

FREE

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 133

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

01, 16, 23, 32, 33

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 5, 2, 2

Evening picks: 2, 6, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 05, California Classic

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race time: 1:49.02



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ Stanley Jollymore, 90, was written up in Toronto's National Post for the "ball" he made out of 139,620 metallic wrappers from cigarette packages from his 70 years of smoking (February).

■ Gary Dusch, 52, was written up in the Virginian-Pilot (Hampton Roads, Va.) for his 8-mile-long chain of chewing gum wrappers (38-year habit, a million wrappers) (March).

■ Carl Masthay, 62, was written up in Riverfront Times (St. Louis) for compiling (over the last 12 years), and self-publishing, an exhaustive, 757-page dictionary for translating between French and the Illinois Indian Kaskaskian dialect (a language no one has spoken for hundreds of years).

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Anyone can win, unless there happens to be a second entry.

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Living wage effort beginning to build

Tuesday's event attracts hundreds of supporters

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Supporters of a mandated living wage in Santa Monica haven't let last year's loss at the polls keep them down.

About 200 priests, rabbis, community leaders and hotel workers met at First United Methodist Church Tuesday to voice their sup-

port for a living wage.

The Passover-themed event, titled "Worker Justice Seder," was sponsored by a handful of labor and religious groups.

"We're coming together as members of different groups to support low-wage workers in their search for economic justice," said Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, executive director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, which is an

See LIVING WAGE, page 5

Retired officer pleads to molestation charges

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A retired Santa Monica police officer this week pleaded no contest to molesting a teenage girl, officials said.

Gregory McElveen, 53, is scheduled to be sentenced at the North Valley Superior Court in San Fernando on April 28.

McElveen retired in May of 1999 after serving with the SMPD for more than a decade. SMPD spokesman Lt. Frank Fabrega wouldn't say how long McElveen was employed by the department.

The Agoura Hills man was arrested by L.A. County Sheriffs on Feb. 26 and charged with five counts of

child molestation, including two acts of oral copulation, two acts of penetration with a foreign object and one count of performing a lewd act upon a child, according to Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman for the L.A. County District Attorney office.

All of the alleged instances occurred in August of 2000 with an unidentified 13- or 14-year-old girl, Gibbons said.

McElveen's bail is set at \$215,000. He is in custody at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in L.A.

Karen Richardson, McElveen's public defender, and Cheryl Gaines, the prosecutor on the case, did not return calls Wednesday seeking comment.

Local artist loses lawsuit

SM jury delivers verdict in one day

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica man who sued his caregivers over the amputation of his left arm lost his case Wednesday when a jury found that two hospitals and a handful of doctors didn't misdiagnose his injuries.

The main difficul-



File photo

The artist created these boats under the pier.

ty in reaching a decision, jurors said, was dealing with the emotions involved in the case. But the evidence presented by the defense during the 19-day trial was straightforward and convincing, jurors said.

"It's hard," said juror Eric David, 37, a Web site developer in Brentwood. "There's no recompense. There's no making up for the loss of his arm. I

See ARTIST, page 6

Sewers get the treatment



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Above: James Simpson digs deep into Main Street at the corner of Bicknell Avenue on Wednesday as part of a major sewer line replacement project. Crews are expected to finish their work by the end of the week so Main Street can be repaved.

Below: Crews manage an elaborate sewer replacement operation on Main Street. All construction on Main Street is expected to be completed by Memorial Day weekend.

U.S. troops raid home of Saddam's 'Dr. Germ'

BY DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

The top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq briefed President Bush on the war from inside one of Saddam Hussein's ornate palaces on Wednesday, underscoring the death of the old regime. At home, the administration reduced the terrorist threat a notch, from orange to yellow.

Bush urged the United Nations to lift economic sanctions against Iraq, saying the country had been liberated by U.S.-led forces. "Terrorists and tyrants have now been put on notice," he added.

Four weeks after the war began, American troops in Baghdad raided the home of the mastermind of Iraq's biological weapons laboratory and discovered a recently abandoned terrorist training camp.

Army forces exchanged fire with a small number of die-hard paramilitary fighters north of Baghdad, then took out two surface-to-air missile systems and three anti-aircraft guns left over

See WAR, page 10

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HOROSCOPE

Where your friends are, Cancer



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, April 17, 2003:

Deal with others directly, refusing to take situations for granted. Your affectionate nature allows you to make headway. Others clearly care a lot about you, but they might have difficulty expressing their feelings. Ask questions, keeping where you're heading in mind. A boss could be unusually touchy or difficult this year. Accept someone rather than try to change him or her. If single, you will meet someone important this year, but you might not really know where the relationship is heading for a year or so. If attached, work on communicating better. Agree to disagree. Get together on a project this fall. SCORPIO understands your depth.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Defer to others, especially as you might not be comfortable with what you're hearing. Think carefully about your choices surrounding a partnership, as well as an interpersonal relationship. In some ways, you might feel that today is a repeat of yesterday. Tonight: Closeness works.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Let others play their cards, and you might be surprised. You don't need to let others know where you're coming from. A debate could be interesting but resolve nothing. Follow your instincts, especially with risks, finances and emotions. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might not be exactly sure what works. A partner or associate could be unusually difficult as you seek out viable options. Your vision of what might be workable doesn't seem to coincide with anyone else's. Let bygones be bygones. Tonight: How 'bout a stress-buster?

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your creativity helps take the heat off someone else. Express more of what you want. Let others hear your options. Honestly come to grips with a financial matter. Not everyone agrees with your decisions. Forget getting a consensus. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Deal with fundamentals and you cannot go wrong. Pressure builds around a domestic matter. You might not be able to complete a key project effectively, and wind up frustrated. Extremes hit on different levels despite your attempts to normalize a personal matter. Tonight: A quiet night at home.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Question as much as you need to, even at the risk of another's aggravation. You need to understand financial matters more clearly. Others might not agree. Discussions could be frustrating. Keep at it, not closing any doors. Tonight: Ask more questions.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You could keep tumbling into the same problem, not getting the response you desire. Your frustration could come out in the form of a tantrum, or you could try to figure out more of what you want. You choose. Tonight: Your treat.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ The Moon in your sign empowers you, but you still have a difficult time getting through a problem. Your words could easily be misunderstood by a work associate or day-to-day friend. Take time to clear the air. Your gestures speak louder than words. Tonight: Please yourself.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Slow down. If you can, take a day just for yourself. The less triggered you become by the day's events, the better off you will be. Listen to a child or loved one more carefully. This person really is upset. Clear the air in a most effective way. Tonight: Vanish if you can.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You know what you want, but convincing others of your "rightness" might be close to impossible. Let it be. Follow through on what you know to be important, focusing on your bottom line. Use a meeting as best you can to open up communication. Tonight: Where the action is.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Pressure builds. How you think you need to perform might be a lot different from a boss's desire. Ask questions. Clarify. Don't get upset at what you hear. A friend or loved one could hurt your feelings. Recognize that he or she might not mean to. Tonight: A must show.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Understand your limits within your immediate circle. Stay detached. Stay open. You might be surprised by what you find out. Be very careful handling a money matter. Mistakes could be made if you listen to your friends. Take your time. Tonight: Stay away from someone else's problem.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913

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LOCAL



SMPD come in eighth place in Las Vegas relay

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Police Department's Baker to Vegas team finished in 8th place out of 21 teams entered in the under 300 division. The team's overall time was 16:32:32 seconds.

The SMPD last weekend participated in the 19th Annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay.

The Challenge Cup Relay is the largest and most unique law enforcement race in the world. It is a 120-mile, 20-stage, foot race beginning at Baker, Calif. and finishing at Las Vegas.

The relay race course runs from Baker through the Mojave Desert to Shoshone, Calif., then north to Pahrump, Nev., over the Mountain Springs Pass (5,600') and down to Las Vegas.

More than 200 teams of 20 runners enter the annual competition. During the day, early runners may face 120-degree heat along Highway 127 while later in the



Photo courtesy

Santa Monica Police officers run a stretch of the Baker to Vegas 120-mile relay race.

evening runners may be faced with high winds, freezing rain, or blowing snow near Mountain Springs Summit.

The runners are followed by a van driven by a volunteer support staff member. Support staff provides transportation to and from each of the stage points. The staff has rotating shifts, since they work around the clock for the duration of the race.

The main library is on the move

BY SARA VAN DYCK
Special to the Daily Press

Although Santa Monica's Main Library is closed, activities continue at the branches and around the city.

The recently-launched "Citywide Reads" program offers adult and teen-age readers opportunities to join in discussions of "Balzac" and the "Little Chinese Seamstress," by Dai Sijie. This best-selling novel, fast to read, is available in paperback at the library, local bookstores, and Costco.

Set during the Cultural Revolution in China of the 1970s, it explores love, adventure, and the meaning of freedom, as discovered by its teen-age protagonists.

This citywide book club is designed to promote discussion among a wide range of readers, and groups are free and open to all. Trained leaders will lead groups at:

■ Thursday, April 24, 10 a.m. - Douglas Park Clubhouse, 25th Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

■ Friday, April 25, 3 p.m. - Reed Park Auditorium, Seventh Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

■ Wednesday, April 30, 7 p.m. - Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Montana Store, 1426 Montana Ave.

■ Wednesday, April 30, 7 p.m. -

Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Main Street Store, 2901 Main St.

■ Saturday, May 3, 11 a.m. - Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St.

■ Sunday, May 4, 2 p.m. - Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Ocean Park Store, 3150 Ocean Park Blvd.

■ Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m. - Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, 2nd Street Store, 200 Santa Monica Blvd.

■ Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m. - Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Third St. Promenade Store, 1312 Third St. Promenade.

■ Saturday, May 10, 10:30 a.m. - Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

■ Friday, May 16, 12:30 p.m. - Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, 9th/Wilshire Store, 829 Wilshire Blvd.

Discussions for teens:

■ Saturday, April 26, 3 p.m. - 18th St. Coffeehouse, 1725 Broadway.

■ Thursday, May 15, 7 p.m. - YMCA Teen Center, 1332 Sixth St.

Santa Monica Festival

■ May 17, Cloverfield Park: Storytelling, music, readings, and crafts inspired by Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress.

For more information, call Santa Monica Citywide Reads, (310) 458-8646, or visit, www.smpl.org/cwr.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Surf is good today, west facing breaks see the best of it.

Venice on Tuesday was hitting shoulder- and head-high on sets and even though it was somewhat windy, shape was still decent.

Bacteria levels in the water are extremely high thanks to the rain.

Pollution in the bay has improved slightly, but water quality remains below health department standards.

Northwest ground swell fades further while southwest fills in better today, and also some northwest wind swell helps out at southern breaks.

In the north, surf looks decent, the points working well under the southwest swell.



Today's Tides:

Low-	3:38 a.m.	-0.58'
High-	9:47 a.m.	5.12'
Low-	3:38 p.m.	0.16'
High-	9:50 p.m.	6.09'

Location	Thursday	Friday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	NA
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	NA
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	NA
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	NA
Breakwater	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	NA
El Porto	3-5'/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

LETTERS

Fluoride and thyroid a bad mix

Editor:

At this point in my life and residing in Santa Monica for the last 35 years, my major concern is the power that our City Council has on the decision to force fluoridation medication on us. This toxic substance should not be ingested by any human, or animal for that matter.

One health issue is the connection between fluoride and the thyroid. I for one have struggled for the last 10 years before I finally was able to get the proper diagnosis. Many medical practitioners mis-diagnose and mis-treat this condition, hence millions go through unnecessary drugs to treat their symptoms while many times it is thyroid. I speak from experience. Just a few symptoms of low thyroid is fatigue, depression and weight gain. Getting one's thyroid treated properly helps to eliminate many negative symptoms.

Scientific data produced over the last 30 years has shown that fluoride ingestion is known to inhibit thyroid hormone production.

This is a serious health concern. I have done my homework and I encourage all of you out there to do your homework. Go to the City Council and voice your concern over this issue.

The chemical companies who push this waste by-product on an un-suspecting public could care less about our health, only their horrendous profits. I recently read a document stating the aluminum industries sell this stuff at a 20,000 percent mark-up!

Those of you on the net, go to fluoride thyroid connection and you will be astonished at the data on this subject. By the way, thyroid is just one health issue, there are many more.

To start your homework go to www.fluoridealert.org

Joyce Martino
Santa Monica

Bye-bye beach

Editor:

Saw the Santa Monica Daily Press cover photo of the Santa Monica beach chess area for April 14, 2003. As I walked by this chess area this morning, same date, the area is deserted. Want to know why? Well, it rained last night and since that area was "artistically developed" whenever it rains heavily, the chess area becomes a muddy wading pool. And when we really have a rain downpour, the two beach hotels adjoin-

ing the chess area have to sandbag their beach (chess) side entrances!

In 1998 Maria Luisa de Herrera, the city's cultural affairs administrator was quoted in the Los Angeles Times in the July 2, 1998, old Our Times edition as saying about cultural improvements to the Santa Monica beach area "The attempt of all this is not only to unify, but to create some special places where right now it's barren." As I stated in a July 9, 1998 letter to the editor of the Los Angeles Times, I must repeat. Good-bye beach, hello cement.

Henry L. Duval
Santa Monica



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War in Iraq, a progress report on a work in progress



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

If you had been listening to Iraq's minister of information, Mohammed Said Sahaf, you would have known the coalition troops were trapped in Basrah, Um Qaser and Baghdad, and their bellies would soon be grilling in hell. To paraphrase Mark Twain: "Reports of the coalition's demise were greatly exaggerated."

At this writing, the war in Iraq is all but won. It has been carried out with a minimal loss of life and infrastructure. American and British casualties were few. The number of Iraqi civilian deaths was remarkably low in light of the extent of bombing in Baghdad and other cities. And although the number of Iraqi soldiers killed is unknown, total Iraqi-war related deaths will not even begin to approach the dire 500,000 predicted by the UN. It is even possible that more Iraqis would have been killed had Hussein remained in power through the completion of inspections.

Even if this war did nothing more than

get the Iraqi people out from under a brutal regime whose idea of family values was using their wives and children as human shields, then my support was justified. But as I had previously opined, our show of strength has induced other benefits.

The swift fall of Baghdad probably resulted in North Korea's capitulation on having multi-national talks on nuclear oversight. Iran has also suggested that it might allow inspections of its own nuclear facilities. Even Saudi Arabia has begun to make noises about a shift toward a more responsive form of government. And Syria, under pressure from the U.S., has closed its borders to the fleeing Iraqi war criminals. They may even be forced to reconsider their support of terrorist groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. If this occurs, along with the elimination of Saddam's cash for suicide bombings program, it would be a blow to terrorism and would remove a major impediment to the Israeli/Palestinian peace process.

There is, of course, the potential for Islamic moderates to embrace religious extremism. This could increase anti-Americanism, as well as terrorism. One way to diffuse this prospect is for President Bush to heed Colin Powell's advice and opt for a strong U.N. involve-

ment. Bush also should allow a broad multi-national participation in the reconstruction process — with one exception.

France led the charge to castigate the United States for its failure to abide by the U.N. Security Council, yet, by selling banned weapons and systems to Hussein, they systematically defied mandated sanctions from that very same body. The French also negotiated secret oil deals, purportedly worth as much as \$60 billion, that likely led to their pre-announcement of their intent to veto any war resolution. And, while I don't advocate boycotting French and restaurants here which mainly hurts their American employees, I remain opposed to France profiting from U.S. funded reconstruction. Instead I suggest Bush send Chirac a copy of "The Little Red Hen."

That is not to say that the jingoistic policies of the Bush administration are any better.

The President's motivations remain highly suspect as is evidenced by his ever-shifting rationale for going to war. First it was retribution for 9/11. When no link between Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein could be established, Bush shifted gears and blamed programs for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Unfortunately the evidence of a nuclear

program turned out to be crude forgeries.

That this administration, with its vast resources, gave these forgeries credibility, defies any reasonable explanation. And when attacking troops were unable, to date, to find any concrete evidence of the supposedly vast stocks of chemical and biological weapons, they suddenly no longer mattered.

The war was a humanitarian intervention waged solely to liberate the people of Iraq from a brutal regime.

Whatever the truth is one thing we know for certain. The first mission of war was to protect the oil. And well before the blood had dried on the battlefield, the first contract had already been awarded to one of President Bush's major contributors, Halliburton.

This \$7 billion dollar gift was completed with out any bidding and under a cloak of secrecy designed to defeat all reasonable oversight and criticism.

We can only hope that the President feels a greater sense of responsibility to the people he just "liberated" than he has demonstrated to those who voted for him.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Comments and billion dollar defense contracts can be e-mailed to: edsincites@aol.com.)

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

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

LOCAL

Living wage supporters sponsor Passover celebration



Photo courtesy

About 200 priests, rabbis and community members came together to rally for a living wage Tuesday. The event, held at Santa Monica's First United Methodist Church, was a Passover-themed ceremony titled "Worker Justice Seder."

LIVING WAGE, from page 1

interfaith association of religious leaders throughout Los Angeles.

No proposed new legislation has been announced yet, though Salvatierra said living wage supporters are looking at several different options.

Danny Feingold, a spokesman for CLUE, confirmed the group is in the

"Nothing substantive is going happen until (the hotels) are organized. That's just our experience."

- REV. ALEXIA SALVATIERRA
CLUE, executive director

strategy phase of proposing a new law to the community.

Salvatierra said she hopes for the same kind of success at The Four Points Sheraton and the Doubletree hotels that workers have had at Loews Hotel. Loews managers agreed last year to allow employees to vote on unionization.

"Nothing substantive is going to happen until (the hotels) are organized," she said. "That's just our experience."

Under the living wage measure that was narrowly defeated at the polls last fall, unionized hotels were exempt from paying the proposed living wage of \$10.50 an hour or \$12.25 an hour without health benefits.

Voters shot down the proposed law which would have mandated businesses that make more than \$5 million in annual revenue and are located in a defined area of the city, called the coastal zone, to pay their employees \$10.50 an hour or \$12.50 without benefits.

Opponents of last year's proposal said they will look closely at any new proposals and reiterated their promise to consider a living wage law that effects all businesses equally.

Last year's measure was flawed because it unfairly targeted certain businesses, would have eliminated a lot of jobs and further burdened the city's strained budget, said Tom Larmore, an outspoken opponent of the living wage.

"It's all a package," he added.

Living wage opponents, particularly business owners, said during last year's campaign that they shouldn't be forced to pay their employees a higher wage because some workers at area hotels haven't learned the English language and haven't developed new skills in their perspective professions.

As the campaign for a living wage builds, labor organizers are stepping up their efforts to unionize the Sheraton and Doubletree hotels.

The local union filed charges this month with the National Labor Relations Board, claiming workers at the Sheraton have allegedly been subjected to threats, bribery and coercion from managers for participating in a pro-union rally in March.

Hotel representatives have denied the allegations and accused the union of misrepresenting the concerns of its employees.

Tuesday's event was sponsored by CLUE, Santa Monicans Allied for Responsible Tourism, Progressive Jewish Alliance and the Jewish Labor Committee.

Community leaders, activists and local workers participated in the ceremony, which included traditional Jewish readings and Yiddish songs followed by a Passover dinner.

Carolina Gomez, a housekeeper at the Sheraton, addressed the crowd through an interpreter. She said she works long hours for low wages without benefits and struggles to support her children.

Gomez, who broke into tears as she spoke, said she is standing up to ask for help even though she believes the hotel will retaliate against her. She said she believes it is the only way the situation will improve.

"He doesn't want to invest in his people," she said of the hotel's owner. "Please help us."

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LOCAL □ STATE



Jurors find for doctors, hospital

ARTIST, from page 1

think we all kind of feel that loss.

"The first reaction is somebody must have done something wrong," he added. "Especially with medicine, where it's half art, half science."

David said after hearing all the evidence, jurors walked into deliberations ready to find for the caregivers.

Manfred Muller, 46, a German-born sculptor and public works artist, spent months in the hospital after rolling his SUV off of Interstate 5 in October of 1999.

The crash knocked Muller unconscious and broke his leg, pelvis, shoulder, hip, several ribs and both ankles.

Muller's lung was punctured, and he suffered from a concussion and burns to his forearm. He also separated the bones connecting his hand and wrist, according to court documents.

At issue in the case was whether Muller's caregivers should have diagnosed him and treated him for a condition in his hand called "compartment syndrome," where strained muscles expand and the blood running to them is cut off.

Muller's lawyers said doctors missed the diagnosis, which led to an infection. The infection spread and eventually took over his arm, they said.

Defense attorneys maintained that the condition never existed and said the injuries sustained in crash were to blame for Muller's damaged hand and arm. They called his recovery miraculous and said he is a testament to the good care he received.

Jurors appeared troubled after making their ruling Wednesday afternoon. Many of them gathered in the entryway to the Santa Monica Superior Courtroom to speak with Muller and the attorneys who tried the case.

One woman juror cried.

Muller stood quietly in the courtroom

after the ruling. He and his wife, Rose, thanked their attorneys and the courtroom staff. They stayed afterwards to speak with jurors.

When asked how he felt about the ruling, Muller smiled and thought for awhile before saying he was "a little frustrated."

"The system worked for the doctors," Muller said quietly in a light German accent. "Let me digest it. I only have to digest that."

"It's hard. There's no recompense. There's no making up for the loss of his arm. I think we all kind of feel that loss."

- ERIC DAVID
juror

Attorneys for the doctors and two hospitals that cared for Muller during his recovery said they were confident in their case throughout the trial.

After the accident, Muller was taken from I-5 by helicopter to University Medical Center in Fresno, where he underwent emergency surgery.

Two weeks later, Muller was transferred to Daniel Freeman Hospital in Inglewood to receive care from a team of specialists. While at DFH, Muller developed the infection.

After surgeons went to drain the infection and found that it had spread, Muller was transferred to UCLA where his arm was amputated just below the elbow.

Muller's artwork has appeared in museums and public spaces around the world. He is credited with the two 15-foot bright red Dories attached to the pilings under the Santa Monica Pier.

Study says drug courts save millions by cutting prison time

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California's specialized drug courts have saved the state millions of dollars by cutting prison and jail time and reducing recidivism, according to a pair of studies presented to the Judicial Council of California.

Drug courts use designated staff and schedules to process illegal drug cases. They have received growing support from judges and law enforcement officials who view it as a tougher alternative to Proposition 36, the voter initiative that requires substance abuse treatment for many nonviolent offenders.

By contrast, drug courts generally give judges more leeway to send offenders to jail or prison if they do not respond to treatment. The courts predate the 2000 drug treatment initiative in California and have seen growing use nationally.

The Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Collaborative Justice presented two studies Tuesday, the first focusing on drug courts in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Butte counties.

It found that the drug courts saved about \$200,000 a year for each of the 100 participants in the study. With 90 courts statewide averaging a hundred participants each, the study estimated the courts

could be saving the criminal justice system as much as \$18 million a year.

The second study was by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

It concluded that arrest rates declined 85 percent for 1,945 drug court graduates in 17 counties, comparing the offenders' arrest records two years before and two years after they completed the drug court program.

Conviction rates for the same offenders dropped 77 percent and incarceration rates declined 83 percent, the study found.

It also examined the employment histories of 2,892 drug court participants from 28 counties, finding that 62 percent were unemployed when they entered the program but 70 percent had jobs by the time they left.

The study also found 96 percent of the 132 babies born to program participants were drug free at birth.

The report comes a month after the Little Hoover Commission reported that California annually spends billions of dollars to fight or respond to drug addiction, but not very effectively.

Proposition 36, approved by voters in November 2000, requires that first- and second-time nonviolent drug offenders be sent to treatment programs instead of prison.

STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Officials snuff out smoking at parks

By The Associated Press

REDLANDS — Smoking will soon be banned at parks and playgrounds.

Cross-town rivals Redlands High School and Redlands East Valley High banded together Tuesday in a plea to the City Council to banish smoking within 100 feet of playgrounds and sports fields at city parks.

The council unanimously approved drafting an ordinance that would prohibit smoking at playgrounds and sports fields, but left open the issue of how close smokers could be to the venues before lighting up. The proposal comes back to the council May 6.

It would toughen a state law that took effect on Jan. 1 that prohibits smoking and cigarette disposal within the area of playgrounds and sandboxes. The radius is typically within 50 feet of play areas. The law allows local jurisdictions to expand the prohibited area.

The Santa Monica City Council approved a law banning smoking in all city parks.

Under the state law, violators face a \$250 fine.

Councilman Jon Harrison said he was concerned that banishing smokers to 100 feet from specified areas could result in some parents not taking their children to parks. He lobbied for a shorter distance and was supported by Councilwoman Pat Gilbreath.

"It potentially has the opportunity to force a child back into the house," Harrison said. "Extending it out may have a negative effect. I don't see the need to extend it out."

Students want the longer 100 feet because it places too much space between a parent and child, making it likely they won't light up at all.

More lanes for LAX screening

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Passenger security screening lanes will be built at three congested terminals to improve safety and speed for travelers at Los Angeles International Airport.

The \$1.1 million project to speed the flow of travelers through checkpoints and eliminate potential terrorist targets is expected to be completed by June 1.

An additional lane will be constructed at Terminal 1, which now has six lanes, one lane will be added at Terminal 3, which now has three, and four lanes will be added at the Tom Bradley International Terminal, where there are currently eight lanes.

Passengers have experienced waits of up to two hours at the Bradley Terminal since LAX installed minivan-size explosives-detection machines in the terminal lobby late last year, according to a report.

Trash fee hike to pay for more cops

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mayor James K. Hahn wants to hike trash collection fees to pay for 320 more police officers.

The pickup cost for single-family homes would go to \$10, a 66 percent increase over the current \$6 fee. The City Council, which must approve a hike, was briefed on the plan this week.

The increase is a way to get more officers on the street without extensive layoffs elsewhere. The increase would cover the bulk of the nearly \$30 million cost of boosting the police force.

The trash fee hike is part of the \$5.1 billion budget the mayor will submit to the council Friday. Council members will hold hearings and will vote to adopt a budget by the end of May.

"For each resident, that's a small price to pay to have more officers on the street," said Councilwoman Janice Hahn, the mayor's sister. "It's a tough year. Everybody knows it."

Councilman Eric Garcetti said rates would still be lower than in many cities.

"We are still a steal when it comes to trash services," he said.

Whining about the winemakers

By The Associated Press

AGUA DULCE — One of the first wineries to operate under Los Angeles County's relaxed rules for commercial winemaking was forced to close this week because of complaints about traffic and noise, among other things.

Regional Planning Department director James Hartl insisted Monday that the 90-acre Agua Dulce Vineyards shut its doors. The vineyard, which opened in October 2001, had been operating under a waiver while the county reviewed its application for a conditional use permit.

Winery co-owner Don MacAdam said they were unfairly targeted by a small number of residents in an adjacent subdivision. The winery and neighbors have been in a bitter civil court fight involving claims that the winery is using up the residents' water supplies.

Winery employee Nancy Young said the winery has been following all the rules set by the county. The winery opened soon after county supervisors lifted a 50-year-old ban on commercial winemaking in unincorporated areas.

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STATE

Examiners rely on tests to determine identity of body

BY BETH FOUHY
 Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Even badly decomposed human corpses, like those of a woman and an infant boy that washed up on a bayside park, offer up valuable clues that can guide investigators in making a positive identification, forensic experts say.

Examiners are trying to determine if the woman's body is that of missing Modesto resident Laci Peterson, who was eight months pregnant when she disappeared Christmas Eve. On Sunday, the body of an infant was discovered about a mile from where the woman's body was later found, and part of the ongoing forensic analysis will be trying to determine if there is a genetic link between the two.

Dr. Henry Lee, former director of the Connecticut State Police Forensic Science Laboratory and a noted criminologist who provided expert testimony in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, said examiners often do a series of initial anthropological measurements on skeletal remains, particularly bones, as a first step in making an identification.

"Even in water, bones will not shrink or expand," Lee said. "They are constant."

If the height of the skeleton is determined not to match the height of a missing person, Lee said that person can be eliminated.

Making a positive identification, as opposed to ruling someone out, is usually more difficult and time consuming. Experts said that analyzing dental records is the best way to identify a body that has decomposed, but that particular measurement may not be of help in this case. A Contra Costa County sheriff's deputy would not comment Tuesday on published reports that the woman's body came ashore missing its head and legs.

Fingerprints are also a key way to determine identity. Lee said that even after months in the water, if there is any remnant of skin on the victim's fingers a fingerprint can be reconstructed. An examiner would remove skin cells from the fingers and place them in a petri dish, adding glycerine to let them slowly rehydrate. Eventually, the print would be recreated.

"Even in water, bones will not shrink or expand. They are constant."

— DR. HENRY LEE
 Forensic expert

If dental and fingerprint records can't be used, the next step would be to extract DNA from the body, usually from a dense bone such as the thigh bone. Examiners would then compare it to a DNA sample lifted from personal items.

"Things used by her and only by her," said Benny DelRe, director of the Santa Clara County Crime Lab. "Her toothbrush, since it would have cell samples from her mouth. The razor she uses to shave her legs. A hairbrush that has some hair with root material attached. Any of those would be great reference items."

If comparing the DNA sample to those items proved inconclusive, DelRe said investigators would probably seek a blood test from the victim's mother and father, to do a so-called paternity workup.

A paternity workup would also be the best way to determine whether the body of the infant came from the dead woman.

"You would take a DNA test from the fetus and compare it with her, and with Mr. Peterson, to determine paternity," said Lee.

Theories offered on how dead woman could deliver baby

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Investigators searching for a link between the bodies of a woman and an infant boy that washed ashore separately on the Richmond waterfront may find clues in an unusual medical phenomenon called "coffin birth."

Coffin birth is a term used by coroners for a spontaneous birth by a dead pregnant woman. It occurs when the gas that builds up naturally in the abdomen and pelvic area of a decomposing body produces enough pressure to push the unborn baby through the birth canal and out the corpse.

Boyd Stephens, chief medical examiner for San Francisco, said the term does not get much usage anymore since it was coined when bodies were much less likely to be embalmed. "If a body is properly embalmed, it's not likely to happen," he said.

Stephens said that when a pregnant woman dies and her body is not embalmed, it could take weeks or even months for a post-mortem birth to take place.

"If someone is pregnant and decomposing in a temperature of 110 degrees, it will happen much more quickly than if

they're decomposing in a temperature of 40 degrees," he said.

Another explanation for how a fetus could become separated from its dead mother is if her body was torn open in death or decomposed to the point where there was nothing to hold the baby inside, according to Stephens.

Coffin birth is a term used by coroners for a spontaneous birth by a dead pregnant woman.

Published reports have suggested the adult body found in Richmond came ashore with no head or legs, but a Contra Costa County sheriff's deputy declined to comment on the reports.

Investigators are working to determine if the woman's body is that of Modesto resident Laci Peterson. Peterson was eight months pregnant and due to deliver a baby boy on Feb. 10 when she disappeared from her home on Christmas Eve.

NATIONAL



Insurance company issues cameras in bid to fight fraud

BY FRANK ELTMAN

Associated Press Writer

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — After the crash, click.

State Farm is distributing 77,000 disposable cameras to Long Island auto insurance customers as part of a new program to cut fraud. The customers are being asked to keep the cameras in their cars to document damages in an accident.

"Fraud in New York state is a \$1 billion business," State Farm spokeswoman Karyn Garsky said. The cost of the cameras is estimated to be at least \$100,000 — a

small investment, Garsky said, compared to the losses from fraudulent claims.

State Farm hopes a policyholder using the camera at a crash scene will prevent the other driver from making claims for damages resulting from other circumstances.

State Farm is believed to be the first insurance company to offer cameras to its customers, said P.J. Crowley, a vice president of the industry-backed Insurance Information Institute.

"This is definitely a low-tech solution, but the kind of thing that can pay off just by preventing a small number of fraud accidents from turning into thousands of dollars

in payouts," Crowley said.

If successful, the insurance company may expand the program nationwide.

The voluntary program is beginning in Long Island's Nassau County because agents there came up with the idea. The 15-exposure cameras were mailed to customers this month. After the cameras are used, customers take them to their agents for developing.

Hofstra University law professor Roy Simon, a State Farm customer who received a camera, applauded the goal of cutting down on fraud, although he admitted to some skepticism.

"It's putting all the evidence in the hands of State Farm, which may or may not be to the advantage of the policyholder. In a way, it keeps a leash on policyholders," Simon said.

Garsky said extra prints can be made for a policyholder who requests them, although she conceded that legally, the photographs would remain the property of the insurance company.

Sallie Mae forced to increase monthly payments on 800,000 student loans

BY STEVE GIEGERICH

AP Education Writer

A computer programming error has forced Sallie Mae, the nation's largest provider of student loans, to increase the monthly payments of 800,000 borrowers.

Letters informing the borrowers of the increase went out this week from company headquarters in Reston, Va.

Sallie Mae spokeswoman Kathleen deLaski said Wednesday the company expects 90 percent of the monthly increases to be \$40 or less. The average increase, she added, should be \$25 per month.

"It is our error and we're sending out letters apologizing for it," said deLaski.

The readjustment will affect borrowers with consolidated, or 10-year loans with variable rates — similar to adjustable rate mortgages.

The miscalculation will not impact the other 6.2 million student loans owned or managed by Sallie Mae, deLaski said. She attributed the problem to an "installa-

tion error" that resulted in the entry of improper interest tables into company computers.

The mistake resulted in a payment schedule that didn't match the total amount of principal and interest owed by the borrowers.

"The people who noticed it on the borrower's side were near the end of the term and realized that there was a mismatch between how much they had to pay and how much time was left to pay," deLaski said.

The spokeswoman said borrowers unable to pay the extra amount added to their monthly payments may apply for a loan extension.

As a "good will gesture," deLaski said borrowers will receive credit from Sallie Mae for any extra interest charged to their accounts. She estimated the cost of the credit will be \$8 million.

The problem did not result in borrowers paying amounts that exceed the terms of their original loan and interest agreements, she said.

Enron's art, photographs auctioned off

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Contemporary art and photograph collections owned by Enron Corp. are going on the auction block to help pay the bankrupt company's creditors.

A U.S. bankruptcy judge Tuesday authorized Phillips de Pury & Luxembourg, an international art auction house, to conduct both sales.

The artwork will be auctioned May 15 and 16 in New York, and the photographs will be sold sometime in the fall.

The collection is expected to bring \$1.3 million to \$1.8 million, Phillips de Pury & Luxembourg spokes-

woman Elissa Swanger said Wednesday. Enron creditors have filed 23,000 claims worth \$400 billion.

Among the 10 art pieces to be sold is Claes Oldenburg's "Soft Light Switches," a vinyl pop sculpture of what appears to be a melted light switch.

The collection was purchased by the company's in-house art committee, headed by Lea Fastow, the wife of indicted former chief financial officer Andrew Fastow.

The committee had a budget of \$20 million and made purchases of about \$4 million from late 2000 until it disbanded in 2001, when the energy company collapsed.

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briefs

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WSC-AE011



INTERNATIONAL

United States and North Korean to 'work it out'

BY SANG-HUN CHOE

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and North Korea will try to resolve their six-month standoff over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons program in talks arranged by China, the communist North's closest ally, U.S. and South Korean officials said Wednesday.

The Beijing talks could happen as early as next week, officials said. Japanese media, citing unnamed sources, said they would start April 23.

China will participate in the discussions, the first between Washington and Pyongyang since U.S. officials said in October that North Korea admitted running a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

Washington has called for multilateral talks to resolve the issue, and renewed its promise Wednesday to try to bring other nations — especially South Korea and Japan — into the talks.

Pyongyang earlier insisted on negotiations only with Washington, but agreed last week to allow China at the table.

"I think that at our urging, China, at a very senior level, pressed the North Koreans to agree to multilateral talks, as did South Korea and Japan," said Sean McCormack, a national security spokesman at the White House.

The talks likely will cool tensions on the Korean Peninsula, roiled for months by sabre-rattling rhetoric from North Korea and massive, joint U.S.-South Korean military drills.

Yet there is a sense of urgency about the situation

because North Korea, already believed to have one or two nuclear weapons, could extract enough plutonium for several more bombs within months if it begins reprocessing existing stocks of spent nuclear fuel.

North Korea has accused the United States of planning to invade once the war in Iraq is over. President Bush — who once described North Korea as part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq — has said he wants to resolve the nuclear crisis peacefully, but he has not ruled out a military solution.

North Korea has a history of engaging in tough bargaining in prolonged negotiations.

"We don't anticipate an immediate breakthrough, but we're looking for progress," McCormack said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said the quick U.S. military success in Iraq may have influenced Pyongyang's thinking on opening diplomatic discussions.

"The one thing that is absolutely clear, is that at whatever level it starts, and with whatever attendance, it has to ultimately encompass the views and thoughts of all the neighbors in the region," Powell has said.

In Seoul, South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan welcomed the talks but demanded that the meetings be expanded in the future to include Japan, Russia and South Korea. Seoul and Tokyo are considered key donors for the aid package that likely would be part of any deal with the impoverished North.

"It is of paramount importance that talks begin to lay the foundation for a peaceful solution to this problem," Yoon said. "But we won't share the burden resulting

from any talks that we do not participate in."

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi welcomed multilateral talks.

"It's good for talks to begin; the countries involved will work with North Korea," he said. "This is something Japan desires, too."

China first proposed the three-way talks in March, and the United States accepted the offer after consulting with South Korea, Yoon said. North Korea agreed last week, he said.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said he believed North Korea "will take the road of reform and openness, if economic aid and its political system are guaranteed."

China's involvement in the talks is a victory for the Bush administration.

Chinese diplomats repeatedly have delayed a discussion of the crisis in the U.N. Security Council. Last week, after agreeing to discuss the topic in the council, China blocked a motion by Washington to condemn North Korea.

In the talks with Washington, North Korea is expected to repeat its demands for a nonaggression treaty. U.S. officials say they have ruled that out but still could consider a written security guarantee of some form.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan was encouraged by the possibility of resolving the crisis diplomatically, U.N. deputy spokeswoman Hua Jiang said in New York.

Annan and his personal envoy, Maurice Strong, "will continue to lend their full support to this process while concentrating on humanitarian and longer-term development needs" of North Korea, she said.

War general surveys palace amenities with disgust

WAR, from page 1

from Saddam's military.

Iraqis in Mosul said three people were killed and at least 11 wounded when shooting erupted for the second straight day. Iraqis blamed the Americans, but the circumstances were cloudy.

Gen. Tommy Franks, in command of more than 200,000 troops in the war zone, lit up a cigar as he toured the palace just outside Baghdad that had been part of Saddam's realm. Franks and other senior officers sat in plush green chairs with gold, wood trim for the briefing with Bush in Washington, held over a secure video-conference linkup.

Earlier, the four-star general viewed, with evident disgust, gold sink fixtures, a gold toilet paper dispenser and a toilet bowl brush inside one of the bathrooms.

"It's the oil for palace program," he said, a biting reference to the U.N. program that allowed Iraqi oil exports on condition that the proceeds went to food for civilians.

Franks' visit to Baghdad, from his command headquarters in Qatar, came less than two weeks after Army tanks first rumbled through the capital and one week after Iraqis, aided by Marines, toppled a statue of Saddam in a downtown city square, signaling the end of his regime.

Saddam twice was the target of U.S. bombs dropped on places where he was believed to be, but his whereabouts are unknown. U.S. officials say they don't know if he is dead or alive.

"The fact of the matter is, though, he is gone. Whether he is dead or alive, he is gone," Secretary of State Colin Powell told Associated Press Television News. "He is no longer in the lives of the people of Iraq."

Slowly, cities across Iraq were struggling to shed the effects of the war. After days of looting and mayhem in Baghdad, Americans armed newly recruited Iraqi police officers with handguns to help keep order. And citizens sought to pick up their normal lives.

"The market is open and products are



Jean-Marc Bouju/Associated Press

SPC Richard Heglund of Wilmington, Delaware, of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, writes "USA" on the hands of a crowd of Iraqi children in Baghdad on Wednesday.

available," said Tadamoun Abdel-Aziz as she shopped with her son for eggs, bread and vegetables in the downtown Irkheita Market. But with power only partially restored and temperatures in the 90s, residents bought three-foot blocks of ice.

American commandos backed by about 40 Marines staged the raid on the residence of Rihab Taha, dubbed "Dr. Germ" by U.N. weapons inspectors. Taha, a microbiologist, was in charge of Iraq's secret biological laboratory, suspected of weaponizing anthrax.

Three men emerged from the raid on her home with their hands up, and American troops removed several boxes of documents. Her whereabouts were unknown.

Administration officials cited the desire to eliminate weapons of mass destruction as one key reason for the war, although none has yet been found. "We're really just in the early stages of that"

search, Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks told reporters at a briefing in Qatar.

U.N. weapons inspectors also failed to find any banned weapons during prewar searches. Hans Blix, the chief inspector, is expected to appear before the U.N. Security Council next week to discuss a possible resumption of the effort — even though the United States has not invited the international team back into Iraq.

A Marine spokesman, Cpl. John Hoellwarth, said the terrorist training camp consisted of about 20 permanent buildings on 25 acres south of Baghdad, and was operated by the Palestine Liberation Front and the Iraqi government.

He said recruits were apparently instructed in the art of bomb-making, adding that Marines found chemicals, beakers and pipes at the site, along with questionnaires that asked recruits to state their preferences. Hoellwarth said many

volunteered for suicide missions.

The discovery came less than a day after American officials disclosed the capture in Baghdad of Abul Abbas, a Palestinian behind the 1985 hijacking of an Italian cruise ship in which one American was killed. Other suspects were taken in a series of raids that also netted weapons such as rocket-propelled grenades, military officials said.

Together, the events buttressed the Bush administration's long-standing claims that Iraq under Saddam provided sanctuary to terrorists.

At the same time, there was reduced concern about the terrorist threat at home.

The threat level was raised to orange on March 17, days before the war began. And in lowering it, the administration said the end of heavy fighting in Iraq had diminished the threat, but cautioned that risks remain.

The yellow level signifies an elevated risk of terrorist attacks. It is the middle level on the five-tier danger scale. Orange suggests a high risk and is the second-highest level.

Circumstances of the reported shootings in Mosul were unclear. Several of the wounded said American troops had shot them. But a Marine sergeant denied that, saying American troops shot back after coming under fire from nearby gunmen.

Mohammed Rabi Sheet, an administrator at Juhuriya Hospital, said three people were killed and 11 wounded, including two children.

It was the second outbreak of gunfire in as many days in Mosul, a city of 700,000 where Arabs and Kurds are highly suspicious of one another and tensions have been high since American forces rolled in a week ago.

Iraqis accused Americans of opening fire on a crowd in an incident Tuesday, but Brooks denied that. He said troops guarding a wall around a government complex fired warning shots after seeing Iraqis firing into the air.

Brooks said Americans were shot at, then began firing at people in the crowd, including some trying to scale the wall.

SPORTS



Blake falls to Coria



Lionel Cironneau/Associated Press
James Blake, of the United States, hits the ball against Guillermo Coria, of Argentina, during the second round of the Monte Carlo Open tournament in Monaco on Wednesday. Coria won 6-0, 6-7, 6-3.

Possible buyer of Angels could boost Hispanic market

BY DANNY POLLOCK
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES— If Arturo Moreno succeeds in buying the Anaheim Angels, he would become the first Hispanic to own a major league franchise, taking over a team based in a community with a large and growing Hispanic population.

To major league baseball and industry experts, that could be a match made in marketing heaven.

"It's not just the fact that he has a Spanish name. It's also the fact that he understands the game and is passionate about it," said David Carter, who owns a sports consulting firm in Los Angeles. "He can deliver baseball to a very important burgeoning market — young Hispanics."

Moreno, who made a fortune in the billboard industry, has not spoken publicly since he reportedly reached an agreement in principle with the Walt Disney Co. to buy the Angels for about \$180 million.

Moreno, a 56-year-old businessman from Tucson, Ariz., is described by associates as savvy, with working-class roots could appeal to Hispanics, both in the United States and abroad.

"It's significant, from the standpoint of the region and the standpoint of major league baseball," Carter said. "If you look at the direction of baseball, it needs to redouble efforts to reach new, younger and ethnic fans."

Angels catcher Bengie Molina said he hoped that ownership by Moreno, if the agreement is finalized, would bring more Hispanics to the ballpark.

"I don't know if it will be positive or negative. It's

kind of hard to tell right now, because there's nobody being a Latino owner," he said.

But he added that it could open doors "for us Latinos who want to come up and play the game, and play for the big leagues."

The league has worked hard in recent years to gain fans in Central America and the Caribbean. It has played opening-day games in Mexico and Puerto Rico.

The Angels' fan base has been predominantly white during its first four decades. But Carter said Moreno almost certainly would try to capitalize on the demographics of Orange County, where one-third of the 3 million residents are Hispanic.

"We are working very hard to market the game overseas," said Richard Levin, a spokesman for major league baseball. "We would appreciate whatever help we could get."

Levin said the league had no information about the agreement, which would need approval by 22 of the 30 team owners. Disney spokeswoman Michele Nachum declined comment.

Aggressively marketing the Angels to a Hispanic audience would be a change from Disney's approach. The company promoted the Angels and its NHL franchise, the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, at its theme parks and would tout those parks and other products at games.

The team won the World Series last year for the first time in its 42-year history but has lost money since Disney bought it after former owner Gene Autry's death in 1998, paying \$147 million.

Junior Seau finds a new home in Miami with Dolphins

BY STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

DAVIE, Fla. — Junior Seau wanted to look sharp on his first day with the Miami Dolphins, wearing a blue pinstripe suit, a red tie and black size-15 sandals.

Sandals?

"These toes are so beat up," he said with a smile. "Maybe that's why they kicked me out of San Diego — I never made the dress code."

In truth, the Chargers parted with Seau because he's 34 and on the downside of a sparkling career. The Dolphins eagerly provided a new home, acquiring the 12-time Pro Bowl linebacker Wednesday in exchange for a late-round 2004 draft pick.

Seau's relationship with the Chargers soured after 13 seasons with his hometown team, and they gave him permission last month to seek a trade. Describing himself as fired, unemployed and humbled, he quickly settled on Miami as his first choice.

He likes the Dolphins because they play on grass in warm weather and have a talent-laden, albeit underachieving roster with championship potential.

"Junior Seau needed the Miami Dolphins more than the Miami Dolphins needed Junior Seau," he said, clutching a Miami jersey with his familiar No. 55.

Maybe so, but the Dolphins were delighted with the acquisition. Seau gives them eight returning Pro Bowl players, including seven on defense — a staggering total for a team that missed the playoffs and hasn't been to the Super Bowl since 1984.

Coach Dave Wannstedt resisted the temptation to describe Seau as the player who can get Miami over the hump. But he lauded Seau's talent, passion and professionalism.

"Opportunity knocked," Wannstedt

said. "It's a great day for the Dolphins."

Middle linebacker Zach Thomas agreed. "I never thought I would be playing side-by-side with a Hall of Famer," Thomas said. "It's like playing offense with Dan Marino."

Joining a cast that includes Thomas, Jason Taylor and Sam Madison, Seau said he'll happily fill a complementary role rather than serve as the centerpiece.

"I look forward to working with these studs," he said. "I just have to come in and be the fluff. I'm the glitter. I'm the fanfare."

The Chargers will receive a fifth- or sixth-round draft choice next year, depending on how much Seau plays this season.

Seau wants to complete his contract, which runs through 2005, but his productivity has dropped each of the past two seasons. He missed a career-high three games in 2002 because of an ankle injury that bothered him much of the year and required postseason surgery, and his 84 tackles were a career low.

But he passed a physical Wednesday, the final step to complete the trade. While Seau joked that it took two hours to X-ray his numerous old injuries, he said he expects to be healthier with the Dolphins than in 2002.

"I can't wait to go out there and test myself," he said. "The first quarter of the year was a great year. Soon after that it was a year where I had to bandage up and shoot up, and it wasn't pleasant."

A fitness fanatic, Seau said he plans to participate in all of the Dolphins' offseason workouts. The first mini-camp begins May 2.

He'll likely replace Derrick Rodgers, a five-year starter at outside linebacker. Miami is expected to trade or release Rodgers, whose \$1.8 million salary-cap figure makes him too expensive to keep as a backup.

Seau began his news conference by paying tribute to Chargers general manager John Butler, who died last week of lung cancer, and thanking the city of San Diego for its support. He'll return there to play against the Chargers on Oct. 27 — his first Monday night game since 1996.

The trade is the first major deal for Miami since a dismal December collapse. Seau said that when the Dolphins routed San Diego 30-3 on Nov. 24, he thought they were Super Bowl-bound.

"They were that good," he said. "We really didn't have a chance. They ran on

us, they passed on us, they played great defense. I got on the bus and said to a buddy, 'There shouldn't be an AFC team that beats the Miami Dolphins.'"

Instead, they lost three of the final five games to finish 9-7.

Seau's former team has an even less impressive late-season history. He won three playoff games with San Diego, and his most recent postseason appearance was in 1995, when the Chargers went to the Super Bowl.

By moving 2,200 miles, he figures he's closer to a Super Bowl ring.

Three-time NBA finals MVP could miss early playoff game

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Shaquille O'Neal and his wife Shaunie expect a child within the week and that could force the Los Angeles' Lakers center to miss a game during the team's quest for a fourth straight championship.

O'Neal, in Oakland Wednesday for the Lakers' final regular season game against the Golden State Warriors, has taken time off in the past to be with his newborn children and their mother.

Lakers' spokesman John Black referred all questions to O'Neal's agent Michael Parris, who did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

The Lakers are expected to open the best-of-seven Western Conference first round on the road in a weekend game against either Dallas, Minnesota or Portland, depending on the results of Wednesday night's games. O'Neal has been named most valuable player of the champi-

onship series for three years in a row.

Laker Coach Phil Jackson said Tuesday he hoped any question regarding O'Neal's availability would be answered this week, before playoff games begin.

"We talked a little bit about the importance of these games to the organization," Jackson told the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin in Ontario. "I don't know where he (Shaquille) is at. ... Medically I don't know what the situation is."

Two weeks ago O'Neal mentioned the possibility of inducing labor before the playoffs begin, the newspaper said. But on Tuesday O'Neal said he was unsure about the couple's plans regarding the birth of a son whose due date is April 22.

O'Neal and his wife met with doctors on Monday but Jackson said he didn't know if their plans included inducing labor.

The couple, married on Dec. 26, 2002, have two other children together and two others from previous relationships.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$750.00 Studio,
cat ok, r/s, hardwood,
prkng.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$795.00 Studio,
pet ok, pool, quiet, month to
month.

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SANTA MONICA \$895 1bdrm/1ba,
appliances, no pets, gas paid.
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Santa Monica, CA. Manager
in #101.

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great location, r/s, prkng.

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SM 2BDRM/1.5BA \$2150.00
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modeled, french doors, prkng,
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very clean, parking laundry, gat-
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pool.

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VENICE \$900 1bdrm/1ba Bungal-
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ed w/lots of charm. 1 year
lease, no pets, no smoking.
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VENICE BEACH \$1995
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of windows, lots of storage.
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lease incentives! 1 year lease,
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VENICE BEACH \$695.00 Very
nice, studio w/fresh paint & car-
pet. 1/2 block from beach. 1
year lease, no pets. (310)396-
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VENICE BEACH \$925.00 Single
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the beach. Recently remodeled
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VENICE BEACH Single \$850
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block from beach, 1 year lease,
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VENICE BEACH Studio \$825
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shops and restaurants. Parking
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SANTA MONICA \$895.00
Guest House, r/s, quiet, quiet,
prkng.

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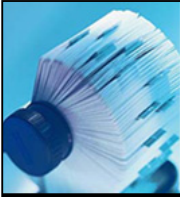
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SANTA MONICA °SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2003

EVENTS

UNURBAN COFFEE HOUSE presents Comedy Crunch every Thursday evening. Showtime is 7pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

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. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

DHARMA AT THE CLUBHOUSE A weekly book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 to 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santamonickksg.org

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.

RUSTY'S SURF RANCH 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceiling are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970s surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386, Saturday - Billy Vera & the Beaters, Pure.

VICE AT CLUB SUGAR with resident DJs Tomoki (Afterhour, Sound Selection, Fourteen40 crew), Neo-gents (Afterhour, Sound Selection, Fourteen40 crew), Mickey the Rat (nongeneration, Fourteen40 crew) spinning all things electronic. 10pm to 2am, 814 Broadway, cross street Lincoln Blvd. Only \$5. (310)899-1989.

O'BRIENS IRISH PUB 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725

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EL CHOLO - Famous for award-winning margaritas & green corn tamales. Enjoy our lively bar, comfy dining rooms or sunny patio for lunch and dinner daily. 1025 Wilshire Blvd., 310.889.1106

LIBRARY ALEHOUSE - A gathering place for great food, hand crafted beer and friendly service. Beautiful garden patio. Daily specials. 2911 Main St., 310.314.4855

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OMELETTE PARLOR - Best breakfast in LA. This is where the locals go! 2732 Main St., 310.399.7892

PANINI GARDEN - "The Locals Favorite" for gourmet European breakfast, lunch & dinner. Featuring fresh crepe, panini grilled sandwiches and delightful salads. dine on our charming patio, or call for delivery. 2715 Main St., 310.399.9939

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

ACADEIES - 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 CINEMA**

1441 Third St. at Broadway
Phone Booth (R) 11:45, 12:50, 1:55, 3:00, 4:05, 5:10, 6:15, 7:20, 8:25, 9:30, 10:35. A Mighty Wind (PG-13) 12:00, 1:05, 2:30, 3:35, 5:00, 6:05, 7:30, 8:35, 10:00.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:30, 2:05, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20. Basic (R) 11:35, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 10:05. Chasing Papi 11:45, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30. Old School (R) 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15. A Man Apart (R) 11:15, 2:00, 5:05, 8:00, 10:35. House of 1,000 Corpses (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Anger Management (PG-13) 12:00, 1:00, 2:35, 4:15, 5:10, 6:45, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15. Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30. Chicago (PG-13) 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45. What a Girl Wants (PG) 2:05, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35. Head of State (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00. The Pianist (R) 12:40, 4:05, 7:20, 10:25.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

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



Miss Nude World hits the heartland

By The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Miss Nude World pageant, planned at a strip club north of the city in October, isn't the kind of event city convention officials say they generally would endorse.

But organizers say the contest, featuring up to 75 exotic dancers from around the world, could draw up to 10,000 spectators to the area.

"I guess anything that has a potential to bring outside visitors to town is somewhat positive," said Greg Edwards, president of the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The contest, which in recent years has been held in Atlanta and Miami, will be held Oct. 20-25 at the Lumber Yard strip club. The winner gets \$10,000.

"In our industry, this is the biggest event in the world," said Mike Kent, the Lumber Yard's manager.

License plates with a smile

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston is trying to put a happy face on traffic.

Lawmakers are considering a specialty license plate featuring a yellow Smiley Face.

The simple design, created in 1963 by the late Harvey R. Ball of Worcester, became an international icon in the 1970s.

"How can you be riding the tail of someone with a Smiley Face plate?" said Charles Ball, whose father died two years ago. "If there are enough of those plates on the road, all kidding aside, there would be a positive effect out there."

At the peak of their popularity in 1971, more than 50 million Smiley Face buttons were sold. The U.S. Postal Service issued a Smiley Face stamp in 1999.

Proceeds from the plate would go to the World Smile Foundation, a charitable trust run by Charles Ball. It distributes grants to schools and libraries across the state.

His father, co-owner of an advertising firm in Worcester, designed the Smiley Face to help ease the acrimonious aftermath following the merger of two insurance companies.

Serving up sobriety tests

By The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — Officers served beers, screwdrivers, tequila shooters and vodka Jell-O shots to people — then turned around and gave them sobriety tests for driving while intoxicated.

Those liquored up by police had volunteered Monday to help 40-plus law enforcement cadets learn how to spot drunken drivers and get them off the roads.

One volunteer drinker, Johnny Mares from Melrose, is a Curry County sheriff's deputy who gives field sobriety tests himself.

"Would I take myself to jail?" Mares asked after stumbling through a few tests. "Yes. But it's important for these guys to go through the tests and find out for themselves."

Before the field-sobriety tests, officials checked the volunteers — who drank for more than three hours — for blood-alcohol content. Their levels ranged from 0.07 to 0.18 percent. New Mexico's legal limit for DWI is 0.08.

Some cadets' estimates of the volunteers' drunkenness showed the importance of the training.

One cadet said he likely would have let a 21-year-

old Santa Fe woman go after she apparently passed the field sobriety tests. The woman registered a 0.18 blood-alcohol level.

Every certified law enforcement officer in the state — from local police officers to Game and Fish wardens — must complete the training.

Man masquerades as millionaire

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man masquerading as a millionaire filed an income tax return claiming he was owed a refund of more than \$1.5 million, authorities said.

Turns out he almost got it, they said.

Benjamin Harris, 47, of Brooklyn, was arrested and arraigned on charges of filing a false claim last year with the Internal Revenue Service. After pleading innocent, Harris was released on \$10,000 bond.

Defense attorney Heidi Cesare told a judge her client had made a career out of working temporary jobs, had no criminal record and had volunteered to meet with IRS investigators on tax deadline day. He soon found himself in handcuffs.

"Ironically, they scheduled (the meeting) for today, of all days," she said Tuesday.

The IRS denied the timing was calculated.

Prosecutors allege a 2001 return filed by Harris included a doctored W-2 form showing he made nearly \$9 million that year as an attorney for an employment agency, Temporary Time Capitol Corp. He claimed he paid \$3,196,431 in taxes and was owed \$1,580,065, court papers said.

Harris allegedly checked a box requesting the refund be directly deposited into his checking account at a Manhattan branch of HSBC, which was done. When he sought to withdraw money from an automatic teller machine, his bank notified him of a hold on an account that normally had an average balance of \$2,000.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2003 AT ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASSES AND SERVICES

HOLY THURSDAY, April 17th
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm
Adoration at the Altar of Repose after Mass until Midnight (Aud)
Night Prayer at 12:00 Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY, April 18th: 12:00 Noon- Stations of the Cross
1:00pm and 7:30pm: Solemn Liturgy
Holy Communion and Veneration of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, April 19th
Easter Vigil Liturgy at 7:30pm (no 5:30pm Mass)

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20th

MASS IN THE CHURCH
6:30, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am

MASS IN THE GYMNASIUM
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am and 1:15pm

MASS IN THE AUDITORIUM
9:45am and 11:45am

(No 5:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday)

701 California Avenue - Santa Monica - (310) 393-9287

PARKING WILL BE LIMITED IN OUR OWN LOT ON EASTER SUNDAY
EXTRA PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE AT CROWN PARKING,
1211 7th STREET, SOUTH OF WILSHIRE BOULEVARD.

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