

FREE

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 135

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

09, 13, 21, 27, 34

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 7, 0

Evening picks: 0, 2, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 07, Eureka

3rd Place: 05, California Classic

Race time: 1:41.72



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

In March, London's Daily Telegraph reported that North Korea's Kim Jong Il is so terrified of triplet babies that the government places them all in special orphanages. Quoting diplomats who have visited North Korea, the Telegraph said Kim might feel threatened because the number 3 in Korean mythology is associated with rapid rises to power. However, a North Korean official told the United Nations Human Rights Commission that Kim is actually helping the triplets by raising them in better circumstances than the parents could (because of the country's dire economy).

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Faith is believing what you know isn't so

INDEX

Horoscopes

Get some sleep, Cancer ... 2

Local

Santa Monica surf report ... 3

Opinion

Procrastinating on taxes ... 4

State

Spacecraft unveiled ... 7

National

Bush's environment ... 8

International

North Korea and nukes ... 10

Sports

'Bull Durham' flap ... 11

Classifieds

\$3.50 a day ... 13

Calendar

Movie listings ... 15

Bail granted to accused North Korean spy

Lawyers say he'll be out of jail next week

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica man accused of spying for the North Korean government was granted bail on Friday. John Joungwang Yai, 59, must

now come up with \$400,000 to be released from custody. His lawyers said he will be out by early next week.

"It's a good day for justice," said Michael Nasatir, one of Yai's two attorneys. "Now we can concentrate on proving his innocence. And we're going to prove his innocence."

A pre-trial conference is scheduled for May 2, but attorneys said

it will be the end of summer before Yai's case goes to trial.

Dressed in a prison-issued green jacket and bound by wrist and ankle cuffs, Yai listened to the proceedings through a Korean translator.

After the ruling, Yai turned and smiled at his wife, daughter and son, who watched from the front of the courtroom.

Yai, who until recently owned

the snack shop Bon Appetit on the 1800 block of Wilshire Boulevard, will use his sister-in-law's house and his Santa Monica condominium as collateral for a \$400,000 bond, his lawyers said. Additionally, he may have to liquidate a retirement fund estimated at \$100,000.

Yai was arrested Feb. 4 at his

See SPY, page 5

Crisis team specially trained to calm, listen

SM Police unit has been busy during the last month

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Police crisis negotiation team has successfully talked three people out of killing themselves in the past month.

The latest incident occurred last Wednesday when crisis negotiators spent three hours talking a suicidal man out of jumping off the roof of his two-story apartment building.

The SMPD received a call from a neighbor at 4:10 a.m. that a 30-year-old man was atop the building on the 900 block of 21st Street wearing a Navy uniform and wav-

ing an American flag.

When the team arrived, the man threatened to jump if they came near him. Negotiators were finally able to reason with him and convince him to come down at 7:20 a.m.

Late last month, two members of the crisis team successfully talked a woman out of jumping

from the bridge over the tunnel on Pacific Coast Highway at the intersection of Ocean Avenue and Colorado Boulevard.

Negotiators spent two hours talking to the woman, who was standing on a narrow ledge, barely clinging to a chain-link fence that separated her from police officers.

See CRISIS, page 5

Easter hug



A child expresses his feelings toward the Easter bunny on Friday at the Santa Monica Place Mall.

Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Iraqis demonstrate in Baghdad, demand swift U.S. departure

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

Iraqis exercised new freedoms and jockeyed for power in a new era on Friday, marching in Baghdad to demand the quick withdrawal of the same American troops and tanks that toppled Saddam Hussein.

"No to America, no to Saddam, our revolution is Islamic," chanted the demonstrators who spilled into the streets after prayers at one 1,300-year-old Sunni Muslim mosque.

At the same time, there were fresh reminders of the old regime, and the airing of a new videotape rekindled debate about Saddam's fate. Australian officials disclosed the discovery of dozens of Iraqi warplanes hidden at a vast airbase west of the capital, and American troops took custody of another leading

figure from Saddam's inner circle.

Abu Dhabi television aired the videotape, said to show Saddam in Baghdad on April 9, the day the city fell to American forces and his regime collapsed.

By contrast, a longtime Iraqi official said he believed Saddam had perished in an American bombing on April 7. "He must have been killed or everything would not have collapsed so quickly," said Sami Sadoun, who was most recently Iraq's ambassador to Serbia-Montenegro. He spoke in an interview with The Associated Press.

Power remained shut off for most residents in Baghdad, a city of 5 million. "Without power there is no peace," said Haifa Aziz, manager of a power substation.

See WAR, page 10

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, April 19, 2003:

Reach out for those at a distance. Investigate what the possibilities might be professionally by obtaining more education and reaching a higher level of knowledge and expertise. You will witness pay raises or promotions if you follow this course. Your diligence will also pay off. Emotionally, you will become much more upbeat during the late summer, when options drop on your plate. If you are single, you might meet someone who will encourage you to rethink your status. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom this summer. Allow more happiness in. SAGITTARIUS opens doors.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ If you're willing to explore and try different things, you'll discover how delightful life can and will be. Others come forward. The love temperature soars. Now, that's more like it. Imagine more of what you want. Tonight: Let it all happen.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Think in terms of greater success. Expansion on the home front now seems more than possible. Consider what would make you happy. Spend time with an older relative who means a lot to you. You could find that time flies when you're together. Tonight: Reach out for a loved one.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Reach out for those around you. Take time for your neighbor, dog or a friend. You inspire others. Schedule a day trip. Take off to yonder lands to gain a new perspective. Juggle your day in order to fit in all the people you would like to visit. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Take a leap of faith. Trust a partner and spend time together. Add romance to your relationship. A purchase that comes your way might be too good to say "no" to. Indulge and treat a friend to a good time. Make that extra effort. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Be less evasive. Others want to hear what you have to say. Think in terms of success and greater opportunities. A partner finally responds. You find that your words do make a difference. A relationship will heat up, if you're attached. If single, you'll notice someone's attention. Tonight: Be your naughty self.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Understand that what is happening could change a domestic situation. Put your best foot forward with an associate or someone you deal with on a day-to-day basis. Recognize just how much is going on between you and a friend. Tonight: Talk turkey.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Understand what might be happening within a relationship. Realize how much others care. Put your best foot forward, avoiding any excessive uproar. Sometimes you might wonder about how vague a loved one is and exactly why. Why not ask, if you want the answer? Tonight: Hang out at a favorite spot.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Examine just how much you need to put into a relationship. Really think through a long-term investment. You might like what happens with a child or loved one. Examine your long-term goals involving your work and personal life. Tonight: Invite a loved one out.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Know when to assume a low profile. Dance through a change, considering someone else's feelings. Reach out for someone at a distance. Your instincts help you hit a home run. You know what to do and when to do it. Help others lighten up. Tonight: Follow the music.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Know when to assume a low profile. How you manage to change gears so quickly delights a loved one. You might need or choose to be more vulnerable with that special person. Don't sell out. Keep aiming for more of what you want. Tonight: Relax and take a break.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Verify what you feel rather than making assumptions. Carefully consider your options that involve a loved one and a friend. You might not want to mix the two. Stay more even and direct in your dealings. Establish boundaries that are comfortable. Tonight: Where the party is.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Those in power make demands. You discover exactly what your limits are within a work-related friendship. Be grateful for this knowledge, because you could be quite uncomfortable otherwise. Listen to your sixth sense about a parent. Tonight: A must show.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Earth Day beach cleanup scheduled

By Daily Press staff

Members of the Church of Scientology Celebrity Center International Surf Club and the Church of Scientology of Santa Monica will hold their Third Annual Earth Day Beach Clean Up on Saturday, April 19th from 10 a.m. to noon, at Bay Street.

About 75 members will gather on the beach early Saturday morning to get their cleaning supplies, which were provided by "Heal the Bay," which supervises the California Coastal Commission's "Adopt a Beach" program in the L.A. area.

Disabled Santa Monica business owner honored

By Daily Press staff

In 1981 Marc Lerner was the classic picture of good health when he was suddenly struck with multiple sclerosis. The disease quickly rendered him legally blind and partially paralyzed but his spirit remained undaunted.

Without practical direction from the care-giving and medical communities, Lerner met the challenge of his life-threatening illness by drawing on his own inner resources. Soon after he reoriented his personal circumstances he felt a strong urge to share what he learned with other people experiencing similar struggles. The genesis of a business was born.

Lerner founded Life Skills Inc., in 1984. He began working with the mentally ill homeless in Santa Monica and moved on to assisting veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Then he applied the Life Skills Approach with cancer and AIDS patients in Midland, Michigan and in Los Angeles. Today, his firm offers instructional materials and seminars for people to meet any challenge they face. It targets a wide range of clients from corporations to government agencies, as well as community organizations and individual clients.

In recognition of his accomplishments, Lerner was named the Los Angeles SBA District Office's "Outstanding American with Disabilities Business Person" for their 2002 Minority Enterprise Development week. He received his award at SBA's MED Week Awards and Expo at the Kodak Theater on Oct. 8 before an audience of over 1,000 supporters of minority small business and the disabled.

The website for Life Skills Inc. that contains an online seminar and a description of services is www.lifeskillsinc.com. To find out more about the SBA's programs call (828)552-3203 or access their website at <http://www.sba.gov>.



surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Saturday swell will back off and surf should lose size. Most breaks hit around waist high.

Unfortunately, nothing new is expected Sunday so waves will likely see another decrease in height.

Water is a bit cleaner compared to earlier this week and should continue to improve as long as we don't get any more rain.



Today's Tides:

Low- 5:21 a.m. -1.16'
High- 11:36 a.m. 4.15'
Low- 4:54 p.m. 1.21'
High- 11:06 p.m. 6.11'

Location	Saturday	Sunday	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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OPINION

Columnist's hope: Taxation without procrastination



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

Last Tuesday night, just like every year, people were still lined up at the post office at midnight to drop off their tax returns. It makes no sense.

It's not like this is a surprise party. The due date is always April 15. Why do so many people always wait till the last minute? Why do people hate to pay taxes so much?

Thinking of taxes as loathsome and unfair is nothing new. It precedes those colonists who dumped tea in the harbor.

We grew up seeing those movies about when the King's henchmen arrive at a farmhouse to demand what they say is due the crown. These guys have bad teeth and horses that foam at the mouth and they take the poor farmer's money, his chick-

ens, and sometimes his buxom daughter.

And the image of the tax collector hasn't improved much since then. A lot of people still think the I.R.S. is foaming at the mouth.

Some claim that the reason they put off doing their taxes until the last minute is because they are so busy earning a living, that they don't have time to work on their taxes. I don't buy that.

President Bush has been pretty busy lately, but he found time to do his taxes. Evidently, just like a lot of people, he took his shoebox of receipts, dumped them on his accountant's desk, and sat there for an hour or two while the guy asked him questions like, "Are you sure you can prove you use your home for work?" Vice President Cheney got his done in time, and you know he didn't use the short form.

There is another group of people who say they don't like paying taxes because they hate the way the government spends the money. Apparently, it bothers these picky people that the government was once known for buying \$600 hammers and \$3,000 toilet seats.

And now they're probably a little reluctant to turn over their money to an administration that took a \$100 billion surplus and turned it into a \$100 billion deficit in its first year. (This was even before the war in Iraq).

These folks criticize the government's fiscal ability just because it does things like spend \$460 million for a ship the Defense Department didn't want and \$90,000 on the Cowgirl Hall of Fame and \$50,000 to study shitake mushrooms in Booneville, Arkansas. I guess what they object to is that sometimes it seems like money is burning a hole in the pockets of Uncle Sam's pin-stripe pants.

And it's our money — and our pants.

But I honestly believe that most people who don't pay their taxes until the last minute are not doing it for political reasons. They aren't doing it because they disapprove of the government's fiscal policy. They are doing it because it's natural to delay difficult or unpleasant things until the last moment.

They know they have to pay their

taxes. But they hold off as long as possible just as they do with making out a will, going to the dentist, or going out to dinner with that annoying couple who always eat off each other's plates.

But shouldn't we give up on all this last-minute stuff? If we know we have to do something, we should just do it.

So, my advice to the down-to-the-wire taxpayers is, next year just bite the bullet and get it done in advance. Face it, procrastination is silly and immature.

Come to think of it, I probably should have published this column earlier so you could have had this advice before this year's taxes were due. But I just didn't have it ready in time.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

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LOCAL



Accused spy could be out of jail by next week

SPY, from page 1

home, located at 909 Grant St. in Santa Monica. He is accused of being paid by the North Korean government to recruit agents to spy on the U.S. government. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in jail, prosecutors said.

He and his wife Susan, who remained free, each face up to 15 years on separate charges of bringing more than \$10,000 in cash into the country and making false statements to customs officials regarding the money.

About 20 relatives and reporters were present for the proceedings at the United States Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Victor Kenton overturned a February ruling denying Yai bail, saying he is not a threat to the community.

The only issue to be considered, the judge said, was whether Yai poses a flight risk.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Goodman argued that he did.

"This defendant faces potentially a lifetime in prison," he said.

William Genego, Yai's second attorney, countered by saying Yai poses no flight risk. He pointed to Yai's community and family ties and said Yai's family is willing to offer all of its assets in order to get him out of jail.

Once the judge made it clear he intended to grant bail, Goodman asked the court to order Yai to wear electronic monitoring equipment.

Nasatir then asked the judge to release Yai immediately with the understanding that bail be posted as soon as the paperwork could be completed with bondsmen. He called Yai a deeply religious man and said he should be allowed to celebrate Good Friday and Easter with his family.

Judge Kenton denied both attorneys, ruling that Yai will remain in custody until he posts bail and, if released, will not be required to wear electronic monitoring equipment.

As a condition of Yai's release, he will be held to a strict schedule of visits and

telephone calls from court officials assigned to supervise him. He will also be required to stay in southern California.

The FBI began watching Yai in 1995.

During the next eight years, investigators bugged Yai's downtown Los Angeles office and allegedly intercepted communications between Yai and North Korean officials, which were often loaded with code words, the FBI said.

"It's a good day for justice. Now we can concentrate on proving his innocence. And we're going to prove his innocence."

- MICHAEL NASATIR
Attorney for John Yai

A 76-page affidavit written by FBI special agent James G. Chang highlights those years of e-mail messages, faxes and telephone conversations between Yai, an agent he recruited and high ranking government officials in the People's Republic of China and North Korea.

Yai allegedly provided the North Korean government with information that was mostly available to the public in the United States via newspaper articles and the Internet. However, North Korean government officials allegedly instructed Yai in 1998 to obtain classified information and under no circumstances continue to feed them information already made public.

Yai explained to the agent working with him that the Korean government expected 100 to 150 reports a year and about 40 of them get submitted to top-ranking officials, according to the affidavit.

Crisis negotiators work side by side with SWAT

CRISIS, from page 1

Negotiators remained calm during the situation, even when the woman extended her arms out several times threatening to jump.

Two weeks before that, SMPD negotiators spent a half-hour convincing a homeless man known as "Tim" not to jump off the cliffs overlooking the Pacific Coast Highway.

There are only a handful of Santa Monica police officers trained in crisis negotiation, a highly specialized area of law enforcement used in situations that might go beyond the expertise of patrol officers.

"Crisis negotiation is a tool to resolve the situation without incident," said SMPD Lt. Carol Shepard, supervisor of the crisis negotiation team.

EMOTIONS RUN HIGH

Negotiators are specially trained to utilize verbal skills to save lives. SMPD

realizes that in most domestic crisis incidents, emotions run high. The emotion-based solution the individual chooses to resolve his or her problem can be changed given the right verbal or tactical strategy, police said.

Crisis negotiators are brought in when distraught or despondent individuals barricade themselves inside a building, exhibit threatening behavior to themselves or the public, or take hostages.

When they respond to a call, negotiators are immediately faced with the heavy burden of failure — the consequences of which could be fatal. Not only is there a high level of stress involved, but it's emotionally draining for both sides.

That's why it takes a certain type of individual to deal with such intense circumstances. Negotiators must have an enormous amount of patience and empathy and have the ability to engage distraught individuals into a conversation, police said.

See CRISIS, page 6

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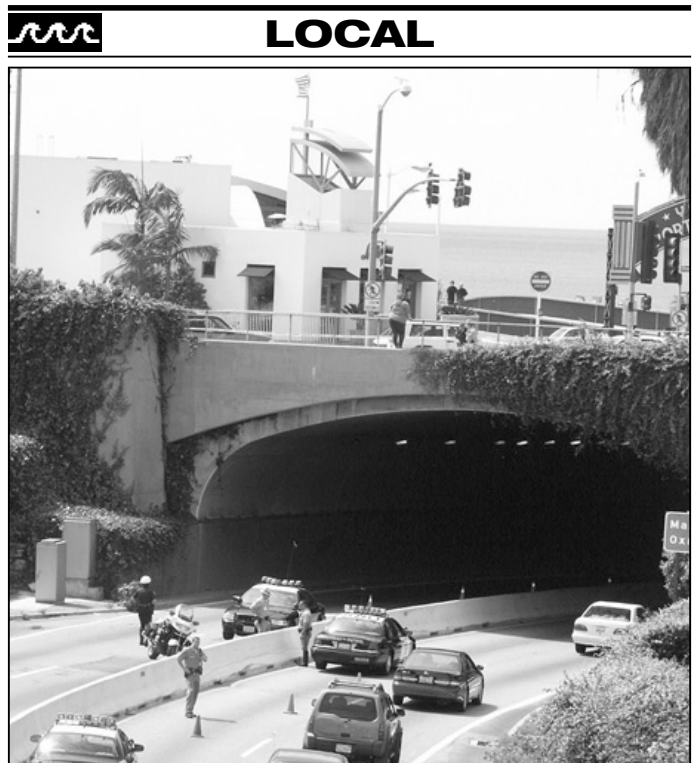




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File Photo

Santa Monica Police crisis negotiators successfully talked this woman from jumping into the Pacific Coast Highway last month.

Verbal, listening skills are essential to team members

CRISIS, from page 5

When negotiators first approach the individual or situation, they try to strike up a conversation with him or her to build a rapport.

"You want to get from that person, 'What is causing you to do this today?'" Shepard said. "You get as familiar with that person as you can."

Negotiators must build trust with the individual so he or she feels like someone does care about them, which can take hours. The goal is to let the person vent long enough about his problems and then reason with him.

"It takes as long as it takes," Shepard said. "Then you get them into action and gauge when it seems appropriate, then you start to switch gears. It's kind of an ebb and flow thing. Everything is based on that person's responses."

"Silence sometimes is beneficial," she added. "The hardest ones are the ones that don't respond at all."

TACTICS AND TRAINING

Crisis negotiators work closely with SMPD's SWAT team when needed.

"If the person creates a situation for the public or the police, then tactical personnel are brought in," Shepard said.

The 10 SMPD officers trained in crisis negotiation go through a series of training throughout the year that include drills, role playing, reviewing different scenarios and analyzing previous incidents. SMPD works with other agencies including the FBI, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and other municipal law enforcement agencies.

"The idea is to keep up everyone's skill levels because they are perishable skills,"

Shepard said.

The negotiators are selected by a panel comprised of their co-horts. But candidates won't be suitable for selection if they don't exhibit excellent verbal and listening skills and can show a willingness to be empathetic.

"The panel wants to get an idea of their thought process and see what their level of patience is," Shepard said. "In training, you learn not to be confrontational and you don't make judgments, but evaluate their actions."

A candidate is interviewed by the panel and then must engage in a role-playing exercise in front of their colleagues. From there, negotiators go through a state-run hostage course. The course is approved by the California Peace Officer Standards and Training, which sets standards for law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

SMPD negotiators respond to about six incidents a year and Shepard said the team has never been unsuccessful. Typically two negotiators arrive on scene. One will take the lead role in talking to the individual while the other officer offers support and alternatives to make the situation come to an end.

The team was established 10 years ago, about the same time SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. took over the department. Butts had prior SWAT experience and knew how vital negotiation teams are, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

It was only three decades ago that crisis negotiation teams were created. New York City was the first police department to create such a model, after officials there realized that law enforcement had no system in place to communicate or negotiate with suspects or hostages during a crisis situation.

STATE



UN Plaza redesign rejected

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A proposal to redesign a San Francisco plaza that harbors the homeless upsets its architect.

The United Nations plaza and its spraying fountain, designed by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, are being targeted by a Board of Supervisors-appointed group for a \$1 million facelift that the original architect calls "despicable."

"The plaza never really lived up to the expectation that it would be an urban oasis, a place where people sit on benches and eat their lunches in the sun," said Carolyn Diamond, executive director of the Market Street Association and part of the group proposing the redesign. "It's big, people feel lonely out there, people feel vulnerable."

Others argue that the open spaces are intentional and serve a purpose in a big city like San Francisco.

"There are certain points in the city where you want to leave the view corridor open," said Dee Mullen, Halprin's business partner. "This is a large civic space where you have large political gatherings."

The city's competing facets clash in the open square.

The homeless bathe and urinate in the fountain, which the city's Arts Commission catalogued as a work of art. Drug deals take place between stalls bearing organic vegetables on Wednesdays and Sundays, during the lively "Heart of the City" farmer's market. Commuters

coming from the Civic Center circle around the homeless encampment at the base of a Simon Bolivar statue.

Halprin was not consulted about the proposal, and told the San Francisco Chronicle that changing the plaza's layout won't solve the problem.

"This is really a social problem, not an art problem," said Halprin. "It's like saying we want to paint a mustache on the Mona Lisa."

The U.N. plaza's crisis worsened when the homeless were cleared out of the nearby Civic Center plaza in the mid-1990s.

Last month, the city reached a breaking point when the Department of Public Works put a chain link fence around the fountain and announced it would no longer fish out the hypodermic needles and human feces that infested the water.

"For years and years there have been complaints," said P.J. Johnston, spokesman for San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. "It is unacceptable that a public plaza become a dangerous eyesore, that a public fountain become a public toilet."

The 15 city staff members and community representatives responsible for the redesign say that the first phase of the project, which includes better lighting, more trees and a taxi stand to pick up commuters exiting the nearby metro stop would make the barren space more attractive to pedestrians — and their money.

"Future plans could include places to eat, newspaper stands, things like that," said Diamond, who said there is an additional \$4.8 million for the next phase of changes.

Private manned spacecraft unveiled by CA company

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
AP Science Writer

MOJAVE — A private manned space-flight program was unveiled Friday at a desert airport where it has been in secret development by famed aircraft designer Burt Rutan for two years.

A rocket plane, dubbed SpaceShipOne, and the White Knight, an exotic jet designed to carry it aloft for a high-altitude air launch, were shown off in a hangar at Mojave Airport, where Rutan developed Voyager, the airplane that made the first nonstop, unrefueled flight around the world in 1986.

The stubby-winged SpaceShipOne, built by Rutan's Scaled Composites LLC, is designed to carry three people on a sub-orbital flight to an altitude of 62.5 miles. Rutan set no date for the first attempt, which will come after captive-carry flights and drop tests.

Development costs were not disclosed. Rutan said the project is funded by an anonymous backer.

Success could bring him the \$10 million X Prize pledged to the first privately funded manned space flight, but he suggested the money was secondary to the achievement.

"We'll go to space first, but if we succeed, there's \$10 million there," he said.

Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, tycoon Dennis Tito, who paid Russia for a ride to the International Space Station in 2001, and Erik Lindbergh, grandson of Charles Lindbergh, attended the unveiling.

Space veterans Aldrin and Tito did not have any plans to book a ride on Rutan's rocketplane.

"Not yet," Tito said.

"I don't think so," said Aldrin.

The second man on the moon was intrigued by Rutan's design, however.

"I'm thrilled whenever I see out-of-the-box thinking," he said.

Rutan's system more closely resembles the old X-15 program than the space shuttle. An X-15 would be carried aloft by a giant B-52, dropped and then boosted to high altitude by its own rocket.

SpaceShipOne, made of graphite and epoxy, has short wings and twin vertical tails.

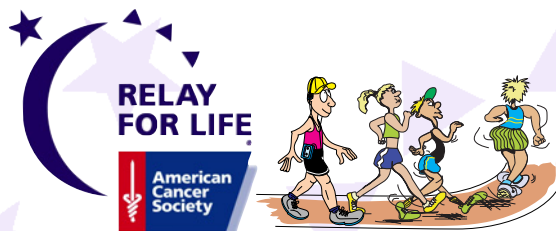
A space shot would begin with the spacecraft mated to the underbelly of the gangly twin turbojet, which would take off from Mojave and climb to an altitude of 50,000 feet. The spaceship would be dropped, ignite its rocket and soar on a parabolic trajectory to 62.5 miles before plummeting down.

The twin tails would then pitch up — rotating on booms attached to the wingtips — to increase drag as the craft plunges like a shuttlecock, reaching a maximum speed of Mach 3.5. At 80,000 feet the tails would return to their normal position and the spacecraft would glide back to Earth, setting down on two main wheels and a nose skid. Elapsed time from launch would be about 30 minutes.

The White Knight, which made its maiden flight in August, made a demonstration flight Friday. Rutan said captive-carry test flights of the rocket plane mated to the jet could begin in weeks.

Rutan said he's hopeful that spaceflight could be routine within 10 years.

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NATIONAL

Bush getting his way by settling environmental suits

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is quietly reshaping environmental policy to expand logging and other development by settling a series of lawsuits, many of them filed by industry groups.

As a result of settlements, the administration has announced plans to remove wilderness protections for millions of acres in Utah, has agreed to review protections for endangered species such as salmon and the northern spotted owl, has reversed a Clinton-era ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and has softened rules on logging.

None of the decisions were subject to prior public comment or congressional approval.

"I don't know if it's a policy, but it's definitely a pattern," said Kristen Boyles, a lawyer for the environmental group Earthjustice who has frequently battled the Bush administration in court.

"The industry sues and then the current administration does a poor job of defending itself or comes to a sweetheart settlement," Boyles said.

Critics call it "sue and settle," leaving few fingerprints as officials move to roll back environmental protections.

Last month, several environmental groups filed a federal lawsuit claiming the administration and the timber industry have been holding secret talks to undermine the Northwest Forest Plan. The suit seeks access to settlement documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

Mark Rey, the Agriculture undersecretary who directs forest policy, denies any attempt to orchestrate legal challenges.

"No litigation is friendly," he said.

But critics suggest the administration is using the lawsuit settlements as an end-run around Congress, which has blocked some parts of the Bush agenda, including efforts to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling and the Healthy Forests Initiative, which would increase logging in national forests to reduce the risk of wildfires.

"In the guise of settling lawsuits, federal officials have retired to the back room to work out deals that sacrifice our old-growth forests, salmon and clean water for the sake of clearcutting our public lands," said Patti Goldman of Earthjustice, one of the plaintiffs in the freedom of information case.

In recent weeks, the administration has

settled several industry challenges to the Northwest Forest Plan, which governs logging and habitat protection for salmon and other threatened species. Among other actions, the government agreed to review Endangered Species Act protections for the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, birds that are icons of the Northwest timber wars. In a separate action, officials have proposed weakening some salmon protections to boost logging.

The National Park Service also has allowed snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, and the Agriculture Department declined to defend the "roadless" rule, a Clinton-era policy that blocks road-building in remote forest areas.

Last week, the Interior Department announced that in response to a lawsuit it intends to halt all reviews of its Western land holdings for new wilderness protection and to withdraw that protected status from some 3 million acres in Utah. That settlement was approved by a federal judge on Monday, three days after it was filed.

Rey, a former timber industry lobbyist, said officials are doing nothing the Clinton administration didn't do in the 1990s.

"I understand why they're unhappy," Rey said of critics, "but their unhappiness needs to be measured in balance to the situation they enjoyed when people who agreed with them more often than not were in this position."

Rey said the Clinton administration encouraged friendly suits from environmentalists to block logging in Northwest forests, prevent road-building and stop development on vast wilderness areas controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.

Environmentalists deny that claim.

"I do not know of any instance where the Clinton administration said, 'You sue us, and we'll settle and we'll stop a timber sale.' It hasn't happened in this office," said Boyles of Earthjustice.

Each of the settlements the Bush administration agrees to is presented to a judge and will be subject to public comment. Rey said they will be judged on their merits.

"Nobody gets frozen out of our actions because the public ultimately is going to get a chance to comment. If they are dissatisfied, they will get their own opportunity to sue," Rey said.

But environmental groups call the comment period a formality, which rarely produces any substantive change in the settlement.

Boy seriously burned while mimicking stunt in movie

By The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A 14-year-old boy was burned over 65 percent of his body after setting himself on fire to mimic a stunt from "Jackass: The Movie." Just before clicking the lighter, he stared into a video camera and said: "Don't try this at home."

The boy, who was not identified, has had three major surgeries since the stunt in late March and is expected to survive, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported Friday.

According to the Dakota County sheriff's office, the boy, from Hastings, and a friend were doing a "blooper video" for a class project. For one of the stunts, the boy used mineral spirits and a lighter to set himself on fire.

The stunt-filled "Jackass: The Movie," which stemmed from a similar show on MTV, includes an actor lighting himself on fire to grill steaks.

The movie includes a warning to not to try the stunts at home and says the producers don't accept submissions. But several serious injuries have been linked to attempts to imitate its stunts.

NATIONAL



Deficit running at nearly twice the rate of last year

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government ran up a deficit of \$252.6 billion in the first six months of the 2003 budget year, nearly twice the total for the same period a year earlier.

The latest figures, released Friday by the Treasury Department, highlighted the government's deteriorating fiscal situation. Record deficits are forecast this year and next.

The total deficit so far this fiscal year, from October through March, compares with a shortfall of \$131.9 billion a year earlier.

Revenues were down by 6.1 percent to \$825.2 billion for the six months in comparison to the same period a year earlier. That partly reflected lower tax revenue from the listless economy.

Individual income tax payments totaled \$372.1 billion, representing an 6.8 percent decline from the previous year. Corporate tax payments plunged by 43 percent to \$44.6 billion. That sharp drop reflected in part the impact of business tax cuts enacted last year and weaker profits, the Congressional Budget Office said.

Federal spending for the six months

totalled \$1.08 trillion, a 6.6 percent increase from the corresponding period in fiscal 2002.

The biggest spending categories so far this budget year are: Social Security, \$249.3 billion; programs of the Health and Human Services Department, including Medicare and Medicaid, \$246.5 billion; military, \$180.9 billion; interest on the public debt, \$160.6 billion.

For the entire 2002 budget year, which ended Sept. 30, the government ran up a deficit of \$157.8 billion, ending four consecutive years of surpluses.

The Bush administration has blamed the return of deficits on lingering effects of the 2001 recession and the costs of fighting terrorism at home and abroad. Democrats say a major cause of the red ink has been Bush's 10-year \$1.35 trillion tax cut and what they contend are bad economic policies being pursued by the administration.

For the month of March, the government produced a deficit of \$58.7 billion. That was based on revenues of \$120.4 billion and outlays of \$179.1 billion. The deficit for March, however, was smaller than the shortfall of \$64.2 billion recorded for the same month last year.

Many Washington libraries routinely destroy records

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Spokane Public Library will not provide the federal government with records of its patrons' reading habits, but will still comply with that controversial requirement in the USA Patriot Act, the director said Friday.

That's because the library will continue to routinely destroy records of what patrons check out, leaving no documentation to give to investigators, library director Jan Sanders said.

Other libraries in Washington, including the Seattle Public Library and the State Library in Olympia, are doing the same.

"Libraries are very aware of confidentiality issues," Sanders said.

Just because a person has an Arabic name and checks out books on airplanes, that doesn't make them a potential terrorist, she said.

The USA Patriot Act, passed after the Sept. 11 attacks, gave the FBI new powers to investigate terrorism, including the ability to look at library records and computer hard drives to see what books patrons had checked out, what Web pages they'd visited, and where they'd sent e-mails.

The Department of Justice says the new powers are needed to identify terrorist cells. But many librarians are worried that the FBI will routinely check on the reading habits of intellectuals, civil rights leaders and other Americans.

The Seattle Public Library will host a public meeting on April 29 about the Patriot Act.

Spokeswoman Andrea Addison said the Seattle library will also continue to routinely destroy records of what materials patrons access.

Automated systems routinely purge the record of an item checked out by a patron when the item is returned, Addison said.

"Unless you've accumulated a lot of fines at the Seattle Public Library, records

are basically eliminated in four days," Addison said.

Federal investigators would need to make a formal request to the library almost immediately after a book or other item is returned in order to find a record, Addison said.

"Unless you've accumulated a lot of fines at the Seattle Public Library, records are basically eliminated in four days."

— ANDREA ADDISON
Spokeswoman

However, all the libraries contacted said they would follow the law and make available to federal officials any items they legally requested. None of the libraries contacted had received a Patriot Act request yet.

"We will comply with the Patriot Act," said David Domkoski, spokesman for the Tacoma Public Library.

Jan Walsh, head of the State Library, said its system also purges records when a book or other document is returned by a borrower.

Many of the State Library's most popular items are current and historical material about state government agencies, she said.

After the Patriot Act was passed, the Spokane Public Library reviewed its record-keeping to make sure that only data absolutely necessary to run the library was kept, Sanders said.

For instance, the library decided it would not keep computer search records or sign-in sheets to use computers, she said.

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INTERNATIONAL

North Korea says it is reprocessing nuclear fuel rods

BY JAE-SUK YOO

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Friday it was reprocessing more than 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods, which U.S. experts have said will give the communist state enough plutonium to make several atomic bombs.

The development raises the stakes in the North's upcoming talks with the United States over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programs. Those talks could begin in Beijing as soon as next week.

"As we have already declared, we are successfully reprocessing more than 8,000 spent fuel rods at the final phase," an unnamed spokesman of Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry said, adding that "interim information" was sent to the United States and "other countries concerned" last month.

The claim could not be confirmed independently because North Korea expelled U.N. nuclear monitors last year.

In Washington, a State Department official said the United States is not aware of any information indicating that reprocessing has begun.

He declined to elaborate but the comment suggested that U.S. satellite observations of the North's main nuclear facility did not indicate any new activity.

The official, asking not to be identified, said he was not aware of any change in the plan to go ahead with the talks in Beijing.

Another official, also speaking privately, said the statement may be "typical North Korean bluster" in advance of the discussions.

"There is no doubt that this Foreign Ministry statement throws the holding of the talks in doubt," the official said.

The North Korean spokesman emphasized the importance that the North sees in a military deterrent to stave off a possible U.S. attack in the wake of the war against Iraq.

"The Iraqi war teaches a lesson that in order to prevent a war and defend the security of a nation it is necessary to have a powerful physical deterrent force only," the unnamed spokesman told North Korea's KCNA news agency.

The United States denies it plans military action.

Washington believes North Korea already has one or two nuclear bombs and can extract enough plutonium from the fuel rods to make six to eight more bombs within months.

"At the talks the Chinese side will play a relevant role as the host state and the essential issues related to the settlement of the nuclear issue will be discussed between the DPRK and the U.S.," the spokesman said.

DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

Chun Young-woo, a director for arms control at South Korea's Foreign Ministry,

said the Beijing talks "would never have been ... agreed upon" if the United States knew about the reported reprocessing.

"North Korea has repeatedly said it would start reprocessing," Chun said. "I've never heard that they actually did."

Washington earlier confirmed that a reactor at the North's Yongbyon nuclear complex was operating, but had not said reprocessing was underway.

Fuel rods are used to power nuclear reactors. Burning the uranium inside creates a small amount of plutonium, which can then be extracted and reprocessed for bombs.

The uranium-alloy rods — 1 inch in diameter, 21 inches long and 13.7 pounds each — could yield enough plutonium for several bombs if they were put through a nearby radiochemical reprocessing lab, experts say.

China's ambassador in Seoul said North Korea and the United States should resolve their nuclear dispute themselves, and Beijing does not plan to mediate between them during talks.

"I don't think China plans to mediate," Ambassador Li Bin told South Korea's MBC Radio in an interview recorded Thursday. "Although China can play a constructive role, it is the two parties concerned that should resolve the problem. How much the problem could be resolved is up to how the two parties work."

U.S. and South Korean officials have said China, a key ally of North Korea, will be a full participant in the forthcoming talks.

The nuclear crisis flared in October, when the United States claimed that North Korea had admitted having a secret nuclear weapons program in violation of a 1994 agreement.

The United States and other countries stopped oil shipments to the North, which retaliated by withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and moving to restart a nuclear reactor.

North Korea initially demanded a nonaggression treaty in one-on-one talks but indicated last week it could accept U.S. demands for multilateral talks and agreed to let China sit at the table.

Washington wants to expand future talks to include South Korea, Japan and Russia.

South Korea's new ambassador to the United States, Han Sung-joo, said Friday that any negotiated deal will be far more complex than U.S.-North Korean talks in 1994 that froze the North's nuclear facilities, ending a crisis at that time.

Now, Han said, North Korea will be expected to not only stop but promptly and verifiably dismantle its nuclear programs.

"This is going to be an arduous, long process. It's not going to be a cakewalk," Han said. He said he did not expect any deal for at least a month or two, noting the 1994 crisis took well over a year to resolve.

Also Friday, South Korea welcomed the Beijing talks and urged North Korea to resume inter-Korean dialogue. North Korea canceled Cabinet-level talks scheduled for April 7-10.

Iraqi protesters chant, 'America is God's enemy'

WAR, from page 1

Still, there were signs of progress in a city struggling to emerge from war and lawlessness.

"We haven't had enemy contact in four days," said Staff Sgt. John Jamison, a Marine spokesman in the capital.

And officials reported that a small number of antiquities looted from the National Museum had been returned. Jabar Hilal, Iraq's antiquities chief, said the items returned included pottery and metal pieces. "It was their conscience that made them bring that stuff back," he said.

Thousands marched through the city's downtown, urged on at Holy Day prayers by an imam

recently returned to Iraq after years in exile.

Some protesters carried banners that said, "Leave our country. We want peace," and many raised their right fists in the air and chanted, "America is God's enemy."

Inside the 1,300-year-old mosque, Sheik Ahmed al-Kubeisy said, "We will not accept a government that will oppress us. There must be an elected government."

Addressing some of his remarks to Americans, he added, "You are masters today. But I warn you against thinking of staying. Get out before we force you out."

In another Baghdad neigh-

borhood, opposition leader Ahmed Chalabi and followers of his Iraqi National Congress established makeshift headquarters in two social clubs. Armored U.S. vehicles and elements of the new Free Iraqi forces provided security.

After years of exile, Chalabi was flown into Iraq recently by American forces, and some in-country opposition figures have complained he was getting preferential treatment from the Pentagon.

In his first public appearance in Baghdad, Chalabi said anew that he is not a candidate to become Iraq's new leader.

He said he expects an interim Iraqi authority to take over most government functions from the U.S. military in "a matter of weeks rather than months."

He said he envisions "first reconstruction of basic services" under the control of Jay Garner, the retired American lieutenant general poised to run a military administration. Once that is done, Chalabi said the U.S. military will search for weapons of mass destruction, dismantle the old regime's "apparatus of terror" and disarm its army.

Officials in Garner's office had no quarrel with Chalabi's remarks.

But representatives of other groups jockeying for power in postwar Iraq were unimpressed. Mahmoud Osman, a Kurdish leader living in London, said Chalabi looked like "an American propagandist."



Lefteris Pitarakis/Associated Press

A protester waves an Iraqi flag atop the rubble of a house, while demonstrating against the United States following prayers on Friday, the Muslim holy day in central Baghdad on Friday. The house was destroyed during the U.S.-led bombing campaign on Iraq's capital.

Hamid al-Bayati, a British representative for the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said Chalabi might be "gambling on running for office" despite his claims to the contrary.

Australian Lt. Col. Mark Elliott said special forces found 51 MiG warplanes at a large airfield west of Baghdad, as well as armored vehicles, anti-aircraft weapons systems and an anti-aircraft missile system. The site also included bunkers capable of withstanding nuclear, chemical or biological attack, he said, and instruction manuals relating to weapons of mass destruction.

The emergence of the new videotape as well as an audiotape

said to have been made by Saddam added to the mystery surrounding his whereabouts. Abu Dhabi television said both tapes were made on April 9, but there was no evidence of that. Nor was there proof that the Iraqi leader — who was known to use doubles as a security precaution — was involved in either production.

The videotape showed a man purported to be Saddam in the streets of Baghdad, greeted by a wildly cheering crowd. The audiotape carried a speech that appeared to acknowledge the American military triumph.

"Conquered people are the ones who eventually triumph over invaders. ... Your leadership is unshaken," it said.



Saurabh Das/Associated Press

A soldier puts up a barbed-wire fence to secure three prisoners of war at Balad airport, approximately 50 miles north of Baghdad on Friday. The U.S. Army 4th Infantry Division secured the airfield, which may be used for future operations.

SPORTS



Wolves' big men will have hands full with Shaq

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Rasho Nesterovic is Minnesota's big man, which hardly seems accurate given the man he'll be helping to guard in the Timberwolves' first-round playoff series.

Shaquille O'Neal, that 7-foot-1, 338-pound behemoth for the three-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers, is a tough task.

But remembering what it was like in his first meeting with Shaq, Nesterovic realizes he's got a lot more confidence now to play against O'Neal — even if he's still nearly 100 pounds lighter.

"I was a little bit like, 'Wow,' the first time I faced him," Nesterovic said Friday. "He's one of the players you have to go up against if you want to do big things."

Big things like beating the champs, who almost everybody is expecting to make a serious run — if not win it all one more time — through the playoffs after beginning the season 11-19.

The Lakers have, predictably, made this the marquee series of the opening round. Game 1 is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. EDT, the prime weekend slot for ABC's national broadcasts.

Game 2 is Tuesday night, and Games 3 and 4 are in Los Angeles.

Minnesota (51-31) had the best season in franchise history and earned the first-round homecourt advantage that goes with the No. 4 seed in the West — something it never had in six previous playoff appearances.

The Wolves, however, didn't get much of a reward for their accomplishment.

"We're going to be underdogs," coach Flip Saunders said. "Not too many people are going to have homecourt and be underdogs."

But Minnesota won't buy into the "Why us?" theme.

"I'm not lying about anything — this is something as a player you wish for," said Wally Szczerbiak, whose streaky shooting could go a long way toward the Timberwolves' success in this series. "You want a crack at the defending champs."

The Lakers are cognizant of that.

"What people have to understand is that when you're the champs, once you get to the playoffs, you're playing for higher stakes," said Kobe Bryant, the other megastar Minnesota must find a way to contain. "You're playing to stay on the top of the hill."

Shaq and Kobe combined to average more than 57 points the season, and either has the ability to take over at any time.

"I'm just playing basketball, man," said the Timberwolves' MVP candidate, Kevin Garnett. "I don't get caught up in individual matchups."

The Wolves are probably better off worrying about outscoring players 3 through 12 on the roster than trying to best Bryant and O'Neal. But how they're able to defend the duo will go a long way toward determining the outcome of the series.

That's especially about handling O'Neal, who was unavailable to reporters

at the Lakers' practice facility for the second straight day.

"They have a variety of ways they do it," coach Phil Jackson said. "Sometimes they triple-team him. They're very active from the top."

Nesterovic accepted the Wolves' one-year qualifying offer in September, and he'll be an unrestricted free agent this summer. In his fourth full NBA season, the 7-foot Slovenian has emerged as one of the better centers in the league — averaging a career-high 11.2 points and 6.5 rebounds.

With a potentially big contract awaiting, Nesterovic finds himself facing a big series with Shaq on his plate for several games.

"This is his year," Garnett said. "I'm sure he's out to prove something to himself."

He won't have to do it without help,

however.

Garnett is good at digging down on defense in the low post, and the Wolves also will use wide-body reserve forward Gary Trent and backup center Marc Jackson on O'Neal.

"It's like boxing," Jackson said. "Be hit and hit. It's going to be real physical."

Joe Smith, who couldn't play in Wednesday's regular-season finale because of a hyper-extended knee, is another key for Minnesota.

Saunders is "optimistic" about being able to start Smith at power forward on Sunday and lengthen the starting lineup by moving the lanky Garnett to small forward, where he becomes even more difficult to defend.

"That can totally change our team," Szczerbiak said. "I would like to see Rick Fox or people like Devean George try to guard K.G."

Grandfather's death means O'Neal could miss playoff game

EL SEGUNDO — Shaquille O'Neal could miss a Lakers playoff game to attend the funeral of his maternal grandfather, who died Thursday in South Carolina.

"At this point, it's too early to say," Lakers spokesman John Black said Friday. "We expect that the funeral will be Wednesday or Friday."

If that's the case, Black pointed out, O'Neal would not miss a game.

The three-time defending champion Lakers open the playoffs Sunday at

Minnesota, where the second game will be played Tuesday night. The third game will be Thursday night in Los Angeles.

O'Neal's wife, Shaunie, is expecting a son later this month, and O'Neal has said he can't rule out missing a game to witness the event.

"When it happens, it happens," Black said. "We hope that he won't miss a game."

The due date is April 27, the same day as Game 4 of the Timberwolves-Lakers' best-of-seven series.

Actors, hall president in flap over 'Bull Durham'

BY BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

The baseball Hall of Fame president issued an apology Friday, saying he was sorry he failed to call Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon last week before canceling a "Bull Durham" celebration because of the actors' anti-war stance.

In an open letter to the 28,000 people who called or sent a letter or e-mail to the Hall, Dale Petroskey blamed himself for bringing politics into the shrine.

"I inadvertently did exactly what I was trying to avoid," the former Reagan administration official wrote. "With the advantage of hindsight, it is clear I should have handled the matter differently."

"I am sorry I didn't pick up the phone to have a discussion with Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon rather than sending them a letter," he said.

Petroskey made no mention of whether he still believed the decision to scrap the event was the right one. This latest letter was faxed to Robbins and Sarandon before it was posted on the Hall's Web site.

"Because Petroskey's actions resulted in a bipartisan, nationwide affirmation of free speech and the First Amendment, he has inadvertently done us all a favor," Robbins responded in a statement.

"I appreciate Petroskey's non-apology apology and his realization of the perils of paper trails," he said.

Robbins explained his final remark by pointing out that Petroskey invited White House spokesman Ari Fleischer to speak at a Hall event last year.

In a release promoting the visit,

Petroskey wrote: "We are thrilled to welcome him to Cooperstown and hear his perspective on life in the White House and the current political scene which, of course, includes the war on terrorism."

Petroskey was traveling Friday and unavailable for comment.

Robbins and Sarandon were scheduled to appear April 26-27 in Cooperstown, N.Y., to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the popular baseball movie. Instead, Petroskey surprised the co-stars last week with a letter sent via Federal Express, telling them he'd called off the festivities because they'd criticized the war in Iraq.

"Politics has no place in the Hall of Fame," Petroskey wrote Friday. "There was a chance of politics being injected into the Hall during these sensitive times, and I made a decision to not take that chance."

A day after Petroskey's decision became public April 9, the Hall received 5,000 e-mails, both pro and con. Overall, the Hall of Fame said sentiment was running slightly against the stance.

Hall of Fame pitcher Don Sutton supported the decision and said, "I think Petroskey articulated it perfectly."

"The events of the past week show us all that the game burns brighter than ever and continues to stir passions in many people," Petroskey wrote.

Petroskey, a former White House assistant press secretary under President Reagan, said in his original letter to Robbins and Sarandon that their recent comments "ultimately could put our troops in even more danger."

Seles loses



Sixth seeded Monica Seles returns a shot against No. 1 seed Justine Henin-Hardenne during her quarter-final match at the Bausch & Lomb Championships on Friday, in Amelia Island, Fla. Seles lost the match 2-6 4-6.

Phil Coale/Associated Press

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



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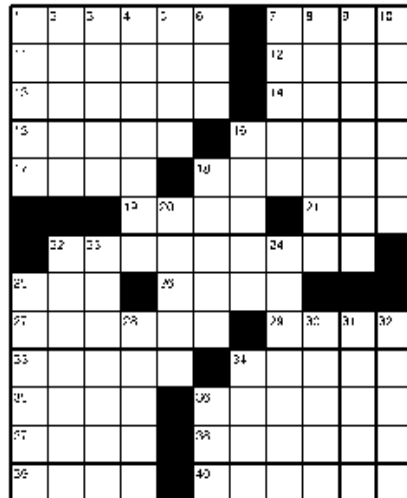
- ACROSS**
- 1 Strong fellow
 - 2 "Tomorrow" singer
 - 3 Head, in slang
 - 4 Wait
 - 5 Holds title to
 - 6 Silent bid
 - 7 "The West Wing" star
 - 8 Batter-dipped item
 - 9 Best Picture of 1984
 - 10 Vacation spot
 - 11 Unconscious
 - 12 Spot in the news in 1961
 - 13 Scoundrel
 - 14 Jazz great
 - 15 Skirts
 - 16 Craze
 - 17 Fancy parties
 - 18 Like dunce caps
 - 19 Press
 - 20 Yacht lot
 - 21 Waterfall output
 - 22 Up and about
 - 23 Comfort
 - 24 Loathe
- DOWN**
- 1 Planting bases
 - 2 "Tomorrow" singer
 - 3 Head, in slang
 - 4 Wait
 - 5 Holds title to
 - 6 Silent bid
 - 7 "The West Wing" star
 - 8 Batter-dipped item
 - 9 Best Picture of 1984
 - 10 Vacation spot
 - 11 Unconscious
 - 12 Spot in the news in 1961
 - 13 Scoundrel
 - 14 Jazz great
 - 15 Skirts
 - 16 Craze
 - 17 Fancy parties
 - 18 Like dunce caps
 - 19 Press
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 - 21 Waterfall output
 - 22 Up and about
 - 23 Comfort
 - 24 Loathe

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Yesterday's answer

- 20 Comes in last
- 21 Munich setting
- 22 Puzzled to be punished
- 23 Ruling group
- 24 "Divine Comedy" author
- 25 Biscotti flavor
- 26 Eats
- 27 Meager
- 28 Give a hoot
- 29 Ticked off

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4-19

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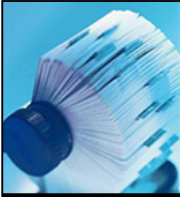
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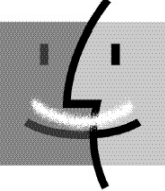
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1441 Third St. at Broadway
Phone Booth (R) 11:45, 12:50, 1:55, 3:00, 4:05, 5:10, 6:15, 7:20, 8:25, 9:30, 10:35. A Mighty Wind (PG-13) 12:00, 1:05, 2:30, 3:35, 5:00, 6:05, 7:30, 8:35, 10:00.

MANN CRITERION
1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:30, 2:05, 4:50, 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.

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BACK PAGE



'Colossal Colon' on tour

By The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A 40-foot-long replica of the human colon is winding its way through Little Rock to educate people on the dangers of colon cancer.

The "Colossal Colon" is designed for children and adults to crawl through, and allows visitors to see different stages of the disease, from polyps to full-blown cancer.

Part of the National Cancer Education Tour, the exhibit was created in honor of Amanda Sherwood Roberts, who died from the disease last year.

Organizers hope that the exhibit will get people thinking about a part of the body that is usually not discussed.

"We're trying to educate as many people as we can so nobody has to go through what we had to go through," said Amanda's father, Bernie Sherwood.

Man wins \$165K a year for life

By The Associated Press

SCOTIA, N.Y. — When Benedict "Bennie" Barta told his mother that he had won \$5 million in the state's instant lottery, she told him to go rake the lawn.

"She didn't believe me, even after I showed her the confirmation from Lottery officials," the 47-year-old man said.

Now, Barta won't have to rake another lawn, unless he wants to.

As the winner of Lottery's \$10 Instant Game on Sunday, Barta will receive \$165,000 a year for life, lottery officials said.

"It still hasn't sunk in yet," he said on Wednesday.

Other than speaking with a lawyer and an accountant, he said his life hasn't changed too much.

He plans to pay off his bills and those of his loved ones. He'll also take care of his elderly mother, whom he visits twice a day.

Barta plans an early retirement from his job of the last 25 years as a heavy equipment operator for the town of Glenville's highway department.

Bird survives car crash

By The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A 20-inch bird that survived a six-day, 850-mile road trip in the hollow of a minivan bumper has a new name and a new home.

The odyssey of the white Florida egret began last week near Orlando, Fla., when Doug Marsico and his wife were taking their 3-year-old son to Disney World. Their minivan hit the flying egret, sucking it beneath the bumper.

"We heard a thud, then saw feathers flying," Marsico said. "I thought we killed it."

Harry Clark, Marsico's father-in-law, was the first to hear a noise under the front bumper when the family returned to their Mechanicsburg home.

When he heard the noise again Wednesday, he crawled under the minivan, where he saw feathers and a wing.

The bird eventually made enough noise that Marsico took his minivan to a body shop where employee Butch Lockey removed the hungry, irritable bird.

The egret, which has a 4-inch yellow beak and a buff orange crest, breast and shoulders, suffered a broken leg during the ordeal. The bird was placed with the Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue to recuperate.

Virtual cemetery in the works

By The Associated Press

DENVER — Land is too scarce and expensive for a cemetery in Vail, the nation's most popular ski town. A virtual cemetery may be the answer.

Several efforts to build a cemetery in the mountain town have been defeated, with opponents saying there wasn't enough room and it didn't fit the resort's image. Supporters said Vail would never be a real town until it offered a final resting place for residents.

Town Council member Diana Donovan, a resident nearly since Vail was created in 1962, said she supports a plan for a memorial park, where inscriptions could be placed on boulders and stone benches in memory of the departed. Ashes could be buried in urns or scattered over the scenic area.

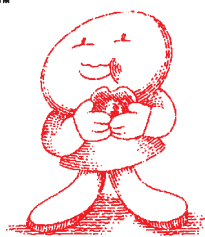
The park would be within the means of anyone from a waiter to the rich guests that frequent the slopes.

Donovan said there just isn't enough room for a full-fledged cemetery. The town has struggled to find space for housing for employees in the narrow mountain valley where most land is held by the U.S. Forest Service and the average cost of a condo is about \$500,000.

The Town Council voted unanimously to send the memorial park proposal to its planning staff for review.

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