

FREE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 146

Santa Monica Daily Press

Picked fresh daily. 100% organic news.

Superintendent gets \$86K salary advance for new SM residence

Salary advance will be completely paid back over time

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

After living in Santa Monica for almost a year, the superintendent of schools may finally get his new home.

Last week the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified board of education approved advancing John Deasy \$85,785 for a down payment on a Santa Monica home located north of Wilshire Boulevard.

The advancement will be paid back in the form of lower salary increases and bonuses, and it must be paid back in full before Deasy leaves the district.

The school board has been paying Deasy a monthly \$1,500 housing stipend since he was hired last July. However, about two months ago the board attempted to loan Deasy \$100,000, but the plan was shot down by the Los Angeles County Board of

Education. County officials said using the public's credit rating for personal matters violated the state's constitution.

"I think it's essential the superintendent live in our community. He is a community leader."

— JULIA BROWNLEY
School board president

But Deasy put a down payment on a home, thinking the loan would be approved. When the loan was denied he was still short some of the money. That's the reason the amount of the loan and the salary advance are different.

"It seemed like the only way we

See SUPERINTENDENT, page 3

Customers the focus at SM county courthouse

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Dealing with lawyers, criminals, and delinquents on a daily basis can grate on your nerves.

But the staff at the Santa Monica Courthouse are more than happy to help the downtrodden and betrayed. They were trained that way.

More than 300 county employees at courthouses on the westside recently completed customer service training, a program mandated by presiding superior court judge James Bascue.

All county courthouse employees must have completed the training by June. But on the westside, most employees finished it months ago.

Beth Filosa, Santa Monica Superior Court manager, said the "customers" on the westside are different than

other jurisdictions because they require a bit more attention.

"Our customers on in the west district are highly educated, very wealthy and you have to deal with them differently," she said. "Our customers don't necessarily want to be here because it's stressful and it's their time, money and freedom at stake."

Hundreds of people flow through the doors of the Santa Monica Courthouse every day, many of whom are high-powered attorneys and their clients can be high maintenance at times.

"We are trying everything we can do to improve our relations with customers," Filosa said. "People think we are the typical government types and we need to change that image."

See COURTS, page 3

Pier catches fire



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The Santa Monica Fire Department was called to The Santa Monica Pier at 6 p.m. Tuesday when a small fire broke out under the pier and burned several boards. Fire officials believe a discarded cigarette was the cause of the fire, which they said is a common occurrence on the pier. The smoke activated the pier's sprinkler system, which is located beneath the pier and sprays the boards from underneath. There was only minor damage caused and a few boards will have to be replaced, fire officials said. A total of three fire engines were dispatched to the scene, where 21 SMFD fire fighters easily extinguished the small blaze.

Son stabs mother several times

By Daily Press Staff

A man was taken into custody by Santa Monica Police officers for allegedly stabbing his mother multiple times.

Santa Monica Police officers were called to the 600 block of Ashland Avenue at about 3 p.m. Tuesday for a possible carjacking in process.

When officers arrived at the scene they found a 51-year old female victim that had been stabbed several times. The woman was taken to an area hospital where she is listed in stable condition, said SMPD Sgt. Greg Smiley.

Police officers searched the area immediately around where the incident occurred and located the suspect hiding on a roof of a nearby home.

When officers spotted him, the suspect jumped off the roof and tried to run-away. After a brief pursuit the suspect, a 20 year-

old white male, was taken into custody.

The identities of the mother and son have not yet been released by the police department, but as a matter of policy the department does not release the names of victims.

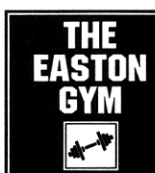
Smiley could not say whether either the son or the mother were Santa Monica residents.

"She was on her way to visit somebody in Santa Monica and that's why she was here," Smiley said. "At least that's how I currently understand it."

Officers recovered the knife used in the stabbing at the scene, but at press time they could not offer a detailed description of the weapon.

The son is being held in the Santa Monica jail on charges of attempted murder and armed robbery. Though it was a carjacking call, police could not say what was stolen.

"Obviously he took something," said Smiley. "Whether it was the car, I'm not sure, but it was something."



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Community Yoga Classes offered to students of all levels. \$6, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Saturday 2 p.m., Santa Monica Yoga, 1640 Ocean Park Blvd., (310) 396-4040.

Puppetolio! hosted by Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center will be held today at 1:00 p.m. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet Museum and workshop. The program is for all ages, 3 and up. All seats: \$6.50. The Center is located at 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica, adjacent to the Third Street Promenade. Reservations/Information: (310) 656-0483 or www.puppet-magic.com.

Shiatsu Massage School of California is hosting Kung Fu classes for advanced students from 4:15 to 5:15 every Wednesday. Suggested donation per class is \$4.00. Free

class for first-time visitors. Instructed by: Master Luu Truong. 2309 Main St., (310) 396-4877.

Lamaze Childbirth - Lamaze natural childbirth classes will be offered at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center on Wednesdays, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Classroom B at the medical center, 1250 16th St. in Santa Monica. \$135 Call (310) 319-4947 for reservations.

Want to be on the A-List?
Send your calendar items to
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Today at the Movies!

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 - 7:15 - 9:45

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Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN
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ENIGMA
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MONSTERS BALL [R]
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 ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★ Reach out for another at a distance. Step forward and take a risk. Others look to you for advice. Take your time; don't push others. A family member demands your attention. Juggle your time carefully, as so many are making demands on you. Tonight: Prepare to work late. You might not have a choice.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Use your skills to look past the immediate. Instantly you see another's power play. Your strength lies in the fact that you won't play into it. Stay centered. Carefully consider options that surround a loved one. Your instincts serve you well. If you need, find a trusted adviser. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★ Expenses go out of whack. Understand more of what is going on through observation. Check out how another handles a money matter. Carefully review a personal matter with someone in the know. You want to eliminate unneeded worry, don't you? Tonight: Let someone treat you.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Another might come on strong. Decide what it is that you want from this person, and then ask. Others clearly respond to your requests. Understanding reaches a new level. Your sunny side emerges when you're in groups. Tonight: Follow another's lead.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Let another lead you through his or her process and way of thinking. Confusion surrounds your work and a boss. Keep clarifying. Your intuition, which is inordinately strong, takes you in the correct direction. Listen to yourself. Take a walk and tune in to you! Tonight: Work out stress through exercise. A massage could work as well.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your creativity comes out, especially during meetings and/or in the company of others. Others tap into your ingenuity and imagination. Make a call to a child or loved one. This person truly appreciates hearing from you. Tonight: A little flirtation goes a long way.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Listen well to another and don't push too hard. Your perspective could change considerably when dealing with family and loved ones. Deal with the basics, but still stay on top of work. No wonder you could be exhausted by evening. Tonight: Take a nap.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Carefully sort through information that comes your way. On some level, you could be on information overload. Let another chip in, especially as someone could add more work to your day. Stay open and speak your mind. Tonight: Chill out at a favorite spot.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★ Take a hard look at your finances before you make a decision about a loan or respond to another's request. Don't promise anything you're not 100 percent sure about. Remain optimistic at work. Listen to another carefully. Tonight: Your treat.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ The moon in your sign empowers you. You could be difficult to stop once you get going. Your imagination knows no limits. Listen to another carefully before you make a commitment. You could be slightly overenthusiastic. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Listen to another carefully. What seems inconsequential could be far more relevant than you think. Work with another carefully, with an eye to positive changes. Maintain a low profile right now. Just focus on your job. Tonight: Do your own thing.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Maintain your goals and don't lose sight of them. Though you easily could be distracted by another's babble, you zero in on what you want. Stay on top of your work, and you'll hit a homerun. Others go "wow." Plan on celebrating. Tonight: Gather with your pals.

QUOTE of the DAY

“A critic is a man who knows
the way but can't drive the car.”

— Kenneth Tynan (1927-1980)

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
 Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
 530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #200 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

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LOCAL



School district wants superintendent to live locally



John Deasy

SUPERINTENDENT, from page 1

could do it," said Julia Brownley, school board president. "It was the only way we could create it in such a way that it is not a loan but allow John to pay it back over time."

When the school district was hiring a new superintendent, the school board added a requirement that the new chief administrator live in either Santa Monica or Malibu — the two communities that make up the school district.

"We thought we were negotiating a contract that would afford John the ability to live locally," Brownley said. "But it turned out not to be the case because housing in Santa Monica is very expensive."

According to local real estate broker Faith "Judy" Wisansky of Century 21 Better Homes, finding affordable housing in Santa Monica can be difficult.

She said three-bedroom homes north of Montana Avenue will list for more than \$1 million. Homes north of Wilshire Boulevard are ranging between \$700-\$900,000, while homes in Ocean Park and Sunset Park average \$500-\$700,000, according to Wisansky.

Similar homes in the Pico neighborhood average in the low \$400,000 range.

"But between Pico (Boulevard) and Olympic (Boulevard) is not considered a prime area," she said. "We're in a transition period there."

Wisansky said some "fixer-uppers" in Sunset Park and Ocean Park can be found in the mid-\$400,000 range.

Home buyers have to act quickly because Santa Monica real estate goes fast. "It's a sellers market right now," she said. "You can get multiple offers on property right now."

And because the city is built out, the

costs of homes is not likely to decrease in value, Wisansky said.

"We don't have that much land left here," she said. "People don't preserve the homes they buy, they knock them down and rebuild. There's not a lot of land left to build new homes."

Both Deasy and school board members believe it is very important for him to live in the community where he works.

"I think it's essential the superintendent live in our community," Brownley said. "He is a community leader. If you watch any superintendent do their job, it goes around the clock."

Deasy said where he works has always been important to him.

"It's important to me and my family, and I also want to work in the community where my kids go to school," he said. "To be settled makes us very happy, this is a very good community."

Courts go customer friendly

COURTS, from page 1

And while the clerks behind the counters in departments like civil, probate, small claims and juvenile court know that the court's mission is to record and resolve legal matters, they often times are asked legal advice. There's a fine line between customer service and giving advice, which many people don't understand.

That's often times the case in small claim court, where people sue each other without attorneys for claims under \$5,000. Most of the time, they don't know how the process works and have thousands of questions for the clerks.

"You get the same people, the same questions every day," said small claims deputy clerk Hernan Osuna. "They don't know what they are doing but I always try to put them in my shoes."

"If you start with an attitude, you'll get an attitude back," he added.

The superior court is making a big push to instill customer service into all of its employees during a time when most companies have forgotten that it may be their most important aspect of doing business. There has been an increase in the number of people suing banks, credit card companies and airlines — just to get customer service from the faceless corporations who won't respond to their client's disputes.

And the customers are winning many of the suits, but it doesn't seem to be hitting the companies' bottom line — yet.

The employees in Santa Monica

Courthouse also were trained to treat each other as customers. Courts and clerks often times work between departments, which is why it's important to treat everyone the same, Filosa said.

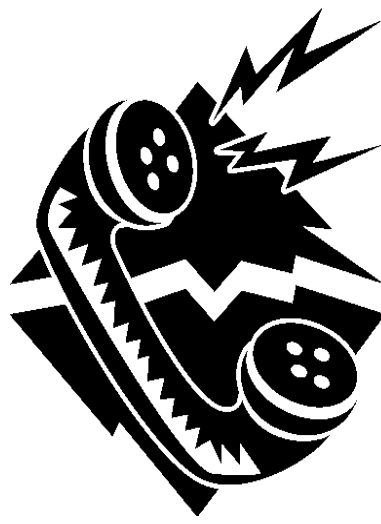
"If you start with an attitude, you'll get an attitude back."

— **HERNAN OSUNA**
Small claims deputy clerk

"People just fire stuff at us all day and it's stressful for us too," Filosa said. "We want to make the experience, although not pleasurable, at least not traumatic."

The entire superior court system also has made dealing with it more user friendly. Courthouses now have information booths that are manned all day. There, people can get information about the court's services, legal aid and names of attorneys for those who need referrals.

The court system also created a new online self-help center for customers seeking information about legal help, the mediation process, family law, traffic, juvenile law, small claims and a host of other instructional material. Log on to www.courtinfo.ca.gov for more information.



Got News?

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The Q-Line

While most of us can agree that Santa Monica is one of the best places to live, it's not without its problems. A recent city survey revealed that residents' biggest complaints are traffic and the homeless. Those happen to be the same complaints from the previous year. The problems don't seem to be going away so this week, Q-Line wants to know how

you'd handle it. **"If you ran the show here, how would you make Santa Monica better?"**

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STATE

Miller family fights for famous slogan used by Miller Co.

BY KAREN GAUDETTE
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — “It’s Miller Time” is a popular slogan used by Miller Brewing Co. to market its lager. But it was the Miller family of San Mateo County that first had dibs on the phrase as an Internet domain name.

Repeated efforts by the Milwaukee beer-maker to force the family to give up millertime.com have prompted Mark Miller and his family to file a complaint against Miller Brewing in U.S. district court.

The Millers hope the court will block the National Arbitration Forum from forcing them to give up the domain name, which they’ve owned since 1995, according to register.com.

Miller Brewing has held a federal

trademark on the phrase “It’s Miller Time” since 2001 and “Miller Time, Miller Beer” since 1993, and has used variations of the saying to market its brews since 1972, giving the company a common law trademark, said spokesman Scott Bussen.

“We understand that the Miller family is trying to create a family Web site here, but we would hope that they would have understood as well that this is an integral part of our business and that we have invested a considerable number of years making that phrase mean something to people,” Bussen said.

Calls and e-mails to Mark Miller and his attorney were not immediately returned Tuesday.

The Millers have used their Web site to post pictures of themselves and discuss

their careers, achievements and hobbies. Mark Miller is executive director of the Miller Institute for Learning With Technology, a nonprofit consulting organization that works with schools.

In 1999, Congress passed the Anti-cybersquatting Consumer Protection Act, which established that the use of a registered trademark as a domain name may constitute trademark infringement.

In 2001, Miller Brewing wrote to Mark Miller, asking he cease using millertime.com under the act. When he refused, Miller Brewing filed a complaint with the National Arbitration Forum to resolve the debate.

On April 15, an arbitrator also agreed Mark Miller should give up the domain name, prompting him Monday to file the complaint in federal court.

Miller claims his family’s site is making “legitimate noncommercial or fair use of the domain name, without intent for commercial gain to misleadingly divert consumers or to tarnish the trademark or service mark at issue.”

That means the site would be in accordance with dispute policy rules issued by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. ICANN is recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce as the governing body for the assignment of Internet addresses, the complaint says.

Millertime.com currently directs visitors to millerlite.com if they are looking for the brewing company, with no other mention of beer. Miller Brewing Co. owns the “millertime” domain name for several other popular suffixes, including .biz.

County supervisor, billboard owner charged with bribery

By The Associated press

LOS ANGELES — A federal judge has ordered San Bernardino County Supervisor Jerry Eaves and a billboard company owner to stand trial on renewed bribery, conspiracy and fraud charges.

Eaves and William S. “Shep” McCook pleaded innocent Monday to the charges. Their trial is scheduled to start Sept. 3.

Eaves is accused of using his influence as a public official to help McCook get city and county approvals to build seven billboards in exchange for two Las Vegas

trips for himself and eight trips for relatives and friends.

A federal judge dismissed bribery charges against McCook and Eaves in January, saying that the federal government did not have jurisdiction to bring such charges.

But prosecutors filed new charges earlier this month using a different section of the law.

McCook also is accused of bribing Colton City Councilman Donald Sanders and former Mayor Abe Beltran to win approval for the signs, which would not have been ordinarily permitted under Colton’s sign ordinance.

Both men have denied the charges.

Eaves previously said he supported the billboard project because it would make money for the county. The free stays at the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas accepted from Cook by his family and friends does not constitute bribery, Eaves said.

McCook’s partner in the billboard company Oakridge Corp., Allan Steward, and his former employee Beltran, pleaded guilty last year to bribery associated with the effort to get the billboards approved.

Former Colton Councilman Don Sanders also pleaded guilty to accepting bribes from McCook and Beltran in exchange for his pro-billboard votes.

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STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

George Clinton sues Johnnie Cochran Jr.'s law firm

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Musician George Clinton sued attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr.'s law firm, claiming fraud and malpractice over a copyright dispute.

Clinton filed the lawsuit Monday in Superior Court. He is seeking unspecified damages and legal fees.

Clinton, best known for his work with Funkadelic and Parliament, hired Cochran's firm in 1997 to represent him in a legal battle with the publishing company, Bridgeport Music Inc. The company claimed ownership of Clinton's catalog of music, the lawsuit contends.

Clinton alleges that one of Cochran's employees, Donald Wilson Jr., failed to competently defend his interests. Clinton claims Wilson did not effectively cross-examine witnesses and lied about the potential for witnesses to support his case.

As a result, Clinton claims he lost the copyright to his own music.

Cochran's office referred callers to Wilson, who didn't return telephone messages left Tuesday.

Vice principal checks girls' underwear at dance

By The Associated Press

POWAY — School district officials are investigating allegations that a female vice principal lifted girls' skirts — in front of male students and adults — to make sure they weren't wearing thong underwear at a dance.

The officials are interviewing students and staff before responding to parents who have called for the dismissal of the vice principal at Rancho Bernardo High School, a district spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Kim Teal, whose 15-year-old daughter attended the dance but was not checked, said the vice principal and a female counselor lifted girls' skirts in the presence of male students, teachers and two police officers outside the school.

"Everyone saw everything," Teal said. "It was a big peep show."

A statement from the Poway Unified School District said that "after it is clear what actions were taken by staff, remedial actions will be determined."

Students said they were told to line up outside the gym before entering the dance so Vice Principal Rita Wilson could check their underwear. Those wearing thongs were turned away.

The vice principal did not return phone calls seeking comment Tuesday. District spokeswoman Sharon Raffer wouldn't say why thong underwear would be prohibited at a school dance, but said that "dress needs to be appropriate."

Parents argued there is nothing in the school dress code about thong underwear.

"It's not their right to know what kind of underwear these kids have," parent Alane Garvik told television station KGTV in San Diego.

Authorities find unfinished tunnel near U.S.-Mexico border

By The Associated Press

IMPERIAL BEACH — Border Patrol agents searching for illegal immigrants earlier this month stumbled across an unfinished tunnel near the U.S.-Mexico border.

The tunnel was dug into a hillside about 1,200 feet from the border, Border Patrol spokesman Raleigh Leonard said Tuesday.

The tunnel, which measures 6 feet high and 4 feet wide, runs only 65 feet in length.

An agent discovered the tunnel April 10 when he poked his flashlight into what appeared to be small animal hole and discovered a passage that ran on for some length, Leonard said.

The Border Patrol kept the tunnel under surveillance for several days, but did not see signs of activity, he said.

"Obviously, nobody was using it anymore," Leonard said.

Investigators don't know how long ago tunnel construction began. No displaced dirt was found in the area.

The tunnel was built on land owned by San Diego County. Sheriff's officials are developing a plan to destroy it, Leonard said.

In February, a tip led authorities to a tunnel that ran from the outskirts of Tecate, Mexico to a private home in Tierra del Sol, a rural community 60 miles east of San Diego.

Authorities believe the tunnel was in operation for two to three years and was used to smuggle drugs by associates of the Arellano Felix drug cartel, a violent gang based in the border city of Tijuana, Mexico.

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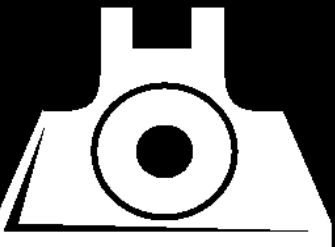
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STATE

Air quality flunks American Lung Association's standards

BY BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO — You know the old joke about the guy from Los Angeles who doesn't trust air he can't see? Turns out he would feel at home in most of the state.

An unhealthy haze of brown smog blankets 34 of the state's 58 counties too many days a year, and four of the state's most populated areas are more polluted than any other region in the country, according to an American Lung Association report being released Thursday.

California retained its dubious distinction of having the worst smog pollution in the nation, with six metropolitan areas on the ALA's top 10 list, including the top four spots.

"This report is really focused on ozone pollution as a national problem, but we're most famous for it in California," said Dr. John Balmes, president of the ALA's medical section.

The Los Angeles area, including Riverside, Orange and San Bernardino counties, is at the top of the list for the third straight year, followed by Bakersfield, Fresno, and the Visalia-Tulare-Porterville areas. The Houston metro area, which is notoriously plagued with bad air, was fifth.

The State of the Air report is based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data from 1998-2000 that measures the number of days air quality is unhealthy under the EPA's air quality index for ozone, commonly called smog.

It does not take into account improvements in the past year.

The state has reduced two-thirds of its smog in the past two decades, but it still has much further to go.

The Los Angeles area has made the greatest progress, reducing 75 percent of its smog since 1985, but it still does not foresee meeting federal standards until 2010, said Lisha Smith, spokeswoman for the South Coast Air Quality

Management District.

"In general the rest of the state hasn't made progress, the Central Valley is one of those places," Balmes said.

Ozone pollution, commonly called smog, forms when emissions from fuel combustion combine with sunlight, creating a chemical reaction that chokes the air and leaves a brown haze visible on the horizon.

The annual survey comes three months after a study by researchers at the University of Southern California showed that smog not only exacerbated asthma, as was widely believed, but also caused asthma, which is a major health problem nationwide.

Although California has strict auto emission standards and stringent air pollution regulations, the state as a whole has failed to clean up its air fast enough.

California's pollution is blamed on explosive population growth, its car culture, a sunny climate that creates smog and a topography that traps air pollution.

"There's been real progress, but it's a tough battle," said Richard Varenchik, deputy communications director for the California Air Resources Board. "With the population, the geography and climate, it's a tough battle to fight."

The state had the top five smoggiest counties on the list. San Bernardino County received the worst rating for the third year in a row, followed by Kern, Fresno, Riverside and Tulare counties.

San Bernardino can pin most of its problems on drifting smog from the Los Angeles area. Similarly, air pollution from the San Francisco Bay area wafts into the San Joaquin Valley, contributing about 27 percent of the smog in the northern part of the valley and about 10 percent in the southern end.

The drifting pollution is currently the subject of legislation and litigation as Central Valley lawmakers and two regional air districts push for tougher emissions standards for Bay Area automobiles.

LA Sheriff Deputy's killing could be narcotics-linked

BY TOM HARRIGAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The fatal shooting of a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy during a traffic stop may have a narcotics connection and the killer may have been in the country illegally, authorities said Tuesday.

Deputy David March, 33, was shot and killed Monday in Irwindale, 25 miles east of Los Angeles, when he pulled over a car.

The Sheriff's Department released no details behind the new information, saying in a statement that "the shooting may be related to a narcotics violation" and that investigators were working with the Immigration and Naturalization Service in looking for the killer.

The gunman and two or three other companions were in a black, four-door 1989 Nissan believed to have the California license plate 4BCZ512. The gunman got back in the car after shooting March and sped away. March died at a hospital an hour later.

Sheriff's officials said March was

making what appeared to be a routine traffic stop.

A person who was detained for questioning Monday was released, but many other people also were interviewed, authorities said.

"Anybody matching the (suspect's) description in the area had been detained and questioned," Deputy Richard Westin said.

Gov. Gray Davis on Tuesday ordered the flag on the state Capitol lowered to half-staff until March's funeral.

"Law enforcement officers throughout the state, and throughout this country, put their lives on the line every day. When an officer loses his or her life while trying to make the streets safer for others, it is the ultimate sacrifice," said Davis.

March, a Santa Clarita resident, was with the Sheriff's Department for seven years and was assigned to the Temple City station.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa, a stepdaughter, and parents John and Barbara Lee March of Canyon Country. Funeral arrangements were pending.

NATIONAL



NATIONAL BRIEFS

Minnesota governor's residence could close

By The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — In yet another tangle with the Legislature, Gov. Jesse Ventura threatened to close the governor's mansion at the end of the work day Tuesday because of budget cuts imposed by lawmakers.

The former pro wrestler said that lawmakers left him no choice but to close the 20-room English Tudor residence when they cut his spending more than their own and reduced his security budget.

Attorney General Mike Hatch issued an opinion Tuesday that says state law requires Ventura to keep the 92-year-old mansion open and available for ceremonial purposes. But Ventura called that just an opinion and said he planned to go ahead with the closing.

Ventura and his wife, Terry, used the mansion frequently in his first couple of years in office, but these days they spend most nights at their horse ranch in suburban Maple Grove. Ventura sometimes eats at the mansion and exercises there, and many official functions are held at the home.

Trying to close a deficit estimated at more than \$2 billion, lawmakers recently enacted a budget over Ventura's veto that cuts \$1.3 million from his \$9.3 million office and security budgets. Ventura's aides said it would take \$375,000 to run the mansion through the end of June 2003.

Some lawmakers said Ventura, a political independent, was retaliating by targeting a state symbol like the mansion.

Researcher accused of economic espionage

By The Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — A Japanese scientist accused of stealing biological materials used for research on Alzheimer's disease was charged Tuesday with making false statements to the government.

Hiroaki Serizawa, a researcher at the University of Kansas Medical Center, is accused of stealing research materials from the Cleveland Clinic with his friend Takashi Okamoto, a former scientist at the clinic.

A hearing on the new charge against Serizawa is scheduled for Wednesday before U.S. District Judge David Dowd Jr. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Prosecutors did not say what Serizawa made false statements about.

Serizawa, 40, and Okamoto already face two counts of conspiracy to violate the economic espionage act, interstate transportation of stolen property and making false statements to the government. Both have pleaded innocent.

Prosecutors said Serizawa took the material for the benefit of his new employers at a government-funded Japanese research center.

Serizawa's trial is scheduled to begin May 13. No trial date is set for Okamoto, who is living in Japan. Federal officials are pursuing his extradition, assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Edwards said.

Bar manager charged for setting fire to grain alcohol

By The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The manager of a downtown bar is accused of recklessness for setting fire to a high-proof grain alcohol, burning nine University of Iowa students standing nearby.

Troy David Kline, 26, of Coralville, was charged with misdemeanor reckless use

of fire for his role in the April 19 bar stunt.

The Johnson County attorney's office also charged the popular student club Et Cetera for using an open flame device in a drinking establishment.

Investigators say Kline poured alcohol into a stainless steel trough along the bartender's side of the bar and set fire to it. As the fire began to fizzle, Kline poured more liquor on the fire, causing a flash fire that burned students watching from the other side, authorities said.

The student who suffered the most serious injuries, Deana Busche, 20, of Schaumburg, Ill., was hospitalized with third-degree burns on her arms and second-degree burns to her face.

Two students burned in the stunt have sued the bar, claiming recklessness and negligence. The lawsuits allege the stunt had been performed routinely for weeks.

Kline surrendered to authorities Tuesday and was released on his own recognizance. He declined to comment as he left the courthouse. The misdemeanor charge carries up to a year in jail and fines up to \$1,500.

Illinois governor urged to resign

By The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The state's attorney general says Gov. George Ryan should consider resigning because of an "extraordinary erosion of trust" caused by the bribery scandal among his underlings.

Attorney General Jim Ryan, the GOP nominee for governor, is the most prominent Republican yet to suggest the governor should think about quitting.

His statement issued Tuesday was in response to a poll suggesting that two-thirds of Illinoisans believe the Republican governor should quit because of the scandal. The governor, not related to Jim Ryan, already has decided not to seek a second term.

"I said from the first day of my candidacy for governor that we must restore trust in government," Jim Ryan said in the statement issued Tuesday.

The governor has not been accused in the four-year scandal in which 48 individuals have been charged and 42 convicted, many of them former secretary of state's employees and campaign workers under the governor.

"The decision to step down is one only Gov. George Ryan can make," Jim Ryan said. "But given the extraordinary erosion of trust in his office, unfortunately, it's one he must consider."

Ryan said Tuesday he hasn't considered resigning. He denied that public mistrust makes it harder to do his job, and he attributed Jim Ryan's remarks to politics.

"Jim Ryan feels like he's got to make some comments, based on some polls. That's up to him," the governor said. "I'm not concerned about all this political stuff."

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NATIONAL

Like a 'tadpole' in the sky

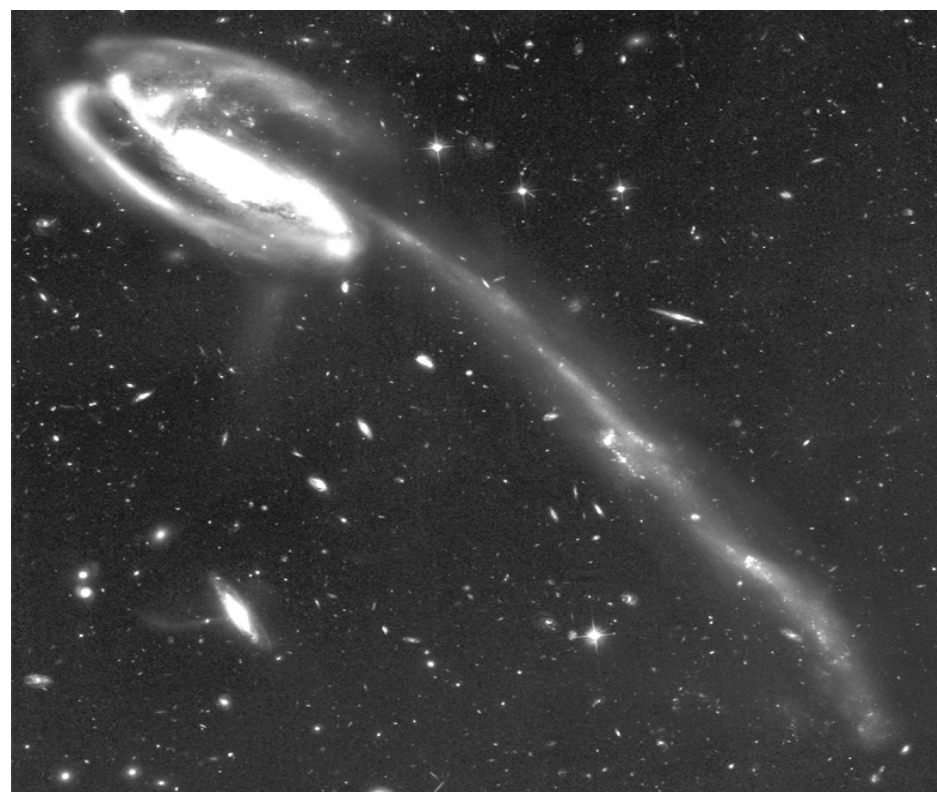


Photo courtesy of NASA

This picture of the galaxy UGC 10214 was taken earlier this month by the Advanced Camera for Surveys, which was installed aboard NASA's Hubble Space Telescope during Servicing Mission 3B. Dubbed the "Tadpole," this spiral galaxy is unlike the textbook images of stately galaxies. Its distorted shape was caused by a small interloper, a very blue, compact galaxy visible in the upper left corner of the more massive Tadpole.

FBI accuses Islamic charity, director of supporting terrorist

BY MIKE ROBINSON
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — An Islamic charity and its director were charged with perjury Tuesday and accused by the FBI of supporting terrorists who tried to obtain nuclear weapons for Osama bin Laden and plotted to assassinate the pope.

Federal agents said the Benevolence International Foundation had links to bin Laden going back decades and moved sizable amounts of cash for his al-Qaida terrorist network during the 1990s.

As recently as 2000, the FBI said, the foundation forwarded \$685,000 to Islamic guerillas trained by bin Laden's group to fight Russians in Chechnya.

The FBI also said that members of al-Qaida have held positions within the charity, and that a man who tried to obtain uranium for bin Laden even listed the charity's Illinois address as his home.

"This complaint alleges Benevolence International Foundation was supporting violence secretly," U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said.

Enaam M. Arnaout, the head of the charity based in suburban Palos Hills, was arrested at his home Tuesday and described by authorities as a trusted acquaintance of bin Laden. The 39-year-old Syrian-born naturalized American was ordered held for a hearing May 7.

"I am confident that Mr. Arnaout is not engaged in terrorist activities, nor has he supported such activities knowingly or directly," said his attorney, Stephen Levy. He suggested his client would be "more than helpful" if federal officials grant Arnaout immunity from prosecution.

An attorney for the charity, Matthew Piers, did not return a call.

The foundation is one of two Chicago-area Islamic charities whose assets were frozen Dec. 14 on suspicion of supporting

terrorism. Federal agents also raided their offices that day. The co-founder of Global Relief Foundation, the other organization, is being held on an immigration charge.

Both groups have sued the government, denying they have anything to do with terrorism and asking that their assets be released. Arnaout and Benevolence International were charged Tuesday with lying under oath in that case when they said the foundation doesn't fund terrorism or military activity.

Federal investigators have been watching Benevolence International for years. An FBI affidavit said a search of the group's trash in 1999 turned up a clipping from a Seattle newspaper focusing on the danger of a smallpox epidemic.

Brochures for Benevolence International describe it as a humanitarian organization "dedicated to helping those afflicted by wars and natural disasters" in Afghanistan and other countries. IRS reports show that it received \$3.3 million in contributions for the year ending April 2000.

The FBI affidavit said the charity was founded in the 1980s by Saudi sheik Adil Abdul Galil Batargy, a bin Laden associate, and that control of the group was later given to Arnaout.

According to the affidavit, Benevolence International had links to people involved in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, a plot to bomb U.S. airlines and a plan to assassinate Pope John Paul II during his 1995 visit to the Philippines.

The affidavit does not accuse Arnaout or the charity of involvement in the alleged plots. But it says they lied about their ties to terrorists who were involved.

Several unidentified witnesses told authorities that al-Qaida members have held positions within the charity and that the group was used by bin Laden in the 1990s to transfer money, the affidavit said.

NATIONAL



Study details child care work force with surprising results

BY REBECCA COOK
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Nearly one-third of paid child care workers are relatives who often lack training and government oversight, according to a national study released Wednesday.

About 2.3 million people — a larger number than previously thought — earn their money by caring for preschoolers, the study commissioned by the Department of Health and Human Services found.

The study involved 7,000 households and focused on people who care for children up to age 5. It was performed by researchers at the University of Washington and the Center for the Child Care Workforce.

"This is a very critical development phase. They soak up learning like sponges," said co-author Richard Brandon, a senior researcher at the university. "We need people appropriately trained to teach them."

The Census Bureau has estimated the size of the child care work force at 1.7 million. But the study was the first to include paid grandparents and other relatives who care for many of the nation's children.

Economist Jared Bernstein, former deputy chief economist at the Department of Labor, noted that the study provides an

update on child care at a time when more parents are working.

"Over the past decade, the demand for child care has increased. The study has an urgency now that it didn't have 10 years ago," Bernstein said. "Who's minding the kids is crucial."

About 2.3 million people — a larger number than previously thought — earn their money by caring for preschoolers

Brandon said the study illuminates the need for more training and support, especially for informal and unlicensed caregivers. According to the Labor Department, child care is one of the nation's fastest-growing occupations.

"You want to find the isolated, clueless caregivers and give them help," Brandon said.

Advocates for child care workers said they hope the study will make politicians and the public appreciate the number and importance of child care workers.

"It's a very hidden group of people," said Faith Wohl, president of the New York-based Child Care Action Campaign. "They do have a large impact on our future."

Study finds mildly depressed women tend to live longer

BY WILLIAM L. HOLMES
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. — Mildly depressed older women tend to live longer than those who are not depressed at all, a surprising new study suggests.

The findings are contrary to most other studies on the link between depression and mortality. Those studies have generally shown that depression increases the likelihood of death within a certain time period.

"This is totally counterintuitive to what you expect to see," said Dan G. Blazer, a Duke University professor of psychiatry and behavioral science. "We know that depression in younger populations is very clearly associated with mortality. It's not so clear in older populations."

The results might support the theory that mild depression is a survival mechanism, he said.

The Duke study, to be published in the May-June issue of the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, is the first known examination of mild depression and death, Blazer said. Other studies looked only at people with severe depression.

The Duke study was based on a group that started with 2,401 women and 1,269 men, all older than 65. They were interviewed about their health at roughly three-year intervals from 1986 to 1997 and were separated into three categories — depressed, mildly depressed and not depressed — based on their answers to a 20-question test.

Blazer said 10.5 per cent of the women were considered mildly depressed.

The women with mild depression were, on average, 60 percent less likely

than other women to die during any three-year period, Blazer said. Researchers took into account age, chronic illness and other factors in calculating the mortality rate.

The researchers found that depression had no influence on the mortality of men.

"We don't want to make too much out of this except that it's a very interesting finding."

— DAN G. BLAZER
Duke University professor

"We don't want to make too much out of this except that it's a very interesting finding," Blazer said.

Blazer said the study may support a theory advanced by University of Michigan psychiatrist Randolph M. Nesse that says mild depression may allow people to cope more easily with their problems and remove themselves from dangerous or harmful situations.

According to Nesse humans may need "low mood" or mild depression to deal with failure and disappointment. "People who don't have it waste their whole lives trying to do things they won't ever do," he said.

A psychiatrist not involved in Blazer's work, Dr. Richard Schulz of the University of Pittsburgh, questioned the findings, noting that previous research has shown that both mild depression and severe depression lead to increased mortality.

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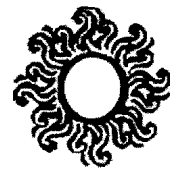
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SPORTS

After 42 years, Lakers bid Mr. Clutch goodbye

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO — Mitch Kupchak gave it one final shot, trying to convince Jerry West he shouldn't leave Los Angeles to take a new job 1,800 miles away.

It didn't work.

"After 42 years with an organization, it's hard to believe he's not going to be affiliated in some fashion," Kupchak said Tuesday. "I saw him this morning, he's on a plane."

"You've got to make sure with him."

Kupchak, who succeeded West as general manager of the Lakers in August 2000, said he wasn't convinced West was accepting the job as president of basketball operations with the Memphis Grizzlies until Monday night.

West, who turns 64 in four weeks, has been known to change his mind, having threatened for years to retire as GM of the Lakers before finally doing so. He served as a \$1 million per year consultant for the team since stepping down.

Kupchak went to the airport to see his good friend one last time before the flight to Memphis for Tuesday's news conference.

"He's excited," Kupchak said. "To me, it's clear he has the itch. It's something he felt he wanted to address."

"I tried to talk him out of it. I would be lying if I didn't say it was emotional. He looked at me and smiled, his mind was made up. He feels really good about this."

West wasn't feeling very good about much of anything two years ago. Fact is, he was a mess in his final days running the Lakers, stepping down less than two months after they won their first championship in 12 years.

"He was a tortured person at that time," Kupchak recalled.

West couldn't bring himself to watch many of the playoff games, and his health was considered a potential problem.

Kupchak admitted it remained a concern.

"Once again I hope he's doing the right thing," Kupchak said.

Kupchak said West is probably happiest when things aren't going well, which explains a lot about his demeanor during the playoffs two years ago.

"The happiest I've seen him is when he was rebuilding this team in the '90s," Kupchak said. "The challenge keeps you busy."

"The good thing about the Grizzlies and taking that job is they're not going to get much worse. The move to Memphis (from Vancouver before last season) was a positive move. They have a committed owner. They'll get better."

In seven seasons, since joining the NBA as an expansion franchise in 1995, the Grizzlies have a .229 winning percentage — worst in league history.

With West at the controls, the Lakers put together their championship nucleus in the summer of 1996, signing Shaquille O'Neal as a free agent, drafting Derek Fisher and acquiring the rights to Kobe Bryant.

They picked up Robert Horry in a trade from Phoenix during the following season, and signed Rick Fox as a free agent the next summer.

Mission accomplished, as evidenced by two straight NBA titles and perhaps a third on the horizon thanks mainly to those five players and coach Phil Jackson,

signed by West before the 1999-2000 season.

West joined the Lakers as a first-round draft choice out of West Virginia in 1960. When he retired 14 years later, he left with a 25.0-point scoring average and the nickname of Mr. Clutch for his late-game excellence.

He continued as a valued member of the organization until Tuesday.

Jackson figures it will take some time for the Grizzlies to become a contender in the tough Western Conference, but looks for West to make his mark — again.

"His fans here in L.A. will miss him, and so will the Lakers," Jackson said. "We look forward to competing against him next year. We had a great relationship both working with players and ideologically."

Assistant coach Kurt Rambis said he wasn't the slightest bit surprised about West's new job.

"He's such a valuable asset around the league, you knew someone was going to gobble up his expertise," Rambis said. "He's exploring another avenue, why shouldn't everybody be happy for him? The people who should really be happy are the ones in Memphis."

Dodgers activate Kevin Brown from DL

The Associated Press

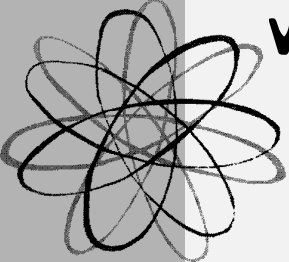
LOS ANGELES — Kevin Brown, who has spent the equivalent of three months on the disabled list since the start of last season, was activated by the Los Angeles Dodgers to start Tuesday night's game against the Cincinnati Reds.

The five-time All-Star right-hander, in the fourth year of a seven-year, \$105 million contract, had been sidelined since tearing scar tissue in his elbow in the second inning of his April 13 start at San Diego. Brown is 1-1 with a 5.11 ERA in three starts since undergoing surgery last Sept. 27 to repair a torn flexor muscle.

Brown, who went on the DL three times in 2001, began last season on the shelf because of a strained right Achilles' tendon. The 16-year veteran missed three weeks in June with an irritated nerve in his neck, then was sidelined more than five weeks by the injury that required his season-ending surgery.

Brown's return from the DL comes at a bad time for the Reds. He is 7-1 with a 1.76 ERA in nine career starts against Cincinnati. Left-hander Omar Daal, 2-0 with an 0.73 ERA in his two starts during Brown's absence, will return to the bullpen.

To make room for Brown on the roster, the Dodgers optioned right-hander Guillermo Mota to Triple-A Las Vegas.



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National Basketball Association playoff schedule

By The Associated Press

Day	Game	Result
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	Saturday, April 27	
	Charlotte 110, Orlando 100, OT	Charlotte leads series 2-1
	Sacramento 90, Utah 87	Sacramento leads series 2-1
Saturday, April 27	San Antonio 102, Seattle 75	San Antonio leads series 2-1
	Toronto 94, Detroit 84	Detroit leads series 2-1
	Sunday, April 28	
	Philadelphia 108, Boston 103	Boston leads series 2-1
Sunday, April 28	Dallas 115, Minnesota 102	Dallas wins series 3-0
	L.A. Lakers 92, Portland 91	L.A. Lakers win series 3-0
	Monday, April 29	
	Detroit 83, Toronto 89	Series tied 2-2
Monday, April 29	Sacramento 91, Utah 86	Sacramento wins series 3-1
	Tuesday, April 30	
	Charlotte 102, Orlando, TBA	Charlotte wins series 3-1
	Indiana 97, New Jersey 74	series tied 2-2
Tuesday, April 30	Wednesday, May 1	
	Boston at Philadelphia, TBA, if necessary	San Antonio at Seattle, TBA
	Thursday, May 2	
	Indiana at New Jersey, 7 p.m.	Toronto at Detroit, TBA
Thursday, May 2	Friday, May 3	
	Philadelphia at Boston, TBA, if necessary	Seattle at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary

INTERNATIONAL



Huge fire guts Mogadishu's main market; seven killed

BY OSMAN HASSAN

Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia — A raging fire fueled by drums of cooking oil destroyed half of Mogadishu's sprawling Bakara market Tuesday, and at least seven people were killed when police and private gunmen fired shots to deter thousands of looters, police said.

The fire broke out late Monday in the housewares section of outdoor market that sells everything from foodstuffs and false passports to furniture and semiautomatic weapons.

Abdurahman Dinari, the transitional government's commerce minister, called the fire "a national disaster."

The cause of the fire in the market, a maze of wooden structures in the heart of the Somali capital, was not immediately known.

Thousands of people rushed to the market as news of the fire spread over private FM radio stations. Some were shop owners, some were gunmen from clan-based militias going to protect the shops

and businesses of relatives and some were drawn by the prospect of looting.

Heavy gunfire echoed throughout the night, and flames and smoke were visible from rooftops across the war-ravaged city.

Police spokesman Mohamed Yussuf Omar Maddaleh said at least 30 people were injured in the shooting and confusion. Dozen of looters were arrested, Maddaleh said.

Units of the new army set up by the national transitional government that controls much of Mogadishu surrounded the market in their battlewagons.

Even those shop owners who managed to save some of their property were robbed once outside the market.

"I took out the cash and a few of my most expensive items of clothing from my shop," said Maddina Ali Ahmed. "But even that I lost to bandits as soon as I got out of the market."

Abdi Ahmed Dhuhulow, one of the major businessmen in the market, said it was impossible to calculate the property damage cause by the fire.

Japanese wives of North Koreans will visit homeland for first time in two years

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — Japanese and North Korean Red Cross officials said Tuesday that they will arrange for Japanese wives of North Korean men to travel to their homeland this summer — the first such visits in two years.

The announcement came at the end of two days of talks in Beijing and after a series of North Korean overtures that suggest the isolated communist country may be seeking more contact with the outside world after months of anti-Western rhetoric. Japan and North Korea have no diplomatic ties and a history of decades of tension.

About 2,000 Japanese, most of them women married to North Koreans, live in North Korea and have not seen Japan in decades. North Korea has allowed three groups totaling 43 women, most of them in their 60s and 70s, to visit Japan since 1997. The most recent visit was two years ago.

"The two sides agreed to arrange the fourth hometown visit of Japanese women in the DPRK around this summer," the two sides said in a joint press release. It said the Red Cross officials would hold another round of talks, probably in June.

Last month, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi called for new efforts to engage North Korea. Progress toward formal ties, however, has been blocked by allegations that North Korea abducted 11 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s to train spies in Japanese language and customs.

The Red Cross officials said they discussed that issue, but there was no indication of progress.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official who attended the Beijing talks said the North Korean delegates promised to look into intensifying the search, possibly by

using the media and putting up missing persons posters.

"We want to believe their words, but we haven't got any evidence that they have done these things," said Kenji Hiramatsu, director of the ministry's northeast Asia division.

"It's not easy to convince the Japanese people to open a more serious dialogue with North Korea."

— **KENJI HIRAMATSU**
Japanese Foreign Ministry official

"It's not easy to convince the Japanese people to open a more serious dialogue with North Korea" without progress on the issue, he said.

North Korea agreed last month to resume an investigation into what it calls "those missing." Chief North Korean delegate Ri Ho Rim told reporters Monday that the investigation was taking longer than expected.

The officials said they also discussed a Japanese investigation into the fate of 259 people from what later became North Korea who disappeared in Japan during Tokyo's 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean peninsula.

During World War II, Japan forced hundreds of thousands of Koreans into slave labor, prostitution and other forms of abuse. After Japan's 1945 defeat, most Koreans in Japan returned home.

A Japanese statement said Tokyo promised to "continue searching ... and notify the Korean side of the results."

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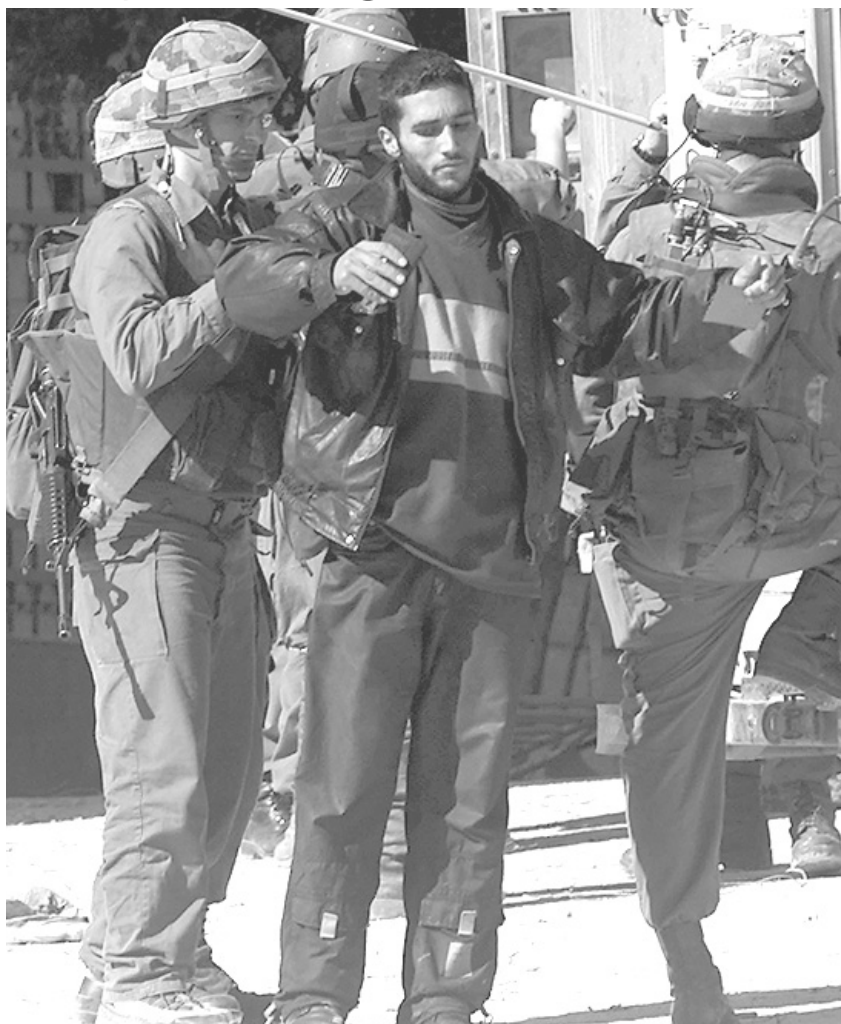
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INTERNATIONAL

Many in manger surrender



Radu Sigheti/Associated Press

A Palestinian man who exited from the Church of the Nativity is frisked by an Israeli soldier Tuesday in Manger Square, Bethlehem. Twenty-six people filed out of the Church of the Nativity, the largest group to leave in a four-week-long Israeli siege of Palestinians taking refuge in the shrine.

Police in China detain U.S.-based activist, first visit back in 13 years

BY JOHN LEICESTER

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — The ominous call came in the dead of night. "Your husband is in trouble," said the man, who didn't identify himself or say where he was phoning from.

He was right. Shortly afterward, Christina Fu learned that her husband, Boston-based pro-democracy Chinese activist Yang Jianli, had been picked up by police on his first visit back to China in 13 years.

The U.S. Embassy in Beijing on Tuesday confirmed Yang's detention and said diplomats are in contact with Chinese officials about his case.

Yang, who was born in China, moved to the United States in 1986 and has permanent U.S. residency rights, his wife said.

Word of his detention comes as President Bush is to meet China's vice president and expected future leader, Hu Jintao, in Washington on Wednesday.

China's detention over the past two years of several U.S. citizens and permanent residents of Chinese descent has been a sticking point in relations. Most were accused of spying and later expelled.

Fu, who is staying with Yang's par-

ents in Washington, said that about an hour after the mysterious call Friday night, Yang phoned her to say he had been stopped at the airport in the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming.

"He's been wanting to be able to participate in any kind of movement in China."

— MICHAEL TSANG

Yang Jianli's assistant

Police searched his luggage, seized his documents and took him to a hotel, she said. She managed to reach him at the hotel on Saturday, where he said two officers were guarding him. Since then, she's heard no further word.

Friends have suggested she contact U.S. lawmakers about his case. "I'm not sure if that will help or if that will worsen the situation," she said in a telephone interview. "I don't know

Musharraf expected to win another five year term as President, despite criticism

BY AMIR ZIA

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistanis voted Tuesday on whether to give military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf five more years as president, with the main opposition coming from vocal opponents to his crackdown on Islamic militants and backing for the U.S. war on terrorism.

With 429,780 votes counted from 708 polling stations six hours after polls closed at 7 p.m., 345,427 ballots supported extending Musharraf's term. Only 9,774 were against. The rest were ruled invalid.

Final results were not expected from 87,000 polling stations nationwide before Wednesday.

Musharraf is expected to win despite boycott calls from most of the main political parties, but he was hoping for a high turnout that would lend him a stamp of legitimacy. The government-run Electoral Commission relaxed voting rules and set up an unprecedented 87,000 polling stations.

Pakistan's Information Minister Nisar Memon predicted a 30 percent turnout as polls closed, and opposition parties asked Musharraf to step down immediately and predicted the "lowest-ever turnout." Turnout was 38 percent in the last general elections in 1997.

"We are thankful to the people of Pakistan for boycotting Musharraf's sham referendum," Qazi Hussain Ahmad, leader of the country's largest Islamic group Jamaat-e-Islami, said in a statement.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, head of the 15-party Alliance for Restoration of Democracy, said the low turnout was the "verdict of the people" against Musharraf and the president should accept it and resign.

Musharraf seized power in a bloodless military coup in 1999. The Supreme Court endorsed him but gave him three years to introduce reforms and return the country to democracy.

Musharraf called the referendum to extend his presidency before that deadline comes up in October, when the first parliamentary elections since the coup are scheduled to be held.

Under Pakistan's constitution, parliament chooses the president, but Musharraf is trying to circumvent that rule by winning a mandate for another five years at the helm.

That mandate could also boost him in his policy of supporting the U.S.-led campaign in

neighboring Afghanistan. Musharraf turned Pakistan away from being the closest ally of the former ruling Taliban to being a key backer of the United States. The switch has outraged Islamic hardline groups.

In Pakistan's deeply conservative southwestern Baluchistan province, Islamic groups called for a strike and boycott. Religious leaders said their call was heeded.

"We are thankful to the people of Pakistan for boycotting Musharraf's sham referendum."

— QAZI HUSSAIN AHMAD

Jamaat-e-Islami leader

"The strike in Baluchistan was so successful that most of the polling stations in the province remained deserted throughout the day," Maulana Fazle ur-Rehman, a prominent pro-Taliban cleric, said in a statement.

Musharraf cast his vote just after noon with his wife and mother at a women's university in an army compound in Rawalpindi.

"I am very confident," he said after joking that he had voted no. "I am feeling relaxed because of what I've seen on television and the reports I've received."

With the backing of leading business groups, scores of trade unions and some political parties analysts said Musharraf was almost certain to succeed.

"If people boycott the referendum, it means he has lost," said a statement by exiled former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who leads the Pakistan People's Party. It was issued from New York and printed in many Pakistani newspapers. Bhutto has been living abroad since she was ousted amid accusations of corruption and misrule in 1997.

Turnout appeared brisk in Islamabad and Lahore, but light in Karachi, the largest city and stronghold of the United National Movement, which joined the boycott call to protest the killing of its two leaders by unidentified gunmen last week.

More than 60 million people were eligible to vote. Turnout was only about 35 percent in the last parliamentary elections, in 1997.

what I should do."

Yang, 38, heads the Foundation for China in the 21st Century, a Boston-based group which advocates democracy and rule of law in China.

His wife said Yang has been barred from China since 1989, when he traveled to Beijing to take money to students protesting for democracy on Tiananmen Square. The protests ended in a bloody attack by China's military on June 4, 1989.

Yang's wife said he returned to China on April 18, traveling on a friend's passport because he doesn't have his own. She said officials who stopped Yang in Kunming accused him of using fake identification.

Kunming police wouldn't comment.

His foundation said Yang visited cities recently rocked by protests by laid-off workers, including Liaoyang and Daqing in China's northeastern rust-belt, where thousands demonstrated in March.

Yang felt sidelined exiled in the United States, said Michael Tsang, one of his assistants.

"He's been wanting to be able to participate in any kind of movement in China," Tsang said. "He felt this was an opportunity to maybe get something going."

China's record is mixed in previous cases of dissidents captured after slipping back into the country.

In 1998, China expelled Wang Bingzhang, an important figure in the Chinese democracy movement, after he ended nearly two decades in exile and returned under an alias to help dissidents form an underground opposition party.

Two other U.S.-based dissidents who also sneaked back in 1998 — Zhang Lin and Wei Quanbao — were sentenced without trial to three years of forced labor. China's Foreign Ministry claimed they were arrested in a barber shop operating as a brothel and that they confessed to hiring prostitutes.

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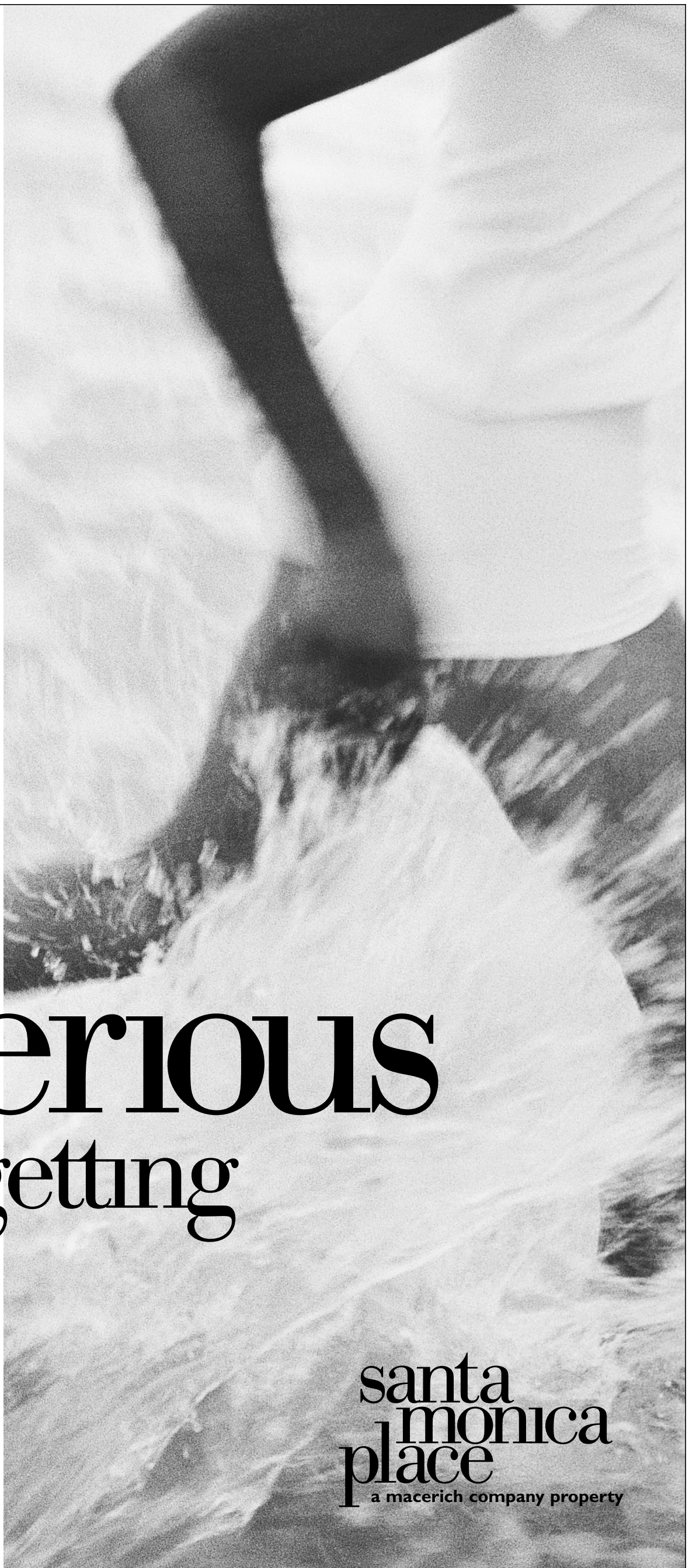
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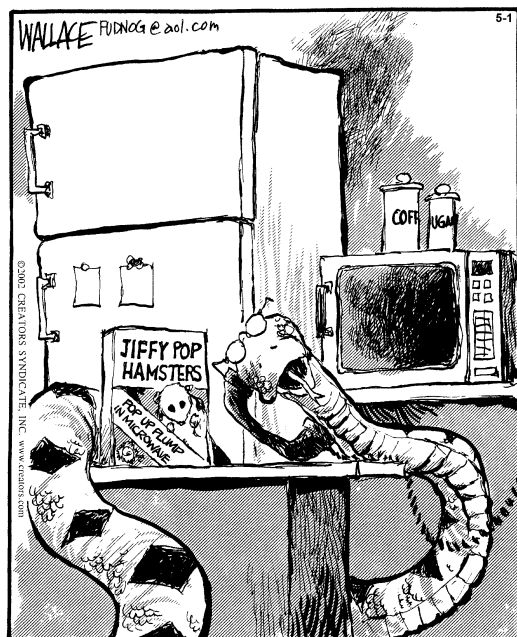


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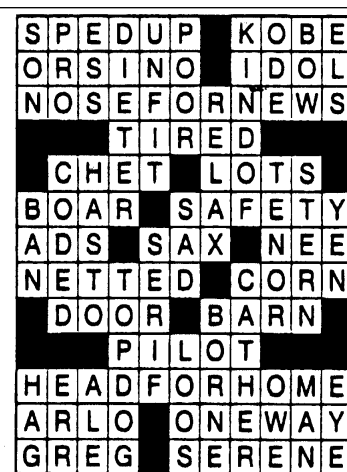
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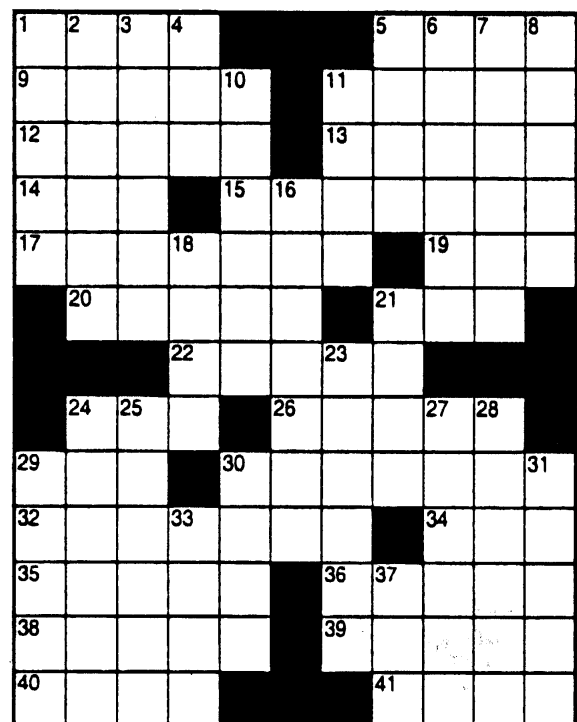


CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH



Yesterday's answer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ran, as color
 - 5 German card game
 - 9 CBer's need
 - 11 Response akin to "Lump it!"
 - 12 Given to copying
 - 13 Available
 - 14 Banned pesticide
 - 15 River of China
 - 17 Oklahoma natives
 - 19 Grant's foe
 - 20 With 22-Across, ocean predator
 - 21 Garden section
 - 22 See 20-Across
 - 24 Scoundrel
 - 26 See 20-Across
 - 29 Spigot
 - 30 Sound systems
 - 32 Summer cooler
 - 34 Obese
 - 35 Mischievous sprite
 - 36 NFL coach Don
- DOWN**
- 1 Small nails
 - 2 Small pooch
 - 3 Paper worker
 - 4 Slight, in slang
 - 5 Has warbled
 - 6 Kitchen whistler
 - 7 Dumb-struck
 - 8 Conical home
 - 10 "You think so?"
 - 11 Some babies
 - 16 Skilled performer
 - 18 Salamander
 - 21 Carry
 - 23 Cohort of Daddy Warbucks
 - 24 Wisconsin city
 - 25 Pinnacles
 - 27 Shelter
 - 28 Eucalyptus eaters
 - 29 Basketball score
 - 30 Proof-reading mark
 - 31 Musial and Getz
 - 33 Grime
 - 37 Overactor



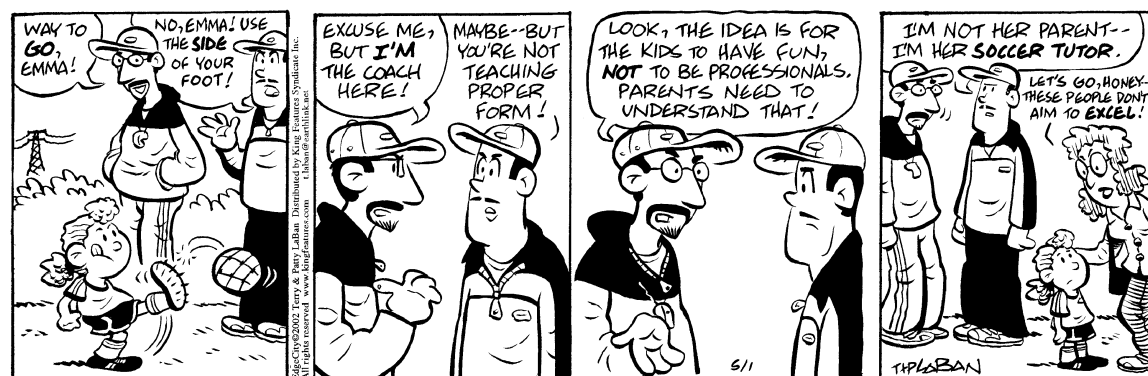
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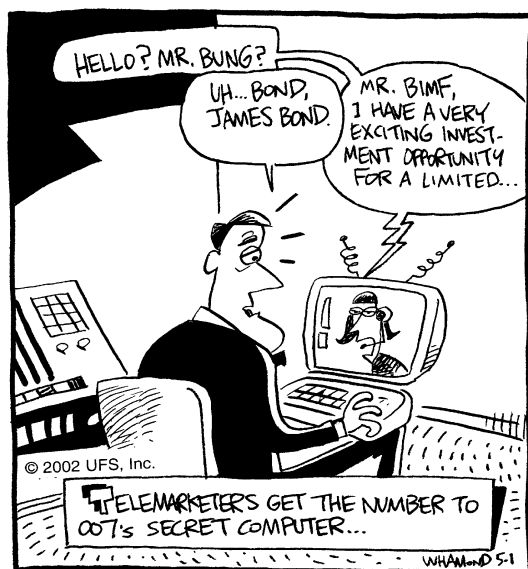
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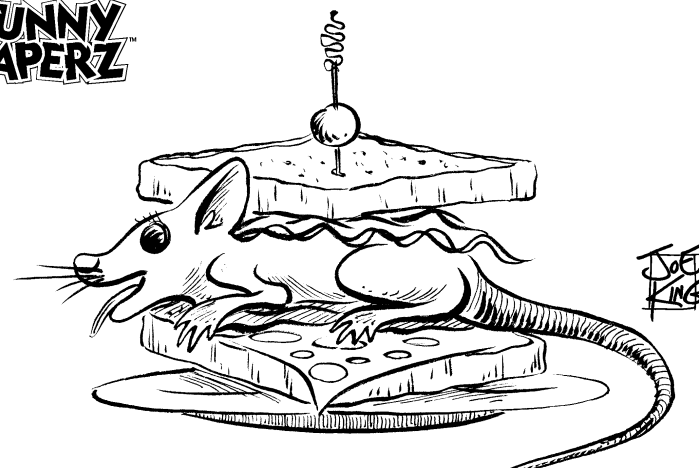
NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Free-energy scam cons more than 2,000

Recently, News of the Weird reported an electricity salesman Dennis Lee, who is under order from attorneys general in seven states, but a more recent report by Las Vegas Weekly shed even more light on the scams, which have so far hooked more than 2,000 people. One of Lee's dealers, Conrad Sorensen of Henderson, Nev., told the newspaper that he purchased (for \$20,000 in 1999) the right to sell Lee's free-energy inventions (e.g., silent jackhammers, oil-eating balls, cars that run on water) and to recruit fee-paying "witnesses," who would buy Lee's generators, get free electricity for life, and sell their excess wattage to nonwitnesses. Sorensen, who believes Lee's work is a sign from God, said confidently that the magic generators will finally be unveiled on July 4, 2002, but a Lee critic in Pennsylvania said Lee's people have been assigning, and missing, such deadlines for 15 years.

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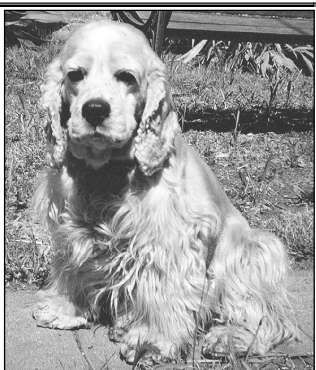
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BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Cowboys rode horses through Wal-Mart

By The Associated Press

EL DORADO, Ark. — Clad in cowboy boots and jeans, two men arrested for riding horses through the food section of a Wal-Mart store pleaded guilty to misdemeanor public intoxication charges.

"We shouldn't have been uptown," defendant Clinton Evers said Monday.

Union County District Judge George Van Hook called the incident dangerous and said people could have gotten hurt.

Shortly after midnight on April 7, Wal-Mart workers told police that John Glenn Carelock and Evers rode horses through the store. The workers then led officers to a large pile of horse manure just inside the entrance.

Officers were able to stop Carelock, 20, but Evers, 23, rode off with officers in pursuit. He fled into a wooded area and was later caught on a nearby road.

Carelock pleaded guilty to public intoxication. Evers pleaded guilty to public intoxication as well as a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct.

The men were ordered to pay \$600 in fines and told to write letters of apology to the public which were to be published in the local newspaper.

Asked why he chose to ride a horse into Wal-Mart, Carelock replied, "I really don't know."

Thieves take man's truck — twice

By The Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Shortly after Roy Wilson's 1985 Chevy Blazer was returned after having been stolen, it disappeared again.

"I never thought anybody would want to take my Blazer. It's just a work truck and it's a rust bucket," Roy Wilson said Monday.

The Intertrade Steel worker reported the first theft after discovering the vehicle missing Sunday morning. It

showed up later that evening in a parking lot.

"At first I checked with my friends to see if anyone was playing a joke on me," he said.

His tools were missing, along with \$260 kept in the glove compartment.

"The funny thing is that whoever stole it had filled it up with gas, and probably used my money to do it," Wilson said.

Wilson took the vehicle home about 9 p.m. Sunday and realized it was missing again less than two hours later.

As of Monday night, police had not located it.

"I don't even know if they're looking," Wilson said. "They probably think I'm crazy, because if you think about it, the whole thing sounds nuts."

Minister to unicycle cross-country

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Pastor Lars Clausen is seeing the country on one wheel — a unicycle.

Clausen estimates he will celebrate his 41st birthday this summer near Lidgerwood, N.D., on Day 45 of his cross-country unicycle trek.

"It's the perfect mid-life ride," he says.

The Lutheran pastor left Neah Bay, the most northwesterly tip of the lower 48 states, on Monday for his 4,700-mile trip. He plans to arrive at the Statue of Liberty in New York on Aug. 10.

Clausen is riding for an endowment fund for the Inupiat Eskimos of Alaska's Seward Peninsula, where he accepted his first preaching position.

Monday marked the anniversary of the start of a bicycle ride he made from Los Angeles to Boston when he was 26.

"When I bicycled across the country 15 years ago, I always looked forward to chocolate milk," he said. "I'm eating anything and everything these days. It's fun. My metabolism has slowed down, so to eat everything again is fun."

Clausen's father, Lans, is driving a motor home alongside his son.

"He leapfrogs ahead of me," Clausen said. "It's fun having my dad along because he used to unicycle in college."

'Deep Throat's' identity may be known

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Thirty years after the break-in at the Watergate Hotel, former White House counsel John Dean intends to publish an electronic book revealing who he believes is "Deep Throat," the anonymous informant who helped unseat President Richard Nixon.

San Francisco-based online magazine Salon.com will offer the e-book June 17, managing editor Scott Rosenberg said Tuesday. Dean previously has written political commentary and book reviews for Salon.

"Obviously, he has strong personal interest in the subject," Rosenberg said. "After a lot of careful research that he details in the book, he's pretty certain he knows who it was."

It won't be the first time Dean has postulated on the identity of Deep Throat.

In 1975, Dean said in a speech in Natchitoches, La., that it was Earl J. Silbert, one of the original Watergate prosecutors. Silbert laughed at the idea.

In a 1982 book, "Lost Honor," Dean said Deep Throat had to be Alexander M. Haig, who was the No. 2 aide to Henry Kissinger at the National Security Council and later Nixon's chief of staff. Haig denied it.

Testimony from Dean against Nixon also helped uncover the Republican president's efforts to obstruct justice to hide his involvement in the break-in of Democratic National Committee's Watergate Hotel headquarters and subsequent cover-up.

Rosenberg said Dean opted to publish his findings electronically because he wanted to turn the story around quickly. He would not discuss the book's contents or the nature of the research. The price has not been set.

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