

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Downtown parking rates, spaces to increase

\$92.5M parking plan gets OK from Santa Monica City Council

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

There will be more parking downtown, but it's going to cost you.

Residents and visitors will likely get hit with a parking fee increase so the city can build nearly 2,000 new spaces downtown for an estimated \$92.5 million.

The city council voted unanimously Tuesday to approve 1,772 new spaces over the next 10 years, mostly through remodeling existing parking garages and building a few new ones.

To avoid the city footing the bill, parking rates and taxes paid by downtown businesses will likely be raised. While \$85.5 million will be used from the 1994 Northridge earthquake relief fund, \$6.7 million is still needed to complete the entire project.

A monthly parking spot will increase from \$75 to \$105 a month, and while the city would maintain the two hour free parking policy at all public garages, the rate after that could increase to \$1.25 for each additional 20 minutes — with a \$10 maximum charge.

Parking in a garage close to the Third Street Promenade on the weekends could cost a flat rate of \$6, while parking farther away would be a \$4 flat rate.

Currently, after the first two hours it costs \$1 for each additional 30 minutes up to a \$7 maximum charge. After 6 p.m. is a \$3 flat rate.

Annual taxes that downtown businesses pay to the city would be increased, and the number of businesses required to pay the tax would be expanded from Wilshire Boulevard to Colorado Boulevard and from Sixth Street to Ocean Avenue.

The city also has collected \$2.5 million earmarked for parking projects through taxes from developers.

Some council members think building more parking will only make traffic worse on downtown streets.

"If I had a problem with too many iron filings, I wouldn't suggest building a larger magnet," said Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown, who voted for the project despite his concerns.

City staff members will study the economic, environmental and traffic impacts that the project will have. The

See PARKING, page 3



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

More than 300 runners showed up at Nike's final Glo Run, which has generated more than \$10,000 for the city of Santa Monica. Each Wednesday since Jan. 23, runners have gathered at Marix Tex Mex on Entrada Drive to run for public fitness facility restoration.

Run raises funds for Santa Monica fitness projects

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The city received more than \$10,000 from Nike to restore public recreation facilities throughout the city.

Nike concluded its 12th week of the "Nike Glo Run" on Wednesday when company officials presented a check to the city for \$10,530.

The Glo Run kicked off on Jan. 23

with 75 runners, which generated \$375. At the final run along the beach Wednesday, more than 300 had showed up. Nike donated \$5 per runner, with proceeds going to unspecified fitness projects in Santa Monica.

"More than 2,000 people came and ran. It was all word of mouth," said Nike's LA marketing director Jason Cohn. "We have now built something

See GLO RUN, page 3

Disabled get their own voice

After repeated requests, disability commission gets approval

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Add another commission to the city's long list of boards.

The newest addition gives people with disabilities a formal voice in local government.

The Santa Monica City Council formed a permanent commission Tuesday to work on issues facing residents with disabilities. The commission will advise city staff on how to comply with state and federal laws requiring equal access for the handicapped.

"This is exactly the way we like to do things in Santa Monica," said Mayor Pro

Tem Kevin McKeown. "We want to bring people in from the community and get them involved in city affairs."

However, the city council last year denied creating a permanent disabilities commission because its members felt it was unnecessary.

Though a commission dealing with similar issues has been appointed annually by the city council for the past few years, the new commission — which has not been formally named — will provide a continuous resource for persons with disabilities.

"We feel these issues come about year-round," said Elizabeth Bancroft, the disability commission co-chair. "For that reason we feel there is a need for an on-going committee."

The new nine-member, all-volunteer

See DISABLED, page 3

Landmark decision upheld

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

City officials were vindicated Tuesday when the city council upheld a decision to make the Santa Monica Civic Center Auditorium a landmark.

The city council denied an appeal by Councilman Herb Katz of an earlier decision to preserve the exterior and interior of the auditorium at its Tuesday night meeting.

The building's exterior as well as its lobbies, the interior wood paneling, the main hall floor and the acoustics of the main hall space will be now be considered of historic merit and must be preserved in the future.

However, Katz warned that preserving the interior may handcuff future city coun-

cils from modernizing and remodeling the facility. Preservationists said designating the auditorium as a landmark would allow changes to take place, as long as the character of the building is maintained.

"This building is by any definition a landmark," said landmarks commissioner Ruthann Lehrer. "It has a lot of cultural significance. It's an icon in Santa Monica."

Some residents urged the council to hold off on preserving the auditorium until the current Civic Center Redevelopment Plan — which aims to redesign Main Street between Colorado Boulevard and Pico Boulevard — is completed.

They said if the auditorium was preserved, plans for the civic center may have to be drastically altered.

See LANDMARK, page 4

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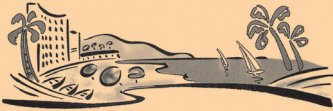
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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your playfulness takes you in a new direction. Review a matter that's close to your heart with that special person. Good feelings flow between you and another. Go with the moment. Carefully trust your intuition, especially regarding a friend. Tonight: Be a free spirit.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Say little to another's vague requests. Finances might not be as clear as you would like. A discussion might be long overdo between you and another. A must appearance in the near future will prove to be a happy and positive event. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Reach out for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Though you might not be too sure about the method of getting there, trust that you'll find the path. Your unusually sober perspective might need some lightening up. Return a long-distance call. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Everyone turns to you to find answers. Your vision could change substantially as to what might work concerning feedback from a partner. Don't take this person's word as the final say-so. Rather, keep exploring different avenues. Tonight: Work late.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Right now your imagination knows no limits. Work with a changeable situation. Don't nix another's contributions. Recognize that this person could feel quite limited. Don't add to his or her pressure. Brainstorm and support others' additions. Tonight: Hop on the Net.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Let someone make a greater contribution to your work and personal lives. Gather his or her input about how to deal with a significant other. Your imagination takes no inroads and leads you down another path. Consider someone's priorities, please. Tonight: Say "yes" to a close friend or loved one.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Allow another to take charge, even if you often don't agree with this person. An opportunity comes your way that might be too good to be true. Detach and check out this offer on your own. You also might want to hop on the Net. Tonight: Continue riding in another's wake.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Pace yourself. A family member, perhaps, wants to play a greater role in your day-to-day life. Discuss what this might look like. Some of you might be considering a home office. Know that anything is possible. Look at new opportunities. Tonight: Clear off your desk.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your naturally warm ways draw someone closer. Attached Archers could find themselves between a flirtation and a secure partnership. Express your thoughts to a loved one or friend who means a lot to you. Walk a conservative path. Tonight: Romp on.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ When you take an action to enhance your security, someone close responds far more positively than you ever anticipated. Still, be careful of any time, physical or financial commitments you make. You might be closer to burning out than you think. Tonight: Happy at home.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Express your dreams and ideas to others. Let another put concrete form to your self-expression. If someone demands more-solid plans, let this person know that in several days you'll come up with them. Give yourself space to create. Tonight: Brainstorm with buddies.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You see ways to make money that others don't. On the other hand, you could head down a path that could be more problematic than you realize. Listen to an adviser, even if you think this person might be raining on your parade. Tonight: At home.

QUOTE of the DAY

**“Every decent man is ashamed of
the government he lives under.”**
— H.L. Mencken (1880-1956)

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LOCAL



Local downtown businesses face higher taxes for parking

PARKING, from page 1

study could take up to a year to prepare.

The city council must approve the report before the project can be constructed.

Plans currently call for the "short" parking structures to be demolished, most of which are along Fourth Street and contain about 300 spaces each. They will be replaced with garages that have more than 700 spaces and retail stores at the street level.

The three "tall" parking decks — two of which are on Second Street and the other is on Fourth Street — will be remodeled to expand the current 600 spaces to more than 700.

Two parking garages, which will occupy 500 spaces each, will be built along Fifth Street.

A small shuttle bus will run between all of the parking decks and various downtown attractions, including the Third Street Promenade and

the Santa Monica Pier. Officials hope the bus system, which is projected to cost \$1 million annually, will get people to keep their vehicles in one place the whole day.

While the larger parking decks are under construction, people will be asked to use surface parking lots by the beach.

Pier Restoration Corporation board members appeared at the council meeting to ask that a second ramp be constructed. They said the ramp would cost \$2 million, but it would allow vehicles to access the beach parking lot with 750 spaces that are used only during the summer months.

"The new ramp would give people an intuitively sensible route to pier parking," said pier board member Ellen Brennan.

Council members did not respond to the PRC's request.

Council approves disability commission suggestions

DISABLED, from page 1

commission will meet monthly with city staff.

In its report, the appointed committee outlined reasons why a permanent commission is needed and detailed which issues the commission will deal with.

"Really, a blueprint was put together of what a commission should be doing," Councilwoman Pam O'Connor said. "I'm very happy about how this turned out."

Santa Monica is waiting for the results from an independent consultant looking at ways developers who use public funds to build facilities, especially affordable housing, can make them accessible for the disabled.

In this year's report, senior city staff members said the disadvantage of creating a permanent

disability commission is that its narrow focus may omit possibilities for collaborating with related groups with similar missions and issues.

For example, both the Social Services Commission and the Commission on Older Americans have addressed disability issues.

The council also approved recommendations from the standing committee, including sensitivity training for human resources staff, accessibility improvements to public buildings like City Hall and parking garages, and redesigning the city's Web site to take into account persons with vision difficulties.

Santa Monica will create a database that tracks all municipally-owned buildings to make sure they comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, including required equipment and features on city property — like wheelchair

In crisis mode



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Ann Kellogg, the clinical coordinator for the Maple Counseling Center, briefs Santa Monica Police officers on a new program they will use when they are on the scene of a crisis.

The Santa Monica Police Department has contracted with the Maple Center's crisis response program to give witnesses and survivors of traumatic events a place to turn for help.

The crisis team will begin assisting the SMPD in helping residents deal with incidents like homicides, fires, natural disasters, auto fatalities, suicide or the sudden death of a family member or co-worker. Santa Monica Police officers will offer the victims the chance to talk to a trained counselor at the scene.

accessible entrances and restroom facilities.

One committee recommendation that requested the city ask landlords and businesses to upgrade their privately-owned buildings to accommodate persons with disabilities was not approved.

City staff members said the time and funding needed for such a pro-

gram is not currently available. Council members recommended the issue could be an on-going discussion addressed by the permanent disabilities commission.

Members of the current committee said nearly 20 percent of the population is disabled, and about 8,900 Santa Monica residents have some sort of hearing problem.

Glo Run could become regular Santa Monica event

GLO RUN, from page 1

that will hopefully last."

Elaine Polacheck, the city's open space manager, said it hasn't been decided where the money will be used, but one option would be partially funding the new fitness facility at Virginia Avenue Park, which is scheduled to be built in January.

Nike officials would like to see the money go toward running activities, like restoring the track along San Vicente Boulevard, or the popular climbing stairs off of Fourth Street and Adelaide Drive.

"We will work with them to determine where the money should go," Polacheck said. "We're going to use it so it benefits the largest population ... the biggest bang for the buck."

The idea to give back to the Santa Monica community — the running epicenter of Los Angeles according to Cohn — was born on a cocktail napkin at the Library Ale House on Main Street.

Cohn said he and his friends talked about what the company could do for the fitness community in Santa Monica while running together at Will Rogers State Park

in the Pacific Palisades.

The idea quickly became a project.

"We wanted to turn running from a daytime chore to nighttime fun," Cohn said. "People have a lot of stress in their lives and this is a way to give back."

Nike Glo Run organizers provided runners with reflective equipment, blinking armbands and running buddies for an after-work run in the dark along the coastline.

Now that the "running gospel" has been spread and runners know about it, Cohn hopes to make the Glo Run a reoccurring event. Another one is planned for this fall.

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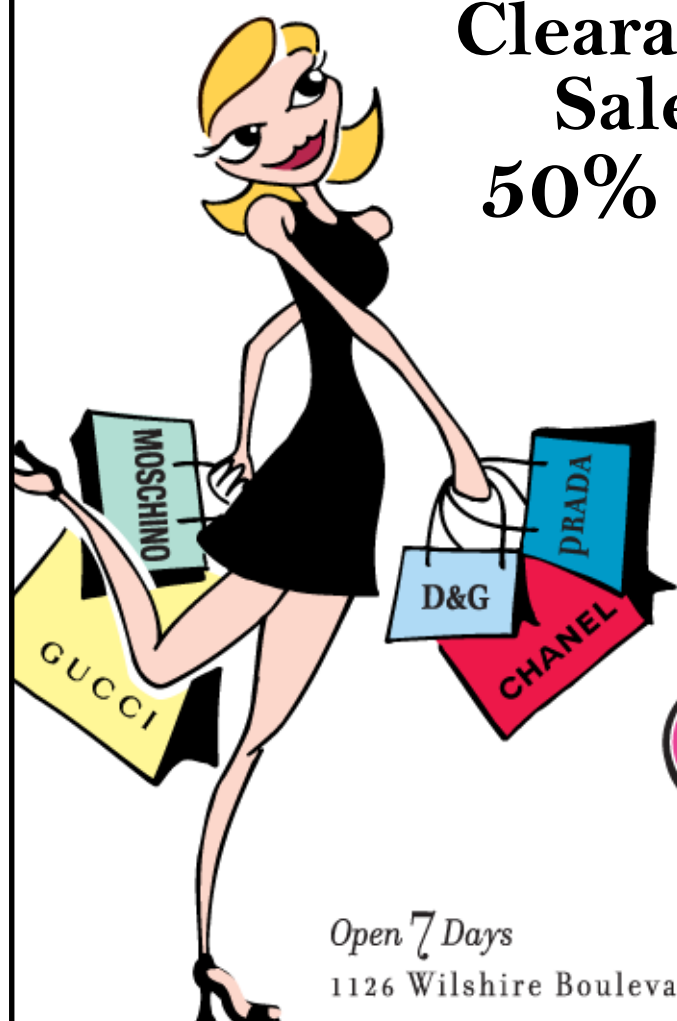
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LOCAL



File photo

The Santa Monica Civic Center Auditorium has achieved landmark status.

Local architect designed civic center auditorium

LANDMARK, from page 1

"Why restrict certain buildings for having a specific past that appeals to only a certain group of residents," said Eric Parlee, a local architect. "This may not be an excellent choice to make in light of changes that are going to be made over the next couple years."

Bruce Beckett, the son of local architect Walton Beckett who designed the auditorium, asked the council to preserve the building and said the city could still make changes while respecting its historical significance.

"I don't think anyone would want to restrict the city from updating the acoustics or enlarging the stage," Beckett said. "Surely, preserving the building will still accommodate change."

The auditorium hosted the 1966-1967 Academy Awards and over the years many famous musicians, including the Rolling Stones and Bruce Springsteen, played to cheering fans.

But recently the auditorium has been out of commission and mainstream musi-

cal acts have moved on to larger venues in the Los Angeles region.

Landmark officials say the building has a unique architectural style, with acoustics designed by a famous UCLA dean. And Beckett is internationally renown for his work on the Capitol Records building and the Hollywood Dome, preservationists said.

Senior staff, after studying the building's history and hiring an independent consultant to review the building, recommended the council uphold the designation status. They said the landmark designation would not interfere with the current Civic Center Redevelopment Plan.

For example, city officials noted City Hall is a historical landmark and it just underwent an exhaustive remodeling process. They said the historical status of the building did not increase construction costs.

Lehrer said the building also qualifies for the national list of historic places and the Land marks Commission may move forward with placing it on the list.

Lifeguard restroom may be to blame for beach closures

By The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON BEACH — A bathroom at a lifeguard headquarters is the latest suspect in a mysterious bacteria contamination that closed a stretch of the famed "Surf City USA" beach in 1999, officials said.

The bathroom came under suspicion after a sewage spill Tuesday forced the closure of a 2,000-foot stretch of the beach earlier this week.

Large gatherings at the lifeguard headquarters in Huntington Beach have coincided with increased bacteria levels on the beach, investigators said.

"The lifeguard training workshops end up with 30 to 50 people in that building," Ken Theisen, a pollution investigator for the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, told The Orange County Register.

"With that many people using the bathroom, it may explain why there's a summertime problem out there."

A large portion of Huntington Beach was closed to swimmers most of the sum-

mer in 1999, wreaking havoc on beach-related businesses. Environmental, health and city investigators spent millions trying to determine the cause of the pollution.

The latest theory came to light after Orange County Health Care Agency and state parks officials held meetings at the lifeguard building. Within days of the meetings in February and March, high bacteria levels appeared at the beach, Theisen said.

But the theory goes against the prevailing view by some who believe treated sewage from the Orange County Sanitation District outfall pipe more than four miles off the coast is returning to shore.

Recent studies also suggest changing ocean currents could be moving the sewage close to shore.

But so far no one has been able to show a definitive connection with either the ocean currents or the lifeguard bathroom and the contamination.

"We can't say definitively (the bathroom) is the smoking-gun kind of thing," Theisen said. "My plan is to control as many sources of bacteria as I can."

STATE



Long Beach mayor advances to June runoff

BY SANDRA MARQUEZ
Associated Press Writer

LONG BEACH — Term-limited incumbent Beverly O'Neill staged an unlikely upset of six competitors as a write-in candidate to advance to a June runoff in her bid to remain mayor of California's fifth-largest city.

O'Neill received 9,258 votes, or 28 percent of votes, in Tuesday's primary. She will likely square off against Vice Mayor Dan Baker, an openly gay candidate, who received 8,100 votes, or 24 percent. A total of 3,000 absentee ballots were still to be counted.

"Beverly O'Neill has always been a popular mayor," Long Beach political consultant Jeffrey Adler said Wednesday. "Her popularity continues to be stronger than any anti-incumbent sentiment or the notion that she is violating the spirit of term limits. That is the message that voters sent last night."

O'Neill, 69, a former college administrator who is in her second four-year term, is credited for helping the city climb out of an early 1990s recession compounded by a Navy base closing that cost the city 50,000 jobs and a downturn in the aerospace industry.

During her tenure, she has lobbied to increase trade at the Port of Long Beach, ranked the eighth busiest in the world with \$95 billion in cargo in 2001.

"She shepherded it (the city) through a recession, the withdrawal of the Navy and the collapse of the aerospace industry," Adler said. "Voters want to reward people who work hard and have been loyal to them."

Chief Deputy City Clerk Becky Burleson said the election created an unusual twist in city history.

"This is a first," Burleson said. "It's definitely an uphill battle."

If Baker's second-place finish holds up, only his name will appear on the June 4 runoff ballots, which are yet to be printed, Burleson said. Those who want to vote for O'Neill will need to write in her name and fill in a circle with a pencil — which is "similar to the way people play the California Lotto twice a week," she said.

Voter-approved term-limits prevent O'Neill's name from appearing on any city balloting materials. But the incumbent benefitted from a clause in the City Charter allowing "any qualified candidate" to run a write-in campaign.

"This is the first time this provision in our charter was tested," O'Neill said.

For the runoff, O'Neill said she plans to reach out to voters who did not cast ballots Tuesday.

"Beverly O'Neill has always been a popular mayor ... That is the message that voters sent last night."

— JEFFREY ADLER
Long Beach political consultant

"I am going to work very hard at it," she said.

Baker, who knocked on the doors of 22,000 homes in the city of 461,000, said the outcome of Tuesday's election favored change.

"Seventy-three percent of voters voted against the mayor," he said.

He said his sexual orientation has not been an issue.

"(His election) would be very significant," said Jason Young, of the Washington, D.C.-based Victory Fund, "Long Beach would be the largest city in the country to elect an openly gay mayor."

Baker has raised almost \$200,000 for his campaign, including \$6,313 from the national Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

O'Neill raised almost \$180,000 and won endorsements from the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, the local newspaper, Gov. Gray Davis and both of California's U.S. senators.

Political analysts had predicted that O'Neill's attempt to get around term limits might have hurt her with some core constituents. Long Beach voters turned down proposed changes in the term limits law in 2000 and again this year.



Brittany Murray/Long Beach Press-Telegram

Two-term Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill stands next to a television on Tuesday, at the El Dorado Park Golf Course clubhouse, while she and supporters await election results. Because of the city's term-limit law, O'Neill ran as a write-in candidate.

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STATE □ NATIONAL

Former, current officers are potential candidates for chief

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Police Chief Bernard C. Parks is still fighting for his job, but as many as a dozen people are already being mentioned as possible successors.

On Tuesday, the civilian Police Commission denied Parks' bid for a second five-year term. The City Council could overturn the decision but that is considered unlikely.

Although the commission is likely to conduct a nationwide search for candidates to recommend to the mayor, commission President Rick Caruso said he prefers to look within the department.

"It's very difficult for an outsider to compete with quality insiders," Santa Ana Police Chief Paul Walters, considered a possible contender, told the Daily News of Los Angeles.

"The culture of this department is just too jingoistic. They're never going to let an outsider know what needs to be done," said Connie Rice, a civil rights lawyer who has represented alleged police "whistleblowers" and victims of abuse. "It's a big closed social-political system. ... It's a Peyton Place kind of thing."

"LAPD thinks it's the gold standard and nobody else can come in and tell it what to do."

Also mentioned as possible contenders are Portland police Chief Mark Kroecker; Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca; San Diego police Chief David Bejarano; Oxnard police Chief Art Lopez; Sacramento police Chief Arturo Venegas Jr. and Inglewood police Chief Ron Banks.

Kroecker and Venegas were finalists for the chief's job in 1997, while Lopez and Banks are former high-ranking members of the LAPD command staff.

Current LAPD top brass considered potential successors include David Gascon, Parks' chief of staff, and Deputy Chiefs David Kalish, Margaret York and Scott LaChasse.

Analysts say a Hispanic candidate would be a good political choice in a city with a growing Latino population. But Baca and Bejarano said through spokes-

people that they were not interested.

"He's very happy doing what he's doing. He thinks San Diego's a great department," Bejarano spokesman Dave Cohen said Wednesday.

Venegas, a friend of Parks, and Banks declined to comment, saying it would be premature.

Kroecker, through a spokesman, also declined to comment. But there is a budding grass-roots movement to convince him to apply, LAPD Sgt. Ed Hale said.

"There's still a large number of people who remember him fondly and would embrace him," Hale said.

He is a reform-minded leader who can win the trust of officers smarting under Parks' "arcane and autocratic style of leadership," Hale said.

Kroecker, who is white, received strong community support when he headed operations in the primarily black and Hispanic South Central area, Hale added.

Kroecker made national headlines last year when he refused the Bush administration's request to help question about 150 foreign visitors in Oregon as part of a national terror investigation. He said it would violate the state's privacy laws.

Lopez, a 28-year veteran of the LAPD, had wanted to be chief and left when his hopes seemed slim. He has been among the most active lobbyists for the post, the Daily News reported, citing sources it did not identify.

"How can you not love that organization? It's the premier law enforcement organization in the entire United States," Lopez told the newspaper.

Kalish, York and LaChasse did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

However, Kalish told the Daily News that "if there was to be a vacancy, I'd be a very serious candidate."

Gascon said it was premature "to think about it" while Parks is fighting for the job.

"I think he certainly should be allowed to do that unencumbered by people who are ambitious or eager to replace him," Gascon said.

But "when he decides he's going to leave or the City Council decides he's going to leave, it's a whole new ball game."

Hawaii governor orders traffic cameras shut down

BY BRUCE DUNFORD
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Hawaii Gov. Ben Cayetano ordered the state's controversial traffic camera program for catching speeders to shut down Wednesday.

The governor said he took the action because of the Legislature's intent to repeal the three-year pilot program.

Cayetano, who is on the mainland, said he intends to allow the repeal bill to become law without his signature, according to a statement released by his office.

"The traffic van cam law is the creation of the Legislature, and if they want to now cancel the program it will be canceled," he said.

It's unfortunate the pilot program is being terminated early because its

objective of promoting safety and controlling speeding was a good one, Cayetano said.

"Driving at faster speeds has become a habit for many drivers and explains, at least in part, why there was so much opposition to the traffic van cam," he said.

The program was scheduled to move to other islands this summer. But since it began on Oahu in January, the traffic camera program has faced harsh criticism and legal challenges as attorneys found loopholes to exploit.

Judges threw out the first batch of citations on a technicality that later was fixed, only to have lawyers successfully argue that all tickets issued for drivers going less than 10 mph over the speed limit be dismissed because it conflicts with police practice.

NATIONAL



Not itemizing deductions may cost up to \$1B, GAO reports

BY CURT ANDERSON

AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON — Note to taxpayers scurrying to meet Monday's filing deadline: Failure to itemize deductions is costing people nearly \$1 billion in overpaid income taxes.

Overlooked mortgage interest and points, charitable contributions and state and local income taxes and property taxes were not taken into account on as many as 2.2 million returns in 1998, according to the General Accounting Office.

Those taxpayers took the more straightforward standard deduction even though they would have been able to deduct even more had they itemized. This cost taxpayers at least \$948 million in overpaid taxes — and half of those returns were prepared by a professional.

The GAO study, requested by House Majority Leader Dick Armey, is to be formally released Thursday. In a statement Wednesday, Armey said the report serves as a warning to taxpayers.

"The last thing people should have to do is pay more taxes than they owe," said Armey, R-Texas.

Tax law allows people to take the standard deduction or to itemize deductions

using Internal Revenue Service schedule A, whichever amount is greater. Tax experts say it's best to run a comparison to determine which deduction is most beneficial; the report didn't attempt to figure out why people overlooked the potential larger deduction.

This year's standard deduction for most people is \$4,550 for an individual, \$7,600 for married couples filing jointly and \$6,650 for heads of households. The deduction is larger for those over age 65 and those who are blind.

The GAO, which serves as Congress' investigative arm, estimated that the average overpayment in 1998 from failure to itemize was \$438. About a quarter of taxpayers overpaid by more than \$500.

Using information from lending institutions and employers for a sample of 1998 returns, the GAO estimated that 948,000 returns failed to itemize deductions for mortgage loan interest and points.

Examining Labor Department averages to measure other types of deductions — charity, state and local taxes and real estate taxes — the potential number of returns that should have included itemized deductions rose to 2.2 million.

Telescope finds two stars that defy current scientific theories

BY PAUL RECER

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — An orbiting X-ray telescope has found two bizarre objects that may form a new star class and are perhaps filled with a new form of matter — findings that may challenge fundamental theories of particle physics and astronomy.

The objects, called RXJ1856 and 3C58, were thought to be neutron stars, but observations by NASA's Chandra X-ray telescope show that they are too small and too cold to be standard neutron stars.

Neutron stars are the remnants of a supernova, a giant star that has collapsed and exploded after burning all of its nuclear fuel. Current theory is that a neutron star is composed of neutrons, the subatomic particles that make up most matter. Neutrons are made up of quarks, one of the most basic of particles.

The observations of RXJ1856 and 3C58 suggest that these stellar objects are smaller and cooler than neutron stars usually are. They may, in fact, be composed entirely of quarks or some other unknown, exotic matter.

At a news conference Wednesday, astronomers announced that RXJ1856 has a temperature of about 1.2 million degrees, too cool for a neutron star, and a diameter of about seven miles, much smaller than the standard. Yet the measurements show that the object has the mass and X-ray emissions of a larger neutron star.

The smaller size suggests that the object is much more dense, perhaps dense enough to shatter its neutrons and set free the quarks they contain.

Drake said it is possible that the object is composed equally of up, down and strange quarks, all types of the fundamental particle.

Quarks are elemental particles that make up a neutron. The quarks in an ordinary neutron are of two types — up and down. Drake said that data from the X-ray

telescope suggest that RXJ1856 is composed in equal measure of up and down quarks, plus a particle called a strange quark, which is much denser.

A team led by David Helfand of Columbia University observed 3C58, the neutron star remnant of a supernova observed in the year 1181 by Chinese and Japanese astronomers, and found it to be much cooler than expected.

Helfand said that after a supernova explodes to form a neutron star, it rapidly gives off heat.

"The calculations predict that for a 820-year-old star, the temperature should be a little under 2 million degrees (3.6 million degrees Fahrenheit) and the surface should be glowing in X-rays and emitting about four times as much energy per second as the sun," said Helfand. "Our observations show that the temperature is far lower than that and the radiation is down by at least a factor of ten."

This low temperature "requires a fundamental revision" in what is understood about neutron stars, considered the most extreme form of matter observable in nature, said Helfand, and suggests that a new form of matter may be involved.

"It appears that neutron stars aren't pure neutrons after all — new forms of matter are required," he said. "Our observation suggests that the core of this star is made up of a new kind of matter."

Helfand said that in a neutron star, theory predicts a density equal to about a billion tons per teaspoon of matter.

"If the Earth were compressed to this density, it would fit easily within a single city block," he said. "But even this density is not enough to squeeze (heat) out fast enough to produce the cool star that we see."

For this reason, said Helfand, the astronomers conclude the density of 3C58 is higher than a neutron star and may reach three to five times the density of nuclear matter, forming a new state of matter.

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Cook accused of killing crewmates on the high seas brought to trial

BY B.J. REYES

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — A Chinese cook accused of stabbing to death the captain and first mate aboard a Taiwanese fishing vessel is being brought to trial in Honolulu in a rare case in which the United States has asserted jurisdiction over a mutiny on the high seas.

The case could throw a spotlight on the issue of human rights abuses at sea and the clandestine practice of catching sharks and slicing off their fins for use in Asian soups and folk remedies.

Shi Lei, 21, has been in U.S. custody since his arrest March 21 on suspicion of killing the two men during an argument aboard the Full Means 2 while the vessel was in international waters. The first mate's body was found in the ship's freezer; the captain's body had been thrown overboard.

The ship's refrigerated hold was later found to contain shark fins worth an estimated \$500,000 that cannot be legally unloaded in Hawaii.

There appears to be no direct U.S. interest in the case, but apparently no other country wanted to prosecute Shi. The United States was able to assert jurisdiction because the ship eventually entered American waters near Hawaii, according to U.S. Attorney Edward Kubo Jr.

Shi pleaded innocent Monday to charges of seizing of a ship by force or threat. If convicted, he could face the death penalty, a decision that will be up to Attorney General John Ashcroft. The trial is set for Sept. 4.

Jay Friedheim, a Honolulu lawyer for the crew members, said it is extremely rare for a foreign ship not destined for the United States to be brought to this country for prosecution of a crime committed in international waters.

"The last one we could find like this was in 1840 or 1850," he said. It involved a mutiny in which an officer was killed, he said.

Crew members have said the argument on March 14 arose when the captain denied Shi's demand to return home. On the day of the killings, the captain punched Shi in the face, according to Shi's public defender, Pamela Byrne.

Shi and other crew members also have said they were abused and treated poorly aboard the ship, according to Byrne.

"It's not an everyday occurrence that a mutiny occurs. This mutiny sort of gives us a little window to what may be an area of practice which raises some serious human rights problems," said John Van Dyke, a professor of international law at the University of Hawaii.

"Obviously slavery is condemned universally, and if these crew members are being held in some sort of slave or forced labor, that would be under what we call 'universal jurisdiction,' and any country could intervene to prosecute someone who is engaging in slavery."

According to a report by the Australia-based International Commission on Shipping, tens of thousands of seafarers on 10 percent to 15 percent of the world's ships work in slave-like conditions, logging long hours for little or no pay and meager rations.

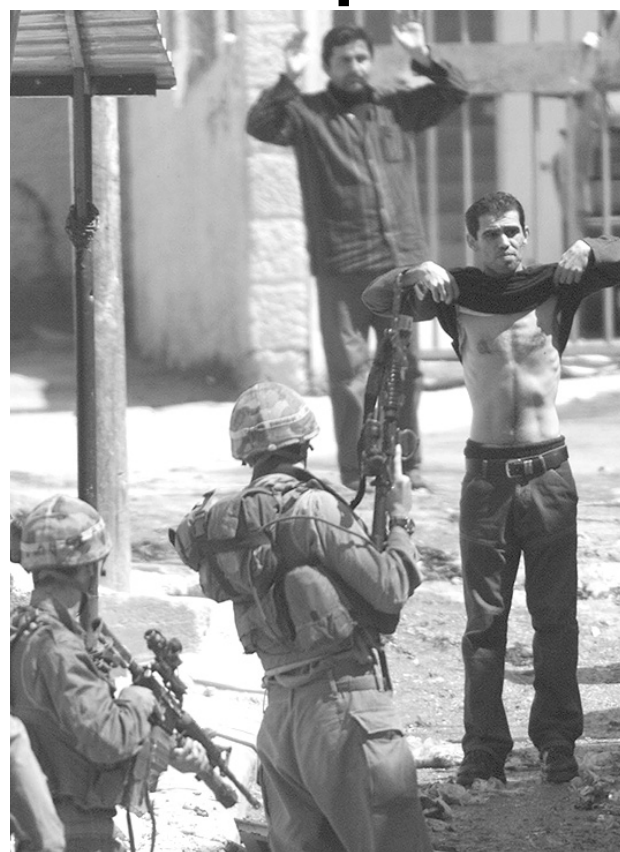
The crew of the Full Means 2 was Chinese. The ship was operated by FCF Fishery Co., which is based in Taiwan and owned by the captain's father. The vessel is registered in the Republic of the Seychelles.

The ship was intercepted by the Coast Guard about 60 miles south of Hawaii after crew members regained control of the vessel from Shi and set sail for Hawaii. The ship was escorted to Honolulu Harbor on March 20. The 30 other crewmen are being held as material witnesses.

China has not commented on the case except to issue a statement asking that the crewmen be treated "nicely" behind bars. A Chinese official objected that the men were being kept in handcuffs and ankle shackles while in court.

The ship remains in Honolulu Harbor under a restrain-

Israel takes prisoners



Left: Liferis Pitarakis/Associated Press

Palestinian men, background, surrender to Israeli soldiers in the narrow alleyways of the Al Ain refugee camp in the northern West Bank town of Nablus on Wednesday. During the night, Israeli forces using tanks and helicopter gunships shelled the camp and after daybreak, soldiers called over loudspeakers on teen-age boys and men to come out of their homes and surrender.

ing order obtained by its crew members, who are demanding back pay of about \$300,000.

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INTERNATIONAL



Powell pushes ahead with peacekeeping mission

BY BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

MADRID, Spain — Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday he would push ahead with his peacekeeping mission in the Middle East despite Israel's refusal to halt military incursions and its objections to his meeting Yasser Arafat.

Powell brushed aside Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's assertion that the Arafat meeting this weekend would be "a tragic mistake" and said his mission was "not in the least in jeopardy."

He said he hoped Sharon would help the meeting take place and also ease restrictions on Arafat in Ramallah to help him communicate more readily with other Palestinian leaders.

"We understand the difficult situation that Israel finds itself in, but we believe that the best way to relieve this tension, the best way to move forward and provide a solution to the crisis that we find ourselves in, is for the withdrawal of Israeli forces."

— COLIN POWELL
Secretary of state

"He is the partner that Israel will have to deal with," Powell said after his peace mission was endorsed in Madrid by the European Union, the United Nations and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

Powell will face daunting challenges as he tries to persuade Sharon to pull back, Arafat to speak against terror and both sides to get back to the peace table.

The crux of Powell's two-step plan is to try to arrange a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians and then steer them into negotiations that would culminate in a Palestinian state on land Israel now holds.

But Sharon pledged on Wednesday to maintain the offensive until Palestinian militias are destroyed.

Even if Powell gains a cease-fire, many in the region question how well it might hold if there are more Palestinian suicide attacks. Further, mistrust would make talks about future borders and a Palestinian state difficult, with the constant threat of a wider war in the region.

As he trekked through the Middle East and then detoured to Spain, Powell made plain that his other objectives include renewing security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians, asking Saudi Arabia for assistance to rebuild Palestinian facilities and organizing a worldwide relief effort for Palestinians.

"We understand the difficult situation that Israel finds itself in, but we believe that the best way to relieve this tension, the best way to move forward and provide a solution to the crisis that we find ourselves in, is for the withdrawal of Israeli forces," Powell said at a news conference.

Powell is due in Israel late Thursday after a stop in Jordan to talk to King Abdullah II. He is to see Sharon in Jerusalem on Friday and hopes to see Arafat on Saturday.

President Bush, after first strongly supporting the Israeli leader, last week demanded that Sharon call a halt. As a result, U.S. policy is now more in line with the views of Arab and European governments.

Sharon, on the other hand, feeling the continuing sting of Palestinian suicide attacks on Israelis, told reporters while touring an Israeli army base near the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin that he had informed Bush he could not pull troops back immediately.

"Here we are in the middle of a battle," Sharon said.



Speaking at a news conference in Madrid, Spain on Wednesday, following a meeting on the Middle East crisis are, from left to right, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana

J. Guillen/Associated Press

"If we leave, we will have to return. Once we finish, we are not going to stay here. But first we have to accomplish our mission."

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said, "I don't think this surprises the American people that this is a challenge, that this is difficult, that people in the region don't simply stop, salute the United States, and say, 'Yes sir.'"

The leaders in Madrid urged both Israelis and Palestinians to cooperate with Powell.

"There is no military solution to the conflict," said a joint statement issued by four leaders and Powell. The statement called for an immediate cease-fire and Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian-held cities on the West Bank, including Ramallah, where Arafat is confined.

At the same time, the officials said, "Terrorism, including suicide bombing, is illegal and immoral."

Meanwhile, in advance of Powell's visit, U.S. envoy

Gen. Anthony Zinni met with Palestinian officials in Jerusalem.

And Vice President Dick Cheney spoke with Syrian President Bashar Assad and made clear Bush's admonition to stay out of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a State Department official said. He said Cheney also stressed the need to act and speak against terrorism and violence.

The official, asking not to be identified, noted that the United States has condemned recent attacks on Israel from Lebanese territory and attempts by any party to escalate the conflict through military action.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Syrian and Lebanese leaders had assured him they would try to curb the guerrilla attacks on Israel from Lebanon.

A senior U.S. official called the situation serious and said Israel was being urged to act with restraint in response to Hezbollah attacks.

Lloyd's of London reports major losses from U.S. terrorist attacks

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Lloyd's of London said Wednesday that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center would cost it \$2.87 billion — the biggest loss the 314-year-old institution has suffered from a single event.

The suicide attacks in New York were accountable for almost two-thirds of an overall \$4.51 billion loss for 2001 by one of the world's oldest names in insurance.

Lloyd's chief executive Nick Prettejohn described the year as "exceptional by any measure."

He said the loss was comparable to the performance of other global property and casualty insurers, despite

being large in absolute terms.

"Sept. 11 was the industry's largest ever loss, and it was Lloyd's single largest loss as well," Prettejohn said in a statement.

Lloyd's also received substantial insurance claims from other catastrophes in 2001, including the Petrobras oil rig accident off the coast of Brazil, the attacks on the Air Lanka fleet in Sri Lanka, and tropical storm Alison, which struck the midwest and the east coast of the United States.

But Prettejohn was upbeat about the outlook for 2002, and he forecast a return to profitability for Lloyd's.

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The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



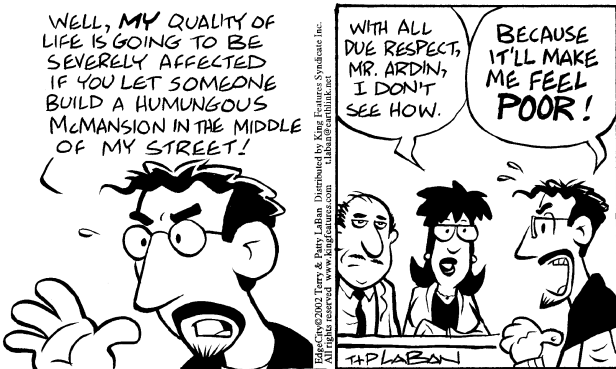
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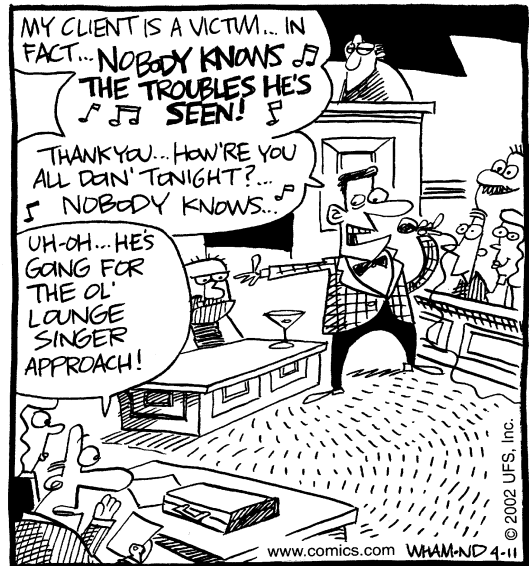
Owen plays in the tub with his pet Portuguese man-of-war.



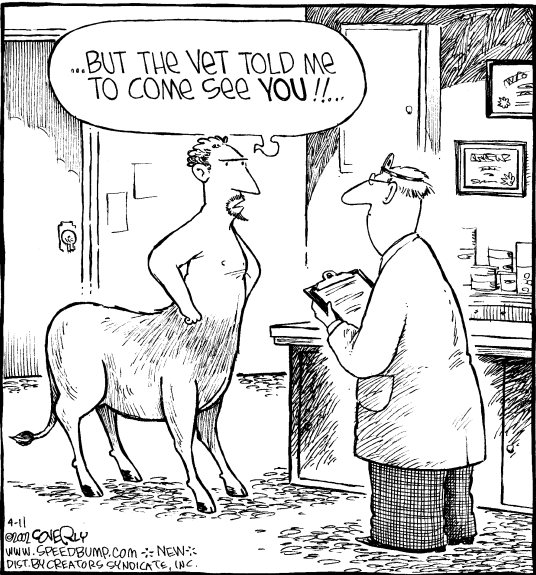
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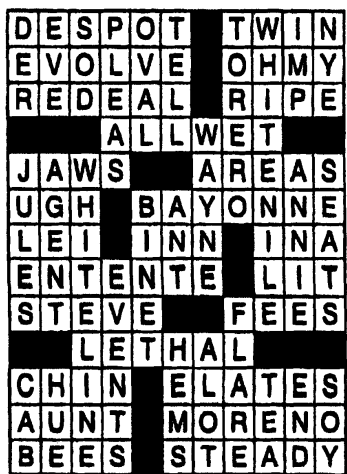


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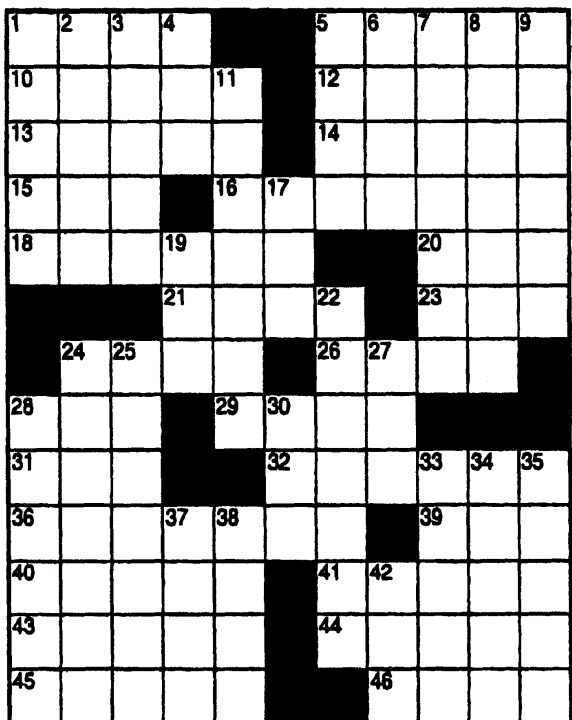


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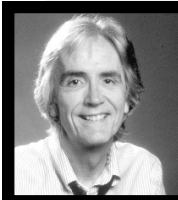
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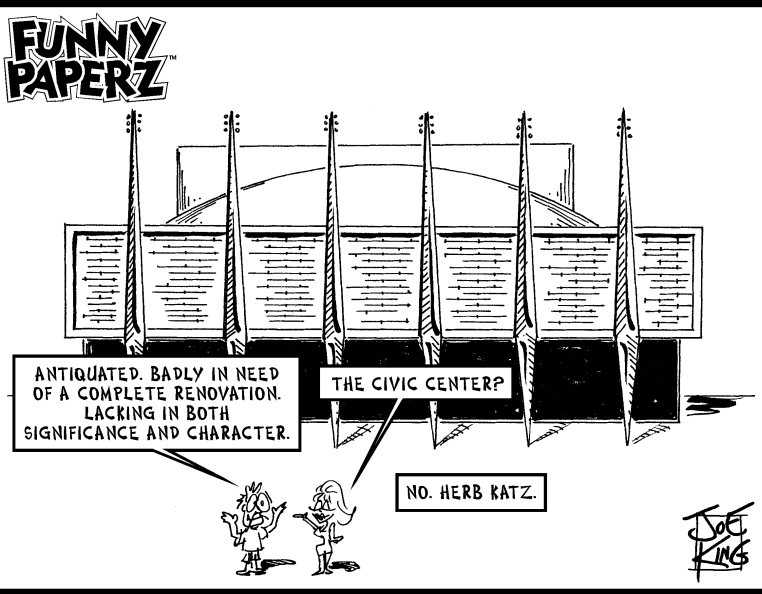
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Dad beats two-year-old for giving him 'mad dog' looks

- Leon Watson, 22, of Albuquerque, N.M., was arrested for allegedly severely beating his 2-year-old son in February; he said the kid had given him a "mad dog" look reminiscent of gang members staring down rivals.
- Thomas Mitchell was convicted of shooting his girlfriend in Galveston, Texas, in February; she had uttered the name "New Jersey" to him, which he said was one of four names that enrage him (the others: Wisconsin, Snickers, Mars bar).
- Lee Barter, 39, was sentenced in January in Portsmouth, England, for stabbing a friend twice for cheating at Trivial Pursuit (adding extra "cheeses" to his counter).



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BACK PAGE

Three surfers arrested, accused of assaulting other surfer

BY DAVID KRAVETS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Surfers are known for their hang-loose attitude. But beneath that laid-back veneer lurks a largely unspoken underside familiar to any surfer who has donned a wetsuit or paddled into a crowded wave — territorialism.

That may have been behind the recent attack on a surfer at an isolated federal park underneath the Golden Gate Bridge, an incident that led the government to arrest three surfers Wednesday.

The victim, Adam Browning of Berkeley, had his nose broken and needed several stitches in his face. He claims the three men tried to drown him.

Browning says the three men took turns holding him and punching him as he became entangled in his leg rope that connects him to his surfboard. He says the attack occurred as he was about to paddle out to the surfline and says it was a case of surf territorialism — a mentality akin to street gangs that don't want others treading on their turf.

He says the trio shouted profanities and ordered him "not to surf here anymore."

Browning, 31, says the three attackers held his head under water March 28 in an attempt to drown him at a surfing spot called Fort Point and that he survived only by biting the hand of one of them to enable him to come up for air.

"Who knows what would have happened if I didn't do that?" Browning asked.

Ryan Farrell, 30, Yoel Gorfain, 22, and Jeffrey Duerson, 21, all of San Francisco, were arrested Wednesday and jailed in lieu of \$50,000 bail. They made a brief appearance in federal court, where each was charged with assault resulting in serious bodily injury, and the three are expected to enter pleas next week. Each could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Neither Farrell nor Duerson had legal counsel. Gorfain's publicly appointed attorney did not return messages seeking comment.

The alleged attack occurred in a secluded setting in this city where surfers and non-surfers alike would never expect there to be waves.

Yet Fort Point produces classic left-breaking waves on a low tide. An abandoned military garrison in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, "Da Fort" provides surfers long rides and a majestic setting — complete with views of Alcatraz Island, the San Francisco landscape and the Golden Gate Bridge's underbelly.

Browning, a former Peace Corps worker and one of the main backers of a recently approved \$100 million voter initiative to make San Francisco the most solar-powered city in the nation, says he was the victim of an unprovoked assault.

According to court records in the San Francisco case, a U.S. Park Police investigator said in a sworn affidavit that Farrell grabbed Browning's surfboard and tried to break off the fin.

According to the officer, Jon Schneider, Farrell yelled: "What the hell are you doing surfing here?"

Gorfain and Duerson grabbed Browning from behind as Farrell began beating him, Schneider said. All the while, they were yelling at Browning not to surf Fort Point again, Schneider said.

Muscle development research has lead to 'couch potato' pill

BY PAUL RECER

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — It's a couch potato's dream: Instead of sweating and straining, people someday may simply pop a pill to get in shape, say researchers who have identified how muscle cells get stronger from regular exercise.

Researchers at Duke University and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have found the chemical pathway that muscle cells use to build up their strength and endurance.

With this basic knowledge in hand, it may now be possible to develop a pill that

pumps up muscle cells without all that exercise, said Dr. R. Sanders Williams, dean of the Duke University School of Medicine.

"That may be one of the possibilities," said Williams.

But, as a physician, Williams said he the main target of the research is to help people with heart disease or other conditions that keep them from doing enough exercise to remain healthy.

"This could lead to drugs that will let people get the health benefits of regular exercise, even if they cannot exercise," said Williams. This could improve the

health of patients with heart or lung disease, or lower the risk of diabetes II, for instance.

"It is possible it could become a drug of abuse because it would enhance the performance of athletes," he said.

In the study, Williams and his colleagues created a group of mice with genes that over-expressed a signaling protein called calmodulin-dependent protein kinase, or CaMK. When this signaling protein is activated, it and another protein, calcineurin, trigger the physical changes that muscle cells undergo after intense exercise.

Williams said that mice with a high

level of CaMK expression developed more mitochondria in muscle cells and saw an increase of a type of cell called the "slow twitch" muscle. These are muscle cells that power sustained activity, such as required by marathon runners.

The researchers found that mice with high levels of CaMK developed the same healthy muscle cells as mice that did exercise.

Williams said that a drug that would trigger the CaMK muscle signaling pathway has not been found, but now that there is a specific target it should make the development easier.

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