

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Picked fresh daily. 100% organic news.

Santa Monica police has an eye in the sky

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Police Department now has an eye in the sky, giving officers an edge in fighting crime.

For more than a month, a helicopter from the Hawthorne Police Department has been regularly patrolling the skies over Santa Monica, assisting local officers on the ground when needed.

The helicopter patrols are part of a SMPD program dubbed "Operation Prime Time," which was initially created to help officers in the field combat a series of gang-related shootings in a troubled eastside neighborhood.

But the helicopter is proving to be more useful than just finding gang bangers, officials say.

The helicopter patrol recently helped SMPD officers

search for a burglar running through a Sunset Park neighborhood. From the air, the helicopter lit up dark patches of terrain with its high-powered searchlight, called the "night-sun." Officers in the air were able to tell officers on the ground where the holes existed their search perimeter.

"An airship gives you a platform to operate. It gives you a way to see from the air what officers on the ground are prevented from by buildings."

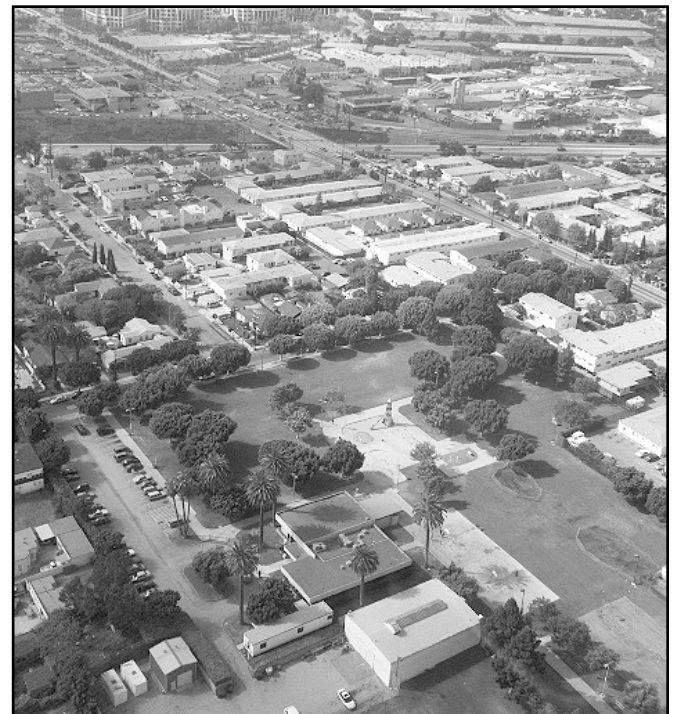
— JAMES T. BUTTS JR.
Santa Monica Police Chief

The helicopter also is equipped with "forward looking infrared," a thermal imaging camera that can pick up heat sources from the air. The instrument is so sensitive that it can pick up trails of heat left behind by people who recently walked through an area, or cars that still have warm engines. Suspicious vehicles would be then tracked through the police department and their license plate numbers would be checked.

This isn't the first time helicopter patrols have been used in Santa Monica. The city 40 years ago had its own helicopter program, but a defect in the aircraft's design caused it to crash into the Pacific Ocean in the mid-1960s.

Since then the city has had sporadic helicopter patrols from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office and other nearby cities.

A helicopter from an assisting agency helped nab an alleged gang member who led police on a chase through the Pico neighborhood four months



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

The Pico neighborhood, on Santa Monica's eastside, is patrolled routinely by the Hawthorne Police Department's new helicopter.

ago. After being pulled over for a traffic violation, the driver and passenger ditched the car and tried to escape on foot. One of the suspects fired on police officers.

It was an officer patrolling by helicopter that located one of the suspects as he ran into a nearby apartment complex. The man's suspicious behavior caught the

See HELICOPTER, page 6



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Detective Jim Dixon, a Hawthorne tactical officer, patrols the skies above Santa Monica last Thursday. Dixon operates the helicopter's surveillance equipment and communicates with Santa Monica police officers on the ground.

Court orders landlord to pay tenant relocation fee

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica man has been ordered to pay \$4,300 to his former tenant after he evicted him, a judge ruled Friday.

Giulio Della Rocca claimed Kent Wagerman was illegally sub-leasing his rent-controlled apartment on 20th Street and therefore he shouldn't have to pay him to move.

Under the state's Ellis Act, Della Rocca was allowed to evict four tenants when he converted the apartment complex into his own home last year. But the law requires that tenants who fall under rent control be paid a relocation fee if they are "Ellised" out of the building and their

annual income is less than \$24,900.

Wagerman, a restaurant waiter, provided income tax returns to Santa Monica Superior Court Judge John Reid that showed he was entitled to the relocation money because his income was below the Ellis requirement.

But what was central to the arguments heard in Friday's court proceedings was whether or not Wagerman illegally rented out his one-bedroom apartment to another man.

Della Rocca said when he was closing escrow early last year he learned that a different tenant was living in Wagerman's apartment. Within days of learning the

See EVICTION, page 3

Ovitz deal has Hollywood's eyes on 'The Firm' agency

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — It's one thing to create the kind of buzz generated by a high-profile deal, but it's quite another to deliver on the promise.

Last year, 37-year-old talent manager Jeff Kwatinetz told those around him he wanted his growing company, called The Firm, to become "the next AOL Time Warner."

Last week, he got one step closer to his goal, buying the talent management portion of Artists Management Group, the company Hollywood super agent Michael Ovitz had hoped would become a major player, producing movies and television shows featuring Ovitz's stable of actors, writers and directors.

But size and reach — even buzz — do not translate readily into profits, as AOL

Time Warner itself has seen. Last month, that company reported the largest quarterly loss ever for a U.S. firm.

Ovitz has seen his influence in Hollywood wane since 1995, when the powerful talent agent left Creative Artists Agency to become president of The Walt Disney Co. He departed Disney after just 14 stormy months with a multimillion-dollar severance package.

He started AMG in 1999. Despite sporadic success, the company never reached critical mass.

For now, many in Hollywood are looking at Kwatinetz as the new kid on the block, the giant slayer, the brilliant, brash and ambitious pretender to the throne once occupied by Ovitz.

The Firm, created in 1997, is still rather small compared to other talent

See FIRM, page 7

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ A reversal, whether in your personal or professional life, could set you back. Actually, if you can distance yourself from your initial disappointment, you realize that this information needed to come out. Regroup, and you'll be OK. Don't worry. Tonight: Discuss recent events.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Confusion with a boss or at work could have an unusual impact. You might see this person reveal a whole different side of him- or herself, which could take you back. Keep your mind on the job and/or what you must accomplish. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ News or gossip could set you back, but until information is proven, it's not a fact. Loosen up and worry less about what is happening here. Express yourself in your unique style. Someone responds as you could only wish. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Deal with finances directly, or you could find yourself in deep trouble. Loosen up some and think through your issues, especially those involving trust and a mutual partnership. Step back and do some hard-core thinking. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Listen to a friend, especially if you need feedback about a key associate. This person might be behaving in an odd, unpredictable manner. Stay centered and take your time making a critical decision. Your perceptions could change substantially. Tonight: Follow your pals.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Adjust to a changeable work situation. You could be very confused by another's instructions. Sort through what is realistic. Discuss and process what someone expects from you. Keep asking and confirming in your mind what it is you want. Use your creativity. Tonight: Work late.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might not be seeing a loved one clearly. A child, as well, could be pulling the wool over your eyes. Knowing this, you might be able to read through the haze around this person. Directly speak your mind to those around you. Use your creativity. Tonight: Play away.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You're coming from a point of confusion. What might be revealed could be critical in the long term. Don't hide from the inevitable. Think in terms of greater achievement and direction through the help of a partner. Together you make quite the team. Tonight: Say "yes."

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ What you discover might be more important than you realize. If you hit a snafu involving a car, you need to think in terms of growth and change. Fix anything that might be in disrepair in your immediate environment. Make an important call. Tonight: Out.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Push hard to complete certain key tasks at work. If you believe a financial matter could be slippery or off, it probably is. Use your good sense, both financially and emotionally. Carefully consider options involving work, funds and a co-worker. Tonight: Off to the gym.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ What might be a reversal actually could prove otherwise. Just deal with a problem head-on. You could be pleased with the end results. You inspire someone, but don't think it is a one-way street. Feed each other information. Share more. Tonight: Playtime!

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ A fundamental realization makes all the difference in the outcome of a problem. Realize more of what you want through a discussion with a family member. Your instincts guide you through a sticky situation. Understand your choices. Tonight: Order in.

QUOTE of the DAY

"A man is as young as the woman he feels."

— Various ascribed

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LOCAL

Judge rules that displaced renter should be paid

EVICTION, from page 1

building was up for sale, Wagerman moved back into his apartment and the sub-leaser moved out, Della Rocca said.

He argued that Wagerman is only enti-

tled to the relocation money if he was living in the building for 12 months prior to being evicted, which he wasn't, Della Rocca claimed.

Della Rocca showed several pieces of mail that he had collected at the complex

that were addressed to a man named James Eastman, the person who was living in Wagerman's apartment.

Judge Reid gave little thought to the mail Della Rocca provided as evidence, arguing that it's common for mail to show up at the wrong address. What he was more concerned about was whether Wagerman was living in the apartment when Della Rocca purchased the building.

Wagerman said he didn't sub-lease the

apartment — he only allowed Eastman to stay there while he was away on business — which was four months in 1999.

"My name is the one on the lease and I was the one evicted," Wagerman said. "Even if I did sublet, it's up to the (old) landlord."

Reid, who was unfamiliar with the Ellis Act, ordered that Della Rocca pay Wagerman the \$4,250 in relocation fees and \$50 in court fees.

Cops honored by SMPD

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica's top cops were honored this weekend for their heroism and service in the community.

The Santa Monica Police Department's Awards Banquet was held on Friday at the Casa Del Mar Hotel, where most of the city council and the city's top staff were on hand to show appreciation to the department.

David Sampson, Jr. received the citizen involvement award for assisting in the apprehension of an armed bank robbery suspect, and John Catoe, Deputy CEO for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

The following awards were presented by the SMPD:

CHIEF'S AWARD

· John Beard, KTTV Fox 11

For donating his time to narrate the Emmy nominated SMPD documentary "Every 15 Minutes, For My Friends" about the tragic effects of teen drinking-and-driving and countless other volunteer activities which benefit the police department and the Santa Monica community.

MEDAL OF COURAGE

· James Hirt, Sergeant
· Christopher Dawson, Investigator

Awarded to any police department employee for an act of extraordinary heroism above and beyond the call of duty.

MEDAL OF MERIT

· Jason Mann, Range Master
· Eric Uller, Police Technology Specialist
· Michael Cveyich, Crime Prevention Coordinator
· Christopher Dawson, Investigator

Awarded to any police department employee for distinguished and outstanding service of an exemplary nature.

LINE OF DUTY MEDAL

· James Hirt, Sergeant
· Cristina Coria, Police Officer
· Steven Wong, Police Officer
Awarded to any police department employee who, through no fault of their own, sustained serious or career-debilitating injuries during the performance of job-related functions.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT AWARD

· Mr. David Sampson, Jr.
The Citizen Involvement Award is given to someone who goes above and

beyond the norm, redefines and takes to heart the term "civic duty."

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

· Denise Cepeda, Crossing Guard
· Hazel Darden, Transcriber Typist
· Kathy Keane, Sergeant
· Carol Lekowski, Identification Technician
· Alfonso Lozano, Cadet
· Erick Milosevich, Investigator
· Katherine Mitchell, Community Service Officer
· Alex Padilla, Lieutenant
· Rene Talbot, Youth Service Counselor

Honors an employee whose performance has made a significant contribution or improvement to the operation of the police department by going above and beyond the duties of their jobs.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AWARD

· Ira Rutan, Sergeant

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

· Donald Doss, Technical Police Reserve, 2001
· James Hirt, Sergeant, Santa Monica Police Officer's Association, 2001/2000
· Michael Bambrick, Police Officer, SM Police Officer's Association, 1999
· Michael Bambrick, Police Officer, JAYCEES, 2001
· Steve Heineman, Sergeant, JAYCEES, 2000
· Greg Smiley, Sergeant, JAYCEES, 1999

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD

· Gary Gallinot, Captain, Lion's Club
· Nancy Burum, Detective, Elks Lodge
· Cristina Coria, Police Officer, American Legion

The Q-Line

Campaign season has begun in Santa Monica. Last week residents learned about a November ballot measure that would rewrite how people are elected to the city council. If approved, the measure would allow residents to vote for one city council member from their neighborhood, instead of all seven who run at-large currently. It also would require that the mayor be elected by the people, instead of being appointed by council

members. Supporters of the measure think certain neighborhoods, like the city's eastside, are not represented.

This week Q-Line wants to know, "Do you feel adequately represented by your city council? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

Santa Monica High Vikings bound for the playoffs

BY JESSE HALEY

Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica High School's division one baseball team will compete in post-season play despite their last two losses.

Samohi's Vikings began the third week in the Bay League with an 8-3-1 record, two games ahead of fourth-place West Torrance.

Only the top three teams from each league advance to post season. With a regular season tie and a loss to West Torrance, the Vikings needed a win in their last two games to clinch a playoff spot.

In the way were defending Bay League champs, first-place Peninsula High.

At Palos Verdes last Thursday, Peninsula led 3-0 going into the fifth inning when the Vikings rallied for five runs. In the top of the sixth, a controversial call on a pop fly caught at the first base dugout allowed one Panther run. With one out in the seventh, third baseman Kyle Degener's solo homer off Viking pitcher Sonny Redondo tied the game 5-5.

Reliever Jake Glick held the Panthers scoreless into the tenth when closer Danny Casanova, took the mound for Samohi. Casanova threw one pitch to Kyle Degener for his second homer of the game and the Peninsula victory.

At Santa Monica last Tuesday, the Vikings took a one-run lead in the first inning when James Cooper hit a looping RBI single into shallow left. But Panthers' All-League pitcher Andy Beal wouldn't give up another run. In the top of the fifth, with runners on first and second, Panther catcher Brett Mendoza ripped a double for two RBIs, a 2-1 lead, and the game.

West Torrance beat Torrance high Tuesday, but lost Thursday, dropping one game back and out of playoff contention.

Samohi finishes the regular season 8-5-1 — third in the Bay League behind Maricosta and Peninsula High.

Playoff schedules are yet to be posted, but Samohi will either play Tuesday, or Saturday.



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OPINION

LETTERS

Historic districts are for your protection

Editor:

Misconceptions about neighbors' roles in renovations to properties in historic districts continue to rage, as does the assumption that a process allowing a neighborhood to protect its integrity and character is not a good thing.

Shirley Bly's recent letter asserts that a member of an historic district will be "forced to submit plans and drawings to a committee of his/her neighbors when they want to change the exterior paint color, add a window or remove a tree or simply add air conditioning." None of these changes require the review or approval of neighbors in the Third Street Historic district in which Ms. Bly and I both live.

When an historic district is formed in Santa Monica, interested members of that community are involved in detailing how that district will operate and what property changes will be reviewed by neighbors, by city staff, and by the landmarks commission. Each district has its own unique district ordinance and design guidelines.

The Third Street Neighborhood Historic District Ordinance specifies only certain major exterior, visible alterations which the landmarks commission reviews. Only those proposed alterations are reviewed by interested neighbors, who neither vote nor control the outcome. The role of participating neighbors is to review proposals, comment, and forward input to the landmarks commission. Anyone can appeal the landmarks commission's decision to the City Council.

Ms. Bly's proposal to dig-out an on-street subterranean garage under her craftsman beach bungalow was unanimously denied by the landmarks commission based on its failure to meet and maintain architectural and preservation guidelines and on the damage it would cause to the integrity of the Third Street Neighborhood Historic District. (Ms. Bly currently has off-street parking on her property, and alternative less intrusive parking design choices are possible.)

Of nine major renovation projects proposed in the Third Street Neighborhood Historic District since its designation in 1990, this subterranean garage project is the only project which has ever been denied. It is presently on appeal to the City Council.

Your April 22, 2002 article "History Repeating Itself in Santa Monica" stated that "When asked if neighbors should be making decisions about others' property, I said that home buyers knew they were moving into an historic district ahead of time." Although that is true for homeowners who move into an historic district after its designation, that was not my response.

My answer was that we have a representative form of government which we use to fashion the rules by which we live and on which we rely for civil society. Here I would add two things.

First, neighbors aren't "making decisions about others' property" in an historic district. They have a process for review and comment which gives neighbors the opportunity to protect their neighborhood values and character.

Second, we don't have absolute individual "property rights," and in cities we never have had. Municipalities are responsible to protect the safety, health, welfare, and cultural resources of the community and they do so through laws affecting property use including zoning and preservation ordinances. Historic districts protect communities and enable neighbors to participate, cooperate in, and influence that protection.

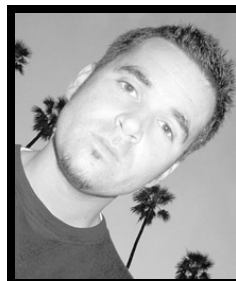
Beatrice H. Nemlaha
Santa Monica

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LOCAL



The FunHog

By Dan Dunn

The Some Young Moon dispatches

The producers at Warner Bros. called to let me know that despite their best efforts, AND despite the REAL LOVE & AFFECTION everyone at the studio has for the FunHog, they have thus far been unable to secure any actual cash from the WB Accounting Division, and that for the foreseeable future I shall continue to be paid for this gig with unwatchable DVDs and stuffed Looney Tunes dolls.

That's a real pisser, I thought, as I sat stroking my brand new, nearly-life-sized Tweety Bird at the Some Young Moon Saloon.

"I'M OFFICIALLY FREAKED OUT!!!!" I told Wes The Bartender. "I have no money, no high-paying make-work assignments in the pipeline ... and my only viable assets are a fully stocked liquor cabinet and 17 copies of Summer Catch."

Thank goodness Wes is a Freddie Prinze Jr. fan, or I couldn't even cover the nut for my whisky at the Moon.

I should "set the scene," as they say: It was 9:30 a.m. on a sunny Tuesday and I was 12 steps into what may have been the most unhealthy breakfast eaten by a human since Hannibal Lecter interned at the L.A. Coroner's office. My Cranial-mobile was running way too hot and hurtling head-on toward a BAD PLACE at the end of a LOST HIGHWAY. And I remind you ... it was 9:30 a.m.

"Christ, man, I can't even afford a decent meal," I cried, knocking back yet another stiff shot of Johnnie Walker.

"Well," Wes corrected me in a voice reserved for disturbed teens who have somehow found the family handgun, "you can't buy any breakfast you've been familiar with up until this time." Wes very carefully topped off my shot glass before continuing. "See, down on 'The Nickel' (as they call 5th Avenue, AKA Skid Row, in LA) you can get a hot coffee for 50 cents ... and the line outside the mission is a great place to meet fellow writers who have been at it longer than you. And you could trade some of that Top Shelf Whiskey you've got for somebody's place in line ... or even dole out swigs from the bottle for a dollar each."

For reasons I cannot comprehend, Wes' idea struck me as somewhat palatable, and that — as you can well imagine — disturbed me to no end. And just when I thought the sky couldn't fall any harder, Wes hit me between the eyes with this zinger: "Have you tried borrowing money from Bottomfeeder?"

Regular readers know how I feel about my couch-dwelling roomie. Hell, I'd sooner smash my nuts with a hammer than ask him for a red nickel.

"Or you could get a part-time job waiting tables."

I'd sooner hand Bottomfeeder a hammer, and have HIM smash my knees.

Don't get me wrong, waiting tables is an honorable profession comprised of some of the finest people on the planet ...

it's just that, well, I don't have the PEOPLE SKILLS the job demands. And the only place I'm comfortable uttering the words "Would you like that well-done, miss?" is in my bedroom. Preferably when speaking to a supermodel. One with an unusual name like Uniti or Gioa. Or both.

"Boy that Freddie Prinze Jr. is a fine actor," Wes suddenly gushed, ogling the DVD cover and letting his eyes roam to my freshly poured hootch. "Can you get me some more of his movies?"

"What? Um, yeah, I might be able to get my hands on a bootleg copy of Wing Commander ... say Wes, did you ever have to resort to desperate measures to get by when you were down on your luck?"

A broad smile crept across Wes' face as he rolled back to the lean years of his youth. Either that, or he was still thinking about the amazing screen presence of Freddie Prinze Jr.

"When we lived in Ventura just after college, our thing was to go buy a \$1 Bud at happy hour and then eat at the buffet for, like, an hour."

It was then I began wondering why in the hell the Some Young Moon Saloon didn't have \$1 Buds or a buffet I could plunder. And it struck me that Wes always spoke of a "we" in his anecdotes ... who in the hell were these people? And how did THEY escape all this INCESSANT POVERTY? Were they, perhaps, the source of all this semi-credible "on the Nickel" knowledge?

"No kidding," Wes continued. "In some places they got so they wouldn't serve us. Finally I slimed my way into writing a feature story on the 'happy hour buffet wars' for the Ventura County Star — though it was the Star-Free Press in those days — and made many friends. What you need is a good restaurant review column on that new web site. That ought to help matters."

I made a mental note to run the restaurant review idea by my producer, then I worked out a contingency plan — that being to stock up on Instant Oatmeal. I figured even if they cut off the juice and gas, in a large complex such as mine, they can't cut off hot water to only one apartment very easily. There's also hot-water taps in the back of most 7-11 stores these days, but you have to bring your own cup or they'll charge you an "inventory" fee.

Or I could find a sponsor for the site. Perhaps the good people at Johnnie Walker, makers of fine whiskies of the Black and Red and Blue varieties. Tie in a little e-commerce with those red-hot Summer Catch discs on eBay ...

Or, even though it is not my modifier of choice in the following three-word phrase, I could participate in that great Hollywood ritual: The DAY Job.

(Dan Dunn is a Santa Monica resident and writes for Warner Bros. Online. For more FunHog fun, check out www.thefunhog.com).

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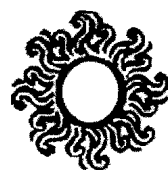
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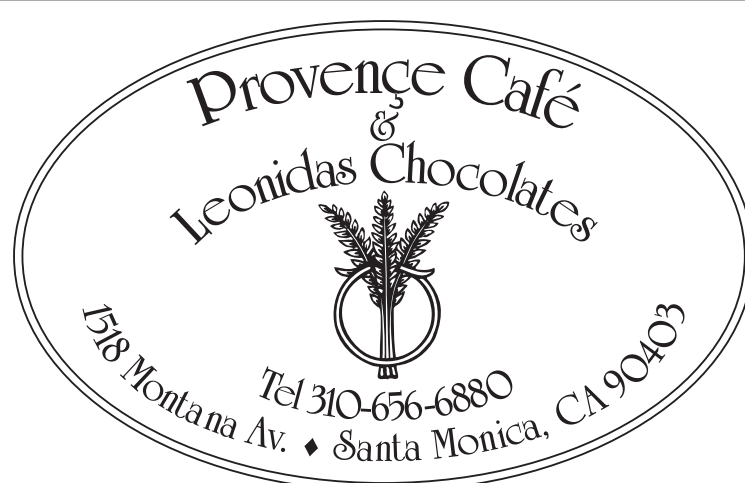
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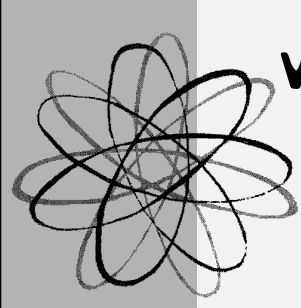
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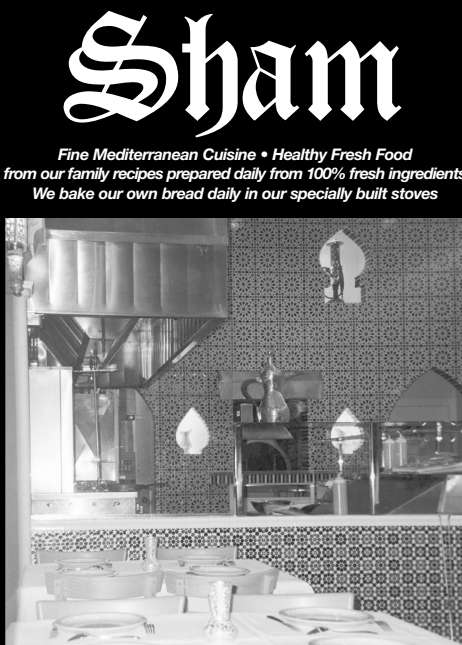
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Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Hawthorne Police Department Lt. Paul Moreau shows off the department's helicopter that patrols Santa Monica at a recent Cinco de Mayo celebration at Virginia Avenue Park.

Helicopter helps combat crime in Santa Monica

HELICOPTER, from page 1

attention of the officer, who called in the information to ground troops.

Because the advanced information, officers knew to approach the building carefully. Officers were able to catch the individual before he could escape.

"An airship gives you a platform to operate," said SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr. "It gives you a way to see from the air what officers on the ground are prevented from by buildings."

The helicopter and its officers are able to give local police a bird's eye view of what's going on in the streets that may be crucial to their investigation.

"The helicopter gets there before anybody else and the officer in the helicopter can give an assessment of any vehicles leaving the scene, or if anyone is on the roof, if there's fighting in the street, or how the suspect is leaving the scene," said Sgt. David Thomas, the SMPD's liaison to Hawthorne's helicopter unit.

Police said many times just the presence of the helicopter acts as a deterrent to crime. With the helicopter's presence, more patrols by officers on the ground and community outreach by the SMPD, gang activity has slowed in the Pico neighborhood in the past month.

"Presence of the helicopter can stop an attack," Thomas said. "It really is an enhancement to the officer's safety and it provides them with more information of the incident."

Butts said the helicopter also could be essential to the city's disaster preparedness plan. Officers can assess damage from earthquakes, floods or mudslides and relay that information to officers in the field, who can then respond accordingly.

Hawthorne's helicopter is equipped so that it flies with much less noise than normal helicopters. Pilots also fly in a way that reduces noise. On a ride-along last Thursday afternoon with Hawthorne's air unit, the pilot kept the helicopter at 700 feet — an additional 200 feet higher than required.

"The balance between the limited noise

signature, compared with massive increase in the public's and officers' safety makes me think we lose something when we don't deploy such a useful public safety tool like we have been able to," Butts said.

Hawthorne's helicopter is about five minutes away by air, depending on traffic coming into and out of Los Angeles International Airport. The helicopter typically flies north up the coast below 500 feet, directly under departing planes taking off from LAX.

The helicopter enters Santa Monica over the ocean, flies over the pier and up to Pacific Palisades' border. The pilot then loops around to cover The Third Street Promenade.

After covering the downtown area, the helicopter flies east over the Santa Monica Freeway and Santa Monica College — making crossing routes over the Pico neighborhood, the scene of recent gang activity.

The helicopter is spending several hours a week patrolling above the city and patrols appear to be done at random.

Hawthorne officials aren't charging Santa Monica for the use of the helicopter now, but they want cities to partner with them to cut down on some of the costs and to expand their operations. The helicopter cost \$400,000 and has required about \$50,000 in fuel, maintenance and operation since the program began in January.

Hawthorne also flies over several Los Angeles-area cities but none have shown the level of interest in the program as Santa Monica has, Hawthorne officials said.

Butts said the department is still reviewing the helicopter's effectiveness and has not decided if it would propose entering into a contract with Hawthorne, or starting its own helicopter program.

"We're not there yet. There is no doubt there would be a massive increase in our capabilities to assess crime and apprehend criminals if we had a helicopter," Butts said. "But before you do something like that you work with the community and their elected representatives first before doing something like that."

STATE



SoCal burns



Hans Gutknecht/Los Angeles Daily News

A Los Angeles County firefighter monitors a fire along Bouquet Canyon Road near the Bouquet Reservoir in Angeles National Forest, Calif. on Saturday. The wildfire was fueled by stiff winds and dry, hot conditions. It blazed to 3,200 acres Sunday, but cabins in the area were out of danger, fire officials said. The fire that erupted Saturday morning was 15 percent contained by mid-afternoon Sunday, said Capt. Greg Cleveland of the Southern California Incident Management Team. More than 1,000 firefighters battled the flames in unfavorable conditions.

Dionne Warwick arrested for pot possession in Miami

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — Police arrested singer Dionne Warwick on Sunday when baggage screeners at Miami International Airport found 11 suspected marijuana cigarettes inside her lipstick container.

Warwick, 61, of Miami Beach, was charged with possession of less than 5 grams of marijuana. She was allowed to sign an affidavit to promise to appear in court.

Warwick was scheduled to fly to Los Angeles when screeners at Concourse D noticed a suspicious item about 7:30 a.m. in Warwick's carry-on bag. She missed the flight.

The five-time Grammy award winner became known in the 1960s for such songs as "Walk on By" and "I Say A Little Prayer."

A spokesperson for Warwick could not immediately be reached.

Firm's power on the rise

FIRM, from page 1

management firms and talent agencies such as CAA, ICM and William Morris.

But the speed of its rise to power in the music management business has attracted attention, as has Kwatinetz, a Harvard Law School graduate known as much for his temper as his drive.

Kwatinetz himself is staying quiet, preferring to publicly praise the talent managers at The Firm who represent clients such as Korn, Limp Bizkit, the Dixie Chicks and others.

In addition to music management, The Firm also represents actors Martin Lawrence and Vin Diesel, is involved in film and music production and owns the Pony sportswear company.

Kwatinetz declined to be interviewed while his deal with AMG is being completed. But he has described The Firm as a place where musicians, actors and other artists can achieve their creative vision, a one-stop shop that can help an actor direct a music video, put a musician into a film and create brands around artists.

Kwatinetz has yet to say how he plans to succeed where someone as well-connected and equally as brash as Ovitz failed.

His wide-ranging company includes a stake in Build-a-Bear Entertainment, which operates a chain of stores that lets kids design their own stuffed animals.

The Firm also has a sports division that has signed on to represent Sue Bird, a first-round draft choice for the WNBA Seattle Storm. The company is also planning a feature film around the popular children's character "Arthur," a cartoon aardvark.

Those who know Kwatinetz say he has a history of partnering with people and then alienating them, often using the courts to sever business relationships.

Two years ago, Kwatinetz had to return \$25 million to Robert Sillerman, the founder of Clear Channel Communication's concert promotion arm, SFX, after a deal to acquire The Firm fell through.

The challenges Kwatinetz faces are clear to billionaire Haim Saban, who sold his stake in Fox Family Worldwide to Disney last year and who is considering a major investment in the talent management field.

Saban decided against making an offer for The Firm in part because he believes a mega-agency that produces and sells content for its clients cannot work. Saban said such companies cannot raise the enormous amounts of money it takes to fund such projects, and that the risk is not worth taking without also owning distribution — television networks, cable channels and the like.

Saban praised Ovitz for his efforts but said he does not intend to enter the talent management business to take up where Ovitz left off.

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SPORTS

Kobe Bryant comes to life to wrap up Lakers’ win

BY T.A. BADGER
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Kobe Bryant says he loves playing in San Antonio, and his second straight fourth-quarter rescue job was proof.

Bryant wasn’t having much of a game Sunday after three periods — 7-for-21 shooting, 16 points — but he came to life in the fourth.

Scoring 12 points, including a pair of key 3-pointers and a go-ahead putback with five seconds remaining, Bryant led the Los Angeles Lakers to a come-from-behind 87-85 victory over the Spurs.

Two days earlier, Bryant scored 11 in the fourth and the Lakers also erased a late deficit to come away with the win.

By sweeping San Antonio at the Alamodome, Los Angeles now holds a 3-1 advantage in the best-of-seven series. Game 5 is at the Staples Center on Tuesday.

When asked about his late heroics, Bryant smiled. “I’ve dreamed of these situations countless times as a kid, and I still dream of them today,” he said.

As important as Bryant’s offense was, the Lakers’ defense kept the Spurs from scoring a field goal for nearly the final seven minutes.

San Antonio managed only three free throws by Tim Duncan after Bruce Bowen’s 3-pointer put the Spurs up 82-72 with 6:57 left.

“We had five or six shots that were either ill-advised or not shot with confidence,” Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

The Spurs ended the game in inept fashion as Terry Porter fell down after receiving an inbounds pass with 3.2 seconds left, then got the ball to Duncan for a desperation 20-footer that wasn’t even close to the basket.

Duncan, who led all scorers with 30 points on 9-for-15 shooting, grabbed his jersey and covered his head with it immediately after the final buzzer sounded.

He said afterward that the Lakers sagged on him defensively, and that he gave up the ball during the game in order to get the best shot.

“I tried to be patient, tried to find open people,” he said somberly. “I just should have been more selfish.”

The Lakers have now won a record 11 straight playoff games on the road.

Shaquille O’Neal added 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Robert Horry contributed 13 points.

But one of the most compelling stories of this game, as it was in their two other losses, was the Spurs’ offensive collapse down the stretch.

Duncan followed Bowen’s 3-pointer with a pair of free throws to make it 84-74 with 6:15 left. San Antonio then came up empty on six straight trips down the floor, while the Lakers worked their way back from the foul line, making five of six in 51 seconds.

Bryant then hit consecutive 3-pointers, sandwiched around a free throw by Duncan, to tie the game at 85 with 2:05 remaining. Both teams fell short in their next two possessions, and Duncan was called for an offensive foul with 46 seconds remaining.

Robert Horry missed a 3-pointer with 29 seconds left, and O’Neal got the rebound. Bryant isolated Bowen on a clear-out play, but then dribbled the ball off his own foot.

Derek Fisher retrieved the ball at midcourt, drove and missed with a 12-footer. Bryant came running down the lane and reached high for the rebound, flipping it in for

the winning basket.

Popovich praised Bryant’s intensity, saying “he has an uncommon will to win. He has the exact same will to win that Michael (Jordan) had.”

Laker forward Samaki Walker said the late-game zeal permeates the team.

“We came out a lot more aggressive,” said Walker, who had eight points and six rebounds. “In the fourth quarter, you need a sense of urgency. We tend to kick it up a notch.”

While Duncan led all scorers, only three of his points came in the fourth quarter. Tony Parker added 15 and David Robinson 12. Duncan and Robinson each had 11 boards.

With the score tied at 10, O’Neal hit a jumper and

Horry back-to-back 3-pointers to give the Lakers an 18-12 lead, their largest advantage in the half. Los Angeles made eight of its first 11 shots from the floor.

San Antonio then went on a 9-1 run capped by a tip-in by Robinson to go up 21-19, but Los Angeles, which missed six straight attempts, came back with three baskets in the final two minutes of the period for a 25-25 tie.

Duncan’s 12 points in the third helped the Spurs build the margin up to 10 late in the quarter, 73-63.

O’Neal, who scored nine in the period, was called for a flagrant foul with 1:21 remaining in the third when he hammered Antonio Daniels going baseline to the basket. It was his fourth personal, and he went to the bench until 9:34 of the final quarter.



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

Boston 66, Detroit 64

L.A. Lakers 99, San Antonio 89,

Saturday, May 11

Sacramento 115, Dallas 113, Sacramento leads series 3-1

Sunday, May 12

New Jersey 89, Charlotte 79, New Jersey leads series 3-1

Boston 90, Detroit 79, Boston leads series 3-1

L.A. Lakers 87, San Antonio 85, L.A. Lakers lead series 3-1

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



Carter becomes first president to visit Cuba since 1959

BY JOHN RICE

Associated Press Writer

HAVANA — Flashing his trademark smile, Jimmy Carter arrived in Cuba on Sunday and became the first U.S. president — in or out of office — to visit this communist country since the 1959 revolution that put Fidel Castro in power.

Dressed in a gray suit, Castro, 75, greeted Carter, 77, at the airport with a handshake and symbolically threw open the doors of the island to the former American head of state.

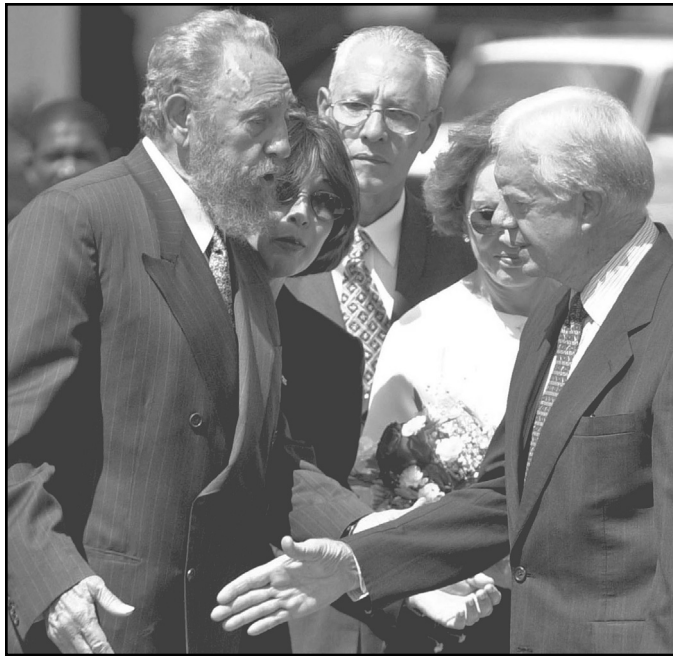
Carter, Castro said, could speak with anyone “even if they do not share our endeavors,” an obvious reference to human rights groups. He also said Carter could go anywhere — including Cuban scientific centers, which U.S. officials recently claimed could be working toward making biological weapons.

Carter said he and his wife, Rosalynn, had traveled here as friends of the Cuban people and hoped to meet many during their five-day stay. Carter reminded Cubans that he would be addressing them on live television Tuesday evening.

After their private jet arrived at 10:45 a.m., Castro escorted the Carters down a red carpet and over to a wooden podium with the Cuban and American flags flying alongside. They stood at attention for the playing of the Cuban and the American national anthems. The “Star-Spangled Banner” is rarely heard in Cuba, though it was also played when the Baltimore Orioles competed against a Cuban all-star baseball team here in 1999.

“It is no secret that for almost a century there have not been optimal relations between the two states,” Castro told Carter in his brief remarks. “However, I wish to state that in the four years of your tenure as president, you had the courage to make efforts to change the course of those relations. That is why those of us who were witnesses to that attitude see you with respect.”

Castro also told Carter he was welcome to expand his scheduled visit later this week to a biotechnology institute to include other similar institutions after recent U.S. charges



Cristobal Herrera/Associated Press

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter extends a hand to Cuban President Fidel Castro during Carter's arrival in Havana, Cuba, on Sunday. Carter is the first U.S. president to visit Cuba since the 1959 revolution that put Castro in power.

his country is trying to develop biological weapons.

“You will have free and complete access — together with any specialists of your choosing — to that or any other of our most prestigious scientific research centers, some of which have been recently accused, just a few days before your visit, of producing biological weapons,” said Castro, who has vigorously denied the accusations.

Carter has a science background, but in nuclear technology. He has a bachelor's degree in science from the U.S. Naval Academy and as an officer in the Navy, Carter did graduate work in nuclear technology and nuclear physics.

Reading his address in Spanish, Carter said he and the former first lady were visiting “as friends of the people of Cuba and hope to know Cubans from different walks of life.”

The former American president said he looked forward to meeting with Castro, as well as “representatives of religious groups and others to examine the ideas that are important for Rosalynn and me,” including peace, human rights, democracy and the easing of human suffering.

Afterward, Castro joined the Carters in a black Soviet-made Zil limousine for the trip to their hotel. The limousine was a gift to Cuba from then-Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev in the mid-1970s and is used only for the most distinguished of guests.

Castro has been Cuba's head of state during the administrations of 10 American presidents. With none were relations less hostile than with Carter's.

As president from 1977-81, Carter helped re-establish diplomatic missions in both countries and negotiated the release of thousands of political prisoners. He also made it possible for Cuban exiles to visit relatives on the island and, for a short time, for other Americans to travel here freely.

But a U.S. trade embargo is still in place after four decades and relations are as chilly as ever. The American government also restricts travel here for most of its citizens.

“Jimmy Carter! You are one of our best presidents! I love you!” American Elaine George yelled out a window of a hotel bar as the former president walked by on a tour of the historic district.

“I'm not supposed to be here,” said George, of Benicia, Calif. “Don't tell my mother!”

Carter, is the first former or sitting U.S. president to visit Cuba since Calvin Coolidge came in 1928, has emphasized this is a private visit and that he will not be negotiating with the Cuban government.

The White House and Cuban exiles want Carter, who has made a post-presidential career out of monitoring elections in developing democracies, to talk bluntly with his host about human rights and democracy.

Singapore digs up 58,000 dead to make room for living

BY ALEXA OLESEN

Associated Press Writer

SINGAPORE — L.F. Yong starts digging bodies just after dawn. On an average day, he and his team of 20 workers will crack open 40 graves and empty them of their bones by noon.

Yong is responsible for the hands-on work in a government project to clear the Bidadari Cemetery, one of the largest Christian burial grounds in Southeast Asia. The project will convert the resting place for 58,000 dead into 12,000 centrally located, high-rise apartments for the living.

The project is fueled by crowded Singapore's hunger for land. The tiny island, nestled between Malaysia and Indonesia, covers 251 square miles and has 4 million residents.

In Singapore, government housing, highways and rapid transit lines have been creeping ever closer to the Bidadari Cemetery and will take over within 10 years when the apartments and a new subway station are completed.

For now, the oasis of frangipani trees and rolling hills remains peaceful. Rows of gravestones and marble statues are spread over 64 acres, their epitaphs engraved in a dozen different languages, including Chinese, English, Portuguese, Japanese and Hindi. The word Bidadari itself comes from “widyadari,” a type of Hindu nymph.

Over the past two decades, the government has exhumed more than 36 cemeteries of different races and religions. Bidadari, one of the largest to be cleared, contains the remains of 58,000 Christians buried between 1907 and 1972, with most interred before 1951.

An additional 68,000 bodies will be

exhumed from a neighboring Muslim section and reburied elsewhere.

All unclaimed Christian remains will be cremated by the government and, unless the ashes are claimed within a year, they will be scattered at sea. Christian families that want to rebury remains must pay for it, but the government is reburying remains from faiths that ban cremation, including Muslims, Jews and Parsis.

Since March 2001, Singapore has published numerous notices about the exhumation in newspapers here and in Australia, Britain and Malaysia, but only 9,449 bodies have been claimed.

Once those remains are exhumed, Yong's team will start digging up and cremating the unclaimed, said Sum Foong Yee, a spokesman for the Housing and Development Board, which is overseeing the project.

In many cultures, cemeteries are considered landmarks and even tourist attractions but not in traditional Chinese communities, noted Scottie Oakley, an American who is a guide at Singapore's Asian Civilizations Museum and is helping produce a picture book to preserve Bidadari's history before the bulldozers roll in.

Oakley said many Chinese, who make up 75 percent of Singapore's population, will not visit friends after paying respects at family plots because they feel it's bad luck.

“I could spend an afternoon in a cemetery, but in this culture that would not happen,” she said.

Oakley and two other women, Sue Williams and Liesel Strauss, began work on the coffee-table book about the cemetery last year, taking pictures and recording epitaphs.

About 10 percent of those buried here are expatriates, businessmen from the colo-

nial era, missionaries or casualties of war.

Others are sailors, such as Augustine Podmore Williams, the Englishman thought to be the inspiration for Joseph Conrad's novel “Lord Jim.”

“He was a big, hefty guy,” said Sue Williams, a Briton who is not related to the seafarer. “He died bankrupt. He was known as ‘Daddy.’”

Unlike most in the cemetery, his small

headstone will not be lost when the cemetery is razed. His is one of a handful of markers deemed “historically significant” by Singapore's National Heritage Board and it will be put in a memorial garden, along with an ornate iron gate from Bidadari.

Families can take sculptures and grave-stones home but most have not. Unclaimed headstones are smashed and put into a pit.

West Bank withdrawal



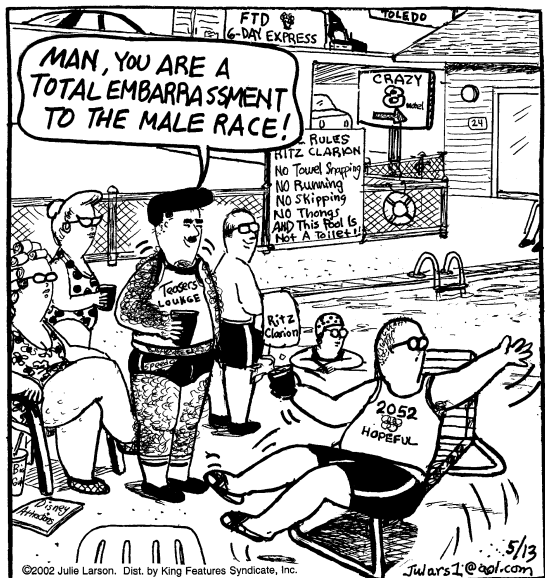
Udo Weitz/Associated Press

Israeli Merkava tanks sit in a line before being loaded on trucks for transport from the Bethlehem checkpoint on Sunday after their complete withdrawal from the West Bank town of Bethlehem. The Israeli army withdrew the last of its soldiers from Palestinian-controlled areas of the West Bank this weekend and Israeli reserve soldiers began returning home Sunday as the army postponed a planned incursion into the Gaza Strip.

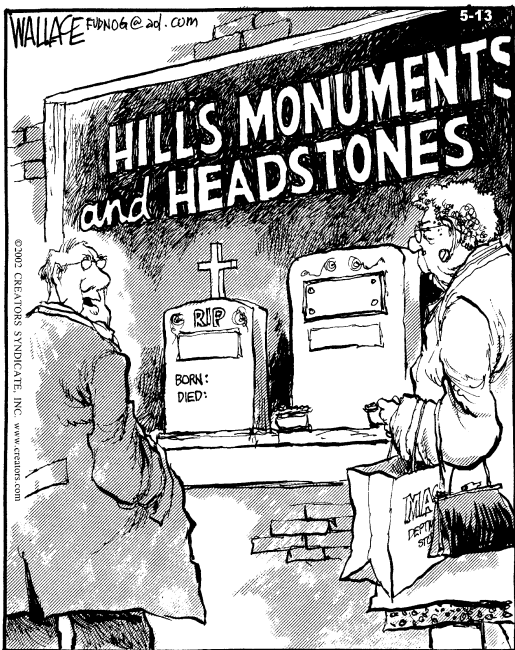


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 - 27 Doggedly determined

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D	I	A	N	A		S	M	I	T	H	
E	M	I	T	S		C	A	P	R	I	
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O	L	E		U	N	R	U	L	E	D	
S	E	D	E	R	S		S	E	T	S	
				L	E	T	M	E			
E	R	A	S			O	O	D	L	E	S
R	E	L	E	A	R	N		A	M	I	.
R	E	P		W	E	I	G	H	I	N	
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D	I	N	E	R		O	G	R	E	S	
	N	E	E	D		R	O	E	S		

Saturday's answer

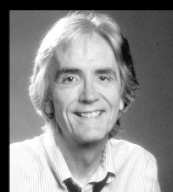
- 21 Check the fit of
- 24 Chiding words to Fido
- 25 Took advantage
- 26 Served a sentence
- 27 Doggedly determined
- 29 Sis' sibling
- 31 Without break
- 32 Is furious
- 33 Scarlett's last name
- 34 Disagreeable
- 39 Goose formation
- 41 Print measures

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

5-13

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Girl Scouts offers merit badge in stress reduction

- The Girl Scouts recently began offering merit badges in stress-reduction to scouts aged 8 to 11, but the girls, of course, had to complete a schedule of activities to earn one.
- A Colorado artist created a line of hand-painted figurines in the images of serial killers Jeffrey Dahmer, Ted Bundy, John Wayne Gacy and Ed Gein (March).
- Britain's Medical Research Council reported that British men's sperm counts continued to drop, probably because of exposure to industrial pollutants, and are now proportionately about one-third the level of hamsters' sperm counts (March).

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BACK PAGE

Buzz Aldrin, scientists dreaming up space shuttles to Mars

BY REX W. HUPPKE
Associated Press Writer

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Though it will likely be decades before a human sets foot on the Martian surface, former astronaut Buzz Aldrin and scientists at Purdue University already are working on a shuttle they hope will one day take people from Earth to the Red Planet and back.

The interstellar bus line would involve two massive spacecraft that could house up to 50 people on their six-month shuttles between the two planets. The craft would continuously cycle between Earth and Mars using gravity as their primary power source, with an occasional shot from a booster rocket.

"If we're going to go to Mars with human beings, we need to do it in an evolutionary way, so that we can continue doing it," said Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon.

James Longuski, a professor of aeronautics and astronautics at Purdue, agrees that it doesn't make sense to land the first people on Mars without knowing how to land more.

"We want to know what the transportation setup would look like before we've even set foot on Mars," Longuski said.

While it may sound like putting the wagon a few light years ahead of the horse, Jim Garvin, NASA's lead scientist for Mars exploration, said these ideas must be considered now, even though human travel to Mars is a distant goal. In fact, it's not on the current administration's radar.

NASA's Mars program has been set back in recent years, particularly in 1999 when two spacecraft failed upon reaching Mars, one burning up in the planet's atmosphere and the other disappearing after a software failure.

The program got back on track earlier this year when the Mars Odyssey spacecraft entered an orbit around the Red Planet and began mapping the mineral and chemical makeup of the surface.

Garvin said NASA will spend about \$500 million a

year over the next 10 years on Mars exploration.

"We're in a decade of discovery for Mars," Garvin said. "It will fill in the homework we need, so come 2010, maybe sooner, we'll know enough to start asking the question, 'Now what do we do if we want to insert humans as the explorers?'"

Aldrin first came up with the idea of an Earth-to-Mars cycler in the mid-1990s, and he's been working on it ever since. Along with Longuski at Purdue, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Texas are involved in the project.

"If we're going to go to Mars with human beings, we need to do it in an evolutionary way ..."

— BUZZ ALDRIN
Astronaut

All the research so far is theoretical, and Longuski said the earliest he could imagine cyclers being used is 2018.

The craft would never actually stop at either planet. A smaller "taxi" vehicle would dock with the cycler on its sweep past, unloading passengers and transporting them to the surface.

Once a cycler is launched on a specific trajectory, gravity would keep it circling the planet. This is what's known as a gravitational "slingshot" effect.

As a spacecraft travels near a planet, the gravity of that planet pulls the craft toward it, then whips it around the other side, boosting its speed. This is the same phenomenon that in 1970 helped NASA safely bring home the crippled Apollo 13, using the moon's gravity to slingshot the craft and crew back to Earth.

The trick is finding the right path for these cyclers to

follow. The orbits of Earth and Mars are out of sync — Earth moves around the sun in an almost circular path, while Mars' orbit is more of an oval.

That makes finding the right trajectory a devilishly complicated mix of celestial mechanics and mathematical theory.

"It's like a game of celestial billiards," Longuski said. "Tell me which shot will knock all the balls into the pockets."

Students at Purdue are using complex computer simulations to calculate the right paths. Researchers at Texas and MIT are considering other details, like how to get the cycler positioned just right in space to begin its journey, and how to design the taxi craft that will ferry people to land.

Garvin, of NASA, said other innovators across the country are brainstorming about Mars colonization, considering everything from how colonies will be constructed to how life will be sustained.

"We need those ideas, we need to support them," Garvin said. "You've got to build the foundation first before you build the cathedral."

But why, besides the inherent mysteries of a far-off place, should so much effort go toward colonizing Mars? The nation's enthusiasm about the space program has waned since the Apollo missions, and a recent Brookings Institution survey on government priorities puts space exploration near the bottom of the list.

Aldrin said the push toward Mars is inevitable, both for economic and scientific reasons, and it's imperative for America to lead the way. Russia already has started capitalizing on space tourism, something Aldrin believes could become a major industry and a primary source of funding for Mars exploration.

"I think the leadership will come to the nation that develops a strong space transportation system," Aldrin said. "The nation that develops that will have an absolute clear advantage over others, economically and in many other ways."

Longuski sees the colonization of Mars more as a necessity for survival — 10,000 or 100,000 years down the road — given the Earth's limits in room and natural resources.

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