

FREE

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 152

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

03, 05, 11, 30, 31

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 4, 0

Evening picks: 7, 8, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star

2nd Place: 08, Gorgeous George

3rd Place: 11, Money Bags

Race time: 1:49.72


**NEWS OF
THE WEIRD**
by Chuck Shepard

In Center Township, Pa., in January, Mark Ferrara called for paramedics when his daughter, 7, couldn't resist trying to lick a frozen metal pole at her school bus stop, and got stuck. And according to a BBC News report about a colder-than-normal January in Russia, a young man in the southern city of Stavropol, answering a call of nature behind a bus stop shelter, turned abruptly so that his exposed organ inadvertently stuck to the metal siding; a bystander hustled up a kettle of warm water to unstuck him.


**QUOTE OF
THE DAY**

"Is life worth living? That depends on the liver."
— Unknown

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Cutting the rug



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom joined in the Senior Day festivities on the Third Street Promenade on Thursday. Dozens of seniors showed up for a day of festivities at the Promenade's center court. They watched a special screening of the movie, "Legally Blonde," ate lunch and danced together. The event was sponsored by the Bayside District Corp., which manages downtown, and the city's Commission on Older Americans. May is Older Americans Month.

Court dismisses Main Street developer's lawsuit against city

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica judge on Wednesday dismissed a developer's \$2 million lawsuit against City Hall, saying it wasn't responsible for delays in approving the largest project Main Street has seen in years.

Howard Jacobs sued City Hall in 2000, claiming he lost millions of dollars because it dragged its feet in completing the environmental impact review of his development project. The environmental report was completed several months after the supposed deadline, Jacobs claimed.

Although he was unavailable for comment on Thursday, Jacobs has said in the past that the delay cost him nearly \$3 million because he was sitting on land that he had to pay for. He said the

city delayed him his right to get a return on his investment in a timely manner. Jacobs has said that he pays \$115,000 a month for the mortgage, insurance and maintenance of the property.

The development site occupies the entire block between Neilson Way and Main Street, and Bay Street and Bicknell Avenue, as well as another parcel across the street. The larger site, on the west side of Main Street, used to be the location of the Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery.

Jacobs put the property up for sale shortly after he received the last approval he needed from the state's coastal commission last fall. He purchased the property for \$5 million and it is now on the market for \$27 million.

Along with the price tag

See SUIT, page 7

Main Street surf shop owner faces rape lawsuit

But criminal charges were dropped for lack of evidence

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The owner of a Santa Monica surf shop is being sued for allegedly raping a former customer and friend.

Stacy Peters, a 29-year-old freelance graphic designer, is suing Randy Wright, 40, owner of Horizons West on Main Street, for an undisclosed amount of money.

Jurors heard opening arguments and the beginning of the civil case against Wright on Thursday. The trial, which is being heard by Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Lorna Parnell, is expected to last two days.

The district attorney never pressed criminal charges against Wright because it said there was not sufficient evidence.

Peters, who said she invited Wright into her bed on Jan. 10, 2001 after spending the evening drinking wine and doing household repairs with him, testified that she woke up to find Wright raping her.

Wright told a different story. He said the two were engaged in foreplay for more than 30 minutes when he tried to have sex with her and was pushed away.

Both sides said they went back to sleep immediately after the incident.

Before that night, there was no sexual relationship between the two, though Wright had spent the night in Peter's living room a handful of times.

Peters notified Los Angeles Police Department officers 17 days after the alleged rape.

The criminal case against Wright was dropped in May of 2001 because of the lack of evidence, said Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman

for the district attorney's office.

Shepard Kopp, Wright's defense attorney, characterized the civil lawsuit as a money-making effort by Peters, who also named Horizons West as a defendant in the lawsuit.

"She doesn't go to the cop for two and a half weeks," he said. "She gets right back in bed with a guy that supposedly raped her. She files a civil case a year after the criminal charges

See RAPE, page 7

Bill to help measure restaurant fat

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Ever wonder how much artery-clogging fat was in that cheeseburger you had for lunch? A bill moving through the California Legislature would make it easier to find out.

The measure, approved Thursday by the state Senate, would require chains with at least 10 restaurants to make available to customers nutritional information in a take-away form about their stan-

dard menu items.

The information would have to include at least the same details required on packaged food items sold in grocery stores, and the restaurants would have to post conspicuous signs announcing the availability of the information.

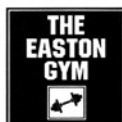
Supporters, including the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society, say the bill would help people make good decisions about their eating habits and cut down on obesity, heart dis-

ease and other health problems.

Opponents contend the bill, by Sen. Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento, would put onerous requirements on the state's restaurants.

Some restaurants already make nutritional information available about their food, either at the restaurant or on their Web site, Ortiz said. But others do not or have it in a form that is not easily accessible.

Thursday's 21-15 vote sent the bill to the Assembly.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, May 9, 2003:

Your personal life takes a greater priority. Though you might not be sure exactly what works for you, you will make firm decisions this year. Quite frequently you hold your feelings back. Through processing them, you will make positive changes and find that others are more responsive to you. If attached, the quality of your relationship could change if you're willing to reveal more of yourself. If you are single, a relationship will mark your life this year. This person could be quite special, if you choose to be open and share. Your relationship proves to be primary. Many of you will be buying a new home. LEO provides security.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Reach out to others and make a difference with some of your friends. Speak your mind with a loved one or associate who could be a bit overly serious or pushy. You find ways to get around problems. Use your imagination, and others will respond. Tonight: Romp into the weekend.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You mean well, though others might have difficulty receiving your message. Your intuition helps you with a family member. Don't hold so much back right now. Your wallet could feel pinched by what goes on within a relationship. Tonight: Happy at home.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might be unduly serious. Express a little trust. Go that extra step and make what you want happen. You might be far more persuasive than you realize. Clear your desk and make calls. Others naturally respond. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Experiment and try something new or different. You might unintentionally be slowing yourself up. Your sense of humor takes you down a new path. Have confidence. When you make a decision, others will respond. You leave an excellent impression. Tonight: Your treat.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You're a bundle of energy and enthusiasm. Allow your imagination to take the next step. You could be wondering what will work with a child or loved who is growing and changing a lot. Your fiery and impulsive nature pays off. Tonight: Step out.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Slow down and think. How you perceive a situation could change a lot because of your own assessment. You will be able to make a difference if you do what a partner or associate suggests. Remain more playful and upbeat. Tonight: Build a stronger bond.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Meetings and group happenings create more of what you want. A partner who has been remote pulls in a lot closer. You find yourself delighted by news that heads in your direction. Be imaginative about a request. You'll get better results. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Stand up and be counted. You might not feel as comfortable as you would like with a co-worker. Think through a decision that involves work and the quality of your life. Deal with a close friend or partner later in the day. Tonight: Thank goodness for the weekend.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You could easily change your position. Make that OK. Make calls and arrange a getaway, if not this weekend then ASAP. Your happy ways could make all the difference in what happens in a pertinent relationship. Ask for more of what you want. Tonight: Let happiness filter in.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Deal with others more directly. You might change your mind about someone you really care about. Revitalize your thinking. You come from a fundamentally healthy point of view. An associate provides key information. Tonight: Allow someone to whisper sweet nothings in your ear.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Let others come forward. You might wonder exactly what is going on with a friend. Why not make a friendly inquiry to see what someone else comes up with? You can help a pal through a problem. Express your willingness. Tonight: Let others make suggestions.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by what is going on with a child or loved one. Investigate a financial plum that drops in your path. You just might want to keep this one. Others have many opinions to share. Listen, but know that this is your call. Tonight: Pace yourself.

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LOCAL

Peace activists gather to honor mothers, women

By Daily Press staff

Peace activists will gather at the beach Sunday to honor women, mothers and peace through an afternoon of ceremonies and an aerial photo taken of hundreds of people recreating Picasso's "Motherhood."

The event takes place on Mother's Day from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Ocean Park Beach, just west of Ocean Park Boulevard.

Peace on the Beach and CODEPINK will bring together thousands of mothers, grandmothers, mothers to be, their families and friends to reclaim Mother's Day from commercialism and platitudes, to celebrate women's political engagement in today's society, and to continue a call for an international movement of women for peace. Organizers ask participants to wear a touch of pink.

Commentator, author and activist, Arianna Huffington, and Ohio Representative, Democratic Presidential candidate, and author of the initiative for the Department of Peace, Dennis Kucinich, will kick off the event at 2 p.m.

Iraqi mother and school teacher, Um Haider, will join the crowd with her son Mostafa. Um Haider's legal name is Akbal Fithyab, following the death of another son, Haider, when their house was bombed in 1999 by a U.S. cruise missile, she took his name.

Following additional speakers and music, the gathering will begin forming the aerial image at approximately 2:45 p.m. and end the vigil by 4 p.m.

CODEPINK co-founder Jodie Evans, and Peace on the Beach producer Patricia Foulkrod will lead the re-creation of Picasso's "Motherhood," directed by aerial artist, John Quigley/Spectral.

Quigley has directed more than 30 aerial images, most recently recreating Picasso's "Face of Peace" on Feb. 15, at Peace on the Beach. It is an image that has now gone around the world. Hundreds of families and friends will join them.

"We wish to reclaim the original intention of Mother's Day, which was a call for women to assemble for peace and to send a message of solidarity and compassion to Iraqi mothers, and all mothers around the world who endure lifelong suffering due to war and injustice," Foulkrod said. "We will honor women who labor daily to achieve the most difficult of births — global peace and respect for Mother Earth."

Evans said the event is not just about peace, but justice for all women.

"Americans may revere motherhood and



File photo
Last year's demonstration for peace on the beach in Santa Monica.

their own mothers, but we do not support all mothers," she said. "Poor, unemployed mothers may enjoy flowers, but they also need childcare, job training, health care, a higher minimum wage and paid parental leave. Today, our greatest threat is not just from missiles and terrorism, but from our indifference towards human life, the quality of life for our mothers and their children, and the health of our planet."

Also part of the event will be Reverend Michael Beckwith, director and founder of Agape International Spiritual Center, Agape Choir Director, Rickie Byars Beckwith, singers Barbara Williams and Jacqueline Fuentes, singer and composer Georgia Muldrow, the LA Women's Circle, and Janet Planet and the LA Drum Corp will play.

Following tremendous losses of the Civil War, Julia War Howe in 1870 sent out a proclamation, declaring: "Arise, then women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of tears! We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience."

The event is endorsed by the Coalition for World Peace, United Artists for Peace, Agape International Spiritual Center, Americans Against War, N.O.W., Women International League for Peace and Freedom, Mothers Against Military Madness, The Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, Peaceful Warriors, Topanga Peace Alliance, and Westside Greens, Palisades for Peace, and Students taking Action and Responsibility Today.

For more information, log onto: www.codepinkalert.org, or www.peaceonthebeach.com.

surf report

FRIDAY'S SURF:

No end in sight for the onshore winds.

Early morning sessions are still your best bet, with chest-high sets a rare possibility at your best breaks.

Good news: The NW wind swell will hold through the weekend, with a new SSW swell that shows late Friday and holds all the way through to another SSW that should show up early next week.

Bad news: At least for now, the wind is hanging around.

Outlook: The surf is on its way up, all the way around. And the wind seems to be backing off a little in the mornings. This weekend could be fun.

Today the water is:

59°

	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

Readers not happy with school parcel tax

This week's Q-Line question was:

"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?"

Here are your responses:

■ "I do not believe the schools need more money. It's like giving drugs to a drug addict. They are so wasteful. I know people who work for the district. It is a very, very wasteful bureaucracy. Giving them more money will not fix

the problem. They will just want more. Measure S is also very undemocratic."

■ "I will vote no. For years I have

See Q-LINE, page 5

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OPINION

LETTERS

The rudeness of L.A. drivers

Editor:

To quote a phrase, "I am mad as hell and I am not going to take it anymore!" What do you do, though, when the offender is driving a SUV, is a "he" and is bigger than you? It just really gets my goat when people knowingly break the law, thereby inconveniencing others.

I was driving along Wilshire Boulevard, getting ready to stop in the mail drop off zone in front of the post office to mail a letter. There was this SUV in front of me who pulled into the space and I waited for him to get out of his car, deposit his mail, and drive off. I waited and waited and that did not happen. All I saw was his brake lights going off and on, but no one got out of the car. So, I gave a brief, light tap to my horn. Nothing! I waited a bit longer, and then gave a slightly harder, louder tap to my horn.

Absolutely nothing! I was getting rather perturbed and I pull up alongside the car, and waved the envelope which I was attempting to drop off. It turns out, that this person was talking on his cell phone, and continued to park, without a care in the world for anyone else in what I would consider an illegal manner. There is a sign which also states something to the effect of "no stopping any time." So, I back up, and then I illegally double park, as there are no spaces in which to park, and I get out, walk up to the driver, say that he is not supposed to park there, and he politely says "F@S% you." What a nice dude. He was parking illegally, and swears at me. So, I quickly mail my letter and got back into my car. I could have gotten a ticket for my car being double parked, unattended, while he continued to disregard the law talking on his cell phone. What is a person to do? I thought I would have to have my blood pressure checked for sure after the incident.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Shame on City Hall

Editor:

This is regarding the July 4th Celebration canceled and the Cinco de Mayo celebration at Santa Monica Pier.

Isn't there an enormous irony in these two headlines in the Friday, May 2 Santa Monica Daily Press?

As stated a "looming budget deficit forced cancellation" of our nation's collective heritage acknowledgment. However, there was no mention by City Hall of a "budget deficit" for a celebration by a foreign country.

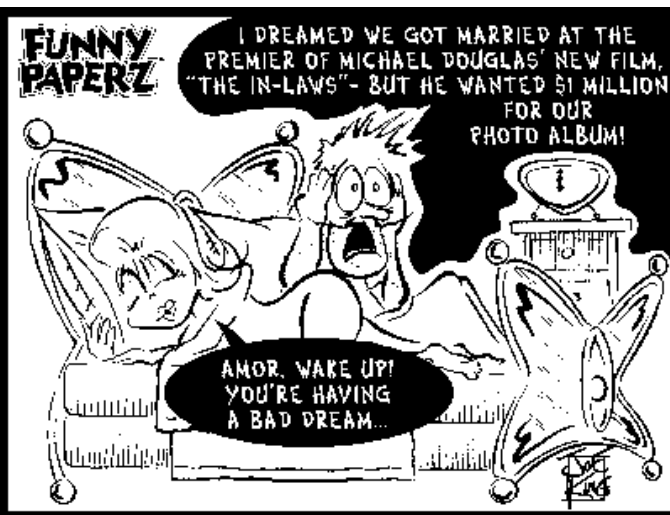
The same policing services and clean up crews function for either. Yet another reason given for lack of community celebration for July 4 was "difficulty in crowd control." There is a blatant double standard implied.

So there is to be no parade, no fireworks, no decorations, no flags. A complete void of United States pride. Isn't there something dreadfully missing here?

How can there be funds for a special ethnic group and no funds for our United States recognition?

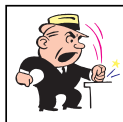
Shame, shame on City Hall, city council members and all who seem to be afraid of offending anyone thereby offending everyone.

Betty A. Darling
Santa Monica



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Big money interests get a free ride with Measure S



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

The political process is for sale to the highest bidder these days. And nowhere is this truer than in Santa Monica and especially with Measure S, the school parcel tax measure on the June 3 ballot.

Measure S would add another \$225 tax to every piece of property in the Santa Monica/Malibu School District. This would be in addition to a previous school parcel tax which already costs every property owner \$104.

After Measure EE was defeated last fall, the ad-hoc parcel tax committee also known as the "Save Our Schools Committee" needed to create a school tax that would pass in June.

They concocted three proposals. All of them involved a flat charge per parcel but two of them included additional cents-per-square-foot assessments on the improvements or buildings on the parcel.

Large property owners and businesses complained. Rumors abounded that a cents-per-square-foot proposal would not

be supported. Word was that local business interests and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, intent on flexing newly found political muscle, might campaign against it.

What's a school board to do? They bowed to pressure and chose the flat tax. Even though a cents-per-square-foot assessment would have raised more money for the schools and been fairer, they blinked, flinched and rolled over.

Chamber of Commerce President-elect and school supporter Nat Trives noted that the \$225 flat tax benefits business. Trives said some businesses would have paid as much as \$70,000 annually with one of the rejected cents-per-square-foot proposals. Trives was probably referring to one mega development with hundreds of business tenants that could have all split the cost.

That one business Trives used as an example would pay out more than \$420,000 during the measure's six-year life span. In comparison, a \$5,000 or \$10,000 donation to the "Yes on S" campaign is a sweet deal, indeed.

Doesn't it seem a bit disingenuous for the business community to wax enthusiastically about how they're helping education when intimidation and threats were apparently used to avoid paying a tax that would have provided millions more for schools?

No wonder the Chamber and business community are seeking donations and have hired a publicist to push this business-friendly tax proposal. Maybe it's why real estate firms such as Coldwell-Banker are allowing Measure S supporters access to their phones for phone banking.

Large property owners such as Macerich (Santa Monica Place), Douglas-Emmett (Santa Monica Shores, Pacific Plaza, etc.), the Water Gardens, Malibu Bay Company and others are getting off cheap. They'll pay the same \$225 as every vacant lot owner, every condo and homeowner if Measure S passes.

Knowing that senior citizens generally vote against tax initiatives, they were bought off, too. Senior property owners, including landlords, over 65 years old who live on their property, are eligible for exemptions. Senior renters? No, amazingly, not in rent control paradise.

With hundreds, maybe thousands of senior property owners seeking exemptions, additional revenue will be lost. Measure S may not even raise the \$6.5 million a year backers hope for.

Santa Monicans for Renters Rights dominates the SOS committee, Santa Monica City Council and the school board. SMRR is the champion of the poor, the exploited hotel worker and the low

income renter, so herein is the dichotomy.

How is it that the SMRR leadership helped create — and the organization itself — endorses a ballot proposition that favors seniors wealthy enough to own property and big business?

What about the poor, working mom who rents a duplex? This will add \$10 more to her monthly rent. How about the senior living on Social Security in a small Pico neighborhood fourplex? He'll cough up \$5 a month while the senior owner of a multi-million dollar Malibu beachfront or San Vicente mansion pays nothing.

The actions of the limousine liberals and socialist SMRRs who advocate for living wages and social justice for the poor speak louder than their rhetoric. Any fool can see that Measure S deprives the poor and those on the economic fringe of much needed money and resources while benefiting the wealthy and special interests. Isn't this hypocritical?

But is all of this reason to vote no?

It is if you want to send a message and end years of more unfair tax proposals, threats to our children's education, mismanagement, hypocrisy, financial extortion and political game-playing.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

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.

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OPINION



The QLine

CONT., from page 3

voted yes and supported the schools. They need to work with the money that they have. They need to clean the schools. What I mean by this is parents have complained about students coming from outside the district. Until then there will never be enough money."

■ "I do not plan to vote in favor of Measure S. It is an unfairly applied taxation which should never be brought up to vote for again. The educators are desperate to help only themselves from necessary lay-offs due to the state's financial condition. Instead of securing ever more huge sums of money for special interest programs like music, which not all children participate in or benefit from, they ought to use the remaining hundreds of millions of dollars in their budgets to strengthen meaningful subjects like math, English and history. Every child would benefit from this. To suggest we hire back any of the laid-off in bundles instead of by seniority, merit or actual need is ludicrous. The district should focus on educating with what huge funds they already have available. Their job is not generating more funding."

■ "Measure S appears to be inundated with subterfuge simply because there is no clear definition of what determines a parcel of land. Is a 100-unit apartment building setting on a lot considered one parcel? Are 100 condo units sitting on one lot considered 100 parcels? Is a \$5 million mansion sitting on a lot considered one parcel. I sense an imbalance of unfair taxation."

■ "I pay more than I can afford now. When I first moved here my property tax was around \$12,000 a year. Last year I had to pay \$14,000. I think it's plenty and I don't need to pay anymore. I need relief. Not more taxes."

■ "I'm voting no on Prop. S because I do not think it's fair. Senior homeowners are exempt but senior renters are not. Senior renters in a building with only two, four or six units are going to get much higher bills than renters in larger, condo-type buildings."

■ "No. Don't breed 'em if you can't feed 'em or educate them. It's not society's responsibility for people breeding like rats, cats and dogs with no thoughts of the consequences and expecting the taxpayers to take care of their spawn."

■ "I think we can all agree that our schools are in need of more money. I have to believe that people also know that Measure S is a grossly unfair way to raise those funds. Why a large hotel or other big business and apartment buildings can get away paying the same \$225 increase as say a small condo owner is beyond belief. The attempt by the school district was shot down by the voters. Instead of dividing a plan to raise the money based on the square footage of a structure, they have arrogantly and irresponsibly decided to lower the bill a little and ram this one down our throats. The school district made a cheap and

sleazy deal with big businesses to keep the tax a flat, per parcel assessment. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. This is absolutely wrong. The district knows they could raise far more money on a tax based on square footage and also lower the impact on the average homeowner. They seem to think that the homeowners in Santa Monica could buy their homes with the current real estate market, when in fact, most could not afford to buy their own home today with these inflated prices. Let's send a strong message to the school districts to get out of bed with big businesses and draw up a plan based on square footage. Vote no on Measure S!"

■ "I will not vote for Measure S or any other bail out for the school system until someone explains to me what happened to the billions of dollars the State Lottery Commissions gave to support the schools system? Who is pocketing that money? The school districts should ask Sacramento for an accountant. That was the main purpose of the state lottery. There is something rotten in Sacramento."

■ "I read the VoteNoS.com Web site and I agree with them. This measure was written for political benefit of big business and the power structure in town here. Fair methods which they seem to have rejected, the square-footage and per dwelling would have been much more fair and would have evened out the payments on everybody. It's a real shame that politics took over reason. I'm voting no."

■ "Rather than charge property owners who are already contributing to schools through their property taxes, why not charge the actual user — the parents of students who go to school?"

■ "I will vote no on Measure S. The \$6.5 million per year for six years is over \$36 million. Why have the directors chosen to try again? What happens to the millions of dollars from federal, state, city, county taxes and other sources, including the huge amount the receive from the state lottery?"

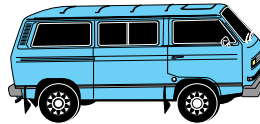
■ "No. The main reason is that is it an incredibly regressive tax and should be a sliding scale from the very top down to the very bottom and it's not. That's why it's never passed."

■ "Both of our children are in the Santa Monica schools and Prop. S is something that is going to require a two-thirds vote. As a parent I know the school needs help, but I don't feel that we are going to support that issue because the City of Santa Monica needs to support the schools instead of playing with their pet parks and this whole library fiasco. They need to support the basics of their community. The back of the homeowners, property owners in general, rental, etc. is not the place to throw another layer on top of. We already have a parcel tax. It's a matter of redirecting energies in the cities and they need to wake up."

■ "I will vote yes on Measure S. Public schools serve all children rich and poor. I want to know that the doctors, lawyers and leaders of our future are well educated."

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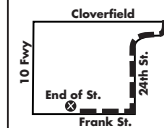


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REAL ESTATE

Real estate Web sites you should know about



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

If you are a property owner, or are thinking about one day owning a home in the Los Angeles area, there are some excellent property information Web sites you should know about.

Thinking about building something? Go to the department of building and safety at www.cityofla.org/ladbs/ <<http://www.cityofla.org/ladbs/>>. Building and safety aims to "preserve the city's quality of life, and contribute to the city's economic development." The site is a compendium of useful information about permits, zoning information, mechanical and electrical codes, disabled access regulations, and local and state laws for construction and maintenance of commercial, industrial, and residential building.

More good zoning information, and impressive property maps, can be found at the department of city planning at www.lacity.org/pln/ <<http://www.lacity.org/pln/>>. City planning claims responsibility for "purposes, policies and programs for the development of the city." Their agenda includes land use, conservation, circulation, service systems, highways, and publicly funded facilities. City planning regulates the use of privately-owned property through zoning regulation, specific plan ordinances and state laws.

Those property maps to make you proud can be found by going to the zoning information section and checking out the zoning information map access system.

Now that you've got the overall construction vision, go local. The city Web site at www.santa-monica.org/ will give you all the city propaganda and meeting minutes you desire. But, be forewarned, you'll spend a lot of time poking around on the Web site looking for your information. It's much easier to go down to City Hall, which is usually not very crowded.

To find out more about the tax and transaction activity of a particular parcel, try the L.A. County Assessor's site at assessor.co.la.ca.us/. The site also encourages simplified property tax procedures for property owners by offering tax guidelines such as "Reassessment Exclusion for Real Property Transfers Between Parents

and Children," (Proposition 58) and info on "Senior Citizen's Replacement Dwelling Benefits" (Propositions 60 and 90). You also can research assessment information for individual parcels, print the assessor's maps, and search for sales within the past two years.

If you're thinking of building on virgin terrain, start at the department of public works Web site at ladpw.org/general/facilities/app_building.cfm. They have valuable information on land development, waterworks, sewers, engineering and environmental programs. They are an excellent resource for surveying/public records information (though you may have to actually show up in person to see the records). FYI, the department of public works is responsible for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of roads, bridges, airports, sewers, water supply, flood control and water conservation facilities.

Want more information on the real estate market? A good real estate portal to can be found at www.business2.com/webguide/0,1660,2852,00.html <<http://www.business2.com/webguide/0,1660,2852,00.html>>. Among other interesting Web sites, it takes you to CNNfn: IndustryWatch: Real estate, an up-to-the minute compendium of news specific to the real estate industry. You can get the national picture by reading the headlines. Easy.

Another worthwhile link the portal offers is inman.com. Inman is a good source for national real estate news, and particularly strong in when it comes to single-family residences. They also offer useful information on mortgage rates, and regular features from nationally recognized real estate experts Bob Bruss and Dian Hymer.

For overall financial wisdom, real estate and beyond, check in with www.suzeorman.com/resources.asp <<http://www.suzeorman.com/resources.asp>>. Described as a woman who "who have revolutionized the way America thinks about money," Suze Orman sees real estate as a vital part of a strong financial portfolio.

(Jodi Summers is a real estate agent at Boardwalk Realty. If you have local real estate questions or opinions you'd like to share, e-mail them to Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com or call (310) 309-4219.)



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LOCAL



Judge rules in City Hall's favor in development suit

SUIT, from page 1

comes all the approvals and conditions given by the Santa Monica City Council to build the 170,000-square-foot, four-story, 133-unit housing and retail development.

Superior Court Judge Patricia Collins granted the city's motion to dismiss the lawsuit on the grounds that the city is not liable for permit delays. Collins ruled that

the city had not deprived Jacobs of his property rights and "delays in the permit process itself are not actionable."

Collins ruled that "such delays are an incident of ownership that may be imposed on the developer rather than the general taxpayer without violating the United States Constitution." Collins also ruled that Jacobs failed to produce any admissible evidence to show that the city

fabricated delays.

"This ruling affirms a bedrock principle of land use law that a city is not liable for permit delays," said Deputy City Attorney Cara E. Silver, who argued the case for the city. "The city has an obligation to the community at large to comply with environmental laws and should not be forced by a developer to take shortcuts in this area."

Jacob's permit application to develop a mixed use project on the site was deemed complete in April 2000 and the draft environmental impact report was completed in August 2000, according to city officials. The Planning Commission denied the project in December 2001. The Santa Monica City Council reversed the

Planning Commission's decision and approved the project in February 2002.

Jacobs, who has developed seven other properties in Santa Monica, battled City Hall for nearly four years to gain approval for the project.

The approved project has gone through at least four major revamps in the past 3 1/2 years.

Jacobs' investment not only includes millions of dollars in plan preparations and the price of the property itself, but also hundreds of hours spent in the public review process.

Jacobs had envisioned the ground floor of the buildings' retail space to have neighborhood-serving stores and upstairs would feature luxury apartments.

Woman says her life fell apart after alleged incident

RAPE, from page 1

were dropped.

"To me the whole thing is buyer's remorse. The girl had too much to drink, made a mistake and regrets it."

Peters and Wright met in the summer of 2000. Peters was a novice surfer and stumbled into Wright's surf shop looking for advice and surfing equipment.

The two quickly developed a casual friendship. They often went surfing together and out for dinner and drinks.

Peters said she waited to make an official complaint because a week after the incident she left for a Hawaiian vacation that the two were meant to share. Wright didn't go on the trip because their relationship deteriorated after the incident.

Once she got on the plane, Peters said she realized the severity of the situation.

"Everything just got worse and worse and worse," said Peters, who broke into tears on the stand. "I (originally) thought it was something I could just deal with on my own."

After returning to L.A., Peters reported the alleged rape to police. She said she attended more than 20 weekly rape counseling sessions and was prescribed Prozac and sleeping pills because of the trauma she suffered by the experience.

"My whole world turned upside down," she said. "I couldn't function ... It was like a trigger. My body just freaked out."

Peters moved several times after the alleged incident, saying she wanted to get as far away from the area as possible.

She spent four months guiding scuba tours on the island of St. Thomas in the Caribbean. She then moved back to Venice for six months, then to Redondo Beach for two months, then to Central America for another two months and has been living in Marina del Rey for the last three months.

Peters would not say how much money she is seeking in damages and lost wages but said she made upwards of \$42 an hour for her work as a graphic designer at Daily Planet, a Santa Monica ad agency.

Carol Gillam, her attorney, said the alleged rape has forced her to miss out on tens of thousands of dollars in wages.

"To me the whole thing is buyer's remorse. The girl had too much to drink, made a mistake and regrets it."

— SHEPARD KOPP
Defense attorney

Wright, who grew up in Venice, won surfing's West Coast Championship in 1984. He bought Horizons West in 1987 from Nathan Pratt, who first opened the store in 1977.

Pratt was part of the "Dogtown Z-Boys," a group of surfers in Venice and Santa Monica widely credited with creating modern skateboarding.

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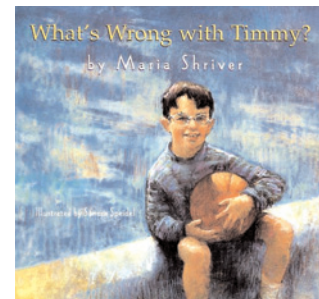
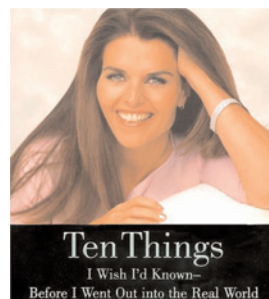
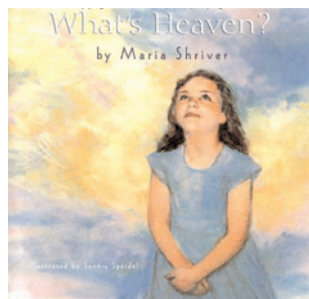
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STATE

California likely to prevail in campaign-finance dispute

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court reinstated a lawsuit challenging part of California's campaign-finance law, but suggested Thursday that the rule requiring public disclosure of those opposing or supporting ballot measures is constitutional.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals supported a 1974 California law demanding those who spend more than \$1,000 publicly touting or opposing ballot measures must make public their expenditures. The court rejected a claim by the California Pro-Life Council Inc. that said such requirements violated First Amendment free speech protections.

The three-judge appeals panel said the U.S. Supreme Court already has upheld similar restrictions. While giving the Pro-Life Council a chance to challenge the law in federal court, the court suggested that overturning it would be next to impossible.

"Given the complexity of the issues and the unwillingness of much of the electorate to independently study the propriety of individual ballot measures, we think being able to evaluate who is doing the talking is of great importance," wrote Judge Richard C. Tallman.

But the court did embrace limits on what type of speech much be disclosed. The court said that groups need only disclose their financing of advertisements or literature if they "expressly advocate the defeat or passage of a ballot measure."

The ruling mirrors a September state appeals court decision, which ruled the same way when it came to advertisements and literature about political candidates.

The California Fair Political Practices Commission, which declined immediate comment, on Friday is expected to debate ways to change the language in the disclosure law to comply with that state appeals court ruling.

In that case, a San Francisco-based appeals court said that a taxpayer group's 2001 commercials attacking Gov. Gray Davis' handling of the energy crisis were protected speech immune to the Political Reform Act's requirements. In weighing First Amendment rights of free speech, the court ruled that the act did not apply because the ads never clearly urged television viewers to vote for or against Davis.

James Bopp, the attorney representing the Pro-Life Council, said he will continue litigating his case in hopes that the federal courts ultimately take his position that advocating for ballot issues does not require public disclosure. A Sacramento federal judge had dismissed the case without a trial.

"We didn't even get our day in court," Bopp said.

The 9th Circuit said it reinstated Bopp's case Thursday because, since free speech was in question, the Pro-Life Council deserved a day in court.

The Pro-Life Council alleges its speech was chilled when it decided not to spend more than \$1,000 trying to defeat Proposition 34 in the 2000 election. The group says it feared reprisals from state political watchdogs because the group was not going to report how much it would spend attacking the measure. The proposition, approved by voters, limits how much individuals can give to candidates for statewide offices.

Judge invalidates measure cutting payments to poor

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A judge Thursday invalidated the "Care Not Cash" ballot initiative approved by San Francisco voters last fall, saying the city's elected supervisors are the only ones authorized to decide how much local aid indigent residents receive.

Ruling in a lawsuit brought by a homeless woman and an advocate for the poor, Superior Court Judge Ronald Quidachay said that California law gives the Board of Supervisors "exclusive authority" to set policy for the state-mandated welfare program.

The topic is therefore "beyond the reach of initiative and referendum," Quidachay wrote in a six-page order voiding the tough-love measure that had been considered a bellwether of the liberal city's shifting attitudes toward the homeless.

In November, 60 percent of San Francisco's electorate voted in favor of Proposition N, which would reduce the monthly cash allowances that about 3,300 homeless residents now receive from \$396, the most generous in the state, to as little as \$59. The estimated \$13.2 million in savings would be redirected toward treatment programs and shelter beds.

The measure was scheduled to take effect July 1, and its proponents, who argue that the lump sum payments encourage alcoholism and drug abuse,

said Thursday that they would fight to get the change implemented as planned.

"What the judge ruled on was not whether this system of providing services in place of cash is legal, but who has the authority to do that," said Jim Ross, who managed the "Care Not Cash" campaign for its sponsor, Supervisor Gavin Newsom.

Newsom, who worked to get the initiative on the ballot when it appeared most of his board colleagues wouldn't support it, is planning to reintroduce the proposition as legislation when the supervisors meet on Tuesday, according to Ross.

Mayor Willie Brown predicted that it will be harder for supervisors to oppose it when the issue ends up before them a second time.

"The board members have been saying since November that regardless of their individual feelings about Prop. N they would implement the will of the voters. Well, now they have the chance to put their money where their mouths are," said Brown, who endorsed the ballot measure.

The city attorney's office, which represented the city in the case, is also evaluating options for a legal appeal, said spokesman Matt Dorsey.

Oren Sellstrom, who represented the plaintiffs on behalf of the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, observed that judges are usually reluctant to place curbs on California's famously expansive ballot initiative process.

NATIONAL



State may sell corporate naming rights to parks, forests

BY KEN MAGUIRE
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — With the state facing a \$3 billion deficit, Massachusetts lawmakers are considering selling corporate sponsors the naming rights to parks and forests, including the Walden Woods immortalized by Henry David Thoreau.

Some big-city mayors around the country have considered similar proposals, but Massachusetts would be the first state to pass such a law.

The move is a reflection of the desperate financial straits in which many states and local governments find themselves.

"It seems to me, should there be parks, information kiosks and all kinds of potential opportunities, let's just talk about them," said Republican state Rep. Bradley Jones Jr., the House minority leader who drafted the measure. "If we weren't in a major budget crisis, people wouldn't necessarily focus their efforts there."

But the prospect of a leafy stroll in a forest emblazoned with the name of a Fortune 500 company has alarmed environmental groups.

"What's next, big plastic Coke bottles on top of the Statehouse?" said Jim Gomes, president of the Environmental League of Massachusetts. "It's really a bad joke."

House lawmakers on Monday voted to draw up guidelines for sponsoring and renaming parks and forests. The measure, part of the proposed budget, goes next to the Senate. Once the guidelines are developed, lawmakers would have to vote again on whether to actually authorize such sales.

Lawmakers said they have no estimate of how much money the idea might raise, and are uncertain what restrictions would be placed on sponsorship deals. Those details would be worked out in a report due by November.

Elsewhere around the county, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg hired a consultant to devise a plan to raise money by selling, among other things, naming rights to parks in the Big Apple. Atlanta, Milwaukee, and Sacramento, Calif., considered similar ideas in recent years.

"We're at a time when everything is for sale," said Gary Ruskin, executive director of Commercial Alert, an Oregon-based nonprofit group that opposes commercialization in government. "Mayors are willing to put a price tag on anything, no matter what the price on the culture."

Steve Adams, president of the Boston-based Pioneer Institute, a conservative think tank, said selling corporate naming rights is a no-brainer.

"I don't know how you could be against this, frankly," he said. "No one is talking about putting up giant signs that mar the landscape. If companies are willing to do it, why not tap that opportunity?"

The National Park Service has several hundred partnerships with businesses. Target and the Discovery Channel made donations toward the recent restoration of the Washington Monument. Interpretive signs for visitors included small company logos.

"They understand that this is not their opportunity to advertise," National Park Service spokesman Gerry Gaumer said. "A partner does have to get something. They can pitch later that, 'We helped restore the Washington Monument.'"

But renaming a National Park site for corporate interests is out of the question, he said.

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington has also allowed companies to attach their names to specific exhibits and attractions. An exhibit of cars, trains and motorcycles, due to open in November, will be housed in the General Motors Hall of Transportation, which will carry the automaker's name for the next 30 years under a \$10 million deal with GM.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History titled a traveling exhibit in 2001 the Smithsonian O. Orkin Insect Safari after Orkin Pest Control contributed \$1.2 million.

In Asheville, N.C., the Buncombe County Parks and

Recreation agency is offering naming rights to tennis courts, swimming pools and trails but has no takers yet.

"We always try to lower the costs to the taxpayers as much as possible," said Rhett Langston, the agency's administrative officer. "By utilizing private dollars, we can do that much more. That seems to be the future of parks all across the country."

Businesses regularly pay millions to attach their names to sports and entertainment venues, such as the FleetCenter in Boston, sponsored by Fleet Bank. M&T Bank this week agreed to pay the Baltimore Ravens \$5

million a year for 15 years to put its name on the football team's stadium.

Kristi Argyilan, media director at Boston advertising agency Hill Holliday, said corporate sponsorships of parks would have to be tactful.

"The name of the park itself should never be changed in the name of a corporation," she said. "We all have to remember why people go to parks: It is to escape a lot of the chatter we marketers throw at them every day. 'Yosemite, brought to you by Nike' is more palatable than 'Nike State Park.'"

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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. pushing for action against Iran for alleged nuclear weapons program

BY GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria — Concerned that Iran may be running a nuclear weapons program, the United States is pushing for U.N. action against Tehran, diplomats said Thursday.

Washington is specifically seeking a declaration from the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran has violated the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which it has signed, according to diplomats familiar with the agency.

The United States has accused Iran of secretly embarking on a program to enrich uranium at Natanz in southern Iran, which American officials fear could be used to make nuclear weapons.

The diplomats said U.S. requests for support have gone out to Russia, France, Britain, Germany and other members of the 35-nation board ahead of its meeting next month.

The diplomats were confirming a report in Thursday's editions of The New York Times.

Britain, Washington's closest ally, suggested Thursday that it was receptive to the U.S. overtures.

"We share U.S. concerns about the scale and scope of the Iranian nuclear program," said a spokeswoman for Britain's Foreign Office in London, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. "We'll be listening carefully to the (IAEA) director-general's report at the next board meeting."

In Washington, President Bush told reporters: "I've always expressed my concerns that the Iranians may be developing a nuclear program. I have done so publicly, I have done so privately. I expressed those concerns to Vladimir Putin when I was in Russia."

Noting that the IAEA was coming out with its report in June, Bush said, "We'll wait and see what it says."

A declaration, depending on its language, could restrict itself to expressing concern about a violation or increase pressure on Tehran to account for its activities by referring the issue to the Security Council.

That would further strain U.S.-Iranian relations, which

took a turn for the worse last year after Bush labeled Tehran part of the "Axis of Evil" for its alleged support of terrorism.

More recently, Tehran has said it would not recognize any U.S.-installed government in Iraq. And Washington signed a truce with the People's Mujahedeen, which opposes the Tehran government, allowing it to keep its weapons although the Iraqi-based group is on the State Department's terrorist list.

The nature of work at the Natanz site was not known until last year. The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the Vienna-based IAEA, was taken aback at what he saw on a visit there in February.

"It's a sophisticated uranium enrichment plant, and they had come a long way," said one diplomat familiar with the findings of the visit and the workings of the agency. "He was struck by the sophistication and the advanced stage of the project."

The diplomat said U.S. officials "want the agency to produce a very critical report" at the board meeting.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States had made it clear to the IAEA that "we support a rigorous examination of Iran's nuclear activities."

An agency spokeswoman, Melissa Fleming, said it was too early to comment on the Iranian program and whether Tehran had violated its treaty commitments.

Members of the U.S. delegation to the IAEA declined comment.

With Russia's nuclear cooperation with Iran being criticized by Washington, it was unclear how willing Moscow would be to back a tough resolution.

The United States claims that the technology and expertise Iran is gaining from Russia's construction of the \$800 million Bushehr nuclear power plant could be used for a weapons program, and that Russian companies have transferred weapons technology to Tehran.

Senior Russian officials earlier this week said there

Post war planning



J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

President Bush stands with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, left, the Oval Office at the White House in Washington on Thursday. The leaders are discussing goals for post-war Iraq. U.S. war operations in the war on Iraq were based in Qatar.

was no evidence Iran was pursuing nuclear weapons, while acknowledging that Tehran had to show more transparency in its nuclear programs.

A top Iranian official on Tuesday denied his country had a nuclear weapons program but told the IAEA his country would not automatically submit to tougher inspections. Iranian officials have said they have nothing to hide because their nuclear program is only meant to generate electricity.

Commando raids land Iraq's most wanted into U.S. hands

BY MATT KELLEY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Nighttime commando raids nabbed some of Iraq's most wanted. Others meekly surrendered. Tariq Aziz answered a knock on the door of a family home and found himself face to face with U.S. troops.

U.S. commandos seized one of

Saddam's half brothers after he survived a U.S. airstrike meant to kill him. Baghdad police arrested one of Saddam's financial masterminds.

Sometimes loudly, sometimes quietly, the United States has captured more than a third of the top 55 former members of Saddam Hussein's government and several prized figures who were not on the list. Most are being interrogated at an American

military base in the Baghdad area.

U.S. authorities won't say publicly how they rounded up many of the suspects. But the details that have emerged show a mix of tactics.

At least six of the 20 top Iraqis surrendered, four to U.S. forces and two to the cooperating Iraqi National Congress, a former exile group. At least seven others were captured, including four by American troops, one by the INC, one by U.S.-allied Kurdish forces and the one nabbed by Baghdad police.

U.S. military officials say information from Iraqis, both prisoners and ordinary citizens, led to several of the captures. Other prisoners were taken while trying to flee or while hiding on family property.

Besides the 20 fugitives in custody, the Pentagon says at least one is dead from a coalition airstrike: Ali Hassan "Chemical Ali" al-Majid, blamed for masterminding nerve gas attacks on Iraqi Kurds.

American forces blended several approaches in capturing Tariq Aziz April 24 in Baghdad. Aziz, a deputy prime minister and former foreign minister, was Saddam's main spokesman during the 1991 Persian Gulf War and one of the most recognizable Iraqi figures.

U.S. troops pulled up in four armored vehicles to the family home where he was staying in a neighborhood darkened by a power outage. Aziz answered the troops' knock at the door and gave up without resistance, a Pentagon official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

One of Aziz's sons had contacted U.S. forces to negotiate his father's surrender, the official said.

Other captures were more dramatic.

American commandos supported by Marines raided a Baghdad home April 17 and snatched Barzan Ibrahim Hassan, one of Saddam's three half brothers.

Six days earlier, coalition warplanes had dropped six satellite-guided bombs on a building where officials believed Hassan was staying. The strike hit an Iraqi intelligence service site in Ramadi, about 60 miles west of the capital.

Coalition forces caught another half brother, Watban Ibrahim Hassan, on April 13 north of Mosul as he apparently tried to flee to Syria.

On April 16, U.S. commandos backed by more than three dozen Marines raided the Baghdad home of an Iraqi power couple — he the oil minister and a former top official in Iraq's missile program, she a biological weapons expert dubbed "Dr. Germ" by U.N. weapons inspectors.

Neither Amer Rashid or Dr. Rihab Taha were home at the time. Rashid surrendered to U.S. forces 12 days after the raid, but his wife remains at large.

Two other top Iraqis, including Saddam's point man on chemical and biological weapons, surrendered in Baghdad after giving interviews to Western journalists. The weapons official, Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi, told a German television network before his April 12 surrender that he had spent the war hiding in the cellar of his Baghdad villa.

Baghdad police, newly installed by U.S. troops, captured Hikmat Mizban Ibrahim al-Azzawi on April 18. Al-Azzawi was finance minister and deputy prime minister under Saddam, posts U.S. officials believe gave him insight into where Saddam spent and hid Iraq's money.

Padding down looters



Alexander Zemlianichenko/Associated Press

U.S. soldiers frisk Iraqi men who tried to loot one of the palaces of ousted President Saddam Hussein in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, on Thursday.

SPORTS



Short-handed Lakers face their biggest challenge

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO — Kobe Bryant loves a challenge — always has, always will.

Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and the rest of the Los Angeles Lakers have overcome every obstacle in their way since Phil Jackson was hired to coach them in 1999.

The three-time defending NBA champions have never had a challenge like this.

Not only do they trail the San Antonio Spurs 2-0 in their second-round playoff series, the Lakers are missing two key players — forwards Rick Fox and Devean George.

"It makes it pretty tough," Bryant acknowledged with a thin smile Thursday.

Their absence was glaring in every way in San Antonio's 114-95 victory in Game 2 on Wednesday.

And it's decimated a bench that was already thin.

"Yeah, it is (tough)," said 37-year-old Brian Shaw, who started Wednesday night for the first time since April 8, 2001. "If it wasn't tough, it wouldn't be as satisfying if we get over the hump."

Fox tore a tendon in his left foot in the Lakers' first-round series against Minnesota and will undergo surgery next week.

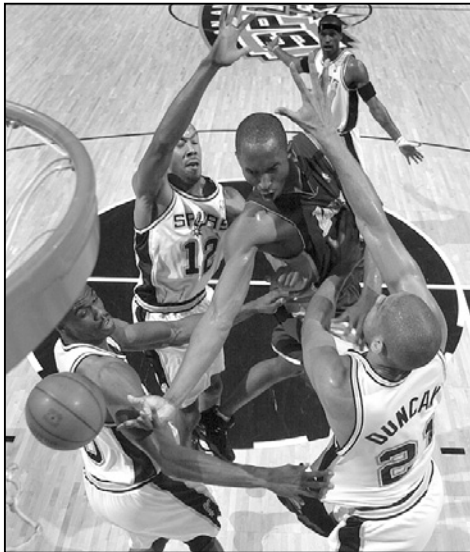
That made a starter out of George, but he sprained his left ankle in San Antonio's series-opening 87-82 victory Monday night.

An MRI on Thursday confirmed George had what team spokesman John Black called a severe sprain and nothing more. Jackson said it's a virtual certainty George won't play Friday night in Game 3 at Staples Center.

The Spurs called off practice Thursday, opting to rest before flying to Los Angeles for Games 3 and 4.

"We're looking all right now. I like our position," Spurs star Tim Duncan said. "They are the world champions. I don't think they respect us. I don't think they're worried at all. That's nothing, to be up 2-0. We need to show that we can win on the road now."

The Spurs won 18 of their last 20 road games in the



David J. Phillip/Associated Press

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, center, loses the ball as he is surrounded by San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) David Robinson, left, and Bruce Bowen (12) during the third quarter in Game 2 of their Western Conference semifinal series on Wednesday in San Antonio.

regular season to finish 27-14.

Seven NBA teams have rallied from a 2-0 deficit to win a best-of-seven series, with the Houston Rockets being the most recent to accomplish the feat, doing so in the 1995 Western Conference finals against Phoenix.

"We view this as an opportunity," Bryant said. "They did

what they had to do (winning twice at home). The pressure's on us to do what we have to do. It's on us to do the same."

That means win Friday night and Sunday afternoon to even the series.

But first things first.

"Going down 3-0 in terms of percentages is not favorable for us," Derek Fisher said when asked if the Lakers were in a desperate situation.

No NBA team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit.

"It's new territory for us, it's what it is," Fisher said. "We'll just go from there. We have to do what's necessary. We feel like there's so much room for improvement."

There's no question about that considering the Spurs dominated the Lakers in every way possible Wednesday night.

"Champions have a way of coming up with their best effort when it seems like they can't," Fisher said.

Fisher took only four shots in Game 2. Robert Horry, a playoff hero in the past, continued his horrendous slump, shooting 1-of-5.

"It's somewhat bewildering to us. We have such confidence in him," Jackson said of Horry, who is 21-of-63, including 2-of-25 from 3-point range in the playoffs.

"It's not like I'm getting opportunities and passing them up," Fisher said. "From the success I had a couple years ago and other games I've had against that team, Coach (Gregg) Popovich has respect for me individually."

Fisher was 15-of-20 from 3-point range two years ago in the sweep of the Spurs in the Western Conference finals.

"Robert is crucial, he's key to what we do," Shaw said.

"He has to expend so much energy guarding Duncan. We need to get him involved, take some of the pressure off Kobe and Shaq. And we can't have Derek Fisher shooting four shots a game."

Bryant said the Lakers remained confident despite the injuries and the deficit.

"Everybody's pretty calm right now," he said. "It's no different than the situation we faced last year against a tough opponent, Sacramento."

Suit alleges death threats, bribery by King in Tyson scheme

BY TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

Lennox Lewis claims promoter Don King made death threats against one of Mike Tyson's friends and bribed another in an effort to get Tyson to back out of a deal to fight Lewis in a heavyweight title rematch.

Attorneys for Lewis filed suit in a New York court Thursday seeking up to \$385 million for what they said was a plot by King to snatch Tyson away from his current promoters and get the former champion to fight for him again.

The suit claims King cost Lewis \$10 million by keeping Tyson off of a June 21 fight card in Los Angeles and another \$25 million by stopping him from signing a deal for an eventual rematch between the two fighters.

The suit alleges that King threatened the life of Tyson's friend and adviser, Los Angeles agent Jeff Wald, and conspired with a female friend of Tyson's to keep him sequestered in a New York hotel last month, preventing him from signing the Lewis contract.

"What happened was disgraceful," Lewis attorney Judd Burstein said. "Don King should be hanging his head in shame."

The lawsuit also alleges that King bought Tyson several cars and put them in someone else's name because Tyson still owes the Internal Revenue Service millions of dollars in back taxes.

The suit claims that King is desperate to get Tyson back because he fears losing a \$100 million lawsuit Tyson filed against him when they split six years ago for allegedly stealing money from him. That suit is scheduled to go to trial in September, and attorneys for Lewis claim

that King is afraid it will bankrupt him.

King did not immediately return a phone call to his Florida office. The suit was filed on behalf of Lewis and his Lion Promotions company. It names Mike Tyson, Mike Tyson Enterprises, Don King and Don King Productions as defendants.

According to the suit filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New York in Manhattan, Tyson was supposed to fight as a co-main event fighter on the June 21 card as part of a contract that would allow him to fight two more bouts after that and then meet Lewis in a rematch of his knockout loss last June in Memphis.

Attorneys for Lewis said Tyson's manager, Shelly Finkel, and his attorney had agreed

to the contract, but that Tyson refused to sign it once King started pursuing him.

As part of that pursuit, the suit alleged, King paid for expensive hotel suites last month in New York for Tyson and a friend of his, Jackie Rowe, and gave Tyson large amounts of cash.

The suit claims King bribed Rowe to keep Tyson away from his manager and lawyer and to keep telling him that he should not agree to fight on June 21 in Los Angeles because he would be an undercard fighter and treated as a "second class citizen."

"This case typifies the sad state of boxing today — a sport populated by athletes who refuse to honor their contractual commitments and corrupt promoters, such

as Don King, who will stop at nothing — including even death threats, tax evasion and bribery — to advance their own causes," the suit claims.

The planned Lewis-Tyson doubleheader in Los Angeles was to feature Lewis defending his WBC title against Kirk Johnson, while Tyson took on Oleg Maskaev in a 10-round fight. It was to be televised by HBO's pay-per-view and the Staples Center was going to pay an \$8 million fee to host the fight.

Because Tyson dropped out, though, that fee was cut to \$3.5 million and HBO decided against putting the card on pay-per-view because it had lost much of its appeal.

NCAA bans Michigan from next postseason

BY LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan's basketball team was barred from the next postseason by the NCAA on Thursday for rules violations stemming from the Fab Five era.

The team also will lose one scholarship a year for four years, beginning in 2004-05, and was put on probation.

Michigan held itself out of tournament play last season, and the NCAA infractions committee called the university's self-imposed penalties "meaningful" but not enough.

The case stems from an investigation involving now-deceased Michigan booster Ed Martin and whether he paid players, including current Sacramento Kings star Chris Webber.

"We have always accepted responsibility

for the concerns raised by the NCAA and by the infractions committee in its report," Michigan president Mary Sue Coleman said. "We own the wrongdoing, and we own the responsibility."

She said the school will appeal the postseason ban, because it "directly opposes the mission statement of NCAA enforcement: Don't unfairly punish student-athletes for the transgressions of others."

Martin said he gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to former University of Michigan basketball players while they were in high school and college. He died in February — on the same day that Michigan officials met with the infractions committee.

Michigan hoped the NCAA would accept the self-imposed sanctions, including the removal of four banners from Crisler Arena and any pictures, words or records in printed materials involving

Webber, Maurice Taylor, Robert Traylor and Louis Bullock; forfeits of 112 regular-season and tournament victories from five seasons, plus its victory in the 1992 NCAA semifinals; the return of \$450,000 to the NCAA from tarnished postseason appearances; and two years of probation.

After pleading guilty in May to conspiracy to launder money, Martin told the federal government that he took gambling money, combined it with other funds, and lent \$616,000 to Webber, Taylor, Traylor and Bullock.

Webber is to face trial in July on charges of obstruction of justice and lying to a federal grand jury about Martin.

The Wolverines' woes extended to the court early last season, with the first 0-6 start in school history. But then Michigan won 13 straight games for the first time since 1987-88, and it opened Big Ten play 6-0.

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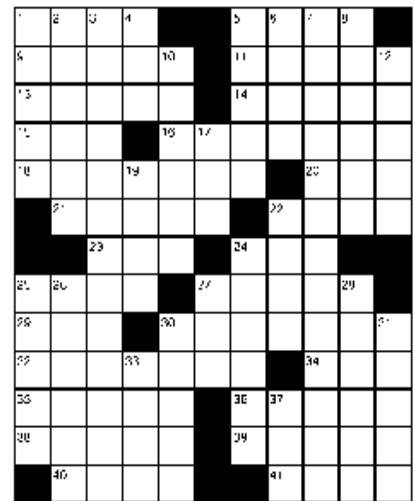
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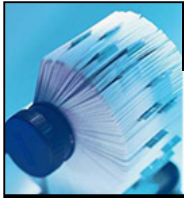
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BACK PAGE

Climber who amputated own arm describes ordeal

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN

Associated Press Writer

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — Hopelessly pinned by a boulder that had rolled onto his arm, Aron Ralston says he finally took a dull pocketknife to his forearm after spending three days in a remote Utah canyon — but he couldn't cut the skin.

In his first meeting with reporters, the 27-year-old Ralston calmly described his desperate attempts to free himself from the boulder and how he eventually did what for many would be unthinkable: cutting off his arm to save his life.

"I'm not sure how I handled it," the mechanical engineer-turned-adventurer said Thursday, the stump of his right arm in a sling. "I felt pain and I coped with it. I moved on."

Ralston, an avid outdoorsman who has climbed some of Colorado's highest peaks, spent five days trapped in the 3-foot-wide canyon. He said he felt alternately at peace as well as depressed at the prospect of dying, figuring his body might be washed away in a flash flood before anyone had a chance to find it.

He joked that he often thought of drinking a margarita as he took turns standing or sitting down in his climbing harness to rest.

On the fourth day, a day after his first attempt to cut his arm, Ralston went through the motions of applying a tourniquet, laid out bike shorts to absorb the blood and got his gear ready for a quick getaway. He worked out how to get through the bone with his "multi-tool"-type knife, made duller by futile attempts to chip away at the rock.

"Basically, I got my surgical table ready," he said.

On the fifth day, he summoned up all his technique

and nerve:

"I was able to first snap the radius and then within another few minutes snap the ulna at the wrist and from there, I had the knife out and applied the tourniquet and went to task. It was a process that took about an hour," he said.

"I was able to first snap the radius and then within another few minutes snap the ulna at the wrist and from there, I had the knife out and applied the tourniquet and went to task. It was a process that took about an hour."

— ARON RALSTON

Rock climber

Slim and pale with short reddish-brown hair, Ralston made frequent references to prayer and spirituality during his news conference. He said he felt a surge of energy on the fifth day, which happened to be the National Day of Prayer.

"I may never fully understand the spiritual aspects of what I experienced, but I will try," he said. "The source of the power I felt was the thoughts and prayers of many people, most of whom I will never know."

Ralston's ordeal began April 26, during what was supposed to be a day trip near Canyonlands National Park,

Ralston became pinned as he scrambled over three boulders wedged into a narrow canyon. One of the boulders, weighing an estimated 800 pounds, rolled as he climbed over it, trapping his right arm against a cliff face.

He tried chipping away with the knife at the boulder and the cliff, and tried to rig a way to lift the boulder off himself with climbing gear. He decided to sacrifice his arm to save his life after going through most of his three liters of water and his food — two burritos and some crumbs clinging to candy bar wrappers.

Even after his excruciating operation, what Ralston had to do to survive required skills beyond the abilities of most. On May 1, he crawled through a narrow, winding canyon, rappelled down a 60-foot cliff and walked some six miles down the canyon.

By the time he encountered hikers and then rescuers, Ralston was just two miles from the nearest road. He was dehydrated and bloody, but OK.

For reasons he wouldn't explain, Ralston withheld some details of his story. A publicist told reporters there would be no follow-up interviews soon and no interviews whatsoever with the doctors who treated him.

Ralston gave a partial answer to one frequently asked question: What kind of knife did he use?

He described it as a cheap imitation of the Leatherman brand multi-tool, a folding device that typically has knife blades, pliers, screwdrivers and other gadgets. He didn't give the brand, calling it "what you'd get if you bought a \$15 flashlight and got a free multi-use tool."

Ralston, who quit his engineering job to focus on mountain climbing last year, was expected to return to his parents' home in Denver by the end of the weekend.

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