

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Residents learn about plan to change city government

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

About 70 residents turned out for a three-hour debate on a ballot initiative that would rewrite how elections are done in Santa Monica.

The Voters Election Reform Initiative for a True Accountability System — also known as VERITAS, is a bad government initiative, according to Mayor Mike Feinstein. But according to its author Paul DeSantis, a local real estate attorney, VERITAS is a badly needed accountability reform.

The two men faced off at the Ken Edwards Center Thursday night before a crowd of supporters on both sides of the issue and a handful of undecided residents of the Wilshire/Montana

Neighborhood Coalition, which sponsored the debate.

Proponents of VERITAS say the current election process makes it unattainable for the average person to run for office and is not a representational form of government.

would politically legitimize the position.

"If you don't have a slate endorsement, you don't get elected," DeSantis said. "It's been true for the past 20 years."

Opponents say the measure would split the city apart — not

"It's helpful to know at least two sides of the issue — who knows, there could be others."

— DAVID COLE
Santa Monica resident

The current system allows for slate-financed campaigns dominated by huge special interest money, they say. What's more, they contend if people could vote for their mayor it

just by voting districts but also putting neighborhoods in competition with each other. They also argue by creating a mayoral position with veto powers, special interests will flood local campaigns with big money.

"Slates will still be involved if there are districts," Feinstein said. "Money will get into the same elections and help buy the same campaign pieces. This isn't a solution for that problem."

If approved by voters this November, VERITAS would segregate the city into voting districts from which residents would elect representatives. There would be seven term-limited council members and one

See VERITAS, page 3

Suspect arrested for pot possession, evading police

Man takes out three cars

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

An Inglewood man was arrested this week after he crashed into three cars on Santa Monica's east side while trying to flee from police.

Freddy Daniel Moreno, 24, was pulled over by a Santa Monica police officer on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for a traffic violation in the 1600 block of Cloverfield Avenue.

But Moreno drove off as the officer approached his vehicle. Within minutes, he managed to slam into three cars before giving himself up on Olympic Boulevard. No injuries were reported.

The first accident occurred

on Cloverfield Avenue when Moreno made a U-turn where he was stopped, broadsiding a silver Toyota that was waiting for a red light. He continued driving southbound on Cloverfield and attempted to maneuver his car between two other vehicles stopped at a red light. Moreno broadsided a black BMW, ran the light and headed west on Olympic where he struck a black Honda.

After the third accident, Moreno gave up. He pulled over for police, who found several small bags of marijuana in his 1988 white Honda Prelude.

He was booked for possession for sales and transportation of marijuana; felony hit and run; evading a police officer and violation of probation, a felony. He has no bail because he violated his probation. He remains in Santa Monica Jail.

A sticky situation



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A worker mixes hot tar behind an apartment complex under construction on Sixth Street.

Show dogs killed in fire, could be blamed on grooming dryer

By The Associated Press

BRANDON, Fla. — At least two dozen champion Yorkshire terriers and other show dogs were killed in a fire sparked by a dryer used in their grooming, officials say.

A code enforcement officer who happened to be passing by spotted the fire Thursday morning and pulled a woman who was trying to save the dogs out of the burning home.

Twenty-six dogs survived the blaze. Firefighters revived some of the animals with oxygen.

Colleen and David Krug were raising more than 50 show dogs at their home and showed many at prestigious competitions. The fire started in the garage area where the Krugs had an industrial dryer for grooming the animals, officials said.

"They are our kids, and we treat them as such," David Krug said. "I loved all of them. There wasn't a dog I didn't pick up and hug every night."

Among the dogs killed was a top silky terrier that produced four champions in the past year. Two of those offspring were also believed to have died. Another silky terrier, ranked 12th in the nation, survived.

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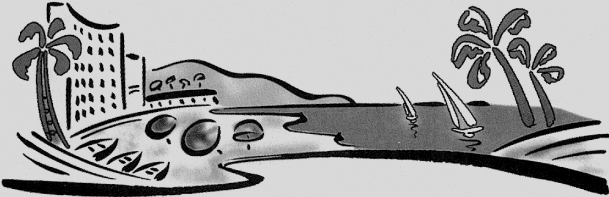
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Curb spending, and don't let confusion affect your finances. You cannot be too careful when keeping books, especially when it comes to a joint project. Your sense of responsibility helps others feel more comfortable with you. Tonight: Order in.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You're flying high. Another's somber mood rolls right off your back. Think before you make plans. You have unusually high energy right now. You can take on more than usual. Remember to have a good time wherever you go. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Relax on the phone with a relative at a distance. How you feel could change considerably with this conversation. Follow your intuition with a money matter. Take some time for yourself or with just one other person. Happiness surrounds you. Tonight: Hide out.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your sense of humor and indulgence help a partner or close friend work through an immediate reaction. Be gentle about how you treat someone. Recognize that your vision is crystal clear, whereas others' might not be. Help them focus. Tonight: Where the action is.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Surprise of surprises — someone means well but messes up. With this person, recognize that you need to take responsibility. As a result, you assume control. You're in charge. Use your understanding to nicely nudge someone aside. Tonight: In the limelight.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. You might not be thrilled by news, but you can turn it around. Just when you thought a project was completed, you get a bit of a shock! A friend does whatever he or she needs to do to let you know how much your presence is desired. Tonight: Be entertained.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ One-on-one relating takes you in a new direction. You might be underestimating what is going on. Allow another to move through a problem without coming to the rescue. Stay centered. A friend draws you closer by sharing some important news. Tonight: Don't scatter your energy.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Others seek you out. You might not be clear about what another says. Instead of a misunderstanding, clear the air. Spend as little time as possible alone. Invite friends over and/or decide to join your pals in a fun activity. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Make an effort toward others. Not everything has to happen the way you think it should. Rely on your imagination and creativity to deal with a neighbor or sibling. A partner does whatever he or she can to encourage you to team up on a project. Tonight: Do something special for a loved one.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You cannot tame your imagination, no matter what you do. Why not allow this ingenuity to speak? Relationships could benefit from your spontaneity. You don't always need to act as if you're in charge. Laugh away. Tonight: Do something you loved to do as a kid.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Deal with the basics, even if you're distracted. Take a walk or do something relaxing before you check out a domestic matter or an investment involving your family or home. Get into a project with others, and before you know it, you have a party. Tonight: Let it all happen.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Please pick up the phone and reach out for others. Use some extra time to call an old school friend. Laughter surrounds relationships in general, especially if you opt for spontaneity and reveal your childlike personality. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

QUOTE of the DAY

"I was in a beauty contest once. I not only came in last, I was hit in the mouth of Miss Congeniality."

— Phyllis Diller

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LOCAL



VERITAS supporters spent \$45K on initiative

VERITAS, from page 1

city-wide elected mayor, who would be given veto powers. Vetos could be overridden by the council with a two-thirds majority vote.

Council members currently serve four-year terms with no limits on how many times they run.

Under the VERITAS proposal, council members and the mayor would be limited to two consecutive terms. After that, they would have to take four years off before running again.

Elections would be changed to a run-off style process. Residents would vote in a March primary, and the two top vote getters would move on to a general election held in June. But the winners of the election would not be sworn in until January, creating a seven-month lag between when a candidate is elected and when he or she is officially sworn into office.

Currently, the mayor is elected by the seven city council members, who run at-

large throughout the eight square miles of Santa Monica's city limits. The mayor's position is largely as a figurehead.

Each side also discussed where VERITAS was receiving the vast amount of its funding. DeSantis said the group spent about \$45,000 to get the initiative on the November ballot. Roughly half of the money came from individual contributors and the other half came from Santa Monicans Fighting Against Irresponsible Regulation — or FAIR, a coalition of residents, business owners and beachfront hotels who are trying to overturn the city's living wage ordinance. The ordinance, passed by the city council last July, requires businesses that make more than \$5 million in revenue pay their employees \$10.50 an hour and provide health benefits.

VERITAS opponents argue FAIR is a passthrough for money from the hotels, which are believed to be supporting anything that would overturn the current city council and defeat the mandatory minimum wage increase.

FAIR and other living wage opponents have placed a measure on the November ballot that would repeal the council's living wage ordinance, which has not taken effect.

Some VERITAS critics say it's an attempt to get three new council members elected who would ensure the living wage ordinance be squashed permanently.

After the debate, many residents in attendance said they were still conflicted about how to vote on VERITAS.

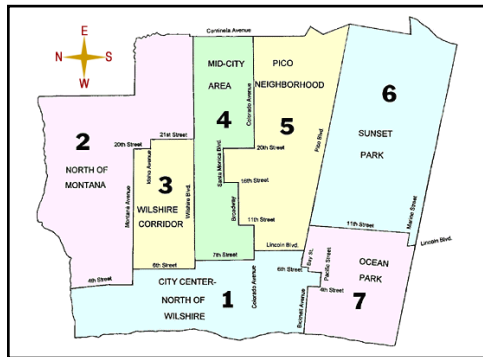
"It's helpful to know at least two sides of the issue — who knows, there could be oth-

ers," said Santa Monica resident David Cole. "This has both strengths and weaknesses, probably more weaknesses than strengths. I'd like to see term limits, but I'm not so sure about some of the other features."

Other residents believe VERITAS would bring more Santa Monica issues

to the city council.

"I haven't felt represented in this city and I think this might be a chance to finally be represented," said resident Barbara Coffman. "I'm tired of renters' rights being the only issue in town — it's a lopsided situation I would like to see change."



The VERITAS initiative would split the city into voting districts.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Today is Fire Service Day in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Fire Department is hosting its annual open house today.

Members of the public are invited to Station No. 5, — 2450 Ashland Avenue, near Clover Park — from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free pancakes will be served in the morning and fire fighters will put on demonstrations at 10:30 a.m.

Fire officials will show how they rescue people from wrecked cars using the "Jaws of Life." They'll also extinguish a real car fire and rappel to the ground from the top of a 100-foot ladder.

Everything from the department's fire engines to tools used every day on the job by fire fighters will be on display. Fire fighters will be on hand to answer questions from the public and talk about the equipment they use to battle blazes.

If that isn't enough, Sparky the Fire Dog will be there too.

McKeown goes nationally 'Green'

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown this week was elected to the national coordinating committee of the new Green Party of the United States.

McKeown will be one of 13 California delegates to the Green Party of the United States, representing not only Santa Monica but the over 145,000 Green Party members now registered in California.

"Our delegates are ambassadors of our Green values, ready to build a new kind of politics in our country," said the Green Party of California in announcing election of its national delegate team May 5 in Fresno.

The Green Party of the United States was recognized last year by the Federal Elections Commission as a fully-qualified national political party. McKeown will travel to Philadelphia in July to represent Santa Monica and California in the Greens' first full national assembly.

Other delegates from the Los Angeles area include Sara Amir, Alex Brideau III, Ginny Case, and Donna Warren, who is the California Green Party's current candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

McKeown was elected in 1998 as the second Green on the Santa Monica City Council. A former Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights steering committee member, he has been credited with successfully fighting for tenant protections, affordable housing and Santa Monica's ground-breaking Living Wage Ordinance.

Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein also is a Green Party member, as are the Rent Board's Jeff Sklar and many members of city task forces, boards and commissions.

Students get pancakes and a lesson on drinking

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica High School graduating seniors will have a pancake breakfast on Monday while they are given a lesson on drinking and driving.

Santa Monica Place and the Santa Monica Police Department will host the breakfast at 8 a.m. at the mall. All seniors who plan to attend the prom on Saturday, May 18, can attend the breakfast.

Students will watch a video produced by the police department that shows the effects of teen drinking. Police chief James T. Butts Jr. will be the guest speaker at the event.



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

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STATE

A Los Angeles tribute



Kevork Djansezian/Associated Press

President Bill Clinton, left, points to honoree Bishop Hamel Hartford Brookings, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as they are introduced to the crowd while Brookings' 4-year-old son Wellington reacts during a tribute to the bishop on Thursday in Beverly Hills. Brookings was honored for his lifetime of religious, political and social leadership in Los Angeles.

Four men admit role in food fight at Camp Pendleton

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Four men pleaded guilty in federal court to hurling about 400 pounds of fruit, bread and meat at each other during a food fight at Camp Pendleton last month.

Travis Delgadillo, 24, and Peter Marshall, 35, both of Los Angeles, Steve Esteves, 24, of Oceanside and Brett Jensen, 24, of Huntington Beach pleaded guilty Thursday to misdemeanor trespassing. They each face up to six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine when they are sentenced May 16.

Federal prosecutors said a plea agreement reached with the defendants will allow the judge to sentence them to no more than 30 days of community service

and three years probation. Prosecutors also want the men to pay for the food — about \$750.

Delgadillo said the group drove onto Camp Pendleton on April 4 after he showed his expired Marine Corps identification badge to a guard. Jensen also is a former Marine and Esteves is a former reservist.

Authorities said the men forced their way into the dining hall and picked the lock on a refrigerator.

After their arrest, the men told authorities they videotaped their exploits because they wanted to show how lax security is at the base. One of them also told investigators that he was thinking about sending a copy of the videotape to the now-extinct MTV show, "Jackass," which shows people perform extreme stunts.

Poway school official defends thong-check at dance decision

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A vice principal who was criticized for lifting girls' skirts to verify they weren't wearing thong underwear is defending her actions, saying they were in the students' best interests.

Rita Wilson, vice principal at Rancho Bernardo High School in suburban San Diego, told KNSD-TV in an interview broadcast Friday: "This was a safety issue. It was not a choice-of-underwear issue."

Students say Wilson lifted girls' skirts — in front of male students and adults — to make sure they weren't wearing thong underwear before they entered a school dance on April 26. Those wearing thongs were turned away.

Wilson said administrators decided to implement the policy to prevent students from exposing themselves while dancing, which she said occurred at the annual dance last year. She said students exposed themselves while "freak dancing," a style

of sexually explicit movements.

"I was very concerned about short skirts and having their bottoms covered. That's really what I wanted was if they were going to freak, at least their bottoms were covered," Wilson said.

Several parents of students at the high school have demanded Wilson be fired. The district has placed her on administrative leave while it investigates.

The interview was the first time Wilson has spoken publicly about her actions. Her phone number is unlisted and she could not be reached for comment Friday.

A spokeswoman for the Poway Unified School District declined to comment on Wilson's statements, citing the ongoing probe.

The vice principal, who began teaching in the district in 1995, said she believes the incident has ruined her career. She said if she had to do things over again, she would have refused to supervise the dance.

NATIONAL



Wall Street jolted by a pair of critical analysts' reports

BY ALAN CLENDENNING
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Eyebrows shot up in the financial world this week when two stock analysts issued critical reports about JetBlue Airways and Edison Schools, sending their shares tumbling.

Wall Street analysts are under huge pressure amid accusations that they issue rosy stock recommendations on companies they cover so their firms can win generous investment banking fees — for arranging mergers or new stock offerings for the same companies.

Observers were left wondering whether the pair of reports signaled a new era of analyst independence, or at least some soul searching among the stock researchers' ranks. They weren't swayed by statements from the firms that their analysts were simply following tradition by calling their stock ratings as they see them.

"I think it's natural to assume, in a time when the focus is so intense on analyst integrity, that many analysts will go out of their way to display their integrity," said David Beim, a finance professor at Columbia University's business school. "It's having some effect on actual analyst behavior."

In JetBlue's case, the low-fare airline's shares fell as much as 9 percent Tuesday after UBS Warburg analyst Samuel Buttrick initiated coverage of the company's stock at "reduce," warning that the

shares were overpriced.

The report drew intense attention because UBS Warburg was one of the underwriters of JetBlue's initial public stock offering less than a month earlier, which was followed by a trading debut that saw JetBlue stock double.

UBS Warburg spokeswoman Amy Rosenberg said Buttrick's report is "consistent with the way our research department has always operated — and that is independent from the investment banking division."

Others weren't so sure. John Bogle, founder and former chairman of The Vanguard Group of mutual funds, suspects analysts are feeling the heat of investigations by New York's attorney general and the Securities and Exchange Commission into the way they rate stocks.

But he also said it's too early to say whether a sea change of analyst objectivity is in sight.

A day after Buttrick's report shook Wall Street, US Bancorp Piper Jaffray analyst Mark Marostica downgraded Edison Schools to "market perform," the firm's second-lowest rating and reduced his price target for the stock from \$32 per share to \$3.

Shares of Edison Schools, the largest private operator of public schools in the United States, plunged 41 percent because of Marostica's doubts about the company's prospects of landing more schools to manage.

Sticky, smelly weapons under study for non-lethal force

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Life could suddenly become a sticky, noisy, smelly, altogether unpleasant mess for rioters or enemies that authorities want stopped but not killed.

There are proposals for microorganisms that gobble up highways and runways, sticky sprays that make floors and stairs a gummy mess and fogs that smell really, really bad — just some of the ideas researched or proposed by the government and contractors and collected by the National Academy of Sciences in a study of non-lethal weapons technology.

Such technology has drawn a lot of interest both for crowd control by police departments and for military use in situations such as Bosnia and Somalia where soldiers may need to defuse situations without killing people.

Some examples are already in use ranging from tear gas to rubber bullets to flash-bang grenades.

Others are under study or development.

Take for example a Marine Corps proposal for "situational control by olfactory stimuli."

Think rotten eggs, times 10.

The idea is to combine several bad-smelling substances, largely based on sulfur, with an odor enhancer, sprayed or fogged into an area to induce nausea and cause people to flee.

The researchers would also develop an enzyme to be taken by friendly troops that would counteract the effect.

Simply using gas masks or air filters wouldn't necessarily help, thanks to another

project at Los Alamos National Labs.

That research is looking at an aerosol that would form a polymer when it collects on a surface. A polymer is a large molecule formed from many small ones and in this case it would form a solid covering over such things as the filter of a gas mask, air intake of a tank engine or carburetor of a car.

Lack of air can force an enemy to take off a gas mask, halt engines and shut down an underground bunker.

Over at the Office of Naval Research they're looking at genetically modified bacteria that could be sprayed on highways and airport runways and "eat" the asphalt.

It's the kind of thing that could get out of hand, though, and researchers are also looking into a gene that makes the bacteria die out after a period of time. The project also includes developing a way to "vaccinate" roads that need to be protected.

Sometimes you want things to be slippery, sometimes you don't.

A project at Sandia National Laboratories proposes a microencapsulated lubricant that can be spread on surfaces such as roads, but remains inert.

When something heavy, like an enemy car, drives over, the tiny capsules burst, freeing the lubricant and making the road slippery and impassable.

Inside a motor, of course, lubricants are good, reducing friction so things run smoothly and don't overheat.

The Office of Naval Research has the answer for that. It's working on ways to "poison" lubricants in enemy machinery, making them become sticky and causing breakdowns.

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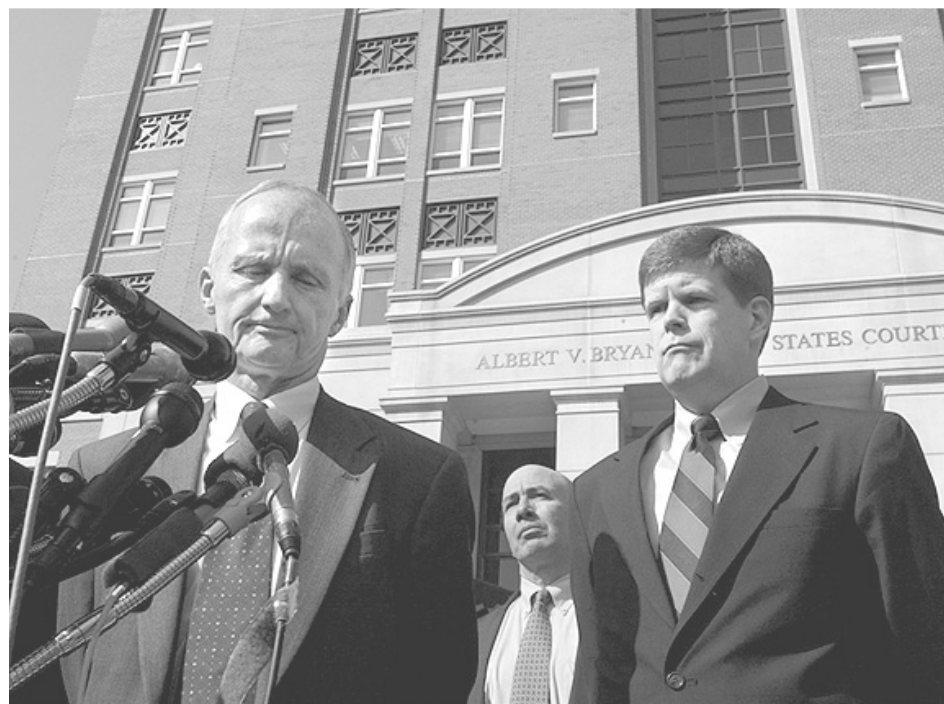
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NATIONAL

FBI spy sentenced



J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

Van A. Harp, the assistant director in charge of the Washington field office of the FBI, turns away after speaking to reporters outside the federal courthouse in Alexandria, Va., on Friday, after the sentencing of Robert Hanssen, an FBI agent who sold America's secrets to Moscow. At right is U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty.

Suspected mailbox bomber faces up to life in prison

BY TOM GARDNER
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Luke Helder was put on a plane to Iowa on Friday to face the first of several charges that could send him to prison for life for allegedly blowing up mailboxes across the Midwest with pipe bombs.

Handcuffed and wearing a white prison jumpsuit, the 21-year-old college student was escorted from the Washoe County Jail to a Reno-Tahoe International Airport terminal normally used by corporate jets.

Helder was headed for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for a court appearance in the bombings that wounded six people.

His parents, Cameron and Pamela Helder of Pine Island, Minn., left Reno on Thursday after a jailhouse visit with their son.

"It's already been very hard on us," Cameron Helder said. "Our heart goes out to the families of the victims and the victims."

Helder is accused of putting 18 pipe bombs and anti-government letters in mailboxes in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Colorado and Texas. He told authorities after his capture Tuesday that he wanted to create a "smiley face" pattern on the map, a sheriff said.

Helder, an art student at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, Wis., smiled broadly each time he was transported to and from jail and court this week.

The FBI zeroed in on him as a suspect after his father called authorities about an alarming letter from his son containing anti-government statements and references to exploding mailboxes and death.

Helder faces charges in Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska.

Police seize counterfeit goods in NYC's hidden tunnels

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Police raided a maze of hidden tunnels under several stores and seized piles of counterfeit watches, CDs, DVDs and other knockoff goods worth \$125 million.

Officers broke through locked gates and trap doors and discovered the merchandise, which included imitation Rolex, Movado, Gucci, Prada and Cartier brands, said Lt. Mark Margone.

Ten people were arrested on charges of trademark counterfeiting.

The raid, which was the result of a three-month investigation, took place Wednesday in lower Manhattan.

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BUSINESS



Unemployment down in April, drops to 6.4 percent

BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Unemployment remained fairly steady during April, dropping to 6.4 percent, according to preliminary figures released Friday.

April's rate marked a slight decline from the revised 6.5 percent in March, the Employment Development Department said.

A year ago, the state's jobless rate was 5 percent.

Jobs added in the retail, finance and government sectors were offset by losses in manufacturing and services for a net loss of 5,300 payroll jobs in April.

Wholesale and retail trade showed the largest gains, adding 6,200 jobs in the month. Government added 4,900 jobs. Overall, 12,000 jobs were added to the payrolls in April.

In a separate survey of households, the EDD reported the number of unemployed in the state in April was 1.13 million, a decline of 14,000 from last month, but an increase of 272,000 compared with April of last year.

The number of Californians holding jobs in April was 16,460,000, an increase of 21,000 over March and up 6,000 from last year.

"This is sort of the way things look at

the bottom," said Tom Lieser, senior economist for the UCLA Anderson Forecast. "It's one of those reports you get when things are getting ready to turn, we think."

"It's a plus on the unemployment side by virtue of March being revised up a notch," Lieser said. "We may see the jobless rate hang in the range of 6.5 percent for a while because we will shortly see an increase in job seekers."

Manufacturing jobs showed the largest decline, losing 6,500 positions in April. The losses were centered in the food, industrial machinery and electronic equipment sectors.

The construction sector shed 6,200 jobs and services, including motion pictures, showed a 3,600 decline in jobs.

Overall, state payrolls lost 17,300 jobs in April.

In a year-to-year comparison, non-farm payroll declined by 54,000 jobs statewide.

Government employment, especially in education, showed the strongest growth, adding 74,900 jobs.

Job losses in manufacturing continue to show the largest decline, down 103,400 jobs, primarily in the electronic equipment and industrial machinery areas.

Unemployment in various counties remained nearly unchanged in April.

E-Trade chairman takes pay cut after outrage over package

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — E-Trade Group Inc. Chairman Christos Cotsakos agreed Friday to relinquish his salary for the next two years and surrender other rich benefits in an effort to quell outrage over a compensation package that made him the brokerage industry's top-paid executive.

Cotsakos, E-Trade's chief executive since 1996, agreed to a more modest contract 10 days after the Menlo Park-based company disclosed that it gave him a 2001 pay package valued at about \$80 million.

E-Trade rewarded Cotsakos against the backdrop of a painful stock market downturn that has battered much of the brokerage industry. Cotsakos has helped insulate E-Trade from the fallout by expanding the online brokerage into banking and other financial services.

E-Trade still lost \$241 million last year and another \$276 million during the first three months of this year, a setback the company blamed on special accounting charges.

E-Trade said it made an operating profit throughout last year, a performance that it credited largely to Cotsakos' leadership. The company's 2001 revenue totaled \$1.28 billion, up from \$73 million annually when Cotsakos first arrived.

Other brokers trimmed their executives' paychecks during last year's market turbulence.

Last year, Charles Schwab Corp. — the largest online stock brokerage — suspended the bonuses of its co-CEOs, Charles Schwab and David Pottruck. The two men each received \$8.1 million bonuses in the prior year. Goldman Sachs

and Merrill Lynch also reduced the pay of their CEOs last year.

Shareholders still aren't convinced Cotsakos ranks as the most valuable executive in the brokerage industry.

Investors expressed their frustration with E-Trade by punishing the company's stock. The company's shares dropped by 28 percent in the first few days after E-Trade disclosed Cotsakos' pay package.

The stock regained some ground earlier this week, but remains below its price before the indignation over Cotsakos' contract. E-Trade's shares fell 17 cents to \$5.95 Friday on the New York Stock Exchange. E-Trade's shares peaked at a split-adjusted \$36 a little over three years ago.

"There were some very egregious parts of the arrangement (with Cotsakos) that obviously had to be addressed," said Judith Fischer, managing director of Executive Compensation Advisory Services, a compensation consultant in Alexandria, Va.

"But E-Trade should have figured that out before they went public with the details last week."

Cotsakos, 53, will face shareholders May 24 at E-Trade's annual meeting.

"I have listened to shareowner concerns and want to dispel any doubt that my commitment to the success of this company is unwavering," Cotsakos said. "I am eager to eliminate the distraction of the compensation discussion so that we can focus on the business."

Under his new contract expiring in May 2004, Cotsakos will forgo his salary for the next two years and will receive a bonus "based exclusively on the company's performance," E-Trade said. Last year, E-Trade paid Cotsakos a \$798,000 salary and a \$4.1 million bonus.

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SPORTS

Spurs take heed: Shaquille O’Neal hurt and angry

BY T.A. BADGER
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Shaquille O’Neal is hurt and angry. Now there’s something to worry the San Antonio Spurs.

The Lakers’ center has long been troubled by an arthritic big toe, and he cut the index finger of his shooting hand during Sunday’s playoff victory. What’s more, he says he has a sprained left ankle from Game 2.

That covers the hurt. The anger is with Los Angeles coach Phil Jackson, whose team faces the Spurs in Game 3 of the Western Conference semifinals on Friday night.

Jackson criticized O’Neal’s aggressiveness in Tuesday’s 88-85 loss that evened the best-of-seven series at 1-1. The center finished 19 points and seven rebounds, both well below his season norms.

When asked about the injured ankle Thursday, O’Neal said: “Ask Phil, he knows everything.”

The Spurs are wary of O’Neal’s injury report and

wonder if there’s some gamesmanship at work.

“He still throws it through the rim hard, so I don’t think his hand is bothering him at all,” said Malik Rose, who has been sharing the Shaq patrol with several other defenders while Spurs center David Robinson recovers from a sore back.

Robinson, who has played only a few minutes of the postseason, could be in uniform for Game 3.

San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said the 7-foot-1 Robinson went through a full practice Thursday, and a decision will be made Friday.

“He banged and he hit, and it’s just a matter of whether the nerve in the back sustains as the day goes on,” Popovich said.

Given the mood they expect from the Lakers, the Spurs would very much like to be at full strength.

“They’re going to come with their full focus,” Popovich said. “They’re going to play great.”

And no one does San Antonio expect more from than O’Neal.

“I think Shaq is going to get involved more,” Spurs guard Tony Parker said. “I think he’s going to have the ball more, so we have to be ready.”

Robinson’s presence would be the biggest plus for the

Spurs, who built a 21-point lead Tuesday and then barely held on at the Staples Center.

The home crowd also figures in — San Antonio is 15-1 in the Alamodome since late February.

The Spurs also expect to get a lift from Tim Duncan being honored Friday night for his selection as the NBA’s Most Valuable Player.

O’Neal finished third in the balloting, behind Duncan and New Jersey guard Jason Kidd, and earlier said he should have won. Teammate Samaki Walker said Thursday that O’Neal might try to make his case on the court Friday.

“I’m sure one person won’t be happy — No. 34 (Shaq),” said Walker, a former Spur. ” I expect a big game from him.”

Both teams have played well in bursts, but neither has shown the form that led them to identical 58-24 records during the regular season.

“Both games have been somewhat ugly,” said guard Antonio Daniels, who scored 14 points off the bench in Game 2. “Whichever team decides they’re going to play better for a longer stint, that’ll be the team that comes out victorious.”

Jason Kapono stays at UCLA

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jason Kapono, UCLA’s leading scorer the last three seasons, will return for his senior year.

Kapono averaged 16 points last season and made 87 3-pointers, breaking the school record of 84 he set as a sophomore. He originally set the school record of 82 as a freshman.

“I never wanted this to be a big deal,” the 6-foot-8, 213-pound Kapono said Friday. “I enjoy being a student-athlete at UCLA. Hopefully, the NBA will be in my future plans, but for right now, I’m at UCLA and UCLA is where I want to be.”

The deadline for underclassmen to declare for the NBA draft is Sunday.

Kapono ranks 15th on UCLA’s career scoring list with 1,608 points. If he equals his 16.4-point career scoring average next season, he would end his career with 2,144 points, third in school history behind Don MacLean, who scored 2,608 from 1989-92, and Lew Alcindor, who scored 2,325 from 1967-69 before changing his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

“Obviously we are delighted that Jason has decided to remain in school, continue working toward a degree and play for us as a senior,” UCLA coach Steve Lavin said.



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 125, Dallas 119, Sacramento leads series 2-1
Friday, May 10
Detroit at Boston, late
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, late
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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INTERNATIONAL



Church of Nativity filthy, suffers hardly any damage

BY GREG MYRE

Associated Press Writer

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Israel pulled its troops and armor out of Bethlehem Friday, ending the 39-day siege of the Church of the Nativity after 13 Palestinian militants were flown into exile. The church reeked of urine, and food crumbs were strewn across an altar yet it emerged with little permanent damage.

Thirteen militiamen who had been holed up inside were flown into European exile, and 26 were released into the Gaza Strip where they were given a raucous welcome. Seventy-three Palestinian policemen and civilians were set free.

The end of the siege at the traditional site of Jesus' birthplace paved the way for an Israeli troop pullback from Bethlehem Friday evening, effectively ending the military offensive Israel launched March 29 against Palestinian militias in the West Bank.

But Israeli forces were massed on the border with the Gaza Strip, apparently preparing for a military strike in retaliation for a Hamas suicide bombing this week that killed 15 Israelis. The leadership of the Islamic militant group is based in Gaza.

President Bush said the end of the Bethlehem siege was a welcome sign and "should advance the prospects for resuming a political peace process."

The day's events in Bethlehem began shortly before 7 a.m., when the first of the gunmen walked through the low-slung Gate of Humility, the main door of the 4th-century basilica. The others followed, emerging into the hazy sunlight of Manger Square. Some waved or flashed victory signs, and one dropped to the ground, kneeling in Muslim prayer. Two men were carried out on stretchers.

By midmorning, all Palestinians had left the church, but the standoff was not over. Ten foreigners, who had slipped into the church May 2 in a show of solidarity with the Palestinians, refused to come out — demanding a lawyer and insisting on holding a news conference.

Israeli riot police later entered the compound and



Nasser Shiyoukhi/Associated Press

Smoke rises from the house of local Hamas leader Nidal Kawasmi in the West Bank town of Hebron on Friday. Three Israeli tanks and 10 jeeps entered Palestinian-controlled sections of the town, where they arrested Kawasmi and shelled his house.

removed them by force, with the approval of exasperated priests. The 10, including four Americans, were detained ahead of deportation.

Journalists touring the basilica, one of Christianity's holiest shrines, saw two wooden altars in the Armenian section and a marble baptismal covered with leftover food and dirty dishes.

The stone floor was strewn with dirty blankets and mattresses, lighters, sunglasses, a toothpaste tube, a bottle of aftershave, plastic bags, cigarette butts, a comb and large cooking pots. A stove and gas canisters for cooking stood to one side of the central aisle.

Those inside the church had complained the Israelis occasionally cut the water supply and that water was scarce during the siege. There were no toilets inside the basilica and to get to facilities elsewhere required cross-

ing an open courtyard, with the risk of Israeli sniper-fire.

The panes of several arched windows near the ceiling were broken, but there appeared to be no other damage. A 12th-century mosaic near the ceiling, which one priest had said was hit by bullets, appeared in good condition. A Franciscan study hall next to the church was gutted by fire — Israel and the Palestinians accused each other of sparking the flames — and a statue of the Virgin Mary was hit by a bullet.

The small birth grotto, a few steps below the basilica, was in pristine condition. Priests said some gunmen and foreigners had initially slept there because it was the warmest spot, but agreed to leave so clergy could conduct daily services there.

One priest complained the foreigners had desecrated the church by smoking and drinking alcohol.

A Bethlehem Christian, 18-year-old Sandy Shaheen, was in tears as she looked at the interior of the basilica. "This is the place where Jesus was born. I can't believe this is the house of God — just look at it," said Shaheen, who worships at the Church of the Nativity every Sunday.

Father Nicholas, a Franciscan priest from Mexico, denied Israeli claims the several dozen nuns and priests who stayed in the compound during the standoff were hostages. "We were there by choice," Nicholas said. Priests and nuns have said they remained to protect the site.

Father Nicholas said the gunmen kept their weapons with them at all times, and in the first days took candles, labras, icons, candles and "anything that looked like gold." Some of the valuables were later returned, he said.

Reporters saw a cupboard filled with food — more than 20 bags of lentils and rice, cans of beans and cooking oil. For extended periods during the siege, the gunmen had said food was running low and those inside subsisted on one meal a day. Some said they had resorted to making soup from lemon leaves growing in the courtyard. It was not clear whether those accounts were misleading, or whether Israel sent in more food in the last days.

Israeli police and soldiers swept the church and said they found 40 explosive devices, several booby-trapped. However, Israeli officials offered little detail.

Algerian linked to terrorist plot in U.S. ordered extradited

BY THOMAS WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — An Algerian man with alleged links to Osama bin Laden should be extradited to the United States to face trial on charges he masterminded a plot to blow up the Los Angeles airport, a judge ruled Friday.

In August, a federal grand jury in New York indicted Amar Makhoulif, 37, also known as Haydar Abu Doha, and prosecutors described him as a key figure in bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorism network.

The American prosecutors allege he developed a plan to bomb the Los Angeles

international airport during celebrations to usher in the year 2000 and helped send would-be terrorists to training camps in Afghanistan.

District Judge Timothy Workman, at the high-security Belmarsh Magistrates Court in southeast London, ruled there was sufficient evidence to approve extradition to the United States for trial.

"There is, in my view, ample evidence on which a jury, properly directed, could conclude that the activities and intention were directed toward murder and causing grievous bodily harm," he said.

Abu Doha, dressed in a suit jacket and

wearing a short black beard, smiled as a translator sitting beside him in the back of the courtroom told him of the extradition order and the denial of his bail request.

His attorneys could appeal the decision to the High Court, and Alison MacDonald, a spokeswoman for the defense team, said they were considering that possibility. His main attorney in London, Gareth Peirce, did not immediately return telephone calls asking about her plans.

Once British courts finish with the case, the final decision on Abu Doha's extradition lies with Home Secretary David Blunkett.

The millennium bomb plot was foiled in December 1999, when police arrested an alleged coconspirator, Ahmed Ressay, while he was trying to enter Washington state from Canada in a car loaded with explosives.

Ressay was convicted last year on nine charges, including smuggling and terrorist conspiracy, and could face a life prison term.

In hope of reducing his sentence, Ressay is testifying against others accused of terrorism, and his cooperation is said to have been crucial to the case against Abu Doha, to whom he has said he had owed his allegiance.

Carter's Cuba visit underscores differing views of democracy

BY ANITA SNOW

Associated Press Writer

HAVANA — With Jimmy Carter arriving Sunday on the first visit by a former U.S. president to Fidel Castro's Cuba, human rights are again in the spotlight, and an old joke about free speech is being recycled on the streets of Havana.

A visiting American tells a Cuban acquaintance: "I can stand in front of the White House and shout 'Down with Bush!' and no one will arrest me." Same here, comes the reply. "I can stand in front of the Palacio de la Revolution and shout 'Down with Bush!' and nothing will happen to me, either."

The popularity of the joke suggests Cubans are keenly aware that human rights and democracy mean different things to Carter and his communist host, President Castro.

Carter came out of obscurity to capture the presidency in 1976, and lost it by a landslide four years later. He has since made a career out of monitoring elections in emerging democracies to ensure they are clean and competitive.

Castro, by contrast, has ruled nonstop for 43 years, running every so often in uncontested elections that recognize only one legal political party — the Communist Party of Cuba.

Though Carter's trip is opposed by some Cuban

exiles, it has the guarded assent of the politically powerful Cuban American National Foundation, which says it expects him to emphasize human rights and not hand Castro a propaganda coup.

When a foundation delegation met with Carter in Atlanta last week, chairman Jorge Mas Santos gave him a letter saying in part: "It is deeply troubling that you have entered into discussions with the Cuban regime, thereby giving a measure of legitimacy to a small group that rules through fear rather than the consent of the governed."

Nevertheless, it said, "we come today because we are prepared to take any risk that might speed the day when Cuba is again free. ... We are confident you will choose to identify more with the prisoners of conscience than with their wardens."

Carter aides have indicated that during the five-day visit he will meet with the same rights activists that Castro labels "counterrevolutionaries." If he does, it will be a striking illustration of how much Cuba has changed since he was president.

Although it remains a heavily controlled society, some opposition is now tolerated. The number of political prisoners has also plunged, from several thousand to a few hundred.

A decade ago there was no publicly known dissident community on the island. Today there are plenty for Carter to meet: human rights activist Elizardo Sanchez, reform advocate Oswaldo Paya, and Castro opponent Vladimiro Roca, who was freed from prison last Sunday in what was seen as a goodwill gesture to Carter even though Roca had just two months left in his five-year sentence.

Carter is the highest-profile American ever to visit Castro, and comes armed with official permission from the U.S. government, which licenses all American travel to Cuba. Castro, who invited Carter in January, says he wants his guest to tour the country, and "he can criticize all he wants."

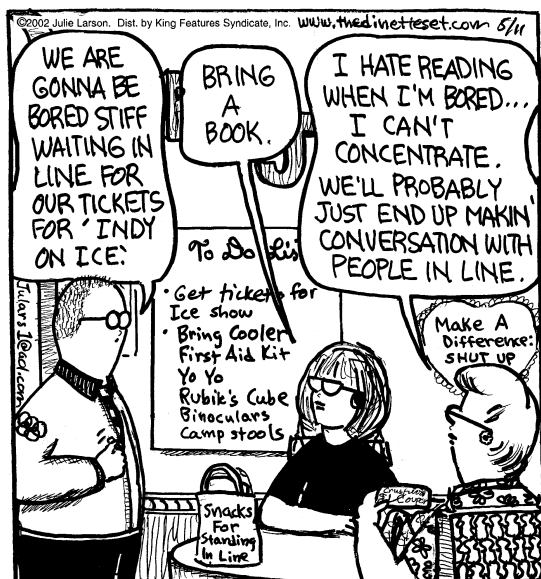
But communist officials still grow defensive toward those who say their country is undemocratic and violates human rights.

Castro on May 1 insisted Cuba was "by a long shot the most democratic" country in the world. Cuba's elections are cleaner than most because they don't require campaign contributions, he said.

The State Department disagrees.

"Cuba is a totalitarian state," it wrote in its report on human rights in Cuba. "President Castro exercises con-

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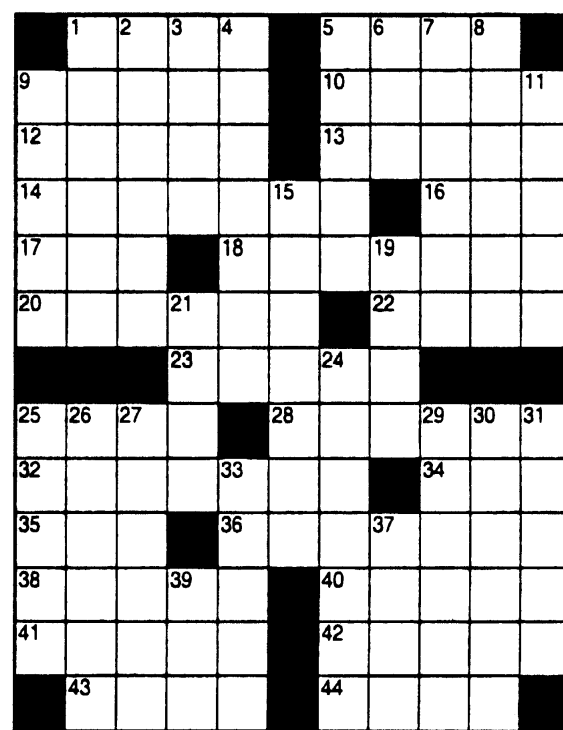
by TERRY & PATTY LARAN



A cartoon illustration by UFS. A man with a long nose, wearing a plaid shirt and carrying a briefcase, stands in a hallway. He has a butterfly on his head and is looking up at a large open doorway. Inside the doorway, a staircase leads upwards. Above the doorway, a series of dots leads to a large 'DING' sound effect with musical notes. To the left of the doorway is a doorbell with an upward-pointing triangle and a downward-pointing triangle. The floor is covered in a pattern of small dots. The background is a simple line drawing of a hallway.

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 5-11

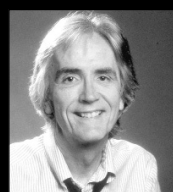
ACROSS	43 Call for
1 Trade	44 Female deer
5 Galley needs	
9 Forest goddess	DOWN
10 Forger	1 Phrase of comparison
12 Gives off	2 Lamented loudly
13 Island off Naples	3 Con
14 Armed group	4 Stock spot
16 Corral	5 Director's dream
17 Flamenco cheer	6 Med. grp.
18 Like some paper	7 Wee wave
20 Passover meals	8 Map line
22 Goes down	9 Sample tapes
23 Door holder's	11 Female deer



5-11

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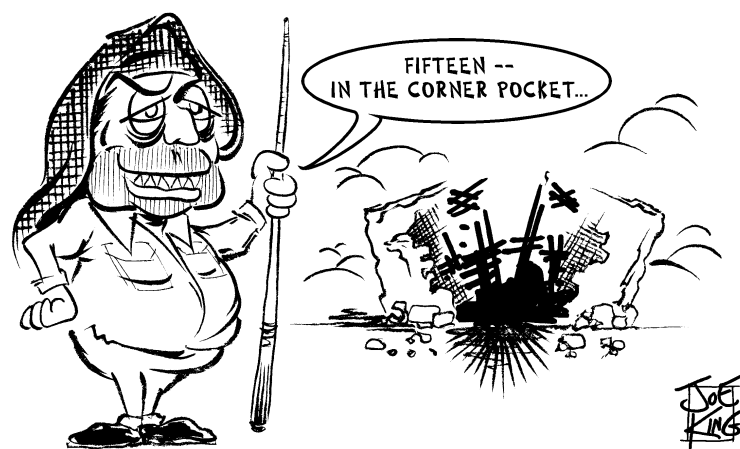


by Chuck Shepard

"For almost 20 years," wrote a Boston Globe reporter in March, "convicted rapist Benjamin LaGuer (imprisoned at the MCI-Norfolk facility in Massachusetts) has waged a public campaign maintaining his innocence," most recently demanding DNA tests that would clear him of a brutal attack on an elderly woman. LaGuer's supporters raised \$30,000 for the test, and on March 22, the results came back: The sperm was LaGuer's. (But even worse off was rape suspect Marshall Thomas, 44, who early this year finally received his long-begged-for DNA test that he was sure would free him from a 1999 rape charge. That case is still pending, in Belleville, Ill., but Thomas's DNA was matched to an earlier, unsolved rape, and prosecutors said they planned to file additional charges.)

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BACK PAGE

Cowboys are near last in latest job ranking Almanac

BY DIEGO IBARGUEN

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Cowboy dreams aside, a new ranking of jobs might encourage some students to work a little harder on their biology homework.

While the job of biologist takes top overall honors in the latest edition of the "Jobs Rated Almanac," employment as a cowboy ranked a lowly 248th out of the 250 jobs reviewed.

Cowboys are paid about \$31,000 a year on average, have limited prospects for advancement and face some of the greatest physical demands, according to the listing, which ranks jobs in a variety of categories. Only the physically demanding and low-paying work of the fisherman and the lumberjack ranked lower.

Biologists, in comparison, make an average of more than \$92,000 a year and have the best future prospects, sparked in large part by the completion of the human gene map and last year's anthrax scare, according to the book's editor, Les Krantz.

"This book is about the real, honest-to-God, no-fooling-around workaday week," said Krantz, whose own job, publication editor, was ranked 31st overall. It also gives people an opportunity to learn "everything you wanted to ask about your friends' and neighbors' jobs," he said.

"This book is about the real, honest-to-God, no-fooling-around workaday week."

— LES KRANTZ

Jobs Rated Almanac editor

Begun in 1988, the sixth edition of the list was to be released Friday. In previous editions, the top spots have gone to actuary and financial planner, Nos. 2 and 3 this time.

Krantz uses statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, the census, professional organizations and telephone surveys in ranking 250 jobs — some of them uncommon, such as roustabout (No. 239) and stevedore (No. 241), two jobs involving working on and loading ships. The jobs are ranked according to six variables: income, stress, physical demands, potential growth, job security and work environment.

The new edition's top 10 overall jobs were rounded out by computer systems analyst, accountant, software engineer, meteorologist, paralegal assistant, statistician and astronomer.

Completing the bottom 10 were roofer, farmer, construction worker, taxi driver, seaman and ironworker.

Professional athletes also have the potential for high pay and a lot of time off, but their job comes with substantial stress, limited security and heavy physical demands. Other high-stress, physically demanding jobs, such as police officer and firefighter, come with moderate pay and poor work environments.

Krantz said the side-by-side comparison of jobs can make some people think twice about what they think they'd like to do for a living.

For those who prefer to avoid stress altogether, musical instrument repair ranks easiest on the nerves, edging out florist and medical records technician.

Caught with his pants off

By The Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — A naked burglar was arrested after his driver's license was discovered in the pants he left at the scene of the crime, police said.

The man sneaked into an apartment last Saturday, stripped off his clothes and crept into a sleeping woman's bedroom, said Eugene police Sgt. Scott McKee.

The woman awoke, saw the man and screamed, prompting her boyfriend to jump out of bed and give chase.

The man got away, but police had the evidence they needed.

"Thankfully it had his current address," McKee said.

David Spencer Clark Jr., 20, was arrested Tuesday and charged with first-degree burglary.

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