

**FREE**

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2002

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# Santa Monica Daily Press

*Picked fresh daily. 100% organic news.*

## Tax breaks given to downtown businesses

*Santa Monica reaping financial benefits*

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER  
Daily Press Staff Writer

Low interest rates combined with the highest possible credit rating have created a financial windfall for the city.

And officials this week have decided to re-invest the money back into Santa Monica.

Tax breaks will be given to downtown businesses, and nearly \$2 million will go towards a new library and \$7.5 million is earmarked for new affordable housing projects.

"It took a while to figure out how to do all of this," said Mike Dennis, the city's finance director. "But it's a quadruple win for the city."

Because Santa Monica has a very small debt burden it was awarded the highest possible credit rating, which gave the city access to credit at very low interest rates.

The Federal Reserve has cut interest rates to the lowest point in 40 years in an effort to stimulate the economy. In response, the city has decided to issue bonds at the low interest rate to pay off bonds issued in 1992 at higher interest rates.

"There are relatively few bond issues we enter into because the city chooses to finance projects as they go," Dennis said.

City officials wanted to give downtown business owners a break by lowering the tax to one-tenth of its current rate for the next fiscal year. After that, the assessment will return to its current rate.

The tax is based on the size of the business and its relative location to The Third Street Promenade, but typically reaps

about \$1.1 million a year for the city. The assessment is based on a sliding scale — owners on the Promenade pay the most while businesses further away pay less.

"We're thrilled," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside

See TAXES, page 4

## College's Madison theater project receives \$1 million

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON  
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica College is a million dollars closer to its claim to be the "cultural mecca" in the city.

The Santa Monica College Foundation has announced that it has allocated \$1 million of undesignated funds to the college's Madison Theater project, a proposed 500-seat education and performing arts facility.

The gift brings the total raised for the \$15 million project to \$4.5 million.

SMC officials see the performing arts center as filling a large void on the west side for cultural activities. College officials envision the facility as the hub of west side organizations like the Los

Angeles Opera.

In addition to lectures and rehearsals, the facility would provide a venue for theater performances, dance, chorale, symphony orchestra and guest speakers.

"This pledge represents the SMC Foundation's firm commitment to this important project," said SMC Foundation President Graham Pope. "The Madison project, when completed, will be the only center of its kind for arts education and performance on the west side and will greatly enrich our community. We are pleased to designate these funds, which were private unrestricted gifts donated to the SMC Foundation, to the theater."

The SMC Foundation already has

See SMC, page 4

## Restaurant fights for its right to be on pier

*Boathouse gets two weeks to ship off*

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON  
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Boathouse restaurant's voyage to extinction has been extended two weeks.

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Diana Wheatley Friday gave owner Naia Sheffield until April 15 to move her family's longtime business off the Santa Monica Pier.

The ruling extended an earlier Sunday deadline the judge set more than a week ago. Wheatley has ruled that the restau-

rant's lease with the city is over.

But Sheffield and her attorney, Kelly Bixby, have called for rescue efforts, and will attempt to keep the Boathouse afloat.

The city is kicking out the Boathouse to make way for the chain-owned Bubba Gump restaurant.

The controversial move includes behind-the-scenes politics, some claim. The group that technically signs leases, the Pier Restoration Corporation, has members whose terms have shown some notorious irregularities. Several members have overstayed their terms, but the city council had left the composition alone while Bubba Gump negotiated its lease.

See BOATHOUSE, page 4

## Jack rabbits attack walkers

By The Associated Press

**SANTA ROSA** — Sonoma County musician Doug Bowes will remember this Easter season as the one where he happened upon the Easter Bunny, and it attacked him.

Bowes was walking near his home at about 11 a.m. Wednesday when the attack occurred. A small, gray jack rabbit bounded toward him from a nearby fence.

"I thought, 'Gosh, this is somebody's pet,'" Bowes said. He put his hand down in a friendly gesture and the bunny lunged and bit him.

Bowes began to walk home, nursing a sore hand with broken skin, but the rabbit followed him. A short time later, a nearby neighbor had to retreat up a hill after another aggressive jack rabbit forced her back.

Bowes had to get rabies shots and faces five additional vaccinations, though area health officials say it would be rare if the animal had rabies.

"If it were (rabid) it would make history," said David Yong, director of laboratory services for the county public health division. No rabbit has tested positive for rabies in Sonoma County in the past 16 years, Yang said.

## A helping hand



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Volunteers Debbie Baxter, Elliot Seo and Gary Whitter serve food to the homeless outside of City Hall on Friday.

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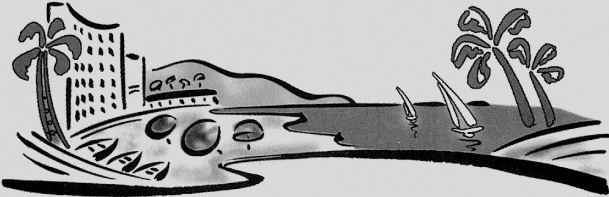
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★★★★★-Dynamic   ★★★★★-Positive   ★★★-Average  
★★-So-so   ★-Difficult

**♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
★★★★★ Fulfill another's request and spend the day with him or her. Good feelings surround the home, both. What's wrong with breakfast in bed? Loll around as much as you want, but plan on an outing later. Tonight: Dinner with music.

**♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
★★★★★ Others seek you out. Juggling popularity and plans might take some Bullish savoir-faire. Pick up your phone, and good news follows you. Understand that a parent might be overly emotional, but enjoy this time with him or her. Tonight: Go along with a friend's idea.

**♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★ Though, by nature, you're a social creature, you need to understand that it is OK to put up your feet and rent a movie or two. Running around can get old, as can work. You might spend some money on yourself to increase the quality of life. Tonight: Proceed evenly.

**♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★★★★ Your spirited and gregarious nature draws others like a bees to a flower. Be open to suggestion. Why not try something you've never done before? Consider skiing or, perhaps, learning how to Rollerblade. Let another share a favorite pastime. Tonight: The party goes on.

**♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
★★★ Know that you don't always have to be a bundle of excitement and energy. Make it OK to become a couch potato or a lounge lizard. For once, allow others to seek you out. Share some quiet time with a family member who's close to you. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

**♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
★★★★★ Make calls and catch up on a friend's news before you mosey on out the door. You might want to clear out some errands or shopping first. You find that you have plenty of time later to hook up with some friends. What starts as a gathering could develop into an outright party. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

**♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
★★★ Another does a great job of talking you into a money agreement. Don't count on the funds until you see them in your bank account. Carefully recognize your limits. A child or loved one could be pulling the wool over your eyes. Tonight: Just don't make it expensive.

**♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
★★★★★ The moon in your sign cheers you on. You might not be up for someone who can be moody and emotional. Make a call or reach out for someone at a distance. Fun happens when you least expect it. Let others find you. Tonight: Whatever you desire.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
★★★ Stay behind the lines and don't get involved in another's matter. A partner will share a lot and try to bring you in. Ultimately, it's your call as to which way you want to go. Don't think that you're going to change someone. Tonight: Play it low-key.

**♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
★★★★★ Others seek you out. Carefully listen to another who means a lot to you. This person is an authority in many ways. Do a better job of listening to what someone shares, especially regarding finances. Something might not be as good as it seems. Tonight: Reach out for someone.

**♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
★★★★★ Handle work or an older relative more carefully. You might not like what you hear. If not, you had better take charge. Unfortunately, others aren't mind readers and can only assume what you want. Stop and buy a special gift for someone. Tonight: In the limelight.

**♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
★★★★★ Your imagination lets go. Carefully consider options that surround a loved one at a distance. Not everything is as simple as you would like it to be. Still, add that ingÈne upon naivetÈ, and others respond. Let greater caring in. Tonight: Read between the lines.

### QUOTE of the DAY

**“No one can earn a million dollars honestly.”**  
— William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925)

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# LOCAL



## If Santa Monica has a crisis, a team will be there

*SMPD will have on-the-scene crisis team to help witnesses, victims*

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON  
Daily Press Staff Writer

When hundreds of people were trapped two years ago on the pier during a shoot-out and hostage negotiation, some survivors were traumatized for months afterwards.

That's partly because they didn't have any way to help them work through what they saw.

That won't be the case anymore in Santa Monica.

For the first time in its history, the Santa Monica Police Department has contracted with a crisis response program to give witnesses and survivors of traumatic events a place to turn for help.

The Maple Counseling Center Crisis Response Team will begin assisting police in helping residents deal with incidents like homicides, fires, natural disasters, auto fatalities, suicides or the sudden death of a family member or co-worker.

two boys who drowned in a lake in Northern California while she was camping with a friend.

"I was driving back and I didn't know who to talk to," she said, adding she walked into a Santa Monica fire station. She later found the Maple Counseling Center.

Kellogg said the program is particularly helpful for children who witness horrifying scenes — like a recent suicide in which the father shot himself in the head with his wife and 3-year-old daughter watching.

"The daughter and mother were horrifically traumatized," she said. "(The daughter) needed to say what happened and to talk about it."

Counselors were on scene for another incident in which a 2-year-old drowned in a pool.

The parents both thought the other was looking after the child but neither were. Their 8-year-old found the child in the pool. Not only were the parents grieving, but their other child needed attention they couldn't give her because of their own grief, Kellogg said.

Counselors will tell victims what they can expect immediately after the shock wears off, as well what to do in the inter-

of the program. After review by the department's commanding officers, Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. signed off on the program.

"This is the first time we have ever had this type of service," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "It's a great program and we look forward to joining."

Kellogg said it takes a lot for officers to shift their mind set from following the procedures at a crime scene to addressing the emotional needs of the witnesses. But she hopes the crisis team becomes part of the procedures in the future.

"It takes a lot to allow strangers to come into a crime scene," she said. "Our reputation in law enforcement is growing and I'm hoping that with Santa Monica we'll part of the dispatch (to the scene)."

Maple Counseling Center is offering free training for those who want to volunteer. Classes begin on April 4 and will run every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for nine consecutive weeks.

The first six weeks of training are open to all members of the community and will feature guest speakers from police, fire, sheriff's departments, the FBI, the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office, as well as referral agencies.

Candidates eligible to join the crisis response team will attend three weeks of advanced trainings in May. Then candidates must pass a written exam, performance evaluations and a security screening.

For more information or to apply, log onto [www.tmcc.org](http://www.tmcc.org) or contact Kellogg at (310) 271-9999, ext. 228.

**"This is the first time we have ever had this type of service. It's a great program and we look forward to joining."**

— LT. FRANK FABREGA  
Santa Monica Police Department

Santa Monica officers will offer the victims access to a trained counselor at the scene, said Anne Kellogg, the clinical coordinator for the Maple Counseling Center.

Trained volunteers provide free, on-scene support, information and referrals for trauma survivors by being available right after an incident occurs. There are 28 volunteers that team up and are on call around the clock. Once officers call the team, they'll usually show up within 20 minutes, if they haven't already been waiting nearby.

"We'll be there for the families and relieve some of the pressure for them," Kellogg said. "We'll go to the hospital and wait for the patient's disposition. We will be there when (someone) is dead or paralyzed."

Kellogg said she first got involved in the program after she was unable to save

im and several months after the incident.

"We basically help them activate their resources," Kellogg said. "Something has happened that was out of their control and that's hard to grasp so we usually tell them what to expect in the next few days ... things like the 'thousand-mile stare' that many people get after a traumatic event."

Kellogg also said it may take a month before a survivor realizes he or she needs help. That's why counselors will give them information on agencies available to them.

"They can reacquire themselves with resources that they may have forgotten about," she said.

Maple Counseling Center teams respond to calls from the police, fire and sheriff's departments in Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Marina del Rey, Malibu — and now Santa Monica.

Kellogg approached SMPD to part be

## Wahoo!



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

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LOCAL

# Sheffield: Santa Monica becoming a 'chain' city

BOATHOUSE, from page 1

Some say the future of Santa Monica hangs in the balance.

Difficult to believe over a controversy about a mere bar, they say Santa Monica is slipping down the road of anonymous suburbia, losing the identity that once made it famous in its own rite.

The Boathouse slid from a long-term to a month-to-month lease with the PRC, which legally made it vulnerable to sudden eviction.

But Sheffield refused to move, arguing that the PRC reneged on its long-term lease offer to the Boathouse more than three years ago. Sheffield has said the PRC pulled the rug out from under her, offering Bubba Gump a lease instead. When the city went with Bubba Gump, it told Sheffield she had until last July to move out.

It is Sheffield's legal fighting which has kept her hanging on.

The city filed a lawsuit against the Boathouse to have it evicted so Bubba

Gump could renovate the building and be ready to open this summer.

But if Sheffield doesn't win her long-standing fight against the city in the next 16 days, it appears the building will remain empty for an entire year before Bubba Gump actually moves in.

Sheffield sued the city in U.S. District Court claiming breach of contract, violation of her right to due process, and unlawful takings. She also claims that the PRC violated the state's open meeting law and that the city intentionally misrepresented the lease agreement.

A federal judge dismissed the suit earlier this month.

However, Bixby plans to appeal the court's decision in the next two weeks.

He hopes the court will act quickly because of the pending eviction.

Deputy City Attorney Tony Serritella doesn't anticipate that Sheffield will win.

"I think the court's granting for a short and final stay was designed to accommodate the Boathouse so it can get its affairs

in order," he said. "It's an assistance to pack up and leave."

In addition to granting the eviction, Wheatley ruled on March 20 that the Boathouse must pay \$25,000 in rent the city earlier refused to accept because it feared recognizing a lease which wasn't there, Serritella said.

The city's claims that it was losing money by failing to allow Bubba Gump to proceed is awkward, because it's leaving a notable Pier restaurant empty over the most popular months of summer, Bixby said.

"We've shown that the city would be irreparably damaged, as well as (Bubba Gump), because we were supposed to turn that property over six months ago," Serritella argued.

Bixby argued that the Boathouse has tried to pay its rent —about \$180 a day. He also argued that Bubba Gump's lease allows the city to extend its contract without collecting rent until Bubba Gump gets the proper building permits.

"Bubba Gump already knew that there was going to be a problem," Bixby said,

adding the chain restaurant anticipated the delays.

Sheffield's family has more than 40 years of history on the pier. The Boathouse employs about 30 people, Bixby said.

"We don't even have adequate time to let the employees know," he claimed.

Wheatley said she was prepared to grant the delay before Friday morning's court hearing but wanted to hear arguments anyway.

"I wouldn't be considering this if they haven't been there for more than 40 years," Wheatley said. "Two weeks is reasonable to make arrangements."

Sheffield, who attended Friday's hearing, said it's a challenge to save her business in the legal system because judges don't recognize the emotional aspect of the Boathouse's place in Santa Monica's history.

"People think I'm crazy for fighting this hard," she said. "I don't want to fight anymore ... it's becoming a chain town and not the quaint city along the sea anymore."

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## City's financial windfall will go toward more housing

TAXES, from page 1

District Corporation. "It's wonderful, unexpected news."

Rawson said downtown property and business owners pay an extra assessment to the city for extra police protection, more maintenance and added municipal services.

Some business owners say the tax break is welcome news. Many of them report being severely impacted by the economic recession and the fall-off in tourism since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"We're in the exact same state as most retail districts around the country," Rawson said. "It's been a weak couple of months, but hopefully tourism will pick up and we'll pull out of this slump we're in."

Many property owners welcome the tax break, but some said it was too little to make a real difference.

Bill Tucker, who owns between 30,000-40,000 square feet on the Promenade, said in one 7,700-square-foot

office building he would save about \$4,000 this year.

"I would compare that to Bush's \$600 refund," Tucker said. "I think it's nice but its not going to make a huge impact, and its not going to increase business in our downtown that much."

The city will have an additional \$2 million after refinancing, Dennis said.

"We're going to capture some savings up front and use those savings to finance the creation of the new library building," Dennis said.

That's good news for Santa Monica Library supporters because costs for renovating the library came out to be almost \$2 million more than originally anticipated.

Increased property tax revenue from the Ocean Park Redevelopment Project area, which is from Ocean Avenue to Main Street and Ocean Park Boulevard to Neilson Way, paid down old bonds and allowed the city to issue \$7.5 million in new bonds. The money has been slated to pay for new affordable housing projects in the area.

## Madison campus project watched closely by residents

SMC, from page 1

raised \$3.5 million in gifts, pledges and bequests for the Madison Theater project.

Actor and SMC alumnus Dustin Hoffman is the honorary chair of the Madison fundraising campaign.

The proposed facility will be built at SMC's Madison campus, located on Santa Monica Boulevard between 10th and 11th streets.

The theater is proposed in the same location as the existing auditorium. The main level, expanded balcony and new lobby will add about 15,000 square feet, making for an entire facility of 56,000 square feet.

Many residents fear such a facility will ruin their neighborhoods with noise, traffic and parking. They want to see the theater in a more public place like the civic center, which is planned for a \$120 million redevelopment. Some of the city's elected officials are supportive of the idea.

SMC President Piedad Robertson has said that neighbors will not be left out of the planning process. She points out that five residents living within a quarter mile of the proposed theater will be on the advisory committee.

The college plans to accommodate all of the parking for the facility and will address traffic concerns by having the SMC police manage traffic before and

## STATE



# Entertainment workers to seek duties in Canada

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — A group representing entertainment industry workers said it will file a complaint with the federal government seeking duties on Canadian-made productions sent to the United States for editing or distribution.

The Film and Television Action Committee alleges that Canada unfairly subsidizes TV and film productions through wage-based incentives that can reduce labor expenses by 35 percent.

The committee, which says it represents 200,000 workers, has been gathering facts and figures about the entertainment industry and signatures from Hollywood workers for the complaint, chairman Brent Swift said.

The complaint is being prepared for submission to the Commerce Department and U.S. International Trade Commission by William Fennell, a Washington-based lawyer whose firm specializes in trade cases.

FTAC, which includes production crews, carpenters and other workers,

withdrew an initial complaint earlier this year, saying it was improperly drafted.

"The substance has not changed," Fennell said. "The issue is the subsidized labor in Canada acting as a draw."

Nearly 26 percent of theatrical movies shot in North America and released in 2000 were filmed in Canada, up from 13 percent in 1999, according to a report prepared last year by the Center for Entertainment Industry Data and Research.

Filming in other countries cost the U.S. economy \$2.8 billion in 1998, according to a report prepared for the Screen Actors Guild and the Directors Guild of America in 1999.

That figure jumped to \$10.3 billion when money that would have been spent at restaurants, hotels and other businesses, and tax revenue that would have been generated, were included, the report said.

The Motion Picture Association of America, the Directors Guild, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and other unions oppose duties on Canadian-made productions.

# Leaving LA: Grammys head to NY after four years away

BY GISELE DURHAM

Associated Press Writer

**LOS ANGELES** — The Grammy Awards are leaving Los Angeles and returning to New York City after a four-year run on the West Coast, according to the Los Angeles mayor's office.

"L.A. is the entertainment capitol of the world, and we would hope that at some point in the future the Grammys will return to the city," said Julie Wong, a spokeswoman for Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn.

Officials with the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, which stages the Grammys, declined to comment Friday but scheduled a press conference in New York next Wednesday to make what they called a "major announcement." They're expected to formally announce the move to New York.

The last time the Grammys were held

in New York was February 1998, when Bob Dylan won best album for "Time Out of Mind."

That was the same year a bitter dispute erupted between C. Michael Greene, president of the academy, and then-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Amid a misunderstanding over whether the mayor would read a list of Grammy nominees at a news conference, Giuliani accused Greene of losing his temper with a city employee.

Greene sent flowers to the worker to make amends. She sent them back.

Giuliani said Greene's gesture was not enough.

Greene maintained a cool demeanor during the conflict.

"I love the mayor, and I love the city of New York," was all he said then or since.

The Grammys are broadcast in nearly 160 countries and infuse an estimated \$40 million or more into its host city's economy.

# State lawmaker wants to tax soda to fight childhood obesity

By The Associated Press

**SACRAMENTO** — A California lawmaker has proposed a new tax on soda in hopes of trimming weight from children and adding heft to the thinning state revenues.

State lawmakers believe the tax has little chance of passing this year, but the idea has restarted an old debate at the Capitol about the proper role of tax policy as a social engineering tool. The state's \$17.5 billion shortfall also makes new revenue proposals more appealing.

The "California Soda Tax Act" by Sen. Deborah Ortiz (D-Sacramento) is part of a broader initiative to tax or levy fees on a variety of eating and drinking habits. Another lawmaker has introduced a bill to

study taxing a wider range of junk food to finance health programs for children.

Ortiz's plan would impose a surtax on distributors of soda and other sweetened drinks at a rate of about 2 cents per 12-ounce can. Diet drinks would not be included.

The tax could raise as much as \$300 million a year.

Ortiz also wants to raise the state excise tax on a pack of cigarettes by 65 cents to \$1.52. But it's the soda tax that has caused the most discussion.

Ortiz said children are drinking too much soda and not enough milk.

"In this culture of the 'Big Gulp,' it's really quite alarming," said Ortiz, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

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# Santa Monica's Daily Calendar



## Community

**Shots for Tots & Teens** will provide free immunizations and TB skin tests to all infants, adolescents and teenagers under the age of 18. The immunizations will protect against diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, rubella, hemophilus influenza, mumps, polio, tetanus and whooping cough. March 30, 10 a.m. To Noon, Saint John's Health Center, Cafeteria - Ground Floor. Arizona and 22nd Street, Santa Monica. (310) 829-8234.

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

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## NATIONAL

# MASH Village leaving Las Vegas; lack of support

By The Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS** — The city's main homeless provider said Friday that it will pull out of Las Vegas because it hasn't found the financial support it needs.

The Rev. Joe Carroll announced that he gave the city six months' notice to find a new operator for MASH Village, saying he wanted to give Las Vegas enough time to find another operator before next winter.

"We needed to look at the total financial picture," Carroll, director of San Diego-based Father Joe's MASH Villages, told the Las Vegas Sun. "We're basically subsidizing the operation in Las Vegas to the tune of \$1 million a year, and we couldn't continue to do so without jeopardizing our operations in San Diego."

The surprising news comes as Las Vegas wrestles with homeless issues. On Sunday, the city led a sweep of a homeless encampment, displacing about 200 squatters. Critics say there are not enough beds in shelters for the homeless.

In the past two months, Carroll has been negotiating with the city for ownership of the shelter's land on Main Street. He had threatened to leave if he did not receive ownership of the land, but Sharon Segerblom, the city's neighborhood services director, said negotiations had been going smoothly.

The City Council planned to discuss an agreement next month.

"This is coming as a surprise to the city," Deputy City Manager Betsy Fretwell said. "It's unfortunate. They were providing a much-needed service in that area."

MASH Village, at Main Street and Owens Avenue on what's known as the "homeless corridor," opened in 1995. The total budget for the Las Vegas shelter and related services is about \$4 million, Carroll said.

"We've got a terrific staff there, and they've put up with two years of battles with the city about the land there, and it's unfortunate that we have to make this decision at this time for economic reasons," Carroll said.

"The reality is that our donations are down in Las Vegas. I'm disappointed that we haven't been able to engender the sort of support from the gaming industry that we would have liked."

MASH Village has transitional housing for 120 families, a health clinic, and a 250-bed emergency winter shelter for single men. A resource center, which has jobs banks, and information on social services, has provided help to 18,000 people during the last year, officials said. The Police Department also has an office at the site.

# No federal charges to be filed in James Hoffa case

By The Associated Press

**DETROIT** — The federal probe into Teamsters President James R. Hoffa's 1975 disappearance was active as recently as two months ago, but investigators are now ruling out federal charges and are turning the case over to local prosecutors.

John Bell, special agent in charge of the Detroit bureau, told The Detroit News on Thursday the case was stymied because of the amount of time that has passed since Hoffa disappeared from a Detroit-area restaurant parking lot in 1975.

"There is no viable federal prosecution at this time," he said.

Bell said he would refer the case to prosecutors in suburban Oakland County for possible state charges, the News reported in Friday editions.

Special agent Dawn Clenney, a spokeswoman in the FBI's Detroit office, said the possibility of federal charges remains, but only if more information is uncovered.

On Thursday, the FBI released 1,330 pages from its investigative file into Hoffa's disappearance to the News in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit.

Many passages were blacked out, but the documents indicate the FBI interviewed more than a dozen people in late 2001 and early this year, pursuing leads in Florida, Indiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

Investigators examined a gun in Pittsburgh and checked out every meat-packing plant in the Detroit area, the documents show. The FBI also tried to link fingerprints to people in its computerized database.

The FBI turned over the entire 3,432 pages from its Hoffa file to U.S. District Judge Victoria A. Roberts. The judge will

decide what other material, if any, from the file should be released to the public.

The case returned to the limelight in September, when the News reported that DNA evidence placed Hoffa in a car that investigators long suspected, but were unable to prove, was used in his disappearance.

FBI scientists used new technology to match the DNA from Hoffa's hair with that of a strand of hair found in a car driven by longtime Hoffa friend Charles "Chuckie" O'Brien on July 30, 1975, the last day Hoffa was seen alive.

O'Brien told investigators in 1975 he borrowed the car, owned by the son of reputed Mafia figure Anthony Giacalone, to deliver a frozen salmon to the home of Robert Holmes, then president of Teamsters Local 337.

The delivery put O'Brien in the area near the Machus Red Fox restaurant, where Hoffa was supposed to meet with Giacalone and New Jersey Teamsters boss Anthony Provenzano.

Neither man showed up. Both said no meeting had been scheduled.

Investigators believe Hoffa, then 62, was picked up outside the restaurant and killed. Hoffa's family believes only a close friend, such as O'Brien, could have persuaded Hoffa to get in the car.

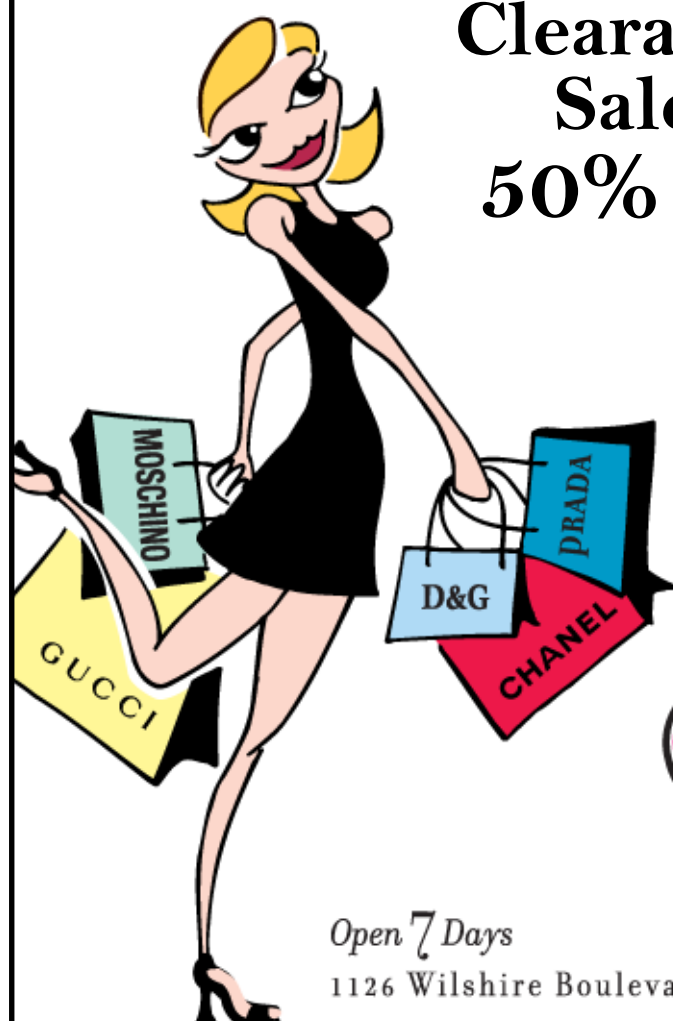
O'Brien has denied he had anything to do with Hoffa's disappearance.

FBI agents will meet with Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyca and his staff to review the case and discuss whether any state charges apply, Bell said.

Teamsters President James P. Hoffa, the late union leader's son, wouldn't comment Friday. Messages seeking comment from Gorceyca were not immediately returned Friday.

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# NATIONAL



# Airports see \$2 billion cost for bomb detection

BY JONATHAN D. SALANT  
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** — The nation's airports face at least \$2 billion in construction costs to make room for machines to detect explosives. Officials say they don't know how many machines they need, where they should be installed or who will pick up the cost.

Renovations for the most part have yet to begin and it's unlikely airports will meet an end-of-year deadline for having all the equipment in place.

"As we sit here, we don't know what to build or where to build it," said Jim Wilding, president of the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority, which runs Washington Dulles and Reagan National airports and handles 35 million passengers annually.

"There's just a whole host of very complicated, very expensive decisions that need to be made," he said. "You wish they could have been made last week or last month, but they just haven't been."

The new aviation security law requires explosive detection systems at all 429 commercial airports by Dec. 31 to inspect checked baggage. But the airports have to make room for the machines.

Transportation Department Inspector General Kenneth Mead estimated the cost of renovating the airports at more than \$2 billion, to accommodate more than 2,000 machines.

The government will pay installment costs of \$175,000 per machine, said Transportation Security Administration spokesman Jonathan Thompson. The \$4.7 billion is part of President Bush's supplemental budget proposal.

Because airport executives said there isn't enough time to complete the renovations by year's end, they will need to use other technologies as well, such as handheld equipment to detect traces of explosives, in addition to the explosive detection machines.

"We tend to think in terms of a couple of years to build things rather than a couple of months," Wilding said. "It's increasingly

likely that a combination of technologies is going to be necessary rather than going directly to a permanent solution."

At Salt Lake City Airport, which handles 19 million passengers a year, checked bags are first inspected with the handheld equipment, for instance. They are sent through explosive detection machines only if there is something suspicious.

"A system such as ours is the only way that all airports can comply with the law," said Tim Campbell, the airport's executive director. "There's no way the manufacturers can even manufacture enough machines, let alone have the airports in a position to install and retrofit their terminals."

Others in the airport management field want to be able to use alternatives to explosive detection machines.

George Doughty, executive director of the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority, said smaller airports should be allowed to search bags by hand. The authority runs Lehigh Valley International Airport in Allentown, Pa., which handles 1 million passengers a year.

"The law specifically states EDS machines," Doughty said. "If you can accomplish the same mission with another technique, I'm sure Congress would be happy with that."

Sen. Richard Durbin, a member of the Senate Appropriations transportation subcommittee, acknowledged there may not be enough machines in place by Dec. 31. "As long as we're making a good-faith effort — and I think we are — I'm not going to be critical," said Durbin, D-Ill.

Also to be decided is where the explosive detection machines should go. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and many airport executives say they want them in baggage handling areas rather than in airport lobbies.

"It's going to be difficult to meet any kind of customer service requirements if these machines are in front of the ticket counters," said Gina Marie Lindsay, managing director of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, which handles 27 million passengers a year.

# Serial killer action figures upsets victims' families

BY JULIET WILLIAMS  
Associated Press Writer

**MILWAUKEE** — A Colorado company's line of dolls depicting serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer and other murderers is in poor taste, an attorney for victims' families said Friday.

Spectre Studios offers hand-painted, posable figurines of Dahmer, Ted Bundy, John Wayne Gacy and Wisconsin killer Ed Gein.

Creator David Johnson declined to be interviewed by The Associated Press, but said in an e-mail that he "was making money doing my artwork. I'm sure that seems a very feeble excuse for a victim's family member watching the news."

In 1991, Dahmer admitted killing 17 young men and boys in Milwaukee, mutilating the victims and cannibalizing some of them. Gein, whose story is echoed in the movies "Psycho" and "Silence of the Lambs," committed his crimes in Plainfield.

Families of the victims go through the horror of Dahmer's crimes every time they hear his name, said Tom Jacobson, a Milwaukee lawyer who represented the families of 11 of Dahmer's victims.

He conceded there is nothing the families can do to stop sales of the figures. Lawsuits seeking to stop a comic book depicting Dahmer and a book written by Dahmer's father were unsuccessful.

Michael Lisowski, who knew four of Dahmer's victims, said the figures may offend some but are obviously in demand.

"I think it's grotesque, but I mean the guy must be doing it because there's a market for it," he said. "I suppose people jump into that, they see Jeffrey Dahmer and jump on the bandwagon. I think you have to kind of let the thing run its course."

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## INTERNATIONAL

# Pope's ailing health evident at Good Friday's services

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO  
Associated Press Writer

**ROME** — Pope John Paul II, not strong enough to walk with a cross in the Good Friday procession, stood as the ceremony neared its end and, for a few minutes, held the cross that had been carried by other celebrants.

Recalling the suffering of Jesus as his crucifixion approached, John Paul's own suffering was evident. Stooped, trembling and often grimacing in pain, John Paul has been unable to carry on like he has for years.

But the pontiff has insisted on celebrating Easter ceremonies and the Vatican is setting up a special altar in St. Peter's Basilica to avoid having him climb steps, a top papal aide said.

"The pope is better than he was at the beginning of Holy Week, so much so that tomorrow (Saturday) night and Sunday, it is foreseen that the pope himself will celebrate" the Easter Masses, Monsignor Piero Marini, who assists John Paul at major public ceremonies, told Italian state TV as he awaited the pontiff's arrival at the Colosseum for the candlelit Good Friday procession.

Because John Paul "doesn't want to give up" Saturday night's ceremony, "we'll try to avoid the steps that lead to the central altar of St. Peter's by constructing an altar at the foot" of the main altar, said Marini, who in recent years has offered the pope his arm when the pontiff's strength appeared to be waning in

long ceremonies.

The Vatican hasn't said what caused the pope to scale back his participation in Holy Week ceremonies, but said in February that arthrosis, a joint disease, in one of his knees, was to blame for the cancellation of several public appearances.

Thousands of faithful, holding flickering candles, gathered in the night for the Good Friday procession. John Paul used to walk the distance, carrying a wooden cross at the head of the procession. But last year, John Paul who turns 82 in May, bowed to his condition and only walked a short stretch.

John Paul, who became pontiff in 1978, suffers a Parkinson's disease-like tremor and has had difficulty walking since a 1994 hip surgery.

This year, as the procession drew to a close, John Paul stood up from his chair on a rise overlooking the faithful and gripped the wooden cross. But he took no steps. His lips were pressed closed in what appeared to be prayerful concentration.

A crimson capelet over white robes offered some protection against the damp chill of the night.

Earlier, John Paul read a prayer: "Peace to those near and far. Peace to you, Jerusalem, city beloved by the Lord."

John Paul did keep up one Good Friday tradition. He spent an hour in the Basilica hearing confessions from five women and four men of various nationalities chosen from the crowd.

A day earlier, on Holy Thursday, for the

## Shook up



Sgt. Steve Melbourne/Royal Marines  
**British Royal Air Force crew unload aid from an RAF Chinook helicopter at Nahrin, in northern Afghanistan on Friday. The RAF delivered food, blankets, and other aid to villagers affected by last Monday's earthquake.**

first time in his papacy, John Paul let two cardinals perform the ritual washing and kissing of the feet of priests, a ritual symbolizing humility. On Palm Sunday and in ceremonies Thursday, the pope sat on the side while a cardinal celebrated Mass.

The ongoing decrease in John Paul's strength and stamina has been dramatic. Just a year ago, the pope was able to move down a line of a dozen seated, white-robed priests, pouring water on each man's right foot from a golden pitcher, wiping them

dry and bringing the feet to his lips.

Marco Politi, a papal biographer writing Friday in the Rome newspaper La Repubblica, said the Vatican has resisted suggestions that John Paul use a wheelchair.

Cheers of "Viva il papa!" ("Long live the pope!") and strong applause resounded from the faithful when the pope blessed them. Instead of reading a closing speech, the pope offered improvised reflections on the suffering of Jesus.

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## INTERNATIONAL



# Israelis overrun Arafat's headquarters

BY HADEEL WAHDAN

Associated Press Writer

**RAMALLAH, West Bank** — Israeli troops backed by tanks swarmed into Yasser Arafat's headquarters Friday, punching holes in walls and fighting room to room as the Palestinian leader huddled in a windowless office and made frantic appeals to world leaders by cell-phone.

Five Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed as Israeli forces took over the West Bank city of Ramallah and Arafat's sprawling compound, where 25 Palestinians were wounded and 60 detained.

In the latest Palestinian attack, an 18-year-old woman blew herself up at the entrance of a Jerusalem supermarket, killing herself and two Israelis. The Al-Aqsa Brigades, a militia close to Arafat's Fatah movement, said it sent the bomber.

The Ramallah operation was described by Israeli officials as the first stage of a much larger assault aimed at destroying the "terrorist infrastructure" that Israelis blame for the hundreds of deaths they have suffered in 18 months of relentless violence. More than a thousand Palestinians also have died.

Israel said it had no plans to kill Arafat but wanted to isolate him.

Throughout the day, Israeli tanks shelled buildings in the compound and soldiers entered buildings and traded fire with Palestinians. By nightfall, Arafat was trapped in his three-story office building, which was plunged into darkness when soldiers cut off electricity and destroyed a generator. Phone links were blocked, leaving Arafat with only a cell phone to connect him with the outside world.

Arafat was in a windowless room, following events on television, giving phone interviews to Arab satellite TV channels and speaking by phone to more than a dozen world leaders. Arafat pleaded for immediate international intervention, but was not given real promises, one of his aides said.

Among those the Palestinian leader spoke with were Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Arab League leader Amr Moussa.

A submachine gun placed on the table in front of him, Arafat was defiant. "They want me under arrest or in exile or dead, but I am telling them, I prefer to be martyred," he said in a telephone interview with Al-Jazeera, the Arab satellite television channel. "May God make us martyrs."

In an interview with CNN, Arafat assailed Israel, saying the Palestinian people were "fighting this tyranny." He said Palestinians will continue "in the face of ... this terrorist occupation."

In yet another interview with Jordanian state-run television, Arafat described Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as "bloodthirsty" and bent on "blowing up" a collective Arab peace initiative endorsed Thursday.

"Is this the right answer to the Arab summit and the proposal of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah?"

Arafat added that the United States "could have ordered him (Sharon) to end the attacks. Why are they quiet despite all that is taking place?"

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had told the United States that Arafat would not be harmed. Powell urged the Israeli prime minister to use restraint and consider the consequences of escalation. But he added: "Let's be clear about what brought it all to a halt — terrorism," and called on Arafat to put a stop to violence.

Despite the violence, U.S. truce envoy Anthony Zinni continued his mission, meeting with Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat on Friday and speaking to Arafat by phone.

Erekat said Israel's "endgame is to kill Arafat," an accusation that Sharon spokesman Ranaan Gissin dismissed as "nonsense."

The latest escalation began with a suicide bombing Wednesday in an Israeli hotel banquet hall that killed 22 diners during a Passover Seder, the ritual meal at the start of the weeklong Jewish holiday. It was followed by attacks on two Jewish settlements Thursday and Friday that killed six Israelis.

On Friday morning, after an all-night session, his Cabinet declared Arafat an "enemy" and said the



Associated Press

**Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound comes under attack in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Friday. Israeli forces and tanks entered the compound, punching holes through walls and conducting room to room searches inside the compound.**

Palestinian leader would be completely isolated. Israel began calling up thousands of reserve soldiers, and the mobilization was expected to reach 20,000 troops, the largest in a decade.

Hours later, Israeli troops and two dozen tanks swarmed into Arafat's walled compound — an area the size of a city block with a jumble of several interconnected buildings, surrounded by a high wall with three gates.

Israeli troops know every inch of Arafat's three-story-office building — it was the Israeli military headquarters in Ramallah until Israel withdrew from the city in 1995. The bottom floor has guard rooms, the middle floor houses Arafat's office, dining room and sleeping quarters, and the top has more offices.

In Friday's assault, heavy tank and gunfire hit the building's first and third floors, Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said — the first time Israel directly targeted the building. Israeli snipers took positions on rooftops, and tanks shelled the intelligence headquarters in the complex.

Israeli troops broke into structures adjacent to Arafat's offices and punched holes in walls, moving room to room toward his building. At one point, they broke through a wall into the office building itself and traded fire with Palestinians through the hole, the Palestinians said.

But the military said its soldiers did not enter the building. Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Eitan, commander of Israeli troops in the West Bank, said troops were in control of the whole compound except Arafat's offices. He said large amounts of weapons were found and about 60 people were detained. Abed Rabbo told CNN those detained were unarmed, mostly secretaries and drivers.

Earlier this month, the Israeli military carried out an extensive operation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, sending 20,000 soldiers into towns, villages and refugee camps in a hunt for Palestinian militants. That operation was the biggest since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Zinni, the U.S. envoy, had reported some progress toward a cease-fire this week. Israel had accepted Zinni's timetable for implementing a truce with some reservations, while the Palestinians sought more clarifications.

Thursday evening, with Israeli retaliation for the

Passover bombing already imminent, Arafat said he was ready to immediately implement the U.S. truce plan without conditions. But he stopped short of formally declaring a cease-fire.

Sharon later said Israel had sought a cease-fire but only received "terrorism, terrorism and more terrorism."

The Israeli assault sparked protests by Palestinian refugees in camps in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Arab leaders said the assault was aimed at wrecking an unprecedented peace initiative approved at an Arab summit on Thursday, offering Israel normal relations in exchange for its withdrawal from territory captured in the 1967 Mideast war.



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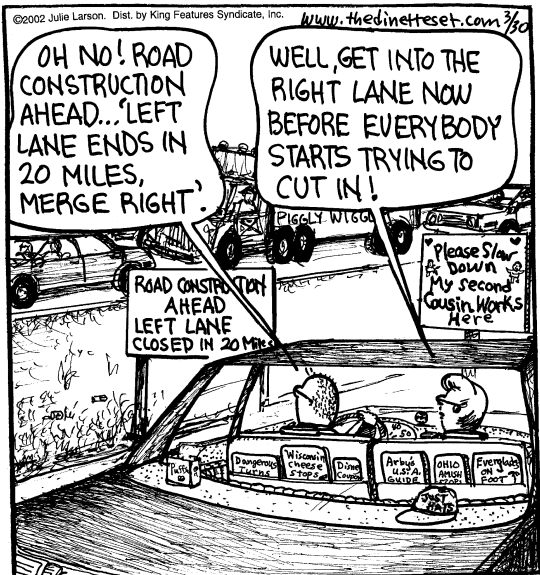
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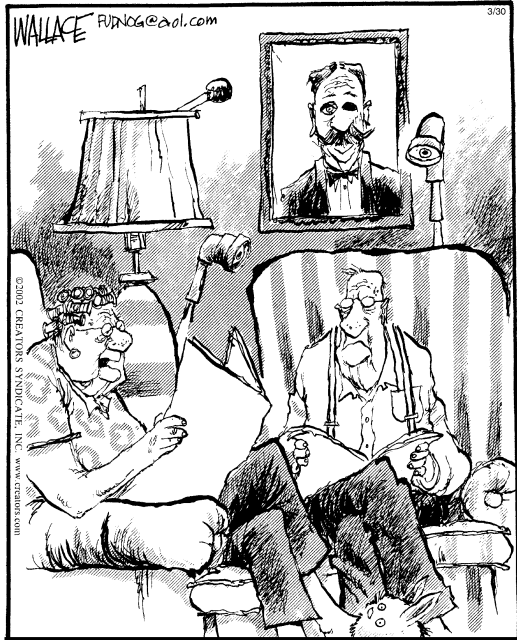


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## The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



## Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



IT SAYS WE SHOULD ALL THINK OF OURSELVES AS HAVING BEEN IN EGYPT. I REALIZED SOME THINGS ABOUT THAT.



## Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



## Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



## CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Irish county
  - 6 Food fishes
  - 11 Man with a moral
  - 12 Belief
  - 13 Prickly plants
  - 14 Protractor's measure
  - 15 Massages
  - 17 Hockey legend
  - 18 Chaney of horror
  - 19 Greek letter
  - 22 Terminus
  - 23 Pinball bonus
  - 24 Net receipts?
  - 25 Look at
  - 27 Singer Shannon
  - 30 One out early
  - 31 Pitching stat
  - 32 Ventilate
  - 33 Plays
  - 35 Smackers
  - 38 A bit wet
  - 39 Accept without question
  - 40 Photographer Adams
- DOWN**
- 41 Theatrical
  - 42 Poor
  - 1 Witch's sound
  - 2 Use for support
  - 3 Climb
  - 4 Composer Nino
  - 5 Skin-related
  - 6 Depot: Abbr.
  - 7 Brood tender
  - 8 Luanda's land
  - 9 Lindo of movies
  - 10 Harsh
  - 16 Caught fish, in a way
  - 20 Swinger of comics
  - 21 Under the weather
  - 24 Swelled head
  - 25 Scold
  - 26 Book goofs
  - 27 Extinction
  - 28 Cleared
  - 29 To finish
  - 30 Duel units
  - 34 Tops
  - 36 Suds holder
  - 37 Bond, e.g.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | A | W | E | D |   | B | A | B | E | S |
| A | L | A | M | O |   | A | T | L | A | S |
| D | A | T | E | D |   | Y | E | A | S | T |
|   |   | E | R | O | S |   | I | C | E | S |
| G | A | R | Y |   | P | I | N | K |   |   |
| E | L | S |   | P | A | N | T | H | E | R |
| E | T | H | E | L |   | K | O | A | L | A |
| S | O | I | R | E | E | S |   | W | I | N |
|   | P | R | A | M |   | S | K | A | T |   |
| D | A | D | A |   | U | S | E | D |   |   |
| A | L | O | N | E |   | N | I | O | B | E |
| D | O | W | D | Y |   | A | N | W | A | R |
| S | E | N | S | E |   | P | E | N | N | A |

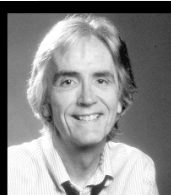
Yesterday's answer

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |    | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 |    |    |    |    |    | 12 |    |    |    |    |
| 13 |    |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    | 17 |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |    | 19 |    | 20 | 21 |    |    |    |
| 22 |    |    |    | 23 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 24 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    | 25 | 26 |    |    |    |    | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |
| 30 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 31 |    |    |    |
| 32 |    |    |    | 33 |    | 34 |    |    |    |    |
| 35 |    |    | 36 | 37 |    | 38 |    |    |    |    |
| 39 |    |    |    |    |    | 40 |    |    |    |    |
| 41 |    |    |    |    |    | 42 |    |    |    |    |

3-30

## STUMPED?

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

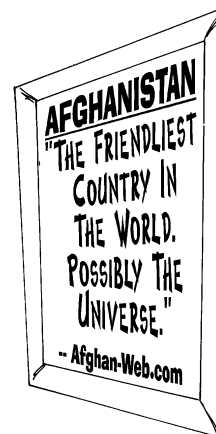


## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

### Saudi Arabian woman raped then jailed for having sex

- A Saudi Arabian woman who was found by a court to have been raped by her sister's husband was sentenced to six months in jail and 65 lashes because she had thus had sex (Jeddah, February).
- A Mexican immigrant in his 20s, who was returning a purse and cell phone he found to their owner, was shot to death, allegedly by the owner's brother-in-law, who thought the Samaritan's \$50 reward request was too high (Whittier, Calif.).
- A Dallas-area public school system announced it would sell permanent naming rights to dozens of its buildings and facilities (e.g., \$1 million for a soccer field), but at least would not sell to corporations (Highland Park, Texas).



"Non Muslims Must Bear Distinctive Mark." - Taliban Edict



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WESTWOOD \$1300.00 2+2, R/S, patio, carpets, parking included. Westside Rentals (310) 395-RENT.

WESTWOOD \$1375.00 2+2, cat ok, carpets, A/C, fireplace, large closets, laundry, move-in special, parking included. West-side Rentals (310) 395-RENT.

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## Houses For Rent

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WESTWOOD \$587.00 Private bdrm, R/S, carpets, A/C, fire-place, large closets, part uti-lities. Westside Rentals (310) 395-RENT.

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## BACK PAGE

### ODDS & ENDS

#### A one-horse town?

By The Associated Press

**LEXINGTON, Ky.** — It appears Lexington has some competition for the title "Horse Capital of the World," even though it has spent about \$8,000 to post 40 signs proclaiming itself as such.

A horse-breeding community in central Florida said the name is legally theirs. The Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association says it obtained a trademark on that title for Ocala and Marion County, Fla., and would mount a court challenge to stop others from using it, according to the organization's vice president, Richard Hancock.

"No one else can use that term. It belongs to the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders," said Maria Hernandez, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington.

Hancock said he applied for the trademark three years ago after hearing that Lexington had proposed adopting the phrase and getting a trademark on it. It was granted in June.

"We beat them to the punch," Hancock said.

Kentucky produces nearly 30 percent of all U.S. thoroughbreds and has dozens of top stallions, including Storm Cat, one of the most valuable with a stud fee of \$500,000.

Florida is the country's second-biggest producer of thoroughbreds, with about 10 percent of U.S. foals.

#### Keep counting those valves

By The Associated Press

**HONOLULU** — Auditors looking at the city's finances recently found that two sewer valve repair kits valued at \$290 each were mistakenly counted nearly 10,000 times each over the past three years.

The discrepancy caused the sewer fund's inventory balance to be inflated by about \$5.8 million.

City officials said an antiquated inventory system was to blame for counting 19,998 kits instead of two, and a new accounting system is being installed.

Auditors had to go through some 1,800 sheets of entries to find the problem, said Tim Steinberger, city director of environmental services.

"We should not run into this problem again," he said.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers discovered the error during the annual audit for the city's federal financial assistance programs.

#### Going shoeless isn't a right

By Associated Press

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** — A public library isn't trampling on a patron's constitutional rights by requiring him to wear shoes inside the building, a judge has ruled.

The judge threw out Robert Neinast's freedom of expression lawsuit Wednesday, and agreed with the library that the barefoot ban protects patrons from exposure to broken glass, blood and other bodily fluids that have been found on its floors.

"We think the rules are reasonable and are for the good of all customers," said library Director Larry Black.

Neinast, who had been asked to leave the downtown library for being barefoot several times from 1997 to 2001, said he sued the Columbus Metropolitan Library for blocking his healthy lifestyle and First Amendment rights.

"If any bureaucrat can make a rule regarding health and safety, state parks could make everyone wear sunscreen," Neinast said.

The software writer, who represented himself in the case, said he did not know if he would appeal.

#### \$100 tip tips off police

By The Associated Press

**SALEM, Ore.** — A man suspected of robbing a bank gave himself away when he tipped a waiter \$100 in order to get a seat away from the window.

Chris Ronemus was thrilled to receive the large gratuity on a slow day at DaVinci Ristorante, but he wasn't allowed to keep the money.

Scott Michael Farrow, a 33-year-old unemployed painter from California, allegedly threatened a Wells Fargo teller and fled with an undisclosed amount of money Wednesday.

Police canvassing the neighborhood entered the restaurant and asked if anyone had seen someone matching suspect's description. An employee pointed out a man at a table inside, and mentioned the \$100 tip.

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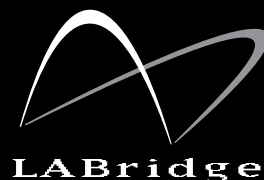
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