

FREE

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 125

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

16, 22, 30, 33, 35

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: **8, 3, 1**

Evening picks: **2, 8, 5**

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

3rd Place: 10, Solid Gold

Race time: 1:48.11



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

■ Leonard Garland, 20, and a partner were arrested in Ashland, Mass., in February, after Garland had the bright idea to crash a party at a private home he just happened to be driving by, thinking that a party was a good place to find customers for his drug business. Garland walked in and struck up a conversation, eventually enticing a guest to ask him about drugs. Garland had cocaine on him, but when his "customer" wanted more, Garland made a phone call to his connection. However, the connection said he would not go near Ashland because Ashland's main narcotics detective, Mark Gutwill, was too aggressive. Unknown to Garland, the source he happened into was an off-duty party of police officers, and the potential "customer" he had randomly chosen to talk to was Detective Mark Gutwill, who soon arrested him.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

In California you lose a point off your IQ every year.

INDEX

Horoscopes
Cancer, get what you want . . . 2

Local
Parking co. loses 3

Opinion
Letters and a cartoon 4

State
Judge commends Ryder . . . 8

National
Fed's emergency plan 9

International
Korean troubles brew . . . 10

Sports
Syracuse wins NCAAs . . . 11

Classifieds
\$3.50 a day! 13

Calendar
Movie listings 15

Landlords pay \$22,000 to former tenants

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

A pair of Santa Monica landlords paid several former tenants more than \$22,000 to escape prosecution by the city for allegedly attempting to skirt rental laws, officials said Monday.

Ross Vaisburg and Daniel Smith, owners of a seven-unit building at 1330 10th Street, paid

six months' rent to each of seven former tenants rather than allow them back into their apartments, officials said.

City Attorney Adam Radinsky said this constituted the "worst so far" manipulation of the Ellis Act, which was passed in 1987.

But Rosario Perry, attorney for the owners, said his clients acted within the law.

"In no respect was that a penalty or a fine,"

Perry said.

The Ellis Act allows landlords to evict their tenants if they are quitting the rental business altogether. Once a structure has been "Ellised," its apartments cannot again be rented unless they are first offered to the old tenants at the previous rate, city officials said.

The seven renters, a mix of singles, senior

See LANDLORD, page 5

ER ward faces its own crisis: bed shortage

Community hospitals need more space, patient facilities

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

With an average of 70 patients rolling into Saint John's Health Care Center emergency room every day, doctors have to stay on their toes to keep the revolving door open.

The biggest challenge physicians face in today's emergency ward is finding a place for patients. On a recent afternoon — a typical day in the emergency room at Saint John's — there were more patients than beds.

Two patients were waiting for space in the hospital's intensive care unit, while others were waiting for a regular hospital bed and many others were lying in cots in the ER's hallway waiting for a private stall.

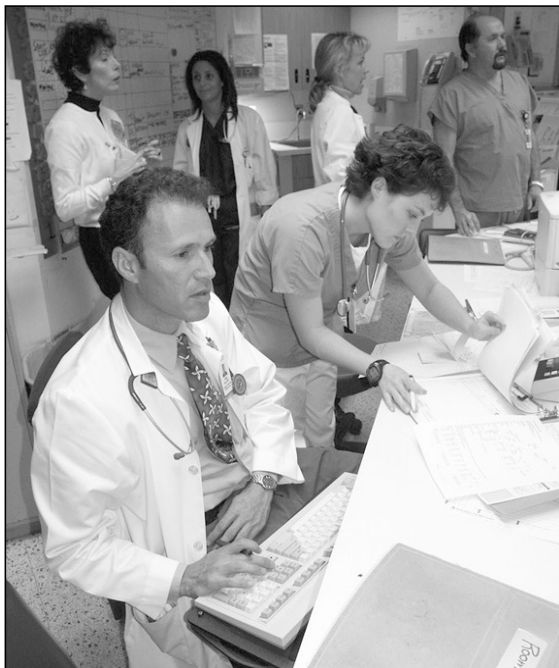
"There are not enough hospital beds in Santa Monica to serve the community," said Dr. Russ Kino, medical director of the Saint John's emergency room. "We need more space, more beds. We are pressed for beds in the city."

Saint John's Health Center is currently building new facilities that will provide for more beds, but it will be some time before they are ready. The \$325 million project is part of a rebuilding plan as a result of damage the hospital

sustained in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Saint John's currently has 229 beds, but that will be increased to 301 after the new buildings open. More importantly, the hospital's new facilities will have better support services to accommodate patients and their needs, said Bob Klein, vice president of Saint John's Hospital and Center Foundation, which is the fundraising arm of the hospital.

See ST. JOHN'S, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Dr. Russ Kino, who heads the emergency room at Saint John's Health Care Center, looks up a patient's information while other ER personnel bustle through the busy day.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Nurse Lorraine Baumann updates the patient board in the ER ward at Saint John's Health Care Center one recent afternoon. The board is used by all ER personnel to track patients who receive care.

Tanks push Iraq to edge

BY CHRIS TOMLINSON AND DAVID ESPO
Associated Press Writers

BAGHDAD, Iraq — American forces bore down on Baghdad with unstoppable force Monday, seizing two of Saddam Hussein's opulent palaces and bombing a building where the Iraqi leader and other regime officials were believed to be staying.

A lone B-1B bomber carried out the strike on what U.S. officials

See WAR, page 9

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 8, 2003:

Make the most out of this very special birthday year. Allow yourself to be less in control and more spontaneous and creative. Your laughter takes you in a new direction. You have an innate talent that will help you gain both emotionally and financially. Use this ability to build your security. Family and home take on new importance and value. You might opt to purchase a house or remodel an existing home. If you're single, nesting will be high on your list of priorities. You will meet someone you want to be much closer to. You'll wonder if this is "it." If attached, you will do much more for each other, increasing your mutual happiness. **CANCER** adores you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Handle your priorities with greater clarity. Emphasize your home and personal life in your decision-making process. What might seem like a major indulgence proves to be most delightful. Consider a home office or adding to your home in some way. Tonight: Happy at your pad.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Verbalize, and others will listen. How you express your message reflects directly in how your words are received. If single, a friendship or flirtation could be developing into a lot more. Relationships on all levels star with happiness. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Knowing when to put a halt to money matters could make a big difference in their outcome. Deal with others directly, especially if you have an idea that could potentially increase the comfort of others close to you. A roommate provides some insight. Tonight: Pay bills first.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might not be sure exactly what you need to do in order to make others more comfortable. The answer is easy! Just be yourself and express your feelings. Others cannot help but respond to your good intentions. Call a friend and make plans. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Know when to step back. A boss might appreciate your sixth sense and your ability to internalize and move through problems. You might be surprised by how someone in charge decides to defer to your decisions. Maintain humility, and this might occur again. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Where your friends are is where you'd like to be. Don't daydream; at lunchtime, pick up the phone and make a call. Design weekend plans that fit your desire to roam. If you want to travel or take off, make this a definite possibility. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Take charge and recognize what others expect. A partner might express his or her expectations in a very soft and caring way, but is absolutely serious about what he or she wants. Others expect you to take charge whether you want to or not. Tonight: Take your bows gracefully.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others see you in a far friendlier manner than you think. Don't underestimate your clout. Stay on top of work, even if you would like to plan a trip or surf the Net. Staying present can make or break you. Don't feed office gossip. Tonight: Burn a new CD.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a situation more openly. You care a lot about a partner or associate. Express your feelings, and know that someone will listen. Teamwork gets the job done. Visualize and work as a group. You can change what is going on. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Be imaginative in your dealings. Your sense of humor can help you detach and make the right choices. Laugh more with a child or loved one. Sometimes you are way too serious. A relationship might be increasing in significance. Tonight: So what if it is Tuesday?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Concentrate on your work, and you'll get a lot done quickly. Mobilize your sense of humor. You find that someone close wants to share something special with you. You will have a reason to grin from ear to ear. Allow greater fluidity in your plans. Tonight: Bring home something special.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Dig into your imagination. Talk about what is on your mind. Sometimes free-associating and brainstorming bring unanticipated results. You will enjoy someone a lot more if you attempt to see life through his or her eyes. Do something special that this person enjoys. Tonight: Play away.

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LOCAL



Novel defense fails parkers

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

The deny, stonewall-then don't-show-up-defense didn't work for an L.A.-based parking company Monday in small claims court.

Commissioner Roberta Kyman held parking giant, Ampco System Parking, liable for a nearly \$2,500 claim filed by a local physician, who said one of its workers banged up her car.

After Ampco, which runs garages nationwide, didn't appear in court to challenge the charges, Kyman held the parking giant responsible for the full claim of \$2,452.49.

Psychologist Vivian Krepack testified that Ampco workers ran her 1999 Toyota Landcruiser into a pole last February while she was at work.

Valet parking attendants at Krepack's office garage, which is located under the Wells Fargo Bank across Wilshire Boulevard from Douglas Park, frequently move cars around in order to make room for visiting patrons.

At the end of the day, Krepack retrieved her keys from the attendant, backed her dark green Landcruiser out and drove home. But when she got out of her car that night, Krepack said she noticed the front fender was bent, one of the headlights was smashed and traces of white paint were smeared across the damages.

Krepack said she immediately called "Jose," the building's main parking attendant who was in charge of her car that day.

"He didn't say, 'I didn't do it,'" she told the court. "And he didn't say, 'I did it.'"

Instead, the attendant referred her to Ampco's head office, Krepack said. Krepack then initiated a series of calls and letters, but said she was given the corporate run around for weeks. In March, Krepack said the company finally responded — by denying all responsibility.

But Krepack didn't let it rest there.

Armed with photos of both her damaged car and the scuffed-up white pole she suspected of causing the damages, she sued the company in Santa Monica small claims court.

Commissioner Kyman awarded the claim, plus court costs. Ampco officials did not return calls Monday seeking comment.

In a later interview, Krepack accused Ampco workers of repeated incidents of neglect. Krepack said a different Ampco valet parker dented another one of her cars while she was shopping in Beverly Hills last year.

Krepack filed a separate small claims lawsuit for the \$900 ding she received while shopping. That case is scheduled to be heard on April 30.

"They never call me back," said Krepack, who added that the company appears to hold a monopoly on parking in Los Angeles. "They write me letters saying, 'We're not responsible,' when they had my keys all day."

Garbage trucks biggest item on spending ticket tonight

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures that appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

By Daily Press staff

Three garbage trucks at \$66,481 apiece account for nearly \$250,000 in spending by the Santa Monica City Council tonight.

The Council is expected to approve nearly \$200,000 to pay for three new diesel-powered garbage trucks to replace two 1990 vehicles and one truck from

1991. Last year, the city spent \$34,000 repairing the aging vehicles, which have more than 100,000 miles each.

Another \$49,225 could be approved by the Council for the second phase of crosswalk improvements on Wilshire, Ocean Park and Santa Monica boulevards, as well as Broadway and 26th Street.

But because the contractor, CBM Consulting, underestimated the length of construction by 11 weeks, the original project's cost of \$376,770 must be increased to \$425,995, according to city staff.

City staff noted in its report to Council that the increased contract amount would be funded by a combination of cost savings from other transportation projects and funds previously appropriated for pedestrian improvements.

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, building through the afternoon. Late day sets hit shoulder high at exposed spots. Malibu should be good, along with Topanga and maybe Zero's.



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	Tuesday	Wednesday	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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The Q-Line

There has been much in the news in the past year about historical preservation in Santa Monica. A special election last month centered around whether the city's Landmarks Commission has the right to deem a private home historical without the owner's permission. Homeowners lost that battle.

The Aero Theatre, which is arguably one of Santa Monica's more significant buildings, is owned by a Landmarks commissioner but it isn't historically designated. The commissioner says he doesn't want it to be.

Fellow commissioners have taken

their colleague's word that he intends to keep the building a single-screen movie house, despite some community members' concern that it could someday become another retail store.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think the Aero Theatre should be a historical landmark? Why or why not?"

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

Crepe Woman responds to Omelet Man

Editor:

Clueless? No sense of humor? You seem to really know your customers. Present me with something funny and I will laugh. Not only do your ads lack a sense of humor but they are distasteful and inappropriate.

If you have a personal vendetta with the City of Santa Monica take it up with them not with local business owners and not with airing your issues in your ads. Additionally, Bob, have you ever considered being an optimist? The Santa Monica Farmer's Market brings in a substantial amount of out of area traffic — many of whom wait on your long lines starting at 7 a.m. and then go to the farmer's market to shop. Many of them only shuffle over to the market to eat when your lines are too long. So in effect, this market that you inaptly name "the carnival" may actually be bringing you business.

I am done with my responses on this topic. Bottom line, keep your issues out of your ads.

Beverly Abrams
Santa Monica

Fluoridation poisoning a concern

Editor:

I appreciate the liability claims adjuster's article (SMDP, April 4) about the city's concern for the safety of pedestrians and liability to the city by constructing bollards by the alleys. However, the city seems to lack concern about the numerous, documented accidents and accidental overdoses regarding water fluoridation across the country, which have resulted in fluoridation poisonings and even death. (See fluoridealert.org and search for "accidents.") Why is this not being looked into by the Risk Management Division of the City of Santa Monica?

F. Dubin
Santa Monica

Cynically countermanding community planning

Editor:

The development proposed for the corner of Main & Pacific streets is ugly, blocky, disjointed and too dense. It overwhelms the surrounding Ocean Park neighborhood and cynically countermands careful community planning that was based on sound principles and consensus building.

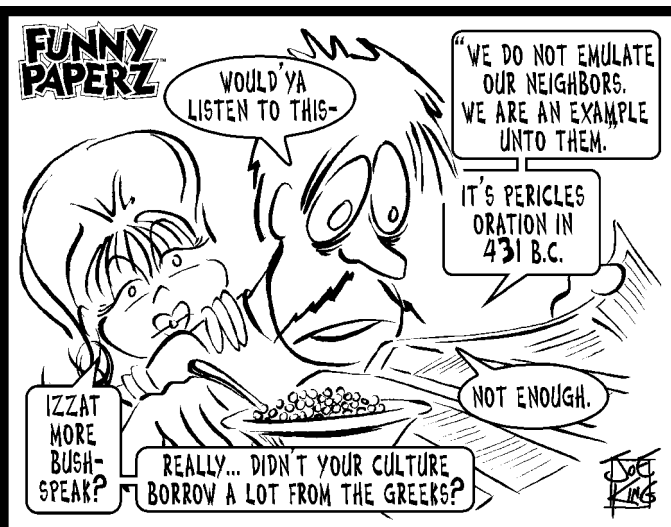
In an effort to win at any cost, CCSM, the project's developer, has mischaracter-

ized legitimate community concerns and accused nearby homeowners and residents of motives they do not have. The Architectural Review Board — which is to review the project on April 7 — should resist being misled by CCSM's attempt to slander those who voice an independent opinion about the project.

Instead, the ARB should respond to community concerns and focus on the objective realities of the project:

1. The proposed design is ungainly and unattractive.
2. The design undermines efforts to preserve Ocean Park's remaining history and charm.
3. The project is too dense.
4. Its height and bulk overwhelms neighboring structures.
5. Its height and density waivers will set a destructive precedent.

Jessica K. Frazier
Santa Monica



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Due to a difference of opinion between the writers, the column Think Twice by Evelyn Jerome and Todd Flora, which usually appears in this space on Tuesdays, has been suspended indefinitely.

Anniversary Collection

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Edited by ROSS FURUKAWA

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

Evicted tenants receive six months' rent in case

LANDLORD, from page 1

citizens and couples who paid between \$400 and \$1,200 per month for their units, were sent packing in May of 1999.

"We all got 30-day notices," said Solomon Harris, a five-year resident of the building who was paying \$550 a month for his rent-controlled unit. "He didn't give reasons but said he had done some research and everyone was ineligible" for the reduced rates.

Vaisburg deeded the property to a company run by his friend, Smith, in 2002. Law required the property to remain vacant during the next three years. Radinsky said the city received allegations the units were still being rented.

After Smith filed his intention to re-rent the units with the Rent Control Board, the buildings' previous tenants were issued letters informing them the units would soon be available again.

The owners refused to sign for certified letters from tenants who wanted to re-rent, Radinsky said.

He added that Smith and Vaisburg have a history of violating tenant rights laws, including a \$20,000 fine they paid the city in 2001 rather than face a tenant-harassment lawsuit.

Perry, who denied the units were rented after the original tenants were evicted, had a different story.

Under the Ellis Act, landlords can opt to pay their former tenants six months' rent if they decide to go back into business, he said. He also said that the landlords' family and friends had already claimed the units, leaving none for the

former tenants.

Perry said the former tenants sent letters to a post office box that wasn't being checked because the addressee was out of the country. Perry said he paid two former tenants who contacted him directly.

But with the threat of action by the city attorney's office for the others, his clients agreed to pay the \$22,000 in fines, Radinsky said. The former tenants received between \$2,400 and \$7,200 each.

If they are not given an opportunity to return to their old units at the original rent, owners are subject to pay "punitive damages" in the amount of six months' rent.

The landlords have now met their obligations under city law and can re-rent the units at market rates, city officials said.

"The way the Ellis Act is worded, it creates this choice to either offer the unit back or pay the six months in damages," said Keith Kresge, a rent control attorney for the city. "I don't know of any case where a displaced tenant has actually been given their unit back."

Radinsky verified that the city attorney's office is satisfied that the tenants have been compensated.

In the meantime, Harris said he was frustrated by the system.

"There's nothing I can do," he said. "I take the \$3,300 and there's no choice. The law says I'm entitled to re-rent, but he pays the penalty and rents to someone else."

"I had no intention to leave. No one did in that place."



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LOCAL

ER docs work with patients outside of hospital ward

ST. JOHN'S, from page 1

The multi-year project will provide a new imaging center, additional outpatient services and improved critical care and ICU facilities, among a host of other amenities.

Saint John's runs between 75 to 80 percent capacity on average, which leaves little room for administrators to juggle patients around when an influx of new people are admitted.

"When you are running 80 percent, you have a full ship," Klein said. "We anticipate once we complete this (project) we should be able to handle the capacity better."

For Dr. Kino, who oversees the ER, the bed shortage is an added stress on an

already stressful environment.

It's a constant juggling act for the two doctors on duty, two physician's assistants and more than a half dozen nurses working during a shift. Tracking patients and their medical needs can get confusing when the ER is hit with a crowd.

It gets even more busy on the weekends, when the ER sees about 100 people a day. Dr. Kino said about 75 percent of the patients can be treated at home or by a physician outside of the ER once they leave. The other 25 percent are admitted to the hospital.

A large erasable board hangs on the ER wall that tracks patients, their condition,

their medical care assessment, which doctor is assigned to them and, more importantly, if they are waiting for a bed somewhere in the hospital. Doctors and nurses refer to the board constantly and use it as their primary tool in managing the ER.

ER nurse Lorraine Baumann updates the board sometimes by the minute, as the fast-paced environment can change in a matter of moments.

Doctors refer to the board to keep track of which patients they are responsible for, as well as to keep up to speed with the ER's capacity and where their colleagues may need support.

"It's like a freeway, when one person breaks down in a lane, it creates a log jam," Dr. Kino said.

Dr. Kino, who handled about seven patients in a span of a few hours, also serves as support for ER personnel who need additional help.

With patients lined up against the walls waiting for treatment and a bed, others can be heard behind the curtains screaming in pain, moaning in discomfort or venting about their frustrations of being in the ER.

At the beginning of his shift, Dr. Kino was first greeted with a small crisis while trying to diagnose an 84-year-old New Hampshire man who came in dazed and confused.

An elderly woman across the hall is screaming, "Nurse, nurse, nurse, god-dammit!" Dr. Kino rushes to her bed to find out she needs to be repositioned. He asks a nurse to help, but she informs him she's trying to move another patient out of the hallway. He assists the nurse so she can reposition the distraught woman.

After the first crisis of many for the day is addressed, Dr. Kino diagnoses the New Hampshire man as having a minor stroke based on his prior medical history.

"In five minutes, five years, you could have a full-blown stroke," Dr. Kino tells his patient. "You've had four or five episodes and you've been lucky to recover from it."

But the man, who was visiting his daughter in Santa Monica, was reluctant not only to be admitted into the hospital, but to receive any treatment at all.

"I've gotta take care of my wife," the patient told Dr. Kino. "I'm probably the healthiest 84-year-old you've ever seen."

Dr. Kino, who possesses a calm bedside manner and a thick Australian accent, convinced the man to at least let a neurologist come to the ER to check him out. Dr. Kino asks the patient to sign a release form, but against his medical advice. The patient is then transferred into the hallway and waits an hour and a half for the neurologist to show up.

As the doctor who is in charge of the ER for the eight- to 12-hour shifts, Dr. Kino gets pulled in several directions and juggles many requests and patients.

One minute he's looking at an X-ray of a patient's lungs to help a physician's assistant with a pneumonia and then he's taking a call from another patient's primary care physician to discuss treatment.

"You walk miles every day," he said. "Sometimes you hold going to the bathroom for hours."

Next, Dr. Kino helps an 81-year-old man who suffers from dementia sitting on a cot in the hallway. His tongue is gushing blood and no one really knows what's wrong with him. Dr. Kino sticks a thick piece of gauze in the man's mouth and realizes he has a substantial gash on his tongue.

The patient is moved to a relatively new section of the ER, called "Fast Track."

"It segregates the sick patients from the walking well," Dr. Kino said. "Fast Track gets the minor cases in and out quickly."

Emergency rooms treat patients based on the severity of their sickness, not on who arrived first. So a patient who sprained his ankle could be sitting in the ER for hours while other patients who are sicker than him keep coming through the door.

On the way to his next patient, a woman in the hallway asks him, "When are they going to move me?" Dr. Kino glances at the board and tells her no beds are available in the hospital at the moment, but to be patient.

He then goes to evaluate a 64-old woman suffering from tightness in her chest. After a brief conversation with her regular physician and several questions of the patient, Dr. Kino suggests that the woman be admitted to the hospital.

However, it appears she is more concerned about whether she can still go on a planned cruise later in the month than her unstable angina condition.

As Dr. Kino talks with his patient, a woman down the hall is heard screaming, "I can't take this anymore!"

Dr. Kino remains focused and convinces his patient that she should be admitted and examined by a cardiologist.

A man who was shot in the head 10 years ago and is bound by a wheelchair, sat in Saint John's ER hallway awaiting treatment because he had fallen out of his chair. Dr. Kino was able to report to him after an hour that his X-rays had checked out and he was able to go home.

But as Dr. Kino was informing his patient of the developments, the patient interrupted him and said, "Excuse me, I'm going to the bathroom." Dr. Kino looked down and realized the man was urinating through a catheter from his bed in the hallway. He gave a smile and said, "OK, I'll be back in a minute."

It took another hour for ER personnel to find the man's wheelchair so he could go home.

As Dr. Kino went to check on the 81-year-old with the tongue laceration and dementia, a physician's assistant asked him to check on another patient in Fast Track.

He was a retired cop, weighed 340 pounds and suffered from a damaged tendon in his knee joint. But, in this case, the man was more concerned about what prescription he was going get and if he could be admitted to the hospital than he was about his injury.

"How about Percocet?" asked the patient, who already had a shot of morphine.

After a lengthy discussion with the patient's primary physician about his history and fondness for narcotics, Dr. Kino sent the man home with a special-sized brace, a pain killer much less potent than the one he'd requested and arranged for a home nurse to come to him.

Dr. Kino said he occasionally runs into patients who ask for stronger narcotics than they need. He said he's always hesitant in prescribing narcotics, particularly when the patient exudes such a strong desire for them.

Finding out as much as possible about a patient is key to Saint John's ER treatment. Dr. Kino, along with the other ER doctors, spend a lot of time on the phone with various physicians to talk about their patient's history, treatment and follow-up care.

"The standard of care is extremely high here," Dr. Kino said. "Most communities don't have that tight follow-up. We spend a lot of time communicating with their doctors."



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STATE



Judge commends Winona Ryder for community service

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

BEVERLY HILLS — A judge commended Winona Ryder on Monday for completing 480 hours of community service at a hospital as part of her sentence on a shoplifting conviction.

Superior Court Judge Elden Fox told the 31-year-old actress during a brief court appearance that she can return to her career, and that he wouldn't object to her filming outside California, or even outside the United States.

"I want you to continue what you have been doing," said Fox, noting that he'd received positive reports on her progress. He also told her to continue therapy and to return to court Oct. 10 for a progress report.

Ryder didn't speak during the hearing other than to acknowledge the date of her return to court.

The actress, who was arrested Dec. 12, 2001, during a shopping trip to the Beverly Hills store, is on three years' probation for felony grand theft and vandalism.

On Dec. 6, 2002, the judge imposed a \$2,700 fine, a restitution fine of \$1,000 to the court and restitution of \$6,355 to Saks Fifth Avenue. A probation report said all payments had been made.

The judge left one issue unresolved: Deputy District Attorney Ann Rundle said Saks Fifth Avenue wanted the court to destroy the thousands of dollars worth of shoplifted merchandise.

"It seems a waste to destroy it," said Ryder's lawyer, Mark Geragos, suggesting the items could be donated to a worthy cause. "It seems silly to take thousands of dollars worth of merchandise and burn them in a bonfire."

The judge said there was concern the items would be used to benefit Ryder, saying he would decide later if they could go to a charity.

Fox said Ryder completed all of her community service at the City of Hope medical center in Duarte on March 11.

"It was reported by Dr. Krell that the probationer actively participates, is motivated to improve and is progressing as expected."

Ryder's probation report

Geragos said Ryder has decided to continue her volunteer work there. She established important relationships with sick children, the lawyer said, "and it has been an amazingly positive experience for her."

Ryder also is taking part in therapy with Dr. Heather Krell at the University of California, Los Angeles. The court had ordered the actress to undergo psychological and drug counseling.

"It was reported by Dr. Krell that the probationer actively participates, is motivated to improve and is progressing as expected," the probation report said.

A probation report that the court released when Ryder was sentenced cited an investigation that found she had received 37 medications from 20 doctors between January 1996 and December 1998.

Ryder had several prescription drugs in her possession when she was arrested. A drug charge was filed but eventually was dropped after a doctor said he had prescribed the medication.

Ryder's films include "Girl, Interrupted" and "Mr. Deeds." She received Oscar nominations for "Little Women" and "The Age of Innocence."

California desert town fails to attract minimum bid on eBay

By The Associated Press

AMBOY — A 150-acre, Route 66 desert town, which includes a post office, motel, cafe, gas station, church, gift shop and two landing strips, failed to sell on the Internet.

Bidding on the auction site eBay ended Friday after a month on the Internet auction site with no offers reaching the minimum reserve price. Amboy, with seven residents, has a listed value of \$1.9 million, but the top bid reached only \$995,900.

"It was below the price that the sellers would be willing to accept," said Rob McManus, estate director for San Marino-based Dilbeck Realtors, which is selling the town for Christie's Great Estates.

The owners will have to resort to more traditional methods to sell the town — through a real estate broker.

"We had expectations that it would be very successful, but the fact that we

went to war in the middle of the marketing process had a tremendous effect on it, as one would expect," McManus said.

The town is currently owned by celebrity photographer Timothy White and his business partner, Walt Wilson.

McManus said even though the eBay auction was unsuccessful, the town's appearance on the Web site prompted calls from interested buyers and he's optimistic the exposure will help in an eventual sale.

"I've been very surprised at the number of people who have expressed interest in the property, and we'll see where that goes," McManus said.

A buyer also gets about 540 acres of surrounding land divided in five non-contiguous parcels, McManus said.

Amboy was founded in 1858 as a mining town. It is about a 3 1/2-hour drive from Los Angeles, about halfway between Barstow and Needles.

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NATIONAL

Reserve piecing together emergency economic plan

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Confronting new fears of recession, the Federal Reserve is refining an emergency economic rescue plan that includes further interest rate cuts and billions of dollars in extra cash for the banking system.

The Fed's effort would be aimed at pulling the country out of a nosedive that has seen 465,000 jobs evaporate in just the past two months, raising fears among economists that the weak recovery from the 2001 recession is in danger of stalling out altogether.

"Clearly, the Fed is in uncharted territory," said economist David Jones. "I think they will try some experimental moves."

One key element hasn't been used successfully in a half-century.

Based on comments by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and other Fed officials, the central bank is expected to move beyond its traditional buying and selling of short-term Treasury securities held by banks to the direct purchase of longer-term securities in an effort to influence long-term interest rates.

Also, Fed officials have indicated they are prepared in the event of an unexpected shock to the system to lend massive amounts of money directly to commercial banks to make sure that financial markets do not freeze up.

And as a third policy option, Fed officials have indicated they would explicitly state that if the federal funds rate is moved below its current 41-year low of 1.25 percent, it is likely to stay at the lower level as long as needed to get the economy on its feet — which would help investors' worries about a sudden jump in interest rates down the road.

The fact that Fed officials have been so open in discussing these options underscores the need the central bank sees to restore investor confidence that has been shaken by the fact that the Fed's aggressive two-year campaign to cut short-term rates has yet to produce a sustainable economic recovery. The Fed's target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge for overnight loans, is now at a 41-year low of 1.25 percent.

"The Fed is trying to buck up fragile confidence," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. "They know that everyone is asking the question: what can be done if the U.S. economy slides back into a recession and it ignites a deflationary cycle?"

Greenspan in a speech in December in New York noted that the Fed from 1942 to 1951, as part of an agreement with the White House, successfully capped long-term Treasury yields at 2.5 percent as a way to hold down borrowing costs to finance World War II.

However, private economists note that a later Fed effort dubbed "Operation

Twist" — in which the central bank sold short-term Treasury securities and bought long-term securities in the early 1960s in an effort to influence rates at both ends of the yield curve — was judged to be a failure because the central bank did not make the transactions in large enough amounts.

"The Fed is trying to buck up fragile confidence. They know that everyone is asking the question: what can be done if the U.S. economy slides back into a recession and it ignites a deflationary cycle?"

— MARK ZANDI
Chief economist at Economy.com

"If you want to produce results, you have to convince markets that you are serious and will do whatever it takes to alter the rate structure," said former Fed board member Lyle Gramley.

The Fed made just such a massive response on Sept. 12, 2001, the day after the terrorist attacks, when it lent a record \$46 billion to banks in a single day to keep the financial system functioning.

Fed officials have indicated that their battle plan has been influenced heavily by reviewing the mistakes made by the Bank of Japan, which has been unable to jumpstart that country's economy over a decade despite driving short-term interest rates to zero. Fed officials believe the Bank of Japan's biggest mistake was being slow to respond after that country's real estate bubble burst in the late 1980s.

Vincent Reinhart, the Fed's top monetary policy staffer, told an economic conference recently that the Fed is striving to act pre-emptively before falling prices become entrenched.

"The best policy for dealing with deflation is to avoid it strenuously by acting pre-emptively," he said.

Because of this, some economists believe the Fed will not wait until its May 6 meeting to put its plan into effect, opting to cut the federal funds rate through an emergency conference call, possibly as soon as this week.

However, other analysts argue that the Fed will likely wait, hoping that the favorable tide of the war will bolster markets in coming weeks and restore confidence.

"I think they will hold off cutting rates again to see if an early, successful conclusion to the war has the desired effect everybody is hoping it will have," said Zandi.

DID YOU KNOW?: Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken, Jr. didn't miss a game in 16 years. He played in 2,632 consecutive games from April 30, 1982 to Sept. 19, 1998.

INTERNATIONAL



Cabinet-level talks between North and South Korea canceled

BY SOO-JEONG LEE
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — Cabinet-level talks between North and South Korea were abruptly canceled Monday in a setback to efforts to get the North give up its nuclear program.

The talks aimed at reconciliation between the two Koreas were canceled after Pyongyang failed to confirm that the meetings would take place, South Korea's Unification Ministry said.

Seoul had hoped to use the meetings to persuade its communist neighbor to scrap its suspected nuclear weapons program. The cancellation is also a setback for South Korean efforts to ease tensions between Washington and Pyongyang.

The cancellation came ahead of a meet-

ing Wednesday of the U.N. Security Council to discuss North Korea's nuclear program.

The council could eventually discuss imposing sanctions against North Korea, if a political solution is not found. China and Russia have said they oppose sanctions.

North Korea has warned that it would regard international sanctions against its isolated regime as a declaration of war.

The Cabinet-level talks were supposed to take place in Pyongyang from Monday to Thursday.

The two Koreas had agreed to meet during their last round of Cabinet-level talks in Seoul in January.

In a telephone message sent to North Korea on Monday, South Korea's Unification Ministry expressed regret over the cancellation and called for a

prompt resumption of talks.

"It is necessary that the two Koreas hold talks and discuss pending issues in a serious manner especially at a time when the world situation is difficult," the ministry said in a statement.

Last month, North Korea canceled two sets of working-level talks with South Korea.

North Korea has repeatedly insisted on direct talks with the United States to negotiate a nonaggression treaty.

Washington has refused, saying a multilateral solution to the crisis was needed.

Tensions have run high in the region since October, when the United States said North Korea admitted having a secret nuclear program in violation of a 1994 pact.

Meanwhile, Richard Lawless, the

deputy U.S. assistant secretary of defense for East Asian policy, was in Seoul on Monday to meet South Korean defense officials. They were expected to discuss the status of 37,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea.

Last month, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said American troops stationed near the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea could be moved farther down from the heavily defended area, shifted to other countries in the region or brought home.

"We will look for ways to make it a more capable alliance, a more equal alliance, and an alliance that is less intrusive in the daily lives of the Korean people," Lawless said in a statement after arriving in Seoul on Sunday.

Forces move through capital with near impunity

WAR, from page 1

described as a "leadership target" — Saddam, himself, and unspecified top Iraqi leaders. It was not immediately clear whether any of them were killed or wounded.

Earlier Monday, U.S. and British officials said they believed Saddam's top commander in southern Iraq had been killed in a U.S. airstrike.

The airstrikes came as American forces moved through the capital with near impunity.

Some Iraqi soldiers jumped into the Tigris River to flee the advancing column of more than 100 armored vehicles. A dozen others were captured and placed inside a hastily erected POW pen on the grounds of the bombed-out, blue-and-gold-domed New Presidential Palace.

An estimated 600 to 1,000 Iraqi troops were killed during the operation, said Col. David Perkins. "We had a lot of suicide attackers today," he said. "These guys are going to die in droves ... They keep trying to ram the tanks with car bombs."

U.S. troops toppled a 40-foot statue of Saddam and seized another of his many palaces, the Sojoud. Tank-killing A-10 Warthog planes and pilotless drones provided air cover as Americans briefly surrounded another prominent symbol of Saddam's power, the Information Ministry, as well as the Al-Rashid hotel.

It was the third straight day the Army penetrated Saddam's seat of power. This time, though, there were plans to stay. Rather than withdrawing at nightfall, as units did over the weekend, members of the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division hunkered down for the night at the sprawling, splendorous New Presidential Palace where Saddam once slept.

Several miles away, two soldiers and two journalists were killed in a rocket attack on the 3rd Infantry Division south of Baghdad, the U.S. Central Command reported. Another 15 soldiers were injured in the attack on an infantry position south of the city.

On the other side of town, Marines encountered tough fighting as they entered Baghdad for the first time, coming under machine gun fire. Lt. Col. B.P. McCoy said two Marines were killed and two were injured after an artillery shell hit their armored personnel carrier.

Marines crossed into Baghdad from the east, their engineers deploying a temporary pontoon bridge over a canal at the southern edge of the city after Iraqis rendered the permanent structure unsafe for heavy, armored vehicles.

Hours later, the sound of occasional American artillery split the night air.

The regime, its brutal hold on a country of 24 million slipping away, denied all of it. "There is no presence of American infidels in the city of Baghdad, at all,"



John Moore/Associated Press

U.S. Army Spc. Harrison Grimes from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, walks past the damaged model of the Saddam Hussein palace he is searching, after a bombing in Baghdad on Monday.

insisted Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf.

The Iraqi government maintained its hold over state-run television and radio — arguably its most important remaining levers of control over the country — and broadcast emotional appeals to resist U.S. forces. Also shown were images of Saddam meeting with key advisers.

The American military flexed its muscle in downtown Baghdad while British officials said one of the regime's most brutal leaders, Ali Hassan al-Majid, had apparently been killed in a weekend airstrike in the southern city of Basra.

A cousin of Saddam, al-Majid was dubbed "Chemical Ali" for ordering a poison gas attack that killed thousands of Kurds in 1988.

Defense officials also said testing was underway on samples taken from a site where soldiers found metal drums possibly containing nerve gas or another type of chemical weapon. A local commander said it was possible the substance was a pesticide, since it was found at an agricultural site near Hindiyyah, south of Baghdad.

After a two-week siege, British forces claimed control over Basra, a city of 1.3 million. Hundreds of civilians, women in chadors and barefoot children among them, poured into the street to welcome the invaders. Some handed pink carnations to the British troops in appreciation.

American and British troops advanced in Iraq as their political leaders were meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland. For President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, it was the second summit since the fighting began.

"The hostilities phase is coming to a conclusion," Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters. Without elaboration, he said the U.S. government is sending a team this week to Iraq to begin laying the groundwork for an interim authority.

In the war zone, Americans felt confident enough for Gen. Tommy Franks, overall commander of Operation Iraqi Freedom, to visit troops in Najaf and elsewhere. The four-star general wore camouflaged body armor and a black beret as his Black Hawk helicopter carried him on his tour.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff, said all but "a couple of dozen" of the Iraqi military's tanks had been destroyed in less than three weeks of combat.

Senior officials at the Pentagon said the Army assault into Baghdad was part of an attempt to persuade Iraqi forces that further resistance was futile. The military would like to avoid an all-out urban battle in Baghdad, with its 5 million inhabitants.

"We can basically go wherever we want, whenever we want, even if Saddam is still alive," said Perkins, who commanded the Army troops inside the city.



John Moore/Associated Press

U.S. Army soldiers from A Company 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment clear Iraqi bunkers in Baghdad on Monday. The American forces rode into the Iraqi capital earlier Monday and took over a presidential palace.



SPORTS

Syracuse beats Kansas for NCAA championship

BY EDDIE PELLIS

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — The Syracuse Orangemen were playground players early, a bundle of nerves late. They juked, jammed and barely held on for a victory

that gave coach Jim Boeheim his long-awaited championship.

Freshmen Carmelo Anthony and Gerry McNamara did the scoring and Hakim Warrick came up with a huge block at the end Monday night to lift the Orange to a thrilling 81-78 victory over Kansas.

Warrick, who missed two free throws that would have sealed the game with 13.5 seconds left, made up for it by coming from nowhere to swat a 3-point attempt by Michael Lee that would have tied it.

Kirk Hinrich, cold all night, shot an air-ball at the buzzer and the Orangemen (30-5) ran to the floor to celebrate their first-ever title. Boeheim threw his arms in the air and ran to shake hands with Roy Williams, deprived once again of the championship.

Anthony showed he is certainly ready for the NBA if he chooses, fighting off a bad back to finish with 20 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. McNamara hit six 3-pointers in the first half to finish with 18 points.

In a marquee coaching matchup between Boeheim and Williams, a pair of brilliant tacticians who had never won it all, it was Boeheim who finally broke through, after 27 years coaching at his alma mater.

Sixteen years ago, Syracuse lost by one to Indiana on Keith Smart's game-winner with 4 seconds left on the same Superdome floor. Boeheim said he wanted to get the last 4 seconds right this time, and he did just barely.

"I think this building kind of owed us one," he said.

In the first half, it didn't look as if he'd have to sweat it.

The Orangemen built their lead to 18 during a breakneck first half. But things ground to a halt in the second, and it was Boeheim's famous 2-3 zone that closed out the game.

When it was over, bad free-throw shooting killed the Jayhawks (30-8). They missed an amazing 18 of 30. They also never really found the outside touch to force the Orangemen to guard them up high. Hinrich shot 6-for-20 — 3-for-12 from 3-point range, and missed twice with a chance to tie in the closing seconds.

Inside, Boeheim's 'D' came close to turning Kansas into a one-man show. All-American forward Collison was valiant — he finished with 19 points and 21 rebounds. But in the end, he simply didn't have enough help against the tall and long Syracuse players and that well-coached defense.

Of course, there are some things you simply can't coach, and McNamara, Anthony, Warrick — the whole team, really — played a one-on-one style of offense in the first half that looked as if it came straight from the playground.

McNamara was relentless, unabashedly hoisting shots from 23, 24, 25 feet and making almost all of them. By the end of the first half, he was 6-for-8 — his season high — and the Orangemen led 53-42. The 53 were the most points scored by one team in the first half of a title game.

But was McNamara the best player out there?

Ask any of the three or four players who had the task of guarding Anthony, the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player, after he took passes at the top of the key. A ball fake here, a dribble between the legs there, a spin or a pull-up 3-pointer — nothing was out of the question with this guy, and very little of it was stoppable.

Masters postponed



Chris O'Meara/Associated Press

A tournament worker walks beside a soggy fairway at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., on Monday. Rain delayed the first day of practice rounds at the site of the 67th Masters Tournament.



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A weekly look at events and programs for Santa Monica mothers and mothers to be

Nurse offers ways to baby-proof your house

QUESTION: I want to make sure my home is safe for my baby? What steps should I take to make it baby proof?

If you haven't already begun to safety proof your home, you should start immediately. Even before babies begin to crawl, there are numerous safety considerations to follow, particularly in the bedroom and crib area.

Make sure the crib mattress fits tightly, with no more than two fingers width between the mattress and side of the crib. Crib slats should be no more than 2 3/8 inches apart to avoid injury. Keep crib side rails up and secure bumper pads to the crib. Do not place any heavy wall hangings directly above the crib and secure all drapery and mini blind cords out of the child's reach.

When your child can sit, remove all cribs and mobiles. Once your child can stand, remove the bumpers and any large stuffed animals that she can climb on to prevent him or her from falling from the crib. Falls are the most frequent cause of injury to children younger than 6 years old.

Once the baby begins to move on his or her own, you should safety proof the entire house. Most babies begin to crawl before six months of age.

When checking for possible child hazards in your home, experts recommend getting down on the floor and crawling from room to room, mimicking the movements that your baby will be making in the months

ahead. There are also professionals available who can evaluate your home and do all the safety proofing for you.

If you plan to purchase and install safety devices yourself, following are some of the basic safety equipment recommended for all homes:

Guest Commentary

By Christina Pols, R.N.

- Electrical outlet covers.
- Cabinet door latches for kitchens and bathrooms.
- Toilet latches.
- Stove guard.
- Stairway gates/barriers.
- Furniture screws and bolts to attach heavy/bulky items to walls.

If your home has a pool, spa or hot tub, make sure it is secured with high fences, locked gates, locking covers and pool alarms. A child can drown in a matter of seconds and it is usually silent.

In kitchens and bathrooms, make sure all cleaning products, prescription medicines, cold remedies, cosmetics, shampoos, perfumes, insect sprays, etc., are kept in high locked cabinets. Many of these products can be poisonous to infants and toddlers, includ-

ing items as innocuous as mouthwash, which can be fatal if swallowed.

Bathrooms in particular can contain many sources of possible danger to your baby. Make sure any appliance that you leave plugged in, such as a hair dryer, does not have a cord long enough to reach any water source. Install a toilet lock and, if possible, install circuit breaker outlets in bathrooms.

When bathing your infant or toddler, use only a few inches of water in the tub and place bathmats on the bottom to prevent slipping. Never leave your child unattended even for a second while filling up the tub or during bathing and drain the bathtub immediately after use. If the bathroom door has locks, remove them so your child cannot accidentally lock it.

These are just a few of the safety issues to consider.

Many hospitals offer parent education classes for expectant moms and dads on infant and child safety. Contact your ob/gyn or hospital to find out what services are available to you.

(Christina Pols, R.N., is the Parent Education Coordinator at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For more information, call Parent Education at 310-829-8731 or visit Saint John's website at www.stjohns.org.)

SCHEDULES:

TUESDAY

Storytelling
 Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:45am - Read Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire - 2 yr-olds with parent. 310-458-8922
 Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
 Lap Time - 11:00am - April 29 - June 3 for 0-24 month olds
 Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
 Cuentos Para Pequenos - 10am - Mar 4-April 8 and April 29-June 3 - a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-3 years old.
 Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
 Family Story Time - 7pm - Stories for the entire family.
 School Age Stories and Crafts - 5:30pm - every other Tuesday thru May 27, ages 5-9 years.
 Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
 Toddler Story Time - 10:00 & 10:30am, April 15-May 20, ages 2-3 years, registration required, call for info.

Breastfeeding Group
 The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga
 Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
 Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling
 Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443, Preschool Story Time - 10:30am - April 30 - June 4, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own.
 Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
 Lap Time - 10 and 10:30am - 6 wk series for 0 - 24 months, April 16 - May 21. No registration required.
 Toddler Story Time - 11:15am - 6 wk series for 2 year olds w/ adult, April 16-May 21. No registration required.
 Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
 Twilight Story Time - 7:00 to 7:30pm - for parents with 3-5 year olds.
 Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 2 pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144
 Border's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444

Breastfeeding Group
 The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga
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 Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

THURSDAY

Storytelling
 Preschool Story Time - 10:15am - Read Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire, Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. 310-458-8922
 Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
 Toddler Story Time - 10:30am - March 6-April 10 and May 1 - June 5 - 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.
 La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.
 Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
 Toddler Story Time - 10:15am - April 17 - May 22 - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult.
 Preschool Story Time - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.
 Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
 Lap Time - 9:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

Other
 Puppets - 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

FRIDAY

Storytelling
 Preschool Story Time - 10:15am - Read Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire, Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. 310-458-8922
 Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
 Toddler Story Time - 10:30am - March 6-April 10 and May 1 - June 5 - 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.
 La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.
 Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
 Toddler Story Time - 10:15am - April 17 - May 22 - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult.
 Preschool Story Time - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.
 Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
 Lap Time - 9:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

Breastfeeding Group
 The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Yoga
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 Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

SATURDAY

Storytelling
 Children's Book World, 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-B00K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8 (April 12, 18, 26)
 Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade - Kid's Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110
 Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 10:30am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Yoga
 Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
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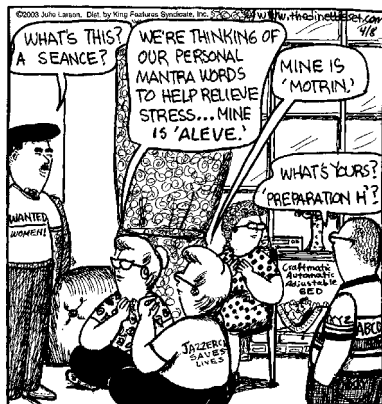
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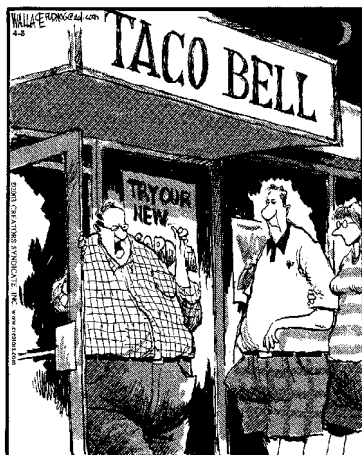
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COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

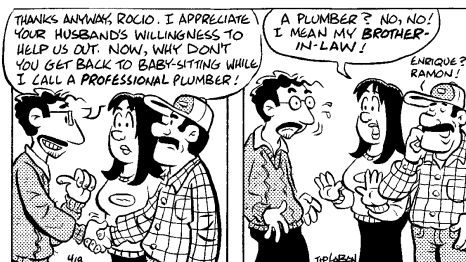


Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace

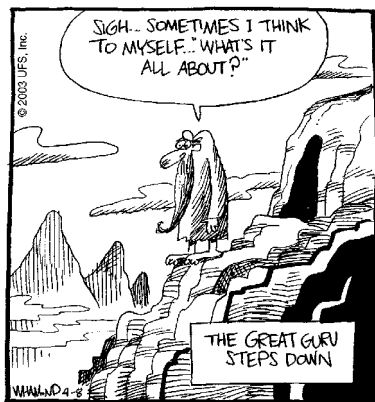


edge city

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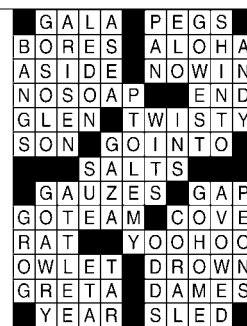
CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Cap
- 6 Hilo hello
- 11 Battery end
- 12 Low point
- 13 Popular herbal remedy
- 15 Excessively
- 16 Bitterly cold
- 17 Actor Fernando
- 18 Bet
- 20 Future oak
- 23 Majestic
- 27 Volcano shape
- 28 Arm of the sea
- 29 Banjo sound
- 31 Egypt's Anwar
- 32 Assure
- 34 Cigar bit
- 37 Freight weight
- 38 Yak it up
- 41 Storm sight
- 44 Asian land
- 45 Birdie beater
- 46 Alacrity
- 47 Singing groups

DOWN

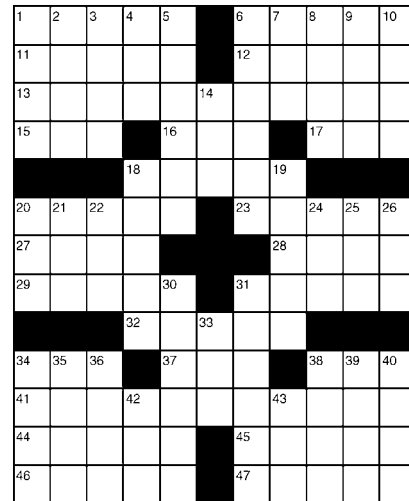
- 3 Magic spell
- 4 Courtroom oath
- 5 Iran capital
- 6 Reply
- 7 Statute
- 8 Smell
- 9 Take on
- 10 Bohemian
- 14 Stable retiree
- 18 Carolina birds
- 19 Summary
- 20 Be decisive
- 21 Farm grazer
- 22 — roll
- 24 Jupiter or Neptune
- 25 Gardner of film
- 26 Rent
- 30 Blow one's top
- 31 Western sight
- 33 Court
- 34 Is inquisitive
- 35 Terminate



Yesterday's answer

- 25 Gardner of film
- 36 Roll call answer
- 26 Rent
- 38 Caron role
- 30 Blow one's top
- 39 Singer Guthrie
- 31 Western sight
- 40 Hive group
- 33 Court
- 42 Rebel leader
- 34 Is inquisitive
- 43 Remote
- 35 Terminate

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TELEMARKETERS CULVER City: \$10 an hour +commission. Flexible hours. Part-time. Call Bob (310)337-1500.

TELEMARKETERS: WORK at home. Set appointments for salvage pickups for a non-profit organization. Potential \$400 per week. Call Manny at 310-753-4909.

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ITALIAN LEATHER Sofa & Loveseat Brand new, still in crate from designer home show. List \$3000. Sacrifice \$995. Must sell! Will deliver! (310)350-3814.

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QUEEN ORTHO Mattress Set. New, still in plastic w/warranty. Must sell. \$125 (310)350-3814.

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For Rent

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BEVERLY HILLS ADJ. \$1550.00 Vintage 2 story 1920's duplex. Master Bedroom, entertainment center, 2bdrm/1ba, living room, eat-in kitchen, bright, Mexican tile, faux fireplace, lots of architectural detail, hardwood floors. Permit street parking.

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MDR MARINA Strand \$2250 2+2, West exposure, atrium, tennis, spa, enclosed patio. (310)823-8000.

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SANTA MONICA SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2003

TUESDAY

TODDLER STORY TIME presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. Tuesdays at 10am and 10:45am. Reed Park, Reed Auditorium West, corner of 7th St. and Wilshire. Stories and activities designed especially for 2 year olds who are accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (310)458-8922.

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PEOPLE 55 AND OLDER. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

CROSSROADS SCHOOLS IN SANTA MONICA invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

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

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE EMERITUS COLLEGE BAND invites adult musicians who play a band instrument to join the band. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening in the Band room at Lincoln Middle School, 14th and California Streets from 7pm to 9:15pm. Concerts are given during the year. For more information call (310)474-5271.

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

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American seafood, specializing in live Main Lobster. Open 7 days serving lunch & dinner. 1602 Ocean Ave., Reservations recommended. 310.458.9294

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

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

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

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

MOVIE GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
View From the Top (PG-13) 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) 11:55, 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.



BACK PAGE

'Millionaire' contestant found guilty of cheating

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — An army major, his wife and a college teacher were convicted Monday of using "coded coughs" to win the top prize on Britain's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

Charles Ingram maintained that luck, military training and strategy had helped him answer the \$1.55 million question — "A number 1 followed by 100 zeros is known by what name?"

But prosecutors said college professor Tecwen Whittock used a system involving coded coughs from his seat in the audience to guide Ingram to the correct multiple-choice response: a googol.

The jury found 39-year-old Ingram, his wife Diana, 39, and Whittock, 53, guilty of deception in trying to win the contest.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin upbraided the defendants for a "shabby schoolboy trick."

But he spared them jail terms, giving them suspended sentences of a year to 18 months because they had been "shamed in the most public way and your reputations ruined." They were also ordered to pay thousands of dollars in fines and court costs.

"I am not at all sure that it was sheer greed that motivated this offense," he said. "I am sure all three of you were besotted with quiz programs and the ambition to be successful on a major television show."

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" — in which contestants must answer 15 increasingly difficult questions to win one

million British pounds sterling was created in Britain in 1998. Versions of the show have since spread to dozens of countries, including the United States.

Ingram, an officer in the Royal Engineers who had served as a peace-keeper in Bosnia, told "Millionaire" host Chris Tarrant during the September 2001 taping that he was relying on a particular "strategy and counterstrategy" to win the top prize.

But producers became suspicious of Ingram's odd behavior and of coughs coming from the audience. The winner's check was stopped while they investigated, and the episode was never broadcast.

Tarrant said Ingram was "the most extraordinary contestant, constantly changing his mind from one possible answer to another, and behaving in the most erratic and hard-to-follow fashion."

Prosecutors at the three-week trial said Ingram had become obsessed with winning the top prize. Both Ingrams had previously appeared on the show — Diana Ingram won \$50,900 and Charles Ingram failed to get past a qualifying round.

Diana Ingram wrote an unpublished book, "Win A Million," in which she said her husband had spent \$3,100 on calls to the show's contestant hot line. After winning a chance on the show, he practiced daily on a mock-up "Fastest Finger First" keypad his brother-in-law had made from an old calculator casing.

Prosecutors said the Ingrams were tens of thousands of dollars in debt and had considered using a system of vibrating pagers to win the top prize.

In the end, they colluded with Whittock, a business lecturer, who was in the audience during the taping. He blamed hay fever for his coughing.

"It goes without saying that in any large group of people, and here there was space for about 200 people in the audi-

ence, in any group of that size you will probably hear a lot of coughs, splutters, throat clearing, or whatever," prosecution lawyer Nicholas Hilliard told the jury.

But analysis of the episode revealed a pattern of "coughs made on mike" from Whittock's area of the audience.

Mob boss ends insanity ruse, pleads guilty to obstruction

BY LARRY MCSHANE
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Mob boss Vincent "The Chin" Gigante admitted Monday that his bathrobe-clad jaunts through Greenwich Village and other bizarre behavior were an act to avoid prison. Then he revealed a glimpse of something long hidden: his personality.

The Genovese family boss entered a guilty plea on obstruction of justice charges and then publicly dropped his "Oddfather" persona for the first time in decades. Gigante chatted amiably with his son, Andrew. He shook hands with defense lawyers and sipped water at a table in federal court.

He was animated and responsive, laughing at one point.

Looking pleased and quite rational, Gigante gave federal judge I. Leo Glasser a broad wave before leaving the courtroom. "God bless you," he told the judge while heading for the exit.

Gigante's previous court appearances

found him staring blankly at the floor or into space. The 75-year-old was sentenced to three years in prison for obstruction of justice — deliberately misleading doctors considering his ability to stand trial.

"Is that true?" Glasser asked Gigante. "Yes, your honor," he replied, nodding slowly.

Some elements of the persona remained. Gigante's hair was wildly uncombed, and he sported a growth of white chin stubble. He wore an oversized blue prison pullover above a white T-shirt and walked gingerly.

Gigante maintained the crazy act — wandering Greenwich Village in pajamas and a bathrobe, all while running the nation's most powerful crime family. For more than a quarter-century, it worked — much to the frustration of authorities.

Gigante avoided conviction from 1970, when he first launched the ruse, until a 1997 conviction for racketeering and murder conspiracy. He received a 12-year sentence; his obstruction-of-justice sentence will be served after that.

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