

FREE

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 143

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

07, 23, 26, 27, 31

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 6, 0

Evening picks: 1, 2, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 06, Whirl Win

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 01, Gold Rush

Race time: 1:45.75



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A jury concluded in February that Lonnie W. Hinton Jr., father of a 2-year-old girl who was severely injured when she fell into a swimming pool at an apartment complex in Hollywood, Fla., was responsible for only 1 percent of the incident, with the complex responsible for 99 percent because the gate to the pool area was broken. According to trial testimony, the faulty gate was fairly common knowledge among the residents, and Hinton had left the girl alone near the gate while he took barbecued food upstairs to the family's apartment. Far from being censured for his lax parenting, Hinton and his wife were awarded \$10 million for their own pain and suffering resulting from the girl's injuries.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Ninety percent of everything is just crap."

— Theodore Sturgeon



INDEX



Horoscopes

Listen to a pal, Gemini 2



Local

Time to defend yourself 3



Opinion

Ups and downs of parcel tax . . .4



State

McD's targeted by terrorists . . .7



Mommy page

Breast-feeding precautions . . .8



International

Iraqi politics 10



Sports

Lakers low down 11



Classifieds

\$3.50 a day 13



Calendar

Movie listings 15



Rebecca Gross/Daily Press

There are dozens of apartments for rent north of Wilshire Boulevard, which represents the largest neighborhood for rentals in Santa Monica.

Rental roulette: Santa Monica rents steadily increase

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

It may be a renter's market in Santa Monica, but the cost of living here continues to climb.

Officials estimate that a person must make \$60,000 a year just to afford a one-bedroom apartment in Santa Monica.

A recently released report from the city's rent control board shows that in the four years since vacancy decontrol went into effect on rent-controlled apartments, 9,486 units have been increased to market rates. As a result, 35 percent of rent-controlled apartments in the city have been raised to market levels.

"Properties are sitting on the market for months because people don't want to pay the high rents."

— JODI SUMMERS
Boardwalk Realty agent

The median rent for a studio apartment increased from \$612 to \$896 over the same four years, one-bedroom units have gone up from \$695 to \$1,195 and two-bedroom apartments have climbed from \$889 to \$1,606, on average. Three-bedroom apartments have increased from \$1,131 to \$2,074, according to the report.

Monthly rents for some apartments have increased even more. A two-bedroom, two-bathroom rental located blocks from the beach or off of Main Street can be as much as \$3,000 a month, observers say.

Rentals were up 5.7 percent in Los Angeles County last year, said

See FOR RENT, page 5

Retired SMPD officer postpones sentencing

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A retired Santa Monica police officer accused of having a long-term sexual relationship with a minor dismissed his public defender Monday and postponed his sentencing until next month.

Gregory McElveen, 55, agreed in a plea bargain earlier this month to spend a year in state prison for his alleged illicit relationship with a teenage girl. He was scheduled to be sentenced Monday by San Fernando Superior Court Judge Ronald Coen.

But Andrew Stein, McElveen's newly hired private attorney, continued the case to May 19 so he can consider retracting McElveen's guilty plea. He said McElveen should be put on probation and kept out of jail.

McElveen, of Agoura Hills, was arrested by the L.A. Sheriff's Department Feb. 26 and

charged with performing a lewd act upon a child, two counts of penetration with a foreign object and two counts of oral copulation.

He is currently in custody at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in L.A. with a bail of \$215,000.

McElveen pleaded guilty on April 14 to performing a lewd act on a child and agreed to spend one year in state prison as part of a plea bargain that dismissed the other four counts against him.

See SENTENCING, page 5

Erin Brockovich files pollution claims against Beverly Hills school

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS — Erin Brockovich and attorneys filed 25 claims against the city's school district Monday, alleging that former students of Beverly Hills High School got cancer from being exposed to toxic fumes emitted from an on-campus oil field.

Brockovich, who inspired a movie named after her about the landmark water pollution case that won the residents of a California desert town \$333 million, said up to 300 claims could eventually be filed on behalf of students who attended the school between 1975 and

See BROCKOVICH, page 6

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Consider your options, which will be many this year. You will often need to weigh the pros and cons of a situation without getting involved. You'll gain by slowing down and taking your time. If you take a walk or a few days off in some cases, you'll come back with a new, more positive scenario. Take care of yourself, as a partner or associate could often be changeable. Think "options." You find that you get way ahead this year because of your thoughtfulness. If you are single, a relationship will appear later in the year that could make you very happy. If you are attached, your tie grows with frequent getaways together. ARIES understands you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Your perspective adds to an office discussion. A trip could be in the offing in the near future. Listen well to suggestions. Brainstorming and allowing others to feel more a part of the decision-making process make a big difference. Tonight: As you like it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Take your time making a decision. Refuse to get caught up in someone else's problem. In fact, if you can stall for another day, all the better. A partner does a reversal when you least expect it. Work with others, and you'll like the results. Tonight: Take a deep breath.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Listen to a pal. Your perspective helps open up a door. You could be surprised by what you hear. Remain more in touch with your feelings. Keep your long-term goals in mind. A meeting proves to be instrumental. You make waves. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You call the shots. Don't allow others to change your direction or long-term goals. You know what you want and can make it so. Let others contribute. The more involved your cohorts feel, the more likely you are to make a difference. Tonight: You run the show.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You hear things that others don't. Stay on top of needs and listen more carefully to what others don't say. As a result, you are able to share insights and find unusual solutions. Laughter comes to those who are willing to let go and relax. Tonight: Listen to a favorite piece of music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Put your best foot forward when dealing with a loved one you care about. You might not be able to get through to this person. You have a lot on your mind right now. Stay focused, and you'll gain in any case. Understand what makes a partner receptive. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Others come toward you. Think in terms of making your life work. Keep emphasizing your priorities. It does and will make a difference. Meetings prove to be unusually successful. Keep reaching out for more of what you want. Experiment with new ideas. Tonight: Go along with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Go in to work with the will and drive to clear out whatever is necessary. Consider your options carefully, especially with a boss or a work offer. You need to sort through and decide what is realistic. Estimate the pros and cons financially. Tonight: Do something ultimately relaxing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to think before you reverse your course, or at least appear to be weighing others' opinions. To do something that impulsively could draw a strong reaction from those around you. Investigate another's suggestion. Tonight: Express your creativity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Keep discussions rolling, though you can be sure a partner or associate doesn't have the same basic concerns. You find a certain person far too extravagant for your taste. How you tell this person "enough" could vary considerably. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Once more, others want you. How you handle the barrage could vary considerably. Some of you will screen your calls. Many will simply charge right through all the requests, calls and communication. Be careful not to miss a strategic piece of information. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might want to think through a decision that involves your finances. You will be putting in much more overtime as a result. Discussions take you in a new direction if you're open. Recognize another's demands and requests more clearly. Tonight: Indulge a loved one.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



Questions of corporate law enter courtroom

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica graphic designer Brian Goodman finds himself likely impaled by corporate law as he tries to collect \$400 owed to him for designing a logo for a troubled raw foods company.

Instead of collecting from the two people Goodman says hired him to do the design work, Goodman stood in Santa Monica Small Claims Court on Monday as the judge indicated the duet were probably "victims" of the same corporation after they said they were owed money as well.

Goodman sued Arnel Lindgren and Virginia Rodriguez over promises he said they made to pay him \$600 to produce a logo for an outfit called Amba, based in New York. After Goodman produced a few test designs, he collected \$200 for the work, but was rebuffed for the remaining \$400 over a split between Lindgren and the out-of-state company.

Commissioner Roberta Kyman said it was likely she would rule that Goodman has no case against the local pair individually, but can press the corporation — if he can find it. The word came after Rodriguez, who said she once served as interim CEO of the operation, said she no longer works with it and doesn't know what's become of it. And, she asserted, the company owes her money as well.

Rodriguez and Lindgren defended themselves by saying higher-ups in the New York outfit rejected Goodman's designs after paying \$200 for him to start

work. They claimed that Goodman knew he was dealing with a corporation when he signed a contract with "Lindgren/Amba." Lindgren had served as acting president of the company for a period of time.

Further, they said, Goodman accepted corporate checks for \$200 for his design work and another \$390 for a separate design package.

Goodman said when he asked for evidence that the company was hiding behind its "corporate shield," he received papers from a company calling itself Luscious Moving Edibles in New York. There were suggestions in court that Luscious was moving to change its name to Amba.

When Commissioner Kyman heard that the corporation was from New York, she remarked "we get that on occasion," suggesting that the company had hired local residents to front for desired operations in California.

After both Rodriguez and Lindgren asserted they also were stood up by Luscious/Amba, Kyman concluded all three residents standing in her courtroom were victims of the outfit's machinations.

Kyman didn't issue a ruling Monday, saying she wanted to research the corporate issue. But she hinted her probable ruling would hold that Lindgren and Rodriguez didn't owe anything personally, and that Goodman would have to go after the company for the \$400 remaining on his logo work.

Protect yourself with yourself

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Police Department is offering free, self defense classes to any adults who live, work or attend school in Santa Monica.

The SMPD Defensive Tactics Team will teach an abbreviated version of the Krav Maga system of self defense, which is taught to all officers and non-sworn personnel.

Krav Maga is easy to learn regardless of age, gender or physical fitness, police say. It is a system of self-defense, which teaches people to use their personal body weapons and intuitive reactions rather than relying on strength.

The four-hour class will be offered on Sat., May 17, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is open until May 7, or until the classes are full.

For more information or to register for a class, call the SMPD's community relations unit at (310) 458-8474.

NEED SOMETHING FUN TO DO? CHECK PAGE 15!

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surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

This weekend saw decreasing northwest swell and moderate surf at west-facing spots. Waves were in the waist-to-chest-high range most of the weekend.

We should expect to see similar conditions, with slightly less swell energy and a drop in size. A southwest swell is expected to build slowly. Most L.A. County spots will see small surf, knee-to-waist-high, with occasional chest high-sets.

The angle of the south swell puts it in the shadow of Tahiti and a poor place for L.A. But breaks further south in San Diego and Orange County probably will receive some chest-high surf out of it.

Swell peaks Wednesday.

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County	1-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	1-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	C
Topanga	1-2'/Poor	2-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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The Q Line

There has been much in the news recently about local rent control laws, tenants and landlords. A new law passed in March now allows landlords to increase tenants' rents if they are found to be using their rent-controlled apartments for something other than living full-time.

Many tenants at the Shores Apartments, the 17-story towers at the beach near Hill Street, will have to prove to City Hall officials that they are using their units as their primary residences or be forced to pay thousands of dollars more in rent. Some tenants admit they own property elsewhere and use the units as

secondary residences or as offices. Some Shores residents pay as little \$600 a month for the same size apartment as someone who pays \$1,600.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Is it fair for a person to own property or live somewhere else and still be able to secure a rent-controlled apartment in Santa Monica? 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 first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS

A new solution to an old problem

Editor:

As we all know, hundreds of acres lay undeveloped in southern California that is owned by the public — you and me.

And only a small portion is auctioned off each year to rich developers.

That portion is developed into high-end expensive homes. (Not available for decades to lower income families).

While the working class and poor fight for the few and far between “affordable housing” options, the wealthy bask in new lands, new housing and new open spaces.

It seems to me that each year there should be a fair division of these lands to be offered to individuals in the working class and poor. Why is it right for ALL of these “new development” auctions to be wholly benefiting the small 5 percent of the population while the other 95 percent are suffering in this affordable housing crunch? Especially when the public owns it in the first place.

We know the issue that hundreds sleep each night on the streets because in large part they cannot afford to pay the rent. With the advent of equal land distribution much of the hard working poor who tonight sleep the street would have a place to call home eventually.

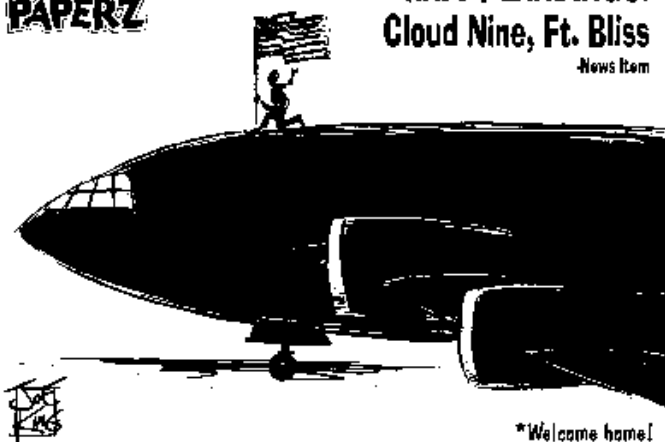
It could be financed by the value of the land itself, thereby creating a mortgage for the working poor to pay off in 30 years or so.

Sounds a little off the common thought path but hey, the only way we ever got somewhere was by trying a new angle on old problems.

Derek Lantzsch
Santa Monica

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PAPERZHAPPY LANDINGS:
Cloud Nine, Ft. Bliss

News Item



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YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com



Parcel tax measure for SMMUSD district has its upside and downside



Evelyn Jerome

■ Renters: If the school parcel tax Measure S passes, your rent will increase. It's a fact.

So why has Santa Monica's Renters' Rights, which purports to advocate for renters, endorsed this measure, which will definitely increase rental rates? And why did they take a position opposing Measure A, which applied to single-family homes and had absolutely no effect on renters at all?

The parcel tax will be on Santa Monica's and Malibu's June ballot. They tried to pass an annual \$300 parcel tax last fall and failed. Instead of coming up

with a creative, more progressive way to raise school revenue, the committee simply changed the tax amount from \$300 to \$225. It's the most regressive way to raise revenue: Charge everyone the same amount, regardless of their ability to pay.

That's \$225 per single family home, condominium unit and apartment building.

A 100-unit apartment building will pay \$225 for the entire property, and that cost will be passed through directly to the tenants. A five-unit apartment building will pay the same \$225. Renters in a five-unit building will pay \$45 more per year, where renters in a larger development will see just \$2.25 tacked onto their rent. Move to a big building fast — it'll cost you less.

And condo owners, you are the big losers here. In fact, one member of the

committee actually told me that “condo owners get screwed” by this parcel tax. Unfortunately, I own one of 32 connected shoeboxes in the middle of the city. I have no more space than any other two-bedroom apartment. And EACH of the 32 of us will pay that \$225.

Now let's talk about the 20 percent of the students in the Santa Monica and Malibu school district. One of every five students don't live in Santa Monica or Malibu. Guess how much each of their families will pay? Not a penny. You and I will foot the bill for them.

I won't argue that our schools don't need more money — clearly they do. And I won't argue that our schools are inefficient — we have a very well-run school district.

I won't even commit — yet — to voting NO on the parcel tax.

But I challenge the district to find a better way to raise funds, a progressive way that recognizes the drastically different financial situations of Santa Monica and Malibu residents. And a way to ensure that all stakeholders, including homeowners, renters, businesses and ALL students, contribute to our schools' continuing success.

(Evelyn Jerome is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a member of the New Democrat Network. To respond or reach Jerome, e-mail her at evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

■ Tough times require tough measures. It's a fact of life. But no sacrifice seems more justified than that we must make in the name of children. Last fall, Santa Monica and Malibu voters confirmed that fact by voting YES on Measure EE, an annual parcel tax of \$300 that would have provided millions for our high quality, but financially strained, Santa Monica/Malibu school district.

Unfortunately, a 61 percent landslide doesn't quite cut it under the law, which mandates that a parcel tax measure requires two-thirds, or 67 percent, to pass.

Facing continued uncertainty amidst a worsening local and state budget picture, a

coalition of parents, business leaders and activist groups have joined forces to push Measure S on the June ballot. This measure represents a slightly more modest \$225 parcel tax, with an exemption for seniors.

We should all support Measure S with every ounce of our being.

Ideologically speaking, some voters will always reject any attempted tax or fee increase, however noble the cause. Others may resent that the situation has come to this and convince themselves that a parcel tax wouldn't have been necessary if persons A, B and C hadn't screwed up.

But while we should naturally seek efficiencies, cut waste and tighten our belts, we cannot live in denial of these troubled times. While managing a huge financial strain, the school district has

already pink-slipped more than 200 teachers. Cutting waste isn't enough. We're talking about money in the millions, not tens of thousands. These cuts would be real, my friends. We would see and feel them. And so would our kids.

Is it true that some Santa Monica residents will pay for the parcel tax unevenly, due to the nature of single-family homes serving as one parcel, and multi-unit apartment buildings — with more residents to spread the pain — serving as an equal parcel? Yes.

But what kind of message would we send our kids if we fail to pass this parcel tax? I for one, am not going to look Santa Monica and Malibu students in the eye and say, “sorry, but smaller class sizes, a sufficient number of school days, an

appropriate number of textbooks and the overall quality of your education just isn't worth a couple hundred bucks.”

It is important that Measure S gets your vote on the June ballot and passes overwhelmingly. Please join me in sending a message that our kids are worth it.

(Todd Flora is a professional issues manager who has served as state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, a campaign finance reform effort, and the Concord Coalition, a budget watchdog organization. He is a former steering committee member of the Human Rights Watch “Young Advocates,” and a speakers bureau member with Heal the Bay. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com.)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

LOCAL



Low rents hard to find

FOR RENT, from page 1

realtor Jodi Summers of Santa Monica-based Boardwalk Realty.

"Anyone who is going to live in Santa Monica will pay whatever the market rate is," she said. "Now, it's a rich man's market."

However, renters may be in a better position these days to shop around and negotiate rental prices with landlords. Many rentals throughout the city are staying vacant longer than they did previously.

"Properties are sitting on the market for months because people don't want to pay the high rents," Summers said. "But a lot of landlords, especially ones who renovate their properties, are being wise in finding the right tenant."

Depending on the number of bedrooms in a unit, the household income needed to afford the median market rent in Santa Monica at 30 percent of gross income ranges from \$51,200 to \$76,461, representing an increase of between \$16,200 and \$34,700 over the past four years.

HUD affordability standards assume 30 percent of a household's gross income may be used for rent before the household becomes "rent burdened." The maximum income levels for a four-person household consider \$27,550 to \$33,060 a year as very low; \$44,100 as low and between \$55,100 and \$66,100 as moderate.

Based on HUD's 30 percent affordability standard, a person needs to make \$51,200 a year to afford a studio apartment in Santa Monica and \$59,750 to afford a one-bedroom unit.

The report concludes that units have been lost at every affordability level and every bedroom size as a result of market rent increases since 1999.

"The bottom line is that there is a significant loss of controlled units," said

Tracy Condon, a spokeswoman for the city's rent control board. "Before, there were 1,900 units that were considered low-income rentals. Now, there are 67 left."

Before the increases, 79 percent of the units had rent levels affordable to low-income households. After the increases, just 11 percent remain affordable at the low-income level.

More than 6,500 of the units that had been affordable to low-income households are no longer affordable. Included in that, 3,950 units are no longer affordable to very low-income households, according to the report.

Despite the loss of affordable units in Santa Monica, there are still 18,000 rent-controlled units in the city. The largest portion of rent-controlled units are in the north of Wilshire Boulevard neighborhood, representing 22 percent of all affordable units. The second highest neighborhood with rent-controlled apartments is between Wilshire and Colorado boulevards, east of Lincoln Boulevard, with 19 percent of the inventory. Third is the Ocean Park neighborhood, with 17 percent of rent-controlled units and 17 percent of the overall stock of rentals.

The most expensive neighborhood to live in continues to be north of Montana Avenue, which has 16 percent of all rent-controlled apartments in the city, Condon said.

Last year, 1,729 apartments were brought to market rates, which is slightly less than the previous three years, Condon said. During the first year of vacancy decontrol, 3,192 units were impacted.

"It what we expected, we haven't been surprised at these numbers," Condon said. "We actually anticipated a much larger turnover when the law was put into effect."

Attorney: State prison a dangerous place for ex-cops

SENTENCING, from page 1

McElveen would have been eligible for parole in six months.

McElveen, who retired from the SMPD in May of 1999, served with the department for 19 years.

He allegedly began a 10-month sexual relationship with the 15-year-old daughter of another SMPD officer in August of 2000, sources said.

That officer, who is not being named to protect the identity of his daughter, reported McElveen to L.A. Sheriff's, said Los Angeles County Prosecutor Cheryl Gaines.

At his sentencing hearing Monday, McElveen relieved Public Defender Karen Richardson. He asked the court to recognize Stein as his defense.

Stein, who will now consider withdrawing McElveen's guilty plea, said McElveen should be put on probation instead of in jail because the alleged acts were not forced and McElveen is respected by peers in his community.

Stein characterized the negotiated plea as harsh and said Richardson should have pushed for a better deal.

"The quality of legal representation that (McElveen) obtained was basically the lawyer saying 'Good morning' to him before the trial," Stein said.

Both Gaines and Richardson said they are surprised that McElveen appears to be backing out of his plea.

Gaines said McElveen faces as much as three years in jail on each of the five counts.

Gaines said she agreed to the one-year plea because there were no charges of sexual intercourse. She also said McElveen cooperated early in the process and has no criminal record.

"Everybody's in danger when they're charged with this offense in a state prison. When combined with his status as a former police officer, he would be in grave danger."

— ANDREW STEIN
Attorney

"She didn't have to come to court to testify," Gaines said of the victim.

If McElveen is sentenced to jail time, Stein said he will fight to keep McElveen in custody at the Twin Towers where he can be in protective custody 24 hours a day.

"Everybody's in danger when they're charged with this offense in a state prison," he said. "When combined with his status as a former police officer, he would be in grave danger."



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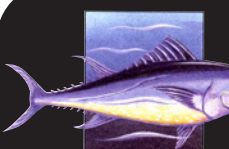
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STATE

Cellular provider sues beachside city council

By The Associated Press

MANHATTAN BEACH — AT&T Wireless has filed a lawsuit against the city, seeking to overturn a decision that barred the company from putting up six cellular telephone antennas.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court last week, claims the City Council unlawfully denied AT&T's permit application by conducting public hearings on the issue.

During the hearings, residents discussed the possible health risks of radio waves so close to their homes, according to the AT&T complaint.

Under federal law, the city cannot consider the health effects of radio frequency when it votes on antenna permits.

City Attorney Robert Wadden said the council denied the permit because the antennas are not aesthetically appealing, not because of health concerns.

"They stand about 75 feet. That alone has quite an impact," Wadden said.

AT&T spokesman John Mendez said the company is simply responding to calls for better service in the area.

"We're not in the business of suing cities," Mendez said. "We're in the business of building a good network."

Mendez said the company is still open to out-of-court negotiations.

School has higher cancer rate than average, attorney says

BROCKOVICH, from page 1

1997 and have been treated for Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's or thyroid cancer.

Brockovich and attorney Ed Masry, whose environmental crusade on behalf of the residents of Hinkley was chronicled in the 2000 Julia Roberts movie "Erin Brockovich," believe an active oil rig under the athletic fields on the edge of Beverly Hills High emitted high levels of cancer-causing chemicals.

Beverly Hills Unified School District and the South Coast Air Quality Management District, which tracks air pollution for most of Southern California, have disputed the Brockovich-Masry findings.

The law office of Masry & Vititoe, where Brockovich works as director of research, filed the claims with Beverly Hills Unified and the city as the first step in naming them as defendants in a lawsuit.

They have six months to respond, after which Brockovich and Masry can sue in state court. Masry said he expected to file lawsuits against several oil companies in the coming weeks and would later add the school district and the city.

"They knew that there was an active oil field underneath this school," said attorney Nancy Eichler, who also represents the former students. "They presumably knew that if you have an active oil field, there's certain dangers and failed to monitor them adequately and exposed the people to toxic chemicals that impacted their health."

Superintendent Gwen Gross denied those claims.

"We have one interest and that is the health and safety of the students, faculty, staff and residents at and around Beverly Hills High School," she said. "The AQMD and our environmental consultants have done many comprehensive air tests and have told us in all cases the levels were well below health limits established by state officials."

Mark Katchen, the school district's environmental consultant, said the AQMD had sampled the air seven times since February, when Brockovich's allegations first became public, and the results were consistent with chemical levels found at other Los Angeles air monitoring stations.

The campus oil rig is no secret in Beverly Hills, which early in the 20th century was rich with oil. Shielded by panels covered in brightly painted flowers, it pro-

duces about 450 barrels of oil and 400,000 cubic feet of natural gas a day.

The law firm says air tests conducted by an environmental specialist over a five-month period in and around the school's athletic fields found high levels of benzene, toluene and h-hexene, byproducts of the oil industry.

"They knew that there was an active oil field underneath this school. They presumably knew that if you have an active oil field, there's certain dangers and failed to monitor them adequately and exposed the people to toxic chemicals that impacted their health."

— NANCY EICHLER
Attorney

"We think the biggest problem is the benzene," Masry said. "To our knowledge Beverly Hills High School, one of the most affluent areas in the United States, is the only high school that had 18 active pumping oil wells on their property."

"You've got these kids running around breathing in air, exercising," he said. "The stupidity of Beverly Hills High School baffles me."

Masry said the school's cancer rate is 20 to 30 times above the national average.

"There's still no explanation from AQMD or anybody else how the alumni of Beverly Hills High School can have such a huge increase in cancer," Masry said.

Years of persistence by Brockovich won a \$333 million settlement from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. for more than 600 residents of Hinkley. The residents had accused the utility of allowing high concentrations of toxic chromium 6 to pollute their groundwater.

STATE



Burgers make McDonald's target for ecoterrorists

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

CHICO — "Meat is murder," activists from the Animal Liberation Front scrawled on a McDonald's restaurant here last month.

Two crude incendiary devices failed to ignite, but a second McDonald's in this Sacramento Valley college town was damaged a week later by burning debris. A day later, two Albuquerque, N.M., McDonald's and an Arby's were fire-bombed, with police suggesting similar ties to the nation's most active, destructive domestic terrorists.

The Golden Arches have been hit abroad as a symbol of the United States' corporate dominance and encroaching lifestyle. But the fire bombings of the ubiquitous hamburger restaurants at home have hit a jarring note with company officials and law enforcement nationwide.

An Earth Liberation Front promotional video called "Igniting the Revolution" features McDonald's among its corporate targets. The FBI labels the elusive, loosely knit shadow organizations the nation's most active and destructive domestic terror groups, responsible for more than \$43 million in damage in more than 600 attacks since 1996.

"They're going after the wrong people, because we have an exemplary record when it comes to animal welfare," said McDonald's Corp. spokeswoman Lisa Howard.

McDonald's launched a public relations effort in response, erecting racks of brochures at its restaurants and information on its Web site touting its social and environmental stewardship.

That's not good enough for ALF and ELF, said Rodney Coronado, a former ALF member who spent more than four years in prison for a 1992 fire bombing of animal research laboratories at Michigan State University.

"Wherever they are, McDonald's are a legitimate target for people who want to protect the earth," Coronado said. "McDonald's is a symbol of international animal abuse and environmental destruction."

Coronado demonstrated a device similar to that used in the Chico attack at a January conference at Washington, D.C.'s American University. Directions on building the devices also are on ALF's and ELF's Web sites, enabling activists to encourage copycat arsonists without having direct knowledge of the crimes.

"It's a way we can insulate ourselves — there's no signature device. It's a crude, inexpensive device that can be very effective," Coronado said, though the ones in Chico fizzled.

Ron Arnold of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise in Bellevue, Wash., said the elusive attacks leave McDonald's Corp. in a state of denial as it juggles more than 30,000 restaurants in 118 countries serving 46 million customers a day.

It downplays attacks for fear of frightening customers and shareholders, said Arnold, author of "EcoTerror: The Violent Agenda to Save Nature-the World of the Unabomber."

David Martosko, research director for the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Consumer Freedom, said McDonald's attacks that get publicity are "literally the tip of the iceberg."

"I think McDonald's has made itself

vulnerable in a certain way by its history of capitulating" to aboveground animal rights groups like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said Martosko, whose organization represents restaurants and food manufacturers.

PETA has embarrassed several fast-food chains into altering their practices, but "McDonald's was really the first to respond by saying, 'OK, we'll do things your way,'" Martosko said. "To my mind, that sends a message to the entire social movement that you can be pushed around here."

Factory farms, slaughterhouses and animal research facilities all might be closer to animal cruelty, and all have been targeted by animal rights groups.

But people identify far more with their local McDonald's, said Gary Perlstein, a professor emeritus at Oregon's Portland State University and board member of the watchdog group Stop Eco-Violence.

"A terrorist group is always going to attack the symbol," Perlstein said. "McDonald's will be a target until they only sell vegetable sandwiches."

Animal rights groups' attacks on McDonald's

By The Associated Press

Here's a look at attacks on McDonald's restaurants for which animal rights groups claim credit:

■ Oct. 14, 1996, Eugene, Ore.: The Earth Liberation Front glues locks and spray-paints graffiti at a McDonald's.

■ June 29, 1997, Crystal City, Va.: Police in riot-gear use pepper spray to disperse about 200 animal rights activists who harass customers and employees at a McDonald's restaurant and block the restaurant's driveway for more than two hours. Eighteen activists are arrested on criminal trespass charges, and three face additional vandalism charges for throwing food.

■ Feb. 15, 1997, Troy, Mich.: The Animal Liberation Front leaves a foul-smelling chemical in a McDonald's and spray-paints "McS---, McMurder, McDeath" on the bathroom walls.

■ 1998, Belgium: ALF claims responsibility for nine attacks against McDonald's and another fast-food chain.

■ Aug. 16, 1997, West Jordan, Utah: ALF burns a McDonald's restaurant to the ground, causing \$400,000 in damage.

■ August 12, 1999, Antwerp, Belgium: ALF claims credit for burning down a McDonald's, causing damage estimated at \$809,000.

■ Aug. 31, 1999, Fulton County, Ga.: ALF torches a McDonald's restaurant.

■ Oct. 16, 1999, Nassau, Long Island, N.Y.: ALF smashes windows and spray-paints graffiti at four McDonald's, causing more than \$23,000 in damage.

■ Dec. 7, 2000, Long Island, N.Y.: ELF and ALF smash windows and spray-paint anti-meat slogans at McDonald's offices.

■ June 2001, Detroit: ELF vandalizes a McDonald's.

■ Sept. 8, 2001, Tucson, Ariz.: ALF and the affiliated Earth Liberation Front claim joint credit for a \$500,000 arson of a McDonald's restaurant they say is meant "as a warning to corporations worldwide."

■ March 3, 2003, Chico, Calif.: ALF activists spray-paint "Meat is Murder" and "Species Equality," along with the group's name, on a McDonald's. Two crude incendiary devices fail to ignite.

■ March 10, 2003, Chico, Calif.: A second McDonald's is damaged by burning debris. "Liberation" and "ALF" are spray-painted on the walls. Sources: Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, Fur Commission USA, news accounts.

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A weekly look at events and program

Breast-fed babies risk vitamin D deficiency, rickets

Guest Commentary

By Elaine Robertson
Lactation consultant

QUESTION: I am breast feeding and I heard recently that breast-fed babies should be given vitamin D supplements to help prevent rickets. Is this true?

ANSWER: Although most people consider rickets to be a disease of the past in the United States, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently issued a new recommendation that all infants, including those who are breast-fed, should receive vitamin D supplements to help prevent the bone-weakening disease. Under the new AAP guidelines, all infants should receive 200 IUs of vitamin D per day during the first two months of age and continuing throughout childhood and adolescence.

Before you make a decision about giving your baby any vitamin supplements, however, you should

Natural sunlight helps to produce vitamin D through the skin, and those of us living here in Southern California typically receive enough sun exposure throughout the year to create sufficient amounts of vitamin D to prevent rickets.

be aware that the incidence of rickets is still extremely rare in this country. The new recommendation by the academy was prompted by reports of only dozens of cases nationwide, out of the millions of breast-fed infants each year.

In addition, natural sunlight helps to produce vitamin D through the skin, and those of us living here in Southern California typically receive enough sun exposure throughout the year to create sufficient amounts of vitamin D to prevent rickets. The second source of vitamin D is food, and infants past 1 years old also will get vitamin D from a number of dietary sources, such as fortified cereals and eggs.

Vitamin D is needed for the metabolism of calcium and phosphorus in the body, which affects the amount of calcium that is

deposited in the bones. Vitamin-D deficiency rickets weakens the bones in small children, resulting in bowed legs, soft skulls and delays in crawling and walking. In severe cases of malnutrition, infants can suffer sudden seizures and convulsions.

Experts attribute the slight rise in rickets in this country due to the fact that more Americans are limiting their sun exposure — and that of their children — because of growing skin cancer concerns. By limiting our sun exposure, we become more dependent on dietary sources for vitamin D. The risk for rickets is higher for dark-skinned children because dark pigmentation is a natural filter for the sun, preventing them from absorbing as much sunshine as those with fair skin.

If you feel your infant is at risk

for vitamin D deficiency, you should discuss the need for supplementation with your pediatrician first. Do not exceed the recommended daily allowance of 200 IUs of vitamin D. Too much vitamin D can be harmful, with overdoses causing nausea and vomiting, weight loss and possible kidney problems.

For more information about the AAP's new guidelines on vitamin D intake, visit the their Web site at www.aappolicy.org. A complete copy of the AAP's clinical report in the April 2003 issue of pediatrics can be located on this site by typing in "rickets" in the search function and then clicking on "Prevention of Rickets and Vitamin D Deficiency."

(Elaine Robertson, I.B.C.L.C., is an international board certified lactation consultant for Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. Robertson teaches childbirth classes and prenatal breastfeeding classes to expectant parents. Call (310) 829-8944 for further information or visit Saint John's Web site at www.stjohns.org.)



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Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:45am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire - 2 yr-olds with parent. 310-458-8922
Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
Lap Time - 11:00am, April 29 - June 3 for 0-24 month olds
Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Cuentos Para Pequeños - 10am - Mar 4-April 8 and April 29-June 3 - a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-3 years olds.
Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Family Story Time - 7pm - Stories for the entire family.
School Age Stories and Crafts - 3:30pm - every other Tuesday thru May 27, ages 5-9 years
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Toddler Story Time - 10:00 & 10:30am, April 15-May 20, ages 2-3 years, registration required, call for info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443, Preschool Story Time - 10:30am - April 30 - June 4, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own
Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Lap Time - 10 and 10:30am - 6 wk series for 0 - 24 months, April 16 - May 21. No registration required.
Toddler Story Time - 11:15 am - 6 wk series for 2 year olds w/ adult, April 16-May 21. No registration required.
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Twilight Story Time - 7:00 to 7:30pm - for parents with 3-5 year olds.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 2 pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me(infants) 1-

2pm, \$9

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com, Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm
The Pump Station, Jennifer Triggs - 310-451-9051 (call first), Pre-natal - 6:30 - 7:30pm, \$10

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
SING ALONG! - Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 2:30 pm. Sing along with musical performer Jackie Breger, ages 4 and up.

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Preschool Story Time - 10:15am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th & Wilshire, Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. 310-458-8922
Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
Toddler Story Time - 10:30am - March 6-April 10 and May 1 - June 5 - 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.
La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Toddler Story Time - 10:15am - April 17 - May 22 - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Lap Time - 9:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

FRIDAY

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me(infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Children's Book World, 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-B00K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8 (April 12, 19, 26)
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade - Kid's Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 10:30am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:30am, and 10:45 - noon, \$13
Santa Monica Yoga - 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. - 310-396 4040, Prenatal yoga - 12:30 - 2:00pm, \$14

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

SUNDAY

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library (programs for the Main Library are being presented in off-site locations during renovation) Lap Time for parents and children up to 24 months, 9:30am, Joslyn Park/Craft Room/633 Kensington - 310-452-6132 (no lap time April 14 and April 21)
Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804 **Cuentos Para Pequeños** - 11:15 am, March 24 - April 28 - Stories in Spanish for toddlers and pre-schoolers. No registration required.
Barnes and Noble - 3rd St. Promenade - Toddler Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 8-12 months, 10am - 11:30pm Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

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INTERNATIONAL

May meeting to create temporary Iraqi government

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Delegates from inside and outside Iraq agreed Monday to hold a nation-building meeting next month and fashion a temporary, post-Saddam Hussein government that the United States predicted could be in place within days after that.

Iraq's new American administrators, charting the future of the land they invaded, secured the pledge to meet again in May from a multiethnic assortment of delegates. It represents the first specific timetable for trying to assemble the foundations of democracy in postwar Iraq and a more secure tomorrow.

"I think we have enough ... to come up with a road map," said U.S. envoy Zalmay

Khalilzad, adding that an administration could be in place within weeks.

Monday's daylong conference coincided with a date that had been a national holiday: It was Saddam Hussein's 66th birthday.

"Today, on the birthday of Saddam Hussein, let us start the democratic process for the children of Iraq," the U.S. civil administrator for Iraq, retired Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, told delegates.

The conference brought together Shiite and Sunni Muslim clerics in robes, Kurds from the north, tribal chiefs in Arab head-dresses and Westernized exiles in expensive suits. Still, some said Shiites, who make up 60 percent of Iraq's population, were underrepresented, and delegates generally agreed on a need for wider representation in the future.

For a nation riven by a generation of autocratic rule, the notion of a broad leadership council appeared to gain ground, with many delegates endorsing it as the best path.

"We hope we can form a unified government, one that reflects the entire spectrum of Iraq," said Ahmad Jaber al-Awadi, a representative of the newly formed Iraqi Independent Democrats Movement.

Under Saddam, the all-powerful Baath Party barred dissent and effectively banned competing parties. Monday's meeting, like one in the ancient city of Ur earlier this month, pulled aside that monolithic facade to reveal a fractious land roiling with political agendas.

Partly because of that, many delegates discussed the possibility of a presidential council rather than a single leader for Iraq, according to one prominent former exile, Saad al-Bazzaz.

"I'm not expecting one person as president," he said, predicting a council of three to six members. "We have been discussing this — many of us."

Khalilzad said the government could include a chief executive under a broad-based leadership council representing a variety of ethnic, religion and other groups. Or, he said, it could be a single executive.

As with similar meetings in Afghanistan last year and in late 2001, the twin goals of promoting democracy and accomplishing tasks collided.

Delegates spoke out about their own agendas, and the meeting lasted more than two hours longer than planned — well into the evening, no small matter in a city living under an 11 p.m. curfew.

"If it goes like this, it will take months to get a government," said Serdar Jaf, leader of a Kurdish clan. "People are only speaking out what they want to speak about. Everyone has his own ideas. There's no program, no agenda."

In a sign of how far the process has to go, none of the major factional leaders — Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Massoud Barzani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan chief Jalal Talabani or Iraqi

National Congress leader Ahmed Chalabi — attended Monday's proceedings. Bush's envoy, Khalilzad, indicated he would meet with some of them Tuesday.

A senior coalition official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was too early to expect results.

"This meeting was not sufficiently representative to establish an interim authority, and that was not our desire," the official said.

Though the agenda was ostensibly politics, many focused on the immediate need for security in a land where the overthrowing of Saddam's regime three weeks ago touched off a rampage of looting and arson.

In a 10-part resolution, delegates urged the U.S. to act more quickly to rein in the gun-toting thugs preying on the postwar population. Another resolution politely thanked the U.S.-led coalition for its overall efforts in Iraq.

The platform appeared to be adopted by consensus at the end of a boisterous final evening session. Only about a quarter of those present bothered to raise their hands in approval. The rest slung jackets over their shoulders to go or shouted out other demands — such as asking the American forces to disarm the Iraqi citizenry.

In a sign of new cooperation, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, an Iran-based group of Shiite Muslim exiles, sent a low-level delegation. The council had boycotted the first meeting on April 15, and high-ranking members refused to attend Monday's conference in protest of its U.S. sponsorship, said Hamid al-Bayati, a London spokesman for the group.

Emerging from the meeting, delegates generally agreed many key people from Iraqi society were missing.

"Many groups were not represented today, such as some of the Islamists," said Saïed Moustafa al-Qazwini, a Shiite cleric and member of the League for Iraqi Religious Leaders.

Khalilzad, Bush's envoy, said: "We are not excluding anyone from the process. If anyone excludes themselves, it's up to them."

Under quarantine



Associated Press

A municipal official wearing a mask goes off duty leaving her colleagues in a tent where they watch over residential houses marked in quarantine areas in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, eastern China, on Monday. An official at Zhejiang Provincial Center of Disease Control said more than 2,000 residents in more than 100 residential neighborhoods have been isolated for quarantine in Hangzhou.

Rumsfeld says military presence to be reduced in Gulf region

By The Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — The United States plans to reduce its military presence in the Persian Gulf region now that Saddam Hussein is gone, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Monday.

Also, Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. forces in the region, has decided to move an American air operations center from Saudi Arabia to neighboring Qatar, officials said.

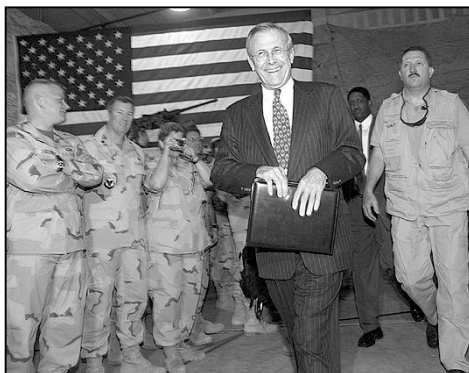
Saudi officials have been edgy about having U.S. troops on their soil since the 1991 Persian Gulf War, to the point of seeking to avoid news reports that the United States commanded the air war over Iraq from the center at the Saudis' Prince Sultan air base.

Rumsfeld is touring the region this week to talk over prospects with American allies before making final decisions. He met Monday with Qatar's leader, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who allowed the U.S. headquarters for the war to be built near here.

"Iraq was a threat in the region, and because that threat will be gone, we also will be able to rearrange our forces," Rumsfeld said after meeting with Thani and Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill.

The presence of thousands of American soldiers in Saudi Arabia, the land of Islam's two holiest shrines, has enraged some militant Muslims. It is among the reasons given by Osama bin Laden, a Saudi-born fugitive who heads the al-Qaida terror network, for his hatred of the United States.

American officials said Franks has decided to move the air operations center to the al-Udeid air base in Qatar,



Luke Frazza/Associated Press

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld arrives to speak to coalition troops on Monday during his visit to U.S. Central Command headquarters at the As-Sayliyah base, outside Doha, Qatar.

which after recent upgrades has the necessary facilities and equipment. The number of U.S. military personnel at the air center would also be reduced, though by how many is unclear, officials said.

Rumsfeld plans to meet with Saudi officials this week during his trip and said Monday that the Bush administration has "a good and close relationship" with the Saudi government. Separately, Rumsfeld said the United States

does not want to base its forces in countries where they are not welcome.

Tens of thousands of American service members were stationed in the region before the war with Iraq. Air Force and Navy aircraft patrolled flight-interdiction zones over Iraq. Army soldiers and Marines held exercises in Kuwait as a warning to Iraqi President Saddam. Naval vessels patrolled the gulf, helping to look for ships violating the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

None of those jobs are needed now that Saddam is no longer in power. Once Iraq is stabilized, the number of U.S. troops in the region should drop, Rumsfeld said. He added he does not want to have permanent U.S. access to military bases inside Iraq.

The defense secretary also is using his trip to thank some of the American troops involved in the U.S.-led campaign to depose Saddam. Although Rumsfeld has insisted he is not on a "victory tour," he basked Monday in the American military success.

In a U.S. military warehouse at Camp As Sayliyah, Franks' headquarters for the three-week war, Rumsfeld told cheering troops their triumph will influence military spending and doctrine for decades.

Rumsfeld met with Hill, the Australian defense minister, at a luxury hotel at the edge of the Persian Gulf. After their meeting, Hill said Australia, which contributed several thousand troops to the war effort, was looking for ways to help during the postwar phase in Iraq.

Fifty Australian air traffic controllers are headed to the Baghdad International Airport to help coordinate humanitarian aid flights, Hill said.

SPORTS

Timberwolves will need more help from Hudson in Game 5

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves told Troy Hudson to be more aggressive after he scored a quiet 17 points in a lopsided Game 1 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers.

The advice, from coach Flip Saunders and star forward Kevin Garnett among others, has had quite an effect on the sixth-year point guard.

And on this series.

Hudson, after averaging a career-best 14.2 points during the regular season, has scored 92 in the past three games. He made five 3-pointers in Minnesota's 102-97 loss in Game 4 on Sunday.

The series, tied at 2-2, resumes Tuesday night in Minneapolis.

"It hasn't overwhelmed me," Hudson said after practice Monday. "I always knew I could play at this level. I've just been blessed to come out and showcase my ability."

Hudson is a streaky player who often rushed shots and played out of control during the season. But he's also capable of shooting from anywhere on the court, and the spark he gives the Timberwolves in their transition offense has made a big impact in this series.

"A lot of times the element of surprise is big in this league," said Derek Fisher of the Lakers, who has been guarding Hudson. Kobe Bryant might be asked to do that instead in Game 5.

"He's a guy who can shoot from anywhere at anytime on the court," Fisher

said, "whether there's 2 seconds or 22 seconds left on the shot clock. You have to give him credit for feeling confident enough to knock down the shots he can."

After scoring 28 points in the first three quarters Sunday, Hudson was shut out in the fourth as the Lakers rallied for the series-tying victory.

Part of the reason was Rod Strickland played well early in the period, but Saunders admitted he might have left Hudson on the bench too long.

The Wolves will surely need some scoring from him down the stretch to win Game 5.

"He's got to be aggressive and still play with intelligence," Saunders said. "He is what he is. Some of the shots he takes are ill-advised, but he's going to make a lot of shots, too."

Hudson has also helped the Wolves exploit one of the Lakers' weaknesses, defending the pick-and-roll. It reminds Minnesota's Wally Szczerbiak of what Sacramento's Mike Bibby was able to do in last year's Western Conference finals against the three-time defending champion Lakers.

"We really take advantage of what the Lakers are giving us," said Szczerbiak, who has become the Timberwolves' third scoring option in this series. "Shaq is not coming out and helping too much."

Maybe not on defense, but the resurgence of Shaquille O'Neal — 34 points and 23 rebounds in Game 4 — was a big reason why the Lakers were able to win despite another tough shooting night.

Highlights of the NBA games

By The Associated Press

SCOREBOARD

Tuesday, April 29

Los Angeles Lakers at Minnesota, (6:30 p.m.) After a narrow win Sunday that evened the series, the defending champions go back on the road for Game 5.

STARS

Sunday

■ Shaquille O'Neal, Lakers, had 34 points, 23 rebounds and six assists as three-time defending champions Los Angeles beat Minnesota 102-97 to even series 2-2.

■ Paul Pierce, Celtics, scored 37 points — 21 in the third quarter — to lead Boston past Indiana 102-92.

CELTIC PRIDE

Paul Pierce scored 37 points Sunday in Boston's 102-92 win over Indiana. Pierce scored the last 11 points of the third quarter and had 32 in the second half, a Celtics' record. The team play-off record for points in a half had been 30, by John Havlicek on April 1, 1973, and Larry Bird on April 30, 1985. In the third quarter, Pierce outscored the entire Indiana team, 21-14. Boston leads the first-round series 3-1.

UNLIKELY HERO

Phoenix backup center Jake Voskuhl scored on a jump hook with 2.3 seconds left to give the Suns an 86-84 win over the Spurs on Sunday night. The series is tied 2-2.

HIGH BOARD SCORES

Shaquille O'Neal had 10 of the Lakers' 18 offensive rebounds to help Los Angeles to a 29-2 advantage in second-chance points Sunday against Minnesota. The Lakers beat the Timberwolves 102-97.

ONE TO GO

Orlando, which last advanced past the opening round in 1996, beat Detroit 100-92 Sunday to take a 3-1 series lead. The Magic's Tracy McGrady, averaging 36.3 points a game in the series, has never won a playoff series, exiting in the first round once with Toronto and twice since coming to Orlando.

STREAKS

The Pistons, losers of 12 straight road playoff games, failed to top 43 percent shooting for the fourth straight game Sunday in their 100-92 loss in Orlando.

SNAPPED

Portland's 98-79 victory over Dallas on Sunday broke a 10-game playoff losing streak, which began with a loss in Game 7 of the 2000 Western Conference finals against the Lakers. Sunday's win was coach Maurice Cheeks' first in seven postseason games. Dallas leads the best-of-seven series 3-1.

NBA daily playoff glance

By The Associated Press

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

Milwaukee at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Phoenix at San Antonio, 4 p.m.
Boston at Indiana, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

New Orleans at Philadelphia, 3 p.m.
Orlando at Detroit, 3 p.m.
Portland at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Utah at Sacramento, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Indiana at Boston, 4 p.m. or 5 p.m., if necessary
New Jersey at Milwaukee, 5 p.m. or 6 p.m.
San Antonio at Phoenix, 9 p.m. or 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Detroit at Orlando, TBA, if necessary
Philadelphia at New Orleans, TBA, if necessary
Sacramento at Utah, TBA, if necessary
Dallas at Portland, TBA, if necessary

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Boston at Indiana, TBA, if necessary
Milwaukee at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, TBA, if necessary
Phoenix at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary

SUNDAY, MAY 4

New Orleans at Philadelphia, TBA, if necessary
Orlando at Detroit, TBA, if necessary
Portland at Dallas, TBA, if necessary
Utah at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

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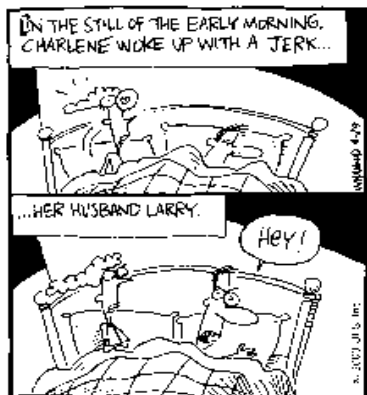
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edge city by TERRY & PARY LEBAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Indiana river
 - 7 Ajar
 - 11 "Seward's Folly"
 - 12 On this spot
 - 13 Gossip columnist's activity
 - 15 Classic song
 - 16 Athlete Lewis
 - 18 Expansive
 - 21 Uncovered
 - 22 Soap opera
 - 24 In the past
 - 25 Actor McKellen
 - 26 Make knots
 - 27 Cure
 - 29 Source of bad luck
 - 30 Pretzel topper
 - 31 Change maker
 - 32 Braves legend
 - 34 Politician's activity
 - 40 Minnow's home
 - 41 Presidential middle name
 - 42 Diving birds
 - 43 Squelch
- DOWN**
- 1 Bankroll
 - 2 Will Smith movie
 - 3 — relief
 - 4 Onto the beach
 - 5 Art
 - 6 Set of cards
 - 7 "Heavens!"
 - 8 Architect I.M.
 - 9 Blunder
 - 10 Fishing aid
 - 14 Donated
 - 16 Zoo sights
 - 17 Scent
 - 19 Peaceful protest
 - 20 Pollute
 - 21 Saloon
 - 22 Utter
 - 23 "Smallville" name
 - 25 Label with a name
 - 28 Large antelopes
 - 29 Ad song
 - 31 "Water Lilies" painter
 - 33 Frees club
 - 34 Health club
 - 35 Singer
 - 36 Printer's need
 - 37 Atlas page
 - 38 Numero
 - 39 Dress in

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GLENDALE \$825.00 Remodeled 2bdm/2ba near the Glendale Galleria. Complete renovation, air conditioning, carpets, stove, swimming pool.

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For Rent

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HOLLYWOOD Starting @ \$1025.00 to \$1050.00 Contemporary 1bdm/1ba. Pet ok, living room, new carpet & paint. Jacuzzi, gated underground parking Upper & lower units available, only some have fireplaces!

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HOLLYWOOD Starting @ \$1275.00 - \$1350.00. Contemporary 2bdm/2ba, pet ok, living room, new carpet & paint, jacuzzi, gated underground parking. Upper and lower units available, only some have fireplaces!

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LOS FELIZ \$1075.00 2+2, Courtyard sundek, backyard w/lots of trees, exclusive professional building, A/C, carpets, D/W, fridge, stove, sauna, no eviction, bad credit OK.

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N. HOLLYWOOD \$985.00 2bdm/1ba, new carpet, new appliances, all new, gated parking, A/C, balcony, stove, large closets, pool, no pets, walk to shops.

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For Rent

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inclcd.

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car garage. Stunning ocean
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SANTA MONICA \$450.00
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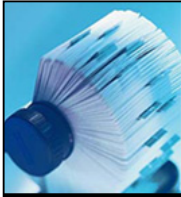
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SANTA MONICA °SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2003

EVENTS

TODDLER STORY TIME presented by the Santa Monica Public Library. Tuesdays at 10am and 10:45am. Reed Park, Reed Auditorium West, corner of 7th St. and Wilshire. Stories and activities designed especially for 2 year olds who are accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (310)458-8922.

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PEOPLE 55 AND OLDER. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

CROSSROADS SCHOOLS IN SANTA MONICA invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

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.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE Emeritus College Band invites adult musicians who play a band instrument to join the band. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening in the Band room at Lincoln Middle School, 14th and California Streets from 7pm to 9:15pm. Concerts are

given during the year. For more information call (310)474-5271.

°DINING

PATRICK'S 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 Maine Lobster. Open 7 days serving lunch & dinner. 1602 Ocean Ave., Reservations recommended. 310.458.9294

OMELETTE PARLOR - Best breakfast in L.A. 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) 12:00pm | 2:10pm | 4:20pm | 6:40pm | 9:00pm. A Mighty Wind (PG-13) 11:30am | 12:20pm | 1:10pm | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | 3:40pm | 4:30pm | 5:20pm | 6:10pm | 7:00pm | 7:50pm | 8:40pm | 9:30pm | 10:20pm.

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
Bringing down the House (PG-13) 2:15pm | 7:50pm.
Chasing Papi (PG) 12:15pm | 2:20pm | 4:40pm | 7:00pm | 9:15pm. A Man Apart (R) 11:35am | 5:05pm | 10:30pm. Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 11:20am | 1:45pm | 4:15pm | 7:10pm | 9:40pm. The Real Cancun (R) 12:00pm | 2:30pm | 5:00pm | 7:30pm | 10:10pm. Better Luck Tomorrow (R) 11:40am | 2:10pm | 4:45pm | 7:20pm | 10:00pm. Confidence (R) 11:30am | 2:00pm | 4:30pm | 7:15pm | 9:50pm.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Anger Management (PG-13) 1:35pm | 4:15pm | 7:20pm | 10:00pm. Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 2:00pm | 4:50pm | 7:40pm | 10:15pm. What a Girl Wants (PG) 1:25pm | 4:10pm | 7:00pm. The Pianist (R) 1:00pm | 4:00pm | 7:10pm | 10:15pm. Holes (PG) 1:50pm | 4:30pm | 7:15pm | 9:50pm. Identity (R) 1:05pm | 3:15pm | 5:30pm | 7:50pm | 9:30pm | 10:05pm. It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 1:15pm | 4:20pm | 7:25pm | 10:00pm.

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.

LAEMMIE 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. City of Ghosts (R) 1:45pm | 4:30pm | 7:15pm | 10:00pm.



BACK PAGE

Man wears name tag to make the world a friendlier place

BY BETSY TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS — Hello, his name is Scott.

Scott Ginsberg, that is. The name's not hard to remember because Ginsberg has been wearing a name tag for more than 900 days with "Scott" scrawled boldly across a piece of adhesive paper in felt-tip marker.

When people used to ask why, he'd explain in depth. "The Name Tag Dissertation," his friends called it. So, now he keeps the response simple: Name tags make people friendlier.

Ginsberg is tired of people averting their eyes on the street or looking at the elevator floor rather than making conversation.

Name tags, he says, serve as a modern-day front porch. They're a welcoming invitation for people to be sociable.

Ginsberg, 23, grew up in the St. Louis suburb of Creve Coeur. As a sophomore at Miami of Ohio in October 1999, he had to wear a name tag for a seminar. On a whim, he and a friend decided to keep their name tags on after the lecture ended. That night, Ginsberg explains, he met about 20 new people when they approached him to say hello or struck up conversations.

About a year later, Ginsberg and his friend recalled the fun they'd had that night. Scott had an epiphany: What if I wore a name tag all the time?

"It's an icebreaker. It makes people feel comfortable," he says. "It's not for me to get popular or to let people know who I am. It's for other people."

The name tag also forces Ginsberg himself to be a happier, more approachable person.

His tag often makes others friendlier, too. He meets new people almost every day, and name tag-wearing comes with perks. He's gotten free nachos out of the deal.

On the other hand, he said some have threatened to beat the snot out of him. He's not entirely sure why, but the name tag can really enrage those who think he's being a smart aleck.

"It's an icebreaker. It makes people feel comfortable. It's not for me to get popular or to let people know who I am. It's for other people."

— SCOTT GINSBERG

Wears a name tag

There's another downside: Panhandlers sometimes latch onto his name and beg him personally for money.

Still, the idea is catching on. Two of Scott's cousins in Creve Coeur liked the idea so much they started wearing name tags too.

One of the cousins, 21-year-old Justin Diedrich, is a senior at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. His commitment to the name tag was toughest when he was interviewing for medical school. "It's so quirky. I wasn't sure. I was kind of nervous about it," he said.

As he sat down in the office before his interview, wearing his "Justin" name tag, a secretary walked out carrying name tags for every other applicant to wear, said

Diedrich, who was accepted and will start medical school in the fall.

Anne Bernays co-authored the book "The Language of Names" with her husband, Justin Kaplan, and calls herself a great advocate of name tags in social situations.

"It's sort of like an invitation," she says, because it shows someone is open to meeting others. "People recognize that names are profound. It's not just a name tag. It's a signal they want to be friends."

Ginsberg, who now lives in Portland, Ore., has self-published a book, "Hello, My Name is Scott," which comes with a few blank name tags attached to the back cover, and created a Web site about his name tag experiences.

He's gone for job interviews wearing his name tag, and said if a company didn't want to hire him because of it, he wouldn't want to work there. He plans to attend a wedding this summer wearing the name tag at the groom's request.

And, he says, he gets many opportunities to help people out when they think he's a store clerk or a coat check guy. He usually just plays along, helping them make copies or hanging up their coats.

Ginsberg is considering becoming a motivational speaker. Meanwhile, Jane Ginsberg has been wearing a "Scott's Mom" name tag on occasion to show support for her son.

"He thinks he can make a difference in this world, and I think I'm reaching the point where I think he can, too," she said.

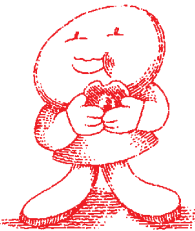
Ginsberg knows name tags aren't for everyone, but it's his way to brighten the world.

"If you take care of the inches, the miles will take care of themselves," he says.



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