

FREE

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 154

Santa Monica Daily Press

Picked fresh daily. 100% organic news.

Families displaced by I-10 freeway could get housing

Deal for Kessler property would include affordable units for seniors too

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Families displaced 40 years ago by construction of the Santa Monica Freeway could be among those given first crack at a new affordable housing development if current plans are approved.

Currently, the Community Corporation of Santa Monica — an affordable housing developer — is in the process of buying a two-acre site in the Pico Neighborhood for about \$4 million.

Known as the Kessler property, it is a two-acre triangular area defined by the Santa Monica Freeway to the north and High Place and Virginia Avenue on the south.

“Community activists have

asked us to look at the possibility of helping minority families displaced when the freeway came in,” said Joan Ling, executive director of the Community Corporation of Santa Monica.

“Because when the freeway was built, it displaced thousands of people from the Pico Neighborhood.”

Plans for the property also likely will include housing for senior citizens, city officials said.

There are currently 25 rent-controlled units on the premises plus an additional two owner-occupied single-family homes.

The City of Santa Monica would fund the senior housing portion of the project, which would give priority to resident seniors. Federal and state funds would be used for the other half.

Formal plans outlining the project were expected to be filed yesterday afternoon.

A Community Corporation

See HOUSING, page 3

The view from up-pier



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

While the beach around the Santa Monica Pier was free of crowds Thursday, things won't be so calm in another month or so.

Federal government derails Santa Monica's train plans

Line to city in jeopardy after FTA yanks \$156 million grant

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The reality of a light rail train coming to Santa Monica suffered a blow recently when local officials learned federal money for the project is being taken away.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials recently were told that the Federal Transit Administration has pulled \$156 million earmarked for a rail line that would link Los Angeles to Santa Monica.

MTA officials say they have been planning the Expo Line for the past three years under the assumption that the Federal Transit Administration would give \$156 million for the first leg, which would run past the University of Southern California and stop near Culver City.

But now the FTA has taken the money, 40 percent of the Expo Line's budget, and put it toward other mass transit construction projects around the state.

Darrell Clarke, head of the MTA and a Santa

Monica planning commissioner, said the federal government's move surprised him and the MTA board, especially since the FTA put the Expo Line on its priority list for mass transit projects.

“This project needs to be built. It's not that we have to convince people we need this.”

—MIKE FEINSTEIN
Santa Monica Mayor

FTA officials told Clarke's group that the money was released because planning for the project won't be completed by the end of next year, when it was supposed to begin construction.

“Expo is far enough along that they have accepted it,” Clarke said. “Now we've got to compete

See EXPO LINE, page 4

Jailhouse Houdini may need to sharpen skills

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Spencer Moss is as slippery as his name, according to deputies at the Ventura County Jail where the inmate has made handcuff keys out of chicken bones, tin foil and pieces of cloth.

Deputies say he has concealed the contraband in his ears and his shoes before getting the opportunity to tackle the locks.

In two years, the 36-year-old Carpinteria man has had 58 jail security violations.

The jailhouse Houdini faces up to 12 years in prison for allegedly escaping his cell in the jail's most secure section and locking two deputies inside it. The Jan. 24 episode was tracked on videotape. He's also charged with using a tightly wound piece of toilet paper to unlock his handcuffs and leg shackles while in court.

Moss was captured before making it out of the jailhouse.

His Superior Court trial on two counts of attempted escape and one count of battery on jail personnel started Wednesday with Moss acting as his own attorney.

Moss, handcuffed and shackled with two deputies watching like hawks, decided against an opening statement.

Last year, jurors acquitted him of grand theft after he acted as his own lawyer and convinced them of his innocence.

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ You "rock and roll" into work this morning. You can reverse trends out of the blue. Others step back. New beginnings become possible through a special overture. Remember what is positive in your life. Do something special. Tonight: Your treat.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Use the morning to finish off an important matter that impacts a boss or someone you respect a great deal. You understand what is happening with someone. You're personality-plus. Your efforts make a big difference to others this afternoon. Tonight: Make an overture. What you do counts.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ You shine this morning with innovative and dynamic thinking. Listen well to another's sharing. The unexpected occurs, as long as you are willing to step off the beaten path. Take your time this afternoon as you think through a decision. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You have reason to be pleased with yourself. Another's surprising reaction could take you in a totally new direction. Trust what is happening between you and someone else. Afternoon meetings bring only success. Keep focused, even if it is Friday. Tonight: Where the gang is.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ News heads in from a distance. Your abilities take you to a new level. A discussion proves to be most lively if you stay open this morning. Again, someone surprises you. Take charge in the evening if you want to accomplish your long-term desires. Tonight: In the limelight.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Listen to a key person in your life. The feedback you receive could be unusually significant. Take a step into unknown territory. Do something very different. Walk through a new door. Though being adventuresome could be scary, it is also worthwhile. Tonight: Try something different.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Others surprise you with their desires. Remain sure of yourself anyway. The truth is that you are quite delighted by recent developments. Deal with others on a one-on-one level later on. Think about what someone wants. Tonight: Just for two.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★ Dig into your work. Success follows as a natural result. Stay on top of others' requests. Schedule, network and socialize in the afternoon. Others might not be in the mood to work. Be careful with monetary promises — given or received. Tonight: Out.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Allow your creativity and playfulness to emerge. Good news comes out of the blue. Excitement becomes your middle name, so much so that you could become bored if life becomes too calm in the later afternoon. Tonight: Relax. Don't take on any new projects.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★ Your mind floats to a personal matter. Why not handle this issue early on? Otherwise you might not be comfortable at work. Allow your imagination and creativity to emerge in the afternoon when dealing with a child or loved one. Tonight: Your time to roam.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ How you speak your mind makes a big difference in how your message is received. You could beat a new trail in the morning as you try to clear out remaining work. If you can, head home early, even if it means bringing additional work home. Tonight: Invite someone home.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★ Deal with finances carefully. Instincts could help you find a mistake before it becomes costly. Use the afternoon to return messages and remain more positive about your options. Ask for what you want. Don't hem and haw. Tonight: Keep on asking.

QUOTE of the DAY

"I never know how much of what I say is true."
 — Bette Midler

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
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LOCAL



Deal to buy property came together ‘very fast’

HOUSING, from page 1

official said the group has been looking into the possibility of giving priority to families who had been displaced by construction of the freeway in the early 1960's, which knocked-down hundreds of single family homes in the Pico Neighborhood.

City officials said they believed giving displaced families a chance to return to Santa Monica is a laudable goal.

“That would address a remaining bitterness the community has looking back at the freeway construction, when so many people were dislocated when the freeway came through the heart of the community,” said Bob Moncrief, the city’s housing director.

Both Rev. Mike Gutierrez of St. Anne’s Catholic Church and Rev. Ron Williams of the First AME by the Sea have pledged to work with CCSM bringing those families back to the city.

“They would likely act as the conduit for that process,” Ling said. “These two people have a lot of access to both the history and the people who were part of the history of this neighborhood.”

Several of the buildings on the site have been identified by the city as worthy of local preservation, though the structures are not eligible for the national register of historic places.

Because CCSM plans to work mostly

with the existing structures, Ling said she believes the designation will not interfere with the internal remodeling that will likely be done to the properties.

Ling said that CCSM has been negotiating on and off with the owners of the property for more than ten years, but neither side could reach an agreement.

“When we were approached to look at the property last week, it all happened very fast,” Ling said.

Moncrief said the city will read over the group’s application and then decide whether to underwrite it, like a commercial bank would.

“The city provides loans for just this purpose,” he said. “Typically city funds would be used for the acquisition and pre-development costs.”

Since the loan would be for less than the \$4.5 million benchmark that requires council approval, the loan could likely go through with the city manager’s approval. If the costs were higher and received council approval, the city manager could then be authorized to loan as much as \$5.2 million.

Moncrief was optimistic about the project, but said he would reserve judgment until plans for the project were final.

“We have to see the numbers before we get too optimistic,” he said. “In concept it seems like a terrific response to what we have heard coming from the Pico Neighborhood residents for years.”



Patience is the virtue of the day for L.A. County surfers as new swell activity on the SoCal coast proves scarce. Surf is down but not out as an increasing northwest wind swell makes for steep, knee-to-waist high waves, good conditions, and water temperatures in the low 50s.

Big waves will be stirred up as two swells from the south and southwest reach shoreline this weekend, according to weather reports. The south swell will begin showing Saturday, with waves gaining a foot on average, waist-to-chest high at south-exposed beaches. Sunday, as the new southwest swell starts to blow in, expect better exposures.

Point Dume, Surfrider and Topanga could receive inconsistent plus sets reaching head height. Both swells promise to build over the weekend and carry over into next week.

(Information compiled by Jesse Haley.)

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Good	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Good	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Good	2-4'/Good	3-4'/Good	B
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Good	B
Breakwater	1-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
El Porto	1-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A

The QLine

This week’s Q-Line question asked: **“Do you think Santa Monica needs a dog-friendly beach area?”** Here’s what your fellow Santa Monicans had to say:

■ “I don’t think that Santa Monica needs a dog friendly beach. There’s a lot of beaches around where owners can take their dogs. Judging from some of the streets here where owners are not picking up their dog crap, it wouldn’t be any different on the beaches. There are too many people that go to the beach during the summertime. I think the beaches are for people not dogs.”

■ “Absolutely, our dog loves the beach. We have the choice of either taking him illegally to Malibu or somewhere close by, or driving to Huntington Beach. I am very much in favor for having a beach area for dogs.”

■ “I’ve had dogs in my family for over 30 years but I disagree with having dogs on the beach. I’ve been attacked and the owners are irresponsible. They don’t clean up after the dogs. It’s the same thing with the Santa Monica Park. Owners should walk their dogs on the street and clean-up after them. Otherwise, they should move to the countryside.”

■ “I think Santa Monica needs a dog beach with limited areas and limited times. There a lot of people in this city with no place to take their dogs.”

■ “I don’t think it’s necessary to have a beach designated for dogs. But I do wish that the owners would clean-up after their dogs. I know some do but a lot don’t. I seem to always be stepping dog doo.”

■ “I do not think that Santa Monica needs a dog friendly beach area. If you’ve been around any of the dog areas which are here in Santa Monica, many are not well kept. They are loud and noisy and smelly. I believe the dog-friendly areas are for the owners. Maybe that’s their only way of having a life or their only way of becoming acquainted with people.

I am certainly against it, but mainly because of pollution.”

■ “I absolutely agree that we need a dog beach. Santa Monica is like living in a prison, you can’t take your dog anywhere.”

■ “Just think of the logistics for a dog friendly beach for 9 million people? I think it would be a horrible idea. It would not work.”

■ “I believe they should have a designated area for dogs just as long as the owners are responsible for cleaning up after them. If they can let the homeless sleep all over the beach and harass people for money, they can let a friendly furry dog have a place to play.”

■ “There should absolutely be a place where dogs can go. We have all of these wide beaches and they are hardly ever crowded. It could be limited to weekdays instead of weekends. Dog owners are generally responsible and police each other. It could be a revenue stream for the city and they could require an additional fee. When I had a yellow lab that loved the water I would have gladly paid \$100 to \$200 a year for the privilege of taking her to the water that she loved.”

■ “I disagree with having dogs on the beach. It’s never worked at any beach that I’ve ever been too. They run over to you and bother you. There’s the problem of cleaning urine up. I think that people should be satisfied walking their dogs on the street. If they need to have them off the leash they should move to the country.”

■ “No, dogs should not be allowed on the beach! They should enforce the anti-dog ordinances that are now in existence. There is nothing worse than dogs chasing and killing birds and chasing children. They leave their poop all over the place because their rude owners can’t clean-up.”



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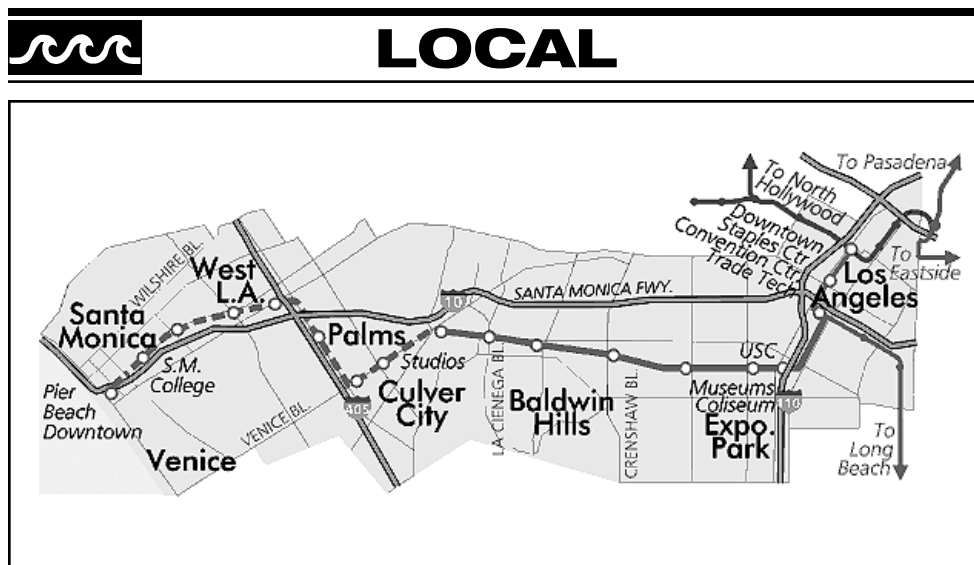
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The projected route the Expo Line would take from L.A. to Santa Monica.

Funding crucial to urban design in SM, mayor says

EXPO LINE, from page 1

again.” Officials will have to push hard to get the project funded under the next transit bill, which is going to require some heavy lobbying to Santa Monica’s elected representatives in Washington D.C.

Congress will consider another nationwide re-authorization of transit construction in 2003, which local officials hope the Expo Line will be included in. The entire project is expected to cost \$700 million.

The Expo Line will be competing against a long list of other transit projects from across the country, making it even more important for local officials to continue their lobbying, Clarke said.

“You’ve got to fight step by step and it isn’t easy,” he said.

The city employs a full-time lobbyist in Washington D.C., who will continue to push for the Expo Line, said Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein.

He added that he anticipates continued support from state representatives such as Rep. Henry Waxman (D-West Hollywood) because the need for a light rail in the traffic-ridden Los Angeles area is great.

“This project needs to be built,” Feinstein said. “It’s not that we have to convince people we need this.”

Clarke said he’s frustrated because the federal government gives California only 88 cents of every \$1 of gasoline tax it contributes, while every other state receives dollar-for-dollar what puts in. Gasoline tax funds transit projects.

“We are not getting our fair share,” he said. “We really need Waxman and other Congressmen in the LA area to bring that

money home.”

The 9.6-mile line will begin at the existing Metro Rail Station at the 7th Street station in downtown L.A., to Robertson Street in Culver City, traveling parallel to the Santa Monica Freeway.

The second leg, which is expected to cost \$344 million, would enter Santa Monica with the freeway and stop at Olympic and 20th Street, Olympic and 14th, and Olympic and Seventh Street.

The rail would then turn south to the area around Olympic and Fourth Street, where the city is currently debating the Civic Center Redevelopment Plan.

The Expo Line is key to the planning of the civic center redevelopment plan and a host of other projects within the city, Feinstein said. The light rail train also will effect how Santa Monica College will address its growth in the future. Officials also think the train will help alleviate the growing traffic congestion on the east side of town, where many large companies such as MGM are installing their headquarters, Feinstein said.

“Several local planning issues are in part being held hostage to get this (money),” he said. “There are a lot of urban design issues in the city that need to be addressed.”

Because of the long budgeting process and uncertainty of the federal funding, construction most likely will be delayed. The first leg to Culver City was scheduled to begin in 2004 and take four years to complete. The second leg to Santa Monica is supposed to begin once the first leg is completed.

‘Kato’ Kaelin wants old role of house guest again

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Brian “Kato” Kaelin wants to play house guest again, and maybe with you.

Kaelin has shot a pilot episode for a television series, “House Guest,” aimed at capitalizing on his fame as O.J. Simpson’s former live-in friend.

“It’s a show where I go across America, I knock on doors of the unsuspecting and invite myself in to spend a weekend with the family,” Kaelin told Barbara Walters on ABC’s “20/20” Wednesday.

Kaelin, who described “House Guest” as “an absolute ball,” said it will be on the air soon but offered no details about where. He does have his own place, a townhouse, Kaelin assured Walters.

Kaelin was staying with Simpson when Simpson’s former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman were killed in 1994. Simpson was acquitted of murder in a criminal trial but found liable in a civil trial.

STATE



Court says runner may sue organizers of SD marathon

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Chicago doctor who suffered a seizure shortly after running a San Diego marathon in 1998 can sue event organizers for allegedly failing to provide enough water to participants, a state appeals court has ruled.

The 4th District Court of Appeal said this week that Elite Racing Inc. was obligated to “produce a reasonably safe event.”

The 3-0 ruling reinstates a lawsuit filed by Richard Saffro, who was treated for severe hyponatremia, caused by a shortage of sodium in the blood. A superior court judge threw out the lawsuit in 2000, saying hyponatremia is an inherent risk of running a marathon.

Saffro ran the Suzuki Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in June 1998, the first year of the event, finishing the course in 4 hours and 17 minutes.

While flying home to Chicago hours later, Saffro suffered a seizure and collapsed, forcing the plane to make an emergency landing in St. Louis.

He was hospitalized and kept on a ventilator for four days. Saffro says he suffered brain damage that prevents him from continuing his medical practice.

Saffro's medical experts blamed his collapse on a lack of fluids. Event organizers are accused of not setting up a sufficient number of water stands along the route, and of failing to provide enough of an electrolyte beverage for all runners.

The race also started 45 minutes late, but the runners didn't have access to fluids while they waited in the sun, according to the court's ruling.

After the race, organizers wrote a letter to participants apologizing for the shortage of fluids and for various other technical mishaps.

A helping hand



Robert Gauthier/Los Angeles Times

Artist Richard Ankrom sits Wednesday below a television displaying a video image of him placing a fake Interstate 5 sign on an official CalTrans road sign on the 101 freeway near downtown Los Angeles.

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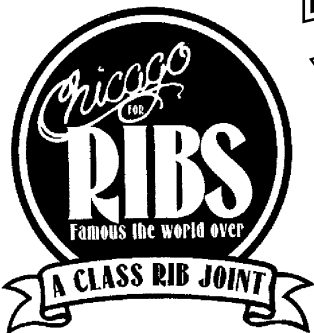
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STATE

Carmakers distort auto exhaust bill, backers say

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Backers of legislation to fight global warming by restricting California car exhaust charged automakers Thursday with a "campaign of 'lies' and misinformation," during a rally at the Capitol.

Revealing the high stakes over a bill to further regulate vehicle emissions, Democratic legislators and environmentalists attacked a statewide radio and newspaper advertising campaign designed to kill the bill.

"It is so over the top and so lacking in integrity," said Sen. Debra Bowen, D-Marina del Rey. "It is about as gutless as a four-cylinder automatic trying to climb Pike's Peak."

The bill's author, Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, complained, "It's hard to compete against a multimillion dollar campaign that is not based on fact."

But Charles Territo, a representative for global automakers defended the advertising blitz, because "this legislation has been almost railroaded through the Legislature, and we think before it goes any further, it's important to let people know what effect it may have on them."

The ads, titled "Who Decides What You Drive?" say the bill could spur new taxes on minivans, sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks, and also raise gasoline taxes by up to 50 cents a gallon. Some also feature California's celebrity car dealer, Cal Worthington, saying, "I don't want Sacramento bureaucrats telling us what we can drive."

Environmental supporters are counter-attacking with full-page newspaper ads stating: "They must think we're a group of dummies."

The bill, AB1058, proposes to reduce California's share of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming by restricting tailpipe carbon dioxide emis-

sions. It is the first time that a state has proposed to curb a nontoxic gas and natural byproduct of fuel combustion.

Backers, aiming at the nation's largest car market — with 12 percent of new auto sales — say California's vehicle fleet creates 40 percent of the state's greenhouse gases.

The bill doesn't call outright for new taxes or any of the claims made by opponents. But in targeting carbon dioxide, opponents say it's really a war on fuel mileage which, at 24 miles per gallon, is the same as 22 years ago. Automakers charge the legislation could limit sales of sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks and minivans that get lower mileage, but account for half of vehicle sales.

The bill would take effect in 2008 or 2009, depending on which version passes. It requires the California Air Resources Board to write regulations by 2005 to guide automakers. Slightly different versions of the bill passed the Assembly in January and the Senate on May 2.

Pavley said the Assembly will likely vote on Senate changes Monday.

The industry's ad campaign follow months of expensive lobbying by the world's largest car manufacturers, including General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Corp., Daimler Chrysler Corp., Toyota Motor Sales USA, Nissan North America and Honda North America, Inc.

State records show heavy lobbying expenses, as well, by the 13-member Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the California Motor Car Dealers Association, representing 1,500 car dealerships. The car dealers group routinely contributes to state political campaigns, including \$5,000 to Gov. Gray Davis last November and \$7,000 in recent months to Senate leader John Burton, a San Francisco Democrat and bill supporter.

Davis won't take a position on the bill until he sees a final version, a spokesman said Thursday.

Sweeping plan would regulate California coastal fishing

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — The California Department of Fish and Game on Thursday proposed a sweeping plan to regulate coastal fishing, a proposal the department said will affect not only sport and commercial fishermen, but recreational divers as well.

"This is the biggest plan we've ever developed for ocean fishing," covering "the entire 1,100 miles of coast, and three miles out to sea," said department spokeswoman Chamois Andersen.

The plan focuses on controlling the harvest and habitat of 19 fin fish whose populations have plummeted in recent decades.

"Because they're found so close to shore, they're just getting pounded on," Andersen said. "If we don't do something now, we're not going to see these fish down the road for Californians. It's that important."

The Nearshore Fishery Management Plan would restrict the taking of cabezon, California scorpionfish and sheephead, kelp and rock greenlings, monkeyface prickleback, and 13 species of rockfish.

But it leaves the details to the Fish and Game Commission, which is expected to adopt the final version at its meeting August 29-30 in Oakland after a series of public hearings.

The proposal offers the commission 14 options on such things as opening and closing fishing seasons, setting the legal take for each species, dividing the legal catch between sport and commercial fishermen, and the possibility of using marine protected areas.

It recommends dividing the coast into three regions, corresponding to areas already being used for research on the fish and their populations. Regulations ultimately adopted under the plan could be varied by region, depending on conditions.

The north region would run from the Oregon border to Cape Mendocino in Humboldt County. The central region would continue to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County. The south region would then extend south to the Mexican border.

The department has been developing the plan for 2 1/2 years. The 1998 Marine Life Management Act required it to be in place by this year.

NATIONAL



Former FBI boss took wine, cash from mob

BY JAY LINDSAY
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — A former FBI supervisor testified Thursday he took bribes of wine and cash that retired agent John J. Connolly delivered to him from top-ranking mob informers.

John Morris, Connolly's boss when he handled James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, took the stand on the second day of Connolly's trial on charges of racketeering, obstruction of justice and conspiracy.

"In the past I've lied to stay out of trouble," said Morris, who has pleaded guilty to accepting a bribe and was given immunity to testify. "The only way I can stay out of trouble since the immunity order is to tell the truth."

Morris said Connolly twice gave him cases of fine wine he indicated were gifts from the gangsters. One time, he said Connolly "told me to be careful with the case, because there was something special in the bottom" — an envelope with \$1,000 in cash.

After a 1986 meeting, Morris said Bulger handed him an envelope with \$5,000 in cash, saying: "This is for you." His voice choked with emotion, Morris

said he used the money to buy his daughter a car.

Morris said the relationship with the mob informants soured in 1995 after he leaked Bulger's identity as an FBI informant to the media. Bulger called shortly after.

"In the past I've lied to stay out of trouble."

— JOHN MORRIS
Former FBI supervisor

"He told me I had taken money from him. If he went to jail I was going with him," Morris said. "I was fearful of the repercussions against me professionally — that I would lose my job, lose my pension, disgrace myself, embarrass the bureau."

Prosecutors charge that Connolly accepted gifts from Bulger and Flemmi and, in exchange, gave them confidential information that helped them avoid prosecution — and led to at least two murders.

Connolly's defense attorneys say he became the fall guy when the FBI's too-cozy relationship with the mob was exposed.

Teen reports pot-growing dad

By The Associated Press

COVINGTON, Wash. — A teen-ager who had become "sick and tired of being around drugs" called authorities and had his father arrested for growing marijuana in their suburban Seattle home, sheriff's deputies say.

The 17-year-old dialed 911 on Tuesday, and his 38-year-old divorced father was arrested when he arrived home that night.

Sheriff's Sgt. Greg Dymerski said deputies seized at least 40 marijuana

plants and bags of dried and ready-to-sell buds. "They could smell the stuff two or three houses away," Dymerski said.

"The kid said he was sick and tired of being around drugs and sick and tired of his dad doing drugs," Dymerski said. "He's a good kid, and his conscience got the best of him."

The boy, his 15-year-old sister and their 7-year-old brother were turned over family friends for the night.

"I think he was pretty upset about it, turning in Dad," Dymerski said, "but the bottom line is, he did the right thing."

Settlement reached in fight over book, 'Wind Done Gone'

BY BARNINI CHAKRABORTY
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — The protectors of Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind" have dropped their yearlong battle to stop publication of Alice Randall's "The Wind Done Gone," agreeing to an out-of-court settlement.

Under the terms of the settlement, Randall's publisher, Houghton Mifflin, agreed to make an unspecified contribution to Morehouse College, a historically black school in Atlanta. In return, lawyers for Mitchell's estate agreed to stop trying to block sales of Randall's book, which tells the "GWTW" story from a slave's point of view.

An Atlanta judge had blocked publication of "The Wind Done Gone" in April 2001, ruling that it violated the copyright of Mitchell's 1936 classic about the Civil War. A month later, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta ruled that the injunction was an "extraordinary and drastic remedy" that "amounts to unlawful prior restraint in violation of the First Amendment."

The book was published in June 2001 and was on best-seller lists for weeks.

Even though the book was already available, lawyers for the Mitchell estate had said they would continue the lawsuit in hopes of getting damages.

Lawyers for the Mitchell trust argued that Randall appropriated characters, scene, setting, plot and even some passages straight from "Gone With the Wind."

Houghton Mifflin and Randall argued that "The Wind Done Gone" was a parody protected by the First Amendment. They also maintained that, by imagining what Scarlett O'Hara's slaves thought and felt, the book offered a new perspective on Mitchell's story.

The publishing industry closely watched the lawsuit, which could have affected how extensively parodies can borrow from a copyrighted work.

A similar battle had been waged over the novel "Lo's Diary," an irreverent retelling of the late Vladimir Nabokov's "Lolita" from the young girl's point of view. The two sides eventually reached a deal to share royalties.

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SPORTS

Injured O’Neal expresses annoyance at Jackson

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO — Add another ailment to Shaquille O’Neal’s injury list — a sprained left ankle.

And when asked about it Thursday, the Los Angeles Lakers’ big man took a verbal shot at coach Phil Jackson.

“Ask Phil, he knows everything,” an obviously annoyed O’Neal told The Associated Press when asked at what point during Game 2 the injury occurred.

O’Neal spoke as he entered the passenger side of a vehicle taking him to the airport for the Lakers’ trip to San Antonio.

Jackson had said a day earlier he had a “heated discussion with Shaq about getting actively involved in chasing the ball down.”

Hampered for months by a painful arthritic big right toe that landed him on the injury list twice, O’Neal required three stitches in his right index finger to close a cut he sustained during the Lakers’ 86-80 victory in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinal series with the Spurs.

That injury required re-stitching after the second game Tuesday night because it reopened, and seven stitches were applied.

O’Neal didn’t practice Thursday before the team left for San Antonio, and when asked about his condition, Lakers spokesman John Black said it was unchanged, but added O’Neal had tweaked his left ankle during San Antonio’s 88-85 victory in Game 2.

Lakers forward Mark Madsen said he didn’t know much about O’Neal’s latest injury, but added: “I do know he’s been getting treatment on it the last two days — pretty aggressive treatment.”

Despite O’Neal’s numerous injuries, it’s a virtual certainty he’ll play Friday night when the Lakers and Spurs meet in Game 3 of their best-of-seven series at the Alamodome.

O’Neal had 19 points and seven rebounds — well below

his normal numbers — while playing 40 minutes in Game 2.

Saying he was trying to stimulate and motivate his player, Jackson said after he made his remarks that O’Neal told him his toe hurt, that he didn’t feel like it was a matter of conditioning, rather a matter of activity allowed him by the movement of his foot.

Madsen paused when asked if he has ever seen O’Neal hurting the way he is now.

“When he had the foot arch problem last year,” Madsen said. “That was pretty bad. He’s got a lot of things wrong with him right now. He doesn’t talk about his injuries. He’s a warrior, he gets hammered every single game, you’ll never hear him complain.”

O’Neal, the MVP of the NBA Finals in each of the last two years, has often said he’ll never use injuries as an excuse.



National Basketball Association playoff schedule

By The Associated Press

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS — EDT (Best-of-7)

Saturday, May 4

Sacramento 108, Dallas 91, Sacramento leads series 1-0

Sunday, May 5

New Jersey 99, Charlotte 93, New Jersey leads series 1-0

Detroit 96, Boston 84, Detroit leads series 1-0

L.A. Lakers 86, San Antonio 80, L.A. Lakers lead series 1-0

Monday, May 6

Dallas 110, Sacramento 102, series tied 1-1

Tuesday, May 7

New Jersey 102, Charlotte 88, New Jersey leads series 2-0

San Antonio 88, L.A. Lakers 85, series tied 1-1

Wednesday, May 8

Boston 85, Detroit 77, series tied 1-1

Thursday, May 9

Charlotte 115, New Jersey, 97, New Jersey leads series 2-1

Sacramento at Dallas, late

Friday, May 10

Detroit at Boston, 7 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 11

Sacramento at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 12

New Jersey at Charlotte, 12:30 p.m.

Detroit at Boston, 3 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, May 13

Dallas at Sacramento, 9 p.m., if necessary

Tuesday, May 14

Boston at Detroit, 8 p.m., if necessary

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, TBA, if necessary

Wednesday, May 15

Charlotte at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary

Sacramento at Dallas, TBA, if necessary

Thursday, May 16

Detroit at Boston, TBA, if necessary

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary

Friday, May 17

New Jersey at Charlotte, 8 p.m., if necessary

Saturday, May 18

Dallas at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, TBA, if necessary

Sunday, May 19

Charlotte at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary

Boston at Detroit, TBA, if necessary

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- 14th and Santa Monica Boulevard
- Wilshire Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Colorado Boulevard and 3rd Street
- Santa Monica Courthouse
- Arizona Avenue and Second Street
- Arizona Avenue and Fifth Street
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- Broadway and Lincoln Boulevard

- Broadway and 10th Street
- Colorado Avenue and Second Street
- Santa Monica Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Broadway Avenue
- Lincoln Boulevard and Pico Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Strand
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- Main Street and Strand
- Main Street and Ocean Park
- Main Street and Ashland
- Montana Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard
- Montana Avenue and Euclid Street
- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

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INTERNATIONAL



David Guttenfelder/Associated Press

Two Israeli soldiers survey the area from a rooftop overlooking deserted Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity compound Thursday. Talks broke down between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators trying to end the stand-off and release those holed up inside the church for more than a month.

Palestinians brace for Israeli response to suicide bombing

BY RAVI NESSMAN
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Tanks were poised outside Gaza and Israel called up military reservists Thursday ahead of an expected retaliatory attack for Palestinian suicide bombings, even as a deal was reached to end the standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

Palestinians arrested 16 members of Hamas, the Islamic militant group that claimed it carried out a deadly suicide attack earlier this week, a first sign that Yasser Arafat was taking action against terror groups.

Tanks were parked off Gaza, the home base of the Hamas militant group, and Israeli forces around the strip were being beefed up Thursday night.

But Hamas leaders in Gaza — a sliver of Mediterranean coastline two-thirds of which is under Palestinian autonomy — said they were going about life as usual.

Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin went ahead with the afternoon wedding reception for one of his seven daughters, his son Mohammed said. A Yassin deputy, university lecturer Mahmoud Zahar, said he was staying at home to prepare exams and a Hamas spokesman, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, said his schedule was filled with TV interviews.

Mohammed Dahlan, Yasser Arafat's security chief in Gaza, said the Palestinians were expecting an attack.

"Everyone is prepared and our people know how to confront the occupation," said Dahlan, who has been in the West Bank town of Ramallah for months. "We said this before, and we mean it now — if the occupation forces carry out an aggression, we will face this aggression."

Late in the day, an Israeli official said a deal was reached whereby 13 suspected militants inside Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity would be divided among several countries. The Cypriot foreign minister and Palestinian sources said the militants would be taken first to Cyprus and later go elsewhere.

Under the deal to end the 38-day stand-off at the traditional birthplace of Jesus, Italy and Spain would take some of the

militants, while the remainder would be spread among at least four other countries, the Israeli official said. Others inside the church would be allowed to go free.

Also Thursday, the Israeli Cabinet approved unspecified reprisals in response to Tuesday's bombing in a pool hall in a Tel Aviv suburb. Fifteen Israelis were killed in the attack, the deadliest since Israel launched its West Bank military offensive March 29 in response to a wave of suicide bombings.

The reserve call-up was smaller than the one that preceded that operation, during which troops occupied six of the eight main Palestinian towns in the West Bank for periods of up to several weeks and fought running battles with Palestinian gunmen.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres hinted Israel might have a more limited operation in mind this time, "striking at centers from which the suicide attackers come, or the houses from which they come, or the nests from which the organization of suicide bombers comes."

Military sources said the operation will be centered on Gaza, but may not be restricted to the strip. The objective is to hit at Hamas leaders and end the sense of immunity the militants in Gaza have enjoyed, senior official sources said.

Military commentators also said they expected the Gaza operation to be more limited than the West Bank offensive. Fighting in densely populated Gaza would be much more complicated and could expose troops to greater risks.

European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos condemned the suicide attack, but said the EU was "very concerned" it could lead to increasing violence and a new military action. The EU was working with the United States, Russia and the United Nations to try to prevent that, he said.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat criticized the expected operation.

"Such an attack will lead to disastrous consequences for the Palestinian people there," he said. "This will be adding fuel to the fire."

In a televised address Wednesday, Arafat said he had ordered his security forces to arrest Palestinian terror groups.

Scared civilians flee as fighting surges in Liberia

BY JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH
Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia — Panicked, wounded civilians struggled Thursday to flee one of the bloodiest outbreaks of fighting of a 3-year-old insurrection in Liberia, as government forces battled what they said was a rebel attack on Gbarnga, President Charles Taylor's central stronghold.

Whole towns and refugee camps were emptying. Thousands fled into the bush or to the west and hoped-for safety in Monrovia, capital of the West African nation.

"This is no time to bluff — life is what counts!" fleeing 27-year-old James Tenay said, scrambling into the trunk of a crowded taxi to escape Gbarnga.

He said Wednesday he was headed toward Monrovia, 150 miles away, "to let my family know that I am still alive."

The attack on Taylor's base in the heart of the nation marked a dramatic increase in hostilities between government forces and the shadowy rebels fighting them.

At a Lutheran-run hospital on the outskirts of Gbarnga, medical workers desperately sought vehicles to evacuate the injured. Many were women and children suffering gunshot wounds.

The army pulled its wounded out of the hospital Wednesday. Many hospital workers abandoned their posts soon after.

"For fear of their lives," explained Mary Teah, a nurse.

Around her, doctors struggled to treat a wailing 4-year-old boy. His flesh hung in strips from an infected gunshot wound to the shoulder.

Dozens of women screamed in other wards. Some were in agony from what hospital workers said were bullet wounds in the abdomen.

Rebels had been advancing on Gbarnga from at least two fronts late Wednesday.

Thursday, Taylor announced that the rebels had attacked the town at sunrise. Fighting was continuing, he said.

In Monrovia, residents listened to the president's live broadcast on hand-held radios.

"This country has a right to protect

itself," Taylor declared on his own Kiss FM station, adding, "We must bring an end to this cycle of violence."

Security forces on Thursday blocked journalists from returning to Gbarnga. The fate of those at the hospital could not be learned.

Liberia, founded by freed U.S. slaves in the 19th century, has been locked in poverty and insecurity since a 1989-96 civil war. More than 150,000 people died in the civil war and 2.6 million were forced from their homes.

After leading the war in part from his military base at Gbarnga, Taylor, then a rebel warlord, won the presidency in a post-conflict 1997 election.

Many of the fighters on both sides of the current conflict were combatants in the civil war.

Taylor blames the losing factions in the old conflict for starting the new one, and accuses neighboring Guinea of harboring the rebels.

Taylor, his government and military are under an arms embargo and other U.N. sanctions for what the United Nations said this week was ongoing arms- and diamond-running with rebels of neighboring Sierra Leone.

U.S.-based Human Rights Watch last week accused Taylor's forces of atrocities in combatting the insurrection, including burning alive and shooting dozens of civilians.

The U.S. rights group called the conflict a threat to overall security in West Africa. It likewise urged the United States to condition its military support to Guinea on an end to any support of the rebels.

Diplomats have privately accused Taylor of exaggerating the rebel threat in hopes of seeing the arms embargo lifted. Some have accused Taylor of masterminding the conflict as an excuse to cancel elections set for 2003.

Attempts by the Associated Press in neighboring Ivory Coast to reach the rebels at their base in Europe were unsuccessful Thursday.

Panicked refugees Thursday said many civilians had been killed in the fighting, but could give no numbers.

Kenyan government forces publications to be reviewed

BY TOM MALITI
Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenya's parliament has passed a law that makes it illegal to sell publications that have not been submitted to the government for review. Journalists said Thursday the law is another move to control the media during an election year.

Under the amended Books and Newspapers Act approved late Wednesday, it is now an offense to sell or distribute newspapers, magazines or books if copies of the publications have not been submitted to the Registrar of Societies.

It was unclear if the new law would effect foreign publications for sale in this East African nation.

The law provides for penalties including fines or jail.

The amended law also increases the

one-time bond that newspaper and magazine publishers must pay to the government from \$130 to \$13,000. Publishers who don't pay can be fined up to \$13,000 or jailed for up to three years or both.

Evans Kidero, managing director of Nation Newspapers, an independent group, called the amendments repressive.

"The objective of the amendments is obviously to gag free expression and limit the distribution of publications by instilling fear in the managers of distribution," Kidero, who was speaking for the Media Owners Association, told reporters.

Information Minister Kalonzo Musyoka denied that the amended law is tantamount to press censorship.

"This was not done with the intention of muzzling the press. The simple matter we're trying to deal with is the gutter press," Musyoka told The Associated Press.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

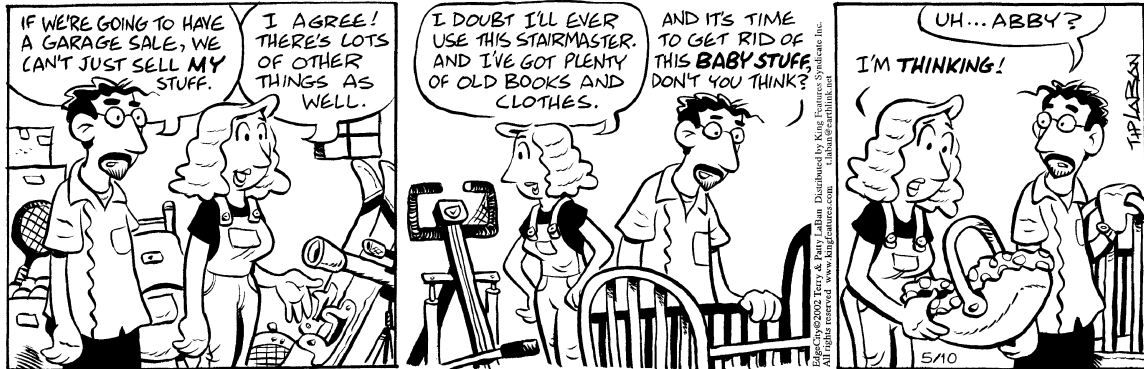


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5 Svelte

9 Studied (over)

11 River to the Rio Grande

13 Sonata section

14 Improvised

15 Will Smith film

16 "My Way" singer

18 Small songbird

20 That woman

21 Gorillas

22 Jekyll's other side

23 Grand —

24 Zodiac sign

25 Pickling herb

27 Tolls

29 In the past

30 Order more of

32 Denver team

34 Festive

35 Formal wear

36 Zatopek and Jannings

38 Follow

39 Big name in day-time talk

DOWN

40 "Are you lookin' —?"

41 Headliner

1 Jack of rhyme

2 "Calm down!"

3 Bird studier

4 Coworker of Mary and Lou

5 Punish, in a way

6 Castor's mother

7 Fish studier

8 Made secure

10 Rx amount

12 Alarm

17 1040 grp.

19 Calm time

22 Prepare leftovers

24 Inferior

25 Inferno writer

26 Tropical lizard

27 Favorite

28 Antonin of the Supreme Court

30 View anew

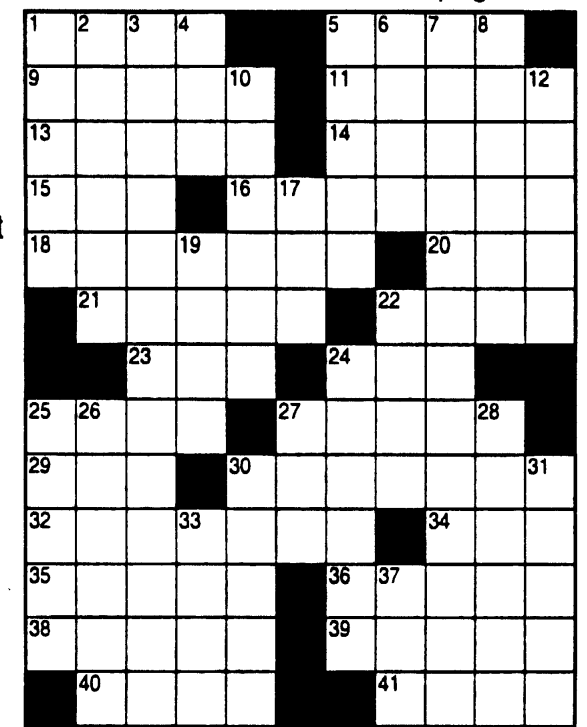
31 Band-leader Kay

33 Morose

37 Cal. pages

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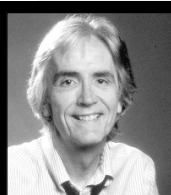
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Pittsburgh judge likes to drop his pants

At press time, the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board was still considering what to do about Pittsburgh Common Pleas judge H. Patrick McFalls Jr., based on recent alleged incidents: creating a disturbance at an airport ticket counter (while visiting Charlotte, N.C., late December); "giving" his \$60,000 car to a young man and not remembering it so that he later called in a stolen car report (Feb. 5); being arrested for creating a disturbance with a cab driver about the fare (while visiting Miami Beach, Feb. 11); removing his pants at a restaurant (Feb. 14); being arrested at a theater for becoming boisterous during a movie (March 30); allowing his pants to fall down several times while having an animated conversation on the street (March 30).

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BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Wildcats urged to ditch tortillas

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — University of Arizona students who would rather toss tortillas than their mortarboards during graduation are being urged to leave the edible disks at home.

University President Peter Likins has asked students not to bring the tortillas to fling into the air at Saturday's ceremonies because he said it's a waste of food and is culturally offensive to some people.

"When you think about it, it is an offensive notion that when people are hungry all over the world — and not so very far from our own campus — that enormous quantities of food are just thrown in the air, thrown away, so to speak," Likins said.

Patti Ota, the school's vice president for executive operations, will try to talk students out of their tortillas at the door, using food bank boxes to play on their guilt.

Tortillas emerged at commencement ceremonies during the late 90s, university officials said.

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was greeted with flying tortillas as she addressed the class of 1999. Later she told graduates at Georgetown University about her Arizona experience.

"There, the solemn tradition is to throw tortillas around like Frisbees during the commencement speech. It's a little unusual, but it does keep you alert," she said.

I'm not out of touch...oh wait

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — It wasn't quite Dan Quayle misspelling "potato," but Democratic gubernatorial candidate Shannon O'Brien made her own spelling goof last week.

O'Brien, the state treasurer, was at a debate when another candidate, Steve Grossman, said most city politicians are so out of touch with voters they don't even know how to spell the word "accountability."

The comment wasn't specifically directed at O'Brien, but she took the bait to prove she could spell it — and got it wrong.

O'Brien, a former state lawmaker whose husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather have all worked at the Statehouse, left out the second "i" in accountability.

Later in the day, O'Brien admitted her mistake.

"I am so embarrassed," she said. "I just hope that my sixth grade teacher doesn't read about this, because I was a star speller in his class."

New Iowa cop Camaro is bitchin'

By The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — To root out angry drivers, the Des Moines police are getting sneaky.

Some officers will now patrol construction sites along Highway 235 in a Chevrolet Camaro with the word "Police" displayed only on both doors and the rear of the new vehicle.

Police fear road rage will be an unwanted byproduct of the \$426 million, five-year reconstruction of the highway through Des Moines that started this year.

"Lanes and tempers are going to get narrower," police Sgt. Michael Leeper said. "Drivers keep their ignorance in check when they see a black and white squad car with a big light bar across the top."

So the department spent \$21,210 for the 310-horsepower, 2002 Chevrolet Camaro. Police wanted a car that will blend with traffic while they seek out angry drivers.

They want to crack down on tailgaters, finger-wavers

and other highway hard-heads. The Camaro will allow officers to spot highway misbehavior as it happens.

Officers said that by the time speeders charge up from behind, they will have been clocked on radar. To further keep lead-footed motorists off balance, police might pace vehicles from behind rather than using radar, which activates detectors.

Judge dismisses dog custody battle

By The Associated Press

WEST CHESTER, Pa. — Anthony DeSanctis and Lynda Hurley Pritchard are fighting in court over time with their adopted 10-year-old — a dog named Barney.

DeSanctis is appealing a lower court ruling that says Pennsylvania custody cases are limited to children. His lawyers argue the dog is marital property.

Under terms of an agreement the couple reached as they divorced in 2000, Pritchard would get custody of Barney, but DeSanctis could see him one weekend a month.

The exchange would take place at a park.

A third party had to conduct the handoff, and DeSanctis couldn't be more than 15 minutes late.

The pair married in 1991 and separated in 1996. According to DeSanctis, his visits with Barney stopped after Pritchard remarried last year and moved away.

DeSanctis "has become depressed, has lost business, lost sleep and is, otherwise, psychologically harmed by being denied access to an animal he loves like a child," his suit alleged.

Chester County Court Judge William P. Mahon saw the complaint as a custody battle and dismissed it. The judge said he grew up with dogs and grew attached to them, but the law views pets no differently than an object.

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