

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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City locked in housing dispute with state dept.

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The state is cracking down on how Santa Monica creates its housing policies.

Every five years the state requires the city to submit its housing goals and objectives to make sure there aren't too many impediments to building new housing.

But after approving the city's policies last December, the state tacked on an extra requirement — any ordinance that would affect how housing is built in the city must be sent to the state's department of housing and community development for review.

In a letter obtained by the Daily Press, Cathy E. Creswell, deputy director of the state department of housing and community development, said she's concerned with how the city submits one housing plan to be approved by the state but then makes major changes to it afterwards.

The letter specifically mentions an ordinance under consideration by the city council that would require all developers building apartments downtown to go through a thorough public review and planning process.

Currently, small apartment complexes under 7,500 square feet only need approval from the city's building department. Obtaining permits can take as little as six months.

But under the proposed city ordinance, all projects would be treated the same — an approval process that could take as long as two years, depending on the size of the project.

"We're concerned about the imposition of a new regulation on the downtown area, where much of the city's new development is expected to occur," Creswell said. "It appears development can occur there currently, but if this new ordinance is enacted new constraints could be added."

Suzanne Frick, the director of the city's planning department, said concern over the ordinance is wrongly placed. She said the city isn't trying to make the process more difficult for developers, adding that the ordinance would open the process of building more apartments downtown to the public and allow residents a chance to have their concerns heard by developers and city officials.

See DISPUTE, page 3

Third Street Promenade politics officially formalized

Task force will decide how much retail and restaurants should be on outdoor mall

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The future of the Third Street Promenade now rests in the hands of seven people.

It took some political wrangling and a little arm-twisting, but the Santa Monica City Council this week appointed the final members to a long-awaited task force, which will figure out how to divide the outdoor mall's real estate with restaurants and retail stores.

City officials say the Promenade is quickly becoming a retail corridor without any flavor, resembling shopping fare commonly found in suburban malls.

The council voted to place a moratori-

um on converting restaurants into retail stores until the task force makes its recommendations.

The city decided four months ago the task force would consist of three public officials, two board members from the Bayside District Corporation, one planning commissioner and one Promenade property owner.

Merlyn Ruddell was appointed as a property owner representative. Mayor Mike Feinstein and council members Herb Katz and Pam O'Connor were chosen as the three elected officials.

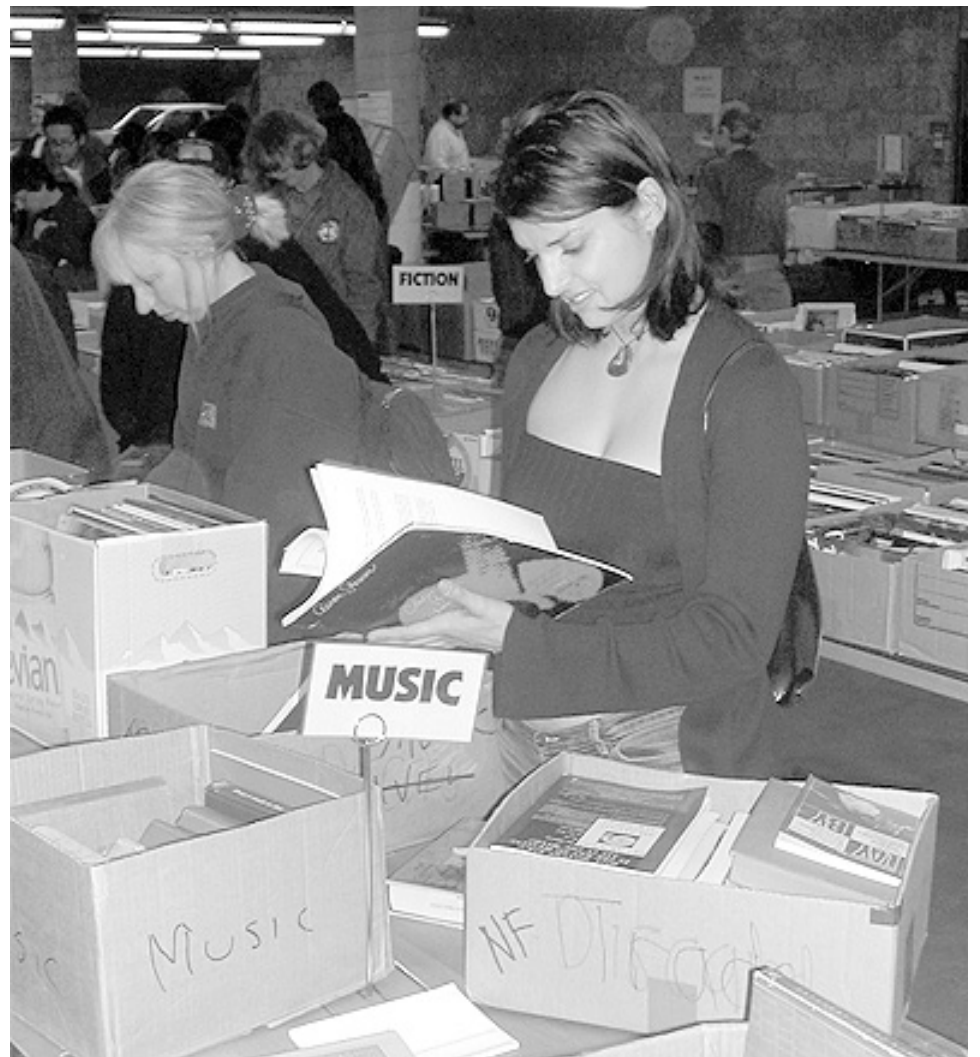
But six of the seven council members were vying for the task force's three openings — and the competition quickly turned ugly.

Two slates of candidates were drawn up — one consisting of Feinstein, O'Connor and Katz and the other substituted Councilman Ken Genser for Katz.

Genser argued Katz, a longtime political foe, had a conflict of interest because

See TASK FORCE, page 3

'Friday night stampede'



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Mercedes Martinez browses through some of the 6,000 books, records and videos Friday that are being sold at the Santa Monica Library this weekend. The event runs Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 1-3 p.m. and raises almost \$10,000. Left over books are donated to charity.

HP message theft a reminder for caution with voice mail

BY BRIAN BERGSTEIN
AP Business Writer

SAN JOSE — It's the talk of Silicon Valley: How did someone break into the voice mail of Hewlett-Packard Co.'s chief financial officer, snag a sensitive message from his boss, Carly Fiorina, and leak it to the local newspaper?

HP executives were shocked. But experts in phone systems and computer security say there are ways to pull off such heists, and warn people should be more careful about how they use voice mail.

"If you don't want it publicized, don't say it digitally," said Bruce Schneier, founder of Counterpane Internet Security Inc. "Don't put it in e-mail, don't record it

in a voice mail, don't put it in a Power Point presentation. Basically, all of this stuff is vulnerable."

The issue arose Wednesday, when the San Jose Mercury News reported that a March 17 message from Fiorina to CFO Robert Wayman anonymously was forwarded to one of its reporters. The newspaper printed a transcript of the message and made the audio clip available on its Web site.

In the message, left two nights before shareholders voted on HP's \$19 billion acquisition of Compaq Computer Corp., Fiorina told Wayman she was worried that Deutsche Bank Asset Management and Northern Trust Global Investments would

See VOICE MAIL, page 3

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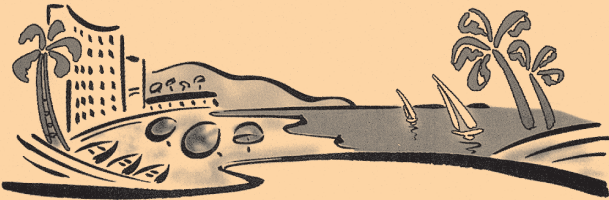
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Clear out questions involving finances and a loved one. Not everything is as it seems. Be upbeat in your dealings, especially with a close family member. Sometimes you're harder on others than you realize. Shop for a gift for a loved one. Tonight: OK, your treat!



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Where recently you might have been uptight, now you can relax far more easily. You express opinions with a great deal more power. Be concise. You could spend more than you realize in the next few weeks. Tonight: Others follow your ideas.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Another might not mean what he or she says, or so you hope. In any case, take action to prevent needless worrying about the outcome of a situation. Remain positive. Share feelings with another who understands you well. Tonight: Choose something you love to do.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Others clearly understand where you're coming from. Share more with your friends. If you can join your pals or invite them over for a fun happening, do so! Relax by playing a favorite team game or laughing together. Tonight: Where the action is.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others want you to join them. Relax with the moment anyway. Friends surround you, but another might be looking for just the right moment to praise and thank you. Know that you're in the limelight. Make the most of the moment. Tonight: Could be quite late!



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ An invitation to join others at a distance could be unusually appealing. Don't hesitate to accept an offer or follow through on what you want. A boss or older relative could be pressing his or her luck with you without realizing it. Tonight: Opt for something very different.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal with others on a one-on-one level. News from a distance could have you packing, leaving only dust in others' tracks! Don't forget to invite that special person along, especially if you're planning a day trip. Review a decision carefully. Tonight: Enjoy a loved one in a different setting.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Let others make the first move, and you might feel a lot more comfortable than you realize. Discussions become even more rewarding than you originally thought. Another clearly might not agree with a financial decision of yours. Tonight: Say "yes." Be easygoing.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Think in terms of what you need to do in order to make another more comfortable. You could be hearing complaint after complaint. Refuse to take another's mood personally. Instead, relax and get into a favorite pastime. Do your thing. Tonight: Don't make anything tougher than it needs to be.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Consider options that revolve around your family. You might want to do some outdoor work. If you can, initiate the first barbecue of the season. Don't push so hard, and review a matter that is close to your heart. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your fiery side emerges with a child or loved one. A child might be more testy than usual. Get out and enjoy a favorite sport. Invite a neighbor or close friend along. Getting some fresh air helps you gain perspective. Tonight: Let your home be center stage.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Speak your mind, but be diplomatic. Pick and choose your words, as you might sound harsher than you think. Reorganize your home in the next few weeks with an eye to upcoming happenings. Are you getting ready to throw a party? Tonight: You don't have to go far.



QUOTE of the DAY

**“Money is not everything, but it
does make poverty tolerable.”**
— Moss Evans

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LOCAL



State discouraged with city's stance on housing policy

DISPUTE, from page 1

"We want to do this because the community and the council are concerned that far too many development projects are moving through the system without public review and comment," she said. "(Council members) felt residents weren't being given the opportunity to comment on projects that could negatively affect their neighborhoods and given a chance to make changes to those projects."

And instead of preventing development, Frick said most residents turn out to make suggestions about how to improve the project.

"Generally speaking, when we have the hearings residents aren't there to kill the project, they are there to make sure it addresses their concerns and doesn't become a problem in the future," she said.

Santa Monica-based land use attorney Chris Harding said the city's ordinance would make building new apartments in Santa Monica more costly and discourage developers from building new housing here because it

would create a sense of uncertainty whether they could get planning commission approval.

"The city tends to do their housing policy changes through emergency ordinances," Harding said. "They make changes without going through the careful process required in the state's amendment process."

And small residential developers said the already swamped planning commission would become gridlocked with more projects to review. They described the delays as already contributing \$30,000 to \$40,000 in extra costs, which only increases home costs and rent.

"If the things go fast and finishes quickly it costs everybody less," said Shahab Ghods, an architect working on multiple projects throughout the city. "The planning will take so long, it's another way of discouraging people from building housing and living in Santa Monica."

City officials are challenging the state on whether the department has the right to review changes to its housing policies., arguing there is no precedent for such a process.

Deputy City Attorney Barry Rosenbaum has sent the state a series of legal arguments about why the city should not have to comply with the department's requirements.

Rosenbaum said he would not comment on possible litigation or release the arguments he made to the state, other than to say he is still waiting for the state's response.

"Basically, we need to show the state that this proposed ordinance wouldn't act as a constraint," he said.

However, state officials said it is standard practice for the department to review changes cities make to their housing policies, and they were surprised at the tone of Santa Monica's letter.

"I was discouraged with the language in Mr. Rosenbaum's letter," Creswell said. "I thought we had come to an understanding with the city, so I was a little surprised at the tone of their letter."

Creswell said the department will respond to Rosenbaum's letter in the next few weeks.

Third Street Promenade task force ready to work

TASK FORCE, from page 1

as a local architect that works extensively on the Promenade, his employers could benefit from his decisions.

But Katz said he no longer has any employers on the Promenade and said he could remain impartial.

"I'm happy to serve and I want to look to have some good people involved so we can get some nonpartisan views and come up with some new ideas."

— MERLYN RUDDELL

Third Street Promenade property owner

Nevertheless, he turned to City Attorney Marsh Moutrie for advice, but she couldn't make decision because she didn't have enough information. She added that it was up to Katz to determine if he had a conflict of interest.

When it became clear Moutrie was not going to disqualify Katz, Genser said even the suggestion of a possible conflict would be damaging to the task force's work.

Feinstein said the task force's work would be watched carefully by the public

and there wouldn't be "a lot of opportunities for something to arise out in the light of day."

Feinstein chose Katz, a political rival. However, Feinstein and Genser are not known to be close allies and have been feuding publicly in recent weeks.

Councilman Kevin McKeown said the turmoil of selecting the best council members for the seats is insignificant compared to the job they will be charged with in the coming months.

"I hope they hear loud and clear residents' concerns about the loss of small local businesses as storefronts consoli-

date," he said. "Santa Monica's downtown should be ours, not some multinational megacompany's."

Ruddell, who was the only property owner that applied for the task force, said she was looking forward to getting started.

"I just think the task force will be a wonderful opportunity to see and help shape the future of the Promenade and ensure its long-term success," Ruddell said. "I'm happy to serve and I want to have some good people involved so we can get some nonpartisan views and come up with some new ideas."

The Bayside District Corporation,

which works with the city on managing the downtown, has appointed board members West Hooker and Bill Tucker to represent them on the task force. Hooker owns Locanda del Lago, a fine dining Promenade restaurant, and Tucker is a Promenade property owner and landlord.

The planning commission appointed Jay Johnson as its representative to the task force.

Suzanne Frick, director of the city's planning department, said the task force's meeting schedule would be set after the availability of each member had been determined.

Voice mail hackers causing privacy issues

VOICE MAIL, from page 1

reject the deal.

"We may have to do something extraordinary for those two to bring them over the line here," Fiorina told him.

The message was particularly timely because HP is being sued over allegations it improperly coerced Deutsche Bank to support the deal. In fact, the lawsuit threatens the entire merger.

So how could such a sensitive message get out?

HP executives won't publicly discuss any theories, and have threatened legal action against the thief, if he or she is caught.

But at least one likely scenario is rather low-tech: Someone close enough to Wayman to know his voice mail password doesn't like the Compaq deal, found the

message and sent it to the Mercury News. Or Wayman wasn't careful with his password and wrote it somewhere in his office, where someone untrustworthy found it.

Voice mail messages generally are converted into chunks of data that get stored on a disk maintained by the system provider. Messages do not show up in the system as discernible files, and are converted back into their original, audible form only when someone enters the mailbox's password, said Marty Parker, a vice president with Avaya Inc., a New Jersey-based maker of voice and data systems.

"So even a technician would have to change the password to play a message, and the user would know a password had been changed," Parker said. And even if a

company archives deleted voice mails, "it would take quite a bit of skill and knowledge to abuse the backup system."

The breach was a hot topic of conversation this week among the engineering and technical minds of Palo Alto-based HP, where employees tend to communicate internally through voice mail more than by e-mail.

One group of employees eating lunch together decided that breaking into the voice mail system seemed far-fetched. They wondered whether Wayman checks his messages from home with a cordless phone that could be intercepted rather easily with a scanner. The spy could have heard the message itself, or more likely, deciphered Wayman's password from the key tones.

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Santa Monica's Daily Calendar



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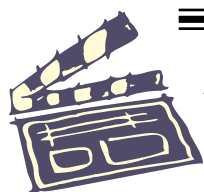
Community Health Festival will be held today at the Third Street Promenade from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Presented by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. FREE to the Public! Come and learn about the numerous health services available in the Santa Monica area. 50 Exhibitors will provide educational information, free screenings and services including: blood pressure testing, body fat analysis, holistic dentistry, diabetes screening, spinal alignment, chair massage, traditional Chinese medicine and herbs, acupuncture, pain management, skin care analysis, CPR and First Aid, stroke screening, foot and ankle exams, asthma and allergy testing, healthy eating and much more! Sponsored by Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital, Saint John's Medical Center and the Santa Monica - UCLA Medical Center.

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Project Pride, an afternoon drop-in Social Center for ALL Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual and Transgender teens 13-18 years of age. Sundays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. 1424 4th Street between Broadway & Santa Monica Boulevard. The center is one block East of the 3rd Street Promenade, on second floor, room 220A. Free snacks! Sponsored by Jewish Family Service of Santa Monica. (310) 393-0723. Ask for "Project Pride Info."

Shiatsu Massage School of California is offering Hatha Yoga FREE to the community! Increase your strength and flexibility, decrease stress and improve your posture. Sunday's from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. 2309 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 396-4877



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OPINION

LETTERS

Sending a red flag to the school district

Editor:

As a child of the '60s, I know just how attractive cause-related rallies can be for high school and college students. There is a euphoric feeling of standing up for something important and the thrill of marching together for a cause. In addition, I am proud that the Samohi faculty who support this particular cause set an example for their students by standing up for their individual beliefs.

While I haven't personally seen any third-party validation for the claims being made on either side of the Doubletree issue, why should that stand in the way of a good, gut-level campus protest rally and march. I must admit, I've uttered the thrilling words, "On Strike — Shut It Down!!" a few times myself in my youth.

What I find very disturbing is that labor and community organizers were present at this supposedly SCHOOL rally and march. As far as I know, this is clearly against the policies of Samohi, the board of education and the Santa Monica Unified School District, who have individually and collectively discouraged efforts to draw the Santa Monica school campuses into on-going labor issues. In my opinion, holding the event after school doesn't change a thing.

Since Mr. de la Torre of the Pico Youth and Family Center freely admits that the rally was for purely political/publicity purposes, it should have been limited to those who belong on the Samohi campus ... the faculty and students. A purely "campus" event would certainly have been better PR for the organizers and their campaign. His concern seems to have been mostly for popularizing the "cause" and not for the safety of the Samohi students participating.

The school district should have certainly been made aware of these outside organizers/participants prior to the rally occurring ... since it is the district that would have been held accountable if violence had broken out or a student had been otherwise injured during the rally or march. Let's not kid ourselves, this was not just a "football game, pep rally or any other school event." This was clearly an organized labor rally and march with the potential for violent conflict should student or outside opponents confront the marchers, causing the waiting police to act. If tempers had flared, the news story might have been very different.

Why wasn't this information provided to the proper authorities? Were the faculty members attending the event fully briefed on the purpose of the rally and who would be involved? Perhaps the large number of fully-armed police officers behind the Doubletree Hotel should have raised some concern with the Samohi administration and made the attending faculty uneasy. Furthermore, it is unrealistic to ever expect the campus security officers to become the first line of defense should things go wrong, no matter how well trained they might be. Perhaps they should have consulted the history department faculty for a more clear perspective.

Superintendent Deasy is doing the right thing in investigating the claims made to the district by the union organizers. He is a concerned administrator who wants to act responsibly in financial matters that could benefit the district. However, I am sure that he did not expect his investigation to become an open invitation for these same union organizers to come onto the Samohi campus to further their labor goals. In fact, I am fairly sure that neither the Superintendent nor the school district would have permitted such a rally had the true nature of its organization and participation been made clear to them.

I believe that the safety of my daughter and all the other Samohi students should be paramount in the approval of any campus-related activity or event. A clearly political or labor issue should send up a red flag at the district and in the Samohi administrative offices. If there is a real potential for violence or physical conflict on campus over the issue, approval should be denied.

Let the Samohi faculty and students freely discuss both sides of this or any other issue as part of the educational process. Heck, invite spokespersons from both sides to present their views as part of the debate. That kind of forum is a workable solution to presenting important community and social issues on the Samohi campus.

However, please don't allow either side of this or any other issue to turn Samohi into a physical staging ground for their outside activities or put its students in possible jeopardy to further their own goals.

Richard Firth
Santa Monica

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, 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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STATE



Mini Cooper sports cars the rage on Hollywood streets

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS — Forget those big-bucks Porsche and Ferrari sports cars in his parking lot, car rental czar to the stars Ken Kerzner says those new Mini Coopers are the rage in Hollywood these days.

"People really seem to love this little phenomenon," the president of Budget Rent a Car of Beverly Hills said. "The Minis are one of our hottest vehicles right now. Hollywood celebrities have been clamoring for the cars in the fleet since they went on rental last week."

Kerzner, who has 20 of the BMW Mini

Coopers in stock, rents them for \$125 a day and interest is expected to be feverish after the July 26 release of the new Mike Myers movie "Austin Powers in Goldmember," which features the Mini Cooper.

Budget Rent a Car of Beverly Hills has the world's largest fleet of exotic, luxury and sport utility vehicles.

Budget of Beverly Hills is also a source of cars for Hollywood filmmakers. It has provided vehicles for "Men in Black 2," 40 Ferraris that were seen in "Gone in 60 Seconds," the Ferrari Modena seen in "Charlie's Angels" and the Lexus GS 430 in "The Fast and the Furious."

Former employee sues Ovitz claiming fraud, defamation

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The former president of Artists Television Group sued founder Michael Ovitz for \$9.6 million, claiming fraud, deceit and defamation.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday in Superior Court by Eric Tannebaum, the former president of TriStar Television. He alleges he was lured away from his TriStar job by Ovitz, who promises him a seven-figure salary and \$1 billion in financial backing.

Tannebaum said he signed the 1999 deal, which allegedly promised him \$1.5 million per year for five years.

But when the company did not meet financial goals, "Ovitz panicked, abandoned ATG and shut down its operations

over Tannebaum's objections," the lawsuit claims.

Ovitz later fired Tannebaum and portrayed him "in a negative light" in media interviews, according to the lawsuit.

He allegedly defaulted on his 5-year promise of Tannebaum's salary after firing him.

Ovitz, once considered one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, co-founded Creative Artists Management before leaving to become president of The Walt Disney Co. in 1995. He left that position in a highly publicized fallout that garnered him \$38 million in cash and roughly \$100 million in Disney shares.

He began Artists Management Group three years ago, brokering film and television deals with its own roster of stars.

Man killed, two survive after jumping off LB bridge

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — One person was killed and two others survived after they jumped off a 30-foot bridge early Friday in what police said may have been a teenage ritual.

The body of the unidentified 21-year-old man was recovered shortly after 5:30 a.m., fire spokesman Joe Jackson said.

Authorities were notified about 1 a.m. that three men had jumped off the Davies

Bridge near Pacific Coast Highway. Two of the men surfaced from the water but one did not, Jackson said.

Authorities said alcohol may have been a factor and do not believe the men, all in their 20s, were suicidal.

Divers searched the waters near the bridge and a heat-seeking camera also was used to locate the missing man.

Jumping off the bridge is a "historic rite of passage" for teens and young adults," Police Officer Skip Kerr said.

SD 6th graders suspended for plotting to poison teacher

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Five junior high school students were suspended Friday for allegedly plotting to poison their teacher by giving her cookies laced with Benadryl and Tylenol.

The sixth-grade girls at Wangenheim Middle School planned to bake the drugs, along with mouthwash, Tabasco sauce, pepper, and chili powder, into some cookies over the weekend and give them to their homeroom teacher on Monday, according to Lt. Bill Ritter of the San Diego City Schools Police Department.

The students apparently hoped to make the teacher sleepy, he said.

The plot was foiled Thursday when the girls brought the ingredients to school and were overheard discussing their plans by several other students who notified a teacher.

They were suspended for five days and could face further discipline.

School officials said they did not know what motivated the plot, which they called highly unusual at the otherwise quiet 6th-8th grade school in Mira Mesa, about seven miles north of downtown San Diego.

"Students are generally very well behaved and very respectful," principal Robert Grano said.

The targeted teacher was "doing fine," he said.

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NATIONAL

Merrill Lynch probe — spotlight on dual role of brokers

BY ALAN CLENDENNING

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Privately, Merrill Lynch analysts were calling certain stocks “junk.” Publicly, they were labeling the stocks hot buys.

New York’s attorney general embarrassed Merrill Lynch this week by making public a series of internal e-mails suggesting that the firm’s Internet sector analysts had grave doubts about the very companies they were recommending investors buy.

The inquiry could throw a spotlight on the alleged conflict of interest at Wall Streets firms that serve as both brokerages and investment banks.

Critics have long contended that Wall Street analysts face pressure to rate some companies highly because the firms also want to provide investment banking services to those companies, such as arranging stock offerings or mergers and acquisitions.

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has seized on the e-mails to accuse Merrill Lynch of misleading investors. Merrill Lynch has countered that the claims are baseless and that the e-mails were taken out of context.

The two sides are now negotiating over a court order Spitzer obtained that directs Merrill Lynch to disclose more information about the investment banking business it does — or hopes to do — with companies rated by its analysts. Spitzer’s office said other firms are being looked at, too.

While the Securities and Exchange Commission and industry groups are working on reforms to address such alleged conflicts, experts said Spitzer’s investigation could shame the industry into somehow making analyst reports more objective.

“You just nail them and create that fear that regulators are looking and are not going to tolerate actual abuse,” said Don Langevoort, a securities law professor at Georgetown University and a former SEC lawyer.

In one e-mail from 2000, an analyst criticized ExciteAtHome while Merrill Lynch reports rated it highly. In another, an analyst wrote that InfoSpace was a “piece of junk,” while the company’s Merrill Lynch rating was the best possible.

The e-mails also showed that Merrill Lynch analysts were frustrated by pressure to maintain high stock rat-

ings, Spitzer said.

In one, star Internet analyst Henry Blodget wrote that he was becoming less inclined “to cut companies any slack, regardless of predictable temper tantrums, threats, and/or relationship damage that are likely to follow.”

Blodget, who took a buyout from Merrill Lynch last year, referred requests for comment to the company. A Merrill Lynch spokesman did not immediately return a call Friday.

Experts said they doubt Spitzer will succeed in one of his goals: persuading Merrill Lynch and its competitors to spin off their research arms as separate entities so they become truly independent. They said the research divisions do not make enough money to survive on their own.

But Spitzer might succeed in getting big Wall Street firms to restrict communication between analysts and investment bankers, said Robert Heim, a lawyer and former director in the SEC’s New York office.

“At the end of the day I think there will be some changes but they won’t be the systematic changes that the attorney general is looking for,” Heim said.

Tahoe man missing, presumed dead on Mount St. Elias

BY DAN JOLING

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A Lake Tahoe-area man is one of two climbers on Mount St. Elias who are missing and presumed dead after they attempted to descend America’s second tallest peak on skis.

Aaron Martin, 32, of north Lake Tahoe, and Reed Sanders, of West Yellowstone, Mont., disappeared Tuesday on Tyndall Glacier, the National Park Service said.

A third climber, John Griber, of

Jackson Hole, Wyo., descending on foot, saw Martin slide about 4,000 feet, out of control, before going out of sight.

“He went right by him on the glacier,” said park spokeswoman Jane Tranel.

It marked the second time Martin had climbed Mount St. Elias, which at 18,008 feet, is America’s second tallest peak. His team got stuck there in a snow storm for four days last April at about 15,000 feet before skiing down to safety.

The mountain stands near the Canada border at the northern end of Alaska’s

Panhandle within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the largest unit of the national park system.

After Martin disappeared, Griber searched for Sanders higher on the mountain but could not find him.

Searchers on Thursday were waiting for weather to clear to fly over the area. Snowfall limited visibility and made flying impossible near the search area, Tranel said.

Griber and a fourth climber, Greg Von Doersten, also of Jackson Hole, were res-

cued Wednesday.

In an interview that appeared last week in the Reno Gazette-Journal, Martin said the weather was the most dangerous part of the climb on Mount Saint Elias. He said the weather can change so fast because the mountain is right on the ocean.

“The mountain is either going to let you do it or shut you down,” Martin said.

“You have to respect and surrender to the mountain. The rest — the training, the intent, the homework — it doesn’t matter. Alpinism is a lifelong pursuit.”

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NATIONAL



Terrorists make patience a potent weapon of war

BY NANCY BENAC
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Each new suicide bombing in the Middle East and every report of an al-Qaida operative slipping through the U.S. dragnet teaches America a fresh lesson in the resilience of terrorists.

From Israel, from Pakistan, even from Peru come ready reminders that terrorists can bide their time, waiting for the right moment to strike, and that dormant anti-Americanism quickly can be stoked anew.

If terrorism's spread throughout the world can be likened to ticking time bombs, as President Bush has suggested, some have extremely long fuses. And in the campaign against global terrorism, that means time can work to their advantage.

"A decade is a second to them," said Harvey Kushner, a Long Island University professor and author of numerous books on terrorism. "Our body clock, our rhythm, is ticking differently from those who are targeting us in the militant and Islamic world."

The suicide bombers in the Mideast are "cut from the same cloth" as those who attacked America on Sept. 11, says Kushner, and just as determined to stay in their struggle against Israel for the long term.

"The next stage of suicide terror may be more ominous," warns Shibley Telhami, a professor at the University of Maryland.

"The method is likely to be copied and made more lethal beyond Palestinian areas, particularly in the era of globalization," Telhami wrote in The New York Times.

The question is whether Americans, often impatient and results-oriented, will remain committed for a sustained battle against terrorism in which it is hard even to know what victory would look like.

"Is it when one year goes by and nothing happens, or two or three or five?" asks Charles Pena, senior defense policy analyst at the Cato Institute.

Hoping to strike the right tone as the war in Afghanistan passes the half-year mark and the Mideast situation looks increasingly grim, the Bush administration is trying to douse any expectations for swift, outright victory over terrorism.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld calls the Sept. 11 attacks "just the opening salvo in a long war against our nation, our people and our way of life."

John Esposito, a Georgetown University professor and author of the new book, "Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam," said the Bush administration must balance "politics and patience," which sometimes are at odds in a country where political winds can shift with head-snapping speed.

Esposito said that as time passes, and if Osama bin Laden and other top al-Qaida leaders remain at large, more people will wonder: What are we accomplishing? What are the benchmarks for knowing that we're making progress?

In the Mideast, he adds, until core reasons for the Arab-Israeli dispute can be resolved, "there will be no peace and there will be danger that it gets far worse."

"Growing up oppressed and under

siege, facing a future with little hope, high unemployment and endemic poverty can produce an anger and desire for revenge," Esposito writes in his book.

The most committed extremists, he says, see themselves in a religious struggle with no deadlines.

"The worst of the terrorists have a world view which basically believes that God is on their side, and therefore, there can be a kind of patience," Esposito said.

The United States has blamed al-Qaida both in September's suicide hijackings and in the 1993 World Trade Center attack eight years earlier, as well as in a number of bombings on American interests abroad in the interim.

"A decade is a second to them. Our body clock, our rhythm, is ticking differently from those who are targeting us in the militant and Islamic world."

— HARVEY KUSHNER
Long Island University professor

Now, al-Qaida leaders, pushed out of Afghanistan by the U.S. military campaign, are working to reconstitute the organization from other nations. Rumsfeld says some have found "hospitable ground" at least temporarily in Iran, a longtime terrorist thorn in the U.S. side.

From another part of the world, Americans got a fresh lesson in the persistence and unpredictability of terrorism last month, when a car bomb detonated outside the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru, killing nine people just days before Bush was to visit.

The blast was blamed on Shining Path, a rebel movement that killed thousands in bombings, assassinations and massacres in the 1980s and 1990s before a government crackdown all but crushed it. The Peruvian government had stopped regarding the Maoist insurgency as a threat.

Fouad Ajami, a professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies, says there are terrorists in the Arab world motivated by "free-floating anti-Americanism that blows at will and knows no bounds."

When one government clamps down, these terrorists can reinvent themselves in another country.

"In Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria, tenacious Islamist movements were put down," Ajami wrote in Foreign Affairs magazine. "In Saudi Arabia, a milder Islamist challenge was contained."

What happened next? "The extremists turned up in the West," Ajami wrote. "There, liberal norms gave them shelter, and these men would rise to fight another day."

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INTERNATIONAL

Powell's meeting with Arafat postponed after bombing in Jerusalem

BY BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

JERUSALEM — Secretary of State Colin Powell called off his Saturday meeting with Yasser Arafat after midnight Friday night after a new suicide bombing spread out before Powell's eyes the carnage he had come to Israel in hopes of ending.

The meeting might be rescheduled for Sunday, a senior U.S. official said. But Powell's spokesman said the secretary "expects a clear denunciation of terrorism" and of the new bombing in the meantime.

Arafat has been reluctant to make such a statement, with support for suicide attacks running high among Palestinians in light of Israel's military offensive in the West Bank.

Earlier Friday, Powell failed to persuade Israeli Prime Minister Sharon to provide a timetable for withdrawing Israeli troops from Palestinian cities and towns, although he continued to press the matter.

Soon after Powell's effort on that side of the conflict fell short, he was confronted with the agony of the other side.

Powell got word of the bombing at a Jerusalem marketplace and hovered overhead in a helicopter as the dead and injured were taken away.

"It illustrates the exceptionally dangerous situation that exists here," he said in a

telephone call to Sharon.

The bomber killed six shoppers and injured many more by detonating explosives she was wearing.

In a statement read to reporters at Safed, in northern Israel where the secretary of state toured the tense border area near Lebanon, Powell suggested that accelerated diplomacy was the right response.

There is a need, he said, "for all of us, everyone, the international community, to exert every effort we can to find a solution."

And yet, a few hours later, Powell directed State Department spokesman Richard Boucher to announce he was "looking at the whole situation in terms of the bombing and where we stand and where we are," raising questions about whether Powell would press ahead.

After midnight, Boucher announced that the Saturday meeting was off.

Powell on Saturday will meet in Jerusalem with Red Cross and U.N. officials on the deteriorating situation on the West Bank, Boucher said.

"There's been too much suffering on both sides," he said.

At the White House, spokesman Ari Fleischer said Powell had the flexibility necessary to his mission.

As for the Palestinian leader, Fleischer

See POWELL, next page



Associated Press

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell is greeted by unidentified officers as he arrives by helicopter to the Israeli army northern command headquarters in northern Israel on Friday. Powell is reconsidering whether to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today, State Department officials said on Friday. The announcement came hours after a female suicide bomber blew herself up at a bus stop in Jerusalem's crowded outdoor market, killing six people and wounding 84, police said.

INTERNATIONAL



Venezuelan military picks businessman to replace Hugo Chavez

BY FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela

Venezuela's military tapped a leading businessman Friday to replace former leftist president Hugo Chavez, whose combative rule was ended by army commanders after a bloody repression of a huge street protest.

Pedro Carmona — a figure straight from the economic elite Chavez had demonized during his three-year rule — said he would hold legislative and presidential elections within a year to replace Chavez.

But Carmona's appointment was challenged by Venezuela's attorney general as unconstitutional, and several Latin American nations condemned Chavez's ouster Friday.

Attorney General Isaias Rodriguez said Chavez was still president because he had not, in fact, resigned but was forced out by the military. Rodriguez said the constitution calls for Chavez's resignation to be accepted by Congress.

In Costa Rica, leaders at the summit of the 19-nation Rio Group of Latin American countries condemned "the interruption of constitutional order" in Venezuela.

Vicente Fox said his country would not recognize Venezuela's new government until new elections are held, though he said diplomatic relations continue. Brazil, meanwhile, urged Venezuela to hold new elections as soon as possible.

There was no immediate response from the high command or Carmona, who was sworn in late Friday after his supporters issued a declaration accusing Chavez of violating democratic norms and human rights.

Carmona dissolved the formerly Chavez-controlled congress, Supreme Court, attorney general's and comptroller's offices, and he declared a 1999 Constitution sponsored by Chavez null and void. Venezuela will return to a bicameral legislature under the previous constitution, he said.

Carmona also suspended 48 laws decreed by Chavez in November that generally increased the state's role in the economy. A 25-member advisory council was appointed.

Chavez, who could face charges for the deaths of protesters, was being held in an army base after being taken from his palace before dawn. The former paratrooper's strong-arm drive to impose a "revolution" had polarized Venezuela, and his friendships with Cuba's Fidel Castro and Iraq's Saddam Hussein had angered the United States.

Carmona promised an end to anti-Chavez strikes that had severely cut oil production by Venezuela, the third biggest supplier to the United States and the world's fourth biggest oil exporter.

"Everyone will feel that there exists plenty of freedom, pluralism

and respect for the state of law," the mild-mannered 60-year-old Carmona said. He urged Venezuelans to help him restore stability to the struggling economy.

Generals said Chavez, 47, was forced to resign by his military high command overnight after his civilian supporters opened fire on protesters in an 150,000-strong anti-Chavez march on Thursday. At least 14 people were killed and 240 wounded.

However, Chavez's allies on Friday denied he resigned and called the army move a coup.

The United States called for calm and blamed Chavez for his own ouster. The State Department said "undemocratic actions committed or encouraged by the Chavez administration" provoked Thursday's crisis. President Bush said "now the situation will be one of tranquility and democracy," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Streets were quiet Friday after a night of celebrations. Venezuelans' triumph on Friday was mixed with sorrow as vigils were held for the dead and wounded. "Day of Sorrow," read newspaper headlines.

Angered by the order to turn their weapons on civilians, the military rejected Chavez's request for exile in Cuba and took him from the palace to an army base before dawn.

Security forces conducted house to house searches Friday for members of so-called "Bolivarian Circles," citizens' groups said to have been armed by Chavez's government. Anti-Chavez politicians said they still feared assassination by the "Chavistas." Police searched the home of Chavez supporter, Caracas Mayor Freddy Bernal, who was missing.

Miguel Dao, head of Venezuela's security police, said his forces were looking for 1,500 rifles missing from a police station and allegedly given to Chavez supporters.

Police captured former Interior Minister Ramon Rodriguez Chacin, and a mob tried to attack him as he was led away.

Popular resentment toward Chavez, who was elected in 1998 on an anti-poverty platform and whose term was to expire in 2006, had been building for months.

The armed forces — with traditionally strong ties to the U.S. military — resented Chavez's distancing of Venezuela from Washington. Many also resented Chavez's ties with leftist Colombian guerrillas, who allegedly sometimes operated in Venezuelan territory, and with Cuba: Many senior officers had fought Cuban-backed communist guerrillas in the 1960s and early 1970s.

The pugnacious president alienated Washington with his close ties to Castro, visits to Iraq, Iran and Libya, criticism of U.S. bombings in Afghanistan and opposition to free trade.

He exasperated Venezuelans by

Suicide mission continues



Associated Press

Paramedics tend to the wounded at the scene of a suicide bombing at a Jerusalem market on Friday. A suicide bomber blew herself up at a bus stop in Jerusalem's crowded outdoor market, killing six people and wounding at least 84, according to police and medics.

implementing economic policies by decree and accusing the media and Roman Catholic Church leaders of constantly conspiring to overthrow him. He squandered an opportunity to improve the lot of 80 percent of Venezuelans who live in poverty.

Chavez's one-time 80 percent popularity ratings had plunged to below 30 percent.

Monsignor Baltazar Porras, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, said Chavez called him at midnight to the palace Thursday to ask him to guarantee his life as the military turned against him.

Porras, who sparred frequently with Chavez, said Chavez asked him for forgiveness for his clashes with the church.

Chavez's daughter, Maria Gabriela Chavez, told Cuba's state-run television that her father had contacted her and denied resigned. His arrest was "simply a coup," she

said. The attorney general, Isaias Rodriguez, said Chavez was still considered president since Congress had not accepted his resignation.

Chavez's replacement was a leader of the general strike this week that eventually sparked the former president's removal.

Carmona's business chamber, Fedecamaras, joined the 1 million-member Venezuelan Workers Confederation in calling the strike in support of executives at the state-run oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela, who were protesting moves by Chavez.

The strike culminated with Thursday's giant march through the capital, Caracas.

Carmona is an economist who has degrees from Caracas' Andres Bello Catholic University and the University of Brussels. He has represented Venezuelan commercial and diplomatic missions abroad.

Colin Powell's plans delayed while Mideast war heats up

POWELL, from previous page

said, "Today would be a very good day for Yasser Arafat to publicly denounce terrorism and show some statesmanship."

Powell was informed of the bombing as he prepared to board the helicopter to tour Israel's fragile northern border area. Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer provided Powell with details and the helicopter passed over the site of the attack en route to the Israel Defense Force's northern headquarters.

Although Sharon would not give Powell a timetable for pulling back from Israeli incursions, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel's aims in Palestinian areas were close to being met.

"We are anxious as anybody else to complete the mission and leave," he said. "We are not talking about years, we are talking about a week or something a little bit more than that."

Powell had planned tentatively to see Sharon on Friday, Arafat on Saturday, Sharon again on Sunday and Arafat on Monday — and had not set a deadline for winding up.

"Israel is conducting a war against the Palestinian infrastructure of terror and hopes to end it as soon as possible," Sharon said at a news conference with Powell.

For his part, Powell said he had explained the U.S. position to the prime minister and "I hope we can find a way to come to an agreement on this point of the duration of the operations and get back to a track that will lead to a political settlement."

Mohammed Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service for the Gaza Strip, said Israel's military offensive was to blame for creating suicide bombers. "This is coming from the anger and suffering of the Palestinian people due to these attacks and sieges," he said in an interview.



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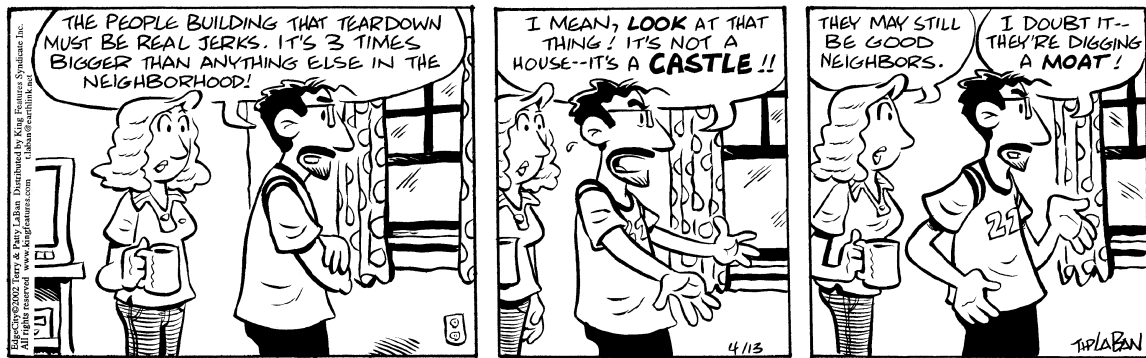
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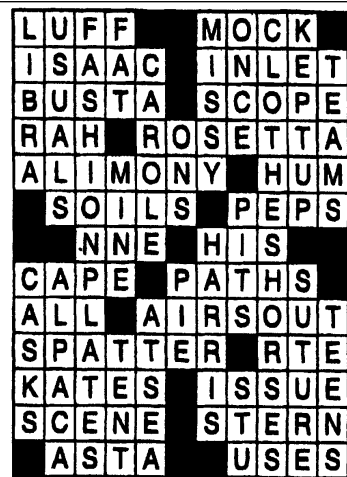


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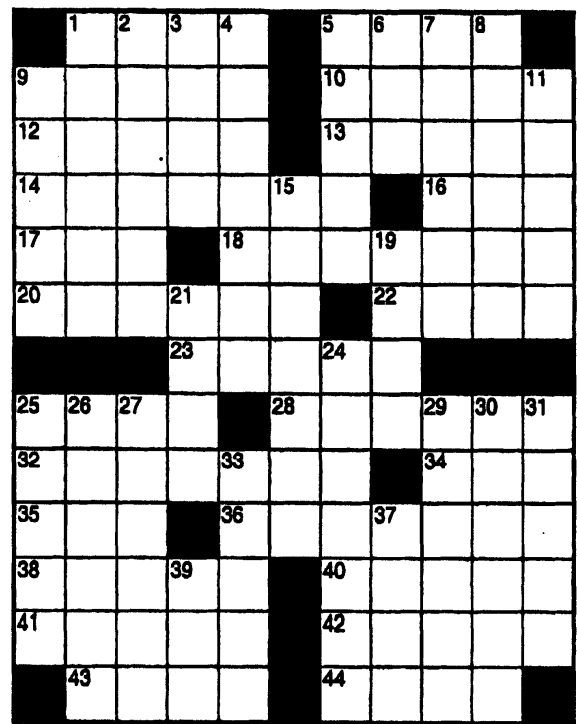


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 - 15 Truck medium
 - 19 Old codger
 - 21 Seed-removing machines
 - 24 Delays
 - 25 Fancy neckwear
 - 26 Use for support
 - 27 Hun leader
 - 29 Diamond units
 - 30 Brunch choice
 - 31 Creator
 - 33 Helps, in a way
 - 37 Singer James
 - 39 Ron of baseball



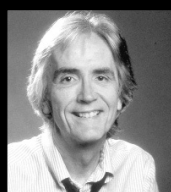
Yesterday's answer



4-13

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Man's boat ride during WWII entitles him to veteran's benefits

The Federal Court of Canada decided in February that Hugh Trainor was entitled to veterans' benefits for service during World War II despite the fact that he had been ruled medically unfit before becoming a member of the armed forces. The court ruled that Trainor's boat ride from Prince Edward Island to his recruiting-station physical exam in Nova Scotia qualified as service because it was dangerous, in that German submarines were thought to be operating in the Atlantic Ocean at the time.



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"Horses evicted from equestrian park..."

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BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Firefighters slide to new exit plan

By The Associated Press

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Local firefighters used to sliding down a traditional firehouse pole will soon have a new way to get to their trucks from their third-floor quarters — a plastic, spiral slide.

Officials hope it will reduce the number of ankle, knee and lower back injuries that were caused by sliding down the pole and making contact with the ground, fire Capt. Andy Theisen told the Morning Sun of Mount Pleasant for a Wednesday story.

The slide will be part of an addition to Mount Pleasant's public safety building, which is scheduled to house the fire department starting next month.

Theisen said the slide, which cost \$17,000, will get firefighters to truck bays faster and will save money in the long run.

"When you look at that compared to one or two back injuries, the thing has paid for itself," he said.

Fire officers won't be required to use the slide when a fire call comes in, Theisen said. But he said most will choose it over the stairs.

"Everybody has gone down it already," Theisen said. "I've only had one person complain of dizziness."

Geeks only at prom

By The Associated Press

DULUTH, Minn. — If you play lots of video games and are frequently taunted as a "spaz," a new prom may be just for you.

The inaugural Geek Prom is planned for Saturday at

Duluth's NorShor Theater.

"We're not covering anything up," organizer Paul Lundgren said. "It's spastic fits of clumsy dancing."

The theme of the Geek Prom is "We are through being cool."

"No matter how much of a geek you are, there will be someone there who is a bigger geek than you," he said. "Unless you end up being King or Queen Geek. And to be the best at anything, that can't be bad, can it?"

The night is being promoted as a party for adults who don't fit in to have some fun with their own kind. And Lundgren said it's not a slam against geeks. Everyone's a geek in some way, he said, including himself.

The evening will include video games where geeks can square off against each other. And Promoter Scott Lunt said the bar will serve drinks named after geek icons, like pocket protectors and Leonard Nimoy.

Skunk helps nab suspect

By The Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine — Police who were chasing a man after a traffic stop got an unlikely assist from a skunk, who sprayed the suspect in the face.

Kenneth Rideout, 32, was nailed after he ran into the woods Tuesday night. He was wanted for violating release conditions stemming from a domestic assault.

The skunk didn't stop Rideout but it slowed him down enough that police officers were able to catch up with him.

"It was powerful enough to pretty much incapacitate him," said police Lt. Tom Avery.

Officer Eric Syphers arrested the smelly suspect. The

squad car reeked by the time the prisoner arrived at the police station.

"Sometimes we get help from where we don't expect it," Avery said. "We're calling this skunk Officer Pepe LePew."

Moose on the loose

By The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — There's a moose on the loose, and Federal Express workers are being told to keep their distance.

The company ordered its employees at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport to stop feeding an orphaned moose calf that had been hanging around the company's hub.

While there is some risk the young moose could starve to death, feeding the animal causes an even greater risk, said biologist Rick Sinnott of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

"If it gets aggressive, the only solution we have is to destroy the moose," he said.

Sinnott said as long as the calf doesn't stick around long enough to become dangerous to people, it will eventually find grass and other food to eat elsewhere.

"It is perfectly capable of moving out on its own," he said.

Sinnott said many people are unaware of how dangerous moose can be. They don't realize that the animals, who can kick their sharp hooves with blazing speed, have killed people in the city, he said.

"It's those big brown eyes and the long lashes, and they look so cute," he said. "I blame it all on Walt Disney and Bambi."

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