

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

8-14-25-27-46

Megamember: 14
Jackpot: \$10 million

FANTASY 5

06, 08, 12, 33, 37

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 8, 4, 7
Evening picks: 6, 2, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 07, Eureka.
2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit.
3rd Place: 04, Big Ben
Race Time: 1:46.44



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ In March, former Northwest Airlines flight attendant Daniel Reed Cunningham was charged with slyly drugging the apple juice of a severely rambunctious 19-month-old baby during a 2002 flight. The mother became suspicious after tasting the juice and so slipped some into a container for later testing (which revealed Xanax).

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

There is no they, only us.

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Doorway sleeping law proving to be ineffective

Business reps criticize Council for sign requirement

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

A new law designed to remove sleeping vagrants from downtown doorways is slower in making a difference than business owners had hoped for.

The effectiveness of the law, which police started to enforce Feb. 27, has been called into question because of an 11th hour amendment approved by the Santa Monica City Council in October, when the ordinance was passed.

Critics say the amendment, which

requires any business that doesn't want people sleeping in its doorway to place a sign in the window saying so, was added into the law's language at the last minute.

If there is no sign posted, police can't enforce the law, which prohibits sitting or lying in downtown doorways from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Of the hundreds of businesses situated downtown, only 32 have the new signs posted, said Santa Monica Police Sgt. Ira Rutan, the supervisor of the Third Street Promenade detail. There are roughly 90 businesses on the

See LAW, page 5

Council moves forward on new McDonald's project

Members appear to support project despite staff concerns

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Developers are tweaking plans for a major overhaul of McDonald's on Second Street.

The City Council on Tuesday asked the developers to rethink parking and car access to the proposed remodel. Many council members voiced support for the project, which will go back before the council May 13.

"We were hoping for this," said Margaret Taylor, land use consultant for the developers and member of the City



File photo

An artist's rendering of the renovated McDonald's building on Second Street.

of Burbank Planning Board. "I can't say we had any expectation at all."

Planning for the three-story building at the intersection of Second Street and Colorado Boulevard began eight years

See PROJECT, page 6

Banners receive a closer look

Council not sure how to regulate who can advertise

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The banners that hang over Santa Monica's roadways could cause the city a lot of trouble.

Officials are studying how to continue to offer advertisement space to local non-profits without violating the First Amendment. In the meantime, they're making other adjustments to policies that govern individual rights of expression.

Council members voted on Tuesday

to loosen restrictions on "spontaneous" public gatherings and name an official parade route through the city. But another amendment that would have restricted what banners can advertise was sent back to city staff for more research.

"I'm concerned because I think people need to have banners," said Councilman Herb Katz, adding that the code currently controlling banners is "pretty loose."

"It's a tightrope, we're trying to walk it."

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said the changes to the city's code have been

See BANNERS, page 6

Over the top



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

One of the participants in a pole vault clinic, sponsored by No Limit Sports, clears the top bar Wednesday at Santa Monica High School.

Iraqis topple statue to end Saddam's rule

BY RAVI NESSMAN AND DAVID ESPO

Associated Press Writers

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Their hour of freedom at hand, jubilant Iraqis celebrated the collapse of Saddam Hussein's murderous regime on Wednesday, beheading a toppled statue of their longtime ruler in downtown Baghdad and embracing American troops as liberators.

"I'm 49, but I never lived a single day. Only now will I start living," said Yussuf Abed Kazim, a mosque preacher. A young Iraqi spat on a portrait of Saddam. Men hugged Americans in full combat gear, and women held up babies so soldiers riding on tanks could kiss them.

Iraqis released decades of pent-up fury as U.S. forces solidified their grip on the capital. Marine tanks rolled to the eastern bank of the Tigris River; the Army was on the western side of the waterway that curls through the ancient city.

Looting broke out in the capital as Iraqis, shedding their fear of the regime, entered government facilities and made off with furniture, computers, air conditioners and even military jeeps.

"We are not seeing any organized resistance," said Navy Capt. Frank Thorp at the U.S. Central Command. "The Iraqi

See STATUE, page 10

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HOROSCOPE

Get a good night's sleep, Virgo



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, April 10, 2003:

Don't lose your temper too easily, or you could regret your words. Learn ways of diverting your energy and using it in a more positive way. Sometimes you could feel overwhelmed by all that you have on your plate. Discover new ways of relating. Always put your best foot forward. Your nurturing ways will go quite a way with a close friend or loved one. If you are single, a relationship will bloom this year. You might decide that this person is "the one." You will probably meet your sweetheart before fall. If you're attached, your relationship will develop through greater nurturing and caring. The two of you feel closer than ever. LEO cheers you on.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You can finally communicate your good will through a financial effort or change. Express your imaginative quality, breaking new ground if need be. A relationship with a child or loved one gains in priority. If single, note what will soon turn the corner. Tonight: Play away.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Speak your mind so that someone else can hear you. Investigate the possibilities that surround your present life. You might want to make an adjustment or change to your home front. Build on your security. Others respond to your efforts. Tonight: Put your feet up.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might be more vulnerable than you realize. Your feelings could be hurt, though you might not have the right words to tell someone how you feel. Take the high road in a discussion, and a lot will happen far too quickly. Listen well to feedback. Tonight: Out on the town.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Reach out for others, knowing full well where you're heading and what needs to occur. Feelings run high in a friendship. Give this person the benefit of the doubt. Check out an expenditure more carefully. You want to make sure it is workable. Tonight: Pay bills first.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Stand back, knowing that you have many different options heading your way. Realize when you do go on overload. Step back and allow someone to pitch in. Don't worry too much about what a boss or supervisor thinks. By late afternoon, you're back in the swing of things. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ News from a distance could make a big difference. The possibility of travel or a special new friend entering your life puts a smile on your face. You might want to pull back and take some time to think right now. Seek out expert information. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your positive nature is now reflected back upon you. A partner only sees you with caring eyes. Discussions lead to new possibilities and what you want to happen. You get what you want, but in a most indirect manner. Save networking for later in the day. Tonight: Where the gang is.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to answer e-mail and do research. Reach out for a loved one close to you. In the afternoon, do your best to clear your desk. You find that others massively seek you out. Enjoy being in the limelight. Enjoy the attention. Tonight: A must show.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ An associate appreciates your efforts and lets you know it. Remember that this is a work relationship before deciding just how far you'll let this bond go. Seek out experts for solutions, not caving into office gossip or easy answers. Tonight: Start thinking about vacation plans.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might not be sure which way to go with a friend or loved one. Consider your options carefully, not just looking at what is presented or the obvious. Your ability to read between the lines proves to be an enormous advantage. Tonight: Spend time with a partner.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Dig into work, because sooner rather than later, you could be distracted. Understand what might be necessary to please associates and loved ones. You might want to bring others together for a meeting. Allow the social nature of your work to emerge. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your creativity comes out with friends. Be more supportive with a friend or loved one who means a lot to you. You might need to schedule a break or a lunch with this person. Loosen up with this person. Break down a resistance. Tonight: Put your feet up.

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LOCAL



L.A. to pay sister of actor shot at Halloween party

By staff and wire reports

The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to pay \$225,000 to the sister of an actor shot to death at a Halloween party when he pointed a fake gun at a police officer responding to a noise complaint.

Anthony Dwain Lee, 29, was shot in the head and back on Oct. 28, 2000, after he pointed a rubber replica revolver at Los Angeles Police Officer Tarriel Hopper.

A Santa Monica jury in February exonerated Hopper in Lee's death, finding he acted reasonably in entering the costume party.

The case was brought by William Frey, 27, and Jeffrey Denton, 36, who were standing with Lee in a private room when Lee was fatally shot by Hopper, a three-year LAPD officer who had gone to the Benedict Canyon mansion on a noise complaint. The episode gained national attention after the episode.

Denton escaped injury, while Frey was hit by glass from the shattered pains through which Hopper fired nine shots in the space of 1.86 seconds at a distance of six feet. Hopper said he acted as his training dictated after he saw the gun pointed at him through the door. Four shots hit Lee in the back — a fact LAPD critics have stressed. Hopper has said that Lee may have turned quickly during the incident, but that he was concentrating on the gun pointed at him.

Lee had appeared on such TV shows

such as "ER" and "NYPD Blue," and had a small role in the hit Jim Carrey movie "Liar Liar."

His estate hired Johnnie Cochran Jr., who played the LAPD in the O.J. Simpson case, to bring a wrongful death case. It was settled before going to trial. The case came under intense scrutiny, on the heels of department brutality and corruption scandals.

The Los Angeles Police Commission ruled the shooting did not violate police policy, adding Hopper was justified in using deadly force because he feared his life was in danger. City officials said they were confident they would have prevailed in court but didn't want to subject Lee's family to a trial.

"This was a really tragic incident, and it was important to resolve the matter, to both sides, before going through the events at trial once again," said Eric Moses, a city attorney's spokesman.

The actor's sister, Tina Lee-Vogt, had sought \$100 million from the city before filing suit in Superior Court.

Cochran said he was satisfied with the settlement.

"It's never enough, from a standpoint of a loss of a life and a relative, but you have to weigh all the factors," he said. "It's not a large sum of money, but it is a recognition that she is entitled to recover."

Witnesses said it wasn't clear if Lee knew Hopper was an officer because several party guests were wearing police costumes.

Mother of drowned child testifies against Tommy Lee

By The Associated Press

The mother of a 4-year-old boy who drowned in rock drummer Tommy Lee's pool testified in front of a Santa Monica jury Wednesday she would have insisted he bring his water wings if she'd known there would be swimming at a birthday party for Lee's son.

Actress Ursula Karven was questioned by attorneys for a second day before Superior Court jurors. She and her husband TV producer James Veres are suing Lee for wrongful death — for alleged negligence in not having a lifeguard or anyone available to perform CPR.

Karven said she first learned there was

swimming when a German exchange student who went to the party to watch over Daniel Karven-Veres and his older brother returned home without them, to get ready to go to a concert.

She said Christian Weihs told her: "Don't worry. They're out of the water now," and that he had turned over care of the boys to a nanny for three other children at the party.

"I told Christian I didn't know there would be swimming and I would have given Daniel his water wings," said Karven, who also testified Daniel was "scared of the water."

See TOMMY LEE, page 6

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Today southwest swell fades and northwest increases.

The northern points should sink back into the waist-high range on average while South Bay spots should see improved size and conditions as northwest swell peaks.

El Porto ought to reign in a good amount of the swell, seeing chest-to-shoulder-high sets and medium consistency.

Expect pristine, glassy windless mornings, but if afternoon winds pick up strength, conditions suffer.

Friday, northwest holds and more chest-to-shoulder-high sets are predicted at west-facing breaks, better in the south.

Another weekend of bad weather seems to be headed our way, with winds likely making for choppy, blown out surf.



Today's Tides:

High- 3:58 a.m. 4.06'
Low- 12:12 p.m. 0.20'
High- 7:35 p.m. 3.44'
Low- 11:54 p.m. 2.85'

Location	Thursday	Friday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	C
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	2-4'/Fair	3-4'/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

'Feminist' not a dirty word

Editor:

In your article about the Women's Issues Club at Crossroads High School, you quoted club member Zach Meredith as saying "the club isn't a feminist club. It's for the equality between the two sexes." Zach, if you believe men and women should have equal rights, you are a feminist! It's not a dirty word.

Frances Northcutt
Santa Monica

'Just follow the leader'

Editor:

So after all the cheering has stopped and all the CNN cheerleaders display more blood stained American flags aside their yellow ribbons, what's left?

Thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians dead, joined by targeted international journalists murdered by the U.S. military, Iraq taken apart "strategically" by the crudest U.S. weapons of mass destruction available in the so-called free market today.

And watch for headlines to come, like this in today's Santa Monica Daily Press: "ER ward faces its own crisis: bed shortage." We learn what we already knew: That there are "not enough hospital beds in Santa Monica to serve the community." But there are plenty of beds of missile silos from California to South Dakota to New York. No problem.

Just follow the leader as Bush tries to instigate yet another war on a tiny country most of us will never visit. We'll never visit it not only because of the distance, but because this president will wipe it off the map with million-dollar U.S. cruise and tomahawk missiles at taxpayer expense.

Pretty brave for a president and vice-president, neither of whom served in the armed forces, but have a ton of their own investments in oil wells.

Andrew Kay Liberman
Venice

Wisdom from Washington and Kipling

Editor:

With regard to Charles Springer's complaints about the shabby treatment of our veterans by our federal government, we should keep in mind President George Washington's admonition that, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to

how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

Rudyard Kipling in his "Tommy" observed that:

"Oh, it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' 'Tommy, go away;'

But it's 'Thank you, Mister Atkins,' when the band begins to play.

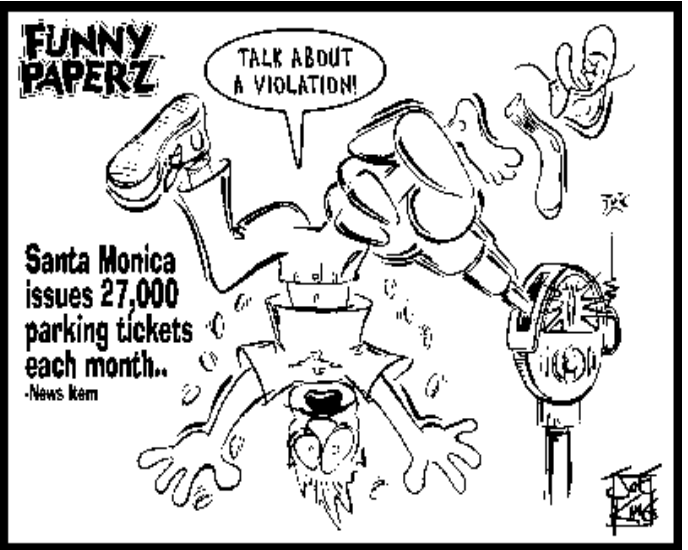
It's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' 'Chuck him out, the brute!'

But it's 'Saviour of 'is country' when the guns begin to shoot.

Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' 'Tommy 'ow's yer soul?'

But it's 'Thin red line of 'eroe' when the drums begin to roll."

Norman G. Axe
Santa Monica



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Aliens make contact in Santa Monica, or so we're told



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

"Hey, I just wanted to revisit something from last night," began my buddy Matt's message on my machine. "So do you think our boy is completely insane or what?"

The admission was music to my ears, even if a bit surprising. I hadn't been sure if I was alone on this one or not. Maybe it was I that was paranoid and delusional, the very characteristics I so easily projected onto my friend by dismissing his thoughts and beliefs so readily. No matter that they smacked of conspiracy theories.

No doubt I thought I was alone in seeing what had become of "our boy," as Matt called our former co-worker, whose name is being omitted for his own protection. There's already a slew of people "out to get" him anyway, or so he thinks.

This was the topic for debate the previous night in a Montana-area apartment in Santa Monica, as we sat bandying about subjects such as secret wars, secret plots and life on the run from just about every governmental agency — all discussions repeatedly put forward by Pete, whose

name has been changed to protect the paranoid, er, innocent.

Sitting in the darkened apartment with a mug of Guinness keeping cool my right hand, there was little excuse not to let Pete bend my ear. Yet I could not find it within myself to delve into a series of topics I found increasingly disturbing and increasingly less credible.

"What has happened to this guy?" I wondered as his diatribes on all things conspiratorial went in one ear and out the other. I knew Pete had fallen on hard times — losing his job, breaking up with his girlfriend and getting evicted from his apartment. I heard he had even been sleeping in his car off and on and assumed that setback after setback had rendered him somewhat delusional.

Or had they?

Maybe it spoke more of my own insecurities that I wouldn't even allow Pete to get started, wouldn't allow him to try and counter my repeated stabs of cynicism. Of course, a big fat, "Why?" often is enough to shoot down such unsubstantiated theories.

Still, I didn't even want to hear it. Not after Matt spent about 45 minutes poring through an underground spy magazine with Pete prior to settling into the living room with some brews.

On the other side of the coin, here's Matt digging in deep with Pete, showing

interest in the wild schemes and sensational plots that the latter is beginning to accept as reality. It was hard to tell whether or not Matt was buying into it, weighing the evidence, or just being polite. Of course, if he's buying into this crap, he's as zany as the next guy, I reasoned.

There I sat, alone with my cynical ways, while the two of them bonded over the absurd. Why was I the one drinking alone? Matt, if he felt like I did, to his credit never let on that he wasn't with Pete 100 percent. So it came with some surprise when he left that message on my answering machine. While that allayed some fears about my own inability to listen to opposing viewpoints, no matter what field they spring out of, it soon gave way to a sense of disappointment on my part in that I didn't give a friend the time of day when I disagreed with him.

I also wonder in hindsight whether Matt or I did our troubled pal the best service. Is it better to be up front from the get-go, squashing others' beliefs without giving them the forum to develop them? Or is it better to pay lip service as Matt did, showing his friend that he is interested in what he has to say, even though he doesn't necessarily agree with it? At the same time, he muffled his own feelings on the matter and Pete was none the wiser, though Pete knew exactly where I stood.

In retrospect, a measure of each would have been the best tact to take — showing interest as Matt did, but also voicing my dissenting opinion so Pete knew where I stood, as I did. As it stood, we sent Pete home thinking he made a connection with Matt, which he didn't, and ran up against a brick wall in me, which, unfortunately, he did.

No, I don't believe the next three wars are all pre-planned, the hole in the ozone layer is for alien surveillance or the moon landing was a staged television event but that's not really the point.

The most convincing arguments involve a modicum of give-and-take, and listening to Pete, no matter how implausible, would have been the preferential precursor to voicing my own beliefs and driving the point home with Pete, not simply dismissing his views as gullible or irrational.

There is no substitute for an open heart and an open mind. Pete had to listen to some of the theories he has since adopted as his own, so it would follow that we need to do the same in our own efforts to affect change within others.

Sometimes it's all too easy to forget that communication involves both sending and receiving, speaking and listening.

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica.)

LOCAL

Bayside distributing signs for new law to businesses

LAW, from page 1

Promenade and 27 of them have a sign citing the law.

For those businesses, Rutan said the SMPD has been able to cite or arrest 25 individuals for breaking the law.

"We enforce the law as it's written," Rutan said, adding the SMPD is routinely patrolling the downtown area during the early morning hours to find potential violators, but only on property that has signs posted.

"We have no legal authority if there isn't a sign posted to take any action," Rutan said.

Some critics say the reason only 25 percent of the businesses have the sign is because they don't want to advertise that they have a vagrancy problem. Others point out that many of the stores along the Promenade are owned by corporations with strict policies about signage on their retail floors.

Councilman Ken Genser, who made the motion to include the sign requirement, said the distinction separates those who want people sleeping in their doorways from those who don't.

"I brought it up because some people don't have a problem with it and people need to sleep somewhere," he said, adding that vagrants who sometimes sleep outside of his downtown office on Wilshire Boulevard don't appear to pose a hazard.

However, others believe anyone sleeping outside poses public safety hazards. The law was passed under that notion, as Council members and the Bayside District Corp., which manages the downtown core with the city, cited safety and public health concerns as the reason for the law.

Bayside formed a public safety committee last summer to address concerns over transients' anti-social behavior. Residents, tourists and business owners have complained for years that transients urinate and defecate in doorways of downtown businesses, creating unsanitary conditions.

After months of heated debate, the committee introduced the ordinance to the Council last fall — without the sign requirement.

Barbara Tenzer, of Tenzer Commercial, who represents many downtown businesses and property owners, and was involved in the public safety committee, said the Council has made the law ineffective.

"It appears that all the time we spent between July and October having meetings and having every retailer and restaurateur on the Promenade sign a petition begging the city to pass an ordinance was a waste of time," she said. "What was all that work for? To pass a law that doesn't work."

"They need to remove the sign requirement. If anyone wants people to sleep in their doorways, they can put a sign up that says so," she added.

Tenzer also said retailers find it offensive that they are now required to put a sign up advertising that they have people lying in front of their businesses.

"We asked them to pass a law, not put up a sign," Tenzer said. "Are you really helping people by allowing them to sleep in doorways? If they want to help, this is the best they can come up with?"

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside, said it's taking a lot of time and energy to educate business owners about the sign requirement.

"It's cumbersome," she said. "We

wanted to avoid a difficult process ... I would have preferred that there would be no sign requirement. Posting should have been for people who don't mind (people sleeping in doorways.)"

Bayside officials have made hundreds of the signs and distributed them to downtown businesses, but not many have made it into the public's view.

"They put it up and then it disappears," Rawson said. "It gets lost in the shuffle and is just one more thing to do in opening and closing the stores."

"I can understand the reluctance of a proprietor to post a sign indicating there is a problem. Third Street officers are encouraging business owners to take control of their property and it would be much more effective if every doorway had a sign."

— JAMES T. BUTTS JR.
SMPD chief

Bayside officials have tried to simplify the process by inserting a ready-to-go sign in this month's edition of the Bayside Beat, the organization's newsletter distributed to businesses downtown.

"It doesn't matter what it looks like, as long as the language is the same," Rawson said.

The law prohibits people from sleeping in doorways bounded by the east side of Ocean Avenue, the north side of Wilshire Boulevard, the east side of Lincoln Boulevard, and the south side of Pico Boulevard. The law also applies to the Main Street commercial area, which includes businesses on Pico Boulevard south to the city border, and from Nielsen Way to Second Street.

It also is unlawful to sleep in vestibules, doorways and under stairways in the alleys, which require signs being posted by the business owner. No signs are currently posted in the alleys, Rutan said.

SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. told the Council last fall when it was considering the law that the less restrictions the better. But it also is up to the business owners to use the tools they have been given to help police enforce the laws, he said.

"I can understand the reluctance of a proprietor to post a sign indicating there is a problem," he said. "Third Street officers are encouraging business owners to take control of their property and it would be much more effective if every doorway had a sign."

Tenzer and other business owners want the city to remove the sign requirement.

"The property owners, restaurateurs and the business owners have done their job but (City Council members) tweaked on their job," she said. "Hopefully, the Council will recognize the mistake they made. Whether it was intentional or not they need to change it."



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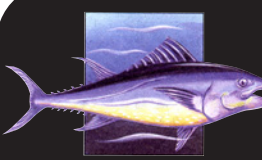
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LOCAL

McDonald's project 'not compatible,' planner says

PROJECT, from page 1

ago. The Spanish-style structure will offer two to four retail spaces on the ground level, office space on the upper levels and a renovated McDonald's, said Tom Landau, the project's architect.

The plan went before the council as an appeal to a Planning Commission denial. City staff recommended against approving the project, saying it would worsen downtown traffic.

Developers, who met with planning officials Wednesday afternoon, have 10 days to redraw the project and hand it over to planning officials. The city workers will then review the revised plans and study how traffic would be affected if officials decide to reverse the direction of the adjacent alley in order to ease traffic.

The alley currently runs toward Colorado Boulevard. Developers said that in its present form the alley worsens traffic by dumping drivers onto Colorado Boulevard.

Landau said he will redraw the plans so the 31 ground floor parking spaces designated for patrons of McDonald's are connected to the project's 269 subterranean spots. Council members had expressed concern that drivers visiting the restaurant may need more than 31 spots. Landau also said he will look at eliminating a driveway on Colorado Boulevard.

Once the changes are complete, the council will again review the proposal. The council has directed staff to make available the necessary paperwork to approve the project in May.

At Tuesday's meeting, eight of the nine public speakers were enthusiastic about the project. Kelly Olsen, former head of the Planning Commission, was the only member of the public to speak against the project.

Several organizations have voiced support of the project, including the Pier Restoration Corp., the Bayside District Corp., the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and several homeowner groups.

City staff recommended Tuesday that the council uphold a previous Planning Commission ruling and deny the project.

In his presentation to the council, Jay Trevino, planning manager for the city, said the project is "not compatible" with the surrounding area because of traffic and pedestrian concerns.

While the overall supply of parking is adequate, there are too few spaces allocated to McDonald's, Trevino told council members. Trevino also highlighted an environmental report that stated traffic — as well as noise and air quality during the demolition and construction process — would present "significant and unavoidable impacts."

Lawsuit making waves in city

BANNERS, from page 1

initiated by a First Amendment lawsuit filed against the city. The lawsuit, in part, challenges the discretionary power the city uses in determining what is acceptable on over-the-road and lamp-post banners.

Lawyers say the current law that controls banner content is vague and overly broad.

"If you have a rule, you can't make exceptions," said Carol Sober, the lead attorney on the lawsuit. "You can't have a regulation that says you can talk about economic issues but not political issues or religious issues."

City staff on Tuesday recommended limiting banner content strictly to city events. While that would exclude fairs, art gatherings and other community events, Moutrie said it would eliminate concerns of violating First Amendment rights by letting one group advertise but not another.

A handful of community members urged the council to think twice before putting an end to an inexpensive form of advertising for local groups. They asked the city to come up with a workable alternative.

Council members agreed the issue needed more attention and left it in the hands of city attorneys to "turn over every

stone" in their research for a banner law that would address the concerns of the community.

The city currently allows non-profits that are sponsoring events in Santa Monica to apply for banners, said Joan Akins, the official who oversees banners. No political groups have applied for banners in her more than 10 years at the post, but schools and other community groups frequently use them, she said.

"The event cannot be a service," she said, giving the example of a church mass. "It can be a fundraiser."

Food Not Bombs is the official plaintiff in the First Amendment lawsuit against the city, which also challenges the legality of public feedings for the homeless in Palisades Park.

The city enacted a law last fall that made it illegal to serve food in public parks without permits from the health department and the city. No action has been taken on the law. Officials are currently grappling with how to educate the public and enforce the controversial law.

Sober said the city appears to be making progress in response to the lawsuit.

"They're basically changing everything that we challenged," she said.

Mom: Son was afraid of water

TOMMY LEE, from page 3

"But Christian said the pool part was over and that an animal show, actually a magic show, was to start and then cake, and Daniel loved cake," she said.

Daniel's father, James Veres, testified that he had tried to teach Daniel to swim.

"Daniel had a flotation device called an 'egg.' He didn't go anywhere (near water) without that or his water wings," Veres said

The party was held June 16, 2001, for the fifth birthday of Brandon, son of the former Motley Crue drummer and actress Pamela Anderson.

Lee testified Tuesday, repeatedly placing the responsibility for the children on the guardians who accompanied them to the party at his Malibu estate. He said every child arrived with a parent or baby sitter to look after them.

STATE



CA Supreme Court weighs Coastal Commission future

BY DAVID KRAVETS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court agreed Wednesday to decide for itself whether the state Coastal Commission, created by voters to protect the California coast, can continue to function and whether thousands of its past decisions on development can stand.

All seven justices agreed to review a December ruling by a Sacramento appellate court that the composition of the 12-member commission was unconstitutional and its rulings unenforceable.

Formed by a 1972 ballot measure amid voter concerns that local governments lacked the will to protect the coastline, the commission oversees development along California's 1,100-mile coastline and approves individual development proposals and local government plans for the coast.

The case reached the justices after the 3rd District Court of Appeal said the commission, as embodied, had no legal authority to squelch a nonprofit's bid to build an artificial reef 300 yards off the Newport Beach Pier.

After the commission rejected the reef in 1999, the Marine Forests Society appealed to the courts, successfully arguing that the commission was an unconstitutional abuse of authority because legislative leaders were granted too much power over members of the commission.

The Supreme Court did not indicate when it would review the appeals court's

decision, which is on hold pending a ruling. But the decision, when it comes, could affect the validity of thousands of its development decisions.

"There are huge issues out there," said Ronald Zumbun, the society's attorney.

The justices, who rarely comment when accepting cases, announced they would decide whether all the coastal panel's decisions granting or rejecting 100,000 building permits should be voided if they side with the lower court's decision.

"It's an important question that needs to be resolved," said Tom Dresslar, a spokesman for Attorney General Bill Lockyer, who urged the justices to take the case. "We don't think the holding of the court of appeal should be applied to past decisions."

The court of appeal ruled that the commission's structure is unconstitutional because leaders of the California Legislature appoint eight of the 12 commissioners and can remove them at will. The governor gets four at-will appointments. The appeals court said the composition vested too much power in the Legislature.

In an effort to correct that defect, Gov. Gray Davis called an emergency legislative session. On Feb. 20, Davis signed legislation altering the appointment process to the commission, making appointments fixed, four-year terms.

The Supreme Court also said it would decide whether that fix would pass constitutional muster.

Complaints against restaurant owners dismissed by law firm

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS — A law firm accused of filing fraudulent court actions to get settlements has abandoned consumer lawsuits against nearly 3,000 defendants after a judge deemed the firm unfit to pursue some of the litigation.

The Trevor Law Group, which is facing disciplinary proceedings before the State Bar of California as well as a lawsuit filed by the state attorney general, informed more than 1,000 restaurant owners Tuesday that it was dismissing unfair competition complaints against them.

The announcement follows a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge's decision last month to dismiss unfair competition suits against roughly 1,600 auto repair businesses in the county.

The suits alleged mainly minor violations of the state business code, such as forgetting to give a customer a receipt.

Authorities contend they were directed

at small businesses such as restaurants, nail salons and bakeries, mostly owned by non-English speaking immigrants. The lawyers allegedly tried to persuade the defendants to avoid court and settle for \$6,000 to \$26,000.

Trevor Law Group has announced that it will appeal the decision, and similar cases it has filed against roughly 500 auto repair shops in Orange County remain active.

The State Bar Court is scheduled to consider temporarily blocking the firm and its lawyers from practicing law on April 17. State Bar officials have said they will ask the state Supreme Court to disbar the lawyers, but those proceedings will take place over an extended period of time.

In February, Attorney General Bill Lockyer filed a lawsuit against the firm alleging that the lawyers themselves violated the Unfair Competition Law when they filed suit against the garages and restaurants.



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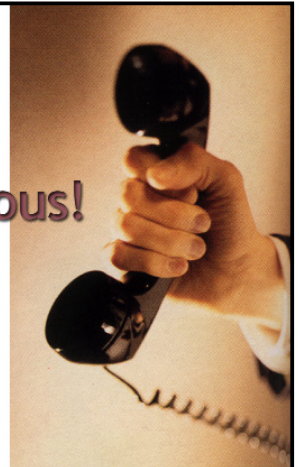
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STATE

Channel Island marine preserve officially opens

By The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — Waters around the Channel Islands officially became part of one of the largest "no-fishing" zones in the United States on Wednesday, a move that pleased environmentalists and angered the fishing industry.

The California Fish and Game Commission voted Oct. 23 to create the 175-square-mile network of marine reserves, one of the largest in U.S. waters. The regulations creating the marine reserves are meant to give endangered white abalone, rockfish, giant kelp forests and an array of other species a chance to recover from years of excessive fishing.

Commercial fishermen fear the move will lead to more no-fishing zones and conservation areas up and down California's 1,150-mile coastline. State law requires a draft map of such a network by 2005.

"Now the door is open. Who knows when the hell they'll stop," Mike Ricketts, president of the Monterey Commercial Fishermen's Association, told the San Jose Mercury News in Wednesday's newspaper.

Fishing groups filed a lawsuit in December, accusing the state of failing to collect information for the marine areas before their creation. A Ventura County judge last month rejected a request for a temporary restraining order.

An economic impact report done for the state Fish and Game Commission indicated that sport fishing and diving boat operators could lose as much as \$6 million a year in income from creation of the reserve. Commercial fishermen could lose as much as \$3 million a year.

The nation's largest marine reserves are in the waters off the Florida Keys and the northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Violations within the aquatic preserve will carry fines up to \$1,000 and a year in jail.

"Our founder, the late Jim Donlon, would be proud that his goal of protecting the Channel Islands for future generations is finally being fulfilled," said Steve Roberson, a spokesman for the Channel Islands Marine Resource Restoration Committee, the recreational fishing and diving club that made the original reserves proposal.

Sheriffs, police chiefs seek easier way to raise taxes

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California sheriffs and police chiefs proposed a constitutional change Wednesday that would let a smaller majority of voters approve local taxes to fund public safety measures.

The change would lower the majority required to pass a local measure from two-thirds to 55 percent.

"A two-thirds vote is almost an impossible vote to get anything through," said Tuolumne County Sheriff Dick Rogers.

Rogers and others hope to imitate the success of California schools and community colleges, which have passed \$14 billion in bonds since a 2000 ballot measure lowered the necessary voter majority to 55 percent. That measure, Proposition 39, represented a major dent in 1978's Proposition 13, which requires "supermajority" votes for new taxes.

Since 1986, voters statewide have passed fewer than half the local tax measures to boost public safety, said Kim Rueben, a research fellow with the Public Policy Institute of California.

The Legislature is considering similar proposals to lower the two-thirds voter majority for county transportation sales taxes.

San Mateo County Sheriff Dan Horsley said a 2000 bond measure to replace a 1924 crime lab received 66 per-

cent of the vote, yet "lost by a mere .7 of a percent."

To prevail, the sheriffs' proposal must pass the Assembly and Senate with two-thirds majorities, win a signature from Gov. Gray Davis, then attract support of more than 50 percent of statewide voters.

Wednesday, Davis declined to commit his support.

"I don't want to opine on any other tax bills at the moment," he said. "I have proposed \$8 billion worth of taxes in my budget and I'm not going to get into a discussion of additional taxes right now."

At a news conference with Assemblywoman Pat Wiggins, D-Santa Rosa, author of the proposed constitutional change, sheriffs and police chiefs said their departments face layoffs while simultaneously contending with higher homeland security costs.

Only 47 percent of 221 ballot measures for new public safety taxes have been approved with two-thirds majorities, while 83 percent of 184 school bond ballot measures passed since 2000 with the smaller majority, Rueben said. Nearly half of those school bonds wouldn't have passed with the supermajority.

Meanwhile, the Assembly Local Government Committee approved a bill by Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, allowing cities and counties to levy local income taxes, then shift more property taxes to public safety.

**FIND OUT YOUR FORECAST IN TODAY'S
HOROSCOPES ... PAGE 2**

Santa Monica Daily Press

NATIONAL



Travel industry seeks government help, tax breaks

BY JONATHAN D. SALANT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The travel industry wants a bigger tax break for business meals and government money to promote tourism, citing fallout from the struggling economy, terrorism fears, the Iraq war and the mysterious flu-like illness spreading through Asia.

At a conference Wednesday, travel representatives and others discussed how to reverse the fortunes of an industry that has shed 387,000 jobs since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"When American people move, so does our economy," said Tom Donohue, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the gathering. "Don't stay home and cry in our soup and let Osama bin Laden win."

Business travel is down, tourists are sticking close to home and international visitors are reluctant to cross oceans.

The impact is felt not only by the industry, but also in

the cities and states that depend on tourism dollars. Atlanta has lost 12,000 to 16,000 tourism-related jobs and \$7 million in tax revenue since 2001, Mayor Shirley Franklin said.

Industry officials say government can help. Atop their list is letting business travelers deduct the entire cost of meals and entertainment from their income taxes, rather than just half, and allowing deductions for accompanying spouses.

"Let's have two people traveling, two people eating in a restaurant, two people shopping," said Jonathan Tisch, chairman and chief executive officer of Loews Hotels and chairman of the Travel Business Roundtable, an advocacy group of businesses that depend on travel and tourism.

House Majority Whip Roy Blunt, R-Mo., however, said the meal tax break was not being discussed in Congress. Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, the conference's keynote speaker, promoted President Bush's proposed \$726 billion tax cut plan, which includes the

elimination of taxes on dividends.

John Wilhelm, president of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, said restoring the full deduction for business meals and entertainment would cost less than \$35 billion. "That would do more for our economy than the repeal of the taxation of dividends," Wilhelm said.

In addition, officials praised Congress for allocating \$50 million for a "visit the USA" campaign to lure people from other countries, and discussed how they could try to convince American tourists that it is safe to travel.

People who do travel will find plenty of discounts, said William Norman, president of the Travel Industry Association.

"There are extraordinary bargains," Norman said. "Americans by nature want to travel. It's important to restore confidence in travel and tourism and give them an incentive to travel."

Citizens discuss ban on smoking in public places

BY DAVE KOLPACK

Associated Press Writer

FARGO, N.D. — A man who helped lobby for smoke-free workplaces in California says it's time for the Fargo area to pass a similar law.

"It's a health and safety issue," said Paul McIntyre, the keynote speaker Tuesday night at a public forum to gauge support for a ban on smoking in the workplace.

McIntyre, while working for the California Restaurant Association, originally fought against a smoking ban in California. He said he changed his mind when the Environmental Protection Agency said secondhand smoke was a

health hazard.

"We broke ranks with the tobacco industry," McIntyre said.

About 100 people attended the forum, which was sponsored by the Fargo-Cass Tobacco Prevention Network, a group that would like to see smoking banned in workplaces of area cities.

Simon Martirosyan, a manager at a Fargo restaurant, said he favors a smoking ban, but only if it covers all bars and restaurants.

"I'm a smoker myself," Martirosyan said, "but I can't stand more than five minutes in the smoking section."

Danny Schatz owns truck stop restaurants in Fargo and Minot, where that city passed an ordinance in 2001 that restricts

smoking in city restaurants. He spoke against the idea.

"The lies and the bogus reports you're going to see in the next six months are going to be sickening," Schatz said. "I don't agree with your numbers, I don't agree with your confessions."

Ordinances to ban smoking have yet to be proposed in Fargo, West Fargo or Moorhead.

"I think we're at least taking a step in the right direction in bringing it up," said Linda Kohls, spokeswoman for the American Cancer Society of North Dakota. "I like the way the coalition handled it by asking for the public hearing first."

Many business owners do not want

government telling them what to do, especially since bars and restaurants already are heavily regulated, McIntyre said.

"In their mind, it's another big headache they don't need," McIntyre said. "But worker safety is the focal point."

Most people who are opposed to a ban don't believe secondhand smoke is harmful, Kohls said.

"If you did believe that, why would you not support protecting your clients or your workers ... or the general public?" she asked.

Many cities in North Dakota are discussing smoking bans since Minot passed its ordinance, Kohls said. McIntyre spoke at a similar forum in Bismarck on Monday.



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INTERNATIONAL

IMF forecasts weak global recovery due in part to war

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The global economy will experience slower-than-expected growth this year because of the Iraq war, and if the conflict does not end quickly the consequences could be much more serious, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

The IMF slashed its projection for global growth this year by one-half percentage point. It blamed most of the downward revision on the jump in oil prices that occurred late last year and early in 2003 as markets grew worried that a U.S.-led invasion of Iraq would disrupt global oil supplies.

The IMF noted that since mid-March oil prices have retreated somewhat and global stock markets have rebounded, two favorable developments which it said should support its reduced forecast of 3.2 percent global growth this year, down from a 3.7 percent projection the IMF made in September.

The IMF cautioned that this scaled-down forecast would be seriously jeopardized if the war in Iraq does not end quickly.

"A more prolonged and destructive conflict in Iraq could have a severe impact on

global activity," the IMF said. "Such a development would clearly slow — and could choke off altogether — the already fragile recovery in industrial countries."

IMF chief economist Kenneth Rogoff said that even with a quick conclusion to the Iraq war, the global economy will be facing a number of other risks from the lingering effects of the bursting of the stock market bubble and the rising threat of a housing bubble in the United States.

"For the past three months, concerns over conflict in the Middle East have weighed heavily on the global economy," Rogoff told reporters Wednesday. "But in our view, it is not just the war — a number of other risks weigh on the outlook."

The IMF projection of 3.2 percent growth this year would be only slightly better than the 3 percent increase in global output in 2002. For 2004, the IMF projected a significant rebound to 4.1 percent growth as oil prices retreat further and global financial markets begin to recover from a prolonged slump in stock prices.

The IMF's latest "World Economic Outlook" predicted that the U.S. economy would grow by just 2.2 percent this year, 0.4 percentage point below its September estimate. The IMF forecast U.S. growth would rebound to 3.6 percent in 2004.

The U.S. performance would still be far better than other major industrial countries. Growth in the 12 nations of Europe that use the euro as a common currency was projected at a weak 1.1 percent this year and a slightly stronger 2.3 percent in 2004.

Japan, which has struggled for more than a decade with a slumping economy and now deflation, was projected to see growth of just 0.8 percent this year and a still-weak 1 percent in 2004.

The IMF said the global economy remains seriously imbalanced, with the United States supplying most of the forward momentum because of the failure of Europe and Japan to jump-start their own economies.

The IMF said America's rising trade deficit was a "a source of serious concern," especially in light of the fact that the U.S. government's budget deficit has begun to rise, increasing the need for the country to tap global capital markets at a time when the U.S. dollar is weakening in value against other currencies.

Rogoff termed President Bush's request for another round of \$726 billion in tax cuts to jump-start the U.S. economy awkwardly timed in light of the billions of dollars needed to pay for the Iraq war.

Outside of the industrial countries, the IMF projected some improvement in economic growth in the developing world, although it said that the new deadly Asian virus called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), by curtailing tourism and business travel, posed a threat to growth forecasts in that region.

The IMF's latest economic forecast was prepared for the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank that will begin Friday with preliminary talks among finance officials of the world's seven richest industrial countries: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy.

The Bush administration is hoping to use those talks to help heal the rift that occurred between the United States and many of its European allies over the war in Iraq.

Administration officials said the G-7 discussions and the IMF and World Bank meetings would be used to begin building support among the allies for helping in the reconstruction of Iraq once the war ends. Officials said they did not expect to get pledges for specific amounts of support at these meetings.

Scenes of liberation and celebration in Iraqi streets

STATUE, from page 1

military is unable to fight as an organized fighting force."

There was continued combat in cities to the north, though, where government troops were under attack from U.S. and British warplanes.

The scenes of liberation in Baghdad and celebrations in scattered other cities unfolded as the Pentagon announced that 101 American troops had died in the first three weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Eleven others are missing and seven listed as captured. The British said 30 of their troops were dead. There are no reliable estimates for Iraqi casualties, although an Army spokesman said 7,300 prisoners had been taken.

The medical system was overrun with civilian casualties in Basra and Baghdad, cities where some of the fiercest fighting has occurred. Doctors said 35 bodies and as many as 300 wounded Iraqis were brought to the al-Kindi hospital in the capital Tuesday.

Saddam's whereabouts remained a mystery, especially so since a bombing Monday night on a building where U.S. intelligence officials believed he and at least one of his sons were meeting. U.S. special operations forces scoured the site Wednesday, looking for remains or other evidence that the four bombs may have killed the Iraqi leader. Russia's Foreign Ministry denied that Saddam had taken refuge in Moscow's embassy in Baghdad.

There was scattered fighting in the capital, including at Baghdad University, where Iraqis were cornered, the river at their backs.

Fires burned in the city after dark — the Ministry of Transport and Communication was ablaze — and gunfire persisted. But Pentagon officials characterized it as sporadic attacks from pockets of resistance, and said U.S. troops had been through most areas of the capital.

Increasingly, American and British forces were turning their effort to humanitarian assistance in the southern part of the country, and their firepower on northern regions not yet under their control.

Warplanes bombed Tikrit, Saddam's birthplace about 100 miles north of the capital, in advance of ground forces moving in. American commandos and Kurdish peshmerga fighters seized a key mountaintop in northern Iraq, eliminating an Iraqi air defense installation near the government-held city of Mosul.

To the south, officials said the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Regiment had reached Qurnah, said to be the site of the biblical Garden of Eden. The troops were welcomed by cheering crowds of Ma'dan, marsh Arabs who have suffered genocide at the hands of Saddam. There was celebrating, too, in Basra, according to a British journalist



Koji Harada/Associated Press

The head of a giant Saddam Hussein statue is pulled by Iraqis in Baghdad on Wednesday.



Koji Harada/Associated Press

A smiling Iraqi boy flashes V-for-victory signs as he walks with U.S. soldiers in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Wednesday.

who reported that rejoicing broke out after news of developments in Baghdad reached the city.

Administration officials cautioned that difficult and dangerous days may yet lie ahead for American and British forces. "This is not over despite all the celebrating on the streets," said Defense Secretary Donald H.

Rumsfeld. And Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Iraqi death squads still exist in the western part of the country.

Like other officials, Rumsfeld said he did not know Saddam's whereabouts. But he said some unidentified members of Saddam's regime were moving out of Iraq into Syria. Citing intelligence information, he added that some were staying in Syria, while others were going on to other locations.

While Rumsfeld and other American officials cautioned that combat may lie ahead, Iraq's U.N. ambassador told reporters that "the game is over and I hope peace will prevail." Mohammed Al-Douri's comments to reporters in New York were the first admission by an Iraqi official that Saddam's forces had been overwhelmed.

Whether Saddam was living or dead, wounded or hoping to escape, the signs of his regime's collapse were everywhere.

For the first time since Operation Iraqi Freedom was launched three weeks ago, Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf failed to appear before reporters with claims of glorious battlefield victories by Iraqi troops. And for the first time in decades, Iraqis were defacing images of the man who ruled brutally for nearly a quarter century.

One wall painting was spraypainted with black devil's horns, eyeglasses and a black chin beard. Others were set ablaze.

"We are relieved because for years we lived in anxiety and fear," said Shamoun George, a resident of Baghdad's Karrada district, as American troops entered the area.

"Bush, Bush, thank you," chanted small bands of youth in Saddam City, a predominantly Shiite area of eastern Baghdad.

At the city center, a crowd gathered at the base of a large statue of Saddam inside al-Firdos (Paradise) Square.

Several men climbed up a ladder, tied a thick rope around the statue like a noose, then tried to pull it over. Moments later, a Marine briefly covered the upright statue's head with an American flag, then replaced it with an Iraqi flag, underscoring the sensitivity that senior U.S. officials feel about entering Iraq as liberators, rather than occupiers.

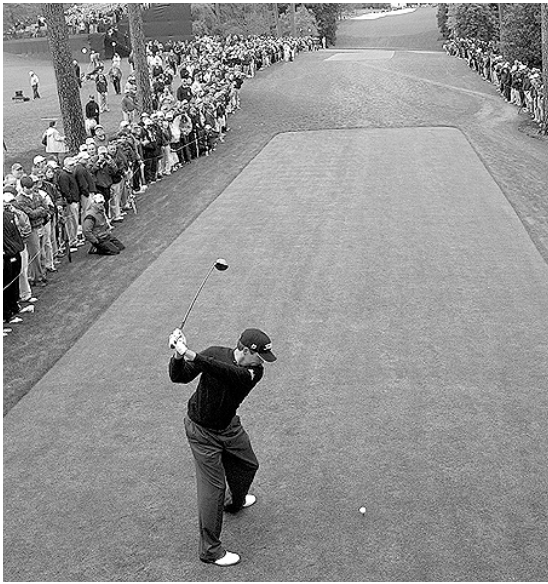
Finally, the Marines brought an M88 tank recovery vehicle into position. A chain was attached to the statue, which was toppled to the cheers of watching Iraqis. Quickly, they swarmed over the downed icon, stomping it. Soon after, several men were seen dragging its severed head through the streets, and Iraqis used a sledgehammer to attack the pedestal where it once stood.

The scene was televised worldwide to an audience that included President Bush.

SPORTS



Mastering his shot



David Martin/Associated Press

Davis Love III lines up his tee shot on the 18th during practice for the 2003 Masters at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga. on Wednesday. First round play begins on Thursday.

O'Neal skips practice, upsetting his coach

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

AP Basketball Writer

EL SEGUNDO — Shaquille O'Neal skipped practice Wednesday, and coach Phil Jackson was not satisfied with his excuse.

"He called, although he didn't call a number that reached any of us," Jackson said after the rest of the Los Angeles Lakers held a light workout and watched film in preparation for Thursday night's game against the rival Sacramento Kings.

"He didn't call, he had someone call for him," Jackson said. "Flat tire is what he said. That's all I know."

A flat tire in the O'Neal household would not seem to be an insurmountable obstacle. The 7-foot center is known to have a vast supply of automotive options in his oversized garage — far more than a dozen vehicles, according to one team employee's estimate.

"It bothers me, yeah," Jackson said.

At the same time, Jackson inferred that he would not make a big issue of O'Neal playing hooky, saying the team would move on and concentrate on the task of trying to become the first team in nearly four decades to win four consecutive NBA titles.

With four games remaining, the Lakers are in sixth place in the Western Conference and have a chance to improve their playoff seeding if they finish 4-0.

Portland, currently fourth in the conference, held only a 1 1/2-game lead over the Lakers entering the Trail Blazers' game Wednesday night at San Antonio.

The Lakers will play at Portland on Sunday before finishing the season against the Nuggets and Warriors.

First, though, come the Kings, who have defeated the Lakers twice this season.

It will be the last regularly scheduled installment of the league's best rivalry, one that has included a preseason fight between Rick Fox and Doug Christie, a Christmas night victory by the Kings at the Staples Center, and a game last month in Sacramento in which O'Neal scored his 20,000th career point, only to find an obscene message written on the game ball when the Kings presented it to him.

"They don't need to win this ballgame, they've sewn up the Pacific Division," Jackson said. "If we want to move up in the standings, it's a must-game for us to win. Any loss now pretty much eliminates our chances of moving up to a different bracket."

At practice, Jackson had planned to emphasize a few offensive themes that he felt the Lakers were lacking the last time they played the Kings. But O'Neal's absence deprived Jackson of a big part of his intended audience.

Dodgers top Diamondbacks 5-3

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Paul Lo Duca was a perfect fit batting fifth in the Los Angeles Dodgers' lineup.

It's unlikely to happen again any time soon, but that's OK with him.

"I know I'll be back in the two-hole. BJ got the day off," Lo Duca said, referring to outfielder Brian Jordan. "I've said from day one, I don't care where I hit as long as I'm in the lineup."

Lo Duca went 3-for-3 with a walk. His second run-scoring double drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning Tuesday night as the Dodgers rallied for a 5-3 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Dodgers had runners on base in each of Lo Duca's four plate appearances.

He walked to load the bases in the first, before Oscar Villarreal threw a wild pitch that enabled Dave Roberts to score the game's first run.

Lo Duca's first RBI double came in the third, and he singled with one on and one out in the fifth.

Then, with two outs in the seventh, Lo Duca's liner off third baseman Matt Williams' glove scored Cesar Izturis from first base to snap a 3-3 tie.

"I thought I had it, but it hit off the end of my glove. I saw it all the way," Williams said.

"The ball was hit pretty hard and it was hooking a little bit," Diamondbacks manager Bob Brenly said. "I don't know if he lost it in the crowd, but that's a ball Matty normally gobbles up. It was just unfortunate."

Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said he dropped Lo Duca from second to fifth because he wanted a right-handed bat in that spot.

"I was not going to bunch left-handed hitters up and be easy to be managed against," he said.

The Dodgers tied the game earlier in the seventh off Miguel Batista (0-2) on Shawn Green's sacrifice fly. Lo Duca came through after Fred McGriff struck out.

"I felt better at the plate tonight," Lo Duca said. "I think the whole team's been a little sluggish. We played with more energy tonight and I think that made a difference."

The Dodgers added an insurance run in the eighth when shortstop Craig Counsell made a throwing error on pinch-hitter Jordan's grounder, allowing Adrian Beltre to score from second.

The Dodgers entered having played a 13-inning game Sunday and a 12-inning game Monday, so they needed a strong outing from starting pitcher Kazuhisa Ishii.

And that's what they got.

Ishii went six innings, allowing four hits and three runs while walking three and striking out seven. He threw 113 pitches.

"He did a great job tonight," Tracy said.

"I knew the bullpen had been extended," Ishii said through an interpreter. "I went into the sixth. I would like to try to do better next time."

Paul Shuey (1-1) pitched two shutout innings to earn the victory, and Eric Gagne worked a perfect ninth for his first save.

Gagne had to wait until the season's ninth game for his first save opportunity. He had 52 saves in 56 chances last season.

"They were going to come, it was just a matter of time," he said.

Luis Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the fourth and Williams homered in the sixth to account for Arizona's runs.

Kansas fires athletic director Bohl

BY DOUG TUCKER

Associated Press Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The University of Kansas fired athletic director Al Bohl on Wednesday.

Bohl had numerous clashes with popular men's basketball coach Roy Williams, whose Jayhawks lost to Syracuse in the NCAA championship game earlier this week.

Bohl was hired in 2001 to replace Williams' close friend and longtime Kansas athletic director Bob Frederick.

Bohl's job seemed to be in jeopardy since rumors surfaced in February that UCLA would pursue Williams for his head coaching job after the season.

Speculation intensified after North Carolina coach Matt Doherty resigned before the Final Four. Williams, a Tar Heel alumnus, passed on the job three years ago.

"I would not resign," Bohl told The Associated Press. "I was fired."

Despite the widely reported rift between Williams and Bohl, and the current opening at North Carolina, Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway denied he fired Bohl to convince Williams to stay.

"We have to trust him (Williams) to make the right decision now," Hemenway said.

Williams said Bohl tried "extremely hard," but also acknowledged differences existed.

"It is always sad for the individual involved when a situation such as this occurs and a change is made," Williams said in the statement. "We had difficulties, and we were not as cohesive as the athletic department needs to be. This made the atmosphere somewhat difficult."

Hemenway appointed A. Drue Jennings, a Kansas graduate, former football player and the former chief executive of Kansas City Power & Light, interim athletic director.

Hemenway said he discussed leadership of the department with Bohl during the past few months, as well as with coaches, other athletic department staff members, alumni and donors.

"On the basis of these conversations and my own evaluation of the situation, I came to the conclusion a change of leadership was needed at this time," Hemenway said, adding that he made the decision before the end of the basketball season.

Bohl told The AP that he would meet with reporters at his home later Wednesday.

"They wouldn't even let me talk with the media on campus," said the 55-year-old Bohl, who was hired specifically to help repair the school's football program.

Bohl served as athletic director at Toledo and Fresno State, and was credited with turning around the football programs at both schools.

His biggest move at Kansas was to fire football coach Terry Allen with two games left in the 2001 season, and replace him with Oklahoma offensive coordinator Mark Mangino.

Williams expressed his displeasure with Bohl's decision to fire Allen. Williams was especially angry that Allen was fired during the season. Just a few months before Allen was fired, Williams was a prominent coach at an ethics seminar and endorsed a proposal urging schools not to fire a coach whose sport was in season.

"And then it happens at my very own school," Williams said at the time. "How embarrassing."

Bohl countered, "Roy is the basketball coach, and I am the director of athletics. I was hired to fix this football program, and that's what I'm going to do."

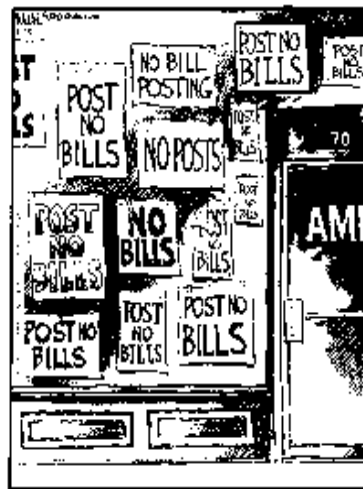
Bohl's support among alumni and important contributors was affected when his clash with Williams went public.

During a pep rally at the Final Four in New Orleans, Bohl was booed by Kansas fans. He was later asked if it were possible for him to be effective while being that unpopular.

"The cheers far outweighed the boos," he said. "Yes, they booed. Are you kidding me? You guys have been writing it like it's a case where Bohl's got to go, so Roy's going to stay here. Hey, it's been pretty good music that we've been to two Final Fours. Those people, they don't even know Al Bohl."

By Russ Wallace

By Russ Wallace



by Terry & Party in BAN



By Dave Coverly



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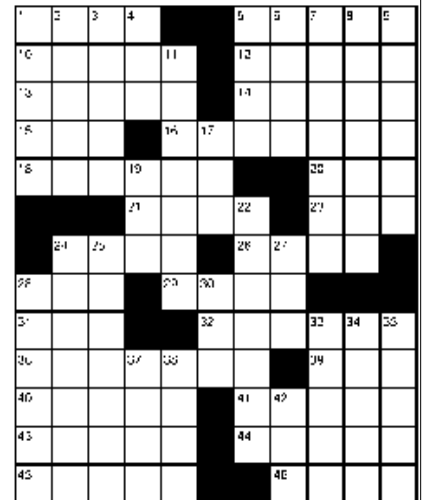
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tage, pet ok, hrdwd flrs, prking
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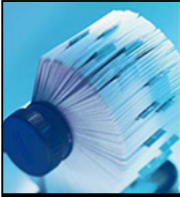
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MOVIE GUIDE

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.
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.

AMC THEATRE SM 7
 1310 3rd Street
Piglet's Big Movie (G) 1:30, 3:25, 5:10. Agent

Cody Banks (PG) 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:25.
Chicago (PG-13) 1:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45.
The Hunted (2003) (R) 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:00.
What a Girl Wants (PG) 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00.
Boat Trip (R) 7:25, 9:40.
Head of State (PG-13) 2:20, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE
 1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Pianist (R) 5:00, 8:30.
Laurel Canyon (R) 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.
Assassination Tango (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45.

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BACK PAGE



Couple marry in laundromat

By The Associated Press

LOGANSPOUT, Ind. — It was a wedding where guests tossed sheets of fabric softener instead of rice.

Carolyn Gross and John Oehlert wanted to exchange vows where their courtship began: at a coin-operated laundry.

About 25 people attended Monday's ceremony at the High Street Laundry in Logansport, about 70 miles north of Indianapolis. Some watched while folding clothes.

The "Wedding March" played on a cassette amid the swishing sounds of washers and the hum of spinning dryers. The scent of detergent filled the air.

"Do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife?" asked the Rev. Jim Sparks, projecting his voice over the clatter of a change machine.

At one point, a laundry cart rattled as a young woman wheeled it past the couple, who stood between two carts decorated with flowers.

"This is where it kind of started," Gross said. "He kept asking me out, and I kept telling him no, but he wore me down."

Three months later, Oehlert proposed.

"We knew each other for about 12 years," Oehlert said. "I thought she worked here."

The owners of the laundry, Brad and Sheri Deardorff, were thrilled that the couple chose to hold their nuptials at their business.

"They asked me about having it here," Brad

Deardorff said. "I said, 'Hey, it's your day.'"

Bird burns down house, chief says

By The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Take one nest-building bird, add a smoldering cigarette butt and officials say they know what caused a house fire.

Fire Chief Donald Konkle said investigators found a large nest in the ceiling of the house damaged in the March 28 blaze. They determined a bird picked up a smoldering cigarette butt to use in building the nest.

Konkle said there were no other possible sources of fire in the area.

"The nest was 60 percent consumed and we weren't able to interview the bird," he said. "I believe he's homeless."

Mayor Stephen R. Reed cautioned residents against flicking lit cigarettes.

"This is at least littering, and if there are nearby birds building a nest, which they do in the spring months because of egg laying, there is a chance the cigarette winds up in the nest," Reed said.

Woman's job: horse pucky tech

By The Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Florence Jackson needs more than a poop-scooper in her current job.

Armed with a steel-brush broom, an oversize dust pan, a plastic barrel and disinfectant sprayer, she cleans up after the horse-drawn carriages that wander downtown.

As Savannah's first equine sanitation technician (or horse manure scooper), Jackson has to move quick.

"If you wait too long, the manure dries out and it gets dusty," she said covering her mouth. "When it gets like that and the wind blows, watch out."

As the number of horse-drawn carriages for tourists has increased, so has the problem of smelly waste. Officials said they hired Jackson as horse poop scooper

because carriage companies were failing to clean up after their horses.

Each of the city's three carriage companies will be billed \$9,670 a year — enough to cover Jackson's salary and equipment. The horses add to the historic charm of the downtown district, but city officials worry their byproducts will drive tourists away.

"It's foul," City Manager Michael Brown said. "These odors are absolutely obnoxious, and if we allow it to continue it will put the Historic District out of business."

Bad haircut causes job loss

By The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A woman is suing a suburban St. Louis hair salon, claiming failed work on her hair caused her depression and the loss of her job.

Geremie Hoff is suing the Elizabeth Arden Salon, where she went in August 2001 to get her hair straightened or relaxed.

Hoff's attorney, Paul Devine, said Monday that the work on Hoff's hair was so bad that Hoff "shut down. She spiraled into a depression because, right or wrong, looks were important to her."

The salon's attorney, Lawrence Hartstein, told the jury in his opening statement that the stylist, Raye Hudson, had performed "hundreds if not thousands of these procedures" and did nothing wrong in treating Hoff's hair.

Devine alleged that Hudson failed to do a test strand before applying a hair product.

Hoff, now 56, was a teacher at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a tour guide for trips to Italy. Devine alleged some of Hoff's hair fell out after the treatment, and weeks later she had a bald spot in back, "and her hair stuck out like a bird's nest."

Hoff took early retirement from teaching and stopped taking tour groups to Italy, Devine said. He added that a psychiatrist and a counselor will testify about her depression.

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