

FREE

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 121

Santa Monica Daily Press

Picked fresh daily. 100% organic news.

Do the twist



Corinne Ohannessian/Special to the Daily Press
Norma Ardon prepares a fresh batch of pretzels Monday at Wetzel's Pretzels, located on the Third Street Promenade.

New law won't change much, local housing officials say

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court allowing public housing providers to combat drug users with aggressive eviction policies likely won't have much of an effect in Santa Monica, officials said.

Joan Ling, executive director of Santa Monica Community Corporation Housing, said her organization already takes aggressive legal action against anyone causing problems — criminal or otherwise — in their buildings, so the new law won't change anything.

"It may be a tool for other public housing organizations," Ling said. "But I really don't think it will do much for us."

The ruling upheld policies that allow providers of public housing to evict whole families for drug use by one member.

Four elderly California tenants who challenged evictions from federal zero-tolerance policies because they said they were unaware of any illegal activities going on in their households lost in the nation's highest court last week.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote that the government, as a landlord, can control activities of its tenants while trying to provide safe, drug-free housing.

Problems stemming from drug use and abuse by tenants living in affordable housing complexes in Santa Monica are reported to be low.

In Santa Monica, Community Corp., has to evict a tenant every few years because of drug-related activi-

ties, Ling said. However, in those rare occasions, the families were asked to leave only after several steps to intervene by social workers

"We have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to illegal drugs. We just don't tolerate it, and if we get word that someone is using drugs or selling drugs we are right on it."

— PAUL DESANTIS
Community Corp. board member

and the police department failed.

Often times she said the issue never goes that far because drug-dealers don't like attention. Officials can "apply a little heat" and the person will simply leave the complex, she said.

Another official at Community Corp., the largest provider of affordable housing in Santa Monica, said the organization has cut down on drug problems in its buildings by keeping apartment complexes small and reporting any problem to social workers and the Santa Monica Police Department.

"Yes, this is another tool but

See POLICY, page 3

Lawsuit accuses Sony of sexual, racial harassment

Employee claims boss made her watch porn, bragged about abusing women

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A black Sony employee is suing the international entertainment company because she said

her white boss called her a derogatory name for an African-American and forced her to watch pornographic videos involving horses.

Shelly Dukes, a longtime Sony employee, filed a lawsuit in Santa Monica Superior Court charging her boss, Danny Williams, with sexual harassment and racial harassment and discrimination.

Last week lawyers for Sony told Judge

See LAWSUIT, page 3

Industry forecast not great, but not bleak either

BY CHRIS YOUNG
Special to the Daily Press

The outlook for the entertainment industry in Los Angeles is not exactly rosy, but it isn't dire either, according to UCLA's Anderson Forecast.

Collective bargaining in 2001, a rush to finish current projects before potential strikes and film and television productions being shot outside California and the U.S. caused 17,000

people to lose their jobs last year.

That amounts to a 12 percent loss of entertainment industry positions in L.A., according to the Forecast, which was held its quarterly economic conference Wednesday at UCLA.

"Employment growth will be low or slightly negative, but won't continue falling at the rate it did in 2001," said Christopher Thornberg, senior economist for the Anderson Forecast.

See INDUSTRY, page 3

April Fool's from the editor

Dear readers:

Some of you may have noticed something askew in the April 1 issue of the Santa Monica Daily Press.

That's because there was. The paper's content was fabricated as an April Fool's prank.

For those of you who didn't get the joke, completely disregard all of the news stories and photos in Monday's edition.

See APRIL FOOL'S, page 4

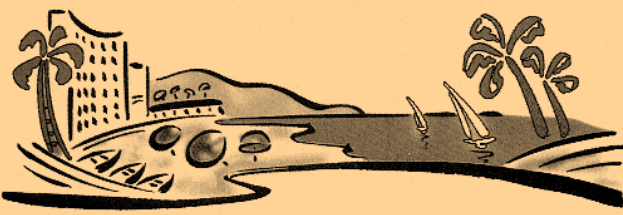
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your drive and persistence pay off. What you have been considering initiating works! Your innovative thinking breaks barriers, making the impossible possible. Reach out for those at a distance. You make a difference. Tonight: Relax that overactive mind.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Continue to work individually with those around you. Your sense of what might be workable financially could need an adjustment. Seriously consider another's opinions if you don't want a mini-rebellion! Tonight: Go along with another's wishes.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others knock on your door, knowing full well that you might be preoccupied. Express your logic and clarity in a way another can understand. Not everyone needs to be in synch. Honor your free and easy style. Your sense of humor takes over. Tonight: Join friends for dinner.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Plunge into work, but don't be surprised if someone pulls the rug out from under you. You might not always be in agreement with others, but honor a boss and treat him or her exactly as such. You're not changing this person's ideas. Tonight: Ask for a foot massage.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Review a creative proposal, knowing that nothing is written in stone. On the other hand, dealing with the author of this idea needs to be done with a great deal of finesse. Not everything is as it seems. Lighten up with a loved one. Tonight: Play a favorite sport.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Deal with finances directly involving your family and your security. Review a matter closely that involves friends. Carefully check out a situation that involves your loved ones. Juggling different interests takes all your energy, more than actually doing them! Tonight: Happy at home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Approach a situation creatively, which might mean presenting the same idea in many different ways until someone "gets" it. Your ingenuity comes through for you as a result. Others respond to your smiling ways. Tonight: Out and about.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Carefully revamp your budget. Think in terms of expenses and what might be necessary. When framing a budget, don't eliminate every little pleasure. You need something to lighten your mood or the mood of the office, if you're dealing with a work budget. Tonight: Enjoy one of the simple pleasures in life.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might be surprised by others' responses. You can do a complete about-face and not think twice about it; however, others could be stupefied. Understand others better. Be open to feedback and, maybe, make an adjustment. Tonight: Ask and expect to receive.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Step back some, especially if you feel as if you might not have the complete picture. Much could change quickly, if you so choose. Still, play the waiting game, as much needs to come forward. Another's responses could be off as well. Tonight: Yawn. Get a good night's sleep.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your perspective could change considerably with information from a friend or associate. Meetings might not turn out exactly as you think they will. Think in terms of growth and change. Don't obsess about having things go your way. Tonight: Find your friends.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Bosses make demands, and you jump. If you're a boss, you could find another's attitude and/or words to be challenging. Understand when enough is enough. Stay in touch with your long-term goals involving your work. You might need a change. Tonight: In the limelight.

QUOTE of the DAY

**"It is sometimes expedient
to forget who you are."**
— Publius Syrus (c. 42 B.C.)

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LOCAL



Community Corp. has a zero tolerance drug policy

POLICY, from page 1

because of our aggressive maintenance we will hopefully never have to use it," said Paul DeSantis, a 15-year member of the Community Corp.'s Board of Directors.

Ling said Community Corp., has worked to build a relationship with police and that on occasion, the police have set up undercover investigations of illegal activity.

Said Desantis, "We have a zero toler-

ance policy when it comes to illegal drugs. We just don't tolerate it, and if we get word that someone is using drugs or selling drugs we are right on it."

One community leader familiar with families who have been evicted for being involved in illegal drugs or belonging to gangs said eviction from public housing should be the last step.

"Work with them first before evicting them, try to get them off of drugs and get them the social services they need," said

Oscar de la Torre, director of The Pico Youth and Family Center. "Drug abuse is typically a much smaller part of a larger problem."

Evicting families because one member has a problem with illegal drugs may only lead to further complications for the other family members, de la Torre said.

DeSantis said the Supreme Court's ruling would affect larger cities with much larger public housing complexes.

"It will help on the other large public housing complexes that have a history of drug culture and crime," he said. "In the large public projects all you need to have is six or seven families doing drugs out of

a 100-120 unit building and you'll have a problem."

And DeSantis said many of those larger cities don't have the pressures of having three thousand member waiting lists for only 150 or fewer available units every year.

"We let out tenants know the rules before they ever move into one of our affordable housing units," said DeSantis. "And they know there are 3,000 applicants willing to take their place if they don't follow the rules."

(The Associated Press contributed to this story)

Lawsuit: Boss showed off his ripped underwear

LAWSUIT, from page 1

Richard Neidorff they would prefer to settle the matter privately than go through a public hearing and trial. The case was sent into private mediation, and a hearing date has not yet been set by the court.

Sony policies prohibited comment on pending litigation, said Sony lawyer Aymara E. Zielina.

According to Dukes' complaint, filed last September, Williams bragged about beating up women — especially black women. He would routinely complain about another employee, called "Hannah" in the lawsuit, because she dated a black man.

In general, Dukes alleged that her boss referred to women with harsh, derogatory terms.

Also, Williams forced Dukes to watch pornographic material on his computer screen, including women having oral and vaginal sex with horses, according to the

lawsuit.

Dukes said Williams would make public comments about the size, shape and appearance of her nipples and vagina. Williams also allegedly said Dukes' butt looked like "two cats in a bag."

And according to Dukes' lawsuit, Williams constantly showed his "ripped underwear" to Dukes and several other employees.

After months of abuse, Dukes said she finally complained to Sony executives. But at a meeting called to defuse the situation, Dukes said none of her problems were addressed.

After Dukes filed her complaint, she said Williams began threatening her verbally at work. The situation escalated when her boss brought a weapon to work and threatened her with it, the lawsuit said.

Lawyers for Dukes would not elaborate on their lawsuit or specify the exact amount they are seeking in damages.

Loss of productions a key issue in UCLA conference

INDUSTRY, from page 1

In the Los Angeles area, employment growth will be slow in 2002, with jobs in business services and motion pictures stabilizing but not substantially increasing, he said. Thornberg predicted that movie production will continue to fall, but other kinds of production, like TV and music, will remain.

As more movies are being shot and edited outside California, production jobs will leave L.A., though studio headquarters and management will likely stay, Thornberg said.

The loss of film industry productions to locations outside California and the United States was a key issue in the conference.

Numerous panelists pointed out that 3 of the 5 nominations for best picture at the Oscars last Sunday were filmed outside the U.S., and all five were filmed outside California.

"Los Angeles needs to create a friendlier atmosphere for entertainment businesses, now that people have choices where to produce movies," said Jean Prewitt, president of the American Film Marketing Association. "Tax incentives would help."

Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn said the city is working to resolve issues about productions being shot elsewhere. Tax reform, shooting permits, parking, and other costs for small productions are being offered to studios to encourage them to stay.

"With the Academy Awards last

Sunday, there's been a resurgence of interest in Hollywood — a want to keep the businesses here," Hahn said. "We want to be pro-business."

"Los Angeles needs to create a friendlier atmosphere for entertainment businesses, now that people have choices where to produce movies."

— JEAN PREWITT
American Film Marketing Association

Panelists agreed that large changes will happen in film distribution. For one, consumers want on-demand delivery of any movie and the technology to do that is on the horizon. As with Napster in the music world, movies can be pirated from the Internet, although downloads can take a long time.

Studios should include audiences in the movie-making process, said Prewitt. One studio documented a sequel film during the production process and updated audiences by e-mail and the Internet, and the

See INDUSTRY, page 5

Oily rags to blame for fire

By Daily Press staff

Oil-soaked rags spontaneously ignited early Sunday morning, causing \$13,000 of damage to a home on Santa Monica's northside.

The fire, which was reported around 2 a.m., started in the outdoor trash area of a house on 300 block of 9th Street, according to the Santa Monica Fire Department. The flames spread to the eaves of an adjoining garage and damaged the attic storage space.

No one was home at the time of the fire. One firefighter was treated at a local hospital for an injury and released.

Oil-soaked rags, which often have been used for staining, can ignite when heat is generated, according to a fire department release.

Such rags should be soaked in water and dried before being discarded, the release said.

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OPINION

Setting the record straight about historical districts

First to my resume. I am a “dunder-head, a self-serving bureaucrat, an unwitting twit, modern-day land grabber, self-righteous, callous, rude, idiotic.”

I am “Cruella DeVille.” I am also a 15-year resident of Santa Monica, a property owner, run an architectural design firm ... and am a Landmarks Commissioner.

The names I’ve been called in the past few months are all related to my work in trying to carry out a policy of zoning and land use that balances the preservation of Santa Monica’s character with the

interests of homeowners. The opponents of preservation have waged a campaign of misinformation and ridicule at such a fevered pitch that it will be difficult to sort out what’s true from what’s not. That said, here’s my attempt.

- In the 26 years since the landmark’s ordinance was adopted, 16 private residences have been landmarked and two historic districts were created. Hardly radical.

- We have NO jurisdiction over the interior of your home. Read section 9.36.140 of the Ordinance.

- If anyone tells you that property values will fall in a historic district, that is their personal, unsubstantiated guess. The studies which have been done show that property values have risen higher in historic districts than in other parts of the city.

- All potential landmark and district designations require noticing and public hearings. Your voice can be heard in this process. The commission cannot “ram a

decision through.” Our meetings are public on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

- Each historic district has its OWN ordinance created by property owners in the district and city staff together, according to federal guidelines.

- A structure of merit designation has the power to prevent demolition for only six months. The regulations DO NOT affect remodeling.

- All buildings are not created equal within a district — some are contributing and some are non-contributing, depending on their age and architectural

or historical importance. Applications for changes to them are treated entirely differently.

- If you own a landmark, structure of merit, or district contributor, you are eligible to receive up to a 50 percent reduction in property taxes. This goes with the property so it can be an asset at the time of resale.

Many Santa Monica residents have been concerned about the rapid pace of demolition of older homes in our residentially-zoned neighborhoods, resulting in “mansionization” and loss of neighborhood character.

If an area qualifies for historic district status, the resulting neighborhood protections permit managed change — renovation, restoration and additions which preserve the original architectural quality and character.

You CAN have your cake and eat it too.

(Barbara Schnitzler is a member of the city’s landmark’s commission.)

Guest Commentary by Barbara Schintzler

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author’s name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Hopefully, you laughed

APRIL FOOL’S, from page 1

The Ferris wheel didn’t fall off its axle because its solar panels overheated. Also, Santa Monica did not win a prestigious award for having the highest concentration of coffee shops.

Stories suggesting the pier was to be turned into a theme park and the city was ready to triple the number of parking cops were equally fictitious.

We repeat: It was all a joke.

It’s our way of poking fun at ourselves and those of you who work and live alongside us here in Santa Monica. Often, we take ourselves too seriously and Monday was an attempt to lighten things up.

Hopefully, Santa Monicans laughed, or at least smiled, because it’ll happen again next year. Besides, it has been said that paradoxical humor sometimes brings

change to a community in subtle ways.

Many readers called throughout Monday to find out if the stories were real or made up. One reader said he showed his boss the paper because the day’s news seemed a bit outrageous. His boss let him in on the joke.

“I’m a fool,” said Santa Monica resident Jason Pinho. “You really had me going. It’s good to hear that it’s all fake.”

“I’m glad I’m a fool,” he continued. “You really, really made my day.”

For anyone who didn’t get it or were offended, we apologize. It was done with the best of intentions. And it was only for one day.

Today’s issue of Santa Monica’s only daily newspaper contains accurate, credible and true news stories. Readers and customers can expect that every day — until the next April Fool’s.



The FunHog

By Dan Dunn

Will the real FunHog please stand up

“So,” said the gal at the other side of the desk, “are you really THE FUNHOG?”

“Um, maybe ... yeah,” I stammered. Having learned some instinctive caution about that question, I realized my photos were easily accessible on the Web site and that I was wearing a “Read The Fun Hog And Nobody Gets Hurt” T-shirt. Nixon taught us all about “plausible deniability,” yet how soon we forget.

“Wow! I read you every week! I can’t believe you’re really THE FUNHOG,” she sort of gushed.

I was trying to get through to my new employer, AOL/Time Warner CEO Gerry Levin -- or “Uncle Gerry,” as I like to call him -- to find out just how in the hell “Buffy The Vampire Slayer” wound up at UPN this season instead of on the WB where it belongs. I’d gotten as far as his executive assistant’s summer intern’s temp, who turned out to be an unabashed fan of this very website.

She was understandably excited. After all, she thought she was talking to THE FUNHOG. I didn’t have the heart to tell her she was speaking to me, Danny Dunn, a mere channeler for my larger-than-life literary alter ego.

It’s the Peter Parker syndrome (he was day-job Spiderman). You see, while we may appear to be one in the same, just a wardrobe change and some sticky substances apart, it often seems that THE FUNHOG is a supernatural being who takes over my body intermittently, exerting absolute control to feed a voracious appetite for pleasure.

Nocturnal in the way other people are Freewill Baptists, THE FUNHOG usually shows up to create some degree of havoc at night, after my Danny Dunn consciousness has been weakened by a bit of alcohol or sleep deprivation or chronically low self-esteem. The differences between the two of us can be striking ...

Whenever the opportunity presents itself -- and believe me, in Hollywood, it presents itself regularly -- THE FUNHOG can be found on a barstool, knocking back snifters of expensive brandy and quietly detailing all the exotic places he’s visited, nearly always surrounded by a gaggle of female admirers who are not always immune to the lure of a good brandy.

Danny Dunn wakes up with a total stranger, a wicked hangover, his wallet stuffed into his shoe and the faint knowledge of yet another large bar tab.

THE FUNHOG is a confident womanizer who regularly takes porn stars and supermodels home for Herculean love-making sessions that have been known to register on the Richter Scale.

Dan is prone to excessive drooling when in the presence of women, and has the sex drive of a eunuch, probably due to guilt-related anxiety caused by THE FUNHOG.

THE FUNHOG hitches rides on private jets, off to consume mass quantities of haute cuisine in Aspen with people whose names appear on your kitchen appliances. Welcomed by name at the most exclusive restaurants in town, often in the company of some powerful group or individual, vaguely suggesting that his casual wisdom

is needed at the highest levels.

Danny struggles with the ethical implications of shoplifting bean burritos from 7-11 at 4 a.m.

There are famous, old-time, semi-ridiculous children’s books named after Danny Dunn. Sweet. THE FUNHOG is unfit for children, but does happen to be a well-known writer who many people think is quite well-to-do, having somehow confused even a slight degree of “fame” with some degree of becoming “rich.”

Danny actually moonlights at Applebee’s and has taken to parking his leased BMW (another FunHog idea, by the way) well away from his official place of residence, where it will be harder to find and the landlord cannot assume any sort of Danny whereabouts.

“So, Mr. FunHog,” the cutie said, jolting me out of my rumination, “you should write something about what it’s like to work in an office at a big place like AOL/Time Warner ... that’d be interesting.”

“SURE, OR MAYBE I’LL TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER AND POSTULATE ON WHAT IT’D BE LIKE TO COUNT YOUR FINGERS AND TOES FOR A LIVING!”

Without warning, THE FUNHOG had taken over.

“Excuse me?”

“LOOK BABE, IF YOU WANT AN ARTICLE ABOUT WORKING FOR THE CONGLOMERATE, WHY DON’T YOU WRITE IT? I’M SURE SOME MAGAZINE WOULD PAY BIG BUCKS FOR A FRESH IDEA LIKE THAT!” he sneered, his voice dripping with sarcasm.

“Geez,” she said, “I’m sorry I said anything.”

“NO, I’M SORRY I WAS RUDE,” he whispered, leaning into her personal space just a bit. “I’VE BEEN UNDER SUCH STRESS, WHAT WITH MY CAT HAVING BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH RICKETS ... SAY, WHY DON’T WE MEET FOR A DRINK LATER AND FLESH OUT YOUR OFFICE STORY IDEA ... OH, WAIT ... DARN, I’M AFRAID I CAN’T — I’M A LITTLE SHORT ON CASH THIS WEEK, WHAT WITH THE VET BILL AND ALL.”

The executive assistant’s assistant’s secretary’s intern or whatever she was, of course agreed to meet for a drink AND pay the bill. She was absolutely gorgeous, and THE FUNHOG decided the fastest way to overwhelm her was to pour on the “sensitive guy” routine.

Somewhere in the surreal netherworld where I’m sent when HE takes over, I thought I heard him say, “Please be gentle, I’ve been hurt before.”

I don’t remember much after that, but I’m certain it was a wild night, since I keep getting calls from someone at The Bellagio in Las Vegas regarding Mr. and Mrs. Dunn’s unpaid room tab. I’ve got large welts in places I don’t normally bruise, and a woman named Marianne keeps leaving messages on my machine about “the validity of the marriage license.”

THE FUNHOG has done it again.

(Dan Dunn, a Santa Monica resident, writes for Warner Bros. Online. For more FunHog fun, check out www.thefunhog.com.)

LOCAL

Tara Reid strikes back

BY SEAN DALY
Special to the Daily Press

LOS ANGELES — Tara Reid is not at all happy about reports that she is Hollywood's biggest party girl.

"I'm pissed off right now," the glassy-eyed starlet warned, as she lashed out at the media last week for circulating stories that she claims are "entirely untrue."

"People forget I've done 15 movies, and I work a lot more than I party," Reid declared during an emotional interview to promote her new movie, National Lampoon's "Van Wilder."

"I feel like I'm getting clobbered lately," she said. "Everyone needs to just leave me alone."

The Wyckoff, New Jersey native first became upset when she eyed an advance copy of a new magazine, which features the headline: "My Love Is Carson Daly."

"I cannot have that be on the cover or I will just die," she moaned. "It's been a year, it's behind me, it's time to move on. Now everybody's gonna look at me like, 'You poor girl...'"

Add it to the long list of fires the actress is trying to extinguish these days.

Last month, Reid, 26, was accused of tossing birthday cake at hotel heiress Paris Hilton during a drunken spat.

"Not true," she said.

Days later, the American Pie star was allegedly spied sipping cocktails with Britney Spears at Les Deux Café in Hollywood.

"That's ridiculous ... I don't even know Britney," Reid insists. "I wasn't even here. I was in Mexico when both of those things supposedly took place."

Today, Reid continues to harbor obvious anger towards reporters who broke both stories: "They're a bunch of ... liars," she said. "I want to smack them all in the head."

Reid also cleared up the rumors that she plans to leave New York in favor of Tinseltown.

"I'm from New York. I'll always be a New Yorker," she said. "That quote never even came out of my mouth. I live here, I live there. I'm bi-coastal. As Biggie (Smalls) says, 'It don't mean I can't rest in the West.'"

Ironically, in "Van Wilder," Reid plays an aspiring collegiate journalist who is assigned to write a profile of the Big Man



Tara Reid

On Campus.

"The first time around, I write a bad story about him, because I know it's a big story and it's gonna sell," she explained. "But later I find out I pegged Van (Ryan Reynolds) all wrong and I redeem myself by writing a good article."

Reid, who describes herself as "a very sensitive girl" said she is often deeply affected by negative publicity.

Sometimes (writers) don't realize that if they write a bad story about me I might be home crying," she said.

"It wouldn't affect me as much, I think, if I wasn't afraid it is going to affect me getting jobs. If it's just people talkin' shit, that's fine. But I don't want it to affect me working ... that's when I get pissed."

Reid hopes that someday, the world will see her as she sees herself.

"I'm a hard worker, I love my family a lot. And I love making movies," she said. "Even as a little kid, I would sit in front of the mirror and make faces. I would cry and watch myself cry. Acting is my get-away. It's my therapy. It's my boxing bag. Without it I would go crazy."

A self-professed "workaholic," Reid is enjoying the single life these days.

"I don't want a relationship right now," she said. "I can't even deal with myself. I can't imagine someone dealing with me."

At least through it all Reid has maintained her cutting sense of humor.

"I just need to get back to work ... like in France," she joked. "I need to do a movie like Lord of the Rings, where I can spend three years in Australia. That would be perfect for me. Sign me up now. Find me a period piece for 17 years somewhere and I'll be just fine."

(Sean Daly is president of Showtime Entertainment and is a Santa Monica-based writer.)

Internet start-ups partly to blame for forecast

INDUSTRY, from page 3

film did better at the box office than anticipated by its predecessors, she said.

"We need to understand our audience. It's not, 'If you build it, they will come,'" said Prewitt.

The Anderson Forecast for the nation predicted the U.S. economy will recover from the current recession by business investment, not consumer spending. Historically, recoveries were powered by consumer-spending, which attracted business investment and pulled the economy out of recession.

National growth rates will be 2-3 percent for 2002 and 2003, which is not high enough to lower unemployment but will keep it from increasing, said Edward

Leamer, director of the Anderson Forecast.

One main cause of the recession was the Internet rush of 1998 and 1999, according to Leamer. Businesses invested heavily in making websites and start-up companies with poor business plans received lots of capital. But no matter how cool the website, profits didn't increase, Leamer said.

One example, Internet company Blue Mountain, offered free e-greeting cards. They couldn't support the site through advertising, so they put in a small \$10 yearly fee, said Jeff Cole, director of the UCLA Center for Communication Policy and Entertainment.

"People still wouldn't pay it," Cole said. "The question is, is there anything people will pay for?"

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STATE

Chief Parks asks L.A. Police Commission for second 5-year term

BY PAUL WILBORN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Police Chief Bernard Parks made his case for another five-year term Monday in a closed session of the Los Angeles Police Commission.

Parks' request to open the meeting to the public was rebuffed on the advice of Deputy City Attorney Patricia Tubert. The decision was made "in order to protect other people whose names might come up," said Joe Gunn, the commission's executive director.

The move angered 25 Parks supporters who had wanted to attend.

"This is a blatant violation of the people of Los Angeles' interest," said Danny Bakewell, president of the Brotherhood Crusade and an outspoken Parks supporter.

The chief's wife, Bobbie Parks, reiterated that her husband wanted the public to attend.

"He was offering to open up his package. The taxpayers of Los Angeles have a right to see that," she said.

The five-member Police Commission, appointed by the mayor, is expected to decide later this month whether to reappoint Parks, who has lobbied publicly for a second five-year term. Mayor James Hahn opposes reappointment.

While Parks has taken his case to radio and television talk shows, his supporters have staged repeated protests outside Police Commission meetings, lashing out at both Hahn and Police Commission President Rick Caruso, a Hahn appointee.

In recent weeks, Parks' supporters threatened to protest outside Caruso's private office. After reports that Caruso made a disparaging remark about Rep. Maxine Waters, a black Los Angeles Democrat, there were calls for Hahn to fire him.

Hahn, who was elected with the strong support of black voters, has found himself criticized by some of his once-ardent supporters, including former basketball star and businessman Magic

Johnson.

"The chief and I have differences of opinion," Hahn said in early February. "I want to move forward on police reform, and I believe that we need new leadership in the LAPD to do that."

Parks, 58, the department's second black chief, was selected in 1997 by then-Mayor Richard Riordan and enjoyed broad support from the City Council. The 37-year police veteran, who came up through the department's ranks, has also been praised by civil rights leaders for increasing officer discipline.

"I want to move forward on police reform, and I believe that we need new leadership in the LAPD to do that."

— JAMES HAHN
Los Angeles mayor

But the 8,300-member police union, which opposes reappointment, issued a no-confidence vote last month. The union, which opposed Parks' original appointment, claims his approach to disciplining officers is harsh and unfair and has led to poor morale and driven officers away. The department is about 1,100 officers below its full strength of 10,000.

The battle over the chief's job is another stumbling block for a department tarnished by the Rodney King beating case, a slow response to the city's 1992 riots, and a police corruption scandal in which officers allegedly harassed, beat and framed innocent people in the city's gang-ridden Rampart neighborhood.

The department is currently under review by federal officials through a consent decree supported by Hahn and approved last year by the City Council. Parks opposed the consent decree.

Author Ray Bradbury gets star on Walk of Fame

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Ray Bradbury, author of "The Martian Chronicles" and other science fiction classics, received a star Monday on the Hollywood Walk of Fame as the city kicked off a monthlong reading campaign.

Bradbury, 81, has been a Los Angeles resident since he was a teen-ager. He sold newspapers on local street corners while developing his writing career.

"I received so much inspiration from the city that it is a wonderful feeling to be a permanent part of my home town," Bradbury said at the ceremony, where he received the 2,193rd star on the Walk of Fame.

The event marked the beginning of the "One Book, One City L.A." program.

In order to boost readership and city pride, residents will be encouraged to read the same book: Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451," an anti-censorship saga about a futuristic firefighter whose job is to burn books.

"By reading great literary works like Ray Bradbury's we can foster dialogue among our city's diverse groups," Mayor James Hahn said.

STATE



Californians honor activist Cesar Chavez

BY DAISY NGUYEN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Californians celebrated Cesar E. Chavez Day Monday with plays, dedications and — above all — community service.

In its second observation as a paid state holiday, Gov. Gray Davis joined schoolchildren and the late labor leader's relatives in painting a mural and planting trees at Hollenbeck Middle School in East Los Angeles.

"He taught us that by giving of ourselves we can be proud of the lives we lead," Davis said.

The state law creating the holiday, which Davis signed in 2000, requires public schools to spend half the day teaching children about Chavez's life, and the other half on community service projects. Hollenbeck students painted hallways and lunch tables, planted trees and cleaned up around campus.

"In some ways, he changed my life, too," said seventh-grader Gemma Lopez, 12. "My parents came here from Mexico with no education, but they've had opportunities to get better jobs."

The Hollenbeck event also drew Chavez's son, Paul F. Chavez, who said his father's most important legacy was his compassion.

"He talked about education of the heart," said Chavez, president of the National Farm Workers Service Center, which focuses on improving social conditions for farm workers.

"He said that, of course, it's important to learn our math and to learn to read and write, but it's also important to nourish the heart and ensure that people understand we have an obligation, a moral obligation, to help the less fortunate."

Chavez's father, who founded the

United Farm Workers union, worked most of his life for human rights, especially for farmworkers, and became a role model for generations of Latinos.

Tributes to the labor leader, who died in 1993, have been held across the state for the past week — a concert, a photog-

"He talked about education of the heart ... it's important to learn our math and to learn to read and write, but it's also important to nourish the heart and ensure that people understand we have an obligation, a moral obligation, to help the less fortunate."

— PAUL F. CHAVEZ
Cesar Chavez's son

raphy exhibit and storytelling sessions at Los Angeles libraries.

In Visalia, several farmworkers who marched with Chavez were honored during a Monday dinner. In Delano, UFW members met at the site where Chavez opened his first office and marched to a nearby Catholic church for a special Mass.

"It's important to remember the contributions and changes that were brought about and note there are more changes to be done," said Armando Elenes, UFW organizer in Delano.

Senate committee passes bill to regulate car exhaust

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — A bill aiming to fight global warming by curbing California car exhaust passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee Tuesday on a 5-2 vote.

The Democrat-dominated committee approved the bill following a hearing that pitted environmental concerns about global warming against auto industry opposition. The legislation, AB 1058, by Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, requires regulations by 2005 to limit carbon dioxide and other natural emissions of internal combustion engines.

New rules would take effect in 2008 for passenger cars, sport utility vehicles and light trucks. Commercial vehicles are unaffected.

The bill, making California the first state to try such a global warming strategy, passed the Assembly 42-24 in January.

Russell Long, director of the Bluewater Network, which sponsored the bill, said, "The federal government has demonstrated an utter failure to deal with the issue. We believe it's incumbent on the state to lead the way."

Opponents blasted the legislation as vague, and questioned the global warming phenomenon, calling it "eco-fraud."

"The federal government has demonstrated an utter failure to deal with the issue."

— RUSSELL LONG
Director of Bluewater Network

Carmakers maintain they have no technology to regulate nontoxic carbon dioxide from tailpipes. The bill requires the California Air Resources Board to tell them how to do it.

"What we have here is a bill with which you can make no rational predictions of outcome, and that is terrifying," said lobbyist Phil Isenberg, representing the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

The bill now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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NATIONAL

States using tobacco money to balance budgets

BY PAUL QUEARY

Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Less than four years ago, Washington state's attorney general helped win billions of dollars from the tobacco industry for 46 states — money she saw as a bonanza for smoking-prevention programs and other health measures.

Now she is watching in dismay as states around the country — including her own — borrow heavily against their shares of the settlement to plug holes in their budgets.

States are not just spending the yearly checks on something else; they are spending decades of settlement payments all at once.

"This was the single biggest opportunity in the history of public health to address the most preventable cause of death in America," Attorney General Christine Gregoire said. "I sure hope I don't look back and say it was the biggest lost opportunity."

Since the settlement dollars started flowing in, anti-tobacco forces have battled with lawmakers about how

the money should be spent, and have mostly lost.

Only five states meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation that 20 percent to 25 percent of the settlement be spent to fight tobacco use, according to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

Even in Washington state, where Gregoire's influence had helped keep the money earmarked for tobacco and public health programs until now, anti-smoking spending did not meet the CDC benchmark.

Elsewhere, moral claims on the settlement ran up against the cold statehouse fact that money is just money when it is time to balance the budget.

Compared to raising taxes or cutting spending, borrowing against the settlement — known as "tobacco securitization" — is easy money politically.

Washington plans to sell off the rights to about 20 percent of its settlement payments for the next 20 years to cover \$450 million of its \$1.6 billion budget shortfall.

In California, Gov. Gray Davis has proposed selling off 40 percent of his state's settlement share to raise \$2.4 billion to help close a gap of \$12.4 billion. Similar pro-

posals are in play in other states, including New Jersey and Rhode Island.

In Wisconsin, Republican Gov. Scott McCallum and GOP lawmakers are set to go whole hog: The entire settlement for the next two decades could soon be sold for about \$1.3 billion, compared with the \$5.9 billion the state expected to receive in payments over 25 years. All or nearly all of the proceeds would go toward balancing the current budget.

Critics — most vocally Gregoire and other anti-tobacco forces — liken the practice to taking out a second mortgage to buy groceries. The move costs the states interest and fees, and saddles them with debt payments that will long outlast the balanced budgets they helped achieve.

But budget-writers say they have few choices.

In Washington, Senate Ways and Means Chairwoman Lisa Brown turned to tobacco as the least offensive of three unpleasant options.

At least 17 states or counties, including Alaska, Alabama, South Carolina, and counties in New York and California, have already sold off parts of their settlements.

Son accused in guitar attack on Supreme Court justice

BY STEPHEN FROTHINGHAM

Associated Press Writer

MANCHESTER, N.H. — The son of a New Hampshire Supreme Court justice was accused Monday of pounding his father in the face with a guitar after hours of drinking.

John Christian Broderick, 30, was arraigned on a charge of assault and ordered held on \$100,000 bail.

Justice John Broderick, 54, was attacked in his sleep early Saturday and beaten so severely that a top state official could not recognize him. He was in serious condition

with broken facial bones Monday after six hours of surgery the day before.

Police said the son had blood on his clothes and was so intoxicated they took him to a hospital for observation.

"It was one of the most severe attacks our office has seen," Assistant Attorney General William Delker said.

Delker said the son left the condominium and threw the guitar away after the attack; he would not say whether police had found it. Delker would not say if the guitar was a hollow acoustic instrument or a heavier electric guitar.

The assault followed a daylong argu-

ment between father and son, according to court papers. The elder Broderick went to bed after his son apologized to him, but the younger man began drinking whiskey.

"The more he drank, the more he stewed about the fight," Delker said. "He eventually decided to attack his father while he slept."

Prosecutors said the younger man returned to the house after the beating and asked police officers if his father was OK.

Delker said the younger Broderick was on probation for a robbery in Massachusetts. He pleaded guilty Feb.

26. Broderick also pleaded guilty recently to disorderly conduct and resisting arrest in New Hampshire. That incident also involved alcohol, Delker said.

Two years ago, the elder Broderick was charged with slapping his son, according to court records. The charge was later dropped. At the time, Broderick blamed the altercation on his son's drinking problem.

When the case came to court, a prosecutor explained the incident had begun when the elder Broderick told his son he had eight weeks to move out. His son allegedly replied, "You have eight hours until you're in the ground."

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INTERNATIONAL



Israel offensive intensifies with drive into West Bank

BY LAURA KING

AP Special Correspondent

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israeli troops backed by armor intensified an offensive across the West Bank on Monday, pounding a Ramallah building with anti-aircraft guns, briefly pushing into Bethlehem and sending the deafening echo of tank shells through Palestinian streets.

Spurred by a wave of bloody suicide attacks that claimed more than 40 lives in five days, Israeli leaders said the military drive was meant to smash a Palestinian terrorist infrastructure. Palestinians, for their part, said Israel's tactics amounted to a campaign of state terror against the civilian population.

Troops searching for Palestinian militants and weapons caches carried out house-to-house searches and engaged in running battles with gunmen. In the center of Ramallah, soldiers used vehicle-mounted anti-aircraft guns to pulverize the facade of a building where Palestinian gunmen were holed up, sending chunks of masonry plunging into the street.

Israeli forces also moved into the northern Palestinian towns of Qalqilya and Tulkarem on Sunday night and Monday.

As Israeli forces advanced, Palestinian militants were killing Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel. Ten bodies were found in the West Bank, including seven taken by militants from a temporary jail and shot in the streets of Tulkarem.

In the sixth Palestinian attack in six days, a car bomb exploded near downtown Jerusalem, killing the driver and a policeman. Police said the policeman stopped the car and the driver, a Palestinian, set off the bomb. The Al Aqsa Brigades, a militia linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility.

Sporadic gunfire rang out after dark in Ramallah, a few miles to the north, where a tight curfew and continued fighting have turned a busy commercial center into a ghost town. The boom of tank shells was heard after night fell. Eight Israeli soldiers were injured — two seriously — in Ramallah and another in Qalqilya, a military source said. The bodies of two Palestinian police were found in a park in the city's center, Palestinian military intelligence said.

Among the fugitives being hotly pursued by Israeli forces in Ramallah was Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghout, a senior Israeli security source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Israeli officials have said Barghout was involved in numerous deadly attacks on civilians.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whom Israel blames for one of the worst waves of suicide bombings since the



Ilan Mizrahi/Associated Press

Israeli bomb squad members examine the scene where a car bomb exploded in Jerusalem late Monday. The explosion killed the suicide bomber and seriously injured a policeman inspecting the vehicle at a checkpoint, according to the police.

start of the conflict 18 months ago, was trapped in Ramallah headquarters for a fourth straight day, pinned down by Israeli troops and tanks within the walls of his compound.

President Bush called on Arafat to put a stop to anti-Israeli attacks. "There will never be peace so long as there is terror, and all of us must fight terror," Bush said.

Israeli soldiers set up more barricades in Ramallah's streets, turning cars already smashed by tanks onto their sides to form roadblocks. Pressing ahead with searches, Israeli soldiers broke down the doors of homes in Ramallah and Qalqilya, Palestinians said.

"They smashed pictures that were on the wall and looked everywhere, emptying closets and throwing around our clothes," said 26-year-old Nafiza Rouf, who said soldiers spent about two hours in her Ramallah house. Her 24-year-old brother Niad was made to kneel motionless while soldiers shouted questions and abuse at him, the family said.

A group of Palestinian boys, some as young as 9 or 10, drew live fire from Israeli soldiers in downtown Ramallah when they lit a bonfire of tires and hurled stones in the direction of troops — though their rocks fell far short of the mark.

An 11-year-old Palestinian boy was killed by gunfire from Israeli soldiers as he played near a market in Rafah, in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian hospital officials said.

In Ramallah, nearly all the dead over the course of the incursion — at least 25, by Palestinian count — have been men in their 20s and 30s. At Ramallah Hospital, the city's main medical center, doctors pulled open the metal doors of the morgue to display bloodied bodies of the young men, wrapped in sheets, and said they had not been allowed to transport them out for burial.

"Almost everyone we get is dead — not wounded, but shot dead on the spot," said an emergency doctor, Mohammed Butrawi.

Conference split: Are suicide bombers terrorists?

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press Writer

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Islamic countries were divided Monday on whether the definition of terrorism extends to Palestinian suicide bombers.

An appeal by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for Muslim countries to condemn any attack on civilians as an act of terror quickly became bogged down in the old question: When is a terrorist a freedom fighter?

In a speech to open a special meeting of the 57-member Organization of Islamic Conference, Mahathir proposed a definition that includes the Sept. 11 attackers, Israeli troops who kill Palestinians — and the suicide bombers.

Foreign ministers and officials from other countries were divided.

"It is not necessary to condemn the suicide bombers, because we have to take into consideration the reasons behind somebody willing to lose his life," Palestinian Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi told reporters outside the conference.

Israel's occupation of Palestinian terri-

ories is "the highest and worst kind of terrorism, and the human being, if he sacrifices his life — there must be a reason," Kaddoumi said. "The reason is state terrorism."

Deputy Foreign Minister Ivica Misic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, chief of his country's anti-terrorism team, backed Mahathir.

"I don't care about race or religion," Ivica said. "I agree that if a person kills or harms a civilian he is a terrorist, no matter how noble his struggle may be."

To paper over the divisions, the delegates unanimously passed a resolution accusing Israel of "dragging the region toward an all-out war" and calling for U.N. sanctions to deter Israeli military action.

Mahathir, a vital U.S. ally in the campaign to crack Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, said that the Sept. 11 attacks had been an "unmitigated disaster" for the world's estimated 1.2 billion Muslims, with the religion becoming increasingly perceived as rooted in violence.

An agreement to condemn acts of violence against civilians regardless of race,

religion or political motive would help repair Islam's damaged reputation, and could provide the basis for a U.N. conference which, in turn, could be the foundation from which to fight terror's sponsors, including governments, Mahathir said.

"Muslims everywhere must condemn terrorism, once it is clearly defined," Mahathir said. "Bitter and angry though we may be, we must demonstrate to the world that Muslims are rational people when fighting for our rights and we do not resort to acts of terror."

The gathering of foreign ministers and other officials comes amid escalating bloodshed in the Middle East. Palestinian suicide bombings killed 15 Israelis on Sunday and Israeli troops deepened their invasion of the West Bank. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that Israel was "at war."

Malaysia, which had urged participants to refrain from emotional rhetoric so the meeting would be seen as positive by the non-Muslim world, resisted Arab pressure to include a condemnation of Israel in the main declaration, which should be issued Wednesday.

Monday's resolution condemning

Israel was a compromise.

The statement urged the U.N. Security Council to provide protection to Palestinians "and apply deterrent sanctions against Israel."

Some delegates were critical of the world body, accusing it of not doing enough to rein in Israel, and they urged the United States — Israel's chief supporter — to use its influence to stop the attacks.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, asked about the suicide bombings, said that "civilians should be spared. At the same time, if we are looking for a solution to this problem, we have to look at the cause of this conflict."

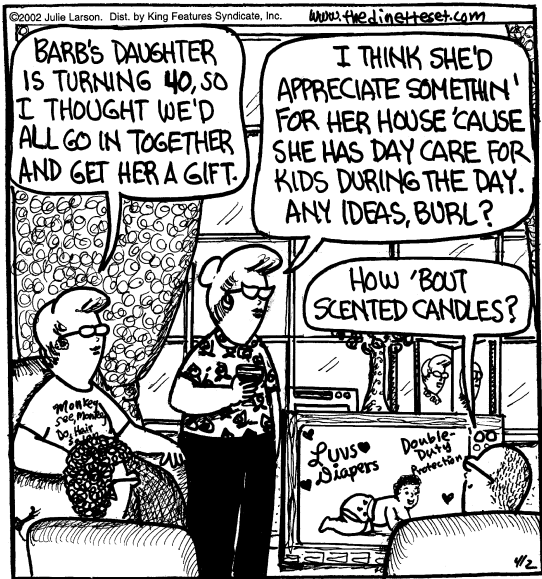
Mahathir said Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews and other groups have produced terrorists, and singling out one religion was unfair, Mahathir said.

Malaysia is a prosperous Southeast Asian country of 23 million and has jailed 24 people accused of involvement in an al-Qaida-linked plot to blow up U.S. targets in Singapore. They include a former army captain who hosted two of the Sept. 11 hijackers at his apartment in 2000.



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Yesterday's answer

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40					41					
42					43					

4-2

STUMPED?

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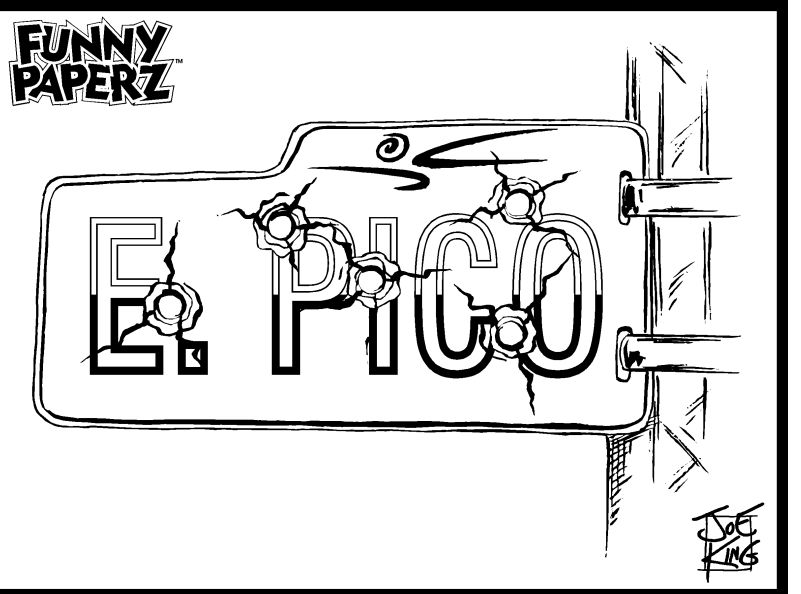


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Woman owns device for hanging male genitals

- A fired health-care association manager filed a lawsuit alleging that his female boss kept a "man sack rack" display (device for hanging male genitals) in her office, supposedly symptomatic of her sexually harassing attitudes (Woodbury, N.J.).
- A 33-year-old juror, right in the middle of deliberations in a murder case, abruptly took off on an already scheduled Mexican vacation (but the judge jailed her upon her return to town) (Cincinnati). The Georgia parole board issued a rare reprieve, moving a death-row inmate to life in prison because he is so delusional that he sometimes believes that the actress Sigourney Weaver is God.
- A 47-year-old woman was convicted of animal cruelty for throwing her 3-foot-long pet iguana at a tavern's bouncer, though she argued that the iguana leapt on his own to defend her honor (Isle of Wight, England).



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WESTWOOD \$450.00 Private bdrm, R/S, carpets, large closets, W/D, near UCLA, part utilities. Westside Rentals (310) 395-RENT.

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BACK PAGE

FDA says biotech eggs should be regulated as drugs

BY CHARLEY GILLESPIE

Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has accused a biotech company of selling unapproved drugs in the form of eggs containing antibodies produced from vaccinated hens.

A federal grand jury in Columbus is investigating OvImmune Inc. after the FDA accused the company of developing and selling unlicensed drugs and vaccines for diseases including AIDS, pneumonia and yeast infections.

Company president Marilyn Coleman said antibodies in the eggs could boost the immune systems of people who ate them.

"The eggs are not drugs; they are dietary supplements," said Coleman, an assistant professor at Ohio State University from 1976 to 1980. "The chickens are vaccinated like all chickens. All you do is dry the eggs and sell the powder. There's nothing added to the eggs," she said.

The FDA said the company, headquartered at a farmhouse in Richwood, about 35 miles northwest of Columbus, sold its egg products across the nation over the Internet.

The agency said the company described the eggs as "magic bullets ... to target and destroy unwanted biological entities such as cancer." The Web site is no longer operating.

The FDA said the company also sought to use Richwood residents in unauthorized medical experiments.

It said in court documents that Coleman approached the nurse of the North Union County School District last year seeking permission to serve the eggs to schoolchildren.

Coleman wanted to monitor students, according to an FDA search warrant. Sally Wiley, the school nurse, alerted federal authorities.

Coleman said Monday she had considered giving surplus eggs to the school because it would cost too much to dry and store them.

"I thought we could give the eggs to the kids and let some have cereal and others have eggs and see which one helped them the most," she said. "But the FDA told me, 'If you do an experiment, we will call it a drug.'"

She said she instead gave away the 60,000 eggs to people in Richwood between March and August. She said some people called to say eating the eggs helped them, but that the company didn't keep records of people who took the eggs or called.

The government also contends that in March 2001 the company conducted a seminar for about 40 people where it distributed a medical consent form for an experiment with the eggs. OvImmune's lawyers denied the contention.

On July 31, eight federal agents raided Coleman's farmhouse and seized four boxes of documents, plus

notebooks and computer records. A large number of eggs were destroyed, and others were placed under quarantine.

In December, OvImmune went to court to get back its records and argued that the FDA's search warrant contained false information about the company.

"The FDA tried to tell the judge that chickens don't get vaccinated and chicken eggs don't have antibodies naturally," Coleman said.

In February, the company filed a \$15 million slander and libel suit against Wiley, the school nurse.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark T. D'Alessandro said the suit was an attempt to intimidate a federal witness, and got a restraining order prohibiting OvImmune from contacting Wiley.

The grand jury is expected to hold a hearing sometime before April 30.

An FDA spokeswoman declined to comment on the case Monday.

Patchett wins PEN/ Faulkner award

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ann Patchett has won the \$15,000 PEN/Faulkner prize, the largest American juried award for fiction, for her fourth novel, "Bel Canto."

The title — Italian for "beautiful song," or a brilliant, ornamented vocal style — refers to the story, about music bringing terrorists and hostages together in an unidentified South American country.

Patchett, who lives in Nashville, Tenn., is a novelist and screenwriter. Her novel "Taft" won the Guggenheim Prize, and Morgan Freeman has taken an option on it for a feature film.

Four other finalists for the PEN/Faulkner prize will get \$5,000 each: Jonathan Franzen for "The Corrections," Karen Jay Fowler for "Sister Noon," Claire Messud for "The Hunters" and Manil Suri for "The Death of Vishnu."

The PEN/Faulkner prize has been awarded since 1981. Past winners include T. Coraghessan Boyle, E.L. Doctorow, Don DeLillo and Philip Roth, who won both last year and in 1994.

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