

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

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Meganumber: 17
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FANTASY 5

2, 9, 11, 30, 36

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 0, 2

Evening picks: 4, 8, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 04, Big Ben

2nd Place: 03, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race Time: 1:41.50



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ At a special Friday evening session of the New Mexico House of Representatives in February (on health insurance taxes), Democratic leaders needed Rep. Bengie Regensberg for a vote and sent state police to retrieve him at the motel where he was staying temporarily. Troopers reported having to subdue and handcuff Regensberg, who was naked, combative and "likely intoxicated." (Regensberg said the troopers were too rough with him.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Being a star has made it possible for me to get insulted in places where the average Negro could never hope to go and get insulted."

— Sammy Davis, Jr.

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Measuring up



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Bill Wolff of Los Angeles measures the inches between his ball and his opponent's, Bud Wakeling of Mar Vista, on the lawn bowling green at Douglas Park Wednesday. Wolff lost the match.

Inexpensive condos may become reality

Family units would cost about \$200K

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — A \$200,000 condominium in Santa Monica may soon not be as far-fetched a concept as it seems.

One of the biggest landlords in Santa Monica is considering branching out of the rental business to sell two- and three-bedroom condos for less than half of what the market rate is.

But there's a catch. Buyers would have to fall into the "moderate income" category — \$45,000 to \$60,000 a year, per household. They also would be required to keep resale prices relatively low if they

decided to put their condos back on the market.

Details are still being worked out, but already officials have eyed possible sites in the Pico neighborhood, which is located on the eastside of Santa Monica, as well as in other areas of the city.

Joan Ling, executive director of the Community Corp. of Santa Monica, which would spearhead the project, said she was encouraged by survey results returned Tuesday that show ample interest among workers at the local school district, St. John's Hospital and among members of three Pico neighborhood churches.

"Now we're really starting to think about how and where and what," said Ling, whose group over-

See CCSM, page 7

Jalili appointed to affordable housing board

By Daily Press staff

Former City Manager John Jalili was among four new appointees to a governing board that oversees affordable housing projects throughout Santa Monica, officials announced Wednesday.

Jalili, 66, retired in November of 1999 after 25 years at City Hall, and 15 years as city manager. As a volunteer on the board of directors for the nonprofit Community Corp. of Santa Monica, Jalili said he looks forward to being at the forefront of an issue that affects residents throughout the state.

"There is a housing crisis in the entire California," said Jalili, who lives in Manhattan Beach with his wife Friedl. "I know how difficult it is to do affordable housing. I look at (CCSM's) record and I think they have been quite successful."

With more than 2,400 tenants in 78 projects throughout the city, Community Corp. is one of the biggest landlords in Santa Monica. A homicide last month at a CCSM complex in the Ocean Park neighborhood prompted security concerns among residents and neighbors, but officials maintain crime rates are low when compared to the overall number of tenants.

Since retiring, Jalili has kept busy. He said he's traveled, volun-

See HOUSING, page 7

Sign language: City defends its law

(This is the fourth installment of an ongoing series about City Hall's sign ordinance.)

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

An ongoing effort to remove illegal signs in front of businesses has merchants lashing out at local politicians, who are defending their position that it's a top priority to clean up the Santa Monica.

For the past three months, compliance officers in City Hall's building and safety department have been focusing on enforcing all of the city's codes, which includes an 18-year-old law that governs signs.

As business owners realize that they must tear down their signs or faces tens of thousands of dollars in fines, they look to their elected officials wondering why other issues — like vagrancy — aren't being dealt with. The perception from many merchants is that City Hall's policies create an anti-business environment



File Photo

Merchants think vagrants should be dealt with before signs.

and the recent focus on the sign ordinance is just one example.

But officials say Santa Monica is not a perfect world and ridding the city of vagrants is a separate issue from code compliance.

"We can't take on bigger issues without solving the smaller ones first," said City Councilman Herb Katz, who helped draft the sign ordinance nearly two decades ago. "They are right, we have bigger issues and if they cooperated, we wouldn't have these issues."

Katz is referring to a web of intricate laws governing vagrancy and the public's responsibility — specifically property owners — to report illegal loitering, camping and sleeping on sidewalks and in parks. Because of constitutional issues, the burden is on property owners and merchants to keep vagrants from sleeping in front of their doorways by following the city's local laws. One of them requires businesses to post a sign that states it's illegal to lie or sleep on private property. That sign must be recorded with City Hall and updated every 30 days.

"Signs don't have constitutional rights, people do," said City

See SIGNS, page 8

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ The more flexible you are, the easier time you will have with others' unpredictability. You find that many are willing to work with changes when they see your attitude. Learn a new process or accept something from modern technology. Tonight: Talk away.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Making money or dealing with a boss tests your humor and dedication. Take his or her suggestions and run with them, adding that touch of creativity and practicality that you often manifest. You can make a wild idea workable. Tonight: Balance your checkbook.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have what it takes to make an impact on others. Know that you are in the power days of your month. Others might seem and act unpredictable, but they come from a place of stability. You will find answers. Know that there are no problems, only solutions. Tonight: Whatever makes the Twin happy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ The unexpected could mark news and plans. Confirm meetings and make sure that you are hearing what you think you are hearing. Don't blurt out answers. Mull over what you think, and choose your response with care. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Reach out for others. You'll work with them in a dynamic way, though you might see someone act out and do something you can't quite believe. Flow with unpredictability, and you'll gain financially. Tonight: Where the gang is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Others have great expectations for you right now. You might become a touch rebellious if you don't express your thoughts. You'll enrich your life and work, because once committed, you'll carry through. Tonight: Enjoy yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your instincts work, especially with a chaotic situation that might surround your work and daily life. It is key not to react but rather to pull back and think through the many different ways one could look at this situation. Tonight: Hop on the computer; play out a dream.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Extremes mark your domestic and personal life. Where one person could be wreaking havoc, others support you in making a wish happen. Network and follow through on what remains a high priority. Work with groups. Tonight: Try teamwork for fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others have more impact than you might like. Family and a domestic matter could be up for grabs. A partner acts most unpredictably. Dealing with work and the outside world brings you a lot of compliments. Tonight: Go along with others' plans one more time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Focus on work despite disruptive elements that surround you. You'll head in a new direction if you do some fact-finding. Opt for a class or sign up for a workshop. You want to learn more or increase your expertise in your chosen field. Tonight: Buy something to make your night more pleasant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You have a way of jolting others, but you might discover that others are developing the same art. Be careful with risk-taking, especially if it involves money. Associates are full of great ideas. Work with them. Tonight: Spend some quality time with a special person in your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might not mean to shake up other people, but you do. Your home life might be reflecting the end result of this behavior. Why not move furniture instead? Others seem to enjoy helping. Ask for feedback. Tonight: Let another drag you out the door (you love it!).

Correction: In the Wednesday edition of the Daily Press, Kathy Dodson, president and CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, was quoted as saying that Jay Handal, president of the West LA chamber, did a "destructive" thing by sending solicitations to all Santa Monica chamber members. Dodson said she actually accused Handal of doing a "deceptive" thing.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The sounds at SMC

By Daily Press staff

It'll be music to your ears at Santa Monica College next month.

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present an eclectic lineup of concerts in May, covering the gamut of musical styles, all of which will be held in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The lineup is:

■ Sunday, May 2 at 4 p.m.: Violin and piano recital: The Goldman-Brown Duo. Violinist Harris Goldman and pianist Carolyn Brown perform works by Beethoven, Bach, Mozart and William Kraft's In Memoriam Igor Stravinsky. (Free).

■ Sunday, May 9 at 4 p.m.: SMC Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of SMC music professor James Smith. The program will feature the talented young winners of the West Los Angeles Music Teachers Association Concert Competition. (Tickets are \$10).

■ Friday, May 14 at 8 p.m.: SMC Applied Music Program Benefit Concert. The concert features a wide range of works by the talented students in SMC's praised applied music program. (Tickets are \$20).

■ Saturday, May 15 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 16 at 4 p.m.: SMC Opera Theatre presents "Bel Canto Opera Gala 2004." The Emmy-winning troupe will perform the works of Donizetti, Bellini and Rossini. (Tickets are \$16).

■ Sunday, May 16 at 8 p.m.: SMC Jazz Band Vocalists with the Jon Mayer Trio, with conductor Keith Fiddmont. (Tickets are \$10).

■ Thursday, May 20 at 11:15 a.m.: Duo Guitar Recital featuring Matthew Elgart and Peter Yates. The program will include new works by composers from around the world. (Free).

■ Friday, May 21 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Jazz: Charles Owens Quintet. Saxophonist Charles Owens is an LA favorite, having performed with Buddy Rich, Mongo Santamaria and more. (Tickets are \$10).

■ Saturday, May 22 at 8 p.m. and Tuesday, May 25 at 11:15 a.m.: SMC Musical Theatre Workshop Highlights, under the direction of Janie Jones and Frank Turner. (Tickets are \$5 for the May 22 show but free for the May 25 performance).

■ Thursday, May 27 at 11:15 a.m.: SMC Composers Concert Recital. (Free). For tickets and information, call (310) 434-3000 or (310) 434-4323.

Mural, mural on the wall

By Daily Press staff

The past, present and future of Santa Monica's murals will be presented to the public next month.

The city of Santa Monica's Public Art Committee will host a community meeting on Tuesday May 4, beginning at 6 p.m. The meeting is an opportunity for individuals to learn about the city's collection of 14 public murals, hear a report about the condition of the murals from a conservator, and provide input on the mural conservation recommendations.

The committee will take public comment and then take that feedback and the conservator's report to formulate recommendations on treatment, repair and protection measures. Five of the 14 murals are considered to be in fair or poor shape, with the rest in good or excellent condition. The murals needing attention will be ranked and prioritized for future conservation funding consideration. The recommendations will be forwarded to the Arts Commission in June, 2004.

Santa Monica's public mural collection includes both indoor and outdoor pieces, with the oldest one finished in 1939 in the lobby at City Hall, and the most recent, Peter Shire's "Garage Your Desires," finished just last year in the new parking structure No. 9 at 1136 Fourth St.

The meeting will be held at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St.

surf report

Thursday will see a mix of local WNW windswell, some inconsistent SW swell, and a touch of very steep NW swell. Northern LA spots see knee-waist high surf at many breaks. South Bay breaks average 2-3' on windswell, with some chest high+ sets at best NW breaks in the north half of the bay. Winds will be light and variable to light onshore early in the morning and will build out of the W in the 10-15 knot range through the afternoon.

Today the water is:

64°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
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SUNDAY	10:16	-0.3	9:28	3.1	1:57	5.0	6:09	3.4
MONDAY	11:34	-0.4	11:30	2.7	3:36	4.8	6:55	3.8
TUESDAY	NA	NA	12:33	-0.5	5:11	4.8	7:27	4.2
WEDNESDAY	12:41	2.1	1:18	-0.5	6:24	4.9	7:56	4.6
THURSDAY	1:32	1.4	1:55	-0.4	7:21	5.0	8:22	4.9
FRIDAY	2:15	0.9	2:27	-0.2	8:09	4.9	8:47	5.2

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The Q-Line

This past weekend marked the 25th anniversary of Santa Monica's Renters' Rights, the city's most powerful political party. Its membership is broad and its leaders have been regarded as the forefathers of Santa Monica politics.

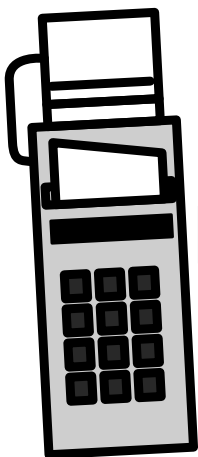
The left-leaning SMRR has dominated the City Council for years and has largely shaped life here through local government policies. And while it was built on securing rent control for Santa Monica citizens, that effort was wiped away decades ago

through a state law that all but abolished how apartment prices are regulated here.

Some wonder what SMRR's current purpose is and in the future.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What should SMRR focus on now?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your responses before Friday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in the weekend edition. 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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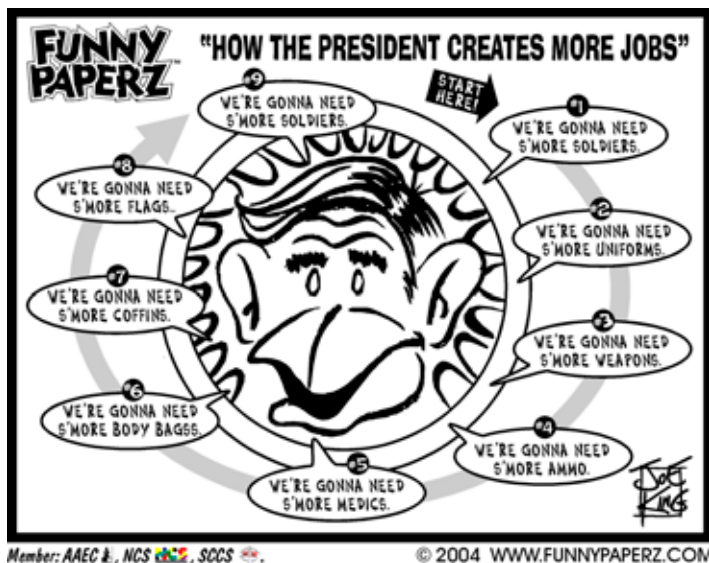


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LETTERS



Environmentalists are saving the world

Editor:

Michael Berliner's guest commentary titled, "If environmentalism succeeds, it will make human life impossible," (SMDP, April 19, page 4) is astounding in its willful ignorance. Berliner paints the entire environmentalist movement with one broad brush as haters of humanity and implies all who care about clean water, clean air, preventing deforestation, and the slaughter of endangered species are "a grave danger to mankind." On the contrary, the arrogant philosophy that man has the right to despoil the world for profit because he is at the top of the food chain is the real "grave danger." Challenging businesses and governments that destroy human health and the environment, and holding them responsible for their actions, is a positive goal that helps all humanity.

Environmentalists work for the preservation of nature and the human race, not against it. One example — and I could list dozens — not a year goes by without news reports of scientists finding possible cures for life threatening diseases in a rare jungle plant. Therefore, preventing the wholesale clear cutting of rainforests is an attempt to help mankind. The Brazilian and African rainforests are also the "lungs of the earth" and supply a large part of the world's oxygen. Then again, maybe Mr. Berliner doesn't care what he breathes.

Whether he can admit it or not, Berliner has personally benefited from the work of environmentalists in many ways. His tap water is monitored for heavy metals, bacteria and other chemicals so he isn't poisoned. The gas he puts in his SUV (I bet he drives a really big one because it's his right as an individualist) has been reformulated to produce less toxic emissions. Does he think the DWP and the oil companies do that just to be nice? Environmentalists helped compel the government to mandate cleaner water, lower fuel consumption through the CAFE standards, and make the gas burn cleaner. Hardly a threat to mankind.

Extremists exist in any movement and, unfortunately, the media swarms to spotlight the sensational acts of a few, such as torching SUVs. Most environmentalists, which include biologists, physicians, ecologists, chemists, urban planners, and wind and solar power engineers, do want a "balance" between the needs of man and the need to protect the environment. Without the environmental movement, we might have had many more catastrophic events such as Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, and the Exxon Valdez. Three disasters due primarily to placing profit above protection of humanity and our natural resources.

Michael Berliner's assertion that environmentalism is "hatred of science" is a myopic, biased, cynical view filtered through the prism of his extremist personal ideology.

Derek Loughran
Santa Monica

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NEWS
on the
EDGE

By Ron Scott Smith



I've noticed our fair publication has been running a want ad for right-leaning columnists "to help balance the editorial pages." But finding needles in haystacks has never been easy, and locating a Republican contributor in Santa Monica might be more of a task than our dear editor has bargained for. Especially since Street left town. Always willing to go an extra mile for the good of the paper, today I include what the new guy might say, as well as the usual slant. You get two for the price of one.

To date, 620 American lives have been lost in the nightmarish struggle to bring the great western ideological triad of liberty, democracy and capitalism to Iraq. In return, we bring the great middle-eastern geological triad of oil, oil, and oil, back to America. Not since the dark days of Vietnam some four decades ago has this nation been so bitterly divided over so grossly a misguided military adventure. What we're mired in is beyond quagmire. It's full-out quicksand now.

What the new guy would say:

When President George W. Bush says something he means it. As he explained to the liberal-biased media at his press conference last week, "When I say something, I mean it." And he really means it when he says Iraq will come around. The free market will thrive, and dreams of unbridled wealth will eventually lure all Muslims in the region into the fold, the fold of the dollar bill. Comparisons of Iraq to Vietnam are baseless, and emanate from a vile new wave of "nattering nabobs of negativity," to borrow a term from the great American, late Vice President Spiro Agnew. Some 50,000 Americans died in Vietnam, and the 620 who have fallen in Iraq so far are a mere drop in the bucket. A red drop, perhaps, but a mere drop.

Talk about stealing my thunder — just as I was about to lead with a fearless prediction that gasoline prices will suspiciously fall back down into affordability about a month before the election, there it came right from the horse's mouth. Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Saudi Ambassador to the U.S., just got done telling famed Washington journalist Bob Woodward that, yes indeed, Saudi oil production will be stepped up this fall, right on cue, to drive down fuel costs, giving Bush one less obstacle to overcome in his run for four more years of whatever this is. So, instead of brash Page Four soothsaying, it's already a confirmed fact. For those of you who may have been wondering all along why the misnamed and unwinnable "War on Terror" hasn't so much as

touched the country that supplies much of the funding for Al Qaeda and supplied 16 of the 19 suicide hijackers on September 11 — wonder no more.

What the new guy would say:

The Saudi ambassador made it clear to the liberal-biased media that his country only manipulates oil production in order to maximize profits in the best of American traditions. Yes, he confessed, they would like a Bush victory in November, but only because they always want the guy currently in office to be reelected. Makes perfect sense. And, to borrow a term from the great American-radio giant Rush Limbaugh — had the "environmental wackos" in the liberal-biased Senate allowed drilling to begin in the uselessly pristine Anwar region of Alaska, we could have pulled enough oil out of there to light up America for at least a month. We would have been that much closer to being able to tell the Saudis to take a long walk off a short plank, right along with their neighbors in Iraq.

A memo was placed on the President's table as he vacationed at his Texas ranch in August, 2001, a month before the attacks that have come to turn America against much of the world, and against itself and its highest principles too. It was titled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike Inside the United States," and what part of "Bin Laden Determined to Strike Inside the United States" did he not understand? Nobody but terminal conspiracy buffs can blame Bush for 9/11, but to hear him try to squirm away from asleep-at-the-wheel-in-Crawford accusations is sad. Or funny. Your choice. He tried to explain, saying, "That PDB (Presidential Daily Briefing) said nothing about an attack on America, it was about intentions." That's a relief. It was only about intentions. And then he said this, "I never saw intelligence that gave a time and a place of attack." The hijackers, it seems, forgot to e-mail their itineraries to Ashcroft.

What the new guy would say:

National Security Advisor, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, in her testimony before the liberal-biased 9/11 Commission, reassured the nation that this unimportant PDB was nothing more than a "historical" document, giving only background information on Bin Laden's Al Qaeda group, merely confirming their long-standing ill intentions toward America. "We would have moved heaven and earth to prevent those attacks had we known," she said, convincingly. The 43rd and soon-to-be 44th president agreed with her, and told the liberal-biased media in the White House the next day, convincingly, "We would have moved heaven and earth to prevent those attacks had we known." And then, in the everyman verbiage that a nation has come to love and embrace, he reassured us all, "Had I known, we'd acted. Of course I'd acted." America sleeps well tonight, knowing it's in good hands.

(Ron Scott Smith has no bias. Just some schizophrenia. E-mail him at Edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

OPINION



Our leaders should know



HERE'S THE THING

By Lara M. Brown, Ph.D.

Today, I'm doing something I don't usually do. I'm writing on foreign affairs. I don't usually do this because while my doctorate is in political science, my field is not international relations. I admit freely that my knowledge of the rest of the world is limited, at best.

But I'm doing this today because I am heartsick. The events of the past few weeks in Iraq have been too horrific. I feel compelled to comment.

Two things you should know about where I've stood all along: I am not against the war in Iraq. I am only against the way President Bush chose to fight it.

I believe that Iraq is a problem because it has three religious populations within its borders that don't like each other. I believe that we need to somehow make right our past of abandoning Iraqi Kurds without losing our diplomatic ties with Turkey. I believe that Saudi Arabia is pressuring us to move our troops, and that we need to rethink our strategic placements in the region. I believe that Saddam Hussein had been flouting the United Nations' weapons inspectors for years because he was likely up to no good. For these reasons and others — oil and tyranny, being two of them — I believe that getting rid of Saddam Hussein was on balance a good thing, rather than a bad thing.

While I had reservations about the timing of the war and the imminence of the threat, I felt that eventually we would need to go to Iraq, so I was less concerned than many others about the "preemption" debate. Our history suggests preemption has long been our preferred method of prevention (see Gore Vidal for further explanation). Likewise, while I wished we had done more to court allies from surrounding nations (i.e., agreeing to pay Turkey to use their bases) and Europe, I also understood that foreign relations often is fraught with intractable

issues relating to self-interest (i.e., France and Germany, each not wanting to give up their oil servicing contracts in Iraq).

Where I depart significantly from the neo-conservatives in the White House and from the Democrats who are hawks, is that I believe that "shock and awe" is a seriously flawed strategy. You can't win over a populace through humiliation. Raw aggression is almost always met with capitulation, followed by revenge.

It is the stuff Hollywood movies are made of. The difference is that when you watch a movie, you root for the people who were first made the victims.

In this war, Hussein didn't fight and the Iraqis became the victims. We ran through the country faster than anyone thought we would. We overwhelmed them with our military might. As a result, many Iraqis (and Muslim extremists who watched on cable and then went to Iraq after Bush declared victory on board the USS Lincoln) came to see us as conquerors, and not liberators.

I watched our troops on CNN — before they reached Baghdad, before the statue of Saddam fell — surround one pink truck with an automatic rifle welded to the top. Our soldiers closed in on the truck using maybe seven armored tanks. My thoughts were, as I watched the visuals coming back from an embedded reporter, "drug dealers are better armed than the Iraqi army."

It goes without saying that I was relieved that our troops were met with so little resistance on their mission to Baghdad, but I was worried about the impression we were leaving with the Iraqi people on the way.

I prayed for our soldiers because I knew that they would be in trouble, eventually.

Here's the thing:

War is dangerous. I study wars that have had unfathomable casualty numbers, like the Civil War — but I was particularly concerned about this war because the thinking that went into "shock and awe" seemed so profoundly uninformed about human nature.

There seemed to me to be such a serious underestimation of how people react — forget Iraqis, forget terrorists, forget all the differences that make politics so complex.

What terrified me most about the Bush White House, was not that we were going to war, but that they did not seem to have an understanding of human nature.

And this is what is at the crux of politics. This is the most basic thing that leaders are supposed to know: What is the nature of man and how do you create a society to best fit that nature? If you cannot answer these questions, you should not be engaged in nation-building. Period.

There were other ways to topple Hussein's government, but President Bush chose to humiliate, and so while we may have won the battle of Iraq, we are now losing the war.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is an education policy consultant and a visiting scholar at UCLA's Institute for Social Science Research. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com).

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Abroad he draws as many as half-million people to a single talk, making this a special opportunity to interact with him. Sri Sri says "if any part of the world is ignorant, impoverished, or uncivilized then there is danger to every other part of the world. The time has come for humanity to focus on values that are common to all traditions, rather than symbols and customs".

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BUSINESS

Investment diversification using asset allocation



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

By John Kim

Most if us have heard the saying: "Don't put all of your eggs in one basket." For years, financial experts have urged investors to spread their money across different types of asset classes — stocks, bonds and cash — in order to reduce risk and enhance long-term returns.

Yet all too often investors ignore this advice, pouring the bulk of their funds into a relatively narrow handful of investments, or even into a single stock. Proper diversification is an important factor to achieving long-term financial success. This article will explore some of the many factors that must be taken into account to construct a properly diversified portfolio.

MODERN PORTFOLIO THEORY

The concept of diversification finds its roots in the modern portfolio theory. This theory states that portfolios created using a mix of different asset classes and investment styles deliver higher returns with less risk than any one asset would by itself. The goal of asset allocation is to identify the best possible combination of stocks or other assets, based on their expected returns and the expected fluctuation — or volatility — of those returns over time. With this knowledge in hand, investors can construct portfolios that reflect this optimal mix as closely as possible.

PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

An asset classes' success is decided by the correlation between the rate of return and the level of risk in the portfolio. Therefore, the portfolio's performance is dependent on the strength of the correlation. The modern portfolio theory predicts that the higher the risk, the higher the return. The same would hold true if the opposite were to occur. However, even

asset classes with lower returns and a higher risk may improve portfolio performance. The portfolio performance is based on the strength of the relationship between risk and return.

Experienced investors expect diversified portfolios to fall above any specific asset class on a chart that plots risk and return. That's because combining assets in diversified portfolios historically has allowed investors to earn higher returns with less risk than they could by investing in any single asset class alone. The most properly diversified portfolios reflect the best trade-off between risk and return given the various possible combinations of assets.

ASSET ALLOCATION PROCESS

Developing an asset allocation strategy requires an examination, using statistical estimates, that includes a careful analysis of both past asset class performance and expected future trends. While asset allocation begins with an analysis of historic asset performance, it doesn't end there. The capital markets are constantly evolving and due to global economic, political or other forces. What occurred yesterday might not happen tomorrow. With many different variables and strategies impacting diversification decisions, many investors may find it difficult to chart an appropriate course.

In order to make the best decision, it is important to consider the factors that impact your asset allocation strategy. Besides past performance, we have mentioned that the expected returns, volatility of an asset class, and the correlation between the two influence the portfolio performance and should impact your decision on which assets to allocate.

(John S. Kim is a financial consultant with Smith Barney in Beverly Hills. Call (310) 205-4939 or visit www.fc.smithbarney.com/jkim. Smith Barney and Consulting Group are divisions of Citigroup Global Markets. Member SIPC. This article is based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the Consulting Group of Smith Barney).

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LOCAL



Workers interested in price-restricted condos

CCSM, from page 1

sees more than 2,400 units on 78 properties throughout Santa Monica.

It's not yet clear how pricing would be set for owners of the condos who later chose to sell. Ling said the resale price would probably be based in some way on the current median income at the time of the sale.

About \$100,000 in subsidies from the federal, state and local government would be needed for each condo in order for CCSM to sell them below market rates, Ling estimated. She planned to sit down with staffers today to analyze the survey, and discuss what form the project might take.

Ling also must determine how exactly to fund the condo project, and then apply for the money. CCSM is supported by a combination of grants and subsidies from federal, state and local governments. But finding additional money for the ownership program may be difficult, because all levels of government are suffering from severe budget deficits.

Those surveyed by CCSM were asked their income, household size, if they have children, their current housing costs, whether they currently rent or own, and if they were interested in the concept, Ling said. Nearly half of the 2,000 households surveyed said they were interested.

"To us, that's substantial, because it's not like we're going to build that many units," Ling said. "But to know that half the people we approached would be interested in this concept — that's a really good percentage."

Asked why low-income households wouldn't be included, Ling said those in that group typically live paycheck to paycheck, and therefore have difficulty being approved for mortgages. She added low-income earners are in constant danger of missing a payment if one person loses their job, however briefly. Plus, most of the government funding is available just for renter programs, something CCSM will still continue to champion.

"We are not shifting our major focus, commitment away from very low-income rental housing," Ling said. "It's just that we want to try something different, because we know the teachers and the classified workers in the district, let's say, are priced out of being here. This is an experiment. It's not necessarily a change in direction."

The idea is sure to be met with mixed reviews in City Hall, where some leaders

have criticized previous affordable housing projects because they serve residents outside of the city.

"I don't think I have any obligation to provide housing to anyone who presently lives in Culver City, but works in Santa Monica," said City Councilman Bob Holbrook. "If it were a Santa Monica senior, that'd be different."

Holbrook said Santa Monica has built more affordable housing than surrounding communities, but it hasn't eased the financial burden on local residents.

Other politicians said they'd support the concept of the plan if it makes sound economical sense.

"Are we getting a reasonable bang for our buck?" asked City Councilman Ken Genser. "In other words, how does the amount of public money that goes into the for sale units compare to the amount of money that goes into the for rent units? If it's similar, then I'd say it'd be fine. If it's not, then I'd say it might not be the best use of funds."

Jalili busy in retirement

HOUSING, from page 1

teered on various boards and served as a consultant to the city of Sacramento, Santa Monica College and the Rand Corp., among other groups.

Asked if he missed being the manager of City Hall, Jalili laughed and said, "It was clearly a challenge for a long period of time — and I enjoyed it — but I am in a new phase of my life, and I don't want to do that again."

Prior to his appointment as city manager in 1984, Jalili served five years as assistant city manager and five years as director of community development for City Hall. Earlier in his career, he served as director of planning and development in Inglewood, and director of planning in Ames, Iowa.

Also appointed earlier this month to the 21-member board — whose members meet monthly — was Robert Gardner, managing director of a national real estate advisory firm; Mike Russell, a senior real estate advisor to Saint John's Health Center; and Steve Wagner, a veteran affordable housing advocate and operations director of the Menorah Housing Foundation.

— John Wood

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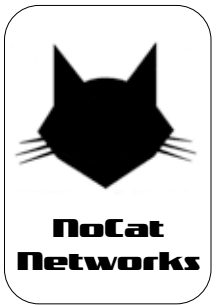
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Building owners must deal with the homeless

SIGNS, from page 1

Councilman Kevin McKeown, adding that ensuring all signs in the city conform to standards will create uniformity. "An attractive, uncluttered environment is good for business ... what happens is that people don't comply with the (sign) law and it creates an unfair advantage for those that do."

But City Councilman Bob Holbrook, who often is in the minority on the council, agrees with merchants when it comes to City Hall's policies being misdirected. "The council doesn't care about the business community, it's obvious," he said. "There is no political will to do anything about the homeless in Santa Monica."

"It has to be dealt with at the polls," he added. "This council isn't going to do anything."

Holbrook said he's more tolerant than most about the signs in Santa Monica and doesn't see a problem with many of them, including banners hung in front of churches promoting an event.

But the rest of his colleagues do, which is why the City Council directed the building and safety department to hire more officers and start enforcing the city's numerous codes.

The sign code is based on a complex set of criteria that includes the amount of square footage in the storefront, and prohibits certain types of signs like those that hang from rooftops, those on free-standing poles and sandwich boards, among others.

The sign ordinance hasn't been enforced for years. In 2000, the City Council directed staff to begin enforcing prohibited signs, but City Hall didn't have enough staff to handle all of the cases. Businesses who don't comply now have two options: Either remove the illegal signs, or get a permit and approval from City Hall and one of its commissions, the Architectural Review Board.

City Hall has beefed up its enforcement of illegal signs as part of an overall effort to have all of the city's codes be complied with, including zoning issues and noise, McCormick said. Ten new code compliance officers have been hired and one is dedicated solely to sign enforcement.

With more than 6,000 businesses in Santa Monica, it's certain that code compliance officers won't catch every infraction. But officials hope that the ordinance will become self-enforcing when one

"The council doesn't care about the business community, it's obvious. There is no political will to do anything about the homeless in Santa Monica."

— BOB HOLBROOK
City Councilman

business is forced to comply when it is threatened with fines.

"If you cite someone, then their neighbor notices it," Katz said. "It's being enforced as it's seen."

City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, who said she's not a big proponent of code enforcement, said who decides what signs are aesthetically pleasing is subjective, which is why standards were created.

She also added that state laws limit how much local municipalities can regulate vagrants.

"If there is a problem, we need to hear about it and the police need to know about it," she said. "The state got into limitations on loitering and what is delegated to local authorities."

"Our hands are tied to what the state has preempted us from doing," she added. "We have more control with laws like the signs."

Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega said there are a multitude of laws that overlap regulations related to vagrancy. But if there are issues on private property, the land owner must formally indicate to officers that he or she doesn't want people sleeping in their doorways. In some cases, property owners don't have a problem with it.

"It's private property and we can't discriminate against that," Fabrega said. "Under the 14th Amendment, people have the right to equal protection under the law."

City Councilman Ken Genser said business owners will rarely be fined, if they comply with the law.

"We give them plenty of warning so they don't have to pay the fines," he said. "A lot of business owners have complied voluntarily. And it's not fair to allow their competitors to keep their signs up."



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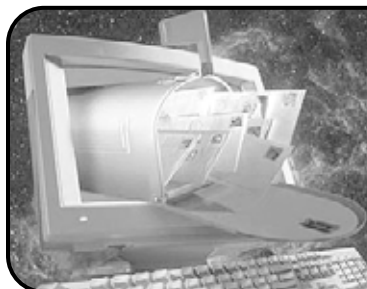
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DID YOU KNOW?: Andrew Jackson was also the first President to almost be murdered. While he was at a funeral, a man took out a pistol and shot at him at point-blank range. The gun misfired. He took out another one, and it too misfired. Jackson then tackled the man to the ground.

STATE



Irrigation, irritation and litigation in a Calif. county

BY BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press Writer

ALTURAS — On the outskirts of town, where tumbleweeds strain against barbed wire and sagebrush sprouts on the roadside, a sign reads, "Where the West still lives." One member of the Modoc County board of supervisors shoes horses for a living. Cowboy hats, boots and Wrangler jeans are the get-up of choice.

But a dustup in this high desert town of 3,200 has revived the Old West's mean side, with death threats, fist-fights and a sheriff confiscating guns.

At the heart of the nasty dispute is water — in this case, Rattlesnake Creek.

For more than a dozen years, the stream meant a good life for ranchers Lawrence and Sandi Ray. It ran across their land, watering their cattle and the hay grown to feed them. They had moved from the Sacramento Valley seeking cheap water, and they found plenty of it at their Rattlesnake Creek Ranch.

The trouble started on Thanksgiving 2000, when the Rays came upon two of their cows struggling in mud. They got one to safety, but the other animal didn't fare so well.

After investigating, Lawrence Ray blamed the local water master for opening their dam without their permission, letting water flow downstream and leaving treacherous muddy banks.

The Rays nursed the pregnant cow for 10 days, then, realizing it wouldn't survive, called the sheriff to take photographs and shot the animal in the head. They demanded \$800 in compensation.

The Hot Spring Valley Irrigation District wouldn't pay, saying it was simply preparing the Rays' dam for winter when the flow was changed. When the Rays threatened to sue, the district struck first, going to court and claiming ownership of the dam. The Rays countersued.

In the course of their suit, the Rays discovered the district was selling water to a hydroelectric plant and they found canceled checks showing district officials got paid by the power company.

The three-year fight over the small stream has sadly illustrated the West's bitter water wars. As it progressed, the irrigation district's reservoir nearly ran dry, a grand jury found the district rife with problems, and emotions have been worn raw in Modoc County.

"I wasn't a very hateful person 'til I moved up here," Lawrence Ray says now. "But Modoc is a tough, tough place."

As California copes with growth expected to bloat the state from 35 million to 50 million people in 20 years, the population in its third-smallest county has shrunk to fewer than 10,000.

Changes in federal logging policies wiped out the local timber industry, closing several sawmills. One railroad pulled up tracks leading to town.

As in much of the Golden State's interior, the land is dry and dusty much of the year. But precious spring runoff flows from Devil's Garden into Rattlesnake Creek.

Around the turn of the last century, local ranchers who

watched Rattlesnake Creek go dry in the summer recognized the value of storing spring rain. They pooled resources to form Hot Spring Valley Irrigation District, and the state let them create the Big Sage Reservoir; the dam was completed in 1921.

The district was licensed to store water from October through April and to release water for irrigation, stock and wildlife from May through September.

But the Rays noticed something odd. Each fall for three years, large quantities of water mysteriously flowed down the Rattlesnake from the Big Sage and swamped their pasture. This was after the irrigation season, when nothing was being grown.

When the Rays asked about it, they were told the district was making good on a settlement with Pacific Gas & Electric, which ran a power plant 75 miles downstream on the Pit River. PG&E had filed a claim against several water districts, contending they crippled power plants on the lower Pit River by holding too much water upstream.

The drawn-out dispute, finally settled with the full-release compromise, left Hot Spring with \$50,000 in legal and engineering bills and just \$5.16 in the bank, according to court papers.

The district needed to raise cash — and it found a way.

Down the Pit River between Hot Spring Valley and PG&E's powerhouses, the Muck Valley Hydroelectric Project churns about 30 megawatts of power. District water master Joseph Battram arranged a deal between the district and Muck Valley's owner, Idaho-based Malacha Hydro Limited Partnership.

Malacha would pay for use of the water en route to PG&E. Hot Spring board members "could not believe the district's good fortune," Battram said in court papers. Battram and Malacha did not return several phone calls seeking further comment.

The water-sharing had grown complex, and this led to questions, especially as locals learned that checks totaling about \$560,000 were paid to the district in 1998 and 1999. Malacha, through a subsidiary called Big Valley Ranches, also paid three Hot Spring board members to work on dam improvements or release water from their own dams.

The payments to the district permitted water rate reductions, and the payments to individuals represented "a great little windfall ... for the ranchers who were struggling to make ends meet," said Willy Hagge, board president at the time.

Hagge was paid \$15,000, and two other board members received a total of \$25,000. Battram received at least \$41,000, according to canceled checks from Big Valley Ranches.

But not everyone was happy. The Rays, through their lawyer, said water belonging to all district members was being released from the Big Sage reservoir — and all should be compensated, not a few individual ranchers.

Water has dominated Western politics and commerce since the first settlers rolled across the Great Plains.

Dams went up to capture water, prevent floods and provide power. Farmers fought to keep their water as cities' demand grew. Enormous diversions keep metropolises like Los Angeles from going thirsty. Indian tribes, environmentalists, farmers and the federal government

have battled over rivers.

The complex water code boils down to a few basic principles. Among them: You can't steal someone's water, and you can't easily sell it downriver.

"When I was a kid I remember the old-timers saying you just don't sell water," said Modoc County rancher John Gilstrap. "It's not something you can take to the bank. When they started selling water it started snowballing and here we are."

Besides filing countersuits over the cow and the dam in state court, the Rays accused Battram, Malacha and Big Valley Ranches in federal court of racketeering for allegedly conspiring to take water from the district for power generation.

All the parties have denied the charges.

The Rays' complaints prompted investigations by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Modoc County grand jury.

"The Rays feel that by going the route that they're taking perhaps they can weaken the resolve of the irrigation board, and all it has done is strengthen our resolve," Hagge said.

Sandi Ray said she and her husband would not give up. "There's a time when you have to make a stand and this is ours," she said. "Until we lose our ranch we're fighting it."

Lawrence Ray, a short, stocky, balding man with a ruddy face, beefy hands and a hot temper, said he has threatened to kill Battram if he comes on his property and was charged last year with three counts of making terrorist threats. The sheriff ordered Ray to get rid of his collection of guns and he confiscated two remaining weapons.

Battram left his job on a workers' compensation claim due to the stress, Hagge said.

At the district's annual meeting last year, Ray stood up to denounce the board and was shouted down by Pete Carey, a rancher paid by Big Valley Ranches for releasing water.

Ray suggested they go outside to settle things. Before he could get to the door, Ray said he was on the floor being kicked and punched. He ended up in the hospital.

Ray and Carey were both put on probation for disturbing the peace. Ray has since filed a personal injury lawsuit against Carey.

The State Water Resources Control Board recently ended a 2 1/2-year investigation by ordering the Hot Spring Valley Irrigation District to stop the releases to PG&E and Malacha.

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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Aging DNA leads to rape arrest

By The Associated Press

PORT HUENEME — Using 11-year-old DNA evidence, police arrested a man for the rape and stabbing death of an 87-year-old deaf woman.

Ricardo Villa, now 28, was arrested Tuesday at an auto shop and booked for investigation of the June 27, 1993, killing of Beatrice Bellis, Cmdr. Jerry Beck said. Villa's DNA was allegedly found at the apartment after Bellis was killed.

"Anyone who had a connection to the apartment complex we asked for voluntary DNA samples," Beck said, adding that with Villa, "We got a hit."

Bellis, who was left deaf and mute by a childhood case of scarlet fever, had lived at the Mar Vista senior center for four years before she was killed.

Beck praised detectives and Ventura County district attorney's office investigators who worked on the Bellis case over the past 10 years.

LAPD prepares for deadline

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Police Department expects to meet a June 15 deadline for complying with most reforms mandated by a federal consent decree.

During a three-hour meeting Tuesday of the two civilian panels that oversee the Police Department, officials said many of the federal rules were too expensive or unreasonable. Still, department officials were optimistic a federal monitor would find them in compliance.

"We are achieving substantial compliance with the intent of the consent decree, which is to institutionalize reform," said Gerald Chaleff, the LAPD official responsible for consent-decree issues. "The intent and the letter are the same thing."

The reforms were required by the Police Department's settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice following the scandal at the department's Rampart Station. Police planted evidence, framed suspects and lied about officer-involved shootings.

Achieving the consent-decree goals has cost the LAPD \$32 million for a new computer system and an estimated \$30 million a year for the 300 police staffers who are assigned to consent-decree duties, officials said.

While reporting progress in meeting federal goals, some department officials conceded the LAPD was falling behind requirements in training officers to deal with mentally ill people because of the high cost.

Among other things, the decree requires that police shootings of dogs be exhaustively documented and that 20 percent of police officers undergo 30 hours of training each on dealing with mentally ill people.

Polling plan approved

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — Supervisors approved a sweeping plan to strengthen poll worker recruitment and training in an effort to avoid a repeat of the March 2 mistakes with Orange County's new electronic voting machines.

Thousands of voters were given incorrect ballots in the March election.

The board on Tuesday approved a proposal by Registrar of Voters Steve Rodermund to take steps he said would help in the November election.

Rodermund estimated 2,000 voters received ballots in March that listed races in which they were ineligible to vote. Only one race, a seat on the Democratic Party Central Committee, could have been affected by the mistake and the party agreed to handle the matter internally, he said.

Rodermund proposed placing a paid and highly trained county employee at every polling place and reducing the class size at training sessions for volunteers from 30 to 20. He is also considering a plan to recruit volunteers from schools in the county.

The mistakes were attributed to poll workers.

Supervisor Bill Campbell, co-chairman of a committee that reviewed the election day problems, said he's satisfied that the machines the county purchased last year from Hart InterCivic of Texas functioned properly.

"The equipment works. There are some things we have to do to make it work better," Campbell said. "It recorded votes, gave people their ballots, kept it private for them and we were able to count it up in an automated fashion."

Woman killed in cafe shooting

By The Associated Press

CYPRESS — A purported gang member was arrested for allegedly firing a .45-caliber handgun in a crowded cafe, killing a woman and injuring four others.

Wilson Sun, 21, of Lakewood was linked to the shooting by DNA from his baseball cap left at the Fifth Wave Cafe, police investigators said. Sun, identified as a member of a Los Angeles-based gang, was arrested Tuesday and booked for investigation of murder, attempted murder and conspiracy.

Venus Hyun, 21, of Cerritos was killed and four others were wounded. Gunfire erupted while some 200 people were inside the Lincoln Avenue cafe about 1:30 a.m. March 13, investigators said.

At the time of his arrest, Sun was already in jail in Los Angeles on a parole violation in connection with an earlier assault conviction.

Four other people were arrested when SWAT teams served search warrants at five homes as part of the investigation into the shooting.

Charkris Kanchanapoomi, 20, of Long Beach and Ashil Nair, 19, of Cerritos also face murder, attempted murder and conspiracy charges, as well as possession of methamphetamine for sale, Lt. David Birozy said. They are being held on \$1 million bail each, police said.

NATIONAL



Idaho fish farmers try to fish for top caviar crop

BY REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press Writer

HAGERMAN, Idaho — Leo Ray's future is in a tiny glass jar.

The miniature, nearly black orbs glistening inside represent nearly 17 years of time, money and effort.

And with wholesale prices ranging between \$30 and \$55 an ounce, the sturgeon eggs could also represent Idaho's most expensive agricultural product.

"Any fish is like a sponge. It tastes like the water it comes out of, and we have the best water in the world here," said Ray, the owner of Fish Breeders of Idaho.

It is a premise that Ray, Ark Fisheries owners Lynn and Kathy Babington and other regional fish farmers are banking on. They're raising Snake River sturgeon for both their meat and caviar with technical advice from a cooperative made up of the Idaho Aquaculture Association, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the College of Southern Idaho.

This year could be the first big caviar crop. The white sturgeon does not start producing eggs until it is between 8 and 10 years old, and it can take a few years more before the fish matures enough to produce roe suitable for market.

"The biggest challenge is starting young enough to have the time to wait for the caviar to hit the market," Ray joked. "It's my 401k retirement plan, and Uncle Sam doesn't have to worry about anyone pulling it out early."

Timing may be everything. The white sturgeon's elite Caspian Sea cousins — beluga, osetra and sevruga sturgeons — have set the standards by which every fish egg is measured.

But they are also teetering on the edge of extinction.

Overfishing and poaching have threatened Caspian Sea sturgeon, and the U.N. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species has given Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan until mid-June to prove they are implementing rules to protect the fish.

Tuesday, the federal government listed the beluga sturgeon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The move sets the stage for reducing or even banning imports in six months. As of 2002, the United States imported 60 percent of the world's beluga caviar. Experts estimate legal trade to be worth more than \$100 million a year, at least 10 times less than the illegal catch from the Caspian region.

Some gourmet restaurants in the United States are turning to the less expensive farm-raised American caviar to fill the gaps left in their menus.

"The demand seems to be there, and it's a matter of marketing and targeting the correct areas and having a quality product," said Terry Patterson, a professor of the College of Southern Idaho's Aquaculture Program. "You have to understand that Idaho caviar is in its infancy compared to, say, California caviar, and we're still looking at where we can go with it, but the potential is very good."

"The biggest challenge is starting young enough to have the time to wait for the caviar to hit the market. It's my 401k retirement plan, and Uncle Sam doesn't have to worry about anyone pulling it out early."

— LEO RAY
Owner,
Fish Breeders of Idaho

Under the cooperative, the college conducts research and breeds the local stock. Some of the sturgeon are released back into the wild under the auspices of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and some are sold to the farmers, with the proceeds funding the program.

The cooperative started in 1987 when area trout farmers began looking for ways to diversify, Patterson said.

Fish and Game officials worried that if farmers imported captive-bred sturgeon from California, some of them could escape into the Snake River and threaten the local wild population. But officials were also concerned about maintaining numbers of the local wild sturgeon, which in recent decades had been trapped between the dams along the Snake River.

The cooperative solves both problems, Patterson said, by increasing the local wild population and providing stock for the farms.

"To date we've stocked right near 7,000 fish in the Snake River," said Patterson. "They're all tagged with a computer chip for tracking."

Sturgeon can grow to hundreds of pounds, and some of the farm-raised fish weigh as much as 150 pounds. The eggs can make up more than 10 percent of the body weight, Lynn Babington said.

Harvesting the caviar kills the fish. The entire ovary is removed and carefully rubbed across a screen to separate the eggs from the membrane. The eggs are lightly salted and packed in jars or tins.

During the holiday season, Ray sent samples of his caviar out to his steady customers, and now some of them are ordering regularly. Most of his next harvest will be sold before he kills a fish.

Initial tastes have brought rave reviews, and Idaho caviar may someday compete with beluga because of the environmental control a farm offers, Ray said.

"There's a good chance that in the aquaculture environment we can bump it up to the best quality," he said. "It's just about harvesting and adding salt at the right time."

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Dems: Bush not trustworthy on overtime law

BY LEIGH STROPE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Labor Department sharply scaled back its election-year plan to revise overtime regulations on Tuesday, but a leading Democratic critic said the Bush administration "simply is not trustworthy" on the issue.

"It's possible that the administration has had an election-year conversion on overtime but I hope you'll pardon me if I remain skeptical," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, who led the opposition to an earlier version of proposed regulations issued a year ago.

Harkin spoke on the Senate floor as Labor Secretary Elaine Chao was previewing a regulation that would allow more white-collar workers and low-wage earners to remain eligible for overtime than in a draft proposal issued 13 months ago. The revisions would permit those earning up to \$100,000 a year to continue collecting premium pay if they log more than 40 hours a week.

Police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians would remain eligible for overtime eligibility. The new rule would take effect in 120 days.

"When workers know their rights and employers know how to pay workers, everybody wins," Chao said in a statement.

The initial proposal, which Chao issued in March of 2003, marked the first comprehensive revision of the overtime standard since 1949. The guidelines were

"When workers know their rights and employers know how to pay workers, everybody wins."

— ELAINE CHAO
Labor Secretary

drawn up at the urging of businesses and employer groups, who said that out-of-date standards were creating confusion in the modern workplace about overtime eligibility. The result, they said, was a wave of lawsuits by workers demanding overtime eligibility.

The plan immediately drew ferocious criticism from organized labor, Democrats and some Republicans. Congressional efforts to block implementation of the regulations were abandoned in the face of a veto threat.

The changes that Chao announced come at a time when jobs and pocketbook issues are among the top concerns for voters. Bush has improved his standing in polls on domestic issues, but questions linger about the strength of the labor market and his plan to create jobs.

In his remarks on the Senate floor, Harkin said he would defer a final judgment until he sees the fine print of the proposals. At the same time, he said that since the passage of the Fair Labor and Standards Act decades ago, the 40-hour work week and overtime "have been sacrosanct, respected by presidents of

both parties. Until now."

Under the revised new rules, officials said up to 107,000 workers could lose their overtime protection, but 6.7 million workers would be guaranteed eligibility.

Under Chao's initial proposal, the Labor Department said 644,000 white-collar workers could have lost protection, and 1.3 million could gain it.

Democrats challenged her initial estimates of who could potentially lose eligibility, citing their own analysis of up to 8 million workers.

The regulations will not apply to workers covered by labor contracts, although union officials said they feared the changes would strengthen the hand of companies in future bargaining.

"The fact that President Bush is slashing overtime pay for even a single worker is outrageous," AFL-CIO spokeswoman Lane Windham said.

The revisions, made after the Labor Department received more than 75,000 comments, would deny overtime pay to white-collar workers who earn more than \$100,000 annually and perform some professional, administrative or executive

duties, the department said. The initial plan put the salary ceiling at \$65,000 annually.

The changes also would guarantee premium pay to white-collar workers earning less than \$23,660 a year.

That's up from the \$22,100 initially proposed, which the department said would have made 1.3 million workers newly eligible for overtime pay. The department in its plan last year suggested ways employers could avoid paying the extra money, including cutting those workers' hourly wages and adding the overtime to equal the original salary, or raising salaries to the new threshold, making them ineligible.

The regulations are designed to meet the concerns of employers arguing that outdated and confusing rules failed to address the modern workplace and opened the door to lawsuits.

The proposed revisions spell out that police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and other "first responders" would not lose overtime eligibility. Department officials had said that was clear from the initial proposal, but critics disputed them.

The plan also makes clear that military veterans would not lose overtime pay. The initial plan would have let employers count military training toward classifying workers as professionals who are exempt from overtime pay. Democrats and labor unions had criticized that provision as trying to take away premium pay from military veterans.

Suicide car bombs kills at least 68 in Basra, Iraq

BY ABBAS FAYADH

Associated Press Writer

BASRA, Iraq — Five suicide attackers detonated car bombs against police buildings during rush hour Wednesday in this British-controlled southern Iraqi city, killing 68 people, including 16 children burned to death in their passing school buses.

Iraqi officials blamed al-Qaida for the bloody attack in Basra.

The attacks wounded about 200 people and marked a revival of the terror threat as U.S. forces battled guerrillas across the country since the beginning of the month.

Bombers simultaneously detonated four cars packed with missiles and TNT just after 7 a.m. in front of three police stations and a police academy. An hour later another car bomb went off outside the police academy, located in Zubair, a suburb of mainly Shiite Basra.

Two bombers were captured before they could attack, Basra Gov. Wael Abdul-Latif said, adding that he believed al-Qaida was behind the bombings. He said 16 children and nine policemen were among the dead.

Iraqis pulled charred and torn bodies from mangled vehicles in front of the Saudia police station, located by Basra's crowded main street market, according to Basra's governor.

About 200 people were wounded, including four British soldiers, officials said. British troops oversee security for southern Iraq, including the port city of Basra.

Two vans passing the Saudia station were destroyed. Dead children were taken to hospital morgues.

Iraqi Interior Minister Samir Shaker Mahmoud al-Sumeidi blamed "terrorists." He said the Basra attack resembled suicide bombings earlier this year against Shiites and Kurds that were blamed on foreign Islamic militants.

"The information we have indicate that the attacks were carried out with car bombs," al-Sumeidi said. "The fingerprints of the parties that were behind the massacres in Iraq as in Irbil and Karbala can be seen in today's attacks."

U.S. officials have pointed to al-Qaida linked Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in March 2 suicide bombings at Shiite shrines in Karbala and Baghdad that killed at least 181. Ansar al-Islam, an extremist group based in the north, is suspected in Feb. 1 bombings in Irbil that left 109 dead.

Al-Zarqawi has outlined a plot to attack Shiite religious sites to foment civil war between Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority and Sunni minority, say U.S. officials pointing to a letter from al-Zarqawi to al-Qaida leaders that the military says it intercepted earlier this year.

In London, Prime Minister Tony Blair told the House of Commons that the attackers were "desperate" terrorists who "were prepared to attack literally the most defenseless people they can find, simply to cause chaos."

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the attacks would not derail the planned handover of power to an Iraqi administration on June 30.

Abdul-Latif said up to 16 children and nine policemen were among the 68 dead, though other officials gave lower numbers of children. Police Commander Mohammed Kadhim al-Ali said the cars

were packed with missiles and TNT.

The bombings brought yet another front of violence as U.S. forces are locked in a standoff with a radical Shiite cleric in the holy city of Najaf and Sunni insurgents in the central city of Fallujah.

An agreement aimed at bringing peace to Fallujah, 35 miles west of Baghdad, met troubles only a day after its implementation.

A heavy battle broke out Wednesday on the city's north side, where up to 40 insurgents attacked Marine positions, commanders said. Nine insurgents were killed, and three Marines were wounded, a military spokesman said, though some Marines in the field said 36 guerrillas were killed.

As of noon, no heavy weapons had been turned in, the most crucial tenet of the agreement in U.S. eyes, said Marine Lt. Col. Brennan Byrne. The U.S. military has warned it may resume its assault on Fallujah if the agreement falls through.

For now, the Marines were responding by halting a part of the agreement of great concern to the Fallujans, the return of families that fled during the fighting since April 5, Byrne said.

The explosions in Basra, four at one time and one an hour later, struck the three police stations and the academy in the suburb of Zubair just after 7 a.m., as many residents were headed to markets, work or school. An hour later, another blast targeted the same police academy.

Abdul-Latif, who is also a member of the Iraqi Governing Council, said 200 were wounded, including 36 policemen. About 168 of the wounded were in critical condition. Four British soldiers were injured in the police academy blasts, two

seriously, the British Ministry of Defense said in London.

Iraqi Police Col. Kadhem al-Muhammedawi said 10 children were among the dead, while al-Sumeidi said five were killed. Al-Sumeidi said there were 100 injured, including 28 children.

"Today, we all have lost children who are part of Iraq's future which the terrorists want to destroy. The Iraqi government condemns this criminal act and it confirms its resolution on defeating this cancer which is called resistance," al-Sumeidi said.

A large crater, six feet deep and nine feet wide, was blown in the pavement outside the Saudia station, the facade of which was heavily damaged.

British troops who tried to come to the Saudia station to help were met by angry Iraqis, blaming British for failing to keep security in the city.

Wednesday's battle on Fallujah's north side lasted for four hours, with Cobra helicopter gunships blasting with Gatling guns from the air. Witnesses reported tanks moving into the Jolan neighborhood where Marines said the attack was launched.

Afterward, the city returned to the calm it has seen over the past few days as weekend negotiations were held between U.S. officials and Fallujah representatives, producing Monday's agreement on the first steps toward bringing peace.

Capt. Matt Watt, of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines regiment, said he doubted the battle would scuttle Monday's agreement, suggesting it was an isolated attack.

"I think it's one last surge" by insurgents, Watt said. "They see that the end is near and they are making one last push."

INTERNATIONAL



Some see parallels in Iraq to Vietnam 'quagmire'

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — "We must not waver," President Bush said last week of the Iraq conflict, echoing a sentiment offered 37 years ago by another president about a different conflict. "We will not grow weary," President Johnson said of the Vietnam War.

Times, Bush acknowledges, have been tough lately for American and other coalition forces in Iraq. Perhaps inevitably, comparisons have been drawn to Vietnam.

Both Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell have been asked recently whether they see the possibility of a Vietnam-style "quagmire" in Iraq.

Says Powell, "We must not suddenly lose the energy needed for this task by dragging out old labels, such as, 'This is Vietnam.'"

Bush is vowing to stay the course in Iraq, brushing aside growing skepticism about the wisdom of his policies. Johnson showed the same mettle as he tried to defend, at huge cost, a beleaguered South Vietnamese government amid widespread restiveness among Americans.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., is calling the Iraq dilemma "Bush's Vietnam." There are no assurances that the United States will be able to leave Iraq with all goals accomplished. Bush can only hope that it doesn't become the debacle that Vietnam was.

Polls show that about 40 percent of Americans fear Iraq will become another Vietnam.

The president says the violence in Iraq is the work of

a small minority that is thwarting the majority will. Johnson invoked that argument repeatedly during the Vietnam War.

As was the case in Vietnam, U.S. forces are trying in Iraq to walk the thin line between winning hearts and minds and convincing the armed opposition that resistance is futile.

Scale is a major difference between the two conflicts. At the height of the Vietnam war, there were five times as many American troops in Vietnam as there are in Iraq.

Death rates among U.S. forces in Iraq, even with recent increases, remain far below those in Vietnam in the late 1960s.

For every U.S. soldier lost in Iraq so far, more than 80 died in Vietnam.

Casualties from the 1968 communist Tet Offensive in Vietnam dwarfed the recent bloodletting in Fallujah. Also, Vietnam was mostly a clash of political ideologies. In Iraq, there are elements of a clash of civilizations.

And, unlike today's volunteer armed forces, many Americans who fought in Vietnam were draftees.

The United States tried for 12 years in Vietnam but never achieved its major objective. In contrast, Saddam Hussein was ousted a mere 21 days after fighting began in Iraq.

America's problem in Iraq is the postwar. Six months after major combat supposedly ended, Congress appropriated \$69.6 billion for military operations and reconstruction aid for Iraq; post-conflict Vietnam didn't cost America a cent and claimed no American lives.

Bush says failure in Iraq is unthinkable. "Every friend

of America in Iraq would be betrayed to prison and murder, as a new tyranny arose," Bush said last week.

"Every enemy of America in the world would celebrate, proclaiming our weakness and decadence, and using that victory to recruit a new generation of killers."

Johnson had a similar view of retreat from Vietnam. He feared that victory for the communists would lead quickly to falling dominoes among neighboring pro-American countries and give inspiration to enemies of the United States everywhere.

The communists took power in Cambodia and Laos in 1975, along with South Vietnam, but they got no further in the region.

Johnson's goal in Vietnam was limited: defend South Vietnam. Bush's far more ambitious agenda for Iraq is to create a democracy for neighboring Arab countries to emulate. Will Americans have the patience needed to achieve that goal? In Vietnam, war weariness set in, and America was out.

Vietnam forced Johnson into retirement; he shunned a re-election bid in 1968. His Democratic Party, fractured over Vietnam, lost the White House that November.

In contrast, retirement does not seem to have crossed Bush's mind. Fellow Republicans are largely united behind him as he seeks another four years in office.

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Attend Metro Westside/Central's monthly governance council meeting Thursday, May 6, 3 pm at the La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills. For information, call 213.922.1200.

Meet Metro Westside/Central

Get to know your neighbors. Metro Westside/Central is holding a community fair on Saturday, April 24, from 11 am to 3 pm in the Target parking lot at La Cienega Boulevard and Rodeo Road. Enjoy music, give-aways, a bike safety rodeo for kids and learn about Metro contracting and job opportunities.



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NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Leaders to push for six-party nuclear talks

By The Associated Press

BEIJING — China confirmed Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il paid a three-day visit to Beijing, and said both sides agreed to "continue jointly pushing forward" for six-party talks on the North's nuclear ambitions.

It was the first word of the visit from the Chinese side, which usually withholds details until after Kim returns to Pyongyang.

The "unofficial" visit began Monday at the invitation of President Hu Jintao, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Hu and Kim "exchanged in-depth views on peacefully solving the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula," Xinhua said.

"Both sides ... agreed to continue the position on solving the issue through dialogue and in a peaceful way, and jointly pushing forward the six-party talks process," the agency said.

Citing Kim, the report also said that North Korea was willing to stick to "the final nuclear-weapon-free goal," adding that Pyongyang's position on seeking a peaceful solution through dialogue "has not changed."

Nuclear snitch freed

By The Associated Press

ASHKELON, Israel — A defiant Mordechai Vanunu walked out of prison on Wednesday after serving 18 years for spilling Israel's nuclear secrets, saying he was proud of his actions and complaining he was treated cruelly by his jailers.

Vanunu flashed victory signs and waved to hundreds of cheering supporters. Dozens of counter-demonstrators booed and shouted epithets.

Vanunu, 50, held an impromptu news conference, his brother Meir by his side. Vanunu said he was given "very cruel and barbaric treatment" by Israel's security services.

"To all those who are calling me traitor, I am saying I am proud, I am proud and happy to do what I did," Vanunu said.

Vanunu, who converted to Christianity in the 1980s, said he was mistreated because of his religion. He also said there is no need for a Jewish state and demanded

that Israel open its nuclear reactor in Dimona to international inspection.

In 1986, Vanunu leaked details and pictures of Israel's alleged nuclear weapons program to The Sunday Times of London.

Vanunu will live in a luxury apartment complex in Jaffa.

(See related story, page 15.)

Of mice and no men

By The Associated Press

Men, your gender just took a hit in the animal kingdom. Scientists report they've created mice by using two genetic moms — and no dad.

That's a first for any mammal. But don't look for this service at the corner fertility clinic. Experts say the mouse procedure can't be done in people for technical and ethical reasons.

In fact, one of the moms was a mutant newborn, whose DNA had been altered to make it act like a male's contribution to an embryo.

The work sheds light on why mice and people normally do need a dad's DNA to reproduce. Some experts also said it held implications for using human stem cells to treat disease.

The achievement is reported in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature* by Tomohiro Kono of the Tokyo University of Agriculture in Japan, with colleagues there and in Korea. They say they produced two mice, one of which grew to maturity and gave birth. Kono said this mouse, named "Kaguya" after a Japanese fairy tale character, appears to be perfectly healthy.

For the study described in *Nature*, the researchers got around the need for male-derived DNA by turning to mutant mice. The female mice were missing a chunk of DNA, and as a result, two of their genes would behave in an embryo as if they'd come from a male.

Thousands gather to remember Columbine

By The Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colo. — Hundreds of survivors, friends and family gathered at sunset Tuesday to pay an emotional tribute to the 13 people slain at Columbine High five years ago in the worst school shooting in U.S. history.

Participants bowed their heads as

four F-16 fighter jets soared over the grassy amphitheater in Clement Park, a few hundred yards and just out of sight from the suburban school. They rose in unison to cheer Anne Marie Hochhalter, who was paralyzed from the waist down in the attack and delivered a message of hope from a wheelchair.

"We all will never forget what happened that day, but we can move forward and prove that we are strong," she said.

Hochhalter told an estimated 1,200 people her mother committed suicide six months after the massacre, but added that she and other survivors have gone on to college and careers.

Five years ago, on April 20, 1999, Columbine students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold slaughtered 12 classmates and a teacher before committing suicide.

The names of the dead were read aloud before the crowd and a bell was rung each time.

Kerry raises \$44M

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Kerry quickly rebuilt his depleted campaign fund after securing the Democratic nomination last month, raising roughly \$44 million and beating one of President Bush's money records.

Kerry collected about \$60 million from January through March, topping the previous presidential quarterly record of \$50 million set by Bush last summer. Bush raised \$52.9 million in the first three months of this year; Kerry surpasses that even after about \$3.5 million in campaign loans are subtracted.

Kerry has a long way to go to catch up with Bush's record overall fund raising, however.

Kerry raised about \$85 million from January 2003 through last month; Bush has raised more than \$185 million since launching his reelection effort last May, campaign finance reports the two filed Tuesday with the Federal Election Commission show.

Bush and Kerry are setting records with every dollar they collect. That is in part because this is the first time both major-party nominees have skipped public financing for the primary season, freeing them from the program's \$45 million spending limit.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

INTERNATIONAL



Israeli nuclear whistleblower freed after 18 years

BY PETER ENAV
Associated Press Writer

ASHKELON, Israel — A defiant Mordechai Vanunu walked out of prison on Wednesday after serving 18 years for spilling Israel's nuclear secrets, saying he was proud of his actions and complaining he was treated cruelly by his jailers.

Vanunu, dressed in a checkered shirt and black tie, flashed victory signs and waved to hundreds of cheering supporters as he walked into the sun-splashed courtyard of Shikma Prison in the coastal town of Ashkelon. Dozens of counter-demonstrators booed and shouted epithets.

In the courtyard, Vanunu, 50, held an impromptu news conference, his brother Meir by his side. Vanunu said he was given "very cruel and barbaric treatment" by Israel's security services.

"To all those who are calling me traitor, I am saying I am proud, I am proud and happy to do what I did," Vanunu said in accented English. He refused to answer questions in Hebrew because of restrictions Israel has imposed, including a ban on speaking to foreigners.

Vanunu, who converted to Christianity in the 1980s, said he was mistreated because of his religion. He also said there is no need for a Jewish state and demanded that Israel open its nuclear reactor in Dimona to international inspection.

"I said, Israel don't need nuclear arms, especially now that all the Middle East is free from nuclear weapons," he said.

Vanunu said his first stop would be St. George, an Anglican church in Jerusalem's Old City. He left the prison in a white sedan as police dispersed a large crowd. More than a dozen cars and motorcycles followed Vanunu's lead vehicle to Jerusalem, and a helicopter flew low overhead.

Israeli authorities have imposed a series of travel restrictions and other constraints on Vanunu, saying he still possesses state secrets. But Vanunu said he has no more secrets to reveal. "I am now ready to start my life," he said.

In 1986, Vanunu leaked details and pictures of Israel's alleged nuclear weapons program to The Sunday Times of London. Based on his account, experts said at the time that Israel had the world's sixth-largest stockpile of nuclear weapons.

The revelations undercut Israel's long-standing policy

of neither confirming nor denying its nuclear capability. He was abducted by Israeli secret agents before the article was printed and subsequently convicted of treason in a closed trial.

Vanunu said Israel's Mossad spy agency and the Shin Bet security services tried to rob him of his sanity by keeping him in solitary confinement for nearly 12 years. "I said to the Shabak (Shin Bet), the Mossad, you didn't succeed to break me, you didn't succeed to make me crazy."

Asked if he was a hero, he said "all those who are standing behind me, supporting me ... all are heroes."

"I am a symbol of the will of freedom," he said. "You cannot break the human spirit."

Hundreds of supporters and opponents squared off in shouting matches outside the prison ahead of his release. Supporters chanted "Mordechai is free," while counter-demonstrators held signs calling him a traitor and shouted curses.

"He won't get out of here alive," opponents screamed as Vanunu's adopted parents, Minnesota couple Nick and Mary Eloff, arrived at the prison. Vanunu said he hopes to settle in the United States and study history.

While the crowds were vocal, there was no violence.

Anti-nuclear weapons activists from around the world had gathered at Shikma in recent days. Among his supporters, was British actress Susannah York and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Northern Ireland.

But Vanunu is widely detested in Israel.

"He's hell-bent to do as much harm as he can," Justice Minister Tommy Lapid told The Associated Press. "We will keep an eye on him, we will watch him ... We want to know where he is and we want to know whom he may or may not divulge state secrets."

Vanunu will not be allowed to travel abroad for at least a year, speak with foreigners or approach Israeli ports or borders. He also is barred from discussing his work at Israel's nuclear reactor. Vanunu was given a map of Israel marking the areas off-limits to him, the Defense Ministry said.

Defense Ministry spokeswoman Rachel Niedak-Ashkenazi said the security services have confiscated several tapes and notebooks with Vanunu's writings. In Hebrew and English, Vanunu wrote a detailed account of

places, processes and areas of the nuclear reactor, she said, adding that he has an "excellent memory."

"It was a lot more than a personal diary. To us this showed an intention and ability to make future use of it," Niedak-Ashkenazi said.

Vanunu said the papers were personal and had been written in 1991.

Vanunu's family and Yoav Loeff, of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, which is representing the nuclear spy have said they are concerned about his safety.

But Lapid said no precautions or special security measures are planned. "He's surrounded by at least 100 radicals who are worshipping him so I'm sure they'll take care of his safety," he said.

Vanunu will live in a luxury apartment complex in Jaffa, an old seaport and today part of Tel Aviv.

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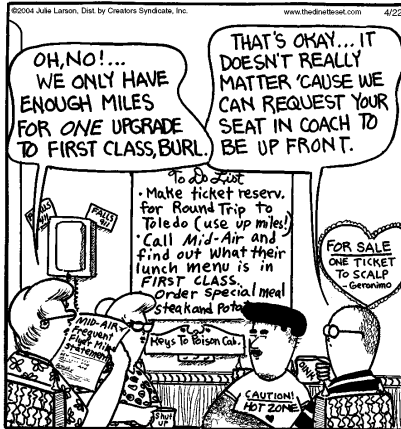
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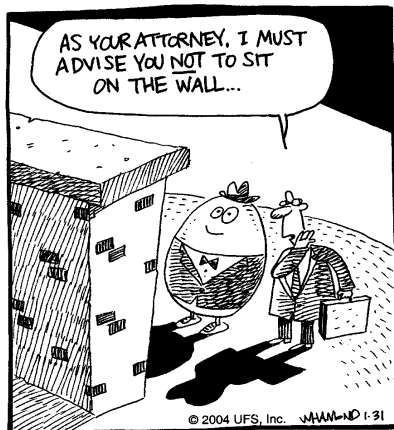
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11 Harrow rival
12 Claim
13 Promote
14 Carefree
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17 Maui souvenir
18 Stopped
22 Girder material
24 Fancy wrap
25 Wee bit
26 Wield
27 Be real
30 Cavalry weapon
32 Pan, for one
33 Badly
34 Musical groups
38 Real
41 Fix copy
42 Leather-neck
43 Hold power
44 Flora
45 Gush

DOWN

- 1 Greek cheese
2 Lab particle

3 Get paid twice from the government

4 Menu choice

5 Truck parts

6 Friends

7 Adaptable

8 Obtain

9 "That's disgusting!"

10 Formerly called

16 Drill target

19 Shared a room

20 Other-wise

21 Forest creature

22 Flight unit

23 Curbside call

28 Dress sparkler

29 Class cutter

30 Polite address

31 Changes

35 Pub orders

36 Floor cover

37 Ragout

38 Band blaster

39 Nev. neighbor

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DANIEL BYRAM MAY

A joyous service in honor of beloved son and brother, Daniel Byram May, will be held on what would have been his 29th birthday, Tues., April 27, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. at the Windmill Chapel of Self Realization Fellowship Lake Shrine at 17190 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades 90272. (Use the first SRF entrance up Sunset from PCH.) All who knew Daniel are invited to this celebration of a life notable for compassion, cordiality, courage, humility, service, scholarship, patriotism and devotion to God. Daniel skipped two grades, graduated with honors with a B.A. in Physics, received the Chancellor's Service Award, provided leadership for the undergraduate Physics society at UCLA, and played clarinet at the Rose Bowl with the UCLA Marching Band. He was also a very dedicated teacher, who took nine Compton students to Disneyland in a limousine. He started an Internet "newspaper" (AngelsWeekly.com) which showcased good things happening in the LA area. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Daniel's honor to Self Realization Fellowship, where Daniel served as camp counselor, Sunday School teacher, choir member and audio/visual crew member. Following the service, the celebration will continue at a reception in Malibu.



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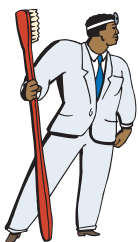
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Brits: Give Beckham, royal family some privacy

By The Associated Press

■ **LONDON** — Most Britons would support stronger laws to protect the privacy of celebrities, a new poll suggests, as newspapers continued to publish stories of soccer star David Beckham's alleged affairs.

Sixty-nine percent of respondents to the survey, released Wednesday by pollster ICM, said Britain should introduce a privacy law to protect public figures such as celebrities and the royal family. Just 11 percent felt there was a "legitimate public interest" in newspapers publishing claims about Beckham's private life.

For more than two weeks, newspapers have been devoting space to Beckham's alleged affairs with two women, including his former personal assistant Rebecca Loos. The 28-year-old Real Madrid and England soccer star, who is married to former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham, has labeled the allegations "ludicrous."

In the House of Commons, legislator Clive Soley denounced the "very crass invasion of privacy of David and Victoria Beckham," and suggested the government consider legislation to summon newspaper editors and owners to be questioned about their private lives.

The idea got a laugh, but a smiling Prime Minister Tony Blair declined to respond. "I have no thoughts to offer on it myself except to say that I hope everyone understands that occasionally when people's privacy is invaded in this they cause great distress to people and I don't always think it's really in the public interest," Blair said.

Sarah Marbeck, a Malaysian-born model and former escort who alleges she also had a fling with Beckham, flew to London Wednesday from Sydney, Australia. Marbeck, 29, brushed off reporters' questions about her plans while in Britain.

The ICM poll, published in The Guardian newspaper, found that 27 percent of respondents said they believed Beckham's denials, while 31 percent believed Loos; 43 percent either didn't know who to believe or didn't care.

ICM surveyed 1,002 adults by telephone April 16-18; the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

■ **NEW YORK** — Frank Serpico is blowing the whistle on a new book by an NYPD detective that downplays police corruption.

"The cops I know in the city say the corruption is there," the 68-year-old Serpico said by phone Tuesday from his home outside Albany, N.Y. "It's business as usual."

In the book "Blue Blood," Bronx detective Edward Conlon says "Serpico" — the 1973 hit movie starring Al Pacino as a cop crusading against police graft — was too kind to its subject.

"Frank Serpico has many admirers and many detractors, but there was no disagreement that he was a very strange man," he writes.

Conlon insists police misconduct is not as widespread as pop culture might suggest. Instead, he writes the average cop must deal with "the smallness of the people and the grandeur of their demands. The danger was not in corruption but corrosion."

Responded Serpico: "Corrosion must be the Harvard word for corruption. ... Where the hell do you get the truth?"

■ **SEATTLE** — U.S. border officials have issued a rare apology to British author Ian McEwan after briefly barring him from entering the United States last month. "Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience

and delay the refusal process caused you," William S. Heffelfinger III, a deputy assistant commissioner with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, wrote in an April 12 letter. "Be assured that this erroneous refusal will not impact your future applications to the United States."

McEwan, author of the best-selling novel "Atonement," was trying to board a plane March 30 at the Vancouver, British Columbia, airport for Seattle, where he was scheduled to speak before subsequent engagements in Portland, Ore., and Pasadena, Calif.

An American inspector kept him from boarding the plane on the grounds that the speaking fees McEwan was to receive for his appearances — \$5,000 in Seattle alone — were too large to qualify as honoraria.

After a 24-hour flurry of activity that included legislators, border officials realized there's no rule limiting the size of honoraria one may receive. McEwan was admitted the next afternoon and arrived in Seattle an hour before his appearance.

■ **NEW YORK** — The JVC Jazz Festival will feature k.d lang, Lou Reed, guitarist Vernon Reid and a tribute to the late Nina Simone when it begins in mid-June.

More than 300 artists are expected to perform during the event, set for June 15-26 at venues across New York City.

Simone, who had sung at the festival in the past, died last year of cancer at 70. Two of her bands will remember her in a show titled "Sing the Truth ... A Tribute to Nina Simone." Among the artists expected to appear are Tracy Chapman, the R&B duo Floetry, jazz newcomer Lizz Wright and author Toni Morrison.

Another concert, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the end of apartheid in South Africa, will feature Angelique Kidjo and Femi Kuti, son of the late Nigerian singer Fela.

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