

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

04, 14, 21, 28, 29

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 2, 9

Evening picks: 2, 9, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 09, Winning Spirit

2nd Place: 01, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 03, Hot Shot

Race Time: 1:45.89



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ The small Jewish Skver sect of Hasidim (New Square, N.Y.) was energized in March when a fishcutter in the sect (along with his Christian co-worker) swore they heard a 20-pound carp shout apocalyptic warnings in Hebrew. The co-worker thought the carp was merely Satanic, but Zalmen Rosen, 57, said the fish's soul was cautioning that the end is near, perhaps because of war in Iraq. Although the news spread throughout the community (aided by a feature in The New York Times), the carp itself met an inglorious end when the co-worker butchered it and sold it for gefilte fish.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The reverse side also has a reverse side.

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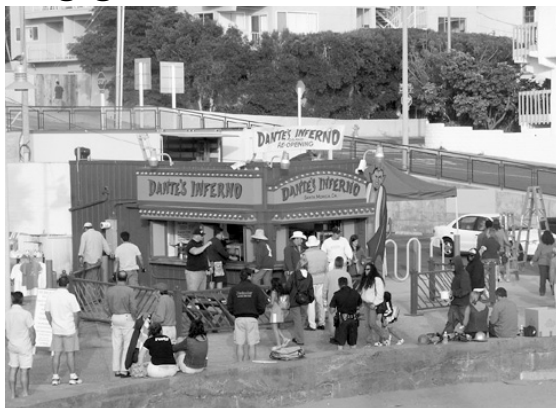
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Dog gone it



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

The Hot Dog on a Stick just south of the Santa Monica pier was temporarily refaced to film a scene of the WB television show 'The Gilmore Girls' on a recent afternoon.

School supporters to protest state cuts

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Protesters plan to march on downtown Santa Monica Saturday to show their disappointment in the state for the local school district's dismal financial situation.

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District recently issued 207 pink slips, which notifies teachers and employees that they will be laid off next year. The lay-offs account for 20 percent of the district's workforce and 97 classroom teachers.

"No business would be expect-

ed to lop off 20 percent of its workforce and still be expected to meet the same performance targets — except schools," said school superintendent John Deasy. "Even before these cuts, California was in the lowest quarter of the country in terms of per student classroom spending, even though its economy is the richest in the world. But now, it's immoral for the state of California to try to balance its budget woes on the backs of our youngest and weakest citizens."

What's been dubbed the "Pink

See CUTS, page 4

Union files charges against Four Points

Hotel accused of illegal anti-union campaign

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Labor organizers turned up the heat Thursday on a local hotel by accusing its management of mistreating employees.

The charges, which were filed with the National Labor Relations Board, claim workers at the Four Points Sheraton on Pico Boulevard have been subjected to threats, bribery and coercion from managers after a pro-union employee rally was held last week.

The union filed charges accusing the hotel's management of waging an anti-union campaign against workers hoping to organize.

"Theoretically there could be" a penalty associated with the charges, said Kurt Petersen, organizing director for the union. "But what's more likely is we'll generate community awareness."

"The day after the (rally and march) they began a really ugly and illegal anti-union campaign," Petersen added. "They give people stuff to make them think they don't need the union and they threaten people with the loss of things if the union comes in. It's a straight-out violation of the law."

Hotel officials denied the allegations, saying the Sheraton values its employees. They accused the union of putting words in the employees' mouths.

"We don't operate that way,"

"We have every indication from our employees at the Four Points Sheraton that the opinions expressed by the union are not those of our employees."

— BRENDA TSCHARNER
Sheraton spokesperson

said Brenda Tscharner, vice president of human resources for the Kor Group, which owns the Sheraton. "We have every indication from our employees at the Four Points Sheraton that the opinions expressed by the union are not those of our employees."

In its complaint, the union accuses the hotel of threatening employees with the loss of parking, free food and health insurance if unionization efforts succeed, Petersen said. If employees are unionized, they will not lose those benefits, but rather gain more, he added.

The union also accuses the hotel of circulating an anti-union petition and telling workers "you need to sign this" last week.

Petersen said a hotel manager used her influence to coerce confused workers to sign the petition.

Hotel officials wouldn't com-

See UNION, page 4

U.S. troops roll to edge of Baghdad; city power fails

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

Army forces launched a nighttime attack on Saddam International Airport just outside Baghdad on Thursday and fought running battles with Iraqis along the city's southern fringes. "A vise is closing on the regime," President Bush told cheering Marines stateside.

Some front-line units went on heightened alert against the threat of chemical weapons, ordered to wear rubber boots and suits despite temperatures that soared into the 90s.

There was fierce fighting in Kut, to the south, where desperate Iraqis armed with rifles charged tanks in a suicide raid. "We mowed down" the attackers, said Lt. Col. B.P. McCoy.

Tracer rounds lit the night sky and artillery boomed near the airport a few miles from the heart of Saddam Hussein's capital. Army units encountered little resistance along the airport road, their convoy passing dead Iraqi soldiers and piles of discarded military uniforms.

Along the city's southern edge, Army tanks and Bradley vehicles destroyed more than

seven Iraqi armored personnel carriers and more than 15 Iraqi tanks in fighting that went on for more than four hours.

Two weeks into the war, American commanders reported a string of successes — on the battlefield and within an Iraqi population initially reticent about embracing invading troops.

See WAR, page 10



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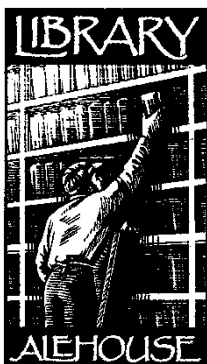
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HOROSCOPE

Happy birthday, Ann Pilcher!



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 4, 2003:

You know what you want. Be careful not to push those in authority away from you. Head in a predestined direction, understanding what your long-term goals are. Often others wonder how and why you spend your money. Remember, you don't have to explain yourself, unless you're in a partnership. If you are single, your magnetism will speak, drawing many to you. You have the pick of many. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom if you maintain common interests. Work on a cause together. TAURUS helps build your confidence.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Financial matters take precedence. You might want to investigate more of what is happening with others. You push hard to get others to accept your ideas and answers. Don't be belligerent; be open to your potential. Consider what you want. Tonight: Treat others to munchies.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Initially, your high energy might not be as focused as you would like it to be. Nevertheless, you could discover that you need a few days off to rebuild and center. You might wonder what motivates someone quite close to you. Discussions lead you in a new direction. Tonight: As you like it.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Know when to sit back and do some daydreaming. You might enjoy some downtime to complete a project that is a bit overdue. Be careful with your anger and how you express it. You want others to hear you, don't you? Take your time. Tonight: Mosey on home.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Facts from an associate could be out of sync. You might need to follow through on what needs to happen within a friendship. Don't push too hard to get things your way. Relax and understand what a friend means, rather than just listening to the words. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others look to you for confirmation, if not direction. Someone close or a work associate could be extremely confused. Understand what makes this person tick. Listen to what someone wants before you come to a snap decision. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Visualize. If need be, find an expert. You'll gain information if you allow yourself to float and enjoy. Consider what you believe to be an option. Think in terms of gaining more of what you want. Don't follow the tried and true path. Break old patterns. Tonight: Split town, if possible.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal with a loved one directly. You could find someone to be rather testy, if not difficult. You need to refrain from getting into a my fault/your fault type of situation. Remember the value of this person in your life. Work as a team. Tonight: Dinner for two.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others run with the ball, no matter what you say or do. Just roll over and get into the swing of things. You could be surprised by the outcome. Defer, as you really have very little choice. Keep discussions open and flowing. Don't close down. Tonight: Out.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You want to complete a job to your specs, which is good. Somehow, you might not find that others will do what you want and believe is necessary. Dig into work, realizing that it is Friday. Everyone needs a weekend. Roll out the door as soon as possible. Tonight: Easy does it.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might want to go more than halfway with a personal matter. Illuminate a situation with your insight and creativity. Presentation might have everything to do with the net results. Use your dynamic personality, and others will respond. Tonight: Romp on out the door.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Deal with personal and domestic matters first. Not everyone will or can agree with you. You need to think through a discussion rather than blurt out your ideas in your customary format. Ask for help and more feedback if you need it. Tonight: Head on home.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your ability to understand others comes out with a friend who could easily go into a tirade. Express what might be happening for you; don't let questions mark your conversations. The clearer you are, the more success you will gain, both personally and professionally. Tonight: Close to home, please.

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Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913

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

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Teachers of the year announced

By Daily Press staff

Four local educators have been named "Teacher of the Year" by the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District.

On May 15, the school board will recognize the teachers who were selected by their peers.

As representatives of all the teachers in the school district, the 2002-2003 Teachers of the Year possess the skills, talent, creativity and dedication to the education of children that make the local schools outstanding learning environments, school officials said.

Of the three schools that participated in the program this year, four teachers were selected. They are: Laurel Thorne of Cabrillo Elementary; Lisa Bartoli of Franklin Elementary; Susan Dilamarter of Franklin Elementary and Dr. Christine Hovest of McKinley Elementary School.

Hovest was additionally honored as Teacher of the Year. As early as third grade, Hovest knew she wanted to be a teacher. A Miller Unruh reading specialist serving kindergartners through fifth grade students at McKinley Elementary School, Hovest delivers her "I can and I will learn to read well and write well attitude" to all her students.

"I have found that showing children how to build a scaffold of new learning upon what they already know is intrinsically motivating," she said.

When asked what she considers to be the major issues in public education today, Hovest said, "For teachers, the major issue in public education today is teaching well. Today's teachers face tough challenges and must avoid getting sidetracked by media and politics. Doing our jobs well is paramount. We work with children, assuring that they acquire essential skills necessary for their futures. Simultaneously, we must continue to grow ourselves. We work hard to help students find their true academic potential and push it to the limit."

Wendy Wax, principal at McKinley Elementary School said Hovest's teaching skills help low achieving students.

"I have watched her with amazement bring children's literacy abilities up to grade level standards," Wax said. "She includes the students' parents and their teachers along the way. Christi is an exceptional educator who demonstrates high academic standards for herself, her students, and her colleagues. I could never imagine a better, more qualified teacher to represent all others as 2002-2003 Teacher of the Year."

YMCA to give kids free stuff

By Daily Press staff

Local kids can get free bicycling and skateboard grub on Saturday, courtesy of the YMCA and Kiwanis Club.

The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club and YMCA will distribute bicycle helmets, safety books, reflective stickers, and board and skate safety equipment to local children on Sat., April 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the YMCA.

Saturday is the YMCA's "Healthy Kids Day" and local police and fire department officials also will join Kiwanis club members.

The Santa Monica YMCA is located at 1332 Sixth Street.

Marathon to benefit local hospital approaches

By Daily Press staff

More than 25,000 participants including runners, Hollywood celebrities and spectators will gather at Griffith Park for the 22nd annual Jimmy Stewart Relay Marathon and Family Expo on April 13.

All of the marathon's proceeds benefit Saint John's Health Center's Child and Family Development Center in Santa Monica. Since the first race in 1982, \$7.9 million has been raised for the center.

In the relay marathon, each person runs 5.2 miles before passing the baton to a member of their five person team. Each team runs a total of 26 miles. Teams are



It was blown out Wednesday as southwest swell arrived. SW exposures showed good size Thursday for the peak, but conditions were windy and choppy.

SW swell will begin to fade today. Expect enough left over south swell to keep the points in the north working today. Breaks see less consistency than Thursday, but sets stay in the chest- to shoulder-high range, occasional head-highs at best spots. Winds remain strong.

Saturday, SW fades more dramatically, but a string of short-period northwest swell is forecast through the weekend. Surf shouldn't drop off too drastically, a couple feet at south facing breaks.

South Bay spots should average waist- to shoulder-high Saturday and Sunday. It looks like waist- to chest-high and inconsistent in the north.

Today's Tides:

Low-	4:29 a.m.	0.27'
High-	10:37 a.m.	3.72'
Low-	3:57 p.m.	1.49'
High-	10:12 p.m.	4.97'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	3-4'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	D
Topanga	3-4'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	C
Breakwater	3-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
El Porto	4-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A

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CHECK OUT PAGE 7 FOR THIS WEEKS Q-LINE RESPONSES

placed in judging categories based age, gender and corporate/industry affiliation. The marathon begins at 8 a.m. and the celebrity race begins at 10:30 a.m.

Listen to the sounds of local students tonight

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is holding a music festival today from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall at 601 Pico Boulevard.

The festivals are free and open to the public. Visitors should park at the Santa Monica Civic Center, where a "minimal" fee will be charged.

Participants include wind ensembles, bands and orchestras. Schools include Santa Monica High School, Lincoln Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, John Adams Middle School and more.



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LOCAL

State cuts leave local school district scrambling for cash

CUTS, from page 1

Slip Parade," the district's pink-slippped teachers and employees, as well as parents, students, school board members, state assembly member Fran Pavley, actors and district parents, Marg Helgenberger and Alan Rosenberg, as well as Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. and other concerned citizens, will protest the cuts and urge action to increase funding from the city and the state.

The event begins at 10 a.m. at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue. Protesters will march through Palisades Park and the Third Street Promenade.

School districts throughout California are dealing with state budget cuts to satisfy a \$35 billion deficit.

"California's public education system has been in disrepair for 20 years, since Proposition 13," Deasy said. "But in the 20 years that I have been an educator, I think this must be our darkest hour."

Many community members are concerned that the cuts will hurt the quality of education offered through the local school district.

"Santa Monica Malibu students achieve at very high levels," said Harry Keiley, president of the SMMUSD Classroom Teachers Association. "Test scores are on the rise and the dropout rate has all but been eliminated in our district. These cuts will result in the elimination of programs, larger class sizes and will ultimately compromise the quality of our schools."

While the westside school district is considered to be in an affluent area, with students coming from posh movie-star beach homes in Malibu or Santa Monica's most elite North of Montana Avenue neighborhood, the reality is much different. Four of the school district's 15 schools are "Title One," meaning that the majority of their students come from low-income families.

"Funds lost because of cuts of this magnitude cannot be replaced with bake sale proceeds," said Cheri Orgel, SMMUSD PTA Council president. "An organized parent-based fundraising effort, even in a community as relatively affluent as ours, could only provide a band-aid."

We've got an open, gaping wound here."

In June, residents will be asked to vote on Proposition S, a school funding measure that would replace just under 50 percent of the proposed state budget cuts.

Community members also are being asked to urge both the Santa Monica and Malibu city councils to double their current contribution to the schools, which would replace an additional 25 percent of lost state funds. Residents also are being asked to contact their state Legislators and demand that educational budget cuts be reduced.

SMMUSD faces at least \$13 million in budget cuts for next year. The cuts include:

■ 66 full-time classroom teachers and 25 teachers in specialized programs will be laid off.

■ Class sizes will increase to 30 students in every third grade class, at least 35 students in middle school classes and at least 37 students in high school classes.

■ The elementary music program will be eliminated.

■ Elementary school library coordinators will be laid off.

■ School nurses will be laid off.

■ 56 staff, including computer technicians, a textbook coordinator and custodians will be laid off.

■ There will be no more physical education aides and specialists.

■ Middle and high school athletic support staff positions will be eliminated.

■ Pre-school programs for low and moderate income children will be cut.

■ 12 administrators, including one principal will be laid off.

"If these cuts go through, parents are going to have to accept a lower level of service and education for their children," said Richard Bartholomeo, a member of SEIU, the union that represents district transportation, custodial and service workers. "They're going to have to accept the fact that if the money's not there, their kids won't have the education they'll need to compete for jobs when they grow up."

Hotel and union officials in discussions about employees

UNION, from page 1

ment on the allegation.

Petersen also said the hotel granted benefits to workers to dissuade them from supporting the union drive. Within 24 hours of last week's rally, Petersen said the bell staff received raises and other perks they had been demanding for years.

"It's the classic carrot and stick approach," he said.

The Kor Group, which owns and operates the Sheraton along with the Viceroy and several other hotels, said it would not respond to the allegations until it was officially served with the charges.

"It is not our practice to litigate cases in the newspaper," said Tscharnier, who added that the hotel was currently in discussions with the union. "At the end of the day it's up to the employees to choose whether or not they want unionization."

Employees at last week's rally said the problems at the Sheraton are particularly

acute because the upscale Viceroy, located on Ocean Avenue just south of Colorado Boulevard, already is unionized. They claim the workers at the Viceroy make more money and receive more benefits because they are unionized.

About 100 hotel employees and activists delivered a message to the hotel's management during last week's rally that they won't give up their fight to give workers better conditions and benefits in their jobs.

Petersen said many employees from different departments at the Sheraton have signed affidavits and are willing to testify to the alleged illegal behavior.

"We're prepared to have a card check election tomorrow," he added.

Under the card check system, hotels must recognize a union as the bargaining unit for its workers if a majority of the employees sign cards saying the union represents them.

REAL ESTATE



What you need to know about retrofitting



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

Seismic retrofitting is a structural strengthening process designed to minimize earthquake damage to your home.

"Santa Monica takes a very proactive stance and looks after the safety of their citizens," notes Manuel Mendizabal, plan check supervisor and structural engineer with the City of Santa Monica Building and Safety Division. "We're trying to make the city as safe as we can with our retrofit requirements."

Since the Northridge Earthquake nearly 10 years ago, Santa Monica has issued a variety of mandatory (you receive a notice from the city) and voluntary retrofitting requirements for structures around town. Let us present the basic concepts of earthquake damage and how to prevent it.

Prior to 1938, the majority of residences were built to withstand one type of force — gravity.

The most damaging components of earthquake forces are from side-to-side, producing what engineers call a lateral load. When dealing with conventional wood framed residential structures, there are three basic types of earthquake-induced lateral problems — sliding failure, cripple wall failure and shear failure — thus there are three different needs in seismic reinforcement.

"Anything that's slide safety related is important, there is no degree of importance," observes Mendizabal. "Every retrofit is important."

■ Ground motion can send a house sliding off its foundation — this is called sliding failure. Sliding failures can usually be prevented by foundation bolts and framing anchors. Many homes built before 1938 may have deficient or nonexistent foundation bolts.

■ Cripple walls are short walls that connect your foundation to your floor base.

They are common construction in older wood-frame houses. To better resist seismic forces, tie together all the foundation's components — including the beams, posts and piers. A cheap fix can be plywood reinforcement on the inside face of the cripple-wall studs to provide increased strength.

■ Under the influence of earthquake forces, your foundation begins oscillating before your roof even starts to move. The result is that the top and bottom edges of

your house's walls shear, or move horizontally past each other. Shear failure produces characteristic diagonal or X-shaped cracks in plaster, stucco and concrete.

"Anything that's slide safety related is important, there is no degree of importance. Every retrofit is important."

— MANUEL MENDIZABA
Structural engineer

■ Many homes, as well as commercial and apartment buildings, have what is called a "soft story" condition — the rooms above a garage, carport, or porch area were designed to transmit shear or lateral forces to the story above. Without soft story retrofitting an entire structure can collapse during an earthquake.

"These forms of failure are because of the weak lower portion of the building," Mendizabal said.

Soft story condition was the primary cause of loss of life in the Northridge Earthquake.

In Santa Monica, all commercial soft story buildings have been required to have a retrofit to comply with the Uniform Building Code.

"The city is involved with so many retrofitting projects," Mendizabal said. "We have soft story projects, unenforced masonry buildings, concrete frame buildings, parking structures..."

A final reason to think about retrofitting: In 1998, the "Natural Hazard Disclosure Law" went into effect in California. When you are selling your home, this requires you to disclose to the buyer any "material facts" that could affect (1) the value of the property, (2) the ability to develop, or (3) the safety of the occupants. Potential earthquake hazards — lack of bolting, existence of cripple walls with no shear paneling, improperly strapped hot water heaters, soft story issues — all must be disclosed "to protect public health and safety in accordance with the provisions of Public Resources Code, Section 2690."

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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 are 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 multi-million 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

The Promenade's problems

Editor:

So the Bayside Board (SMDP, March 31) doesn't know what is wrong with the Promenade. Where shall I start. I have lived in Santa Monica almost all of my 71 years. I remember when it was Third Street with cars parking into the curb and no parking meters. We had the mom and pop stores, we knew the owners and they knew their customers. And they appreciated their customers. This is also the way Montana Avenue used to be. And the help was helpful and friendly. Now it's like they're doing

us a favor just being there to ring up any purchase we might make. I have asked others what they think of the Promenade and most answer with the homeless problem and that it is dirty and stinks.

I don't know what board member Patricia Hoffman was looking at when she visited The Grove. I am next to that location daily at the original farmers market where I have a small job. There isn't one time you can go to The Grove and not find it clean and with plenty of helpful, friendly and immaculately dressed security personnel. For her to say she finds The Grove unpleasant is beyond imagination. The Grove has become a "meeting place." For her to say they can't compete with the Promenade is ridiculous. Where could you go shopping in Santa Monica and have a clean grassy area where your kids can let off steam next to a large pond with dancing waters and music? I don't know of one. And while we're talking comparisons, how about the restrooms on or near the Promenade? At The Grove on the first level of the parking structure, the restrooms are immaculate and the ladies room even has an attendant. And speaking of parking, you can go to a movie at The Grove and park for \$2 for four hours with a validation. This gives you enough time to wander over to the farmers market and have a meal. And Santa Monica is increasing the parking meters to \$1 per hour. Give me a break.

I am so glad they don't have the funds to rebuild Santa Monica Place. Can you imagine what that would have done to traffic in Santa Monica? It is terrible already what with all they have done with the one lane (each direction) boulevards and traffic slowing devices.

I love the City of Santa Monica and want to see it improve. My three children went to school at Franklin, Lincoln and Samohi, but I am glad they grew up when everything was so much safer here. I don't know the cure, but I think it should start with ridding us of the homeless problem. How much do we spend catering to them?

Barbara Barnard
Santa Monica

Thanks for the laugh

Editor:

I did as suggested in the Daily Planet's Q-Line (April 1) and called myself up to find out how I was. I learned that thanks to the long-sustained laughter evoked by the Planet, my health is 500 percent improved (as you know, medical science has shown conclusively that laughter heals). Thank you very much.

Frances Dean Smith
Santa Monica

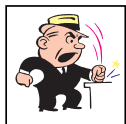
Landmarks hypocrisy

Editor:

Did I actually hear right? Did Jim Rosenfeld, owner of the Aero and a landmarks commissioner, actually say that sometimes voluntary preservation is better? That he

See LETTERS, page 7

Six ways to disarm a babbling, evil troglodyte



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

Every day, many of us differ with the establishment on a variety of subjects.

Some of us complain about things such as the overzealous meter maids, our vagrant population, traffic, parking, public safety and other esoteric issues.

Weighty issues affecting the community's future also generate debate, such as who and how to financially support our schools or how much money to spend on a new city library.

What happens when the city, schools or other civic entity does something you don't agree with?

There's a couple things you can do. Write a letter, phone or e-mail. Air your grievances. Keep in mind that you are most likely raising issues about an approved system, policy or situation that is firmly in place. So there's a good chance, at best, you will be looked upon with suspicion or, at worst, as a trouble maker.

If you're really piqued, write a letter to the editor. Going public upsets their apple

cart. The target of your complaint will circle the wagons and institute a well-rehearsed scenario to deal with you and your rhetoric.

Reaction No. 1: Deny, deny, deny! Example: "The speed bumps on 20th Street are too high." Response: "Oh, No. They're built exactly to correct specifications." They insist they're right and it's you that's wrong. They might offer to "check into it." Of course, nothing is done and hopefully, you'll forget about it. In cityspeak, this is "ignore and conquer."

Reaction No. 2: Your complaint is very unusual. Example: "Inebriated vagrants are always hanging out at 14th and Wilshire." Their response: "Nobody else has complained about this kind of thing, that's something new." They want you to think that you are the only person who has a problem with this. In cityspeak, this is "isolate and conquer."

Reaction No. 3: You don't understand. Example: "The city's affordable housing doesn't go to Santa Monica in need." Their response is, "You don't understand the situation" or "You've got your facts wrong" and "You've been misinformed." They'll try to convince you are unable to grasp such a complicated issue and then they'll cast doubts on your credibility. In

cityspeak, this is "confuse and conquer."

You're still complaining and now others are supporting you. "They" feel threatened and "they" have strategies for dealing with this situation.

Reaction No. 4: The co-opt. If you'll change your mind, stop complaining and get with the program. You could be appointed to a city commission, task force or advisory committee. In cityspeak, this is "buy 'em and conquer."

Reaction No. 5: Roll out a public relations campaign. Counter the (now multiple) complaints. Examples: Distribute success stories about how city-sponsored social programs have gotten homeless off the streets or how dividing Santa Monica High School into six separate units will make for a better educational experience. In cityspeak, this is "propaganda conquers all."

Reaction No. 6: You're an official "Enemy of the People." You're evil, trailer trash, loose cannon, brigand, deranged or a drooling, babbling moron. Example: Hotels owners are "Taliban" enslavers of low wage employees.

Landlords are nasty money grubbers. Those opposing the new school tax proposal are ignorant, vile, devils incarnate who hate children. In cityspeak, this is "insult and conquer."

I especially love it when the establishment sets out to get a person who disagrees with them. Unfortunately, this kind of reaction is becoming routine in a community that prides itself on its liberalism, diversity and tolerance. In a sophisticated, urban city where a high percentage of residents are intelligent, well educated and supposedly open minded, the intolerance and vilification apparently applies to persons whose agenda is far more important and correct than mine.

Last fall, when Measure EE, the first school parcel tax proposal, was voted down, some of us who opposed the tax were viciously and personally battered by some of the most respected and upstanding leaders in the community simply because we dared to disagree with the way the district wanted to raise money.

Airing opinions, including unpopular ones, is important to a well functioning, democratic society and if something is good, right and correct, it will ultimately prevail.

In sunny Santa Monica, altruism is often cast aside by those out to preserve their power at any cost and promulgate their personal agendas without encumbrances.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident.)

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

was against landmarking the 1939 art deco movie house because it would add a layer of bureaucracy deterring potential renters?

Isn't that the argument for Proposition A which he and the Landmark Commission viciously and deceptively rallied against? Rosenfeld, along with Genser, Lehrer and any other Landmarks Commissioner who supports his position should resign immediately and join the Bush administration where hypocrisy is admired and appreciated.

Ed Silverstein
Santa Monica

April fool's edition a joke

Editor:

I fell off my chair laughing. And then called everyone I knew to run out and get a copy. Plus, it is so gratifying to read that I made it JUST under the line, by getting a parking ticket LAST Saturday (in front of my own house, while I was getting my hair cut on Main Street) so it will set me back a mere \$ 28. (The part about upping the fines behind closed doors, because "such an important issue (had to be) dealt with privately" — absolutely priceless!)

P.S. Hard to top last year's Ferris Wheel spinning into the Pacific, but that was mere fun, this is too too TRUE.

Renee Montagne
Santa Monica

April fools edition hit 'em all

Editor:

I laughed out loud. I laughed out loud at every article. I laughed out loud at practically every paragraph. What a fun thing you guys did! I thought the tanker story was true until reading the phrase "those who love the smell of gasoline" which caused me to look at the byline. Boss Furry Cow? I never even noticed the SM Daily Planet name. The bay, the homeless, the Promenade, the schools, living wage, parking, deficits, regulations, the horoscope, classifieds, you hit them all! What a wonderful gift to your readers who probably not before (like me) have ever taken the effort to tell you how much we enjoy the Daily Press! My husband picks it up each day on his way home from the gym but sometimes it's late in the evening before I finish the crossword. I love your paper! Darn! While I was writing this, I got a parking ticket and I laughed out loud!

Helen Hackworth
Santa Monica

Clarity on Aero story

Editor:

In reference to John Wood's article on the Aero Theater (SMDP, April 2, 2003) I think it is important to note that to the best of my recollection, the last time that the Landmarks Commission discussed the Aero was about a year ago. At that time Mr. Rosenfeld was not a member of the commission nor was there any reason to believe

that he would be in the future. Mr. Rosenfeld was only recently appointed to fill the Real Estate Licensee position vacated by Commissioner Bolton.

Roger Genser
Chair ProTem
SM Landmarks Commission

Promenade: Cesspool of humanity

Editor:

Holy mother of God. Let me get this straight regarding the Monday, March 31 SMDP issue.

Ms. Patricia Hoffman, Bayside board member, says she isn't impressed with the Promenade's so-called competitors and she believes downtown offers something different. I agree. It isn't just anywhere you can see a homeless man taking a dump on a tree within full view of passers-by and even those trying to eat.

Care for a little dessert with your meal, Ms. Hoffman?

Ms. Hoffman, did you hear John Warfel's comments? How is this acceptable to you? Tell me.

She goes on to say that the Promenade's other quirky features prevent it from becoming completely sterile. As a citizen of Santa Monica, I welcome sterility at the current cesspool of humanity you call the Promenade. I would embrace a little bit of sterility, if homeless people evacuating their bowels, in public, along your main shopping district is "quirky" behavior to you. One is left to wonder what could possibly be "quirkier," in your mind. A man on fire? Two miserable, dirty, smelling homeless people having sex in public ... or would you consider that "performance art?"

And you have the audacity to proclaim you find The Grove and Pasadena as "unpleasant" and non-competitors? Have you lost all semblance of your mind ma'am? What planet do you reside on where you "can't imagine they compete with" your beloved Promenade?

Pull your head out of your arse and believe this: They DO compete with the Promenade and do it quite well. I can assure you, they are getting all of my shopping/dining dollars on a regular basis, just for the simple reason that I don't have to be "blessed" with your idea of "quirkiness" while I eat/shop. And you know what? There are plenty more just like me. Just ask the merchants in the Promenade.

I have asked this before, and I'll ask it yet again.

At what point will this city and Bayside District stand up and force the miserable homeless to seek out their remaining miserable existence somewhere else?

When local businesses suffer? No.

When the city has an abundance of empty buildings for rent downtown? Nahhh...

How about when the locals shout that something be done? Nope ... not yet.

What about when it's a health issue? Apparently not.

What about when they consistently drive away your tax base, day in and day out to other areas of the surrounding cities and towns, while contributing nothing and holding their collective hands out for yet more? Nope, not quite yet.

The city and the Bayside District has to be able to see the direct correlation by this point. One truly wonders when they will decide to act. Your citizens are (still) waiting.

Greg Thomas
Santa Monica

The Q-Line

Smokers fuming over new law

Here are your responses to this week's Q-Line question: "Is the smoking ban in parks a good law, a bad law or a waste of time and money?"

■ "I personally think the smoking ban is a ridiculous law. As a smoker for seven years I find it almost offensive that I can't enjoy a good cigarette in the park because parents are not watching their children long enough to see if they are going to eat my discarded butts. As far as second hand smoke goes, do you forget we live in Southern California, people?"

■ "No I don't think the smoking ban is necessary. I think it's a waste of time and money. It's not going to be enforced. I don't know why they made a law. Take a look at the feeding in the parks and sleeping on the sidewalks. The police department does not enforce the laws in Santa Monica."

■ "I think the people on the City Council who voted to ban smoking in parks must have an IQ of 15. I don't smoke, but I don't think they should take away the privilege of those who do. The park is a place to relax. If you can't relax there then why go. This is a very stupid idea."

■ "How dare they! What's next? A crack down on us homeless people using public bathrooms instead of the carefully manicured park grounds. The city better watch it or me and my buddies are going to pack up and move to another city where our presence is wanted."

■ "I'm a smoker. I take my kids to the beach every week. If I can't smoke on the beach, I'm not going to go. It belongs to the people, not the persons on the City Council."

■ "The manufacturers of tobacco related products certainly derive more benefits from the production of those products than the user. Former President James Earl Carter, and Surgeon General Coop stated that 500,000 people in the United States die each year from the residual effects of smoking. The cigarette package states it can cause cancer. Still those with a death wish continue to smoke. Those who do not smoke should be protected from those who do and do not care where they blow their smoke and discard their cigarette butts that are often thrown on the ground. They are cigarette drug addicts and are hooked, really hooked."

■ "Just when are the police going to be able to enforce this law? Don't they have enough to do besides hiding behind trees waiting for someone to light a cigarette and then give them a ticket? Remember, we get a lot of Japanese tourists. The first thing they do when they get out of the bus is light a cigarette. That's if we get any tourists. You know there are lots of other things

that could be done in this town rather than raising parking rates and purchase taxes. Come on! Let's try and clean up downtown."

■ "The smoking ban law is certainly a very bad law as well as being very stupid and should not be enacted."

■ "Smoking outside is not the same as smoking inside. The wind blows the smoke around. When you smoke inside it's more concentrated. As far as kids picking up cigarette butts and eating them ... the city should supply ashtrays. We have enough bans as it is."

■ "A smoking ban in the parks is a step in the right direction. It never killed anyone to quit smoking."

■ "I think the new law is an example of do-gooding gone berserk. I notice that the people on the left want to ban tobacco smoking and the people on the right want to ban pot smoking. Can't any one ever have any fun anymore?"

■ "I think the smoking ban in parks is a good law. I'm not quite sure how it's going to be enforced. I hope it is enforced. I would like to see smoking banned in public for the entire planet if it was possible. Perhaps people would just be smoking in a little room somewhere. That could be provided throughout the land."



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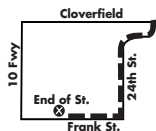
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State tourism drags as war in Iraq continues

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Jennifer Hill and her fiancé, all set for a honeymoon in Paris, have decided to swap baguettes on the Left Bank for a Wayne Newton concert in Las Vegas because of the war in Iraq.

They'll still have Paris after Saturday's nuptials — but it will be the Paris hotel in Las Vegas.

"I don't care if it's half the size, we're going to see an Eiffel tower," said Hill, the 33-year-old owner of a communications firm in Austin, Texas.

Tourism experts say more and more Americans are having second thoughts about traveling too far from home, a trend expected to worsen if the war drags on.

"We're starting to see long-term overseas fliers kind of pulling in their horns and going for domestic or safer locations," said Stan Morse, owner of Marstan Travel in Millbrook, N.Y. "We think domestic fliers have trended toward driving vacations. It's a cascading effect that has been going on for a while."

Already reeling from the 2001 terrorist attacks and a global economic slump, airlines are facing even tougher times as war dominates the news.

Domestic air travel bookings for the next 60 to 90 days have fallen by 20 percent, while international bookings for the same period are down by 40 percent, according to the Air Transport Association trade group.

The industry's latest jolt is the worldwide scare posed by severe acute respiratory syndrome, the mysterious illness first reported in Asia that has spread to a number of other countries, including the United States. Just this week, for example, the illness prompted Intel Corp. to pull out of shows in China and Taiwan.

"With all the disasters that have befallen us — 9-11, Iraq and now SARS — it's a terrific problem," said Gary Wilson, chairman of Northwest Airlines. "We're trying to conserve as much cash as we can under the theory that the last man standing is going to survive."

Airlines and hotels are reporting cancellations as tour operators scramble to find alternatives for jittery travelers. Meanwhile, vacation spots that rely on drive-in traffic expect to be busier in the coming months.

Ken and Maria Garrison of Schenectady, N.Y., were set to celebrate their 25th anniversary on a 10-day trip to Italy with their 21-year-old daughter, Kelly. He canceled the night before their planned March 21 departure after seeing televised reports showing thousands of protesters at the airport in Rome and other Italian cities.

"We're not going to go there with a camera strapped around our neck," Ken Garrison said.

Instead, he and his wife spent two nights at an inn in Vermont. They lost \$5,300 by canceling their Italy trip, but Garrison said it was the right move.

For Hill, the decision to change honeymoon plans "was sealed when we started seeing protests in Paris."

"With the 'Yankee go home' signs, there's just a general feeling of unease," she said. "You don't need that kind of feeling on your honeymoon."

Analysts said the impact on tourism will be devastating if the war drags into summer, typically the busiest travel season.

**"With all the disasters
 that have befallen us —
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 going to survive."**

— GARY WILSON

Chairman of Northwest Airlines

"I think we're going to see a falloff initially," said Bjorn Hanson, lodging industry consultant at PriceWaterhouseCoopers. "I think we'll see less falloff as time goes on unless there is bad news, such as some kind of retribution against American interests, that causes people to worry about their personal safety or being stranded or delays at airports."

Hanson sampled hotels in major cities recently and found more than 20 percent of reservations for arrival in the upcoming seven days had been canceled. Cancellations continue to outpace bookings in those cities, he said.

Some people are taking advantage of bargains and relaxed cancellation policies to ditch costly reservations made months ago.

"The values now are tremendous," said Bob Diener, president of Hotels.com. "We have so many four-star hotels right around \$100 a night in most major cities."

Attractions such as the Disney resorts in California and Florida have dropped print and broadcast advertising during the war. California also pulled ads it had been running in eight Western states.

Attendance at spring break festivities in Daytona, Fla., was off by 5 percent to 10 percent, especially in recent weeks as some young people were called to active duty in the National Guard, officials said. Those who stayed were more subdued.

The war also is affecting the travel plans of Canadians, some of whom who have canceled overseas trips in favor of sites closer to home. But at Signature Vacations, a tour operator in Toronto, business remains brisk.

"There's something about shoveling 3 feet of snow that makes people want to sit under a palm tree," spokeswoman Martha Chapman said.

In the meantime, Americans seem to be heading to small inns and state and national parks closer to home, much like after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"With all the uncertainty, people just want to cocoon with their family, friends and possessions," said Alice Vargas, a spokeswoman for San Francisco's popular Pier 39.

NATIONAL



Cash-strapped states consider boosting beer tax

BY DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — With cash tight and bills looming, legislators around the country are turning to neighborhood pubs to help

them down their woes: At least 19 states are considering plans to boost beer taxes.

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell has proposed one of the heftiest hikes, a plan that would raise the tax on a gallon of beer for the first time since 1947, from 8 cents to a

quarter. It would add 14 cents to the cost of an average six pack and raise \$55 million.

The proposal was met with good-natured boos and catcalls when Rendell unveiled it in a speech to the Legislature last month, but he isn't the only one looking to alcohol to close a budget gap.

Utah lawmakers have passed a bill to raise the beer tax from \$11 per barrel to \$12.80, while Idaho is considering more than doubling its tax to a nickel per can. Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn wants to temporarily increase the state beer tax from 9 cents to 17 cents per gallon, and Arkansas lawmakers voted to renew a 3 percent tax hike on beer, passed two years ago to aid child education programs.

The proposals have generated loud complaints from brewers who say their products are already heavily taxed.

"For us to eat half a buck a case would be very difficult for us at this stage of the game," said David Casinelli, spokesman for the D.G. Yuengling & Son brewery. "It seems like every time the state needs money, they come to alcohol or tobacco, and, frankly, it's not fair."

Yuengling sells about 850,000 barrels of beer a year in Pennsylvania, Casinelli said. Based on those sales figures, the proposed tax hike would cost the brewer \$4.5 million.

Rep. Phil English, R-Pa., who has been fighting for a reduction in the \$18-per-barrel federal beer tax, said brewers will simply pass the cost to customers.

"It is typically working families who will use beer, and they are going to be the ones stuck paying this tax," English said. "The governor's rich Philadelphia donors go home and have a scotch. Why shouldn't their taxes be raised?"

At least 23 states have considered raising beer taxes in the past two years, but only a handful of proposals have passed, according to The Beer Institute, an industry lobbying group.

Wyoming lawmakers shot down a proposal to raise their 2-cent beer tax, the

lowest in the nation, in January. Ohio rejected an increase in February.

"It is typically working families who will use beer, and they are going to be the ones stuck paying this tax."

The governor's rich Philadelphia donors go home and have a scotch. Why shouldn't their taxes be raised?"

— REP. PHIL ENGLISH
R-Pa.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest, a group that has pushed for tax hikes on alcohol nationwide, said it hopes cash-strapped states will soon find beer tax hikes easier to swallow.

"Raising taxes on alcoholic beverages to deal with a budget deficit is a political, economic and public health no-brainer," said George Hacker, director of the center's Alcohol Policies Project. "These taxes generally haven't been raised for years and years. They target primarily heavy drinkers."

A poll this year by the University of Wyoming asked residents of that state what types of taxes lawmakers should raise first, if a tax increase was unavoidable. A vast majority chose cigarettes and alcohol.

Infinity Broadcasting fined for lewd Detroit broadcast

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government proposed a \$27,500 fine against one of the nation's largest radio companies Thursday for a show in Detroit that included what one regulator called "some of the most vulgar and disgusting indecency" he had ever heard.

New York-based Infinity Broadcasting Operations Inc. has 30 days to either pay the fine or appeal it. Spokesman Dana McClintock said the company was preparing a response but wouldn't say whether the fine would be paid.

The Federal Communications Commission vote on the fine was 4-1, with the dissenting commissioner saying the penalty should have been worse and raising the possibility of license revocation.

The FCC began investigating the Detroit talk radio station WKRK-FM last year after it received a complaint about a "Deminiski & Doyle" show that aired the afternoon of Jan. 9, 2002.

On the show, the two hosts took calls from nine listeners who described sexual positions in explicit detail. Several callers also joked about acts of violence against women.

"I was saying no children are to be listening to this next segment or so and ladies you probably don't wanna hear

this ... either 'cause this is really foul," one of the hosts warned as the segment began, according to an FCC transcript.

The "Deminiski & Doyle" show is still a regular feature on WKRK-FM.

The proposed fine is the maximum the FCC can levy for broadcasting indecent material between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. The commission frequently proposes penalties, but stations are rarely fined the maximum amount, a spokesman said.

Commissioner Michael Copps, a Democrat who was appointed to the FCC by President Bush in 2001, was the dissenting vote. Copps called the commission's action "a slap on the wrist" and said he wanted to hold hearings to determine whether WKRK-FM's license should be revoked.

The FCC said it could revoke licenses for Infinity or WKRK-FM if there are further violations.

Infinity has been fined repeatedly in the past. It settled a series of FCC cases in 1995 for \$1.5 million, Copps said. It also owns the New York station on which two shock jocks encouraged listeners to have sex in church last summer. The FCC has not yet taken action in that case, but the station fired those men.

Infinity owns 185 stations, including six in Detroit.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bush gets standing O



Pablo Martinez Monsivais/Associated Press
President Bush receives a standing ovation as he is introduced before delivering remarks to a crowd of Marines and their families at Camp Lejeune, N.C., on Thursday. Bush will meet with families of Marines killed in action during a private visit at Chapel Annex. Approximately 17,500 troops have been deployed from Camp Lejeune in the past six months, according to Camp Lejeune Public Affairs.

Cigarettes seller strolls along convoy



Julie Jacobson/Associated Press
An Iraqi boy walks up the road trying to sell cigarettes to Marines passing by in a convoy heading north toward Baghdad on Thursday in central Iraq. Marines holding the area said it was the first time in several days that local residents had ventured from their homes.

Marines carry their own



Julie Jacobson/Associated Press
United States Marines carry a wounded Marine to a helicopter for evacuation after two convoys headed in opposite directions collided on a road south of Baghdad on Thursday in central Iraq.

WHO officials try to find origin of mystery illness

BY AUDRA ANG
Associated Press Writer

GUANGZHOU, China — A team of international scientists landed Thursday in this city just west of Hong Kong and set to work hunting clues to the origins of a fatal flu-like illness as the worldwide death toll rose.

Officials in Guangdong province on China's southern coast gave the World Health Organization team figures indicating that fewer people in the hard-hit region are getting sick from severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, said Chris Powell, a spokesman for the team.

The investigators, who expect to stay in the provincial capital of Guangzhou until Tuesday, planned to talk to doctors and visit hospitals and the nearby town where the first case of SARS was reported in November.

"This is a virological mystery that needs to be solved," Powell said. "There are still new cases — which is very sad — but the number of cases from what we've seen is going down."

The investigators were closeted all afternoon with provincial health officials, who provided a battery of data, including "very detailed information" about people in Guangdong who got SARS, how they got sick and what kind of treatment they received, Powell said.

The Chinese moves toward openness come after foreign criticism of the communist government's reluctance to release information about SARS.

The illness has killed at least 80 people in Asia and Canada — 46 of them in mainland China — and sickened at least 2,200 in more than a dozen nations as infected travelers board planes and reach other continents in hours.

In the United States, there were 85 suspected cases in 27 states. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said they now have a test to better diagnose the disease.

Health authorities in Toronto said Thursday they believed a seventh person had died from SARS, but they had not confirmed the cause of death. A cancer research conference expected to draw

15,000 to Canada's largest city was canceled for fear oncologists might spread SARS to their already weakened cancer patients.

In Singapore, health authorities said a 78-year-old woman had died, raising the island nation's death toll from SARS to five. A 56-year-old man died in Hong Kong, bringing its toll to 17.

WHO reported a new case in Vietnam, which believed it had the disease under control. Hong Kong, which has become something of a masked city, extended an emergency school closure to April 22.

In Guangzhou, the WHO team planned to meet Friday with local disease-control officials, Powell said. The team is made up of doctors who work in the United States, Wales, Germany and Bangladesh.

"There are many, many steps before you figure out where a disease started," he said. "What's important now is we have a flow of information."

Powell said the numbers given by Guangdong health authorities seemed sound — a delicate issue given the increasing international criticism that China's response to SARS has been sluggish.

"The WHO is not a police force. We can't bang the table and say: 'Do this, do that,'" he said. But he added that WHO has "no reason to doubt the figures that are conveyed to us."

State newspapers moved to assure the Chinese public the government had the situation under control, running front-page articles Thursday on a Cabinet meeting led by Premier Wen Jiabao that reviewed efforts to combat the outbreak. The same newspapers until now carried minimal coverage of the disease.

"The epidemic has been brought under control," said a dispatch by the official Xinhua News Agency that appeared in the mass-market Beijing Daily, the Communist Party's People's Daily and other newspapers.

At a news conference in Beijing, Health Minister Zhang Wenkang insisted it was "safe to live in China." He implored people who canceled travel to China to reconsider — contradicting a WHO advisory to avoid Guangdong.

Battlefield setbacks result in wounded and dead soldiers

WAR, from page 1

Kurdish fighters in the north chipped in, when a top leader suggested they may agree not to seek control of the northern city of Kirkuk.

Despite declarations that tough fighting lies ahead, the nation's top military official indicated there may not be an all-out battle for Baghdad. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested isolating members of the old regime in the capital — cut off from the country — with an "interim administration" in place to begin work on a post-war government.

There were battlefield setbacks, as well. An Army soldier investigating a destroyed tank in central Iraq was killed by friendly fire when he was mistaken for an Iraqi, the military said. Two Marines were killed and one injured in the close-

quarters fighting in Kut. The Navy mounted a search for a pilot missing since his Hornet jet was lost to unknown causes on Wednesday.

The toll of American troops dead passed 50, and Bush visited Camp Lejeune, N.C., which has lost 13 — more than any other installation.

Iraq issued the latest in a series of exhortations to Saddam's name. "Fight them with your hands. God will disgrace them," it said, referring to invading American and British troops.

But the daily urgings seemed increasingly at odds with the military situation across the country, and Myers said Saddam had lost control of 45 percent of Iraq's territory.

SPORTS



A closer look at the Final Four teams

BY JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

NEW ORLEANS — What chance does a Final Four rookie coach have to win it all? Does a team with three freshmen in the rotation really have a shot at the national title? Can a star carry his team alone on the season's final weekend?

These questions and another 1,000 or so will be answered with three games in the Louisiana Superdome, starting with the national semifinals Saturday: Marquette vs. Kansas and Syracuse vs. Texas.

In the days leading up to the games, questions about matchups, defenses and experience dominate the college basketball world. Maybe there's an answer or two in this closer look at the Final Four: Marquette vs. Kansas

UP FRONT: Marquette's marquee big man is senior Robert Jackson. The 6-foot-10, 260-pound forward/center was second on the team in scoring (15.4) and led it in rebounding (7.5) in his only season since transferring from Mississippi State.

Kansas' Nick Collison has been one of the nation's top big men in his four-year career with the Jayhawks. The 6-9, 255-pound forward led the team with 18.6 points and 9.6 rebounds, a number even more impressive because he didn't get help from forward Wayne Simien, who missed most of the season with a shoulder injury.

In the bulk matchup up front, Jackson will go against 6-9 Jeff Graves, whose weight loss was as closely followed early in the season as the team's won-loss record. (He started the season listed at 275 pounds.)

Both big men are coming off tremendous performances. Jackson scored 24 points and had 15 rebounds against Kentucky, and Graves had 13 points and 15 rebounds in the regional final against Arizona. As is often the case with big men, foul trouble could be the key.

Scott Merritt will be the player who has to chase Collison, who can run the floor as well as any big man in recent times. This matchup could be where Marquette's deeper bench comes into play.

BACKCOURT: Dwyane Wade's triple-double in the win over Kentucky turned him into the star of stars entering the Final Four. Consider this: In wins over Pittsburgh and Kentucky — two of the best defensive teams in the country — Wade had 51 points, 14 rebounds and 15 assists. Playmaker Travis Diener averages 5.7 assists and can hit from long range. He had consecutive games with five 3-pointers in the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament.

Kirk Hinrich has had an up-and-down NCAA tournament, but his 28 points in the regional final against Arizona helped pick up a foul-troubled Collison. Speedy sophomores Keith Langford and Aaron Miles make the Jayhawks one of the best transition teams in the country.

BENCH: Both teams play seven-man rotations for the most part, but Marquette's bench has been more of a factor with freshman Steve Novak providing offense from the outside.

COACHING: Roy Williams put Kansas in the Final Four for the fourth time, and he is still looking for his first title. Tom Crean is in the Final Four as a head coach for the first time, but as Williams did with North Carolina, Crean picked up some experience in the final weekend as an assistant (Michigan State).

INTANGIBLES: You can't think of

Marquette being this close to a national title without thinking of Al McGuire, one of the sport's true characters. He led the team to the championship in 1977 in his last game as a coach. A lot of people wearing blue and gold on Saturday will swear McGuire will have something to do with the outcome.

Kansas has the most Final Four experience. The Jayhawks are back for a second straight year and Collison and Hinrich will be playing in their 15th NCAA tournament game. The players will also have to deal with the constant talk about their coach possibly moving to North Carolina.

WINNER: Experience on the court and in front of the bench should be the difference for Kansas in a game where both sides of the scoreboard will probably be in the 80s.

TEXAS VS. SYRACUSE

UP FRONT: Syracuse freshman Carmelo Anthony is one of the toughest matchups in the country because of his ability to go inside or outside, hitting 3-pointers at a 32 percent clip. He averaged 22 points and 9.6 rebounds this season. Hakim Warrick, whose averages are up to 15.0 points and 8.7 rebounds, is almost as athletic as Anthony, while the middle will be manned by 7-footer Craig Forth or shotblocker Jeremy McNeil.

James Thomas handles things inside for the Longhorns with averages of 11.1 in scoring and rebounding, and forward Brad Buckman is second in rebounding at 5.4 a game.

BACKCOURT: Texas' three-guard lineup is what makes the Longhorns go, and they do in the open court. T.J. Ford averages 15.1 points, 7.5 assists and a bundle of big plays, while Brandon Mouton and Royal Ivey combined to average better than 20 points.

Senior Kueth Duany and freshman Gerry McNamara averaged double figures for the Orangemen, with McNamara the team's 3-point threat.

BENCH: Texas is the deepest team at the Final Four. Ten players average 10 minutes a game and seven average 6.3 points or more.

Syracuse got strong play in the tournament from its reserves, especially McNeil defensively in the middle and freshman guard Billy Edelin, who is second in scoring in the tournament to Anthony, with a 12.3 average.

COACHING: Jim Boeheim has not only been to the Final Four before, he's been to the Final Four in New Orleans before. The Orangemen lost to Indiana in the 1987 championship game in the Superdome. Like Crean, Rick Barnes is coaching in the Final Four for the first time.

INTANGIBLES: Texas hasn't been to the Final Four since 1947, and the Longhorns were the only No. 1 seed to get this far. Syracuse, which has never won it all, plays a 2-3 zone defense that has made the Orangemen a tough opponent, especially for those teams that don't see much zone in their conferences.

WINNER: Even though Texas will have had a few extra days to prepare for the zone defense, Syracuse is so good at it that it should be the difference. Anthony and his fellow freshmen have gone deeper in the tournament than young players are supposed to.

Sosa gets tagged



Kathy Willens/Associated Press

Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa (21) is tagged out at the plate on teammate Moises Alou's third inning double by New York Mets catcher Vance Wilson, who replaced the suspended Mike Piazza on Thursday, at Shea Stadium in New York.

Howland vows to return UCLA to past glory

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Ben Howland knows he will never be another John Wooden. He still wants to try.

Howland took over as UCLA coach Thursday, leaving behind a Pittsburgh program he took to national prominence for a chance to lead the Bruins, whom he idolized growing up in Santa Barbara.

"It's so exciting," he said. "It's a dream I've realized."

The 45-year-old Howland becomes the eighth coach at UCLA since Wooden retired in 1975 after leading the Bruins to 10 NCAA championships in a 12-year span.

UCLA has won only one title since Wooden retired, under Jim Harrick in 1995.

"I really embrace and revel in the history and tradition of this program," Howland said. "John Wooden and UCLA basketball are synonymous. He's the greatest, not only because of the national championships he helped win, but equally importantly, the way he conducted the program in such class and dignity."

Howland signed a seven-year contract with a base guarantee of \$900,000-plus per year. It includes bonuses for graduation rate, being selected national coach of the year, reaching the Final Four and winning national and Pac-10 Conference titles that could push his salary over \$1 million.

UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero said Howland and the university will jointly pay a \$750,000 buyout of his Pitt contract.

"The bottom line is we got our man," Guerrero said. "We expect big things from this hire, and no more than what Ben expects."

Howland will try to rebuild the battered Bruins, just as he led Pitt from Big East doormat to national championship contender in four years.

"We have a lot of work to do," he said. "This is not an overnight project."

Howland has a 168-99 record in nine years as a head coach — five at Northern Arizona and four at Pitt. The Panthers reached the final 16 of the NCAA tournament the last two years.

He will run a UCLA program coming off its first losing season in 55 years. Steve Lavin was fired March 17 after the Bruins went 10-19, ending their string of 14 consecutive NCAA tournament appearances.

"I don't know a lot about them as players or as kids yet," said Howland, who met with his new team for 30 minutes Thursday. "It's a clean slate for everyone in the program."

Howland planned to fly to the Final Four in New Orleans with his 15-year-old son later Thursday, then go to Pittsburgh on Sunday to meet with his former players before flying to Los Angeles on Monday to meet individually with the Bruins.

"I saw the eyes of the players. They were sitting on the edges of their seats and they were all making eye contact," Guerrero said. "To a person, I would say they all bought in."

Howland can begin recruiting next Tuesday; however, all 13 of UCLA's scholarships are committed for next season.

"The No. 1 thing in recruiting is players in your own area. There's not a more fertile ground for players than right here in Southern California," he said. "We've got to get back doing a great job of evaluating and attracting that talent."

Howland said he would meet with the 92-year-old Wooden at the Final Four.

"He's a living legend," he said. "He's a role model for me. Basketball players want to be like Mike (Jordan). Coaches want to be like Wooden. But understand there's only one and there will never be another John Wooden."

The day after Pitt lost to Marquette in the third round of the NCAA tournament, Howland had a friend contact Guerrero.

"I knew right away what I wanted to do, which was to pursue this opportunity,"

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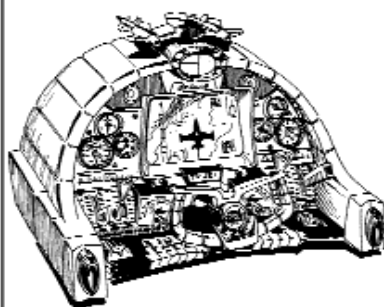
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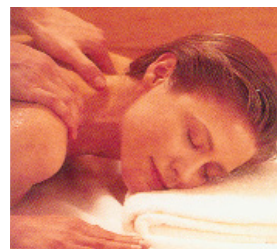
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it...thanks!" Nina Stewart, San-
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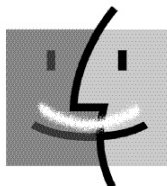
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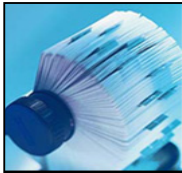
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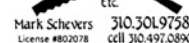
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SANTA MONICA SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2003

COMMUNITY

"WOMEN IN TRANSITION" weekly support group forming for women 55 and older. Fridays, 2pm to 3:30pm. Learn to cope with life transitions and develop skills for living with change. Pre-registration required. Call (310)576-2550, ext. 217. Center for Healthy Aging, 1527 4th Street, Santa Monica.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

SENSA (5 DOLLA' FRIDAYS) at SUGAR! Resident DJs Liza Richardson, Raul Campos, Valida, and Kasey Goto throwin' down it's-all-about-the-music-booty-shakin'-deep-bangin'-house-grooves. 10pm to 2am, 814 Broadway, cross street Lincoln Blvd. Only \$5. (310)899-1989.

RUSTY'S SURF RANCH, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceiling are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970s surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386, Friday - Battle of the bands; call for lineup.

TEMPLE BAR, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. This candlelit lounge fosters a community atmosphere. Kitchen features a full menu. Cover \$10-\$3. Full bar. Over 21. Friday: Wylde Bunch, OO Soul, Lizz Fields, DJ Haul. (310)393-6611.

THEATER / ARTS

THE SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE presents "Two Grandmothers from Brooklyn: The Musical!" An evening of sophisticated song and dance. ONE NIGHT ONLY! Tonight at 8pm, 1211 Fourth St. (between Wilshire & Arizona) Tickets are \$20.00 to \$40.00 (or more) Donation a Save the Playhouse benefit production. Reservations are necessary. Call (310)394-9779 ext. 1 or visit SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

MAGICOPOLIS PRESENTS HOCUS FOCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

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)49-1444.

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



Who's the fool now?

By The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An April Fool's Day joke backfired on a clothing store clerk after she called her manager at home and said the store was being robbed at gunpoint.

When Sitra Walker, 22, called back a few minutes later to shout, "April fools!" her manager had already dialed 911.

Four police cruisers raced to the store.

Police weren't laughing when they learned it was a prank.

Walker was arrested for inducing panic, a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

She also was fired.

The manager, Summer Hunt, said Walker had worked at the store for about two weeks.

Man loses job, wins lottery

By The Associated Press

FITCHBURG, Mass. — A day after losing his job,

Michael Maxim got a surprise that should make unemployment easier to bear: a \$1 million lottery win.

Maxim purchased a \$5 scratch ticket Saturday, the day after he accepted a voluntary layoff from the Fitchburg Parks Department in hopes of sparing a coworker's job, he said.

"I had to look at the ticket five or six times," Maxim said. "I was just waiting for it to change in front of my eyes."

The \$1 million prize — \$34,000 annually for 20 years after taxes — will be his last time playing the lottery, Maxim said.

"Once you hit that big, you stop," he said. "I am done."

Maxim said he intends to keep working after a move to Largo, Fla., where his wife and two kids had planned to move after his layoff and before his big lottery hit.

His one splurge? An all expenses paid vacation he promised his mother if he ever hit it big.

"I'm sending my Mom to sunny Hawaii," he said.

Women give chase to truck thief

By The Associated Press

FITCHBURG, Mass. — Kathy Spaulding thought the truck she and her sister passed on Route 12 looked awfully familiar.

The duct tape on the back window confirmed her suspicion.

With some quick thinking and a little nerve, the two women Monday tracked down the truck and confronted the alleged thief when he tried to get away.

After Spaulding spotted the 1990 Ford Ranger, which had been stolen on Sunday, her sister, Janice Young, immediately began following it.

"I didn't give it a thought until after we did it," Young said.

They followed the truck for about five minutes to a Melrose Street address, parked behind it and called police. Before help arrived, the thief came out of the house.

Spaulding leapt out to confront him. "I said 'Do you know whose it is? It's my daughter's, and it's stolen, so get out of here!'"

The man grabbed a few belongings out of the truck and fled on foot. Police have yet to arrest the suspect, who was picked out of a photo lineup by Spaulding.

Spaulding's daughter, Lorie, said she's proud of her mother and aunt.

"I asked the two of them if they wanted to be Cagney or Lacey," she said.

Owner goes on robbery stake out

By The Associated Press

HASTINGS, Neb. — Tom Peterson decided to do something about the break-ins at the restaurant he co-owns.

Peterson said he sat in Mama Rosey's office Tuesday night waiting for someone to rob the place.

When two people came into the restaurant after it had closed, he called police and a scuffle began, Peterson said.

That lasted long enough for police to arrive and catch the would-be robbers as they ran out, he said.

Three men — two 17-year-olds and an 18-year-old — were arrested early Wednesday morning.

Less than \$600 and an undetermined amount of alcohol were taken in the two earlier burglaries, Police Capt. Steve Murphy said.

The three suspects were being held on burglary charges.

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