

FREE

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 128

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

01, 10, 14, 18, 19

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 9, 2

Evening picks: 5, 4, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 04, Big Ben

3rd Place: 05, California Classic

Race time: 1:44.65



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ In Melbourne, Australia, in March, John Stark, 60, and his wife and son pleaded guilty to running a scheme in which the Starks "ordered" large quantities of upscale goods, which two shoplifter-associates would then go "acquire" for them so that the Starks could resell them in the family's Shopaholic discount stores.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Keep breathing.

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City's economic outlook is stormy

(Editor's note: This is the first article in an on-going series that examines the city's current financial crisis. Saturday's article will focus on the city's plan to balance its growing deficit.)

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

It will be years before the city's dismal financial situation improves.

Proposals of lay-offs and tax increases are on the horizon as city officials strategize on how to close a \$12 million gap in its budget.

"It's the most pain the city has

gone through in years and we are not good at pain," said City Manager Susan McCarthy.

The expected cuts will be far greater than what the city was forced to do in 1992 — the last time the city found itself in serious economic turmoil. But the city recovered quickly because of a decade of unprecedented fiscal expansion.

This time around, the city won't bounce back as quickly. The days of enjoying a strong city budget are over — at least for the next three years.

City officials released their

See BUDGET, page 7

Police arrest man after high speed pursuit

Suspect tries to run over police, officer fires shot

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A man wanted for auto theft led Santa Monica Police on a 40-mile high speed pursuit early Thursday after he attempted to

run over several officers, injuring one.

Raymond Rivera, a 36-year-old Hispanic transient, was captured by police in El Monte near San Bernadino at 3 a.m. He was stopped by police in Santa Monica for allegedly stealing a car on Euclid Street and Washington Avenue, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

See CHASE, page 7

Landlords accused of 'circumventing' the system

State toughens restrictions on property owners

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

A law designed to give landlords a way out of the business has been used by some property owners to jack up the price on rent-controlled units.

The owners of a Santa Monica building were fined \$22,000 this week for doing just that. They put their apartments back on the market three years after evicting their tenants under the Ellis Act.

The 1987 Ellis Act was written to protect the rights of property owners who don't want to be landlords anymore. But since the intro-

duction of vacancy decontrol in 1995, it has been used by many landlords to evict tenants and later raise rents.

More than 20 percent of the Santa Monica properties that were "Ellised" have been brought back to the market by landlords, according to a March report from the Rent Control Board. Between July 2001 and July 2002, 25 properties were Ellised and seven of the buildings came back onto the market.

Andrew Zanger, a renters' rights attorney, explained the economics from a landlord's perspective. If a property owner evicts a renter who is paying \$500 a month for a rent-controlled apartment, he must leave the spot vacant for two years and pay "punitive damages" to the tenant in the amount of six

Swinging into summer



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Warm weather has drawn thousands of people to the beach this week. The swings south of the Santa Monica Pier were a popular place to hang on Thursday. Rain is expected to dampen the weekend.

months' rent, for a total of \$15,000 in missed revenue, Zanger said.

But if the landlord rents the same apartment for \$3,000 a month, it wouldn't take long to recover the lost income.

"It's financially feasible to do,"

he said. "And we've seen people do it."

Some renters agree.

"The law itself is simply a slap on the wrist for landlords," said

See ELLIS ACT, page 8

Bush addresses Iraqis

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

Opposition forces crumbled in northern Iraq on Thursday as U.S. and Kurdish troops seized oil-rich Kirkuk without a fight and held a second city within their grasp. U.S. commanders said signs pointed to a last stand by Iraqis in Saddam Hussein's birthplace of Tikrit.

Despite the gains, one Marine was killed and 22 injured in a

See WAR, page 10



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 11, 2003:

You often don't have the full story. You could feel as if facts elude you and that you have a difficult time isolating what is true and what is not. Allow your creativity to broaden your path this year, making sure you're on solid footing. Friends have great ideas that coincide with your inspirations. Be especially realistic with finances. If you are single, you will meet someone special who could prove to be quite a delight and addition to your life. If you are attached, often the two of you will disagree on money matters. Go with the flow. Remember to just enjoy each other. LEO is always fun.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Express your playfulness, even in the face of someone's confusion. You're simply not working on the same track as others. Laugh at misunderstandings instead of making them a big deal. Your ability to flow emerges. Tonight: Aim for what you want.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Be direct in your dealings that involve a loved one or family. Despite all your clarity, someone might misread you. Don't allow your mind to go on overload. Understand what needs to happen for you to relax more with a key person. Tonight: A quiet night at home.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might be making mountains out of molehills. Loosen up and be more creative in your view. Some of you might need to detach more rather than react. Confusion surrounds your decisions. Just relax and make weekend plans. The sooner you take off, the better. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ The words someone uses might not convey his or her message. Think through a decision more carefully that revolves around finances. If you're not ready to say yes or no, say so. Recognize that there is nothing wrong with not knowing what to do. Tonight: Your treat.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You could be confused by what goes on. Confusion takes you in a new direction, if you allow it to. Mixed messages surround the nest of relationships. Don't worry about what one person says about what you think right now. Just ride the waves of a relationship. Tonight: Where the action is.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might be more out of sorts than you think. Understanding what is going on around you could be a full-time occupation. Kick back, close the door and get your job done. You might be more tired than you realize. Loosen up and relax. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You read what you want into a situation, whether you're aware of it or not. However, by distorting the facts, you might be preventing yourself from having a special or wonderful opportunity. Be more forthright and direct. A friendship abounds. Tonight: Where the gang is.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others want more from you than you might be willing to give. Don't even try to identify what is going on with a partner. Think through a decision more carefully that involves your personal and domestic lives. Know that you cannot please all the people all the time. Tonight: A must show.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ When you don't know what to do, relax and understand what is going with others. Your intuition right now could be slightly off-kilter. Do only what you must and postpone what you can until Monday. Split from the office as soon as possible. Tonight: Try something different.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You aren't getting all the facts involving a money matter. In fact, you might want some dissension in order to gain a better perspective. Right now, the facts aren't the facts. Let a partner explore what he or she thinks. Tonight: Extremes rule.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Laugh and loosen up. You could be upset by some news. You can be sure you don't have the full story. You could also choose to worry about it or simply let go. Let a partner run with the ball right now. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Listen to feedback that surrounds a project. You might sense that there is more going on here than meets the eye. A partner could definitely be out of whack. Continue to go along, not disturbing the course of a project until you have some hard facts. Tonight: Off to the gym.

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LOCAL



Parents find humor in school's financial crisis



Rebecca Gross/Special to the Daily Press
Comedian Paula Poundstone, who lives in Santa Monica, performs for hundreds of people at Shuttters on the Beach Hotel on Wednesday as part of a fundraiser for McKinley Elementary School.

BY REBECCA GROSS
Special to the Daily Press

The school district's dismal financial situation was a laughing matter this week when more than 200 people gathered to raise money for McKinley Elementary School.

About 250 parents and community members attended a fundraiser highlighted by local comedians to generate thousands of dollars for McKinley's art and music programs. The event was held at Shuttters on the Beach hotel on Wednesday night.

The exact profit for the evening has not yet been determined, but in previous years the event has raised between \$4,000 and \$8,000.

The fundraiser featured Paula Poundstone, Bobby Collins and Bobby Kenton. Tickets were \$40.

"(The money) will serve as a source for us to provide music and visiting performers for our school," said McKinley Principal Wendy Wax.

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District faces a \$13 million budget shortfall, and music and arts programs already have been cut by the school board. The budget cuts cover several arts positions, including 6.67 full-time ele-

mentary instructional music service personnel, one full-time arts coordinator and 5.19 full-time music aides/accompanists.

"I am definitely concerned and I think that's why I'm here, to sell as many tickets as possible and try to compensate if possible," said entrance table volunteer Angela Anthony, whose daughter graduated last year from McKinley. She estimated the event raised about \$8,000.

Schools Superintendent John Deasy proposed last November that individual schools shouldn't be able to use donations or raise money to reinstate lost programs and services as a result of budget cuts. He argued that some schools are able to raise more money and receive larger donations because of parents' economic class, which makes it unfair to kids who don't come from wealthy families.

Cheri Orgel, president of the Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council, said the policy doesn't prevent raising money for schools.

"It does not stop parent fundraising," she said. "It just makes sure everything's equal. If they are cuts made across the district, they can't be put back at one school and one school alone."

The money raised at comedy night is not affected because it will be used for program

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

The mix of minor southwest and northwest swell declines today, so expect a drop in height of about a foot. Swell angle wasn't anything great for LA Thursday, and leftover swell ought to leave most breaks around knee- to waist-high. West facing beaches have the best chance for inconsistent sets.

Saturday new swell arrives: a better angled northwest, which looks to improve size for exposed spots. South Bay surf averages waist- to shoulder-high.

Expect a shift in the tides toward more extreme highs as a full moon comes up next Wednesday. Rain is in the forecast for Saturday and Sunday.



Today's Tides:

High- 5:27 a.m. 4.32'
Low- 12:55 p.m. -0.14'
High- 7:45 p.m. 3.79'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Good	B
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Good	3-4'/Fair	A

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enrichment, not to reinstate cut positions.

If Santa Monica and Malibu voters pass a parcel tax increase, called Proposition S, in a special election on June 3, the district would receive approximately \$6.2 million annually for six years. That would allow the district to reinstate the fine arts coordinator, and all of the music aides and elementary music instructors.

Comedy night's proceeds will be used to continue programs like assemblies for the school on different cultures and artists in residence, Wax said.

Shuttters provided the location and free food for the event. The luxury hotel has helped support McKinley for 10 years.

"I would really like to commend Shuttters for their ongoing commitment to our school," she said. "They have really helped us to defray costs."

Shuttters, which is located at 1 Pico Blvd., also sponsors a Barnes and Nobles

shopping spree for school books for teachers at McKinley and provides refreshments for teacher appreciation day and other school events, according to Armella Stephan, Shuttters general manager.

"We wanted to go a little further for Santa Monica education," Stephan said, adding that McKinley is a "Title One" school, which means that the majority of its students come from low-income families.

"Most of us would not come here (Shuttters)," said McKinley parent Nancy Greystone. "It's not feasible."

Judging by laughs, the night was enjoyed by those who attended.

"It was great fun," said Pacific Palisades resident Carol Lanning. "I really believe that the arts in Santa Monica are well deserving and anything I can do to help them, I do."

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OPINION

LETTERS

Remember our troops

Editor:

The April 10th edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press has an article on the Iraqi people on the front page. Contained in that article is the quote, "I'm 49, but I never lived a single day. Only now will I start living," said Yussuf Abed Kazim. Strange thought indeed.

Only a few short weeks ago, millions stood together around the globe and raised their voices in opposition to a war in Iraq. College campuses were filled with many voicing that same sentiment. One day they will graduate from college and enter into the corporate jungle.

Their hopes and dreams will be fulfilled or dashed based on the companies that they hire on with and the people they meet that will shape their lives. While they were at college others decided to join the military instead.

Some have stated that they never expected to see combat action and were shocked that they were called up to serve their country. Whatever the reason, they made a decision to join the military and when you make that choice, there are certain things you might be called upon to do.

History never records the pain and anguish of those that are left to deal with the hole left when someone you knew and cared for is no longer here. Whether they were coalition forces, Iraqi forces, or those that are termed, "collateral damage," does not matter, someone will grieve for them and will miss their company.

Time stands still for no one, it is often said. The war will end, troops will come home, college students will go off to seek employment to put into practice that which they were studying. Companies come and go, as do regimes. We've witnessed the horror of Sept. 11, the absolute greed that crushed decades-old companies into history. Were starting to hear the stories of the repression of the Iraqi people. The one voice we haven't heard from until now.

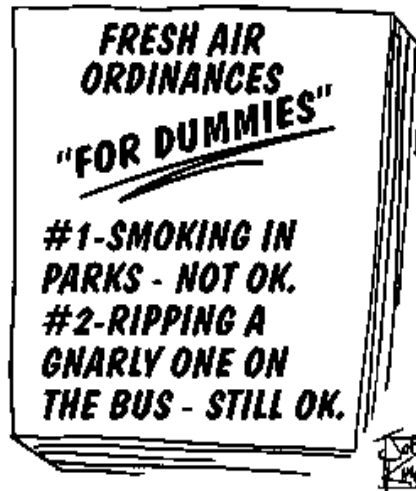
An old song by AC/DC starts out with the line, "it ain't easy, living free." The Iraqi people are being freed from their repressive regime, and they're finally being allowed to speak their mind. It may take a while for them to get used to this. Their's is the voice that has been missing in all of this. Being liberated from Saddam could be the best thing that happens to them, or it may not. Time will tell. After Saddam is gone, their problems become their own. Let's help them meet that challenge. Let's also remember to support the troops when they come back from their mission.

Steve Roberts
Santa Monica

City Council
clears the
air once and
for all.

• News Item

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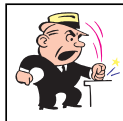


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Looking for just one iota of common sense in the city



MY
WRITE
By Bill Bauer

Wouldn't you think that somewhere in this town you'd find someone on a board, commission, task force, city staff or even a City Council person that had one iota of common sense?

A couple of weeks ago, I ranted about the new main library — a \$23 million remodel that became a \$72 million totally new library. This might make sense if those in charge would have moved the new library to the Civic Center and sold or leased the current library property to pay for it.

That idea was rejected by a whole slew of stubborn, unimaginative, narrowly focused decision makers. So, the City Council cut funds from a slew of other projects to pay for the new building — sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

The City Council on Tuesday night paved the way for a new 75,000-square-foot, 45-foot tall development at Second Street and Colorado Boulevard. Four years ago, the project was submitted for administrative approval and denied. It was appealed to the Planning Commission

which also denied the project. It was then appealed to the City Council.

The City Council apparently wasn't very concerned about the project's negative impacts which mostly had to do with the additional traffic the development would generate. Despite staff's recommendation of denial because of incompatibility with the new downtown and the presence of a prohibited McDonalds within the new structure, the Council voted to lay groundwork for approval anyway.

The developer was told to rework the traffic circulation element and resubmit it for approval. The Council also was willing to grant several discretionary approvals to get around the current development restrictions in that area.

They'd consider a special development review permit because the project is over the permitted 30,000-square-foot threshold for the site. And, they also asked for a text amendment that would permit a fast food outlet at that location, as well as extended operating hours.

It seems that in congested downtown Santa Monica, there's always room for even more development and the traffic it brings. Heaping even more traffic into the downtown area makes no sense, but some Council members have other things on their minds. Can you say, "social agenda?"

News reports say Councilwoman Pam O'Connor voted yes because "It (McDonalds) serves the city's hotel workers and provides social benefits to those with low incomes." Councilman Mike Feinstein was the lone dissenting vote against the project because it "had not included housing rather than office space."

I like everything about Santa Monica College's proposed Madison Theater except its location behind Madison School between 10th and 11th streets, near Arizona Avenue. A multi-family residential neighborhood is not appropriate for an almost round-the-clock arts venue to house student productions, opera, a children's theater, a semi-professional stage company, community concerts, lectures and cultural events.

Like the library, the Madison campus theater should also be in the Civic Center. Imagine a performing arts center with two theaters, surrounded by major thoroughfares, plenty of parking, a half-dozen bus lines, near freeway ramps and the high school. It could also revitalize the moribund Civic Auditorium — an under utilized, multi-million dollar financial drain.

A joint venture between SMC and the city would breathe new life into the heart of town. A state-of-the-art 500 seat Madison playhouse adjacent to a renovated and rein-

vigorated Santa Monica Civic Center could be the crown jewel of the community.

There's an uneasy relationship between the college and the city. Inflexible minds apparently are unwilling to embrace the concept of our Civic Center as a place of art and culture, let alone of working together. Both the new library and the Madison theater will be built, but in separate, send-rate locations.

The city's "visionaries" see the future Civic Center as a mundane mishmash of housing projects, a soccer field and small lawns with nothing to draw people in the evenings and on weekends. There's no art, no culture, no library, no theater and no heartbeat. We're all much poorer because of this.

The center of our city will remain empty and lifeless. The only people there will be the few hundred mostly low-income persons lucky enough to get one of between 300 and 600 "voter-based rental units" proposed for the site.

The future Civic Center, like the statues of Saddam Hussein that dot Baghdad, is a monument to misguided and shortsighted personal agendas, lack of common sense and political self-interest.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

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



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OPINION



The QLine

Residents say landmark Aero

This past Monday, Q-line asked:
"Do you think the Aero Theatre should be a historical landmark? Why or why not?"

Here are your responses:

■ "The Aero Theatre is more a nostalgic landmark than a historical landmark. I've been in the theater during the time we were trying to save it. As far as a historical landmark or architectural significance, absolutely no. Nostalgic yes. I suggest we all put it in our minds and cherish it."

■ "Never mind whether the Aero Theatre should be a landmark. Rather, let's examine why a landmarks commissioner does not want a landmark designation. If the building was owned by anyone else, there would be no question of a designation. Why does the owner want to avoid it? Could it be that the very designation that he applies to other properties is too restrictive and does not allow for reasonable return on his investments while maintaining the historical significance? Give me a break."

■ "A Landmarks Commissioner who is against landmarks sounds like someone who the Bush administration would appoint. If the community considers something a landmark, it is a landmark and should be so designated."

■ "Yes, I think the Aero should be a historical landmark. It's a nostalgic, colorful reminder of Santa Monica's — and America's — past."

■ "Alas, the uncertainty of the old Aero Theatre's fate. I am thankful that

Pacific Palisades Park and the Santa Monica bike path are still in place. Everything else that made Santa Monica special are gone. The Ocean Park Amusement Pier, the magnificently decorated Old Globe Theatre, Lawrence Welk, Tommy Dorsey, Dick Canny."

■ "I do think the Aero Theatre should be a historical landmark. They are doing enough tearing down in Santa Monica as it is. Leave the Aero alone."

■ "If the owner wishes, but not against the owner's wish. It's the same as I want for the homeowners."

■ "Why is it that a private home can be designated as a historical landmark without the owner's consent, but a theater will not be designated as a historical landmark? Somebody needs to talk to the landmarks commissioner."

■ "I was amazed to hear that the Aero Theatre did not have landmark protection. But, if after all this struggle, someone tried to tear down the Aero Theatre there would be such a huge uproar, that I don't think there will be such a danger."

■ "Of course the Aero Theatre should be a landmark, it is closely related to historical periods related to Santa Monica's history. The war years and the growth of aviation."

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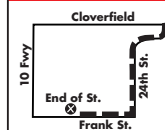
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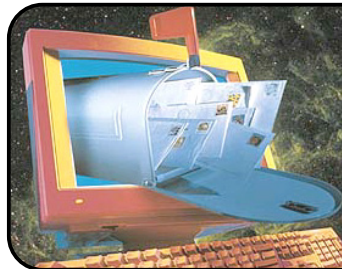
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REAL ESTATE

Santa Monica provides housing options to seniors



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

Chad's mother, a long-time Santa Monica resident, owns a condo north of Wilshire Boulevard.

Like nearly 12 percent of the population, Chad's mother is over 65 years old, and shows the classic signs of aging. She's forgetting things and not as sure on her feet. Chad worries about his mom being on her own and wonders "what is an aging adult to do?"

The city and the state offer several options for senior citizens. For example, the state of California offers all seniors property tax rebates. To qualify for the Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program, you must be 62 or older, and have had a gross household income of less than \$33,994 in 2001.

In the Homeowner Assistance Program, qualified homeowners receive a once-a-year reimbursement based on a portion of the property taxes assessed on their home.

The Renter Assistance Program allows qualified renters to receive an annual reimbursement based on property taxes paid indirectly through rent payments. The state of California provides both reimbursements. The Westside Center for Independent Living Web site, www.wcil.org, has all the information.

The objective of the Westside Center for Independent Living is to help seniors and people with disabilities remain independent in their own homes. Their fees, if any, are on a sliding scale. To get more information contact (310) 394-9871, or go to www.wcil.org.

Seniors in good health who don't want to live alone can contact Alternative Living for the Aging at (323) 650-7988.

Executive director Janet Witkin set up this non-profit organization in 1978 because she "thought that older people needed affordable, safe alternatives to living alone or institutionalization."

"We've put together five cooperative apartment communities and a free roommate matching program which has counseled more than 19,000 people regarding housing options," Witkin said.

Alternative Living for the Aging has brought together more than 7,000 people through its cooperative housing and free roommate matching program.

"If someone has an extra bedroom and thinks it would be nice to have someone else around ... they can call us, and we can refer them to someone," Witkin said. "We work with roommates of all ages, as

long as they want to live with seniors."

Alternative Living for the Aging also has Liffman House, a cooperative Santa Monica apartment community for self-sufficient seniors, with rents ranging \$385 to \$565 per month.

"Every January we invite people who have shown interest to apply for our housing. As vacancies occur during the year, we match them with applicants that fit the household size and income categories."

— **JOAN LING**
CCSM Executive Director

The Community Corporation of Santa Monica, at (310) 394-8487, manages low-income housing with apartments specifically set aside for seniors.

According to CCSM Executive Director Joan Ling, the organization "develops and manages affordable housing. We buy land, cobble together the finances, get it built and operate them."

CCSM has built 1,200 units to date, and offers apartments to fit "a variety of budgets."

"Every January we invite people who have shown interest to apply for our housing," Ling said. "As vacancies occur during the year, we match them with applicants that fit the household size and income categories."

Each year the CCSM receives approximately 3,000 applications and places between 100-150 people.

According to Claritas research firm, by 2008, the number of households with 55 to 74 year olds with annual incomes topping \$100,000 will rise 61 percent — more than 6 million. Financially secure seniors can use their home equity to diversify their portfolios.

"If you own your home outright, you can take out something along the lines of a \$100,000 30-year mortgage at 6.25 percent and use the money to invest in dividend-paying stocks with solid track records," noted Jay Penso of United Pacific Mortgage. "This investment is tax deductible — you may write off between 30 to 40 percent of the accrued interest. After taxes, that should still generate more income than you pay in mortgage interest."

(If you have local real estate questions, e-mail them to Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call at (310) 309-4219.)

check out your forecast in today's horoscopes ...

page 2

check out your forecast in today's horoscopes ...

LOCAL

City officials prepare for serious department cuts

BUDGET, from page 1

latest projections on Thursday, which point to serious belt tightening and creating new revenue sources through at least 2006.

The city's budget deficit was estimated in January to be \$9.1 million. In February that estimate grew to \$11.2 million and now that the United States is engaged in a full-blown war with Iraq, city officials revised the deficit to \$12 million, mostly because of revenue losses.

"That's because of effects of the recession and 9/11 took longer to recover from what was projected and the ramp up to the war," said city finance director Mike Dennis. "Now it looks like at least three years of difficulty."

By the end of 2006, officials predict that the city will have had to close between a \$29 and \$31 million budget gap. The fiscal year of 2004-2005 will bring a \$10 million deficit and between a \$7 to \$8 million deficit in 2005-2006, officials predict.

Major revenue sources for the city's \$383 million budget includes user utility taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, hotel bed taxes, business license fees, parking fines, tickets and fees. About 66 percent of the city's expenditures are used for salaries and wages, including retirement, medical and worker compensation benefits.

Officials said extraordinary costs beyond the city's control and reductions in revenue have created a financial situation so severe that every department in City Hall, with the exception of police and fire, will have to be cut by at least 5 percent this year and another 5 percent next year.

Dennis said increases in the city's

City officials also predict that the state will take back about \$4.1 million to help close its \$35 billion deficit, which is not yet calculated in the local deficit because the state has not yet proposed how it will fill the gap.

retirement system contributions have created added expenditures because of heavy losses by the state's Public Retirement System. That's coupled with increased health insurance premiums, which were accelerated by cost pressures in the industry and increased workers compensation costs due to legislative changes.

Operating costs and debt service for multi-million dollar projects like the new municipal pool and public safety building have added to the budget strain, officials said. Those costs will increase in the next few years with more projects like the Virginia Avenue Park expansion, the new Main Library and a new park at the airport being built.

City officials also predict that the state will take back about \$4.1 million to help close its \$35 billion deficit, which is not yet calculated in the local deficit because the state has not yet proposed how it will fill the gap.

"We are dealing with a certain amount of uncertainty," McCarthy said.

Suspect wanted on parole violation, no bail granted

CHASE, from page 1

Santa Monica police officers received a call at 2:30 a.m. from a man reporting that Rivera was allegedly attempting to steal a car parked in the 900 block of 15th Street. The reporting party told police Rivera had fled on foot when he confronted him, police said.

While police searched the area for Rivera, a responding officer heard a car alarm on Euclid Street. Officers saw a black Chevy Tahoe traveling southbound on Euclid Street. Police followed the vehicle to Lincoln and Olympic boulevards, where they stopped him at gunpoint.

Rivera refused to obey the police officer's commands to exit the vehicle, which prompted an unidentified officer to fire one shot at the car, Fabrega said. Rivera allegedly rammed a police vehicle, attempted to run over officers at the scene and sped away on Interstate 10.

Santa Monica police chased Rivera at speeds between 70 and 90 mph before he ditched the vehicle on the Santa Anita exit and fled on foot. A Santa Monica police K-9 unit and Los Angeles Police Department's air unit found Rivera hiding in a parking lot, police said.

He was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer, evading police and grand theft auto. Rivera was wanted on a parole violation and was considered an escape risk, police said. He was transported to the Los Angeles County Jail and has no bail.

The injured officer, who was in his vehicle when Rivera rammed it, was treated at a local hospital for abrasions on his arms and legs. He also had glass removed from his eye. He was treated and released.

It is unclear what prompted the officer to shoot at the car. The investigation is ongoing, Fabrega said.



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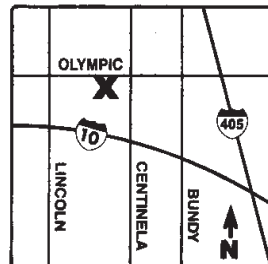
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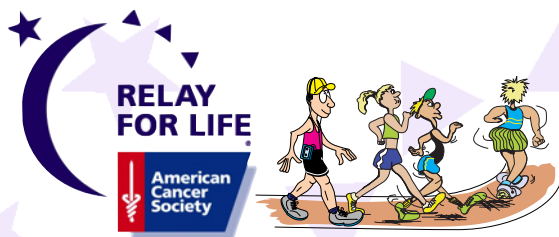
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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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LOCAL □ STATE

Sean Penn's car, two weapons, stolen from Berkeley street

BY KIM CURTIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — It was lunchtime on a busy Berkeley street when a thief made off with a 16-year-old Buick with two guns — a loaded 9 mm Glock handgun and an unloaded .38-caliber Smith and Wesson revolver — inside.

The victim? Big screen bad boy Sean Penn.

The three-time Academy Award nominee was eating lunch with his assistant at Venus restaurant about 1 p.m. Tuesday when someone stole the black 1987 Buick Grand National, which was parked on the same block as the restaurant.

"It's always a concern for us when we have any knowledge that someone has loaded guns, particularly if they're stolen," said Berkeley police officer Mary Kusmiss, who added Penn has a concealed weapons permit to carry the guns.

The car had not been recovered by early Thursday, she said.

"It's unusual to have a car stolen in broad daylight," Kusmiss said. "He parked it directly in front of the Citibank in a metered stall. ... It was a beautiful day and there was a lot of pedestrian traffic. It's just a bustling area there."

Kusmiss said Penn went inside the bank to ask if anyone noticed his car being stolen, but no one reported seeing anything. Police will get copies of surveillance photos from the automated teller machine outside, Kusmiss said.

Coincidentally, Kusmiss said, the Berkeley police officer who took Penn's report is no stranger to celebrity. He's a martial arts expert who's appeared in several Bruce Lee films.

Penn, 42, lives in Marin County with his wife, actress Robin Wright Penn, and their two children. Penn's publicist said Thursday she had not yet spoken to her client about the incident.

Penn is expected to begin shooting a new film called "The Assassination of Richard Nixon" in Oakland next month.

New law targets landlords

ELLIS ACT, from page 1

Solomon Harris, a resident who was displaced in 1999 when his building was Ellised. "It really puts out a green light for landlords wanting to circumvent rent control."

Laws governing Ellis Act procedures were tightened this year in response to the concerns of tenants and activists. Landlords must now wait five years before renting the units at market rates. Previously, landlords were required to wait two years and, when the law was first introduced, only one year. Property owners must pay former tenants six months' rent. If the owner violates the two-year waiting period, tenants are entitled to "actual damages," which are determined by a judge.

"They've increased the pain threshold," said Rosario Perry, a landlord attorney, who said Ellis applications have dropped off since January, when the most recent restrictions went into effect.

Perry said the law was specifically worded to give landlords a way to get rid of tenants.

"It's clearly a legitimate goal," he said, adding some landlords no longer want to deal with their tenants. "If they're that fed up. If they reach that level of disgust."

Still, Perry said none of his clients — including Ross Vaisburd and Daniel Smith, who were fined \$22,000 this week for violating the Ellis Act — have ever Ellised a building with the intention of later bringing it back to market.

"If they did, I'd say, 'You're making a big mistake,'" said Perry, "because (state Sen.) Sheila Kuehl is making this more and more difficult each year" by introducing stricter legislation.

The Ellis Act was originally written to protect landlords who wanted to leave the business, Zanger said. The act was written in response to a Supreme Court decision overturning an order by the Rent Control Board that demanded a landlord stay in business, even though he wished to retire.

When vacancy decontrol later passed,

landlords began to use Ellis as a relatively inexpensive way to get tenants out of their units and bring the units up to market value, Zanger said. Later, restrictions were passed to curb that trend.

The majority of properties Ellised in

"The law itself is simply a slap on the wrist for landlords. It really puts out a green light for landlords wanting to circumvent rent control."

— SOLOMON HARRIS
Santa Monica resident

Santa Monica have not been brought back to the market. Officials say some have been demolished and made into condominiums. Others are used as personal residences and some stand vacant.

Landlords who Ellis their properties often wait to make improvements after the first two years when penalties are the most severe. Though the law requires they re-rent to former tenants at the same rent-controlled rates, nearly all of the property owners opt instead to pay the six months' rent in fines, said Keith Kresge, an attorney for the rent control board.

"I don't know of any case where a displaced tenant has actually been given their unit back," he said.

But Kresge said the new legislation will curb abuses by providing a further disincentive to landlords trying to circumvent the system.

"In reality, the owner could go back into business," Kresge said. "But he would suffer."

DID YOU KNOW?: The first regular TV soap was DuMont TV's *A Woman to Remember*, which began its run in February 1947.

NATIONAL



Budget woes hitting hard at nation's colleges, universities

BY NICOLE ZIEGLER DIZON
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — Facing their third straight year of lower state funding, public colleges and universities are finding it nearly impossible to shield students from the pinch this time around.

Even as they increase tuition, the schools are cutting courses and programs, laying off instructors, eliminating sports and firing student workers.

"I don't think I've ever faced a set of conditions that were more like a perfect storm for American higher education than we're in today," said John Peters, president of Northern Illinois University and a veteran public university administrator.

For Aubrey Monks and Joanne Lerman, signs of trouble at the University of Illinois' Chicago campus are everywhere.

They strain their eyes in dim lecture halls where burned-out light bulbs haven't been replaced for months and wait longer and longer for the rare campus shuttle bus. Both have been warned to limit the hours they work at university jobs that help pay their tuition.

"In the psychology department, we have so many kids and just one adviser," said Lerman, a 19-year-old sophomore. "You have to wait in line to get to talk to her for two minutes."

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich this week proposed a state budget that includes at least \$112 million in cuts to state universities — cuts administrators say could lead to shuttered libraries, larger classes, mass layoffs and fewer courses.

"There is going to be impact on the day-to-day activity of the educational experience," said James Stukel, president of the University of Illinois. "It will just be a university that's a little bit leaner."

Administrators at the University of Wisconsin in Madison say they may have to eliminate 200 courses, 90 administrative jobs, up to 60 faculty positions and several research centers to come up with their share of \$250 million in proposed cuts.

At the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, a research division of Nebraska's State Museum could be on the chopping block, which could put the museum's zoology and the anthropology collections in mothballs or in the hands of another state.

And in California, a proposal to cut \$520 million for community colleges next year prompted thousands of chanting students to protest outside Gov. Gray Davis' Los Angeles office last week. Nine community colleges already have cut staff, faculty and classes that would have served 30,000 students.

Cheryl Fields, director of public affairs for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, said public schools have already taken the standard belt-tightening steps — freezing hiring, delaying repairs and cutting travel.

But faced with more cuts, she said, some administrators will have to decide between targeting the classroom or increasing tuition to levels that price more students out of their schools.

"At the Big Ten universities, what they've said is one of the reasons they put significant tuition increases in place past year is because they don't want to

sacrifice quality or course offerings," Fields said.

At the University of Massachusetts' flagship campus in Amherst, administrators have cut seven varsity sports teams, increased student fees, laid off workers and refused to fund negotiated pay raises for union workers.

"There is going to be impact on the day-to-day activity of the educational experience. It will just be a university that's a little bit leaner."

— JAMES STUKEL
President of the University of Illinois.

"We sort of feel rather like the final victims of the dot-com era," said Randall Phillis, a biology professor and a vice president of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, a faculty union.

UMass faculty members negotiated their contract when the economy was good, but saw their raises disappear when it went sour, Phillis said. Meanwhile, 12 percent of the faculty took an early retirement package in a single year, leaving the remaining professors with larger classes and students with fewer course offerings.

Al Fatale III, a student trustee at Montclair State University in New Jersey, joined hundreds of other students at the state Capitol last month to protest Gov. James E. McGreevey's proposal to slash college operating budgets by \$101 million.

School administrators say the proposed cuts would probably lead to double-digit tuition increases, fewer programs and layoffs. Fatale said students are also worried about losing non-academic services, such as the university health center or theater.

"I've been surprised by the outcry from students, who I will admit are usually apathetic," Fatale said.

Back at the University of Illinois campus in Chicago, students worry they will either have to pay more for summer school or not be able to get the classes they need.

School administrators say the proposed state budget cuts would force them to cut 450 course sections with a projected enrollment of 10,000 students. Another 400 course sections would see enrollments balloon by more than a quarter.

Antoine Khoury, a 19-year-old freshman, said he's already learned that he won't get the grants he expected to help fund summer school. Khoury, who works as a valet, said he needs summer credits to stay on track toward graduation.

"I've been trying to save up for summer school," said Khoury, who is looking for a second job. "Everything's being cut off — first jobs, and now at school. It's more expensive, and it's already hard enough to get a job."

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INTERNATIONAL

IMF, World Bank prepared to help rebuild Iraq

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The leaders of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank pledged on Thursday to contribute to the rebuilding of Iraq after sending fact-finding missions to the country to assess the greatest needs.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn said that any major commitment of new loans on the part of his institution would be dependent on recognition by the United Nations of a new government in Iraq.

IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler did not address the U.N. question but did say he would submit the issue to the IMF's 24-member board of directors, which includes the United States, Japan

and wealthy European countries.

European nations have been arguing that any reconstruction program should be done with U.N. authorization while the Bush administration wants the United States and its coalition partners to play the lead role in running the country initially.

Wolfensohn said the World Bank can only deal with legitimate governments recognized by the United Nations. He said to lend to any other authority would complicate repayment questions.

"We are limited to dealing with recognized governments and that is a decision for the United Nations to take," Wolfensohn said. "From a practical point of view it is important. We have to lend to somebody who is willing to repay."

Both Wolfensohn and Koehler said that their institutions could dispatch assess-

ment teams to the country to determine what the greatest needs are as soon as it was safe to do so and before there is any formal U.N. vote.

Koehler said these fact-finding missions would be critical because there was so much information that was not known about the state of Iraq's economy, given the secrecy in which Saddam Hussein's government operated.

Koehler said the last IMF economic mission to Iraq occurred in 1983 and the last time the institution had enough information to complete a full review of Iraq's economy was even earlier — in 1980.

Wolfensohn deflected questions about how much money the World Bank, the world's largest provider of loans to developing countries, would be willing to extend to Iraq. He said the first step would be for Iraq to clear up \$82 million in past-due payments on old World Bank loans before any new loans could be made. However, he said Iraq's oil revenues and other resources could easily cover this amount.

Wolfensohn said reopening the country's schools and establishing basic services would be top priorities based on loans the World Bank has made to other post-conflict countries.

"In Afghanistan, the first step was to try to get the kids back in school," Wolfensohn said. "There are many things you can do, from our past experience, to make a country more peaceful, more manageable."

Wolfensohn and Koehler met with reporters to preview the upcoming spring meetings of the two institutions.

The Bush administration is hoping to use the finance meetings, which begin with talks Friday among the world's seven richest countries, to generate commitments for the money that will be needed to rebuild Iraq. The administration also wants to explain efforts to preserve as much as possible of its proposed \$726 billion in tax cuts designed to jump-start the U.S. economy.

However, the IMF on Wednesday challenged the appropriateness of pushing for new tax cuts when the U.S. federal budget deficit is soaring sharply.

The IMF's skepticism is shared by many of America's rich allies in the Group of Seven — which is composed of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada. Treasury Secretary John Snow and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan will lead discussions among their counterparts from this group starting with a dinner on Friday night.

Like several recent IMF-World Bank meetings, this week's are expected to attract demonstrators calling for changes in world economic policies, including debt relief for poor countries. The demonstrations are expected to be smaller than in the past.

The IMF, issuing its latest "World Economic Outlook" on Wednesday, trimmed its expectations for global growth to 3.2 percent for this year, from a 3.7 percent forecast in September. Much of the markdown was due to a temporary jump in world oil prices over worries about supply disruptions.

The IMF warned that even the reduced forecast might not be realized because of the failure of economic policy-makers to address such problems as rising budget and trade deficits in the United States, massive bad loans overhanging Japanese banks and rigid labor markets in Europe that drive up employment costs.

IMF chief economist Kenneth Rogoff said the new IMF forecast had assumed the war would be over quickly, but he said other factors holding back growth would result in only a "tepid global recovery" this year, followed by more normal growth of 4.1 percent in 2004.

Rogoff said the optimism for 2004 could be misplaced because of several other risks, including lingering effects from the bursting of the stock market bubble to the threat that a new bubble is developing in U.S. housing prices and fears about a deadly new Asian virus.

"In our view, it is not just the war — a number of other risks weigh on the outlook," Rogoff said.

On patrol



Simon Walker/Associated Press

Local children watch a British Royal Marine on patrol Thursday in Basra, southern Iraq. Basra has seen several days of civil disorder that followed two weeks of fierce fighting, which ended with British coalition forces taking control of the city.

After regime fall, widespread looting ensues in Iraq

WAR, from page 1

seven-hour battle in the Iraqi capital. Four more were wounded in a suicide bombing. "Baghdad's still an ugly place," said Maj. Gen. Gene Renuart.

Widespread looting persisted 24 hours after the city celebrated the regime's fall.

Striking anew at the regime leadership, coalition warplanes dropped six satellite-guided bombs on a building where Saddam's half brother, Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, a close adviser, was believed to be.

Al-Tikriti once headed the Iraqi intelligence service, and the building in Ar Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad, had served as an intelligence service operations site, said Marine Maj. Brad Bartelt, a spokesman for the U.S. Central Command in the Persian Gulf. It was not known immediately whether al-Tikriti was hit.

Increasingly, the U.S. military focus was away from the capital. Kurdish troops set off celebrations in Kirkuk when they moved in, and there were hopes that Iraqis would surrender in Mosul, another northern city, on Friday.

Nearly 100 miles to the north of

Baghdad, U.S. commanders said Tikrit was the likely site of a last stand by Iraqi forces — if there is to be one. Iraqi defenders were believed to have moved there from other parts of the country. U.S. commandos were in the region, and warplanes were attacking.

U.S.-led fighters and bombers also hit Iraqi positions near the border with Syria, where special forces were trying to prevent regime loyalists from slipping out of Iraq and to keep foreign fighters from entering.

There were signs of difficulties ahead in efforts at building a new society.

Two Islamic clerics were hacked to death by a mob in Najaf at one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines, witnesses said.

One of the clerics killed, Haider al-Kadiri, was a widely hated loyalist of Saddam, part of the Iraqi leader's Ministry of Religion. The other was Abdul Majid al-Khoei, a high-ranking Shiite cleric and son of one of the religion's most prominent spiritual leaders, who was persecuted by Saddam. They were killed at a meeting meant to serve as a model for reconciliation in post-Saddam Iraq. The U.S. mili-

tary had flown in journalists aboard two helicopters to witness it, although they arrived after the violence.

An American plane beamed taped addresses by President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to the Iraqi people. "Your nation will soon be free," Bush said.

There was looting in Baghdad and elsewhere, in the wake of the disappearance of civilian authority. One senior Pentagon official said military commanders have asked religious leaders in the capital to help calm the populace and reduce the looting. One Marine commander said he would institute a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

Some Iraqis did what they could to prevent looting.

At al-Kindi hospital, medical students were sent into neighborhoods to retrieve medicine that had been taken on Wednesday. They returned with double-decker buses loaded with boxes of badly needed supplies.

In Washington, one administration official told Congress the Pentagon envisions parallel ministries run by Americans and Iraqis after the war until an interim gov-

ernment can be established. Paul Wolfowitz, deputy secretary of defense, offered no timetable for creation of the interim government or how long U.S. troops would remain in Iraq.

After three weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Air Force Secretary James Roche told CNN: "We effectively have won the conflict. The regime is gone."

In northern Iraq, Lt. Col. Robert Waltemeyer, commander of a special forces unit, said troops would enter the city of Mosul "in a matter of hours or days."

Gen. Babakir Zebari, a Kurdish commander, said remnants of Saddam's Baath party and Iraqi military commanders in Mosul had offered to surrender on condition that the U.S.-led bombing stopped and they received amnesty.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said at least some of the Iraqi forces inside the city had stacked their weapons in accordance with U.S. surrender demands. Waltemeyer said the U.S. military would meet with representatives from Mosul on Friday morning in an attempt to negotiate a surrender, although he said, "I'm not here to make deals."

SPORTS



The Masters meets its match — Mother Nature

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Augusta National finally met its match — Mother Nature, not Martha Burk. Four days of heavy rain turned golf's hallowed grounds into a muddy mess and forced the first round of the Masters to be postponed for the first time since 1939.

Tiger Woods, chasing history as he goes after his third straight title, didn't even make it to the golf course. Those who did never got much farther than the clubhouse.

"We believe this golf course is unplayable," said Will Nicholson, chairman of the competition committees. "This golf course will just not take any more water."

The 93 players will return Friday for 36 holes — weather permitting — as the Masters continues on a strange path through uncharted waters.

Augusta National endured nine months of criticism leveled by Burk and the National Council of Women's Organizations against the club's all-male membership. She still plans to protest Saturday — the first day sunshine is in the forecast.

The club closed its gates Monday for the first time in 20 years because of rain and lightning, and even part of the fabled Par 3 Tournament was rained out Wednesday.

Now this.

"I'd like to see something good happen here because of all the negative press," David Toms said. "But we don't play in a dome. They'll get the tournament in, and they'll have a great champion."

That begs two questions — when and who?

The forecast is for more showers in the morning, and officials are skeptical about being able to finish two rounds by darkness Friday.

When they do get around to the golf, the soggy turf should play right into the hands of Woods, the two-time defending champion, and others who hit the ball high and far. That's what it might take to navigate a 7,290-yard course that will seem even longer.

Stamina also figures to play a big role.

"If you're not under 32 and can hit 280, you've got no chance," said Loren Roberts, who is 47 and averages 254 off the tee. "I don't know. I've been wrong before."

Most everyone thought postponing the first round was the right move.

"Evidently, they felt it was unplayable," Woods said.

Starting times already were pushed back 30 minutes, and officials rescheduled to 11 a.m. because of more overnight showers that brought the rainfall to 4 inches since Sunday.

Unlike Monday, the club opened the gates to 30,000 fans who had nothing to do but visit the gift shop, spend



David Toms watches his shot on the practice area after the first round play of the 2003 Masters was postponed at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga. on Thursday.

David Martin/Associated Press

\$1.25 on pimiento cheese sandwiches and walk gingerly through the ugly mixture of brown slop that oozed up and covered trampled grass along the fairways.

They stood four-deep around the practice range, peering over each other's head, even though nobody was hitting balls. A few dozen fans sat in their folding chairs at Amen Corner, waiting for players that never came by.

"They're probably desperate to see a shot," Scott Verplank said.

The Masters is the annual rite of spring in golf, where dogwoods and azaleas blaze under warm, sunny skies. This felt more like winter, with dreary, low-hanging clouds and temperatures in the upper 40s. Snow was possible two hours away in Greenville, S.C.

It was the fifth consecutive major championship interrupted at some point by rain, dating to last year's Masters when Augusta National smelled like a dairy barn with all the muck.

"I told friends last year, 'I've never seen it like this. You'll never see it like this again.' I was wrong," Lee Janzen said. "It's worse this year."

Only this time, the course was not suited for play.

An hour before the Masters was supposed to start, officials moved a hole about 10 feet to higher ground. They used hand mowers to trim the landing areas in the fairway, but none of it mattered. On the third and seventh fairways, there was simply nowhere to take relief from casual water.

Players are allowed to lift, clean and place their balls in the fairway at regular PGA Tour events to cope with the mud. That doesn't happen at the majors, and Nicholson made it clear that the ball is played as it lies at the Masters.

"We believe that's the traditional way to play the game, and that's the way we intend to play the game," he said.

No one was surprised.

"There would be a woman member here before that happens," Chris DiMarco said.

Few players were disappointed they had to wait until Friday to start the Masters, having spent the last couple of days slugging 3-irons into par 4s and slogging through fairways.

Verplank broke the news to about a dozen of them in the dining room, and no one believed him. Only when PGA Tour rules official Mark Russell made it official did the giddiness begin.

"Write in your paper that Thomas Levet is tied for the lead on the first day of the Masters," the gregarious Frenchman said as he changed out of his shoes.

Some players either practiced for a few hours or made plans to go to the movies.

"I've got a nice house with a lot of friends," Roberts said. "I've got to get back to a poker game that's been going on the last three days."

Even though the day was lost, fans still milled about Augusta National. All they could do was use their imagination as they gazed at greens without flagsticks and a course without players.

David Ziff came from Atlanta for his first Masters experience with a friend who arranged for the tickets. Driving down Washington Road, they heard on the radio that the first round had been called off.

"We had a look of shock," Ziff said, holding three bags of Masters merchandise. "I'm going to walk the course, look around and go back to Atlanta. At least I can say I've been here."

Bat breaking swing



Ed Betz/Associated Press

New York Yankees' Alfonso Soriano breaks his bat during the first inning against the Minnesota Twins on Thursday at Yankee Stadium in New York. The Yankees won 2-0.

De La Hoya-Mosley rematch coming to MGM Grand in Vegas

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The rematch between Oscar De La Hoya and Shane Mosley is coming to Las Vegas.

De La Hoya, the super welterweight champion, will fight Mosley on Sept. 13 at the MGM Grand Garden, Top Rank president Bob Arum said. Mosley won the first meeting on June 17, 2000, at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Until recently, it appeared the Staples Center would host the rematch, but MGM Mirage outbid the competition and snagged the high-profile fight.

Casinos covet De La Hoya fights because the popular boxer attracts many customers who spend a lot of money. When De La Hoya stopped Fernando Vargas on Sept. 14, 2002, at Mandalay Bay, the casino had the best take in its four-year history.

"There are only two fighters out there who really can draw people and they're Mike Tyson and Oscar De La Hoya," said Richard Sturm, the president of MGM Mirage Entertainment and Sports. "We feel this is going to be a sensational event and is going to have a lot of interest from our customers."

"People always want to see Oscar, and when you couple it with the fact that he's fighting a guy like Shane Mosley, who had beaten him before, we have a great story to tell."

"People always want to see Oscar ..."

— RICHARD STURM
MGM Mirage Entertainment and Sports

Despite the matchup, the first Mosley-De La Hoya fight was a pay-per-view dud by De La Hoya standards. It sold only 580,000 pay-per-view subscriptions despite Arum's prediction that sales could reach 900,000.

But De La Hoya was only nine months removed from a loss to Felix Trinidad Jr., in which De La Hoya blew the fight by running the final three rounds. Interest in De La Hoya was at its low point in 2000, but is peaking after his big victory over Vargas, Arum said.

The gate will be scaled from \$9 million to \$10 million, Arum said. Tickets, which will cost from \$100 to \$1,200, won't go on sale until after De La Hoya's May 3 tune up against Yory Boy Campas.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



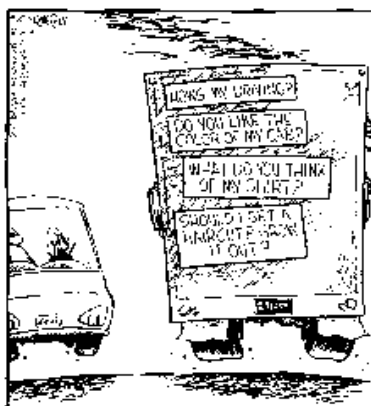
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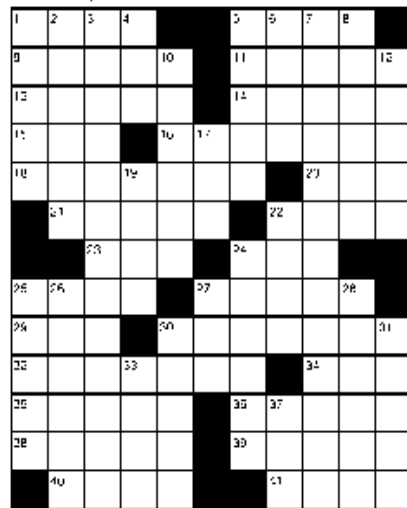


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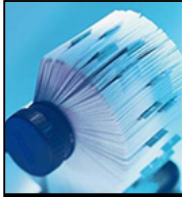


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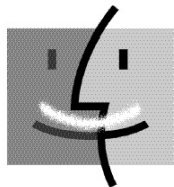
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BACK PAGE

Scars, memories of maimed tell of Iraq's sadistic system

BY TINI TRAN
Associated Press Writer

BASRA, Iraq — The evidence is in the scars, stories and memories of the maimed. The proof is in the cattle prods, branding irons, meat hooks and manacles made purely for pain, which was often a prelude to death.

In cities and towns across Iraq, U.S.-led military forces and local Iraqis are looking at the hard, cold, bloodstained evidence of what human rights organizations have been saying for years: Iraq had the world's most sadistic system of state-sponsored torture.

In Basra, a putty-colored compound once run by Iraq's internal security police has become, like other such torture chambers, an unholy shrine for people who survived a stay here, and to those who didn't.

"I am very happy today, like I have been reborn," Karim Kadem, a 27-year-old man who returned on Thursday to see the place where he was imprisoned for two years. "I thought I would die here."

Human rights groups have criticized Pentagon plans to use Iraqi jurists for tribunals on Iraqi human rights crimes precisely because of places such as this one. Iraqi courts have been "instruments of repression rather than impartial judicial institutions," said the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

"The U.S. government can't solve this problem by offering some technical assistance to the Iraqi judicial system," said Richard Dicker, director of the group's International Justice Program.

"That system needs to be rebuilt from the ground up." Of course, many prisoners never made it to court before they were imprisoned, tortured, or summarily executed, often for such small infractions as failure to join Saddam Hussein's Baath Party.

In Nasiriyah on Wednesday, U.S. Marines cleared out a security complex equipped with wooden stocks — contraptions to restrain the head and hands — and a crude electric chair powered by a hand-cranked generator.

"They used to strap a leather cord around our head, hands and shoulders and hoist us two feet off the ground. Then they would beat us as we hung there. They did unthinkable things — electrocution, immersion in a bath of chemicals and ripping off people's finger and toenails."

— HAMED FATTIL
Iraq resident

Other objects, like a long steel rod, made the Marines' imaginations run wild. They also found photos of badly burned bodies.

Numerous photos of women and children were found in torture chambers. Rape was a principal form of torture, human rights groups say, with prisoners sometimes being forced to hear tape recordings of their screaming wives being assaulted.

The British military on Monday took Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, and uncovered the sort of chambers of horror troops are finding elsewhere. The victims of such treatment were mainly, though not exclusively, Kurds or Shiite Muslims suspected of having taken part in the 1991 uprisings against Saddam that followed the first Persian Gulf War.

The seven-story compound here, known as "White Lion," was shelled by British forces and local Iraqis have

been combing through the crumbled compound ever since, looking at files, fingerprints and other documents for evidence of people who went into custody, but never came out.

Other visitors included those who made it out alive, telling tales of eyes gouged out, acid baths and agonizing, midair suspensions by leather straps — the latter evidenced by the rusty rings stuck in the ceilings.

"It was a place of evil," resident Hamed Fattil said.

"They used to strap a leather cord around our head, hands and shoulders and hoist us two feet off the ground. Then they would beat us as we hung there," he said. "They did unthinkable things — electrocution, immersion in a bath of chemicals and ripping off people's finger and toenails."

Kadem said he was accused of opposing Saddam and the party. Five other friends arrested with him were either killed or blinded. He has permanent injuries to his arms; he can no longer lift them fully.

Kadem said he returned to the prison to exorcise his fears. "I wanted to see the place. I wanted to relieve my heart of the bad memories," he said.

Fluttering in the debris were hundreds of handwritten documents about inmates who had been imprisoned or executed. Many former prisoners who came to the site were combing through the rubble for their dossiers.

In one set of documents found on the grounds, authorities detailed the capture and subsequent execution of one Habib Ali Hassan, a 20-year-old student accused of "frequent visits from suspicious people." His picture, clipped to the file, showed a young clean-cut man in a white shirt and tie. He was killed in 1983.

One older man, who identified himself only as Ali, lifted his shirt to reveal the scars on his back — from jailhouse beatings, he said. He was arrested in 1991 for participating in Shiite ceremonies.

Asked if he was happy Baghdad had fallen, he nodded his head, then stopped to whisper: "Saddam may kill me."

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