

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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The right frame of mind



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Workers help set a load of frames on to a truck at the city's new public facility site behind City Hall this week.

Landmark status for civic center at stake

Council to debate whether civic center is historic

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

At least one elected official doesn't think the 55-year-old civic center should be considered a landmark as one city commission has suggested.

Councilman Herb Katz's has appealed the city's landmark commission that designated the Santa Monica Civic Center Auditorium as a historic landmark. The issue will be debated by the Santa Monica City Council Tuesday.

City officials want to bestow landmark status on the auditorium for its unique architecture and for hosting significant cultural events throughout its history.

But Katz believes the auditorium is an antiquated theater badly in need of a complete renovation, lacking in both architectural significance and character.

Landmark officials say the building does have a unique architectural style, which was designed by a well-known local architect, and has acoustics designed by a famous UCLA dean.

The auditorium once hosted the Academy Awards and over

the years, many famous musical acts played to cheering fans. Recently the auditorium has been out of commission.

"It's an icon. It's a building that by anyone's definition is a landmark," said Ruthann Lehrer, a landmarks commissioner. "Either by its design or by the events that have occurred there, this is a very special building."

City staff, after studying the building's history and getting

"We can do much better today. We know a lot more about acoustics and sound than we did in the 1950s and we could drastically improve the building."

— HERB KATZ
Santa Monica City Councilman

an independent analysis, are recommending the city preserve the building's exterior as well as the lobbies, the wood paneling, and the main hall.

But Katz said just because

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SMC playwright goes national

Work will be showcased in Washington, D.C.

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica College playwright has made it to the big time.

Johnathan Payne's work has been chosen from a pool of 360

college plays to appear at what has been dubbed the "Rose Bowl of College Theater."

Payne's play "Slavery" has been selected to appear at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. from April 15-21 — an accomplishment that has launched many professional playwrights' careers.

Of the 11 plays chosen, Payne also has won the John Cauble Short Play Award, which will professionally publish and distribute his play, and give him \$1,000.

The hour-long play is based on the real lives of seven slaves interviewed in the 1930s when an obscure Great Depression-era program assigned writers to document the lives of former slaves.

After each character delivers a powerful monologue about the hardships endured under slavery, they sing an African American spiritual emphasizing their pain and suffering.

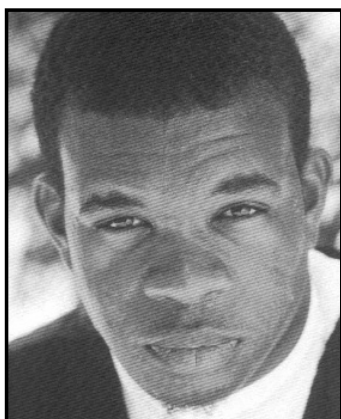
"We all know that slavery was this bad, horrible thing and the play can get really heavy," said Payne, 22. "The trick is to find

the lighter moments and stress those too. We wanted the audience to understand these people's lives but we also wanted them leave on a positive note."

The play is performed by six black theater arts SMC students, as well as Payne. It traces slaves being sold on the auctioning block to when they were freed by President Abraham Lincoln.

His college theater advisors,

See PLAY, page 3



SMC playwright Jonathan Payne.

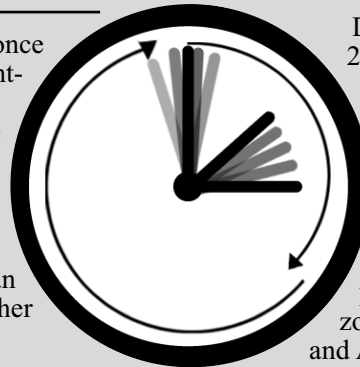
Time to set the clock ahead

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's time once again to spring forward to daylight-saving time.

For most of the nation, the official change occurs at 2 a.m. Sunday, although most probably will change their clocks before hitting the sack Saturday night.

Folks who forget will be an hour late for church, work or other events Sunday.



Daylight-saving time lasts until Oct. 27.

Safety officials suggest the annual ritual also is a good time to change batteries in smoke detectors to ensure they will work if needed.

Some parts of the country don't observe daylight-saving time. Those include Arizona, Hawaii, the part of Indiana in the Eastern time zone, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

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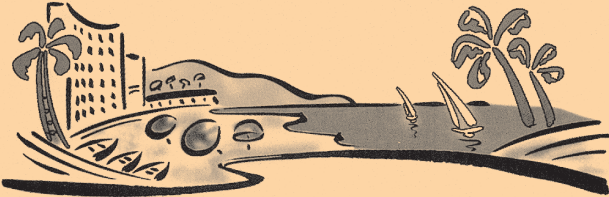
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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ A friendship inspires you to do something quite different, even if you feel a bit awkward. You make anything possible in this frame of mind. Try a new sport or perfect your abilities in a present one. When you both relax, you can have a "serious" talk. Tonight: The party could go on and on.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Tension builds only because you dream of fun and frolic, and someone has plans that are less than jovial for you. Clear out what you must. Another might not want to understand your "excuses." He or she simply wants you! Tonight: Accept a compliment.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ If you can remember last night's dream, you will get a clue about what you need to do today. Something you have been wanting to do or say should not be postponed any longer. Another clearly is receptive to your feedback. Tonight: Listen to the music.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ What might seem to be an extravagant offer from a friend might be a way of asking for more of a relationship. Be sensitive to this person's dance, knowing what is going on. Decide what you want before anything significant occurs. Tonight: Have an open discussion.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ It's your pleasure to have your plans confused and changed by a certain "someone." A friend could be depressed by your reversal. Your creativity comes out in a discussion. Think twice about a wild idea before you launch into it. Tonight: Let someone into your world.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Has there been something you have been considering doing? Instead of postponing it one more time, do it now. You'll feel a lot better about yourself as a result. Walk through a door and take a risk with a close associate. Tonight: Make it an early night.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You're full of fun and games, as if you were a kid again. Enjoy your day with a loved one, even if it means postponing a trip! You can't do everything all at once, though you frequently try to! Maintain your balance through humor. Tonight: Be with the one you love.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Center on home and family. By indulging those who make up a substantial part of your life, you add more comfort and easiness. Consider a long-desired purchase, anywhere from a swimming pool to perhaps painting a room. Tonight: You don't need to go far.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Trust your sixth sense, it will lead you down the correct path. You naturally seem in tune to delighting others. A partner or associate might need more attention than you're giving him or her. Express your caring to those close to you. Tonight: Gab away with favorite people at a favorite spot.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ What you see as a sure bet, someone else views as a walking disaster. Stop and take in other points of view. Test out your ideas; be willing to solidify them. Take a nap if need be later in the day. Fatigue can even hit the Goat! Tonight: Order in.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Sometimes others find you to be inspired and able to think outside the box. Congratulate yourself on your fast thinking and your ability to break through restrictions. Visualize what you want from others, with full expectations of receiving in return. Tonight: Deal with a touchy family member.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Don't feel as if you always have to be active and in tune to the moment. Take a day or two off. Slow down, knowing your innate limits and needs. Others can cover for you right now. Turn on a favorite piece of music. Read a book. Veg out with some TV. Tonight: Just don't push.

QUOTE of the DAY

"I take my children everywhere, but they always find their way back home."
— Robert Orben

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LOCAL



'Slavery' designed to be performed in small venues

PLAY, from page 1

Adrianne Harrop and Terrin Adair-Lynch, brought the idea of writing a play based on the interviews to Payne and helped him with the research and the writing.

"It was very comfortable in a sense, having two advisors involved in helping me with this," he said. "They were very supportive and kept me structured."

Payne wrote the piece in about three months, and intended it to be performed in small theaters where actors can easily interact with the crowd. Though he didn't know the size of the Kennedy Center Theater, he thought the play is better suited for smaller venues.

"We speak directly to the audience and we try to address them personally," Payne said. "In a smaller the-

"The trick is to find the lighter moments and stress those too. We wanted the audience to understand these people's lives but we also wanted them leave on a positive note."

— JONATHAN PAYNE
SMC playwright

ater the actors can really reach the audience."

The entire cast will fly to Washington, D.C. next week to perform the piece and attend seminars led by professional writers and performers.

Payne, who has never set foot outside of California, said he is looking forward to the trip and seeing the

Capitol.

"I just hope there is some time to get a little sight-seeing in," he said. "I hear there might be some interesting things to see there."

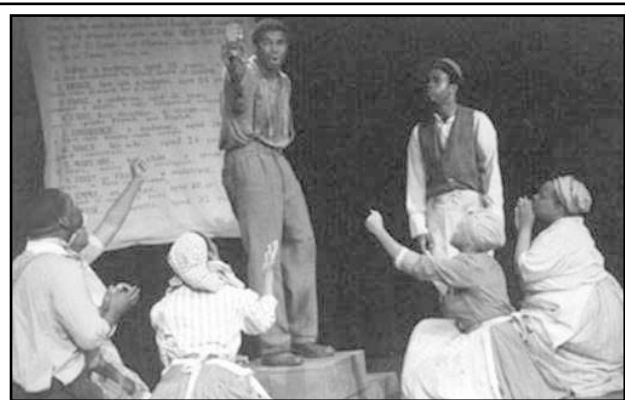


Photo courtesy of Santa Monica College
Joel Perry, center, sings 'Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child' after delivering a monologue about being sold at a slavery auction. Jonathan Payne stands, right, as other actors wait their turn to be sold to the highest bidder.

Payne, who is very soft-spoken and accents his speech with an almost nervous laugh, has commuted by bus — he doesn't own a car — from his apartment in the Fairfax District of Los Angeles to the SMC campus for the past two years.

He attended a public high school in West Los Angeles where he said he fell madly in love with a girl, but he couldn't get her to agree to a date. To see her more often, he said he joined the school's theater group that she was involved in and auditioned for the school play to impress her.

But as Payne became more involved with the theater group, he said the girl became less important, until acting

and writing consumed his time.

"I guess it's a pretty stupid reason," Payne said, "but that's the only reason I got involved with theater at all — to impress a girl."

Payne said he'll use the prize money to pay off his credit card debt and use any royalties from his play to attend performing arts school. On Friday he was auditioning for talent scouts sent from The Guilford School of Acting in England.

But Payne said the most interesting aspect of being published would be to see another theater group perform his play.

"That would be the ultimate," he said, "to see how someone else interprets your own work."

Pioneer television producer Huggins dead at age 87

By The Associated Press

SANTA MONICA — Roy Huggins, the writer, creator and producer of such television shows as "The Fugitive," "The Rockford Files" and "Maverick," has died. He was 87.

Huggins died Wednesday of heart failure. A memorial service will be held Saturday morning at St. Martin of Tours church.

A pioneer in development of filmed TV episodes, Huggins joined Warner Bros. in its early efforts to get into the booming television business, which at the time was broadcast live. "Cheyenne," "Colt 45" and "77 Sunset Strip" were among his successful series.

In 1962, he joined Universal Television and served as executive producer on the TV series "The Virginian." He was the creative force behind many more series including "Run For Your Life" and "Alias Smith and Jones."

Earlier, he worked at Columbia Pictures as a writer and director of feature films, including "Too Late for Tears" in 1949 and 1952's "Hangman's Knot," starring Randolph Scott and Donna Reed.

He formed an association with Stephen Cannell while at Universal and it led to their co-creating and producing both "The Rockford Files" and "Baretta." In the summer of 1985, Cannell brought Huggins out of retirement to take over a new series, "Hunter."

During a half-century entertainment career, Huggins wrote 350 scripts for television and film, many of them under the pseudonym "John Thomas James" after the names of three of his sons.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, former actress Adele Mara; three sons; and a son and daughter from his first marriage.

Some want to preserve auditorium

LANDMARK, from page 1

the building is old doesn't mean it's historic. That's why he appealed the November decision of the landmark's commission.

"We can do much better today. We know a lot more about acoustics and sound than we did in the 1950s and we could drastically improve the building," Katz said. "Parts of the front of the building are impressive, but the rest of the building is really just a box."

Katz also pointed out that the city is in the process of redesigning the entire civic center as part of a \$120 million plan and preserving the auditorium could interfere with those plans.

City staff members say the landmark designation would not interfere with plans to renovate the civic center area.

"Changes would have to be analyzed on a case by case basis. The city is looking to the future and enhancing the functionality of the auditorium as well as the economic stability of the building," said city senior planner Kimberly Christensen. "Yes, in some instances there would be a higher threshold in design sensitivity, but that doesn't mean long term plans for the area are impossible."

Officials say assigning landmark status to the auditorium would still allow the building to be renovated, and additional costs would be minimal.

"It does not prevent changes. It only manages how they are done," said Lehrer. "They need to be respectfully done and consistent with existing architectural features, but certainly change is a dynamic in an urban environment and landmark status would take that into account."

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Santa Monica's Daily Calendar



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STATE

MGM says it will keep firm Arthur Andersen

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer will ask its shareholders next month to rehire beleaguered accounting firm Arthur Andersen LLP as the company's auditor.

MGM said it had reviewed the legal charges brought against Andersen for its role in the accounting problems experienced by bankrupt Enron Corp. and was satisfied that the firm, which has served as MGM's auditor since 1957, would be able to render objective services to the movie studio.

The company also will retain the right to replace Andersen if the board of directors decides circumstances require it, MGM said in its proxy statement filed Thursday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

A federal grand jury indicted Andersen on an obstruction of justice charge last

month, accusing the accounting firm of destroying documents relating to the Enron case.

MGM also reported in its proxy statement that compensation to its chairman and chief executive officer, Alex Yamenidjian, declined 5.2 percent in 2001.

Yemenidjian was paid \$3.7 million last year, including his \$2.5 million salary and a \$1.2 million bonus.

Chris McGurk, vice chairman and chief operating officer, received \$3.1 million in 2001, compared with \$3.2 million the year before.

The company said the bonuses paid to its top executives were based on the success of its film slate and reaching certain financial goals.

MGM had a mixed year at the box office, scoring with films such as "Hannibal" and "Legally Blonde," but also producing its share of flops, including "What's the Worst that Could Happen?"

Four California rail routes still at 'high risk,' Amtrak warns

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Amtrak officials warned Friday that California's four long-distance routes remain at "high risk" despite signs of help from Congress as it seeks to secure \$1.2 billion in federal funding.

In a letter to Gov. Gray Davis and his counterparts in the 45 other states served by Amtrak, railroad President George Warrington said that 18 long-distance routes may be discontinued in October.

Among them are the Sunset Limited, California Zephyr, Southwest Chief and Coast Starlight. The four are the lone long-distance passenger rail routes that connect California with the rest of the nation. At least one of them, the Southwest Chief, has been established as a route since the 1920s.

Warrington wrote that Amtrak is encouraged by the response of lawmakers to the beleaguered railroad's plight, but that it must prepare for the possibility it will not have enough money to maintain its current routes. Other, shorter routes are also at risk.

"We're just dealing with reality here. You can't run service without funds. This is an effort to give the governors an update to where we are," said Elizabeth O'Donoghue, a spokeswoman in Amtrak's western regional office in Oakland.

The Coast Starlight, a daily train that connects Los Angeles and Seattle, carries

500,000 passengers a year, or more than any other of Amtrak's long-distance routes.

Pierre Bagley, a film producer and director, was dismayed to learn of the potential cuts. The 48-year-old rides Amtrak two to three times a week between his home in San Diego and Los Angeles, and was planning to take the Starlight north next month with his wife.

"I would hate to see this happen, because it limits the options. I would really be distressed," Bagley said Friday as he prepared to return home from Los Angeles' Union Station.

Jeff Morales, director of the state Department of Transportation, said California's focus will be on its three intercity routes.

Each year, about 3.5 million passengers use those increasingly popular routes, which are underwritten by the state. Just 1.2 million ride the long-distance routes, a number that is slipping.

"On a relative basis, it's a very minor impact," Morales said of the potential loss of the longer routes.

Jack Kyser, the chief economist at the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp., echoed that viewpoint.

"It would have a modest impact on tourism, because most of the visitors to California either fly or drive," Kyser said. "If those four lines went away, you would have more of an impact on people living along the route who use this as basic transportation."

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STATE



Family found dead



San Jose Mercury News
Santa Clara police personnel who have been gathering evidence stand outside a Santa Clara, Calif., home where a family of four was found dead on Thursday. Police were investigating the incident as a murder-suicide. The bodies of a 38-year-old man, a 42-year-old woman and two girls, ages 12 and 4, were found about 12:30 p.m.

Anglers divided over the impact of no fishing zones

BY LEON DROUIN KEITH
 Associated Press Writer

LONG BEACH — Debate over the impact — both economic and scientific — of placing no fishing zones around Channel Islands National Park divided a color-coded crowd appearing before the Fish and Game Commission on Thursday.

Sports fishermen in red T-shirts cast the proposed marine protected areas as an economically devastating restriction that would do the fish little good.

"We're for conservation ... we're just not for the idea that if you shut down this area then everything's going to be all right," said fisherman Fred Hollander of Santa Monica.

Blue-shirted environmentalists called the plan an "insurance policy" critical to restoring the fisheries off the coast of Santa Barbara to their glory days.

"Forty years ago we used to see great big fish, now we see little tiny fish," said Steve Strand, director of the Ocean Discovery Center at the University of California, Los Angeles.

State officials are considering no fishing zones not only for Channel Islands but throughout the state. The commission is scheduled to vote in August on the reserves surrounding Channel Islands National Park, while a decision on a statewide plan isn't expected until next year.

Declining species, including rockfish and abalone, have fueled calls by environmental groups and many biologists to establish the reserves. But on Thursday, the American Sport Fishing Association issued a report from University of South Alabama biologist Robert Shipp that con-

tends reserves would be a poor tool for managing California fisheries.

Many species would not benefit from reserves because they migrate in and out of the areas, Shipp said, adding that most overfished species in the area already have management plans in place.

Environmentalists said Shipp minimized the problem. His report cited federal statistics saying that only 8 percent of the nation's fish species are being overfished, but neglected to say that the health of more than two-thirds of the nation's species is unknown.

Sport fishermen said they would support far smaller reserves and wouldn't mind more traditional forms of regulation, but don't want to be completely shut out of their favorite fishing spots.

"They're picking on one user group, and we're the user group that actually pays to keep these fish going" through fishing licenses, said Sal Vallone, who runs a bait-and-tackle shop in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley.

The economic damage the reserves would create is in great dispute. Economists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration contend the loss of commercial and sport fishing would cost the area \$13.8 million a year, but an economic analysis sponsored by sport fishing groups estimates losses several times that.

The difference is that the sport fishing analysis estimates that Californians would buy fewer boats and fishing gear with the restrictions.

Fish and Game economist Terry Tillman doubted those estimates, saying "Nobody is just buying a boat to fish in a locale in the Channel Islands."

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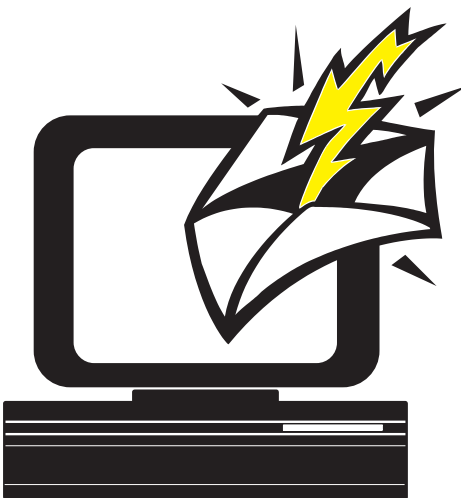
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NATIONAL

Squeegee goes to the Smithsonian

BY RON VAMPLE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — It's just a squeegee, but it's going to the Smithsonian Institution. And what a story goes with it.

Window washer Jan Demczur was on a break, getting a cup of coffee when the first hijacked plane slammed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, trapping him and five other men on an elevator at the 50th floor.

When they managed to pry open the elevator doors, instead of an exit they found a wall. Demczur used the blade of his squeegee to carve a hole through which they could crawl. It took 45 long minutes, then the men raced down a stairwell and got out five minutes before the tower collapsed.

"It was pretty lucky I was a window cleaner and had my tools with me," the 48-year-old Polish immigrant said Friday. "It's something I'll remember all my life."

"People call me a hero, I'm lucky to be alive," he said. "A hero is people who give their life in New York, here in Washington or in Pennsylvania."

Demczur has been cleaning windows for 14 years but he has not scrubbed one since the attacks. He said he is dealing with the trauma by spending more time with his wife, Nadia, and their two children. He does not know when he will return to work, but promises it will not be at any skyscraper.

Meanwhile, his trusted squeegee is now a part of history.

"This is evidence of survival," said David Shayt, curator of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. "No one had a knife but they had an unexpected means of escape."

Demczur said he thought about keeping it, but Shayt told him that donating it would mean up to 6 million visitors would see it every year.

"It was pretty lucky I was a window cleaner and had my tools with me,"

— JAN DEMCZUR
WTC window washer

"He said 'people are going to see how you were fighting for life ... the way you saved yourself,'" Demczur said.

Other items Demczur donated include the tool's leather handle, a soot-covered, blue janitorial uniform and a pair of brown, dusty boots.

The museum has not decided where or how the items will be displayed.

Investigators seize 19 bodies in Miami crematorium

BY TAL ABBADY
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — State officials seized 19 bodies at an illegal crematorium Friday and arrested the operator, who is already under investigation for a scheme in which mortuary students allegedly embalmed corpses without the consent of family members.

Investigators with the state Department of Business and Professional Regulations found the bodies at Oakwood Cremation Services in Miami. Officials said one body was being incinerated when they arrived.

Police arrested Joseph Damiano, 65, the owner of a company that transports corpses. He was charged operating an incinerator without a license. Damiano was jailed on \$500 bail.

The department recently conducted a sweep of all crematoriums in the state to assure that they were properly licensed. It was begun after about 340 bodies were discovered dumped near a Georgia crematorium.

"There was no person on site appropriately licensed to oversee the facility," said

Lonnie Parizek, a department spokeswoman.

Damiano is being investigated for allegedly taking bodies to Lynn University in Boca Raton for embalming by the school's mortuary science students without the families' permission.

Neighbors of the crematorium said they had suspected that something was afoot inside the nondescript white building.

"They have been burning bodies in there for at least four years and only now the cops are finding out about it," said Robert Williams, a construction worker who has lived nearby for 11 years. "On many occasions I have seen smoke coming out of that building. Everybody in the neighborhood knew about it."

Carlos Vivera, a flight attendant who has lived in the working-class neighborhood for a year, said he often noticed a foul odor coming out of the building mostly on weekends.

"It was horrible smell — like something rotten," Vivera said. "There are a lot of stray animals in this neighborhood, so I figured they were being burned."

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NATIONAL



Man pleads guilty to McDonald's \$24M scam

BY RON WORD
Associated Press Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The man who masterminded the theft of \$24 million in winning McDonald's game tickets pleaded guilty Friday and was ordered to repay at least \$13.4 million.

Jerome Jacobson, 59, of Lawrenceville, Ga., could get up to 15 years in prison for conspiracy and mail fraud. No sentencing date was set.

He was among 51 people indicted in the scam that went undetected for a dozen years and involved McDonald's games such as Monopoly and Who Wants to be a Millionaire? No McDonald's employees were involved.

Jacobson was director of security for Simon Marketing Inc., which had been hired by the fast-food chain to run its popular Monopoly games. Prosecutors said

Jacobson stole winning game pieces worth up to \$1 million and distributed them to others, who then redeemed the prizes.

They either kicked back a portion of their winnings to Jacobson or paid him cash up front.

Asked why Jacobson did it, defense attorney Ed Garland said outside court: "He has reflected long and hard on it, and the only thing he could come up with was utter stupidity on his part."

Twenty-nine people have pleaded guilty so far. No one has been sentenced.

Jacobson used at least some of the proceeds for good, anonymously sending a \$1 million ticket to the St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Prosecutors contended the ticket was about to expire and Jacobson could not find anyone to cash it in. McDonald's honored the ticket after the scandal broke.

R.E.M. guitarist cleared of rampage on flight

BY ED JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — R.E.M. guitarist Peter Buck sighed and wiped his brow Friday after a jury acquitted him of charges of going on a drunken rampage on a trans-Atlantic flight.

Buck, 45, was found innocent of assault, being drunk on an aircraft and damaging British Airways crockery during the trip from Seattle to London last April.

His wife, Stephanie, sobbed as the verdict was read. R.E.M.'s lead singer, Michael Stipe, took off his

returning my attention to my family, my band and music," Blundell added for his client.

Buck, who stood with Stipe and Mills and held hands with his wife after the verdict, declined to speak, although he replied "yes" when reporters asked whether he'd fly home on British Airways.

During the lengthy trial, prosecutors said Buck, who was traveling to Britain to promote the band's album, "Reveal," had acted like a "drunken lout" after consuming 15 glasses of wine on the flight.

They claimed he overturned a breakfast cart, mistook a hostess trolley for a compact disc player, claimed a stranger was his wife and tussled with crew members, covering them with yogurt.

Crew members testified they pulled Buck away from an exit door after he announced he was "going home" mid-flight.

Buck testified he had suffered a bad reaction to the combination of a sleeping pill and red wine and had no memory of his alleged actions.

He said he was overcome with shame when he learned of his reported behavior. "To me it was just incomprehensible. ... I have never been in trouble before. ... I will go miles away to avoid confrontation. I really don't like it," he said during the trial.

Character witnesses, including Stipe and Mills and U2 frontman Bono, testified that Buck was a gentle family man who did not abuse alcohol or drugs.

British Airways said Friday it accepted the verdict.

"We will continue to treat allegations of assault on our staff and drunkenness on aircraft extremely seriously and support any prosecutions," a spokesman said on condition of anonymity, adding that Buck was welcome to fly again with the airline.

They claimed he overturned a breakfast cart, mistook a hostess trolley for a compact disc player, claimed a stranger was his wife and tussled with crew members, covering them with yogurt.

glasses and wiped his eyes before hugging the band's bass guitarist, Michael Mills.

Reading from a statement outside Isleworth Crown Court, Buck's lawyer said the guitarist was relieved.

"I am grateful to the court, the jury and my lawyers, to my family, friends and supporters who have stood by me throughout this experience," Neill Blundell said on Buck's behalf.

"I am obviously relieved to be finished here and I look forward to be

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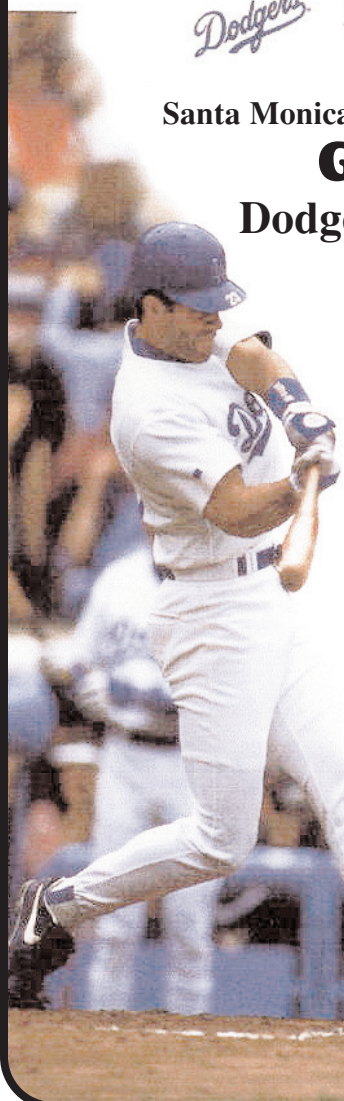
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INTERNATIONAL

Peruvian Pachamanca a ‘concert of flavors’

BY DREW BENSON
Associated Press Writer

CIENEGUILLA, Peru — When the harvest comes through, you should always thank your mother.

For hundreds of years, Peruvians have done just that by using Mother Earth as a hearth to prepare “pachamanca” — a sumptuous feast of meats, vegetables and herbs.

“In the mountains, it goes straight from the fields back into the earth to thank Pachamama for the harvest,” Edinson Gavilan says before using a eucalyptus pole to pry the lid off a 4-foot-wide ground oven.

An aromatic wave of steam swirls out of the pit, where Gavilan’s tribute to Pachamama — Mother Earth in the ancient Indian language of Quechua — has been cooked by smoldering rocks.

In the words of one fan, a “concert of flavors” awaits: three kinds of potatoes, chicken, pork, beef, white corn, lima beans in their pods, tamale-like “humitas” and unpeeled bananas cooked to the orange-pink of sunset.

Luidba Joaquin, dressed in a multicolored wool vest and the billowing skirts traditionally worn in the Andes, brings out plates piled high with the feast to customers at an outdoor restaurant in the rocky Andean foothills 12 miles east of Lima.

“I like it, people like it, because it is healthy. It is naturally steamed,” says the waitress, her jet-black hair pulled tight into two long braids. Joaquin says her father was a pachamanquero, or master pachamanca chef.

The slow-cooked chicken drops off the bone between your fingers. The yellow potatoes disintegrate flaky under knife and fork. The meats are hearty, and through it all runs the subtle flavors of Peruvian herbs, such as huacatay and chincho.

Pachamanca is traditionally prepared by peasant farmers in the Andean highlands, where it is cooked for

celebrations or near harvest time during Easter Week.

But the tradition has spread to the cities and is now popular among all social classes. Lima residents often spend the whole of a weekend day at restaurants in nearby towns like Cieneguilla watching the preparation of the dish and then savoring the results.

Jesus Gutarra and Mariano Valderrama, who co-wrote the book “Pachamanca — The Earthly Feast,”

“In the mountains, it goes straight from the fields back into the earth to thank Pachamama for the harvest.”

—EDINSON GAVILAN
Peruvian chef

have traced earth-cooking in Peru back to centuries before the arrival of the Spaniards in the 1500s.

However, pachamanca — earth (pacha) and pot (manka) in Quechua — didn’t take its present form until local techniques meshed with new ingredients brought by the Spaniards, such as pork, beef and Old World spices, the authors say.

To make pachamanca, the meats — which may also include alpaca, lamb and guinea pig — are marinated the night before the feast.

Meanwhile, humitas are prepared from hand-ground Peruvian choclo, a white corn with thick kernels. The

tamales can be sweet, flavored with raisins, cinnamon, anise, vanilla, sugar and cloves, or cooked with hot peppers, onion, garlic, salt and spices.

In the early morning before the meal, a cylindrical hole is dug in the ground, where the cook burns eucalyptus charcoal and places softball-sized volcanic rocks on a grate above the coals.

After about two hours, the chef removes the white-hot rocks and scoops the burned coals from the pit. He then lines the bottom with the hot rocks and the layering begins.

First come the white potatoes, another layer of hot rocks, then the tougher meats — such as alpaca, beef or pork — topped with sweet and yellow potatoes. More hot rocks. Then softer meats, such as lamb and whole chickens, topped with a layer of bananas.

Another layer of hot rocks is then covered with lima beans, corn and the humitas. In this layer, a small clay pot filled with cheeses or fish and shellfish may be added with distinctively Peruvian tubers such as oca and mashua.

To cap the pachamanca, the chef spreads more hot stones and covers them with a thick layer of fresh herbs or banana leaves. Over this he places an airtight sack or tarp — to lock in the steam that will pressure-cook the food — and covers it all with damp earth. A ceremonial flag or dagger is sometimes stuck into the ground, Gutarra says.

After the pachamanca cooks for about an hour, the chef tests the pit by poking a finger around the cardinal points of the buried feast or pulling on strategically placed test vegetables.

The earth is used as an oven from the South Pacific to South Africa. In the Americas alone, it is used to make pibil and barbacoa in Mexico, tapado in Guatemala, paparuto in Brazil, wathiya and panpaku in Bolivia and curanto in Chile. Each is prepared with distinctive local twists.

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INTERNATIONAL



Fierce fighting kills at least 36 Palestinians

BY LAURA KING
AP Special Correspondent

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Breaking Yasser Arafat's isolation, a U.S. envoy met with the Palestinian leader at his tank-encircled headquarters Friday on the bloodiest day of fighting since the beginning of the week-old Israeli military offensive.

At least 36 Palestinians — including the suspected mastermind of a Passover attack that triggered the offensive — died as gunmen and Israeli forces fought in Nablus, Tubas and Jenin in the West Bank. At least one Israeli soldier also died.

In advance of a planned visit to the region next week by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni traveled to the West Bank town of Ramallah for a 90-minute meeting with Arafat at his battered, encircled compound.

Arafat has been confined to a few rooms in his headquarters by Israeli troops since last Friday. Zinni was the first senior American official to meet with him during his confinement.

Arafat told Zinni that the Palestinians support a cease-fire deal negotiated last year by CIA chief George Tenet, according to his deputy Mahmoud Abbas. Israel and the Palestinians have been at odds over the timetable for implementing the agreement.

Ramallah has been declared a closed military zone by Israel, and Israeli troops fired stun grenades from close range at about two dozen journalists who were outside Arafat's compound trying to cover the meeting.

Jerome Marcantetti, a cameraman with the LCI news channel of French broadcaster TF1, was slightly injured when he said an Israeli soldier fired at him after ordering him to leave an area 200 yards from the Church of the Nativity where he was filming Israeli armored personnel carriers. Marcantetti said X-rays showed a bullet fragment in his right thigh.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops and tanks pushed into another town in the northern West Bank on Friday despite a strongly worded appeal by President Bush on Thursday to stop the offensive. Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer vowed, "We are finishing the operation we started."

New violence on the northern border with Lebanon raised concerns that Israel could find itself bogged down on two fronts. The Lebanese government, trying to stem intensifying clashes along the frontier, said it seized a ready-to-fire Katyusha rocket and arrested nine Palestinian militants.

The day's heaviest fighting came in the northern West Bank town of Nablus, where smoke from burning vehicles and buildings filled the air as Israeli tanks and helicopter gunships fought pitched battles with hundreds of Palestinian gunmen. Houses in the Balata refugee camp and the winding alleyways of the casbah, or old city, were peppered with heavy machine gun fire.

Israeli rockets rained on the city's eastern market district, destroying hundreds of shops and stalls, witnesses said. Gunmen at one point holed up in a small shampoo factory, which was demolished by rockets while civilians



David Guttenfelder/Associated Press

Israeli police hurl stun grenades at Arab-Israeli citizens of the northern Israeli town of Um Al-Fahm on Friday. Protesting Israel's latest incursions into Palestinian areas, Arab-Israeli citizens of Um Al-Fahm temporarily blocked the main highway leading towards the West Bank, burning tires and stopping cars looking for non-Arabs.

living nearby cowered in their homes.

Palestinian sources and Israeli TV reports said among the dead in Nablus was Nasser Awais, a regional leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a Palestinian militia that has claimed responsibility for scores of shooting and bombing attacks against Israelis over the past 18 months of conflict.

A 22-year-old man, Jamil Arboudi, blew himself up in a suicide attack that injured or killed four Israeli troops in

them was Qeis Odwan, who Israel TV called the mastermind of a March 27 attack at a Seder, or ritual meal, at the start of the Passover holiday.

Israelis bulldozed the building afterward and made people living nearby leave, witnesses said. Troops left the town soon afterward, they said.

Among at least 35 Palestinians killed in fighting Friday was a 14-year-old girl who had gone out onto her balcony in Tubas to look around. After the

a day earlier — shell fire and rockets trapped hundreds of families in their homes and prevented the evacuation of dozens of wounded, witnesses said. At least four Palestinians were killed, the Palestinians said.

"We can't even look out the window," said Jenin resident Noor Mansour. "My family and I hid in a room in our house. We couldn't move."

In addition to the two top militants killed Friday, Israel made an apparent attempt on the life of a leader of the Islamic Jihad militant group. Witnesses said an Israeli helicopter fired missiles on a car in the town of Hebron driven by Ziyad Shuweiki, but he escaped.

Five bystanders, including an 8-year-old boy, were injured, the witnesses said. The Israeli army had no immediate comment.

At the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, one of Christianity's holiest sites, a standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen inside continued into a fourth day. Four of about 60 priests trapped in the church came out Friday and left Bethlehem under Israeli escort, the military said.

In the Gaza Strip, some 10,000 supporters of the Islamic militant Hamas group rallied in the Jebaliya refugee camp. Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas founder, said the group would not stop attacks on Israelis.

International pressure was building on the Israelis to end their offensive. The U.N. Security Council passed a resolution early Friday calling on Israel to withdraw from Palestinian cities and towns "without delay."

At the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, one of Christianity's holiest sites, a standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen inside continued into a fourth day.

Nablus, the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade said.

In the town of Tubas, the scene of the latest Israeli incursion, Israeli troops trapped six Palestinian gunmen in a house and then riddled their hide-out with tank shells and missiles fired from helicopters, killing them all, witnesses said.

Later, Palestinian sources confirmed reports identifying the six as members of the militant group Hamas. One of

Israelis left, Palestinian security officials said three suspected collaborators with Israel, who had been held in the local jail for the past several months, were shot dead by Palestinian police.

The Israeli military also retrieved the bodies of five men in Bethlehem, apparently killed by fellow Palestinians as suspected informers for Israel.

In the northern West Bank town of Jenin and the adjoining refugee camp — where three Israeli soldiers had died

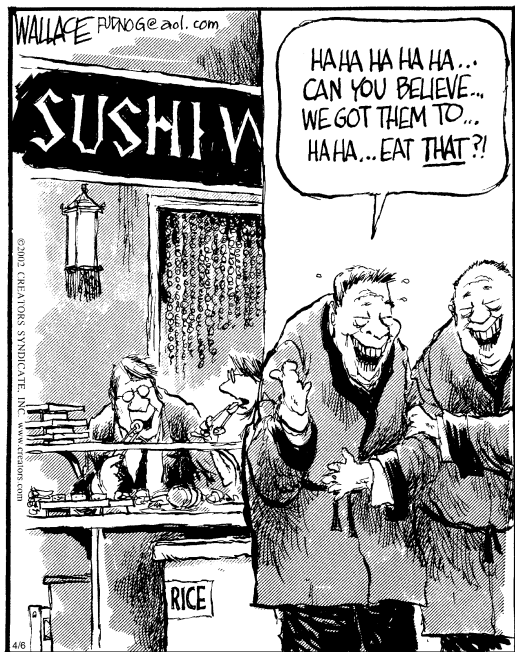


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



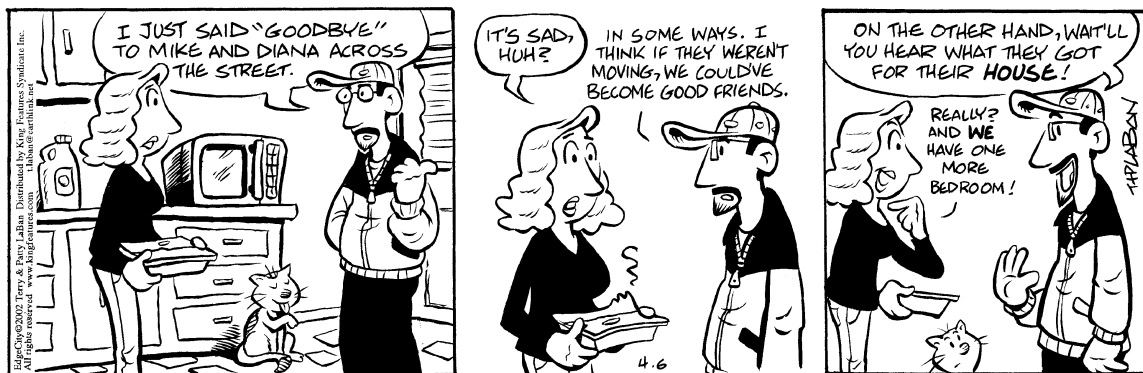
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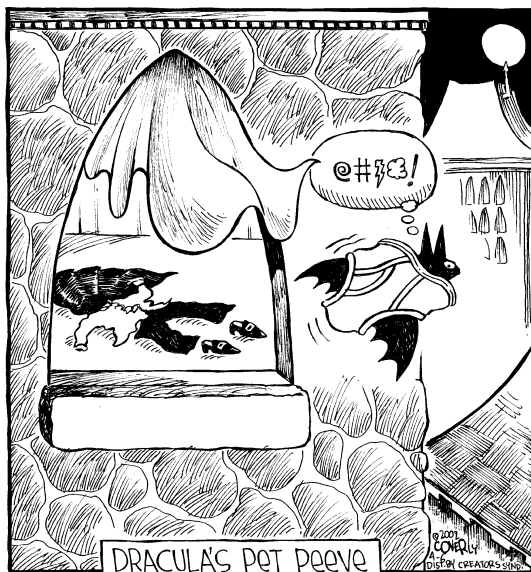
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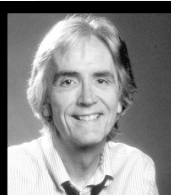
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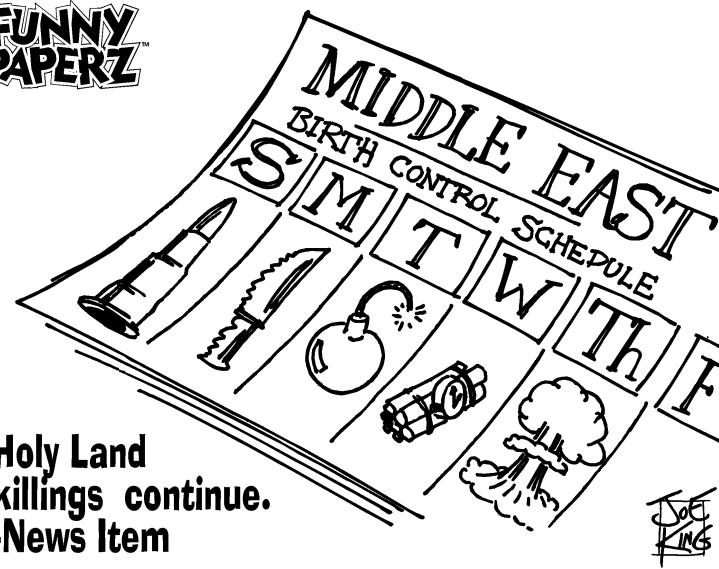


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Former Enron employee claims the company created a mock trading office

Among the absurdities touching Enron Corp. was the report in February by a former employee, broadcast by NBC News, that the company ran a mock trading floor in its Houston headquarters, furnished with desks, large flat-panel computer screens and teleconference rooms, for the sole purpose of making visitors believe the company furiously traded commodities full-time. In reality, revealed the employee, the equipment was only hooked up internally, and the employee-"traders," who appeared to be frantically placing orders, were merely talking to each other.



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BACK PAGE

Water beds for cows — a moo-ving experience

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER
Associated Press Writer

MOUNT ANGEL, Ore. — They say happy cows are more productive cows. Arie Jongeneel is hoping his herd of Holsteins, resplendent on their water beds, will bring forth a dairy deluge.

Cow water beds redefine the concept "creature comfort." Some farmers say their charges are so eager to bed down on them they will actually stand in line.

"I grew up among cows in Holland," said the 64-year-old Jongeneel. "When my cows are happy I'm happy. It's just that way."

Eight or nine Holsteins lounged in a row on water beds at Jongeneel's farm on a recent afternoon, looking thoughtful as they chewed their cud.

The water beds — rubber bladders filled with 18 gallons of water and covered with thick rubber mats — undulated when the 1,400-pound cows shifted their weight.

The beds form to the shape of the cow and theoretically give the animals a more comfortable rest.

Jongeneel, who began experimenting with 15 of the specially made water beds in January, said he is ordering 80 more for

his 1,600 black-and-white cows on a dairy farm in Oregon's lush Willamette Valley.

"If it's better for the cows it will increase milk production, there's no doubt about that," said Jongeneel, who has been in the business here 32 years.

The Dutch- and British-made water beds have been in use in Europe for seven or eight years. Three years ago, the

The water beds — which go for about \$150 each — are easier to clean than mucking out stalls, said Jongeneel.

Those who distribute the water beds claim they reduce wear and tear on the cows' joints and prevent swelling and burning of hocks.

"In principle it is probably a sound piece of equipment to use on dairy cows,"

it any further."

Some producers have reported an increase in yield they attribute to the water beds, Gamroth said, but there are no hard numbers available.

"It's pretty difficult ... to actually measure changes in milk production from one style to another. But we see people buying them so there has got to be something to them."

Gamroth said some cattle still seem to prefer a deep bedding of straw, "but you have to (change) it almost every day."

At Fisher Farms in Lenox, in upstate New York, cows will wait in line to use the stalls that have water beds.

"Sometimes they'll stand there waiting for a cow to leave so they can get in on the water bed," said Doug Ford, a sales representative for the farm, which also sells the beds. "When they come back from the milking parlor those are the stalls they fill first."

John Marshman, a dairy farmer in Chenango County, N.Y., has witnessed the same phenomenon.

"The stalls with the water beds fill up faster than the other stalls," said Marshman, who has purchased 150 of the beds and is so pleased with them he plans to buy another 100 for his 370 cows.

"They laid right down and were comfortable."

— ARIE JONGENEEL
Oregon cattle farmer

London Free Press reported about 15,000 cow water beds in use in Europe, mostly for dairy cattle.

Cow water beds began appearing in the New York-Pennsylvania area and the Midwest about three years ago, and are catching on in the West.

"The cows liked it right away," said Jongeneel. "They laid right down and were comfortable."

said Mike Gamroth, a dairy cattle specialist at Oregon State University. "They lie down six to eight hours a day to digest their food. To keep the cows comfortable for a third of the day is important to milk production."

"We have learned a lot in the past eight or 10 years about fine-tuning cow comfort," he said. "Milk production is so high you have to do all the small things to push

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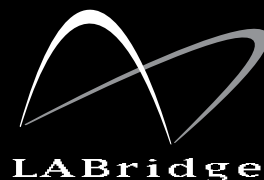
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