

FREE

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 121

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

2-6-7-8-15

Megamillion 14
Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

04, 05, 08, 11, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 3, 1
Evening picks: 4, 7, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George
2nd Place: 07, Eureka
3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win
Race time: 1:42.13



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Scientists at the University of Southern California will soon begin testing an artificial brain prosthesis (a silicon chip that mimics the hippocampus), which, if successful, can help people who cannot store future and recent memories of their experiences. One problem with the project (according to a March story in *New Scientist*): Subjects might not remember anything about the research or consenting to participate in it. (Another problem: Nearly everyone is glad not to be able to recall some negative experiences.)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

War kills people.

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Rent control apartments threatened by new law

Tenants concerned landlords can delve into private affairs

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Keeping a rent-controlled apartment in Santa Monica isn't as easy as it used to be.

A new law, which went into effect in March, allows landlords to raise the rent on tenants who don't live in their apartments full time.

More than a dozen residents at the Santa Monica Shores apart-

ments have already been targeted by their landlord, Douglas Emmett & Co., which argues they aren't really living there.

More than 75 residents in the two towers, located on Santa Monica Beach at Hill Street, met Tuesday night to air their concerns over how far their landlord can go to prove whether they permanently live there.

They claim the law violates their privacy and opens the door for future infringements on rent control protections.

Rent Control Board members say the law is aimed at tenants who use

low-cost apartments as vacation homes or office space.

Nineteen residents were reportedly served by Douglas Emmett, a local property management company, with notices saying they are not considered "primary" residents in the building.

Under the law, tenants are served with notices from their landlords questioning whether the

apartment is being used for secondary purposes.

The landlord must file a complaint with the rent control board within 30 days. The board then notifies the residents and gives them the opportunity to respond. If the tenant challenges the petition, a hearing date is set and both parties are given an opportunity to present

See LAW, page 6

Local jewelry store robbed



Ross Furukawa/Daily Press

A Santa Monica Police officer and detective stand outside a jewelry store on Wednesday shortly after it was robbed.

By Daily Press staff

A jewelry store on the Third Street Promenade was robbed by two men on Wednesday, police said.

At about 12:15 p.m., two suspects entered Bracken Jewelers, smashed a display case and fled with an unknown amount of jewelry.

The suspects are described as

black men, one in his late teens, 5'9" tall with short hair. The other suspect is in his early 20s with diamond studded earrings in both ears.

The store is located between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard. No store representatives were available for comment Wednesday evening.

Hazardous fighting in close quarters expected near Baghdad

BY RICHARD PYLE
Associated Press Writer

As U.S. troops moved ever closer to Baghdad on Wednesday, their commanders already had hints from Basra and other cities of what to expect: armed resistance from guerrilla bands, many in civilian garb, staging hit and run attacks and firing small arms from concealed positions, with civilians sometimes trapped in the crossfire.

U.S. plans for the battle of Baghdad are a closely held secret,

but training before the war included drills in mock urban neighborhoods in Kuwait.

Urban combat is as old as war itself — and it's a nightmare scenario fraught with special perils for any army attempting to capture a large, populated area. Some experts say an army fighting in the streets should expect to lose about a third of its force in killed, wounded and missing.

"Attack cities only when there

See WAR, page 10

McDonald's to be part of new building downtown

Plans to go in front of City Council next week

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

McDonald's on Second Street is getting a face lift.

The three-story building is planned for the intersection of Second Street and Colorado Boulevard.

The building will have retail stores on the street level, office space on the top floors and McDonald's will be renovated, said Tom Landau, the project's architect.

"It's a Spanish-revival type architecture with tiled roofs and towers and balconies," he said. "If you squint your eyes and look at it, most people would

think they're in Santa Barbara on State Street."

The project, which has been in the making for eight years, received the go-ahead last week from the Bayside District Corp., a non-profit organization that manages the downtown in conjunction with the city.

The project is scheduled to be reviewed by the Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday.

Developer Norman Kravetz said he is optimistic the council will approve the project. The Chamber of Commerce, the Pier Restoration Corp. and several Santa Monica homeowners groups also have backed the proposed development.

"I think the town is very supportive," said Kravetz of the

See PLANS, page 6



Courtesy of Tom Landau

Pictured above is a rendering of a proposed building on Second Street and Colorado Boulevard. The Santa Monica City Council is expected to review the project next week.

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HOROSCOPE

Sort through invites, Scorpio





JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ What has been on hold could break through and become a viable project. You have much to smile about. Good news and opportunity mix together. Discover what really is available to you. Open up talks in a more upbeat manner. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Make the most out of an opportunity that could impact your domestic life. Ask for more of what you want from a roommate or family member. If there is a new purchase you have been holding back on, the time is now. Tonight: Happy at home.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You're full of fun and liveliness, drawing many to you. Though you might not be sure about what you ultimately want, you have a unique opportunity to explore and discover. Thinking about buying a new car? The time is now. Tonight: Out at a favorite spot.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ A money matter that has been put on hold could suddenly become a reality. You laugh and relax, and are less worried about a partnership and its direction. Realize more of what you want by simply putting it out to the universe. Excitement surrounds a friendship. Tonight: Your treat.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Others look to you for leadership and direction. You know what works and won't hesitate to ask for just that. Your sense of humor takes you in a new direction. Laughter and fun follow you as Jupiter goes direct in your sign. Say "yes" to opportunity. Tonight: A must show.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Trust your sixth sense, especially as it could take you in a new direction. A child or loved one demonstrates unusual understanding. Listen to this person. Know what you want. Find experts. Don't hesitate to reveal more of what you want. Tonight: Take your time.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You might not understand everything you hear, as you could be so excited about what goes down. Excitement surrounds your life, especially a key friendship. Humor helps you relax with a specific associate you care a lot about. Think success. Tonight: Say "yes" to being a duo.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You receive good news about your career. What you thought might not be an option proves to be one. You have much to celebrate. Take this opportunity to move in a new direction. Your humor takes you down a new path. Others express their admiration. Tonight: Sort through your invitations.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Dig into work, but don't be surprised if office gossip presents a surprising option. You know that anything is possible. Laughter surrounds a trip or perhaps someone at a distance. Be open to your options. Know what is doable. Tonight: Off to the gym.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Express your imagination and creativity when handling an associate and a key project. Just because you see something as a problem doesn't mean someone else does. Work with a partner who specializes in seeing possibilities. You don't always need to be in charge. Tonight: Play the night away.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ What had been a problem within a relationship ceases to be. You might not be sure about what is the best way to proceed. A new friend or present suitor lets you know exactly how he or she feels. Take time to celebrate. Tonight: Smell the flowers. Enjoy your life.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Speak your mind. You finally receive the type of rewards you want. Hours of hard work pay off in an unusual way. Realize more of what you want through verbalizing. In the next few months, be more weight and diet conscious. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

CORRECTIONS — A quote on page one of the April 2 edition was inaccurately attributed to Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Richard Neidorf. Ted Fox, a defendant in the case, should have been identified as making the statement.

On page seven in the same edition, a guest commentary submitted by Ed Sharrow was actually a speech presented in the U.S. Senate on March 19 by Sen. Robert C. Byrd.

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

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



Iraqi children are war's greatest casualty

BY KELLY HAYES-RAITT
Special to the Daily Press

I met Sura, a 12-year-old Iraqi girl, at Baghdad's Amariyah bomb shelter, where more than 400 men, women, boys and girls like her went to escape a night of bombing during the '91 Gulf War. A U.S. bomb pierced the ceiling, curling the 1/2" steel like shaved chocolate and incinerated the cowering families.

Trying hard to be grown-up and solemn, this chirpy little girl showed me blood stains embedded in the concrete, shadowy burns outlining people's last moments alive, and human flesh still clinging to the walls. Sura was born the year of the Gulf War. In her 12 years, she has known nothing but recovering from one war and preparing for the next.

Now she has a new war from which to recover.

Sura's murky future rests on President Bush's ability to be as forceful with aid and rebuilding as he has been in bombing and invading.

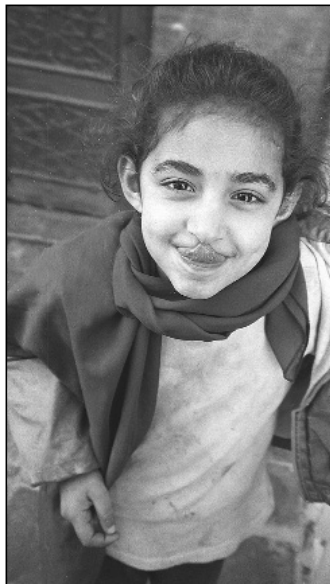
We've proven we can wage war. Can we successfully wage peace?

Before last week's assaults, Iraqis were still recovering from the devastation of their last war, from 13 years of crippling sanctions and from Saddam Hussein's brutal oppression.

Falling from middle income status to near Third World status in under a generation, Iraqis are still struggling for medicine, adequate food, jobs and clean drinking water. Children have been hit the hardest. Half of the 26 million Iraqis are children and 4,000 are infants or pre-school age. Childhood diseases have become killers: Every other family loses a child under the age of 5, according to UNICEF. The average child has diarrhea 14 days a month.

Childhood leukemia has skyrocketed, especially in Southern Iraq, where the U.S. dropped bombs containing depleted uranium in 1991.

Hassan is the entrepreneurial boy stationed outside our hotel who offered a filmy shoeshine in exchange for a few dinars or coveted power bars. He is either 5 or 7 years old depending on which day I asked, but his memory for which one of us carries



Kelly Hayes-Raitt/Special to the Daily Press
Iraq used to take pride in its childhood education programs. The Gulf War and 12 years of U.N. sanctions have taken their toll: Nearly a quarter of children do not attend primary school. Kelly Hayes-Raitt taught this winsome beggar how to touch her nose with her tongue.

candy is flawless. Nearly all Iraqi children were schooled during the 1970s and 1980s. Now, almost a quarter of the children are on the streets, earning meager money to help support their families.

Iraq's "street" children are bright and funny, not the vacant-eyed children who descend from generations of poverty and have little hope of transcending their stations. I teach one sparkling, dark-eyed girl to touch her nose with her tongue. Through gleeful laughter, she proudly manages the feat, charming me into a donation.

See BAGHDAD, page 5

BEYOND BAGHDAD

COMMENTARY

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Southwest swell impacts beaches today. Surf will make an abrupt jump into the chest-high range during the early afternoon. By sundown good spots should be cranking.

Expect southwest spots to average chest-to-head-high, with increasingly consistency as swell builds.

Today, swell peaks and size should be better.

However, weather looks to cause problems for surfers today and through the weekend, as a cold front moves in.

In the morning south winds are predicted, replaced by onshores in the afternoon. So expect choppy waves.

Be mindful, this swell will make for some powerful surf and winds add to the treacherous conditions. Today is not a good day for beginners.



Today's Tides:

Low- 3:33 a.m. 0.33'
High- 9:28 a.m. 4.35'
Low- 3:31 p.m. 0.65'
High- 9:33 p.m. 4.84'

Location	Thursday	Friday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	4-6'/Fair	B
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	4-6'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-3'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	D
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	4-6'/Fair	C
Breakwater	2-4'/Fair	3-7'/Fair	A
El Porto	3-5'/Fair	5-7'/Fair	A

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The Q Line

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

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

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

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

NEED SOMETHING FUN TO DO? CHECK PAGE 15!
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OPINION

LETTERS

Parcel tax proposal flawed

Editor:

School board members, some high school staff and school superintendent John Deasy sided with labor unions against the hotels last year. In April, 2002, when they marched on the Double Tree with Delores Huerta at a Cesar Chavez Day celebration, the business community was so upset that school board members and district administrators took sides in the issue, many of them vowed they'd never have anything to do with the schools again. They must have made their peace because they've hired a PR person, are raising money and forming committees to help pass Proposition S.

What's the deal with this? If the business community doesn't like what the school board and districts is doing, why are they supporting them?

The ad hoc tax committee (Save our Schools) literally bought the business community's support by bowing to their demands to not include a square footage tax in the formula. This saves the major property owners hundreds of thousands of dollars — and it's money that the "cash-strapped" schools will never collect. No wonder they hired a PR flack and contribute to the campaign.

All this is very unfair to the shrinking percentage of property owners who now must carry a larger share of the burden. And what's really stupid is that all these concessions mean the schools will collect millions of dollars less because of them.

Senior property owners over 65 can ask and receive exemptions. They won't have to pay the \$225 annual tax. I think the plans are for exemptions to be granted by the school board on a case by case basis. Senior renters are not exempt, by the way.

So what happens when hundreds of wealthy (north of Montana and living in multimillion dollar homes) senior homeowners ask for and get exemptions? How about the hundreds or thousands of "senior" landlords and commercial property owners over 65? They can ask for and get exemptions, too.

This means hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual income for the schools will be waived. And those who are the richest can opt out thanks to the Save Our Schools committee who apparently would rather play politics than raise and collect an honest, and fair tax.

They'll be back with some other lame tax proposal a year or two from now. Because, even without the state cuts, they were projecting an \$11 million deficit next year. For the above reasons among others, I cannot support Proposition S.

Mathew Millen
Santa Monica

Omelet ad tastes bad

Editor:

As an American, a member of the Santa Monica Community, a business owner (and not to mention a crepe lover), I am disappointed and appalled that the Omelet Parlor would use their advertising space in an attempt to bash another business in our community.

We are all American, from the omelet maker to the creperie who live here and support our country, economy and the difficulties that are going on in the world. It is not an excuse to attack or minimize the importance of what this country stands for — the rights of all Americans. For the education of the omelet maker, "omelet" is a French word — if you are that upset with the French, consider changing your name to the Scrambled Egg Parlor.

Beverly Abrams
Santa Monica

Watch where you walk

Editor:

Rather than being the "Pedestrian nuisance" you labeled them March 17 on page one, the tiled bollards on the Downtown Transit Mall function as a signal to pedestrians that they are approaching an alley and should cross with caution, as well as a physical barrier preventing cars from driving onto the sidewalk when turning from an alley.

See LETTERS, page 5



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Life goes on, even with a flat tire and baseball opener



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

An odd decision it was sending me to the exact place he told me I "didn't want to go," but I guess the kindly service station attendant had his reasons. After all, I couldn't complain after he'd offered to check my tire and put air in it at after I rolled in with a Schlap! Schlap! Schlap! due to my recently discovered flat.

"You need a new tire," he said with a thick accent and even thicker grin.

I think we both saw that one coming, unlike that palm branch that crashed to the pavement from 25 feet above just minutes earlier. That's just kind of the way this day was going so far. I think I was nearly decapitated soon after I left my apartment early Monday afternoon. Drinking in the sun after some much-needed slumber, I felt the pinnate stalk whirl past my head and explode into the pavement like a thunderclap.

OK, no need for coffee. I got my jolt for the day. Jolt No. 2 arrived moments later when I attempted to pull out of my primo parking space three blocks from my apartment and found the air sucked out of

my off-day plans. Flat!

Schlapping my way down 15th Street towards Santa Monica Boulevard, I reasoned with myself that "at least I was off from work today." Then I reconsidered. "Why couldn't I have had work today?" Beautiful day to call in, ahem, sick. No such luck. Schlap! Schlap!

"You got a couple of nails in there. See?" said the attendant, pointing out a couple of industrial-sized nails that somehow found their way straight through my tire treads, and somehow didn't make a noise. Of course, this is coming from a guy who addresses engine ticks by turning up the volume on the radio.

"You want to go to Just Tires, my friend," suggested my air pump amigo. "I'd stay away from Sears. Go to Just Tires. Head down Colorado to Fourth Street."

And with that I was off, rambling down Colorado with air whizzing out of my wheel at a frantic pace.

Surely I could just make to Fourth — "Hey, that's Sears!"

I'm not sure where the hell Just Tires turned out to be, but he sent me to the place he told me not to go. Yeah, well. In a sense, I was somewhat pleased when the mechanic told me it would be about 90 minutes or so. The sun was blazing, everybody was out and about town (don't these people work?) and spending the day mulling around would prove a welcome

respite from the toils at work and the tension of television watching these days. The only rolling banner headlines would be those flashing across my mind's eye.

Walking out of the service center, a car radio could be overheard playing a broadcast of a baseball game and it suddenly dawned on me that Monday was indeed Opening Day, and I hadn't the foggiest. I couldn't rattle off any of the teams that had reached college basketball's Final Four over the weekend. Seemingly everywhere were reminders of all that was going on in the world — on this side of the world. Spring was in the air, flowers were blooming and tank tops and sundresses abounded. I decided to plant myself in a park bench at Second and Broadway and do a little people-watching.

"Summer, sit down," called out the mop-haired boy walking a dalmation. "Good dog."

There was the woman dressed all in black, except for strategically spilled white paint all over her clothes. There was the blond-haired man hurrying along, looking back over his shoulder every so often with his blackened eye. There was the woman holding her toddler up to the water fountain and giggling when the young girl got her whole face wet. There was the ponytailed man in Banana Republic chinos seemingly nodding at his own reflection in each of the storefront windows he passed. And then a man sat

next to me and began scribbling notes on a pad of his own. Maybe I'll appear in his column.

The street's tropical soundtrack completed the scene on this glorious Santa Monica afternoon, with Bob Marley exalting love and freedom a half block down at The Spot headshop. A few storefronts from there, Hawaiian music emanated from Kua Aina and, soon enough, the worries of the world were a world away and stress levels tempered.

Moments later, the panhandler who stands outside the Cigar Shop on Broadway, just off the Third Street Promenade, meandered up the street, presumably arriving for work. He walked past the teen-ager wearing a T-shirt "Major League Blunts," a decidedly uninspired satire of the Major League Baseball logo, except with a marijuana theme. He might as well wear a shirt that says "I'm stoned" as he shuffles towards the head shop.

Whatever. To each his own, I think, as do the majority of Santa Monica residents it seems on this sunny Monday afternoon. And why not? That's the beauty of living in this city, in this country, in this period of time.

Sometimes the wrong directions can lead you to the right places.

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica.)

OPINION

LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

Santa Monica takes pedestrian safety very seriously and these bollards, while incorporating an art element, are first and foremost designed to protect and enhance safety. Pedestrians, especially parents with young children in tow, need to pay attention while walking on the sidewalk, just as they do while crossing the street.

Jonathan R. Lackey
Senior Liability Claims Adjuster
Risk Management Division
City of Santa Monica

Library costs out of hand

Editor:

Isn't anyone else outraged over the apparent gross misuse of funds being used to pay for the new Santa Monica library? \$72 million seems like an irresponsible amount to be spending on any one building — even if Santa Monica was not already in a serious financial crisis.

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

Will this grand new library contain luxury suites where the homeless can live? If not, why not take care of the much more pressing issue of men and women in this city who do not have a roof over their heads before casually spending \$72 million on a better roof for some books.

Krista Grossman
Santa Monica

Iraqi woman with dying son pleads for peace



13-year-old Ahmed is dying of leukemia. Childhood leukemias have increased since the 1991 bombings, according to Dr. Luay Kasha, director of the Al Mansour Pediatric Teaching Hospital in Iraq. Treatment is difficult because the U.N. sanctions have slowed the importation of medicine for chemotherapy. Mothers often stay overnight with their children to support the understaffed nurses.

BAGHDAD, from page 3

I met Ahmed on the leukemia ward of Baghdad's Al Mansour Pediatric Teaching Hospital. His mother had left her eight children and moved into the cot next to her youngest son to care for him as he dies. Ahmed is a casualty not only of the Gulf War, but of the U.N. sanctions. Depleted uranium bombs were dropped on Ahmed's town in 1991, and contracts delayed by the U.S. under the U.N.'s Oil-for-Food program prevent him from getting the medicines for his chemotherapy. As I passed her son's bed, Ahmed's

mother grabbed my arm and pulled me toward her, fervently pleading in Arabic. I thought she might be begging for medicine, for help — something for her dying son. The doctor translated her urgent plea: "We have everything we need, we just need peace."

(Kelly Hayes-Raitt is a political consultant and traveled to Baghdad from Jan. 29 -Feb. 8. She welcomes the opportunity to speak to community groups and congregations about her trip and can be reached at (310) 581-4421. Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.)

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LOCAL

Landlords take advantage of rent-control exemption

LAW, from page 1

their case, said Rent Control Board Administrator Nary Ann Yurkonis.

If the tenant concedes that the apartment is not his primary residence, the landlord is allowed to raise the rent to market value.

A person doesn't have to live in the apartment for a set amount of time to establish permanent residency. If the board accepts a landlord's preliminary case, it is up to the tenant to prove that the unit is his "usual residence of return," according to the law.

"We're frightened," said Shores resident Jack Foster, who added most tenants didn't know about the law until recently. "We found out about this law on a Tuesday and it was voted in on a Wednesday. The bureaucracy slid us under the door so quickly and quietly."

Foster said many residents of the Shores, who have lived there for decades, wouldn't be able to afford market rates at the seaside apartment building.

Apartments at the Shores have for years been rent controlled but as they became vacant, the landlord was able charge market rate. As a result, the same-sized unit can go for as low as \$641 a month while others rent for more than \$3,000.

Douglas Emmett bought the building in 1999 for \$93 million, resident Jack Newerth said.

Douglas Emmett could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Shores resident Loretta Steinbach, who has lived there for 30 years and supports the law, said there are rent-controlled apartments on her floor that haven't been used as permanent homes for years.

"I don't think it's right when people have all the money in the world and they come every six months," she said.

However, some residents said the new law goes too far in snuffing out secondary renters because it infringes on their privacy.

They worry that landlords will be watching their every move, as well as tracking their assets including property they own elsewhere, voting records, tax returns and vehicle records. Residents also worry that the landlord will be able to walk through their apartments to check expiration dates on food items to determine whether they use the apartment as

their main residence.

Some residents said they are worried the new law may start an avalanche of anti-renter regulations because it could set a precedent for targeting other groups.

"The owners don't give up. As soon as vacancy decontrol was passed in this state, a price went on the head of every sitting tenant."

- MARY ANN YURKONIS
Rent Control Board Administrator

"We're afraid of what's next," Foster said. "This is just a starting point. We've heard rumors of a law that would put a cap on income, put a cap on other things ... If they put a \$30,000 a year cap to qualify for rent control that's going to hurt a lot of people."

The two 17-story apartment buildings house 532 one- and two-bedroom units. The lowest rent currently being paid for a one-bedroom is \$641 and there are dozens of other one-bedroom apartments in the \$600 to \$900 range, according to rent control documents. The highest rent currently for a one-bedroom at the Shores is \$3,419.

Two-bedroom apartments at the Shores start below \$1,000 and go as high as \$5,000, according to documents.

Concerns over the law extends throughout the city. There are about 30,000 rent-controlled units in Santa Monica. Between 10 to 15 percent of the units could be effected by the law, officials said.

Yurkonis said the cases will be reviewed by the board on an individual basis.

"The owners don't give up," she said, adding the local regulation was passed under pressure that a similar but more "Draconian" statewide measure might go into effect. "As soon as vacancy decontrol was passed in this state, a price went on the head of every sitting tenant."

Building plans for McDonald's site to go before city council

PLANS, from page 1

project, which is estimated to cost \$15 million. "We've tried to meet every request to make this the project the community wanted."

Kravetz said a key obstacle to getting the building approved was the traffic it would generate in an already congested area of downtown. In response to the community's concerns, Kravetz said he designed the auto entrance to be in the alleyway and incorporated 300 underground and surface parking spaces, exceeding the city's requirements by 10 percent.

The parking spaces will be available to the general public in the evenings and on weekends, Kravetz said.

McDonald's will have a spot in the new building, along with one to four retailers and 46,000 square feet of second-

and third-floor office space. Additionally, there will be a large outdoor courtyard on the second floor, Landau said.

McDonald's, which has been on the corner for 22 years, had hoped to serve drive-through customers on the new site. But Kravetz said he had to scrap that plan due to heavy community resistance because of traffic concerns.

Developers and officials hope the new 75,000-square-foot building will clean up an area of downtown that is known as a destination for vagrants.

Kravetz said he is excited to help clean up a blighted area, while continuing to offer affordable food.

"Santa Monica is going to have a safe place for women and children and families to get that meal that doesn't price them out of the marketplace," he said.

STATE



Interior deputy's ties extend to oil and gas leasing

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

As the No. 2 official at the U.S. Interior Department, former energy lobbyist J. Steven Griles participated in meetings on oil and gas leases off Florida and California in which his firm's former clients had huge financial stakes, his appointment calendars show.

During the time that President Bush's nomination of Griles was pending before the Senate, Chevron USA Inc. was paying Griles' firm \$80,000 to lobby the Interior Department where he was about to become deputy to Secretary Gale Norton, according to reports that Griles' firm filed with Congress.

In September 2001, two months after his Senate confirmation, Griles participated in the first of at least four meetings with his Interior Department colleagues about a Chevron natural gas project in the Gulf of Mexico, according to calendars obtained by The Associated Press and environmental groups under the Freedom of

Information Act.

The meetings were part of a lengthy legal battle which ended with the Bush administration paying Chevron \$46 million to abandon its planned Destin Dome 56 project. One of the wells would have been drilled just 30 miles from Florida beaches. Griles attended Bush's Oval Office announcement of the decision, which provided a boost to the Florida re-election campaign of the president's brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Interior Department spokesman Mark Pfeifle defended Griles' actions, saying he has acted ethically.

As a condition of his Senate confirmation, Griles had promised to refrain for a year from involvement in any issue in which one of his former clients or employers had an interest.

Griles insisted he personally did no lobbying for Chevron despite being registered as lobbying the Interior Department on "oil and gas exploration and production issues" on Chevron's behalf.

After inquiries by the AP, Griles' former lobbying partner and longtime friend Marc Himmelstein, who signed the forms, said the firm plans to change each of three lobbying reports it filed with Congress to remove Griles' name.

One of the lobbying firm's principals, John Northington, said he performed all the work for Chevron, keeping in touch with "Democratic constituencies" if they requested information on a proposed merger of Chevron and Texaco. Northington served 7 1/2 years in the Clinton administration at the energy and interior departments.

While he is at the Interior Department, Griles is receiving four payments of \$284,000 annually from his former firm, which was co-founded by former Republican National Committee chairman Haley Barbour. The money is for Griles' work to bring in so many clients to National Environmental Strategies Inc.

Pfeifle said the Chevron settlement was negotiated by career employees who "saved the taxpayers more than \$285 million" because Chevron and other oil companies had been suing the government for far more than they collected.

Griles also participated in at least 10 meetings regarding 36 oil and gas leases off the California coast, and requested a top-level review of a legal brief prepared by attorneys representing the interests of several of his former clients.

Griles was a registered lobbyist for Shell Oil Co. and its subsidiary Cal Resources through 1997 and served as an expert witness on behalf of Shell, Chevron and other oil companies being sued for alleged fraud regarding royalty payments to the government. He also lobbied for Devon Energy, which has a 30 percent share in one of the

In September 2001, two months after his Senate confirmation, Griles participated in the first of at least four meetings with his Interior Department colleagues about a Chevron natural gas project in the Gulf of Mexico.

California leases.

Shell has a major financial stake in the leases through its ownership share in Aera Energy. Aera Energy wants \$772 million in federal reimbursement for its investment in 19 leases, the largest share of the \$1.2 billion leaseholders are seeking because California has blocked development of the leases.

Norton announced Monday the Bush administration would not ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review district and appellate court decisions upholding California's oversight of the leases. That now sets up a possible federal agreement to buy back the California leases from the oil companies, as the Bush administration did with Chevron.

Griles was unaware of Shell's financial interest and removed himself from discussions of the offshore California issue in May 2002 when he discovered Devon Energy's involvement, Pfeifle said.

Within the next month, however, Griles had a telephone discussion with California Republican gubernatorial nominee Bill Simon, who the next day released a letter from Norton offering to negotiate the lawsuit with state officials, and met with Shell Exploration & Production Co. President and CEO Rauoul Restucci. Pfeifle described both as "courtesy" visits.

Griles' activities were criticized by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Friends of the Earth, which obtained public records under their own requests, and by Democrats who frequently offer him as an example of insiders who have taken key regulatory and policy roles in the Bush administration.

Griles removed himself from potential conflicts as he became aware of them, Pfeifle said, and "has worked hard to promote the administration's initiatives" to promote a cleaner environment.

Facts about California's offshore oil drilling controversy:

By The Associated Press

THE HISTORY:

A 1969 oil spill dumped 4 million gallons of crude on the Santa Barbara and Ventura county coasts, prompting an outcry against offshore drilling.

THE OIL RIGS:

Twenty-three oil and gas platforms operate off California's coast in the Santa Barbara Channel, where they are visible from the Pacific Coast Highway. The platforms serve 43 operating leases.

THE LEASES:

Oil companies paid the federal government \$1.25 billion between 1968 and 1984 for 40 additional undeveloped leases, each covering about nine square miles of ocean floor. The leases let the companies do exploration and development work, which typically takes five to 10 years, but does not allow them to drill. No drilling to explore for oil deposits has been conducted since 1989.

Four leases expired in 1999 with no moves to renew them; the others would have expired had not the Interior Department kept them alive by granting extensions.

THE LAWSUIT:

California sued in November 1999, days after President Clinton's interior secretary, Bruce Babbitt, extended the offshore oil leases for 10 years as they were about to expire.

The state argued federal law gives California the right to decide if offshore drilling is consistent with the state's coastal protection plans. The Bush

administration contended the state's environmental reviews would be conducted before the sites are developed or explored.

Federal district and appellate courts ruled in the state's favor. The Bush administration decided Monday it would not appeal the decisions.

THE OIL:

The federal government estimates the Santa Barbara Channel contains enough oil to run California's refineries for two years and meet its natural gas needs for five months. That's about one fifth the amount of energy within Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, where the Bush administration also wants to allow drilling.



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STATE

White House monitoring state's Colorado River talks

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Senior White House advisors are monitoring the U.S. Interior Department's efforts to broker a deal in California over the Colorado River, after an influential San Diego-area congressman accused the department of favoring Los Angeles at the expense of the Imperial Valley.

U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter said Karl Rove, a key political strategist for President Bush, will review the Interior Department's role in helping California negotiate a Colorado River water pact.

"Rove said he would review this. He would monitor this as this agreement would be put together," said Hunter, R-Alpine. "Rove did not give us any guarantee, nor did we ask any guarantee for any particular position."

A White House official said Wednesday that Rove and his staff were listening and passing along concerns, but the water issues remained in the hands of the Interior Department.

California failed to meet a Dec. 31 deadline to sign a deal aimed at curbing its historic overdependence on the Colorado, which is shared by six other Western states.

In response, Interior Secretary Gale Norton cut California's river allotment by 600,000 acre-feet, enough water for 1.2 million people. She also diverted some of the state's remaining supply away from the Imperial Valley to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the huge Los Angeles-based wholesaler serving 18 million people.

Hunter said he believed the Interior department had been blatantly unfair to the Imperial Valley, the desert farming

community in California's southeastern corner which, until recently, was part of his district. He likened it to taking water away from the "little guy" and giving it to "the giant."

"The Department of the Interior is supposed to be mending fences, not breaking them," Hunter said. "I saw this as extreme unfairness to put it mildly."

Hunter, who is chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee, said he and four other California representatives sought a meeting with Rove in February during a Republican congressional retreat in Maryland.

"We needed somebody in the administration who could be an honest broker," Hunter said. "Rove has got good judgment and good common sense."

Reps. Richard Pombo, chairman of the House Resources Committee; Ken Calvert, chairman of the House Water and Power Subcommittee; John Doolittle; and Wally Herger, also attended the meeting, Hunter's spokesman said.

The White House confirmed the initial meeting with Rove in February and several followup meetings between Rove's deputy, Barry Jackson, and congressional staff.

"This is an issue that impacts a number of states and it is a matter that the Department of Interior has been handling for many years and we simply want to make sure that the administration is being responsive to the concerns of all members of Congress," said Scott Stanzel, a White House spokesman.

Hunter singled out Assistant U.S. Interior Secretary Bennett Raley, the Bush administration's point man on Western water issues.

"He's supposed to be the honest broker," Hunter said. "He's the guy that took

Illness still a mystery



Nick Ut/Associated Press

An unidentified woman wears a protective face mask as a precautionary measure against SARS, a mysterious illness that has killed more than 60 people worldwide before boarding a plane traveling to China from Los Angeles International Airport Tuesday. Earlier in the day, an American Airlines flight from Tokyo was held on the tarmac at the airport in San Jose, Calif., after the captain reported five people on board appeared to have SARS-like symptoms.

the water."

Through a spokesman, Raley declined to comment.

The Imperial Valley is fighting the Interior Department's reduction of their river supply and last month persuaded a federal judge to issue a preliminary injunction to keep water flowing to its farms.

During the hearing, an attorney for Imperial's water board presented copies of e-mails that he claimed showed Raley

worked behind the scenes to help the Metropolitan Water District. The e-mails detail discussions between Interior officials about how to keep the correspondence secret.

Since the hearing, the Interior Department has expressed a willingness to settle the lawsuit.

Hunter said he believed the White House's involvement would help bring the deal to a fair resolution.

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NATIONAL

Kerry, Edwards lead presidential campaign cash

BY SHARON THEIMER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Kerry said Wednesday he has raised about \$7 million for his Democratic presidential bid so far this year, putting him neck-and-neck with Sen. John Edwards as a leader in the race for 2004 campaign cash.

In addition to his fund raising, Kerry's White House run got a boost from \$2.9 million that he transferred from his Massachusetts Senate campaign after his reelection last year, putting his total receipts at \$10 million. Kerry said he had \$8 million of that on hand to spend, the most of any candidate so far and \$1.2 million more than then-Vice President Al Gore had on hand at this stage in the 2000 campaign.

Edwards of North Carolina was the first of the nine Democratic presidential hopefuls to disclose his first-quarter fund-raising total. Edwards said Tuesday that he has collected about \$7.4 million so far this year and hasn't tapped the \$1.4 million in his Senate campaign fund.

The early totals are considered an

important sign of a campaign's viability, although some Democratic strategists say the next six months are more crucial. That's when candidates must move beyond the easiest money — home-state donors, friends and family — and develop a deeper, broader, national base of support.

"We'll see just how predictive the first-quarter fund-raising results are," Kerry campaign manager Jim Jordan said. "We're extremely impressed by Senator Edwards' number, although not enormously surprised. But we're ahead of schedule, ahead of plan, ahead of budget and very comfortable with where we are."

Howard Dean said Wednesday he has raised at least \$2.6 million from January through March, exceeding his goal by about \$1 million.

The former Vermont governor has relied heavily on Internet fund raising, and it appears to have paid off. Dean collected at least \$730,000 in donations over the Internet, including \$400,000 in the last week of March.

While Dean trails Kerry and Edwards

in fund raising, money isn't everything; Dean and Kerry emerged in a statistical dead heat as the leaders in a recent poll of likely Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire.

Kerry raised more than \$450,000 on the Internet. Overall, his contributions came from about 15,000 individuals in all 50 states, led by Massachusetts with \$2.1 million and California with \$1.6 million.

Other Democratic hopefuls planned to release their totals in coming days. The complete rundown of their finances will come in reports the campaigns will file with the Federal Election Commission later this month.

All but Kerry, Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut and Sen. Bob Graham of Florida have committed to accepting public financing and the spending limits that come with it. Some of the candidates who are taking public funding, which is financed by taxpayers with a \$3 checkoff on their tax returns, have promised to make it an issue if some candidates opt out.

Jordan said Kerry has raised enough in a

mix of states to qualify for the public funding, but he wants to keep his options open.

It could be "strategically advantageous to opt out of the system, given that we'll be running against an incumbent president who will himself opt out and raise anywhere from \$250 million to \$300 million," Jordan said.

The public financing system offers primary candidates a government match of up to \$250 per contribution, up to a certain amount. In exchange, candidates must abide by state-by-state and overall spending limits.

In the 2000 primaries, Gore received \$16.9 million in "matching funds" and was limited to \$40.5 million in spending. President Bush skipped public financing in the GOP primaries and raised more than \$100 million.

Bush has not yet said whether he will seek re-election, but he is expected to and is considered likely to forgo matching funds. With individual contribution limits now doubled to \$2,000, some Bush supporters think he could raise \$200 million or more.

Terrorists may try to improvise chemical, biological weapons

BY CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Improvised chemical or biological weapons could be concocted by terrorists using common household items and then might be hidden in food, the FBI warned Wednesday.

Using materials available at stores, on the Internet or through mail-order firms, terrorists could make chemical compounds, grow salmonella bacteria and botulinum toxin, or distill the poison ricin from castor beans, the FBI said in its weekly bulletin.

The memo, sent to 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies, said there is no specific threat or indication that an attack is imminent. But it detailed several past attacks using such weapons, including an Oregon cult's contamination of local restaurant salad bars with salmonella bacteria that sickened 751 people in 1984.

Yeast, infant formula, sugar, epsom salts, cheesecloth, blenders, masks and gloves are among the items widely available that terrorists could use to set up a laboratory to make crude chemical and biological weapons, the bulletin said. A

key tool is the agar plate, which is used by scientists and doctors to grow cultures.

"Large numbers of agar plates can be inoculated and harvested by an individual possessing minimal training," the FBI bulletin says. "These agar plates could produce sufficient quantities of bacteria to sicken or kill large numbers of people."

The FBI last week warned that terrorists could make simple chemical and biological weapons with materials available nationwide. That bulletin noted that the capture of al-Qaida operations chief Khalid Shaikh Mohammed has provided fresh evidence of the terror network's experiments with such weapons.

Officials at the National Institutes of Health are also worried about the threat from botulinum toxin, which occurs naturally.

War with Iraq has underscored those fears because of past acknowledgment by President Saddam Hussein that Iraq had made 5,000 gallons of the toxin and loaded it onto bombs and missiles.

In addition, the Agriculture Department and Food and Drug Administration are urging the food industry to increase security because of the heightened risk of terrorist attack.

Panel bans trade of imported and exported diamonds

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States would ban the import and export of diamonds used to fund civil wars in Africa under a bill approved by a Senate panel on Wednesday.

The legislation adopted by the Senate Finance Committee brings the United States into an international agreement to ban trade in so-called conflict diamonds.

The agreement, known as the Kimberley Process, includes representatives of the diamond industry, human rights groups and dozens of other

nations. The group requires that traded diamonds come with certification that they were mined from legitimate sources.

Human rights groups say rebels in Sierra Leone and Angola use forced labor to mine diamonds, which are sold to finance the rebels' military efforts. Purchasers then resell the diamonds for a profit.

It is estimated that conflict or "blood" diamonds make up less than 4 percent of the annual global diamond trade.

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page 2

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INTERNATIONAL

Turkey approves support for U.S. troops in Iraq

BY LOUIS MEIXLER

Associated Press Writer

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey agreed Wednesday to let the United States send food, fuel and medicine — but not weapons — through its territory to U.S. soldiers fighting in Iraq, another sign of limited cooperation from NATO's only

Muslim member.

Secretary of State Colin Powell and Turkish leaders also agreed on an "early warning" system to avert friction between Turkey and Iraqi Kurds — an accord designed to block Turkey from sending its forces into northern Iraq. Washington fears that could lead to Turkish clashes with Iraqi Kurds and undermine the U.S.-

led war effort in Iraq.

Powell's visit came amid tensions between Washington and Turkey, where polls show more than 90 percent of the people are against the Iraq war.

Some 500 protesters gathered outside Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's office while Powell was inside, chanting "Yankee, go home."

Turkey's parliament last month rejected a motion that would have allowed in 62,000 U.S. ground troops to open a northern front against Iraq, a move that analysts said likely would have led to a shorter, quicker war.

The rebuff helped strain Turkish-U.S. ties. U.S. officials were angry the northern front was lost, and Turkish officials said Washington wanted democracy in Iraq but could not accept a "no" vote from one of the only democratic parliaments in the region.

However, Powell and his Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gul, emphasized U.S.-Turkish cooperation, and both sides seemed keen to avoid deepening the rift. Washington cannot afford to alienate Turkey, and Turkey is slowly emerging from a financial crisis and needs U.S. support. President Bush has asked Congress for \$1 billion in aid for Turkey.

"The visit of Secretary Powell has strengthened our relations and helped to dispel all issues with regard to relations between the two countries," Gul said.

Powell said the two sides discussed the U.S. need to supply troops fighting in northern Iraq, and Turkish officials said Turkey will allow food, fuel, medicine and "other humanitarian assistance" into Iraq for U.S. forces.

"We have solved all of the outstanding issues with respect to providing supplies

through Turkey to those units that are doing such a wonderful job in northern Iraq," Powell said.

Gul said Turkey has been letting planes carrying wounded troops land in Turkey, and would continue to do so. Recent reports also have said U.S. aircraft that are low on fuel have been allowed to land at Incirlik air base in southern Turkey.

However, when asked if the Turkish support would include the transit of guns and ammunition, Erdogan said: "No. No," the Anatolia news agency reported.

On Wednesday, 27 trucks carrying 20 U.S. jeeps and food passed through Turkey and arrived in Irbil, in northern Iraq, according to sources there. The jeeps had mounts in the back for machine guns, but did not have the weapons.

The Turkish military said later Wednesday the passage of jeeps was not related to the new agreement. It said the military had allowed 204 jeeps to cross the border since last month and that they did not contain weapons.

Powell also discussed Turkish fears that the war could lead to the disintegration of Iraq, with Kurds in the north declaring independence. Turkey worries that such a move would embolden its own large number of Kurds to intensify their bid for autonomy, and Ankara has said it would send troops into northern Iraq to prevent a Kurdish state or a mass flight of refugees.

Powell said the "early warning system" between U.S. and Turkish officials would provide for immediate consultation if there were tensions.

"We have the situation under control," he said. "There is no need for movement of troops across the border."

Battle on the horizon



Jack Gruber/Associated Press

Spc. Mitchell Roe, 20, of Canton, Mich., with the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 69th Regiment Armor Task Force watches the horizon as Iraqi artillery positions are destroyed on Wednesday, by close air support as forces push north past the Karbala Dam. The 3-69 Task Force is the leading northern element of the coalition forces approaching Baghdad from the south.

Urban combat the 'most difficult and costly' kind

WAR, from page 1

is no alternative," Sun Tzu cautioned in his classic 5th century BC treatise, "The Art of War."

In September, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff issued a study on urban combat, calling it "the most difficult and costly type" of operation, one that has "historically extracted a terrible price on attacker, defender and noncombatant alike."

During World War II, the Soviet defenders of Stalingrad outlasted a powerful German army in a ferocious 1942 siege that doomed Hitler's eastward conquest. Later, American and British troops captured city after city in the grueling victory dash across western Europe — some easily, others not.

In the Korean War's major urban battles, U.S. and South Korean forces lost Seoul to invading North Koreans in June 1950 and then took it back three months later. While overall American casualties were not massive, one company of the 5th Marines lost 176 of its 206 men in the recapture.

Urban combat came to Vietnam during the communists' 1968 Tet Offensive, in which guerrilla units attacked dozens of South Vietnam's cities and towns, expecting to trigger a popular uprising against the Saigon government.

That did not occur, but damage and casualties were extensive. Street fighting raged in Saigon; Ben Tre became the city "destroyed in order to save it"; and Hue was ruined in a monthlong siege by U.S. and government forces to recapture the Citadel, the seat of Vietnam's imperial past.

Every such battle provides lessons for future forces. In World War II, at Hue, and in Beirut's civil war in the mid-1970s, attackers

discovered that reducing masonry buildings to rubble effectively creates even better fortresses and outposts for enemy snipers.

In a 1998 symposium on urban warfare, generals Ernest Cheatham and George Christmas, who led Marine units at Hue, said the battle taught the need to visualize a tactical situation as the enemy sees it and to use bullets with "less ricochet" to protect friendly troops and civilians. They also found that ordinary tourist maps from gas stations are better for urban warfare than highly detailed military maps.

"Both generals emphasized that urban tactics ... must be very flexible to meet a constant change in the close quarter combat situation," a report on the symposium said.

Perhaps most instructive for Central Command's Baghdad planning is the 1992 battle of Mogadishu, Somalia, a debacle that killed 18 Army Rangers after two helicopters were shot down.

The incident, portrayed in the book and film "Black Hawk Down," showed the extreme difficulty of putting troops into a crowded city where hundreds of armed defenders can fire automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades at infantrymen and vulnerable helicopters from close range.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a military officer who is an expert in training said Wednesday that tactics have been refined since Mogadishu to avoid the mistakes made there — one being assurances that infantry in an assault have backup from tanks, aircraft and artillery, which was not provided in the Somalia fiasco.

Military analysts say one American strategy for Baghdad envisions the use of small commando teams to carry out quick, focused missions — such as capturing

caches of weapons of mass destruction or striking at Iraq's senior leaders, including Saddam Hussein.

But U.S. planners wouldn't talk about whether the U.S. infantry and tank battalions now smashing against Republican Guard defenders outside Baghdad would be used in a classic frontal assault on the city itself.

"If we got into the situation where there was combat in the city, I'm comfortable that our forces know how to do that

even though we prefer to prevent that from happening," Gen. Peter Pace, who led a Marine platoon at Hue and is now vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, told The New York Times.

Retired Army Gen. John Abrams, who served in Vietnam, the Gulf War and Kosovo, said another component of the strategy would be an attempt to persuade Iraqi troops not to sacrifice their lives for a dictator whose tenure is short.

Recovery ship



Adam Butler/Associated Press

Cpl. Rowland Castellanos from Texas, left, Sgt. Jacob Hopkins from Columbus, Ind., center, and 1st Lt. Andrew Turner, from Winston Salem, NC, recover from war injuries Wednesday aboard the USNS Comfort hospital ship. The ship is sailing in northern Gulf waters and has 1,000 beds available for casualties.

SPORTS



Williams, Boeheim get another shot at first title

BY BRETT MARTEL
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Roy Williams thinks Kansas vs. Syracuse for the national title has a nice ring to it.

That way, Williams figures, either he or counterpart Jim Boeheim will finally shed the label of being one of the best coaches never to win an NCAA championship.

"If we make it to the final game, at least one guy's going to leave with some of that load off of his shoulders," Williams said Wednesday during a conference call for the Final Four coaches.

Kansas plays Marquette in the first semifinal Saturday, followed by Syracuse against Texas.

Williams and Boeheim have a combined 42 years of experience as head coach at their respective schools. They

have 1,068 victories and 36 NCAA tournament appearances between them, but no national championships.

Both men have been this close more than once before. Boeheim has lost two national championship games, while Williams made it to the Final Four three times previously, including last year.

Williams insists that the prospect of going 0-4 in Final Fours doesn't add any pressure for him.

"I do have a goal and dream of winning a national championship at Kansas, and we try very hard to be in position to do it all the time," he said. "Still, we haven't done it, but I still feel my life is pretty darn good, and if I coach for another 15 years and have some similar success that we've had the first 15, I'll feel lucky regardless."

Williams, a former North Carolina assistant, has won more than 80 percent of his games as a Division I head coach, ranking him ahead of all other active coaches.

Kansas lost in the 2002 semifinals to eventual national champion Maryland. The Jayhawks' other Final Four appearances under Williams came in 1991 and 1993.

Boeheim is in his 27th season with Syracuse, having won about 75 percent of his games.

"Jimmy's a guy who's accomplished a great deal," Williams said. "I think he feels similar to me, that as long as he can continue feeling good about himself and his players feel good about him and the people at Syracuse feel good about the way he runs the program, the fact that you win a national championship isn't going to change any of that."

Boeheim will return to the Louisiana Superdome, where his Orangemen lost a 74-73 heartbreaker to Indiana in the 1987

final. Keith Smart was the hero that year, hitting a baseline jumper with 4 seconds left after Derrick Coleman missed the front end of a 1-and-1 for Syracuse.

Asked if he found it "weird" to be headed back to the Superdome for a Final Four, Boeheim said: "It is, a little, but we've kind of gotten through that. It's been 16 years."

"In '87, I thought we played great. Keith Smart just took over late in the game and made some great shots."

The two coaches will face very different challenges this weekend. Boeheim is looking for consistent, levelheaded play from a young team that includes two freshmen and two sophomores in the starting lineup.

Williams is trying to dismiss the speculation about his future now that Matt Doherty has been fired as North Carolina coach — a job Williams once coveted but turned down.

Blowing past the opponent



Marcio Jose Sanchez/Associated Press

Texas guard Jamie Carey, right, drives past Louisiana State guard Tameka Johnson in the second half of the NCAA West Regional championship game in Stanford, Calif., on Tuesday. Texas won, 78-60.

ESPN to make '67 Ice Bowl

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Pro football is the subject of ESPN's next original TV movie, which will focus on events surrounding the 1967 Ice Bowl between the Dallas Cowboys and Green Bay Packers.

The movie is scheduled to air Dec. 13 at 9 p.m. EST on the sports cable channel. Joe Eszterhas, whose movies include "Basic Instinct" and "Jagged Edge," will write the script in his first project since being diagnosed with throat cancer two years ago.

"It's a great human drama of the elements, strength and will," Eszterhas said. The game was played on Dec. 31, 1967, when the temperature was below zero in Green Bay and the Lambeau Field turf was frozen. The Packers rallied to win in the closing seconds.

Two of the movie's principals will be Dallas coach Tom Landry and Green Bay coach Vince Lombardi. Casting has not yet been announced.

"The Ice Bowl" will be ESPN's third original movie project. Its first was "A Season on the Brink" about former Indiana basketball coach Bob Knight, and its second was "The Junction Boys" about the late football coach Bear Bryant.

Ben Howland believed to be next UCLA coach

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — UCLA remained without a basketball coach late Wednesday, although it's believed to be just a matter of time before Pittsburgh's Ben Howland is hired to succeed Steve Lavin.

"When the process of hiring a coach is completed, UCLA will make an announcement," sports information director Marc Dellins said shortly before the end of the business day.

That could happen at any time, although Dellins declined to put a timetable on the matter.

Several news outlets have reported the 45-year-old Howland has reached an agreement in principle to become the eighth coach at UCLA since John Wooden retired in 1975 after leading the Bruins to 10 national championships in a 12-year span.

Howland, who grew up in Southern

California, has led Pitt from Big East doormat to national championship contender since being hired in 1999. He has a 168-99 record in nine years as a head coach — five at Northern Arizona and the last four at Pitt.

Lavin was fired March 17 after the Bruins went 10-19 for their first losing season in 55 years. Howland said the day Lavin was fired that he had no plans to leave Pitt, but everything changed once the Panthers were eliminated by Marquette 77-74 in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

Howland met with UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero and associate athletic director Betsy Stephenson on Sunday in Santa Barbara. Howland's parents live there, 100 miles from Los Angeles.

He was an assistant at UC Santa Barbara for 11 seasons before taking the Northern Arizona job in 1994.

Martha Burk wants judge to override sheriff's ruling

BY RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Martha Burk's lawyers asked a judge Wednesday to override the sheriff's decision prohibiting her from demonstrating at the front gate of Augusta National during the Masters.

The request comes 10 days before Burk plans to protest at the club because of its all-male membership. Burk, chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations, wants thousands of golf fans to walk by her demonstration.

But Sheriff Ronald Strength says the closest Burk can legally protest is a 5-acre site just less than a half mile from the gate. A city law revised last month gives Strength broad authority to regulate protests.

Burk's lawyers told a federal judge that their client was denied access to public property outside the gates because Augusta wants to protect its image — not public safety, as the sheriff has said. Burk was not at the hearing.

"This is an embarrassing protest and I'm sure the city would rather it be moved up the street where there are fewer people around to see it," said Sarah Shalf, one of Burk's lawyers.

Augusta officials deny blocking Burk's free-speech rights. They say the busy street in front of Augusta National is crisscrossed with pedestrian and vehicle traffic during the tournament, making it dangerous for protesters.

"It is the paramount duty of the government to provide for public safety," said Jim Ellison, an attorney for the city of Augusta.

Strength has approved permits for about 900 protesters from various groups during Masters week. He testified that he never considered allowing protests at the front gate or across the street.

Though Augusta's law requires permits only for groups of five or more, Strength said even one protester by the gate would be too many.

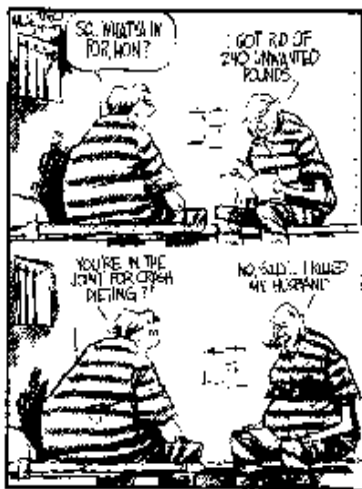
Burk's protest is planned for April 12, the third day of the Masters.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



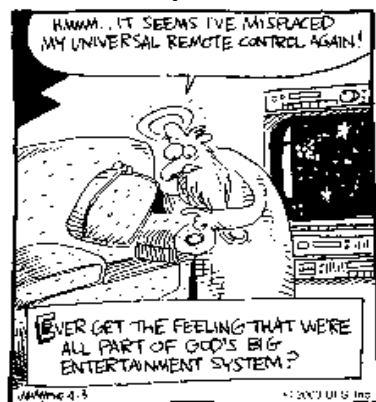
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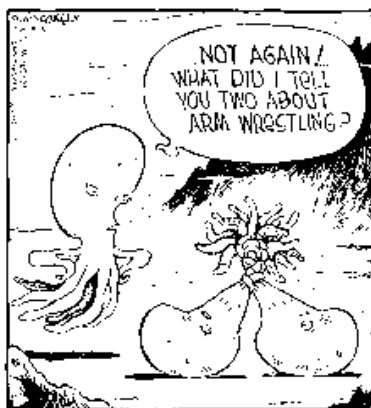
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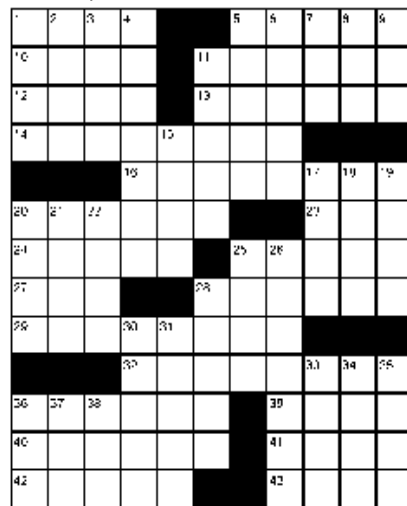
- ACROSS**
- Rating unit
 - Coastal creation
 - "Damn Yankees" role
 - Wasn't greedy
 - First place
 - Deemed a bomb
 - Cargo worker
 - Strike plays
 - Attractive
 - Japanese drama
 - Different
 - Africa's largest city
 - "Treasure Island" monogram
 - Added to a news-group
 - Imperfection
 - Halite
 - Give
 - Ice chunk
 - Alaskan islanders
 - Saudi Arabia neighbor
 - Reach
 - Put in order
- DOWN**
- Hoopla
 - One of the Baldwins
 - Irritated
 - Leg part
 - Positive-thinking
 - Coffee holder
 - Country contest
 - Total
 - Out of it
 - Bagel feature
 - Military group
 - Went fast
 - Not barefoot
 - Fresh-water fish
 - Capital on a fjord
 - Assorted: Abbr.
 - Bottle top
 - Requests
 - Duel count
 - Frank topping
 - "Be pre-

SING	BEST
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AGILE	PANIC
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TREX	ASTO

Yesterday's answer

- Capital on a fjord
- Assorted: Abbr.
- Bottle top
- Requests
- Duel count
- Frank topping
- "Be pre-
- pared," e.g.
- mater
- Credit union offering
- Short race
- Follower of Trygve
- Bullfight call
- Catch

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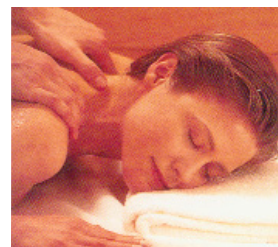
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VENICE \$900 1bdm/1ba Bungalow w/grassy area. Newly renovated w/lots of charm. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 x102.

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

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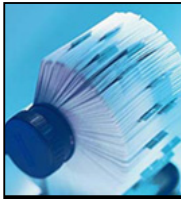
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SANTA MONICA SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2003

EVENTS

BLUE 7 presents 'Near and Far - Photographic Images of Nature.' The featured photographers are Scott Connell, Michael Gordon and Gavin Lauchenauer. Exhibit ends April 5th. Blue 7, 3129 Pico Blvd. (310)449-1444

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PEOPLE 55 AND OLDER. Current openings in Men's Group. Thursdays, 11:15 to 12:45. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

DHARMA AT THE CLUBHOUSE. A weekly book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 to 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santamonickaksg.org

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

ENTERTAINMENT

VICE AT CLUB SUGAR with resident DJs Tomoki (Afterhour, Sound Selection, Fourteen40 crew), Neo-genix (Afterhour, Sound Selection, Fourteen40 crew), Mickey the Rat (nogenesis, Fourteen40 crew) spinning all things electronic. 10pm to 2am, 814 Broadway, cross street Lincoln Blvd. Only \$5. (310)899-1989.

O'BRIENS IRISH PUB. 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

UNURBAN COFFEE HOUSE presents Comedy Crunch every Thursday evening. Showtime is 7pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

JAI JOSEFS Songwriter Showcase at Rusty's on the Pier, Santa Monica. Style: Pop, Rock, Country, Blues. Tickets \$10.00 at the door, \$8.00 pre-sale. Show starts at 7:30pm. Call (562)705-2767. www.jaijosefshowcase.com

JOHANNA ISRAEL PRESENTS GOTHAM COMEDY NIGHT with headliner Tim Steeves. Every Thursday 7:30pm, FREE + 2 item minimum, 21/over. 1431 3rd St. Promenade, Santa Monica. (323)525-5254

DINING

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

LIBRARY ALEHOUSE - A gathering place for great food, hand crafted beer and friendly service. Beautiful garden patio. Daily specials. 2911 Main St., 310.314-4855

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

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

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

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

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

WOLFGANG PUCK CAFE - Enjoy Wolfgang's favorite entrees, famous wood-fired pizzas, pastas, fresh salads, sandwiches, and of course, unforgettable desserts! Fun Happy Hour: 1323 Montana Ave., 310.393.0290

SONNY MCLEAN'S - A perfect Irish pub that attracts a variety of people. It's the hotspot to kick back, enjoy a beer and watch a ball game. Good Happy Hour specials. 2615 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.9839

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

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

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

MOVIE GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

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

MANN CRITERION

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

AMC THEATRE SM 7

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

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 3:45, 7:00, 10:15. **Laurel Canyon (R)** 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

LAEMMLE MONICA

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



BACK PAGE

Radio hosts making waves with 'Bomb Saddam Song'

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A radio station is making waves again on the Internet with a tune mocking Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The calypso-rhythm "Bomb Saddam Song" was produced by the same Las Vegas radio hosts whose "Bin Laden Bomb Song" drew international attention after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The new two-minute cartoon has Saddam sunning himself in a desert, where explosions start and tanks

move in while U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell sings, "Hey, Saddam, your tyranny is done."

Backup vocals are provided by line-dancing likenesses of President Bush, his father, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

The "Bomb Saddam Song" was developed by a KOMP-FM morning team that set the "Bin Laden Bomb Song," to the tune of Harry Belafonte's 1956 hit, "The Banana Boat Song (Day-O)."

Disc jockey "Sweet" Al Miller said that Bin Laden parody and the accompanying animation was downloaded about 50 million times off the Internet.

As of Tuesday, Miller said several hundred people had downloaded the new song over the Internet. He expected that adding video images crafted by an Australian company to give the song a boost.

Some said they were offended by attempts to joke

about war.

"This is not a happy occasion. Our troops are dying," said Kalynda Tilges, executive at the Shundahai Network, a Las Vegas-based group that has organized frequent anti-war protests.

"I'm sure it's ridiculously funny," she said. "But it also perpetuates the lie that our children are out there killing other people's children for a good reason."

The song and video include lewd references to Saddam and graphic images of violence. Miller told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that response to the radio station has been overwhelmingly positive.

"A song is not going to make George Bush or anybody else drop a bomb on innocent civilians," the disc jockey said. "If we get a chuckle from an airman or a general, if it helps some of our troops (in the Middle East) and they hear it and they crack up, then it was all worth it."

Law firm name gets condensed

By The Associated Press

MARINA DEL REY — The law firm Berger, Kahn, Shafton, Moss, Figler, Simon & Gladstone has decided its name was too much of a mouthful.

Now it will just be Berger Kahn.

"Everybody is delighted," managing partner Allen Michel said Tuesday.

The change is part of a trend among law firms with long names to shorten them.

"When we were younger, many of us, including me, thought we needed our name on the door to feel important," said Craig Simon, another managing partner. "Now that we are wiser, we know that seven names is too many."

Michel said his colleagues voted unanimously for the change partly because they hear chuckles in the courtroom each time they mention the firm's name.

The change means his office will "save a lot of ink and toner" when printing documents with the firm's name.

There's also another benefit.

"We expect our receptionist to be able to handle more calls without saying the full firm's name," Michel said.

Motown singer Edwin Starr dies at 61

BY THOMAS WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Edwin Starr, the soul singer who produced No. 1 Motown hits such as "War," died of an apparent heart attack Wednesday, his manager said. He was 61.

Starr, who lived in England, died at his home near the central city of Nottingham, said manager Lilian Kyle.

Last year, Starr — from the Motown stable and similar in style to James Brown — performed at the wedding of Liza Minnelli and David Gest in New York. He also had sung live with Bruce Springsteen.

Born Charles Hatcher in Nashville, Tenn., Starr formed his first group, the Future Tones, in 1957,

recording one single before his three-year army service. In 1965, he was offered a solo deal following two years of touring with another band.

Early hits included "Agent Double-O Soul" and "Stop Her on Sight (S.O.S.)."

But his biggest success came with "War," a No. 1 hit in 1970 during a time of growing anti-Vietnam War protests. Other top 10 hits included "Contact" and "H.A.P.P.Y. Radio."

Starr, who made a brief comeback during the disco craze, later spent most of his time touring Europe on the oldies circuit.

Last weekend, he performed at two shows in Stuttgart, Germany.

Suzi Quatro, a '70s rock star who

had known Starr since she was a teenager in Detroit, praised him Wednesday.

"He was the best," she said. "There was nobody better on stage, and he was the nicest man you could ever wish to meet."

Rainer Haas, Quatro's husband and the promoter of the Stuttgart shows, said: "He was just superb. He played to 16,000 people over the two nights and he put on a great show. The shows were actually recorded for television, so we will have an enduring memory of how brilliant he was live."

"His death has come as a total shock," said Paul Carvell, a friend.

"There is one more star in heaven tonight."

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