

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Picked fresh daily. 100% organic news.

School district to consider raising taxes

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The school district is financially troubled and taxpayers may have to bail it out.

Facing a \$5 million deficit over the next two years, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials will ask the board of education at its April 25 meeting to either make deep cuts in services or increase property taxes by November.

In an April 4 memo from Superintendent John Deasy to school board members, he laid out the three policy proposals but clearly advocated raising taxes and asking the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu for more money.

"I am going to ask the board members to consider a plan to raise taxes so we can keep the programs we have and the services we provide," Deasy said. "Nobody has told me our students get too much or that we provide too many services."

Deasy said the school district's financial oversight committee is working on the exact size of the tax increase and how much more will be needed from the two cities that make up the school district.

Another memo will be released this week outlining in detail each proposal and the exact amount of tax increases that are needed, Deasy said.

Decreases in state funding, costs from new programs and new policy changes — like decreasing the size of the

student body — are responsible for the school district's current financial problems, Deasy said.

He said the school district had been warned by the state years ago that decreases in funding were looming and the school district had been "squeaking by with cuts and Band-Aids for years."

If the school board disagrees that taxes should be raised, Deasy said the school district would have to "authorize a set of massive and deep programmatic cuts over the next two years and publicly acknowledge little or no room for current and future (union) negotiations."

Another option calls on making 25 percent of the

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Boathouse slowly sinking into oblivion

Longtime business ordered to permanently shut its doors today

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

After nearly 50 years on the Santa Monica Pier, the Boathouse has been forced by the city to permanently close its doors today.

Superior Court Judge Diana Wheatley two weeks ago ordered Naia Sheffield to close her longtime family business by April 15 after the city of Santa Monica attempted to evict the historic restaurant last summer to make way for the movie-themed chain restaurant Bubba Gump.

Sheriff's deputies are expected to take possession of the building sometime this week. But Sheffield and her attorney, Kelly Bixby, are scrambling to save the sinking Boathouse.

Bixby filed a temporary relief in the appellate division of the Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday, asking for a stay on the eviction while they appeal Wheatley's decision.

A panel of three judges will review the 365-page appeal and are expected to make a decision today. Meanwhile, Sheffield and her dozen or so employees aren't budging.

"Basically they could lock me out Monday," Sheffield said Friday. "I absolutely have no idea what will happen."

"I hate not knowing," she said, adding that she will continue to operate the Boathouse until she is forced out of

the building her grandfather built more than four decades ago.

The end is near

Over the weekend, many locals paid their last visits to the old watering hole, reflecting on the good times they had over the years. Salsa night, which draws hundreds for dancing on Sunday, was videotaped so it wouldn't be forgotten.

Meanwhile, Sheffield spent the evening in her office collecting her things.

"I am trying to keep everybody positive, but it's pretty hard," she said. "I just want my restaurant."

The city asked the Boathouse, which was on a month-to-month lease with the Pier Restoration Corporation, to move out last July so Bubba Gump could move in.

But Sheffield refused to leave her family's legacy, arguing the PRC offered the Boathouse a long-term lease more than three years ago but then reneged on the deal and gave Bubba Gump a lease.

The city filed a lawsuit against the Boathouse to have it evicted so Bubba Gump could renovate the building and move in this summer. If the city gets its way, the building will likely remain empty until at least next spring while Bubba Gump does a \$3 million renovation.

Wheatley had ordered the Boathouse be closed down by March 31, but then granted Sheffield another two weeks to get her affairs in order. Now Bixby and Sheffield are appealing Wheatley's decision, as well as a

See BOATHOUSE, page 3

A Third Street rubdown



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Massage therapists Paula McGinness (right) and Zaliha Davis loosen up some patrons Saturday during St. Johns' health fair on the Third Street Promenade.

Police reforms, parolees may push up gang-related violence

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In a city known for its gang violence, growing numbers of hard-core prison parolees combined with young recruits are fueling a sharp increase in gang-related crimes, particularly murder.

A series of police reforms, initiated in response to rogue cops working in the Rampart gang unit, also may have contributed to the increase.

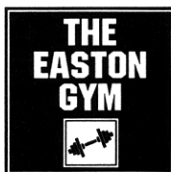
Through February of this year, 63 people

have died in gang-related murders in Los Angeles, more than triple the number for the same period in 2000.

"We're losing the war," said Councilman Dennis Zine, a former Los Angeles Police Department sergeant. "The gang members believe they have the upper hand. Cops are intimidated to do the job."

Gang members arrested during the height of the city's gang warfare in the early 1990s are

See VIOLENCE, page 3



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★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You might not only be thinking about money, but also about most of your immediate friends. Hopefully your taxes are done. Help another in a last-minute crunch. You could be a bit shocked by this person. Teach others how to gather information. Tonight: Out at a favorite spot.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You're in your element as you make excellent choices. Don't do anything halfway; rather, finish off details. Your understanding comes through for a boss who might be off-kilter. Be careful with a financial loan. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Take your time right now, as a mistake could be far more costly than you anticipate. Someone's suggestion, though excellent for him or her, might not work for you. Look to new ideas. Communication runs amok, but you overcome a problem. Tonight: You're all smiles now that the workday is done.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Friends make suggestions. Network and make calls. Still, a money matter could prove to be upsetting, whether it's yours or that of someone close to you. Seek out other opinions. Tame stress before it gets to you. Take a long walk at lunchtime. Tonight: Do for yourself.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out. You might not want another to depend on you too much. Ultimately, make it clear that how he or she works out a problem is his or her responsibility. A meeting proves to be important. Listen to feedback from those around you. Tonight: Join your pals.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Make calls to seek out answers that involve an immediate matter. Though someone might not exactly agree with you, he or she doesn't disagree either. Loosen up with someone you work with, though you might need to take charge. Tonight: Work late.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal with someone. Finances play a significant role in your decisions. One-on-one relating brings the results you desire. Learn to take an overview with a child or loved one. Certainly you could be upset by what goes down. Tonight: Check out a vacation site.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Carefully think through a decision that involves someone else. In fact, listen to this person as he or she airs out his or her views. You could be shocked by another's message. Express your frustration in a manner that shows it does make a difference. Tonight: Listen to a loved one.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Dig into work, though you might feel as if you're the only one in the trenches! Maintain a sense of humor, understanding the last-minute tax crunch some might be in. Be careful choosing your words, as another could be quite feisty! Tonight: Follow another's lead.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Learn to accept being someone's hero. Allow others to give you praise and let you know how very important you are to them. Unexpected financial developments might force you to put a cork in your spending. Tonight: Indulge in a favorite pastime.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ You easily could decide to call in today and stay home. For whatever reason, you need the day off. Realize that you could jolt someone who wasn't anticipating your pattern change. Be more observant and see what's going on. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You speak your mind, though you might not anticipate another's rhetoric. You could find this person to be rude and difficult. Chill out and just walk an even line. Know your priorities and where you're coming from. Trust your knowledge of the basics. Tonight: At home.



QUOTE of the DAY

**"Happiness is having a large, loving,
close-knit family ... in another city."**
— George Burns

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LOCAL



Boathouse owner claims sabotage by a city agency

BOATHOUSE, from page 1

federal judge's ruling handed down last month which dismissed Sheffield's federal lawsuit against the city.

Sheffield sued the city in U.S. District Court claiming breach of contract, violation of her right to due process and unlawful takings. She also claims that the PRC violated the state's open meeting laws and that the city intentionally misrepresented the lease agreement.

Political wrangling

The PRC has been criticized by many that it has engaged in behind-the-scenes political maneuvering for years, particularly when it came to the Boathouse. A controversial series of non-decisions by which the city refused to honor its own mandate to change the membership of the PRC may loom behind the apparent demise of the Boathouse.

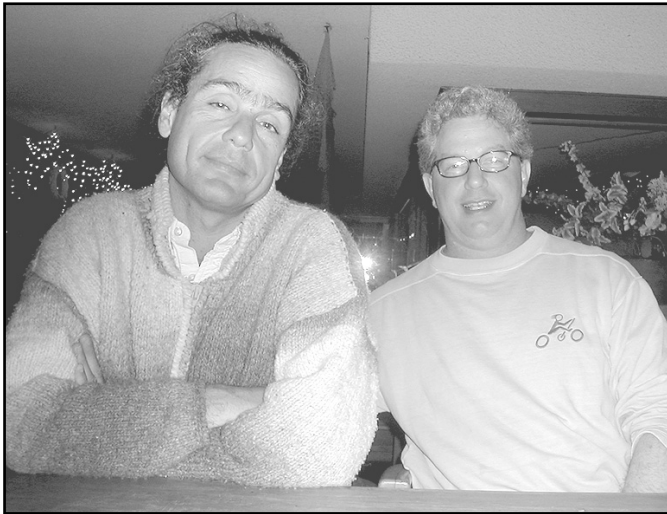
Several members remained on the board since the 1980s, until they were finally replaced last summer. But they were kept on long enough by some elected officials to ink the Bubba Gump deal and give the Boathouse the boot.

PRC chairman Michael Klein said the city held a competition for several restaurants to make proposals as part of a bid to do business in the 4,500 square-foot restaurant. Unfortunately, the Boathouse's proposal was the worst of what the PRC board reviewed, he said.

Klein, along with other city officials, frowned upon what they called a "motorcycle theme" restaurant and thought it might attract the wrong kind of clientele. The PRC wanted a "family-oriented" restaurant theme.

But Sheffield said the PRC is misrepresenting her proposal. The concept was to make the Boathouse themed after the famed transnational Route 66, which ended at the pier. She also wanted to incorporate the American heritage of the Indian motorcycle, similar to what the Guggenheim Museum exhibits today.

Sheffield claims that the entire PRC bidding process was designed as a set up for her to fail. The PRC didn't properly notify her that a competition was even being held — she



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Mayor Mike Feinstein and buddy Joel Ginsberg 'partied' at the Boathouse one last time Saturday night.

had to find out by other business owners on the pier, which forced her to scramble to put together a proposal, she said.

"I didn't even know what they were asking for," she said.

The PRC required Sheffield to produce a "request for qualifications," which asks for financial proof that the business can stay afloat, despite that her family has successfully made it in the same location for more than four decades. She did, however, show she had a \$2 million backing from First Financial Corp. to remodel the restaurant.

The PRC tossed out Sheffield's qualifications request and narrowed down the competition to three restaurants at which time it asked the remaining contenders for a "request for proposal," a much more detailed plan of what the new restaurant would be.

Sheffield claims she wasn't given a fair shot and the PRC had made up its mind well before the qualifications

request was made. Many of the PRC's meetings in which the fate of the Boathouse was being discussed were closed from the public and not properly noticed, Sheffield claims.

"Our argument is the RFQ is askew in the sense that it did not properly outline what the city wanted," Bixby said. "I think there was sabotage."

Mayor Mike Feinstein has echoed those claims in the past. On Saturday, Feinstein came into the restaurant to say good-bye to the employees and salute a major symbol of the Santa Monica Pier.

"When I come here, you ponder what you are going to lose," he said. "And we are going to lose this casual, relaxed feel with Bubba Gump."

When asked how a city can lose one of its icons almost entirely because of politics, Feinstein said the majority won.

"I didn't vote for it," he said. "Today's PRC wouldn't have voted for this and today's PRC would have followed different processes."

Allegations from city and PRC officials that the Boathouse has failed department of health ratings, that it had a sewer pipe leak which polluted the beach last fall and that the restaurant has been the site of constant calls from police are an attempt to justify their decision to kick Boathouse out, Sheffield said.

"They can keep saying it because they aren't accountable for what they say," she said, adding none of the city's allegations are true.

The Boathouse pays the PRC, which operates under the auspices of the city, about \$180 a day in rent, based on a flat fee and a percentage of alcohol and food sales. Bubba Gump's deal with the city will reportedly bring the city a much larger dividend, based on the lease agreement.

"They say they want to take care of the employees in this town and the people who live here but they are following the lead of the greedy people who are trying to get as much as they can," Sheffield said. "They are going to cut off their nose to spite their face."

School board asked to raise taxes or make steep cuts

TAXES, from page 1

needed cuts and adding 600 students to the school system above this year's enrollment figure. The state pays school districts approximately \$4,500 per student, so increasing the student body by 600 could bring in an approximately \$2.7 million in new state funding.

However, the school district recently enacted policies to restrict the number of non-resident students enrolling in the district because of overcrowded classrooms at the high school and junior high schools. The policy will cut 300-400 students a year and decrease state funding

by nearly \$1.5 million.

Unless more money starts coming into the school district, Deasy believes decisions will have to be made that will compromise the high quality of education provided to students.

Raising taxes and getting more funds from the cities "will be required to solve the problems and reverse a course of trauma and drama to one of thoughtful student program maintenance and enhancement," he wrote.

The increased tax revenue would also allow the school district to eliminate fees students currently pay to play sports and participate in extracurricular activities.

Gangs on the rise, again

VIOLENCE, from page 1

being released from prison at a rate of 500 a month, according to California Department of Corrections statistics.

Those hardened veterans are mixing with a new gang members, some as young as 9 years old, police and gang experts told the Daily News of Los Angeles.

"Gang crime is sensationalized. It's in TV, the newspapers. Little kids look up to the tougher kids. Older gangsters are recruiting young kids," said Lt. Gary Nanson, who oversees some of LAPD's special enforcement units.

Gang violence has contributed to an almost 79 percent rise in the homicide rates over the past two years. Violent crime is up almost 21 percent over the same period.

Meanwhile, arrests for the first three months of this year are down 12 percent

from 2000.

Police acknowledge that the Rampart scandal, in which gang-unit officers framed gang members and shot suspects without cause, has hampered ongoing efforts to control gang violence.

To curb the abuses, gang units citywide were disbanded and their responsibilities split between narcotic officers, detectives and new gang-suppression units.

Internal troubles, including low morale, more than 1,100 unfilled police jobs and a Police Commission decision to oust Chief Bernard Parks, have contributed to the problems.

Internal reforms, including a beefed-up complaint system that seeks to root out problem officers, has made officers less aggressive, because they are afraid of triggering an internal investigation, some officers said.



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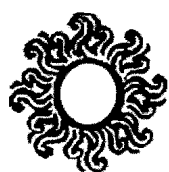
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OPINION

LETTERS

Boathouse a symbol of Santa Monica

Editor:

Having worked on the pier for eight years and having had some personal experience regarding some of the issues raised by Michael Klein's letter regarding the Boathouse, (April 4, 2002), I feel compelled to respond.

"Shambles?" Definitely no. In need of some remodeling? Definitely yes.

"Leaking Plumbing?" Apparently Mr. Klein is not familiar with the inspection procedures on the pier. Every Monday the city does an under the Pier inspection — one of the items being plumbing. Many of the businesses, along with the Boathouse, have plumbing that is only accessible to the city as access to these areas is locked with the city holding the key.

The incident I believe that is being referred to is when approximately 20 feet of pipe, under the building, collapsed after a moderate earthquake. The city apprised the Boathouse of the situation and within an hour the Boathouse had plumbers there working to repair the damage. The plumbing was for the downstairs bathrooms which had only been used for a few hours since the previous inspection. The city called the health department, who found no reason to close the restaurant, and all clean up was inspected and approved by the appropriate inspectors summoned by the city. The city continues to do their weekly inspections and they have reported no further occurrences.

"Problems with access for the disabled?" Both levels of the Boathouse are wheelchair accessible. The lower level by a ramp that goes directly into the restaurant and the upper level by a ramp that leads to the pier and provides wheelchair access to all the pier businesses but one. The only business on the pier not wheelchair accessible is the Pier Restoration Corporation itself!

"Political maneuvering?" I have only attended one leasing meeting and I found it so disheartening I have never attended another one. During this meeting (approximately two years ago), one of the PRC board members was telling how he had been sitting downstairs at the Boathouse with Patty and he had observed what he felt were major hazards and felt that it was imperative that the leasing committee change the capacity of the downstairs of the Boathouse during this meeting. Never mind that he stated this had happened at least a year prior, never mind that he had apparently said nothing about this at the time nor asked for any official inspections, never mind that he had made no attempt to see if there had been any inspections done since or any changes. Never mind all of that because he was just sure that this was a dangerous situation that needed to be dealt with now, at least a year later, by decreasing the capacity. I am not sure what shocked me more, the fact that he would find this an appropriate timeline, if he truly felt there was a dangerous situation, or the fact that not one person at that meeting called him on it. Since this meeting I have spoken with a third party, who was present during the conversation with Patty, who has a totally different take on the conversation that was purported to have taken place.

Mr. Klein emphasizes the need for a successful restaurant in the Boathouse site. Let's see, the Boathouse has been there for 50 years, always paid their rent, paid taxes, participated in community events, continued over the years to upgrade and expand the building (until the city put them on a month to month lease), provides long term employment in what is generally a high turnover field, provides regular family events — maybe I need a new dictionary because according to mine, there is already a successful restaurant at 301 Santa Monica Pier.

Cindy Pfeifer
Santa Monica

(Editor's note: Cindy Pfeifer is the manager of the Boathouse.)

Operation something

Editor:

"Operation Prime Time" the SMPD's helicopter patrol over the Pico neighborhood sounds very LA doesn't it? With so many other government "operations" going on around the world today, perhaps it should be renamed "Operation Police State." Very Venice.

Hank Rosenfeld
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.

A Friendly Daily Press Reminder: Your State and Federal Taxes are Due Today

OPINION



The FunHog

By Dan Dunn

We're on a Mexican radio ... o-ho-ho

"Eez a reel frog, man," the Mexican shop owner volunteered, as I surveyed the contents of a makeshift display case. On a trip in which I'd encountered more than a few twisted items, the dead, shellacked, conga-playing frog was by far the most peculiar.

So I bought it ... for \$8.

"You should've bought the whole band," said my buddy known as "Bottomfeeder" later at the bar La Cava, one of a handful of squalid watering holes that littered Nogales. He was referring to the saxophone, bass and drum-playing, dead, shellacked frogs that were also for sale. Without a lead singer, though, I figured it was pointless. Tossing back a stiff shot of tequila, I told Bottomfeeder as much.

"Freakin' singers," he mumbled. Then he swallowed half a glass of mescal. I noted, for the record, that he looked oddly at home here. And he didn't seem at home many places.

But, somewhere in the 15th hour of the drive from Santa Monica, I'd decided the entire road trip would be the stuff of a highly investigative, fully reimbursable freelance gig. So, for the record, let me note that subsequent research revealed that in her compelling tome, "The Complete Frog: A Guide For The Very Young Naturalist," Elizabeth Lacey wrote "Because frogs are so delicious to so many efficient hunters, it is not surprising to learn that their lives are seldom very long." Nowhere in the book, however, did she mention the number of frogs whose lives are cut short only to become freak collectibles for people like myself.

I guess Elizabeth Lacey never hauled ass down to Nogales.

If she had she'd have discovered that mutilated frogs are by no means the only bizarre goods for sale in the dusty Mexican border town. In fact, it's safe to say that just about everything and everybody in Nogales is for sale, including goodies like bathroom-tiled night tables, authentic Mexican ponchos embroidered with — what else? — authentic NFL logos, wood-carved field mice and the town's best-selling item — pure, uncut vanilla.

What I'm ever going to do with a five-gallon drum of vanilla, I have no idea. But I've got one simply because I was able to haggle the price down to \$20, which is what a trip to Nogales is all about: The exhilaration of haggling for completely worthless goods and services that you'd otherwise never dream of owning. In Nogales, haggling is the quintessential form of social contact and can earn the most diligent shoppers either the utmost respect or utter disdain of the people they deal with.

More importantly, haggling affords you the opportunity to say things like "How much for that 7-foot-tall, wood-carved Blessed Mother?"

"Seekstee-five dollars?"

"I'll give you twenty."

"45."

"25."

"30."

"Hah! I'll take it." It was as if I'd stolen the perfect Christmas gift for my mother right out from under that shady character's nose. It was later I realized that all I'd come away with was a rather grotesque and inor-

dinately heavy religious bauble that will most certainly spell the end of my mother/son relationship if I ever choose to ship it back home to Philadelphia.

And it was no easy task, mind you, negotiating the crowded streets of Nogales saddled with a shellacked, dead conga-playing frog, a five-gallon drum of pure, uncut vanilla, a 7-foot, wood-carved Blessed Mother and Bottomfeeder, who'd thrown back one too many shots of mescal. I enlisted the help of a young Mexican boy so slight that his baseball cap seemed to weigh him down. But he was eager and shamefully poor, so I let him carry the frog, a sympathetic gesture I thought might give me a needed karma boost somewhere down the line.

"That's all?" he cried incredulously as I handed him a \$5 bill, which, in my estimation, was more than ample payment for carrying a dead frog a mere two blocks.

"Gringo tacano!" He dropped the frog, kicked me in the shin and took off with the money, vanishing instantly on the crowded street.

Bottomfeeder shrugged, then motioned towards a decrepit old donkey inexplicably covered with black paint splashes. A most unusual photo opportunity to say the least.

"You need a picture with the painted burro. It'll help you capture the true Mexican flavor," he said. I was already convinced that vanilla was the true Mexican flavor, but running agonizingly low on culturally enhancing options, I gingerly climbed aboard the old burro — Hector was his name, if memory serves — ridiculously attired in a sombrero and multi-colored serape.

Sitting atop Hector, posing for a Polaroid, I finally understood why, despite Bottomfeeder's objections, I'd taken a detour through Nogales. First off, it was par for our journey, which had evolved into one big detour that included stopovers in Tombstone, Oklahoma City and New Orleans (more on those hotspots later). But at that particular moment it felt right because I was a footloose American in a Mexican den of depravity, and I'd come, I'd seen, and I'd haggled, though my efforts to barter the 7-foot-tall, wood-carved Blessed Mother for the Polaroid proved futile.

"Four dollars," the photographer demanded as Hector looked away impassively.

"But this statue is worth \$65. I'll trade you straight up."

"No, senor."

"The vanilla?"

"Nooooooo, senor."

"How about the frog, then?" I implored.

The vendor looked long and hard at my musically attuned amphibian, then shook his head and countered "No lo quiero, sin el cantante."

"What did he say?" I asked Bottomfeeder, who had surprised me with, among other things, his proficiency in Spanish.

"He said 'I don't want it without the singer.'"

Freakin' singers, I thought. "Let's get the hell out of here."

(Dan Dunn, a Santa Monica resident, writes for Warner Bros. online. For more FunHog fun, check out www.thefunhog.com).

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ENTERTAINMENT

Dominique Swain says she's cleaned up her act

BY SEAN DALY
Special to the Daily Press

For Dominique Swain, the wake-up call came just over one year ago.

"I got hammered at my boyfriend's birthday party in front of about 150 of our closest friends and I fell down some stairs," the actress recalls. "I think my reputation was becoming pretty horrible."

Swain, 21, first gained attention for her portrayal of a 12-year old nymphet in director Adrian Lyne's controversial 1997 drama "Lolita." As a teen, the Malibu native became a regular on the Hollywood party circuit, and developed a nasty drug and alcohol habit.

"I had this boyfriend who was physically abusive and sold narcotics," she admits. "I was subject to both of them. I got pregnant and disavowed everyone I cared about. But I got out of it."

These days, the statuesque red-head is clean and sober.

"I don't drink at all anymore," she beams during an interview to promote her latest movie, "New Best Friend," which opened Friday.

A former valedictorian at Malibu Park High School, Swain acknowledges, "It is really easy for young stars to be irresponsible and for it to be accepted. I have seen some of my best friends piss their careers down the toilet."

That's one reason Swain remains concerned for her friend Tara Reid, who has recently been struggling with her own reputation as Hollywood's biggest party girl.

"I think she makes herself out to be that way," she notes. "I don't really want to talk about her, but I hope she is OK."

Swain also hopes Reid will heed one piece of valuable advice: "There's always another young actress to come up in your place when you start slipping."

Swain and Reid starred together in the 1999 indie film, "Girl." The two starlets even shared a brief girl-on-girl kiss — something Swain has incorporated into

several of her subsequent films. In "New Best Friend," she engages in several lesbian scenes with co-star Rachel True.

"I had just turned 18 (when the movie was filmed), so I challenge any 18-year-old not to go hog wild and try everything," she smiles. "But I think having a female director (Zoe Clarke-Williams) was instrumental in my feeling comfortable with the scenes."

"I had this boyfriend who was physically abusive and sold narcotics. I was subject to both of them."

—DOMINIQUE SWAIN
Actress

Swain says she is not sure how her current boyfriend, filmmaker Dean Paris Gavopolis, will react to the material.

"He's always been really positive and supportive," she says. "And so has my family."

A thrill-seeker by nature, Swain began her show business career as a stunt double for Quinn Culkin in the drama "The Good Son." Later, she landed the role of John Travolta's daughter in "Face Off."

The sister of actress Chelse ("The Virgin Suicides"), Swain was born in August 1980 near the Fairfax Avenue exit on the Santa Monica Freeway.

"My dad delivered me," she shares. "The headline in the newspaper was: 'Dad David Delivers Daughter Dominique In Datsun.' For years, I was contemplating whether they named me Dominique just for the alliteration."

(Sean Daly is president of Showtime Entertainment and a Santa Monica-based writer.)

Patients want their doctors to be well-dressed, study finds

BY LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Despite the casual appearance of their TV counterparts, patients want their doctors to dress formally and not show up in blue jeans and sandals, a new study suggests.

Name badges, white coats and dress shoes are preferable for both male and female doctors, the patients in the study said.

"A carefully dressed provider might convey the image that he or she is meticulous and careful," said the researchers, Drs. Matthew Kanzler and David Gorsulowksy, two northern California dermatologists.

The findings, based on 275 patients surveyed in dermatology offices in San Jose and Fremont, Calif., appear in April's Archives of Dermatology.

The informal image of doctors on television shows such as "ER" is "far different from that of past television physicians such as Marcus Welby, MD, and Dr. Kildare," but apparently hasn't greatly influenced

patients' preferences for their own doctors' appearances, the researchers said.

In an Archives editorial, Dr. W. Mitchell Sams Jr. of Charlottesville, Va., said that while society is entering an "age of casualness," the findings echo those of similar surveys conducted two decades ago.

Professional appearance helps instill a sense of trust, and patients expect doctors to convey professionalism, Sams said.

More than one in three patients surveyed said sandals, clogs and blue jeans were significantly undesirable in doctors of both genders. Similar numbers said male doctors should wear dress pants and avoid open shirts, earrings and long hair or ponytails.

At least one in four said they preferred traditional hairstyles for male and female doctors, and skirts or dresses or dress pants for women. Similar numbers frowned on surgical scrubs and cologne for male doctors.

The patients surveyed were men and women ages 24 to over 60. The study found that preferences were similar among age groups and sexes.

STATE



Lindbergh's grandson starts re-creation of historic flight

BY MICHELLE MORGANTE
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — The grandson of aviation hero Charles Lindbergh took off from San Diego under hazy skies Sunday on the first leg of an attempt to duplicate his grandfather's historic 1927 solo crossing of the Atlantic.

Erik Lindbergh's flight re-creation is part of the 75th anniversary celebration of Charles Lindbergh's cross-Atlantic flight, which began in San Diego, where the original Spirit of St. Louis was built.

Wearing a blue flight suit, the young Lindbergh, 36, left San Diego's airport, Lindbergh Field, at 9:32 a.m. without speaking to reporters.

He expected to make the trip to St. Louis in nine hours. From there, he plans to fly on April 20 to Farmingdale, N.Y., where he will begin his crossing of the Atlantic on May 1.

The cross-Atlantic trip took Charles Lindbergh 33 1/2 hours; his grandson expects to make it in less than 21 hours.

Erik Lindbergh's New Spirit of St. Louis, made of a glass and carbon composite and outfitted with modern communications technology and safety gear, was built in Bend, Ore., for \$289,000. Its average cruise speed is 184 mph, compared to the 108 mph of the original Spirit of St. Louis, which was built for \$10,580.

Dozens of reporters and supporters gathered at Lindbergh Field to see off the young Lindbergh, a commercial pilot and artist who lives in the Seattle area.

Among them was Tom Young, who as a 6-year-old saw Charles Lindbergh leave the San Diego airfield then known as Dutch Flats in 1927.

"It's quite a thrill to see the grandchild take off," Young said. "I have a memory of going down to Dutch Flats with my

father ... and being moved out of the way so (Lindbergh) could get in."

"I hope that all these young children here today will remember this in 75 years," Young said.

The risks of crossing the Atlantic now are less than what the elder Lindbergh faced in 1927, event organizers acknowledged, but the challenge is still considerable.

"Each time one person does it, it's a personal challenge and inherently risky," said Gregg Maryniak, flight director for the New Spirit of St. Louis.

The adventure also is intended to raise awareness of rheumatoid arthritis, which Erik Lindbergh has struggled with for years.



Associated Press
Erik Lindbergh, grandson of aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh, prepares to take off from San Diego, Sunday for the first leg of his flight to duplicate his grandfather's historic 1927 solo crossing of the Atlantic.

County supervisor violated building codes, ignored fines

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — City building inspectors say County Supervisor Gloria Molina's 45-long, 10-foot-high retaining wall is in danger of collapsing, but it's managed to survive 12 years of notices and nearly \$4,000 in unpaid fines.

The wall at the hillside home owned by Molina and her husband, Ronald L. Martinez, was built without a permit on loose soil — not founded on bedrock as the city code requires.

What started as a relatively minor code violation case reached the desk of then-City Attorney James Hahn, who was elected mayor last year. Hahn's office chose not to pursue the case, and building department decided last year to let the wall stand as is.

One veteran in the Building and Safety Department suggested to the Los Angeles Times that Molina's case received special treatment.

"If we would make Mom and Pop L.A. tear down the wall, why not Ms. Molina and Mr. Martinez?" asked inspector Terry Burgin, who was assigned the case in 1995. "I've seen the department take a hard line and require demolitions when the danger was comparable."

Department spokesman Robert

Steinbach said Molina's wall was treated no differently than any others.

At the time the wall was first cited, in 1990, Molina was a member of the Los Angeles City Council.

The wall, at Molina's home in the Mount Washington area, northeast of downtown, was showing signs of cracking. Fearing the wall would collapse, building inspectors sent 10 written orders to make repairs between 1993 and 1997.

Records show that one of Hahn's top aides, Charles Dickerson, who worked as a liaison to the council, handled the case in 1997. Despite a 3-inch-thick file of allegations and evidence, the city attorney's office declined to pursue the case and never collected \$3,710 in fines.

Fernando Nunez, a private engineer hired by Molina and Martinez, wrote a report stating the wall had not failed in 10 years, so it must be safe.

The building department based its decision to drop the case based on the engineer's report, Steinbach said.

As a city engineer in 1993, however, Nunez wrote that the wall was unsafe and needed to be underpinned with costly concrete footings set in bedrock.

Molina did not respond to interview requests.

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STATE

San Fran committee wants city to host 2012 Olympics

BY PAUL GLADER

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Anne Cribbs has no trouble convincing people that hosting the 2012 Olympic Games would be a good thing for the San Francisco Bay area.

The games would bring about \$7.4 billion to the Bay Area, not to mention new housing, improved public transportation and global recognition and tourism.

And a recent poll found that 84 percent of Bay Area residents support the quest.

But getting people to believe it's a likely possibility — after the Atlanta Games in 1996 and Salt Lake City winter games this year — is another matter for Cribbs, the chief executive officer of the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee, the nonprofit organizer of San Francisco's bid.

Cribbs, who won a gold medal as a 15-year-old swimmer in the 400-meter medley at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, compared an Olympic bid to competitions where outcomes are determined by performance and spirit.

"It's kind of like a race," she said. "You need to stay in the race and do your best because you can't predict what will happen."

Four finalists remain in the campaign to win the U.S. Olympic Committee's nomination as the U.S. bid city: Washington, New York, Houston and San Francisco. The committee will visit the four bid cities this summer and make a decision Nov. 2.

Local supporters will host a news conference

Wednesday with several Olympic athletes, including sprinter Michael Johnson, to unveil a new logo and financial details of its campaign.

The local committee's small staff works out of a simple office in Palo Alto and has spent three years building bridges between leaders of Bay Area cities, businesses and athletes.

"We are a place the world truly loves to visit. We are a Paris city of the United States and we are the most Asian city and diverse city in the United States."

— BOB STILES

Bid director

The committee also boasts 115 people on its board including numerous past and present Olympians, including swimmer Matt Biondi, runner Billy Mills and figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi.

Board members say nearly 400 past and present Olympians live in the Bay Area. Venue planners have consulted athletes to find out exactly what kind of facilities athletes want.

Last week, the committee released a 300-page addendum to its 700-page bid, showing that 92 percent of the competition sites will be within 32 miles of the proposed Olympic village at Moffett Field near Mountain View.

Most of the nearly 50 Olympic events would take place in San Francisco, Berkeley, San Jose, Stanford, Oakland, Sacramento. Venues in Napa Valley, Monterey and Los Angeles also would host single events.

Cribbs said 80 percent of the venues already exist, but would need to be refurbished.

Although Washington and New York have better subway systems, local organizers said the planned expansions of Bay Area Rapid Transit lines to San Jose and to airports in Oakland and San Francisco will be in place by 2012.

The group made a bid in 1987-1988 for the 1996 games, which eventually went to Atlanta. The Bay Area made it to the Olympic Committee's final four that year but didn't have widespread support, bid director Bob Stiles said.

San Francisco also made a bid for the 1968 games that went to Mexico City.

If San Francisco is chosen as the U.S. bid city, it would face competitors like Toronto, Rome and Paris in the next selection phase. The International Olympic Committee makes the next choice in 2005.

Toronto could be a heavy favorite, since it narrowly missed being selected for the 2008 games, which will be held in Beijing.

However, U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Mike Moran said it's not out of the question for a U.S. city to land the games in 2012, especially given the stellar operations at Salt Lake City this year.

"While Atlanta was a successful games, there was a worldwide perception that there was too much commercialism and other critiques involving technology and transportation," Moran said.

He described the Salt Lake City games as "flawless" and "impeccable" in operation, restoring a good reputation to the United States.

With familiar icons like cable cars and the Golden Gate Bridge, local leaders believe the city's charm is their greatest asset.

"We are a place the world truly loves to visit," Stiles said. "We are a world city. We are a Paris city of the United States and we are the most Asian city and diverse city in the United States."

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Chavez returns to power two days after ouster

BY ALEXANDRA OLSON
Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela — Triumphant yet chastened, President Hugo Chavez returned to office on the wings of a popular uprising two days after he was ousted and arrested by Venezuela's military, saying he has reflected on his mistakes and was prepared to "make corrections."

"I do not come with hate or rancor in my heart, but we must make decisions and adjust things," Chavez said at dawn, moments after pushing past tens of thousands of supporters to reclaim the presidential palace in Venezuela, the third-biggest supplier of oil to the United States.

Opposition leaders stayed clear of public light on Sunday. Venezuelans struggled to make sense of the dizzying, bloody sequence of events that led to Chavez's brief ouster and stunning return.

Chavez was ousted by his military high command, which claimed he had resigned under pressure after gunmen opened fire on opposition protesters. At least 16 people were killed.

Economist Pedro Carmona was sworn in Friday, only to resign a day later amid widespread street protests, looting and rebellions by several military officers who

refused to go along with the plan. Chavez's vice president said Saturday that Carmona and his supporters would be tried.

Chavez appealed for calm, and the looting that went on through the night died down. By sunrise Sunday, streets in the capital were empty.

The Bush administration, which showed no remorse when the Venezuelan military ousted the country's elected president last week, advised Chavez on Sunday to make good use of his second chance.

"We do hope that Chavez recognizes that the whole world is watching and that he takes advantage of this opportunity to right his own ship, which has been moving, frankly, in the wrong direction for quite a long time," said Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's national security adviser.

In his strongest conciliatory gesture, Chavez announced that a board of directors opposed by executives at state-owned oil monopoly had resigned. The internal power struggle at PDVSA swelled last week into a popular rebellion by the opposition, triggering a general national strike, a huge demonstration that ended in bloodshed and Chavez's short-lived ouster.

Chavez, who appeared healthy and said he had not been mistreated, was characteristically informal in his address, even

cracking jokes about his arrest.

"Something inside me told me, 'Be calm, Hugo, because neither the people nor soldiers will stand for this abuse,'" he said. "I was completely sure we would be back. I began writing some poems and I didn't even have time to finish the first one."

For a few hours after Carmona's resignation, Venezuela seemed to plunge into anarchy. Carmona disappeared from public sight moments after claiming that Chavez was on his way to exile abroad and that the national assembly had taken control.

But Chavez administration officials — who had entrenched themselves in the abandoned presidential palace — insisted Chavez was being rescued from the island of Orchilla and would soon return to power.

Several military commanders refused to accept Carmona's appointment and the commander of an air base in the central city of Maracay rebelled. For several tense hours it appeared factions in the divided armed forces would fight each other, but the split did not escalate into violence.

At least 25 people were killed and hundreds wounded in the unrest that followed Chavez's ouster. He accused police of using brutal force against demonstrators who called for his reinstatement. Police

had reportedly opened fire on some demonstrators in Caracas' slums.

Never before in modern times has an elected president been overthrown by military commanders, his successor inaugurated, and then the ousted leader returned to power on the wings of a popular uprising.

Carmona had angered many by immediately trying to sweep away all vestiges of Chavez's rule by dissolving Congress and canceling the Constitution that was approved under his administration.

Before Carmona resigned, Chavez's vice president claimed the presidency during his boss' absence, denying Chavez had resigned. Vice President Diosdado Cabello handed power back over to Chavez after he was freed, and Chavez confirmed he never resigned.

After Carmona resigned, Chavez administration officials — many of whom had evaded police raids — and loyalist military officers gathered in the marble-floored courtyard of the presidential palace and hugged each other with relief and joy.

In sharp contrast to several Latin American countries that denounced Friday's irregular transition of power, the United States had said Chavez was responsible for his own ouster.

Sheriff killed by sniper at political campaign rally

BY ROGER ALFORD
Associated Press Writer

SOMERSET, Ky. — A rural sheriff who had just given a campaign speech at a political rally and fish fry was killed by a sniper, and a suspect then fled on a motorcycle belonging to one of the victim's election opponents.

The motorcyclist was charged in the slaying Sunday. Authorities said they were investigating whether he knew the owner of the vehicle, although they said the latter was not a suspect.

"The senseless murder or assassination of our sheriff, who always had a smile on his face and dedication in his heart, is devastating to the community," former county attorney Fred Neikirk said.

Sheriff Sam Catron was killed by a single rifle bullet Saturday evening as he was leaving the rally at Shopville, a small town about 70 miles south of Lexington among Pulaski County's rolling farmland and wooded hills.

State Police Capt. Paul Hays said the shot came from "a considerable distance." Police said a rifle was found but would not give details about the weapon.

Hays would not comment on a possible motive.

Police said a sheriff's deputy and firefighter caught Danny S. Shelley, 30, of Eubank, about five miles from the rally when he wrecked the motorcycle that belonged to Jeff Morris, one of four people challenging Catron, 48, in the May 28 Republican primary.

Hays said Morris, who had been at the rally, hadn't reported the motorcycle stolen. Asked if Morris and Shelley knew each other, Hays said, "that's part of the investigation that we're following up on."

Brian Perkins, a former classmate of Shelley, said he was "a jolly kid" who went to work in Georgetown, near Lexington, after graduating from high school. Shelley's high school yearbook called him one of the sweetest guys in Pulaski County.

Morris was a sheriff's deputy under Catron from 1996 to July 2001, said Jim McWhorter, the chief deputy sworn in as sheriff Saturday night. McWhorter wouldn't comment on Morris' reason for leaving the sheriff's office, but said he knew of no ill will between Catron and Morris.

Morris did not return phone calls to his home.

Catron, who had held office for 17 years, had given the campaign speech and bought two cakes. He had walked back to his police car with the cakes to put them inside when he was shot, Shopville-Stab Volunteer Fire Department Chief R.J. Riley said Sunday.

Catron was in uniform and was wearing the bullet-proof vest he routinely wore because his father, then-

Somerset Police Chief Harold Catron, had been shot and killed in 1964.

Somerset Mayor J.P. Wiles said Catron was known for dedication to his job and that it was not unusual to find the sheriff, who was single, still out on patrol with his deputies at 2 a.m.

"Law enforcement was Sam's life," Wiles said. "That's what he lived and breathed and did well."

Catron had trained as a pilot so he could search in a helicopter for plots of marijuana plants.

In September, Catron announced more than 70 drug arrests on 129 indictments in what he said was Pulaski County's biggest drug sting. Lately, he had been combatting an outbreak of methamphetamine labs, officials said.

Catron also had appeared on a segment of "America's Most Wanted" that aired Saturday about a former militia member who is wanted by police in eastern Kentucky. Rudzinski said authorities had no reason to believe Catron's shooting was related to that case.

Patrolling the rubble



Israeli soldiers patrol next to demolished buildings in the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank, Sunday. Israeli forces retained tight control of the camp and surrounding towns and villages, as part of the military offensive launched on March 29 to track down and eliminate Palestinian militants and their networks, capturing several towns, confiscating weaponry and detaining at least 4,000 Palestinians.

Associated Press



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The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

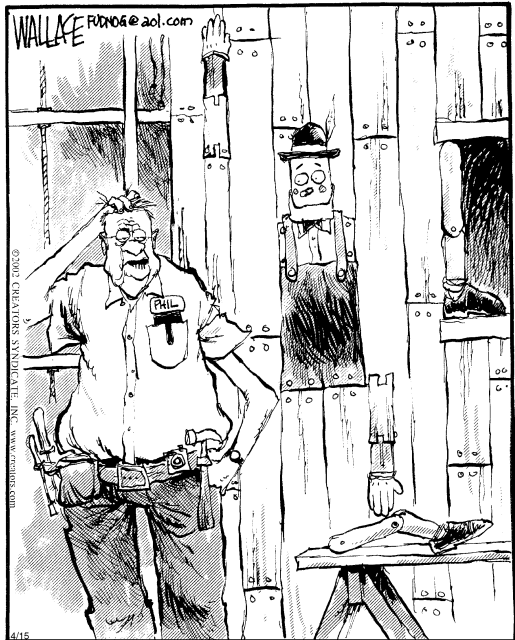


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- 29 Carnival city
- 30 View from eastern India
- 35 Illuminated
- 36 Tear
- 37 Will Smith biopic
- 38 Wed in secret
- 40 Let in
- 42 Madrid mister
- 43 Brother's daughter

DOWN

- 44 Appointment
- 45 Passover meal
- 1 Mr. T movie
- 2 Scarlett's last name
- 3 "Little —" (Adam Sandler film)
- 4 Picnic pest
- 5 Feature of a '50s car
- 6 — Lama
- 7 Lyric poem
- 8 Enchanting
- 9 Emit
- 12 Wowed the audience
- 17 Flow out
- 20 Bridge bid, briefly
- 21 Tea stirrer
- 24 Church volumes
- 25 Served
- 26 Florida race site
- 27 Crust holders
- 29 Baseball stat
- 31 Brest brother
- 32 Enjoyed the casino
- 33 Wonderland guest
- 34 Pop purchase
- 39 Flower holder
- 41 Conk out

M	I	L	L	S	T	A	R
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Saturday's answer

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10					11				12
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4-15

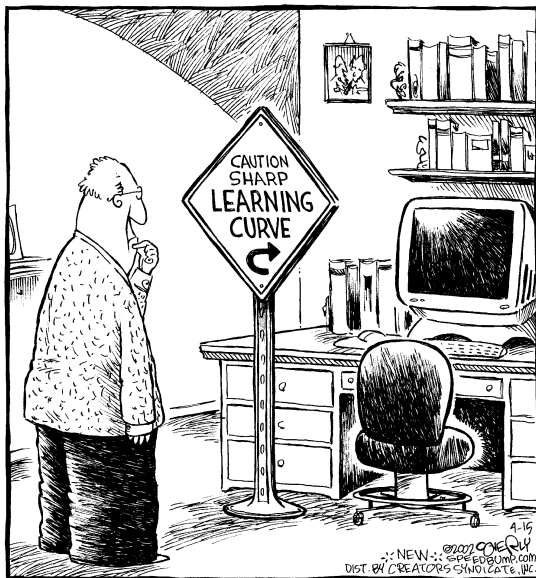
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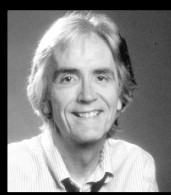
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Irag sets sights to host 2012 Olympics

- Iraq appears to be preparing construction contracts in a serious bid to host the 2012 Olympics, according to a Washington Times report (March).
- Canada's Federal Court ruled that inmate Jack Maurice has a constitutional right to vegetarian meals; the convicted sex offender had charged that eating meat is morally reprehensible (January).
- The Washington Department of Corrections admitted that a shortage of state facilities has forced it to house post-release sex offenders (those who have served their sentences but are at a high risk of recidivism) at hotels and motels around the state, without informing guests in adjacent rooms (February).



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Director draws inspiration from childhood heroes

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Actor Ed Burns says growing up around New York police officers led him to make films that celebrate working-class heroes.

Burns' father, uncle, and four cousins were officers, and three childhood friends joined the force. The director and star of "Sideways of New York," and star of the new "Life or Something Like It," said his father took him on tours of the rough neighborhoods where he worked.

"Another time, he put me in a jail cell saying 'You want to be a tough guy and do drugs? This is where you'll end up.' Believe me, experiencing this stuff as a kid changes the way you look at the world," Burns told Parade magazine in Sunday's editions.

Burns, 34, never considered becoming a police officer. Instead, he majored in English at college and worked as a production assistant on the TV show Entertainment Tonight.

He scraped together \$25,000 to make "The Brothers McMullen," a film about three Irish Catholic brothers. It won the Sundance Film Festival's Grand Jury prize, and Burns never looked back.

"When you go from making \$18,000 a year, getting people coffee, to winning an award like that, I knew from that day on, it would never be the same," he said.

■ **NEW YORK** — Tony award winner Bernadette Peters will be back on Broadway in 2003 as Mamma Rose in the musical Gypsy.

At 13, Peters joined the show's national touring com-

pany as Baby June's understudy. But she only got to perform on stage as one of the "Hollywood Blondes," June's assistants.

Peters, 54, who won Tony awards for "Annie Get Your Gun" and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Song and Dance," has been unstoppable since then. She won a Golden Globe for the film "Pennies from Heaven" and Emmy nominations for her appearances on "The Muppet Show" and "Ally McBeal."

So far, her favorite role was in "Annie Get Your Gun." "It was so much fun or I'd never have stayed with it for two years," she told Parade magazine. "Even 5-year-olds loved that show, as well as the 80-year-olds."

Stephen Sondheim is among her favorite composers. "He's divine because he loves the singer so much," Peters said. "And after you sing, he says 'I could never do what you do up there.'"

■ **LONG BEACH** — Olympic gold medalist Dara Torres won the Toyota Pro-Celebrity Race on Saturday, becoming the first woman to win the car race in its 26-year history.

Torres led in all 10 laps of the 1.968-mile, nine-turn downtown street circuit, beating Christopher Masterson of the TV show "Malcolm in the Middle," by more than 3 seconds.

"It was just a perfect race," said Torres, a swimmer who won five medals, including two golds, at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Dule Hill of "The West Wing" was sixth, followed by comedian Christopher Titus. Patrick Stewart was 14th.

Pro wrestler Bill Goldberg was the number two qualifier and stayed close to Torres for much of the race until he broke his gear box.

Pro drivers Danica Patrick, Tommy Kendall and Sarah Fisher finished third through fifth. Patrick finished about 6 seconds back. The pros started the race 30 seconds behind the celebrities.

■ **MINERALNYE VODY, Russia** — Looking fit and jovial during his vacation in southern Russia, retired former president Boris Yeltsin said Sunday that he has no ailments but wants to recapture his youth.

The 71-year-old Yeltsin, who underwent quintuple heart bypass surgery as president and was debilitated by illness for long periods of his second term, has been vacationing with his wife Naina near Mineralnye Vody, a region dotted with mountain springs and spas.

Asked by state-run RTR television Sunday whether he was there to seek medical treatment, Yeltsin said, "I have nothing to cure. I'm fine, but it's for prevention and getting younger. I need to start thinking about getting younger."

He then announced the birth of his sixth grandchild, Masha, born to his younger daughter Tatyana Dyachenko and former Yeltsin chief of staff Valentin Yumashev.

Yeltsin's speech was clear and quick — unlike the slow, slurred sentences of many of his presidential appearances.

Yeltsin stepped down Dec. 31, 1999, and named his prime minister, Vladimir Putin, acting president.

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