FREE

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 118

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
2-4-16-31-43
Jackpot: $7 million
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FANTASY 5
02, 05, 09, 17, 33

DAILY 3
Afternoon picks: **6, 8, 0**
Evening picks: **7, 7, 6**

DAILY DERBY
1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George
2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold
3rd Place: 07, Eureka
Race time: 1:42.22

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ Aaron Bell, 19, was convicted in December of robbing a Kentucky Fried Chicken store in Philadelphia 12 months earlier. It was the same KFC where Bell had worked for the previous two years; he wore no mask or disguise, and all the employees recognized him. He might have learned in those two years that the store's safe is time-locked at 9 p.m., but he started the robbery at 9:15 and thus got no money. Nonetheless, Bell successfully hid from police for three days. On the third day, he decided to report for work at the KFC, acting as if nothing had happened. The manager called police.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The best thing about a cocktail party is being asked to it.

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Bayside board debates Promenade problems

Officials air concerns, plans to correct them

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Third Street Promenade doesn't pass the "grandmother test."

The analogy was used last week by Bayside District Corp. consultant Rob York, who said the outdoor mall's economic viability rests partially on whether it's convenient to come here.

That can be gauged by whether or not an elderly woman with her grandchildren feels comfortable finding her way around, feels safe and can easily find parking in Santa Monica.

Board members at the Bayside District Corp., which manages the downtown with the city, last week talked about their "big picture" plans and the most pressing issues facing downtown Santa Monica. Officials are worried about the economic future of Santa Monica's downtown district.

Most agreed the Promenade is unsafe, dirty, inconvenient, has too many vagrants and too many chain stores. After airing the laundry list of issues, board members now plan to devise a strategy to fix the Promenade's problems.

While the Promenade has quickly transformed to resemble many of its suburban counterparts, the strip still has unique qualities that draw millions of shoppers here every year, officials said.

But officials worry that Santa Monica is losing market share to shopping districts like downtown Pasadena and The Grove because the public perceives the Promenade as inconvenient and unsafe.

On the top of the priority list for most Bayside board members is finding a way to clean up the areas streets and alleys. Most Promenade visitors park in the downtown garages and access the mall through reeking alleys littered with trash and vagrants.

"I think families are staying away from the Promenade because they don't feel safe," said board member Bill Tucker, who listed vagrancy as his No. 1 issue. "It's more than 10 years old. It looks tired. We need to reinvest."

But it's unlikely the city, which is in charge of maintaining the Promenade, will be able to put more resources toward the effort because of a growing budget deficit.

"The Promenade has to get control of its common areas," said board member Henry Lichtman. "Alleyways are a much bigger issue than we are making it out to be. They are our front door and that's what they see right when they get here."

Mark Richter, head of the city's economic development and a Bayside board member, suggested one option is to charge downtown businesses a higher assessment to pay for better maintenance.

However, cleaning up the area won't necessarily rid downtown Santa Monica, often referred to as

See BAYSIDE, page 5

Mall plan scrapped because of cost realities

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Economic realities have squashed grandiose plans to tear down Santa Monica Place and connect a new mall to the Third Street Promenade.

Instead, a more modest plan to tear down the front entrance on two levels and move the food court to the third level overlooking the ocean is what Macerich Corp., the owners of the mall, are now suggesting.

Original plans to open up the mall so the Promenade can extend through it would cost upwards of $150 million, which neither the city or Macerich can afford.

"It's extremely unrealistic," said Henry Lichtman, who represents Macerich Corp.

The concept is part of the city's Civic Center redevelopment plan, which proposes to completely rebuild the area around City Hall on Main Street. The plan, still in its infancy, is

See MALL, page 5

Beach action



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Crews from VH-1 film actor Aaron Brumfield on the beach south of the Santa Monica Pier last week.

Holy city of Najaf encircled

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING AND CHRIS TOMLINSON
Associated Press Writers

NEAR NAJAF, Iraq — The U.S. Army encircled the Shiite holy city of Najaf on Sunday and said it killed about 100 paramilitary fighters and captured about 50 Iraqis.

The "terror squad members" were killed Sunday at Najaf and another town in fighting with the 82nd Airborne Division, the Central Command said in a statement Monday. It did not further identify the "terror squads" or give other details about the newly captured Iraqis.

The 101st Airborne Division surrounded Najaf, preparing for a possible door-to-door battle to root out Saddam Hussein's fighters — but leery of damaging some of the faith's most sacred shrines.

Further north, Army brigades crept closer to Baghdad, advancing 10 miles with little resistance, though battles with the Republican Guard loomed. To the south, Marines launched "search-and-destroy" missions to clear the road to Baghdad of Iraqi attackers.

But it was at Najaf — a city of 300,000, 100 miles south of Baghdad — that U.S. military leaders were faced with a difficult decision.

It was unclear whether the U.S. strategy is to take Najaf or simply to cordon off the city. There are too many Iraqi fighters to bypass them or leave them unattended; they're a danger to supply lines on the way to Baghdad.

But if Najaf is a key stepping stone to the capital, it is also a dangerous one. On Saturday, a suicide attack killed four U.S. soldiers at a checkpoint north of town; on Sunday, nervous U.S. troops warned approaching drivers they would be shot if they did not leave the area.

"This is our type of fight," said Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, of the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based air assault division. "This is probably the most dangerous part of combat and that's urban. Sometimes you don't find out who

See WAR, page 10

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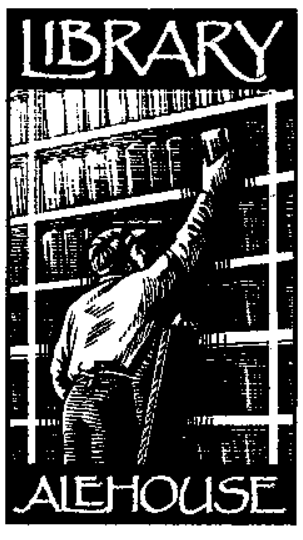
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HOROSCOPE

Ask for what you need, Virgo



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, March 31, 2003:

Your birthday year could be a mixed bag. If you claim your power, you will be able to create much more of what you want. Learn to aim for your desires, but don't be surprised by others' reactions either. Some might be jealous, wanting more of what you have. Don't hesitate to keep on asking for what you want and heading for your goals. If you are single, someone very special might already be in your life. If not, hold on tight — your special person could rocket into your life any day. If attached, express your love in a way that makes a difference to your sweetie. ARIES is your soul mate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Reach into your bag of creative ideas, and you'll come up with more solutions. You're the office hero! As the Moon heads into your sign, you become an unstoppable force. Don't let a misunderstanding stop you. Go on cruise control. Tonight: Whatever makes the Ram beam from ear to ear.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Use the a.m. hours to cross your t's and dot your i's on a project. Put on the brakes in the p.m., when your energy could be slightly off. Put an end to knee-jerk reactions. Be a listener. Gather information. Know where you're heading. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Tumble graciously into the role of the office cheerleader. Where you might not be sure of yourself, someone else is. Empower those around you. Delegate when necessary. What begins as an office meeting turns into a party. Tonight: Where the action is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Look at motives before you jump to conclusions. Understanding takes you down a new path. Realize what you cannot fix. Detach with caring, and you'll gain a better grasp on a present issue. Flow with the moment. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Work with others through this morning. Make your best effort with an associate. Work as a team. Investigate others' motives more carefully through research and finding an expert or two. Go into a meeting prepared to handle an issue directly. Tonight: Buy concert tickets.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Others appear to be in control. It doesn't have to be this way. You do have options, believe it or not. Encourage resourcefulness. You will think through a decision more carefully than in prior years. Work with a trusted partner. Tonight: Ask for what you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Plunge into work as if there is no tomorrow. Rather than tell someone you cannot talk, simply screen your calls. In the afternoon, the more social nature of your job emerges, adding to your possibilities. Discussions will be animated if you open up. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Revise your approach, and you might be surprised by what could occur. If you think you have a problem financially, do whatever you need to do to clear it out. Close your door if you have any hope of completing work this afternoon. Plunge into a task. Tonight: Concentrate, and you'll relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Handle a tense domestic matter first, or else you might not be able to give your other projects the oomph you want. Be more experimental with a loved one you really care about. Brainstorm more often together, trying to get to the bottom of what you want. Tonight: Togetherness makes both you and another happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Experiment with an idea. Give up judgments and roll with a brainstorming situation. Check out a money and/or property matter with care. Think in terms of gains. Together with a partner or family member you stand to gain from an investment. Tonight: Put your feet up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Investigate financial possibilities. A friend might not mean to lead you down the wrong track but might not be able to control him- or herself. Take the time to pull away and head down your predestined path. Speak your mind. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Use the morning, when your charisma peaks. A boss could be testy, but you seem to come up with the right answers at the right time. Be honest about a money matter, especially if you don't want to greet confusion. Keep facts and desires separate! Tonight: Pay bills first.

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

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

First Lady kicks off local rotary club efforts

By Daily Press staff

California First Lady Sharon Davis recently spoke about literacy efforts to a group of Santa Monica business leaders who will read to local elementary students this week.

The Rotary Club of Santa Monica hosted Davis at its luncheon at the Riviera Country Club last week as part of its kick off for "Rotary Reads To Kids" week, which begins today.

About 50 Rotarians will read to children in kindergarten through second grade at Edison, McKinley, Muir and Rogers elementary schools in Santa Monica. The annual program includes donating books to the schools.

"To have a member of our business community take time out of their busy schedule to come into a classroom and read a book to kindergarten, first and second graders leaves a lasting impression on these youngsters," said John Deasy, superintendent of schools in Santa Monica and Malibu.

"In these lean, budgetary times, having the community involved in our children's education is not only enjoyable, it is necessary," he added.

Sharon Davis' husband, Gov. Gray Davis, has proposed cutting millions of dollars from local school district budgets to fill the state's estimated $35 billion deficit.

But Sharon Davis down-played the cuts by saying when her husband got into office, California was ranked 48th in the country on spending per pupil. The state now ranks 28th, which really only means the proposed cuts account for a 4 percent reduction if one looks at where the state began and is currently, she said.

Many school officials in the audience rolled their eyes at that explanation because they are forced to deal with a $13 million budget shortfall almost entirely from state cuts.

Sharon Davis, who has visited thousands of schools around the state promoting literacy and education, believes teaching children to read is fundamental.

"For them to realize their dreams, they have to be able to read," Sharon Davis said. "That's why what you are doing is so important."

But it's difficult to make sure all students in California are guaranteed equal opportunity to learn how to read, she said. California has 8,000 schools, 6.2 million children and employs 300,000 teachers, which makes it more difficult than other states to deliver an impact, Davis said.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Sharon Davis, wife of California Gov. Gray Davis, addresses the Rotary Club of Santa Monica at the Riviera Country Club last week.

"That's more than 34 states have in total population," Sharon Davis said.

California has made great strides in the past four years under her husband's administration, she said, because it now has statewide standards. Every school in the state is supposed to use the same curriculum so every student, regardless of whether they are rich or poor, gets the same education.

However, not all schools have the same amount of resources available, which is why the Rotary Club of Santa Monica has donated several thousand books to schools locally and in cities like Compton and Watts.

The club also provided books to a senior citizen facility in Culver City and donated to a literacy program in Swaziland in South Africa.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Surf looks none-too promising today. Forecasts show wave energy continuing to decrease today. Surf will probably sink below waist-high.

Long-range forecasts are tracking a major swell off New Zealand, due in SoCal by the middle of next week. It's going to be huge. By Wednesday, reports say surf could be double-overhead at L.A.'s best southwest spots.

Today's Tides:

Low-	12:43 a.m.	1.86'
High-	6:26 a.m.	4.97'
Low-	1:28 p.m.	-0.59'
High-	7:51 p.m.	4.22'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surf	1-3'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	D
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	B
Break	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Porto	3-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A

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The Q Line

Last week, the Santa Monica City Council voted unanimously to ban smoking in all 15 city parks because of concerns about the health risks associated with second-hand smoke and the likelihood that children might ingest discarded cigarette butts.

The council is scheduled to review the law a second time in April, 30 days after which it will go into effect. Smokers who are cited under the law will be fined $250.

This week, Q-Line wants to know: **"Is the smoking ban in parks a good law, a bad law or a waste of time and money?"**

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

Outrage over funds for new library

Editor:

Isn't anyone else outraged over the apparent gross misuse of funds being used to pay for the new Santa Monica library?

$77 million seems like an irresponsible amount to be spending on any one building — even if Santa Monica was not already in a serious financial crisis.

How can city officials keep a straight face when authorizing tens of millions to fund a new library while at the same time increasing parcel and sales taxes and parking meter rates to ease the financial burden of our "cash-strapped" city? Who is minding the till? I have to wonder who is getting rich off this project — it certainly isn't the residents of Santa Monica.

Will this grand new library contain luxury suites where the homeless can live? If not, why not take care of the much more pressing issue of men and women in this city who do not have a roof over their heads before casually spending $77 million on a better roof for some books?

Krista Grossman
Santa Monica

Safety preparedness our greatest danger

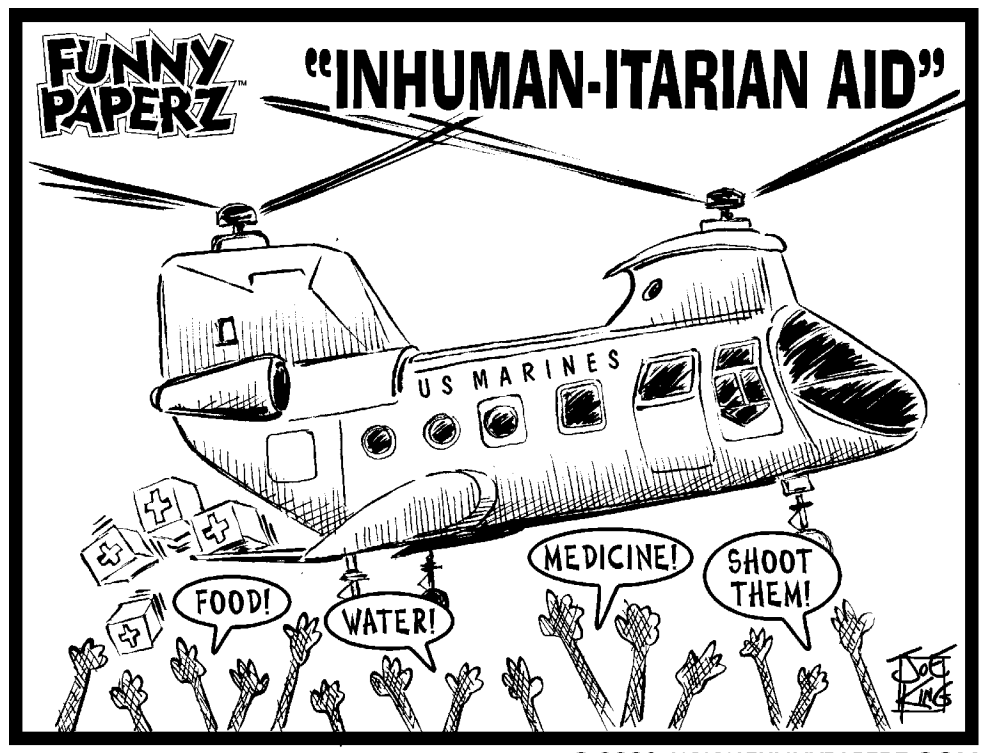
Editor:

The recent tragedies in Chicago, Illinois and West Warwick, Rhode Island are terrible reminders that despite America's preoccupation with terrorism, poor emergency and safety preparedness are our greatest dangers. It's appalling that horrific incidents, such as in Chicago and West Warwick, occur before most people realize such potential dangers as building code violations, overcrowding, blocked, locked or unlit emergency exits, missing or improper safety equipment, etc., help create such deadly circumstances. Everyone, not only business or commercial managers and owners, bears responsibility for such awareness and enforcement.

I plead with everyone to inform yourselves, co-workers, families, friends, neighbors, etc., of local, emergency and safety procedures. It's our responsibility to learn about code enforcement, fire exits, proper and working safety equipment, etc. We all need not to be paranoid, but we all can try, as much as humanly possible, to be safe.

Many emergency and safety experts often advise us to learn about code enforcement, fire exits, proper working safety equipment, etc. If any surrounding conditions or situations seem potentially dangerous, please respond calmly, immediately and properly alert all the appropriate parties. "May Almighty God bless and keep each and everyone of you as safe as possible!"

Christopher R. Callen
Peoria, Illinois



How many have to die before forest view is clear?



I have been sitting at S.M.C. watching the "War in Iraq" and I am getting flashbacks of the Vietnam coverage of the 60s. Anyone who was a child or grew up in the 60s should remember this as being very disturbing.

In watching this I am getting the sense of watching a football game. They have a general who comes on with a map and he shows you the suspected intentions of the troops as they "speed towards Baghdad."

And they are even giving weather reports for that reason. He even used the same "pen" that they use in football coverage. I keep waiting for that Madden guy to come on and give his "enlightened" opinion.

I am really very ill at ease with all this going on. I feel that the government, as a whole, has taken too much from us as citizens as it is. Now old Georgie Porgie wants $75 billion for this war.

What about this country's citizens? What about our education system and the many MORE people who stand the chance of becoming homeless through the lay-offs in the airline industry and the education system here in California?

What happened to the "no child shall be left behind" words Bush spewed out during the election? What happened to the "hunt for Bin Laden?"

These are questions we, as a people, should be asking ourselves and our "elected" leaders.

As a former Marine who has been trained for combat, I see this easy movement through Iraq as being TOO easy. Saddam is not stupid and I think that our men and women in Iraq are in greater danger than we are being told. And the news agencies are being very stifled as to what they even are being told about this "war."

Meanwhile, here in Santa Monica things are going on as usual, like the Promenade is not a highly likely target for a terrorist attack. Like the police can stop one of these maniacs from running in, let's say Coffeebean, and blowing himself and everyone there up.

Are we, as a nation, so blind to the danger of this invasion? Have we forgotten so soon what these people are capable of? You might wonder why they haven't done anything yet. Well my feeling is that they are waiting for the time when there are the most people here.

Summertime tourist season. It might not be here in Santa Monica, but it will happen somewhere where it will cause the most damage to us and our sense of safety. I am saying this as I am thinking like someone who would want to cause the most damage to not only our buildings and economy, but to the heart of the nation whom they hate.

We are not a stupid people here in America but, as I have stated many times in past columns, we have a very bad habit of totally believing our leaders. As if they are not human and cannot deceive us. We think they have all this "knowledge" when in reality, they are human and make mistakes like human beings do. They can deceive us, as they have for the past so many decades, so they can get what they want at our expense. When this $75 billion "war bill" passes in Congress, watch who will take the burden for it.

His tax cut bill is going to be passed as well and that is for the upper class NOT for the middle class.

Let's see — so far we have no money for education, no money for health care, no money for affordable housing, no money for the veterans, no money for Social Security. BUT we have $75 BILLION for this "War in Iraq," which C.N.N. and other news agencies are making a killing on.

What's wrong with this picture, people? What can any of you who read this and any other column speaking out against the war see from this whole big picture many of us are painting for you?

How many more people have to die before you see the forest through the trees?

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

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LOCAL

Is Promenade's 'edginess' a competitive advantage?

BAYSIDE, from page 1

"The home of the homeless," of its vagrant problem, a question officials continue to grapple with.

Bayside board chairman John Warfel told a recent story of a man who defecated on a tree trunk along the Promenade, just feet away from people dining at a restaurant.

"Things like that are going on," he said. "Perception of safety and cleanliness will make or break us."

Officials also consistently hear from residents and visitors that the lack of variety in downtown stores has weakened Santa Monica's position in the market.

The Promenade's lack of mom and pop shops has many Bayside officials concerned, but not much can be done about it since most of the corporate chain stores recently entered the scene and have long-term leases, Lichtman said.

"The concept of changing the mix is extremely remote," he said.

That's why Second and Fourth streets, which have a significant amount of empty spaces, should be geared toward attracting eclectic, locally-owned stores, officials say.

Wally Marks, a Bayside board member, said the Promenade has a perception problem but it's still a draw for some people.

"Cookie cutter malls are not for everyone," he said. "It isn't add water and shake ... we still have an urban environment."

Board member Patricia Hoffman said she isn't impressed with the Promenade's so-called competitors and believes downtown Santa Monica offers something different. The Promenade's street performers and other quirky features prevent it from becoming completely sterile, she said.

"I've been to Pasadena and The Grove and I find those places to be unpleasant and can't imagine they compete with us," she said. "But I am concerned that we have too many chain stores and high-end stores."

Several board members said the Promenade has lost its competitive advantage also because its movie theaters have been ignored for years.

"I think the theaters are outdated and we need to find homes for stadium seating theaters," Tucker said.

Board member Ann Greenspun said Bayside needs to develop a marketing plan to lure potential visitors from the region.

"What are we offering people who come from Santa Barbara or Palm Springs?" she asked. "No one has really talked about that.

"We need to be a destination for something here and how we package that with the pier and Santa Monica Place."

Lichtman, who represents Macerich Corp., which owns Santa Monica Place, said his biggest priority is to have the indoor mall connect better with the Promenade. That could be accomplished by tearing down the entrance and extend the Promenade another block. (See related story.)

Art Harris, another board member, suggested to his colleagues that Bayside should build off its current market segment, which appears to be drifting toward a younger population.

"Let's remember to focus on our strengths too and not try to compete with The Grove. We are the choice for a certain market segment," he said. "We have that edginess that families with strollers don't want."

SM Place plan scrapped

MALL, from page 1

estimated to cost $120 million, not including a contribution to Macerich's redevelopment of the mall.

Officials visualized a pedestrian-oriented strip that would extend from Wilshire Boulevard all the way to Main Street. That could only happen if Santa Monica Place, which was built before the Promenade, is torn down and rebuilt as an outdoor mall. Officials consider Santa Monica Place an obstacle, preventing the flow of pedestrian traffic to the Civic Center and the pier.

The city, which is facing a $11 million deficit this year, would have to spend $150 million to move the parking underground and extend the Promenade another block from Broadway to Colorado Avenue.

"I don't think anyone should hold their breath that everything is blown up and redone," said Rob York, a consultant for the Bayside District Corp., a nonprofit organization that manages downtown with the city.

Macerich's "interim plan" calls an increase in retail space and parking and would include office space and housing units. Both department stores would remain.

City officials last week diverted millions of dollars from the Civic Center plan, which some see as a sure sign that extending the Promenade is nothing more than a dream.

"Money is progressively being pulled out and that's the clearest acceptance that the resources aren't there," said Bayside board member Rob Rader. "It has to relate to the Civic Center."

Lichtman said Macerich Corp. wants to open the first level of the mall regardless of whether the Civic Center is ever redeveloped. But it can't commit to much more if the city isn't willing to pay for some of it.

"I don't think it's going to pencil out, ever," he said.



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STATE

L.A. cardinal fights document release after vowing openness

BY SANDRA MARQUEZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Last spring, following an emergency Vatican summit on clergy sex abuse, Cardinal Roger Mahony met with a roomful of reporters to present himself as a reformer in the scandal consuming the Catholic church.

"Here in Los Angeles, our continuing progress in how we handle these matters is very gratifying," Mahony said.

Since then, the leader of 5 million Catholics in the nation's largest archdiocese has consistently said he wants to help those who were sexually molested by priests. At the same time, the archdiocese has acted aggressively to keep internal church documents concealed from prosecutors and the public.

On Tuesday, church lawyers will make their case in court, claiming that communication between Mahony and the suspected priests is protected by the First Amendment. The lawyers say priest-bishop confidentiality is a foundation of Catholicism and that interfering with it violates the free exercise of religion.

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office asked for the documents as part of cases against six priests it has charged with sexual abuse. It is looking into allegations against dozens of other priests.

Threatened with a grand jury investigation, Mahony last May pledged to turn over such documents: "We want every single thing out, open and dealt with, period," he said.

"The archdiocese has every legal right to pursue this in court, but it's important to note that they could willingly turn over those files if they wanted to," said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office. "They have changed their stated position between one of openness to one of resistance. What they say and what they do are two different things."

Several telephone messages left for archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg were not returned.

California has become a focal point of the national sex-abuse scandal in the Catholic church thanks to a law that took effect Jan. 1. That law temporarily lifts the statute of limitations for one year for civil sexual abuse cases in which an institution knowingly employed a molester.

It is expected to allow hundreds of alleged victims to sue and could lead to millions of dollars in settlements. Hundreds of lawsuits already are being prepared under the law.

Plaintiffs' lawyers want access to the same types of church documents for their civil suits that District Attorney Steve Cooley is pursuing for the criminal cases. Some question why Mahony is trying to keep them secret if he has nothing to hide.

"He and the LA archdiocese are acting more like organized crime than organized religion at this point," said Lee Bashforth, a Newport Beach financial adviser who filed a criminal complaint last April against the Rev. Michael Wempe, a former Ventura County priest he said molested him and his brother from 1976 to 1985.

Bashforth and other plaintiffs want the internal documents to see if priests admitted their abuse and how the church hierarchy responded.

Because Bashforth filed his claim against Wempe with police in April, time is running out for prosecutors, who have a year after a claim is made to file charges.

Los Angeles prosecutors say they must see the archdiocese's internal documents before deciding whether to file charges in myriad cases involving alleged priest sexual abuse.

They have asked the state Legislature to consider extending the deadline until courts decide whether the archdiocese has a right to keep the church documents private. Without the extension, prosecutors said some 60 cases involving allegations of sexual abuse of minors could fall to the statute of limitations, allowing those priests to escape criminal prosecution.

The Legislature is scheduled to vote on the issue April 8.

"(Freezing) the statute of limitations provided by this urgency bill will protect the rights of victims in the fair administration of justice," Cooley said in a written statement.

Mahony, 67, was once viewed by some in the Catholic establishment as a serious contender to be the first American pope. He was installed as archbishop of Los Angeles in 1985 and in 1991 became the nation's youngest Roman Catholic cardinal.

He has been under increasing scrutiny the past year.

Mahony has been named as a defendant in two racketeering lawsuits accusing the diocese of covering up for pedophile priests. He also was stung by the disclosure that he shuffled an admitted child molester between parishes for a decade after the priest, the Rev. Michael Baker, told Mahony about his abuses in 1986.

The accusations are similar to those against Cardinal Bernard Law of the Boston Archdiocese, who was embattled for a year over his handling of abusive priests before resigning in December.

His resignation was hastened by the release of thousands of pages of church documents that plaintiffs' lawyers had fought to obtain. Revealed among those documents was the case of one priest who traded cocaine for sex and another who had sex with teenage girls studying to become nuns.

Mitchell Garabedian, a lawyer who represents 144 sex-abuse victims of convicted Boston priest John Geoghan, said church lawyers continually made the same "prelate privilege" argument that the Los Angeles Archdiocese is making.

Judges there repeatedly ordered the Archdiocese of Boston to turn over the documents.

"The courts cannot tell a person what to believe. They cannot tell a person where to stand at the altar, for instance," Garabedian said. "But when it comes to wrongful conduct, such as conduct that relates to the molestation of children, secular law can get involved to protect innocent children."

STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

aHumboldt logging protests expensive

By The Associated Press

EUREKA — The costs of policing the contentious logging protests in Humboldt County are starting to add up.

While dozens of activists climb trees and camp out to protest Pacific Lumber Co.'s logging practices, it is the county that is left to pick up the tab as sheriff's deputies have to be on hand when they're removed and arrested.

The Sheriff's Department shelled out at least $37,000 in overtime expenses while policing the four-day March protest and Pacific Lumber's removal of the tree sitters.

The California Highway Patrol spent another $2,000.

Pacific Lumber argues it deserves the same protections as any other citizen and the county can't recover money from the activists because it isn't a party in Pacific Lumber's suit against them.

"Unfortunately that's what our tax money is used for," said Kim Kerr, the county's risk manager. "But we have a responsibility to enforce the law."

Pacifist dismayed with S.F. protesters

By The Associated Press

MILL VALLEY — A longtime pacifist has become increasingly disturbed by the way anti-war protesters have blocked San Francisco traffic to make their point.

David Harris, ex-husband of folk singer Joan Baez, said such tactics to gain attention may be doing more harm than good.

"We need to talk to people and organize them for peace, not disrupt their lives and make them angry," Harris said. "Delivery guys and commuters are not our enemy."

Protests in San Francisco since the war began have clogged busy intersections and shut down portions of the financial district, resulting in more numerous arrests.

Harris spent two years in prison for refusing to be drafted to Vietnam. He acknowledges his views may make him an outcast in the peace movement.

Disrupting traffic in the city that has been home to consistent criticism of the government's war policy over the last 35 years is no way to reward San Francisco, Harris said.

Harris is currently working on a book about the Iran hostage crisis.

Parents recruited for bilingual program

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURG — School officials are recruiting parents to enroll their children in bilingual program that teaches kindergarten students to speak, read and write in both Spanish and English.

The program immerses students in both languages at an early age and teaches them school subjects in both. By the fifth grade, students are expected to learn in English and Spanish equally.

Proponents of the program say it teaches students to learn all of their material in both languages, building self-esteem for native Spanish-speaking students and putting them on equal footing with their peers.

"They respect each other because they know what it's like to suffer in another language," said Jeff Keller, a dual-immersion teacher in Pleasanton.

Some parents believe California is the perfect state for such programs.

"(Spanish) will give them big advantages, especially in California," said Kelly McClure, a parent who plans to enroll her 5-year-old in the program this fall.

Star drug candor surprising

aBy The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A documentary filmmaker was surprised by the candor of the movie stars he interviewed for a film about how Hollywood deals with the subject of drug abuse.

Bruce Sinofsky, whose AMC documentary "Hollywood High" was scheduled to air Monday, said director Oliver Stone admitted trying the hallucinogen peyote to get inspiration for "The Doors," the story of rocker Jim Morrison.

Sinofsky said Willem Dafoe told him the star and his friends used to get high to watch Disney's animated "Fantasia" when they were young. Writer-director John Waters claimed "100 percent" of the audience, crew and actors were high on marijuana for the premiere of his offbeat 1972 comedy "Pink Flamingos," Sinofsky said.

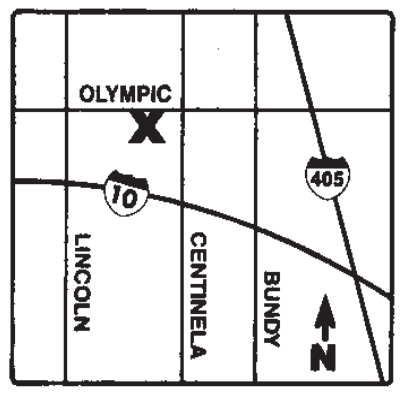
"What I didn't expect was the honesty, the truthful interviews I was doing. I didn't expect them to be talking about their own drug experiences that openly," Sinofsky said.

Sinofsky's film traces the evolution of drug films, from the 1938 cautionary tale "Reefer Madness" and the 1970s marijuana comedies of Cheech and Chong to recent films like "Requiem for a Dream" and "Traffic" about the destructive effects of cocaine and heroin.

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NATIONAL ❑ STATE

Protesters and supporters of war hit streets in U.S. cities

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — War protesters blocked traffic and some were pepper-sprayed and arrested during a snowy demonstration in Pittsburgh on Sunday, while thousands of protesters marched through Philadelphia in a cold rain.

The two Pennsylvania demonstrations were among a number of scattered rallies around the country Sunday, some in opposition to the war in Iraq and others in support.

In Philadelphia, several thousand people braved the weather, many wearing buttons that read "Bring Our Troops Home." Interspersed in the crowd were plain-clothes officers wearing police armbands.

At the city's Vietnam Veterans Memorial, protesters passed by about 100 men who stood at the memorial's entrance. Bob Yannul, 55, a Vietnam veteran from South Philadelphia, said he and other veterans had gathered out of concern that demonstrators would protest at the memorial in a way disrespectful to veterans.

"It's hallowed ground to us," Yannul said.

He said he did not object to the protests — "that's one of the reasons we went over there to fight in these wars" — but that he hoped everyone, no matter their views, would support the troops overseas.

"There are people crying themselves to sleep worried about these guys," he said.

In Pittsburgh, a group of protesters estimated by police at 250 began with a permitted rally at Frick Park, banging drums and chanting slogans against the war. But they then began an unpermitted march through residential areas, blocking traffic along a major thoroughfare.

Several were sprayed by police with pepper spray when they stepped off the narrow sidewalk. Pittsburgh police said three people were arrested by suburban police and had to be dragged away because they refused to walk.

During the rally Mary Denison, 45, of Pittsburgh, draped signs on her dog, Bella, that read, "Paws for Peace." Denison, a child psychologist, said the United States should not have acted without U.N. support.

"Shouldn't we listen or are we so arrogant we don't have to listen?" she said.

In Los Angeles, a crowd estimated by police at 5,000 marched through downtown in an early spring heat wave that brought temperatures into the 80s. The march was peaceful and there were no arrests.

"Who would Jesus bomb?" asked a sign carried by Evan Levang, 40.

"It's just a statement on the hypocrisy of people who claim to be spiritual and support massive bombardments," Levang said.

In Oak Ridge, Tenn., about 200 peace activists danced in the street leading to the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant, blocking access until scores of law enforcement officers made a handful of arrests.

About 40 counterdemonstrators held their own rally, waving American flags and playing patriotic songs on a boombox as the peace activists marched past.

Watching the anti-war protesters, Mike Jacobs, a 55-year-old Vietnam veteran, shook his head. "This just can't be good for those kids over there in Baghdad," he said.

In other cities Sunday, groups rallied in support of the war.

Hundreds braved rain, sleet and frigid temperatures to gather in downtown Dover, Del. The Stars and Stripes floated high above a sea of umbrellas, under which demonstrators listened to speeches and patriotic music and chanted "U-S-A! U-S-A!"

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner reminded people that U.S. troops overseas were fighting to defend their fellow citizens.

"What kind of weather do you think they're enduring?" Minner asked as sleet pounded on the pavement. "This is nothing."

In Kingsport, Tenn., about 150 people from more than 20 churches joined to pray for swift victory in the war. In St. Louis, about 100 gathered downtown, waving American flags behind a banner saying "We Support Our Troops."

And in New York, about 100 veterans and family members of Sept. 11 victims gathered at the mesh fence adjacent to ground zero, waving flags and singing "God Bless America."

"My son was the first casualty of war in this extended war that we're in now," said Arthur Russo, whose son, Wayne Russo, died at the World Trade Center. "And I want the whole world to know as far as I'm concerned, those people — especially in this city of New York — who condemn what's going on show total disrespect for my son, the first casualty of war, whose name is listed on these walls as a hero."

Thousands peacefully protest war in Los Angeles

BY SANDRA MARQUEZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Thousands of people marched through downtown Sunday in an early spring heat wave to protest the U.S.-led war against the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein.

"An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind," declared a sign carried by Maria Barahona, 22, a sociology student from California State University, Northridge. She said the quote summed up her fears about the war.

"I need to take a stand. And this is the right answer," said Barahona, who didn't expect her effort to stop the bombing of Baghdad, but added that taking part in the protest made her feel less alone in dissent.

The estimated 5,000 demonstrators were peaceful and there were no arrests, said Officer Lucy Diaz, a police spokeswoman.

Protesters gathered at Pershing Square and walked in 88-degree temperatures to the downtown Federal Building.

"Who would Jesus bomb?" asked a sign carried by Bert Voorhees, 47, of Tujunga.

"Nobody," Voorhees said in answer to the question.

Teresa Flores, 35, marched with husband, Evan Levang, 40, who had the same sign.

"It's just a statement on the hypocrisy of people who claim to be spiritual and support massive bombardments," he said.

Other protesters carried signs reading "Support our troops, bring them home" and "Shocked and angry." Some pushed babies in strollers.

Many demonstrators asserted that the war was really about oil and not about finding weapons of mass destruction.

"If Iraq's major export was pineapples we would not be at war," said Kerry Kraker, 38, a Los Angeles carpenter.

NATIONAL

Wal-Mart increases lead atop Fortune 500

BY JUSTIN BACHMAN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. solidified its position atop the Fortune 500 rankings as the nation's need for affordable staples boosted the retailer's revenue in 2002.

Wal-Mart held the top spot for a second consecutive year on the list, which ranks publicly traded companies based on their revenues for the year. Fortune editors conjectured that the discount merchant's worldwide growth might help it secure the position permanently.

The magazine's annual rankings showed the usual trading of spots in the top 5. At No. 2 was General Motors Corp., which rose from No. 3, switching places with Exxon Mobil Corp. Ford Motor Co. retained fourth place and General Electric Co. moved up one to fifth.

Enron Corp., the energy trader that made it to No. 5 in the previous list, dropped off after filing for bankruptcy.

Two financial powers were among the 2002 top 10. Citigroup moved up one spot to sixth, and American International Group gained three spots to ninth. ChevronTexaco Corp. was seventh, IBM eighth and Verizon Communications Inc. 10th. Each moved up a spot from the 2001 list.

The list of the largest publicly held companies has been compiled annually since 1955 by the editors of Fortune. The latest rankings are published in the magazine's April 14 issue.

Profits for the 500 plunged 66 percent to a collective $69.6 billion after a record drop in 2001. The magazine's editors said the latest decline was largely caused by accounting changes, which have made many companies far more conservative in their financial reporting. But the effects of the sluggish economy were nonetheless apparent — aggregate revenue slid for only the sixth time in the list's 49-year history, down 6 percent to $6.95 trillion.

Wal-Mart, however, saw revenue increase 12 percent to $246.5 billion, $60 billion ahead of GM.

"Wal-Mart has done more than retain its title as king of the mountain. It is rewriting notions of how big corporations are supposed to behave," Fortune writes in its introduction to the list, which appears in the April 14 issue.

"Wal-Mart has done more than retain its title as king of the mountain. It is rewriting notions of how big corporations are supposed to behave."

Fortune Magazine

Among the 36 newcomers was ubiquitous coffee purveyor Starbucks Corp., which arrived as No. 465. The highest-ranked new company on the list was AT&T Wireless Services, at No. 119. Other prominent newcomers were beer maker Adolph Coors Co., No. 422, and Ace Hardware, No. 490.

Among the notables joining Enron in departing the 500 was WorldCom Inc., the bankrupt telecom giant that was 42nd in last year's rankings.

The largest movers on the list were a collection of energy companies, troubled by the heavy debt and uncertainty that overtook the sector following Enron's collapse.

Duke Energy Corp. fell from No. 14 to No. 118. Dynegy Inc., the energy trader that once planned to acquire Enron, fell from No. 30 to No. 336. Mirant Corp. slipped from No. 52 to No. 259.

Gunman kills man during church service

BY TAREK EL-TABLAWY
Associated Press Writer

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. — A gunman stood up during a church service Sunday and killed a man, and more than 10 people were injured trying to flee the building, some apparently by leaping out windows, authorities and witnesses said.

A suspect was taken into custody, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said. He said the gunman apparently approached the victim from behind and fired from about three or four feet away.

Parishioner Luigi Gjokaj said the priest at St. Paul's Albanian Church was preparing to distribute the sacrament when the suspect stood up and yelled "yes, I am here" before opening fire.

"I first thought it was a terrorist attack," said Gjokaj, 42.

Gjokaj said he knew both the suspect and the victim. He said one had once been best man at the other's wedding, but that they since have been feuding.

The Rev. Anton Kqira called the shooting "the result of a dispute between individuals."

Bouchard said neither the victim — who was at the service with his son and daughter, ages about 10 to 15 — nor the suspect were members of St. Paul's in this Detroit suburb.

Officers found two handguns, and there were several shell casings on the ground, the sheriff said.

He said most of the injuries appeared to happened as people tried to escape the building. Details weren't immediately released, but Bouchard said some people jumped from windows.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. must be sensitive to Shiite holy sites in city

WAR, from page 1

the enemy is until they're shooting at you."

It is also a place where soldiers must tread with sensitivity.

It is in Najaf that Ali, son-in-law of the prophet Muhammad, is buried at an extraordinary shrine, its gold dome and twin minarets gleaming for miles. It is surrounded by low buildings and narrow streets, a nightmare of an urban battleground.

Other Muslim holy figures are buried there and at the vast al Wadi es Salaam cemetery — one of the world's largest — that forms a semicircle around the city. Officers speaking on condition of anonymity said some of the Iraqi fighters were hiding there.

A battle that destroyed these holy places could inflame passions of Shiites in Iraq and elsewhere, most notably Iran.

The United States has been hoping that Shiite Muslims, who represent 60 percent of Iraq's population, will rise up against Saddam and his largely Sunni leadership.

Ibrahim Khalili, a prominent Iranian Shiite clergyman, said: "I don't think that anyone dares to attack a holy site in Iraq. An attack on holy shrines will only provoke the uncontrolled anger of Muslims, especially Shiites, with serious consequences to the attackers."

Capt. Micah Pharris, an attorney in the 101st Airborne's judge advocate general's office, said some locations in Najaf are on the military's "no target" list — to be fired at only in self defense.

"We take our responsibility to these things very seriously and treat them with the utmost respect," he said.

So the Army still held out hope that the battle could be avoided. Using loudspeakers mounted on Humvees, U.S. soldiers on Najaf's perimeter will soon beseech its townspeople to turn over Saddam's zealots.

To the north, brigades of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division advanced 10 miles to near Karbala, just 50 miles from Baghdad — also a Shiite holy city. One battalion was slowed by the need to shepherd dozens of surrendering Iraqi soldiers.

A military intelligence officer, fluent in Arabic, spoke with farmers who now faced hundreds of U.S. armored vehicles outside their window.

The officer held out fistfuls of candy for the children. The Iraqi men at first stood back, hands behind their heads, struggling to hold up the sticks on which they had tied flour bags in a sign of surrender.

The officer's message: U.S. forces would not hurt them, but they needed to stay away from the American soldiers. As they spoke, artillery fired volley after volley at the nearby city of Al-Hindiyah.

Republican Guard positions between Karbala and Baghdad continued to be targeted for allied bombardment — Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said more than half of Sunday's sorties were directed at the guard, Saddam's best equipped and trained forces.

At Tallil, the former Iraqi airbase near the southern city of Nasiriyah that has been taken over the U.S. forces, A-10 Warthogs departed for missions throughout the day.

Tallil grows in importance and size with every day; it is nearer to targets than take-off points in the Persian Gulf, Kuwait or elsewhere.

North of Baghdad, meanwhile, U.S.-backed Kurdish troops took control of territory left by Iraqi forces withdrawing toward the oil center of Kirkuk. They advanced almost 10 miles — slowly, as the cleared more than 300 mines, some the size of ashtrays, others as big as layer cakes.

That territory came without a shot — unlike the continuing battles with Saddam's fighters in the south.

A British soldier was killed in action near Basra. Royal Marine Commandos at first said they captured an Iraqi general there, but British military spokesman Will MacKinlay later told BBC television that the report was wrong, attributing the mistake to "the fog of war."

In what was described as the Royal Marines' largest operation of the war so far, the British Press Association reported fierce fighting for the town of Abu al Khasib, southwest of Basra. It said 30 Iraqis had been killed and hundreds captured in what the British are calling Operation James, named after James Bond.

A reporter for Sunday Telegraph of London reported that Kalashnikov rifles confiscated from defeated Iraqi soldiers were being collected by British troops to pass to pro-Western rebels in Basra.

Near the southern port city of Umm Qasr, British forces discovered a cache of arms and explosives in a school, an Australian defense spokesman said Monday. Australian mine clearance experts were called in to dismantle the weaponry, military spokesman Brigadier Mike Hannan said.

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 4th Regiment returned Sunday from a two-day mission. Actively seeking engagements, they went to three cities and towns in southern-central Iraq including Afak, about 50 miles east of Najaf. Some of the fighting, they said, was building to building.



Terry Richards/Pool/Associated Press

An Iraqi sentry post that was booby trapped is blown up near a Challenger Tank as 40 Commando Royal Marines move into Abu Al Khasib, a suburb of Basra in southern Iraq on Sunday.



Jean-Marc Bouju/Associated Press

1st Sgt. John Fagan of Victoria, Texas, of the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, checks an Iraqi truck full of what are believed to be possible missiles in central Iraq pm Sunday. Fagan wears a gas mask in case the projectiles contain chemical or bacteriological materials.

Palestinian militants warn of new attacks in support of Iraq

By The Associated Press

NETANYA, Israel — A Palestinian suicide bomber wounded 30 people outside a packed cafe in northern Israel on Sunday, an attack the Islamic Jihad called "Palestine's gift to the heroic people of Iraq." The blast raised Israeli fears of more bombings as the war in Iraq intensifies.

The militant group said a vanguard of Palestinians has arrived in Baghdad ready to kill American and British soldiers in suicide missions. The claim came a day after a noncommissioned Iraqi army officer driving a taxi detonated explosives at a U.S. checkpoint in Iraq, killing himself and four American soldiers.

The blast in the coastal town of Netanya was the first suicide bombing in Israel in nearly a month and involved five pounds of explosives studded with nails. It occurred during lunchtime outside the popular Cafe London on the downtown pedestrian mall.

Ten of the wounded were Israeli soldiers, including one who stopped the attacker as he tried to enter the cafe, police and the army said. Panicked customers ran, overturning chairs and tables and shouting, "Terrorist! Terrorist!"

Islamic Jihad identified the bomber as Rami Ghanem, 20, from a West Bank village just across the porous line with Israel. The bombing affirmed "the unity of battle from Palestine to Baghdad in confronting the American-Zionist invasion which targets the entire Arab and Islamic nation," the group said in a statement.

The militants' support for Iraq appeared be a departure from pledges not to get involved in other conflicts. In the past 30 months of fighting with Israel, Islamic Jihad and its sister group Hamas have sent dozens of young men and a few women into Israeli cities, where they've killed hundreds with bombs and bullets.

Hamas also appeared to link the battle against Israel with the fighting in Iraq. Masked Hamas activists at a pro-Iraq march in the West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday posed before a large placard showing bloodied maps of Palestine and Iraq with a black-clad man strapped with explosives standing between them.

Meanwhile, Hamas leaders met in Gaza City with the Palestinian prime minister-designate, Mahmoud Abbas. One of Abbas' main challenges will be to rein in the militant groups.

Hamas, which opposes peace talks with Israel, had earlier criticized Abbas' appointment and said the militant Islamic group would not take part in his government.

Abbas, in Gaza to form a new Cabinet, also met Sunday with representatives of the militant Popular Front group and the Iraq-backed Arab Liberation Front.

Arriving at the scene of Sunday's attack, police found the bomber's mangled body on the blood-spattered pavement. Detectives wearing plastic gloves fingerprinted his severed hand and sifted through detritus that included broken plates, food, shredded clothing, bits of flesh, and a baby's pacifier.

"There were pieces of bodies," said Alberto Sciunnach, 37, who owns a nearby ice cream parlor. A wounded teenage girl trying to flee collapsed in front of his shop, he said.

Israeli officials have warned that Palestinians could step up attacks during the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have taken to the streets in recent days to show support for Iraq and call on Saddam's forces to fire Scud missiles at Israel, hit by 39 Iraqi rockets in the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has increased cash handouts to the families of Palestinians — including suicide bombers — who die in fighting with Israel. The Arab Liberation Front has doled out more than $35 million in Iraqi money to families over the last 30 months.

Sunday's attack was the first suicide bombing in Israel since March 5, when 17 Israelis were killed in a bus blast in the northern port city of Haifa.

Texas is sole remaining No. 1 seed in Final Four

BY JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Texas Longhorns are the last No. 1 seed standing, headed to the Final Four for the first time in 56 years.

T.J. Ford had 19 points and 10 assists to lead Texas to the biggest victory in school history Sunday, sending the Longhorns past Michigan State 85-76 in the South Regional final — just 80 miles from their Austin campus.

With chants of "Texas Fight" and "Final Four" reverberating throughout the Alamodome, the Longhorns earned the school's first trip to the Final Four since 1947, when the NCAA tournament field was eight teams.

As the final seconds ticked off, Ford dribbled to halfcourt, flashed a "Hook 'em Horns" sign to the crowd and hugged coach Rick Barnes. Ford was named the most valuable player of the regional.

The Texas wins means the Big 12 will have two teams in the Final Four for the second straight year. Kansas, the league's regular-season champion, won the West Regional on Saturday.

The loss kept Michigan State from appearing in its fourth Final Four in five years.

The last time only one No. 1 seed made the Final Four was 2000, when top-seeded Michigan State won the national title.

Texas (26-6) will play Syracuse (28-5) in the national semifinals next Saturday. The Orangemen beat Oklahoma earlier Sunday.

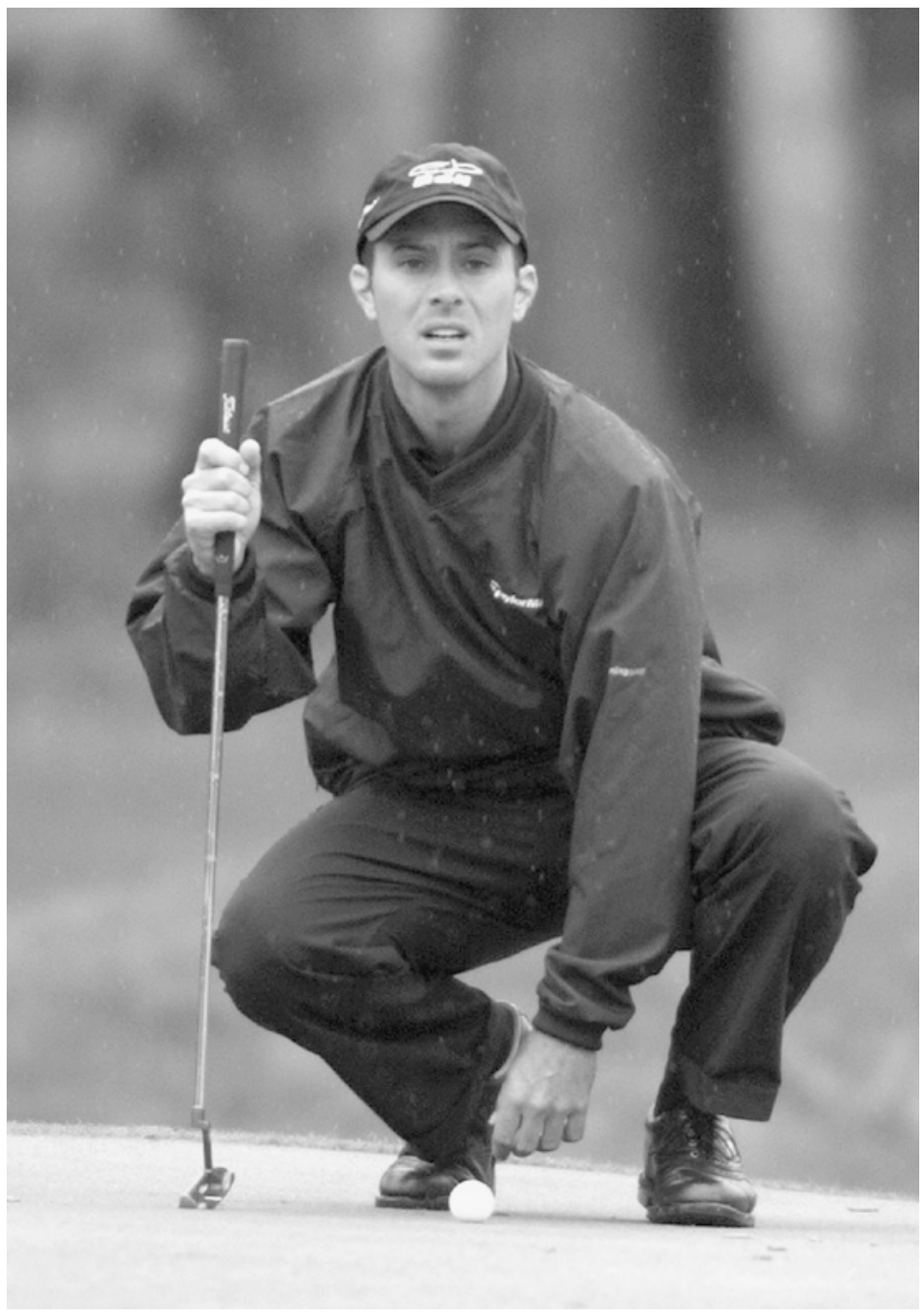
Texas had five players score in double figures. Brandon Mouton had 16, Brian Boddicker 15, Sydmill Harris 12 and Brad Buckman 11 as the Longhorns tied the school record for victories in a season.

Paul Davis led Michigan State (22-13) with 15 points and Erazem Lorbek had 14 points and nine rebounds.

The Spartans had a 38-28 rebounding advantage but couldn't match Texas' 49-percent shooting and 29-of-38 effort from the foul line. Texas never trailed after leading 18-16 in the first half, and the Spartans never got closer than five in the second.

Texas dictated the fast pace it wanted in the first half, shooting 53 percent as Boddicker and Harris combined to hit five 3-pointers to counter the Spartans' 23-11 rebounding advantage.

Eyes on the prize



Phil Sandlin/Associated Press

Mike Weir of Canada, lines up a putt in the rain on the second green during the final round of The Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., on Sunday. Weir started the round four-under-par.

Baseball season begins amid backdrop of war

BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

Sammy Sosa takes a shot at history, Hideki Matsui makes his major league debut and most fans get their first look at Great American Ball Park as baseball gets into full swing Monday.

Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and Greg Maddux will be on the mound and Barry Bonds will be in the batter's box, highlighting 12 games.

The season started Sunday night where it ended last year, in Anaheim, with the World Series champion Angels hosting the Texas Rangers.

Along with all the usual trappings of opening day — bunting, banners and even a former president throwing out the first pitch — there's a different mood at many ballparks. Baseball starts against the backdrop of war, with American troops in Iraq.

"I can't explain how I feel," New York Mets star Mike Piazza said. "You do get drained. It's kind of like after 9-11, you're watching TV and you're thinking about our people over there."

Tom Glavine, Jim Thome and Robert Fick will be among the All-Stars playing for the first time in new places, and managers Dusty Baker, Lou Piniella and Felipe Alou will debut in different dugouts.

Sosa showed up in style — in a black stretch limousine — at Shea Stadium for the Chicago Cubs' practice Sunday.

On Monday, he'll try to become the 18th player to hit 500 home runs when he steps in against Glavine and the New York Mets. Chances are he'll be bundled up as the weather forecast calls for temperatures in the upper 30s.

At Camden Yards, Baltimore and Cleveland had their workouts Sunday called off because of snow. It's been a tough spring for the Orioles, who dealt with the death of pitching prospect Steve Bechler in spring training.

"You put it in its proper place and go on about what you've got to do. Then you revisit it when you want to," Orioles manager Mike Hargrove said.

Matsui attracted plenty of attention before playing his first game since leaving Tokyo. The Blue Jays took out an advertisement in Sunday newspapers in Toronto urging fans — in English and Japanese — to come out and boo the New York Yankees' new slugger.

"I thought it was tasteless, especially in the climate of what's going on in the world today," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "I understand fun and games, but I thought it was just too much."

The ad was taped up to a door in the Yankees' clubhouse as they arrived to work out a day before the opener. Roger Clemens will tie the AL record with his 13th opening-day start, matching Walter Johnson and Jack Morris.

Matsui said he wasn't offended by the ad. But he admitted he'd not gotten that treatment in Japan, where fans hardly ever boo.

"I don't have anything special to say," he said through an interpreter. "I'm a little happy that the fans are aware of my name."

And here's another name for fans to get used to — Great American Ball Park, the new stadium in Cincinnati.

Former President George Bush will make the ceremonial first pitch before the Reds play Pittsburgh.

"This will be my sixth opening day, and we've only won one," said second baseman Aaron Boone, who hit the last homer at old Cinergy Field. "There's always so much hype with opening day here in Cincinnati. It's such a crazy day, such a fun day, but we always end up losing."

Atlanta and its revamped roster play host to Montreal. Maddux will start for the Braves, who lost Glavine and Kevin Millwood from their rotation but added Mike Hampton, Russ Ortiz and Paul Byrd.

Syracuse stomps Oklahoma for finals trip to New Orleans

BY JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. — Carmelo Anthony stepped up from the start and Syracuse's zone defense did the rest.

Next stop for the Orangemen: New Orleans.

Anthony scored 20 points and added 10 rebounds to lead coach Jim Boeheim and Syracuse back to the Final Four for the first time in seven years with a 63-47 victory over top-seeded Oklahoma in the East Regional final Sunday.

The third-seeded Orangemen (28-5) will face the winner of the South Regional final between Texas and Michigan State next weekend.

After slow starts in the first three games of the NCAA tournament, Anthony came out strong. The 6-foot-8 freshman star scored 10 points in the opening 12 minutes.

Syracuse's 2-3 zone took over from there, causing the Sooners (27-7) fits inside and outside. The Sooners managed just three points over the final 8 1/2 minutes of the first half as Syracuse took a 30-20 lead.

Things got worse for Oklahoma.

Syracuse scored the first eight points of the second half to take its biggest lead on a 3-pointer by freshman Gerry McNamara with 15:35 to play that capped a 22-3 run.

The last time Syracuse was in the Final Four was 1996 when it lost to Kentucky in the national championship game. The last time the Orangemen were in New Orleans for a Final Four they lost to Indiana in the 1987 championship.

Now, Boeheim gets another chance at that elusive national title.

As the final seconds ticked off, Anthony finally looked like a freshman as he stood near midcourt jumping up and down before flinging the ball high toward the roof of Pepsi Arena.

When he was announced as the regional MVP, the partisan sellout crowd of 15,207 started chanting "One more year," hoping that this wouldn't be his first and last NCAA tournament.

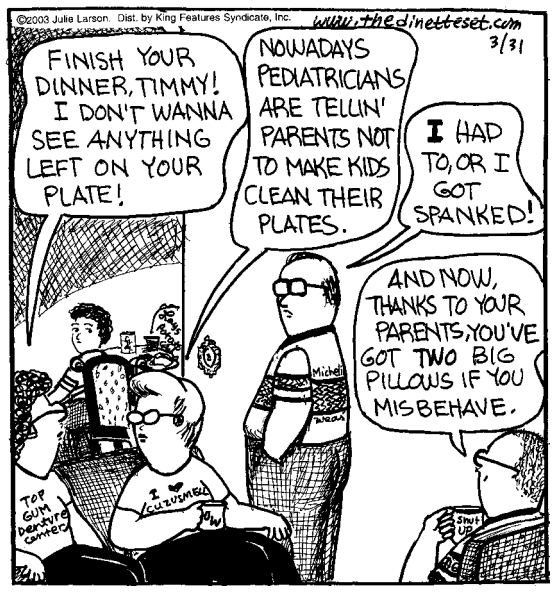
Hakim Warrick had 13 points and nine rebounds for Syracuse, which was playing just 2 1/2 hours from its campus.

The Orangemen shot 52 percent from the field (25-for-48) — just 2-for-12 on 3s — and outrebounded Oklahoma 40-28.

De'Angelo Alexander had 14 points for Oklahoma.

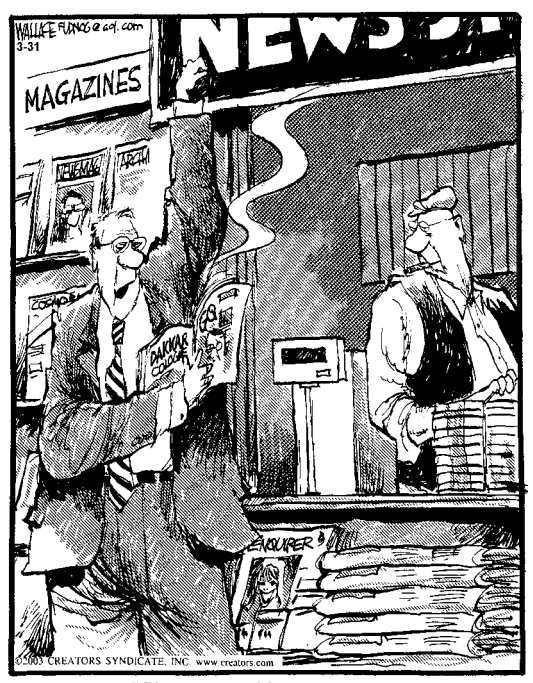
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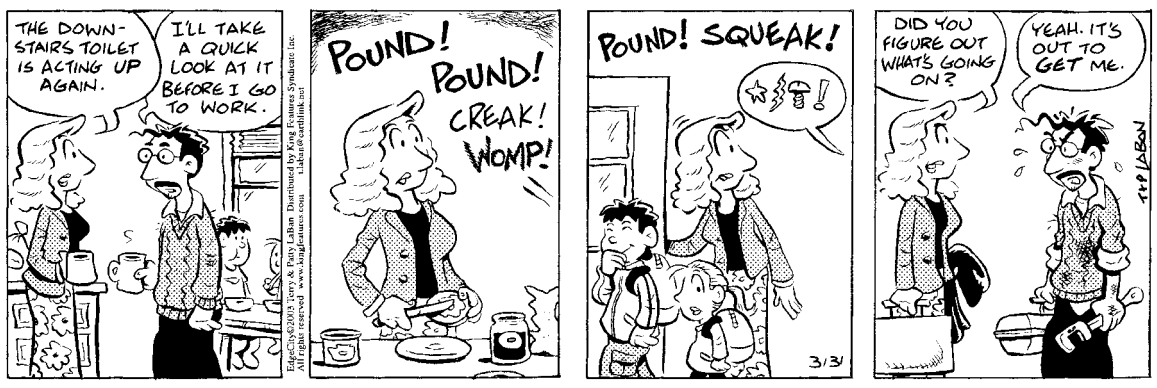
By Russ Wallace



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27 Ordered display
29 Black card
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47 Counter-feited
48 Lingerie item

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4 First flight site
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8 Recipe units
9 District
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24 Settles the bill
25 Like a loafer
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34 Gold measure
35 Driving sport
36 Bocelli offering
37 Vault setting
40 Pebble Beach peg
42 Young buck
43 Pot part
44 Crafty

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3-31

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For Rent

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SANTA MONICA $1300.00 2BDRM/1.5BA. Upper, stove, refrigerator, carpets, blinds, laundry room, parking. No Pets! 9th N. of Wilshire (310)456-5659

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

SANTA MONICA $2700.00 Spacious 3 Bdrm/3 full bath. Top floor, high ceilings, sunny, bright, double patio, views of Santa Monica Mountains. Quiet neighborhood, North of Wilshire. Security parking available. (310)451-2178

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SANTA MONICA $875/mo. Single North of Wilshire. (310)395-4779

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VENICE BEACH $1150 Charming 1bdrm w/large balcony. Great location, 1 block to beach, paid parking available. Fresh paint. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH $2,400 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oak wood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Ask about lease incentives.1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)466-7896.

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For Rent

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WeHo $795.00 Spanish 1bdrm/1ba, high ceilings, stove, fridge, crown moldings, w/c, cat, carpet.

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SANTA MONICA Guest House $780 Studio, R/S, pool, quiet, yard, utilities included.

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SANTA MONICA Triplex $1250 1bdrm/1ba, R/S, patio, hardwood floors, W/D, quiet, bright, parking.

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VENICE $2499 Walk to beach, 2bdrm/1ba. House w/fireplace, private garden, artist studio available. Hardwood floors, appliances. (323)394-6034

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SANTA MONICA House $560 Private room, furnished, R/S, W/D, DSL, month to month, utilities included.

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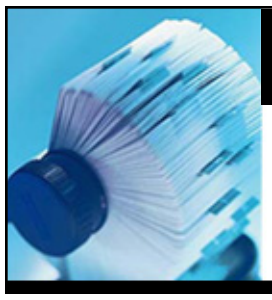
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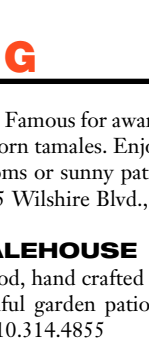
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SANTA MONICA **SCENE** your guide to dining, entertainment and events

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2003

°EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

°DINING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to **todayspaper@smdp.com** for consideration.
Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor.

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA
1441 Third St. at Broadway
View From the Top (PG-13) 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:45. **The Hours (PG-13)** 10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30. **The Core (PG-13)** 11:05, 12:40, 2:15, 3:50, 5:25, 7:00, 8:35, 10:10.

MANN CRITERION
1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:30, 2:05, 4:50, 7:25, 10:15. **Basic (R)** 11:15, 11:45, 1:45, 2:15, 4:20, 5:00, 7:10, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30. **Dreamcatcher (R)** 12:30, 1:00, 4:15, 7:00, 7:30, 10:45. **Old School (R)** 12:15, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:00. **Tears of the Sun (R)** 3:45, 10:10.

AMC THEATRE SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Piglet's Big Movie (G) 1:25, 3:15, 5:05, 7:00. **Agent Cody Banks (PG)** 1:40, 4:10, 6:45, 9:25. **Chicago (PG-13)** 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45. **The Hunted (2003) (R)** 1:40, 4:45, 8:00, 10:20. **The Life of David Gale (R)** 1:20, 7:15. **Boat Trip (R)** 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:35. **Gangs of New York (R)** 4:00, 10:00. **Head of State (PG-13)** 2:10, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50.

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

LAEMMLE MONICA
1332 2nd St.
Irreversible (NR) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50. **Bend it Like Beckham (PG-13)** 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20. **Talk to Her (R)** 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55. **Assassination Tango (R)** 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45.

BACK PAGE

Three nuns face prison for bloody war protest

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — The nuns say they were exercising their right to free speech when they cut through a fence around a Minuteman III missile silo, used their own blood to paint a cross on the military structure and began swinging at it with hammers.

"It's amazing how people are saying no to war. This is a turning point in the world. People are saying we are sick and tired of the killing."

– ARDETH PLATTE
Nun

Prosecutors say those actions interfered with the national defense — a crime, that if a jury finds the women guilty, could put them behind bars for 20 years.

Dominican sisters Ardeth Platte, 66, Carol Gilbert, 55, and Jackie Hudson, 68, head to court on Monday for a trial supporters say is ill-timed in the midst of war.

"If it had been Iraq and these nuns had found these weapons everyone would have praised them as heroes. And that's exactly the right response," said Anabel Dwyer, a legal adviser to Platte.

The nuns, jailed since their Oct. 6 protest near Greeley, maintain they were a "Citizens Weapons Inspections Team" that was symbolically disarming the United States.

They had argued their actions fell under principles established by the war crimes tribunal at Nuremberg after World War II. The United States endorsed the principle that people are obligated to disobey laws that lead to crimes against humanity. But U.S. District Judge Robert Blackburn ruled the defense may not be used at the trial.

The women will now argue they were exercising symbolic free speech, according to Walter Gerash, who represents Hudson.

Each faces one count of willful injury, interference or obstruction of national defense, which carries up to 20 years in prison, and a count of causing more than $1,000 in damage, which carries a maximum 10-year term.

Despite fears by supporters that the trial's timing would work against the nuns, Gerash said the sisters didn't want a delay. They are heartened by anti-war protests, he said.

"It's amazing how people are saying no to war," Platte said in a telephone interview. "This is a turning point in the world. People are saying we are sick and tired of the killing."

The nuns say they receive about 30 letters a day from supporters around the world. About 50 peace advocates were expected to attend the trial, including Elizabeth McAlister, the widow of longtime peace activist Philip Berrigan.

Gilbert and Platte both lived at Jonah House, the communal residence for pacifists Berrigan founded in Baltimore. Hudson belongs to a similar group in Poulsbo, Wash.

The nuns have crossed Colorado authorities with their protests before. In 2000, they spent six days in jail in Colorado Springs after using an open house at Peterson Air Force Base to gain access to a fighter jet. They poured blood on it, pounded it with a hammer and prayed. Charges were dropped after the Air Force said damage was minimal.

Man with sickening odor removed from isolation

By The Associated Press

UPLAND, Calif. — A 72-year-old man whose ammonia-like odor sickened hospital workers was removed from isolation Saturday, but authorities had not determined what caused the smell.

The man, whose identity was not released, remained in critical condition in the intensive care unit at San Antonio Community Hospital, where he was being treated for respiratory problems. The plastic and duct tape that had sealed off his room were removed, a nursing supervisor said.

The mysterious odor had disappeared and "there's no risk to the patients or visitors," he said.

The man came from a halfway house in Ontario. He was taken by ambulance to the emergency room Thursday night after complaining of breathing difficulty.

Several hours after he was admitted, nurses and other health workers noticed an ammonia-like odor. Three health workers became nauseated and several vomited but recovered, authorities said.

"There's no risk to patients or visitors," hospital spokeswoman Lesa Hiben said Friday.

The man was transferred to intensive care at about 1:30 a.m. Friday. A San Bernardino County hazardous materials team used plastic sheeting and duct tape to seal his room.

Air samples contained elevated levels of ammonia, Hiben said. Blood samples were taken from the man, but the results were probably several days away, she said.

"The physicians feel it may be related to something he ingested," Hiben said.

State hospital licensing inspectors were sent to investigate, said Norma Arceo, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Health Services.

The events were reminiscent of a 1994 case at Riverside General Hospital in which 22 emergency room personnel were sickened as a dying cancer patient lay on a treatment table. Before that, a doctor said she saw strange crystals in blood drawn from the 31-year-old patient.

Some people reported smelling a garlic-like or ammonia-like odor.

However, the cause of the problem never was determined, and the patient died of kidney failure brought on by cancer.

RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society



SANTA MONICA IS A COMMUNITY THAT TAKES UP THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.
SURVIVORS ARE THE REASON.

Opening Ceremonies begin on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. and the Survivor's Lap begins at 9:30 a.m. in celebration of their victory, because cancer never sleeps. This lap demonstrates the importance and reason for Relay For Life celebrations. If you are a survivor, mark your calendar to participate in this heart warming first lap. Special T-shirts and a reception hosted by Shutters On The Beach and Casa Del Mar will be provided to all cancer survivors at this event.

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

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US DURING THIS CELEBRATION!

connections for children
Helping families receive quality child care for over 27 years.

Your Family Can Receive Child Care Assistance NOW!!!

CALL NOW TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY!!!
Connections For Children is currently Enrolling families in our child care assistance programs!!!

Many parents don't know they are eligible for subsidized child care, or that child care assistance even exists.

Take advantage of the child care opportunities available for families and providers in the West L.A. area.

For more information, contact David Warga: (310) 452-3202 ext. 237

connections for children

To qualify for child care assistance, you must:
1. Have a history with AFDC (within the past two years).
2. Be working or attending school.
3. Earn below the state median income level (example: $3250 monthly for a family of four).