

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Picked fresh daily. 100% organic news.

Double murder suspect kills self in Nebraska

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
AND ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writers

A Santa Monica man suspected of killing his wife and her mother committed suicide in Nebraska on Wednesday as police closed in on him.

Shortly after 6 p.m. Tuesday, Santa Monica Police were notified by the Los Angeles Police Department of the murder of Anna Catherine Hughes, 66, of Westchester. Her body was found in her residence about 2:50 p.m.

Several hours later, Santa Monica police officers went to the home of William Wheeler Jr., 41, and his estranged wife at the 2300 block of Ocean Park Boulevard, where they found the body of a 37-year-old white female.

The Los Angeles Coroner's Office has not determined the cause of death for either victim and would not release the Santa Monica woman's name. Neighbors identified the dead woman as Maureen Hughes and said the couple was separated, though they would see each other often.

Police in Los Angeles knew Wheeler had relatives in Kimball, Neb., and alerted law enforcement there to be on the lookout for his car. Kimball police located the car in front of the residence about 4 a.m. MST, and contacted the county sheriff's office and the Nebraska State Patrol.

Nebraska authorities kept the residence under surveillance for two hours while they obtained a search warrant. At about 6 a.m., SWAT teams approached the home. Wheeler

then attempted to flee in his car.

He got about eight blocks before police blocked the streets. Realizing he was caught, Wheeler fatally shot himself. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

On Wednesday evening, several neighbors and friends gathered outside the couple's apartment door to light prayer candles for Hughes and leave flowers in her memory. They joined hands and prayed for her.

"She was a sweet gentle lady," said a neighbor, who did not want to give her name. "She was very friendly and always full of life."

Said another nearby resident, "She would always wave and say hello. She made you feel real neighborly."

Hughes grew up in the Santa

See MURDER, page 3



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

A neighbor stands outside the apartment where police found the body of a 37-year-old woman Tuesday night.

Promenade restaurant owner sues to find out fair market rent

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The owner of the Reel Inn on the Third Street Promenade is suing his landlord so a judge can determine the fair market rent for restaurants along the popular shopping corridor.

And while one local real estate expert said there's technically no difference between rent for retail stores and rent for restaurants, an ordinance recently passed by the Santa Monica City Council says otherwise.

"(Landlord David Goldstein) remains convinced the

value of the space is worth substantially more than what I can figure it," said Reel Inn owner Andy Leonard, who described the restaurant's building as run-down and in need of repairs.

Calls to Goldstein for comment were not returned Wednesday.

When Leonard negotiated his lease five years ago rent at his restaurant at 1220 Third Street was set at \$4 a square foot. Now he said Goldstein is asking for \$6.50 — more than a 60 percent increase.

See REEL INN, page 3

Contestant goes to hospital after NBC game show stunt goes awry

BY LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — A contestant on a new NBC game show was hospitalized Wednesday after a stunt in which he held his breath under water for two minutes.

The 26-year-old man was alert and conscious when paramedics arrived at a downtown studio but was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital as a precaution, Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey said.

NBC identified the man only as a Los Angeles personal trainer. He

requested information about his condition be withheld, hospital spokeswoman Mari Bregman said Wednesday. The local NBC station, KNBC, reported he was stable.

In the 911 emergency call requesting help, the caller said the man was unconscious, Humphrey said. But in a statement, NBC said both the man and his competitor on "Dog Eat Dog" remained conscious during the stunt in which they were suspended by their ankles underwater.

When paramedics arrived at the Los Angeles studio, the man was

"conscious, alert, breathing on his own and talkative," Humphrey said.

A safety cord apparatus pulled the man and his competitor from the water, paramedic Ray Crawford told KTLA-TV. Submerged supervisors also were on hand and could end the contest, NBC said.

The episode was the first shot for "Dog Eat Dog," which does not have an air date, NBC said.

"Dog Eat Dog" is a production of NBC Studios and BBC Worldwide, an NBC spokesman said. It is loosely based on the British show "Dog Eat Dog."

Ocean Ave. now Barnard Way

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The city council Tuesday voted to re-name a portion of Ocean Avenue, affecting hundreds of residents who will now have to change their addresses.

Nine apartment buildings, one home and a hotel will now reside on Barnard Way, after council members decided Ocean Avenue was too confusing. Staff will meet with the residents to discuss the changes in a public forum.

Ocean Avenue runs from the northern city limits to Pico Boulevard, where it veers towards the Pacific Ocean and continues to Hollister Avenue. Traveling south of Pico Boulevard on Ocean Avenue toward Hollister Avenue the street name suddenly changes to Barnard Way.

See BARNARD, page 3

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Santa Monica's Daily Calendar



Get Involved!

Surfrider Foundation - Malibu Chapter, will have speaker Suzanne Goode of the State Parks Department discuss current issues in Lower Topanga Restoration Project. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Hosts: Selling International (in the old Rapp Saloon), 1436 Second Street. For more information call (310) 451-1010.

Want to be on the A-List? Send your calendar items to the Santa Monica Daily Press!

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Juggle your schedule and please others. You often are very strong-willed, getting what you most desire. Make that extra effort. Though you might be quite serious about an offer, others might be hesitant. Help a special person make a dream become reality. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might be more tired than you realize. Take your time making a decision. Work through a problem that involves an associate and finances. Don't mix money and friendship, or you could be sorry later. Listen to a wise friend. Tonight: Get some extra R & R.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Allow your imagination to help you figure out how to appease someone and to help this person as well. Remember, pride might be an issue, so tread with care. Relax with a friend rather than being unusually somber. You might have more answers than you realize. Tonight: You can't help it if you're in weekend mode.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Your family demands your attention. Though you have something you must do, know when to pull back. Another has a strong point of view. Be reasonable with your requests. Think carefully about a financial matter that makes you uneasy. Tonight: Mosey on home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Review a note, letter or e-mail before you jump to conclusions. Also, make sure to save all your e-mail right now, because information could get lost. A friend might be unusually austere or serious. Help this person open up. Tonight: Hang at a favorite spot.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Be careful when dealing with finances, especially as a mistake could happen way too easily. A boss might try your temper; listen to what he or she wants. If you're open, creativity takes you in a new direction with your superior — don't push. Tonight: Treat another like a king or queen.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Emphasis is on you. You might be juggling more than you can handle. Consider what you want from a partner or associate. News from a distance could sober up a very playful moment. Avoid going to extremes, if possible. Tonight: You're in the spotlight.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ Slow down enough so that you can follow through on your priorities. Another might be full of play and, naturally, enjoys him- or herself. Review a personal matter more carefully, knowing full well what you want. Keep your own counsel for now. Tonight: Get some extra Z's.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Reach out to friends. You find that pressure from others comes forward as you attempt to juggle different interests. Listen to your sixth sense with a partner who could be a bit cool or touchy. Your imagination will help pry this person open. Tonight: Where the action is.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Some days you feel like tossing your hands in the air. You have exactly such a day when commotion triggers. A boss wants one thing; a parent, perhaps, another; and a roommate yet another. You might not know which way to turn. Tonight: A must show.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Another listens carefully to your perspective, though he or she might not give you the recognition you crave or desire. Consider what your objective is, especially surrounding a loved one or a child. You know how to inspire others. Tonight: Use your magnetism.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Deal with finances head-on. You might not like what you are hearing from another, but you cannot reverse it either. A family member could be unusually serious or somber. An inspired idea lightens up the situation. Tonight: Let another make a suggestion.



QUOTE of the DAY

"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

— Derek Bok

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LOCAL □ STATE



Restaurant owners say they can't compete with retail

REEL INN, from page 1

Leonard wants the court to rule that three independent surveys must be taken of what market rate rents on the Promenade are. He said he would pay the average of the two highest survey findings.

Rents on the Promenade currently are between \$8-\$10 a square foot, while locations just off the shopping corridor go for roughly half that amount, one real estate expert said.

"A restaurant may be a couple bucks (a square foot) below that, but it depends on the size of their place," said Rob York, a real estate and retail consultant for The Bayside District Corporation. "But on average you're going to find retail can pay more."

According to several local real estate experts, Goldstein didn't want to renew the Reel Inn's lease because Apple Computers Inc., wanted the space for a store selling the company's products.

But the city council passed a temporary moratorium, forbidding landlords from renting spaces currently occupied by restaurants to new retail stores has a loophole, Leonard said. City and business officials are currently studying how much retail and restaurant space should be on the Promenade.

That loophole states that only 5 percent of the existing restaurant square footage on each block of the four-block Promenade can be converted to retail space while the moratorium is in effect. The 5 percentage change can occur only once.

"...All the new restaurants are off the Promenade on Wilshire or Second or Fourth where the rents are much lower."

—ANDY LEONARD
Reel Inn owner

The council passed the measure because it feared all restaurants along the Promenade would soon be squeezed out because of increasing rents thanks to an influx of large, nationwide retail stores.

Restaurant owners have said they can't compete with the going rents.

"Virtually every restaurant on The Promenade had to

bid against retail to get their space," Leonard said. "That's why all the new restaurants are off the Promenade on Wilshire or Second or Fourth where the rents are much lower."

Goldstein wanted to convert part of the space currently occupied by the Reel Inn into an Apple Computer store so the percentage change on the 1200 block of Third Street would have been below the five percent threshold, Leonard said.

Local officials agreed that the five percent "flexibility clause" in the ordinance could be used to convert some restaurants into retail stores, although they did not believe it would have a huge effect.

"In some cases there is enough to allow a restaurant to still be converted into a retail use," York said. "But for the most part it won't be happening all over the marketplace."

The deal with Apple fell through in the end because the computer company needed more space than Goldstein could give them and still stay under the five percent threshold, local business leaders said.

"There has been a couple of deals floated that won't be pursued or happen because of the moratorium," York said. "It was the primary sticking point to why the Apple deal didn't go through."

Neighbors describe dead woman as 'sweet, friendly'

MURDER, from page 1

Monica area and was close to her family, the neighbors and friends said. She went to college at Loyola Marymount where she received an accounting degree. Neighbors said she had worked for e-Toys, and then as an accountant somewhere in Santa Monica after the e-commerce company went under.

Anne, who described herself as a close friend of Maureen Hughes but wouldn't give her last name, said she knew the couple was having marital difficulties but didn't think Wheeler would harm his wife.

"She was never specific but I know he was never physical with her," Anne said. "He was very verbal, but he never physically hurt her."

Another neighbor described

Wheeler as "a loud one — a real brow-beater."

"You didn't hear her much," she said. "She always tried to joke things away."

Neighbors described the couple as devoutly Mormon, though they said Wheeler had begun to act differently of late.

"He started to change," one neighbor said. "He was a corporate guy — he worked in an office and everything. But then he started shaving his head and growing a mohawk."

It was unclear what Wheeler did for a living.

Neighbors said they last saw Hughes at the apartment Friday afternoon.

Police evacuated the four apartments in the one-story, white stucco apartment build-

ing located at 2312 Ocean Park Blvd. around 9 p.m. Tuesday, neighbors said.

A Los Angeles Police Department SWAT team then burst through the front door of Hughes and Wheeler's apartment. Police believed Wheeler was still in the apartment at the time and was armed.

Investigators stayed at the apartment until 6 a.m. Wednesday. They then boarded up the door with plywood and bolted it shut. The blinds were pulled shut but the lights were left on.

"There were tons and tons of police," said one neighbor. "It seemed like every 20 minutes more police officers would arrive from someplace different."

Street name changed to alleviate confusion

BARNARD, from page 1

Council members agreed that it will be less confusing for residents and visitors if the entire street from Pico Boulevard to the southern city limit had the same name, which will now be Barnard Way.

The city council in 1966 honored former mayor Benjamin Barnard by renaming "The Speedway" and a portion of Ocean Avenue to Barnard Way. Within a couple of months, the council changed its decision and the Ocean Avenue portion was reinstated.

The issue came up nearly a year ago when the council approved the renaming of what is now Ocean Way, Ocean Front Walk and Pacific Terrace, in an attempt to eliminate confusion and duplication with similarly named streets. The council asked staff to investigate renaming Ocean Avenue south of Pico Boulevard and the access road to the Pacific Coast Highway.

The council also will rename the access road to the PCH, which is only known as "former route 187."

SF-based organization grants \$140,000 to preserve 39 films

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The National Film Preservation Foundation granted a total of \$140,000 to 26 archives across the country to help preserve 39 culturally significant films.

Among the films to be preserved are footage clandestinely shot on board the Exodus as it carried Jewish refugees to Palestine in 1974; William S. Hart's first Western feature, "The Bargain," shot in 1914 at the Grand Canyon; and the 1938-1939 "White Water and Black Magic" Amazon expedition that learned the secret of the anesthetic curare.

A grant panel that met Tuesday in New York City awarded the federal grants.

The NFPPF, based in San Francisco, is a nonprofit organization created by the U.S. Congress to save America's film heritage.

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OPINION LETTERS

Trust James, a Bubba Gump isn't good

Editor:

Nice article (Wednesday). It's amazing that I have not heard anything about this. The Santa Monica PRC is crooked, keeping members on to finish dirty business. I don't see what A Bubba Gump will do for the community. I have seen what It did for Monterey, Ca.

Trust me it's not good. How does one go about getting appointed to the PRC? I'm not defending Naia Sheffield. Maybe if she kept her restaurant looking a bit better than an "eyesore" then she wouldn't be facing eviction. But a Bubba Gump!

Why don't they just line the pier with Outback Steakhouse, Claimjumpers, Chili's, TGIFriday's, and Ramano's Macaroni Grill? Then we'll really be happenin'!

James Rizopulos
Santa Monica

Shame on you, Mayor Feinstein

Editor:

So Mayor Feinstein, you're "sickened and embarrassed" by the Boathouse decision?

Why don't you try walking down Main Street from Ocean Park to Marine Way any evening if you truly want to be "sickened and embarrassed."

If you do, you will be aggressively accosted, panhandled, bumped, spat upon, shoved, followed, shouted at, blocked, sworn at and threatened.

I'm not speaking metaphorically. I'm literally referring to public safety and public health dangers.

Public Safety: people are stealing shopping carts, newspapers, coffee, condiments, chairs, food, clothing.

Public Health: people are sleeping in doorways on the sidewalks (to say nothing of sleeping on the beach and on top of the restrooms), spitting, smoking pot, urinating, defecating, copulating and turning over trash receptacles.

Everything I have described to you I have recently witnessed on or near Main Street, Santa Monica. And I am "sickened and embarrassed," not by the human tragedy on the street but your inability to make our city safe and livable.

Shame on you.

Paul Kuzniar
Santa Monica

Future Barnard Park resident confused

Editor:

Thank you for the confusing article on the confusing Ocean Avenue entitled "Confusing part of Ocean Avenue may be re-named."

Confusing because I live on Marine Street, which is the same as Barnard Way at the end of Main Street where it just about turns into Venice, which was not covered by your map. I just hope that the City Council does not change Marine Street into Barnard Way too. Ocean Park will not become Barnard Park will it? Just checking.

Hank Rosenfeld
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 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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ENTERTAINMENT



Jodie Foster jumps into 'Panic Room' character

BY SEAN DALY
Special to the Daily Press

"Embarrassing."

That's how Jodie Foster describes her early performances in "Bugsy Malone," "Candlehoe" and "The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane."

"I can't watch that stuff anymore," the two-time Oscar-winner admitted. "It was such an awkward age for me. If I could just cross out everything I did between the ages of 14 and 16, I would."

Now 40 and a single mom to Charles, 3, and Kit, 4 months, Foster is considerably more enthusiastic about her latest project - the dramatic thriller "Panic Room," opening Friday.

"I was five months pregnant when we made this movie," Foster said during a round of interviews in Los Angeles. "You can see that if you are really paying attention."

In "Panic Room," a newly divorced mother (Foster) and her 10 year-old daughter (newcomer Kristin Stewart) become trapped in a secret hidden chamber inside their New York City brownstone during a dramatic home invasion robbery.

"I'm not a very paranoid person," Foster said, "but if there is a message in this movie, I think it is: 'Do not get a panic room!'"

Foster, a 1985 graduate of Yale University, who excels at kickboxing, karate and aerobics, took over the role of Meg Altman when Golden Globe winner Nicole Kidman injured her knee during the first days of filming.

"I'm a good candidate for jumping blindly into a role," the actress said, laughing. "I did it before on 'Maverick' — I took over for Meg Ryan."

Call it experience paying off. After all, Foster has been in show business for nearly her entire life.

The Southern California native made her professional acting debut — bare bodied — in a Coppertone suntan lotion commercial at age three. By 12, Foster earned her first of four Academy Award nominations for the portrayal of a teenage prostitute in "Taxi Driver."

In 1989, Foster collected her own Best Actress statue for "The Accused." She earned another three years later for "The Silence of The Lambs."

"I used to keep (the statues) right next to my bathtub," she said, laughing. "But they started getting corroded, so now they are in a little trophy case."

Despite her success as an actress, director and producer, Foster said she wouldn't push her own children into show business.

"I'd try to support them if it was something they wanted to do," she said. "But I wouldn't want to be involved in their career because I think that is a mistake. I think it's important for kids to know that they can run home to you as a parent and your love for them doesn't have anything to do with their work."

"It's important to separate the two."

So far, Foster said motherhood is going "just great" the second time around.

"Now that I've had a toddler, a preschooler, newborns are like...they're a piece of cake," she said. "I mean, you put them down, and they don't move. They just sleep. They don't crawl away. They

don't fight you."

Foster, whose sexual identity has often been the subject of speculation, is quick to dodge any personal questions about her children and prefers not to reveal the identity of their father. She is, however, happy to share a few other tidbits about herself:

For starters, her real name is Alicia, not Jodie.

"My brothers and sisters named me Jodie before I was born," she said. "When my mom got to the hospital she changed her mind, but they never accepted it, so no one has ever called me Alicia."

"I'm a good candidate for jumping blindly into a role. I did it before on 'Maverick' — I took over for Meg Ryan."

— JODIE FOSTER
Actress

Foster also revealed she is terrible about returning phone calls.

"I just hate to be on the phone," she said. "If a call comes in on my machine, I'll write it down, but then I'll lose it. Even if it's somebody I like. I just have an aversion to being on the phone."

And don't even get her started on shopping.

"I try never to do it," she said. "I'll shop for food, but I won't shop for clothes. Except baby clothes, which I love."

Of course there are things Foster likes to do.

"I speak French very well," she said. In fact, as a senior in high school, Foster was chosen Valedictorian and delivered her entire speech in French.

"I can also twirl a basketball on every one of my fingers including the left (hand)," she said. "It's from being short — they never let me play."

But Foster rarely has time for sports these days. She is already making the rounds to promote her next movie, "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys," which opens in June. She also hopes to resume production on her next directorial project, "Flora Plum," starring Claire Danes.

Despite such a busy schedule and the demands of motherhood, Foster insisted she has no plans to slow her career down any time soon.

"I am not one of those actors that needs to work 24 hours a day," she said. "I get big breaks in between, so I don't need to 'stop.'"

However, Foster wouldn't mind living her life without a little more anonymity.

"I don't think there is anything good about fame," she said. "Tables in restaurants, I guess. But then again, why don't you just call ahead the day before."

Sean Daly is president of Showtime Entertainmet and is a regular contributor to US Weekly and the Toronto Star.

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NATIONAL

Milton Berle dead at 93

BY BOB THOMAS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Milton Berle, the acerbic, cigar-smoking vaudevillian who eagerly embraced a new medium and became "Mr. Television" when the technology was in its infancy, died Wednesday. He was 93.

Berle was diagnosed with colon cancer last year and had been under hospice care for the past few weeks. Berle's wife, Lorna, and several family members were at his side when he died at home after a lengthy illness, publicist Warren Cowan said.

"Uncle Miltie" was the king of Tuesday nights in the late 1940s, and store owners put up signs: "Closed tonight to watch Milton Berle."

If the audience thought he looked funny in a dress, Berle was happy to oblige, and skits in drag became a trademark. The NBC program's popularity spurred sales of television sets and helped make TV a medium for the masses.

"From the first days of my career, he was one of my comedic heroes," Don Rickles said. "He was always a great mentor. His style of comedy will never be replaced."

"Good evening, ladies and germs," Berle would say to his audience. "I mean ladies and gentlemen. I call you ladies and gentlemen, but you know what you really are."

In his debut season in 1948, Berle's show was watched on four out of every five sets in the nation, and he was the new medium's highest-paid funny man.

The magic faded in the '50s, and in recent years, Berle played fairs, night clubs, college campuses and the private Friars clubs in Beverly Hills and New

York. In 1983, he was among the first seven inductees into the TV Hall of Fame of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

He admitted his humor wasn't subtle or gentle: "I guess you'd call my style flippancy, aggressiveness ... a put-downer."

Born Mendel Berlinger in New York's Harlem on July 12, 1908, Berle remembered his mother, Sandra, bouncing him on her knee and telling him, "Make me laugh."

Berle's first taste of show business came at age 5, when he won a vaudeville contest by imitating Charlie Chaplin. Soon he was doing child leads in films with Mary Pickford and Mabel Normand, and was the kid rescued from the railroad tracks in the nick of time in the Pearl White movies.

He appeared with Chaplin and Marie Dressler in the movie, "Tillie's Punctured Romance," and with Pickford in "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm."

In 1936, Berle was a headliner with the Ziegfeld Follies. He also appeared in several minor film comedies, such as "New Faces of 1937" and 1949's "Always Leave Them Laughing" (based on his autobiography). But he never really made it on the big screen.

Then came the advent of television.

Berle was signed as host of the first show of a variety series — the "Texaco Star Theater." He was supposed to alternate with several other hosts, including Henny Youngman and Morey Amsterdam, but Berle drew so much fan mail that NBC soon gave him the spot permanently.

He won an Emmy for the program, which was truly his own.

Dudley Moore dies at 66

BY SHEILA HOTCHKIN
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. — Dudley Moore, the cuddly little Englishman who pined for Bo Derek in "10" and portrayed a lovably forlorn drunk in "Arthur," died Wednesday of complications from a rare and incurable brain disorder. He was 66.

The comic actor died at a friend's home in Plainfield of pneumonia stemming from progressive supranuclear palsy, which is similar to Parkinson's disease and affects one of every 100,000 people. He was diagnosed with the disease in 1999.

Before breaking into the movies, the 5-foot-2 1/2-inch classically trained pianist found success in comedy revues in London and on Broadway as part of a legendary British troupe that also included the surrealist comic talent Peter Cook.

In the 1979 hit movie "10," he played a musician determined to marry a perfect woman, embodied by Derek. His film career peaked in 1981 with the smash "Arthur," in which he played a rich drunk who falls for Liza Minnelli. He was nominated for a best actor Oscar. Co-star John Gielgud, who played Arthur's valet, won the supporting actor Oscar.

Moore's other films included "Foul Play," 1978; "Lovesick," 1983; "Unfaithfully Yours," 1984; and "Best Defense," 1984.

In a statement, Minnelli said: "I am deeply saddened by the death of my dear friend, Dudley Moore. He was a unique

individual that was multitalented. He could make the world laugh and brought joy to millions. I will miss him dearly."

There was more than a touch of autobiography in "10." But the happy ending eluded him in real life. Four marriages ended in divorce.

He confessed to being driven by feelings of inferiority because of his working-class origins in Dagenham, East London, and because of his height. He also spoke of the pain of being rejected by his mother because he was born with a deformed left foot.

Comedians, he said in an interview in 1980, are often driven by such feelings. "I guess if I'd been able to hit somebody in the nose, I wouldn't have been a comic," he said.

Big screen success came after Moore settled in Southern California and met director Blake Edwards in a therapy group. When George Segal walked out of Edwards' production of "10," the director turned to Moore and he was soon a Hollywood star.

"He was such a wonderful spirit," Derek recalled Wednesday. "He could make you laugh hysterically with his jokes and make you cry with his music. He was so gifted."

While his comedy brought him the most attention, he was a talented pianist, with degrees in music and composition from Oxford. In 1992, he performed with the New World Symphony in Miami and other orchestras.

STATE



Police unsure if suicide pact led to three deaths at beach

BY JESSICA BRICE
Associated Press Writer

SANTA CRUZ — Investigators tried to determine Wednesday whether the shotgun deaths of three people found on a cliff overlooking a secluded beach were the result of a suicide pact or a homicide.

A group walking above Bonny Doon Beach just north of Santa Cruz discovered the bodies of two women and a man around 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. The public has free access to the privately owned beach, which is known for nude sunbathing and rave parties.

The victims appeared to be in their mid-20s, Santa Cruz County sheriff's spokesman Kim Allyn said. Their identities were not immediately available.

The two women had been shot in the chest and the man in the head, Allyn said. A shotgun lay near the bodies, which were in a circle. There were no signs of struggle.

"It's not a cool thing when you come to see the sunset and you see this," Cesar Pacheco, one of the passers-by who found the bodies, told the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

There was a sleeping bag near the bodies, but no suicide note, Allyn said.

Investigators remained at the scene overnight and removed the bodies around noon Wednesday. They also towed from the beach's parking lot a white car with Colorado license plates that may have belonged to one of the victims.

The horseshoe-shaped beach, about 7 miles north of Santa Cruz, sits below two rocky bluffs. Authorities are called there periodically on reports of drug use, sexual assaults and violence.

"In the past we've had homicides

there, but not very many," Allyn said. One unsolved case from the 1980s involved a shotgun slaying in the same parking lot near where the bodies were found Tuesday, he said.

"People are always drinking and there are weird things going on. We stay away."

— DEBORA RIVERS
Resident

Most reports involve "parties and just some real dangerous drifters," Allyn said.

The property is owned by Coast Dairies and Land Company, a nonprofit corporation.

A company spokesman said the beach is not subject to regular patrols, but isn't a haven for law breakers.

"It is not like it is a dangerous place," said Coast Dairies land manager Bern Smith. "I see this as an isolated incident, which could have just as easily happened on another property."

Though they live a half-mile away, the closest neighbors said the beach is a constant problem.

"People are always drinking and there are weird things going on," said Debora Rivers, an artichoke farmer who lives north of the beach along Highway 1. "We stay away."

Court orders mediation in international art dispute

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A federal appeals court ordered mediation to resolve a dispute between the Austrian government and a woman trying to recover six Gustav Klimt paintings she claims were taken from her uncle by the Nazis in 1938.

Maria V. Altmann believes the Austrian Gallery and the Republic of Austria are illegally holding the paintings, which are worth about \$150 million. A federal judge ruled last year that her lawsuit could continue in U.S. courts, but Austria's attorneys appealed the decision, saying the American court system lacked jurisdiction.

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals did not address the jurisdiction issue but said a resolution may be reached through mediation.

"This panel is of the view that mediation could bring a resolution that would serve the parties better than results achieved through litigation," said the March 20 court order.

The three-judge panel said a mediator would report back to them every month to give an update on the negotiations.

Scott Cooper of Proskauer Rose LLP, which is representing Austria, said the court order was not a victory for either side.

"It's hard for me to imagine that either side would view this as anything but a procedural step in the process," he said.

Austria contends that the paintings

were willed to the National Gallery by Altmann's aunt, Adele Bloch-Bauer. The family countered that she made a non-binding request to her husband, Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer, to hand over the paintings after his death.

Altmann, 86, filed suit in August 2000, seeking the return of the paintings, which she said were stolen by the Nazis from her uncle in 1938.

Her uncle, who died in exile in Switzerland in 1945, willed his substantial estate from the sugar industry to his niece and her two siblings. Altmann is the only one of the three still living.

The lawsuit alleges that Austria is not entitled to immunity because the paintings were stolen by the Nazis when they overran the country and is in violation of international law.

The paintings are considered valuable in the art world. Klimt was a founder of the Vienna Secession art movement that for many became synonymous with Jugendstil, the German and central European version of art nouveau.

Among the paintings are the "Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I," a gold-encrusted work treasured as an early landmark of Austrian modernism. The portrait was delivered to the Austrian Gallery with a letter reading "Heil Hitler."

Attorneys for both Altmann and the Austrian government said they are willing to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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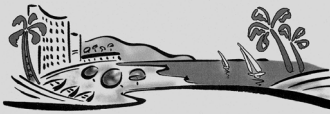
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NATIONAL

USS Theodore Roosevelt returns to tears of joy

BY BILL BASKERVILL

Associated Press Writer

NORFOLK, Va. — The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, one of the first ships sent abroad in the U.S. war on terror, docked Wednesday after a six-month mission, sending crew members streaming ashore into the tearful embraces of family members.

Rain and a blustery wind failed to wash out the festive atmosphere at Norfolk Naval Station's Pier 14 where thousands hailed the return of the warship from a 189-day cruise.

"USA! USA! USA!" the throng chanted as the first carrier to deploy after Sept. 11 was nudged into the pier by tugboats. Many waved and wept openly before the crew left the ship.

Sailors waving American flags waved back from the deck of the 1,092-foot carrier.

"We still have 30 ships out there and thousands of shipmates who continue to do the job," said Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander in chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. "The answer to this (the war on terrorism) is not have we

captured Osama Bin Laden ... but rather keeping them on the defensive, keeping them running. We are winning."

Welcoming the sailors at the pier were Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, Sen. George Allen, R-Va., and other dignitaries.

The ship flew the flag of New York City as it pulled alongside the pier. A banner, fashioned from a bedsheet, proclaimed: "Freedom Endures."

The Roosevelt launched 60 to 80 combat flights a day into Afghanistan, and the ship's aviators routinely flew 14 hours a day.

"We helped deter terrorism," said Capt. Stephen S. Voetsch, commander of the carrier air wing.

Roosevelt departed Norfolk Sept. 19 on a regularly scheduled deployment, the first for a battle group after the Sept. 11 attacks in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

At a tent for crewmen who are new fathers, Lt. Cmdr. Carther Jorgensen cradled his 4-month old son, Alexander Charles, each smiling broadly at each other.

"I'm so glad I'm home. It seems he knew who I was. He smiled," Jorgensen said.



Gary C. Knapp/Associated Press

Navy Lieutenant James Cherry of Tolar, Texas, waves a U.S. flag as he leaves a pier at Norfolk Naval Station on Wednesday, after returning to Norfolk, Va., on the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

Reporter deaths worldwide increased sharply last year

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Igor Aleksandrov was the director of an independent television company in eastern Ukraine. His program "Bez Retushi" ran investigative stories about organized crime and corruption in city government.

Last July 3, assailants attacked Aleksandrov as he entered his company's offices. The station's deputy director, Sergei Cherneta, heard blows and screams, then a moan.

"I ran downstairs ... Our manager was lying in a pool of blood with his head cracked open. Two large baseball bats were left nearby," Cherneta said.

A month after the killing, a suspect was arrested. The case, which is still pending, illustrates the abuses suffered by independent journalists worldwide, according to a report this week by the New York-based Committee to

Protect Journalists.

Thirty-seven journalists were killed in 2001, attracting little notice from the outside world — in sharp contrast to the abduction and murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in Pakistan earlier this year.

That number was up from 24 a year earlier, and most of the increase resulted from the killing of seven journalists in two attacks last November during the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan.

Yet most of the 37 killed last year were not covering wars or other conflicts. Instead, they were murdered in reprisal for reporting on sensitive topics, including official crime and corruption, the group said.

China is the "leading jailer" of journalists, with 35 behind bars, the report found. In addition, officials there closed a prominent leftist monthly in China after it criticized the government's call for capitalists to join the

Communist Party.

In North Korea, the government's efforts to control the media have helped ensure that its chronic food shortage is one of the most underreported disasters in the world.

Iran closed or suspended 20 newspapers and publications in 2001, the report said. It listed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, as one of its 10 worst enemies of the press.

The other nine include Liberian President Charles Taylor, whom the group called "single-minded" in deterring press independence; Chinese President Jiang Zemin for demanding "ideological conformity;" Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe for his "all-out war on the independent media;" and Russian President Vladimir Putin for his "alarming assault on press freedom."

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INTERNATIONAL



Three Mideast groups added to U.S. terrorist list

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration moved to block the financial assets of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a Palestinian militia linked to the Fatah faction of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The action by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control came shortly after Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday designated the brigade and two other Middle East groups as terrorist organizations.

The other groups are Asbat al-Ansar, a Sunni Muslim group based in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, and the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, an Algerian group dedicated to the overthrow of the Algerian government.

It was not known whether the brigade has assets in the United States. The government has been working closely with other countries to get them to block assets of organizations and individuals targeted by the United States as conducting or financing terrorists acts. U.S. banks were ordered last year to freeze assets belonging to Asbat al-Ansar and the Salafist Group for Call and Combat.

Powell announced his designations through his spokesman, Richard Boucher.

Powell disclosed last week that he was taking steps to designate al-Aqsa as a terrorist organization. He made that announcement on the same day that the group claimed responsibility for a terrorist act in a Jerusalem shopping area in which a Palestinian suicide bomber killed himself and two bystanders. At least 60 were wounded.

Wednesday's designations bring to 33 the number of groups the State Department identifies as foreign terrorist organizations. Such designations mean that it is unlawful for Americans to provide funding to these groups. Their members also are ineligible for U.S. visas.

Israel bombing



Associated Press

A victim, left, of a suicide bomber is taken from the Park Hotel, Netanya, Israel, Wednesday, in this image made from television. The blast went off in the dining hall of the hotel as guests gathered for a Passover Seder, the ritual evening meal ushering in the Jewish holiday. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Troubled man kills 8, wounds 19 in shooting spree

BY JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

NANTERRE, France — Armed with two Glock semi-automatics, a .357 Magnum and an apparent death wish, a 33-year-old unemployed Frenchman shot and killed eight city officials Wednesday and wounded 19 others.

Nanterre Mayor Jacqueline Fraysse said the attacker yelled out, "Kill me, kill me" as he was subdued in the council chamber in this Paris suburb.

France 2 television reported that police found a 13-page letter at the man's home recounting a failed life, saying he was disgusted with himself and Nanterre and wanted police to kill him.

Prosecutor Yves Bot said the suspect, Richard Durn, told police during a day of interrogation he often "thought about killing someone and killing himself afterward. According to him, this was a way for him to take control of his destiny."

Durn's 65-year-old mother, Stephanie, said her son began psychotherapy in 1990, asking the therapist to "Help me to die."

By evening, hundreds of people gathered at city hall, laying flowers in the lobby next to memorial pictures of the dead. Bloodstains marked the floor. The flag above the municipal building flew at half staff.

President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin — both contenders in the presidential election less than a month away — made pre-dawn visits to the scene. Jospin said it was "apparently a case of furious dementia."

The shootings jolted a nation already grappling with rising crime — a focus of the presidential campaign.

Durn, who had a love of guns and a history of failure, sat quietly through six hours of debate over the city budget. As the council meeting was breaking up at 1:15 a.m., the shooting began.

"He had been sitting in the public area. He shot straight in front of him, and then he moved to where the council members were sitting," Fraysse said.

The dead — four women and four men — spanned the

political spectrum from rightists to communists to an ecologist.

Police said Durn started with 100 rounds of ammunition. Spent shell casings from about half the bullets littered the council chamber floor when the shootings ended.

"I don't think he was specifically targeting anyone," said Durn's mother, a cleaning woman who emigrated from Slovenia in 1958. She said her son had spoken to her "many times ... probably 10 to 20 times" about killing people.

Mrs. Durn spoke to reporters through the mail slot in the front door the modest two-story brick home she shared with her son.

Police said Durn never fired the Smith & Wesson Magnum and was initially subdued when a city official threw a chair at him. Durn began firing again with his free hand, police said.

Durn's mother said her son once held a part-time job as a hall monitor at a local school. The prosecutor said Durn, who held a master's degree in political science, had failed several exams for teaching and other positions.

Beginning in 1998, Bot said, Durn made several trips to Bosnia with relief organizations and was currently Nanterre chapter treasurer of the Human Rights League.

Durn, who had no criminal record, held permits for his weapons and practiced target shooting for six years at a club in the Garenne-Colombes district. He renewed his permit every year, most recently on Jan. 28.

"It seems he regularly practiced shooting, and he never caused any problems to the club," said Alain Joly, an official at the French federation governing the sport. He practiced target shooting in the garage of his home, his mother said.

Rising crime has become the top concern of French citizens, according to polls, and Chirac has placed it at the top of his platform as he campaigns for re-election in the April 21 vote.

"Insecurity runs from ordinary incivility to the drama in Nanterre," the president said later Wednesday at a round-table on school violence.

Wednesday's shootings recalled an assault in Switzerland in September by a man who opened fire at a meeting of the Zug state legislature, killing 14 people before killing himself with a handgun.

The Zug government said it would offer a remembrance of the Nanterre killings when the parliament sits Thursday.

Charlie Daniels Band plays Cuba

The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba

— With his trademark fiddle in hand, country music performer Charlie Daniels entertained U.S. troops Wednesday at the base where hundreds of prisoners from the Afghanistan war are detained.

For the occasion, Daniels substituted some lyrics of his hit "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," instead singing, "The devil went down to Gitmo, he was looking for some Taliban."

Hundreds attending the free concert cheered wildly.

The base in Guantanamo, otherwise known as "Gitmo," is holding 300 men suspected of having links to either the fallen Taliban regime in Afghanistan or the al-Qaida terrorist network suspected of carrying out the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

"I was too young for a couple of the wars and too old for the rest of them," the 65-year-old Daniels said. "I can't fight so I came down to entertain."

There are about 4,700 personnel on Guantanamo.

"Charlie is a good symbol of America," said Rich Sann, a fireman on the base from Corpus Christi, Texas. "He's a true-born American."

The Daniels concert was organized by the USO. The United Service Organizations was formed in 1941 to meet the recreation needs of soldiers.

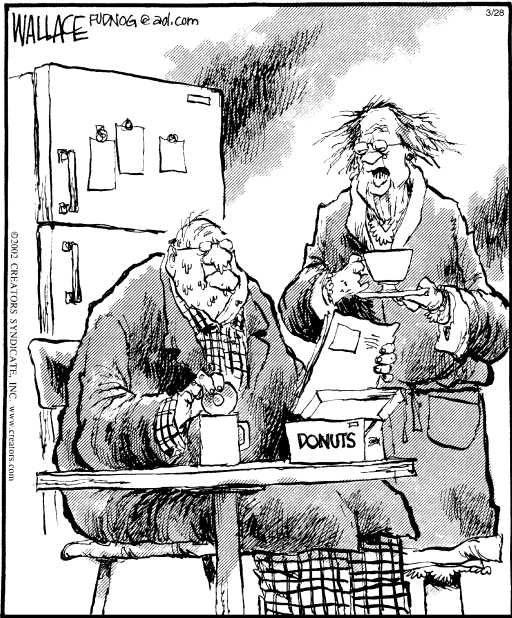


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24 With 16-Down, 1997 U.S. Open champ
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43 Salad fish
44 Wool suit
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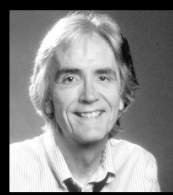
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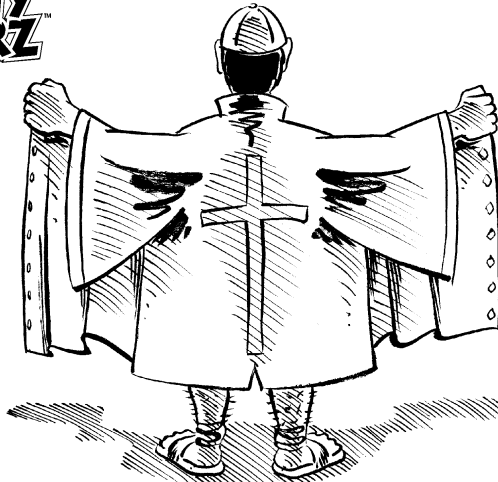


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Bullet goes off while man tries to remove gunpowder

Chaddrick Dickson, 25, was hospitalized briefly in Monroe, La., in December, after being wounded by the .22-caliber bullet he was fooling around with. Dickson said he was trying to remove the gunpowder by smashing the bullet's casing against the floor. He said he needed the gunpowder because he wanted to mix it into his dog's food to make the dog meaner.



Bishop Mahoney to expose true perpetrators.
-News Item

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BACK PAGE

Mathematicians crack mystery of spinning eggs

BY MARGIE MASON

Associated Press Writer

Just in time for Easter, mathematicians have cracked the mystery of why a hard-boiled egg spun on a tabletop rises on one end and whirls like a top.

The explanation, in an nutshell: Friction.

Mathematicians from England and Japan spent six months filching eggs from their families' refrigerators and trying to explain the mysterious forces controlling this behavior. Their findings appear in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

Keith Moffatt of the University of Cambridge in England and Yutaka Shimomura of Keio University in Japan believed that demonstrating how this effect works

would be a simple, fun exercise. Instead, it "turned out to be very subtle and quite tricky," Moffatt said.

Their report contains no fewer than 16 equations in less than two pages.

Here is an explanation for the spinning Easter egg conundrum, without the mathematics:

Imagine an egg spinning on its side on a tabletop. Because of the curve of its shell, it is touching the table at only one point. But the contact point is not fixed; it slides in a small circle around an imaginary vertical axis.

As the egg slides across the table, the friction created slows the egg's rotation slightly, and the contact point with the table moves off-center. The egg begins to twist as it spins. One end slowly rises until the egg stands vertically. For a few seconds, anyway.

The egg can be any size or type. It must be hard-boiled.

"When you try to spin a soft egg on a table the liquid fluid inside lags behind the shell," Moffatt said. "You set the shell in motion but the fluid doesn't want to spin up. By the time the fluid is spinning at the same time as the shell, it's lost a lot of kinetic energy and it's just not got enough remaining to stand up on its end."

School District officials say students were not properly strip-searched

BY JOSH FREED

Associated Press Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — School district officials said Wednesday an investigation has confirmed that a group of third-grade students were improperly strip-searched for missing lunch money.

According to parents, at least two teachers at Pitcher Elementary searched 23 students for \$5 in missing lunch money on March 18. The money was eventually found, though not through the searches.

District officials said in a written statement Wednesday and in a letter to parents that the searches were "an egregious violation" of school policy.

"The District finds the conduct of the adults directly involved in this incident to be abhorrent," district offi-

cials said in the statement.

The school's principal and two teachers were suspended last week pending a school district investigation.

School district spokesman Edwin Birch said they remained suspended, but said state law prohibited him from talking about any other disciplinary action they face.

Parents have said a female third-grade teacher started the search after other efforts to find the money failed. She reportedly took the girls to a restroom, then had them pair up in stalls, where they were told to check each other's underwear.

The boys went to the gymnasium with a male physical education teacher, who took them one at a time into a locker room where each was told to strip down and shake his underwear, parents said.

Burglar alarm backfires for alleged drug dealer

By The Associated Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — Salvador Bravo apparently was so worried about criminals, he installed a burglar alarm. He should have been more concerned about the police.

Officers responding to an alarm at Bravo's house found the windows forced open and went inside, believing a burglary might be in progress, Lt. Mike Merryman said.

In the house, officers found a locked basement door and detected a strong odor of marijuana.

Bravo arrived and fainted after he was informed about the alarm, the suspicious odor and plans for a search, Merryman said. After obtaining a warrant, police said they found as much as 10 pounds of marijuana and \$10,000 cash.

Bravo was arrested when he awoke, and held for investigation of possessing drugs with intent to sell.

Bravo told police he was canceling his alarm service when gets out of jail, Merryman said.

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