

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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09, 14, 16, 30, 33

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 8, 7

Evening picks: 2, 7, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 09, Winning Spirit

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win

Race time: 1:47.90



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In a three-hour operation in February at the Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College Hospital in Calcutta, India, doctors performed what they claimed was the world's first penis transplant. Dr. Ashok Ray, lead surgeon, had been in the process of removing a troublesome second penis on a 1-year-old boy when someone elsewhere in the hospital informed him that a baby boy had just been born without one.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

There is no thief like a bad book.

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Crime numbers provide mixed message

Overall rate down but homicides, rapes and burglaries increase

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

While the overall number of crimes reported to Santa Monica Police decreased last year, the number of rapes, homicides and burglaries increased, according to newly-released statistics.

There were 33 rapes or attempted rapes in the city in 2002 compared to 24 rapes or attempted rapes in 2001, a 38 percent increase.

Homicides climbed from two in 2001 to eight in 2002.

And in 2002, 737 burglaries were reported to the SMPD compared to 720 in 2001, a 19 percent spike.

The Santa Monica Police Department released those figures and others this week, which alto-

gether showed a 4.5 percent decline in serious crimes compared with 2001. It is the ninth year in a decade that crime has decreased in Santa Monica, said SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr.

2001 was the only year that the crime rate spiked in the past decade. Crime rose 4.6 percent in 2001 compared with 2000, which was the lowest crime rate since 1963, Butts said. But now it appears that the city is back on track, he said.

"We had a hiccup and we are on a streak of decreasing crime," Butts said.

In the homicide and rape categories, the majority of the perpetrators knew the victims.

In the rape incidents, 23 were committed by either an acquaintance, ex-boyfriend, boyfriend, ex-husband or friend. Only one rape suspect has not been identi-

fied by SMPD, Butts said.

Of the eight homicides, six were domestic disputes, while three of those were between married couples and ended in the husbands committing suicide after

they killed their wives.

Another domestic-related murder was between a father and son. The son was convicted by a jury in

See STATS, page 5

SANTA MONICA CRIME STATISTICS FOR 2002

PART I REPORT	2002	2001	PERCENT CHANGE
Homicide	8	2	+300%
Rape	33	24	+38%
Robbery	299	312	-4%
Aggravated assault	307	316	-3%
Burglary	737	720	+3%
Larceny/theft	2,811	3,020	-7%
Grand theft auto	494	515	-4%
TOTAL	4,689	4,909	-4.5%
Arson	47	42	+12%
ARRESTS			
Felony arrests	1,312	1,362	-3.7%
Misdemeanor arrests	2,950	2,526	+17%
Adults	3,915	3,578	+9.4%
Juveniles	347	310	+12%

No end in sight for public school woes

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

State education cuts are so severe that many educational programs have been tabled indefinitely, said Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials.

And, furthermore, teachers and staff will be brought back before the abandoned programs, they said.

"I think it has to be personnel first," said Superintendent John Deasy. "We already have some programs in place now and we don't even have the personnel to maintain those."

"I'm not holding out a lot of hope."

The district's new "remarkable" middle school math plan, which was presented to the board on Thursday, will almost certainly be put off, Deasy said. Additionally, one program that would have aligned local teachers with California standards and another that provided funding for on-going teacher education have been scrapped, along with several smaller programs.

More than 500 teachers, parents,

See CUTS, page 7



John Wood/Daily Press

More than 500 people marched into the Promenade on Saturday during a pro-schools rally dubbed The Pink Slip Parade, a reference to budget-cut mandated layoffs.

Allies press urban fronts

BY CALVIN WOODWARD

Associated Press Writer

Chipping away at the vestiges of Saddam Hussein's power, U.S. forces encircled Baghdad on Sunday and began flying into the capital's airport. British forces in the south made their deepest push into Iraq's second largest city.

A hulking U.S. C-130 transport plane landed at the Baghdad international airport, carrying unknown cargo but weighted with

See WAR, page 10

Second and Fourth streets targeted for new business

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

City officials want shoppers to wander off the Third Street Promenade and still spend their money downtown.

They're pushing for the expansion of retail outlets and restaurants

along Santa Monica's supporting roadways, where merchants say things are slowly improving.

Vacancy rates on Second and Fourth streets, as well as along the east-west corridors, are close to 10 percent, said Rob York, a consultant.

See BAYSIDE, page 7



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Say yes to a loved one, Sag



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, April 7, 2003:

You will succeed beyond your wildest dreams with those at a distance. Your ability to read between the lines leads you in a new direction, especially with bosses and authority figures. Your willingness to grow and get past problems takes you in a new direction. Review your priorities carefully before making any commitments. You will stick to your agreements no matter what occurs. If you are single, a relationship will knock on your door before September. This person could be quite special. If you're attached, your relationship might develop a more serious tone than you intended it to. Make sure to create special times during which you can lighten up. GEMINI talks up a storm.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Remain upbeat in your choices, even if someone might be pulling at you quite hard. Think before you leap. Evaluate where you might have dropped the ball. Consider what is necessary in order to straighten out a problem. Tonight: Take your time; reflect all you want.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Deal with finances using your well-known conservative streak. Not everything is as you see it or want it to be. You might be more limited than you realize. Relax with those around you. Remember, you work to live and don't live to work. Tonight: Do some spring shopping.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Don't take on another's bad mood. Let this person deal with it him- or herself. By distancing yourself, you might be isolating a problem before it becomes a reality. Somehow, you might feel a bit alone because of your need to call a spade a spade. Tonight: Do something for yourself.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Take your time with a decision. Not everyone needs to be in sync, nor will they. Consider your options, but still recognize the inevitable. You might want to rethink a decision more carefully, especially if you feel as if something is a bit off. Tonight: Think.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You don't need universal approval, nor are you likely to get it. Think through your decisions before you leap into action. Your vision might be a lot different from a partner's or a friend's. Pressure builds within your immediate circle of friends. You cannot put off making a decision. Tonight: Share news with friends.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might want to discuss more of what you need from a child or loved one. Your perception could change considerably when you listen to someone in charge. Bosses carry a lot of clout. You might feel as if you're in a pressure cooker. Tonight: Be more in touch with your needs.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for others. You might want to think carefully before you leap into action. Relating takes you in a new direction, as long as you don't pressure someone too much. Experiment with your feelings. Be open to possibilities. Tonight: Catch up on e-mail.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might not be comfortable with an either-or type of situation. Laugh and make a situation easier. Choose not to get too involved in someone else's perspective. Not everything is as you think it is. Keep detaching in order to gain a perspective. Tonight: Offer a partner a penny for his or her thoughts.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You could be causing yourself more problems than you need to. Choose to step back and gain a better perspective. If you detach, you might see just how difficult someone is. Don't get stuck in a situation you would prefer not to be in. Tonight: Say "yes" to a loved one.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ What might be nagging you on a subliminal level needs to be addressed. Whatever is on your mind could easily be impacting your work performance. Take a deep breath. Get some exercise. You might profit from a couple of days off. Tonight: Pace yourself.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A friend reverses his or her stand, forcing you to regroup. How you see a situation could change considerably. If you feel as if you're hitting a brick wall, brainstorm with a friend or co-worker. Do whatever you need to do to unlock your thinking process. Tonight: Play the night away.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Pressure builds between work and play. You might not be absolutely sure what makes you comfortable. Consider others' expectations before you launch into action. You might need to minimize stress rather than increase it. Think positively. Tonight: Stay close to home.

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LOCAL



Go fly a kite



John Wood/Daily Press

Kite enthusiasts convened on the beach in Santa Monica Saturday, where they enjoyed 10 to 15 mph winds. Glen Rothstein, regional director of the American Kitefliers Association, said the event was part of an effort to rally city officials for an annual kite-flying festival.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Local doctor receives heritage award

By Daily Press staff

A local doctor recently received the 2003 Annual Heritage Award from the Society of Surgical Oncology at its annual career symposium.

Award recipient Dr. Donald L. Morton of the John Wayne Cancer Institute was honored for his commitment to progressive research and treatment for cancer.

Dr. Morton and his research team were among the first to develop experimental vaccines to treat patients with advanced melanoma. The vaccine, which is called Canavaxin, is currently in Phase 3 clinical trials.

"I accept this award not as a reflection of my own career but rather as a tribute to all specialists in surgical oncology," he said. "We have made significant progress over the years in the way we treat such deadly cancers as melanoma, but we must remain tenacious in our pursuit for a cure."

Students to take fitness tests

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District 5th, 7th, and 9th grade students will be participating in an annual physical fitness assessment.

Fitnessgram — Fitgram — is a part of the State of California's mandated Standardized Testing and Reporting program.

Schools have from April 10 to June 10 to schedule and complete the Fitgram based upon their program needs. Fitgram is a multi-dimensional health-related fitness assessment developed at the Cooper Aerobic Institute and adopted by the State of California for use in all schools in 1997.

Physical education teachers have prepared students to be successful on the Fitgram

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Old south swell is gone, replaced today by a combination of northwest wind swell and new, building southwest ground swell. Wind swell should hit South Bay spots with waist to chest-high surf.

In the north half of the county, surf should average slightly larger with heights in the chest and shoulder-high range mostly.

Swell is expected to show a little something in the morning, becoming better as the day progresses with sets reaching chest and shoulder high by sundown.

The southwest swell improves Tuesday, building through the afternoon. Late day sets hit shoulder high at exposed spots. Malibu should be good, along with Topanga and maybe Zero's. We should see lighter winds today as the cold front passes, which is a relief.

Conditions look cleaner and warmer than over last weekend.



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	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	D
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	C
Breakwater	2-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
El Porto	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A

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by incorporating fitness-training activities into the curriculum throughout the year.

Fitgram not only provides valuable information about student health and fitness, but it also helps measure the effectiveness of our physical education program. Performance is measured against age/gender appropriate criterion-referenced national standards established for each test.

Acceptable student fitness performance is achieved when test scores meet or exceed the standard or "Healthy Fitness Zone." The 2003 Fitgram will assess the three components of health-related fitness using six different tests:

- A. Cardiovascular (aerobic) fitness
 1. One mile run/walk.
- B. Muscle strength, endurance and flexibility.
 2. Curl-up.
 3. Trunk lift.
 4. Push-up.
 5. Sit and reach.
- C. Body composition.
 6. Grade 5 — Body Mass Index from height and weight.
 7. Grades 7 and 9 — Lean body mass assessed using bio-impedance analysis.

Individual student Fitgram reports will be sent home with students to parents next fall or as soon as the state releases the results.

See BRIEFS, page 5

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OPINION

LETTERS

Decrease the need for increases

Editor:

I have a very simple idea to decrease taxes — eventually. Most of us must plan for our own retirements and for the welfare of our loved ones left behind.

Government employees currently receive retirement through our taxes and surviving spouse benefits until death of spouse. Even the wealthiest politicians, presidents, legislators take their “due” retirements on the shirts off our backs.

My solution: Let them, like us, plan for their own retirements. There are many options available. Eventually it will decrease the need to increase our taxes. Start with new employees.

The trouble is, it is the very “civil servants” who benefit from it who would have to initiate the change. What are the chances of that?

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Flat tax a bad idea

Editor,

According to Mathew Millens’ letter (March 4, SMDP) about the new property tax proposal, if his allegation that the school board caved in to the business community regarding a flat tax as opposed to one based on square footage is true, then this really stinks to high heaven. I could never understand why the school board did not go with a square footage formula in the first place as it is easy to see that they could have raised far more money that way. People need to realize that if this second attempt at a flat tax is voted in, we can see even higher increases in the future as fiscal projections indicate.

There are far more renters in Santa Monica than homeowners (hence an aberrant local government that can practice its own personal politics) and although no one wants to see this school tax issue strain neighbor relations, a flat tax formula would be extremely inequitable.

I am also interested if anyone has hard numbers on the number of students in our schools who DO NOT LIVE HERE! It is simply a matter of fairness that the Santa Monica schools are for the residents only. I urge a NO vote on Prop. S and request that the school board go back and come up with a fair plan instead of politics as usual.

John Gorman
Santa Monica

Music programs benefit children

Editor:

For more than a decade, scientific research has been done to explore the relationship between music making and intelligence in children. The results are overwhelming and decisive — children who are involved in music education programs do better on standardized math and science tests and have higher SAT scores (see sources below). The evidence is so powerful, the federal government named music a “core academic subject” alongside reading, writing and arithmetic in the No Child Left Behind Act (the controlling federal education legislation).

Sadly, at the same time that government, scientists, parents and educators have finally acknowledged the proven benefits of music education, thousands of school boards across the country are implementing unprecedented and massive cutbacks. All too often music is the first to be sacrificed and more than 60 percent of the children grades K-12 may be deprived of an education in music (see below). It is critical for

parents to know how to fight back and restore and support school music programs.

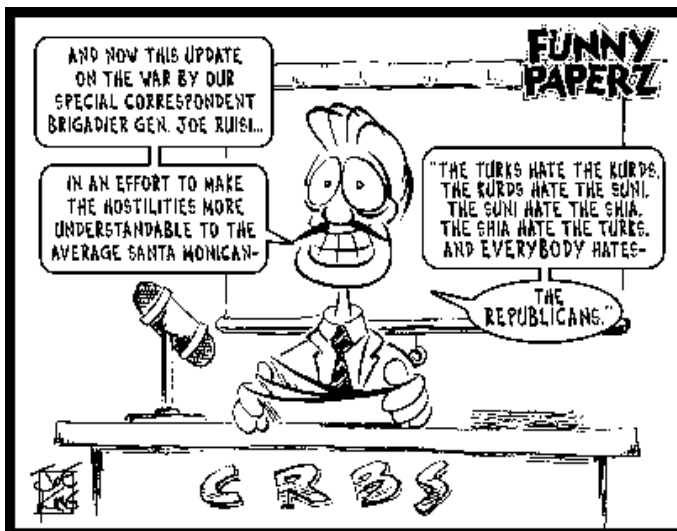
This is why the Music Education Coalition just launched SupportMusic, the largest national grass roots initiative ever in support of school music programs. Dedicated to inspiring action to support music education in the United States, the Music Education Coalition (an entity created by NAMM, the International Music Products Association and MENC, the National Association for Music Education) is offering the resources to empower parents to act locally.

Key to this initiative is SupportMusic.com, an innovative system that simplifies the advocacy process by allowing community members to customize campaigns in support of local music programs, addressing specific problems. This resource is offered for those who may not have experience working with Boards of Education and other decision makers.

Specifically, the “Build Your Case” feature on SupportMusic.com presents tailored information that addresses the challenges faced by communities. Visitors to the site can access information about the value of music in building intelligence, address ways that budget cuts improperly target music programs and help combat the elimination of music from school curriculums. For the first time, parents can go to one source, SupportMusic.com, to obtain the information and tools that will enable them to act effectively and intelligently at meetings of their local school boards.

The outreach is growing and partners of this new initiative now include American Music Therapy Association, Association for Technology in Music Instruction, Country Music Association, International Association of Jazz Educators, International Bluegrass Music Association, Maine Alliance for Arts Education, Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation, VH-1 Save the Music, among many others.

Ronnie Lippin
Santa Monica



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Death on streets illustrates veteran problems



This past Sunday, a member of the 101st Army Airborne Ranger unit died.

I met him only in passing, speaking to him only a few times. He used to sleep in the bathroom around where I sleep. I found out that he was decorated for valor on the battle field a few times and used to work a lot with children in his off-time.

He was a nice person and never bothered anyone that I have heard on the streets. He seemed in good health too,

from what I had observed of him, except for being a wheelchair-bound veteran of the Vietnam War. The cause of death, from what I have heard, was alcohol poisoning.

In the past 22 years since I completed the active duty portion of my first enlistment in the Marines, the federal government has cut more than 30 percent of the funds for the Veterans Administration. When I signed the contract to join the Marines out of high school, I read it and knew that I was guaranteed full medical coverage for any military-related injury. These injuries include psychological damage and emotional damage, which you suffer from being in combat.

This man could have been helped through the demons that plagued him to drink if the money hadn't been cut.

There are veterans all over the streets who want or need the help to move for-

ward with their lives. There are also veterans who have not come completely home from the war. They wander around reliving some portion of the war that affected them the most.

Bush asked us to support our troops, which I do. But, because of the aforementioned actions of the federal government toward the troops who fought for democracy in the past, I cannot side with this country's decision to go to war.

I ask you this — if you were a veteran whose benefits were guaranteed free to you and have been taken away slowly over the years, what would your decision be?

And with all this money going to this war effort, where will the money come from to keep these benefits going for the new veterans who will be coming home?

The West Side V.A. Hospital is the largest on the west coast because of the

donation of land by a local family 100 or so years ago. And within the last few years the hospital has rented or sold some of that land to generate funds.

This is what those brave young men and women have to look forward to in their future. This is how the government has “supported” the troops. There are many of us who have died on the street from this “support.” Many here in Santa Monica. This is right in front of your eyes — the hypocrisy of the government’s propaganda.

Yes I support my active duty brothers and sisters over there and will welcome them home in my heart. And will try to support those who wind up out here in the future, to help make up for the “support” they get when they get out.

(Charles Springer is homeless in Santa Monica.)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

LOCAL



Auto thefts, robberies and larceny down from last year

STATS, from page 1

October of second-degree murder. Also in October, two separate murders involved a boyfriend and an ex-boyfriend killing their current or former girlfriends.

All of the suspected murderers are either dead or under arrest.

On the subject of burglaries, Butts pointed out that the number of is considerably lower than what Santa Monica experienced decades ago.

He noted that in 1981, before the Third Street Promenade existed and with a thriving business district and millions of tourists visiting the city every year, there were 2,718 burglaries. In 1993, there were 1,511 burglaries.

"It's dropped 56 percent," he said. "This is amazing to have such a low rate. We are being measured against ourselves and our community and that is a good place to be."

Other serious crimes, including robbery, aggravated assault, larceny/theft and grand theft auto, decreased last year. These include:

■ Felony arrests declined by 3.7 percent, with 1,312 in 2002 compared to 1,362 in 2001.

■ Misdemeanor arrests increased 17 percent, with 2,950 in 2002 and 2,526 in 2001.

■ Incidents of grand theft auto also show a significant drop over the past decade. In 2002, there were 494 vehicles reported stolen compared to 1,754 in 1993.

Last year's statistics show that the number of cars stolen in the city are about the same as they were in 1963 — when there were fewer cars, people and activity in Santa Monica.

Butts attributed the significant decrease to SMPD's effort in curbing auto theft rings, which began in 1993. At the time, many high-end cars and Toyotas — because of their universal parts — were

being stolen off the street and from the city's parking structures.

A year after the SMPD began auto theft stings, incidents decreased by more than 500, Butts said.

Robberies, or taking another person's property by force or fear, decreased, with 299 in 2002 compared to 312 in 2001.

"Those crimes tend to be more dangerous because a weapon will be used and it strikes fear into the general public," Butts said.

He attributed the decrease to the SMPD's "top notch" crime analysis system, which is able to establish patterns and identify series of robberies.

Last year, there were seven series that accounted for 36 robberies in Santa Monica. All of the robbers were arrested by the SMPD, except one, who was part of a gas station robbery spree.

Two suspects were arrested and convicted who are responsible for 10 gas station hold-ups last year. One fugitive remains at-large.

The "laser light" bandit was arrested and convicted for seven robberies at clothing stores in the city. Apparently, the robber used a laser light to threaten his victims.

Two men, who routinely wore hooded sweatshirts, were convicted for a series of nine robberies throughout the city. One suspect was convicted for a series of four robberies on the north side of the city.

A suspect is in custody for allegedly robbing two businesses on Main Street last year and another man was convicted of robbing Starbucks on 26th Street and Wilshire Boulevard last November. In that case, the suspect was involved in a series of robberies at coffee stores in Los Angeles, police said.

Three robberies involving carjackings with the suspects using a shotgun landed two men in jail — one has been convicted and the other is awaiting trial.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Student fitness reports can help you identify student health-related fitness needs and plan for personal fitness improvement. 2002 SMMUSD Fitgram results are available at www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/pe/pe.html and in the annual School Accountability Report Card.

For more information about the schedule and use of Fitnessgram at your school, please contact your child's physical education teacher.

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COMMENTARY

Do I need a corporation or a limited liability company?



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pissarra

Whenever someone wants to start a new company and they come to me, I usually explain the basics of the way companies work.

Once it is decided that a sole proprietorship or a partnership is not the best option, then we discuss the differences between a corporation and a limited liability company.

In some ways the two are very similar. They are what lawyers call a "legal fiction." That is, they exist in a legal sense, but you can't touch them, hold them or see them.

They are a separate entity from their owners and are regulated by the state government. They are created by application to the government and so long as the name of the company is not already in use or too similar to another company in existence, the government will issue articles of incorporation or articles of organization, which allows the company to be formed.

But the question is, what is the best form for you to use. Well like tools in a toolbox, not all company forms are correct for all situations. Some types of business are more appropriate for a corporation and others are more ripe being a limited liability company.

CORPORATIONS

In theory a corporation can own property, buy assets, open bank accounts, hold money, get credit and conduct business. In reality, most small corporations, meaning those under \$100 million, cannot get credit on their own and you, as the entrepreneur or owner, will have to co-sign and personally guarantee any loan or credit extension that is granted to your corporation.

Protection of assets and freedom from personal liability are the benefits of a corporation and of doing business under a corporate name. But this is limited and depending on what you are trying to accomplish, a corporation may or may not be the best format for your assets.

A corporation does not need to file its name with the county in which it conducts business. It does, however, have to have its own tax ID number to open a bank account. The procedure for obtaining a tax ID is something your attorney will usually take care of as part of the services they provide in forming your corporation.

In California, corporations are registered with the secretary of state. If you have a Nevada Corporation you will need to be registered in the State of California and pay state taxes. Currently there is a minimum \$800 franchise tax for doing business in the State of California.

Corporations come in two tax forms. The "S" corporation, which can only have

one type of stock and requires less than 75 shareholders, is called a "pass through" entity. That means the profits and losses are "passed through" to the individual shareholders tax returns and the corporation pays no corporate tax at the federal level.

But the question is, what is the best form for you to use.

Well like tools in a toolbox, not all company forms are correct for all situations. Some types of business are more appropriate for a corporation and others are more ripe being a limited liability company.

The second form is the "C" corporation, which is the default form for all corporations and requires that the corporation file and pay taxes on any profits. This has certain benefits but most entrepreneurs will want to elect "S" corporation status for all shareholders to share in the losses.

The cost of setting up a corporation should include having the attorney register the company name, get the tax ID and arrange for the stock certificates to be issued along with preparing a shareholder buy/sell agreement.

While it is true that a corporation can have its own credit, lenders usually require a personal guarantee from the corporate owner or president.

Thus, as an owner, you will be liable for the debt personally. Personal guarantees are the hidden trap of corporations.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES

A Limited Liability Company once formed does not have stockholders. Instead the owners of a LLC are called members and are governed by a membership agreement. The LLC is much more flexible in its organization and it allows for different classes of ownership to exist without a great deal of formalities.

Like a corporation, an LLC does not need to file its name with the county in which it conducts business and it does however have to have its own tax ID number to open a bank account.

LLC's are like the "S" corporation in that they are a "pass through" entity. That means the profits and losses are "passed through" to the individual member's tax returns, and the LLC pays no corporate tax at the federal level.

(David Pissarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pissarra & Grist, he welcomes questions, and can be reached at 310/664-9969 or emailed at DPISARRA@PISARRA.COM.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Along with teachers, so go district programs

CUTS, from page 1

students and community members marched in downtown Santa Monica on Saturday, protesting the effect that a \$35 billion state deficit has had on local schools. Twenty percent of the district's workforce, including 97 classroom teachers, and 207 pink slips — or termination notices — have been issued.

Many marchers wore colored shirts with "Teacher," "Custodian" and other threatened positions written across the chest.

The event was designed to show the community's commitment to education and build awareness for Proposition S, the parcel tax initiative, which goes before voters June 3. The initiative asks voters to levy a flat \$225 tax on each of the 32,413 parcels of land in Santa Monica and Malibu. It is estimated to raise \$6.5 million annually for the cash-strapped district.

"We are facing a wrenching challenge," said Sherry Orgel, president of the SMMUSD PTA. "Will this community forsake its future?"

Many city officials and community activists, including Mayor Richard Bloom and Councilman Kevin McKeown, attended the event.

"Has the state of California forgotten that it does take a village to raise a child?" Deasy asked. "It takes teachers and staff to inspire the minds of the future."

Independent of the layoffs, the budget has prompted a handful of program cuts that many say compromise the quality of education in Santa Monica's public schools, including music classes.

Deasy said the Middle School Algebra Plan is among three key programs he had hoped to see in place next year. The three-year math plan was estimated to cost \$1.2 million.

The plan was designed to give all students, regardless of skill level, the chance to start Geometry in the ninth grade. A cadre of teachers, parents and administrators presented the specifics to the school board Thursday night.

Under the plan, individual paths of study would be offered to students based on their level of aptitude. Struggling students would be offered tutoring and sum-

mer sessions.

Board members who discussed the plan said they were excited by the group's presentation. Maria Leon-Vazquez called the work done by the group a "high point" during a time burdened with bad news.

Deasy agreed.

"I'm just really proud of the work of the committee," he said. "In the end there is a plan in front of us that I think is pretty remarkable."

But ultimately, Deasy said it would be "unprofessional" to say the plan would be funded by next year.

Also pulled because of the budget cuts was the K-12 Curriculum Alignment program, which would have facilitated a series of meetings between teachers. The meetings were designed with the ultimate goal that every teacher meet or exceed California's standards. The plan cost the district \$25,000 annually.

Professional development programs for teachers have also been abandoned by the cash-strapped district. The programs, which cost roughly \$100,000 a year, provided further professional training for district educators.

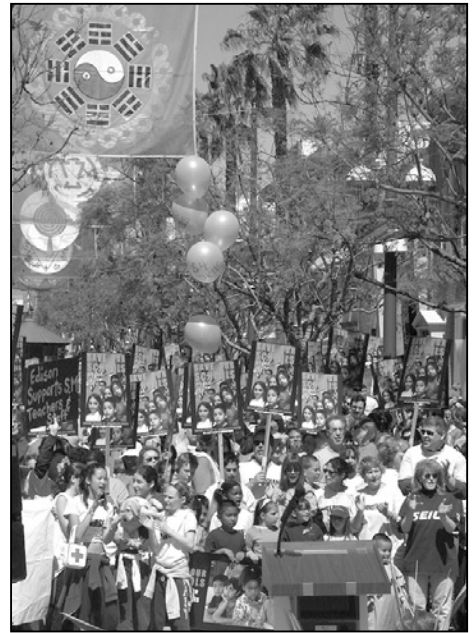
While many consider SMMUSD to be located in an affluent community, the reality is far different. Four of the school district's 15 schools are "Title One," meaning that the majority of their students come from low-income families.

Community members are being asked to urge both the Santa Monica and Malibu city councils to double their current contributions to the schools, which would replace an additional 25 percent of lost state funds.

The school district has determined "bundles" of positions that would be reinstated if any of the funding comes through. Any possible reinstatements are strictly focused on personnel and not on programs, Deasy said.

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.
- All elementary music teachers.
- Elementary school library coordinators.
- Many school nurses.
- 56 staff, including computer technicians, a textbook



John Wood/Daily Press

Saturday's Pink Slip Parade — a tongue in cheek reference to the termination notices being handed out by the district — was planned to build awareness for the Proposition S parcel tax initiative.

coordinator and custodians.

- All physical education aides and specialists.
- Middle and high school athletic support staff positions.
- Pre-school programs for low and moderate income children.
- 12 administrators, including one principal.

City trying to create opportunities on nearby streets

BAYSIDE, from page 1

ant. In contrast, only about two percent of ground floor spaces on the Promenade are currently unfilled, York said.

"It's probably a little more stagnant than it's been in a little while," York said, referring to the overall health of business downtown. "In order to hold our own, it's going to involve some further development on Second and Fourth."

York said the Bayside District Corp., the non-profit that runs downtown in conjunction with the city, is pushing for better lighting, more prominent signage and other improvements that will help draw shoppers off the Promenade and onto the supporting roadways, where more and more merchants are replacing ground-floor office space.

Art Harris, a Bayside board member, said business on the streets surrounding the Promenade is bound to improve. He described what he called the "doughnut effect," where rising rents on the Promenade will lead to increased business activity on the periphery.

"We're a small town and we're in the early stages of it," said Harris, who oversees the board's roughly \$900,000 annual budget. "There are some spots that are doing fine. And there are other areas that are just dead."

William Bubar, owner of Bubar's Jewelers, a downtown merchant for nearly 60 years, appears to have followed Harris' trend. After 25 years on the Promenade and 22 years in Santa Monica

Place, Bubar in November moved his shop to a spot on Fourth Street near Broadway.

"There has to be some sort of effort to synergize and make people turn the corners," said Bubar, who added that further attention to parking, congestion, lighting and homeless concerns were needed to make Fourth Street a real destination. "And we want to get the locals back. I think Fourth Street has more of a family-oriented potential."

Though some merchants are closing their doors in Santa Monica, York said those on their way out are balanced by a number of new businesses that are currently considering moving to downtown.

On Fourth Street, York said a small athletic chain is currently looking at an open space at the intersection of Fourth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. Circuit City is scheduled to open at Fourth and Arizona Avenue this fall.

In addition, two development projects are currently underway on Fourth Street that should bring more retailers and restaurants to the area by the end of the year.

The first project, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway on the east side of Fourth Street, is an overhaul of the old Friedman's Furniture building. The units are expected to be available by the end of the year, with retailers moving in shortly thereafter, York said.

The second, which is currently in the entitlement process, is between Arizona Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard. York

said pedestrian-oriented merchant spaces will fill the rear of the old US Bank building.

Second Street also appears to be doing well. While a new Asian art gallery is being constructed on the 1400 block, York said other merchants are showing serious interest. Among them is an outdoor apparel shop based in Santa Barbara, a start-up New York-style fresh produce market and a handful of others.

All in all, residents can expect a great deal of turnover over the next six to 12 months, York said. But occupancy rates should stay relatively constant.

"If they all move in, we'll be ahead of the game," York said. "But there are a couple of players that may drop out."

The Midnight Special bookstore, which recently left its spot on the Promenade, is also looking at a location on Second Street as well as spots in other nearby cities. City officials said they hope to keep the popular bookstore in Santa Monica.

"We're hopeful," said Mark Richter, the city's economic development manager. "We're trying to create opportunities for smaller retailers, and cafes and merchants."

Gas prices fall for first time in four months nationwide

By The Associated Press

CAMARILLO — Gas prices dropped six cents a gallon nationwide over the past two weeks, the first decrease in four months and the biggest two-week drop since October 2001, an industry analyst said Sunday.

Falling crude oil prices resulting from increased certainty about Middle East oil supplies contributed to the decrease, said analyst Tribby Lundberg.

The average price for gas nationwide, including all grades and taxes, was about \$1.70 a gallon on Friday, according to the Lundberg survey of approximately 8,000 gas stations. That was a decrease of 6.03 cents from March 21, the date of the last Lundberg survey.

"Lower crude oil prices since mid-March resulting from reduced uncertainty about Middle East oil supplies are working their way down to the gasoline pump," Lundberg said.

Another factor was the completion of repairs and maintenance at refineries in advance of spring demand, Lundberg said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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STATE

Famed partisans Gingrich and Nader debate education

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — On the surface, Newt Gingrich and Ralph Nader couldn't seem more different.

One is the beefy, garrulous conservative who, as the nation's first Republican House speaker in 40 years, crashed like Icarus after flying too close to the sun.

The other is the righteous, rumpled consumer crusader who morphed into a political gadfly as a Green Party candidate for president.

But a closer look at Gingrich and Nader betrays some striking similarities. Both men are passionate intellectuals who have weathered scorn for occasionally outlandish ideas. More poignantly, both have begun winding down careers that saw their greatest successes years ago.

But before a packed audience at the National School Boards Association annual meeting Sunday, both took the stage showing much of the old fire and willingness to engage. And in the end, they demonstrated that competing philosophies on education can circle back around to a common goal of fixing America's public schools.

"Thank you for allowing me to be here," Gingrich said after strolling to the podium, hinting he knew this audience might not be his natural constituency.

As House speaker, he had enraged teachers and other public school advocates for his support of free-market education reforms like the use of vouchers to take students out of failing schools. Those efforts, plus his crusade to defund the school lunch program for poor students, were blamed for costing the Republican party the support of many moderate voters, including the famed constituency known as 'soccer moms.'

But Gingrich seemed to step out of stereotype almost immediately, winning applause and cheers for proclaiming that

"transforming education is a challenge more compelling than Iraq or any conceivable war."

Calling himself "much more of a radical than Ralph about education," Gingrich defended his support for school vouchers as an important way for families to put pressure on schools to improve. "To keep them trapped while we fight," he said, "is truly tragic and ruins lives."

For his part, Nader echoed Gingrich's call to revitalize public education but differed on specific strategies.

"Vouchers are a great diversion, aren't they?" he said. "Let's not exaggerate their theoretical promise."

He blamed the failures of public education on a fraying social fabric that no longer cares about or protects young children.

"There is no country in the world that has as much wealth or as much pretention and has neglected its children in so many ways," he said, citing a range of hazards from overmedication to lead-based paint to lack of adult supervision.

Nader's rant on American ills provoked a sharp reply from Gingrich. "Ralph and I live in substantially different countries," he said, provoking laughter and applause from the audience. "I live in a country that people migrate to, because they think it's the land of opportunity, and while there are problems, we'll fix them."

In the end, both men found substantial agreement on one matter: the folly of favoring sports teams over schools.

"Taxpayers are required to build gleaming stadiums and ballparks while schools are allowed to crumble," growled Nader.

"A country that pays more money to some athletes than to an entire school system is a country that is begging for a social crisis," Gingrich agreed.

Backstage after the debate, the two men posed together for pictures and shook each other's hands. Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown, viewing the scene, remarked, "You know? They're both right."

Ebola virus and poaching spark decline in Africa ape populations

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
AP Science Writer

In just 20 years, poaching and the Ebola virus have cut in half the ape population of western equatorial Africa, long considered the last stronghold of the continent's gorillas and chimpanzees, according to a new study.

The study, appearing Monday in the electronic edition of the journal Nature, is only the latest to warn that wild ape populations are vanishing. However, it is the first to use large-scale surveys to demonstrate the immediate threat of extinction.

"The bottom line is that this time the sky really is falling," said Peter Walsh, a visiting research fellow at Princeton University and co-author of the study.

The forests of Gabon and the Republic of Congo are believed to still hold tens of thousands of apes, or most of the world's common chimpanzees and roughly 80 percent of its gorillas.

Even though 60 percent to 80 percent of the native forests in those nations remain intact, logging has opened up roads that have greatly facilitated the

hunting of apes for food, Walsh said.

Poaching accounts for most of the estimated 56 percent decline in the ape population between 1983 and 2000. Surveys indicate that ape populations have fared worst in the forests closest to cities, where so-called bush meat is sought as an expensive delicacy.

Now, even in the relatively remote areas where gorillas and chimpanzees survive, Ebola has come to rival hunting as a threat.

An ongoing outbreak of the deadly disease has killed hundreds of gorillas and chimpanzees in the area near Congo's Odzala National Park over the last few months, said Dr. William Karesh, a veterinarian with the Wildlife Conservation Society and contributor to the study.

Ebola has killed about 120 people in Congo during the same period, according to the World Health Organization.

At current rates of decline, ape populations will drop 80 percent over the next 33 years — if not much sooner, Walsh said.

Walsh and his international co-authors said there is a critical need for more of everything: more protected areas for the apes, more work to prevent poaching and more research on Ebola.

NATIONAL

NBC correspondent David Bloom dies covering war

ELIZABETH LESURE
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — NBC News correspondent David Bloom, one of the most recognizable reporters covering the war from the Iraqi desert, collapsed Sunday and died from a blood clot, the network said.

The 39-year-old co-anchor of the weekend "Today" show was traveling with troops about 25 miles south of Baghdad when he suddenly collapsed, said Allison Gollust, a spokeswoman for NBC News.

He was airlifted to a nearby field medical unit, where he was pronounced dead from a pulmonary embolism, Gollust said. She said his death was not combat related.

Bloom, a native of Edina, Minn., lived in the New York area with his wife, Melanie, and three daughters. He had been on assignment in Iraq for several weeks, reporting from the middle of desert sand storms and while columns of military vehicles rumbled toward Baghdad.

"You couldn't keep him away from a story," Tim Russert, the network's Washington bureau chief, said Sunday. "Whenever something was breaking, he wanted to be there."

Bloom had been the co-anchor of the weekend "Today" show since March 2000. On Sunday, his co-anchor Soledad O'Brien described him as "a dedicated, tenacious and talented reporter."

"He died doing what he loved, and doing what he did best," she said.

Before joining the "Today" show desk,

Bloom was a White House correspondent for NBC. In his decade with the network, he reported on major stories including presidential races, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Washington-area sniper shootings, the O.J. Simpson trial and the war in Bosnia.

Bloom attended Pitzer College in

Claremont, Calif., and started his career as an investigative reporter for NBC-owned WTVJ in Miami in 1989. He joined NBC News in Chicago in 1993 and then reported from Los Angeles starting in 1995.

"In times like these, a journalist's contribution to his country is measured in

terms of illustrious commitment and sacrifice," NBC Chairman and CEO Bob Wright said in a statement announcing Bloom's death Sunday.

"There was no one more devoted to his calling than David Bloom and for that we are both grateful and humbled," he said.

Sniper gave details, taunted investigators

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington-area sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo bragged about his shooting prowess, taunted investigators and said he shot some victims in the head for horrific effect, according to a newspaper report.

The story in The Washington Post, prepared for Sunday editions, was based on partial transcripts of Malvo's taped remarks to investigators and a memo that summarizes parts of the interview after Malvo's arrest.

It says he repeatedly likened the shootings to precision military operations, laughingly pointed to body parts where the victims were hit and said he'd do it all again if given the opportunity.

According to the documents, Malvo also asked if he would get to see his lawyers, then later signed a paper waiving his right to an attorney before he began talking about the sniper shootings.

Defense lawyers plans to contest the admissibility of the confession, claiming that Malvo did not understand the ramifications of the waiver.

Malvo also seemed resigned to dying

or going to prison, but told authorities if he did go to jail, he wouldn't be there all his life: "You can't build a jail strong enough to hold me. ... Kill me. I don't care. Torture me. ... Nothing bothers me. ... Get rid of me."

Malvo, 18, is charged with capital murder in the Oct. 14 shooting of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, 47, outside a Home Depot store in Fairfax, Va. He faces trial Nov. 10.

Malvo's alleged accomplice, 42-year-old John Allen Muhammad, is charged with capital murder in the Oct. 9 shooting of Harold Dean Meyers, 53, of Gaithersburg, Md., outside a gas station in Manassas, Va. Muhammad has an October trial date.

In all, the pair is charged with shooting 19 people, killing 13 and wounding six, in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Ten of the deaths and three nonfatal shootings occurred in the Washington area last October.

Malvo did not bring up Muhammad's name during the interview, the Post said.

Franklin was among the victims shot in the head, and Malvo told investigators many of the victims were shot there to

make a point to police, the Post reported. He said a boy was hit in the back outside a Bowie middle school because others were nearby.

Malvo, 17 at the time of the interrogation, said the ultimate objective of the killing was to terrorize the community and to force police to pay them to stop.

During the spree, the snipers asked police for \$10 million to stop the killings.

Robert Horan Jr., the Fairfax County prosecutor handling the Malvo case, and Paul Ebert, the Prince William County prosecutor handling the case against Muhammad, declined to comment for the story, as did FBI agent Brad Garrett, who took part in the nearly six-hour interrogation with Fairfax County Detective June Boyle.

Michael Arif, Malvo's attorney, also declined comment, but has said in the past that he intends to challenge whether Malvo's confession will be admissible at trial.

Muhammad's attorney, Peter Greenspun, criticized the leaking of the documents.

"These actions ... show the desperation of (law enforcement) to taint the jury pool," he said, adding that the defense team is "committed to trying this case in court."



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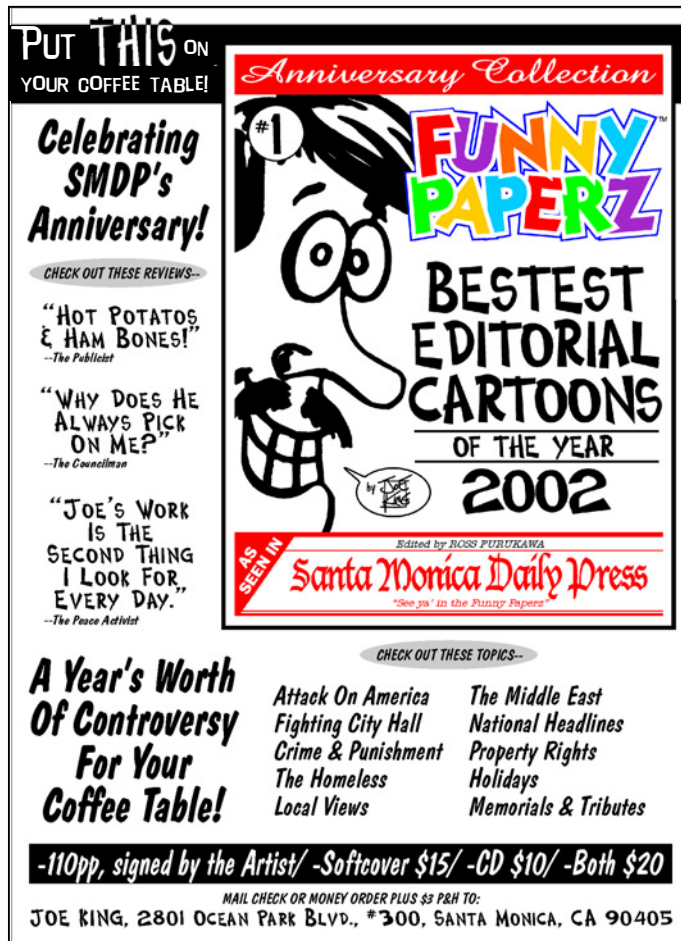
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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. troops cut off Baghdad as British enter Basra

WAR, from page 1

symbolism and tactical importance. The arrival presaged a major resupply effort by air for U.S. troops, dependent until now on a tenuous line stretching 350 miles to Kuwait.

U.S. officials declared Baghdad cut off from the rest of Iraq.

"We do control the highways in and out of the city and do have the capability to interdict, to stop, to attack an Iraqi military forces that might try to either escape or to engage our forces," said Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Intense fighting took a growing toll on combatants and civilians. Injured Russian diplomats and a convoy of America's Kurdish comrades in arms were among unintended victims caught in crossfire and friendly fire Sunday. Kurds said 18 of their own died in the mistaken U.S. air strike.

Assorted prizes fell into allied hands,

some after hard fighting, but U.S. forces had yet to confront Baghdad's last-ditch defenders on a large scale.

"They are extremely weakened, but that does not mean they're finished," Pace said of the Republican Guard.

Southeast of Baghdad, Marines seized one of Saddam's palaces, poked through remnants of a Republican Guard headquarters and searched a suspected terrorist training camp, finding the shell of a passenger jet believed to be used for hijacking practice.

U.S. forces consolidated positions around Baghdad and declared they controlled all highways in and out — a day after raiding the capital and killing perhaps several thousand Iraqi shooters, by rough U.S. estimates.

Pace said the Republican Guard's main weapons systems are gone and the force probably cannot assemble more than 1,000 men in any one place.

On another vital front, British troops



Dan Chung/The Guardian/Pool/Associated Press

Smoke from oil fires covers the landscape at sunset in a location south of Basra, Iraq on Saturday.

thrust to the center of Basra, Iraq's second largest city, with a sense they were finally shaking Saddam loyalists loose.

British Desert Rats went into the city of 1.3 million with more than three dozen tanks and armored cars, a column similar in size to the American unit that probed suburban Baghdad, then got quickly out. But the British found resistance softer than expected, picked up reports that the local Baath Party leadership was crumbling and fought into the core, losing at least three soldiers and finding their arrival cheered by hundreds of citizens.

"We have a lot of it occupied," British Maj. Gen. Peter Wall told the BBC. He said it might take days to put down renegades.

In chalking up military gains, the United States accelerated a campaign of persuasion, too, aimed at getting the Iraqi Republican Guard to give up. And Washington's attention began turning to postwar Iraq.

Pace said the United States would welcome Republican Guard division commanders and troops in a postwar government if they surrendered now.

"I mean, there's a small clique around Saddam Hussein who are the perpetrators of all the crimes against humanity," Pace said on ABC's "This Week."

"Below them are still many senior leaders and troops who have their free will to decide what their life is going to be like.

They can surrender and become part of the future free Iraq, or they can fight and die."

The United States is deploying some of Iraq's exiles and internal dissidents around the country to help root out pro-Saddam elements, keep order and distribute aid, according to one such organization, the Iraq National Congress. The group said several hundred of its members were flown to an area near the city of Nasiriyah.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said it will probably take more than six months once the war is over before a new Iraqi government can take over.

In northern Iraq, U.S. warplanes struck a convoy of allied Kurdish fighters and U.S. special forces Sunday in one of the deadliest friendly fire attacks of the war. At least 18 people were killed and more than 45 wounded, including senior Kurdish commanders, Kurdish officials said.

U.S. Central Command only reported one civilian killed and six people injured, including a U.S. soldier, but its investigation was not complete.

A convoy of Russian diplomats, including the ambassador, came under fire Sunday while evacuating Baghdad, the Russian foreign ministry said. A correspondent for state-run Russian television said the convoy was caught in a crossfire and three diplomats were hurt, one with a serious stomach wound.



Jerome Delay/Associated Press

Iraqis try to pull a destroyed U.S. tank off the road in Al Dorah, on the outskirts of Baghdad on Sunday. The tank was destroyed during a U.S. offensive Friday.

Investigation indicates 966 killed in northeastern Congo

BY RODRIQUE NGOWI

Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya — At least 966 people were killed in attacks on more than a dozen villages in northeastern Congo last week, U.N. officials said Sunday after a preliminary investigation.

It is not clear who carried out the attacks, which occurred in Ituri province, the scene of some of the most vicious battles in Congo's 4 1/2-year-old civil war. Rival tribal fighters, rebel factions and Ugandan troops all have been involved in the fighting in the mineral-rich province.

Witnesses told the U.N. investigators that the attackers included women and children while others were men in military uniforms, said Manodje Mounoubai, a spokesman for the U.N. mission in Congo.

"This is the worst single atrocity since the start of the civil war," Mounoubai told The Associated Press by telephone from Kinshasa, Congo's capital.

The killing spree occurred over a period of just a few hours Thursday in the Roman Catholic parish of Drodoro and 14 surrounding villages in Ituri.

"The attack started with a whistle blow

and lasted between five and eight hours," Mounoubai told The Associated Press by telephone.

U.N. military observers visited the area Saturday and spoke to witnesses, survivors and local leaders who led them to 20 mass graves, Mounoubai said.

He said many of the victims appeared to have been summarily killed.

Another spokesman for the U.N. mission, Hamadoun Toure, said the mass graves had "fresh blood on them." Investigators said some of the survivors were seriously wounded, mostly by machetes but also by bullets.

On Saturday a Congolese rebel leader, Thomas Lubanga, accused Ugandan troops and allied Congolese tribal fighters of carrying out the slaughter.

Lubanga, who is head of the rebel Union of Congolese Patriots, or UPC, said Ugandan troops and Lendu tribal fighters used mortars, small arms and machetes to attack three towns in Ituri, killing 942 people.

Ugandan military spokesman Capt. Felix Kulayigye denied that any Ugandan troops were involved in the massacre. Kulayigye, who is based in Ituri, said Saturday that some 400 people were

killed in tribal fighting.

An aid worker and a tribal leader in Bunia, however, said Ugandan forces were in the area when civilians were killed. They could not say whether the troops took part.

Witnesses told the investigators that some of the assailants were speaking Kilendu, the Lendus' tribal language, while others spoke Kiswahili, the lingua franca in eastern Congo, Mounoubai said. Most Ugandan soldiers also speak Kiswahili.

The UPC draws its support from the Hema tribe that has traditionally fought with the Lendu for control of land and other resources in the region.

The UPC and Ugandan troops have been fighting since Ugandan forces drove the rebels from Bunia, the main town in the province, four weeks ago.

Thursday's attack is the latest in a long line of atrocities that have beset Ituri.

On Jan. 15, U.N. investigators confirmed that rebels of the Congolese Liberation Movement and the allied Congolese Rally for Democracy-National had carried out cannibalism, rape, torture and killing in the province late last year.

And on March 1, Lubanga accused

another rebel group, the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Liberation Movement, of killing at least 400 civilians when it pushed UPC forces out of Bogoro, 25 miles southwest of Bunia on Feb. 24-25.

The war broke out in August 1998 when Rwanda and Uganda sent troops to back rebels seeking to oust then-President Laurent Kabila. They accused him of backing insurgents threatening regional security.

Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia sent troops to back Kabila, splitting the country into rebel- and government-held areas.

Most foreign troops withdrew after a series of peace deals took hold, but fighting among rival rebel factions, tribal fighters and Ugandan troops has continued in eastern and northeastern Congo.

Uganda had backed the UPC, but relations have soured in recent months after the rebels demanded the withdrawal of Ugandan troops from the region. The UPC is now backed by Rwanda.

Since the war began, Congolese rebels have split into more than a dozen factions. Uganda, which has more than 2,500 troops in Ituri, and Rwanda back rival groups.

SPORTS



Kansas-Syracuse in final

BY JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

NEW ORLEANS — The Kansas Jayhawks feature plenty of senior leadership and four starters who were in the Final Four last season. They're a very good man-to-man defensive team and have the country's best transition game on offense.

The Syracuse Orangemen start two freshmen and two sophomores, and they use a stifling 2-3 zone defense while running the offense through a versatile rookie who has spun, shot and slam-dunked his way to stardom.

Kansas and Syracuse will be together on the Superdome court on the final night of the college basketball season, but they are very different teams.

About the only thing similar are the men running the show.

Kansas' Roy Williams and Syracuse's Jim Boeheim are among the top five active coaches by winning percentage, but neither has won it all. Williams is in his fourth Final Four, Boeheim is in his third.

This won't be a traditional matchup, either. Kansas (30-7) runs a three-guard offense and Syracuse (29-5) stays in the zone.

So, a closer look is needed to determine who will be the national champion on Monday night.

BACKCOURT

Kirk Hinrich is Kansas' other senior star, and he is also the top 3-point shooter on the team. He shoots 42 percent from beyond the arc and his 86 3s are just seven fewer than the rest of the team combined. He has to make some from the outside to allow Collison and Graves to work inside. Langford, Hinrich and Aaron Miles are all good ballhandlers and passers. That's usually what worries a zone coach because the more the ball moves, the more a team is likely to get an open shot.

Gerry McNamara is in Anthony's class — as far as being a freshman. He's also starting to close the gap as far as recognition goes. He has an almost 2-1 assist-to-turnover ratio, and he shoots 35 percent from 3-point range and 91 percent from the free-throw line. He'll have to contend with Miles, a dogged defender who likes to go for the steal.

FRONTCOURTS

Two of the best forwards in the country will be on opposite sides but won't be covering each other.

Kansas senior Nick Collison averages 18.5 points and 9.7 rebounds and runs the floor very well. He will have to be a force inside against the zone so the perimeter opens for the 3-point shooters. Jeff Graves is the size for the Jayhawks at 6-

foot-9 and 275 pounds. Like Collison, he picked up his rebounding during the tournament run, a key to getting the running game in gear.

Syracuse freshman Carmelo Anthony averages 22.3 points, 10.0 rebounds and about five "Wows" a game. His teammates have no problem with his star stature. He has taken 596 shots this season and no one else has taken more than 360. His inside game relies on power from his 6-8, 220-pound frame, and he is shooting 33 percent from 3-point range.

In the semifinal, Texas had everybody but Bevo cover him for a while, and usually there was help for the man with the assignment. Keith Langford, who gives away four inches, will probably start on Anthony, but again, expect almost everybody to try to contain him and make him pass the ball.

BENCH

Neither team goes very deep, something that favors Syracuse because of the zone. If Kansas gets in foul trouble up front, Williams could be forced to go to a zone himself to protect Collison and Graves.

Syracuse's bench has contributed during the tournament, especially guards Billy Edelin and Josh Pace, two penetrators who take advantage of all the attention Anthony draws inside.

COACHES

Williams or Boeheim will shed the tag of being one of the best coaches without a national championship. They both believe in offenses that take advantage of fast breaks, and both are staunch defenders of their defensive styles. Williams is 0-1 in title games, Boeheim 0-2.

INTANGIBLES

Experience is always considered a key at this stage of the season, and Kansas definitely has that. There will be no homecourt advantage from the crowd of 54,000-plus, but Syracuse is used to playing in a dome, and sight lines have been a factor in some games played in huge buildings.

WINNER

The last three national championship games were all near blowouts, with the closest decided by 10 points. The MVP of each of those Final Fours was a senior. It's time for a change on both accounts: Syracuse 83, Kansas 82 — and Anthony becomes just the third freshman to be selected MVP.

Cartwheelin'



Dave Martin/Associated Press

Ryan Newman (12) tumbles through Turn 1 of the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala., on the third lap of the NASCAR Aaron's 499 race Sunday. Getting by safely are Ward Burton (22), Kurt Busch (97), Dale Jarrett (88), Tony Stewart (20) and Michael Waltrip (15). At least 15 cars were involved in the wreck.

Dodgers face last place D-backs in home opener

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Dodgers lost their offense somewhere between Phoenix and San Diego last week. They hope to find it by the time they play the Arizona Diamondbacks in their home opener Monday.

They won't face Randy Johnson or Curt Schilling, which should help.

Kevin Brown (1-0) pitches against Elmer Dessens (0-1) in a rematch of the season's third game, when Brown blanked the Diamondbacks on three hits over six-plus innings in a 5-0 victory last Wednesday.

The game will mark the beginning of the 42nd season at Dodger Stadium, which opened in 1962 — four years after the Dodgers moved west from Brooklyn. The Dodgers are 24-21 in home openers since.

Hideo Nomo and Odalis Perez pitched the season's first two games, against Johnson and Schilling last week. So they'll also miss this three-game series, but the Dodgers appear stronger in the 3-4-5 spots of their rotation than the Diamondbacks.

Despite facing Johnson and Schilling, the Dodgers won two of the three games in Phoenix, outscoring the Diamondbacks 17-5 and outhitting them 33-16.

But in a four-game series in San Diego, the Dodgers managed only seven runs and 21 hits. They lost the first three before winning 4-3 in 13 innings Sunday.

That means the Dodgers, who went 92-70 last season, bring a 3-4 record into their home opener.

After losing three straight games at Colorado, the two-time defending NL champion Diamondbacks are in even worse shape at 1-5, equaling the worst start in their six-year history. They went 98-64 last year.

Ceremonial first pitches will be thrown by former Dodgers stars Ron Cey, Steve Garvey and Bill Russell, who formed three-quarters of the infield that stayed together a record eight-plus seasons starting June 23, 1973.

Davey Lopes, the fourth member of

that quartet, is a coach with San Diego. The four will take part in a special ceremony April 15 before the teams play at Dodger Stadium.

Melissa Manchester will sing the national anthem and four U.S. Navy FA-18 Hornet fighter jets will fly over the stadium before the game.

Brown spent more time watching than pitching the last two seasons because of elbow and back problems that led to two operations.

He seems in ideal health now.

"This is the best I've felt in 10 years," he said following the game in Phoenix last week.

"I think if I had one guy to pick to open that game up at home, in front of the fans, I think Brownie's the guy," Dodgers center fielder Dave Roberts said. "We've got such a rotation and staff, and I think it's going to be pretty awesome for the fans to see Kevin Brown in 2003."

After signing a \$105 million, seven-year contract with the Dodgers, Brown went 18-9 with a 3.00 ERA in 1999 and 13-6 with a 2.58 ERA in 2000. But he's started only 29 games since, going 10-4 with a 2.65 ERA in 2001 and 3-4 with a 4.81 ERA last year.

"We know we're sending a guy to the mound on opening day at Dodger Stadium, 56,000-plus people there, who knows how to handle that," manager Jim Tracy said. "We've got a number of guys who know how to handle that, but this guy really knows how to handle it because he's been given enough chances to learn how, and rightfully so."

"He's an ace. Yeah, he pitched the third day of the season, but he is an ace. He's one of the best pitchers in baseball."

The Dodgers hope to have better luck in their first three home games than they did last year, when they were swept by the San Francisco Giants, who outscored them 24-2 and outthit them 32-12.



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SANTA MONICA SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2003

EVENTS

LAP TIME presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. Mondays at 9:30am, Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 633 Kensington Road. A series for children up to 24 months old. An early introduction to language and reading for parents and babies, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program. No fee or registration required. For more information, call (310)452-6132.

TODDLER TIME, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

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, Saturday - Billy Vera & the Beaters, Pure.

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.

HARVEILLE'S BLUES CLUB present Sports Happy Hour. 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

UNURBAN COFFEE HOUSE presents Hot Topics Night hosted by Ali every Monday evening. Signup is at 8pm. Open panel discussion and open forum. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

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, pasta, 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) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45.
Phone Booth (R) 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 5:45, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:15, 11:30. **The Core (PG-13)** 11:15, 12:55, 3:05, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25.

MANN CRITERION

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

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Piglet's Big Movie (G) 11:45, 1:35, 3:25, 5:15.
Agent Cody Banks (PG) 1:30, 4:00, 7:05, 9:35.
Chicago (PG-13) 1:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55. **The Hunted (2003) (R)** 1:15, 4:15, 7:55, 10:15. **What a Girl Wants (PG)** 11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:10. **Boat Trip (R)** 7:20, 9:45. **Head of State (PG-13)** 12:30, 3:00, 5:25, 8:00, 10:20.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 1:30, 5:00, 8:30. **Laurel Canyon (R)** 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
Levity (NR) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. **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.



Gene chip helps identify cause of mystery illness

BY PAUL ELIAS
AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — It took just a few waves of the computer mouse for Joseph DeRisi to identify the prime suspect behind the sometimes deadly new mystery illness dubbed severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Using a laser microscope to compare victim samples sent by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to genetic material from about 1,000 different viruses imprinted on a glass slide, the University of California researcher found the telltale clues of the suspect virus appearing as illuminated dots on his computer screen.

DeRisi placed his computer's cursor over one lit dot and it read "bovine coronavirus." Another dot outputted "avian coronavirus." By the time he got to the turkey and human coronavirus dots, he knew he was dealing with something the world's scientists had never seen before.

If it had been a known virus — say the human coronavirus, a cause of the common cold — then only human coronavirus dots would have lit up.

"This suggests this is not a simple mutation of a human virus," said DeRisi.

Whatever this was, it was related closely enough to the other viruses to bond to their DNA but exotic enough to suggest that it was something entirely new that had crossed the species barrier.

DeRisi immediately e-mailed CDC researchers on March 23 confirming that a new coronavirus was probably causing

the syndrome, which has killed at least 82 people and sickened hundreds, hurting business and travel as it spread from China, where it apparently originated.

The "virus chip" DeRisi and his colleagues created could come in handy as epidemiologists try to identify and contain emerging diseases — including pathogens that bioterrorists could launch.

"It's amazingly simple and straightforward," DeRisi said. "There's nothing revolutionary about this concept except for the fact that we did it."

What DeRisi did was build upon the microarray, or gene chip, an 8-year-old invention that melds DNA onto glass using some of the same technology that makes computer chips. Microarrays allow biologists to analyze thousands of genes simultaneously instead of one at a time.

"Microarrays are pretty universal," said Henry Niman, a cancer researcher at Harvard Medical School, who uses chips with human genes in his own research and asked DeRisi for his results on the SARS finding. "Impressive," Niman concluded after analyzing the data.

With microarrays, scientists break small bits of DNA's double-helix of each of the genes and attach one side to the chip, with its unique set of chemicals sticking up like tines on a comb. Researchers then pour solutions containing other broken strands of DNA to see which strands bond together.

Until now, most microarrays contained human genes. The ultimate goal with these tools, of course, is to improve human health, so this was a natural start-

ing point. It also helped that the map to most human genes is freely available on the Internet, thanks to the Human Genome Project.

Thousands of other genomes of animals, plants and germs have also been charted in recent years. Except for a few notable exceptions, like the mouse genome, a corresponding boom in microarrays containing those nonhuman genes hasn't occurred.

About two years ago, DeRisi and two colleagues brainstormed about what tools would be vital to virus hunters. Instead of outfitting chips with human genes, the trio decided to put virus genes on their microarray instead.

Then, as now, there were no commercially available virus chips. So DeRisi and David Wang set up their own "home-brew operation," said DeRisi called it.

Wang, a 32-year-old postdoctoral student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, set about the painstaking process of etching the genetic material of all mapped germs on to the first chip. DeRisi built the robot needed to pick up each sample to be tested and precisely dropped on the chip.

"A ton of software also needed to be written," DeRisi said. That's because the slide is best viewed on a computer screen after amplification under a laser microscope. The software also helps DeRisi interpret what he's seeing.

DeRisi at the time also presented the idea to the intellectual property office at the University of California, San Francisco. He said the lawyers saw little

commercial value in the invention and declined to pursue a patent.

In fact, the virus chip created scant attention in November when the researchers published word of it in the science journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

That all changed two weeks ago when CDC director Dr. Julie Gerberding told a packed news conference that the coronavirus was probably the cause of SARS. She said DeRisi's chip was "the absolute state-of-the-art probe for viral genes" and proved indispensable in the race to identify the cause of the pneumonia-like infectious disease.

The new coronavirus has not been officially declared the cause, but CDC researchers said they are "90 percent" sure it's culprit.

DeRisi has now become something akin to a rock star in science.

Media outlets clamor for interviews in his shiny new lab, opened in February at UCSF's new biotechnology center. He's deluged with telephone calls and e-mails from scientists around the world asking for advice and pitching potential collaborations, including projects that could be used to combat bioterrorism.

But for now, DeRisi is staying focused on his original research, which involves finding a malaria cure and identifying hundreds of unknown viruses that cause respiratory ailments that are more common than SARS.

"I really want to thoroughly catalogue the viral flora of our environment," DeRisi said.



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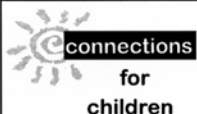
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