

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

07, 15, 16, 26, 36

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 1, 0, 8

Evening picks: 2, 0, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 05, California Classic

3rd Place: 11, Money Bags

Race time: 1:47.73



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Jeannie M. Patrinos, 32, was sentenced in February to five years' probation for sexual assault. A judge in Lancaster, Wis., found that Patrinos, who was estranged from her husband, broke into his home, climbed into bed with him, and was "having sex" with him, against his will. The husband's girlfriend was asleep in the same bed, until the man's protests woke her up.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"After all is said and done, more is said than done."

— Unknown



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Evidence laid out against ex con in capital murder case

Slain Santa Monica woman's alleged killer faces judge today

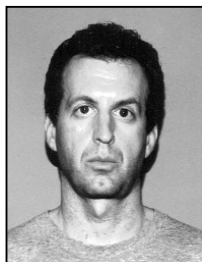
BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Two days after she was murdered, Kristine Johnson's accused killer allegedly stole the identity of a man who owns a house within two blocks of where the Santa Monica woman's body was found.

Victor Paleologus, 40, allegedly tried to buy a BMW in Beverly Hills on Feb. 17 using the name, social security number and credit history of Robert Wasvary, who owns a home on Wonderland Park Avenue in the Hollywood Hills.

"He was scavenging the area to find something useful to him," Wasvary said. "He had blood on his hands already and he was probably looking for a way to disappear and was looking for someone's identity to do it."

"He used my identity to try to get away."



Victor Paleologus

Paleologus will appear in Los Angeles Superior Court today to face capital murder charges. The DA's office will determine if it will seek the death penalty against Paleologus after his preliminary trial.

Paleologus allegedly stole Wasvary's mail containing his credit information from a property he rents out in Laurel Canyon, an area in the Hollywood Hills, Wasvary said. As Paleologus attempted to complete the transaction at Beverly Hills BMW, dealership sales personnel became suspicious and asked for identification, according to Wasvary, who was informed by police of the incident. Paleologus then fled the sales office and allegedly stole the car off the lot, Wasvary said.

Paleologus was arrested shortly after by Beverly Hills Police for grand theft auto, resisting arrest and violating his parole.

Paleologus has been in custody since Feb. 17 — two days after he allegedly lured Johnson by claiming to be a publicity photographer,

See MURDER CASE, page 4

Future teachers in Santa Monica celebrate a milestone

Budget cuts and lay-offs don't deter the educators of tomorrow

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

With budget cuts threatening their programs and lay-offs limiting their prospects, aspiring school teachers in Santa Monica have every reason to be glum.

But rather than let the state's budget crisis get them down, a group of Santa Monica College

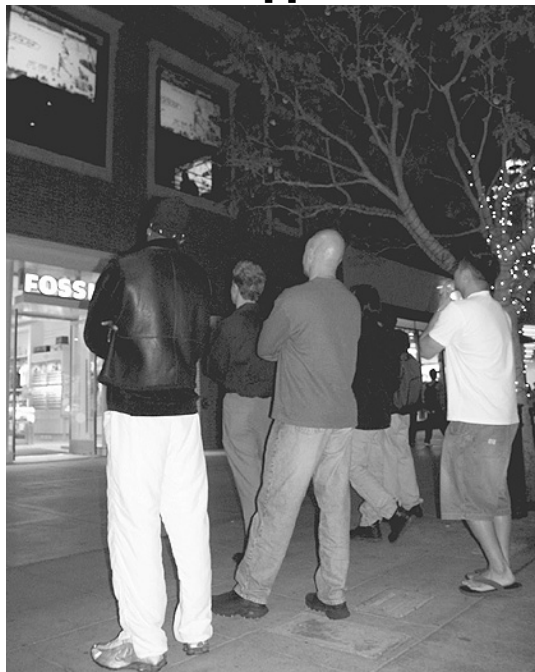
students on Tuesday celebrated a milestone towards landing a job in their chosen profession.

About 60 people attended a luncheon on Tuesday commending SMC students who completed the Teacher and Reading Development Partnership program.

The program consists of one course, volunteer fieldwork in local elementary schools and counseling for future teachers. More than 1,100 students at SMC participated in the program this year, with 46 receiving a certificate of

See TEACHERS, page 5

A Lakers disappointment



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Fans watch the Lakers play-off game outside Gotham Hall on the Promenade Tuesday. Los Angeles lost to San Antonio 94-96. See story page 11.

Local merchant to stand trial for murder

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

The trial of a local businessman who is accused of murder is scheduled to begin next month.

Michael Ward Bell, 54, of Los Angeles, is accused of allegedly shooting and killing Andre Watson, an African-American transient, in front of his Pico Boulevard auto repair shop last July.

Lawyers for both sides agreed on Tuesday to start selecting jurors on June 4 at the Airport Courthouse, where the trial will be held.

Ward is in custody at the Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles on \$2 million bail.

Bell's trial was originally slated to begin Tuesday but was delayed because of conflicting

attorney schedules.

John Raphling, Ward's public defender, said the case is a simple matter of self defense.

"The man is innocent," he said. "He was attacked, he was threatened — and he defended himself."

Mark Burnley, the deputy district attorney prosecuting the case, could not be reached Tuesday for comment.

But Christine Johnston, the deputy district attorney first assigned to the case, has said Bell methodically fired six bullets at Watson, with four shots actually hitting him.

One bullet grazed his knee, while two other bullets entered through his hip and the back of his thigh. The fourth bullet went through Watson's calf, said Santa

See TRIAL, page 5



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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, May 14, 2003:

You'll encounter many surprises along your path this year. Just when you think something is going one way, it reverses direction. Accept the unpredictability that surrounds your life right now. Deal with finances on a more intuitive level, and you'll get much more of what you want. Laugh and lighten up with those you care about. Often you find that what you think you want could be a lot different once you get it. Bosses take a strong stand. Others often run with the ball. Let them. If you are single, you will meet someone in 2004. This person could prove to be quite special. If you are attached, your relationship needs focus or else you might be too distracted. Schedule time together. SCORPIO tests your limits.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You decide to put into place today what you couldn't yesterday. You will learn through a one-step-at-a-time approach. A friend still might be confused, but you can no longer deny this person what he or she wants. Work with associates individually to get the results you want. Tonight: Be agreeable.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others run with the ball, but you haven't been in the mood to stop it. Push hard to gain more of what you want. Express your willingness to work hard in order to get the results you want. Unexpected results stem from a meeting or a friend. Tonight: Say "yes."

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Steady proves to be the best approach. You want to understand. Your efforts win support in a meeting. Others back you. Take action to find other ideas. Your high energy gets a boss or higher-up off his or her duff. Tonight: Stay even.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your imagination might be hard to stop. You seem to be able to draw a sense of amusement out of a partner. Energy and support herald your interactions with this person. Unexpected news pops up out of the blue when dealing with a loved one. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Keep important facts to yourself, as others might run with them or distort them. Stay on target, understanding what needs to happen in order to get a project off the ground. Others have their own ideas, which they want to run with. Please step back. Tonight: Time with family.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Keep asking questions, especially if they involve work and associates. Do not blindly back a project. You need to know more. Ask a partner. Talk to associates. A partner acts in a most unpredictable manner. You know what you want. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Deal with finances in the most direct manner possible. You might want to open up a conversation by asking questions. Be creative in how you question someone if you want clear answers. Unexpected behavior mounts from associates. Tonight: Pay bills first.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You're a lunar star. Translate this energy into hitting a home run for you and your life. Check out an investment in your family and/or real estate. Your spontaneity could delight a child or new friend to no end. Tonight: As you like it.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Take your time making decisions, especially if you're not comfortable with all that you're hearing. If something feels vague, it probably is. You might want to revamp a decision involving family. Accept what works, and let go of what doesn't. Tonight: Slow down, please.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Don't settle into a passive mode. If you have certain financial expectations, make them happen. Take action. Meetings prove to be unusually successful. You draw others' support for your cause or ideas. Speak your mind. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You push hard for what you want. You know what you want. Use the present climate to hit the bull's-eye. Finances might not fall into place the way you would like. Remain easy. Work with the unpredictable, and you'll gain. Tonight: A must appearance.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ An overview surprises you ever so slightly. What you think you're seeing and what becomes possible could be two different matters. Can you merge these different ideas? Don't allow your imagination to go haywire. Plot a steady course. Tonight: Talk to a relative at a distance.

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Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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 Pastana 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

SMC cuts to be protested

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College faculty are planning to protest planned program eliminations and faculty lay-offs at a special meeting of the college's Board of Trustees on May 15 at the Madison Campus school.

The meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. The college trustees will be voting on a proposal by college administrators to eliminate eight vocational programs at the college and lay-off eight full time faculty. The cuts are planned in response to the state budget crisis. The college has also threatened to lay-off between 50 and 100 permanent classified staff.

On May 2, a faculty committee presented an alternative budget cutting proposal to the college's budget committee. After a four-hour meeting, the committee recommended to SMC President Piedad Robertson that the faculty proposal be used as a basis for discussing college budget cuts. The faculty proposal came up with enough cuts to reach the college's "worst-case scenario" of a \$15 million cut, which was based upon Gov. Gray Davis' January budget. Under the "worst case scenario" proposal supported by the budget committee, no programs would be eliminated and neither full-time faculty nor classified staff would be laid off.

Principal honored for leadership

By Daily Press staff

Stephen Martinez, principal of the Edison Language Academy in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, was awarded the Virginia Avenue Park Thelma Terry Center Award at its Annual Cinco de Mayo Festival. Martinez was recognized for his leadership and many contributions to the educational system in Santa Monica.

Martinez is a member of the board of directors of Virginia Avenue Park and chair of the Santa Monica Police Department Alliance Committee in the Pico neighborhood, located on the eastside of Santa Monica.

SMC student art exhibit scheduled

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Annual Student Art Exhibit, featuring various media, will be held May 24-June 12 at the college's Art and Photography galleries. The opening reception is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 29.

SMC's Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery is located at the Madison campus, located at Santa Monica Boulevard and 11th Street.

The photography gallery is on the second floor of Drescher Hall on the main campus, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Hours for the gallery are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. The gallery will be closed Monday, May 26 for the Memorial Day holiday.

For information, call (310) 434-3434.

Lincoln Middle School Choir and Madrigals win awards

By Daily Press staff

The Lincoln Middle School Concert Choir and Madrigals traveled to San Diego recently to participate in the Heritage Festival. Of the 11 choirs at the festival, Lincoln's choir was the only middle school that participated.

The Concert Choir and Madrigals both received gold awards with overall scores totaling in the 90s. With the gold award, the concert choir and Madrigals received a certificate of excellence and an automatic invitation to the national competition. They also received the Spirit of San Diego award and the Adjudicators' Trophy. The Concert Choir received the overall outstanding Choral Group trophy for being the highest scoring choir in the entire festival.



We do 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 back down today.

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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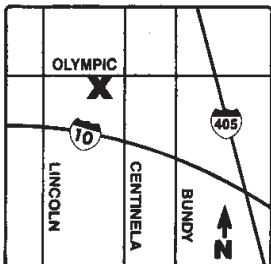
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LOCAL

Johnson's mother has faith in justice system

MURDER CASE, from page 1

killed her and dumped her body in Laurel Canyon.

Along with the capital murder charge, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office on Monday charged Paleologus with six counts relating to the Beverly Hills case including identity theft, filing a false financial statement, burglary, grand theft auto, forgery and receiving stolen property.

Wasvary said he received a call from a Beverly Hills Police detective on Feb. 17 informing him a man named Victor Paleologus tried to purchase a car under his name, claiming to be a record producer.

Wasvary rents his property to a movie producer who only resides there about 10 days a month and the mail had piled up in front of the door. Wasvary said he doesn't normally get mail at that residence, but some information regarding his credit was sent to the house by mistake.

"The damage to me was minimal compared to the horrendous things this woman went through," Wasvary said. "I personally hope he gets the maximum penalty."

Paleologus, who has been convicted of six felonies dating back to 1998, was reportedly released from state prison on Jan. 20, just three weeks before Johnson disappeared.

Johnson, 21, 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.

Johnson, a student at Santa Monica College, disappeared on Feb. 15 after telling her roommates she was going to Beverly Hills to audition for a man claiming to be a photographer. She apparently had met Paleologus while shopping at the Century City Mall earlier.

Paleologus, described by Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. as a predator, has a long criminal history of luring and victimizing young, attractive women by claiming to be a photographer in the entertainment industry, police said.

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.

Just days after he was released from state prison, Paleologus allegedly tried to lure a woman 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.

Santa Monica Police were able to identify Paleologus as a possible suspect in Johnson's disappearance more than a week after she vanished based on anonymous tips and evidence gathered from her car. Police also were able to confirm that Paleologus had been at the Century City Mall.

Johnson's mother, Terry Wark, who lives in Los Gatos, Calif., made public appeals nationwide for her daughter to be



Kristine Johnson

returned safely. Extensive searches were conducted throughout Los Angeles by co-workers and volunteers.

Police served 10 search warrants at various locations throughout Los Angeles in late February.

Authorities have only confirmed searches of Paleologus' West Hollywood residence and a home on Skyline Drive — two properties away from where

**"I am confident justice
will prevail, however long
the process takes.**

**I respect the process of
the justice system which
is in motion."**

— **TERRY WARK**
Kristine Johnson's mother

Johnson's body was dumped.

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 car, before presenting the case to the DA.

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.

Wark said she is hopeful Paleologus will be brought to justice.

"I am confident justice will prevail, however long the process takes," she said Tuesday. "I respect the process of the justice system which is in motion. As to details of the case, I do not have privilege to those. It's the DA's job to build the case and I will do what I can to support that effort and not interfere with the work that

LOCAL



Lawyer says mechanic shot out of self defense

TRIAL, from page 1

Monica Police Detective Virginia Obendain, in January at Bell's preliminary hearing.

The shooting occurred at 8:24 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2002. Bell allegedly pulled a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver on Watson, who local merchants said had spent most of the afternoon hanging out on the street in front of BT Automotive, Bell's auto repair shop located on the 2600 block of Pico Boulevard.

Joseph Beedle, of Santa Monica, testified at the preliminary hearing that he watched Bell allegedly fire the shots at Watson as he lay curled up on the sidewalk.

Beedle watched from across the street, where he was sitting in a parked car with his family.

A military police officer by profession, Beedle said he anticipated he would be questioned by police and therefore took note of every detail.

He said Bell allegedly fired the first shot and walked closer to Watson before firing the next round. Before each shot, Bell cocked the .357's hammer and took deliberate aim, Beedle said at the preliminary hearing.

Bell had reportedly stayed late waiting

for a customer to pick up his car, which he did at about 8 p.m. He was arrested in the BT parking lot about 30 minutes later when police were called after someone reported shots being fired in the area.

**"The man is innocent.
He was attacked, he
was threatened — and
he defended himself."**

— JOHN RAPHLING
Public defender

Authorities found a box cutter and a half empty bottle of alcohol on Watson, Obendain said.

Raphling has implied Watson suffered from a serious mental health condition and said the two were fighting before the shooting.

Shortly before the incident, Watson was released from prison after allegedly attacking two women with knives, Raphling said at the January hearing.

School deficit situation not all bad for aspiring teachers

TEACHERS, from page 1

completion, said Joe Ryan, project manager of the department.

Ryan's position, and the bulk of his department, are among the cuts the SMC board of trustees will consider cutting on Thursday in order to help plug a \$13 million shortfall in state funding.

While the SMC students are anxious about their futures, they reiterated on Tuesday their commitment to teach.

Andres Espana, 23, said if things don't work out in California he will consider returning to India, where he taught English for three months through a teach abroad program.

The bottom line, said Espana, is there will always be a need for teachers.

"You shoot yourself in the foot when you cut education," he said. "But people become teachers because of more than money. It's kind of an altruistic field."

"It got better and now it's getting worse," he added. "It's not going to deter me. Education is needed everywhere. I'll get a job."

Other teachers-in-training aren't so sure. They worry that the competition might be too stiff for them to land a job in their chosen profession and won't be able to support themselves.

Erica Salinas, 19, said she is studying to teach pre-kindergarten or first grade. But because of the tough market for aspiring teachers, Salinas said she's got a back-up plan. If she doesn't land a job as a school teacher within one year, she plans to study to become a registered nurse.

"I'll have to go back and start all over again," she said.

Tuesday's luncheon was sponsored by the local chapter of the Retired Teacher's

Association and was held at the First United Methodist Church on 11th Street.

Marty Stiles, the 400-member association's president-elect, said times are tougher now than when he started his 23-year tenure at Lincoln Middle School.

"It's more severe now," he said. "But at the beginning of the '80s, the beginning of the '90s, the beginning of 2000 — we have gone through recessions."

"We're in this sort of bust or boom cycle," he added. "It's not helpful."

Stiles said the association's efforts at lobbying in Sacramento have been swallowed by the magnitude of the state's fiscal crisis. The state is facing a \$35 billion deficit this year and Gov. Gray Davis plans to cut more than \$2 billion from public schools and community college budgets to fill the gap.

Stiles said local events and sponsorships have had a much more positive influence on teachers in Santa Monica.

Alicia Villalpando, a counselor for SMC's Teacher and Reading Development Partnership program, said she tries to help students look beyond the current situation in California.

She added the recession will eventually fade. In the meantime, she is advising aspiring teachers to equip themselves with as broad a resume as possible.

Instead of going for the multiple-subject credential required of elementary teachers, Villalpando said she is telling students to pursue single-subject credentials, which allow them to teach in secondary schools, where teachers are in higher demand.

"I try to get them to see beyond the three, four or five years of bad times," she said. "In any industry you'll see a downturn."

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OPINION

LETTERS

Parcel tax regressive, unfair

Editor:

Tell the school board to think again. Measure S is a tax of \$225 per parcel of land for six years with a built in cost of living increase each year. This is on top of the current \$90 parcel tax.

The Los Angeles County Assessor's office (310 665-5300) states unequivocally that "a parcel is the same as a tax ID number."

Therefore a five-unit condominium will have five separate tax ID numbers and five separate parcels. Each unit will pay \$300. Shutters Hotel has a single property tax number as do mansions north of Montana and beachfront Malibu estates. They also will pay \$300 per year. This central point — that corporations and people whose property is worth millions of dollars (if not tens of millions e.g. The Watergarden complex) will pay the same tax as a studio condominium worth \$150,000 — makes Measure S a regressive, unfair tax.

Also note the latest 2001-02 summary of per pupil spending for all of the states and D.C. from the National Education Association Web site. California is ranked 28th in the nation. While this is not good enough, it is not the 47th to 42nd ranking stated in the last failed parcel tax attempt in 2002.

We need to be as factual and objective as possible in public debate otherwise the government loses the trust of the voters. Tell the school board to think again. Vote no on S — the unfair parcel tax.

David Luce
Santa Monica

It's a restaurant, not a bar

Editor:

It has been brought to my attention that some misinformation is being circulated about my plans for the space located at 2901 Ocean Park Boulevard and I want to set the record straight.

My dream and ultimate plan is to operate a local neighborhood family restaurant. The menu will feature some of the freshest, healthiest, cleanest hamburgers in the nation. In addition to hamburgers, turkey burgers, and veggie burgers. We will have five or six different salads, chicken sandwiches, tuna sandwiches, ice cream sundaes and milkshakes, always served with two straws. We will be a family-style restaurant with a vague resemblance of the 1950's burger shop, but with a higher quality of food, a localized clientele and an updated look.

My intention is to bring the neighborhood something new. I can assure you I have no intention to and will not operate any sort of nightclub, bar/lounge, or the like in this neighborhood. As a member of the community, I understand what this tight-knit neighborhood is about. I do not intend to grow a business that will not fully serve to the needs of the neighborhood.

We will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. We be maintaining the seating capacity of the previous restaurant. We have applied for a beer and wine license only to enhance

and to add to the variety of our menu. I can assure you that I love the entire Sunset Park area and would never want to disturb or upset what it stands for.

I am hoping to have our establishment up and running by the end of June or early July. I welcome any questions that you may have and I hope that you give us a try when we open.

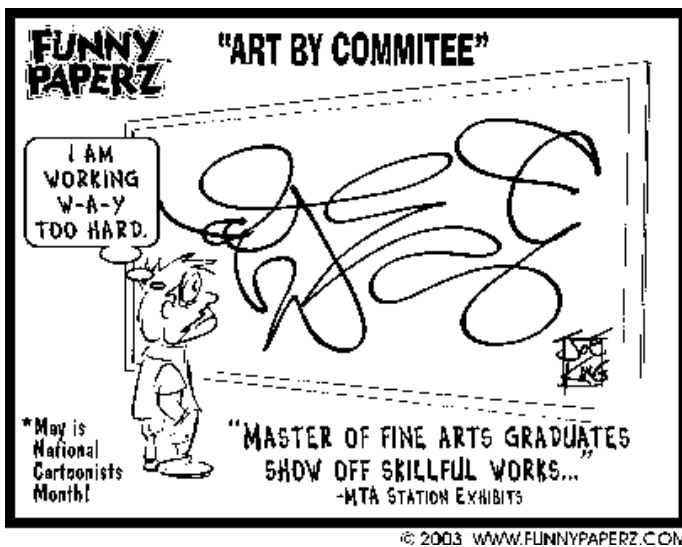
Cynthia Osier
Santa Monica

Will miss Dee's hash

Editor:

Was shocked by and appreciated the front page story by John Wood Monday, "Longtime downtown diner to close its doors." I love Dee's Diner and can't believe Bob Moini is closing. His corned-beef hash can't be beat within any SanMo border. Just one caveat: Your reporter wrote, "Moini has offered the same menu items at more or less the same prices for decades." That would be MORE in the case of the corned-beef hash: \$7.95.

See LETTERS, page 7



Tax cut primer that even 'W' could understand, but won't



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

Let's pretend you're a normal everyday person. You've got a steady job that pays you an OK salary. Nothing grand, but enough so that you've managed to pay off most of your home (the Villa U.S. Economy), stashed a few bucks into stocks and still have enough to take a nice vacation every year.

Oh sure, there was a time not so long ago that your future looked bright. There were even those around you that predicted that you'd make so much money you wouldn't know what to do with it all. But said surpluses never materialized and you'd come to realize that such predictions were, at best, wildly optimistic and more probably less than honest. Still, even without the extra income life was comfortable.

Then one day a slick mortgage broker, call him George, shows up at your front door. George flashes you a smile and says, "You have lots of equity in your house, but it's all going to waste. You deserve to

live a little. Have you considered taking out a loan?"

Of course you'd thought about it, but you're worried about your financial future. After all, you'd be retiring in a few years and the house is your nest egg. But slick George is dismissive of your concerns. "What are you worrying about? In 10 years your house will be worth three times as much as it is now. Why wait until you're too old to appreciate it. With my buy now pay later plan you can have more money ... now!"

And before you can say supply side economics, or even fiscal irresponsibility, you find yourself signing off on a 120 percent home-equity line-of-credit. And even as the ink is still drying, George has given you a frat-boy clap on the back and receded into that vague recollection known as "previous administration."

So over the next few years you withdraw a few thousand here and a few thousand there, plus a few more to make the interest payments. For awhile it's great. You get to take extra vacations, buy new furniture and maybe you even get that flashy Humvee you always coveted. You even hire that kid next door to mow the lawn and are pleased to be creating a new job.

But after a few years you suddenly realize the interest payments are eating up a good deal of your cash. So you stop taking

that extra vacation. Then you sell the Humvee because who, besides the Pentagon, can afford all that money for gas? And of course, you fire the kid next door.

When you retire the housing market, thanks to high interest rates caused by exploding deficits, it's in a slump. Your home is worth several thousand less than the outstanding loan. With no salary, and your pension decimated by corporate fraud, you have to rely almost exclusively on Social Security, or whatever's left of it. Even with massive cutbacks to your lifestyle, you are unable to make the mortgage payments. Eventually you are forced to sell ... for a loss. The remaining loan balance eats up everything you had invested in the stock market and leaves you in debt, which is the only thing your kids will inherit from you.

You move to a one-room apartment in a shabby neighborhood. All the stress makes you sick, but getting medical attention, thanks to cuts in Medicare, requires hours of waiting at a clinic. But it doesn't matter really because, with no real prescription drug benefit, you can't afford the medications they prescribe.

Vacations are out. And since the cutbacks in law enforcement, the streets are too dangerous to take a walk. And even if they were safe, the sidewalks are in such poor condition from lack of maintenance

funds that you would probably trip and break a hip, which by the way is no longer covered under Medicare. And where would you walk anyway? All the senior services are gone as is the local library. So you sit in your one-room apartment watching television, but only basic cable because, unlike your home, the price of cable service has tripled in 10 years. And every once in awhile you'll pull that box out from under the bed and pour over the photos of those extra vacations you took so long ago. And you wonder ... was it worth it? But of course, it wasn't.

ASIDE: President Bush, responding to the Democrats' refusal to allow him to ram extremist right wing judges down America's throat, declared that the Senate Judicial confirmation process is broken. Despite bellicose rhetoric from the President and his Republican sycophants, the Democrats have a far better record confirming judges than Republicans did during the Clinton Administration. I am in full agreement with Senator Edward Kennedy, who responded, "What's broken is not the Senate confirmation process, it's the White House nomination process."

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. If you wish to tax him with your comments he can be e-mailed at: edsincites@aol.com).

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

Still beats some pain-in-the-bun French bakery. We already got croissants coming out of our tuchus in this town! (What does "Quotidien" mean, by the way?)

Hank Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Desperate school supporters bothersome

Editor:

Last Saturday's paper announced in the community briefs column that hotel workers, labor leaders, and living wage activists were scheduled to gather for a rally and precinct-walking in support of Measure S, a proposition on the June 3 ballot.

Following the rally participants were to go "door to door" encouraging voters to support Measure S. Has it ever occurred to any of these people that not only do some people see no correlation between the hotel living wage minorities, (who are in reality an overwhelming majority of that workforce) or labor leaders — who amount to simply thugs, who are really outside of the community agitators — and so-called SMART people, (Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism) and the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 11 — and what Measure S is supposed to be all about.

Looks like Measure S supporters are so desperate to get their hands deep in the taxpayers' pockets that they will stoop to any practices. Do these people ever consider that maybe, just maybe some of the thousands of people they are now constantly disturbing by calling on the phone, or showing up uninvited and unwelcome at the doorsteps, don't appreciate what they are doing this whole past month? There really are a lot of people who do not enjoy these unannounced invasions of their privacies. They would rather enjoy the privacy guaranteed by constitutional law, and the serenity of their own lives without being bothered with what any others think they should or must be.

This ganging up of protesters and activists seems to be focused on getting S passed to benefit mainly the union teachers, and to ensure that the now single ethnic group of hotel workers have free pre-school and daycare services for themselves. It doesn't appear that the loss of funding involved is so severe as to take away the core schooling that all students are entitled to as mandated by the state legislature. All else according to one of the city council members is "just frosting." And I believe it to be so.

Special interest stuff like grandiose music and related programs that eat up funding like no others. Let the hotel workers pay for their own pre school and daycare. Or let their unions provide this for them, not the taxpayers.

Thom Trybus
Santa Monica

The budget crisis and its impact on arts education

As the fine arts coordinator for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, I have been trying to deal with the reality of the current fiscal crisis facing our nation, our state and our city.

I have wanted to DO SOMETHING to help ensure that our district will remain strong and effective in its mission of providing a quality, well-rounded education for ALL students. I have hesitated to write or speak publicly about my perspective because it may appear to some that I am worried about MY position, which has been cut in addition to the elementary music program, music aides and accompanists. This is an attempt to share my impression of the current financial crisis with the general public from the inside.

School districts across the state are facing HUGE cuts in programs, teachers, classified personnel, etc. For example, in the Burbank school system, a school district nearly identical in size to SMMUSD, they are expecting to cut approximately 200 certificated and classified employees to fill the gap created by the state's fiscal nightmare. How do school districts recover from such gigantic losses? They probably won't. In Santa Monica-Malibu, we have an opportunity

to save our situation and the future of our kids' education through the passage of the "Save Our Schools" funding initiative on June 3. Last night, I found myself pondering the question, "What are the most important programs or services needed in any given city?"

Obviously safety and health came to mind as priorities, but education seems to be the next most important issue for a community. It ensures a more positive future for its younger generation, improves the value of all its real estate and brings the community together in its rituals and customs in a way that transcends religious and cultural differences.

When I came to work for the SMMUSD in September 2001, I knew I would be working for a distinguished school district with a great reputation. When I travel to arts conferences throughout the state each year (funded by grants), I find that our district usually sets the standard which other districts strive to achieve. Our fine arts teachers and programs have been recognized in every possible way for their excellence and

achievement. After seeing what other districts have to offer, I've decided that there is not another district in the state for which I'd rather work. We are so fortunate to have such talented teachers in our district. Like most teachers, the fine arts teachers (dance, theatre, music and visual arts) in the SMMUSD give so much

time, effort, dedication and love to their students. These programs motivate students to come to school, teach where we came from, where we're going and where we are now.

They teach principles such as teamwork, motivation, working towards a goal, cultural awareness, historical context and personal responsibility. One of the duties of my job is to acquire grant funding to support the fine arts programs in our district. Last year, I secured \$140,000 in funding for instructional materials, equipment, musical instruments, and staff development. This year, I've applied for \$400,000 in grants to support the music, art, and drama programs. Our district is so very lucky to have high quality arts instruction, with a strong elementary music program as well as partnerships

with local arts organizations that bring artists in to work with classroom teachers. We can never measure the powerful effect arts education has on our students.

On a daily basis I see students working with excellent aides, accompanists, and music, art, and drama teachers who will NOT be here next year if the "Save Our Schools" funding initiative does not pass on June 3. It is very difficult to bring an instructional program back once it's gone. How will we feel when the chairs of the honor orchestra at "Stairway of the Stars" next year will be EMPTY? Can we imagine students not experiencing the fine arts in our classrooms as they do NOW? There is so much MORE to do in order to provide more learning opportunities for ALL our students. PLEASE, vote on June 3. That day will determine what will happen to OUR schools and in OUR city. If I can answer any questions regarding fine arts programming in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, please don't hesitate to call me at (310) 450-8338, ext. 287 or e-mail twheale@smmusd.org.

(Tom Whaley is the fine arts coordinator for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.)

Guest Commentary

By Tom Whaley

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

How many homeless are there?

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A count begins this summer to determine the number of homeless in Los Angeles County.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's \$200,000 homeless census is part of an effort to get more federal money to get people off the streets, officials said. It will provide information for the county's 10-year plan to end homelessness.

Results of the count, scheduled for release next year, will also help advocates gauge whether programs serving the homeless are effective.

But the primary reason is to provide evidence to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that more federal grant money is needed to fight the causes of homelessness.

"We don't get the dollars countywide to do the work. I think to really get Washington's attention you need the count," said Gilbert Saldate, a member of the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness.

The Homeless Services Authority, a city-county joint-powers agency, plans to hire a consultant to count the homeless at shelters, service centers and on the streets. A 1995 estimate put the county's homeless population at 260,000.

Ontario airport to be LAX's alternative

By The Associated Press

ONTARIO — With room to grow and a region eager for more flights, Ontario International Airport is seen as Southern California's best hope to relieve crowding at Los Angeles International Airport and to accept travelers from Orange County, where a proposal to build an airfield at the former El Toro Marine base was defeated.

Transportation planners said they will allocate about one-fifth of the 154 million annual passengers expected to use Southern California airports by 2030 to Ontario, which would represent nearly a fivefold increase over the 6.5 million it served last year.

"We're being asked to step up to 30 million, and maybe even more," Mayor Gary Ovitt said. "We're willing to go to that if we make sure all the infrastructure is there. We want to keep our quality of life intact."

The Ontario airport, about 40 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, operates 24 hours a day without the noise curfews or capacity limits that face airports in Burbank, Santa Ana and Long Beach. Additionally, about 25 percent of Ontario's 1,700 acres is available for development of new terminals, runways and hangars.

Community college to reinstate its faculty

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Community college trustees voted this week on a resolution to rescind lay-off notices sent in March to all 400 full-time faculty members.

The decision comes after teachers agreed to salary cuts to help ease the budget crunch facing the Ventura County Community College District. A 4.3 percent reduction in teacher salaries was expected.

An agreement reached with the faculty union calls for scaling back the salaries of all 1,600 full- and part-time instructors to realize a saving of \$5.8 million, helping to close an \$8 million shortfall.

A beginning instructor would lose \$1,816 from a \$42,648 annual salary, and a master's-level teacher earning top scale at \$77,539 a year would lose \$3,300.

In return, full-time faculty members are guaranteed no layoffs for the coming fiscal year and part-timers only minimal staff reductions.

Faculty members overwhelmingly approved the plan April 30 by a vote of 262 to 75, union president Larry Miller said.

The state fiscal crisis left community colleges struggling. Gov. Gray Davis proposed about \$404 million in cuts to the state community college system next year.

California ranks last in enrolling food stamp recipients

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California ranks last among states in signing people up for food stamps during the nation's recent economic downturn, according to a report to be released Monday by an anti-hunger advocacy group.

The report by the California Hunger Action Coalition found that the number of residents receiving food stamps remained flat in 2001 and 2002 even as the state's unemployment rate edged up and other states increased their participation in the federal program.

In addition, while food stamp enrollment increased 9.1 percent nationally last year, the number of California residents participating in the program fell by 4.4

percent, according to the report.

Only two other states, Hawaii and Rhode Island, had drops in enrollment and neither were as large as California's. The report notes that the three states with the biggest increases in food stamp enrollment were the neighboring states of Nevada, Arizona and Oregon, where the enrollment respectively rose by 63 percent, 62 percent and 46 percent.

The coalition estimates that by failing to register more residents for food stamps California has lost \$356 million in federal aid and cost the state's economy \$655 million from lost income to grocers, farmers and food manufacturers.

The group has scheduled a rally at the Capitol for Monday to draw attention to the situation.

NATIONAL



Arizona aims to attract big budget Hollywood projects

BY SANDY YANG
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Never mind the celebrity sightings. When a Hollywood movie production comes to town, the perks could also mean a boost in business and jobs for Arizona, which has set the scene for hundreds of old westerns and recent blockbusters.

The welcome invasions, however, are getting less frequent.

So far this year, film, television and advertising projects have generated about \$7.2 million in expenditures and about \$25 million in economic impact, just short of last year's total of \$8.9 million in expenditures and \$30.6 million in economic impact.

But it's far behind yearly revenue that topped \$50 million during the 1990s, when Arizona was the backdrop for films such as "Tin Cup," "Three Kings" and "Planet of the Apes."

Meanwhile, other states and Canada are offering incentives such as subsidized production costs and tax breaks to draw in prime Hollywood projects — an effort that hasn't yet been matched by Arizona.

"Look at our filmography, a lot of great projects have taken place here," said Robert Detweiler, acting director of the Arizona Film Commission, which markets the state to filmmakers looking for a production location. "The problem is that other states are marketing very hard. If we want to get in the game, we have to come up with more than just great sunshine and vistas. Now it's more than ever about the bottom line."

The effort to appeal to budget-savvy producers has been further hurt by the state's budget deficit, which may force the 31-year-old Department of Commerce division to close its doors this year, Detweiler said.

Hollywood projects make a lot of money for the state because a long-term film or TV shoot could bring dozens of people shopping at the markets, booking rooms at hotels, buying lumber to build the sets, renting cars and equipment and seeking nightlife for several months at a time.

"It's all new money in an accelerated amount of time," Detweiler said.

In past decades, Arizona attracted much production, especially with Old Tucson Studios, which set the scene for about 300 western films and TV show episodes since 1939, said Terry Pollock, vice president of strategic development at Old Tucson.

"This was the Old West that had been implanted in people's images of the Old West," Pollock said.

But as interest in Hollywood westerns has waned, so has the demand for this typical Arizona setting.

"I remember five or six movies going on at the same time, it hasn't been like that since the early '90s, late '80s," Detweiler said.

Recently, Tucson has been Arizona's busiest locale for film activity. In August, a western called "Ghost Rock" starring Gary Busey was filmed at Old Tucson Studios. Another feature-length film, "Spin," starring Dana Delany, wrapped last month and was shot in parts of Tucson and Amado.

About 35 cast and crew members were employed on "Ghost Rock" and about 350 extras were used for "Spin," including a University of Arizona student who landed a major supporting role.

Meanwhile, the visitors stayed at hotels such as the Viscount Suite and frequented nearby hotspots such as Hotel Congress and El Charro Cafe.

"When they (filmmakers) come in and bring in film production, we end up doing really good business because of it," said Dan Moore, front desk manager at the Vagabond Plaza Tucson, which hosted the "Ghost Rock" cast and crew.

"When you get a studio to shoot the entire film (in Tucson), that's winning the lottery."

— SHELLI HALL
Director of the Tucson Film Office

"Ghost Rock" director-producer Dustin Rikert said he chose to film in Tucson because of the city's legendary role in the western genre, but the local hospitality also won him over.

"Arizona may not have the tax breaks, but there are a lot of bonuses: the morale of the crew and the willingness of the city to help us make our production successful," Rikert said. "We put a big thank you at the end of our credits (for Tucson). Since we came to Arizona, we want to come back year after year."

It's this kind of buzz that Arizona's film offices bank on traveling back to Hollywood.

"I love to hear that because I know how important word of mouth is," said Shelli Hall, director of the Tucson Film Office. "All these people talking about Tucson in L.A., that's the best advertising."

Hall also visits film festivals, studies entertainment trade magazines and maintains good relations in Hollywood, in hopes of scoring that next big project.

Next up for Arizona: a western entitled "Jessie's Girl" starring Sam Elliott and Pam Grier.

"When you get a studio to shoot the entire film (in Tucson), that's winning the lottery," Hall said. "The stakes are higher. We compete hard for them because this business is so unpredictable."

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check out your forecast in today's horoscopes ... page 2



INTERNATIONAL

Powell condemns individuals who carried out bombings

BY BARRY SCHWEID

AP Diplomatic Writer

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Secretary of State Colin Powell deplored the terror bombings in this capital city, saying the attacks bore the “earmarks of al-Qaida.”

Powell shortened a meeting with young civic leaders interested in modernizing Saudi society to get a briefing from U.S. Ambassador Robert Jordan on the bombings at three residential compounds. But he spent most Tuesday engaged in talks with Saudi officials.

Powell, who had been awakened after midnight in Amman, Jordan, with word of the attacks, called the bombings an act of cowardice.

One of the subjects already on the agenda for his talks with Saudi officials was cooperating in the fight on terrorism, along with pursuing a Palestinian-Israeli peace accord.

In addition to the Americans lost, Powell said “there was a large loss of life of others.”

Powell gave the assessment after a briefing from Jordan upon his arrival here from Jordan.

“Terrorism strikes anywhere, everywhere,” Powell said. “It is a threat to the entire civilized world.”

Powell was greeted in Riyadh by Prince Saud al Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, who expressed his sorrow and vowed to cooperate with the United States



US Secretary of State Colin Powell, left, stands next to the Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher, right, during a joint press conference in Amman, Jordan, on Tuesday.

in fighting terrorism. “It is no consolation, but these things happen everywhere,” Saud said.

“The blood of Saudi citizens was mixed in this tragic event with Americans,” he said. “It should increase our efforts, it should make us not hesitate

to take whatever measures are needed to oppose these people who only hate, who only kill, and for no purpose whatsoever.”

A U.S. official said several members of the Saudi national guard perished in the attacks.

The U.S. official also said British, German, French, Australian and other Arab citizens were among the casualties.

Surrounded by a phalanx of aides and security guards, Powell visited one of the blast sites, a complex for employees of the Vinnell Corp., a Virginia firm. The attack there killed seven Americans.

The charred wreckage of an overturned truck lay in the rubble that was once the front of the four-story building. A U.S. flag dangled from the roof.

Vinnell has a contract to train Saudi military and civilian officials.

By chance, 50 of 70 American employees of Vinnell who resided at the building were on a training exercise and away from the complex.

Powell spent 10 minutes at the scene before departing for Moscow. His stay in Saudi Arabia lasted about six hours. In

Moscow, Powell planned to discuss preparations for President Bush’s visit to St. Petersburg on June 1.

Before leaving Jordan, Powell said the attacks in Saudi Arabia “once again remind us that terrorism is a global phenomenon” and that “the United States will not be deterred” in trying to root out the al-Qaida network.

“I believe al-Qaida has been weakened, but it has not been destroyed,” Powell said at a news conference after authorizing \$700 million in additional U.S. aid to Jordan.

The string of attacks occurred in quick succession Monday night, capped by a fourth explosion early Tuesday outside the headquarters of a joint U.S.-Saudi owned company in Riyadh.

If al-Qaida was responsible for the bombings, Powell said, “it illustrates it can still strike” and means “we have to redouble our efforts to go after terrorists” by tracing the network’s finances and strengthening U.S. defenses against terror.

“All it says to me is the war continues,” Powell said of the Bush administration’s anti-terror campaign. “We have made some progress, but it is not over.”

Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher also condemned the attacks in Saudi Arabia and expressed his government’s sympathies for the victims. “This will only strengthen our resolve to find a solution to all the problems of the region,” he said.

Powell, however, said he did not consider the bombings to be related to the Arab-Israeli dispute and said the United States will not be deterred in pursuing peace.

He said the administration had been concerned about the situation in the Persian Gulf region for some time.

An agreement Powell signed with Minister of Planning Bassem Awadallah sets the ground for transfer of \$700 million in additional assistance to cash-strapped Jordan this year to offset Jordan’s losses from the war in Iraq.

Jordan’s trade with Iraq amounted to \$700 million last year, making Baghdad the largest importer of Jordanian goods. Jordan also depended on Iraq for all its average need of 90,000 barrels of oil per day, receiving half of it at preferential prices and the other half as a gift of the deposed Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein.

IEA: Low oil inventory may raise risk in higher gas prices

BY BRUCE STANLEY

AP Business Writer

LONDON — With OPEC mulling cuts in summer crude production, an already low level of oil inventories in major importing nations raises a risk of volatile gasoline prices as the peak driving season approaches, the International Energy Agency said Tuesday.

The U.S.-led war in Iraq interrupted crude output in that country and contributed in April to a decline in world oil production of 1.4 million barrels, or 1.8 percent. Although other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries boosted their output to prevent a shortage, the IEA argued that some exaggerated their production levels and are making prices more unstable as a result.

“Unless producers continue to meet market needs, precariously tight first-quarter stocks will set the stage for tensions in the summer gasoline and the winter heating oil seasons. Crude and product stocks need time to rebuild,” the agency said in its monthly Oil Market Report.

The IEA is the energy watchdog for the world’s biggest oil-importing countries. It assesses market conditions but refrains from predicting their effect on prices.

“I think the chances are that gasoline prices will remain quite strong through the summer,” said analyst Steve Turner of Commerzbank Securities in London. “I think we can just about avoid a spike if there are no nasty surprises” such as unscheduled refinery shutdowns, he said.

Total inventories of oil and refined products fell sharply, by 1.4 million barrels a day, during the first quarter. By contrast, inventories declined by just 300,000 barrels a day during the same period of 2002, and 100,000 barrels in 2001, the IEA said.

Crude inventories alone grew slightly

during the quarter, as OPEC pumped more oil to offset the loss of exports from Nigeria and Venezuela. However, inventories of heating oil and other refined products plunged. The net result was that combined inventories were well below their five-year averages among all major importing countries, the agency said.

This supply pinch developed even before the war on Iraq, which halted Iraqi exports of about 2 million barrels a day, it said.

Peter Gignoux, managing director of the petroleum desk at Salomon Smith Barney, said inventories remain squeezed but attributed this partly to refiners who are putting off crude purchases in anticipation of a further slide in U.S. prices. Many buyers expect U.S. oil to fall to \$24 a barrel, he said.

Average U.S. crude prices tumbled by 16 percent in April, and 6 percent in March, the IEA said. June contracts of light, sweet U.S. crude were up 93 cents at \$28.28 a barrel in afternoon trading Tuesday in New York.

Members of OPEC, which pumps about one-third of the world’s crude, have said they are considering cutting production when they meet next month in Doha, Qatar. The IEA said such a move would worsen price volatility.

The agency noted that no “tidal wave” of crude supplies has developed, despite a surge in OPEC production on the eve of the war and a seasonal decrease in demand in the second quarter. It argued that some OPEC members probably weren’t pumping as much oil as they claimed and said this increased market uncertainty.

An industry source speaking on condition of anonymity said Saudi Arabia, the No. 1 crude producer, has already notified customers that it would reduce its crude deliveries in June by 14 percent to 20 percent.

Report: Human brains taken for research without consent

BY SUE LEEMAN

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — British doctors and morticians removed at least 20,000 brains for research from 1970 to 1999 without obtaining families’ consent, according to a government report published Monday.

The figure includes only those brains still held by hospitals and universities in England, and many more could have been taken and destroyed, Dr. Jeremy Metters, Her Majesty’s Inspector of Anatomy, said in the report.

Removing organs without families’ permission was explicitly outlawed in 1999. A law passed in 1961 said organs should only be taken from corpses if relatives did not object, though permission was not required.

In one case, Metters said, a hospital mortician was paid \$16 for each brain he provided for research. Metters said it was possible that a brain could have been removed in any post mortem carried out by a hospi-

tal or coroner between 1961 and 1999.

The government ordered an investigation after a woman learned her husband’s brain had been removed without her permission when he committed suicide in 1987. The couple’s Jewish faith decrees that a person must be buried intact.

Elaine Isaacs found out what happened to her husband, Cyril, by chance in 2000. She said the secrecy surrounding his case was “nothing short of collusion,” and she expected authorities to take action against those responsible.

“Our rights were ignored in every sense,” she said.

The government’s chief medical officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, said the practice “is an affront to families who have lost a loved one.”

“I can assure them and other families that, since the time of the activities described in this report, the practice of routine retention and use of organs and tissue without consent is no longer acceptable practice in the NHS,” or National Health Service, he said.

SPORTS



Lakers lose Game 5, 94-96

BY JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs have pushed the Los Angeles Lakers to the brink of elimination.

But the three-time champions are proving they won't go away easily — if at all.

One game after overcoming a 16-point deficit, the Lakers nearly erased a 25-point hole before falling 96-94 when Robert Horry's 3-pointer with 3 seconds left went in and out Tuesday night.

David Robinson got the final rebound, letting the Spurs, who never trailed, take a 3-2 lead in the second-round series. San Antonio ruined the return of Lakers coach Phil Jackson three days after undergoing a heart procedure.

The Lakers will have to win the next two games to advance to the Western Conference finals. Otherwise, their post-season will end the same way it did the last time they failed to win it all — going down to San Antonio in the conference semifinals. That was in 1999, when the Spurs won the title.

Game 6 is Thursday night in Los Angeles, with a possible Game 7 in San Antonio on Saturday. The Lakers are 0-5 this season at the Spurs' new home, the SBC Center.

Tim Duncan led San Antonio with 27 points and 14 rebounds, and Tony Parker had 21 points, but they were as cold as all their teammates when it mattered most.

The Spurs were up 76-51 with 3:37 left in the third period and were still ahead 87-71 with 7:21 to play. Then the Lakers used a 15-3 run to get within four, prompting Duncan to slam the ball down while calling a timeout.

A beautiful alley oop from Duncan to David Robinson, who had six points after going scoreless in Game 4, made it 95-88.

But Kobe Bryant, who had 24 of his 36 points in the second half, hit a 3-pointer

with 49.1 seconds left. Shaquille O'Neal, who had 20 points and 12 rebounds, turned a miss by Horry into a three-point play with 19.7 to go to make it 95-94.

Stephen Jackson could've made it a three-point lead with 15.1 left, but made only one of two free throws. O'Neal rebounded the second miss and the Lakers called time.

Horry got a wide-open look from the left side. It looked good off his hand, rekindling memories of his amazing game-winning shot against Sacramento in Game 6 of the 2002 Western Conference finals, the last time the Lakers faced elimination.

Unlike that shot, this one didn't fall, which means more heroics will be needed if Los Angeles is going to be the first four-time champion since the Boston Celtics won their eighth straight title in 1966.

That it even came down to the last shot was stunning, considering the only time the game was tied was 2-2. The Spurs led by 11 after one quarter, were up as many as 23 before halftime and were ahead 80-64 going into the fourth period.

The near-miss leaves Los Angeles with three losses in a series for only the third time during its championship run. The Lakers trailed Sacramento 3-2 last season and were tied at 3 against Portland in the 2000 conference finals.

Jackson, who has won his last 26 playoff series — and six championships — while coaching Los Angeles and the Chicago Bulls, was back on the bench three days after undergoing a procedure to open a heart artery that was more than 90 percent blocked. He hasn't lost a post-season series since 1995.

Jackson watched Game 4 on TV hours after being released from a hospital. He saw his team trail by 16 in the second quarter, then rally for a four-point win, aided by last-minute blunders by Parker and the Spurs.

Iraq reorganizes soccer team

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Weakened by years of neglect and intimidated by an oppressive government, Iraq is getting a soccer team back together to chase an improbable dream — qualifying for next year's Olympics.

"Practice will commence this week," assistant coach Adnan Hamad said in a broadcast carried by Voice of New Iraq, a radio station controlled by the U.S.-led coalition.

In war's aftermath, the job of rebuilding the country's sports infrastructure is slowly beginning. Athletes who have been living in Europe are preparing to return home in the next few days after winning the support of the Kuwait-based Olympic Council of Asia on Tuesday.

"It is not going to be easy," said Naji Ghazi, a runner and one of the seven members of the Free Iraq Olympic Group.

Iraq, once among the most powerful teams in Asia, has a hard road ahead in Olympic qualifying, which is limited to players under 23. But that hasn't tempered Hamad's determination. The team disintegrated during the run-up to the war, but Hamad urged the players to show up at Baghdad's al-Karkh stadium to begin practicing for international competition.

"We will train four times a week to be ready for the matches," Hamad said. "Iraq will be fully prepared for the Olympic

qualifiers."

A friendly match between two popular teams, al-Zawra and Police, was delayed twice in the past week and now is tentatively scheduled for Friday. It will be the first professional match in Iraq since the war.

Iraq's soccer organization used to be run by Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Oday. There have been reports that Oday, who also oversaw Iraq's Olympic Committee, tortured players who failed to perform to his standards. Ahmed Radi, Iraq's best-known soccer player in recent years, said he was imprisoned three times on Oday's orders.

Last month, the Asian Football Confederation first postponed Iraq's qualifier against Vietnam for the 2004 Athens Olympics because of the war and later ruled that Vietnam would be awarded the canceled match. But it later appeared to backtrack in the face of protests from Iraq.

Bernd Stange, a German coach who manages the Iraqi team, has pleaded with the Malaysia-based AFC to reschedule the qualifier and allow Iraq a chance at the Olympics.

Victory in Rome



Plinio Lepri/Associated Press

Serena Williams returns the ball to Klara Koukalova, of the Czech Republic, during the Women's Italian Open tennis tournament at Rome's Foro Italico Complex, Tuesday. Williams won 6-4, 6-3.

Mighty Ducks' Sebastien Giguere taming Wild

BY KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM — The Minnesota Wild need to start looking at Anaheim's Jean-Sebastien Giguere the same way they view any other goaltender.

So far, that hasn't been easy.

As the Mighty Ducks continue to cruise in the playoffs and Giguere keeps the zero lit on the other side of the scoreboard, he — and his pads — appear to loom ever larger as pucks plop into his glove and bounce off his body, stick and skates.

"I honestly think we are thinking too much about the goalie and not enough about ourselves," Andrew Brunette said. "We can't worry about him. We've just got to treat him like any other goalie."

"We've been getting frustrated, haven't been patient. One goal would do a world of good for this hockey club right now."

Giguere extended his sensational playoff run by shutting out Minnesota twice to help the Ducks to a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals. Anaheim, which beat the Wild 1-0 in the second overtime of Game 1, won the second game 2-0.

The series resumes Wednesday night in Anaheim, with Game 4 Friday night on the Ducks' ice.

The Anaheim goalie has stopped all 63 Minnesota shots and hasn't allowed a goal in a span of 153 minutes, 17 seconds. Giguere hasn't been scored on since the third period of Anaheim's second-round clincher over Dallas.

In his first postseason, the 25-year-old Giguere has stopped 417 of 436 shots while the Ducks have gone 10-2. With a scoreless streak of 160 minutes, 49 seconds in overtime, he's near Patrick Roy's league playoff record of 162:56.

Giguere has a .956 save percentage and a 1.32 goals-against average for Anaheim, which swept defending Stanley Cup champion Detroit in the first round, then eliminated top-seeded Dallas 4-2 in the second.

No wonder some opponents think his

pads are bigger than the rules allow, which Minnesota's Antti Laaksonen suggested after Game 1. Dallas' Claude Lemieux had similar thoughts during the second round.

"The thing that I've noticed so far in the playoffs is the better he plays, the bigger they get," Anaheim coach Mike Babcock said, smiling. "The big thing about this league is that it's pretty controlled. No one's allowed to cheat."

"The thing that I've noticed so far in the playoffs is the better he plays, the bigger they get."

— MIKE BABCOCK
Anaheim coach

"There's nothing there. But the reality is, if you have people talking about it, that's great, too. Everyone needs something to talk about."

Giguere, who at 6-foot-1 and 200 pounds definitely is imposing in goal, insists his pads have been checked and are legal.

While the goalie deflects credit to his teammates as easily as he's been turning away shots, the Ducks' Paul Kariya knows good goaltending can wear on the opposition.

"When you're shooting against a hot goaltender, you tend to be a little bit finer with your shots because you know that's he's going to stop the easy shot and that he's not going to beat himself," Kariya said. "I think you saw examples of that (in Game 2) when they missed the net or released the puck too quickly because they were trying to hit too fine a spot."

"But that's what he's done for us all year. He makes you beat him with the perfect shot. If you make a perfect shot, you have a chance, but the ugly ones aren't going to go in."

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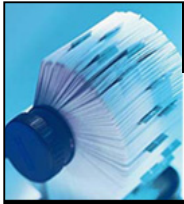
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BACK PAGE

Century-old law may cause legal mess for supervisors

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF

Associated Press Writer

MARIPOSA — A hundred feet can make a big difference.

That's about how far the Mariposa County Courthouse stands from the county's new government building where the Board of Supervisors has met for the last three years to amend codes, pass ordinances and address zoning issues.

Problem is, supervisors may be violating the law.

The state Attorney General has been asked for an opinion and the sheriff's office is investigating claims of criminal wrongdoing.

The board has met like clockwork at 9 a.m. nearly every Tuesday in the modern government center until several weeks ago when a concerned resident brought bothersome news to the meeting. A nearly 100-year-old county code requires supervisors to carry out all public business in the courthouse. Now, every ordinance passed, every decision made over the last 1,000 days could be challenged.

"It's extremely embarrassing," said supervisor Janet Bibby.

The board amended the code last week allowing for meetings in the more modern building but it will be 30 days before it takes affect. For now, board members first convene meetings in the courthouse, then immediately adjourn and resume sessions across the street.

County Attorney Jeffrey Green said at Tuesday's meeting the board is now following the law but he acknowledged that previous action could be challenged.

"County code says the meeting location must be in the courthouse," Green said. "There's always some concern that decisions could be challenged but its inconceivable to me that a court would undo anything the board did."

Assistant Sheriff Brian Muller said an investigation into the board's actions is ongoing and details would be forwarded to the district attorney's office.

Muller said some residents claim the board violated the Brown Act which regulates how and where public

meetings are to be held.

"If the D.A. feels there is something to pursue, I don't know if he would pursue charges against the entire board or if there would be specific members targeted," Muller said. "That's all part of our investigation, to see whether there was any criminal intent."

Mariposa is a town of about 1,700 in the hill country south of Yosemite, a place where residents address their county supervisors by first names.

The alleged code violation was brought to light by residents after supervisors proposed a pay raise for themselves and were considering whether to allow a 47-acre commercial development project into the nearby Mariposa County town of Fish Camp along Yosemite National Park's southern border.

County residents sought any reason to stop both

actions, said local business owner Mike Byrd.

"This meeting and prior meetings are illegal," Byrd told the board Tuesday.

Many residents feel supervisors' \$34,000 annual salary is ample. And folks in Fish Camp don't want the Silvertip Lodge, with its 125-room hotel and conference center, "ruining" the natural surroundings, said Fish Camp resident Don Davidson.

The allegations seem to have worked for now. Supervisors have put off a vote on raises and Silvertip developers asked Tuesday to delay a decision on the project in order to avoid challenges by residents, given the allegations that board decisions made outside the courthouse are not binding.

"We could be in for a great deal of grief," said supervisor Lee Stetson.

Prisoners' calorie count to be reduced

BY PATRICK HOWE

Associated Press Writer

ST. PAUL, Minn. — From putting less meat in the goulash to eliminating dessert, financially strapped states are trying to save money behind bars by cutting back on the food served to inmates.

Texas prisons, for example, have been ordered to reduce inmates' daily calories from 2,700 to 2,500.

"He says he's served hot dogs, hot dogs, hot dogs," said Helga Dill, whose husband, Charles, is serving a 20-year sex-crime sentence at a prison near Huntsville, Texas.

Elsewhere, Minnesota is considering following Virginia's lead in serving only two meals per day on weekends

and calling one of them "brunch."

Nevada lawmakers considered cutting the food budget for prisons — a move opposed by Gov. Kenny Guinn, who said the state already pays more to feed wild horses than to feed its prisoners.

At Iowa's Newton Correctional Facility, inmates get only one dessert now instead of two, and they drink a vitamin-enhanced orange-flavored liquid instead of real orange juice. Other prisons in the state are putting more macaroni and less meat in the goulash.

The belt-tightening is part of a larger effort to look for savings behind bars. Around the country, states trying to close deficits have left new prison buildings unopened, double-bunked inmates and laid off employees.

For many state lawmakers, complaints about prison food do not elicit much sympathy when they are considering cuts that could leave people without health insurance or mean fewer police and firefighters.

"We have to make sure the rapists and murderers sacrifice like everyone else," said Minnesota state Rep. Marty Seifert, author of the brunch bill.

He first proposed cutting desserts for prisoners, only to be thwarted when the Corrections Department said it would cost a half-million dollars more per year to withhold the dessert. Turns out Jell-O is a cheaper way to give prisoners the calories called for under voluntary national dietary standards than, for example, fruit.

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