said she didn't know whether the dead American servicemen shown on the tape were Army soldiers or Marines. The Pentagon referred questions about the death of Gonzalez to the Marine Corps Public Affairs unit in Washington, D.C. Maj. Mike Neumann, a spokesman for the unit, said he had no further details about Gonzalez and could not comment about whether he was shown on the video.

Mario Gonzalez said that in one sense he was glad to have seen the footage because it let him know his son had died with a peaceful expression on his face. Still, he does not believe it should have been aired.

"When there are such raw images, they should not show them to the public," he said. "It's too cruel."

Telemundo has come under criticism for airing footage of dead soldiers.

"Somebody made a mistake," Joe Peyronnin, Telemundo's executive vice president for news, told the Los Angeles Times. "And we're sorry."

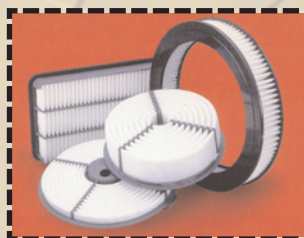
Network officials did not immediately respond to a request by The Associated Press for further comment.

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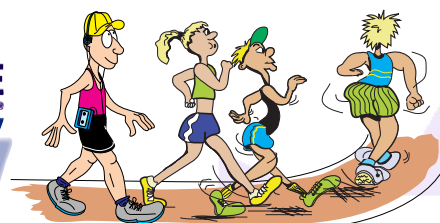


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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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