

FREE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 138

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

07, 19, 21, 22, 37

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 3, 5
Evening picks: 1, 3, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star
2nd Place: 11, Money Bags
3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:47.09



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ A house cat named Princess survived after being stabbed in the head with a knife whose blade penetrated the skull down to the frontal sinus (Green Township, Ohio, February).

■ And another cat, Fila, taken out of a family home in Yuba City, Calif., in December by a daughter who wanted Fila to live with her in Sacramento, escaped and made the 60-mile trip back to Yuba City five days later, winding up on the parents' doorstep. It was not known if Fila took one of the three roads from Sacramento to Yuba City (state roads 99/70 or 65, or Rio Linda Boulevard) or just walked across farms.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading."
— Henny Youngman

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Neighborhood money still being kept secret

Ocean Park Community Organization must answer to judge

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A neighborhood organization's finances are still being kept a secret despite a formal complaint filed in Superior Court more than seven months ago demanding documents be produced.

Ocean Park Community Organization's chairman, Rick Laudati, hasn't fulfilled requests from members for the past three years of financial records and it appears he will continue to ignore court proceedings against the organization.

A suit filed in Superior Court in September by OPCO member Tom Fuller remains unanswered. OPCO missed its deadline to respond in court to Fuller's complaint, which has complicated its legal landscape. OPCO had 30 days to respond to the Sept. 17 complaint. The lack of response put OPCO in a technical default, which means it couldn't defend itself in court.

But because of some legal technicalities, Fuller and his attorney, Gary Clouse, were asked by

Superior Court Judge Allan J. Goodman to amend the complaint. The court has required that Laudati be served again, which is proving to be difficult.

"We have been for a couple of months now trying to serve Rick Laudati," Clouse said. "We can't find the guy."

"It appears that OPCO has basically died."

— TOM FULLER
OPCO member

Fuller, a former OPCO board member, has hired a private detective in an effort to serve Laudati, who lives in the Ocean Park neighborhood. But so far, Laudati has remained elusive and unserved.

Fuller said he has tried to make contact with Laudati at OPCO meetings, scheduled for the third Thursday of every month, but the meetings have been canceled at the last minute or have not been regularly scheduled.

See FINANCES, page 6

Hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars discovered in Iraq

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Piles of U.S. currency, hundreds of millions of dollars so far, are being found in Iraq, even though the country has been under economic sanctions for nearly 13 years.

Investigators — on the ground in Iraq and in the United States — are trying to track the money back to where it came from, a Herculean task, both officials and outside experts say.

The experts say there are plenty of possibilities, including oil and cash smuggling schemes, illegal trade deals, sham businesses and a web of middlemen located

outside the country to conceal the true destination of the funds.

"Identifying a money trail can be very difficult to do," said Jimmy Gurule, a law professor at the University of Notre Dame. "That's why it is so essential that some documentation of financial records is discovered. Then investigators can go backward and trace the movements of the funds."

Gurule recently served as the Treasury Department's undersecretary for enforcement in charge of the government's efforts to catch terrorists' financiers. He left the job in early February.

Investigators also are looking

See CURRENCY, page 10

Prison PALs



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Kids play "prisonball" at PAL, the Santa Monica Police Activities League on Olympic Blvd. and 14th Street, on Tuesday afternoon. PAL sponsors educational, cultural and athletic events for kids.

Wedding photographer wanted by SM police

Judge issues \$50,000 bench warrant for her

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

A \$50,000 bench warrant was issued for a local wedding photographer who didn't show up in court Tuesday to answer to criminal charges for the second week in a row.

If Juli Anne Armitage is found by police officers, the former Santa Monica resident will be taken into custody until she posts bail or her case is heard, according to the warrant issued by Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins.

Armitage faces 17 counts of fraud for allegedly taking her clients' money and not delivering their wedding photos.

Armitage, who works a second job waiting tables in Ventura, has a history of not showing up in court that stretches back to roughly a dozen small claims trials she's been involved in, according to court documents.

At Deputy City Attorney Adam

Radinsky's request, Kamins issued and held a bench warrant in February for the current case after Armitage failed to appear at an arraignment. The judge said if Armitage did not appear the following week, he would release the warrant.

Armitage attended the next hearing, but her public defender, Cathy Pattinson, didn't. Pattinson, who has refused comment throughout the proceedings, had reportedly run in the L.A. Marathon the day before.

After finally pleading innocent to the charges last month, Armitage missed her first pre-trial hearing last week. Then came Tuesday's no-show, which was the last straw for Kamins.

The city filed charges against Armitage in December, which allege that she took an average of \$2,000 each from 40 local couples between 2000 and 2002, then never came through with wedding photos.

Armitage, who pleaded not guilty last month, is charged with

See WARRANT, page 6



Juli Anne Armitage

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, April 23, 2003:

Your playful ways draw others. Think in terms of what would be possible if you loosen up. Don't be so uptight about a strong authority figure. It isn't worth taking this person on; instead, learn to work with this associate. Extremes mark your life. Your home life might have a very special tone to it. If you are single, you will be in a relationship by the new year if you remain open to the possibilities. This person could arrive as soon as late summer. If you are attached, add more caring to your relationship through nurturing and other gestures. AQUARIUS can be pushy.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ What you want does count. Think in terms of gains and potential changes because of your ability to work in a group. Extremes tend to come through a relationship. A loved one acts as your cheerleader — or could this be a new friend? Tonight: Where your pals are.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Listen to a boss, but think about the implications on your domestic life. Express your fears surrounding an emotional matter. Your perspective and support mean more to others than you are aware of. Extreme feelings run wild. Tonight: A must appearance.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Create options rather than bolstering obstacles. Your belief takes you in a new direction. Your ability to read between the lines does make a difference. Take time to work through a problem. A friend or partner is helpful. Tonight: Do something mentally relaxing.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ A partner gives you interesting feedback that could make a big difference in what occurs. How you feel about a partner might be tested over a money matter. Could you possibly be over-indulging? Listen to someone's feedback. Tonight: Make sure you give a friend or loved one attention.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others hold the cards, whether you like it or not. Be smart and allow them to play their cards. You will be in a better position to make an adjustment if you just let events flourish. Your positive attitude helps you stay friends no matter what happens. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Review information that comes forward at work. If you feel it could be off, then seek out other sources. Reach out for a loved one. That extra effort will make a difference. Use your instincts with someone you care about. Tonight: Go for a workout.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Dig into your well of creativity to find answers. You might not be sure about what someone thinks or wants. Creativity helps resolve a touchy money or emotional matter. You will find answers if you don't lose your temper. Remember what you want. Tonight: Play the night away.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Deal with the basics. You might be juggling more than you can handle right now. Everyone wants a part of you! Your popularity peaks at a new level in the next few days. Don't get into a rumble with a family member or roommate. The end results just might not be worth it. Tonight: Make it easier.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You speak your mind with unusual force, drawing an equally strong reaction. Is this what you really want? Get to the bottom of a problem rather than create a new one. Be more indulgent with those in your immediate world. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You might want to think before you commit to a financial plan, especially if it involves spending a lot more than you want. Laugh and be more playful in how you handle a child or loved one. Think about what you want from a loved one. Tonight: Buy flowers on the way home.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You turn on the switch, revealing your personality. Others cannot get close enough right now. Be careful with your word choice, as someone might take umbrage. Others will work with you. Add more happiness to wherever you are. Tonight: Let the good times flow.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Make it your job to stay optimistic. Review a question that might have been lingering on your mind. Push comes to shove with a co-worker who might not be doing his or her job, but instead running around happily. Help this person focus. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

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Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jason Auslander jason@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alejandro C. Cantarero alex@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Angela Downen angela@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

William Patnosh william@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Keri Aroesty keri@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Robert Deamicis Rob@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

STAFF MASCOT

Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL



Santa Monica-based angels helping out U.S. soldiers

BY KATHLEEN MASSER
Special to the Daily Press

For Lance Corp. Chris Ashworth, Santa Monica was the next-to-the-last stop on an arduous, eight-leg journey.

Since injuring his shoulder in an incident just outside of Baghdad, Ashworth had endured two Humvee excursions to medical centers in Iraq, a Blackhawk helicopter flight to Kuwait, a bus to the airport, a C-137 transport to Germany, a commercial 747 to Los Angeles and a military van to Camp Pendleton, where his company is based.

However, Ashworth wanted to spend his 30-day convalescent leave with his family in Red Bluff. From Oceanside, a one-way train ticket is \$163 — an enormous sum for an enlisted man to shell out for the 12-hour trip.

But a savvy nurse at Camp Pendleton Hospital had a better idea.

On Thursday, Karen Guenther picked up the phone and called an angel. By Friday morning, Ashworth was seated in the cockpit of Jim Mallen's Beech Bonanza airplane.

Before noon, they would touch down in Santa Monica to meet Lodi vintner Fred Weibel, who would fly Ashworth the rest of the way to Red Bluff. Mallen and Weibel are volunteer pilots and members of Angel Flight West.

From its offices at the Santa Monica Airport, Angel Flight usually arranges free transportation in private aircraft for patients who can't afford to travel to medical centers for diagnosis or treatment.

Military assistance missions, however, are new to Angel Flight, though in the days immediately following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the only small aircraft allowed in the skies were piloted by Angel Flight volunteers, who delivered blood to labs around the country for testing.

"We have more than 1,200 volunteer pilots and the generosity and compassion of each one are just remarkable," said Jim Weaver, Angel Flight's executive director.

Last year, Angel Flight volunteers flew 2,640 missions throughout the 11 Western states. Pilots donate their time, their planes and all other flight costs so that, for passengers, it really is a free ride.

Roger Anderson, another marine based at Camp Pendleton, was also in need of an angel.

He hitched a ride to Salt Lake City with AFW pilot Robert Harter of Pacific



Kathleen Masser/Special to the Daily Press
Angel Flight West volunteer pilot Fred Weibel, left, stands outside the airplane that helped fly Lance Corp. Chris Ashworth, right, home to his family.

Palisades, who reunited the injured soldier with his wife and three children. Anderson was wounded by a rocket-propelled grenade during an ambush. Harter said that when they landed, "All we could see were balloons, banners and bagpipers. It was quite a welcome home."

And it looks like Angel Flight's military assistance may go on for a while.

According to AFW Mission Coordination Director Cheri Cimmarrusti, "At least 25 more soldiers are expected in over the weekend, and we already have flight requests from six of them."

"And when the time comes, we'll bring them back to Camp Pendleton," Cimmarrusti said.

Not all flights feature balloons and bagpipers, however.

On March 23, Donald John Cline Jr., was listed as missing in action. Three weeks later, his family learned that the 21-year-old lance corporal was killed at Nasiriyah.

Cline's wife and two children live in Reno, while his mother and father live in Sierra Madre. The Marines arranged to ship Cline's remains to Reno, but not for his parents to be there at the end of their son's journey.

Angel Flight pilot Don Ratcliff learned of their story through Angel Flight West, but couldn't make the trip himself.

Instead, he booked the parents on a commercial flight and paid for the tickets out of his own pocket. And when the young soldier has been laid to rest, Ratcliff will be there in person to fly the Clines back to Sierra Madre.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Southwest swell peaked Tuesday with good size showing at exposed breaks.

Unfortunately, winds made for rough conditions and blown out surf most of both Monday and Tuesday and could do the same again today.

Northwest wind swell also improved Tuesday, but ebbs a bit today so expect combination exposures to lose some size while south-facing breaks keep hitting.

We should see waist-to-shoulder-high surf at the northern points, good conditions for dawn patrol but windy again in the late morning and afternoon.

Thursday swells continue to lose strength.

Today's Tides:

High- 3:19 a.m. 4.39'
Low- 11:21 a.m. -0.25'
High- 6:37 p.m. 3.70'
Low- 11:33 p.m. 2.61'

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	D
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
El Porto	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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The Q-Line

The Santa Monica Police Department recently released crime statistics for 2002. The results show that crime is down overall, although incidents of serious and violent crime increased, including rapes, homicides and burglaries.

As Santa Monica continues to grow, so do concerns about safety in the city.

So, this week, Q-Line wants to know: "Do you think Santa Monica is a safe place to live? Why or why not?"

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



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OPINION

LETTERS

Don't cut community college budgets

Editor:

Why have students across the state been organizing demonstrations calling for no increase in fees and fair treatment for the community colleges?

Their anger is an intelligent reaction to the 2003-04 Governor Davis proposal to increase community college fees from the current level of \$11 per unit to \$24 per unit. He proposes that the \$149 million in increased revenue resulting from the fee increase be offset by a loss of \$215 million in funding to the community colleges as a result of the loss of students resulting from the fee increase.

In total the governor has proposed a 10.4 percent decrease in funding for the community colleges in 2003-04 when compared to the approved budget for 2002-03. To community college students all of this translates to a 188 percent increase in fees accompanied by decreased class offerings — they pay more and receive less.

In the past when fee increases have been implemented, the loss of students has averaged a little over 1 percent for each \$1 increase. Using this yardstick, community colleges could expect to lose in the neighborhood of 13 percent of their students due to the governor's proposal. This equates to a loss in excess of 200,000 students — more students than are enrolled at all of the campuses of the University of California combined.

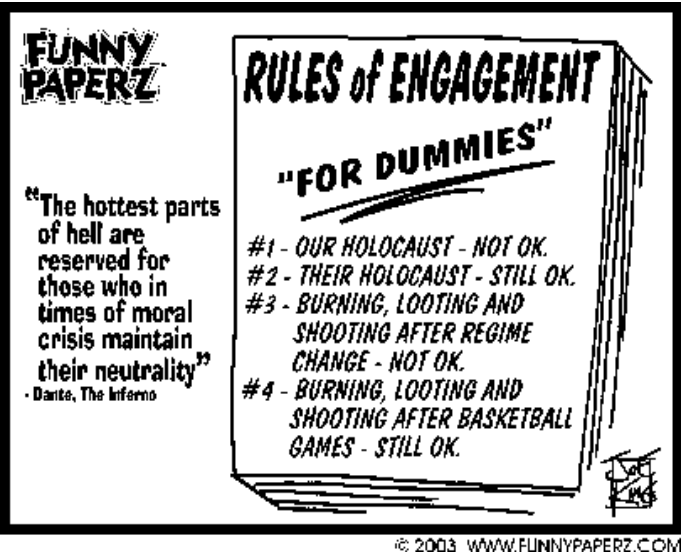
If patterns follow past year experiences, the bulk of this drop in students will be concentrated among those who are low income — Latino, African-American, and older students (who have been hard-hit by the economic recession). These students, in addition, are the least likely to have access to information concerning financial aid and opportunities to have their fees waived.

The legislature needs to reject the governor's budget proposal for a 10.5 percent cut in community college funding and demand that the community colleges not be cut disproportionately when compared with K-12, the University of California and the California State University systems.

The legislature should resist efforts to increase fees for attendance at community colleges. Community college education today has the same standing as high school education did in the past — it is required in virtually all jobs that pay a living wage. A free and accessible community college education benefits all residents of California. A well-educated public increases the economic opportunity for all Californians by bringing industries into the state that require well educated work forces.

The legislature should consider whether it is good public policy to tax students for the benefit of the state general fund and restrict access to public higher education based on race, age, and economic class. The legislature should also consider whether \$149 million in new revenue (in a state budget of \$100 billion) is worth the human potential lost.

See LETTERS, page 5



Off the street — one man's social services success



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

(Editor's note: This is the second installment of a three part series that tracks how a man lifted himself off the streets of Santa Monica with the help of California's social services. Next Wednesday's installment will take a look at some of the problems within the system.)

After attending, though not completing, a rehabilitation program, James McCord was able to stay off drugs and alcohol, but he remained homeless. At a feeding program offered at Saint Joseph's, he learned about Samoshel.

Samoshel is a shelter designed to help the homeless help themselves become self-sufficient. Theodore Dues, the executive director, told me that the shelter is open to all adults 18 and over, with the exception of pregnant women in their third trimester and those requiring immediate medical attention.

Residents may not be on or use drugs and alcohol during their stay. The maximum residency is six months and clients are expected to find a job within 60 days. The shelter provides two meals a day, case management, 12-step programs, counseling, goal planning, medical and legal services.

Samoshel also offers money management and clients are required to place 60 percent of their earnings into a savings account, which is returned to them when they leave the facility.

Samoshel seems to be one of the more effective shelter programs. This is best evidenced by Dues himself, who in 1995 entered Samoshel as a resident, then later joined the staff and eventually worked his way up to his current position.

James placed himself on the Samoshel waiting list. He was admitted to the shelter after two weeks and went on to successfully complete its six month program. James felt the program was extremely helpful but cautions that only a small minority will have similar success.

"That's just the nature of people coming from backgrounds of substance abuse, incarceration, domestic violence — we take the easy way out, we run," he said. He also said many have a problem with authority and resist taking direction.

"They want to run the show," James said.

During his time in the shelter, James was required to attend a program called Job Club, which provided contacts and information about available jobs. In addition, James was referred to Vocational Rehabilitation Center, which offered him clothing and funds for school, and to an organization called Chrysalis.

Chrysalis helps people get a job, keep that job and then get a better job.

"Most of us coming from Samoshel, or places like it, have a gap in their work history," James said. "Incarcerated, domestic violence, problems with woman, they need that introductory course to get back to mainstream life."

To enter Chrysalis, James had to complete a one-hour orientation, after which he was assigned to an employment specialist/case manager. The case manager assessed his background, work history, criminal record, living accommodations and other factors that might effect his ability to find employment.

Managers also determine appropriate types of employment, then offer practical training in writing a resume, filling out applications, follow up and thank you letters and even stage mock interviews. In addition, they teach basic computer skills and provide the use of computers, fax machines and telephones to be used in securing a job. A call center provides a phone number where messages can be taken from prospective employers.

Other excellent programs provide hygiene kits, towels, haircut vouchers, clothing and bus tokens for interviews and for the first two weeks of employment. Classes include: "Putting the Bars Behind You" and "Understanding the Workplace Culture," as well as anger management sessions and job retention meetings.

Chrysalis also maintains a full-service staffing agency called Labor Connections. And it is one of the few social service agencies that track clients' progress. Its record is impressive. Maureen Wiggins, program coordinator, said that clients who complete the 9-to-12 hour curriculum have a 92 percent success rate during their first year.

James received substantial assistance from Chrysalis.

Through the group's contracts with Santa Monica and other employers, James, who had a spotty work history, was able to secure seasonal work cleaning restrooms on the pier and beach. As is the tradition at Chrysalis, when James first received word that he had gotten the job, a bell was rung and everyone from the clients to the executive director came down to congratulate him.

James worked at the beach for two summers and filled in with holiday work for UPS. Recently, with the skills he learned and contacts he made at Chrysalis and other service organizations, James was able to land a full time job at UCLA.

After James had completed his stay at Samoshel he still required housing. He was referred to Turning Point, a dorm-type facility that offers transitional housing for up to nine months. With the money James saved during his time at Turning Point, along with the savings from Samoshel, he was able to afford a modest apartment.

James then applied to Community Corporation of Santa Monica, which is dedicated to preserving and creating affordable housing, primarily for families with low to moderate incomes. Rents for the 1,200 units it currently operates start at about \$300 a month, but average around \$500 a month,

about a third of market rents. James was fortunate to be accepted for one of the agency's few single apartments with a rent of \$450 per month.

James' experience illustrates that given a motivated individual, the integration and effective aid provided by California's social services system was seamless. As of today, James has lived in his apartment for over a year and has been working at UCLA since February.

He is extremely grateful to the organizations in Santa Monica.

"It was the cooperation of those organizations that gave me a chance," he said. "I attribute all my success to God. And I know I have to take certain steps. God helps those who help themselves."

I asked him if he would ever go back to using drugs. He replied, "You know, I'm a dope addict, a recovering one at this point, but I used longer than I've been clean, so there's always that thought that, 'Man you know it would be different this time. You could go out there and get your dope and it won't take you to the place that it took you before.'"

"And sometimes I entertain the thought, but you know, in my heart I know I'm a dope addict. If I take a hit I know where it's going to lead. And there's a lot of people who believe in me now and are dependent on me. I've got a son back in Alabama who I'm trying to financially take care of and to be a mentor to. I've got family members that know my struggles and have been proud of me. And there are people here in California that have helped me along the way. I don't want to let them down. And so I pray and I hope that I never do it like that again. That I never go back out again and do drugs."

"But the truth is there is no guarantee. Dope addicts and alcoholics will break your heart, let you down. We have good intentions, but can't always live up to them."

I, for one, will be rooting for him.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. You may donate your comments to: edsincites@aol.com.)

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

I look forward to a time when there are no fees and the ability to pay is not a determinant of who attends college. Let's bring California back to the time when we led the nation in education and we had the wisdom not to levy a fee on community college students.

Martin Hittelman

President, Community College Council

Sticking up for the powerless

Editor:

It is terrible that Santa Monica College is contemplating the elimination of 10 academic programs. Without these programs, over 2,000 students, many at risk and minority youth, are in danger of being shut out of higher education. SMC has an annual operating budget of \$122 million and is facing a cut from the state of just \$15 million (worst case).

The best idea SMC's administration and trustees can come up with to offset a small (\$300,000) portion of these cuts is the elimination of 10 academic programs. This is like hacking off a hand to remove a hangnail. Several SMC administrators make over \$100,000 per year. Layoffs, retirement or resignations from just three would save enough money to stop program discontinuance. By contrast, under the current program discontinuance proposal, 2,000 students will lose access to a college education and 15 full time faculty and over 30 part time faculty will lose their jobs.

I expect more creative problem solving from our elected leaders. Shame on Santa Monica College's Board of Trustees and the administrators they've hired for trying to shut the powerless out of public education.

William Hogan

Santa Monica

Calling all insurance agents...

Editor:

I would very much appreciate advice from any other SMDP readers who have had good experience of trying to get building's insurance for an older HOA building in Santa Monica. I live in a great and wonderfully built California Spanish place, yet because it was built in the 1920s, most insurers seem to not want to know. The few that do charge double or triple the rates for slightly later places. If anyone out there has a good word to say about an insurer that knows a good building whenever it was built, I'd love to hear from them at brendaninusa@yahoo.co.uk

Brendan Foley

Santa Monica



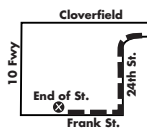
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LOCAL

OPCO member won't give up until finances are released

FINANCES, from page 1

He also said he's called and e-mailed Laudati and other board members in an effort to contact someone from the organization, but his requests have been ignored.

"At this point, I don't know who the officers are anymore," Fuller said. "It appears that OPCO has basically died."

Laudati, as well as other board members, have repeatedly declined comment on where OPCO's money is. Laudati didn't return phone calls seeking comment.

The lack of action has raised questions throughout the community.

"It's just getting weirder and weirder," Clouse said. "I don't know what he's hiding. It's frustrating and the more obstacles they throw in your path the more persistent we become."

OPCO was formed as a non-profit corporation in 1978 to serve as a community organization for the Ocean Park neighborhood. Under California law, it's required to provide its membership with financial records, according to the complaint.

One of OPCO's functions is to review development projects and then recommend to the Planning Commission and City Council that they be approved or denied. Some OPCO board members who have recently resigned said they fear a lack of protection from liability should the organization's legality be questioned.

City Hall spokeswoman Judy Rambeau said OPCO has requested funding from the city in the past, but not for the past three years. If City Hall contributes to neighborhood organizations, the organization is required to provide financial records and a list of its membership.

"It's like the bully. Rick's method of operation is to either wear people down or bully them. But at some point, someone has to say, 'No' and I'm saying, 'No.'"

— TOM FULLER
OPCO member

As far as liability concerns from some former board members, Rambeau said the Santa Monica City Council listens to individuals as well as community organizations when approving or denying development projects.

She said the council is savvy enough to realize that if one person speaks on behalf of a neighborhood organization, it doesn't mean its entire membership agrees with its position on a development proposal, Rambeau said.

REVOLVING BOARD SEATS

At least nine board members have resigned over OPCO's inaction in the past several months. Board members Audrea Golding Bitler, Ted Winterer and Elan Glasser attempted to work out a resolution with the board to get the finances released last fall.

But they resigned in November out of frustration that no progress had been made. In early 2002, Bob Loftus, Joe Pipersky and Bill Sunblad resigned over the financial questions.

When Fuller got involved in OPCO in

early 2001, he asked to review the accounting books and finances, as well as a list of the organization's current membership.

In his written request to Laudati in June 2001, Fuller said he was concerned about an apparent discrepancy between the number of reported members compared to the small amount of membership fees collected.

Fuller attended the OPCO meeting in December to introduce himself to four new board members who had been recently appointed after others quit over the secrecy issue.

Fuller, who has spent \$12,000 of his own money on the issue, plans to proceed with the complaint that formally asks that the 2000 and 2001 financial records be released. He also requested the 2002 documents be given to him on a monthly basis, which has not been done.

"The original hope was that he would have provided the records to see what the hell is going on in OPCO," he said. "It certainly raises one's suspicions from his behavior."

It's unclear how much money OPCO has collected from its members, how many members there are, and the composition of the dues structure. Some estimates put the organization's membership between 150 and 500.

Fuller acknowledged that his relationship with Laudati has become adversarial in the past year, but he said he won't give up until his questions are answered.

"It's like the bully," Fuller said. "Rick's method of operation is to either wear people down or bully them. But at some point, someone has to say, 'No' and I'm saying, 'No.'"

Asked whether he would consider filing criminal charges against OPCO, Fuller said he wouldn't rule it out if his requests continue to go unanswered.

"These things take on a life of their own. But we have a disagreement and I think a judge will decide who's right," Fuller said. "(Laudati's) actions in the past few months certainly heighten my suspicions that something is wrong."

OPCO board member Mario Fonda-Bonardi wouldn't comment on the issue and deferred all questions to Laudati because he is the chairman of the board. But Fonda-Bonardi told the Daily Press last week — just as he did in December — that OPCO is a volunteer-based organization and it takes time to get paperwork together because its board members have time constraints.

"Tom is perfectly in his right to ask for the financial records," he said. "Rick is working on this stuff."

City to seek restitution for 40 couples without photos

WARRANT, from page 1

17 separate counts of fraud. The city said it will seek restitution for all 40 couples.

If convicted, Armitage faces a maximum of up to one year in jail and \$2,700 in fines and penalties for each of the 17 counts.

Armitage said last month the city doesn't want to send her to prison. The city attorney's office offered a plea bargain that would have reduced the number of counts against her and kept her out of jail, Armitage said at the time.

She did not accept the plea.

Pattinson is hoping to move the charges out of the criminal arena and have them tried in a civil court where they belong, Armitage said, adding that said she is guilty of bad bookkeeping and nothing more.

She maintained that her intentions were never criminal and accused the city of standing in the way of her business by seizing her entire home office as evidence. The city didn't pursue her criminally until she demanded it return her property if no charges were going to be filed, she said.

Earlier this year, Armitage successfully filed for bankruptcy and cleared roughly \$100,000 in debts, said Paul Cohen, her attorney in that proceeding.

Criminal fines and penalties are not covered by bankruptcy and neither are debts incurred after the bankruptcy is filed, Cohen said.

Cohen criticized the city for filing criminal charges against Armitage and said the alleged wrongdoing was clearly a civil matter.

Past clients of Armitage have also

questioned the way Armitage has been treated by the city.

Philip DeLeo, who hired Armitage for his 2001 wedding, said he contacted the attorney's office earlier this year looking for negatives he suspected had been seized by police.

"It's not like she's a con artist or anything — she's just a flake."

— PHILIP DELEO
Customer

Though they didn't have his negatives, DeLeo said the city pushed him to sign onto the lawsuit — even though Armitage had delivered to him what she had promised.

DeLeo, who said he grew anxious when Armitage stopped returning his calls, came to court earlier this year to ask Armitage for the negatives.

He said Tuesday that Armitage brought the negatives to his Woodland Hills home the evening of the day he showed up in court and spent hours with him and his wife planning which images to use.

DeLeo, who is still owed a few hundred dollars by Armitage, said he couldn't believe his former wedding photographer is now a wanted woman.

"That's really bad news," he said. "She's really nice, she's just mixed up."

"I think her heart's in the right place. It's not like she's a con artist or anything — she's just a flake."

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STATE



Nation's oldest person dies

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The nation's oldest person, a 113-year-old woman who witnessed the aftermath of the great San Francisco earthquake, enjoyed junk food and lived alone until she turned 102, has died.

Mary Dorothy Christian died Sunday afternoon at the Creekside Care Center in San Pablo, where she had lived since 1992, after coming down with a cold that turned into pneumonia, said nurse Ester Aballa.

"She would be 114 in two months, and she kept saying she wanted to make it," said Aballa, who was one of the few people the vision- and hearing-impaired centenarian recognized by voice. "I guess it was just her time."

The Gerontology Research Group identified Christian as the oldest living American in November following the death of Mary Parr of Florida, who also was 113. Christian's family spent weeks confirming her age to make her eligible for the top ranking, an honor that brought Christian a brief celebrity that she enjoyed, according to relatives.

At the time, Christian entertained visitors and fielded questions about her life shouted into her ear from folks looking to find out the secret to her longevity.

Born June 12, 1889, in Taunton, Mass., Christian moved with her family at the turn of the 20th century to San Pablo, located across the bay from San Francisco. As a teenager, she spent two years working at an East Bay chocolate

factory, and it was from there that she watched flames engulf the city following the 1906 earthquake.

She married in 1907 at the age of 18 and had two sons, whom she outlived. Following a divorce in 1922, Christian held a series of jobs, including as an elevator operator and a saleswoman in the men's department at Macy's until her first retirement in 1954, and then caring for children until she quit working for good in 1971.

Relatives, noting that Christian lived alone until she turned 102 and refused to be taken in by family members, said she always possessed a strong independent streak. Before her diet was restricted to soft foods, she frequently indulged cravings for Kentucky Fried Chicken and Hostess Twinkies.

Christian's niece, Marge Parks, recalled how even though Christian was sometimes confused about the time and her whereabouts, she nearly always remembered relatives' birthdays and anniversaries.

"She'd say, 'I don't have anything else to do while I'm here, so I just keep thinking about dates,'" Parks said.

Christian is survived by two great-grandchildren, two great great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

With her death, the title of oldest living American falls to Elana Slough, 113, of New Jersey, who was born 26 days after Christian, according to L. Stephen Coles, an instructor of gerontology at the UCLA school of medicine who is part of the group that tracks the ultra-old.

Four seismic hazard maps released for northeast L.A.

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Ever wonder if your home is atop a seismic hazard zone? The state Department of Conservation released four maps Monday detailing such hazards in northeast Los Angeles County.

"With the knowledge of where liquefaction and landslides are most likely to occur, officials can require special engineering steps on new construction that enhance public safety," said conservation director Darryl Young.

The maps detail 60-square-mile areas around the four points. If property is in a so-called Zone of Required Investigation, building departments must require geological studies before project permits are issued. Also, real estate agents must inform buyers and sellers if property is

located in such a zone.

One of the zones, known as Condor Peak, is a quadrangle covering Big Tujunga and Mill Creek canyons about 20 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. Another, called Lovejoy Buttes, is located about 18 miles east of Palmdale.

The Hi Vista quadrangle includes the high desert communities of Lake Los Angeles and Wilsona, while the Agua Dulce quadrangle is 13 miles east of suburban Santa Clarita and includes sparsely developed Agua Dulce and Soledad canyons.

The Conservation Department assured homeowners that few landslides have occurred but the areas have steep slopes prone to quake-induced slides.

In December, Orange County became the first of California's 58 counties to be completely mapped for seismic hazards.

Study: Bay area likely to face massive earthquake by 2032

By The Associated Press

BERKELEY — The San Francisco Bay area is likely to be hit by a major earthquake in the next 30 years, with the populous Interstate 880 corridor in the East Bay being particularly vulnerable to a catastrophe, according to a federal study released Tuesday.

The study found that the Bay Area had a 62 percent chance of being struck by a magnitude-6.7 or greater quake by 2032. That's down from the 70 percent chance researchers estimated in 1999.

But that apparent decrease shouldn't set

residents at ease, researchers cautioned.

"Regardless of where earthquakes occur in the Bay Area, they will produce damaging ground motions over broad areas and at substantial distances from the source," said David Schwartz, a government geologist.

The study was commissioned by the U.S. Geological Survey and conducted by the Working Group on California Earthquake Probabilities, a group of about 100 federal, state and academic researchers.

The most potentially hazardous of the region's seven major faults is the combined Hayward-Rodgers Creek system, according to the study.

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STATE

Ex-governor: CA should re-think death penalty

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California should consider halting executions while it takes "an in-depth look" at whether it administers the death penalty fairly, former Illinois Gov. George Ryan told state lawmakers Tuesday.

Repeated failures in Illinois' system prompted Ryan to commute the sentences of all his state's 167 condemned inmates before he left office this year.

The public seems to favor the death penalty, "but they want a system that's fair, just and accurate," Ryan told the Senate Select Committee on the California Correctional System. "If you're poor and minority, you haven't got a prayer."

California's Death Row is disproportionately black, poor, mentally ill or borderline retarded, said opponents, lawmakers and legal experts. About 60 percent of death sentences upheld by California courts are later overturned by federal appeals.

California's criminal justice system has some of the same shortfalls as Illinois' system, testified attorney Robert Sanger, who authored a report comparing California's death penalty system with the 85 recommendations of the Illinois Commission appointed by Ryan in January 2000.

For instance, California meets just one of the 19 recommendations designed to keep false confessions and incomplete or misleading testimony from leading to improper convictions and sentences. Death penalty qualifiers are so broad that virtually any murder can bring a death sentence if the prosecutor is so inclined, Sanger said.

"We clearly do not comply with over 90 percent of the recommendations in Illinois," said Sanger, a board member of Death Penalty Focus, which favors a California moratorium. California has some protections, "but they don't go far enough."

But experts from the state attorney general's office and district attorneys association said California's hasn't seen the same problems that prompted Ryan's decision in Illinois. All 622 inmates on California's Death Rows are there because they committed horrible murders, they said.

"California's not Illinois," said James Anderson, an Alameda County assistant prosecutor who chairs a California District Attorneys Association death penalty committee. "Their system may be broken. Ours is not."

For instance, California limits testimony by informants who would benefit from false testimony against a fellow inmate. There are safeguards against impaneling an all-white jury to try a black defendant. And there are no cases where police torture was alleged to have prompted a confession, said Dane Gillette, a senior assistant attorney general who has supervised the state's death penalty cases since 1992.

Unlike Illinois, where 13 inmates were exonerated as 12 were executed, Gillette asserted that California has had no instances where condemned inmates were later found to be innocent. California also provides better-trained, publicly financed defense attorneys, he said.

Nor have studies shown that race has played a disproportionate role in convictions, Gillette said. While there are regional differences, he argued that every

California prosecutor works under the same legal guidelines.

For Carole Carrington, who testified Tuesday, the biggest problem with California's death penalty is that it's not carried out quickly enough. She said she and her husband, Francis, don't expect to live long enough to see Cary Stayner's execution for murdering their daughter, granddaughter and a family friend at Yosemite National Park in 1999.

"Mistakes cannot be corrected. All transactions are final."

— SEN. GLORIA ROMERO
D-Los Angeles

Executions may not bring emotional closure to survivors, she said, but are valuable for ridding society of "a cancer ... we just do not need." Their Carole Sund/Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation has since offered rewards in 30 states and helped apprehend 17 murder suspects.

Ryan's commutations sparked a nationwide debate. Since leaving office in January, Ryan, a Republican, has been traveling the nation urging students to write their legislators to ask for reviews of their states' systems. Four Bay Area counties and nine cities have passed resolutions calling on Gov. Gray Davis to issue a moratorium on capital punishment.

Davis added to the controversy by asking lawmakers for \$220 million in bond money to construct a new Death Row at San Quentin, as the state struggles with a record budget deficit.

The committee took no action Tuesday, though the chairwoman, Sen. Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, said she thinks an in-depth study is needed.

"We are talking about the ultimate punishment," Romero said. "Mistakes cannot be corrected. All transactions are final."

Facts about California's death penalty, inmates

By The Associated Press

Here's a look at California's death penalty and condemned inmates:

■ California is one of 38 states that impose the death penalty.

■ The first was in 1893; the most recent was last year.

■ The state has executed 10 inmates since 1988. There currently are 622 inmates, including 14 women, awaiting execution on Death Rows at San Quentin and Chowchilla.

■ Blacks make up 34 percent of California's condemned inmates, but less than 7 percent of the population.

■ 19 of California's 58 counties have no one on Death Row.

■ Los Angeles has the most condemned inmates, about a third of the state's condemned. By contrast, San Francisco's district attorney won't seek the death penalty.

Source: California Department of Corrections, Senate Select Committee on the California Correctional System.

NATIONAL



Bush says Greenspan should get another term

BY RON FOURNIER

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Tuesday he intends to nominate Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan for a fifth term as chairman of the nation's central bank.

Greenspan, who turned 77 in March, has been serving as Fed chairman since August 1987. His current term as chairman runs to June 20, 2004.

Bush gave his endorsement to Greenspan as the Fed chairman was preparing to undergo surgery for an enlarged prostate — a common problem for men his age. He is expected to return to work quickly.

In an interview with economic writers, Bush was asked whether Greenspan has done a good enough job to get another term. "Yes," the president replied. "I think Alan Greenspan should get another term."

Bush stopped just short of saying he intends to renominate Greenspan, but several senior White House officials said that was clearly the message he was sending. Congress would need to confirm the nomination.

"The president thinks he has done a very able job as a steward of the economy," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters.

Fleischer said he did not know whether

Greenspan would accept another term as chairman.

Bush's remarks came two months after Greenspan faced heavy criticism from conservative Republicans for telling Congress that any new round of tax cuts needed to be paid for, a position that hurt the president's efforts to sell his proposed \$726 billion tax-cut package.

Some conservatives called on Bush at the time not to renominate Greenspan for a fifth term, and there had been some speculation in financial markets that a leading candidate to replace Greenspan was Martin Feldstein, a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Reagan administration and now a professor at Harvard.

Bush and his top advisers repeatedly sought to play down the speculation by expressing support for Greenspan. The promise of renomination is certain to calm financial markets. The ailing economy is considered by White House advisers to be Bush's biggest hurdle to re-election.

Greenspan, who was in the office on Monday, is generally considered to be in good health. The term of Fed chairman runs four years.

The Federal Reserve's next meeting to discuss interest rate policy is on May 6. Smith said that Greenspan is expected to attend that meeting.

Ex-WorldCom executive pleads innocent to allegations

BY ERIN MCCLAM

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Former WorldCom executive Scott Sullivan pleaded innocent Tuesday to new charges that he lied on financial statements to secure \$4.25 billion in credit for the company.

At a hearing in federal court, Sullivan, 40, entered the plea through his lawyer, Irv Nathan.

The new charges of bank fraud and making false statements were added by the government last week to original charges of conspiracy, securities fraud and false Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Sullivan also pleaded innocent to those charges.

Sullivan was chief financial officer at Mississippi-based WorldCom when investigators say the company carried out a \$9 billion accounting fraud, the largest in U.S. history.

The original charges accuse Sullivan of ordering WorldCom accountants to remove operating expenses from the books, making the company appear profitable when it was losing money.

The new charges accuse Sullivan of

using false financial statements to obtain loans in 2001 from Bank of America, Chase Manhattan, Citibank and other lending institutions.

Sullivan had faced up to 65 years in prison if convicted on the original charges. The new charges add 120 years to his potential sentence.

Also Tuesday, the judge postponed Sullivan's trial from Sept. 8 to next February to give the defense more time to review thousands of pages of additional documents.

The trial is scheduled to take place in New York, but Sullivan's lawyer told the judge he will seek to have it moved because of pretrial publicity. The judge had rejected a previous request by Sullivan, who lives in Florida, to have the trial moved because of the financial burden a New York trial would place on his family.

Court documents showed Sullivan was the highest-paid CFO in the United States in 1997, receiving \$19 million in salary, bonuses and other compensation. He also made more than \$45.3 million by selling WorldCom stock between 1995 and 2000, according to the documents.

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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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INTERNATIONAL

Olusegun Obasanjo wins but opposition rejects results

BY GLENN MCKENZIE
Associated Press Writer

LAGOS, Nigeria — Incumbent Olusegun Obasanjo won an overwhelming victory in Nigeria's presidential election, officials announced Tuesday, but the main opposition party rejected the result as fraudulent and threatened massive protests.

Obasanjo moved quickly to build goodwill following an election marked by sporadic violence and allegations of polling misconduct, urging the opposition in a nationally televised address to accept his victory peacefully.

"Good politicians should be really good sportsmen, showing magnanimity and humility in victory and gallantry and good-naturedness in defeat," the former military ruler said.

"Good politicians should be really good sportsmen, showing magnanimity and humility in victory and gallantry and good-naturedness in defeat."

— **OLUSEGUN OBASANJO**
President of Nigeria

"I'm humbled by the fact that I'm the people's choice," he added, describing the election as "peaceful, free and transparent."

The election for president and 36 governors was the biggest test for democracy and stability since Obasanjo was elected four years ago, ending 15 years of brutal military rule in Africa's most populous nation and the fifth largest oil exporter to the United States.

Obasanjo won 62 percent of the more than 42 million votes cast in the weekend polling, election commission chairman Abel Guobadia said. Former junta leader Muhammadu Buhari, was far back with 32 percent. Eighteen other candidates split the other votes. More than 2.5 million votes were declared invalid.

Don Etiebet, chairman of Buhari's party, stormed into the election commission headquarters shortly before the winner was announced and said his party rejected the results.

He warned that opposition supporters "will act appropriately according to human nature."

"We do not need to tell the people what to do. They will know what to do when their mandate has been trampled upon," he said, without elaborating.

Nigeria has never seen a civilian government successfully hand over power to another. Though it is one of the world's largest oil exporters, it is desperately poor and has a history of coups and unrest.

There was only muted initial reaction to Obasanjo's win, and no immediate sign of public celebrations or protests in Nigerian cities, many of which were being heavily patrolled by police and army troops.

International monitors expressed concern about many reports of poll irregularities, including vote fraud, ballot-box stuffing and bribery.

The U.S. State Department said that widespread claims of electoral misconduct appeared to be credible.

"We urge all parties with complaints of electoral malfeasance to present their evidence to the competent tribunals and for the tribunals to consider those com-

plaints in a fair and transparent manner," spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Obasanjo first came to power through the military in 1976, after his own predecessor in the ruling junta was killed in a coup attempt. He stepped down three years later. Years after that, he served three years as a political prisoner after then-junta dictator Gen. Sani Abacha jailed him for allegedly plotting to overthrow him. When Abacha died of apparent heart failure in 1998, Obasanjo was freed.

Trading his military uniform for traditional robes, he ran for election in 1999 and won.

His rule has brought limited improvement in individual and press freedoms. Yet the economy has stagnated, and critics say he has done little to fight poverty and corruption. Since he took power, 10,000 people have been killed in religious, political and ethnic fighting, including hundreds massacred by army troops.

In the balloting, foreign and local election observers charged widespread vote fraud in some states in the south and east of Nigeria.

Max Van den Berg, the European Union's chief election observer, said his group's monitors witnessed ballot box stuffing and other "widespread election fraud" in six Nigerian states, including several in the restive southern swamps.

Van den Berg, however, warned that if Nigerian authorities don't investigate, "then the democratic process is in trouble."

The vote was also marred by violence. Since an April 12 legislative vote, at least 35 people have died in election-related attacks.

Eight people were killed and homes were burned Saturday during a gunfight between soldiers and opposition supporters in the central town of Kwande, police said. Three others died Monday in a clash in Kwara state capital, Ilorin.

Armed men also shot dead five people traveling in a convoy carrying the president's daughter, Iyabo Obasanjo. She was unhurt in the attack near the village of Igbogun, 35 miles from the commercial capital of Lagos, a presidential spokesman said.

Questions remain about whether cash is counterfeit

CURRENCY, from page 1

into whether any of the cash found in Iraq was counterfeited.

"We are working with the military to authenticate the seized currency," said John Gill, a spokesman for the Secret Service, which handles counterfeiting investigations.

In Baghdad, U.S. soldiers — trying to stop looting — discovered more than \$600 million in tightly wrapped packets of new \$100 dollar bills hidden behind a false wall, U.S. military officials said Tuesday. The \$100 bill is the most counterfeited U.S. note outside the United States.

In a neighborhood along the Tigris River, where senior Baath Party and Republican Guard officials lived, U.S. forces found some \$656 million in U.S. currency, the Los Angeles Times reported last week.

It was not clear if the find described by the military officials was the same as the one reported by the Times.

"When you discover such a huge amount of U.S. currency, you know you are not dealing with Boy Scouts," said Robert Bonner, commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

The Bush administration wants any genuine, U.S. currency found in Iraq to be used to help the people of the country, Treasury Department officials said.

Tracing the movement of cash is difficult. Serial numbers on U.S. currency are sometimes useful, but their help is limited, experts said. Information is kept allowing people to track bills' movements from the Federal Reserve to their first destination point, but not beyond that, a Treasury official explained.

Separately, roughly \$1.2 billion in illicit Iraqi assets have been recently uncovered abroad, said Treasury Department officials, who wouldn't disclose details.

U.S. officials believe there is more Iraqi money that hasn't been found, a major focus of investigators.

A General Accounting Office report last year said that Iraq generated \$6.6 billion in illegal revenue from oil smuggling and other schemes from 1997 to 2001.

Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, former President Bush in August 1990 imposed an embargo on Iraq, essentially banning business and trade with the country and ordering banks to block any assets belonging to the Iraqi government that

were found in the United States.

The embargo, among other things, also forbade U.S. banks to transfer funds to Iraq.

Around the same time, the United Nations put economic sanctions on Iraq. But in 1995, the United Nations approved an "oil-for-food" program in which a certain amount of Iraqi oil was allowed to be sold and the proceeds were to be used to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies.

"When you discover such a huge amount of U.S. currency, you know you are not dealing with Boy Scouts."

— **ROBERT BONNER**
Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection

Gurule said a close look at this program might be one way of trying to figure out how the U.S. currency that was found stashed in Iraq got there.

"I would want to look at the records that pertain to this particular program. What the U.N. authorized and when, and see if I could match that up with Iraqi records and see if there are some glaring discrepancies," Gurule said. "For instance, a good is extraordinarily overpriced or the quantity of the product seems to be way out of line," he added.

There also is the possibility that some of the U.S. currency found in Iraq may have come from legitimate means of some sort, said experts.

Operation Green Quest, a multi-agency financial crimes task force in charge of identifying ways terrorists are bankrolled and how they move their money, has seized roughly \$21 million in smuggled U.S. currency, some of which had a Middle East connection, since the task force was set up in October 2001.

As terrorist financiers are forced out of the traditional banking system, they are turning to riskier ways to move money, including smuggling cash and cigarettes and trafficking in diamonds and gold.

Tense situation



Dusan Vranic/Associated Press

An unidentified U.S. Army soldier tells people to stay back as soldiers went looking for an individual who fired near a secure perimeter near the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad on Tuesday.

SPORTS



The Cincinnati Bengals are No. 1 choice in NFL draft

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

NEW YORK — Nothing goes right for the Cincinnati Bengals, even when they own the No. 1 choice in the NFL draft.

Yes, the Bengals will have the first pick Saturday. And they don't really want it.

Cincinnati has talked to the agent for Southern California's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Carson Palmer and the agents for Marshall QB Byron Leftwich and Kansas State cornerback Terence Newman. Typically, money already is an issue — Palmer wants far more than Bengals president Mike Brown is willing to pay.

New coach Marvin Lewis would prefer a defensive player. He can always snare a quarterback to develop like Chris Simms or Dave Ragone in the second round while Jon Kitna tries to help the Bengals approach .500.

They already have been burned with a high-pick QB — Akili Smith, third overall in 1999. Even Smith acknowledges that.

"It's been the worst script in the history of quarterbacks," he says.

Lewis, who made his reputation as a defensive coordinator, prefers Newman. He could get the CB or defensive tackle Dewayne Robertson of Kentucky if Cincinnati trades down.

The guess here is the Bengals stay put and take CARSON PALMER, QB, Southern California.

2. DETROIT. Nothing goes right for the Lions, either. They want CHARLES ROGERS, WR, Michigan State, although there are questions about a drug test he took at the scouting combine.

3. HOUSTON. The Texans decide not to trade up for Rogers and take ANDRE JOHNSON, WR, Miami, giving David Carr, last year's No. 1, a target.

4. CHICAGO. Kordell Stewart is a decent stopgap at QB and the Bears might get Chris Simms in the second round. DEWAYNE ROBERTSON, DT, Kentucky, fills an urgent need.

5. DALLAS. Bill Parcells loves Lawrence Taylor clones. But Terrell Suggs' disappointing times in the 40-yard dash mean Parcells instead will go with TERENCE NEWMAN, CB, Kansas State, an instant stopper at a position that killed the Cowboys last season.

6. ARIZONA. The Cardinals got Emmitt Smith to sell tickets. They'll try to sell more with a local, TERRELL SUGGS, DE, Arizona State, whose 4.85 40-yard dash times don't wipe away his 24 sacks last season.

7. MINNESOTA. The Vikings would love to take Suggs, Robertson or Newman. They "settle" for JIMMY KENNEDY, DT, Penn State, whose only problem is a tendency to eat too much.

8. JACKSONVILLE. Mark Brunell can't go on forever. BYRON LEFTWICH, QB, Marshall.

9. CAROLINA. Coach John Fox likes big guys like JORDAN GROSS, OT, Utah.

10. BALTIMORE. Brian Billick won a Super Bowl with Trent Dilfer. KYLE BOLLER, QB, Cal, has been moving up the draft board.

11. SEATTLE. The Seahawks were the worst team in the NFL against the run last season. KEVIN WILLIAMS, DT,

Oklahoma State.

12. ST. LOUIS. The Rams still need defense. With Aeneas Williams a major question mark and Dre' Bly gone, they take MARCUS TRUFANT, CB, Washington State.

13. NEW YORK JETS. The Jets' linebackers are aging and slow. BOSS BAILEY, LB, Georgia, is neither.

14. NEW ENGLAND. Bill Belichick has added defense through free agency and gets more: JOHNATHAN SULLIVAN, DT, Georgia, to play next to former college teammate Richard Seymour.

15. SAN DIEGO. The run on defensive linemen continues with WILLIAM JOSEPH, DT, Miami.

16. KANSAS CITY. The offseason has been devoted to improving the defense. ANDRE WOOLFOLK, CB, Oklahoma, is the latest addition.

17, 18. NEW ORLEANS. Another couple of picks to package and move up. Or the Saints will take TROY POLAMALU, S, Southern California, and JEROME McDUGGLE, DE, Miami.

19. NEW ENGLAND. More defense: E.J. HENDERSON, LB, Maryland.

20. DENVER. Mike Shanahan usually gets offensive linemen lower. But KWAME HARRIS, OT, Stanford, fits here.

21. CLEVELAND. The Browns have done nothing about their OL since they returned to the NFL in 1999. ERIC STEINBACH, G, Iowa.

22. NEW YORK JETS. They signed Curtis Conway to replace Laveranues Coles, but TAYLOR JACOBS, WR, Florida is the long-term solution.

23. BUFFALO. The Bills gave up their first pick for Drew Bledsoe, then got this one for Peerless Price. KENNY PETERSON, DT, Ohio State, helps the defensive rebuilding.

24. INDIANAPOLIS. Another defensive unit that needs help. MIKE DOSS, S, Ohio State.

25. NEW YORK GIANTS. GM Ernie Accorsi has moved up in the first round the last two years and it could happen again. MICHAEL HAYNES, DE, Penn State provides much-needed DL depth.

26. SAN FRANCISCO. Defensive line needs rebuilding. But there are DLs lower, and BRYANT JOHNSON, WR, Penn State is needed to complement Terrell Owens.

27. PITTSBURGH. Tommy Maddox is fine for now, but the Steelers' future is REX GROSSMAN, QB, Florida.

28. TENNESSEE. Eddie George won't go on forever. LARRY JOHNSON, RB, Penn State, the first running back in a draft that lacks quality at the position.

29. GREEN BAY. Assuming Grossman's gone, they'll look lower for Brett Favre's eventual successor, perhaps even home-state hero Brooks Bollinger. Defense here: TY WARREN, DT, Texas A&M.

30. PHILADELPHIA. A pass rusher to replace Hugh Douglas. CHRIS KELSA, DE, Nebraska.

31, 32. OAKLAND. Jerry Rice and Tim Brown are nearing the end of superb careers. KELLEY WASHINGTON, WR, Tennessee, and a classic Raiders pick: WILLIS MCGAHEE, RB, Miami, who would have been in the top five if he hadn't torn up his knee in the national title game.

T-wolves dominate Lakers

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Garnett was criticized in the playoffs last year for not being selfish enough. On Tuesday night, he showed he take over a game in the fourth quarter.

Garnett had 35 points and 20 rebounds, and he made four of his five field-goal attempts in the final period as the Minnesota Timberwolves defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 119-91 to even their first-round series at one game each.

Troy Hudson added 37 points for Minnesota, which was eliminated in the first round the past six seasons.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Los Angeles.

A somber Shaquille O'Neal, who spent a day and a half in South Carolina for his grandfather's funeral, showed up about 90 minutes before tipoff and wasn't much of a factor, despite getting 27 points and 14 rebounds.

Kobe Bryant, the other half of the Lakers' dominant duo, had 27 points on 9-of-28 shooting — far below his sensational 39-point performance in Sunday's opener, when the Lakers won 117-98 to swipe home-court advantage from the Timberwolves.

Hudson's 37 points set a franchise record for a playoff game. He averaged only 14.2 points during the regular season, and his best effort was 31.

The Lakers had their most lopsided

postseason loss since 2000, when the Indiana Pacers beat them 120-87 in Game 5 of the NBA Finals.

Minnesota, which had never won a postseason game by more than nine points, led by as many as 24 in the third quarter but let the Lakers creep back into it in the fourth.

Los Angeles got to 96-83 on a free throw by O'Neal, but Garnett made two jumpers, sandwiched around two free throws by Hudson to push the lead back to 19.

Garnett's last basket — a jumper from 12 feet — elicited a thunderous chant of "MVP" from the crowd.

His teammates were only 4-for-16 from the field in the final period, and all the baskets came in garbage time.

Wally Szczerbiak had 21 points, and Marc Jackson had 12 off the bench for the Timberwolves, who shot 55.6 percent from the field. Minnesota shot 50 percent in Game 1 and still lost by 19, which made Tuesday night's result all the more surprising.

Bryant was fouled hard on his right shoulder by Garnett on his first shot of the second half, and he grimaced as he made his way to the foul line.

He wore a pained look on his face for most of the game, in fact, but mostly out of frustration. Anthony Peeler played tight defense and helped limit Bryant to 1-for-8 shooting in the third quarter as Minnesota put the game away.

PGA Tour off to strange start

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

Four multiple winners. Five playoffs.

A lefty — but not Lefty — in a green jacket.

And still no sign of David Duval.

Sixteen weeks into the season, this is shaping up to be a strange year on the PGA Tour.

Davis Love III won the MCI Heritage last weekend to join Tiger Woods and Mike Weir as three-time winners. That sent PGA Tour research guru Dave Lancer thumbing through 53 years of history before he found so many players winning so much so early.

The last time it happened was in 1950, when Sam Snead, Jimmy Demaret and Jack Burke Jr. each had three victories in the first 15 weeks of the season.

How rare are so many three-time winners? Go back to 1992 before there was a trio of them for an entire season — Love, Fred Couples and John Cook, who won his third event at the Las Vegas Invitational in October.

Love won three times in four starts in 1992 (everything but the Masters) and is on a similar roll now. He has won three times in eight tournaments, and could have made it four victories had he not stumbled down the stretch in the Honda Classic.

Still, he is atop the PGA Tour money list for the first time in 11 years.

Weir also has won three times in eight starts, capped off by his playoff victory in the Masters. The Canadian won only three times in his previous five years on tour.

Woods remains the most impressive. He has won three times in just six tournaments, and his worst finish was a tie for 15th in the Masters.

Don't forget about Ernie Els, who won the first two tournaments of the year in Hawaii — the first time that's happened

since 1989 — and could have won at Hilton Head except for a sloppy finish. He was 4 over par on the last three holes, missing the playoff by three shots.

Els is playing the Houston Open this week. Should he win, it would mark the first time since 1982 that the PGA Tour had at least four guys with three victories apiece.

A year ago, 15 players won the first 16 tournaments, and the running joke was that the winners-only Mercedes Championships would have so many players they would have to go to a two-tee start.

Kapalua could have the smallest field on the PGA Tour next year.

"We're excited about the champions we have. We're just going to need a few more," said Gary Planos, Kapalua's vice president of operations.

Planos sends a gift and a note of congratulations each time someone qualifies for the Mercedes by winning a tour event.

He isn't making many trips to the post office these days. Playoffs.

The five playoffs at this stage in the season are the most since 1992, and none of these overtimes could be classified as routine.

The only sudden-death playoff that required just one hole was won by a bogey — Weir at Augusta National.

Weir won another playoff with a birdie at Riviera, but only after watching Charles Howell III drive into a treacherous bunker on No. 10, then escape with the best shot of the tournament by blasting out to 6 feet, then missing the putt.

Love won a four-hole playoff at Hilton Head despite making two bogeys.

Els looked like a beaten man in the Sony Open when he tried to drive the 10th hole at Waialae and was in such a tough predicament that he could only chip through the green. Then he holed a 55-foot birdie putt to beat a stunned Aaron Baddeley.

The other playoff took two days to finish.

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 - 12 Change over time
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 - 14 Like nobles
 - 15 Stole stuff
 - 16 Purple shade
 - 17 Blow one's top
 - 19 Frodo's friend
 - 22 Perm place
 - 24 Jerk
 - 26 Columbus' home
 - 27 Court ring
 - 28 Computer layout choices
 - 30 Setting items
 - 31 Naval answer
 - 32 Take on
 - 34 Antlered animal
 - 35 Ignited
 - 38 Like colorful gardens
 - 41 Carnival attraction
 - 42 Confine
 - 43 Banded agate
 - 44 Drinks to
 - 45 Buckle setting
- DOWN**
- 1 Mutt's pal
 - 2 Beige
 - 3 Coast
 - 4 Male cat
 - 5 Costume
 - 6 Kicks out
 - 7 Pay heed to
 - 8 Under the weather
 - 9 Blvd. kin
 - 10 Went ahead
 - 16 Play on words
 - 18 Tooth part
 - 19 Monopoly railroad
 - 20 Wild
 - 21 Swabbing needs
 - 22 Family room fixture
 - 23 Ship-to-ship call
 - 25 Pork serving
 - 29 Abstained
 - 30 Visibility lessener
 - 33 Deadens
 - 34 Soaks up
 - 36 Pastoral poem
 - 37 School book
 - 38 Do something
 - 39 Ghost cry
 - 40 Mauna —
 - 41 Hold up

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ANNES	ALDEN
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BREAKAS	SWEAT
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- 38 Do something
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- 40 Mauna —
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PALMS \$925.00 2bdrm/2ba Upper unit, beautiful tree lined street, quiet building, mint condition, light, carpet, covered parking.

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

For Rent

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

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

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SANTA MONICA \$2150 3bdrm/2ba. Apt. parking, laundry. Water. Close to SMC, Euclid, N. of Pico. No smoking, no pets. 1 year lease. Tel (310)319-1947 or (310)394-2324.

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

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

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

SANTA MONICA \$895.00 1+1, great location, r/s, prknig.

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SM \$2500 Gorgeous 2bdrm/2ba. Huge, balcony, facing the ocean, parking, hardwood floors, wooden ceiling (310)399-1273

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For Rent

VENICE DUPLEX \$1525.00 2bdrm/1ba w/hardwood floors, W/D hookups, off street parking, fresh paint and lots of natural light. Close to beach, shops and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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

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

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

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SANTA MONICA \$1125.00 Cottage, across from beach, hardwood flrs, eat-in kitchen.

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

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Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$895.00 Guest House, r/s, quiet, quiet, prking.

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SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Triplex, bungalow-style, pet ok, remodeled, patio.

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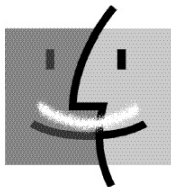
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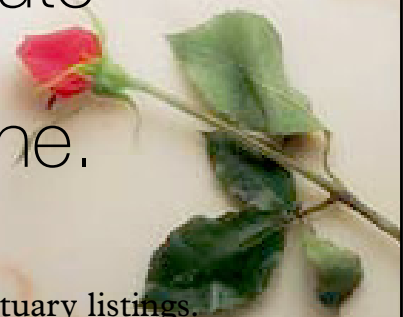
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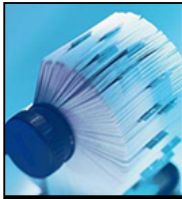
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SANTA MONICA °SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2003

°EVENTS
FARMER'S MARKET every Wednesday. 9am to 2pm, Arizona between Second and Fourth Streets. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California!
SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY presents Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday at 11:15am, 1343 Sixth Street. Stories for children between the ages of three and five who are ready to participate on their own. (310)458-8600
SANTA MONICA STRUTTERS, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.
TORAH READINGS: Hosted by Rabbi Aaron Shaffer. This popular class examines the text of the Bible verse by verse with explanations. Every Wednesday at 12:15pm, 1111 Montana Ave. Fee is \$7 per class. Gourmet salad lunch is served. (310)394-5699.
ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS for people 55 and older. Current openings in Parents of Adult Children. Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.
FREE MEDITATION WORKSHOPS sponsored by Sahaja Yoga. Every Wednesday night at 7pm in the Community Room at the Wilshire Wild Oats, 500 Wilshire Blvd. At 5th St. Open to all. (310)395-6443.

SENIOR SUPPERS - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.
°DINING
PATRICK ROADHOUSE - A fixture in Santa Monica Canyon for over 30 years, is now open for dinner Wednesday through Sunday (until 9pm) serving comfort food and a selection of low-carbohydrate baked goods, alongside the French toast and Boston Cream pie. Patrick's Roadhouse recently reopened after a fire that damaged the downstairs eating area in early December.
EL CHOLO - Famous for award-winning margaritas & green corn tamales. Enjoy our lively bar, comfy dining rooms or sunny patio for lunch and dinner daily. 1025 Wilshire Blvd., 310.889.1106
LIBRARY ALEHOUSE - A gathering place for great food, hand crafted beer and friendly service. Beautiful garden patio. Daily specials. 2911 Main St., 310.314-4855
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Phone Booth (R) 11:50am | 12:55pm | 2:00pm | 3:05pm | 4:10pm | 5:15pm | 6:20pm | 7:20pm | 8:30pm | 9:35pm | 10:40pm. **A Mighty Wind (PG-13)** 12:00pm | 1:10pm | 2:20pm | 3:30pm | 4:40pm | 5:50pm | 7:00pm | 8:10pm | 9:20pm | 10:30pm
MANN CRITERION
1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 11:30am | 2:05pm | 4:50pm | 7:35pm | 10:20pm. **Basic (R)** 1:50pm | 7:10pm. **Chasing Papi (PG)** 11:45am | 2:10pm | 4:30pm | 7:00pm | 9:30pm. **Old School (PG-13)** 11:20am | 4:40pm | 9:40pm. **A Man Apart (R)** 11:35am | 2:15pm | 5:05pm | 7:50pm | 10:30pm. **House of 1,000 Corpses (R)** 12:00pm | 2:30pm | 5:00pm | 7:25pm | 10:00pm. **Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)** 11:15am | 1:45pm | 4:15pm | 7:15pm | 9:45pm.
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1314 3rd Street
Anger Management (PG-13) 12:10pm | 1:15pm | 2:40pm | 4:15pm | 5:10pm | 6:45pm | 7:45pm | 9:25pm | 10:15pm. **Bulletproof Monk (PG-13)** 12:00pm | 2:30pm | 5:00pm | 7:35pm | 10:10pm. **What a Girl Wants (PG)** 11:20 | 1:45 | 4:20 | 7:10 | 9:40. **Head of State (PG-13)** 1:45pm | 4:30pm | 7:15pm | 9:40pm. **The Pianist (R)** 12:20pm | 3:30pm | 7:10pm | 10:15pm. **Holes (PG)** 1:00pm | 4:00pm | 7:00pm | 9:45pm.
LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Laurel Canyon (R) 4:45pm | 7:15pm | 9:45pm. **The Good Thief (R)** 4:30pm | 7:00pm | 9:30pm.
LAEMMLE MONICA
1332 2nd St.
Bend it Like Beckham (PG-13) 12:00pm | 2:35pm | 5:10pm | 7:45pm | 10:20pm. **Assassination Tango (R)** 1:30pm | 4:15pm | 7:00pm | 9:45pm. **Talk to Her (R)** 2:00pm | 4:40pm | 7:15pm | 9:55pm. **Chicago (PG-13)** 1:30pm | 4:15pm | 7:00pm | 9:45pm.

BACK PAGE



U.S. lost Boston Marathon momentum

By The Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Greg Meyer said he is proud to have won the Boston Marathon in 1983, but embarrassed that his victory was the last one by an American male.

"It's embarrassing that we weren't able to continue the momentum that was here in the United States in the late 1970s, early '80s," Meyer said. "It was like we dropped off the table as far as being a country known for talented marathon runners after I won Boston."

Meyer, a Grand Rapids native, trained in Boston for two years before his victory, so he is officially recognized as a champion from Massachusetts.

During the early years of the marathon, which began in 1897, either American or Canadian men won the 26.2-mile race.

Runners from outside North America prospered in Boston from 1946 to 1974. Then, from the mid-1970s until Meyer's victory, Americans rebounded, led by four-time champion Bill Rodgers, who won the race in 1975, 1978, 1979 and 1980.

"Most kids in this country go out for track and field because they couldn't make it in any other sport," Meyer said. "We don't do enough to get kids excited in running, although I actually think we have the talent in the U.S. to compete on an international level."

"But unlike Kenya, where kids are in running clubs trying to be the best, running isn't our thing."

Since 1991, Kenyans have won every Boston Marathon men's race except one.

Postal Service's oldest employee

By The Associated Press

STAMFORD, Conn. — When Carmella Unker began her job with the U.S. Postal Service in 1967, the cost of a first-class stamp was a nickel and Lyndon Johnson was in the White House.

These days there is another Texan in the White House, but the cost of a stamp has risen to 37-cents and Unker, 85, is being recognized as the Postal Service's oldest full-time female employee.

She also was honored as the oldest female postal worker in 1998, and doesn't want to relinquish the title any time soon.

"I have no plans to retire," Unker said this week. "I see a lot of people younger than myself and they look half-dead."

Her job is organizing items that can't be handled by machines, such as magazines, nonprofit materials and newspapers, at the postal service's regional processing and distribution center.

Unker works five days a week on the 3:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. shift, as she has done for about 20 years. With a half-hour break for lunch, which she eats standing up, she usually leaves the facility about midnight.

Winning 'fair' and square

By The Associated Press

UNION GROVE, Wis. — For the first time ever at the Wisconsin State Fair, judges can use DNA identification testing to check for cheaters in the swine, beef and sheep competitions.

The process was underway over the weekend at the Racine County Fairgrounds, where hair and follicle samples were taken from frightened, protesting pigs whose owners were registering them.

Each swine had at least 30 hairs and attached follicles

taken for DNA testing as they were weighed, tagged and registered for the fair, which runs from July 31 to Aug. 10.

State Fair agriculture director Brian Bolan said the DNA testing is partly to prevent the switching of a registered hog for an unregistered one, but it also will have other benefits.

He said each year, some people are unable to show their animals because their tag numbers are incorrectly recorded, or because an ear tag falls out and the animal can't be identified as the one that was registered.

"At the fair, we can take a DNA sample to prove to us that it's the same animal," Bolan said. All champions will be tested, and others will be randomly selected for sampling.

McDonald's buys historic building

By The Associated Press

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Hold the fries. And the rest of the items on McDonald's menu.

The fast-food giant plans to sell a historic building in New Brunswick rather than affix golden arches onto the century-old Romanesque Victorian structure.

County property records show that a McDonald's real estate group bought the Peoples Bank building — built around 1890 — from Fleet Bank in June for \$1 million.

McDonald's refused to say why it decided against developing the site into a fast-food restaurant, but company officials said obtaining permits for the building could be a challenge.

"The permitting would be very difficult, or the perception is it would be difficult," said John D'Anna, McDonald's real estate manager for the New York metro region.

The Home News Tribune reports that an offer has been made on the building, even though it was not on the market. McDonald's spokeswoman Lisa Howard confirmed the pending offer.

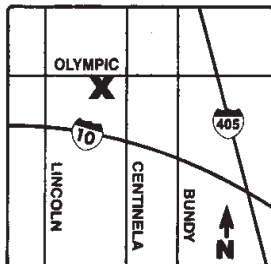
She said McDonald's is considering the offer and said the hamburger giant expects to close on the property within 120 days of the offer date. She would not be more specific.

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