

FREE

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 151

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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SUPER LOTTO PLUS

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Megamillion 13

Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

01, 04, 06, 10, 23

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 6, 4

Evening picks: 4, 6, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 04, Big Ben

3rd Place: 07, Eureka

Race time: 1:40.82



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

According to an Associated Press report, six candidates for city offices in Charleston, W.Va., misspelled their party affiliations in their official filing forms in January. Among the variations were "Democart," "Democrate," "Repblican" and "Repucican." In fact, one of the city council incumbents had, four years earlier, also declared himself to be a "Democart."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"After three days, fish and guests stink."

— John Lyly



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To the rescue



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Santa Monica paramedics and firemen check the blood-sugar level of an elderly man who fell ill on the Third Street Promenade Wednesday afternoon.

Cheney's former company to be paid \$76.7 million for no-bid contract in Iraq

Investigation launched by SM politician

BY LARRY MARGASAK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The no-bid contract that Halliburton Co. received to put out Iraqi oil well fires has risen to \$76.7 million, pushed higher after the government gave Vice President Dick Cheney's former company the added job of restarting Iraq's oil industry.

The expanded role has accounted for \$24 million of the contract total so far.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. and Santa Monica's representative, disclosed Tuesday that Halliburton's KBR subsidiary would have more work than initially indicated in the March announcement of a contract to extinguish oil fires.

The Bush administration denies there is any connection between Cheney's former role in running the Houston company and the Iraq

contract work. Cheney, who led the company until August 2000, has had no role in the company's government contracts, the vice president's office has said.

Asked whether the administration had a perception problem, presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer said Wednesday, "Congressman Waxman has never met a Republican he didn't want to investigate." He directed questions to the contracting agency.

That agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, acknowledged playing down the extra work in comments to the news media and Congress.

Spokesman Scott Saunders said his organization did not emphasize the additional work because it only was a contingency in the original contract.

"We didn't think the initial contract would be involved with operating facilities and distribution of the product, so we didn't play that up in

See CONTRACT, page 9

Physical education in schools getting leaner

Athletic programs to disappear as local kids fall behind state goals

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica students are out of shape — and looming cuts to the school district's athletic programs threaten to flatten test scores as well as stretch waistbands.

That's the message Chris Corliss, athletic coordinator for the district, gave to the school board last week.

More than \$800,000 in proposed cuts to physical education and sports programs couldn't have come at a worse time, he said.

Only 26 percent of students passed all six of the state's minimum fitness requirements last year and 51 percent passed five of the six rudimentary tests.

P.E. programs are the only form of activity for 70 percent of the district's nearly 13,000 students, Corliss said, and cutting them will have wide-reaching negative effects.

"It's going to mean a huge hit, both in the environment that we've built and in academic and fitness

results," said Corliss, one of two coordinators in the district's educational services department.

"You can have my position. Take my money and give it to the elementary teachers."

— CHRIS CORLISS

School district athletic coordinator

The entire seven-person department, which also runs music and arts programs, is in jeopardy under the proposed budget cuts.

What's worse, said Corliss, is none of the P.E. or athletic cuts are in the first "bundle" of items to be restored if the school parcel tax passes June 3. That means the future of the fitness positions and programs is dependent on Malibu and Santa Monica bumping up their annual contributions, something local council members have said is unlikely.

Dedicated parents and teachers

See PROGRAMS, page 5

Power outage leaves parts of downtown dark

By Daily Press staff

A power outage downtown Wednesday afternoon forced the early closure of the Santa Monica courthouse and had local restaurants scrambling to serve their customers.

The lights went out shortly after 1:30 p.m. when a high-voltage cable in the Civic Center went bad, said Mark Olson, a spokesman for Southern California Edison.

Businesses from the beach up to Fourth Street between Colorado and Pico boulevards were affected by the outage.

Lawyers, judges, clerks, jurors and workers gathered in front of the courthouse when it was emptied after the power went out.

Though electricity was restored to everyone by 3:40 p.m., court-

house officials called it quits in the mid-afternoon and suspended all proceedings until Thursday.

Juli Anne Armitage, a local wedding photographer accused of allegedly stealing from her customers, remained in custody at the courthouse throughout the power outage.

She was scheduled to go before a judge Wednesday morning but her case was pushed until the afternoon and eventually tabled altogether when the power died.

She is expected to go before a judge today.

Over at the beach, salads and iced teas were all that was for sale at seaside restaurants, where hot items were on hold while kitchen exhaust fans could be brought back to life.

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HOROSCOPE

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, May 8, 2003:

This birthday year you might have your hands full whether you like it or not. Weigh opinions, not pushing too hard. Think through what others say, trying to reserve your judgments. Understand what others offer. Sometimes bosses push quite hard and their messages could be confusing. You often are at the effect of mixed communications. If you are single, a relationship will enter your life later this year. This person could be very special. If you are attached, don't push your sweetie. Let him or her reveal who he or she is. LEO can push your buttons.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★ Hot tempers, strong wills and your possible frustration could mar the horizon today. Whatever goes on does not happen halfway. Others try to help you with opinions and suggestions. You're not up for what is going on. Tonight: Do your thing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Some days are best spent close to home. You might find that today could be a bit tense with bosses and family members. Maybe your best bet is to play ostrich. Confusion surrounding requests adds to the present level of frustration. Tonight: Turn on your answering machine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might shake your head and question what is in your best interests. Confusion happens when you least expect it. Stay on top of what might be going on with someone at a distance. Tempers flare. Put on your diplomatic clothes. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Listen to what someone shares. He or she absolutely means his or her words. Don't push someone too fast or too hard to get where you want. Establish a better sense of what is acceptable within a relationship. Finances need that extra push. Tonight: Say "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your smile might be a winner, but others could be extremely reactive to your suggestions and energy. Maintain that affable manner, and you will get past problems. If nothing else, you could stop a warlike individual in his or her path, giving them an opportunity to think. Tonight: Others go along with your suggestions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Take your time making a decision. You might be a bit put off by news that heads your way. Your instinct will be to pull away from what you see going on and to keep your own counsel. You will be able to do this if you relax and go with the flow. Tonight: Off to the gym.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your high energy and drive might trigger some of the people around you. You discover that many could be opposed to you. Attempt to soothe nerves, yours included. Knowing what you want could be extremely helpful. Tonight: Where the action is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You find that someone pushes you way too hard for your taste, and you let this person know it in no uncertain terms. How you say what you think could be instrumental in how you feel. Think in terms of possibilities rather than problems. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Fiery words could be exchanged in frustration. You might not like what is said. Be careful how you handle your energy. You could come off a lot harsher than you realize. Detach from the immediate, understanding more of what might be going on. Tonight: Movie time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Spending could surge out of control if you choose to act out of frustration. Focus on what must be done. Have a long-overdue discussion with a partner or associate. Perhaps you can clear out some of the confusion. Tonight: Say "yes" to another.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others seem bent on going against you. Understand what it takes to make a difference. Perhaps you should allow others to express more of their priorities. You might not have a choice. Go along with someone else's ideas — for now. Tonight: Chaos reigns.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Listen to someone close who cares about your work situation. You could be angrier than you realize. Give yourself the space to think and work through problems. Sometimes you don't see the whole situation. Feedback comes from a loved one. Tonight: Pace yourself.

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LOCAL



Man arrested for drug possession, intention to sell

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica man was arrested last week for possessing and intending to sell cocaine and methamphetamines.

Santa Monica Police Department narcotics investigators on May 2 searched the home of Jeffery Salwen, 47, in the 2000 block of Fourth Street.

During the search, officers found small quantities of cocaine, methamphetamines and narcotic paraphernalia.

Salwen was arrested for possession of cocaine for sale, possession of methamphetamines for sale and possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

He was booked into Santa Monica Jail and his bail was set at \$30,000.

A pitbull and a boxer were taken out of the house by the city's animal control unit. The dogs remain in a shelter.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Last play in SMC theater before it's remodeled

By Daily Press staff

Marking a milestone in the history of Santa Monica College's renowned drama program, the theatre arts department is getting ready to open its last production in the 1950s-era Main Stage before the building gets a \$6.6 million major overhaul.

"Marat/Sade," under the direction of theatre arts department chair Adrienne Harrop, opens Friday for a two-week run in the 300-seat Main Stage, which was built as a children's theater in the early 1950s.

The renovation project — a cutting-edge, 280-seat facility — is scheduled to begin in December and be completed in mid-2005. It is being funded by Measure U, the \$160 million bond measure approved by Santa Monica-Malibu voters in 2002.

The project is a new chapter for a department known for its list of distinguished alumni that includes two-time Oscar winner Dustin Hoffman, James Dean, Doug McClure and Oscar nominee Gloria Stuart of "Titanic."

"We are thrilled to be getting an architecturally stunning facility that will open up all kinds of new theatrical and educational experiences," Harrop said. "We'll finally have a real sound booth, a real light booth, actual fly space, and everything that an instructional theater is supposed to have. The new space will have an unfinished, raw and dynamic quality that will shove the audience right into the action of the stage. This will be a jewel that people will talk about all over Southern California."

In addition, it will come with fully-equipped shops for props, make-up, costumes and sets, three studios, showers and dressing rooms.

The project has been designed by Los Angeles-based architect Leo A. Daly in close consultation with Harrop and the department staff.

The project will involve an almost complete demolition of the existing Main Stage. The department will move out by the end of the summer, with asbestos removal and other pre-demolition preparations occurring in the fall.

SMC has transferred drama students to outstanding universities worldwide, including Juilliard, New York University, and the Guildford School of Drama/University of Surrey in England, school officials said.

In recent years, the college has garnered top honors in the prestigious Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival. Last year, "Slavery," a play with music by SMC student Jonathan Payne, was selected from more than 360 plays at colleges and universities throughout the nation for the festival. In 1997, the SMC production of "Once on this Island" also made it to the Kennedy Center finals. In both cases, the plays were the only community college productions to be selected for performance at the



The new Main Stage theater at SMC.

See BRIEFS, page 5

surf report

THURSDAY'S SURF:

More knee-high waves and wind through the day.

If you own a longboard and live on the beach, it might be worth it. If not, sleep in. It might be a good time to buy that skurf setup you've been eyeballing.

Good news: Northwest wind swell continues to push.

Bad news: Southwest swell fades.

Outlook: South swell this weekend and another early next week. Stay tuned.

Today the water is:

60°

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:17	-0.2	4:15	2.0	11:41	3.4	10:34	5.3
SUNDAY	5:56	-0.1	4:33	2.3	(12:32)	3.1	11:02	5.2
MONDAY	6:43	0.0	4:48	2.6	(1:45)	2.9	11:35	5.0
TUESDAY	7:41	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	8:50	0.3	N/A	N/A	12:19	4.7	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	10:01	0.2	9:40	3.2	1:27	4.4	6:10	3.5
FRIDAY	11:01	0.1	11:22	2.7	3:06	4.2	6:24	3.9

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The Q Line

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is in desperate need of money. It must find ways to make up \$13 million a year, which used to come from the State of California.

During last year's election, voters defeated Measure EE, which would have provided some relief for the beleaguered district.

Now, the district has come up with another solution: Measure S. If passed by voters in a special election on June 3, the measure would levy a \$225 tax on every parcel of land in Santa Monica

and Malibu, thereby providing \$6.5 million a year for six years to the district.

So, this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you plan to vote for Measure S? Why or why not? If not, what else could the district do to generate the much-needed money?"

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

Riding the bus could get more expensive

Editor:

Attention all Santa Monicans who rely on Metropolitan Transit Agency (MTA) buses. The agency will vote on a large fare increase for you this month.

What does the MTA want? To eliminate all tokens and transfers and to raise most other fares. The banishment of the transfer may be the biggest fare increase. A rider would pay the basic \$1.25 fare — the MTA's only fare decrease from the current \$1.35 basic fare — on every bus he boards to reach a final destination. Of course, the MTA does offer an alternative: A one-day \$3 pass, to replace the humble 25 cent transfer.

All regular passes will rise in price as well. For example, the \$42 monthly pass will jump by \$10.

To fight the fare hike and to highlight the rider's side you should contact MTA members before May 22.

Specifically, you can talk to Zev Yaroslavsky, the westside's member of the board of supervisors, all of whom are members of the MTA. Or you can contact Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn or Santa Monica City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor. Both are MTA members.

The MTA votes on their new fare plan at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 22. Its offices are at One Gateway Place (corner of Cesar Chavez and Vignes). You also can enter the building through Union Station. See you there.

Joanne Gamlin
Santa Monica



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History is politically incorrect, offensive, get over it



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

"God cannot alter the past, but historians can."
— Samuel Butler

Thumbing through Joseph J. Ellis' Pulitzer Prize winning book "Founding Brothers," an eloquent account of the birth of the United States, I am struck by the fact that each of the vignettes focuses on men, the artists formerly known as "Founding Fathers." So why then are our children going to be instructed to refer to them solely as "Framers," an abstract description that conjures images of yeoman woodworkers toiling away in a pre-air conditioning workshop?

These men — George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and the like — were by most accounts, indeed men (what they did behind closed stable doors is anyone's guess), but suddenly we appear skittish to call them just that.

The political correctness police are in full swing once again, this time taking direct aim at our schoolchildren in the form of reshaping history. A textbook review process taking place in several states, including California, is attempting to rename everything from "Snow men" (to "Snow people.") I guess the late Gene Autry would have to change his tune these days) and wiping out other historical feats, such as Mount Rushmore, altogether, because it may or may not offend some Native-American groups.

Let's call it a kinder, gentler American

history.

his*to*ry n., pl., -ries 1. A narrative of events. 2. A chronological record of events. 3. The branch of knowledge that records and analyzes past events. 4. The events of the past. 5. An interesting past.

Am I missing the part about "as long as it doesn't offend?"

There's an old adage that wisely warns us to learn from our history, lest we are doomed to repeat it. Or was it, if we don't redefine our history, we are bound to not like it? Hmm. Yes, history can be grim, unpleasant, even, dare I say, politically incorrect. Sometimes it is hard to look at, but don't we learn more from our mistakes than our failures? We are showing ever less confidence in our children's cognitive abilities to not only learn, but also decipher what they learn on their own and draw their own conclusions.

As we bend over backwards to sanitize the past in obvious efforts to please every ethnic group and every unfortunate soul that history has stepped on over the years, we are in turn stripping away any confidence we put in our educators and our children to process the information for what it is — history. Not to mention the further dissolution of our disparate cultures, which we blatantly fight so hard to recognize and celebrate.

The outright avoidance of topics such as Mount Rushmore, where the faces of four American presidents carved into stone overlook lands once dominated by the subsequently oppressed American natives, is just plain wrong. If it offends, why does it offend? What better way to segue into the historical mistreatment of Native Americans than a landmark still revered by so many Americans today? Unless we plan to unfurl a black sheath over the site in the Black Hills, children are gonna see it. We can't protect them

from the sins of the past forever.

Of course, they won't be learning much about American Indians anyway, as textbooks will no longer be depicting them in braids, living on reservations or in rural settings. These images offend all those short-haired, urban dwelling tribes of yore, I assume. Only problem there, according to historians, is that many American Indians did wear their hair in braids and live on reservations. And reviewers offer no alternative suggestions on just how to depict the Native-Americans. Maybe that brainstorm will emerge from further closed-door meetings and book burnings.

The historical cleansing, if you will, is but just one facet of the sweeping changes in language being proposed amid the review process. Gone will be pictures of such food items as soda, hot dogs, butter and cakes — foods not part of a theorized well-balanced diet. Poof! They're gone as if they didn't exist. The word "yacht" is now deemed elitist. The term senior citizen is just plain antiquated. Now we have "older persons." Try hitting grandma with that one next time you kiss her on the cheek. Of course, I always thought the cumbersome "senior citizen" was the politically correct answer to "old people."

Pressure groups, both from the Democratic and Republican camps, are lobbying legislators to sign off on these changes. Unfortunately, their movement seems to be gathering steam.

"It dumbs down our textbooks," author Diane Ravitch was quoted as telling Fox News. Ravitch has written extensively on the issue of language changes in American scholastic textbooks. "It makes them bland, far less interesting than anything children might see in the movies, even in G-rated movies or TV.

"It's outright censorship," she added.

The respective textbook publishers' hands are admittedly tied, for if they refuse to adopt the changes proposed by such states as California, they face an uncertain economic future. As a result, they find themselves increasingly removing the sources of controversy from their publications to address individual complaints from an increasingly oversensitive populace.

Those who defend the changes will undoubtedly counter that textbooks should remain free of any ethnic stereotyping, no matter that the very stereotype was borne from historical accuracy. Or that men and women should be represented equally, no matter that society was different in the past when men and women assumed far different roles.

In effect, we are projecting today's beliefs and morals on our ancestors, when we have no right doing so. It's the stuff of a Monty Python or Mel Brooks film, which were made all-the-more hysterical by their juxtaposition of modern beliefs and behaviors in ancient times.

"Don't get saucy with me, Bernaise." I guess some people didn't get the jokes.

God forbid, (whoops, better not use his name, er, it's name, er... Better just start this sentence again.) If our goal was to produce a cookie-cutter society whereby our sons and daughters have been so homogenized that they lack the wherewithal to be taught the truth and be critical of the past, then I would say we are on the right track.

Well, at least our world has been delivered from evil in the process, as you won't find any more mention of a certain red-horned figure with a pitchfork.

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. To reach him, e-mail him at tooroam@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.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
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LOCAL

School officials: P.E. cuts difficult but necessary

PROGRAMS, from page 1

successfully lobbied the district to put threatened music and art programs into the first bundle of proposed reinstatements.

The proposed cuts include \$441,000 in elementary school P.E. specialists and aides, \$187,000 in secondary school P.E. aides and lifeguards, \$25,000 in high school trainers, \$65,000 in high school sports transportation funds and \$96,000 for Corliss' position.

The cuts will effect every level within the district, Corliss said.

Dozens of part-time staff members and "walk on" coaches will lose their jobs, swimming programs at John Adams, Lincoln, Santa Monica High School and Malibu High will be eliminated, medical specialists will no longer be available at sporting events and transportation for 1,500 students to school games will disappear if the cuts are finalized, Corliss said.

Thousands of students will be effected, hundreds of teachers will have to take on new responsibilities and the district will assume potentially millions of dollars in liability, Corliss told board members.

Corliss said the elementary P.E. positions are especially important because classroom teachers who are not qualified in sports would be asked to pick up the slack, which means expensive training for the teachers and less time for preparation.

"You can have my position," Corliss said. "Take my money and give it to the elementary teachers."

Supporters of the physical education pro-

grams point to a variety of studies that highlight the correlation between health and academic performance. Without fitness, student performance and the overall eagerness to learn declines, according to the studies.

Norm Lacy, a Samohi P.E. teacher, said there has not been a lot of progress in fitness levels at the high school over the past 25 years he's been with the school. He said about one-third of the students lack motivation and the school is doing its best to offer socially based programs to involve the apathetic kids.

Lacy said the school will do its best to deal with the cuts.

"We'll have to pick up that slack," he said.

School board members, who have been forced to prioritize their way out of a \$13 million budget shortfall for next year, expressed frustration over the proposed cuts.

"It's devastating for anyone that believes that P.E. is what we're all about," said school board member Mike Jordan. "Our hands are kind of tied now. All we can really do is wring our hands."

School board member Shane McCloud said just because P.E. positions and programs aren't in the first bundle of programs to be reinstated doesn't mean the school district has written them off.

"We all value physical education," he said. "Kids need that just as much as music, or art, or core (classes). It's very frustrating to see all this happen."

"But everything is on the block."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Over the years, the department has staged a wide variety of dramas, comedies and musicals, ranging from such classics as "Medea" to popular Broadway musicals like "Evita" to new works such as Harrop's "Tibet."

Law firm recognized for its anti-living wage efforts

By Daily Press staff

A local law firm was honored Wednesday with the California Chamber of Commerce "2003 Small Business Advocate of the Year" award for its part in defeating last fall's living wage ballot measure.

Harding, Larmore, Kutcher & Kozal were recognized for their advocacy efforts on behalf of small businesses and were presented their awards at a luncheon before almost 600 attendees at the California Chamber's Business Legislative Summit in Sacramento.

Linda Tisherman, chair of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors described Tom Larmore, a partner in the firm, as instrumental in defeating the measure.

"Tom Larmore, our David, took on not only the city, but also the unions, Goliath," she said. "His army was a newly formed chamber issues pac, a group of volunteer business people, from executives to part-time workers, who banded together to walk precincts, knock on doors, and make endless telephone calls to educate the voters."

Larmore led a core of small and large businesses from throughout the westside of Los Angeles to fight the city's \$12.25 per hour minimum wage ordinance.

The awards presentation is sponsored by the California Chamber. The honorees were nominated by local chambers and selected by a task force made up of members of the California Chamber's Small Business Committee. The criteria used in the selection process included involvement in chamber legislative committees, testifying at government hearings, authoring articles, conducting research on issues and serving in a leadership capacity on local and state ballot measures. Each year six small business owners are given awards.

The 2003 Small Business Advocate of the Year winners were:

- Thomas Larmore, partner, Harding, Larmore, Kutcher & Kozal, Santa Monica.
- Jack Macy, Partner/Owner, Carlile-Macy, Santa Rosa.
- Ron May, Vice President of Operations, Union Safe Deposit Bank, Stockton.
- Gina McBride, Owner, McBride Financial Advisory, Carlsbad.
- Jerome Say, Managing Broker, LandPoint Corporation, Torrance.
- Charles Woo, Chief Executive Officer, MegaToys, Los Angeles.

"Small business growth is crucial to California's jobs climate," said Allan Zaremberg, president, California Chamber of Commerce. "All of the small business advocate winners have demonstrated leadership abilities not only in running their own business, which is a major accomplishment, but also in working to promote policies that will help other small businesses thrive."

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STATE

Multimillionaire Republican donates to help recall Davis

BY ERICA WERNER
 Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Rep. Darrell Issa, a multimillionaire Republican who has gubernatorial ambitions, is reviving a flagging effort to recall Gov. Gray Davis by making a six-figure donation to the cause.

Issa's donation this week will help put at least 200 paid circulators on the streets beginning Saturday to collect signatures to recall the Democratic governor, Issa's campaign consultant Scott Taylor said Tuesday.

Davis, who narrowly won a second term last year, saw his approval rating sink to a record-low 27 percent last month. He has faced wide criticism for his handling of a budget deficit that has grown to \$35 billion.

Even so, before Issa's announcement recall efforts had appeared to be faltering because of a lack of funds and tepid support from high-profile Republicans. Recall organizers claimed Monday that they have gathered 100,000 signatures since they started March 25, but they need nearly 900,000 valid signatures to force an election.

Issa's support "is the most significant development in the recall campaign to date," GOP consultant Kevin Spillane said. "This is the first sign of seriousness, the first indication that it is possible that there will be a recall election, truly possible."

Davis aides said the governor isn't worried about the possibility he could become the first California governor subjected to a recall election.

"Californians understand that we have some real problems in the state and they want common-sense solutions, and recall isn't one of them," Davis adviser Roger Salazar said.

Issa declined to comment on how much or when he would contribute, but said he has spoken with potential recall donors, and "certainly I've assured them I'm committed to this both personally and economically."

"I don't expect to be the largest donor. I certainly won't be the only donor," Issa said, adding he already has several pledges ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

"I don't expect to be the largest donor. I certainly won't be the only donor."

— REP. DARRELL ISSA
 Multimillionaire

He also said that if the recall qualifies he will consider being a candidate.

"I think I could be an effective governor in a crisis turning around this state," he said.

Prominent Republicans reiterated Tuesday that the party's focus should not be on a recall effort.

"I certainly can understand why some people would be interested in the recall, but that's not our priority," said Gerry Parsky, President Bush's top California adviser. "Our priorities are the re-election of the president and strengthening the party, and having adequate financial resources to do both."

A congressman since 2000, Issa ran unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate in 1998. He made millions with a car alarm manufacturing company he founded and spent \$10 million of his own money on the Senate campaign and \$1.5 million running for Congress.

Missing teenager found safe

By The Associated Press

CORNING — A 13-year-old girl who disappeared from a Modesto home more than a week ago was found Wednesday in Corning, police said.

Maria Karina Rodriguez was to be transported back to Modesto Wednesday night and held in protective custody while police investigate the case, said Detective Doug Ridenour of the Modesto Police Department.

Police are still seeking Regino Bautista, a man in his 40s authorities believe may have taken the girl, Ridenour said Wednesday.

Rodriguez, her 16-year-old sister and Bautista arrived in Modesto about a month

ago after slipping illegally across the border from Mexico, Detective Ray Coyle said a day after the two disappeared.

The three come from a small village south of Puerto Vallarta.

Coyle said the girls ran away from home accompanied by Bautista, and came to Modesto to stay with family members.

Rodriguez were discovered missing at about 4 a.m. April 29.

Coyle said police had feared Bautista may harm the 13-year-old.

Police said Bautista was last seen driving a 1989 to 1992 two-door, white Toyota Corolla with Washington license plates. He is described as a 175-pound male with black hair, a brown mustache and a small gold hoop earring.

Scare shuts down Rodeo Drive

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS — Police closed a block-long stretch of Rodeo Drive for several hours on Wednesday after employees of a Giorgio Armani store reported receiving a suspicious envelope.

Initial tests indicated the envelope did not contain anything harmful, police Lt. Mitch McCann said.

Employees called police around 9 a.m. after they saw "particles" fall from the envelope, he said.

The store was evacuated as police, fire, hazardous materials experts and the FBI investigated, according to a statement from Giorgio Armani Corp.

Nearby shopkeepers were told to remain inside, said Lori Cameron, a saleswoman at Italian linen store Frette. The shopping street reopened around 1 p.m.

Further tests were planned on the envelope, McCann said.

NATIONAL



Cruise ship dumps 40 tons of sewage in Strait of Juan de Fuca

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A cruise ship released more than 40 tons of raw sewage into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the first case of its kind in Washington state's inland marine waters, officials say.

The release occurred early Saturday morning as the Norwegian Sun was northwest of Port Townsend en route to Seattle, state Ecology Department officials said Tuesday. It was reported by the captain and is being investigated by the state agency and the Coast Guard.

"We haven't had an incident like this to deal with since the cruise ships started operating in Puget Sound," said Ann Kenny, an Ecology regional planner. "We're certainly taking it seriously."

An engineer aboard the Norwegian Sun opened valves to release what he

thought was "gray water" from sinks and showers, apparently unaware that the tank being emptied had been upgraded for "black water," or raw sewage from toilets, Kenny said.

The ship is nearly as long as three football fields and carries as many as 3,200 passengers and crew members.

Norwegian Cruise Lines issued a statement saying the company is "very disappointed" but doesn't believe the release was illegal although it violated company policy, which bars waste water releases within 12 miles of shore and requires treatment of sewage before discharge.

Cruise ships do not routinely pump sewage into city sewers in Seattle, nor do they have permits to dump into state waters. Federal law allows dumping at least three miles out to sea.

It was unclear which law applies in the strait, which runs between Vancouver Island and the Olympic Peninsula, because "there are conflicting legal opinions whether these are open seas or territorial waters," Kenny said.

All three cruise ship companies with operations in Seattle have agreed not to dump wastes into Puget Sound, but the definition of those waters is unclear, port spokesman Mick Shultz said.

On oceanographic charts, Puget Sound extends from Olympia to Admiralty Inlet, near Port Townsend.

The state Legislature, echoing widespread public perception, generally defines the sound as the waters east of the entrance to the strait near Neah Bay and from Olympia north to the San Juan Islands.

Norwegian Cruise Lines has been cited

twice in the past two years for illegal dumping.

In July the company pleaded guilty to a felony and agreed to pay a \$1 million fine in Miami after investigators found an officer on the SS Norway circumvented a pollution prevention device to dump oil and falsified waste disposal records.

In 2001, the Norwegian Sky released treated sewage containing hundreds of times more pollutants than allowed by federal law while sailing between Juneau and Ketchikan, Alaska, resulting in tougher Alaskan restrictions on dumping by cruise ships.

Hotel-sized luxury liners serving Alaska largely avoided Seattle in favor of Vancouver, British Columbia, until a cruise ship terminal was overhauled three years ago.

Nationwide mailing seeks funds to stop Sen. Hillary Clinton

BY DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Democratic Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton repeatedly insists she isn't running for president, but a new nationwide Republican effort aims to raise funds for the 2004 election by suggesting the GOP has to stop her.

"Are you ready for a new Clinton era in Washington?" the letter from the Republican Presidential Task Force begins. "...It could happen. But only if you let it."

The appeal being sent this week continues: "If Republicans don't take immediate steps to counter her, Senator Hillary Clinton will continue to rise unimpeded to the very pinnacle of power in Washington and we will see the dawning of a new, more liberal Clinton era."

The three-page letter points out that the New York senator has said she will not run for president in 2004. Nevertheless, it focuses on Clinton's quick rise through the ranks of the Democratic Party since winning office in 2000, arguing that she has become her party's "top fundraiser, their top ideologue, their leading voice in opposition to President Bush."

High polling numbers for Clinton among Democrats have fueled speculation about her plans, but she has repeatedly said she will not run in 2004.

The Republican letter, written by Task Force chairman Sen. George Allen of Virginia, cites several news reports describing Clinton as a burgeoning political force.

Allen, who also serves as the chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, writes that his group will launch "a new mission: To stop Hillary."

A \$120 donation earns donors "Platinum Member" status and makes them eligible for a membership card, lapel pin and ceremonial American flag.

"Only with your support will we have the resources to battle the multimillions of dollars Hillary Clinton is raising from deep-pocketed liberals," the letter says.

Clinton's spokesman, Philippe Reines, said, "while their attention is flattering, Senator Clinton will continue working with her colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get things done for New York and America."

Clinton was the target of similar Republican fund-raising efforts in past elections, and one Republican operative familiar with the new appeal said she still energizes the Republican base as much as she does for the Democrats.

The senator, who is not up for re-election until 2006, also has been used as a fund-raising foil by a New York

Republican looking to unseat Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., in 2004.

Michael Benjamin, a Wall Street trader seeking his party's nomination, has sent out a letter arguing a victory over Schumer would "set the foundation for defeating Hillary Clinton in 2006."

Radiation shield for cell phones barred

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two companies that sold small shields promoted as protection from radiation emitted by cell phones have been barred from making such claims, Federal Trade Commission officials said Wednesday.

The government is unlikely to collect any fines or consumer payments, however, because the companies went out of business while the cases were pending, said an agency lawyer, Serena Viswanathan.

FTC suits last charged the companies with making unsubstantiated sci-

entific claims about the shields that fit over cellular phone earpieces. The government says the shields do not work as advertised and may cause wireless devices to emit even more energy.

Major studies have found no harmful effects of cell phones, but longer-term research continues. Even if a danger is found, products that block only the phone's earpiece are ineffective because the entire phone emits radiation, the FTC says.

The FTC reached a settlement with Comstar Communications Inc. of West Sacramento, Calif., which marketed the "WaveShield" as 99

percent effective at blocking radiation. An order approved last week by the U.S. District Court in Sacramento bars Comstar from making claims without reliable scientific evidence. Calls to a lawyer representing Comstar were not returned.

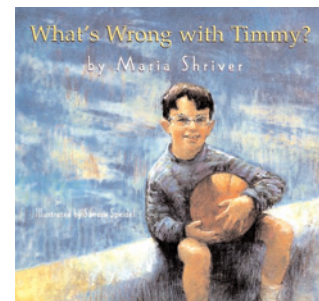
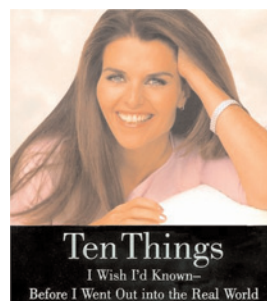
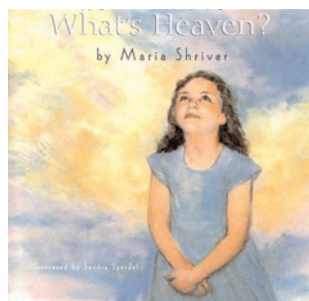
A federal judge in Florida issued a permanent injunction and a \$726,874 default judgment last month against a Boca Raton, Fla., company. Stock Value 1, later taken over by Meristar International, Inc., sold shields called "SafeTShield" and "NoDanger." Company officials could not be reached for comment.



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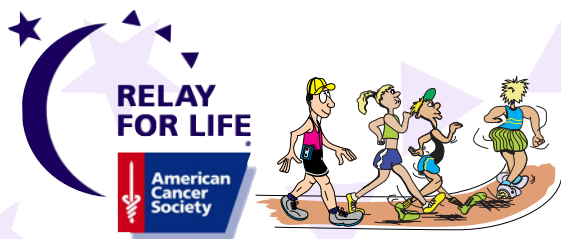
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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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NATIONAL

Marchin' home



Bob Jordan/Associated Press

About 250 members of the 82nd Airborne Division march off the runway on Wednesday at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., after they returned from duty in Iraq.

Federal college loan rates to hit lowest level yet

BY BEN FELLER
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON — Some relief is on the way for families struggling to cover soaring college tuition: Lower interest rates are about to make federal loans cheaper than ever.

The changes, which could save borrowers hundreds to thousands of dollars over time, come as American families increasingly rely on debt to finance college education.

The interest rate on Stafford loans is expected to fall from 4.06 to 3.42 percent, the lowest since the program began in 1965. These loans are open to all students, and the government will pay the interest for financially needy students while they're in school.

The rate for another federal borrowing plan — the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students — will likely fall from 4.86 percent to 4.22 percent.

And those who consolidate their loans can lock in a rate as low as 3.5 percent, down from 4.13 percent, according to Sallie Mae, the largest source of student loans.

For example, someone who consolidates \$25,000 in recent debt could save almost \$2,000 over 20 years, or \$8 a month.

These new rates for the coming school year would apply to loans taken out after July 1, 1998. Those who borrowed earlier would also see savings depending on when their loans were issued.

These lower rates, while likely, are not guaranteed. Final interest rates on federal student loans will be determined at the end of May based on short-term treasury bill rates then.

"We're all seeing the rising cost of higher education. Here's the silver lining: Financing has become less expensive," said Steve Stocks, a financial aid executive with Sallie Mae.

Every dollar may help. As states face

their worst fiscal crisis in decades, many have cut spending on higher education. And every state raised tuition at four-year schools this year; 16 increased costs by more than 10 percent, according to The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

**"We're all seeing the
rising cost of higher
education. Here's the silver
lining: Financing has
become less expensive."**

— STEVE STOCKS
Financial aid executive

The average yearly tuition and fees at a four-year school is \$4,081, and room and board costs another \$5,582, the College Board reports.

Lower loan rates are fine, but they could encourage state and school leaders to put even less emphasis on grants and college support, said Patrick Callan, the center's president.

"Everyone is borrowing more, and we really don't talk about that very much," Callan said. "We don't ask questions like, 'At what point are we hurting the ability of young families to buy a house?' We are oblivious to that. Loans are kind of the easy way out."

Nationally, federal loans make up the greatest share of student aid. The loans come directly from the government or from private lenders with a government-backed guarantee.

Student borrowers have until six months after college to begin repaying federal loans. Those who consolidate during the grace period could lock in a rate as low as 2.88 percent.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



NATIONAL



Senate Republicans reach deal on dividend tax cut

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate's Republican tax writers struck on agreement Wednesday on a dividend tax cut, ensuring that a scaled-back version of President Bush's call to eliminate such taxes entirely for shareholders will win support in the Senate Finance Committee.

The proposal combines elements favored by GOP moderates and conservatives. Shareholders would not pay taxes on the first \$500 of dividend income. Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa said that covers the 86 percent of taxpayers who receive dividend income.

Shareholders with more than \$500 in dividend income will get an additional percentage tax-free. For roughly five years, an extra 10 percent will be tax-free. For the following five years, an extra 20 percent will be tax-free.

The dividend tax cut will amount to roughly \$80 billion over a decade. Its cost will be offset by \$80 billion to \$85 billion in new revenue sources, Grassley said. Lawmakers worked through Wednesday evening finishing details of the bill. The Finance Committee is scheduled to vote on it Thursday.

The redrafted dividend tax cut won support from Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, who had forced Republicans to bargain for a smaller dividend tax cut. It is still opposed by Democrats on the panel.

Senators did not completely eliminate taxes on dividends within the outline of \$350 billion in tax cuts over the coming decade. Conservatives who had made eliminating dividend taxes entirely for shareholders their top priority said they will support the smaller cut for now but will try to reshape it during later debate.

The bill also will include \$20 billion in aid to economically ailing states, another priority of Republican moderates, including key members of the committee.

Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he will support some state aid, and the White House stopped short of ruling it out. Lawmakers expect the financial assistance to be debated and added when the bill reaches the floor, possibly next week.

Republicans agree on most parts of the bill, and the House and Senate tax cuts include similar elements. Both cut income tax rates ahead of schedule. Both increase the child tax credit to \$1,000 and reduce taxes for married couples. Small businesses could write off more of their expenses.

The single largest portion of the House bill lowers the top tax rate for stock dividends to 15 percent. It treats dividends like capital gains and lowers the tax rate for both.

House Democrats unveiled their plan for economic stimulus on Wednesday. It increases the child tax credit to \$800 and reduces the marriage penalty for low-income taxpayers. Businesses who hire workers unem-

ployed for 6 months or more could claim a tax credit. It also extends unemployment insurance and gives states \$44 billion in aid.

The tax cut and spending plan is paid for over the next decade by freezing the top income tax rates and closing corporate tax shelters. "Our plan adds one million new jobs without adding a penny to the deficit," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Officials question Iraq contract

CONTRACT, from page 1

the beginning in correspondence to Capitol Hill and in speaking to the news media," he said.

Saunders said KBR is buying oil from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey to meet desperate shortages, especially in Baghdad, where there recently was only a five-day supply of gasoline.

The agency has announced it would replace the Halliburton contract with one to be awarded in open competition, but Saunders acknowledged the bidding — supposed to begin by this month — is behind schedule.

One of the Democrats' presidential hopefuls for 2004, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, injected the contract into his campaign. "This coziness with Halliburton doesn't surprise me a bit," Dean said in Concord, N.H. "It's an emblem of an administration that has sold this country down the river."

A spokeswoman for Halliburton said Tuesday the company's initial announcement of the contract on March 24 disclosed the larger role for its KBR subsidiary.

Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall pointed to the company's statement that following emergency work, the company would provide "for the continuity of operations of the Iraqi oil infrastructure."

According to documents provided by the federal agency, the pay-as-you-go contract expanded as the Halliburton subsidiary fought a handful of fires, responded to spills, repaired war damage to oil facilities, assessed damage and worked to re-establish production systems.

The \$24 million addition was approved May 4, and included the biggest body of work so far. The "task order" includes repairs of distribution systems, buying oil outside Iraq to meet immediate needs, transportation, refining and distribution.

Board Report: 'IRS must work harder'

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service, halfway through a decade of restructuring, still provides poor customer service and fails to enforce tax laws, said a board created to oversee the agency's management.

"The IRS must work harder and smarter," the IRS Oversight Board said in its annual report, presented to a House Appropriations subcommittee on Wednesday.

The board blames some of the problem on Congress forcing the IRS to work under a tight budget. The IRS must handle many more returns, and increasingly complex returns, with less money. Over the last decade, the workload increased 16 percent, but the number of full-time

employees decreased 16 percent.

But the report also said the IRS is not reforming itself as quickly as expected or desired, despite making significant progress in some areas.

Only seven in 10 taxpayers can reach an IRS employee through a toll-free number, a statistic the board called unacceptable.

Enforcement steeply declined during the last five years, particularly among large corporations worth \$10 million or more. The tax agency cannot keep up with quickly growing categories of returns filed by mid-sized businesses and partnerships. With an adequate budget, the IRS estimates it can produce \$30 billion of additional revenue each year.

Mark Everson, the new IRS commissioner, testified that the agency

cannot track down every tax dodger and backed a program to use private debt collectors to go after some unpaid taxes.

The board also said a program to transfer taxpayer records to computers is not proceeding as fast as it should, nor is it producing the expected benefits.

"Solving these problems requires more work than the IRS can handle," the board said.

Everson said he wants to closely monitor a program under development in the Treasury to reduce erroneous payments to the working poor.

"I pledge to work with all the interested parties to ensure that any new controls put in place do not unnecessarily discourage participation in this important program," he said.

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INTERNATIONAL

The killing continues



Nasser Ishtayeh/Associated Press
Israeli soldiers climb into a house near where a senior Hamas fugitive was killed by an explosion on Wednesday in the West Bank town of Nablus. Amin Fadel, 28, was killed in a mysterious explosion in the West Bank on Wednesday, and the Islamic militant group accused Israeli troops of setting off the blast. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Coalition nations prepare peacekeepers, but not enough

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE
Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria — Bulgaria has 450 soldiers ready to go to Iraq. Azerbaijan is sending 150. Poland is considering up to 2,200, Italy as many as 3,000. But Denmark is good for only 380, Estonia just 55 — and Latvia a mere dozen.

America's coalition partners are preparing to deploy peacekeepers, but in numbers so small that the United States likely won't be able to hand off post-war duties to a large international force anytime soon.

Military experts say at least 40,000 troops will be needed to keep the peace.

"The force protection and troop requirements are pretty high," said Jonathan Stevenson, a defense specialist with the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. "The United States is going to find it difficult to make firm

plans to get out in a big way."

Neither Britain, America's chief war partner with 40,000 military personnel still in the region, nor Australia, the No. 2 coalition backer with 2,000 combat forces, has decided how many will remain to stabilize Iraq.

The debate over deploying peacekeepers also is whipping up fresh anti-war sentiment in nations such as Hungary, where the government has proposed dispatching 300 troops for up to six months. Opposition lawmakers say any deployment should have a U.N., NATO or European Union mandate.

"If we send soldiers to Iraq, then we, too, shall be considered participants in the conflict," Peter Karsai, a lawmaker with the opposition Hungarian Democratic Forum, told the state-run news agency.

Portugal is embroiled in a similar debate. President Jorge Sampaio, a Socialist, contends troops can't be sent without a mandate from an international body. Prime Minister Jose Durao Barroso, a conservative, wants to send a military force to help consolidate security and distribute aid.

"The important thing is for us to respond to the needs of the Iraqi people instead of getting bogged down in philosophical or procedural debates," he said.

Ukraine agreed to send peacekeepers, but on Wednesday, a top lawmaker warned that a legal hitch could block the deployment. Legislation first must be enacted to allow troops to participate in overseas missions not conducted by the United Nations or other multilateral organizations, said Borys Tarasiuk, a former foreign minister.

Other countries are worried about the cost.

Poland, which sent 200 special forces to help with the war, has been tapped by Washington to head one of four sectors the Pentagon intends to set up in Iraq. But Polish leaders say they can't afford the \$90 million a year it would cost to maintain up to 2,200 peacekeepers in Iraq, and they're pressing for U.S. help to pay the bill.

The Philippines said this week it scaled down its humanitarian mission to Iraq from 500 personnel to 175 because of a cash crunch. It, too, hopes the Americans will underwrite the peacekeeping costs.

Other countries haven't flinched.

Italy is sticking to its commitment to send a 2,500 to 3,000-strong contingent to help restore order and provide humanitarian assistance. The forces are expected to deploy in June.

The largely Muslim republic of Azerbaijan on Wednesday approved the deployment of 150 peacekeepers for patrols, law enforcement and protection of religious and historical monuments.

Bulgaria, responding to an American request, signaled it was ready to send 450 soldiers by mid-June — a larger commitment than the 170 troops it initially planned to send.

Romania also is leaning toward contributing to a multinational peacekeeping force. So are the Czech Republic and the Netherlands.

In general, however, the contributions are falling far short of U.S. expectations. Washington asked Denmark for 5,000 troops; the Danes, declaring that request unfeasible, plan to send 380.

S. Korea's absence from nuclear talks brings frustration, relief

BY JAE-SUK YOO
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — When North Korea met last month with the United States over a nuclear crisis, South Korea's exclusion from the talks reminded many of the North's once-favored bit of propaganda: that South Korea is a U.S. colony.

China participated in the April 23-25 talks in Beijing over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development, but South Korea was pointedly left out, frustrating many South Koreans.

"I think Seoul is partly to blame (for its exclusion) as it had acted in the past like, in Pyongyang's words, a U.S. colony," said 28-year-old Kim Yong-hyun, a graduate student at Seoul National University. "Pyongyang thinks Seoul will accept any deal it makes with Washington."

Kim's remarks reflect widespread frustration here that crucial decisions on the Korean Peninsula have often been made by outsiders, mostly superpowers.

North Korea has exacerbated such feelings by insisting on dealing only with the United States and regarding South Korea as a U.S. puppet.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun has tried to dampen frustrations over Seoul's lack of representation in the Beijing talks.

"Whether we participate or not is not important, but how our interests are realized and reflected is important," Roh said during a televised debate on South Korea's MBC TV.

Pyeongyang, Beijing and Wash-

ington negotiated the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War. Seoul accepted the agreement despite criticism that it would solidify the division of the Koreas.

In 1994, a deal that ended a nuclear crisis on the peninsula was agreed between North Korea and the United States.

The South Korean government largely welcomed the resolution, but opposition parties criticized U.S. negotiators for giving aid while failing to secure immediate inspections of the communist state's key nuclear facilities.

South Korea was also asked to pay 70 percent of the costs to build two power-generating nuclear reactors that were part of the aid package.

"I'm concerned that the talks in Beijing would follow the same pattern," Kim said. "But at the same time, I'm relieved that efforts to end the dispute through dialogue have begun."

Park Sang-pil, a 32-year-old worker at a trading company in Seoul, said South Korea "should have gotten in from the start by whatever means."

"We'll end up following decisions made by big countries as we did in the past," he said.

For now though, Roh has said he doesn't mind if South Korea is excluded from the talks.

"Do not disrupt the process by forcefully trying to get in," he told his diplomatic aides.

South Korea prefers multilateral talks, but supports any kind of dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang aimed at peacefully ending the standoff. Roh

plans to visit Washington May 11-17 to meet President Bush to discuss the issue.

South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan urged North Korea on Wednesday to abandon brinkmanship and make a "bold initiative."

It is not clear when the next round of nuclear talks will be held. The Beijing meetings ended, U.S. officials say, after North Korea claimed it had nuclear weapons and may use or sell them, depending on U.S. actions.

First broadcast of wedding video shows Sept. 11 hijackers, plotters

BY COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press Writer

BERLIN — A wedding video shot in a Hamburg mosque has been broadcast for the first time and shows grainy scenes of Sept. 11 al-Qaida suicide pilots celebrating with other alleged plotters, possibly including suspects still not formally identified.

The video of the October 1999 wedding of Said Bahaji being celebrated in a large room at the al Quds mosque — suspected as a recruiting center for al-Qaida operatives — has been in the hands of investigators since shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

In the immediate aftermath of the terror attacks, the Bahaji wedding video provided investigators critical links between the suicide hijackers and other suspected

members of the Hamburg cell.

Attorney General John Ashcroft cited the video at a news conference with German Interior Minister Otto Schily on Oct. 31, 2001. Ashcroft noted that Zakariya Essabar, a Moroccan who left Germany on Sept. 6, 2001, and remains at large, appeared along with Ziad Jarrah, suspected pilot of the hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania, and Marwan al-Shehhi, suspected of piloting a jet into the south tower of the World Trade Center.

In the video broadcast Tuesday by ABC and CNN and subsequently distributed to other television outlets by Associated Press Television News, there's a close-up of a bearded al-Shehhi, who had shaved by the time of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Along with congratulations

for Bahaji, who is now a fugitive, there was a fiery speech by Ramzi Binalshibh, the suspected logistician of the Sept. 11 attacks who is in U.S. custody after his September arrest in Pakistan.

The wedding coincided with the time when German prosecutors say the Hamburg al-Qaida cell united around the plot to use airplanes to attack the United States.

"I could imagine that the seed was sown there," chief German federal prosecutor Kay Nehm told reporters in August 2002.

Those identified in the video has grown to more than 20, including lead hijacker Mohamed Atta; Mohamed Haydar Zammar, an alleged al-Qaida recruiter now in Syrian custody; and Mamoun Darkazanli, a Syrian-born German import-exporter who the United States believes was involved in the plot but who has not been arrested.

SPORTS



L.A. Lakers humiliated by San Antonio, 114-95

BY T.A. BADGER
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The three-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers didn't merely lose. They were humiliated by an opponent seeking two years' worth of revenge.

Getting the bulk of their offense from an unlikely source — defensive specialist Bruce Bowen — the San Antonio Spurs trounced Los Angeles 114-95 Wednesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their second-round series.

This one became lopsided early and stayed that way, with Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal watching most of the fourth quarter from the bench.

Bowen, whose main job in this series is to defend Bryant, connected on seven of

The series now moves to Los Angeles, where the Lakers will be facing a 2-0 deficit for the first time during their three-year run of success.

his eight 3-point attempts and finished with a career playoff-high 27 points while also having enough energy to harass Bryant at the other end.

San Antonio built a 13-point lead in the first period and kept extending it. The Spurs led by 17 at the half, went ahead by 33 in the third quarter and led by 27 entering the fourth.

O'Neal had an easier time on offense than he did in Game 1, making 10 of his 14

shots for 27 points. Bryant scored 27 points, though he needed 24 shots to do it, but Los Angeles — playing without injured small forwards Rick Fox and Devean George — got little offense from anyone else.

The series now moves to Los Angeles, where the Lakers will be facing a 2-0 deficit for the first time during their three-year run of success.

No team would be happier than the Spurs to be the ones to knock the Lakers out of the postseason. Los Angeles has defeated San Antonio in the playoffs the past two seasons, sweeping them in 2001 and defeating them 4-1 a year ago.

Game 3 is Friday, with Game 4 Sunday afternoon.

The Spurs shot better than 60 percent for most of the game and often turned misplays into points.

Malik Rose missed a dunk in the first quarter, but Ginobili caught the carom and turned it into a layup.

Tony Parker fell down trying to fight through a pair of defenders, but he found Ginobili for another basket while sitting on the floor.

Ginobili tossed up a short baseline jumper in the second quarter that bounced twice on top of the backboard before

dropping through the net.

Ginobili finished with 17 points, Parker had 16 and Speedy Claxton 15. MVP Tim Duncan had 12 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists in 33 minutes. The Spurs had six players in double figures.

Three San Antonio players reached double digits in points in the first half, and none of them were Duncan.

Bowen swished his second 3-pointer barely two minutes into the game, and Ginobili scored 10 points on 4-for-4 shooting over a six-minute stretch as the Spurs opened a 31-18 lead by the end of the first period.

O'Neal scored 15 points in the second quarter, but that didn't stop San Antonio's lead from getting bigger.

Bowen hit three more 3-pointers in four attempts to finish the half with 17 points, and Parker made three baskets on drives late in the period, including a layup with 4.8 seconds remaining to extend the Spurs' advantage to 60-43.

Notes: Bryant was 2-for-7 in the second half after shooting 10-for-19 in the second half of Monday's opening game. ... Fox, who tore a tendon in his left foot in Game 4 of the Minnesota series, will have surgery Monday in New York. ... A Spurs fan unfurled a poster of a bikini-clad woman under the Lakers basket in the second quarter in a bid to distract O'Neal while he shot a free throw. The fan was quickly hustled away by security. O'Neal missed the shot, but made his second attempt. ... The game was broadcast live in Ginobili's native Argentina through a special arrangement with ESPN. Games 3 and 4 will also be shown there.

Kings may be overconfident when dealing with Dallas

BY JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — When the Sacramento Kings face the Dallas Mavericks, confidence isn't a problem.

Overconfidence could be.

The Kings have beaten the Mavericks eight of the past 10 meetings. They've won five straight in Dallas, including a 124-113 victory Tuesday night in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal, and that was far more lopsided than the score indicates.

Sacramento coach Rick Adelman was even more impressed by his team's great performance after watching the film Wednesday. While he wants them to focus on doing more of the same in Game 2 Thursday night, he doesn't want them taking Dallas for granted.

"The thing I try to guard against is our guys thinking that just because it happened it's going to happen again," Adelman said. "As a coach, you don't want your team thinking it's going to be that easy."

The Mavericks' mental hurdle against the Kings isn't a lack of confidence. Their problem is being convinced Sacramento believes it can do no wrong against them.

It's easy to see why. The Kings have beaten Dallas four times this season, twice in blowouts and twice with buzzer-beaters. What's left to prove?

"I don't think they're in our head," Mavs point guard Steve Nash said. "But it's in their head that they can beat us, and that's a powerful tool."

Dallas coach Don Nelson said his team recognizes the feeling because they've had it against other teams, such as Houston this season. The Mavericks went 4-0 against the Rockets, winning by 13 when Yao Ming scored a season-best 30 points and taking the others by 21, 23 and 15.

"The only way to take that confidence away from a team is to beat them, probably in a playoff series," Nelson said.

Until Dallas does that, their "King Thing" will just keep growing. And it's already a pretty big deal.

Michael Finley called it "a black cloud over us" and a "mental stranglehold," using both phrases in the same breath.

Nick Van Exel said Avery Johnson is so frustrated that the pious point guard/assistant coach is starting to cuss.

Van Exel's solution is to adopt an anti-

Kings attitude. He believes the Mavericks need to focus strictly on themselves and stop worrying about whether Sacramento has their number.

"That's how they go at us," he said. "They don't care about anything that we do. They don't feel we can do anything to disrupt what they do."

"I don't think they're in our head. But it's in their head that they can beat us, and that's a powerful tool."

— STEVE NASH
Mavericks point guard

"I think they respect us, they think we're a good team. But once they step between the lines, they couldn't care less about what we do. We respect them too much, more than we're supposed to."

Nelson has been singing Sacramento's praises all season. Even when Dallas started 14-0 and had by far the league's best record, he called the Kings the team to beat.

Before Game 1, Nelson talked about Sacramento having two of the NBA's best-passing big men in Chris Webber and Vlade Divac. After Webber had 24 points, nine assists and six rebounds, Nelson said Webber could have been the MVP this past season if he'd been healthy.

Van Exel would like the compliments to stop.

"I don't want to hear that these guys are the greatest things on the planet," he said. "They're a great team, no doubt. But I don't want to hear that every day."

The Kings can sympathize somewhat with Dallas' fixation on them. It wasn't long ago that they, too, got caught in the trap of thinking about what their playoff foes were thinking.

It happened when Sacramento got knocked out of the first round in 1999 and 2000, and in 2001 when the Kings made it to the second round then got swept. Things changed last season, when they took the Lakers to seven games in the conference finals, and it remains that way now.

"We don't think we own them or anything," Webber said. "We're just concerned about ourselves."

Anaheim won't have Patrick Kjellberg for conference finals

By The Associated Press

ANAHEIM — Anaheim right wing Patrick Kjellberg has left the team for unspecified personal reasons and isn't expected to be available for the Western Conference finals, coach Mike Babcock said Wednesday.

Kjellberg, 33, has been used mostly on penalty killing this season. He played in 76 games and had 19 points, including eight goals, during the regular season. The native of Sweden had appeared in each of the Ducks' 10 playoff games and had no points.

Babcock said Kjellberg left for family reasons. Asked if he thought he would be back for the series that begins Saturday at either Minnesota or Vancouver, Babcock said, "I don't think so."

"I'm sure it was a tough decision for him," Babcock said.

Anaheim acquired Kjellberg from Nashville on Nov. 1, 2001 for Petr Tenkrat.

The Ducks swept Detroit in the first round, then eliminated Dallas 4-2 in the second.

Four previous champs return in Rock 'n' Roll Marathon

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The previous four winners of the Rock n Roll Marathon are entered in the sixth running of the 26.2-mile race on June 1.

Philip Tarus of Kenya (1998-99), Belay Wolasha of Ethiopia (2000), John Kagwe of Kenya (2001) and last year's winner, Sammy Korir of Kenya, will lead the elite field.

Korir came within two seconds of his sixth sub-2:09. His 2:09:01 winning time was the second fastest ever in San Diego, 28 seconds off Tarus 1999 course record.

Korir's chief competition will come from Tarus, who has a PR of 2:08:33, and Kagwe, who has a personal best of 2:08:12. Wolasha averaged a 5:04 mile pace to win in 2000.

The marathon starts in Balboa Park and finishes at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. More than 40 bands are scheduled to play on stages set up along the course.

DID YOU KNOW?: The New York Yankees have won 26 World Series titles, which is more than any other team.

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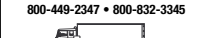
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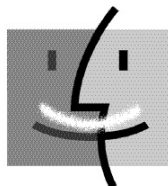
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BACK PAGE



Goofy mathematician

By The Associated Press

SAN JOSE — After 20 years of crunching the numbers, Prof. Daniel Goldston thought he and a colleague in Turkey had solved an important math problem. But weeks after announcing the breakthrough, Goldston says he goofed along the way.

"Even if I had spent another year very carefully going over everything, I think I still would have missed that error," the San Jose State University professor said Tuesday.

Goldston's advance in the field of prime numbers was called the most important breakthrough in that area of mathematics in decades.

Other experts say that regardless of the outcome, the work Goldston has done with Cem Yalcin Yildirim of Bogazici University in Istanbul is a success.

Their work involves the twin prime conjecture, or the idea that there are an infinite number of pairs of prime numbers that differ only by two.

Prime numbers can be divided only by themselves or by 1 without leaving a remainder. The smallest twin

primes are 3 and 5. The largest discovered so far are numbers with 51,090 digits each.

While no one has proved the twin prime conjecture itself, Goldston and Yildirim tackled a related question: Can you find an infinite number of primes that may not be twins, but that are much closer together than average?

Their proof, or solution, seemed to say yes. But on April 23, a flaw emerged.

Goldston says he will work to fix the flaw over the next several months.

Surfing on the pot

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Now on the way: "Surfing on the loo" with Internet access at portable toilets.

The iLoo being developed by the MSN division of Microsoft Corp. in Britain is a standard portable toilet — a loo to the English — with a wireless keyboard and extending, height-adjustable plasma screen in front of the seat.

There would also be a "Hotmail station" with waterproof keyboard and plasma screen on the outside for those waiting in line.

MSN officials say they're negotiating for the manufacture of toilet paper imprinted with Web addresses that users may not have tried.

"The Internet's so much a part of everyday life now that surfing on the loo was the next natural step," MSN marketing manager Tracy Blacher said. "People used to reach for a book or magazine when they were on the loo, but now they'll be logging on."

The device is expected to be in use at festivals this

summer in Britain, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported Tuesday. There's no word on if, or when, the iLoo will make its way across the pond.

No more wet carpet

By The Associated Press

PORT RICHEY, Fla. — Steve and Mildred Nadwairski can no longer sweep the carpet over their lawn problem.

A judge has ordered the retired couple to remove the multicolored carpet swatches from their sloped front yard, saying they are a nuisance. They have until June 23 to rip out the rugs.

The couple carpeted their lawn a few years back, after grass seed never took, landscape logs couldn't solve the problem and \$250 seemed too much for sod.

"I don't know that it's written anywhere that you can't have carpet on your front lawn," Steve Nadwairski said.

Pasco County has ordinances prohibiting the collection of "public nuisance items," such as junk cars and appliances. Old carpet also classifies, assistant county attorney Kristi Wooden said.

"These junkyards are magnets for pests and rodents, snakes and rats," Wooden said. "I wouldn't think that stepping on soggy carpet would be something I would want my child to do."

Neighbors were pleased by the ruling.

"It just looks nasty," said Lynn Serviss. "With it being wet all the time, there is no telling what's under that."

The Nadwairskis said they would comply with the ruling.



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