



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

April 2-3, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 121

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 22 25 36 43
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: \$72 Million

FANTASY 5

2 11 18 22 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 7 5
Evening: 4 4 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:41.97



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Roy Allen Boothe Jr., 18, was arrested after allegedly attempting to rob a Delta One Shop convenience store near York, Pa., in January. When he threatened the two female clerks with a tire iron, the women started punching and kicking him, until he begged for them to stop. After a few minutes (but with police on the way), he managed to wiggle away and run (though one clerk slugged him with his own tire iron on the way out).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 92nd day of 2005.
There are 273 days left in the year.

Two hundred years ago, on April 2, 1805, storyteller Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We crucify ourselves between two thieves: regret for yesterday and fear of tomorrow."

FULTON OURSLER
AMERICAN JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

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NICK SEGOVIA

Once lost, now found

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

The missing son of a Marina del Rey resident, last believed to have been seen in Santa Monica, has been found.

Nick Segovia, 16, disappeared after his father Javier Segovia dropped him off at Los Angeles Airport on Monday. By Thursday, Nick Segovia called his father from Huntington Beach saying he wanted to come home.

"He called me up and said 'Dad, I want to come home with you,'" Javier Segovia said. "He volunteered a few things, said he was safe, so I didn't ask any questions. I didn't want to take any chances."

Javier Segovia said his son will be enrolled in an ongoing counseling program which will allow him to continue working on achieving his high school diploma.

Nick Segovia used to live with his father in Southern California until he failed 10th grade last year. He moved in with his mother in Miami where he has continued to have trouble academically, his father said.

Nick Segovia was visiting his

See **FOUND**, page 7

Price of justice: \$4.4 million

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — Justice here will now be served in style, or at least in acceptable working conditions.

After 1 1/2 years of construction and a total cost of \$4.4 million, the annex at the Santa Monica Courthouse officially opened on Friday. The building, located in the back portion of the courthouse, will serve as three new civil courtrooms. The two-story, 13,736-square-foot facility will also house a childcare center and self-help center, where law students will assist people who opt to represent themselves.

The annex replaced three modular civil courtrooms in the courthouse's courtyard that were supposed to serve as temporary structures for only two years, but lasted

See **IN SESSION**, page 6

Feeling insecure at SM Courthouse

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — In a place where disputes are hashed out daily, court officials must remain on high alert, but that's becoming increasingly difficult as security budgets are slashed.

Faced with an \$11 million cutback in security throughout the entire Los Angeles Superior Court system this year, Santa Monica Judge Linda Lefkowitz said she's concerned about the safety of her staff and the public.

Lefkowitz, who presides over the West District — comprised of five courthouses on the westside — said bailiffs have been removed from most of the courtrooms, leaving

See **COURT SAFETY**, page 7

Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz speaks to a group of about three dozen people who attended the opening ceremony of the new Santa Monica Courthouse annex on Friday. The \$4.4 million facility is located in the courtyard behind the courthouse.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Take charge and handle what boils to the surface. Could a family member be resentful? Yes, he or she could be. Work with an innate sense of caring and gentleness. Your facial expressions reveal much more than you realize. Tonight: Out on the town.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might say something that easily could be taken the wrong way. Pressure builds. You might be holding some feelings back; you could be overly sensitive or emotional. Pace yourself. Detach and take the high road. Tonight: Feed your mind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Take time with an important partner who has strong feelings. Sharing with each other could cause some discomfort. Stay on top of your problems and discuss more of what is on your mind. Tonight: Go along with another's wish.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might be exhausted. Understand that, and you will be able to handle it in a very fun manner. Extremes punctuate conversations and your mood. Someone lets you know how much he or she cares. Tonight: Say "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Pace yourself and don't push too hard. Listen to your inner voice more often. A conversation with someone at a distance proves to be enlightening. Share more of what makes you happy with a companion. Tonight: Easy does it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your creativity takes over when you hit a snafu. Listen to what a child or fun friend suggests. The two of you innately have a good time. Let your hair down and indulge. Fun doesn't have to cost you a lot. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Put your best foot forward. Investigate what is going on with a family member. Your ability to share opens a door. Watch a tendency to go to extremes. You might find the cost a bit awesome. Play it conservatively. Tonight: Invite others over.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Listen more often to conversations around you. You have a way of helping others relax. Sometimes you might need a break or a change of pace. Your instincts and positive mood help you over a bump. Tonight: Visit over dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your fiery side emerges when dealing with children, loved ones or any matter that plugs in your creativity. Your imagination creates much more of what you want. Just flow with the moment. Tonight: A friend has mischief on his or her mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might be pulled in two different directions. Whatever you initiate seems to work. Many around you want to be part of your suggestions. You come from a more solid basis than many. Entertain at home. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Take your time making a decision. You might want to make some calls and find out more information. You have a way of approaching others that helps them open up. You might hear too much information. Tonight: Vanish. Add some mystery.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your friends encourage you to come forward and express what you want. You are unusually talented. Be more straightforward with your feelings. Another person shares a lot more than you might want to hear. Tonight: Where the action is.

AUDIT PENDING

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Stop and smell the flowers

By Daily Press staff

There's something blooming this weekend in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Bay Auxiliary of Children's Hospital Los Angeles will host their 46th annual Spring Garden Tour, featuring six gardens in Santa Monica, Brentwood and Pacific Palisades. The tour will take place Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A \$20 donation is requested. No strollers allowed. Tickets may be purchased at Merrihew's Sunset Gardens, 1526 Ocean Park Blvd., or on the day of the event at 521 Entrada Dr. For information, call: (310) 395-3713.

This bud's for you

By Daily Press staff

It's all about the orchids this weekend. At the Annual Orchid Auction, cymbidium and other outdoor growing orchids, blooming plants and other exotic varieties will all be up for bid. The westside branch of the Cymbidium Society of America is a non-profit organization that strives to stimulate and extend the appreciation of cymbidium and paphiopedilum orchids. This is their only fundraiser for the year. The Annual Orchid Auction will be held today at 7 p.m. in the Grant Elementary School cafeteria, 2368 Pearl St. Call: (310) 826-0994. Admission is free.

Kids of all ages play the day away

By Daily Press staff

Put some play in your day. That's the call to action at the 14th annual YMCA Healthy Kids Day. There are 9 million American kids who are overweight — more than double the percentage in 1980. With that in mind, the YMCA is sponsoring the event to promote active play and a whole-family approach to healthy living. A parent and child dance-off, basketball, sports jam, tiny tumblers, arts and crafts are just some of events happening on Healthy Kids Day. There also will be local health-wise vendors attending with information on healthy living and new products. Summer day camp and resident camp applications will be accepted, and camp staff will be available for answering questions. Facility tours will be given and information on all Santa Monica Family YMCA classes and programs also will be available. The event is being held this Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Santa Monica Family YMCA.

Elks honor quick-thinking cop

By Daily Press staff

Police officer Benjamin Mutuc doesn't let details slip by, and for this the Santa Monica Elks recognized him for outstanding service to the community. Mutuc heard that the Los Angeles Police Department was looking for a robbery suspect, possibly armed and dangerous. Although Mutuc was busy with his own work, he managed to remember the suspect's description when he saw the person walking through a hospital. Mutuc arrested the suspect at gunpoint. Mutuc received a plaque from the Santa Monica Elks and a certificate of commendation from State Sen. Sheila Kuehl. Lt. Derrick Huckaby accepted the commendations for officer Mutuc, who was unavailable for personal reasons.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



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SURF REPORT

On Saturday, expect a combo of ground swells from the southern hemisphere and northern hemisphere. The south swell is expected to produce waist- to chest-high surf for most south-facing breaks, maybe some pluses for standouts. The NW should bring in some waist- to chest-high sets. Note that the tide will dip negative on Saturday by mid- to late-morning, which will tend to decrease size at most breaks. On Sunday, look for a repeat of Saturday as the NW/SW combo continues.

Write us at alex@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

59°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:48	-0.3	10:12	3.0	2:30	4.5	6:17	3.6
SUNDAY	12:45	-0.6	12:32	2.3	5:10	5.1	7:39	4.0
MONDAY	12:32	2.3	1:29	-0.8	6:25	5.3	8:04	4.5
TUESDAY	1:27	1.6	2:07	-0.8	7:23	5.6	8:31	4.5
WEDNESDAY	2:15	0.8	2:40	-0.6	8:14	5.6	8:58	5.4
THURSDAY	2:59	0.2	3:12	-0.3	9:01	5.4	9:26	5.7
FRIDAY	3:20	0.4	3:28	-0.1	9:43	5.2	9:54	5.3

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WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.

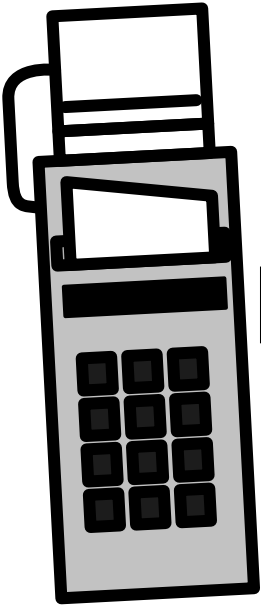


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OPINION

The QLine

RESIDENTS PULL PLUG ON SCHIAVO DEBATE

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Is it the government's place to intervene in families' private matters, or on moral issues?"

Here are your responses:

① "It is not the government's place to make family decisions regarding private matters or moral issues. About the Big Brother approach: Anathema to a free people and a democracy. And the United States is the biggest and most affluent democracy in the world because its people are totally free to make personal decisions. That old marriage vow, in sickness — or whatever — the Schindlers gave up any legal right to their daughter's well being when she married Michael Schiavo as a full consent adult a number of years ago, going on two decades."

② "The Federal Government enact laws and change laws, still the Federal Government's responsibility is to enforce laws. It is lawful for politicians to express their moral views, but not from a political rostrum."

③ "The government is wrong to intervene in a private matter. The only reason the Republicans are doing it is because of these Christian fanatic, fundamental — this Taliban people — are telling them to do so. The trouble with these Christians — so called Christians — is that they expect everyone else to follow their point of view or they're wrong. You have to follow their point of view, according to them. They don't care what you want. They care what they say their God wants. They are a menace to this country and the Republicans should butt-out of a private matter where they have no business butting into."

④ "Can't we just all get along? Well we could, if you obeyed the rules that me and my gang has got our government to establish as unquestionably just, moral, right, and proper. That could be a Christian, a Muslim, or a religious Jew speaking."

⑤ "I think it's high time that Terri Schiavo's husband should back out and let her parents take over, after all he's got a common-law wife and two kids out of this common law wife. So I don't know what he thinks he's doing by sticking his beaker in the case. Duck out, I say, and duck out fast."

⑥ "No, it is not the government's place to intervene in families' private matters or moral issues, the government has no business in that and George W.

Bush was always the one who was touting that big government has no right to interfere with people. I guess that's only when they own guns, but it's OK to interfere any other way and call a week-end session of Congress for his own agenda. The Constitution provides for definite separation between church and state and it's this fundamentalist, religious right that permeates this government that's going to cause a lot of problems. After all, we don't want a government like the Taliban, and that's where we're heading. Let's get over it."

⑦ "Terri Schiavo has finally died, now it's quite obvious that these congressman and senators, especially the Republicans, have to meddle, because it is their job to meddle with things, they are Republicans and they always seem to know what's best for everybody else. For example, Sen. Frist is a doctor, he and a few congressmen, who are also doctors, might have valid points to make, but they never conducted an examination of Terri Schiavo, so their opinions don't really count until they actually perform a medical examination. And Tom Delay is also a bigger hypocrite because when his father was in a similar situation he pretty much said pull the plug. But then again, he's a Republican, and that's part of the job — to be a hypocrite."

⑧ "First let me say God bless Terri, she's up in heaven now, looking down and thinking 'what the hell happened to this country?' The Republicans are now trying to take over the government, our government has three branches: Legislative, judicial, and executive — and they're trying to do away with the judicial branch, just trying to take over. Next thing you know it's going to be Iraq. We got to stop the president, we got to stop Tom Delay, and like I said again, God bless Terri Schiavo."

⑨ "The ghost of Terri Schiavo will arise when it is rumored that her husband was abusing her to the point that when help arrived she was found with her hands to her throat while being strangled, the bruise marks were obvious. Let's pray that her life insurance company, to Mr. Schiavo, will weigh this issue. I'm ashamed that our government helped Michael to execute her. God bless her parents."

S'more fun than when we camped out as kids



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Now that spring is here, millions of parents are starting to think about summer camp for their children. Some adults are jealous. They wonder, "What do kids need a vacation from?" and "I could use a nice two month summer break." Well, help is here. Today, there are more and more summer camps for adults. And you aren't even required to write home to your kids once a week.

Some adult camps are quite different from those we went to when we were kids. There are business camps, which don't sound like much of a vacation to me. There are camps that teach you how to rescue hostages, which is not on my list of fun activities. You can learn how to do stunts at camp, if falling off buildings and being set on fire is your idea of recreation. You can go to song writing camp, and then come home and sing about your experience. And there are poker camps, so you can actually pay money to learn how to lose money.

Learning about these camps got me thinking about other adult camps that should exist:

SMOKING CAMP — This is one of the few places left in the United States where people can smoke without being condemned either by the law or by the folks around them. Smokers will learn how to ignore vigorous waving and dirty looks, as well as medical research and common sense.

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS CAMP — This camp was recently canceled due to lack of interest.

LIFE CAMP — It's one of the most challenging camps today because of the mental contortions that campers must learn. They have to be able to convincingly say that every life is valuable, and that since people make mistakes, "it's always best to err on the side of life." At the same time, they have to express no hesitation about the error-prone death penalty, and refrain

from speaking out about children having guns, or rushing into war.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CAMP —

This fantasy camp guarantees campers that they can be exactly like professional baseball players by the end of the summer. Real Major League heroes teach the campers to do exactly what legendary ballplayers do: repeat the following — "I'm tired. I'm just tired" and "I'm not here to talk about the past."

LIBERALS CAMP — Here, liberals claim not to be liberals and learn how to sit back and do nothing while civil liberties evaporate.

CONSERVATIVES CAMP — Campers learn how to explain to others that an ever-growing, fiscally irresponsible Federal government that keeps meddling in our personal lives is consistent with the conservative philosophy.

PARENTS OF KIDS IN THEIR 20's CAMP

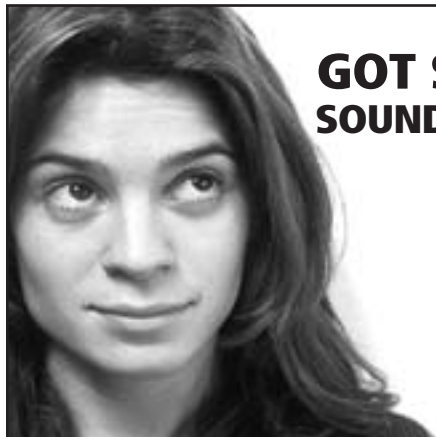
— This camp helps parents work on their skills to get their adult children to move out of the house. This camp is a real gamble, because while the parents are attending, their kids could be taking over their homes and changing the locks.

CAMP FOR PEOPLE WHO HATED CAMP

— There's no mystery meat or group showers here. It's the perfect place for those who hated bugs, dirt, or being teased by the big kids. Campers stay in a pristine luxury hotel where their every whim is catered to. And those big kids who used to tease you? They've had very unsuccessful adult lives and make up the obsequious staff of the hotel that pampers you.

COLUMNISTS CAMP — Columnists sit around a campfire, discussing what's wrong with the world and how it could be better. However, none of them wants it to be too good. After all, if the world were perfect, what would we write about?

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com.)



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? SOUND OFF IN THE DAILY PRESS!

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LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

At 11:35 a.m. on March 22, Santa Monica Police responded to a Bank of the West on the 400 block of Colorado Avenue regarding check fraud. The officers received a description of the suspect and when they arrived, they detained and arrested him. James Alan Kaplan, 50, of Augora Hills, was charged with robbery and burglary. Bail was set at \$200,000.

At 4:45 p.m. on March 19, Santa Monica Police responded to a call from the Apple Computer store on the 1200 block of Third Street regarding a theft suspect in custody. The suspect had attempted to leave the store without paying for items when he was approached by the store's security guards. A struggle ensued and the suspect was detained. Police arrived and took custody of Ganzorig Tatralt, a 20-year-old transient, who was booked for strong arm robbery. Bail was set at \$50,000.

At 11:30 a.m. on March 18, Santa Monica Police responded to a victim who came into the police station reporting he had been assaulted and robbed the night before while in the 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk. Officers recognized the description of the suspect and arrested him on March 19 on the Venice Beach Boardwalk. Reuben Whitman Colbert, a 35-year-old transient, was charged with robbery and assault with a deadly weapon.

At 8:10 p.m. on March 14, Santa Monica Police were signaled that a vehicle had been stolen in the area of Second Street and Colorado Avenue which had a low-jack kit. Officers found the vehicle, parked with Jimenez Adalberto, a 22, of Linwood inside. He was charged with grand theft auto. Bail was set at \$20,000.

At 8:45 p.m. on March 12, Santa Monica Police working on the Third Street Promenade responded to the 1400 block of Third Street regarding a suspect that had purchased items with counterfeit money. The store cashier followed the suspect who had gone into another business on the Promenade. Officers detained the suspect. He was arrested for possessing counterfeit currency. James Clayton Risenhoover, a 27 of Los Angeles, was charged with fraud. Bail was set at \$20,000.

At 10:15 a.m. on March 10, Santa Monica Police responded to call of a forgery in progress at the Washington Mutual Bank located at the 2700 block of Wilshire Boulevard. When officers responded, the suspect already left the bank and was detained in the 100 block of Princeton Avenue where he was arrested for trying to cash a check from a fraudulent account. Deonna Michelle Berry, a 27 year-old transient, was booked for grand theft, burglary and forgery. Bail was set at \$20,000.

At 8:10 p.m. on Jan. 4, Santa Monica Police responded to a Santa Monica Place store regarding a robbery. When officers arrived at the scene, an employee of the business said the suspect approached the cashier and told her to give him "the money, or else." The cashier gave the suspect the money from the register and the suspect fled the location on foot. The suspect was not arrested, but his description matched a local transient who walked into the Santa Monica police department on Feb. 18 for an unrelated reason and was recognized by one of the officers. David Gordon Glomsrud, a 45-year-old transient, was charged with robbery. Bail was set at \$50,000.

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LOCAL


Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Los Angeles Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz stand in front of a new courtroom at the Santa Monica Courthouse on Friday.

Justice is served with opening of court annex

IN SESSION, from page 1

nearly three decades. The buildings, temporarily built for overflow cases, have been in place for at least 25 years. They were beyond repair and beyond healthy, according to Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz, who also is the presiding judge for the West District.

She and a host of Superior Court officials presided over Friday's opening ceremony in the courthouse courtyard, which was attended by about three dozen city and court officials, and lawyers.

Officials said the modulars had outlived their useful life and were beyond cost-effective repair. Lefkowitz joked that when she was a trial attorney in 1990, she remembers arguing a case in one of the temporary courtrooms and had to stop talking when she was drowned out by an air-conditioning unit. She knew it was time to resume her arguments because when the air-conditioning unit turned off, water would start to leak into a bucket placed on the floor.

Lefkowitz also spoke of the “unique animal population” that lived underneath and in the courtrooms — infested with termites and rodents. And it when it rained, the buildings' roofs leaked.

“I don't think we need to apologize for the fact that we got these much-needed buildings,” Lefkowitz said.

Meanwhile, court staff and judges from Culver City spent Friday moving into the Santa Monica Courthouse. The Culver City Courthouse, which closed on Friday, handled traffic and civil cases under \$25,000. The court system expects to save at least \$100,000 a year through the consolidation.

Los Angeles County Board Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who represents Santa Monica, was the driving force in getting the new annex approved and funded.

Yaroslavsky said the new annex was long overdue, as the modular courtrooms were unacceptable conditions for the staff, the attorneys and the public.

“People think we drink Chablis, eat quiche and read the New York Times over here, but that's not true,” he joked, alluding to many's perception of the court system's westside operations. He also said the “old stylistic design” of government buildings has got to go.

“People need this facility ... and as long as we are spending millions of dollars, we might as well design it to invite the public into it and not repel them from it,” Yaroslavsky said.

THE MONEY TREE

The building's construction began in August 2003, even though the project was approved several years prior. However, since adequate funding wasn't in place to begin construction, it was put on hold. When county officials put the project out for bid in November of 2002, the price tag was \$930,000 more than what had been budgeted for.

Yaroslavsky made up the nearly \$1 million shortfall with part of the \$2 million in county discretionary funds he has at his disposal for capital improvement projects within his district.

Some members of the public have scoffed at the idea of renovating the courthouse, especially when state, county and local governments are facing multi-billion budget deficits.

But county officials point out that capital improvements are budgeted separate from the operating budget.

“When the county spends money on anything, people think it should be used for something else,” Yaroslavsky told the Daily Press in 2003. “This is what we are precisely supposed to do with our money, it's capital improvements.”

Lefkowitz said the construction contracts were signed right before the state budget crisis was realized and the money had already been allocated.

“The state budget crisis hit right when the trailers were torn down,” she said. “And we've done it on budget, which is

See IN SESSION, page 7

LOCAL



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Staff occupies one of three new courtrooms that opened Friday in the Santa Monica Courthouse.

Jurors in Santa Monica can serve justice in style

IN SESSION, from page 6

unusual for government.”

SERVING IN STYLE

Yaroslavsky, who said former presiding Judge Alan Haber made a persuasive case for the new courtrooms, also played a vital role in getting Santa Monica Courthouse's new \$2 million jury room, which opened in 2002.

Jurors in Santa Monica are now able to get gourmet coffee, check e-mail, enjoy ocean views and recline on plush couches while watching DVDs on a 42-inch television as they wait for their trials to begin.

The juror assembly room, located on the third floor of the Santa Monica Courthouse, has been heralded as the “crown jewel” of the county's court system. Juror assembly rooms are essentially a waiting area where jurors gather before being selected for a trial.

Court officials say about 150 jurors are called into Santa Monica court on a daily basis and the average juror will spend two hours waiting to be selected for a trial. Between 7,000 and 10,000 people are called into the LA court system each day, said William MacLaughlin, the presiding judge of the LA Superior Court System.

“Unfortunately, they spend more time in jury rooms than we wish, but hopefully we will become more efficient in using our jurors,” he told the group on Friday. “We need to change how we do business and recognize the changing needs.”

The Santa Monica juror room includes a kitchenette area with refrigerator, microwave and vending machines. There is an office center with coin-operated fax and photocopy machines, along with 17 cubicles where jurors can plug their laptops into digital modem lines free of charge and surf the Internet.

The westside of the room is connected to a large outdoor patio where splashes of the ocean can be spotted through rows of beachfront hotels and office buildings. More than 30 lockers have been installed to give jurors a place to store their belongings for free while they are listening to lawyers pontificate in the courtrooms below.

Courtroom drama can escalate emotions

COURT SAFETY, from page 1

judges to rely on their calm demeanors and a panic button underneath their benches.

“Security is always at the edge of a judge's mind,” she said. “There's always the potential for someone to lose control.”

Lefkowitz cited an incident just last week at the LAX Courthouse in which a prisoner broke free from his waist chains, picked up a chair and threw it — presumably at the judge — which missed a court reporter's head by mere inches. But because it was a criminal courtroom, luckily a bailiff was present, she added.

All of the courthouses throughout LA have been asked to scale back significantly in security personnel, and Santa Monica is no exception. There is only one scanner and one metal detector at the entrance, sometimes causing long lines and frustration among visitors at a courthouse that experiences high traffic. Each judge handles about 325 cases a year, according to Lefkowitz.

“We do pick up on an amazing amount of knives and other weapons, and drugs, too,” Lefkowitz said of the Santa Monica Courthouse.

Bailiffs remain in Santa Monica courtrooms where emotions can run high such as family court, small claims, tenant and landlord disputes, and juvenile proceedings.

“These courtrooms function as a place for personal disputes and some of these people are on the edge,” said Lefkowitz, adding that she feels more confident about safety and security because Santa Monica judges are experienced in diplomacy, which keeps plaintiffs and defendants calm. “We are very fortunate because we have senior judges.”

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Border security has immigrants staying longer

BY LAURA WIDES

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Undocumented immigrants from Mexico are staying longer and are more likely to bring their families to the United States as a result of stepped up border security, experts said at a conference on immigration and homeland security Thursday.

"They are staying in the U.S. longer because we've succeeded in making it too costly and dangerous to cross back," Wayne Cornelius, director of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California, San Diego, told the audience of federal and local officials, immigration attorneys and community activists.

The conference, hosted by the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, began with a minute of silence in honor of farmworker activist Cesar Chavez's birthday Thursday.

Cornelius, who recently completed a study of potential migrants in towns in the Mexican states of Zacatecas and Jalisco, said the increased security appears to be doing little to deter these immigrants.

The amount of time undocumented Mexican immigrants stayed in the United States on a typical trip increased somewhat between 1993, when the Clinton administration began tightening the border, and 2000, according to recent studies by the Mexican government.

Overall, the number of weeks the

migrants stayed in this country climbed from an average of 40 weeks to 50 weeks. The reasons for their departures varied.

That number, however, jumped from 50 weeks to an average of 70 weeks between 2000 and 2002.

Meanwhile, nearly half of Mexicans living in the country illegally today are women and children, a far cry from the days when a male relative would come to the United States and send money to his family back home, Cornelius said.

"We always want to think about these people as labor, but these people are often family people and their families do come," said Harry Pachon, director of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute.

For his study, Cornelius interviewed about 600 potential migrants. While nearly 90 percent called crossing the border "very dangerous," only 20 percent cited tougher border enforcement as a reason they didn't plan to make the trip this year.

If they were deterred, it was indirectly due to border patrols. The cost of crossing shot up from \$1,500 in 2001 to an average of \$2,500 in 2003, Cornelius said.

Tighter borders in California and Texas have also channeled migration to Arizona and New Mexico, with harsh desert climates making crossing more dangerous and forcing more immigrants to rely on smugglers.

In his survey, Cornelius found that 84 percent who crossed recently had used smugglers, whereas in a 1989 study he found that less than half relied on them.

Despite the increased security, more than half said they were able to get into the United States on their first or second try.

Speakers at the conference called on Congress and President Bush to reach an agreement on immigration that would combine a guest worker program with some kind of an amnesty.

The conference was held a day before hundreds of volunteers, some of them

armed, were expected to take up position along the Arizona-Mexico border to patrol for illegal immigrants.

"Tomorrow, thousands will be on the border to enforce laws and take the laws into their own hands," said Jose Calderon, professor of sociology and Chicano studies at Pitzer College said during a break in the conference. "People are scared. This is the time to find some solutions."

Missing son contacts father after spending time in O.C.

FOUND, from page 1

father for spring break before he disappeared this week. The Los Angeles Police were notified of the disappearance and informed Javier Segovia his son was considered a voluntary runaway. According to Javier Segovia, his son suffers from an attention disorder, which may contribute to academic and emotional difficulties.

"Hopefully, now he will be get the treatment he needs," Javier Segovia said. "I think it's important he keeps working toward graduation."

Javier Segovia said it was purely coincidental when he heard through a friend of a friend Monday night that his son never boarded his flight to Miami, and was spotted in Santa Monica.

By Wednesday, Javier Segovia, one of

his friends, and two of his son's friends distributed more than 200 missing-person flyers on the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Pier. Sources informed them Nick Segovia would be in Santa Monica until Wednesday, when he would begin traveling north with a transient named Scott, or "Scooter," who apparently had taken him under his wing.

Javier Segovia said the search party spoke to several transients in Santa Monica, who provided few helpful leads.

The Santa Monica Police Department put Javier Segovia in touch with the missing person division, who were prepared to continue the search on Thursday in downtown Santa Monica. But by Thursday afternoon, Javier Segovia said his son had voluntarily called from Orange County saying he wanted to come live with him.



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STATE



Californians should be able to shed light

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Californians are headed toward summer with more than enough electricity to prevent blackouts, state energy officials explained Thursday, saying that consumer conservation represents a key part of their assessment.

"We believe we have enough power to keep the lights on and the air conditioners humming," said Ken Wiseman, chairman of the California Independent System Operator, which manages the state's 25,000 miles of high-voltage electrical lines.

Though statewide energy demands are expected to hit new records this year, Wiseman and other officials cited additional power generation, new transmission line capacity and a growing statewide conservation ethic as reasons for optimism about energy supplies. But they also warned that prolonged outbreaks of hot weather could leave power reserves thin, especially in Southern California.

On good days, the state should have an extra 3,000 megawatts of power, said Jim Detmers, the ISO's acting chief operations officer. On bad days, however, the system is short 800 megawatts.

Detmers said the shortage can be covered by established conservation strategies, such as encouraging people to avoid using major appliances between noon and 6 p.m., and agreements with industries to

decrease power consumption when asked.

Wiseman said aggressive consumer and business energy conservation can spare 3,000 to 4,000 megawatts when necessary. A thousand megawatts can power approximately 750,000 homes and represents the average output of one of the state's nuclear power plants, he said.

Officials also predicted California will set new consumption records this summer, topping seven days last summer that triggered increasingly high demand. The current historic high, reached Sept. 8 amid triple-digit heat across the state, is 45,597 megawatts.

This year's expectations contrasted sharply with four years ago when the ISO ordered seven days of rolling electricity blackouts and declared 30 emergencies when power supplies ran low.

The grid operator's chief executive officer, Yakout Mansour, said California has added more than 12,000 megawatts of new electricity since the ISO's founding seven years ago. "Twelve-thousand is more than the entire province of British Columbia," he said.

The system operator has also overseen \$3.4 billion in improvements to its transmission lines in seven years, he said. Most recently, the state upgraded a key transmission line between Northern and Southern California, adding 1,500 megawatts to its capacity, enough to power more than 1 million homes.



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STATE

Trouble bruin: Bear killings cause uproar

BY BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press Writer

HOMEWOOD, Calif. — Before the threats to burn it down or paint it blood red, the cabin nestled in the woods on Tanager Drive near Lake Tahoe was clearly owned by bear lovers.

The front door featured a bear artfully etched in glass. A wood-carved bruin had a cherished place in a bedroom. And on the hour, when a cuckoo clock chimed, bears circled a merry-go-round and bobbed on a teeter-tot.

Then, three real bears — a mother and two cubs that had dened under the house — busted in while Russ and Diane Tonda were away, ripping furniture, defecating on the floor, and prompting the couple to have them killed. Angry bear activists have dubbed them bear killers.

"I don't know anything about bears other than it's been a nightmare," Russ Tonda said Thursday.

Now, as a prosecutor weighs whether to bring charges in the killings and sheriff's deputies investigate human vandalism at the house in the aftermath, the incident has reopened a debate over how to deal with Lake Tahoe's growing bear problem.

It seems everyone who's spent time at Tahoe has a bear story. You overhear them at the convenience store, the bakery, even on ski chairlifts — tales of bears breaking into cars, walking into houses and swiping pies off windowsills.

With a growing population encroach-

ing on their turf, bears have adapted, and many have adopted a diet of human food. Bears have literally come out of the woods for the easy pickings in subdivisions circling the alpine lake.

A 2003 study of black bears in the Tahoe basin found they had limited their range from 150 square miles to residential neighborhoods; didn't hibernate as long, or at all, because they could Dumpster-dive all winter; and they are much fatter than your average bears.

As a result, human-bear interaction has been on the rise. In cases such as the Tondas', bears often hibernate beneath cabins that are vacant much of the winter.

The discovery of uninvited guests often leads to panic. What happens next can determine the fate of the bear.

If the state Department of Fish and Game is called, it advises people how to roust the bears from their den, an option most people resist. They also provide information on obtaining a permit to kill a troublesome bear. Relocating bears is not an option.

If a complaint goes to the Placer County sheriff, it refers calls to the Bear League, a 900-member group dedicated to saving the creatures by teaching people how to live among wildlife and scaring the heck out of bears that are too comfortable around people.

At the center of the Tonda controversy is the league's founder, Ann Bryant, a passionate animal lover.

She was rehabilitating wildlife 6 1/2 years ago when she started the organiza-

tion after a meddlesome bear was trapped and killed. She illegally raised one of its orphan cubs and her activism has led to two brushes with the law: once for having a loaded weapon and another time for relocating a bear.

Bryant and her disciples employ a tough love approach to bears, hazing them with noisemakers and shooting them with paintball guns or rubber buckshot. In the case of bears that have broken into a house, that approach is applauded by some wildlife experts, considered foolish by others.

Carl Lackey, a wildlife biologist for the state of Nevada who responds to bear calls on the eastern side of the lake, said the Bear League is effective educating people about bears, but should leave hazing to professionals.

When Bryant got the call from the Tondas in January, she responded immediately. It was the worst damage she'd ever seen. Furniture was tossed about, cabinets were broken and electrical wiring and heating ducts were destroyed.

"It looked like a bomb had went off," Russ Tonda said.

Tonda initially estimated the loss at \$100,000, but now says that figure was probably too high.

Bryant climbed through a trap door into a crawl space beneath the house and saw one bear sleeping there. She offered to have a backhoe dig a path through the snow and she would scare the bear out, but she said the couple wanted to let the bear sleep.

Tonda said he never made such a vow. After talking to his insurance company, he contacted Fish and Game, got a permit to kill one bear and hired three men to do the job.

What happened Feb. 4, when the hunters arrived at the cabin thinking they were gunning for one bear, is disputed.

The men said the startled cubs charged and they had to kill them in self-defense, Fish and Game biologist Patrick Foy said. A distraught Bryant, who arrived after the shooting, doesn't believe the bears would have charged. She also said she felt deceived by the Tondas.

The Department of Fish and Game found the hunters' story plausible and did not recommend charging the hunters or the Tondas with a crime. Bryant and others called on prosecutors to charge them because they only had a permit to kill one bear.

The Placer County district attorney's office is still investigating, said deputy prosecutor Chris Cattran.

In the meantime, the Tondas have received death and arson threats. Bryant said she received 500 calls in three days following the incident from outraged people as far away as Maine, some vowing to get even.

The Tondas had talked about selling their place, but they don't want to leave Tahoe, where they've been vacationing for 40 years. They've vowed to fix the place, which has been boarded up since \$5,000 to \$7,000 in human vandalism was discovered Feb. 26.



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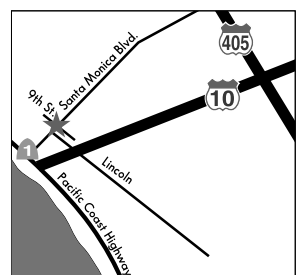
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NATIONAL



Plan to alter Amtrak funding railed against

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta on Thursday defended the Bush administration plan to cut off subsidies for Amtrak as a way to improve rail passenger service, but local critics suggested it would do just the opposite.

"There is no form of transportation ... that is unsubsidized," said Eugene Skoropowski, managing director of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, which runs trains between the Sacramento and San Francisco areas under contract with Amtrak.

"It is unrealistic to expect that a service could become profitable but that is what they are asking Amtrak to do."

Mineta held a news conference at the state Capitol to tout the administration's plan to cut off subsidies for Amtrak and instead offer states matching federal funds on a 50-50 basis for rail improvements.

He said the legislation, which the administration first proposed in 2003 and will reintroduce next week, would inject "healthy competition" by allowing states to pick and choose who operates intercity trains.

"Amtrak will compete with private companies and public operators to run routes," he said. "This healthy competition will give Amtrak incentives to run the trains on time, keep them clean and provide better service."

Mineta said the administration plan was "absolutely not" an attempt to kill off Amtrak and free up the rails for freight. "If the president and I wanted to kill Amtrak we would not do anything" and let it continue to deteriorate.

Skoropowski said his agency already has the power to contract with someone

other than Amtrak to run its trains, but that Amtrak offers a "major feature" that other operators wouldn't: Amtrak assumes all of the insurance and liability costs.

"It is the only entity in the U.S. that has the ability and willingness to do that," he said.

Other rail passenger operators, Skoropowski added, would face the same problems as Amtrak does in making trains run on time because they would also have to compete with freight trains for track space.

And he suggested that some passenger rail companies might not be able to meet the conditions set down by freight railroads to use their tracks.

Robert Johnson, a spokesman for Mineta, said the administration legislation would deal with the liability and rail access issues, but he didn't elaborate.

The Bush plan also ran into opposition in the California Legislature, where a bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced a resolution urging Congress to adequately fund Amtrak.

"De-funding Amtrak is directly at odds with our interests here in Sacramento," said Assemblyman Dave Jones, a Sacramento Democrat and one of the authors of the resolution. "As a growing region with congested freeways, we need more federal support for rail transit so we can encourage more travelers to get out of their cars and onto public transport like Amtrak and Regional Transit."

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce also urged Congress to maintain funding for Amtrak.

Other rail advocates said the administration's willingness to partially fund rail improvements should be in addition to operating subsidies for Amtrak.

Sierra ends winter season with above-normal snowpack

By The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — The Sierra and northern Nevada ended the traditional water season Friday with a hefty snowpack that experts said could signal the start of recovery from years of drought. But officials also warned that one good winter doesn't make up for five dry years.

"This isn't a drought buster, by any means," said Bruce Knight, chief of the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service. Knight, visiting Reno from Washington for a conference, participated in wrapping up the season's snowpack survey.

The snowpack in the Truckee River Basin was measured at 126 percent of normal for the date, with the Lake Tahoe Basin's snowpack at 141 percent. Totals were higher farther south, where the Carson River Basin's snowpack was 143 percent and the Walker River Basin's nearly 150 percent.

Last year, the snowpack as of April 1 ranged from 70 percent to 80 percent.

Dan Greenlee, a hydrologist with the federal conservation service, said melting snow will provide for slightly above-average runoff along the Truckee River this summer, with higher runoff expected

along rivers to the south.

Greenlee and others also don't think Lake Tahoe will dip below its natural rim and dam spillway this year as it did last September and in November 2003.

Major storms in late December and early January dropped nearly 20 feet of snow in parts of the Sierra and an average of 7 feet in the Reno area — the most there since 1916. Milder, periodic storms followed throughout the winter until a drying trend in March was ended by a set of late-season storms, adding several more feet of snow in the mountains.

"Those storms really saved our bacon," Greenlee said.

Snowmelt that will begin to raise the water levels of Lake Tahoe and other reservoirs along the Truckee River system is needed and an above-average snowpack is most welcome, said Bill Hauck, senior water supply coordinator for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

More above-average winters — or an epic one such as 1995, when snowmelt raised Lake Tahoe's water levels by 6 feet in a single year — will be needed to fully recover from the five-year drought, Hauck said.

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Entertainment

'Sin City' a bloody good time

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Gritty rough-edged atmosphere reigns in "Sin City," director Robert Rodriguez's visually arresting adaptation of the very popular (at least, among comic geeks) graphic novels by Frank Miller, who shares a director's credit. Set in the fictional Basin City, the toughest place on earth, this retro-grade pulp pageant is populated with wiseguys, bondage babes, crooked cops and stone cold killers. Then there are the real troublemakers. "Sin City" may be a little light on narrative texture, yet it is nonetheless a weighty cinematic achievement that personifies the future of film-noir.

"Sin City" is an incredibly violent picture, and although the carnage is quite stylized, it's likely to be off-putting to, say, the sort who cry at weddings ... or maybe even football games. The directing duo of Rodriguez and Miller take this eye-popping film where no other comic book flicks have gone before. The look, feel, sound, smell — hell, everything about it — is so faithful to the source material, it's as though the pages of Miller's book have actually sprung to life. Lamentably, the stories — three of them, loosely woven together — aren't as engaging as the production design, leading to diminishing returns once the novelty of the visuals wears thin.

(Rated R for sustained stylized violence, nudity and sexual content and dialogue. 126 minutes)

Review

Not much dirt gets kicked up in 'Dust'

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Having once served as a quasi-member of a race crew at the Baja 1000, the longest point-to-point race in the world, I know that words cannot adequately convey the

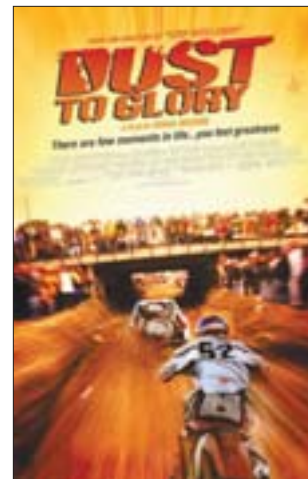
Review

sensation of being smack dab in the middle of the unparalleled odyssey that is this legendary motor sports event. Motion pictures, however — particularly those captured by documaker Dana Brown ("Step into Liquid") and his intrepid crew — can practically put us in the driver's seat as an array of vehicles, from motorcycles to dune buggies to trophy trucks, wend their way across the rugged Mexican desert, dodging wayward pick-ups, spectators and far more ominous obstacles all along the way. The Baja 1000 is the stuff bona fide tough guys are made of, and Brown's exhilarative chronicle of the 2003 race is interspersed with archival footage of legendary bad-asses like Steve McQueen and James Garner, both of whom participated and injected star wattage when the race was in its infancy.

Brown's a true believer, and "Dust to Glory" is his loving homage to an almost mythical event that is universally known yet seldom witnessed by anyone but hardcore off-road enthusiasts and Baja natives. The only "dirt" Brown exposes on the 1000 is the stuff the racers stir up in abundance en route from Ensenada to La Paz. The

action footage is a serious adrenaline rush, and "Dust to Glory" employs it to considerable dramatic effect — particularly coverage of Mike "Mouse" McCoy, an extreme ironman attempting to become the first man ever to solo the entire course ... on a motorcycle, no less. His remarkable quest exemplifies the spirit of the Baja 1000: A rare breed of adventurers pitting themselves against an unforgiving natural environment and the limits of human endurance, purely for the satisfaction of doing so. Lord knows it isn't for the money, as the top prize is something in the neighborhood of four thousand dollars. Other intriguing storylines include NASCAR star Robbie Gordon's ill-fated attempt to win the trophy truck class, 16-year-old Andy McMillin carrying on a family tradition as the third generation to compete in the race, and Baja icon JN Roberts, winner of the very first race, returning to Mexico for the first time in three decades to team with his son, Jimmy. Some may be put off by Nathan Furst's blustery score, but a little bombast is to be expected at a happening where the war cry is "go big or go home."

(Rated PG for racing action and peril, and for some language. Running time: 97 minutes)



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'Beauty' isn't all that

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

This feminized extension of the "Barbershop" series lacks the biting comedy and underlying gravitas of its male-oriented predecessors, relying instead on unoriginal sex and race zingers delivered by a bunch of walking, talking, blow-dryer-wielding clichés. It isn't that "Beauty Shop" is wholly devoid of laughs and entertaining characters, but all in all this spin-off doesn't spin far enough away from the source material to transcend irksome redundancy. The haircuttery as a chat-vat concept has been used before and — with all due respect to the ladies — Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer and the men of Calvin's Barbershop worked it better.

Saucy hair stylist extraordinaire Gina Norris (Queen Latifah) was introduced in "Barbershop 2" for the purpose of launching what will invariably become the "Beauty Shop" franchise. It begins in "Hotlanta," as Georgia's largest city is referred to throughout by a mysterious radio DJ/tone setter, where Gina has relocated in order to enroll her gifted daughter in a prestigious music school. Gina's got skills as well, and quickly makes a name for herself at a swank salon owned by a flamboyant tyrant, Jorge, played with esprit de corny by Kevin Bacon. After the inevitable fallout with her boss, Gina scrapes up the dough to buy her own spot and the "You go, girls!" and booty jokes start flying. Her opinionated staff and



clientele include Alfre Woodard as an Afro-centric poetry-spouting philosopher, Alicia Silverstone as a blonde country bumpkin destined to tap into her inner-homegirl, and Mena Suvari and Andie MacDowell as Southern socialites who stir the pot first by defecting from Jorge, then by being so darn white. Gina's love interest is electrician-cum-closet musical genius Joe (Djimon Hounsou), though the coupling fails to generate many sparks.

In the end, these divergent personalities band together for a common cause: to prevent the conniving Jorge from shutting Gina's shop down and scuttling plans for a sequel. Had the filmmakers' exhibited similar resolve in fleshing out the narrative and punching the jokes, "Beauty Shop" might have better than it is. As it stands, despite an appealing cast, the movie just doesn't cut it.

(Rated PG-13 on appeal for sexual material, language and brief drug references. Running time: 105 minutes)



THE IMBIBER BY DAN DUNN

Leigh the Long Message Leaver is a dear and garrulous friend with a genuine gift for circumlocution. Whenever Leigh's number pops up on the Imbiber's missed calls log, I can be certain that no matter how simple a report needs conveying, a dissertation of prodigious proportion awaits. Leigh recently left a message canceling a dinner date:

"Hi, it's Leeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee-igggggggggggggghhhhhhhh ..." (Her dragged-out dispatches invariably begin with an elongated enunciation of her name.) "I'm just calling about dinner on Thursday. I think we're supposed to meet for sushi ... wait, maybe it's that Italian place ... oh no, that's right, I'm meeting my friend Lindsay for Italian next week. It's her birthday. I think she's turning 30. Or maybe it's 29 ... God, I can't remember ... she looks great, though ... have you ever met Lindsay? She works over on Third Avenue, which is probably why we always go for pasta. You know, that great Italian place is right there on Third. Otherwise, I wouldn't eat it ... too many carbs, and I like sushi much better ... you'd like Lindsay, she's really nice. I should set you two up. You'd be perfect for each other."

And so on. Another staple of the Leigh message is the inevitable mention of a potential love match. Leigh's convinced I'd be "perfect" with all her single friends because they're all "nice" and I'm presumably desperate. As you can imagine,

catching up with her requires reinforcement — something potent, with a long finish. A Long Island Iced Tea usually does the trick ... two if Leigh's had caffeine, something she suggested at the end of her latest dispatch: "So if we do coffee on Saturday instead, I can bring pictures from Carrie's wedding ..." Carrie is a gal Leigh once set me up with, who was such a "perfect" match, she went ahead and married someone else. "It was such a beautiful wedding," Leigh continued. "Carrie looked so healthy and radiant, that it's hard to believe she's still suffering from an eating disorder. You never should have been honest when she asked you if she looked fat in that red dress of hers ... so, um, give me a call when you get this message ..."

Does she mean when I get it, or get through it? She needs to be more specific, since we're likely talking about different decades.

The Leigh-Surely Long Island Iced Tea (from "The American Bar & Cocktail Book")

1 oz. vodka
1 oz. gin
1 oz. tequila
1 oz. light rum
3 oz. chilled cola
1 oz. lime juice
1 oz. Cointreau
1 tsp. sugar
Slice of lemon
Fresh mint leaves

Pour all ingredients over ice in a high-ball glass, stir and garnish with mint leaves and lemon.

(E-mail comments or suggestions for the Imbiber to ddunn@metro.us)



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NATIONAL

Volunteers begin arriving to man borders

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writer

TOMBSTONE, Ariz. — At least 100 volunteers registered by Friday afternoon for a monthlong effort to patrol the Mexican border for illegal immigrants and smugglers, an organizer of the project said.

The idea, according to organizers of the Minuteman Project, is for the volunteers to fan out across 23 miles of the San Pedro Valley to watch the border and report any illegal activity to federal agents — an exercise that some law enforcement authorities and others fear could lead to vigilante violence.

Many of the volunteers were recruited over the Internet and some plan to be armed. Rallies and orientation for the volunteers are planned over the weekend; the patrols are to begin on Monday.

Organizers originally said the Minuteman Project would draw upward of 800 participants, drawing skepticism from human rights activists and authorities who have seen similar efforts flop in the past.

Jim Gilchrist, a retired accountant from

Aliso Viejo, Calif., who organized the project, said at least 100 volunteers had registered and dozens more were in town. There was no immediate way to independently verify the count.

Volunteers had been expected to keep arriving throughout the day, and it was difficult to distinguish them from counter-protesters and the merely curious.

During the afternoon, volunteers were ushered into a meeting hall in different groups for orientation and to hear speakers supporting the project.

"You have accomplished an enormous amount already," said Bay Buchanan, chairwoman of the conservative American Cause organization and sister of former presidential candidate Pat Buchanan.

She told a crowd of about 70, including reporters, that the effort had drawn the attention of Mexican President Vicente Fox, who has vowed to take legal action against migrant-hunting vigilantes in Arizona.

U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo, a supporter of tougher border enforcement, said each volunteer represents hundreds of thou-

sands of people who want a change in immigration and border policy.

"You are not vigilantes, you are heroes in my book," said Tancredo, a Colorado Republican.

The project is intended partly to draw attention to illegal immigration along the Arizona-Mexico border, considered the most vulnerable stretch of the 2,000-mile southern border. Of the 1.1 million illegal immigrants caught by the Border Patrol last year, 51 percent crossed into the country at the Arizona border.

Some people in this town nearly 30 miles north of the Mexican border, best known as the site of the 1881 shootout at the OK Corral, eagerly awaited the volunteers' arrival as a way to boost the local economy.

Human rights activists expressed concern that the volunteers may abuse immigrants or get into violent confrontations with smugglers.

Robert Ordway said he was volunteering in response to the federal government's admonition to be vigilant following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"The newspapers and the TV cameras

are hoping something will go wrong and somebody will get hurt or somebody will do something stupid and that will draw attention," said Ordway, from nearby Sierra Vista. "That ain't going to happen. We're not here to do that. We are here to support the Border Patrol, support the laws of the country and that's what we're after."

During Friday's orientation, Minuteman field operations director Chris Simcox warned the volunteers they wouldn't succeed if they don't obey the law.

"Hold the line, but hold your ideals up before your personal gratification," Simcox said.

Salvador Reza, who operates a day labor center in Phoenix, said that addressing only border security misses the point because it doesn't deal with the economic factors that drive illegal immigration.

"This is a sideshow," said Reza, who was in Tombstone to watch the project get launched. "They are going to make a lot of noise and people are going to get all riled up and all of that, but the real power is in the Congress of the United States and the state Legislature."

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NATIONAL

Intel commission foresees tough task ahead

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The presidential commission investigating U.S. intelligence and weapons of mass destruction describes a world in which the threats are legion and growing ever more deadly, and lays out a difficult path for the nation's new intelligence chief.

"It is not hyperbole to suggest that the lives of millions, and the very fabric and fate of our society, may depend on the way in which the (intelligence) community is configured, and the powers it can bring to bear against the challenges posed by (weapons) proliferation," the commission said.

The 3 1/2 years since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks have seen little improvement in the U.S. intelligence community's ability to acquire hard information about nuclear and biological threats, the commission said in findings it released Thursday.

The panel suggested numerous organizational changes and said President Bush could implement most of them without congressional action. It emphasized that

the White House needed to put its full weight behind John Negroponte, the president's choice to coordinate the spy community, as Negroponte confronts the intelligence agencies' "almost perfect record of resisting external recommendations."

Bush promised immediate action.

"To win the war on terror, we will correct what needs to be fixed," the president said at a news conference with retired Judge Laurence Silberman, a Republican, and former Democratic Sen. Charles Robb of Virginia, the commission's co-chairmen.

Bush said he had directed his White House-based homeland security adviser, Fran Townsend, to "assure that concrete actions are taken." The CIA's new director, Porter Goss, said in a statement: "We appreciate constructive criticism. We acknowledge mistakes when we make them."

Commissioners avoided blaming Bush and other policy chiefs for leading the United States into a war on the faulty basis of Iraq's supposed weapons of mass destruction. Nor did it suggest they were at fault for the problems that continue to plague intelligence agencies.

Robb and Silberman said they found no

evidence that senior Bush administration officials sought to change the prewar intelligence in Iraq. The report was silent on whether the administration manipulated the data for political purposes, as Democrats have contended, with commission members saying they were not empowered to examine that.

Democrats, including Bush's 2004 opponent, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, used the findings to demand faster changes and to point fingers.

"The investigation will not be complete unless we know how the Bush administration may have used or misused intelligence to pursue its own agenda," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said.

The commission's 600-plus-page report described an intelligence community hampered by internal turf battles and a fundamental lack of access to hard information, through human sources. It blamed agencies for seeing weapons that didn't exist in Iraq, and it harped on them for failing to find them in other dark corners of the world.

"The flaws we found in the intelligence community's Iraq performance are still all

too common," the report said. "Across the board, the intelligence community knows disturbingly little about the nuclear programs of many of the world's most dangerous actors. In some cases, it knows less now than it did five or 10 years ago."

It said, "Biological weapons are also the mass casualty threat the intelligence community is least prepared to face." And, it added, "We would like to emphasize that the United States has not made (intelligence) collection on loose nukes a high priority."

But in the unclassified section, the report said, "We found that we have only limited access to critical information about several of these high-priority intelligence targets."

The Bush administration promised repeated reforms after the Sept. 11 attacks and again after the blown intelligence on Iraq became known. It created counterterrorism centers, the Homeland Security Department and finally a national intelligence director's post, nominating Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, to fill it.

But so far, little has changed, according to commission.

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Unemployment rate drops despite new hires

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — America’s employers, hit by high energy bills, turned more cautious in March and boosted hiring by just 110,000 jobs, the fewest in eight months. Still, that was enough to push the unemployment rate down.

The newest jobs report, released Friday by the Labor Department, offered another mixed picture of the country’s hiring climate. The labor market has been one piece of the economy that has struggled the most to get back to full throttle after the 2001 recession.

“America is not flicking on the hiring switch,” said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research Corp. “Right now businesses have to contend with skyrocketing energy and commodity costs, but there is little they can do about that. The one big cost that they can control is labor. That is being done by tightening the hiring reins.”

Nevertheless, the labor market was able to accommodate enough people to drop the unemployment rate from 5.4 percent to 5.2 percent, matching January’s figure.

On Wall Street, stocks fell, partly

reflecting investor jitters over oil prices, which surged to a record high Friday. The Dow Jones industrials lost 99.46 points to close at 10,404.30.

Payroll growth, as measured by a survey of businesses, slowed in March. Job losses at factories and in the retail sector tempered gains in professional and business services, construction, education and health services and in other industries.

All told, March’s payroll gain of 110,000 was roughly half the number economists expected. That was down from February’s 243,000 new jobs.

The seasonally adjusted overall civilian unemployment rate, which dropped to 5.2 percent in March, is based on a survey of 60,000 households. It showed that 357,000 people said they found employment last month, outpacing the number of people who couldn’t find work.

Economists tend to put more stock, however, in the much broader business survey of 400,000 work sites that is used to calculate the payroll figures. The two surveys often offer seemingly conflicting pictures of what is happening in the labor market.

In other economic news:

- Manufacturing activity grew at a slower pace in March, while the service

sector, such as financing and insurance, soared, according to a pair of reports from the Institute for Supply Management.

- Construction spending rose 0.4 percent in February to a brisk seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.05 trillion, the Commerce Department said.

On the jobs front, Federal Reserve policy-makers say the labor market is gradually improving.

But for jobseekers, it’s still a bumpy road. There were 7.7 million people unemployed in March with the average duration of 19.5 weeks without work, the highest since November.

The share of the working-age population working or actively seeking a job in March held steady at 65.8 percent, a nearly 17-year low first reached in January. And, the number of people who could find only part-time work rose sharply, as did the number of self employed.

“It wasn’t a banner month for the average American worker,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. “The job market is not in full swing.”

The economy in the first three months of 2005 grew at an annual rate of 4 percent or higher, according to some projections. Economic growth probably will slow a bit in the current April-to-June

quarter but should still remain at a healthy pace.

Economists want to see the economy producing around 200,000 jobs a month on a steady basis to feel better about the labor market. It’s unclear the extent to which high costs for energy and raw materials will weigh on payroll growth in the coming months, they said.

Oil prices, which had climbed into record-high territory on March 18 at \$56.72 a barrel, set a new all-time high Friday of \$57.27 a barrel.

Fed policy-makers have raised rates seven times since last June to keep inflation under control. An additional increase is expected at the Fed’s next meeting, May 3.

Workers’ average hourly earnings in March rose to \$15.95, a 0.3 percent increase from the previous month. From an economic point of view, the modest increase didn’t signal wage inflation, analysts said. From a worker perspective, though, it seems hard to get ahead.

“The good news is that hourly earnings went up. The bad news is that the pickup in overall inflation has eroded all of those wage gains and then some,” said Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics.



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NATIONAL



Ex-security advisor pleads guilty to swiping documents

BY MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Former national security adviser Sandy Berger, who once had unfettered access to the government's most sensitive secrets, pleaded guilty Friday to sneaking classified documents out of the National Archives, then using scissors to cut up some of them.

Rather than the "honest mistake" he described last summer, Berger acknowledged to U.S. Magistrate Deborah Robinson that he intentionally took and deliberately destroyed three copies of the same document dealing with terror threats during the 2000 millennium celebration. He then lied about it to Archives staff when they told him documents were missing.

"Guilty, your honor," Berger responded Friday when asked how he pleaded.

Robinson did not ask Berger why he cut up the materials and threw them away at the Washington office of his Stonebridge International consulting firm. Berger, accompanied by his wife, Susan, did not offer an explanation when he addressed reporters outside the federal courthouse following the hearing.

"It was a mistake and it was wrong," he said, refusing to answer questions.

Noel Hillman, chief of the Justice Department's public integrity section, would not discuss Berger's motivation, but said the former national security adviser understood the rules governing the handling of classified materials. Berger only had copies of documents; all of the originals remain in the government's possession, Hillman said.

The charge of unauthorized removal and retention of classified material is a misdemeanor that carries a maximum sentence of a year in prison and up to a \$100,000 fine.

However, under a plea agreement that still must be approved by Robinson, Berger would serve no jail time but pay a \$10,000 fine, surrender his security clearance for three years and cooperate with investigators. Security clearance allows access to classified government materials.

Sentencing was set for July 8.

The court appearance was the culmination of a bizarre episode in which Berger, who once had access to the government's most sensitive intelligence, was accused of sneaking documents out of the Archives, which houses the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and other cherished and top-secret documents.

The Bush administration disclosed the investigation in July, just days before the Sept. 11 commission issued its final report. Democrats claimed the White House was using Berger to deflect attention from the harsh findings, with their potential for damaging President Bush's re-election prospects.

After news of the probe surfaced, Berger acknowledged he left the National Archives on two occasions in 2003 with copies of documents about the government's anti-terror efforts and notes that he took on those documents.

He said he was reviewing the materials to help determine which Clinton administration documents to provide to the commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks. He called the episode "an honest mistake" and denied criminal wrongdoing.

Berger and his lawyer, Lanny Breuer, have said that Berger knowingly removed the handwritten notes by placing them in his jacket and pants and inadvertently took copies of actual classified documents in a leather portfolio.

He returned two copies of a sensitive after-action report on the Clinton administration's handling of al-Qaida terror threats during the December 1999 millennium celebration.

The Associated Press first reported in July that the Justice Department was investigating Berger. The disclosure prompted Berger to step down as an adviser to the campaign of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

Clinton was among the Democrats who questioned the timing of the disclosure of the Berger probe three days before the release of the Sept. 11 report. Leaders of the Sept. 11 commission said they were able to get every key document needed to complete their report.

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Sunni clerics encouraging
Iraqis to join security forces

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Influential Sunni Muslim clerics who once condemned Iraqi security force members as traitors made a surprise turnaround Friday and encouraged citizens to join the nascent police and army.

If heeded, the announcement could strengthen the image of the officers and soldiers trying to take over the fight against the Sunni-led insurgency.

Still, it wasn't a full-fledged endorsement. The edict, endorsed by a group of 64 Sunni clerics and scholars, instructed enlistees to refrain from helping foreign troops against their own countrymen.

Ahmed Abdul Ghafour al-Samarrai, a cleric in the Association of Muslim Scholars, read the edict during a sermon at a major Sunni mosque in Baghdad. He said it was necessary for Sunnis to join the security forces to prevent Iraqi police and army from falling into "the hands of those who have caused chaos, destruction and violated the sanctities."

It seemed to be a recognition by the Sunni minority, which dominated under former dictator Saddam Hussein, that Iraq's interim government is slowly retaking control of the nation and paving the way for a U.S. withdrawal.

In the central city of Samarra, an explosion Friday blew away part of a wall on top of a minaret from a 9th-century mosque, scattering rubble on the stairs that spiral up the outside of one of Iraq's most recognized landmarks. Witnesses said two men climbed the 170-foot-tall minaret, then returned to the ground before the blast. The U.S. military blamed insurgents.

It was unclear why the minaret was targeted. U.S. troops have used it as a sniper position, and last year the terrorist group al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, flew a flag from its peak. Sgt. Brian Thomas, a spokesman for the 42nd Infantry Division, said coalition forces no longer use the minaret.

A symbol of Samarra's past glory, the minaret is all that remains of a mosque built during the Abbasid Islamic dynasty. It is featured on Iraq's 250-dinar bill.

Outside Samarra, Iraqi and U.S. soldiers exchanged gunfire with insurgents during a raid. Iraqi Maj. Gen. Rashid Feleih said five insurgents were killed.

In the holy city of Karbala, Shiite Muslims packed bus stations to head home after a Shiite religious holiday whose participants had been targeted by insurgents. Many pilgrims slept on city streets after Thursday's fes-

tival because they feared nighttime attacks on the roads home.

Special security measures remained in place in Karbala, with policemen keeping watch from rooftops and patrolling the streets. A bomb exploded near a Sunni mosque in the northern city of Kirkuk and killed an Iraqi heading to Friday prayers, police official Sarhad Qader said. Three people were wounded.

An explosion was heard near Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone as people hurried home before the nightly curfew. U.S. officials had no immediate information.

In Balad Ruz, 30 miles northeast of the capital, gunmen killed the police chief, Col. Hatim Rashid, and another officer at a police station, police Col. Mudhafar al-Jubouri said. A third officer was injured.

Radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who led uprisings against the U.S.-led coalition last year, called on his supporters to stage a protest in Baghdad on April 9 to mark the second anniversary of U.S. troops entering the capital. Sheik Hassan al-Edhari, an official at al-Sadr's Baghdad office, said the protesters will demand that the new Iraqi government set a timetable for withdrawing foreign troops and for trying Saddam.

Negotiations continued over who will lead the newly elected National Assembly, as Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani and Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, head of the Shiite-led United Iraqi Alliance, talked about speeding up the formation of Iraq's new government.

The two discussed the possibility of formally naming Talabani as Iraq's president Sunday during a parliamentary session, said al-Hakim's son and political adviser, Mohsen Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim.

"We're running out of time," he said. "The delay is not in our interest."

Ahmad Chalabi, head of an Iraqi exile group that provided intelligence to the United States on Saddam's weapons programs, praised a U.S. presidential commission's report Thursday that he said cleared his Iraq National Congress.

"We welcome this report as a vindication," Chalabi said in a statement released Friday. "We have consistently stated that the INC played a very small role in U.S. intelligence reporting on Saddam's" weapons of mass destruction. While the report did say the INC-related sources had a "minimal impact on prewar assessments," it also accused two INC sources of lying to the U.S. government about the use of mobile biological weapons factories to evade inspectors.

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INTERNATIONAL



Pope John Paul II said to be clinging to life

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON

Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II was clinging to life Friday as his condition deteriorated further, and the Vatican said his breathing was shallow and his kidneys were failing after complications from a urinary tract infection. Millions of faithful around the world prayed for the fading life of the pontiff.

In St. Peter's Square, tens of thousands prayed into the night for the 84-year-old pontiff, with many tearfully gazing up at his third-floor window.

"This evening or this night, Christ opens the door to the pope," Angelo Comastri, the pope's vicar general for Vatican City, told the crowd.

Earlier, the Vatican said John Paul's general condition has "further worsened."

The pope was taking part in the prayers of aides who had gathered at his bedside, spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said. The pope declined to be hospitalized.

He said the pope's "breathing has become shallow" and his overall health had become "compromised."

"The shallow breathing is totally consistent with severe failure of the blood vessels to provide blood to all the key organs," said Dr. Peter Salgo, associate director of the intensive care unit at New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. "Eventually you run out of reserve."

In Washington, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick said he had heard from Rome that the pope is "sinking," and that he was praying that God will "take him peacefully."

People in Wadowice, Poland, left school and work early and headed to church to pray for their native son.

"I want him to hold on, but it is all in God's hands now," said 64-year-old Elzbieta Galuszko at the church where the pope was baptized. "We can only pray for him so he can pull through these difficult moments."

In the Philippines, tears streamed down the face of Linda Nicol as she and her husband asked God to grant John Paul "a longer life." Muslims in France were praying for the pontiff because he was a "man of peace," said Dalil Boubakeur, president of the French Council of the Muslim Faith.

At the Church of the Assumption in Lagos, sub-Saharan Africa's most populous city of over 13 million, about 200 Nigerians in Western clothes and bright traditional African robes sat on wooden benches, offering prayers at a midday Mass for the pope's recovery.

The White House said President Bush and his wife were praying for the pope and that the world's concern was "a testimony to his greatness."

"The pope's faith is so strong and full and the experience of God so intensively lived that he, in these hours of suffering ... already sees and already touches Christ," Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the pope's vicar for Rome, told hundreds who packed a Rome basilica Friday evening for a special Mass for the pontiff.

In his first update on the pope's condition Friday, Navarro-Valls said John Paul suffered massive heart problems and was

in "very grave" condition but was lucid and spent the morning celebrating Mass and receiving top aides. The pope asked one to read him the biblical account of Christ's Crucifixion and burial.

A "fully conscious and extraordinarily serene" John Paul had participated in Mass and received some top aides in the morning, Navarro-Valls said.

The critically ill pope appointed a large number of bishops and other church officials, the Holy See said in an afternoon statement.

Among the top church officials who gathered at his bedside was Archbishop Paolo Sardi, the Vatican vice chamberlain. The chamberlain runs the Holy See between the death of a pope and the election of a new one.

Another visitor was Cardinal Edmund Szoka, the governor of Vatican City and former archbishop of Detroit, who said the pope was being given oxygen.

"As soon as he saw me, he recognized me," Szoka told the CBS' "Early Show." "I blessed him and as I did, he tried to make the sign of the cross. So he was perfectly lucid, perfectly conscious, but was having a great deal of trouble breathing."

"And I don't know how long he can continue with that. They were giving him oxygen and all that sort of thing, helping him," Szoka said.

Cardinal Marcio Francesco Pompedda, a high-ranking Vatican administrator, visited the pope Friday and said he opened his eyes and smiled.

"I understood he recognized me. It was a wonderful smile — I'll remember it forever. It was a benevolent smile — a father-like smile," Pompedda told RAI television. "I also noticed that he wanted to tell me something but he could not. ... But what impressed me very much was his expression of serenity."

Navarro-Valls said John Paul asked aides to read him the liturgy of the Third Hour — the biblical passage describing the final stage of the Way of the Cross, the path that Christ took to his Crucifixion. In that stage, according to the Bible, Christ's body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in a linen shroud and placed in his tomb.

Monsignor James Moroney, executive director of the Secretariat for the Liturgy for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the Third Hour is especially significant for someone who is dying because tradition says Christ died at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

"Because the Third Hour is the hour at which Christ died, this particular hour from the Liturgy of the Hours would have particular significance," he said.

Navarro-Valls said the pope followed attentively and made the sign of the cross.

"This is surely an image I have never seen in these 26 years," Navarro-Valls said. Choking up, he walked out of the room.

John Paul's health declined sharply Thursday when he developed a high fever brought on by the infection. The pope suffered septic shock and heart problems during treatment for the infection, the Vatican said, denying an Italian news report that he was in a coma.

Septic shock involves both bacteria in the blood and a consequent over-relaxing

of the blood vessels. The vessels, which are normally narrow and taught, get floppy in reaction to the bacteria and can't sustain any pressure. That loss of blood pressure is catastrophic, making the heart try harder and harder to compensate for the collapse.

"The chances of an elderly person in this condition with septic shock surviving 24 to 48 hours are slim — about 10-20 percent, but that would be in an intensive care unit with very aggressive treatment," said Dr. Gianni Angelini, a professor of cardiac surgery at Bristol University in England.

The pope received the sacrament for the sick and dying on Thursday evening. Formerly called the last rites, the sacrament is often misunderstood as signaling imminent death. It is performed both for patients at the point of death and for those who are very sick.

The Rome daily La Repubblica reported Friday that the sacrament was administered by his closest aide, Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, who serves as his private secretary. Dziwisz had given the pontiff the same sacrament Feb. 24 just before the pope underwent a tracheotomy to insert a breathing tube in his throat at the Gemelli Polyclinic, the newspaper said.

Among those John Paul received were Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's No. 2 official; Undersecretary of State Archbishop Leonardo Sandri; his doctrinal chief, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger; and the

Vatican foreign minister, Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo.

The pontiff was treated by the Vatican medical team and provided with "all the appropriate therapeutic provisions and cardio-respiratory assistance," the Holy See said. It said the pope was being helped by his personal doctor, two intensive care doctors, a cardiologist, an ear, nose and throat specialist and two nurses.

Dr. Peter Weissberg of the British Heart Foundation said septic shock "puts a phenomenal strain on the heart."

"Those already suffering from heart disease — including those with heart failure — are even more susceptible to septic shock," he said. "Infection triggers a profound loss of blood pressure, depriving organs around the body of their vital blood supply and putting an enormous strain on the heart."

Even the fittest patients need special care and medicine to survive, he said.

Hospitalized twice last month following two breathing crises, and fitted with a breathing tube and a feeding tube, John Paul has become a picture of suffering.

His 26-year papacy has been marked by its call to value the aged and to respect the sick, subjects the pope has turned to as he battles Parkinson's disease and crippling knee and hip ailments.

It is not clear who would be empowered to make medical decisions for an unconscious pope. The Vatican has officially declined to comment whether John Paul has left written instructions.

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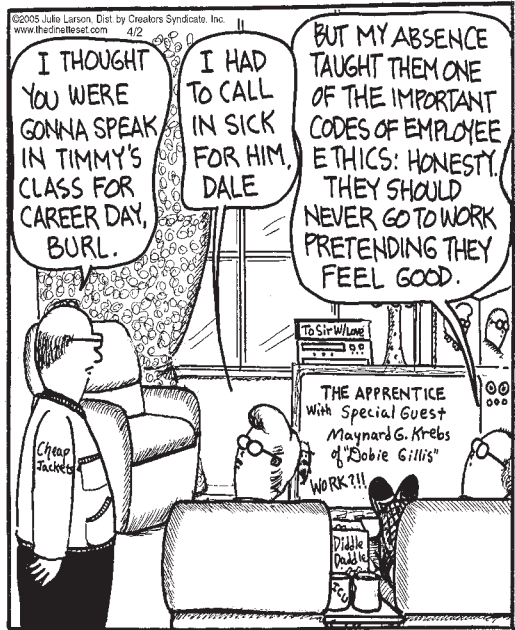
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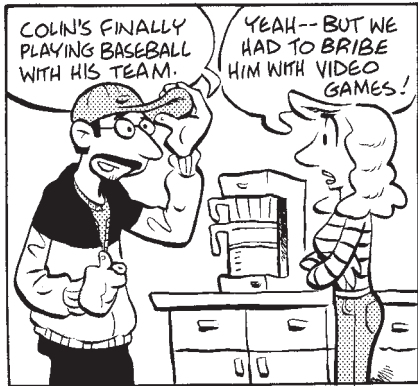


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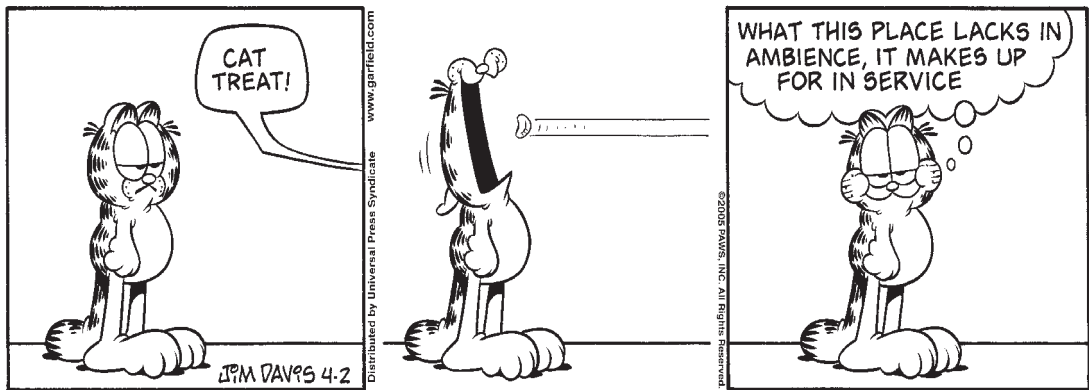
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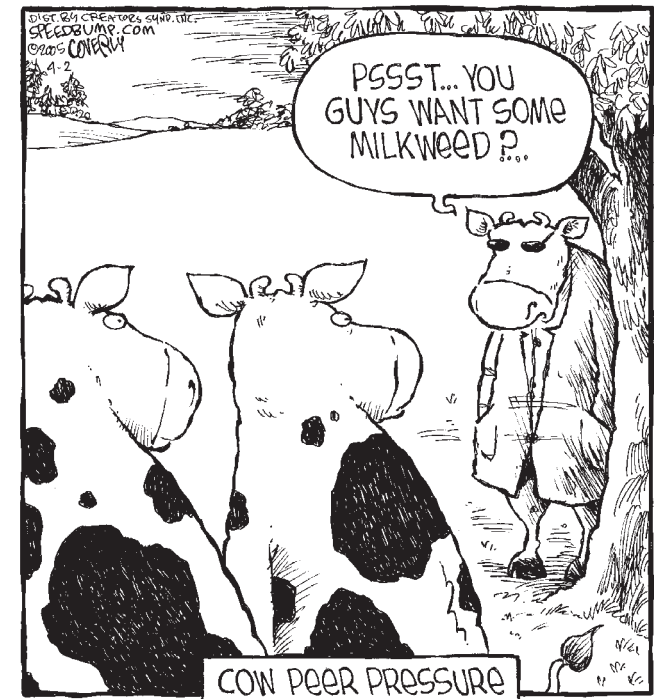
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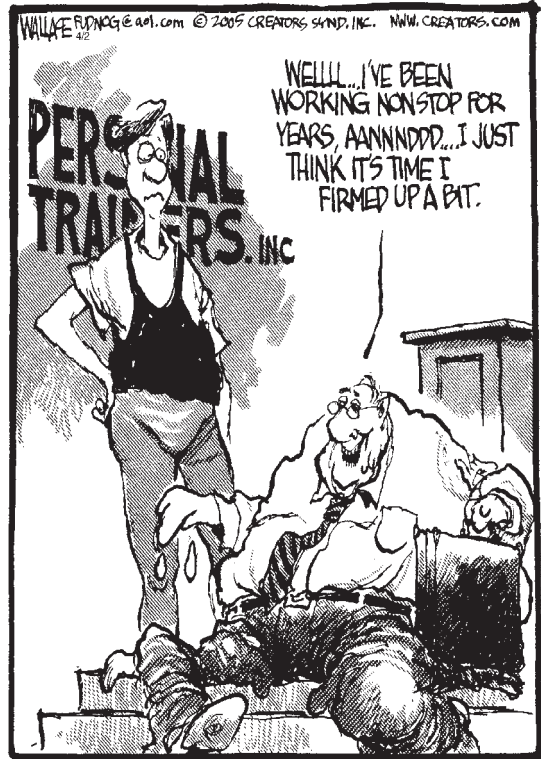


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