

FREE

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 155

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

03, 04, 19, 29, 34

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 1, 0, 3

Evening picks: 1, 1, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 06, Whirl Win

3rd Place: 03, Hot Shot

Race time: 1:47.40



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In February, Wesley Fitzpatrick applied to a Kansas City, Kan., judge for, and was granted, a temporary restraining order against a female whom he said was stalking him (making him "scared, depressed and in fear for my freedom"). However, the order was rescinded when Fitzpatrick showed up to ask that it be made permanent, in that the "stalker" was actually his parole officer carrying out her lawful supervision. In fact, Fitzpatrick was immediately arrested for not having met with her. (Temporary restraining orders are usually granted by judges without investigation.)



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The advantage of emotions is that they lead us astray."

— Oscar Wilde



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Rebecca Gross/Special to the Daily Press
Santa Monica Boy Scouts from Troop 2 evaluate victim Alex Blanco's condition at one of nine simulated disaster sites on Monday.

A bloody day for scouts

BY REBECCA GROSS

Special to the Daily Press

Dozens of people were the victims of several disasters that occurred on Monday including a serious car crash, a pool disaster, a drive-by shooting, medical emergencies, a biohazard terrorist attack and car that hit two bicyclists.

The day was dubbed "Bloody Monday" by Santa Monica Boy Scout Troop 2, which held nine simulated disasters as part of a training exercise for the scouts. About 85 boy scouts participated

in the training exercises held at locations north Montana Avenue.

The scouts attempted to use their first aid and emergency preparedness training to manage the disaster sites, identify the victims who were most seriously hurt and treat patients as necessary.

"It's a drill for the boys to become familiar with any type of disaster scenario," said volunteer Graham Wong, whose two adult sons are Eagle Scouts. "It's something they just can't do in the

See DRILL, page 7

SM City Council to spend \$2 million tonight

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the city council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council is expected tonight to spend more than \$2 million on a host of items

including major renovations to two city park facilities, a new water truck, fire station improvements and consulting services for land use regulations.

The biggest ticket item on the council's agenda is a \$1.5 million expenditure to build new restrooms, concession stands and storage buildings at Los Amigos Park and Memorial Park.

The council in 2000 approved a series of improvements to eight of the city's parks as part of a master plan. The goal is to improve safety, maintenance, aesthetics, sustainability and make the facilities

See EXPENSES, page 6

Convicted felon charged with murder of Kristine Johnson

Suspect has a long criminal history

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Capital murder charges have been filed against a convicted felon for the murder and attempted rape of a Santa Monica woman found dead in the Hollywood Hills in March.

Victor Lawrence Paleologus, 40, was charged by the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office on Monday for allegedly killing Kristine Johnson, a 21-year-old Santa Monica College student, in February.

The criminal complaint against Paleologus alleges he killed Johnson on or about Feb. 15, the day she disappeared. It alleges two special circumstances — lying in wait and murder during commission of an attempted rape. The DA's Office won't determine whether to seek the death penalty against Paleologus until he is ordered to stand trial.

Paleologus is currently in custody in Los Angeles County Jail for allegedly stealing a car from a Beverly Hills BMW dealership under a stolen identity. Paleologus

See CHARGES, page 5

Owner of surf shop found innocent of rape

Jury delivers verdict in under two hours

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The owner of Horizons West Surf Shop on Main Street was found innocent Monday in a civil rape lawsuit brought by a former customer and friend.

Both Randy Wright, the 41-year-old shop owner, and Stacy Peters, a 29-year-old freelance

graphic designer, sat motionless in their chairs as a Santa Monica jury delivered its verdict.

Peters, who accused Wright of raping her in her sleep in January of 2001 after she invited him into her bed, wept silently after the ruling.

Wright stared intently ahead, nodding his head in approval.

"This whole thing has been such a weight on my life," said Wright, who was congratulated by four friends that came to court for

See INNOCENT, page 6

The Midnight Special returns to downtown

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Midnight Special Bookstore has found a new home in downtown Santa Monica.

Owner Margie Ghiz announced over the weekend the popular independent bookstore will reopen next month at 1450 Second St.

The new location is next door to Italian restaurant Buca di Beppo and across the street from Jinky's, a new breakfast and lunch cafe.

Ghiz said on Monday she will throw a store-warming party as soon as Midnight Special has moved in to its new 7,500-square-foot space, sometime between June 15 and July 1.

"There are 5,000 people on our mailing list and we are going to invite every single one of them," she said enthusiastically. "It's going to be cheap wine, but we are going to have wine. And maybe some

See BOOKSTORE, page 7

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, May 13, 2003:

Your work performance draws you into the limelight, allowing you to gain financially. Plug your energy into your work. Others reward you in their own manner. A pay raise is a strong likelihood. Be careful not to push at home within the family. You could experience unusual tension as a result, which you work out through your work and/or a physical sport. Test your ideas on others. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone quite significant toward your next birthday. If you're attached, your relationship can flourish as long as you leave your work at the office. LIBRA helps you with your work.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You start the day inspired with the best intentions. Remember this when you find yourself caught in a power struggle. Not everyone or everything responds as you would think. Tap into your ability to detach. Now you'll find solutions! Tonight: Follow the music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Work demands your attention. Don't allow someone else's stuff to work its way into your day. Know when to say you've had enough. Your ability to establish barriers proves to be instrumental to the success or failure of your day. Tonight: Off to the gym. (At least take a walk!)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You'll flourish as long as you opt for the high road. How you integrate information that heads in your direction could make a difference. Laughter helps you make it through what could be a difficult moment or two. Tonight: Someone lets you know how much you're appreciated.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Dig into work and allow others to discuss the details. Stay focused on the job at hand, and as a result you will gain. Do nothing halfway. Call on your ability to concentrate. Consider what might be going on right now. Read between the lines. Tonight: Put your feet up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might not be sure about your goals and ventures. Someone close could take you down a seemingly rose-colored path. Check out the thorns before you go. Those who have clout are busy telling you what they want. Listen, evaluate and decide. Tonight: Find your best friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others talk money, but exactly how much do they know? Be honest with yourself here. Don't take a leap into dangerous turf until you have checked out the facts. Claim your power and make your decisions. Do not rely on others. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ What seems like a perfectly viable action or activity could turn otherwise. A partner seems to pick apart a child or your relationship. Step back and recognize your limits. Let sleeping dogs lie. Revise your thinking about a special person. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your imagination heads you in a new direction. Dig into your ingenuity, as you need to find answers and head in a new direction. You can be sure others are as confused as you are. Deal with your finances with care. Refuse to make a commitment just yet. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ A friend has the best of intentions, but only confuses a personal issue. You might want to hear more or deal with a situation differently. Claim your power by not playing into the present conversation. Rethink your strategy. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Think through a decision that involves a child or loved one. This person might seem inept or unable to make a solid decision on his or her own. Tempters flare — especially yours — when money becomes an issue. You could become uneasy with another's request. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others could become very aggravating, so your best bet is to detach and take another view. Choose not to be triggered by a situation but rather find answers. Family or a roommate could become quite disruptive. Check out an investment with care. Tonight: Find some mind candy. Relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You need to deal with others directly. Try to talk to each person independently. You will get better results. You might be overly nervous or overwhelmed by what you hear. Keep your cool. A boss helps you stay focused. Tonight: Togetherness works.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jason Auslander jason@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alex Cantarero alex@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Angela Downen angela@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

William Patnosh william@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Keri Aroesty keri@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Robert Deamicis Rob@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

STAFF MASCOT

Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Temporary library open

By Daily Press staff

The temporary location for the Santa Monica Public Main Library opened on Monday.

The new facility, located at 1324 Fifth St., between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue, will serve as the main library while the new Main Library, designed by Moore Ruble Yudell Architects and Planners, is built at Sixth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Construction of the new \$60 million Main Library is expected to take two years. Library improvements are made possible, in part, by passage of a bond issue by Santa Monica voters in 1998.

The temporary Main Library offers reference, readers' advisory, public access Internet, and these telephone services: reference (310) 451-8859; catalog assistance 458-8614; renewals 451-1866; and TTY 395-8499.

The temporary Library's hours are: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Public parking is available in nearby city parking structures.

The temporary facility has new library materials and selections from these collections: nonfiction, fiction, mysteries, science fiction, graphic novels, paperbacks, current newspapers and magazines, videos, DVDs, CDs, audio books, language learning tapes and CDs, reference materials (including microfilm of the Evening Outlook and other California resources), young adult, and a core children's collection.

The Main Library children's collection has been largely relocated to the Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. Large print book collections have been expanded at the Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.; the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St. and the Senior Recreation Center, 1450 Ocean Ave.

The rest of the Main Library's collections, including bound magazines, international language books, and government documents, will be stored off-site and will not be available until the new Main Library is completed in 2005. Space for programs in the temporary library is limited. Children's, teen, and adult programs continue at branch libraries, city parks, and other city facilities.

For more information, check the library's Web site www.smpl.org, or call library general information at (310) 458-8600.

Learning about school testing

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica and Malibu parents and teachers came together Monday for a forum designed to help them understand and use test results to improve student learning.

The wide-ranging discussion, sponsored by ETS's Educational Policy Leadership Institute and RAND Education, was hosted by Santa Monica College.

"We felt that it was important to engage this community in a conversation about testing, and how test results can provide parents and teachers with information to help their children learn better," said EPLI President Sharon Robinson, who moderated the discussion. "If we know and understand how our kids are learning in a given area, we can better know how to help them."

Santa Monica College President Piedad Robertson kicked off the program, which was attended by more than 75 participants. ETS STAR Testing Director George Powell described how the STAR testing program keeps California's schools accountable and RAND Education's Brian Stecher explored how to interpret California's test results.

RAND is a non-profit institution that helps improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis. The mission of RAND Education is to bring accurate data and objective analysis to the national debate on education policy.

With estimated consolidated revenues of \$700 million for 2002, Educational Testing Service is the world's largest private educational testing and measurement organization. The company is dedicated to serving the needs of individuals, educational institutions, and government bodies in nearly 200 countries. ETS develops and administers more than 12 million tests worldwide.

surf report

We have waves.

Spots all along the north county are producing waves in the chest-high range with head-high sets not unheard of.

Though the wind is still a major factor — especially in the afternoon — the SSW will hold through the day.

Good news: Spots in the north county have been fun.

Bad news: The swell is too steep for breaks in the south.

Outlook: Look for a new SW on Thursday.

Today the water is:

60°

Sunrise: 6:00 a.m.
Sunset: 7:58 p.m.

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

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The Q Line

There's a movement building in California to throw Gov. Gray Davis out of office.

Big-money politicians throughout the state, most of whom are Republicans, are financing the recall effort. They criticize Davis for leading the state into a \$35 billion deficit, giving more money to prisons than to schools and showing a general lack of leadership.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know: "Do you think Gov. Davis should be recalled from office? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Cut from the top

Editor:

It is terrible that Santa Monica College is contemplating the elimination of 10 academic programs. Without these programs, more than 2,000 students, many at risk and minority youth are in danger of being shut out of higher education. SMC has an annual operating budget of \$115 million and is facing a cut from the state of just \$15 million (worst case).

The best idea SMC's administration and trustees can come up with to offset a small (\$300,000) portion of these cuts is the elimination of 10 academic programs. This is like hacking off a hand to remove a hangnail. Several SMC administrators make over \$100,000 per year. Layoffs, retirement, or resignations from just three would save enough money to stop program discontinuance.

By contrast, under the current program discontinuance proposal, 2,000 students will lose access to a college education, and 15 full-time faculty and over 30 part-time faculty will lose their jobs. I expect more creative problem solving from our elected leaders. Shame on Santa Monica College's Board of Trustees and the administrators they've hired for trying to shut the powerless out of public education.

Gary M.J. Marvis
SMC Architecture/design student

Bush a waste

Editor:

President Bush wastes taxpayer money flying in a jet to a carrier. Guess a helicopter isn't good enough for him. Anyone remember Dukakis in that tank? Same result.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

Give our kids reality

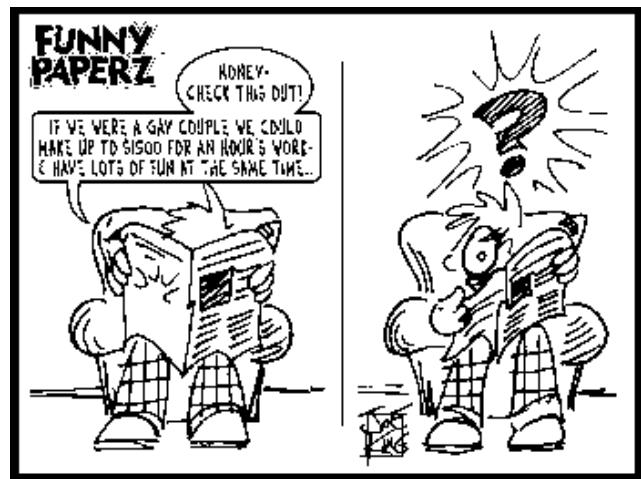
Editor:

Revelations 13:14 reminds us that Satan is the great deceiver of the world. One day the Anti Christ will rise up and proclaim himself to be God. Columnist Michael J Tittinger warns of that in his column this week. Others refer to what he wrote about as revisionist history. Revelations 6:4 always reminds me about the crusades. Could you imagine a history book that included the following in place of what really happened during the cru-

sades: The crusaders rode their horses to the cottage. They dismounted and surrounded the house and begin to pray and teach the inhabitants about God. The inhabitants becoming aware of the error of their ways repented and then slashed their wrists to go and be with God. A far cry from what really happened and the very subject that Tittinger spoke so passionately about in his column this week.

There is a special election coming up soon in Santa Monica regarding funding for public schools. We need to do what we can to give children the right information when they are young. This becomes the bedrock for their lives going forward. We need to do what we can to insure quality in education so make believe fiction like that described above or by Mr. Tittinger don't become reality.

Steve Roberts
Santa Monica



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Television trials: A necessary evil of the American justice system and a free press?



Evelyn Jerome

■ Sometimes the American legal system's requirements are pesky. The right to a trial by jury. The right to confront one's accuser. And the right of it all to be described by a free press.

How annoying.

Some people think that the media circus that surrounds high-profile criminal cases before they go to trial taint the jury pool and prevent the accused from getting a fair trial. Recently, the cases of Scott Peterson, David Westerfield and Robert Blake have dominated the headlines, and two of the three still face trials ahead. Can they really be fair, now that the public has been inun-

dated with speculation and details about circumstantial evidence?

We spend so much time worrying about trampling on the rights of the accused that we forget that the "circus" has come to town because a crime has been committed. Nothing's to say that law enforcement always gets the right guy, but we frequently forget that there's a victim whose rights have already been trampled.

So what good can putting these cases on television possibly do? Does televising high-profile court cases encourage their participants — the lawyers, the witnesses, the accused, even the judges — to play to the camera?

Media coverage of interesting subjects — scandals, murders — is part of the transparency that is vital to the American system of democracy and justice. In criminal trials,

the name of the case is always "People versus" the accused. Our interests are represented at every criminal trial in this country, because a crime has been committed against all of us.

Many of the laws in our criminal justice system are debated in the context of the deterrent factor. Will the death penalty deter murder? Will mandatory sentences deter drug dealing?

Is the fear of having one's face plastered all over CNN enough to deter a husband from killing his pregnant and photogenic wife?

I would be more afraid to live in a country where suspected murderers are whisked away and never heard from again. In the American legal system, we presume innocence, and we believe that it's better to let

100 guilty people go free rather than imprisoning one innocent person. Media coverage exposes us to the legal process, and helps ensure the system's integrity.

I have faith that somewhere, the Scott Peterson case lawyers will find 12 jurors who can make a fair judgment. But the law says his case must be heard before a jury of his peers — where are they going to find 12 guys who've killed their pregnant wives?

(Evelyn Jerome is the founder and principal of Strategic Communications, a communications consulting firm. She is the past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a Santa Monica homeowner. To respond or to reach her, e-mail evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

■ The increasing level of sensationalized, trial-by-television drama flooding the airwaves in recent years nauseates me. I yearn for the chalk sketches of my youth, the now historical asterisks that provided a frame by frame explanation of the day's major decisions of the Supreme Court.

In the past, justice was truly blind to the public attention that has created a new dynamic of celebrity judges and cheesy lawyers du jour. What was once considered "opening up" the judicial system can hardly be called successful "reform." Bringing the courtroom to television has become a circus equivalent to the distractions historians warned preceded the fall of Rome.

Further, the sagacity and behavior of these judges must certainly be effected knowing that millions are watching live — or catching the major news highlights — of these seedy trials. The lawyers involved seem less intent on finding the truth, and more on creating a moonlighting gig as future "legal analysts" on the talk show circuit.

There are exceptions. When someone goes missing, every effort must be made to beam their faces far and wide with the hope of finding them across state lines. A young Assemblyman named Gray Davis had an enterprising idea to put the faces of missing children on milk cartons 20 years ago. Today, if cable and other modern mediums can help, I say go to it.

The Scott Peterson case is in a way an extension of a noble search in a missing

person's case. But now all the tawdry trimmings and distractions are afoot, and dominate the airwaves. As usual, society seemingly chooses not to see as news the unintended consequences and after effects of war in Iraq, the debate over the President's tax cut proposal, or the crisis in health care and education. Instead, water cooler discussion is focused more on trial-by-television highlights, with the accused judged NOT by jury, but by how guilty they look in an orange jump suit.

Unapologetic news producers who gave up their idealism long ago rationalize their choices by arguing they are only giving us what we want. If that is so — I can only pray my fellow Americans find new distractions in attending local sports events, reading to their kids, calling distant rela-

tives, or composing e-mail to news directors demanding "real" news. Only then will we stop giving historians the satisfaction of comparing this garbage to the gladiator games of Commodus.

"There was an idea that was Rome." I'd like it back.

(Todd Flora is a professional issues manager who has served as state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, a campaign finance reform effort, and the Concord Coalition, a budget watchdog organization. He is a former steering committee member of the Human Rights Watch "Young Advocates," and a speakers bureau member with Heal the Bay. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com.)

LOCAL



Victor Paleologus faces seven felony counts

CHARGES, from page 1

has no bail.

Paleologus, described as a predator and a smooth talker by authorities, has a long criminal history of luring and victimizing young, attractive women by claiming to be a photographer in the entertainment industry, police said.

He has had six prior convictions dating back to 1998 on various felony counts including false impersonation and making a false financial statement, stealing or possessing the carcass of an animal, battery against a law enforcement officer, burglary, and assault and battery with the intent to commit rape, oral copulation or sodomy.

Paleologus was reportedly released from state prison on Jan. 20, just days before he tried to lure a woman into his clutches in West Hollywood by posing as a publicity photographer for a specific film title that he's used as his ruse multiple times, police said. The woman in the West Hollywood incident, suspicious of his behavior and aggressiveness, was able to escape.

In one instance that led to a prior conviction, Paleologus allegedly used the exact same film title to lure his victim as he did with Johnson and the woman in the West Hollywood incident.

On Feb. 15, Johnson didn't return to her 29th Street apartment in Santa Monica after she told her roommates she was going to Beverly Hills to audition for a man claiming to be a photographer she met while shopping at the Century City Mall earlier.

Johnson was found by hikers on March 3, her body partially clothed, wrists bound and covered in a sleeping bag on a steep hillside off of Skyline Drive, a remote neighborhood in the Hollywood Hills.

Police learned more than a week after Johnson disappeared that her white 1996 Mazda Miata had been valet parked Feb. 16 at the St. Regis Hotel in Century City. Paleologus was identified as the person who allegedly dropped off the vehicle, based on a composite sketch released by police.

At about the same time, police served 10 search warrants at various locations throughout Los Angeles. Authorities have only confirmed searches of Paleologus' West Hollywood residence and a home on Skyline Drive — two properties away from where Johnson's body was found dumped in a ravine in Laurel Canyon.

Police reportedly searched several vacant homes in the Hollywood Hills that Paleologus may have allegedly toured with a realtor shortly before Johnson disappeared, said a source familiar with the properties.

Santa Monica police, who led the investigation, had been awaiting results from the Los Angeles County Crime Lab on evidence recovered from those properties, as well as evidence recovered from Johnson's



Kristine Johnson

car, before presenting the case to the DA.

The two-story Spanish style home on Skyline Drive, most recently occupied by actor Lawrence Fishburne, could be of interest since it is so close to where Johnson's body was found.

The neighborhood is remote and the location of where her body was dumped can't be accessed without entering private property. An access road at the top of the canyon is blocked with a 10-foot-tall fence and private homes are at the bottom of the ravine. Her body was found in the brush abutting people's backyards.

How Johnson died has yet to be determined by the Los Angeles County Coroner, which has deferred the autopsy for toxicology testing. Results are expected in the next month.

Paleologus has been in custody since Feb. 17 when he was arrested in Beverly Hills for suspicion of auto theft, violating parole and resisting arrest.

In addition to the murder charge filed on Monday, the DA's Office consolidated the charges against Paleologus relating to the Beverly Hills theft case. The Beverly Hills case is expected to be dismissed so all of the charges against Paleologus can be tried together, said Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the DA's Office.

Paleologus also is charged with one count each of identity theft, filing a false financial statement, burglary, grand theft auto, forgery and receiving stolen property.

The criminal complaint alleges Paleologus stole the identity of a man, used his name, social security number, business address and name without his consent to purchase a BMW two days after Johnson disappeared.

Paleologus also is accused of allegedly possessing a stolen credit card when he was arrested.

Paleologus is scheduled to be arraigned on Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court.



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check out your forecast in today's horoscopes ...

page 2



LOCAL

Surf shop owner prevails in Santa Monica court

INNOCENT, from page 1

the verdict. "It's rattled me to the core." Peters, who stayed in her seat a few minutes after the ruling, eventually stood and embraced a supporter that was watching from the courtroom.

"She's devastated," said Carol Gillam, Peters' lawyer. "I tried to prepare her for how difficult these things are, but the reality is (it's always hard)."

Peters declined to comment.

The jury of eight women and four men delivered the verdict after less than two hours of deliberation.

"The bottom line is we saw it as an unfortunate situation that should have been resolved within the boundaries of the relationship and not within the boundaries of the law," said jury foreman John Ashby, 48, a Woodland Hills attorney.

Peters was seeking an undisclosed amount of money in the civil lawsuit. Wright said Peters demanded \$50,000 to settle the case before it went to trial, but he refused.

"The lesson is be careful when you think the signals are there. It's been a shock."

— **RANDY WRIGHT**
Horizons West Surf Shop owner

Peters filed a report with the Los Angeles Police Department 17 days after the alleged rape. The criminal case against Wright was dropped for lack of evidence, said Los Angeles District Attorney's Office spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons.

After spending the evening together, first at Wright's store and later at Peters' home, Peters invited Wright to sleep with her in her bed rather than push together sofas in the living room, as Wright had done three times before, both sides testified.

Peters and Wright testified they had consumed about two bottles of wine over the course of the evening.

Early in the morning, Peters said she woke to find Wright allegedly raping her. She said she immediately pushed him away and said he didn't continue to force himself upon her.

Wright told a different story. He said he and Peters were involved in foreplay for more than 30 minutes before he tried to have sex with her and was rebuffed.

Both sides testified they went back to sleep shortly after the incident.

Though Peters said the two were just friends, Wright said he was courting Peters. He said he bought \$800 diamond earrings and brought flowers to Peters because he hoped to start a serious relationship with her.

Shepard Kopp, Wright's attorney, characterized Peters' lawsuit as a money-making scheme.

He pointed to her delayed police

report, how she went straight back to bed after the alleged incident and how she waited to file a civil lawsuit until a year after the criminal case was thrown out.

"Maybe she thought she could just file a lawsuit and get an easy settlement," said Kopp, who works for Geragos & Geragos, the high-profile firm that has defended Winona Ryder and is currently representing accused murderer Scott Peterson. "Randy is an upstanding member of our community. He's really such a good man. He's very generous."

Gillam said her client had a good, strong case and chalked up the jury's verdict to the lack of witnesses.

Friends of Wright, a champion surfer who bought Horizons West in 1987 from "Dogtown" skateboarder Nathan Pratt, said the two-year ordeal has taken its toll.

"It's been eating him up," said Mark Dominique, who grew up surfing with Wright in Santa Monica and Venice. "It's just destroyed him. Hopefully he'll be able to come out of it on an up note."

Wright, who recently completed a remodel to Horizons West, said he's learned from the ordeal.

"The lesson is be careful when you think the signals are there," he said. "It's been a shock."

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Christina S. Porter
Senior Associate

Storm drain expected to be overhauled on Montana

EXPENSES, from page 1

easier to use, officials say.

Because the funding extends through 2004, the design and construction of the project was divided into phases. The first phase includes Los Amigos, Memorial, Joslyn and Reed Parks, which are scheduled to be completed by November. The second phase, which is expected to be completed by 2005, includes Clover, Hotchkiss, Marine and Stewart Parks.

The council also is expected to sign off on purchasing a new truck for \$149,490 so city staff can water and maintain the trees and plants in Santa Monica. The water truck will replace a 1992 model, which has become unreliable and needs repair, city staff said.

Another \$100,000 could be spent on a two-year contract with Chrysalis, a local non-profit that helps economically disadvantaged and homeless individuals, to maintain and clean the city's storm drains. Chrysalis currently provides monthly maintenance services to clean the city's catch basins for \$8,300 a month.

The council is being asked to extend the contract for two more years, totaling nearly \$200,000. City staff wrote in their report to council that it is more cost effective to have an outside vendor do the work than it is for the city.

Each year city crews remove pollutant-laden debris from about 850 catch basins throughout Santa Monica. Last year, 19 tons of debris were removed.

The council is being asked to approve an additional \$84,000 in construction services to Amelco Industries, a contractor hired to finish Fire Station No. 2.

Because Vahdani Construction Co. — the previous contractor hired by the city to construct the fire station — failed to pay a host of subcontractors, the city now must pay the \$84,000 to complete the project.

The total project cost is \$1.1 million. In 2001, the council authorized a con-

tract with a consulting firm for \$103,000 to review existing conditions and current land use regulations affecting car dealerships in Santa Monica. Tonight, the council is being asked to approve another \$32,480 so the firm can do a more comprehensive community outreach program.

Federal, state and local regulations require the city to reduce urban run-off pollution from storm drain discharges into the Santa Monica Bay.

The work being done by the firm will help the city in preparing zoning code modifications to be considered by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

The council also is being asked to buck up \$144,000 as part of its match to a \$952,000 state grant to overhaul the storm drain system on Montana Avenue.

Federal, state and local regulations require the city to reduce urban run-off pollution from storm drain discharges into the Santa Monica Bay. Recent changes have shifted the urban run-off control from an end-of-pipe approach to a sustainable watershed approach, where the entire watershed or storm drainage area is considered.

The system on Montana Avenue includes a screening chamber to remove trash, debris, sand, oil and grease, as well as other soluble pollutants attached.

Filtered water passes into a diversionary structure. During small storms, the system will then send the water on for treatment. In larger storms, water will bypass both treatment systems and flow straight to the bay.

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LOCAL



Midnight Special Bookstore to open on Second Street

BOOKSTORE, from page 1

carrot sticks and that'll be it — but we are going to have a party."

Earlier this year, city officials and local residents rallied behind the bookstore after it closed its Third Street Promenade location it had been in for 10 years.

They worried Ghiz would take her bookstore, which regularly hosted political gatherings and poetry readings, to Hollywood or elsewhere and said the store was a unique feature of downtown Santa Monica.

Midnight Special opened in 1970 in Venice and moved to the first of two locations it held on Third Street in 1980. The store carries about 80,000 rare and difficult-to-find titles.

Ghiz said she was forced to close after the landlords at her Promenade location decided they could no longer afford to subsidize the rent at her 5,000 square-foot store.

She paid about \$12,000 per month in rent for a location that can command about \$50,000 at market value, her real estate broker Leslie Webster said.

Ghiz said the rising cost of rent on the Promenade makes it prohibitive for independent stores to survive there.

"It's more than outrageous, it's like we've all gone insane," she said. "Most people in the United States don't make that kind of money in a year. It's like these companies are buying billboard space. I'm sure they just write off the rent as an advertising expense. Who can afford that?"

Ghiz will pay \$14,500 per month for the new location, a price Webster said is hard to beat.

"It's a phenomenal deal," she said. "I think it's the best economic deal in the entire Bayside District."

Webster, a retail leasing specialist for Metropolitan Pacific Real Estate Services, said residents can expect more retail growth on the streets surrounding the Promenade.

"I think it will really start a new trend that Margie and the Midnight Special will pioneer."

— LESLIE WEBSTER
Real estate broker

"There are others that are going to follow her shortly that I know about," said Webster. "I think it will really start a new trend that Margie and the Midnight Special will pioneer."

Midnight Special is sub-letting its new space from Intervisual, an advertising and promotion company that has been in Santa Monica for about 10 years, its president Jim Richwine said.

Ghiz said she is not waiting for the new four-year contract to expire before looking for yet another space, though she's hopeful the landlords of the new location will extend her contract when it ends.

She said she's learned from the past few months, when she lost about \$200,000 in revenue by not being open.

"It isn't just sales," she said. "It's continuity. And in a store like ours, that's much more important. Much more tangible and much more important."

Scouts evaluated and awarded based on efforts at each site

DRILL, from page 1

classroom."

On 15th Street, scouts had to attend to two women and a child who were seriously injured in a simulated car wreck while hysterical bystanders explained that three victims were suffering from gunshot wounds on 22nd Street and a 15-year-old girl suffered from electrocution on 21st Place.

In the 1700 block of San Vicente Boulevard, scouts had to treat two victims who suffered major head injuries and a broken leg. The other victim had fallen into the pool and broke his back.

Ilan Ben-Meir, a Troop 2 scout, said the exercise helped him learn what to do in a disaster.

"The troop prepared me," he said. "I didn't think of anything, I just jumped in (to the pool) and helped."

Bill Pullen, a 13-year-old 1st class scout, said he thought the events seemed realistic and felt his unit was prepared.

At a bicycle and car accident site on Georgina Avenue, scouts had to evaluate two injured girls and calm an upset driver.

Emily Ferrell, one of the bicycle victims, suffered a leg injury but was able to address the person who hit her.

"You're going to jail," she yelled at the driver, as scouts tried to control the situation. Scouts also had to treat Nicole Wong, the other bicycle victim who was an unresponsive victim bleeding from the head.

"It's funny to see (the Scout's) reactions," Ferrell, 15, said. "Sometimes they're really freaked out."

Troops were given 15 minutes to get a handle on the situation and respond with first aid, said Tony Putzulu, whose son, Matthew, is a 2nd class scout. Scouts were then scored on how they responded to the disaster. Parents, troop volunteers, and Santa Monica police and firefighters offered advice on the situations.

"It's funny to see (the Scout's) reactions. Sometimes they're really freaked out."

— EMILY FERRELL
Simulated disaster victim

"The majority of your manpower needs to be helping the worse off," said Santa Monica Firefighter and paramedic Fred Roberts. "It's easy to get the guy with the arm scratch out (of the car), but he's not the one who needs help the most."

While at the electrocution site, assistant scoutmaster Dan Stirling stressed the importance of assessing each situation and then deciding what to do next.

"The main thing is to keep the person alive," he said.

Eagle Scout Johnny Dahlem, 18, said one of the goals of the drills is to prepare people "for any kind of disaster and have people out there who can help others."

At the end of the evening, the scouts were debriefed at Lincoln Middle School. They were awarded rankings based on their efforts.

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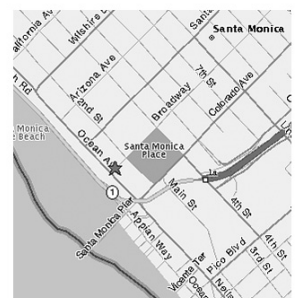
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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and program

More women turn to hypnosis to assist in labor



**Guest
Commentary**
By Julie Moret, Ph.D.

For most pregnant women it's more like you're getting sleepy, irritated, and uncomfortable! That's why women are turning to hypnosis to assist them in the labor and delivery process.

Does this mean you'll be quacking like a duck while giving birth? Hardly. Hypnosis isn't just for stage shows anymore. It is now taught in the best medical schools and recognized by mainstream doctors as a credible body of healthful techniques.

Recently a client was two weeks past her due date when her doctor arranged for hospitalization and medical induction into labor. Before this could occur, she came to my office for an emergency hypnosis session filled with powerful post-hypnotic commands to easily and immediately go into natural, safe labor.

She listened to the taped session before going to bed and within a few hours, labor began naturally. Another woman was told she

would have to labor in bed because her blood pressure was high and monitoring was necessary. I asked for 20 minutes alone with the pregnant mother to practice relaxing hypnotic techniques. When the nurse returned, the mother's blood pressure was stabilized and she was able to get out of bed and move freely.

Another lady spent the months prior to her due date training with the kind of visualization and conditioning techniques that pro athletes use. The results were impressive. During labor she placed a photo of her beloved kitty on a desk across the room from her birthing bed and focused on it as she breathed and released soft humming sounds with each exhalation. As labor intensified the humming got slightly louder. She labored in this deep hypnotic state for about five hours and then gave birth without breaking a sweat.

While results vary, one thing remains clear. Focus, intention, and practice greatly enhance the birth process. And doesn't it make sense to prepare physically, psychologically, and emotionally for the most significant athletic event a woman can ever experience?

Tennis star Andre Aggassi has been quoted as saying that he won a major tournament

10,000 times before ever stepping foot onto the court. He did so in his mind — seeing, sensing and visualizing himself victorious.

Hypnobirthing future paces the mother to and through the successful birth of her child. This process, done while the mother is in a deeply relaxed state, alleviates anxieties and phobias while giving her body a visceral blueprint of how to ideally respond in each phase of the birth process.

As the mother progresses through labor, each transition point registers as familiar and her body is able to stay reasonably relaxed because it has already prepared for what it is experiencing.

Albert Einstein said we use less than 10 percent of our brain capacity. Hypnobirthing is an opportunity for pregnant women to tap into that vast 90 percent and use their minds to create healthy, manageable, even enjoyable birth experiences.

And, no, you won't be quacking like a duck while giving birth ... not unless you want to!

(Julie Moret, Ph.D., has been featured on the Lifetime Channel. For more information or personalized self hypnosis tapes call (310) 434-9700 or write to: JulieMoret@aol.com.)

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MOMS TO BE SUPPORT GROUPS
Pump Station — see calendar

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SCHEDULES:

TUESDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:45am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire - 2 yr olds with parent. 310-458-8922

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443

Lap Time - 11:00am, April 29 - June 3 for 0-24 month olds

Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Cuentos Para Pequeños - 10am - April 29-June 3 - a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-3 years old.

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081

Family Story Time - 7pm - Stories for the entire family.

School Age Stories and Crafts - 3:30pm - every other Tuesday thru May 27, ages 5-9 years

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804

Toddler Story Time - 10:00 & 10:30am, April 15-May 20, ages 2-3 years, registration required, call for info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

Other

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443, Preschool Story Time - 10:30am - April 30 - June 4, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081

Lap Time - 10 and 10:30am - 6 wk series for 0 - 24 months, April 16 - May 21. No registration required.

Toddler Story Time - 11:15 am - 6 wk series for 2 year olds w/ adult, April 16-May 21. No registration required.

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804

Twilight Story Time - 7:00 to 7:30pm - for parents with 3-5 year olds.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 2pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13,

Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and Me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden - 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com, Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm

The Pump Station, Jennifer Triggs - 310-451-9051 (call first), Pre-natal - 6:30 - 7:30pm, \$10

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Preschool Story Time - 10:15am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th & Wilshire, Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. 310-458-8922

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443

Toddler Story Time - 10:30am - May 1 - June 5 - 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.

La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081

Toddler Story Time - 10:15am - April 17 - May 22 - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804

Lap Time - 9:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

Other

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

FRIDAY

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13,

Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and Me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Other

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Children's Book World - 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-800K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8 (May 3, 10, 17, and 24)

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade - Kid's Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 10:30am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:30am, and 10:45 - noon, \$13

Santa Monica Yoga - 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. - 310-396-4040, Prenatal yoga - 12:30 - 2:00pm, \$14

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Recreational Swimming

Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 10:30am - 4:30 pm, Residents pay \$3.00 per family (up to two adults and two children). 310-458-8700

Yoga

Santa Monica Festival - 11am - 6pm, Clover Park, 2600 Ocean Park Blvd. A celebration of our community featuring multi-cultural dance, music, theatre, arts and crafts for all ages. 458-8350.

SUNDAY

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-

0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 1 - 4:30pm, Residents pay \$3.00 per family (up to two adults and two children). 310-458-8700

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library (programs for the Main Library are being presented in off-site locations during renovation) Lap Time for parents and children up to 24 months, 9:30am, Joslyn Park/Craft Room/633 Kensington - 310-452-6132

Barnes and Noble - 3rd St. Promenade - Toddler Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 8-12 months, 10am - 11:30pm Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13

Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and Me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden - 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm



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INTERNATIONAL

United States, Iran, held secret talks, official says

BY BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

CAIRO, Egypt — The United States and Iran held several meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, in an effort to ease friction between the two countries, a senior U.S. official said Monday.

The meetings focused on a wide range of issues, including postwar Iraq, in which the Bush administration is attempting to deter Iran from trying to influence the formation of a new government in Baghdad.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, during a news conference here after a meeting with Egyptian officials, said the administration opposes a fundamentalist regime as not being in the interest of the Iraqi people.

Powell echoed a similar statement weeks ago by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who said establishment of an Iranian-style fundamentalist government would be unacceptable to the United States.

The official, who spoke condition on anonymity, said the meetings in Geneva were technically under the auspices of the United Nations.

USA Today, reporting on the talks in Monday's editions, said the government of Iran was weighing the possibility of reopening diplomatic relations with the United States for the first time in nearly a quarter century.

The official Iranian news agency on Monday quoted Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi saying the discussions were about the work in Afghanistan and were conducted through the auspices of the Swiss Embassy in Tehran.

"During these negotiations, the issue of bilateral relations was not on the agenda and no negotiations were held in that regard," he was quoted as saying by the IRNA news agency in Tehran.

Powell, on a flight Saturday to the Middle East, said the United States has long been in communication with Iran through various channels. He said at the time that the administration was not trying to restore diplomatic relations with Tehran, which were broken off in 1979, when militants overran the U.S. embassy and took dozens of Americans as hostages.

All that remains



Musa Sadulayev/Associated Press

An unidentified woman, whose sister and four nephews are missing, cries as she stands near what is left of the two-story building completely destroyed by a bomb blast, in the Chechen town of Znamenskoye, Monday. A truck bomb ripped through a government compound in northern Chechnya on Monday, killing at least 30 people and wounding more than 100 others, officials said.

North Korea nullifies accord to be nuclear-weapons free

BY SANG-HUN CHOE
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Monday a 1992 agreement with South Korea to keep the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons was nullified, citing a "sinister" U.S. agenda.

The accord was the last remaining legal obligation under which North Korea was banned from developing atomic arms. In January, Pyongyang withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, a global accord to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

"The joint (inter-Korean) agreement to keep the Korean Peninsula nuclear free was nullified because of a sinister and hostile U.S. policy against North Korea," the North's official news agency KCNA said. The statement was monitored by South Korean news agency Yonhap.

The two Koreas signed the agreement in January 1992, pledging to renounce hostilities and ban the development and deployment of nuclear weapons on the divided peninsula.

Monday's announcement came as South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun was in the United States on a weeklong trip that will focus on seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programs.

Roh is scheduled to meet President Bush at the White House on Wednesday.

North Korea has accused the United States of planning to attack the isolated country, using the nuclear dispute as an excuse for invasion. Washington says it wants to resolve the crisis through dialogue, though U.S. officials have not ruled out a military option.

"We have realized that as long as the United States does not abandon its hostile policy against the North, efforts to keep the Korean Peninsula nuclear free is nothing more than an illusion," KCNA said. "We will further boost our already mighty military power."

A spokeswoman for Roh said the North Korean statement might be a negotiating ploy in the wake of talks last month with U.S. officials in Beijing.

During the talks, U.S. officials said North Korea claimed

it had reprocessed 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods — a move that could yield several atomic bombs within months.

North Korea offered to drop its nuclear and missile programs in exchange for security guarantees and economic aid, according to U.S. officials who were reviewing the proposal. Chinese officials also took part in the talks.

"It seems that North Korea is taking a strong stance to pressure, or leverage, get any kind of a response to the proposal that it came out with at the Beijing trilateral talks," said Julianne Lee, a Roh spokeswoman.

The Beijing talks were the first since the crisis flared in October, when Washington said North Korea admitted running a secret nuclear weapons program in violation of a 1994 treaty with Washington.

North Korea subsequently withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and took steps to restart nuclear facilities frozen under the pact.

North Korea demands a nonaggression treaty with the United States. U.S. officials have ruled out such a treaty, but have indicated they can consider some form of written guarantee if the North scraps its nuclear programs.

U.S. civilian leader wants Iraqis to have their own destiny

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The man chosen to lead U.S. efforts to put postwar Iraq on track to democracy, L. Paul Bremer, said upon his arrival in the capital Monday that his goal is to help Iraqis "regain control of their own destiny" after decades of rule by Saddam Hussein.

Bremer, a former State Department official, arrived with the official he is replacing, retired Army Lt. Gen. Jay Garner. In a joint interview, both men denied there was any premature breakup of the Iraq reconstruction group, while acknowledging that one senior member was leaving early.

Bremer said career diplomat Barbara Bodine, who was coordinator for central Iraq, including Baghdad, within the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, was being reassigned back to Washington by the State Department "for their own reasons." He did not elaborate.

Garner denied reports that he, too, was departing earlier than planned.

"What I say we have here is one team, one fight," he said, using a common military expression to show a unified approach to a common goal. He spoke on the tarmac at the Basra airport moments after he, Bremer and a Pentagon group led by Gen. Gen. Richard Myers landed. "We'll drive on," Garner added. He did not answer directly when asked how long he would remain on the job.

Margaret Tutwiler, who had been head of communications under Garner and accompanied Bremer and him on their stops in Basra and Baghdad, said the plan from the start was for her to be in Iraq for one month, until May 15, and then return to her post as ambassador to Morocco. She did not say if she would stick precisely to that date.

Bremer, attired in a dark blue, pinstripe suit and tan desert boots, alighted from the rear of an MC-130 special operations aircraft and told a small group of reporters that he was confident of success in the American-led effort to put postwar Iraq on track to self-government and prosperity.

"The coalition did not come to colonize Iraq," he said. "We came to overthrow a

despotic regime. That we have done. Now our job is to turn and help the Iraqi people regain control of their own destiny."

He disputed the notion that there was trouble at high levels of the American reconstruction team.

"We intend to have a very effective, efficient and well-organized handover" of power from Garner to him, Bremer said. "General Garner and I are pledged to working very closely together."

At his first stop, in Basra, Bremer said in an interview with The Associated Press, "I certainly intend to work with (Garner) in the next weeks here to get a bunch of serious milestones accomplished." Several times in his public remarks Monday he praised Garner's accomplishments.

Myers, asked at a separate news conference about reports of an early Garner exit, said, "I know of no plan for Mr. Garner to leave."

In what he called his motto for the Iraq mission, Bremer brought with him on the plane from Washington a wooden desktop sign with raised wooden letters that read, "Success Has a Thousand Fathers." He said he wanted to remind others that none

of them alone could achieve the mission.

Bremer, 61, is a onetime assistant to former Secretaries of State William P. Rogers and Henry Kissinger and was ambassador-at-large for counterterrorism from 1986 to 1989.

When Bremer and Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reached Baghdad they split up. Bremer said he would be holding staff meetings at his headquarters. Myers visited U.S. troops at several locations, including one of Saddam's palaces that now serves as a U.S. military headquarters.

Myers also visited an Iraqi hospital, Al Yarmuk, that is attached to a medical college. The hospital sustained limited damage during the war but was stripped clean by looters afterward, according to the hospital's director, Zaid Abdul Kareem. In recent days, the hospital has gotten its backup electrical generators working again to fill periodic gaps in city-supplied power.

Accompanying Myers at the hospital was the deputy commander of allied land forces in Iraq, Lt. Gen. William "Fuzzy" Webster, who said U.S. commanders are taking action to improve security in the city.

SPORTS

Jackson rejoins Lakers, will coach in San Antonio

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO — An upbeat Phil Jackson rejoined the Los Angeles Lakers on Monday, two days after undergoing a heart procedure, and he will coach in Game 5 against the San Antonio Spurs.

"I'm feeling good, I feel like a new man, actually," Jackson told reporters before the Lakers flew to San Antonio for Tuesday night's game at SBC Center.

The Western Conference best-of-seven semifinal is tied 2-2.

"We're back in the hunt in the playoffs with a team that's rejuvenated, and I've got a new lease on life," Jackson said. "The biggest thing is moving forward from here. You have the energy, the resolve, to move on."

Jackson underwent an angioplasty Saturday to open his left anterior artery, which was over 90 percent blocked. He was released from Centinela Hospital Medical Center on Sunday morning but watched the Lakers' 99-95 victory over the Spurs on television.

"I could have come back yesterday," he said. "I had an allergic reaction to antibiotics."

Jackson said he didn't believe stress caused his problem.

"It's about cholesterol, basically," he said. But he added that the doctors told him to keep his stress down.

It was the first postseason game Jackson has missed in his 13-year career as an NBA head coach. His teams have won a record 25 straight playoff series and nine championships, equaling the record of former Boston coach Red Auerbach.

He guided the Chicago Bulls to six championships during the 1990s and the Lakers to titles in his three full seasons so far as their coach.

The Lakers are attempting to become the second team in NBA history to win more than three straight championships, joining the Boston Celtics, who won eight straight starting in 1959.

Assistant Jim Cleamons filled in for Jackson on Sunday. Jackson said doctors had no reservations about his traveling to San Antonio and returning to the bench.

Jackson, 57, said he had chest pains for about a month before the procedure. His energy level had fallen so low, he said, he was wondering about coaching next season. He has one year left on the five-year, \$30 million contract he signed in June 1999.

"I've said all along if I have reasonable health, I will finish my contract," he said. "I'll consider whether I can do next year with all the fervor and desire I need."

Jackson said he'll make a final decision this summer and wouldn't think beyond that any time soon.

Jackson said he told girlfriend Jeanie Buss, the daughter of Lakers owner Jerry Buss and the team's executive vice president of business operations, of his pain May 4 when the team flew to San Antonio for the first two games of the series.

Jackson said she told the team doctor, and that got the ball rolling.

"Unfortunately that's the way it kind of goes — 'fessing up and having somebody else start the process," Jackson said.

He said he told Buss his "angina was killing me for a week-and-a-half."

"It was an educated guess on my part," Jackson said. "I had no idea what I was talking about, basically."

Jackson was examined Friday — before the Lakers beat the Spurs 110-95 in Game 3. He said he made the decision to coach "with some medication," adding it was a consideration to not coach that night.

"I was in much better shape on Friday than I was on Monday or Wednesday," he said, referring to the first two games of the series. "Those were hard games for me to be on the bench."

Jackson said his heart was in great shape and his other arteries were clear.

He said watching Sunday's game was difficult.

"It's hard to sit and watch when your team is shooting 25 percent, having a hard time getting up and down the court," he said, referring to what happened during most of the first half.

NBA Daily Playoff Glance

By The Associated Press

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7)

Monday, May 5

New Jersey 97, Boston 93
San Antonio 87, L.A. Lakers 82

Tuesday, May 6

Detroit 98, Philadelphia 87
Sacramento 124, Dallas 113

Wednesday, May 7

New Jersey 104, Boston 95
San Antonio 114, L.A. Lakers 95

Thursday, May 8

Detroit 104, Philadelphia 97, OT
Dallas 132, Sacramento 110

Friday, May 9

New Jersey 94, Boston 76, NJ leads series 3-0
L.A. Lakers 110, San Antonio 95

Saturday, May 10

Philadelphia 93, Detroit 83
Dallas 141, Sacramento 137, 2OT

Sunday, May 11

L.A. Lakers 99, San Antonio 95, series tied 2-2
Philadelphia 95, Detroit 82, series tied 2-2
Sacramento 99, Dallas 83, series tied 2-2

Tuesday, May 13

Sacramento at Dallas, 4 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14

Boston at New Jersey, 3 p.m., if necessary
Philadelphia at Detroit, 5 or 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 15

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Sacramento, TBA

Friday, May 16

New Jersey at Boston, TBA, if necessary
Detroit at Philadelphia, TBA

Saturday, May 17

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

Sunday, May 18

Boston at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary
Philadelphia at Detroit, TBA, if necessary



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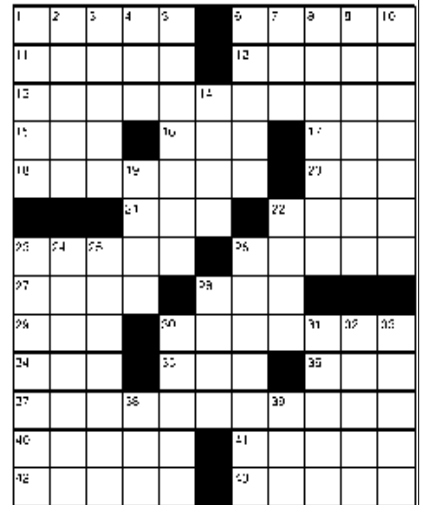
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- 1 Jellied dish
- 2 "Futurama" character
- 3 Came to
- 4 Janitor's need
- 5 Off base, perhaps

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P	O	S	I	T		A	L	E	R	T
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26 Sundae topping	33 Bakery buys
28 Beer buy	38 Favorite
	39 Man-mouse link

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5-13

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By Dave Coverly



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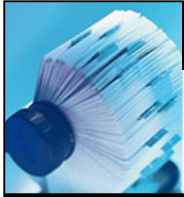
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BACK PAGE

Lawsuit seeks to ban Oreos because of dangerous fats

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Kids in California may have to give up their Oreos, if a lawsuit filed by a San Francisco public interest lawyer is successful.

The lawsuit, filed last week in Marin County superior court, seeks a ban on the black and white cookies, arguing the trans fats that make the filling creamy and the cookie crisp are too dangerous for children to eat.

Stephen Joseph filed the suit against Nabisco, the maker of Oreos, in Marin County Superior Court last week after reading articles about the health threat posed by the artificial fat that is contained in most packaged foods but isn't listed with other the nutritional information.

The big difference between this suit and others that have targeted tobacco and McDonald's fast food is that consumers know that tobacco is bad for their health and that McDonald's food contains a lot of fat, Joseph said.

"Trans fat is not the same thing at all. Very few people know about it," he said, explaining that his suit focuses on the fact that trans fats are contained hidden dangers being marketed to children.

Joseph said he targeted Nabisco because as other major snack food sellers reduced the amount of trans fats in their products, Nabisco had not.

Nabisco has been exploring ways to reduce trans fats in Oreos, said company spokesman Michael Mudd. He also pointed out that the reduced fat Oreos have half the trans fats as the regular kind.

"Nutrition policy is best left to health professionals and regulatory agencies," said Mudd. "They have the expertise to address nutritional issues in the full context of people's overall eating and activity background."

Nabisco officials were not immediately available for comment. They have 30 days from the May 5 filing date to respond to the suit.

The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, which advises the government on health policy, said last summer that this kind of fat should not be consumed at all. It is directly associated with heart disease and with LDL cholesterol, the 'bad' kind that accumulates in arteries.

But the U.S. Department of Agriculture said partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, which contain trans fats, are present in about 40 percent of the food on grocery store shelves. Cookies, crackers, and microwave popcorn are the biggest carriers of trans fats, which are created when hydrogen is bubbled through oil to produce a margarine

that doesn't melt at room temperature and increases the product's shelf life.

The Food and Drug Administration has tried to force food companies to list trans fat content with other nutritional information on food packages, but manufacturers have challenged the rule. Even food labeled "low in cholesterol" or "low in saturated fats" may have high percentages of trans fats.

Informing customers about trans fats on food labels could prevent 7,600 to 17,100 cases of coronary heart disease and 2,500 to 5,600 deaths per year, the FDA has estimated.

Joseph said he has targeted Nabisco because, while other major snack food makers have reduced the amount of trans fats in their products, Nabisco has not.

Man's boat goes afloat from paper's ad

By The Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. — The only time Ed Nedweski Jr. ever brought his 12-foot aluminum boat to his tire shop to work on it in his spare time, it disappeared.

Then, as he gave his statement to the police, a stranger appeared in the shop and asked, "Do you have a trailer and boat for free?"

"No, not me," Nedweski replied.

But the stranger persisted, showing

Nedweski an advertisement that appeared in the Kenosha News.

A neighboring business at the same address had placed the ad offering two free boats and trailers. Someone mistook Nedweski's business for the business that placed the ad and took the wrong boat.

"For a while I thought somebody was just pulling a joke on me putting an ad in the paper," Nedweski said. "I just couldn't believe the coincidence."

Hours later, the man who took the boat returned it after a friend told him police cars were at the tire shop, Nedweski said. The man had assumed it was the boat advertised.

"He called me up and said, 'I took your boat by accident,' " Nedweski said. "He brought it back tonight with the trailer."

"It was just a big, gigantic mistake," Nedweski said. "I can't believe what went down."



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