

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

11, 15, 26, 37, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 6, 1

Evening picks: 3, 8, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 07, Eureka

2nd Place: 08, Gorgeous George

3rd Place: 01, Gold Rush

Race time: 1:45.76



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ In February, a British ad agency began paying college students about \$20 for each three-hour stint in which they walk around in public with a company's logo semi-permanently tattooed on their foreheads.

■ In December, another British agency signed up Sony Ericsson to pay for draping its advertising messages over large dogs (St. Bernards, Great Danes) whose owners accepted free dog-walking service in public parks in exchange for allowing the "moving billboards."

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Try to arrange your life so you don't even have to be present.

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Shop owner answers to FBI allegations

FBI investigates Main Street business owner

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The owner of a local furniture-stripping shop apologized Saturday for dumping toxic chemicals into the city's sewers.

Michael Miller, owner of Stripper Herk on Main Street, said he didn't know methylene chloride, which is commonly used as a paint stripper, was seeping into a drain on the floor of his workshop.

Miller said he has since sealed the drain and gotten rid of 20 unmarked barrels of the paint-eating chemical that he was illegally storing.

The FBI searched Miller's shop on Thursday. Federal investigators were tipped off to the alleged dumping when Vincente Valenzuela, a

worker on the Main Street sewer project, fell unconscious and went into cardiac arrest after crawling through the coffee-colored discharge.

"I swim in that bay. I'm not going to dump anything in there, not knowingly anyway."

— MICHAEL MILLER
Stripper Herk owner

Miller, who was cited by the city in 1992 for dumping the same chemical, said a metal cap that plugged his drain had rusted out last fall. In its place, Miller said he shoved a rubber ball into the pipe

See INVESTIGATION, page 6

New operator of Aero Theatre behind in taxes

American Cinematheque takes over historic movie house today

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The nonprofit organization which takes over the historic Aero Theatre today owes more than \$110,000 in taxes.

American Cinematheque has racked up about \$70,000 in assessments to the City of Los Angeles since it reopened the Egyptian Theater in 1998. The Hollywood-based organization hasn't paid its taxes for five years, officials said.

Kerry Morrison, executive director for the Hollywood Entertainment District, said American Cinematheque owes her organization too.

HED, a business improvement district that represents 210 businesses along 18 blocks of Hollywood Boulevard, is seeking \$45,000 from the organization.

Barbara Smith, executive director for American Cinematheque, said the theater didn't know it owed the money because it is exempt from property taxes and never received a bill. Assessments are listed on property tax bills.

See THEATRE, page 5



Courtesy of Big Blue Bus

Santa Monicans load up in one of the first buses in the city. The Big Blue Bus has grown its operation substantially since it first starting running in 1928.

Big Blue Bus turns 75

By Daily Press staff

The Big Blue Bus turned 75 years old on Monday.

Four workers were honored for their longevity at the anniversary celebration, which attracted about 70 employees and community members.

Santa Monica's buses carry more than 80,000 passengers each day, said Stephanie Negriff, director of transportation services for the bus system.

Negriff said that over the past five years, bus service in the city has expanded by more than 40 percent.

There are no immediate plans to raise the 75-cent fare, she added.

Bus driver Lewis Kelly, who was ill on Monday and has worked at the bus company for 39 years, was honored in absentia. Employee Donna Wells, a customer service representative who was hired in 1977 as the bus line's second woman driver, was honored alongside mechanic Ben Leivas, a 28-year employee, and driver Michael Burton, who has been with the outfit for 36 years.



John Wood/Daily Press

Volunteers from the Culinary Arts Institute cut the cake at the 75th birthday bash for Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus. About 70 people joined in Monday's celebration, which included an awards ceremony, a poetry reading and accolades from city leaders.

City Manager Susan McCarthy, Councilmen Kevin McKeown and Mike Feinstein, Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, Mayor Richard Bloom, Fire Chief Ettore

See BUS, page 5

Pentagon: Major combat done in Iraq; Marines in Tikrit

BY DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit fell Monday with unexpectedly light resistance, the last Iraqi city to succumb to overpowering U.S.-led ground and air forces. A senior Pentagon general said "major combat engage-

ments" probably are over in the 26-day-old war.

As fighting wound down, Pentagon officials disclosed plans to pull two aircraft carriers from the Persian Gulf. At the same time, Iraqi power brokers looked ahead to discussions on a postwar government at a U.S.-arranged meeting set for Tuesday.

"I would anticipate that the major combat engagements are over," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal told reporters at the Pentagon. Tikrit fell with no sign of the ferocious last stand by Saddam loyalists that some military planners had feared.

See WAR, page 10

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HOROSCOPE

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 15, 2003:

You often feel pulled in two different directions. If you harness your creativity to manifest more of your dreams, you will smile more often. Life provides many special opportunities for those willing to use their ingenuity. To observers, you pull a rabbit out of a black hat. Associates often have impractical ideas that you make work. If single, others want to be part of your life. Who will you pick? A quality relationship strolls into your life in 2003. If you are attached, listen more often to your partner's dreams, making them possibilities. Your relationship will be enhanced as a result. LIBRA is always a friend.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Be more open to greater involvement and happiness. Brainstorm with others. Take another gander at a person or dear friend. A meeting takes you in a new direction. Venture forth and take a risk. Worry less about the long term. Tonight: Follow someone else's ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You need to make a must appearance, especially if it involves work. Your creativity encourages bosses to brainstorm. Be more direct in your dealings. Center on what is important to your well-being. Pace yourself. You only have so much energy. Tonight: Get some exercise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Allow your creativity and fun-loving nature to come out. Reach out for those you care about. Your sense of humor emerges. While laughing and detaching at the same time, you'll come up with some interesting solutions. Tonight: Kick up your heels. Why not?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might want to think before you leap into action. You might be vague about a money matter, but you feel driven to come up with the right answers and solutions. Don't. You could easily make a mistake if you push too hard. Tonight: Stay close to home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Realize what you can and cannot do. Confusion surrounds communication and relationships. As much as you want to keep key matters under control, others seem to keep impacting your plans. Do what you must do, worrying less about the outcome. Tonight: Surprises happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Take charge as you need to. Listen carefully to someone who cares a lot about you. You cannot always be expected to read between the lines, but that is exactly the position others put you in. Ask for details. Don't settle for vagueness. Tonight: Pay bills.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You have a smile that wins others. Being magnetic is wonderful; understanding what you want is also important, if not more so. Focus on more of what you want. Take time with a business detail. Make sure an agreement is as you like it. Tonight: Whatever you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to discuss an impending change, but you're not sure how to proceed. Your instincts with a boss or someone in charge could make a big difference. Know when to put a halt to inspiring others and yourself. You don't always need to be comfortable. Tonight: Call it an early night.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ If you feel the need to gather the troops, you're probably right. A meeting provides new insight. You don't need to let everyone know your ideas or sources. Seek out an expert if you're not sure. Take care of your well-being first. Tonight: Play the night away.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You go to the head of the class, whether you want to or not. Listen to what others suggest. Don't be vague on any financial matter, or you could be sorry later. A higher-up has many suggestions. Which way do you want to go here? Tonight: A must appearance. Sorry.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Avoid getting locked up in details. You know what does and doesn't work. Think in terms of greater achievement and success. Put your best foot forward with someone who really counts in your life. Let magic happen more often. Tonight: Visualize more. Share your ideas, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ A partner might act as if he or she has all the ideas, but the truth is, he or she doesn't. Loosen up with conversations, knowing full well what will work for you. Don't even consider doing anything halfway. Put your best foot forward at work. Tonight: Schedule an appointment to pamper yourself.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Local school staffers honored

Daily Press staff

Several school staffers were honored last week for their contributions to the school district.

The Santa Monica High School PTSA presented the Honorary Service Awards to faculty and staff at the annual staff appreciation luncheon last Thursday. Nearly 300 faculty and staff attended the luncheon "fiesta" event at the school, transformed by event chairs Carol Beitcher and Deb Love, and a small army of parent volunteers.

This year two programs and eight individuals were honored with awards.

Students made many of the award presentations, commenting briefly on each awardee and how they exemplify the award: Outstanding service to youth. In addition, the awardees foster a strong school-home partnership that forms a foundation for student success.

The awards are as follows:

■ "The Parent Center," headed by community liaisons Pamela Allen-Jones and Tere Viramontes-Gutierrez. Allen-Jones and Viramontes-Gutierrez provide translation and advocacy for families, particularly those of color. They have helped initiate the "Parent Mentors" program, designed to foster a home-school partnership, to make sure all students achieve their highest potential.

■ "The Samohi Library," headed by librarians Ann McKechnie and Dana Bart-Bell, aided by Lohren Price and Sue Power. McKechnie and Bart-Bell provide support to teachers and students, providing accessibility to students, providing a personal touch. They are rarely found behind the desk. They guide students to "just the right book" to pique their interest to make them lifelong readers.

Individual honorary service awards were presented to:

■ Dina Mendoza, enrollment office staff. Mendoza is often the first contact with any student enrolling, and schedules complicated tests and transfers information. She treats all students with dignity and respect, officials say.

■ Tania Fischer, art teacher and cross country and track coach. Fischer is a top women's runner, and pushes her athletes to excel. She was praised in her ability to be tough, yet nurturing. As an art teacher, she helps student discover their creativity, expressing themselves in various media.

■ Susana Maya, student intervention specialist. Maya, a social worker, meets individually and in groups with students, some of whom are struggling to stay in school, fighting depression, and serious adversity in their personal lives.

■ Christopher Rhodes, choir director. Frequently managing classes of more than 80 students, Rhodes is upbeat and demands a high level of musicianship and discipline from his students, officials said. Rhodes is a student advocate and fosters a love of music.

■ Steve Rupprecht, math teacher. Parents and students alike comment on Rupprecht's positive, caring ways, exemplified by his responsiveness to parent communications, often calling parents at home when responding to e-mails. His classroom is often open at lunch, for talk or math help. He tutors after school.

■ Michelle Kenney, 11th grade advisor. Kenney taught Spanish at Samohi last year before being selected to be a newly expanded student support advisor. In addition, she advises two groups on campus: Racial Harmony and A.D.L. Stop the Hate.

■ Gilda de la Cruz, English teacher and coordinator for the Xinchitli tutoring program with UCLA mentors. Praise for De la Cruz's efforts include working hard to make sure the tutoring program continues despite budget cuts that have threatened its existence. She is action oriented and fosters educational activism. She advises a campus club.

■ Kelly John Okla, math teacher. Okla's room is a testament to success and achievement, with its posted messages and his ever-welcoming presence, officials say. He jokes with his students, helps even those who are not in his classes with homework, helping them gain confidence in their math skills. He calls students at home to give them encouraging words and positive feedback. He challenges them to excel.

Funds are donated in the name of the honorees to the HSA program at the California state PTA, providing resources for the scholarship and grant programs of the state PTA, which further benefit youth.



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

A west-northwest swell of moderate size mixes with new southwest swell and some northwest wind swell today. Southwest builds today, adding size to the afternoon sets.

Northern spots should start working in the afternoon, seeing chest-high sets on the right tides.

South Bay spots looks decent today, but will be better Wednesday when wind swell picks up.

Unfortunately, rains of late mean bacteria levels at the majority of breaks are high, so keeps your mouth and eyes closed when possible, use ear plugs if you have them, and try not to swallow any water.

The Los Angeles County Public Health Department's advisory is in effect through Friday.



Today's Tides:

Low-	2:53 a.m.	0.02'
High-	8:58 a.m.	5.32'
Low-	3:05 p.m.	-0.22'
High-	9:18 p.m.	5.75'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	NA
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	NA
Surf	1-3'/Poor	1-3'/Poor	NA
Topanga	1-3'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	NA
Break	3-4'/Poor	3-4'/Fair	NA
El Porto	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	NA

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The Q-Line

State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, who represents Santa Monica in Sacramento, is leading an effort that would guarantee healthcare for every Californian.

Kuehl's bill would provide free coverage to every resident of the state, mainly by raising income taxes roughly 3 percent. Under the plan, insurance co-payments, deductibles and insurance premiums would be eliminated entirely.

However, some think it should be up to employers to provide health insurance coverage to their employees and a

universal plan won't bring the estimated cost savings.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you support a universal health plan in the state? Should every Californian be entitled to health insurance? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION



Is thinking pro-business evil?



Evelyn Jerome

■ It's almost as foreign and misunderstood as an alien from outer space. What is this creature? What makes it tick? What is it thinking?

The pro-business Democrat.

Democrats have been linked with the labor movement since, well, since forever. How could a Democrat possibly be connected to the evil "management" monsters?

As a moderate, I frequently support policies which are termed "pro-business." As such, I've needed to find peaceful coexistence between my pro-business beliefs and my Democratic roots.

They aren't mutually exclusive. Businesses create jobs, generate tax rev-

enue, and give local and state government revenue to provide services that most Democrats would chain themselves to trees to protect. Health care. Housing. Education.

So why does our city government go out of its way to create hurdles and roadblocks for businesses? I agree that pro-business officials should "create an environment where business can locate and succeed." Now let's put that into practice — and remember, success in business is defined as a healthy bottom line when comparing all options.

Mom-and-pop shops can't succeed if there's no parking for customers, or if aggressive vagrants block the doorways. Businesses can't succeed if they are forced to pay a higher wage than a similar business across the street or a block away. This is the bottom line.

You'd think that our city government, with its \$11-million-and-growing deficit, would scratch its collective head and find a way to put out a big WELCOME mat for business.

But alas, referencing a "hostile attitude" from City Hall, the owner of several car dealerships is pondering moving a few blocks away to West Los Angeles, taking \$1.5 million in tax revenue along with him.

City Councilman Mike Feinstein, with whom I don't often find myself on the same side of the proverbial fence, has worked to keep the car dealerships here. We can't afford to lose that revenue. Feinstein recognizes that working with businesses to follow regulations and be good neighbors is good for all of us.

Don't get me wrong — there's a big

difference between pro-business Democrats and apologist "Big Business" Republicans.

Corporate welfare has widened the gap between the haves and the have nots, and using tax loopholes, big business has avoided paying their fair share while the rest of us pay a disproportionate burden.

But remember this: Businesses can choose where to locate, where to create jobs, where to pay taxes. We should realize that we must extend our hand in assistance to business before we can reach our hands into their pockets.

(Evelyn Jerome is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a member of the New Democrat Network. To respond to or reach Jerome, e-mail her at evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

■ I'm a stockholder. Foundations that give away money rely on my stocks to perform. I pay taxes.

Programs I care about, from national defense to environmental protection to local schools, rely not only on a share of my paycheck, but also my purchase of goods and services. It is therefore in my best interest — as it is yours — to support business growth and development.

Why then, must some insist on con torting the term "pro business" to meet a certain political end? Unfortunately, some have turned its use into a giant wink to business interests. They argue that the only way to progress politically is to green light industry's ability to do

whatever it wants, whenever it wants. Within my own Democratic party, it is regrettable that in order to be considered "pro-business" by some, one must seemingly be willing to let developers build unchecked, employers shirk health coverage, and executives collect massive pay and profits while keeping workers' wages substandard.

I believe the "pro business" label should refer to those, regardless of political party, who will work to create an environment where business can locate and succeed.

Locally, for example, merchants have a point that signage related to the homeless policy should be used as a welcome by homeless-friendly businesses, not as a "scarlet letter" on those against their doorways being used as beds.

Further, I stand with the Main Street

Merchants' view that holiday time is no time for their metered parking rates to increase.

But a "pro business" power broker should also be one who actively recruits GOOD corporate partners into our culture. We need to reward businesses that build into their long term planning consideration for the environment, as well as the strengths that consumers and workers add to both their bottom line and the overall economy. If Patagonia and Ben and Jerry's can do it, so can others.

Further, Democrats must embrace the need for Social Security reform. I believe someone deserving of the "pro business" label will press the Democratic party to get its collective head out of the sand, and get it focused on the demographic realities that necessitate action to save Social Security for future generations.

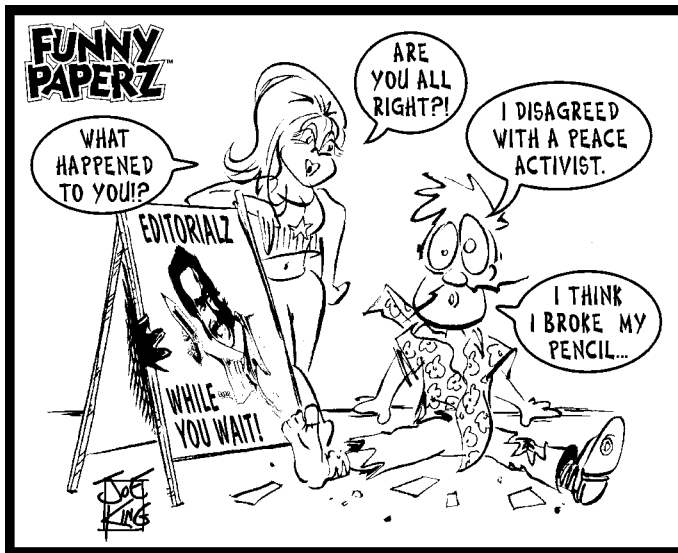
The Enrons and Global Crossings remind us that we need watchdogs, and that good corporate citizenship should be encouraged, not mocked. Let's aspire to be more "Pro-GOOD Business," and stop becoming apologists for those who will never be happy with a single regulation, or believe their success comes without any social responsibility.

(Todd Flora is a professional issues manager who has served as state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, a campaign finance reform effort, and the Concord Coalition, a budget watchdog organization. He is a speakers bureau member with Heal the Bay, and on the steering committee of Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism (SMART). To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com.)

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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LOCAL



Aero Theatre will go under renovation soon

THEATRE, from page 1

"The assessor's office never sent any bills and they admit they didn't have the right address," she said. "We never were expecting a bill and it's not my job to run around and ask if we owe people money."

Smith said she has been working with the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector for the past several months to determine why the theater didn't get a bill. It turns out the assessor's office was sending the bills to the wrong address.

"They city is not at all upset and if they have a problem with you they can do all kinds of things to you, which they haven't," she said.

Businesses along Hollywood Boulevard assess themselves to pay for certain services like maintenance and private security, but apparently American Cinematheque hasn't paid its share.

"Any money that doesn't come in affects services," Morrison said.

She added that she contacted the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector after getting pressure from her board of directors to collect the money from American Cinematheque.

"We don't have any leverage," Morrison said. "I contacted the CRA because of the severity of it being five years of back taxes. When there is a long standing delinquency, Los Angeles County can do something about it."

The theater is being fined about \$1,600 a month, which is about 18 percent annually. If the organization doesn't pay the back taxes in full by June 30, it runs the risk of the theater being shut down and sold at a public auction.

However, Smith said officials from the assessor's office told her it wouldn't be seeking penalties and there is no risk of the theater being sold.

Morrison said Smith has known about the delinquency for years because she's talked to her about it several times.

"I've had conversations with her over several years that have been friendly," Morrison said. "She said she would look into it and I ultimately decided to send her a memo to her (in February) and since the phone conversations weren't yielding any results, I contacted the CRA to make sure they are aware of it."

LA County Assessor Gary Townsend said the problem should be remedied shortly.

"They've expressed interest in paying," he said. "We do expect them to take care of it."

American Cinematheque recently has secured a 10-year lease for the 65-year-old Aero Theatre on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. Future plans for the theater not only assure that it will remain a single-screen movie house, but its new operators say they plan to renovate the aging venue so it's more comfortable for patrons.

American Cinematheque plans to open with its first screening at the end of the summer. The non-profit arts organization will take over the Aero today and spend a few months renovating the facility.

The American Cinematheque recently restored the historic 1922 Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood and many of the films shown there will make it to Santa Monica.

Cinematheque presents at the Egyptian Theatre a diverse, year-round film series featuring rare, unusual films and videos from all over the world, Smith said.

By expanding its operation in Santa Monica, American Cinematheque hopes to broaden its audience by offering one-of-a-kind films, Smith said.

The new operators plan to keep the Aero a single-screen theatre, with a few upgrades to the venue's concession stand, as well as "vastly improving" the audio and projection systems, Smith said.

Larger, more luxurious seats will be replaced with the old ones and the interior of the theatre will be renovated. The symbolic marquee that stands above the theatre located at Euclid and Montana avenues will remain intact, as well as the theatre's art deco interior.

The theatre's current operator, Chris Allen, has run the Aero for the past 11 years. Last year, Allen had fallen behind on the \$10,000-a-month rent. The community rallied behind the Aero at several fundraisers that Allen held to keep the theatre going.

The Aero had been running second-run blockbusters fans might have missed at big-name multiplexes, or independent films they might have missed elsewhere. But with only five or six people arriving for most showings, the theatre's future was constantly at risk.

Allen hosted a going-away party this past weekend and showed "Blazing Saddles" as the last film under his tenure.

"It was great," he said. "It was a fun movie and a good one to go out on."

Asked what he'll do now, Allen joked that he might sell oranges at freeway exits or panhandle on the Promenade with a sign that says, "Aero Theatre veteran" to garner sympathy.

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During World War II, buses carried workers to and from the Douglas plant at the airport 24 hours a day.

With a fleet of 107 in 1951, the bus company took on Santa Monica and Wilshire boulevards, as well as Montana and Carlyle avenues. Today, there are 211 buses run by the Big Blue Bus and 37 are powered by natural gas.

The organization is currently finishing construction of a natural gas fueling station at its headquarters, which is located at the intersection of Colorado Boulevard and Sixth Street.



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Big Blue Bus holds B-day bash

BUS, from page 1

Berardinelli and local poet Keith Mason showed up to honor the city's bus line.

"The Big Blue Bus for the City of Santa Monica is really an ambassador to the rest of the region," Bloom said. "People see it, people understand it for the well-run, well-employed fantastic facility that it is."

When the blue buses first took to city streets in 1928, riders had to cough up 5 cents for a lift and service was restricted mainly to Pico Boulevard. But by 1935, the bus operator had added lines to Ocean Park Boulevard and the Pacific Palisades, and in 1948 the buses began



Local merchant says toxic overflow was a mistake

INVESTIGATION, from page 1

and thought it held.

"I've been here for 23 years," said Miller, adding that he kept the water level in the drain well below the sewer overflow. "I was born and raised in Santa Monica. I swim in that bay. I'm not going to dump anything in there, not knowingly anyway."

Gil Borboa, the city's utilities manager, said the sewers on Main Street flow to the L.A. County Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant just north of Manhattan Beach. Ninety-four percent of the treated sewage is pumped into the ocean out of a five-mile-long pipe. The remainder is

recycled for irrigation uses.

Dumping toxic substances and storing them without permits are both felony offenses and violate the Clean Water Act.

As a matter of policy, the FBI doesn't comment on its investigations. Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office, confirmed Monday that the investigation is on-going and said no charges have yet been filed.

Miller said all of his company files and all four of his employees were subpoenaed by federal investigators.

An apologetic Miller took full credit for mistakenly allowing the methylene chloride into the sewer overflow, but said

the substance wouldn't have the "attacking effect" Valenzuela experienced. He said none of his employees, who work with the substance in its undiluted form, have ever had adverse reactions.

The liquid that went into the sewer already had gone through a full recycling process that Miller implemented after the 1992 citation, he said. He called the discharge "dirty rinse water."

Gary Welling, the city's industrial waste services coordinator, said the city monitors Miller on an annual basis. Miller installed a "zero discharge" recycling system in 1992 and hadn't had any further violations, Welling said.

That was until last month.

After Valenzuela went into cardiac arrest, Welling said he was transferred to the UCLA Medical Center and later to the Grossman Burn Center. At the burn center, Valenzuela underwent skin surgery for burns on his back.

"This is an unusual situation," Welling said. "These were pretty serious burns."

While Miller apologized for the dis-

charge, he said he kept the 20 55-gallon drums of methylene chloride "sludge" on his property for financial reasons. It costs about \$500 per barrel to have the chemical materials hauled away, Miller said, adding that other needs kept presenting themselves, like his leaky roof.

"It's just money," Miller said. "I know it's a weak excuse. But hell, I'm just hanging on trying to do this stuff."

Since Thursday, when FBI investigators raided his business, Miller said he has straightened up his operation. The barrels of sludge have been hauled off. The drain on his work shop floor has been cemented closed. Customers still come and go from his shop and Miller said he plans to keep his business going while the investigation continues.

"I got every notice the city sent (about the Main Street project)," a resigned Miller said during a break between customers. "If I were to be illegally putting something down the drain, I wouldn't be doing it when the guys are working in the sewers. C'mon."

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1:00pm and 7:30pm: Solemn Liturgy

Holy Communion and Veneration of the Cross

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CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Floating with luxury and style

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A floating luxury condominium complex, a ship that is home to some of the world's wealthy, may drop anchor off Ventura in June.

"We're excited in trying to make this happen," said Emilio Freeman, marketing vice president for ResidenSea, during a meeting with local port officials last week.

ResidenSea operates The World, a 12-deck, 43,000-ton passenger ship that carries 110 condominiums that range in price from \$2 million to \$7.5 million each. Additional condo association fees are between \$10,000 and \$30,000 a month.

About 80 percent of The World's condos have been sold.

Federal immigration and customs officials will have to give The World permission to drop anchor off Ventura.

"We're trying to work those details out right now," Freeman said, noting they need permission because The World sails under a foreign flag and many of its residents and crew members hold foreign passports.

Unlike other cruise ships, The World takes its time at many of its 140 or so ports of call around the globe, often spending days there while its wealthy residents immerse themselves in the local culture.

"They're sophisticated travelers in search of unique places and experiences," said Lee Lennon, a project manager with Abercrombie & Kent, which organizes land tours for the ship's passengers.

The ship is expected to be anchored in Ventura for two days, starting June 16. It will later sail to Monterey, San Francisco and Alaska.

"The economic benefits these ships will bring to the area are great," said Leticia Wilson, marketing director for the Ventura Port District.

Drug addicts dig deep

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — Hard core methamphetamine addicts go to great lengths to obtain drugs, including a new breed of addicted "dirt barons" who scour remote desert areas in Riverside and San Bernardino counties for the buried leftovers from meth labs.

Investigators said increased restrictions on store-bought chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine have users willing to do just about anything to get their fix, said Sheriff's Sgt. Rod Crisp, a member of the Inland Narcotics Clearing House.

"They may hear where somebody dumped and they'll get some 5-gallon buckets and start filling them with dirt from that area," he said. "Then they take the buckets back home and process them for whatever small amount they can get."

Some chemicals used to make methamphetamine are poisonous and can be volatile if incorrectly mixed, making the endeavors of dirt barons hazardous, said Lt. Lee Hamblin of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

"You're talking about incredibly toxic waste," he said. "It's highly dangerous."

As desperate as the dirt barons are for a meth high, even they do not represent what Hamblin called the bottom rung of those addicted to the "poor man's cocaine."

"There's even been cases of people recycling their urine," Hamblin said.

He cited cases that have cropped up recently, mostly in the Central Valley, in which users were processing their urine for minuscule amounts of residual methamphetamine.

In one case, he said, an addict "was so strung out, he perceived that law enforcement was tapping his sewer lines."

STATE



LAPD to ignore home alarms

BY PAUL WILBORN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Worried about a rash of break-ins in her low-income neighborhood, Jacquie Simms and her husband took what seemed to be the logical step: installing a home burglar alarm.

She knew neighbors ignored the blaring sirens, assuming they were false, but she slept better knowing police were paying attention.

"The community has become desensitized to alarms," said Simms, 54. "Still, you expect the police to come if the alarm sounds."

But with about 95 percent of the nation's 38 million yearly alarms turning out to be false, according to a national police group, authorities increasingly aren't coming when a siren sounds.

The LAPD is poised to join nine large other police departments nationwide — including Baltimore, Las Vegas and Salt Lake City — that do not respond to alarms unverified by a private security guard, a surveillance camera or a resident.

Proponents argue that such policies quicken police response time to real emergencies — and save money. Opponents claim the policies target low-income homeowners who rely on burglar alarms for their safety.

In Los Angeles, about 92 percent of the 136,000 burglar alarm calls last year were false, costing the city \$11 million in lost patrol time, said Joe Gunn, executive director of the city Police Commission.

"Over the years, alarm owners had a false sense of security," Gunn said.

Nationwide, false alarms cost police agencies \$600 million a year and use up 6.5 million personnel hours, according to the International Association of Chiefs of Police. A 2002 Justice Department study put the price tag nationwide at \$1.5 billion.

Even without a formal policy, police in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and

dozens of other cities place alarm calls at a low priority, meaning officers may not arrive for up to an hour or more. Gunn said a verified alarm would be answered as a high-priority call, with a response time in minutes, not hours.

Panic alarms — activated by residents inside their homes — continue to be handled as priority calls under most of the new alarm policies.

Eighty-six other cities are considering changing their response policies, said Shanna Werner, the alarm administrator with the Salt Lake City Police Department. "Police have struggled with false alarms for 30 years," she said. "Verified response seems to be the answer."

The new LAPD policy officially takes effect Tuesday, although police plan to give residents two-and-a-half months' notice, using the time to retrain dispatchers.

The alarm industry is trying to head off the change in court. A hearing on its lawsuit is set for May 6.

"If Los Angeles does it, then everybody is going to do it," said Lessing Gold, a lawyer for the Greater Los Angeles Security Alarm Association, which filed the lawsuit.

Alarm industry lawyers claim the policy change means low-income alarm owners will have to pay more to have a security guard respond to their alarms, or to add surveillance cameras.

"We have a lot of single, senior citizen ladies who live alone. They're lucky to afford an alarm; they rely on it for safety," said Simms, who heads a neighborhood council in Watts.

Industry experts said monthly bills in Los Angeles could rise by \$15 to \$30 to cover monitoring by private guards. The monthly service fee rose by \$5 in Salt Lake City after its policy change.

The changes come as ownership of alarm systems grows at a rate of 1.5 million a year, according to industry estimates.

Sen. Barbara Boxer has \$2 million in cash for 2004 race

BY MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., raised \$1 million in the first three months of the year and has \$2 million in available cash for her 2004 race, her campaign said Monday.

Boxer, seeking a third term in the Senate, is raising money faster than she did six years ago on her way to an easy re-election victory. She spent \$13 million to defeat Republican Matt Fong in 1998.

"We're on our way to raising the resources needed to run a winning campaign," she said in a statement.

Boxer, whose political base is in Marin County, has said she will hold 150 fund-raising events this year to prepare for what she expects to be a costly campaign.

Her campaign totals for the first quarter of 2003 include \$150,000 raised by Boxer's joint effort with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Joint fund-raising committees allow a candidate to raise money for herself and her party at the same time.

Boxer's campaign spent \$375,000 in the same period.

Among her potential opponents are three independently wealthy Republicans — 2002 gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon and Reps. Darrell Issa of Vista and

Doug Ose of Sacramento. Issa lost to Fong in the 1998 Republican Senate primary after spending more than \$9 million of his own money, while Simon put \$11.3 million into his race against Democratic Gov. Gray Davis.

Of the three, Ose is the only one who has taken any formal steps toward running, setting up an exploratory committee that allows him to raise money for a Senate bid. But under Federal Election Commission rules, Ose does not have to disclose how much he raises and spends unless he becomes a candidate.

Ose has said he plans to decide on the race in May or June.

Marko Mlikotin, an Ose campaign spokesman, declined on Monday to say how much Ose has raised for his exploratory committee. He said Ose's House campaign finance report would be filed Tuesday, the FEC's deadline for the first quarter of 2003.

Other Republicans considering running against Boxer are: Reps. Mary Bono of Palm Springs and George Radanovich of Mariposa, U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin of Huntington Park and conservative Los Angeles talk show host Dennis Prager.

Candidates have until the end of November to qualify for the March 2004 primary ballot.

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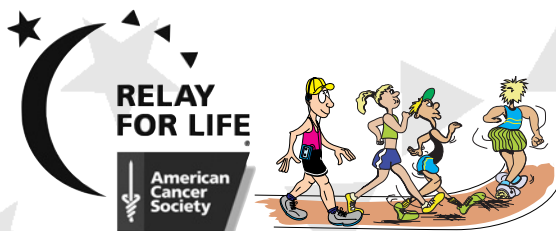
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NATIONAL

AP poll finds public opposes more tax cuts

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — With the country at war and facing budget deficits, six in 10 Americans say this is not the time for more tax cuts, an Associated Press poll finds. Still, half say their taxes are too high.

The poll, taken in the days before Tuesday's tax-filing deadline, found that 61 percent say it would be better to hold off on additional tax cuts now to avoid making budget deficits worse and ensure there is adequate money to pay for the war.

Half that many, 31 percent, said they think it is more important to pass more tax cuts to give people more money to spend and to stimulate the economy, said the poll conducted for the AP by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

A majority of those who think taxes are too high and a majority of Republicans, 56 percent, said they preferred holding off on additional tax cuts right now. Three of four Democrats said it would be better to wait.

"I think they need to figure out how to pay for the war," said Joseph Ames, a 28-year-old cook from Boise, Idaho, and a political independent. "They need to broaden their search to see where and who is actually affected by these tax cuts. I hear a lot of talk about the little man getting stomped on."

Congress is debating the appropriate size of a tax cut, bruising about figures between \$350 billion and \$550 billion. Supporters of a larger tax cut say it would be a boon to the economy; opponents contend it would worsen federal deficits expected to approach \$400 billion this year.

The economy's problems have convinced some that more tax cuts are needed.

Kathleen Blank, a 79-year-old conservative Republican from Palmdale, Calif., said she's convinced that more tax cuts will stimulate the economy. "People get scared and quit buying when things are too tight," she said. "If you can afford to spend money, then you spend it."

President Bush signed a \$1.35 trillion, 10-year tax cut in 2001 with broad income tax reductions for millions of Americans.

The poll of 1,017 adults was taken April 2-6 and has an error margin of plus

or minus 3 percentage points.

The results suggested the public has an outsized concern about the possibility their own tax returns will be audited by the Internal Revenue Service.

One in five said they thought the chance of having their taxes audited was at least "somewhat likely," though few put the chance of an audit at "very likely."

The likelihood of anyone getting audited by the IRS last year was very low — with only one of 174 tax returns audited in fiscal 2002. In fiscal 1996, one in 60 — or 1.67 percent — of tax returns was audited.

Those who made more than \$100,000 annually were slightly more likely to be audited than those who made less than \$100,000.

About three-fourths of those polled said they do not think an audit of their taxes is likely.

"I don't worry about it because I'm pretty honest," said Ilene Cloutier, a 40-year-old occupational therapist from Randolph, Mass. She said she does not think those who cheat on income taxes in a minor way should be punished, or "they should get a warning and maybe a fine."

People were about evenly divided on whether people caught cheating on their taxes in a minor way should be punished. Those who felt they should be punished were most inclined to say the taxpayer caught cheating in a minor way should pay a fine.

Most minor problems with a tax return that arise from an audit result in the collection of tax payments plus interest, and failure to pay can result in further financial penalties, said Bruce Friedland, an IRS spokesman.

The chance of an audit is something Dawn Penn, a clerk from Tucson, Ariz., said she does not worry about because she's "single with no dependents."

But the 52-year-old Democrat would like to see more tax cuts simply because she needs more money.

"There are so many people that are working poor," Penn said. "I make too much money to qualify for subsidy or benefits or help, but I can barely make ends meet."

Post office expects flood of taxpayer mail throughout day

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans putting off their taxes until the last minute are expected to add more than 30 million items to the mailstream today, the Postal Service says.

The post office said Monday that, as usual, it adjusts its collection and processing operations to handle the extra volume.

"We are encouraging customers to avoid the rush and mail their tax returns as early in the day as possible," said post office consumer advocate Francia Smith. "Many Americans may have waited until the last day, but that doesn't mean waiting until the last minute."

On a typical day the Postal Service handles 670 million pieces of mail, including about 100 million cards and letters that have to be postmarked.

Last April 15 the agency postmarked 148 million items. In 2001, with April 15 being a Sunday, the filing deadline was extended to midnight Monday, April 16, when 135 million postmarks were recorded.

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

NATIONAL



WorldCom to change name

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Phone carrier WorldCom Inc. said Monday it intends to emerge from the largest-ever U.S. bankruptcy later this year with a new name and new headquarters.

The company said it expected to file the plan in U.S. Bankruptcy Court sometime Monday, the day before the deadline Chairman and CEO Michael Capellas had set for the plan in January.

WorldCom said it plans to take the name of its long-distance service, MCI, and shift its headquarters to MCI's base in the Washington suburb of Ashburn, Va., from Clinton, Miss., where it was founded.

MCI is the nation's second largest long-distance carrier and adopting its name "would make us proud," Capellas said.

In a statement, the company also named Robert T. Blakely, the former chief financial officer of Tenneco Inc. and Lyondell Chemical, as its new CFO.

WorldCom filed for bankruptcy protection in July and has admitted to accounting fraud that could top \$11 billion. Founder and former CEO Bernard Ebbers built the company through acquisitions.

WorldCom said its plan has backing of groups that represent a majority of its unsecured creditors committee. The unsecured creditors hold more than 90 percent of the value of the claims against the company.

The plan, which requires court approval, would leave the company with debt of between \$3.5 billion and \$4.5 billion. The company had more than \$30 billion in debt when it filed for Chapter 11.

ChevronTexaco CEO paid \$4 million, plus stock options

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top executive of ChevronTexaco Corp. saw his salary, excluding stock options, fall 45 percent last year to \$4 million, according to a regulatory filing Monday.

David O'Reilly, chairman and chief executive, received a much smaller bonus of \$700,000 in 2002, versus \$5 million the year before, including \$3.2 million when Chevron and Texaco merged, the filing said.

His salary, however, jumped to \$1.1 million from \$970,883 the year before.

O'Reilly, 56, has been chairman and CEO of ChevronTexaco since the merger in October 2001. He held the same positions with Chevron since January 2000.

He received \$2.15 million in restricted stock in 2002, up from \$1.14 million in 2001. His other compensation, including contributions to savings and benefits plans, fell to \$81,209 from \$141,853 in 2001, the proxy said.

Also in 2002, O'Reilly was awarded 200,000 options to purchase the company's common stock at \$86.25 a share. Those options, which expire in 2012, are valued at \$10.8 million if the stock price appreciates 5 percent annually over the option term. In 2001, O'Reilly received 150,000 stock options.

Shares of San Ramon, Calif.-based ChevronTexaco closed Monday at \$63.92, up 36 cents, or less than 1 percent, on the New York Stock Exchange.

Tax procrastinators can get extension, but must pay

BY MARY DALRYMPLE

AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON — The deadline is midnight and, after looking at the pile of paperwork, instructions and forms, the panic starts. It's impossible to file that 2002 tax return on time.

Taxpayers who procrastinated and now find themselves up against Tuesday's filing deadline can get a four-month extension from the Internal Revenue Service by filing a one-page form, no questions asked.

But even those asking for an extension must pay their taxes by April 15 to avoid paying penalties.

"My biggest piece of advice is that the extension is only an extension to file, not an extension to pay," said Evan Snapper, senior manager with personal financial counseling at Ernst & Young.

Taxpayers must make a good faith effort to estimate how much they owe when they use form No. 4868 to file for an extension, and they must pay 90 percent of their taxes owed for the year to avoid penalties.

Taking a wild guess at the tax bill and pleading ignorance later may cause the IRS to revoke the extension.

"It's not going to work, not on April 15," Snapper said.

Late filers can take some comfort in the fact that they are not alone. The Internal Revenue Service expects more than 8.5 million people to file for the

automatic four-month extension. The number of people requesting more time has gradually crept up over the last two decades to more than 6 percent.

The extension can be filed the old-fashioned way, with a mad dash to the post office before midnight. It can also be filed over the phone by calling 1-888-796-1074, or electronically through computer software or a tax professional.

Tax preparers counsel those who procrastinate because they owe the IRS and cannot pay to file their return or an extension. The penalties for late filing can be much greater than the penalty for paying late payment of taxes.

"I always tell people, if you don't have the money, make sure you file on time," said Frank Degen, director of the National Association of Enrolled Agents. "The IRS is willing to work with you, but you need to do your part."

Those who can't pay their entire tax bill have at least two options.

By filing another form — No. 9465 — taxpayers can set up an installment agreement and pay the taxes over time. The IRS has streamlined this process for those who owe less than \$25,000 and can pay the entire amount within 5 years.

Those who want to pay off the IRS right away can use a credit card. The credit card company will charge a convenience fee and the interest rates that apply to purchases.

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INTERNATIONAL

N. Korea, shocked by war, considers talks with U.S.

BY DANIEL COONEY

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. military success in Iraq appears to have shocked North Korea into trying to peacefully resolve the standoff over its nuclear activities, but some experts warn a resolution to the crisis is far from guaranteed.

After months of insisting on one-on-one talks with Washington, North Korea signaled over the weekend that it would be willing to accept U.S. demands for multilateral discussions over the communist country's alleged nuclear weapons program.

The change was welcomed by world leaders, including President Bush, who described it as "very good news for the people in the Far East."

"This is the most positive statement since this crisis started," said Paik Hak-soon, a political analyst at the Seoul-based Sejong Institute research center. "Its timing shows North Korea is really shocked by what has happened in Iraq."

South Korea's top security adviser Ra Jong-il said Monday the North's decision to be more flexible was because the Iraq

war had shown "it wasn't in an advantageous position internationally," the Yonhap news agency reported.

Scott Snyder, the South Korean representative for the Asia Foundation, said he was optimistic about the North's comments but warned that a resolution to the crisis was far from certain.

"There is still a wide difference in the stated positions between Washington and Pyongyang," he said.

A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Pyongyang "will not stick to any particular dialogue format" if the United States "is ready to make a bold switchover in its Korea policy for a settlement of the nuclear issue," the North's KCNA news agency reported.

North Korea has accused the United States of planning to invade after it's forces are done in Iraq and has demanded a nonaggression treaty with Washington.

U.S. officials have ruled such a treaty out but say some form of written security guarantee might be possible. North Korea also wants economic aid to rescue its collapsed economy.

The nuclear dispute flared in October when U.S. officials said North Korea

admitted it had a clandestine nuclear program in violation of a 1994 agreement with the United States. Washington and its allies suspended oil shipments promised under the agreement, and North Korea responded by moving to reactivate frozen nuclear facilities.

Bush has said he wants to resolve the crisis peacefully, but has not ruled out military action.

Verification that the country is not developing nuclear weapons is crucial to any resolution.

But analysts believe that will be difficult to prove as long as North Korea remains a secretive, totalitarian state.

North Korea has repeatedly refused the return of a team of U.N. atomic inspectors kicked out in December. The inspectors were there as part of the 1994 pact reached after North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1993.

Last week, Pyongyang said such a move would be tantamount to giving Washington an excuse to invade.

Snyder said any deal is likely to take a long time to reach given North Korea's history of tough negotiating tactics.

It took former President Bill Clinton's administration 19 months to convince Pyongyang to give up its nuclear ambitions before the 1994 pact was reached. And Clinton used an energy deal to persuade the electricity-starved North.

Bush has said discussions of aid can only follow steps to dismantle its nuclear programs. Bush has dubbed North Korea as part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and Iran.

U.S. officials also have said the talks should include discussions on its conventional weapons and their deployment near the demilitarized zone that divides the two Koreas.

Negotiations in 1994 were just between North Korea and the United States. This time, Washington has insisted that Russia, China, Japan and South Korea also be involved.

Russia and China are both allies of North Korea and their involvement may help pressure Pyongyang into making concessions. Japan and South Korea, both of whom are most at risk by a nuclear-armed North Korea, are likely to pay for much of the aid that may be offered with a deal.

Economic sanctions against Syria could be on horizon

WAR, from page 1

Secretary of State Colin Powell hinted at economic or diplomatic sanctions against Syria, saying the government is developing a weapons of mass destruction program and helping Iraqis flee the dying regime. Syrian officials denied the charges.

Looting eased in Baghdad after days of plundering at government buildings, hospitals and an antiquities museum, and group of religious and civil opposition leaders met in the capital to plan efforts at renewing power, water, security and other vital services.

American forces found prodigious amounts of Iraqi weaponry, French-made missiles and Russian anti-tank rocket launchers among them. And Army troops discovered thousands of microfilm cartridges and hundreds of paper files inside a Baath Party enclave as the dead regime began yielding its secrets.

In Tikrit, about 90 miles north of Baghdad, "There was less resistance than we anticipated," Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks told reporters, as American ground troops moved into the city after days of punishing airstrikes.

American forces captured a key Tigris River bridge in the heart of town and seized the presidential palace without a fight as they rolled past abandoned Iraqi military equipment.

They set up checkpoints to keep prominent regime figures from leaving, and a line of armored vehicles was parked in front of a bazaar inside the city.

"We have had engagements, and we have defeated the enemy in every one of those engagements," said Capt. Frank Thorp, a spokesman at U.S. Central Command.

The operation inside Tikrit, Brooks added, "is really the only significant combat action that occurred within the last 24 hours." McChrystal told reporters, "I think we will move into a phase where it (combat) is smaller, albeit sharp fights."

With Saddam and his two sons dead or in hiding, his regime gone and his armed forces routed, U.S. commanders took steps to reduce American firepower in the war zone.

A U.S. defense official said two of five aircraft carrier battlegroups in the region would soon be leaving, the USS Kitty Hawk returning to its base in Japan and the USS Constellation to San Diego. Each carrier has about 80 warplanes, including F/A-18 and F-14 strike aircraft as well as surveillance and other support craft.

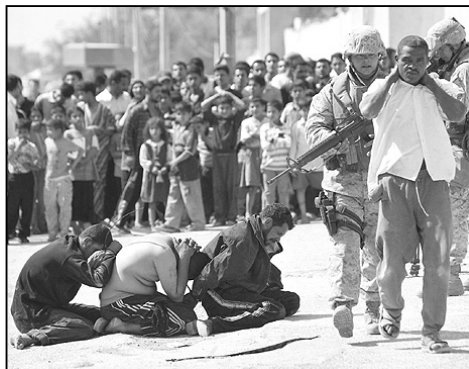
The Air Force already has sent four B-2 stealth bombers home.

In a reminder of lingering hazards, two soldiers with the Army's V Corps were killed and two wounded when a grenade exploded accidentally at a checkpoint south of



David Guttenfelder/Associated Press

A man accused of looting at a Baghdad bank, is brought to a U.S. military base and tied to the hood of a Humvee Monday. The American military have started street operations to try to stop looting and bring order to Iraq's capital city.



David Guttenfelder/Associated Press

U.S. soldiers detain a group of men during patrol in the street of Baghdad, Iraq on Monday. The troops allege the men were driving a vehicle filled with weapons and attempting to ambush U.S. troops. U.S. soldiers and locals claimed that the group were non-Iraqi Arab fighters.

Baghdad and a third soldier was killed and another wounded in an accidental shooting near Baghdad International Airport, Central Command said.

With fighting on the wane, troops continued their search for remaining POWs as well as evidence of weapons of mass destruction.

Maj. Trey Cate, a spokesman for the 101st Airborne

Division, said tests were planned on 11 shipping containers found buried near Karbala with lab equipment inside.

A team of experts from the CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency also has arrived in the Persian Gulf region to search for clues to the whereabouts of Capt. Scott Speicher, a Navy pilot shot down during the 1991 Gulf War, officials said.

U.S. official said an Iraqi nuclear scientist, Jaffar al-Jaffar, had surrendered to authorities in an unidentified Middle Eastern country in recent days and was being interviewed by Americans.

On Saturday, Saddam's top science adviser, Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi surrendered to U.S. forces.

In Washington, Powell became the latest senior administration official to accuse Syria of harboring former members of Iraq's regime and of maintaining a chemical weapons program.

"Of course, we will examine possible measures of a diplomatic, economic or other nature as we move forward," Powell told reporters.

Fayssal Mekdad, Syria's deputy ambassador to the United Nations, denied it. "There is no cooperation. We have no chemical weapons," he said.

In London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Syrian President Bashar Assad had personally assured him that his government "would interdict anybody" crossing the border from Iraq. "And I believe they are doing that," Blair told the House of Commons.

More and more, efforts were turning to building a postwar Iraq. Officials made preparations for a meeting Tuesday in the southern city of Ur, said to be the birthplace of the biblical patriarch Abraham.

There, Iraqis from inside and outside the country will begin discussions on the shape of a future government.

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said "it's not possible to know how long" a process of stabilization will take inside Iraq.

Government offices and most stores remained closed in the capital, but many buses were running, packed with passengers. The first joint patrols moved through Baghdad during the day, with Marines and Iraqis working together.

Police Lt. Col. Haitham al-Ani said American troops and Iraqis would patrol in separate cars and that the Iraqis would be unarmed, at least for now.

At the same time, local leaders met in Baghdad to discuss security and plans to restore water and electricity to a city that has been without power for more than a week. One Shiite Muslim cleric, Ayad al-Musawi, told the meeting there should be "no Sunni, no Shiite, just one Iraqi nation."

He added, "God willing, we will be one hand, one voice and not betray each other."



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More women turn to hypnosis to assist in labor



**Guest
Commentary**

By Julie Moret, Ph.D.

For most pregnant women it's more like you're getting sleepy, irritated, and uncomfortable! That's why women are turning to hypnosis to assist them in the labor and delivery process.

Does this mean you'll be quacking like a duck while giving birth? Hardly. Hypnosis isn't just for stage shows anymore. It is now taught in the best medical schools and recognized by mainstream doctors as a credible body of healthful techniques.

Recently a client was two weeks past her due date when her doctor arranged for hospitalization and medical induction into labor. Before this could occur, she came to my office for an emergency hypnosis session filled with powerful post-hypnotic commands to easily and immediately go into natural, safe labor.

She listened to the taped session before going to bed and within a few hours, labor began naturally. Another woman was told she would have to labor in bed because her blood pressure was high and monitoring was necessary. I asked for 20 minutes alone with the pregnant mother to practice relaxing hypnosis techniques. When the nurse returned, the mother's blood pressure was stabilized and she was able to get out of bed and move freely.

Another lady spent the months prior to her due date training with the kind of visualization and conditioning techniques that pro athletes use. The results were impressive. During labor she placed a photo of her beloved kitty on a desk across the room from her birthing bed and focused on it as she breathed and released soft humming sounds with each exhalation. As labor intensified the

humming got slightly louder. She labored in this deep hypnotic state for about five hours and then gave birth without breaking a sweat.

While results vary, one thing remains clear. Focus, intention, and practice greatly enhance the birth process. And doesn't it make sense to prepare physically, psychologically, and emotionally for the most significant athletic event a woman can ever experience?

Tennis star Andre Agassi has been quoted as saying that he won a major tournament 10,000 times before ever stepping foot onto the court. He did so in his mind—seeing, sensing and visualizing himself victorious.

Hypnobirthing future paces the mother to and through the successful birth of her child. This process, done while the mother is in a deeply relaxed state, alleviates anxieties and phobias while giving her body a visceral blue print of how to ideally respond in each phase of the birth process.

As the mother progresses through labor, each transition point registers as familiar and her body is able to stay reasonably relaxed because it has already prepared for what it is experiencing.

Albert Einstein said we use less than 10 percent of our brain capacity. Hypnobirthing is an opportunity for pregnant women to tap into that vast 90 percent and use their minds to create healthy, manageable, even enjoyable birth experiences.

And, no, you won't be quacking like a duck while giving birth ... not unless you want to!

Julie Moret Ph.D. can be seen in "Hypnosis for Health," this month on the Lifetime Channel. For more information or personalized self hypnosis tapes call (310) 434-9700 or write to: JulieMoret@aol.com

SCHEDULES:

TUESDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:45am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire - 2 y.o.s with parent. 310-458-8922

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
Lap Time - 11:00am, April 29 - June 3 for 0-24 month olds
Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Cuentos Para Pequenos - 10am - Mar 4, April 8 and April 29-June 3 - a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-5 years old.
Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Family Story Time - 7pm - Stories for the entire family.
School Age Stories and Crafts - 3:30pm - every other Tuesday thru May 27, ages 5-9 years
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Toddler Story Time - 10:00 & 10:30am, April 15-May 20, ages 2-3 years, registration required, call for info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443, Preschool Story Time - 10:30am - April 30 - June 4, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own
Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Lap Time - 10 and 10:30am - 6 wk series for 0 - 24 months, April 16 - May 21. No registration required.
Toddler Story Time - 11:15 am - 6 wk series for 2 year olds w/ adult, April 16-May 21. No registration required.
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Twilight Story Time - 7:00 to 7:30pm - for parents with 3-5 year olds.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 2 pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Gardens, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com, Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm
The Pump Station, Jennifer Triggs - 310-451-9051 (call first), Prenatal - 6:30 - 7:30pm, \$10

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
SING ALONG! - Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 2:30 pm. Sing along with musical performer Jackie Bregger, ages 4 and up.

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Preschool Story Time - 10:15am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th & Wilshire. Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. 310-458-8922
Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
Toddler Story Time - 10:30am - March 6-April 10 and May 1 - June 5 - 6 week series for 2-5 year olds with adult.
La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Toddler Story Time - 10:15am - April 17 - May 22 - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Lap Time - 8:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

FRIDAY

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Children's Book World, 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-800K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8 (April 12, 19, 26)
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade - Kid's Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 10:30am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:30am, and 10:45 - noon, \$13
Santa Monica Yoga - 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. - 310-396 4040, Prenatal yoga - 12:30 - 2:00pm, \$14

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

SUNDAY

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library (programs for the Main Library are being presented in off-site locations during renovation) Lap Time for parents and children up to 24 months, 9:30am, Joslyn Park/Craft Room/633 Kensington - 310-452-6132 (no lap time April 14 and April 21)
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804 Cuentos Para Pequenos - 11:15 am, March 24 - April 29 - Stories in Spanish for toddlers and pre-schoolers. No registration required.
Barnes and Noble - 3rd St. Promenade - Toddler Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 8-12 months, 10am - 11:30pm
Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Gardens, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm



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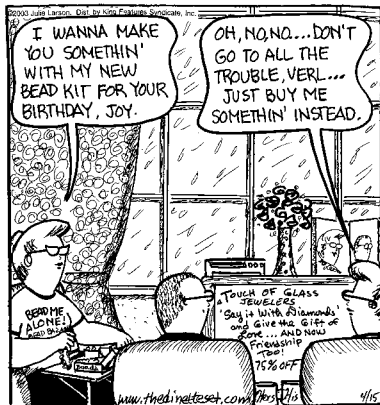


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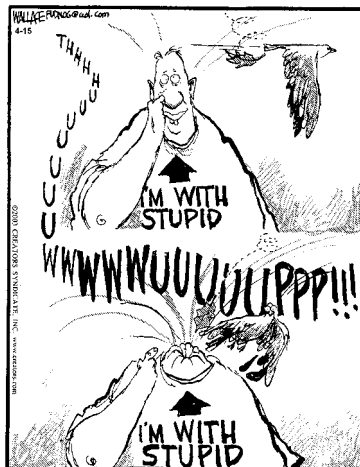
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 - Lug
 - Board game sheet
 - Edible mushroom
 - High point
 - Spotted
 - Actor Aykroyd
 - Concert star
 - "— Not Unusual"
 - Coffee holder
 - Bread choice
 - Cash carriers
 - Plumbing problems
 - to (cheat)
- DOWN**
- Detect
 - Fields
 - Ran easily
 - Sky color
 - Hay bundles
 - Night flier
 - Karnak leader
 - Major goat
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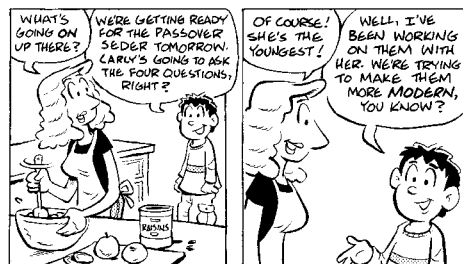
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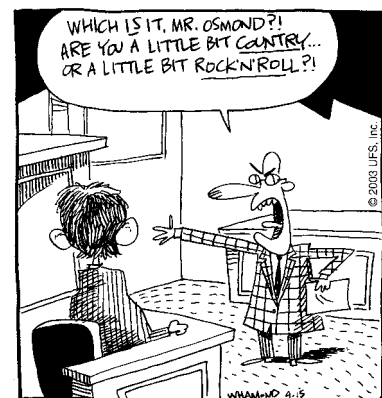
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CHERRY SLEIGH Bed. Solid wood. Still in box. List \$795. Sacrifice \$295. (310)350-3814

ITALIAN LEATHER Sofa & Loveseat Brand new, still in crate from designer home shop. List \$3000. Sacrifice \$995. Must sell! Will deliver! (310)350-3814.

KING DOUBLE Pillowtop Mattress Set. Brand new, brand name. Must sell! List \$895. Sacrifice \$295. (310)350-3814

QUEEN DOUBLE Pillowtop Mattress Set. Plush, name brand, still in plastic. Warranty. Was \$595. Sacrifice \$175. (310)350-3814.

QUEEN ORTHO Mattress Set. New, still in plastic w/warranty. Must sell. \$125 (310)350-3814.

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MONTANA: DISCOVERY Ski Mt/Georgetown Lake. Large 4 Bedroom house. Great views. Ski, snowmobile, ice fish, snow shoe. \$1200 a week (310)899-3777.

SM SUMMER rental \$1700/mo. Condo 2bdrm/2.5ba. Fully furnished. W/D, secured parking. Available 06/01-08/30 (310)285-6778.

For Rent

BRENTWOOD 1BDRM/1BA. Corner unit, W/D. Parking \$995/mo. (310)899-6088

MAR VISTA \$595 Bachelor w/new paint and carpet. Excellent location, close to freeway. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

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For Rent

BEVERLY HILLS ADJ. \$1550.00 Vintage 2 story 1920's duplex. Master Bedroom, entertainment center, 2bdrm/1ba, living room, eat-in kitchen, bright, Mexican tile, faux fireplace, lots of architectural detail, hardwood floors. Permit street parking.

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BEVERLY HILLS ADJ. \$1550.00 Vintage 2 story 1920's duplex. Master Bedroom, entertainment center, 2bdrm/1ba, living room, eat-in kitchen, bright, Mexican tile, faux fireplace, lots of architectural detail, hardwood floors. Permit street parking.

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BRENTWOOD \$1250.00 Traditional 2bdrm/1ba. Upper, newer carpet, fridge, stove, laundry & parking. No pets.

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BRENTWOOD \$750.00 Charming upper unit, hardwood floors, laundry on premises. Unit has formal kitchen, carpets, large closets, fridge, stove. Will consider pets.

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BRENTWOOD ADJ. \$1650.00 Gorgeous 2bdrm/2ba. A/C, Alarm, D/W, fireplace., hardwood, high ceilings, microwave, fridge, stove, controlled access, walk in closets, pet ok, Roman tub.

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SANTA MONICA \$2650.00 Spacious 3 Bdrm/3 full bath. Top floor, high ceilings, sunny, bright, double patio, views of Santa Monica Mountains. Quiet neighborhood, North of Wilshire. Security parking available. (310)451-2178

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MDR PENINSULA \$2150 2bdrm/2ba w/parking. Great location. 1 building from beach. Private rooftop patio w/ocean view. 1 year lease. Will consider small pet w/extra deposit. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

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PACIFIC PALISADES \$1600.00 2bdrm/1ba, hardwood floors, Townhouse style, laundry room, stove, refrigerator. (310)454-9045

PALMS \$925.00 2bdrm/2ba Upper unit, beautiful tre lined street, quiet building, mint condition, light, carpet, covered parking.

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PASADENA \$700.00 Tranquil 1bdrm/1ba, new carpet and kitchen flooring, laundry facilities on premises, air conditioning, balcony, carpets, refrig., stove.

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SANTA MONICA \$1261.00 2+1, pet ok, hrwd frs, laundry, 10 unit bldg, prking incld.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$1295.00/mo. Remodeled Apt. 2bdrm/1ba 800 sq ft Near SMC & local hospital (310)229-5274

SANTA MONICA \$1395/mo. 2bdrm/1ba. Near water garden. Contact Cy: (310)302-1961

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 N. of Wilshire. Contemporary, spacious, 2bdrm/2ba, stove, dishwasher, parking, pet OK, W/D in unit, mini-blinds, fridge.

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CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$750.00 Studio, pet ok, r/s, fireplace, laundry, balcony, utilities incld.

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SANTA MONICA \$895 1bdm/1ba, appliances, no pets, gas paid. 2535 Kansas Ave. #211, Santa Monica, CA. Manager in #101.

SANTA MONICA \$900.00 1+1, r/s, crpt, lrg clsts, laundry, prking incld.

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SANTA MONICA \$950.00 1+1, pet ok, r/s, hrwd flrs, laundry, near beach, prking incld.

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SANTA MONICA, N. of Wilshire. Refurbished building for rent. 1.2, & 3 bdrms from \$1500.00-\$3800.00. OBO. By appointment only. 1214 Idaho (310)869-0468. Open House Sunday 1pm-4pm.

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STUDIO CITY \$1000.00 1bdm/1ba New w/d in each unit, new bbq and sun patio w/ fountain, central air & heat, mirrored wardrobe doors.

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STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Contemporary lower 1bdm/1ba cat ok, D/W, gorgeous building, gated parking, patio, A/C, tiled kitchen, new linoleum bath.

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For Rent

VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00 1bdm/1ba, super quiet bldg, BBQ, vertical blinds, new carpet very clean, parking laundry, gated entrance, stove, swimming pool.

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VENICE \$1125 Spacious 1bdm/1ba w/large courtyard. 4 blocks to beach. Swimming pool, gated parking, new paint, new carpet, quiet neighborhood, laundry room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

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VENICE \$900 1bdm/1ba Bungalow w/porch. Newly renovated w/lots of charm. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH \$1150 Charming 1bdm w/large balcony. Great location, 1 block to beach, paid parking available. Fresh paint. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH \$1995 1bdm/1ba+ loft and private 2 car garage. Stunning ocean view, 1 property from the beach. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

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VENICE BEACH \$2,400 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdm/2ba, oak wood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Ask about lease incentives. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)466-7896.

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For Rent

VENICE BEACH \$925.00 Single in historic brick building on the beach. Recently remodeled w/new kitchen and bathroom, exposed brick walls, new carpet and paint. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking.

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VENICE BEACH Single \$795 Great location, 1/2 block to beach, 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext.102

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VENICE BEACH Single \$850 Great location, very sunny, 1 block from beach, 1 year lease, no pets.

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VENICE BEACH Studio \$825 Tudor style building on walk street. Great 1/2 block to beach. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)401-0027.

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W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00 Townhouse 2bdrm/1.5ba. Front unit, new paint, new blinds, lots of kitchen cabinets. Off street parking, laundry facilities on premises, dishwasher, hardwood floors, refrigerator, stove.

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WeHo \$750.00 Character, gas stove, fridge, carport, laundry, secure entry, new carpet new linoleum floors. Close to the Grove.

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WLA \$1350 On Barrington near National. Very spacious, 2bdrm upper. Large closets, closed garage. New carpet, crown molding, appliances. Charming older building in attractive WLA area. Info/Owner (310)828-4481.

For Rent

WeHo \$795.00 Spanish 1bdm/1ba, high ceilings, stove, fridge, crown moldings, w/c, cat, carpet.

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WeHo \$750.00 Classic New York style brick building hardwood floors, pet ok, stove, ceiling fan, crown molding. Close to shops and restaurants. Parking available.

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Houses For Rent

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SANTA MONICA \$780.00 Guest House, r/s, pool, yard, bright, quiet, utilities incld.

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SANTA MONICA \$890.00 Cottage, pet ok, hrwd flrs, prking incld, utilities incld.

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ROOMMATE WANTED Share 2bdrm/2ba apt. Nice area. Female preferred. On site laundry, pool, jacuzzi, gym. \$850/mo plus 1/2 utilities. MDR (310)305-3596.

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SANTA MONICA \$507.00 Apt., prvt rm, pet ok, r/s, dishwasher, pool, prking incld.

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WESTWOOD S.M. Blvd/405 vicinity; approx. 170 sq ft, private 24 hr ground floor access, parking and utilities included. \$500/month. Call Bob (310)428-7376.

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SANTA MONICA °SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2003

EVENTS

TODDLER STORY TIME presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. Tuesdays at 10am and 10:45am. Reed Park, Reed Auditorium West, corner of 7th St. and Wilshire. Stories and activities designed especially for 2 year olds who are accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (310)458-8922.

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PEOPLE 55 AND OLDER. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. No drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

CROSSROADS SCHOOLS IN SANTA MONICA invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

SENIOR SUPPERS - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE Emeritus College Band invites adult musicians who play a band instrument to join the band. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening in the Band room at Lincoln Middle School, 14th and California Streets from 7pm to 9:15pm. Concerts are given during the year. For more information call (310)474-5271.

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THE SLICE - New York style pizzeria also serving pasta, salads, subs and wings. Voted best pizza in Los Angeles by AOL. Sit on our beautiful patio for great pizza and movie star sightings. 915 Wilshire Blvd, for fast delivery call 310.351.7542

WOLFGANG PUCK CAFE - Enjoy Wolfgang's favorite entrees, famous wood-fired pizzas, pastas, fresh salads, sandwiches, and of course, unforgettable desserts! Fun Happy Hour: 1323 Montana Ave., 310.393.0290

SONNY MCLEAN'S - A perfect Irish pub that attracts a variety of people. It's the hotspot to kick back, enjoy a beer and watch a ball game. Good Happy Hour specials. 2615 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.9839

ORIGINAL THAI DISHES - Best Thai food in Santa Monica! Family owned restaurant since 1980. A local favorite serving classic Pad Thai noodles, pineapple fried rice and seafood specialties. All dishes can be made vegetarian. 1910 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.5634

EARTH, WIND & FLOUR - "Great Italian cooking. Just slightly west of Italy." This restaurant celebrates 22 years in the neighborhood for its friendliness and freshness. Pizza, pastas, salads, subs and more. Lunch and dinner specials and happy hour. 2222 Wilshire Blvd., 310.829.7829

ACADIE'S - Voila! Fresh from the south of France, Homemade Crepes have just arrived in Santa Monica! Located right off the 3rd St. Promenade, this authentic French storefront radiates charm and ambience with indoor seating and a quaint side patio for an outdoor experience. The menu offers a range of options to suit your individual mood. 213 Arizona Ave. (310)395-1120

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY

1441 Third St. at Broadway
View From the Top (PG-13) 12:45, 7:30.
Phone Booth (R) 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:45, 5:15, 5:45, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15. **The Core (PG-13)** 12:55, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 10:15. **Basic (R)** 12:00, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:30. **Dreamcatcher (R)** 7:00, 10:10. **Old School (R)** 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20. **A Man Apart (R)** 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50. **Agent Cody Banks (PG)** 11:30, 1:50, 4:15. **House of 1,000 Corpses (R)** 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Piglet's Big Movie (G) 11:20, 1:00. **Anger Management (PG-13)** 11:15, 12:00, 1:55, 2:35, 3:15, 4:35, 5:15, 7:20, 8:00, 10:00, 10:45. **Chicago (PG-13)** 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50. **The Hunted (2003) (R)** 7:45, 10:10. **What a Girl Wants (PG)** 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40. **Boat Trip (R)** 7:25, 9:40. **Head of State (PG-13)** 12:45, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20. **The Pianist (R)** 12:10, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
XX/XY (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45. **Laurel Canyon (R)** 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
Levity (NR) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. **Bend it Like Beckham (PG-13)** 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20. **Assassination Tango (R)** 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45.

BACK PAGE



I just called to say 'I do'

By The Associated Press

VALDOSTA, Ga. — It was a first for the bride, the groom and even the judge.

Andrea Boyd and James Evans were married last week by telephone and the couple spent their first day as husband and wife separated by thousands of miles.

The couple met two years ago and Evans, 22, proposed in December shortly before his Air Force squadron was sent to the Middle East. Boyd, 23, said she knew right away that Evans was the one.

"I liked him straight away," Boyd said. "He is everything I ever wanted."

The couple had planned a summer marriage, but Evans decided to do it sooner. He told Boyd, who works at a department store, he wanted her to be taken care of by the military if something happened to him. Evans is part of the 823rd Security Force Squadron based at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta.

On Tuesday, Boyd and Probate Judge Judy Mullis drove to the Air Force base to join Capt. Randy Hicks for the ceremony.

Hicks placed the call to the Middle East, and Mullis performed the ceremony over a speakerphone.

Evans had about 30 people on his end of the line. Boyd was joined by a photographer, Mullis and Hicks, who served as a witness. The couple plan another ceremony after Evans returns home.

Here kitty, kitty!

By The Associated Press

ELKHART, Ind. — It's been two years since Mojo the cat scampered off and vanished, but Lisa Hoogenboom hasn't given up hope that she'll someday find her beloved tabby.

Hoogenboom has placed classified ads with the cat's photo in her local newspaper ever since Mojo disappeared. And to keep tips rolling in, she's also offering a \$1,000 reward to the person who finds the feline.

The black-and-white cat ran off two years ago when the pet carrier Hoogenboom was carrying him in broke between the car and their front door after a trip to the vet.

Mojo bolted and hasn't been seen since. Although some people have told Hoogenboom she's crazy to care so much about a cat to keep up the search for so long, she said they just don't understand the love that exists between animal owners and their pets.

"We don't have kids that live with us. Pets become your family members. Wouldn't you keep looking for your kid? You wouldn't give up," she explained.

Old lady gets trashed by court

By The Associated Press

LONGMONT, Colo. — A jury has decided that a 58-year-old woman could go to jail if she doesn't clean up her act.

Betty Rexroad faces up to 180 days in jail and a \$999 fine after being found guilty of maintaining an offensive property because she refused to clean up trash in her yard and driveway.

"I am very angry," Rexroad said as she left the municipal courthouse Friday. "I am innocent of all charges."

Rexroad's attorney hasn't decided whether to appeal. Rexroad, who suffers from a neurological disease that limits movement, was fighting an April 2000 ticket. She had previous code violations dating to 1996 when her camper was towed by the city.

Some of the things found in Rexroad's driveway include a wicker shelf and chair, metal frame possibly for a bed, an overturned table with collapsible legs, a wheelchair and lumber.

Rexroad's attorney, George Johnson, told jurors that the debris featured in photos taken by the city didn't bother neighbors and that most of it was ready for a trash pickup while the rest awaited a pickup from a charity.

"She's a nice old lady and she's on oxygen and it takes her a while to get the things out and in shape for pickup," he said.

Man serves sentence in doghouse

By The Associated Press

VIDOR, Texas — Curtis Robin Sr. is finally out of the doghouse.

Robin spent each night for the past month — from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. — in a state-owned 2-foot by 3-foot plastic doghouse that prosecutors set up on March 13 in a carport in front of his house.

Robin, 38, was put in the doghouse for whipping his stepson with a car antennae and locking him out of the house during a thunderstorm. He said he still doesn't think the punishment fit the crime.

Police patrolled his house to ensure he was complying with the court order.

He said he was subjected to heckling from passers-by and received a few harassing phone calls and letters. "The worst case was when some people drove by and threw some bottles at me," he said.

The disturbances and curious passers-by kept Robin awake most nights, he said.

As for the punishment, Robin said, "If you want a punishment that fits the crime, then the D.A. needs to come over here and spank me because that's all I did to Zachary. I never made him sleep in a doghouse."

Authorities began investigating Robin after neighbors saw his stepson, Zachary Wieggers, sleeping outside during a heavy rainstorm.

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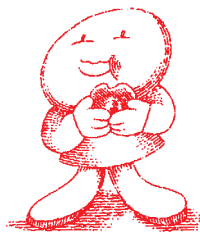
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