

FREE

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2002

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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A vicious cycle



Spinners pedal their way to health at the Easton Gym during Anne Pilcher's class Tuesday.

Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

SM renters' rights unite in statewide coalition

Local political group seeks more teeth in landlord-tenant laws

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica group is joining a statewide coalition to push through renters' rights legislation in an effort to help tenants fight their landlords.

Mayor Mike Feinstein and Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown, leaders in Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, announced this week in front of City Hall that the local political organization will join tenant organizations throughout the state to form "Renters Together."

"We are re-engaging in the battle to protect Santa Monica's middle class, the working folks who aren't income-eligible for subsidized housing but can't afford condos either," McKeown said. "This is a cause SMRR has championed for over 20 years, but now we're joining with allies from across California."

Besides SMRR, the new renters group will consist of the Association of

Community Organizations for Reform Now, the Green Party of California, labor unions and a handful of community-based tenant and legal aid agencies.

A statewide shortage of rental housing units has allowed landlords to raise rents dramatically, forcing tenants and working families to make difficult choices, SMRR officials say.

"To pay high rents, working families have been forced to make choices no one should have to make," McKeown said. "They have had to take second and third jobs, take in extended family, friends and even strangers. Many have had to move far from work, and spend more time on the road and less time with each other."

Rent Control Board member Betty Mueller, SMRR organizers Michael Tarbet and Pam Vavra, and local renter attorney Andrew Zanger, say Santa Monica renters who live in apartments that are rent controlled are harassed by their landlords and are prone to being evicted.

McKeown said he will introduce a motion to the city council at its meeting Tuesday asking the municipal body to support three pro-renter bills in the state

See RENTERS, page 3

Survey says homes could be historical

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Older homes are rapidly being replaced in Santa Monica's north side neighborhoods by mansions, a city survey has found.

The homes were listed in a historical survey taken of homes north of Montana Avenue that was officially released Tuesday before a raucous crowd of home owners.

Consultants who prepared the report characterized Santa Monica as losing its older historical properties and said city officials need to make important decisions about how they want to preserve the remaining buildings before they are demolished or significantly altered.

The consultants looked at 3,900 homes north of Montana and found about 9 percent, or 358 homes, were historically significant, meaning they should be designated and protected from future development.

The number of homes on the inventory didn't change much from 1986, the last time a historical survey was taken. At the time, many of the homes were not old enough to be considered historic but now they are. Meanwhile, many of the homes that were older than 50 years have been razed and replaced.

About two thirds of the 158 homes in an area known as the "Palisades Tract" were identified in 1986 as having historical merit. But they have been either demolished or altered to the point that they have no historical significance, consultants said. The homes were located

from Palisades Avenue to Georgina Avenue, between Seventh Street and Ocean Avenue.

"It used to be the whole area could have been designated, but now many of the homes have either been demolished or had so many additions added that they are no longer eligible," said Christy McAvoy, a consultant with Historic Resources Group, the Hollywood-based firm that was hired by the city of Santa Monica.

"I think it is alarming. I think the historic fabric of the city is rapidly disappearing."

— ROGER GENSER
Santa Monica Landmarks Commissioner

The city spent \$29,000 to have the survey done, according to city planner Amanda Schachter.

"It certainly wasn't a surprise considering the pace of construction in Santa Monica," Schachter said. "Unless those buildings are designated that trend will

See DISTRICT, page 3

Political snub gets personal

Council members take political infighting public

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Political infighting between city council members has led to inconsistent votes on environmental issues that have come before them.

Two city council members think there is a hidden political agenda behind their colleagues' refusal to support a campaign to save California's old-growth trees. That's because they supported a

federal campaign two years ago that sought to protect federal forests from road building and logging.

Council members Pam O'Connor, Ken Genser and Bob Holbrook wouldn't lend the council's endorsement to an environmentalists' campaign to save old-growth trees last week. They said the issue had little relevance to Santa Monica.

Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown and Mayor Mike Feinstein — both Green Party activists — think their colleagues did it to spite them for previous political disagreements.

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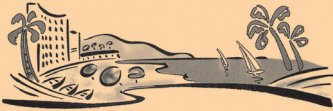
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Clear out work and financial matters quickly. If you can get an early start on your day, all the better. Skip lunch if you can. Focus on getting out of work, but also don't lose sight of efficiency. Be careful with spending. Tonight: Where the gang is.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your fiery energy helps you charge through e-mail, research and calls. Your vitality becomes contagious to those around you. Deal with a boss later in the day, certainly in the afternoon. Your ideas star in a conversation. Tonight: Lead others out the door.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Deal with bosses on a one-on-one level. Recognize what is going on behind the scenes with an associate surrounding funds. It might be smart to internalize information before reacting. Seek out experts; get others' opinions. Tonight: Take in a movie.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Indulge another; allow this person to reveal his or her colors this morning. Sometimes, by standing back, you get a better sense of what you're dealing with. Schedule a meeting in the near future, if not today. You gain through working with groups. Tonight: With a favorite person.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Follow through on any leftover details involving an important project, especially if you are about to make a presentation. Listen to a boss or someone else carefully. Please note that Friday punctuates the present mood. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Use your creativity to get through work. Listen to another's ideas, even if they're presented in a most radical way. You might want to help this person tone down his or her approach. Carefully listen to co-workers in the afternoon. Tonight: Do something important just for you.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Kick back in the morning, staying calm and accomplishing as much as possible. You might need to close your door in order to complete your "to do" list. Don't underestimate your creativity or a loved one's. You could enjoy being distracted. Tonight: Let the fun continue.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Listen carefully to those around you. Speak your mind. Another tosses many ideas on your plate. Pick and choose the ones you like. Deal with the basics with someone. You might need to slow down come this afternoon. Curb activities and commitments. Tonight: Head on home.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Financial matters come to the forefront this morning. You might not have as much control as you would like. Expenses go way overboard. Schedule calls and answer e-mail in the afternoon. Touch base with a loved one before you head out the door. Tonight: Friday rituals.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your smile wins friends and, perhaps, a new admirer. This person could be quite assertive once he or she makes up his or her mind. Put at least a temporary halt to this flirtation. Go into fifth gear, clearing your desk and running errands. Tonight: Balance your checkbook first.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ This morning another could upset you with his or her mood. Swallow the problem, looking to better communication and a little time. By afternoon, your perspective changes. Others respond to your strength, intellect and humor. Tonight: Finally, the world is your oyster.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ A key meeting sets new goals and ideas. Don't wait on the back burner; express your ideas, even if they aren't those of the majority. Meanwhile, play reclusive this afternoon if you're going to get anything done. Call a pal late in the day. Tonight: Vanish. You need some down time.

QUOTE of the DAY

“Absence makes the heart go yonder.”

— RB

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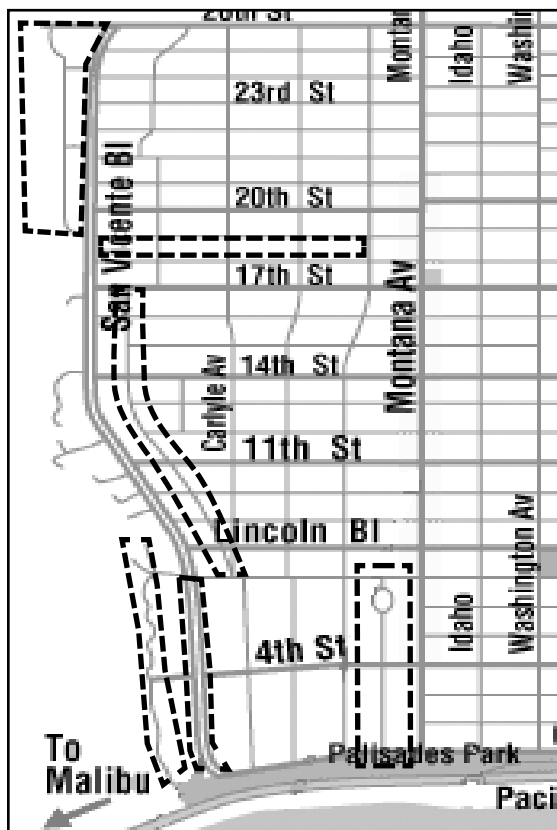
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LOCAL



Landmarks commission ponders historic designation



These neighborhoods are being considered for historical designation.

DISTRICT, from page 1

likely continue."

Landmarks Commissioner Roger Genser said the commission considers about 12 demolition permits a month, the majority of which are for homes north of Montana Avenue.

"I think it is alarming. I think the historic fabric of the city is rapidly disappearing," he said. "Homes that were not considered significant 20 years ago are now significant because of the rapidly disappearing homes."

The report identifies six potential areas for designation as historic districts — the Palisades Tract, the San Vicente Apartment Group, parts of Adelaide Drive and Georgina Avenue, several homes along 18th Street, and parts of La Mesa Drive.

Consultants said the area includes some of the oldest and most significant historic resources in Santa Monica. Included within the area are 10 historic properties that have been designated on the national, state, and local level.

However, the report said less than 1 percent of the potential historic properties north of Montana Avenue have been designated or preserved.

Residents at the meeting were vehemently against historic districts and the idea that their homes may become "structures of merit."

"I was unhappy when I first heard about this project and I'm unhappy about it now after hearing the results of this survey," said Michael Burger, an 18th Street resident. "If you asked the residents if they wanted this, they would tell you that they don't."

They believe that if their homes are designated as historic buildings, it will cause their properties to drop in value and the city will prohibit them from making alterations or remodeling their homes. They also say the designation will bring crowds of tourists through their neighborhoods.

"We're going to have tour buses running down our streets," said John Bone, an 18th Street resident. "Privacy is a concern. I want to retain the privacy of the neighborhood."

The crowd of about 80 people applauded after each speaker denounced historic districts. And they booed the one speaker that spoke in favor of the idea — Jerry Rubin, who lives in Ocean Park.

Tom Larmore, a local property rights attorney who lives north of Montana Avenue, has helped organize a movement that fights the historic designation effort.

Larmore is spearheading "Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation," a newly-formed committee that will be circulating a petition in an effort to allow homeowners a choice as to whether their homes should be classified as landmarks or as historical buildings. The group needs 6,000 signatures to place the measure on the November ballot. The measure would prevent the city from deeming homes historic without the consent of the owner.

Committee members believe restrictions on private property constitutes an unwarranted intrusion of personal freedoms.

"If this was to be mandatory, it would be downright frightening," he said.

The Landmarks Commission did not make a decision on the survey but it will discuss the issue at its Monday meeting.

Renters' coalition aims for statewide rights for tenants

RENTERS, from page 1

Assembly and Senate, as well as asking council members to write letters to their legislators and Gov. Gray Davis.

One bill, sponsored by state senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), would expand the 60-day notice for a no-fault eviction and require written notice for a landlord or agent to enter a unit, except in

emergencies.

Another bill would strengthen the law against evicting tenants for retaliation, allow tenants more time to pay high security deposits, allow some tenants who lose their jobs to use the security deposit for one month's emergency rent payment, require landlords to pay tenants annually the interest on security deposits, and help

tenants get their security deposit returned by requiring a walk-through inspection with a written estimate of deductions before a tenant moves out.

The bill also would shorten the amount of time a landlord has to return a security deposit from three weeks to two weeks, and increase the penalty if a landlord illegally withholds the security deposit.

Another pro-renter bill would place a \$2.1 billion bond on the November 2002 ballot, which will go to rental housing, home ownership, shelter, farm worker housing, jobs and housing incentive grants, and code enforcement.

The group is planning a larger rally in downtown Los Angeles this afternoon to announce their effort.

Council members say there is no 'political conspiracy'

COUNCIL, from page 1

"I suspect their votes had little to do with the merits of the issue," McKeown said.

However, Genser and O'Connor say their critics are barking up the wrong tree.

"I think this is absolute nonsense, and I think Mike (Feinstein) has to learn to disagree," Genser said. "It doesn't seem that he can get beyond the fact that we disagreed on something."

Genser takes offense to Feinstein's previous comment that voting for one issue and then against another is contradictory and hypocritical.

Genser is adamant that there is no "political conspiracy" like Feinstein is suggesting.

"If it were just about issues between me and Mike,

then why did all the other council members vote against it too?" Genser asked. "That's why there is seven of us, so we have different opinions and we can debate those issues and come up with creative solutions."

But McKeown said the inconsistencies displayed by other council members prove that they have other motivations.

"There are no roadless forests in Santa Monica either, yet the city council endorsed that measure," McKeown said. "I remain very disappointed with the city council's action last week and I suspect it had little to do with the merits of the issue."

O'Connor said she didn't think the federal campaign two years ago had much relevance to Santa Monica but voted for it anyway.

"Sometimes you give a colleague a little room, and in

that case a colleague (McKeown) brought it up and felt strongly about it so I voted to endorse it," she said.

Genser agrees that endorsing the federal campaign was wrong.

"I think we made a mistake when we endorsed it back then," he said. "We distracted the council and for what reason, our resolution did no good and changed no minds except to make a few people who brought it before us feel good."

O'Connor said she will continue to vote her conscience and vote against any issue that doesn't pertain to city business or affect Santa Monica residents.

"If they are disappointed in my vote, that's just tough," she said. "I'm sure there will be future days when we disagree too. Get over it and let's move on to the next issue."

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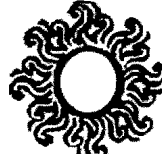
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OPINION

LETTERS

Boathouse a victim of itself

Editor:

As chair of the board of directors of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation (the "PRC"), I have some knowledge of the stories that you have been reporting on the Boathouse and the PRC in the last several days.

While I can understand people who loved the Boathouse and are sorry to see it go (there will always be a constituency for any existing facility and it did have its own unique flavor) and I know that it makes a better story to portray the Boathouse as put-upon and the city and PRC as "big meanies," a few facts to leaven the mix:

1. The Boathouse lease expired. It would have been unfair to everyone, including, most importantly, to the people of the city to simply renew the Boathouse lease without testing the waters for alternative ideas.

2. No one can inherit public property. There was an open competition for the space. Despite that, the Boathouse had the inside track because they knew the property and all the players.

Furthermore, if the Boathouse had come up with the best bid, the public relations angle would have been much better for the city and the PRC — and we all knew that.

The city and the PRC hoped that the Boathouse would come up with a competitive proposal, but their proposal for a motorcycle-themed restaurant simply did not meet the criteria the city had set down. Their proposal was judged by everyone who reviewed it, including staff, PRC, council members, and others as being either the worst or the second to worst proposal.

3. What did the PRC and the city want? A reasonably priced family restaurant. The PRC and the city also wanted a place that had the financial ability to do the job right and to survive the seasonality and other vagaries of tenancy on the pier. The PRC and the city also wanted synergies that would benefit all the tenants on the pier, and the citizens of the city. A successful restaurant will benefit everyone.

4. The Boathouse building was a shambles. The plumbing leaked, causing environmental damage. There were problems with access for the disabled. In short, it needed significant work and investment. Bubba Gump will be putting several million dollars into the property. Among other things that Bubba Gump promised is an elevator to bring people, including of course, people with disabilities up to the pier. Everyone on the PRC board is very excited about that.

5. You include statements in your article, such as, "It is widely known that behind-the-scenes political maneuvering has been occurring on the PRC for years, particularly when it comes to the Boathouse ..." without attribution.

That sentence has such an ugly sound to it. I know how I would feel if I read it and didn't know what was going on from being on the board.

Look, the PRC is appointed by the city council, so I guess anything we do is, by definition somewhat political, but I've been on the PRC board and my impression is that every person on that board is simply a volunteer without compensation trying to do the best for the city and its people. I can't deny that there is politics on a politically appointed body, but let me put it this way: I haven't seen see any unusual political maneuvering on the PRC board itself in this process.

Of course, the PRC has no control over the city appointment process whereby PRC board members are named or any delays therein.

6. And as to the new appointments to the PRC Board, they weren't a majority of the board. Three people were named to an 11-person board after the Bubba Gump decision.

7. Although your article contains allegations that this wasn't widely discussed or noticed, it was, at publicly noticed meetings, and a whole series of them that were well attended. It was even discussed in front of the city council, and if you read the minutes of that meeting you will see the astonishing sight of council members speaking ill of a local establishment — the Boathouse. That alone demonstrates why the Boathouse is not returning.

Your compatriot, Bob Scheer, ran a whole series of columns in the Los Angeles Times akin to those that he used so powerfully in the area code brouhaha.

8. In the selection process, local content was considered as one of the major factors. Despite that, Bubba Gump, was judged the best proposal.

I should add that Bubba Gump is Southern California based and is a small chain, unlike Landry's, another competitor which lost. Landry's is huge and not based here.

Furthermore, if we are going to have local content, what the pier needs most is a winner. There have been some failures on the pier of late, including the Arcadia and the Ashgrove.

A winner will draw other winners, and will make it easier for a local entity that may not have the same financial strength to get the funding needed to compete for the next vacancy on the pier.

Why? Well, if you go to a lender or to investors, and tell them that there is a vacancy down the pier from Bubba Gump, which is doing land office business, you may very well get the loan or the investors. But if you go to that same lender or investors, and tell them that there is a vacancy on the pier, which has had 5 losing businesses in a row, good luck.

So, in summary, we think and hope that Bubba Gump will:

- 1) provide good, reasonably priced food
- 2) invest millions in our pier
- 3) give us handicapped access from the parking and in general
- 4) help every tenant on the pier
- 5) help in the long run with local content.

One thing I do know. We did our best with this. I hope we're right.

Michael S. Klein
Santa Monica

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor.

STATE



U.S. to close bike lane that eased border commute

BY BEN FOX
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — With thousands of people waiting up to two hours to enter the United States by car or on foot, Fernando Gil whizzed by Wednesday on a mountain bike.

His total time to cross the border: less than two minutes.

But that convenient alternative is due to end Monday for Gil and hundreds of other commuters at the world's busiest border crossing.

Citing safety concerns, U.S. officials have decided to eliminate an informal bike lane in San Diego that became popular after Sept. 11, when extra security created lengthy border-crossing delays.

"It's unfair," said Gil, a 29-year-old student who stays with relatives in Tijuana, Mexico, several times a week. "I'll have to get up two hours earlier to get to school."

Bicyclists have always been allowed to use the San Ysidro Port of Entry, which links Tijuana to the southern edge of San Diego. Because the bikes were infrequent, authorities allowed them to share a lane with buses.

Like so much else, that changed after Sept. 11.

In the pedestrian section, U.S. authorities installed metal detectors and began more thorough identification and background checks. In the 21 vehicle lanes, motorists also faced additional security and more intense inspections of their vehicles.

In all, up to 32,000 pedestrians and 42,000 vehicles enter the country through San Ysidro each day. Crossing time, which has always been burdensome, rose to averages of three hours or more during the morning rush.

But some commuters quickly caught on to an alternative. On bicycles, they

could ride past long lines of idling cars and grim-faced pedestrians and encounter only a brief inspection — since it's hard to hide contraband on a bike.

Soon, entrepreneurs arrived on the scene, setting up shop amid the trinket vendors hawking Mexican blankets and ornate renditions of the Last Supper. For \$5 to \$10, they offered to rent bikes to border-crossers who could speed past the checkpoint and drop it off at a van waiting on the north side of the border.

Hundreds of other cyclists lock their bikes and take the San Diego Trolley to work or school.

During peak, weekday commute time — 4 a.m. to about 8:30 a.m. — between 1,000 people and 2,000 cyclists cross from Tijuana, said Oscar Preciado, director of port operations for the Customs Service.

But the cyclists share a lane with bus traffic and that has raised fears among U.S. officials that someone will get hit, Preciado said.

"I see children as young as 5 and 6 years old, weaving in and out of buses," he said. "It is an accident waiting to happen."

U.S. authorities admit no accidents have yet been reported and their decision — which only applies for the San Ysidro crossing — has angered commuters. It also ends the bike rental businesses.

"I'd rather be unpopular than have someone get killed," Preciado said.

Under the new policy, cyclists will have to wait in line with the pedestrians and walk their bikes through the indoor checkpoint.

The United States could create an official bike lane that would be safe, but there are no immediate plans to undertake what would probably be an expensive and time-consuming project.

Bicycle commuters are grouching about the looming change and some said they hope for a reprieve to avoid being late to work.

Meltdown sites not suitable for housing, committee says

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Legislation that would forever ban Ventura County from approving houses on 2,800 acres surrounding an old nuclear meltdown site suffered a temporary setback Wednesday.

The Senate Local Government Committee balked at the idea, part of a larger bill on contamination cleanup standards proposed by Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica. Kuehl promised to return with changes, addressing concerns that the idea is too restrictive and affects too much land.

Kuehl wants the state to block Ventura County's land-use authority on the site of a 1959 partial nuclear meltdown, and that of other cities and counties on future meltdown sites. She cited the state's similar land-use authority over properties fronting San Francisco Bay, the Lake Tahoe Basin and the 1,100 mile California coastline.

"Local zoning isn't capable of dealing with something like a nuclear meltdown," Kuehl said.

The site is still contaminated with

radiation and undergoing cleanup.

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory near the Ventura and Los Angeles County lines, ran 10 nuclear reactors from the 1950s to the 1980s for Atomics International, Rocketdyne International Corp. and Boeing Corp. Though a Ventura County voter initiative blocks development on the site before 2020 and the county's general plan calls for open space, current zoning allows homes on five-acre lots.

Kuehl fears growth pressures could lead local officials to approve housing, schools and day care centers on the site. Boeing Controller Jack Bradley said the company is restoring the land to federal residential standards in hopes of selling it.

"Our concern is the flexibility of the property," Bradley said. "We want to clean it up for the highest and best use." He also criticized a ban on thousands of surrounding acres, far from the actual meltdown site.

Attorney Richard Locke of PG&E said the bill could block the company from developing 14,000 acres around its 750-acre Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County.

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STATE

Trademark law applied to Internet in wine case

BY JESSICA BUJOL

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — A company that registered an Internet domain name using the trademarked name of Ernest and Julio Gallo Winery, then used it to call the company the "Whiney Winery" violated the winemaker's trademark, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday.

The case began when Spider Webs Ltd. registered the domain "ernestandjuliogallo.com." The California-based wine company asked them to transfer the name, but Spider Webs refused. The winery filed suit in February 2000 and six months later Spider Webs began posting information on the dangers of alcohol consumption.

The decision marks the first time the 5th Circuit has applied the federal Anti-Cybersquatting Consumer Protection Act, said Craig Weinlein, the attorney for the winery.

It is also the first time the court has applied Texas' anti-dilution law to cybersquatting, meaning a domain name cannot be registered, then not used simply to keep it out of the hands of its namesake and force them to pay for rights to the

site, Weinlein said.

"Many laypeople think that the regular laws don't apply to the Internet. The courts are confirming what I've always believed, that the trademark and copyright laws apply to the Internet just like they apply to everything else," Weinlein said.

The attorney for Spider Webs Ltd., Bernard Mathews III, was not available for comment, his office said.

The case also made an important distinction between the content of a Web site and a domain name, the address used to get there, Weinlein said.

"You may have First Amendment rights to say what you want on your Web site, but you don't have the right to use a trademarked domain name to lure people to your Web site and force them to pay for it," he said.

Spider Webs has the option to file for a re-hearing at the appeals court or petition the U.S. Supreme Court. In the meantime, there is an injunction preventing the company from registering any domain name that might be associated with Ernest and Julio Gallo Winery, and the domain name ernestandjuliogallo.com has been shut down pending the outcome of the case.

Rock documentary 'The Last Waltz' gets another spin

BY SCOTT BAUER

Associated Press Writer

Eric Clapton and Robbie Robertson challenging each other with progressively intense guitar licks.

Van Morrison high-kicking into the air. Neil Young staring openmouthed and awe-struck at Bob Dylan.

Moments like these are why critics and music fans consider 1978's "The Last Waltz" one of the great rock documentaries.

Now, the film capturing the Band's 1976 farewell concert is being rereleased in a limited theatrical run beginning Friday in San Francisco. The soundtrack has been remixed by Robertson, the Band's lead songwriter and guitarist, who now works as a creative adviser for DreamWorks Records. A CD is due April 16 and a DVD May 7.

"The main job here is to pass the baton — pass this on to other generations," Robertson said in an interview from Austin, Texas, where he was promoting the project.

The idea of "The Last Waltz" started humbly enough. Members of the Band, known for such songs as "The Weight" and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," besides backing Dylan in 1965-66 and 1974, decided to give a farewell concert on Nov. 25, 1976, at San Francisco's Winterland after 16 years on the road.

To help them bow out, friends were invited to join them on stage. As the list grew to include the likes of Muddy Waters, Joni Mitchell, Dylan, Clapton, Morrison and Young, Robertson said he thought the event should be chronicled.

The Band sought out director Martin Scorsese, who had helped work on director Michael Wadleigh's "Woodstock" seven years earlier.

The concert as envisioned by the Band, Scorsese and his crew, which included Hollywood production designer Boris Leven, had a dramatic flair unusual at that point in a rock film.

The 38-piece Berkeley Promenade Orchestra provided background music during a turkey dinner for the 5,000 fans who paid \$25 a piece to attend. Sets from the San Francisco Opera's "La Traviata" were rented as a stage backdrop. Three chandeliers designed for "Gone with the Wind" hung above the stage and several classical statues were borrowed from the prop department at 20th Century Fox.

Rock promoter Bill Graham, who produced the show, referred to it as "rock and roll's last supper" in his autobiography.

The Band hit the stage shortly after 9 p.m., and the concert ended more than five hours later. The music included blues, folk, rock and country.

One of the highlights is seeing Morrison, known as a mercurial and temperamental performer, end an emotional singing of "Caravan" by repeatedly kicking into the air.

Dylan, in an outlandish feathered white fedora, closes the show by leading the reassembled guests in "I Shall Be Released."

And interspersed throughout the film are interviews with members of the Band, talking about life on the road.

After "The Last Waltz," the group never toured with Robertson again. Remaining members — pianist Richard Manuel, organist Garth Hudson, bassist Rick Danko and drummer Levon Helm — did regroup and tour together beginning in 1983.

Three years later, Manuel hanged himself in a Winter Park, Fla., hotel room. In 1999, Danko died in his sleep, overweight and with an admitted drug habit.

NATIONAL



Secrets hard to keep in Bush Administration

BY DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

Washington's secret-busters are used to long odds — it's always Big Government vs. Little Them.

Even so, they've been able over the years to make the CIA budget public (a battle won, then lost), get the government to share information on environmental hazards and keep White House officials from pressing the delete button on e-mails in the last days of the Reagan administration.

But these are especially tough times for exposing what government is up to.

The Bush administration is secretive by nature and even more so by circumstance: Defining the boundaries of openness and secrecy has gotten more difficult since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In the 1980s, Gary Bass won accolades for helping get a right-to-know law passed, giving the public access to environmental information on government databases.

Since Sept. 11, he's been getting hate mail from people who think he is aiding terrorists by trying to keep the information spigot open. One person wondered "how much blood will be on your hands," said Bass, director of OMB Watch, which keeps an eye on the White House Office of Management and Budget.

"The biggest battle now is the slippage from right-to-know to need-to-know," said Bass.

Steven Aftergood once helped persuade the govern-

ment to detail the CIA's budget, only to see the victory reversed. He says prying secrets from the feds is like detective work without the gumshoe glamor or shootouts.

"There's not much sex and violence, but there are unexpected discoveries and leads to track down," said Aftergood, who is with the Federation of American Scientists. "That's what makes the work exciting."

The excitement comes in measured steps, though.

"You need to have the endurance to get past the first obstacle — the glacial pace," he said. "Beyond that, you have to be a kind of library rat."

The secret-busters are well aware of the David vs. Goliath nature of what they do.

Kate Martin is still amazed that she and a fellow lawyer, armed with a word processor and a lot of nerve, were able to face off against a dozen government lawyers in 1989 and win.

The two succeeded in stopping White House officials from deleting e-mails on President Reagan's last full day in office. They argued these records should be preserved along with the rest of Reagan's papers.

Martin, now director of the Center for National Security Studies at The George Washington University, today is a lead attorney in a Freedom of Information Act case seeking the disclosure of the identities of hundreds of individuals who were arrested and jailed after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Because of the clampdown, there's a lot people don't know, on top of the volume of materi-

al they haven't been able to squeeze out of the government in the past.

"The objective of this administration is to cut back as far as it can on openness," said David Vladeck, director of the Public Citizen Litigation Group, which has fought some 300 lawsuits challenging government secrecy since 1972.

"You see it with respect to Congress, the public," he said, "and much of it predates 9-11."

Even the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, has trouble getting information out of the White House. The GAO has sued to get access to records showing who met with Vice President Dick Cheney's energy task force as it developed energy policy.

Even the secret-busters, though, are taking a second look at what they're making it easier for the public to access.

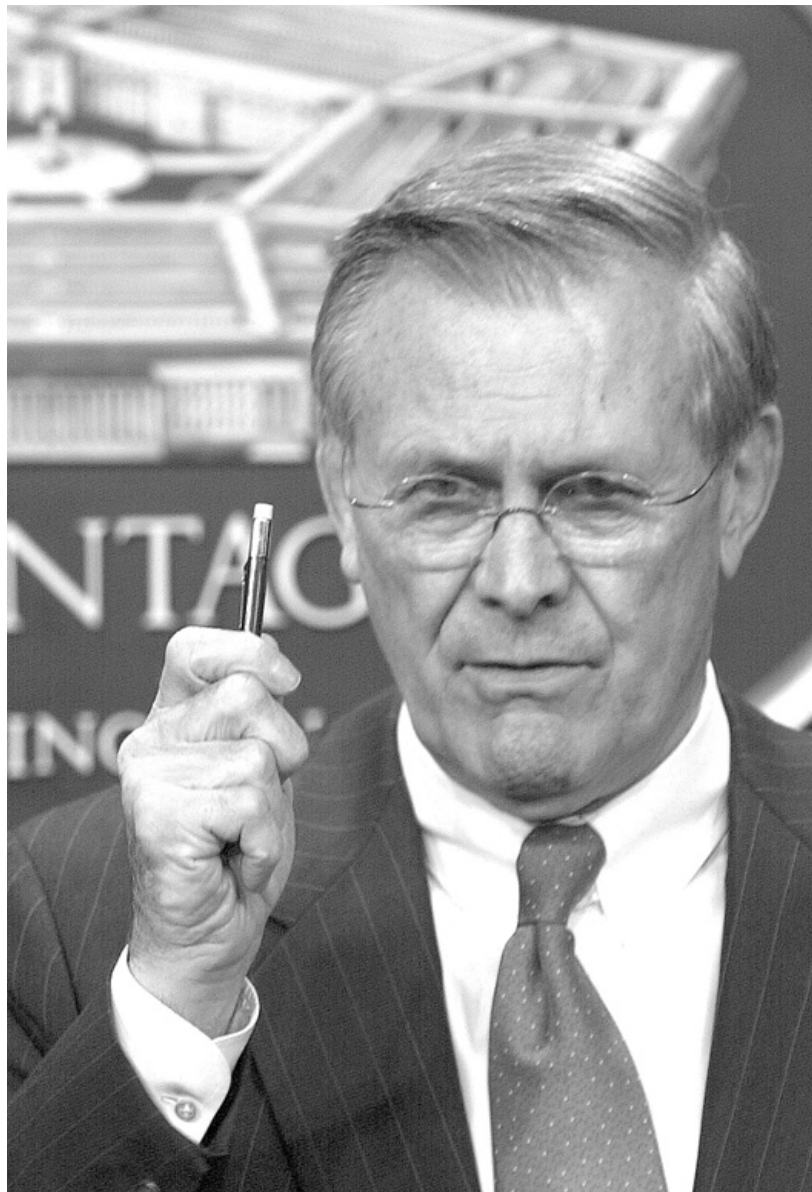
Aftergood, who has posted a trove of online information about U.S. weapons and strategic installations, deleted floor plans of nuclear weapons storage sites from his group's Web site after the attacks.

"I take the administration's actions to be mostly in good faith," Aftergood said. "There are people out there intent on killing Americans and they are trying to respond accordingly."

But the wider goal of getting out the most information remains.

"Information is power, and if you want to participate in the political process, access to information is a prerequisite," he said.

Speaking on torture



Dennis Cook/Associated Press

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld meets with reporters during his daily briefing at the Pentagon on Wednesday. Calling news reports "wrong and irresponsible," Rumsfeld denied Wednesday that officials are considering torture as a way to get information out of captured al-Qaida leader Abu Zubaydah.

Over the years, hundreds of millions of pages of government records have been released as the result of federal law, freedom-of-information lawsuits and other dogged pursuits.

Greatest hits include President Nixon's papers and tapes and records about the assassination of President Kennedy.

There are hundreds of other lesser-known examples: grand jury records in the spy case of Alger Hiss; thousands of pages from notebooks kept by Lt. Col. Oliver North of the Iran-contra scandal; documents revealing the risks of silicone breast implants; names of companies that made shoddy air bags.

Sides scrap over proposed new puppy rules

BY PHILIP BRASHER
AP Farm Writer

WASHINGTON

Hardly a whimper was heard when the Senate approved a Puppy Protection Act specifying how often dogs can be bred and how their puppies are to be treated. Happy puppies make better dogs, said backers of the rules.

The American Kennel Club is lobbying to stop them from becoming law, arguing that federal inspectors would be unleashed to poke around private homes all over the country. The group wants the rules stripped from the final version of a bill overhauling federal farm programs.

"If the people who are currently closest to dogs — breeders, veterinarians and animal behaviorists — don't have a consensus as to how is the best way to raise a dog, then how can the federal government have a way?" said AKC spokeswoman Stephanie Robinson.

The Puppy Protection Act, which the Senate passed on a voice vote, is one of several animal welfare provisions that were added to either the Senate or House versions of the farm bill, and they are all in trouble as negotiators write the final legislation. One measure would ban traf-

ficking in bear parts, while others would forbid the interstate shipment of fighting birds and stop the marketing of sick and injured livestock.

"It's real important that animals be properly socialized ..."

— LISA WEISBERG

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The Agriculture Department regulates 3,400 breeders of dogs and other animals and inspects them about once a year to ensure they meet sanitary standards and other requirements.

The Puppy Protection Act would limit how often dogs could be bred and require that puppies be properly socialized by exposure to people. There's also a three-strikes-you're-out provision that would revoke a breeder's license after a third violation.

"We're talking about establishing a safety net to pro-

tect dogs, puppies, and the consumers who care about them against the poor treatment practices of the really bad dealers," said Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill.

USDA currently regulates only breeders whose puppies are sold through pet stores. But the rules could potentially be imposed on many more breeders if animal welfare groups are successful in winning a lawsuit. A federal judge ruled last year that the department should regulate breeders who sell directly to the public as well as to stores. The case is now on appeal. There would be an exemption for people who keep fewer than four female dogs.

On its Web site, AKC urges dog breeders to contact members of Congress about the legislation, warning it could require USDA "to go into hundreds of thousands of individual homes to inspect and regulate" how breeders and even ordinary pet owners treat their dogs.

Animal welfare groups say the rules are aimed at "puppy mills" that mass-produce puppies.

"It's real important that animals be properly socialized and be able to fit within the family setting and the community," said Lisa Weisberg, a senior vice president for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



INTERNATIONAL

Afghanistan's first troops graduate from basic training

BY PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — The first 600 troops in the new Afghan army completed six weeks of basic training Wednesday, eagerly performing their skills before Prime Minister Hamid Karzai and other dignitaries.

The men — drawn from every province and ethnic group in Afghanistan — are to be the vanguard of a 68,000-strong army that Karzai says will bring an end to the “warlordism” that has kept the country mired in decades of civil war and destruction.

But making that army a reality is many months and many hundreds of millions of dollars away. On Wednesday in Geneva, Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah asked donor countries for \$422 million to rebuild the army and police. President Bush has asked Congress to approve a \$278 million package of extra aid for Afghanistan, nearly half of which will go for security. Britain, Russia, Pakistan, India, China and Iran also pledged support.

Afghanistan is also waiting for most of the \$4.5 billion pledged by international donors in January, none of which is earmarked for the army.

At Wednesday's military ceremony, Karzai said his interim administration was staying on top of the donors.

“The countries that have promised us money, they should know we're after them,” he said.

The new troops, dressed in green camouflage uniforms and green berets and armed with machine guns, demonstrated their response to a mock attack with a long burst of machine-gun fire and smoke grenades, finally apprehending the bad guys hiding in a ditch.

“Today, after many long years, we have our own national army in Afghanistan. The task before this army is to defend its country, its people, and its religion,” Karzai said as the troops stood at attention on a dusty field in Kabul. “I assure the people of Afghanistan that this national army will work in defense of their rights and their security.”

The men, many veterans of the war against Soviet occupation in the 1980s, were chosen by local governments and approved by the Defense Ministry of the fledgling administration. Because many local governments are controlled by rival warlords, one challenge is to ensure the troops remain loyal to the central government and not their former bosses.

Afghan authorities aim to create an army and air force of 68,000, a border guard and a 74,000-strong police force. But they also need to disarm at least 70,000 combatants following 23 years of war.

“We will not allow groups of armed people to call themselves armies ... in other words, no warlordism,” Karzai said.

The prime minister said he felt “a volcano of emotion” upon seeing the troops and hoped the men would be the beginning of a force that “will stand on its own feet in defending Afghanistan and in fighting terrorism and all other evils.”

French, German, Dutch, Italian, Turkish and British instructors trained the troops. The 18 nations in the International Security Assistance Force donated the equipment. American instructors are to take a lead role in training subsequent battalions, said Flight Lt. Tony

Marshall, a British spokesman for the peacekeepers.

The new troops said they were eager to be a force for stability.

Col. Ahmadullah, 35, who is in charge of 20 soldiers, said he was a shopkeeper during Taliban rule, but fought against the Soviets.

“I joined the new army so that I can defend my country,” said Ahmadullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name. “We are not trained to fight innocent people, but only to fight tyranny and terrorism.”

In other developments:

— Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California, leading a delegation of U.S. congressmen on a one-day trip to Afghanistan, called on Washington to compensate Afghans who lost family members in misdirected American bombings. The other eight congressmen on the trip emphasized what they said was a pressing need to follow up U.S. military successes in Afghanistan with economic aid.

— U.S. Ambassador Robert P. Finn presented his credentials to Karzai, pledging U.S. friendship and saying Washington looks “forward to an Afghanistan that is master in its own house, that builds a secure future for its people, and that has peaceful relations in the region.”

Dangerous dogs need insurance in Rio

By The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Pit bull owners are going to need something besides a leash when they take their dogs for a walk here — a hefty insurance policy.

Rio Mayor Cesar Maia issued a decree Tuesday requiring the owners of pit bulls and other “potentially dangerous dogs” to carry insur-

ance policies of at least \$43,000 to compensate the victims of any attack.

“The measure ... is part of a series of actions aim at alerting the owners and defending the population from these dogs,” the decree said.

The other dogs covered by the decree are: Rottweillers, Dobermans, bull terriers and filas, a Brazilian species resembling the

Great Dane.

Dog owners who do not comply with the law will be subject to fines ranging from \$86 to \$860.

Pit bull attacks are fairly common in Rio de Janeiro, where the dogs are a favorite companion of various street gangs, known generally as Pit Boys. A special police unit was inaugurated last year to monitor their activities.

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INTERNATIONAL



Israeli forces battle gunmen in Nablus

BY IBRAHIM HAZBOUN
Associated Press Writer

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Israeli tanks rolled into the West Bank's largest city, Nablus, on Wednesday and other troops laid siege to a refugee camp, battling Palestinians who barricaded entrances and fought back with bombs and guns. Soldiers also encircled Palestinian gunmen holed up in the church marking Jesus' birthplace.

Twelve Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed on the sixth day of Israel's offensive aimed at crushing Palestinian militias and stopping terror attacks on Israeli civilians.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon convened Cabinet ministers to approve the next stage of the open-ended "Operation Protective Wall." Only two major West Bank towns — Hebron and Jericho — were still under Palestinian control late Wednesday.

In the town of Ramallah, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat remained a prisoner of Israel, confined to a few rooms in his former headquarters. Raanan Gissin, a Sharon adviser, said Arafat "won't communicate (with the outside world) until ... we see he is no longer a threat and not instigating terrorism."

Arafat, who is accompanied by about 300 people, including aides, security guards and several dozen foreign volunteers, still has use of a mobile phone. Israel insists it is trying to keep him relatively comfortable.

On Wednesday, the Israeli military released a detailed list of supplies shipped to Arafat and his entourage that day, including 66 packages of yellow cheese, 55 cans of sardines, 34 cases of mineral water, 145 pounds of coffee and packages of pain killers.

In Jordan, Arafat's neurologist said his medical checkup is four months overdue, but that the 72-year-old leader seemed in good spirits when the two spoke by phone over the weekend.

President Bush repeated his support for the Israeli assault. "He understands and respects Israel's right to defend herself," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said he was weighing a meeting with Israeli and Arab leaders during a trip to Europe next week.

"My mind is open," Powell told reporters at the State Department. "We are examining all possibilities. I would not rule out meeting with anybody where it would serve a useful purpose."

U.S. special envoy Anthony Zinni remains in the region striving to implement a truce plan authored last June by CIA chief George Tenet. The U.S. Embassy hasn't released any information on his activities in recent days, and no meetings were scheduled with either Israelis or Palestinians.

But daily anti-Israeli protests in the Arab world grew more violent. Thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians clashed with security forces Wednesday outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, with at least 25 reported injured as protesters threw stones and security forces used tear gas and water cannons.

Under pressure to cut off ties completely with Israel, Egypt took a more limited step Wednesday, announcing it would suspend all diplomatic contacts with Israel except those aimed at helping the Palestinians.

In five major Palestinian towns under full Israeli control — Ramallah, Qalqiliya, Jenin, Tulkarem and Bethlehem — tanks patrolled streets, enforcing strict curfews that confined hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to their homes. In Ramallah, residents were without water after city officials said Israeli troops destroyed the main pumping station when shelling a Palestinian security compound.

The incursion into Nablus — a city of more than 100,000 people in the northern West Bank — began Wednesday evening. Shellfire thundered as tanks began rolling into the city. Gunmen and Palestinian police were moving in the streets, closing roads with sandbags and planting mines.

A Palestinian woman was killed and five people wounded, apparently when shells hit two apartments in downtown Nablus.

Fighting was heaviest Wednesday in Jenin, a militant stronghold north of Nablus that Israel has invaded six times



Albert Facelly/Associated Press

Israeli soldiers pass a demolished vehicle as they patrol a street in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Wednesday. Scores of Palestinian gunmen are hiding inside one of Christianity's holiest shrines, Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, seeking refuge from Israeli troops that invaded the city as part of an offensive aimed at crushing Palestinian militias in the West Bank.

before in the past 18 months of fighting.

Dozens of tanks entered Jenin and surrounded the adjacent refugee camp early Wednesday. Helicopters and tanks fired machine guns at gunmen who hurled grenades and fired from assault rifles. Five people, including a militia leader, a nurse and a 13-year-old boy, were killed in the fighting. An Israeli officer was also killed.

Armed men in the camp had prepared large amounts of homemade grenades and bombs and built barricades to make it harder for Israeli tanks to enter. Militiamen claimed they damaged tracks of six tanks.

Ali Safouri, a militia leader, said he and his men felt that, judging by Israel's tough sweep through Ramallah, this was their last stand. He said they were trying to make every bullet count. "We use it for sniping only, we are not shooting in all directions," Safouri said by telephone.

In biblical Bethlehem, just south of Jerusalem, Israeli and Palestinian officials failed to resolve a standoff at the Church of the Nativity, built over the site where

tradition says Jesus was born and one of Christianity's major shrines.

About 300 Palestinians, nearly all of them armed, have been holed up in the shrine since Tuesday, running from Israeli forces after hours of heavy gun battles near the church and adjacent Manger Square.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Israel did not intend to break into the church, but army officials said those inside would not be allowed to go free. Five Italian journalists and an Armenian colleague, who had been trapped in the church compound by the fighting, were evacuated Wednesday.

One of the Italian journalists, RAI TV correspondent Marc Innaro, said the gunmen "were very determined, not nervous, tired also, but not willing at all to surrender."

More than a dozen leaders of Christian churches in the Holy Land, including Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, tried to reach Bethlehem on Wednesday, but were turned away at an Israeli military checkpoint.

Crude prices jump 36 percent since February

BY BRUCE STANLEY
AP Business Writer

LONDON — U.S. crude prices have jumped by 36 percent since the beginning of February, and motorists are likely to see higher prices at the pump as the peak summer driving season approaches, energy analysts said Wednesday.

The worsening conflict between Israel and the Palestinians continues to roil world markets, although several analysts said a possible Iraqi-led oil embargo against the United States, Israel's main ally, would almost surely fail.

Crude futures prices dipped after spiking to six-month highs on Tuesday, when Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri declared in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, that Arab countries have the right to coordinate their policies to put pressure on Israel and its defenders.

Fresh data from the American Petroleum Institute showing an unexpected

buildup in U.S. inventories of oil and gasoline deflated some of the concern about a potential Iraqi disruption in crude exports.

May contracts of light, sweet U.S. crude were 19 cents lower at \$27.52 a barrel in afternoon trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In London, contracts of North Sea Brent crude were down 38 cents at \$27.28 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Ali Tahghighi, an analyst at Barclays Capital, said prices should stabilize, barring a major escalation in tensions in the Middle East — home to two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves.

"I think prices are a bit overdone right now," he said. "I don't think the possibility of a disruption justifies a continued increase like the one we've seen in the past few weeks."

As of the close of business Tuesday, U.S. crude futures had surged by 36 percent since Feb. 1.

The increase is even steeper if meas-

ured from when crude futures bottomed after the September terrorist attacks. U.S. front-month futures for light, sweet crude have ballooned from an intraday low of \$16.70 a barrel on Nov. 19 to a high Tuesday of \$28.10.

"We think the price is really too high for the fundamentals, the economic side of the argument," said Leo Drollas, chief economist at the Center for Global Energy Studies.

Taken by themselves, the physical supply and demand for oil would suggest an average price for Brent crude of \$23.50, he said. Drollas argued that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict together with uncertainty about Iraqi supplies has added "a Middle East premium" of \$3 to each barrel.

Costlier crude is filtering through to the pump. Drollas estimates that the U.S. retail price for unleaded gasoline was 20 percent higher on March 21 than for its average in February.

"The price is not as good as it was two

months ago, but it's still not going to be horrific," said Peter Gignoux, head of the petroleum desk at Salomon Smith Barney. He noted that production of gasoline has increased and that retail prices are still lower than last year.

Gignoux also scoffed at the idea that Iraq would be able to organize an effective oil embargo. Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said in Malaysia that such a boycott could work if it had backing from many oil producers.

"An Iraqi-led oil embargo just doesn't impress me at all," he said. "The 'short-termism' that we're seeing in this market — this rally — is based on a few comments by some of the world's most unreliable leaders."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer expressed a similar skepticism.

"The two states that have said something about this topic are Iran and Iraq," Fleischer said. "They have not been met with agreement anywhere in the Arab world."

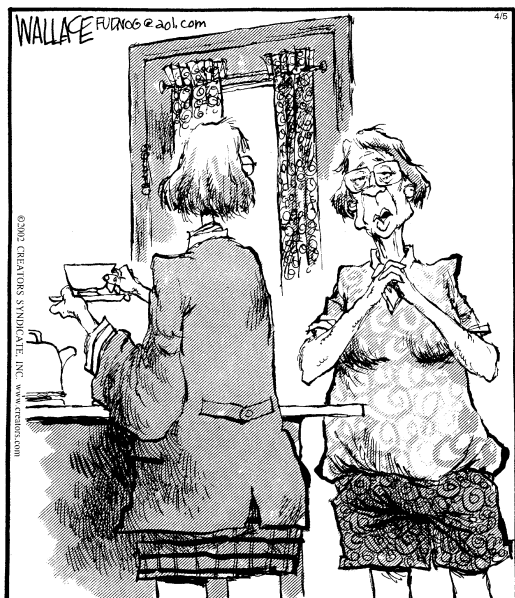


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



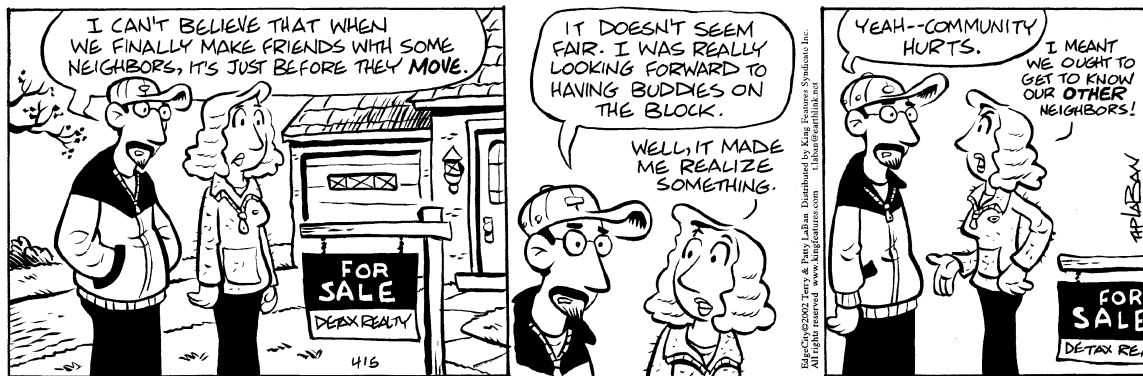
Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



"A date with a lawyer? Oh, no, Jean! What's wrong with that nice Simmons boy? He's just out on parole ... I only want the best for you, dear."



by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Singer Vaughan
 - 6 Annoys
 - 11 Waive one's rites
 - 12 Poor sport's cry
 - 13 Tree-lined walk
 - 14 Lad, in Limerick
 - 15 Toothpaste choice
 - 16 Kobe Bryant, for one
 - 18 In the past
 - 19 Actor Erwin
 - 20 Count start
 - 21 Sinister side
 - 23 Pages (through)
 - 25 Low digit
 - 27 Fast flier
 - 28 Avignon's river
 - 30 Asian chieftain
 - 33 Course need
 - 34 Bill's buddy
 - 36 Time of planning
 - 37 Experience
 - 39 Conk out
 - 40 Ingenuous
- DOWN**
- 41 Cheyenne Mountain org.
 - 43 Game leader
 - 44 Speak
 - 45 Visionaries
 - 46 Marry anew
 - 1 Action star Steven
 - 2 State without proof
 - 3 Chance
 - 4 Copy
 - 5 Cads
 - 6 1960 Elvis film
 - 7 Blue hue
 - 8 Chance

BOAR	QUILT
ELLA	SUNNED
LIEN	PAINTS
LOCKHART	
LOCKSTEP	
HOMELY	MAO
ERASE	GRASP
ASS	DAUNTS
LOCKDOWN	
LOCKNUTS	
REDINK	ETAT
URANUS	RACE
MAMET	SHOW

Yesterday's answer

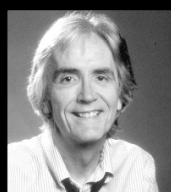
- 9 Compares
- 10 Put away
- 17 Pac.'s counter-part
- 22 Not to mention
- 24 Invite
- 26 Menu section
- 28 Give a new title to
- 29 Brain chart, for short
- 31 Take to the sky
- 32 Called for
- 33 Airs
- 35 Generous person
- 38 At any time
- 42 Iron source

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
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43						44			
45						46			

4-5

STUMPED?

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



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

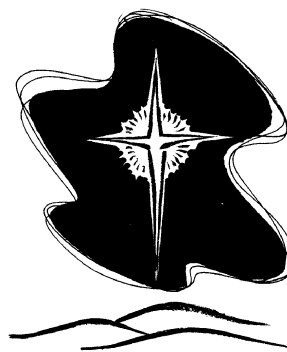
by Chuck Shepard

Disorder can cause violent acts of sex ... while you are sleeping

A Stanford University School of Medicine report in March identified a physiological disorder that causes sound-asleep people to act out rough sex, including rape. Professor Christian Guilleminault said that although the problem appears psychological on the surface, he found telltale glitches in brain waves during sleep in all of his test subjects.



"BETHLEHEM"



circa 0 A.D.
The Sacred



circa 2002 A.D.
The Profane

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

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WESTWOOD \$1675.00 Hardwood floors, walk-in closets, laundry, walk to UCLA. Westside Rentals (310) 395-RENT.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

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001 Announcements	200 For Sale	500 Vehicles for Sale
010 Meetings	250 Wanted	600 Services
020 Legal Notices	300 For Rent	650 Health/Beauty
100 Employment	400 Real Estate	



BACK PAGE



The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a man and a woman looking at each other. Overlaid on the image is a large, glowing speech bubble containing the text 'DSL'. To the right of the couple is a diagram of a network topology, showing a central node connected to several other nodes, some of which are further connected to a larger circular area.

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