

FREE

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 139

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

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FANTASY 5

04, 14, 30, 34, 36

DAILY 3

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DAILY DERBY

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2nd Place: 02, Lucky Star

3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

Race time: 1:40:24



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ The town council in Enfield, Conn., was criticized in December for letting its insurance company pay settlements in two incidents last year to softball players who claimed they hurt themselves sliding into bases in city parks. Mark Brengi said he tore ligaments sliding into third base and settled for \$45,000, and one week later, his brother Scott broke an ankle sliding into second base on the same field and settled for \$90,000. Said one Enfield taxpayer (and former pro baseball player), "You're supposed to slide before you hit the base."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I hated my marriage, but I always had a great place to park." — Gerald Nachman

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Parking at SMC theater concerns Council

But school is unlikely to address the issue

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The 301 parking spots currently included in the plans for Santa Monica College's \$15 million Madison Theater aren't enough, City Council members said Tuesday.

They're willing to spend \$20,000 to research other options.

However, representatives from SMC, which wants to build the project on its satellite campus at 10th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, said the amount of

spots is adequate.

And because SMC is not required to follow the City Council's direction because it is subject to state law and immune from the city's building codes, the \$20,000 may go unclaimed.

"The college is not digging up the parking site," said Denny Zane, a former mayor who was hired as a consultant to help get the arts project approved.

Zane said that not only would the costs of such action be prohibitive, but the school would be required to go back through the cumbersome environmental review process and thereby further stall the project.

Councilwoman Pam O'Connor

abstained from voting on the resolution asking the college to look at other parking scenarios, saying later that the school is unlikely to go through the city's process again.

Plans for the theater were originally drafted in 1998, officials said. The city's suggestion comes at the end of the comment period for the Environmental Impact Review report. Once the comment period closes Friday, school offi-

cials will respond to the comments.

The City Council asked SMC officials Tuesday to research alternative parking arrangements, including a subterranean parking lot with a park on the surface level, and a parking structure.

Both scenarios would ideally include parking for community uses, council members said.

Mayor Richard Bloom said a

See THEATER, page 5

'Pajama parkers' may get some sleep

Third Street residents want preferential parking

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Some residents on Third Street north of Wilshire Boulevard have been lobbying for parking spots in front of their apartments for nearly a year.

After successfully pushing the city last year for a preferential parking zone — where spots are reserved for residents — residents saw the campaign die at the hands of the Coastal Commission, which protects California's coastal corridor.

While the City Council works on resolving that conflict, resi-

dents say they've been left driving in circles.

"It's getting more and more dangerous," said Sonya Braja, who added that Promenade-goers and area employees take the parking spots in front of her apartment, forcing her to park blocks away.

Braja and a group of people in her Third Street building, which is wedged between Michael's restaurant and the adjacent parking structure, have dubbed themselves the "pajama parkers."

The mostly-female group meets late at night to retrieve their cars from various spots throughout the neighborhood and park them in front of the building.

See PAJAMAS, page 5



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Workers at the UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center on 15th Street and Arizona Avenue protest on Wednesday.

UCLA workers protest closure of skilled nursing

By Daily Press staff

A group of 15-20 hospital workers protested the closure of the skilled nursing floor in front of UCLA-Santa Monica Medical Center on Wednesday.

Though a press release from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299 said the closure will force the layoff of "dozens of employees," a hospital representative said that wasn't the case.

Most of the 40 employees who will lose their jobs as a result of the closure will be reassigned

within the UCLA hospital system, said Mark Speare, a senior associate director at the facility.

Only a "handful" of workers — approximately six or less — will be laid off, Speare said. The skilled nursing facility will close by July 1.

The workers not only were concerned about losing their jobs, but also about the quality of care patients who are forced to transfer to private facilities may receive.

"Private convalescent homes typically use over-worked and underpaid nursing staff to stay competitive," according to the press release.

Iraq's lifeblood of oil resumes with a trickle

BY TINi TRAN

Associated Press Writer

BASRA, Iraq — Engineers began restoring the lifeblood of Iraq's shattered economy Wednesday, pumping crude oil for the first time since the war. Although the oil is not for export, the quick startup means one of Iraq's largest fields could be back to prewar production levels within weeks.

U.S. Brig. Gen. Robert Crear turned the tap at a storage facility outside the southern city of Basra and watched as slick black crude dribbled from the spigot and oozed between his fingers.

"Now we're in the oil business," Crear said, laughing.

The oil will be used for domestic production only, and the meager flow sprang from just four of hundreds of wells in Iraq's southern oil heartland.

But the rekindled petroleum production is a sign that Iraq is already capitalizing on its biggest natural resource and top economic hope.

See OIL BUSINESS, page 7

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, April 24, 2003:

Stay in touch with your professional needs this year. Your career could easily take you in a new direction. Think in terms of your public image. Through feedback you will discover how what you project could be a lot different than you think. Keep communications clear through confirmation. You will discover more effective ways of exchanging ideas this year. You often think one thing, and others hear another. If you're single, you're likely to meet someone quite significant this fall. In any case, this person could be most special. If you're attached, you gain through spending more time together. AQUARIUS helps you with your work.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You cannot be too clear about what you think and want. A special friend can and does make all the difference in your life. Reach out to a pal at a distance. You might be quite surprised by what you hear. Willingly adjust your plans. Tonight: Where the gang is.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ How you see a situation could be a lot different than the true facts. You might feel as if someone is not as clear as you would like. A boss knows what he or she wants. Do a better job of listening to those in charge. A close associate reaches out. Tonight: Work late.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Reach out for another, asking for more support and a greater sense of what he or she wants. Vagueness and idealism could mix in a very odd way. An associate could squirm if you ask for specifics! Don't read too much into this. This person could be confused. Tonight: Think weekend.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Work with a partner or co-worker who might have great ideas but little follow-through. Be especially careful dealing with money matters. A lot of confusion surrounds a discussion with a friend about a goal. Focus on what you want. Tonight: A quiet time for two.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, especially a boss, as confusing and contrary as this person might be. Just the same, allow others to make their choices and/or make the first move. How you see someone could be considerably different. Discuss your ideas openly. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Pace yourself at work. Investigate a domestic change. You might be confused about what will work for you. Review what needs to be done by the weekend. Confusion surrounds your work. Brainstorming adds to your creativity. Tonight: Pace yourself.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your wild side emerges with a loved one or child. If single, your flirtatious personality will emerge. If you haven't said anything, express your feelings. You might try another approach to make your point. Confusion surrounds joint finances and a friend. Tonight: Start your weekend now.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to think before you take charge of a situation. The facts that you're hearing might be distorted. Consider what you want from an associate or partner. Think in terms of clearing out problems rather than creating them! Tonight: Play it low key.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Reach out for others. Get confirmation of an idea or news. You might find that an associate is more confused than you were aware of. Keep the path of communication open so that you can clear out any misunderstandings. Tonight: At your favorite spot.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Deal with finances, saying "no" to a risk. Your perspective could change substantially. Frequently, your intuitive nature helps you. Give yourself some time to analyze a plan. A child or loved one could be causing a problem. Tonight: Your treat.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You're personality plus. Do more to make your life work. You could find that a family member is actually working against you. Examine more of your desires with someone you trust. Do remember that the Force is with you. Stay in contact with your feelings. Tonight: Whatever works.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Step back and do more thinking rather than acting. Much is going on behind the scenes that you need to be aware of. A boss could be testing your limits, as he or she might be attempting to find solutions to an issue or project. Verify what you hear. Tonight: Start making weekend plans.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER	Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE	Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com
EDITOR	Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE	William Pattnosh william@smdp.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	Jason Auslander jason@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE	Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER	John Wood wood@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE	Keri Aroesty keri@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Del Pastrana del@smdp.com	CIRCULATION MANAGER	Robert Deamicis Rob@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Alejandro C. Cantarero alex@smdp.com	CIRCULATION	Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE	Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS	Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE	Angela Downen angela@smdp.com	STAFF MASCOT	Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL

'Bootlegged' apartments to receive a closer look

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

More than 1,000 "bootlegged" rentals in Santa Monica may soon become legal.

The City Council on Tuesday agreed to consider easing current standards in order to bring the rent-controlled units up to code and bring the city more money.

If the amendments pass, landlords, who are currently ducking nearly \$8 million in permit revenues and various fees, will be asked to register their properties with the city, according to city documents.

The total average cost for bringing an 800-square foot, one-bedroom apartment up to code is \$7,840.

But council members are not so sure that legalizing the apartments will bring in the cash.

"The goal is to have these units comply with building and safety," said Mayor Richard Bloom, adding that some of the fees may need to be waived in order to encourage landlords to register the units.

The 1,000 bootlegged units were discovered by comparing records from the L.A. County Assessor with documents from the Santa Monica Rent Control Board, officials said.

Rosario Perry, an attorney for local landlords, asked the council to waive the fees for the landlords of bootlegged units,

saying it was too expensive.

He also requested that the bootlegged units be exempt from current code. Instead, he proposed the units be subject to the code in place when they were constructed.

Perry argued that there were probably more than 3,000 bootlegged units in Santa Monica, many of them 300 square feet in size or smaller. If the landlords are forced to pay full price, the future of some of the affordable housing may be in jeopardy, he said.

"They're real down and dirty housing for poor people in Santa Monica," he said.

The council denied both suggestions and made a unanimous decision directing city staff to draft the amendments.

While some of the bootlegged units pose safety concerns, most lack registration because they don't meet parking, density and set-back requirements, said Tim McCormick, the city's building officer.

Waiving those restrictions would make the units eligible for inspection and therefore subject to standard fees and permitting requirements.

If the code were changed, building officials would send a notice to landlords to register their units with the city. Landlords would then have to go through the usual registration process before their properties would be considered legal, McCormick said.



Northwest wind swell ebbs a bit today so expect combination exposures to lose some size while south-facing breaks keep hitting. Swells continue to lose strength.

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.

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	Thursday	Friday	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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COMMUNITY BRIEF

SMC newspaper wins 17 awards in state competition

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College's Corsair newspaper won 17 awards, including top honors for general excellence for the online publication, in the statewide Journalism Association of Community Colleges' competition.

The general excellence award for Corsair online was given for its fall issues under editor Jesus Aguirre.

The awards for the print edition of the paper reflect achievements of the staff under fall semester editor Stephen Hoffman and current editor David Alex Leslie. The faculty advisor is Barbara Baird.

In the mail-in category (from the fall semester staff), a first-place award went to Alex Quel for news photo; second-place honors went to Marie King, Quel and Sina Araghi for photo essay, and Daniel Stone for editorial cartoon; and third-place awards were given to Maura C. Lanahan for sports feature photo, Mark Sandstrom for photo essay, and Jonathan Arkin for sports feature story.

Several other students won fourth-place awards and honorable mentions in both the mail-in and live competitions. They are Sholeh Asgary, Raul Vasquez, Angie Botoulas, Margaret Malloy, Danielle Golfieri, Richard Arias, Mark Sandstrom, Nehemiah Slaughter and Josh Hill.

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

Appalled at OPCO gall

Editor:

I find it incredulous that it has taken almost two years for Rick Laudati to furnish the financial records of OPCO to OPCO members. To top it off he has the gall not to appear before a court of law on the matter. There may have been problems with service of the complaint but Tom Fuller should not have to hunt him down.

I also find it appalling that other members of OPCO seem to think it is acceptable to shirk one's responsibility and not produce documents as required under the law. It may be a voluntary organization but if one doesn't have the time or ability to fulfill the duties that one voluntarily accepts, then that person should not volunteer for that position. Accounting for membership dues and keeping track of members is not that difficult.

As a member of OPCO, at least I think I still am, the City of Santa Monica should require all community organizations that rely on the city for money to submit annual financial statements before city funds are handed over. Maybe in that way we can have some accountability.

Dan Kolhoff
Santa Monica

(Editor's note: The city does require that annual financial records be submitted if community organizations are funded by City Hall. OPCO, however, has not asked for money from the city for three years.)

Not surprised at Laudati, OPCO

Editor:

I read in total amazement, SMDP's article, "Neighborhood Money Still Being Kept Secret," regarding OPCO, its defrocked chairman, Rick Laudati, and his group of hoodwinkers. What nerve! But then nothing surprises me with this cast of characters that purports to represent "The Community."

One only has to look at the comments made by one of OPCO's board members and chairman of its Design Review Committee, (who also is a local architect that works with city-related projects) Mario Fonda-Bonardi, when he said, "Rick is working on this stuff."

Well, Mario, hasn't he (Laudati) been "working on this stuff" now for over two-years? And can you tell us, please, where he is so he can be served?

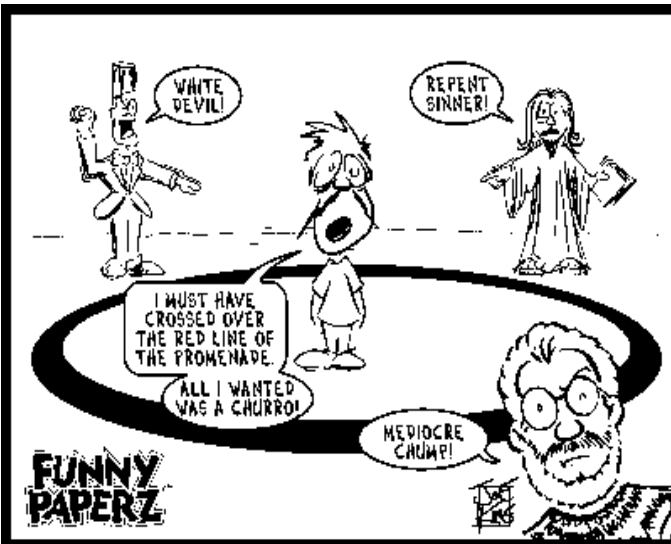
Or what about last year in the Daily Press, when Mr. Bonardi equated OPCO's failure to produce financial records with that of keeping a personal check book record up-to-date? Mr. Bonardi, please remind me to ask you next time I have a design project

go out to bid if your check book record is up-to-date — before I get the bill!

The list of OPCO board members with ties to such stalwart organizations as Community Corporation, the Church of Ocean Park, the Landmarks Commission and other community groups runs deep. One has to wonder who and what is keeping OPCO afloat or maintaining their silence in the face of this apparent illegal and unethical on-going activity.

Ultimately, it is we the neighbors of Ocean Park who suffer and receive a black-eye because of a few megalomaniacs who insist on perverting a tool for us to use to better ourselves and our neighborhood. Let us hope that the good judge in the OPCO case acts soon so we can "balance our checkbooks."

Maria P. Bell
Ocean Park



Chasing elusive goal turns negatives to positives



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

Thwack!

The reverberations of the hard rubber doggie ball smacking against the wooden backstop echoed across the Lincoln Middle School ballfield and down Washington Avenue on Monday afternoon.

The air was thick with frustration.

Thwack!

Each time a passerby walked along Washington Avenue or jogged past on the dirt running track they were startled, the tranquility of a sunny Santa Monica afternoon abruptly disturbed, the practice tennis wall rocking in its foundation. Any wrinkle-faced looks in my direction were made in vain, however, as I just kept plugging away, catching the ball in my baseball mitt and winging it right back at that damned hole in the wall.

Thwack!

It has now been close to two weeks since my interview with the head writer of a popular television sketch comedy show and frustration is mounting. As Tom Petty

and the Heartbreakers are wont to say, "The waiting is the hardest part." From Tom's lips to God's ears.

Maybe God can help me out here. I recall the statue of St. Monica at Ocean and Wilshire I drove past earlier in the day and wonder if she isn't the patron saint of job interviews. I think I need to brush up on my saints.

Thwack!

The interview was admittedly the best opportunity I had scored in a while, a fact that wasn't lost on me while I marked my first full year here in Southern California. This was it, I reasoned, and made my best pitch. Should I have worn a shinier shirt? Grown some creative facial hair? Was my idea for a sketch involving a supermarket sweep through a pornography store too over the top?

After thankful follow-up calls, faxes and e-mails, there's little I can do now but wait, and wait... and keep trying to hit that spot in the wall that's ready to give way.

Thwack!

It soon became obvious that this green monster of a wall represented much more than a backstop and this quasi-rubber baseball much more than a plaything each time I went into my windup. About seven-feet high there lies a seemingly burrowed out spot in the wall, where the guts of the paneling are exposed and just a hint of light is able to shine through. This is my

quest. I aim for the spot time and again. One of these throws is gonna hit that damned hole dead-on and break on through.

I began seeing the wall for the main obstacle that it truly was — screenwriting success with the ball as myself hurtling toward it time and again, only to be rejected backwards, dazed but ready for another shot.

Thwack!

Thwack!

Nearby, a man who is either insane or the next Billy Blanks (Tae-Bo) is working up a sweat in the oddest of fashions. My concentration finally broken, I observe the long-haired transient in cargo pants, sandals and a flower-print shirt working himself into a lather by climbing a fence halfway, flitting around in circles on the pavement and doing push-ups that evolve into a backward belly slide on the asphalt.

How can he be so relaxed and carefree when the TV show hasn't called me back yet?

One last attempt at hitting the carved-out spot in the wall and I'm outta here.

Thwack!

As my father used to say, "Tomorrow is another day," when disappointment would inevitably befall his youngest son. Of course, when I was six the statement didn't seem too altogether profound.

Back home I try to take my mind off

the lack-of-phone-ringing by flipping channels on the television.

Next station, no better. There's nothing on. I might be able to change all that if I only get that call, if that phone over there on my desk only rings.

I eventually stop at CNBC for some unknown reason, probably fatigue, and begin listening to that financial question and answer guru Suze Orman. One thing she advises a caller, as I flip through a recent issue of National Geographic and remind myself that at least my floors aren't dirt and I'm not treating dandruff with a homemade remedy of cattle dung, stops me in my tracks.

She is speaking with a frustrated actor.

"Each time you hear a 'no,' you get that much closer to hearing 'yes.'"

Aha!

In essence, each denial, each time the phone doesn't ring, that's really one more rung on the ladder to getting to where we want to go. Each "no" is one less "no" we will have to weather before that resounding "YES."

Tomorrow, whether the phone rings or not, I will take-on the wall again, aiming high on the Green Monster of life until I nail that weakening spot just right and the ball breaks through. I will take aim, once again, at that elusive "Yes."

Thwack!

LOCAL



Theater would bring arts to Santa Monica

THEATER, from page 1

number of residents have come to the council with congestion concerns. He said the school's extensive pro-theater campaign has effectively silenced those voices.

But Zane and Don Girard, marketing director for the school, maintain that the proposed 301 spots are plenty for what they hope will become the cultural mecca of the westside. They say that theater-goers usually travel to events in groups of two or more and say the plans don't allow performances and courses to occur on the same evening.

The city and SMC have a history of poor communication stemming from the impacts of the school's unchecked growth over the past 20 years, said Bloom, who began his political career with a community group in Sunset Park, the neighborhood that borders SMC.

School officials conceded that the rapport between the two organizations needs work but said Wednesday the city is asking them to address a problem that doesn't pertain to their project.

"The overwhelming concept has been positive," Zane said. "This project is really going to be a minor nuisance, not a

genuine environmental problem for neighbors."

To put the scale of the 536-seat proposed theater in perspective, the auditorium of John Adams Middle School seats 600, Zane said.

Assuming no major changes need to be made, the report will then go to SMC's board of trustees, which is scheduled to vote on the project next month, said Bruce Smith, a spokesman for the college.

If everything goes forward as SMC officials hope, the Madison Theater will be open to the school's music, theater and dance programs by 2005, officials said.

Zane said the theater will also be made available for Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District programs and for booking professional arts events.

Several celebrities — including Dustin Hoffman, Jeff Goldblum, David Duchovny, John Lithgow and Jerry Zucker — are in favor of the theater, said Joe Weichman, a supporter of the project.

Nearly half of the \$15 million for the theater has already been raised by private donations and a \$250,000 federal grant. Weichman said no other public money will be used to fund the project.

City works toward parking compromise

PAJAMAS, from page 1

Because of the late hour, they travel in groups of two or more.

The group was successful in lobbying the city for a preferential parking zone last year. But when the plan went before the Coastal Commission shortly thereafter, commissioners ruled against the plan, despite a recommendation for the project from their staff.

The commission ruled against the zone after intense lobbying from the Embassy Hotel, said Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, who added that the action was taken to protect parking and access to Santa Monica beaches.

Hotel management, which originally supported the plan, dropped its backing and hired Harding & Larmore, a local law firm, to lobby against the plan.

Bloom said the hotel revoked its support for the plan after the city excluded the hotel and focused the program's protections on area residents.

In a good faith effort, the City Council on Tuesday voted to draft an ordinance that would give preferential parking permits to structures designated as historic landmarks.

Bloom, who sponsored the request, said the move was designed to allay the Embassy's concerns and find a compromise with the Coastal Commission.

The Embassy, which was built in 1927, is a Mediterranean, garden-style building with 19 guest rooms, said Jon Fritts, the hotel's general manager. There are no on-site parking spots for residents or guests.

"It's really a problem," said Fritts, who added that the hotel is eager to obtain preferential spots. "It's a real challenge."

A handful of Third Street residents — including the pajama parkers — showed up at Tuesday's meeting to voice their

support of the proposed ordinance. They believe it will expedite the institution of a preferential parking zone on Third Street.

If the hotel halts its lobbying, Bloom said the commission would be likely to accept the recommendation of its staff and implement the city's proposal for a preferential parking zone.

In the end, Bloom said he is confident the city will prevail either way.

Though the city currently submits such plans to the commission, he said it is done as a courtesy to the Coastal Commission.

Ultimately, the city has a right to determine where preferential parking areas should be placed, he said.

"To make the argument that Santa Monica somehow doesn't provide its share of (beach access parking) is pretty far-fetched," he said.

Bloom said the newly-proposed ordinance that includes historic landmarks was aimed at avoiding a legal battle with the commission by encouraging it to reconsider its ruling.

"It's much more complex now than it needed to be," Bloom said.

At least half of the city's eight square miles is dedicated specifically to preferential parking zones.

While some believe the zones are elitist and only serve as a band aid for the city's larger parking problem, residents who live in these dedicated areas say their lives have been changed for the better.

About 20,000 residential parking permits are issued every year, which, at \$15 a pop, brings in about \$300,000 in revenue a year.

That doesn't include the hundreds of \$38 tickets that are issued every year to motorists who are caught parking in the city's 50 preferential zones without a permit.



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STATE

Santa Cruz sues feds over medical marijuana raids

BY MARTHA MENDOZA
 AP National Writer

SANTA CRUZ — The city and county of Santa Cruz has sued Attorney General John Ashcroft and the Drug Enforcement Administration, demanding that federal agents stay away from a farm that grows marijuana for sick and dying people.

"This is an opportunity for us to stand behind the people in our community who are the most needy," said Santa Cruz Mayor Emily Reilly. "This is what we do well in Santa Cruz."

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in federal court in San Jose, comes in response to a DEA raid last September at a small pot farm located on a quiet coastal road about 15 miles north of town. Agents uprooted about 165 plants and arrested the owners, Valerie and Michael Corral.

The raid outraged local officials and many community members in this coastal town where police and sheriff's work closely with medical marijuana users and growers, and the Compassion Flower Inn — a bed and breakfast inn for medical marijuana users — operates openly just a few blocks from downtown.

After the raid, the Santa Cruz City Council sponsored a medical marijuana giveaway from the steps of City Hall. They also deputized the Corrals, who are the founders of the WoMen's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, allowing them to cultivate, distribute and possess medical marijuana under a city ordinance.

"We can only offer peaceful resistance against DEA attacks. Our hope is that the courts will act as guardians of the law and protect us against such injustice," said Valerie Corral.

The lawsuit claims that seven patient plaintiffs have had their medicine substantially decreased since the raid, and that WAMM has been unable to provide its patients with necessary medicine. This has caused an "insurmountable" level of pain and suffering and hastened the deaths of the most vulnerable WAMM members, lawyers said.

DEA spokesman Richard Meyer in San Francisco said he could not comment on pending litigation, but that his agency's mission is very clear: "To enforce the Controlled Substances Act."

Marijuana is an illegal drug under federal law. State law in California — as well as Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington — allows marijuana to be grown and distributed to people with a doctor's pre-

scription.

Meyer said that raiding medical marijuana clubs and farms is the DEA's duty.

"Our goal is to seize illegal drugs and arrest the perpetrators and bring them to justice," he said.

But Judy Appel, a Drug Policy Alliance attorney who helped write the lawsuit, said the federal laws are misguided.

**"Our goal is to seize
 illegal drugs and arrest
 the perpetrators and
 bring them to justice."**

— RICHARD MEYER
 DEA spokesman

"We cannot just stand by and watch the harassment of people who are sick and dying," she said. "We hope the court will see the injustice and inhumanity of the federal government's actions, and restore these patients' rights to treat their severe pain with the medicine that works best for them."

Santa Clara University law professor Gerald Uelmen, one of several attorneys representing the medical marijuana users, has said this case could be an important step toward ending the legal conflict between state and federal laws.

"Becoming a plaintiff in a lawsuit is not a goal that most people would have who are preparing to meet their death," said Uelmen. "But these patients want to leave a legacy, and that legacy is that when we prepare to meet our deaths, the uninvited guests will not include agents of the DEA."

Last May, the Supreme Court ruled that people charged with violating federal drug laws cannot use medical necessity as their defense. But Uelmen said the justices left open whether states could legalize medical marijuana under the 10th Amendment, which grants states powers not exercised by the federal government, or under the 14th Amendment's right to due process.

In 1992, 77 percent of Santa Cruz voters approved a measure ending the prohibition of medical marijuana. Four years later, state voters approved Proposition 215, which allows marijuana for medicinal purposes. And in 2000, the City Council approved an ordinance allowing medical marijuana to be grown and used without a prescription.

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Court looks at free speech rights of corporate America

BY ANNE GEARAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Nike hoped to improve its bottom line and its public image when it embarked on a public relations campaign against allegations it used Third World sweatshops to make sneakers, a lawyer told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Nike's effort is the centerpiece of an argument over free speech in the business world and whether private consumers can go to court if a company stretches the truth.

Nike painted a rosy picture of its labor practices and consumers relied on those misrepresentations when choosing which products to buy, lawyers for a California activist argued. That is false advertising not protected by the First Amendment, and Nike should be made to answer for it in court, lawyer Paul R. Hoeber told the court.

Not so fast, several Supreme Court justices replied. "The First Amendment is designed to protect all participants in a public debate," Justice Stephen Breyer said.

The government can police false or deceptive advertising, but companies should be free to respond to their critics, Breyer said. It is extremely hard to say what is a sales pitch and what is not, he added.

"They can be both trying to sell a product and trying to make a statement relevant to the public debate," Breyer said.

The distinction makes all the difference because of the way the Supreme Court has treated advertising and other forms of "commercial speech" in the past. The court has resisted a black-and-white definition of commercial speech but has repeatedly said that it deserves less constitutional protection than might a political statement or a newspaper article.

The Nike case offers the court an opportunity to draw the line more clearly.

The case arose from a public debate over allegations that big American firms exploit their foreign workers. Nike became a "poster child" for that debate in the mid-1990s, the company's lawyer told the high court Wednesday.

When Nike fought back, it used the same kind of pub-

lic relations tactics employed by its critics, lawyer Laurence Tribe argued for Nike. The company, the world's largest maker of athletic shoes, wrote letters to newspaper editors and issued press releases, fact sheets and other documents.

Such statements are part of the marketplace of ideas, the company claims.

"It's part of an extended argument about why the allegations against Nike are unfounded," Tribe said.

The company said that it paid good wages and that working conditions met strict standards. It pointed to a report commissioned by Nike in which former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young gave generally good marks to the company's overseas factories. Young also pointed to areas he said needed improvement.

Nike got help Wednesday from the Bush administration's top Supreme Court lawyer. Solicitor General Theodore Olson told the justices that a California court gave the California critic, Marc Kasky, too much authority to go after Nike in court.



Susan Walsh/Associated Press

Lawyer Laurence Tribe, right, representing Nike, speaks to reporters outside the Supreme Court in Washington on Wednesday, following arguments before the Supreme Court on Nike and freedom of speech. Standing at left is attorney for the opposition, Patrick Coughlin.

Oil money expected to rebuild Iraq

OIL BUSINESS, from page 1

Once transformed into refined products such as fuel oil, the petroleum will be distributed throughout the southern part of the country for use in vehicles, power plants and generators, officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said.

Twelve wellheads in the Rumeila oil fields were believed to have been sabotaged by retreating Iraqis, who blew up some and set fire to others. The fires are out, but workers are still assessing which wellheads can be salvaged.

Money from international oil sales is expected to be the major source of income to help Iraq rebuild after three wars and more than a decade of economic sanctions. Crear said it was unclear when exports might resume.

Any loss of oil from Iraq — home to the world's second-largest oil reserves — crimps supplies for importing countries, including the United States, which gets 2 percent of its imported crude from Iraq.

Iraq shut down oil production in mid-March ahead of the war. Before

that, the country was pumping around 2.8 million barrels a day, or 3 percent of global supplies. More than half came from the huge Rumeila and other fields near Basra.

Oil fields near the northern town of Kirkuk are still shut down, though there are signs they could start coming back soon. When back up, they can produce about 900,000 of the 2.8 million total barrels.

To reach those production levels again, experts estimate it will cost between \$3 billion and \$5 billion over two years.

U.S.-led teams of American, British and Iraqi oilhands tapped four wells Tuesday in the Rumeila field. On Wednesday, they pumped the oil 38 miles across the desert from a gas-oil separation plant to storage tanks just outside Basra to await refinement.

Engineers had hoped to pump the oil all the way to the Basra refinery, but unexploded ordnance lying near a section of the pipeline made it unfeasible. Workers hope to clear

away the ordnance and get the crude there by Saturday.

It will take three days of treatment to turn it into fuel.

It could take anywhere from six weeks to almost four months to get the Rumeila oil field back up to producing 1.1 million barrels a day, Crear said. However, analyst Raad Alkadiri of the Petroleum Finance Co., a consulting firm in Washington, called that forecast a "best-case scenario."

To speed the process, the Corps of Engineers and its main oil repair contractor, Kellogg Brown & Root — a subsidiary of Halliburton Co. — have already brought back to work 200 oilhands from Iraq's Southern Oil Co. The company employed more than 3,000 workers in the region, and coalition officials will try calling more back on Saturday.

There are more than 1,000 oil wells in the Rumeila field, feeding 34 gas-oil separation plants. But only one separation plant has been restarted. Engineers hope the other plants will come on line over the next few weeks.



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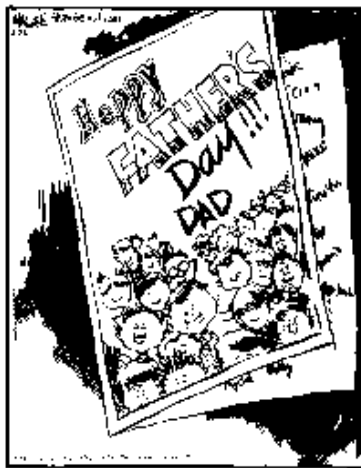
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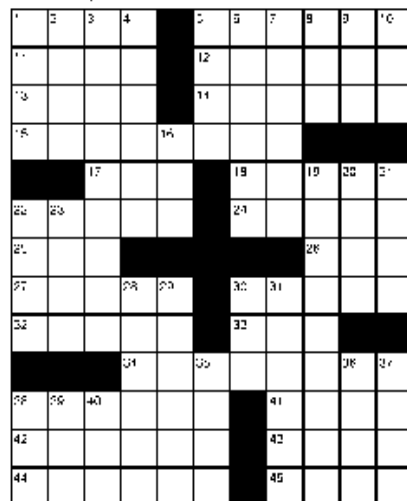
- ACROSS**
- 1 New York area
 - 5 Fragrant packet
 - 11 Finished
 - 12 "My Favorite Year" star
 - 13 Go ahead
 - 14 Murdered
 - 15 When requested
 - 17 Young fellow
 - 18 "George M" subject
 - 22 Flip call
 - 24 Clear
 - 25 Fancy planter
 - 26 Greek letter
 - 27 Luges
 - 30 Burdened down
 - 32 Asian land
 - 33 Wing
 - 34 Court-related
 - 38 Ancient odist
 - 41 "The King and I" heroine
 - 42 Craps natural
 - 43 Actor Sean
 - 44 Happens a second time
 - 45 Spur on
- DOWN**
- 1 Alone
 - 2 Kitchen fixture
 - 3 Star
 - 4 Trial
 - 5 Fizzy drink
 - 6 Immediately
 - 7 Andes flier
 - 8 Garden aid
 - 9 Actor Wallace
 - 10 Decimal base
 - 16 Hosp. workers
 - 19 Uncompromising one
 - 20 Arthur of the courts
 - 21 Light filler
 - 22 Walrus feature
 - 23 Woody's son
 - 28 Familiar feeling
 - 29 Cup holder
 - 30 Floral ring
 - 31 Abner's creator
 - 35 Comfy places
 - 36 — Domini
 - 37 Come to earth
 - 38 That girl
 - 39 Bullfight call
 - 40 For fun, for short

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FOUNTS	FORKS
AYE	ADOPT
STAG	LIT
ABLOOM	RIDE
COOPUP	ONYX
TOASTS	BELT

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- 20 Arthur of the courts
- 21 Light filler
- 22 Walrus feature
- 23 Woody's son
- 28 Familiar feeling
- 29 Cup holder
- 30 Floral ring
- 31 Abner's creator
- 35 Comfy places
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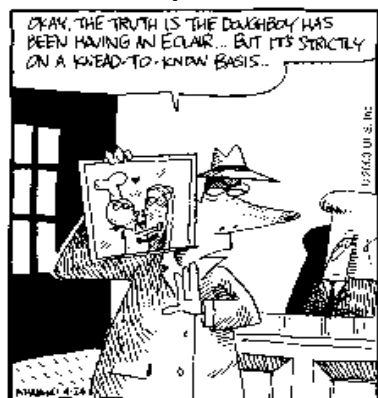
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SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Immaculate Unit, new carpet, original ceramic tile in kitchen and bath separate kitchen, laundry, facility, refrigerator, stove, street parking pets OK.

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W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00 Townhouse 2bdm/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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STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Contemporary lower 1bdm/1ba cat ok, D/W, gorgeous building, gated parking, patio, A/C, tiled kitchen, new linoleum bath.

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VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00 1bdm/1ba, super quiet bldg, BBQ, vertical blinds, new carpet very clean, parking laundry, gated entrance, stove, swimming pool.

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1311 Federal, WLA, \$700

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Upper & Lower singles available, large closets, near UCLA

11615 Darlington

Brentwood \$1450/\$1550
2 units avail, both 2 bedroom & 1.5 bath, laundry room, walk to San Vicente

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SANTA MONICA \$1200.00
2+1, near SMC and farmer's market. Balcony, carport parking.

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

SM 2BDRM/1.5BA \$2150.00
2 story, wood floors, newly remodeled, french doors, prkn, no pets. (310)496-4900.

Announcements

For Rent

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

SANTA MONICA \$575.00 Bachelor, new carpet, laundry, utilities incld.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$763.00 Studio, r/s, laundry, great location.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

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, charming, r/s, part util incld.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$895.00 1+1, r/s, laundry, gated parking.

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Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA, N. of Wilshire. Refurbished building for rent. 1.2,3 bdrms from \$1500.00-\$3800.00 Reduced rents. By appointment only. 1214 Idaho (310)869-0468. Open House Sunday April 24 1pm-4pm.

Howard Management Group

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

VENICE \$1095 1bdrm/1ba Cottage type. Appliances, hardwood floors, bright. 2236 Penmar Ave. (310)399-1506

Announcements

For Rent

STUDIO CITY \$1000.00 1bdrm/1ba New w/d in each unit, new bbq and sun patio w/ fountain, central air & heat, mirrored wardrobe doors.

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VENICE \$1095.00 Spacious 1bdrm/1ba w/large courtyard. 4 blocks to beach. Swimming pool, gated parking, new paint, new carpet, quiet neighborhood, laundry room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$1150.00 Charming 1bdrm w/large balcony. Great location, 1 block to beach. New paint and carpet. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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VENICE BEACH \$1995.00 1BDR/1BA + loft and private 2 car garage. Stunning ocean view, new carpet, paint and stove. 1 property from the beach. 1 year lease, no pets.

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VENICE BEACH \$2,400.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oak wood floors, high ceilings, private rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Ask about lease incentives. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)466-7896.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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VENICE BEACH \$695.00 Very nice, studio w/fresh paint & carpet. 1/2 block from beach. First showing is 4-29-03 at 1:00pm. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4437

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VENICE BEACH \$925.00, \$1295.00. Two singles available in historic red brick building on the beach. One unit is ocean front. Recently remodeled w/new kitchen and bathroom, exposed brick walls, new carpet and paint. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)450-1934

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WLA \$1100+utilities. 2bdrm/1 3/4 behind home. Very private. Partly furnished. (323)935-0666.

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- This includes free evaluations and X-ray.
- Subjects must not have taken glucosamine or chondroitin sulfate for 3-6 months.
- If interested, please call Dr. Dinesh Khanna, MD, Emma Hasan or Huping Zhou at: **310-206-5732 or 310-825-9682**

For Rent

VENICE BEACH Single \$850 Great location, very sunny, 1 block from beach, 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443

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WeHo \$750.00 Character, gas stove, fridge, carport, laundry, secure entry, new carpet new linoleum floors. Close to the Grove.

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(310)276-4663

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

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(310)276-4663

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.

Get phone # and address free. NO FEE! We have others from \$550.00 EQ Housing Opportunity logo.

www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

WLA \$1350 On Barrington near National. Very spacious, 2bdrm upper. Large closets, closed garage. New carpet, crown molding, appliances. Charming older building in attractive WLA area. Info/Owner (310)828-4481.

SANTA MONICA \$795.00 Lower Unit, Part. Furn., safe neighborhood, bright, full kitchen, off of Wilshire Blvd., utils. inc., amenities include Street parking, Indry facilities, crpts, furnished, refrig., stv, storage.

Get phone # address Free. No Fee. We have others from \$550.00 EQ. Housing Opportunity logo.
www.apartmenthunterz.com
(310)276-4663

Houses For Rent

CULVER CITY \$2295.00 Spacious home 3BDR/2BA w/patio and pool. Hardwood floors, new carpet, bright and airy, kitchen has been recently upgraded, 2 car garage. On a quiet residential street. One year lease, no smoking, no pets. (310)396-4443 X102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

Health/Beauty

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1490.00 House, 2+1, hardwood floors, w/d, quiet prkn.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$695.00 Triplex, walk to beach, yard.

(310)395-7368
Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$780.00 Guest House, pool, bright, yard, utilities incld.

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Roommates

MDR: LRG 2+2 to share. View of Marina. All amenities. Security parking, fireplace. N/P female preferred. \$825.00+utilities. Refs reg. (310)823-5925

SANTA MONICA \$450.00 Apt., prvt rm, bright, month to month, utilities incld.

(310)395-7368
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SANTA MONICA \$495.00 Duplex, prvt rm, pet ok, laundry, near SMC.

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MDR SUITES w/ marina or park view on Admiralty Way. Parking, janitorial, utilities included. (310)823-2323



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WESTWOOD S.M. Blvd/405 vicinity; approx. 170 sq ft, private 24 hr ground floor access, parking and utilities included. \$500/month. Call Bob (310)428-7376.

WESTWOOD S.M. Blvd/405 vicinity; 400, 650, & 1200 sqft, 24 hr access, utilities included, parking available. Call Danny: 310-471-5007

WLA 1000sq/ft store front creative offices at 3347 Motor Ave., w/kitchen, bathroom, parking & patio. \$2750.00/mo (310)826-2100 x292 Jeff.

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Announcements

"I SOLD it one day! When I put my futon for sale in the Daily Press, it took me one day to sell it..thanks!" Nina Stewart, Santa Monica.

TWO NEWLY decorated small offices at the Central Tower Building, 1424 4th St. Santa Monica, 90401 (310)276-3313.

Yard Sales

ADJ. YARD/MOVING SALE Lots of interesting & great stuff! 4-26-27 Sat/Sun 601&536 17th St. 8am-2pm

MOVING SALE Lots of quality merchandise. Sat/Sun, 04/26&27. Between Pico/Colorado.

Fitness

GET FIT AT BEACH! Dynamic group exercise class w/exp. personal trainer. W&F, 9am. Cardio/Core/K-Box/Resistance. (310)452-4241.

Lost & Found

LOST SMALL dark blue backpack/diaper bag. Lost Monday, April 21. Either in Douglas Park or on Idaho between 22nd & 15th. Around 3pm. REWARD! Call Nina (310)395-7321.

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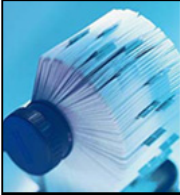
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SANTA MONICA °SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2003

EVENTS

GOTHAM COMEDY NIGHT! presented by Johanna Israel. Tonight the headliner is Brody Stevens. Every Thursday 7:30pm, FREE + 2 item minimum, 21/over. 1431 3rd St. Promenade, Santa Monica. (323)525-5254

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

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

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.

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

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

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

THE LOBSTER - A legend redefined! A local favorite serving classic American seafood, specializing in live Main Lobster. Open 7 days serving lunch & dinner. 1602 Ocean Ave., Reservations recommended. 310.458.9294

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

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

THE SLICE - New York style pizzeria also serving pasta, salads, subs and wings. Voted best pizza in Los Angeles by AOL. Sit on our beautiful patio for great pizza and movie star sightings. 915 Wilshire Blvd, for fast delivery call 310.351.7542

WOLFGANG PUCK CAFE - Enjoy Wolfgang's favorite entrees, famous wood-fired pizzas, pastas, fresh salads, sandwiches, and of course, unforgettable desserts! Fun Happy Hour: 1323 Montana Ave., 310.393.0290

SONNY MCLEAN'S - A perfect Irish pub that attracts a variety of people. It's the hotspot to kick back, enjoy a beer and watch a ball game. Good Happy Hour specials. 2615 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.9839.

ORIGINAL THAI DISHES - Best Thai food in Santa Monica! Family owned restaurant since 1980. A local favorite serving classic Pad Thai noodles, pineapple fried rice and seafood specialties. All dishes can be made vegetarian. 1910 Wilshire Blvd., 310.828.5634

EARTH, WIND & FLOUR - "Great Italian cooking. Just slightly west of Italy." This restaurant celebrates 22 years in the neighborhood for its friendliness and freshness. Pizza, pastas, salads, subs and more. Lunch and dinner specials and happy hour. 2222 Wilshire Blvd., 310.829.7829

ACADIE'S - Voila! Fresh from the south of France, Homemade Crepes have just arrived in Santa Monica! Located right off the 3rd St. Promenade, this authentic French storefront radiates charm and ambience with indoor seating and a quaint side patio for an outdoor experience. The menu offers a range of options to suit your individual mood. 213 Arizona Ave. (310)395-1120

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
Phone Booth (R) 11:50am | 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 (R) 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.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Anger Management (PG-13) 12:10pm | 1:15pm | 2:40pm | 4:15pm | 5:10pm | 6:45pm | 7:45am | 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 |



BACK PAGE

Shaquille O'Neal back to being his normal self

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO — Shaquille O'Neal was back home after what he called one of the toughest weeks of his life, and despite the late hour, he needed some time to unwind.

So he retired to his special TV room and spent some three hours in solitude watching the big screen, clearing his mind. "NBA.com, ESPN, HBO, some adult channels," he said with a chuckle.

Finally, around 5 o'clock Wednesday morning, it was time for sleep.

"I don't have a specific formula for relieving stress," O'Neal said about 7 1/2 hours later at the Los Angeles Lakers' training facility. "Sometimes, I just drive around."

O'Neal's difficult week began last Thursday when his maternal grandfather, Sirlester O'Neal, died of natural causes at age 69.

Less than 48 hours later, O'Neal witnessed the birth of his son, Shaqir Rashaun.

O'Neal missed practice and the team flight to Minneapolis that day, taking a private jet to Sunday's opener of the Lakers' first-round NBA playoff series. He had 32 points and 10 rebounds in a 117-98 victory.

O'Neal left Monday morning for his grandfather's wake in South Carolina, and returned in time for Tuesday night's 119-91 loss, when he had 27 points and 14 rebounds.

Thus, the Lakers and Timberwolves are tied 1-1 in the best-of-seven series, which

**"I don't have a specific formula for relieving stress.
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— SHAQUILLE O'NEAL
Los Angeles Laker star

resumes Thursday night at Staples Center.

"Good friends, good organization, good family helped me get through it," O'Neal said.

"From an emotional standpoint, what he's gone through is tough — from a light heart with his grandfather dying," Timberwolves coach Flip Saunders said before his team flew to Los Angeles. "He's going to come out and he's going to be really aggressive. We know it could be a whole new ballgame over there."

The Lakers agenda for Wednesday was rest and recovery.

"It's all about energy and playing Thursday night," coach Phil Jackson said, adding that energy was the key for the Timberwolves in Game 2.

"They played with kind of a frenetic style that kind of fed into their energy," he said. "As a result, their shooting improved and ours decreased."

Kobe Bryant, who shot 12-of-16 in the first half of Game 1, is 13-of-42 since including 9-of-28 in Game 2. It's likely a

jammed right shoulder played a role.

"It's a little sore right now," he said before receiving treatment. "It should be ready by tomorrow."

Normally relaxed with the media, Bryant seemed a bit on edge.

"I just don't like losing," he said. "It's just a matter of us coming back the next game, making adjustments, take it from there."

Bryant praised the defensive work of Minnesota's Anthony Peeler, who started after coming off the bench in Game 1.

"You have to give credit where credit is due," Bryant said. "Now, I have to come back and be ready for Game 3."

Saunders said he intended to start Peeler again, with Joe Smith coming off the bench. Smith started the opener but didn't play in Game 2. He has been slowed by a hyperextended knee.

Jackson said last week he believed the three-time defending NBA champion Lakers were mentally and physically prepared for the playoffs.

But he also said he was uncertain concerning their defense — a key element in

the championship runs but not nearly as effective this season.

"We have to get better," Jackson said. "They shot 50 percent in both games. That says something about their shooting ability or our defense."

The Lakers were last in the NBA in opponents' 3-point shooting percentage (38 percent) during the season, and the Timberwolves were 7-of-14 from behind the arc in Game 2.

Troy Hudson, who scored a franchise playoff record 37 points, went 4-of-6 from 3-point range and Kevin Garnett, who had 35 points and 20 rebounds, was 1-of-2.

"I don't think it's our defense so much, I just think it's guys wanting to beat us so bad," O'Neal said. "We're home now. We went up there, did what we're supposed to do — got one."

The Lakers won their last 15 regular-season home games and the Timberwolves are 3-24 against them in Los Angeles since being formed as an expansion franchise in 1989.

One of those three wins was a 110-107 triumph Dec. 1, but that was part of the Lakers' 11-19 start. They're 40-14 since then.

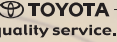
"It's a game of adjustments," Garnett said. "I'm sure they're going to adjust. I'm sure they're going to pressure us in the backcourt. We have to be ready for that."

"It's their court. We're out in L.A. Nothing changes as far as the energy we have to bring and what we have to do."

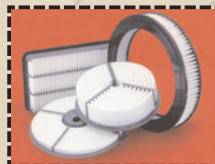
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