

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Bill may force landlords to give evicted 60 days

By The Associated Press

Landlords might have to give month-to-month tenants up to 60 days to move out if a bill approved Monday by the state Senate becomes law.

The measure by Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, would apply to tenants who had lived in a unit for at least a year in rental markets with vacancy rates of less than 10 percent.

The bill also wouldn't cover tenants living in single-family homes that are sold to someone who plans to live in the residence for at least a year.

The 60-day notice requirements could remain in effect for up to three years, and the bill's provisions would expire in 2008 unless extended by lawmakers.

Current law requires only a 30-day eviction notice in most communities. Last year the Legislature approved a Kuehl bill that originally would have imposed a 60-day notice requirement statewide, but that measure was watered down to cover only Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Santa Monica if the vacancy rate in those cities drops below 10 percent.

But pro-renter forces have been bolstered by the February outcry over 30-day eviction notices mailed to 570 renter households in Sacramento and Santa Rosa. Japanese billionaire real estate investor Gensiro Kawamoto later relented during a storm of criticism and offered more time.

Supporters of this year's bill said tenants in tight rental markets often need more than 30 days to find new residences.

"You may have to change school districts," Kuehl said. "You may be a senior citizen."

But Sen. Ray Haynes, R-Riverside, said the bill would discourage apartment construction.

"You are basically eliminating affordable housing from the market by crazy ideas like this," he said.

Sen. Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento, said she doubted that the 60-day requirement would be widely used.

"I suspect it would be very difficult for many city councils and boards of supervisors to adopt this ordinance," she said.

A 21-14 vote sent the bill to the Assembly.

New buses run entirely on liquefied natural gas

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Big Blue Bus turned a shade greener for Earth Day yesterday.

Santa Monica's mass transit service began using several new buses Monday that run entirely on liquefied natural gas, which is methane gas cooled to 250 degrees below zero.

"The new LNG buses are a critical component for making our city a cleaner, healthier, more livable place," said Stephanie Negriff, acting director of Transportation Services.

By switching just one diesel bus to natural gas, the agency reduces the same amount of smog and soot generated by 25 passenger vehicles a day.

Diesel engines are a major contributor to smog and problems with the ozone, according to a Coalition for Clean Air report.

The new buses generate 87 percent less non-methane organic gas and nitrogen oxides, 70 percent less carbon monoxide and 20 percent less carbon dioxide.

"That's a lot of smog we're reducing just by offering mass transportation," said Big Blue Bus spokesman Dan Dawson.

Big Blue Bus plans to add 37 of the new buses between now and June.

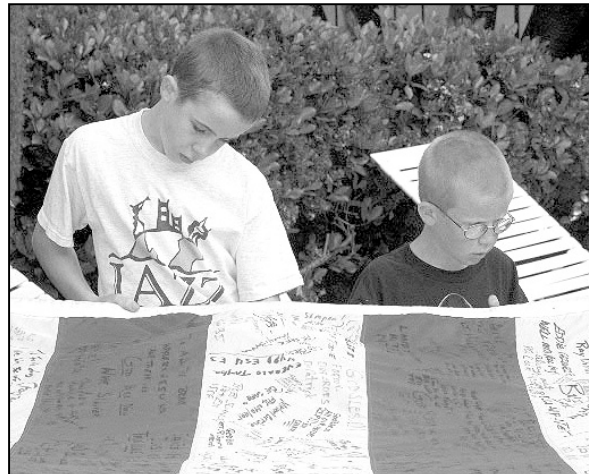
"We're going to be replacing 15 of our oldest buses, and increasing the fleet by another 22 buses."

— DAN DAWSON
Big Blue Bus spokesman

"We're going to be replacing 15 of our oldest buses, and increasing the fleet by another 22 buses," Dawson said. "Slowly we'll be phasing in more LNG buses until the entire fleet is converted."

In addition to being environmentally

See BLUE BUS, page 4



Photos by Jason Auslander/Daily Press

Above, Santa Monica police officers and firemen unfurl the America flag that flew above the World Trade Center's South Tower on Sept. 11. At left, Tim Hayn, 15, left, and his brother Sean Hayn, 9, read the numerous messages written on the flag by people who visited the emergency services center next to ground zero in New York where the flag was displayed immediately after the tragedy.

World Trade Center flag waves in Santa Monica

BY JASON AUSLANDER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The American flag that was waving atop the South Tower of the World Trade Center the morning of Sept. 11 made an unbilled appearance at a Santa Monica apartment complex on Monday.

Members of the Santa Monica Fire Department and the Santa Monica Police Department, as well as several fortunate neighbors, gathered in the courtyard of the three-story building to hold the flag and read the messages of hope, remembrance and, at times vengeance, written upon it.

"This is pretty special," said Walter Shirk, SMFD battalion chief. "But nobody told me to bring the Kleenex."

The flag arrived recently in Los Angeles for a U.S. Navy function, said Grant Ivey, national director for the Naval League of the United States.

The flag appeared at Sunday's baseball game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres and was set to head back to New York on Monday night.

But between the baseball game and its appointed departure time, the flag was just sitting around Ivey's Santa Monica apartment. So, he called up the fire department and invited them over.

"I just figured we've got it here and people need to see it," Ivey said.

The flag was found still attached to its flagpole by one grommet after the South Tower collapsed, said Sgt. Calvin Lawrence, a marine stationed in Brooklyn, N.Y., who was charged with guarding the flag on its California trip.

"It brings me great honor to present this to you all," Lawrence told the group

See FLAG, page 4

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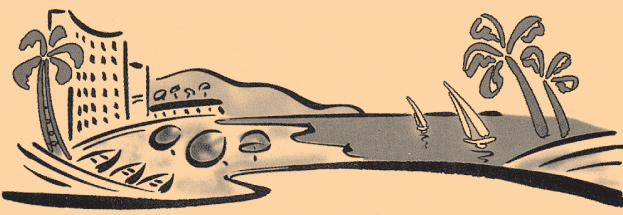
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Pressure builds because of another at a distance or because others think you want something key from them. Communication will open up if you start talking. You might not be comfortable revealing so much. Consider your options. Tonight: Work out tension through a favorite sport.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You could feel let down by another and his or her perspective. How this person feels about a situation could change substantially. You know how to make up this loss through your creativity and fast thinking. Consider your options. Tonight: Be more playful.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Stay centered despite another's onslaught. Others might be out of synch with you. You won't be able to force someone into a good mood. Using your instincts with a personal matter encourages you to talk. Start a dialogue while you can. Tonight: Play it cool.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Speak your mind, but realize that an associate just might not want to hear you. If possible, reorganize a project, as you might not be able to communicate what you feel is necessary. Make plans later to get together with another who understands you. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ A child or loved one throws a tantrum. You might discover that you're best off handling your finances on your own. You could find everyone counting on your financial contribution. Say "no." A friend needs to learn your limits. Tonight: Treat yourself!

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Emphasize what is good in a situation rather than what is a problem. You can remain confident that someone doesn't see eye to eye with you. Do your thing right now. Brainstorm with others. Seek out experts, but detach from a domestic matter. Tonight: It's your decision.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Realize that you might not be comfortable with what you are hearing. Rather than reacting or starting a mini-battle, distance yourself. Deal with a close, trustworthy associate on a one-on-one level. Understanding comes through this talk. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ How you view a change could be dramatically different from those around you. Eye the common good and go out of your way for another. Understanding could be enhanced through a conversation. Reorganize your budget. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ You could be the center of your problems, not others. Take a hard look in the mirror. Listen to what a parent or respected associate says. Re-evaluate. Promote better understanding through speaking about barriers. Assume responsibility. Tonight: In the limelight.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ The less you assume, the better your communication will be. You can't always have things as you would like. Steer clear of problems involving a risk or someone's anger. Either way, you could find yourself knee-deep in alligators. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Deal with another on a one-on-one level if you want success. Your family or a personal matter involving a domestic issue could still be a hot potato to handle. Let this situation simmer down while you put your energy into more constructive ventures. Tonight: Follow another's lead.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You might shrug at another's issues, but you cannot get around it either. A boss could be touchy, and you might let him or her know that you have had enough. How wise is this? Think in terms of the long term, and you could change your mind. Tonight: Follow the action.

QUOTE of the DAY

**"I'm on a seafood diet.
I see food and eat it."**
— Various ascribed

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LOCAL



Santa Monica City Council to tinker with civic center plan

Ballfields and affordable housing on tonight's agenda

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Making changes to the civic center plan is like working a novelty puzzle game — squares are moved around until, finally, they form a coherent picture.

At tonight's Santa Monica City Council meeting, the issue is athletic fields and where they fit into that still-muddled larger picture.

City staff members were asked by the council to see if it was possible to add more athletic fields, as well as areas for performing and visual arts, to the plan, while eliminating the extension of Olympic Boulevard through the civic center and increasing the number of affordable housing units.

Staff found that adding some of these projects would compromise others.

For example, two athletic fields in the mix would likely eliminate the proposed expansion of the Civic Center Auditorium, as well as nixing construction of a new performing arts theater.

In addition, Los Angeles County has opposed any plan that would place athletic fields near the Santa Monica Courthouse because they believe nearby courtrooms would be overwhelmed with noise.

"Staff recommends against the inclusion of two dedicated playfields," the report states. "One dedicated playfield could be accommodated, however, this will impact the quality of the cultural amenities and ... may be strongly opposed by the county."

The civic center, located on Fourth Street between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard, is the city's symbolic geographical point. It serves as an integral part

of town because of its proximity to downtown, Santa Monica Place, Palisades Park, the Ocean Park neighborhood and Main Street.

The city purchased the 11-acre site from the RAND Corporation in 2000 for \$53 million with the intention of completely overhauling the civic center area so it would better connect to downtown Santa Monica.

Based on recommendations of a "working group," which created the current proposal, the area would have a town square, a garden walk with botanical and sculpture gardens, plenty of open space and bicycle paths, as well as a childhood development facility and a revamped city hall.

Some council members have said they disagree with many of the recommendations made by the city and are likely to send the report back to staff with more suggestions.

"You can never pass something like this without seeing it in the drawing phase," said Councilman Herb Katz. "It should at least be graphically delineated."

Mayor Mike Feinstein opposes the extension of Olympic Boulevard through the civic center because he believes it would choke the area with traffic as motorists try to find a short-cut to the Santa Monica Freeway.

"What this is doing is instead of using the automobile to generate activity in the civic center, it's using the automobile just to pass through on new roads," he said.

City staff said the road would not be used by motorists going to the freeway because the road would be narrow and contain multiple stops and street parking.

They also said the road is needed to prevent people living in the proposed affordable housing units and regular apartments from congesting Pico Boulevard and Colorado Avenue, the only major east-west arteries in the area.

Also, staff wrote in the report

that extending Olympic Boulevard to Ocean Avenue would provide a chance to reunite the area with the northside of town, which is currently divided by the freeway.

But Feinstein isn't buying it.

He said narrow streets haven't prevented motorists from clogging many downtown corridors or kept people from trying to enter the freeway on Fourth Street and Lincoln Boulevard.

"When they say the slow-moving nature of the road would prevent people from taking it as a short cut doesn't work because all the streets going to the freeway are slow moving," he said.

Both Feinstein and Katz also agreed that athletic fields should be included in the civic center plan.

"I know we need more athletic field space," Katz said. "There's no question in my mind about that."

And Feinstein said the city will sound-proof the courthouse if necessary, or even sink the athletic field to make sure noise doesn't interrupt work at the building.

All pro



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

San Diego Charger all pro defensive end Marcellus Wiley (center) talks on Monday to student athletes, athletic director John Mountain and Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson about his days playing football at St. Monica High School. During the school's spring pep rally on Monday, St. Monica High retired Wiley's Mariner's jersey.

The Q Line

This week's question was:

"If you had to choose from any merchant in the land to occupy the pier, whom would it be and why?"

"I've been to the Bubba Gump in Hawaii, and their food was pretty good. It's got to be better than that place they had there before."

"The best news is that the Boathouse is gone. It was not a great establishment. It attracted a very rough crowd. The Boathouse proposal as to do a biker bar is not what Santa Monica needs. My family will enjoy Bubba Gump Shrimp."

"I've been to a Bubba Gump Shrimp. They are terrific! The food was good, it was a really fun lively atmosphere. It was lots of fun. The Boathouse, I've been there and didn't think it was so great."

"I live in the city and I'm really glad they are getting rid of the Boathouse to be honest with you."

I've eaten there several times and never really been happy with my meal. I can't see where they have sunk a dime into it in the last 20 years. I'm glad the city council is taking some action to get a company in there that's going to put a decent restaurant down there, that will hold some decent standards, and serve the community and generate revenue. Ultimately part of the sales tax revenue that it generates goes to help pay for city services."

"I'm a merchant on the Santa Monica Pier. I think the best thing that could happen for the Pier is the closing of the Boathouse and seeing Bubba Gump coming. Those of us out on the Pier who have to put up with all of the people that hang around the Boathouse know that those are not the type of customers we want to see on the Pier."

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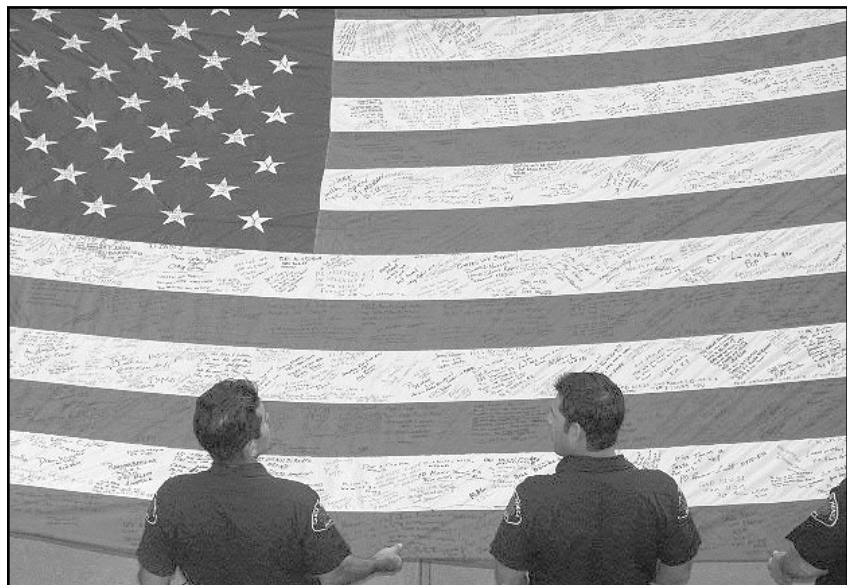
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LOCAL

Local police, firemen gather to view WTC flag



Jason Auslander/Daily Press

Two Santa Monica firefighters read messages written on an American flag that used to fly atop the World Trade Center's South Tower.

FLAG, from page 1

of firefighters, police officers and neighbors who were gathered around the flag Monday evening.

The only marks it carries of Sept. 11 are a few brownish stains on one corner. Otherwise, it is completely tear-free and intact.

Lawrence, who witnessed the second plane hit the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, said that after the flag was found, it was placed near the entrance to the emergency services headquarters next to ground zero.

There, friends and family of the victims, as well as other visitors to the site, emblazoned one side of the flag with messages that run the gamut of emotions suffered by many, if not most, of the residents of this country.

"Our spirit will never be broken," said one message.

"We will never forget all of you," said another. "God bless you."

And finally, a member of the New York Police Department wrote simply, "Avenge us!!"

It was a powerful, emotional reminder of a tragic day in American history.

"We're so far away here,"

said Mary Rose Sosa, a resident of Ivey's apartment building. "It makes us feel like we're at least a part of it."

Said Bessie Novos, another resident of the building, "It's wonderful, heart-warming."

Kathy Hayn, who along with her two young sons walked around the flag and helped to keep it from hitting the ground said, "It's an honor to be touching it."

LETTERS

Ballot measure will allow all candidates to run

Editor:

Contrary to popular belief, independent candidates are not welcome in "progressive" Santa Monica. Due to the city's system of at-large elections, independents cannot afford the large sums needed to get their message to all city voters.

At the same time, candidates willing to pledge loyalty to decisions crafted by their slate leaders receive the help of sophisticated political consultants and thousands of dollars in slate money. Change is desperately needed and VERITAS, the electoral reform initiative on the Nov. 5, 2002 ballot brings that change.

The entrenched slate-selected council majority is, of course, opposed to VERITAS. They claim that VERITAS neighborhood based districting will lead to a "balkanization" of the city with "narrow minded" representatives. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the city of Berkeley (demographically similar to Santa Monica) uses districting and it has

helped to keep that city's political process open.

VERITAS will open the door to independents and create accountability, something which is totally absent now. VERITAS will pave the way for a common sense approach to Santa Monica policy making. Each neighborhood representative will bring to the table the views of their constituents so that all members can work together to establish city-wide priorities. VERITAS will provide government by consensus instead of one that has a life of its own. It will end the steady stream of lawsuits which currently drain city monies, and allow more funds to be directed into projects that will directly benefit community members. But most of all VERITAS will end narrow minded slate politics, provide for a mayor elected directly by the voters, and permit independents to run for Council. Candidates who will not be controlled by a political machine because they will be directly accountable to you.

Donna Block
Santa Monica

New buses help combat smog, reduce harmful emissions

BLUE BUS, from page 1

friendly, the new buses run quieter and feature a smoother ride, he said. Also, they also are lower to



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

New, environmentally-friendly buses hit the streets of Santa Monica yesterday.

the ground, which makes it easier for persons with disabilities to board.

While the new buses run about \$30,000 more than the \$350,000 average price of a new diesel bus, their lower fuel costs average out in the long run.

There are over 100,000 LNG buses on the road today and 25 percent of all new bus orders are for the environmentally-friendly vehicles. Because of that, Dawson said parts and fuel are easy to come by.

The fuel is also 30 percent cheaper than diesel, even though it takes more LNG fuel to travel the same distance as gasoline. LNG fuel is made in the United States and reduces dependency on exterior sources of fuel, especially from the Middle East, Dawson said.

New LNG and compressed natural gas refueling stations are being built at the Big Blue Bus 8.5-acre station. The agency is also building a new bus wash with a water reclamation system that will cut water use by up to 80 percent.

Big Blue Bus has had a 17 percent increase in ridership over the past 10 years. On a daily basis, the bus service transports 80,000 on 183 buses.

SM attorney picked for L.A. prosecutor

By The Associated Press

The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Debra Yang Monday as the chief federal prosecutor in Los Angeles.

She currently presides over Dept. R in Santa Monica Superior Court.

Yang, 42, is the first Asian-American to serve as U.S. attorney in her native city.

She previously was a prosecutor in the office. For the past five years, Yang has been a judge in the Los Angeles Municipal and Superior courts.

"The U.S. attorney in Los Angeles is responsible for a seven-county area larger than many states," Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said. "It is an important post and I look forward to working with Judge Yang on the many law enforcement issues that are of great concern to Southern Californians."

President Bush nominated Yang in early April. She also had been considered for a federal judgeship, which is a lifetime appointment, but said she preferred the prosecutor's job, in which she will serve at the president's discretion.

Yang, the granddaughter of Chinese immigrants, graduated from Boston College Law School.

She also has taught courses at the University of Southern California law school.

Firehouse blaze blamed on oily rags

By Daily Press staff

Fire investigators believe they have located the source of a fire that gutted the second floor of an unmanned fire station in Ocean Park last week.

They said oil-soaked rags, used for finishing woodwork, were left balled up on the floor. The fumes from the rags could not escape and caused the rags to heat up until they burst into flames.

Fire officials recommend laying rags dipped in flammable oils flat to dry. There have already been other fires this year in Santa Monica caused by oil-soaked rags.

The two-alarm fire Thursday night at Fire Station 2 on the 200 block of Hollister Avenue caused an estimated \$500,000 in damages to the second floor and attic of the facility.

The new fire house has been under construction for more than a year and was only weeks away from completion at the time of the fire.

The large garages used to house the fire trucks suffered only minor smoke and water damage. Officials could not say how long the opening of the station would be delayed.

All 39 on-duty Santa Monica firefighters were called to the scene to combat the flames that torched their new home. They were joined by six firefighters from Los Angeles Fire Department Station 63 in Venice Beach.

LAFD also provided mutual aid for the rest of the city, and answered a small number of minor calls for assistance during the fire, SMFD spokeswoman Jill Barnes said.

Nobody was in the building when the fire broke out, and the fire department did not have any equipment stored at the station.

STATE



Bill would require weight standards for text books

BY STEFANIE FRITH
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Concerned by the heavy backpacks children must carry at schools, two California legislators Monday proposed setting maximum weight standards for textbooks.

The bill by Assemblyman Rod Pacheco, R-Riverside, and Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City, would also require the state Board of Education to find other ways to eliminate the health risks to children.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, backpack-related injuries send almost 5,000 students a year to emergency rooms nationwide.

The Assembly Education Committee is set to hear the bill Wednesday.

"When we think of the term, 'Oh, my aching back,' we think of 65-year-olds and older," Speier said. Now, however, "it is also the cry of adolescent youths who throughout our state and country are carrying heavy backpacks."

Worried that students may be hiding drugs and guns there, California schools have been removing lockers over the past decade. But that means students must carry heavy packs all day, said Assemblyman Dario Frommer, a Los Angeles Democrat and bill supporter.

Cally Weise, an eighth-grader at Westborough Middle School in South San Francisco, said she almost fell down stairs at her school because her backpack weighs so much. Weise, who weighs 92 pounds, carries a 21-pound backpack and a 14-pound saxophone case.

"I see the smaller kids at school and they walk bent over," she said during a

press conference at the Capitol. "When I run, it hurts my back."

The California Medical Association supports the bill, a spokeswoman said, because childhood is a key time for spinal growth, which could be altered by heavy backpacks. The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons says children should not carry more than 15 percent of their body weight.

"Over the long haul, children are developing significant problems," said Patti Evans, head of the California Physical Therapists Association. Often, she sees abnormal growth patterns in children's collar bones caused by carrying too much weight on their shoulders and backs.

Cally's father, Phil Weise, a member of the South San Francisco Unified School District board, said the board proposed the bill after watching children lug their backpacks up the steep hills of his city every day.

A child who picks up a 12-pound backpack 10 times a day during the school year is lifting 11 tons a year, Weise said.

Last year, Gov. Gray Davis vetoed a bill that committed \$140,000 to study the effect of heavy backpacks. This year, a spokesman for the Democratic governor said he has no position on this bill but wonders why the issue should be handled at a state level.

"Does the state have to start regulating something that could be regulated at a local school level?" Russ Lopez said.

To cope with disappearing lockers, legislators are also discussing transparent lockers and longer times between class periods so students can have time to store their books.

Actors and talent agents wondering what's next

BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Actors and the talent agents who find work for them in television shows, movies and commercials are working without a script governing their relationship after the Screen Actors Guild rejected a new pact between the two groups.

For the first time since 1939, agents who represent SAG members are unfettered by rules that limit their commission to 10 percent or prevent agents from investing in, or being owned by, advertising agencies or studios.

Actors are left wondering how to proceed without safeguards designed to protect them from being taken advantage of by unscrupulous agents.

Observers say little will change in the short run and that agents will not rush to change the status quo.

"State law and common practice will keep people from being taken advantage of," said state Sen. Kevin Murray, who serves on a special Senate committee looking into the regulation of talent agencies and is a former agent himself. "Agents won't raise commissions or sell their place soon."

The rules governing the relationship between actors and agents were drawn to

ensure that agents work only for their clients and are not influenced by studios or advertising agencies that hire actors for commercials or sponsor television programs.

But the rules had not kept pace with new economic realities, changes in technology that provided new sources of revenue for actors and the rise of "managers," who guide actors' careers, but are not prevented from producing films and television shows the way agents are.

The new agreement, which received a tepid endorsement from SAG's national board, would have allowed talent agencies to make limited investments in independent production companies or sell minority stakes to those companies. It also allowed agents to collect commissions on royalties generated by video tape and DVD sales.

Proponents, including current SAG president Melissa Gilbert, said the agreement reflected changing realities while still protecting actors.

Opponents, including actress Valerie Harper, who lost to Gilbert in a hotly contested election, said the pact created a potential conflict of interest. If agents were allowed a financial interest in production companies, they argued, then they would in effect employ the very actor they were hired to represent.

"I HATE HIDDEN COSTS!" —DR. ROSS SOMERS, OPTOMETRIST, (UCLA ALUMNI)

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Officials better watch what they say about the chief

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — City officials have been warned to watch what they say and not libel police Chief Bernard C. Parks.

As Parks explores legal options against the city for denying him a second five-year term, the city attorney's office has sent a confidential memorandum to the mayor, members of the City Council and the Police Commission urging them to refrain from making comments that could lead to potential liability against the city.

"Recognizing the need for a vigorous public debate about an issue of this importance, our office believes that you should be aware that even when discussing a public official, statements made about the public official, if shown to be false and made with malice, may result in liability," Chief Assistant City Attorney Patricia V. Tubert wrote.

"Therefore, if you do comment on the chief, please refrain from making comments that could lead to potential liability against the city of Los Angeles or against you as an individual."

Ban on roosters and peacocks may be strengthened

By The Associated Press

ONTARIO — The city's rethinking its law on roosters.

The Planning Commission on Tuesday will clarify city policy on crowing fowl: Officials initially said they would try to strengthen the ban on roosters and peacocks in residential areas, but planners have proposed an option that would allow some residents to own the birds.

A San Bernardino County Superior Court judge threw out two rooster-related citations last year, saying the ordinance was too ambiguous.

"We're trying to be reasonable here without blocking anybody's perceived rights or needs, but yet also recognize that there's a larger community out there that is bothered by (crowing fowl)," Planning Director Jerry Blum said. "If you have 50 roosters next door, that could be a problem."

The Planning Commission will consider one change to allow residents of agricultural residential zones to own loud birds as long as neighbors are not bothered by the noise.

City takes patriotism out of patriot

By The Associated Press

ONTARIO — Patriot Barb Nye is fighting for the red, white and blue.

Nye strung up red, white and blue lights from the eaves of her Elderberry Avenue home to show her support for troops in the war on terrorism, but city code enforcement officials said the display is a fire hazard and in violation of decorative lights ordinances.

The 54-year-old mother of two sailors said Sunday that she refuses to take down the lights until the war on terrorism is over and all the troops have come home. Tapping on a patriotic bumper sticker on her Honda, she noted, "It says right here, 'These colors don't run.' The lights are staying up."

Someone complained to the city about the lights and her landlord, Matt Kapp, was told the lights were considered a temporary decorative lighting like Christmas lights and had to be taken down. Kapp was so disgusted that he threw away a letter from code enforcement.

"What they need to do is leave my tenant alone," Kapp said. "Barb is very proud of her kids and very patriotic. She has every right to express herself. What the city is doing is not right or fair."

Code enforcement official John Barbour couldn't be reached.

Councilman Alan Wapner said it must be a mistake.

"I know we have an ordinance that's enforced against Christmas lights that are up all year. But we need to look at the intent of the ordinance and not enforce it literally. I have a very personal concern about having her free speech rights infringed," Wapner said.

The city ordinance defines leaving Christmas lights lit 90 days after the holidays can lead to a \$30 fine.

Veterans want Highway 1 renamed

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Vietnam veterans want the stretch of California Highway 1 renamed Ventura County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway.

The highway is symbolic for them: Vietnam's Highway 1 runs the length of the country from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City, and California's Highway 1 runs nearly the length of the state, connecting many of the military bases where soldiers trained in the 1960s and 1970s before heading off to fight in Southeast Asia.

"We flew over it; we bombed it," Oxnard resident Dennis Hartman, 55, said of Vietnam's Highway 1. "But when I was in the country, and when I thought of Highway 1, I thought of the Pacific Coast Highway. Then I'd think, 'What am I doing here? What are we doing here?'"

Activists are moving county-by-county to designate California 1 as a memorial to the 350,000 Californians who served in the Vietnam War. In coming weeks, state lawmakers will consider the designation for the Ventura County stretch of highway.

Assemblyman Tony Strickland, R-Moorpark, drafted the resolution at the request of Rich Camacho, president of Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County.

Last year, Assemblyman George Nakano (D-Torrance) carried similar legislation at the request of the Redondo Beach chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Several signposts mark the Los Angeles County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway from Long Beach to Malibu.



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Wind-fueled fire



Steven K. Doi/Associated Press

A firefighter prepares to battle flames and embers that threaten Chino Hills State Park near Corona, Calif. More than 100 acres have been charred as gusty winds continue to push the fire through the park.

Trial of druglord may be moved or jury sequestered

BY CATHERINE WILSON
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — A federal judge said Monday that the trial of a drug kingpin accused of ordering hits on three witnesses and bribing a juror must either be moved or the jury sequestered.

Miami's top federal prosecutor, Guy Lewis, made an unusual court appearance Monday to ask the judge for more protection for the jury in Sal Magluta's case. He said Magluta's sphere of influence extended across Miami-Dade County, where his defunct drug organization was based, and suggested the rarely used option on sequestering the jury.

Jury selection in Miami will continue until U.S. District Judge Patricia Seitz makes a final decision.

Magluta was acquitted on drug charges in 1996 but is charged with paying a \$500,000 bribe to his jury foreman and hiring a Colombian hit team to kill the witnesses.

Only nine of 86 prospective jurors said they would have no problem with the length of the trial — expected to last at least four months — or being sequestered.

Last week, Seitz threw out questionnaires sent to more than 1,000 prospective jurors after a candidate's husband reported receiving a threatening call on their unlisted home phone.

She had decided to begin jury selection with people whose names would not be given to either side. Prosecutors argued that wouldn't be enough protection.

But defense attorney Jack Denaro argued Monday that Magluta wouldn't "be so stupid" as to deliver the reported threat and implicated someone "sympathetic to the government and poisoned against the defense."

Magluta, 47, faces a possible life sentence if convicted in the shooting deaths of the witnesses, jury tampering and spending millions of dollars in drug money after it was frozen by court order.

Federal domestic spending nears \$1.8 trillion in 2001

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal domestic spending rose to nearly \$1.8 trillion last year, with Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid accounting for nearly half the total, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday.

The federal government spent more than \$854 billion on the three programs, with Social Security alone costing \$483 billion.

Overall, domestic spending by the U.S. government increased 9 percent between 2000 and 2001, according to two annual bureau reports released Tuesday.

California, the most populous state in the country, again took in the most federal money at \$189 billion. Alaska ranked highest in per capita federal spending, at

\$10,214 per person.

New York City, meanwhile, received almost \$49 billion, more than any other city or county in the nation.

Nationally, unemployment compensation benefit payments rose 39 percent to \$26.2 billion after declining slightly between 1999 and 2000, the bureau said.

Defense spending totaled \$255 billion, up 7 percent in 2001.

The Census Bureau collects the information from government agencies each year to produce the reports. They are the only reports that consolidate such state and local data into one file, the bureau said.

Areas covered domestic benefits, subsidies, grants, goods and services, and salaries and wages paid for or owed by the federal government.

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SPORTS

Jason comes back to Oakland with (gasp!) Yankees

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND — Jeremy Giambi thinks it's going to be a little weird for everyone when his big brother mans first base at the Coliseum wearing a gray Yankees uniform rather than green and gold.

In his six years with the Oakland Athletics, Jason Giambi became a fixture both on the field and in the clubhouse. With tattooed biceps, a Hollywood smile and a powerful bat, he was

the A's model player.

But on Tuesday night he'll return to Oakland with the team that has won four of the last six World Series and knocked the A's out of the playoffs for two straight years.

"The fans here will probably boo him when he appears. It's their right. They paid for their tickets and they can do anything they want," Jeremy said. "But I think they should respect him for what he did, he gave the team here a lot of a great years.

"It would probably be different if he wasn't a Yankee now. That team is always the team to beat for any team to get to the playoffs."

Jason, known for his eternal optimism with the A's, expects a mixed reaction.

"There's going to be people who are happy to see me. The nice thing is there are Yankees fans all over the world," he said. "There will be people who are disappointed. It will be real emotional, for sure."

The A's could have kept their All-Star first baseman, the 2000 AL MVP, for \$91 million over six years. But Oakland refused to give Jason the no-trade clause he wanted.

So Jason accepted a \$120 million, seven-year contract with the Yankees in December, leaving behind the team that gave him his start.

A lot has changed since he bolted.

Jeremy, an outfielder, has taken over his big brother's locker. Third

baseman Eric Chavez has assumed the slugger role with seven home runs, and young Carlos Pena has been posted at first base.

Jason, meanwhile, has had to adjust to living and working under much more scrutiny than he ever faced in Oakland. He was batting .263 with four home runs, he's been booed at times by the demanding New York crowds.

An MVP runner-up last season after hitting .342 with 38 homers and 120 RBIs for Oakland, Jason

also led the league in on-base percentage (.477) and slugging (.660) last season.

He joined a team that has not had a 30-home run hitter in 10 of the last 14 seasons.

Jeremy said he thinks his brother is trying too hard.

"I just think he's trying to show what he can do every game instead of trying to relax up there," Jeremy said. "He wants to make every one happy."

While Jason faces the realities of being a Yankee, his little brother is finding a groove with the Athletics. Jeremy is off to arguably the best start of his career, batting .353 with 24 hits and four homers.

"He's happy that I'm having a good year," Jeremy said. "He's my biggest fan and I'm his."

The Giambi brothers, who once talked shop at side-by-side lockers in the A's clubhouse, talk long distance.

"We talk almost every day to see how he's doing, how he swings the bat," Jason said. "I was hoping that when I left, he'd step up into his own player."

For Tuesday night's game between the two teams, the Giambi brothers are having a family reunion of sorts. Their parents are coming up from Southern California, and Jeremy said the group was going out to dinner Monday night.

"It's a big day for everyone," Jeremy said.

But expect all the friendliness to end when the teams take the field. After consecutive Game 5 losses in the best-of-five first round, the young A's are looking to play well against New York. And the fans will no doubt have a strong reaction when the Yankees take the field.

Jason, who wore No. 16 in Oakland, is now wearing No. 25, a number he picked because the numbers add up to seven — the number worn by his favorite player, Mickey Mantle.

"Every time you sign with the Yankees and you go somewhere, they're going to want a piece of you," New York manager Joe Torre said.

Jason was trying to keep his perspective, regardless of the fan reaction or the outcome of the game.

"It will be exciting. I'll get a chance to see my brother and my friends, people I grew up with," he said. "I'm sure there will be some people booing, but that's OK."



National Basketball Association playoffs schedule

By The Associated Press

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-5)

Saturday, April 20

Indiana 89, New Jersey 83
Indiana leads series 1-0
Sacramento 89, Utah 86,
Sacramento leads series 1-0
San Antonio 110, Seattle 89
San Antonio leads series 1-0
Charlotte 80, Orlando 79
Charlotte leads series 1-0
Sunday, April 21

Boston 92, Philadelphia 82
Boston leads series 1-0
Dallas 101, Minnesota 94
Dallas leads series 1-0
L.A. Lakers 95, Portland 87
L.A. Lakers lead series 1-0
Detroit 85, Toronto 63
Detroit leads series 1-0

Monday, April 22

Indiana at New Jersey, 7 p.m.

Seattle at San Antonio, 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23

Orlando at Charlotte, 8 p.m.
Utah at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24

Toronto at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 25

Philadelphia at Boston, 8 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Friday, April 26

New Jersey at Indiana, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 27

Charlotte at Orlando, 12:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Utah, 3 p.m.
San Antonio at Seattle, 5:30 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 28

Boston at Philadelphia, 12:30 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 3 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Portland, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, April 29

Detroit at Toronto, TBA, if necessary
Sacramento at Utah, TBA, if necessary

Tuesday, April 30

Charlotte at Orlando, TBA, if necessary
New Jersey at Indiana, TBA, if necessary
Dallas at Minnesota, TBA, if necessary

Wednesday, May 1

Boston at Philadelphia, TBA, if necessary
San Antonio at Seattle, TBA, if necessary
L.A. Lakers at Portland, TBA, if necessary

Thursday, May 2

Indiana at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary
Toronto at Detroit, TBA, if necessary
Minnesota at Dallas, TBA, if necessary
Utah at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

Friday, May 3

Philadelphia at Boston, TBA, if necessary
Orlando at Charlotte, TBA, if necessary
Seattle at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary
Portland at L.A. Lakers, TBA, if necessary

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INTERNATIONAL



Armed stand-offs top list during Arafat-U.S. meeting

BY GREG MYRE
Associated Press Writer

RAMALLAH, West Bank — While an Israeli army bulldozer crushed cars in the parking lot outside, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met with a U.S. envoy in his besieged office Monday to discuss the standoff there and at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

The armed standoffs have persisted for three weeks and neither appears close to a settlement. Until they are resolved, there is little hope for a cease-fire between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Gunfire exchanges were heard again Monday at the Church of the Nativity, where an Anglican envoy said the situation was worsening steadily. The shrine is built at the traditional site of Jesus' birth.

In new violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, five Palestinians and one Israeli soldier were killed Monday.

Israel's army said a unit came under fire between the northern West Bank villages of Talouza and Assira al-Shamaliya. A soldier and two Hamas militants were killed, the army said.

One of the militants was identified as Taher Nasser, 28, a leader of the Hamas military wing in the Nablus area. Israel says he was wanted for direct responsibility in attacks on Israelis, including the Dec.



Pavel Wolberg/Associated Press

An Israeli soldier leads a blindfolded Palestinian detainee into the army-occupied headquarters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Monday. The Palestinians say they won't begin truce talks until Israeli forces have left all Palestinian-run areas in the West Bank.

12 ambush of a bus that killed 10 Israelis.

Less than a mile from Arafat's compound, masked gunmen pulled three suspected Palestinian informers for Israel out of their cars in a downtown square and shot them with automatic rifles. One man later died. The gunmen said they were from Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement.

Israeli troops have left most Palestinian cities in the West Bank after an incursion lasting more than three weeks. In their wake, however, Palestinian Authority government ministries are in shambles,

Palestinians said.

Israeli troops ripped out computer hard drives, seized documents and trashed offices not related to Israel's search for militants, Palestinians said.

Israelis took the medical records of thousands of patients from the Health Ministry, the student database from a computer at the Education Ministry and the car registration list from the Transportation Ministry, Palestinians said.

The troops also blew up a safe in the Education Ministry and took \$8,000 from it, said Salah Soubani, director of information at the Education Ministry.

"Our ministries were nearly completely destroyed," said Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo. "This was not done as a mistake in one or two places. This was done in every single ministry."

Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the Education Ministry "is not necessarily where the terrorists will be found, but it was a major source of incitement."

"We had to gather this material for the purpose of exposing the extent and the virulent nature of the incitement," which encouraged suicide bombers, Gissin said.

The American envoy, State Department official William Burns, met Arafat for about two hours at the Palestinian leader's compound, where about 300 aides, security guards and foreign volunteers have been confined to several rooms by Israeli troops since March 29.

As Burns met Arafat, an Israeli bulldozer destroyed several cars parked outside and began building a rampart, said Netta Golan, an Israeli-Canadian activist in the compound. Burns came out to see what was going on before resuming the meeting, she said.

Burns and Arafat discussed the standoffs in Ramallah and Bethlehem, truce prospects and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, according to Palestinian and U.S. officials.

The Palestinians said they will not begin truce talks until Israeli forces leave all Palestinian-run areas in the West Bank.

Israel said it will lift the blockades in Ramallah and Bethlehem once gunmen holed up there surrender.

Israel is demanding Arafat hand over five suspects in October's assassination of an Israeli Cabinet minister as well as the alleged mastermind of a large arms shipment to the Palestinian Authority intercepted by Israel. Arafat has refused, saying the six will face trial in Palestinian courts.

There's growing speculation Israeli forces might try to break in and seized the wanted men. Israeli military commentator Alex Fishman wrote that Israeli officials "have begun to scatter hints about an upcoming infiltration of the compound, the removal of Arafat, sending him away and capturing wanted men."

Palestinians say Sharon first intended to destroy Palestinian infrastructure with the military incursion and now is attempting to undermine the Palestinian Authority and prospects for a Palestinian state.

However, Israeli officials close to Sharon said the government was carefully weighing the implications of storming Arafat's refuge.

On the outskirts of Ramallah, West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub gave a tour of his hilltop headquarters, which were badly damaged in the Israeli offensive, and said he would not resume security coordination with Israel.

Such coordination is fundamental to U.S. plans for brokering a truce and guiding the sides back to peace talks.

"The Israelis have succeeded in creating a sea of blood and hatred," said Rajoub.

Also Monday, gunfire erupted in the area of the Church of the Nativity and white smoke rose in the vicinity of the adjacent Manger Square, possibly from smoke grenades. Each side accused the other of firing first. There was no word on casualties.

Canon Andrew White, an Anglican Church envoy, said he hoped negotiations in the 21-day standoff would resume.

"The situation is getting steadily worse," White said. "There is no food. The people are getting water from a well. The sanitary conditions are terrible. Several people are sick and some are injured."

Clergy arrive in Rome



Santiago Lyon/Associated Press

Cardinal Bernard Law of the Archdiocese of Boston is pursued by an unidentified American TV cameraman as he arrives in Rome's Fiumicino airport on Monday. American Cardinals arrived in Italy Monday to attend a summit in the presence of Pope John Paul II on April 23-24 at the Vatican on clergy sex abuse.

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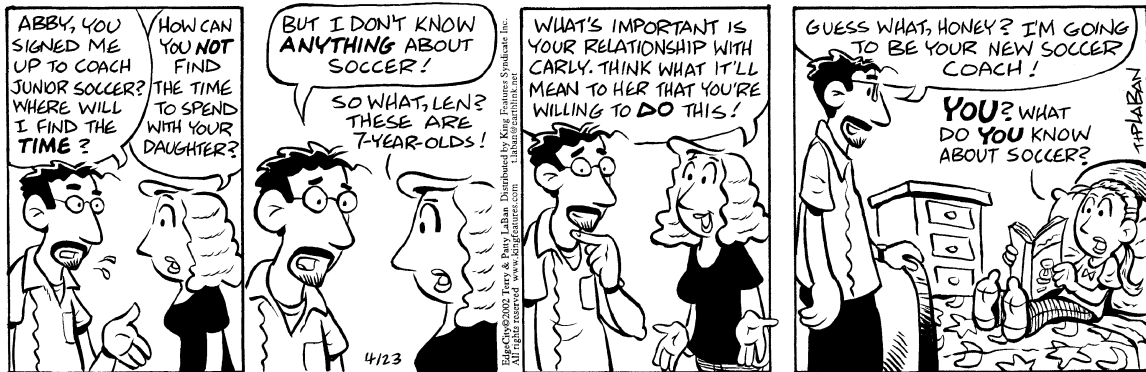
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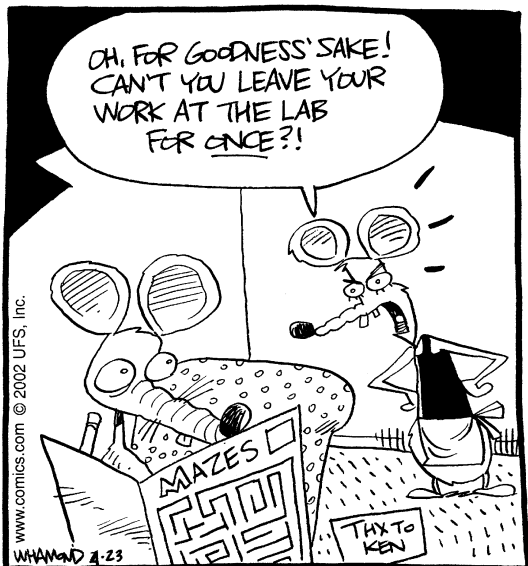
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 - 16 Regret
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 - 18 Try hard
 - 20 Run-down region
 - 21 Massage targets
 - 22 Dialer's sound
 - 23 Custom
 - 25 You can part with it
 - 28 Fast food staple
 - 31 Met highlight
 - 32 Leather worker
 - 34 Storage unit
 - 35 Vigor
 - 36 "Golly!"
 - 37 Large sea turtles
 - 40 Comic Degeneres
 - 41 Bob of "Full House"
 - 42 Appears
- DOWN**
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 - 2 Chooses
 - 3 Matador's foe
 - 4 Model buy
 - 5 Arthur of tennis
 - 6 Born
 - 7 Cisco Kid's horse
 - 8 Football sweep
 - 9 Tahini base
 - 11 Recurring show
 - 14 Chases
 - 19 Caribbean resort
 - 20 Beer hall container
 - 24 Presentation aids
 - 25 Suspension bridge sights
 - 26 Baltimore player
 - 27 Mix at the party
 - 29 Hire
 - 30 Planted the garden
 - 33 Takes it easy
 - 35 Corrals
 - 38 Sparkler
 - 39 Corn serving

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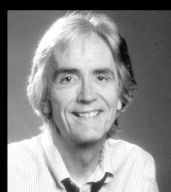
Yesterday's answer

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4-23

STUMPED?

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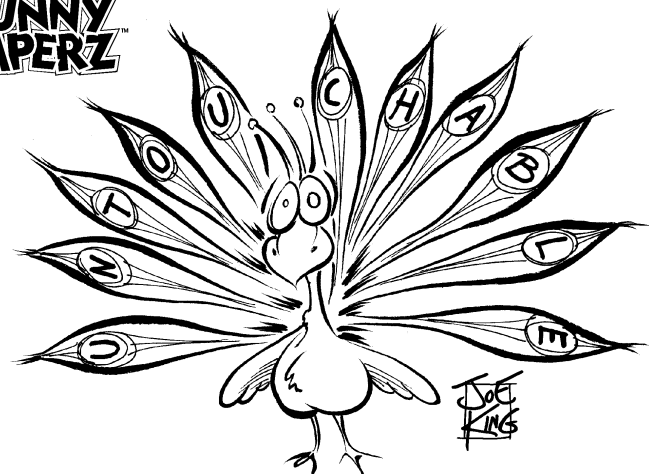


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Gas tax penalty for hybrid engine cars

- Latest Unintended Consequences: A 2002 Oregon law makes owners of partly electric cars pay \$15 more to register them than owners of gas-guzzlers pay to register theirs, in order to replace the gasoline taxes the environment-conscious motorists are saving by driving fuel-efficient cars.
- Arizona state Rep. Linda Binder's proposed law would prohibit allowing unrestrained dogs to ride in the back of pickup trucks, although for the past 18 years, Arizona legislators have tried but failed to enact a similar provision for kids in the back of pickups.



P.V.E. peevd at V.I.P. peeps.
-News Item

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Announcements

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PRO SE of Neighborhood Project need's volunteer's for events that honor our heros. (310)899-3888 pro.se@adelphia.net

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BACK PAGE

Rich girls from NY dress up poor girls from W. Va.

BY ALLISON BARKER

Associated Press Writer

CLAY, W.Va. — It was not her favorite color, and it hung from a rack made from two-by-fours and pipes, but it was the perfect prom dress for Jennifer Mullins: It had straps, it came with a wrap, and it was free.

The 18-year-old made her choice Monday at a makeshift boutique in the Clay County High School gym, stocked with about 450 gowns donated by students and parents at an exclusive private girls school in New York City.

In an event dubbed Operation Prom Dress, students at the Hewitt School in Manhattan, where the yearly tuition is nearly \$20,000, sent the new and used dresses — along with shoes, gloves, jewelry and other accessories — to girls in this poverty-stricken Appalachian county where the median annual household income was about \$21,000 as of 1997.

All of Clay County High's 325 or so girls were allowed to select a dress and

accessories. So were some teachers who will be chaperones at the May 11 prom.

"I found a great dress. It's not pink, but it's really pretty. It's black and sort of blue and shiny," Mullins said.

"I love it. I feel so elegant," said Katie Walker, 18, after trying on a pink strapless number with sequined trim along the bodice. "I saw this when we were putting out the dresses. So when it was my turn, I went straight to it, tried it on and it fit."

Most of the dresses arrived by truck last week. Six Hewitt students, six parents and two faculty members flew by private jet Monday to Charleston, then traveled 60 miles by van to bring the last 50 dresses to Clay.

"This is so wonderful. It makes me excited for my own prom. The girls are so nice and welcoming," said Claire Henry, 17, of New York City. "The drive from Charleston was very beautiful. Everything is so green. It's very different from New York City."

Henry said she sees Operation Prom Dress as a way to say thank you for some of the help New York received after the terrorist attacks.

Clay, a no-stoplight town of about 600, is situated in a coal-and-timber area where unemployment is 12 percent, one-third of the children live in poverty and about a quarter of the homes are trailers.

Still, Clay County High is a National School of Excellence with one of the highest attendance records in West Virginia.

"The girls are so excited, and the boys have pitched in and built clothing racks," said Principal Cindy Willis. "All the girls are included whether they are needy or not. They appreciate this offer of friendship."

Shawn Hardman, 18, who helped to build the dress racks, said he did not feel left out.

"The girls' dresses are much more expensive than what boys spend. We may only have to spend \$100 on a tux and flowers, but the dresses can be \$300,

\$400, \$500," he said.

Operation Prom Dress grew out of conversations between Clay County High's principal and Dena McKelvey, whose daughter is a junior at Hewitt. McKelvey and her husband, Andy, had helped Clay County residents in the past through the McKelvey Foundation by providing scholarships and clothing.

"Our girls in New York go to so many bat mitzvahs and parties that they have a lot of dresses. You wear a dress once, you can't wear it again. That's just not cool," McKelvey said.

Linda Gibbs, head of the Hewitt School, said she hopes to involve other New York private schools in Operation Prom Dress and perhaps make it a regular event.

"All of our students are young women of privilege," Gibbs said. "They may not all be wealthy, but they all have great opportunities. That's why we believe strongly that those who have much have an obligation to give back."

Man on a mission to visit every Starbucks store in world

By The Associated Press

DALLAS — Maybe the caffeine keeps him going.

John Winter Smith didn't just awaken one morning and decide to visit every Starbucks in the world. As he puts it, "It built up steam gradually."

Smith, 30, said his mission may have been sparked by a conversation with a Starbucks employee about the company's plan to have 2,000 stores by 2000.

By January 1998, he was scanning phonebooks in search of uncharted Starbucks. In August 1999, he hop-

scotched across the United States and Canada for three weeks, taking time out only to attend a few concerts.

In late 1999 he started a Web site, delighted with a Starbucks manager's suggestion that he photograph each store and post the pictures.

And, no, he says, the stores are not all the same. Even though they share standard design elements, at least one item — maybe a lamp or wall design — differs slightly. Some display local artwork or incorporate design elements from a pre-existing building.

As of April, Smith had visited about 2,850 stores. The constantly expanding Starbucks chain has about 3,630 company-operated stores worldwide — and plans to open at least another 625 this year.

Since Smith began calculating his expenses in 2000, he has spent about \$6,479 for gas, hotel expenses (when he doesn't sleep in his car), parking, tolls, equipment and, of course, coffee.

"I've always been a little strange. This is just an extension of that," he said. "My father just thinks I'm nuts."

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