

**FREE**

**TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2003**

**Volume 2, Issue 161**

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*A newspaper with issues*

**00000**

**FANTASY 5**

09, 15, 17, 20, 32

**DAILY 3**

Afternoon picks: 4, 0, 2

Evening picks: 4, 6, 9

**DAILY DERBY**

1st Place: 01, Gold Rush

2nd Place: 02, Lucky Star

3rd Place: 07, Eureka

Race time: 1:41.27



**NEWS OF THE WEIRD**  
by Chuck Shepard

■ A British rock music fan offered to sell his own flu germs derived from Paul McCartney's recent bout of the flu (which the fan said he caught from a backstage session with McCartney), via either a coughed-into plastic bag or a vial of mucus.

■ A British designer introduced a 135-foot-high plastic inflatable church that he said Anglican Church vicars could carry around with them to recruit parishioners

■ To express their new religious freedom, Iraqi Shi'ite pilgrims celebrated a long-suppressed holy day by the traditional, bloody slashing-open of their heads with swords (Karbala). (inflatablechurch.com).



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Anyone who says he can see through women is missing a lot."

— Groucho Marx



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## New law to forbid people on Palisades Bluff



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

This makeshift home, just above the PCH on Palisades Bluff in Santa Monica, will be illegal according to city law if officials pass a proposed ordinance tonight.

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON  
Daily Press Staff Writer

The bluffs below Palisades Park, a popular sleeping place for transients, will soon be off limits by city law.

The Santa Monica City Council tonight is expected to pass a law forbidding any person to be present on the bluffs.

Citing public safety concerns, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie has recommended to the Council that it pass the law, which will be enforced by the Santa Monica Police Department.

The bluff is a steep, deeply eroded and unstable area that expands about one and half miles above the Pacific Coast Highway and below Palisades Park. The bluffs' height varies from 50 feet to 180 feet and is accessible from the PCH or the park.

"There is a concern for not only erosion on the bluff but also for people's safety," said Mayor Richard Bloom. "I know there are

people who use it. There is obvious safety issues there.

"The city has a responsibility to look out for the health and safety for everybody in the community."

Several tunnels, caves and shelves along the bluffs are used by transients to store belongings and to sleep. Not only is not safe to be there because the rock is unstable and is subject to slides, but the area is frequently littered with trash.

"This degrades aesthetics significantly because the bluff face is highly visible to large numbers of people who visit the beach or travel or reside on Pacific Coast Highway," city staff wrote to the Council. "The same steepness and tendency to slide which make it unsafe, make it difficult for city personnel to clean."

The dense brush on the bluffs also pose a fire hazard because flames could spread quickly due to normal wind conditions and the

See BLUFFS, page 6

## New hotel fills niche market in tough economy

*Ambrose comes to 'neighborhood'*

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON  
Daily Press Staff Writer

With a slumping economy and a downturn in tourism, it may seem risky to open a brand new hotel in Santa Monica.

But Deirdre Wallace, owner of the Ambrose,

a new 77-room hotel on 20th Street and Arizona Avenue, believes she is filling a niche here that will be well received.

The Ambrose — an "affordable luxury hotel" designed in craftsman style with an Asian flare — has had a steady stream of guests since it opened more than six weeks ago.

Wallace said when the hotel first started to be built in 1999, she envisioned the Ambrose to be a unique concept in Santa Monica because it's a city filled with mostly high-end luxury hotels along the beach.

While the hotel was in the middle stages of construction, the economy began to slow in the summer of 2001. Then the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks occurred, which all but put a halt on tourism here.

But it didn't squash the Ambrose plans. Wallace continued full steam ahead on her dream of owning a hotel in Santa Monica.

"Our plan was always to offer this product," Wallace said. "It's about added value and affordable luxury. It's almost like we had the foresight because we knew that the economy wouldn't be strong forever."

"It's worked out in our favor," she added. "We couldn't compete on the beach and still be able to afford the same luxuries we offer."

**AFFORDABLE LUXURY**

The Ambrose' rates are between \$115 and \$215 a night, and includes most of the amenities



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Deirdre Wallace, owner of the Ambrose, sits in her hotel's Asian garden, located off of the main lobby.

ties other Santa Monica luxury hotels offer for double the price.

While it doesn't have views of the Pacific Ocean, the Ambrose does offer high-end products in its rooms, including mini-bars, imported Italian bedding, CD and DVD players, a continental breakfast and unlimited DSL access.

The Ambrose also has free underground parking — a coveted commodity in Santa Monica — which many hotels charge up to \$25 a day for, said Daniel E. Howery, the Ambrose's general manager.

And because it's small, hotel guests receive

See HOTEL, page 5

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## HOROSCOPE

### Put up your feet tonight, Scorpio



#### 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 20, 2003:

Take one step at a time as you head in a new direction this year. You will accomplish much, but at your pace and on your schedule. You will gain professionally because of how you handle your business persona and willingness to do your work. "Slow and steady" becomes your motto. Family members support you in your endeavor. You also might make a major purchase that could change your lifestyle. You come from a solid basis, knowing what you want. If you are single, you will meet someone who might encourage you to take on a permanent roommate. If you are attached, you will particularly enjoy each other. Keep conversations open. Don't withhold anything. AQUARIUS cares.

#### ♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ What has been confusing now becomes clear. You feel a sense of relief that allows you to move in a new direction. Your humor and optimism mark you for changes in the near future. You could be blown over by someone else's caring. Tonight: Treat a pal.

#### ♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Reach out for someone you count on, whether it is for information, conversation or caring. Information might not be eluding you but could be difficult to turn over. Carefully examine your facts, especially those surrounding a child or finances. Tonight: Plan on putting in some extra hours.

#### ♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Finally, you get a breath of fresh air. You renew your caring and see life from a different perspective. Be forthright with a close friend or associate about what is ailing you. Remember that there are many points of view. Tonight: Someone goes a little haywire over a situation.

#### ♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Be more together with a child or loved one. Let someone hear more about what you are feeling. Your caring takes a bond to a new level. Review a situation more carefully that involves a friend. New facts keep coming forward. Tonight: Work on the possibilities.

#### ♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Ask yourself a question. New beginnings become possible if you handle a financial matter more directly or have a long-overdue discussion that involves a mutual goal. Knowing what you want could make all the difference in the end results. Tonight: Think options.

#### ♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might not always be right, but you're frequently on target. Trust your judgment more often. What might be vague quickly becomes clear. Finally, you make your point and someone hears you. Enjoy the openness and good feelings. Tonight: Easy does it.

#### ♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might not be sure which way to go or what to do. Take your time, dipping into your imagination to come up with solutions. You finally clear out a problem and gain new insight. Find new sources of information. Tonight: Add a touch of playfulness to your life.

#### ♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your family needs to become an even higher priority. Listen and think through a decision carefully. Evaluate news that comes forward. You might be taken aback by someone close who makes a strong statement. Finally, you get to clear the air. Tonight: Put your feet up.

#### ♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Keep on trucking, knowing what you want and expect. Establishing limits might be more important than you realize, or you'll face exhaustion. Be your happy-go-lucky self, still remaining realistic. You can do it! Tonight: Out and about.

#### ♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Investigate future possibilities. You can be queen or king of your domain, especially financially. Even though it is nice to go overboard once in a while, know when to say "no" to extravagance. Key information heads your way. Tonight: Ever playful.

#### ♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Listen, think and investigate. You might not be comfortable with someone else's extravagance, but with a smile you could get what you desire. Pick and choose your activities and plans. Tonight: Know that you're in charge.

#### ♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Slow down and don't jump into a situation you would prefer to avoid. Sometimes by crashing right through barriers you create more problems than anticipated. Carefully evaluate boundaries before you declare them null and void. Slow down. Think. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

## Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday  
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913  
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## LOCAL



## Council to spend up to \$150K on development consultant

(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 REBECCA GROSS  
Special to the Daily Press

The Santa Monica City Council is poised to spend \$150,000 tonight to pay for a consultant to help figure out how to standardize development downtown.

The Council last November passed a law that lowered the development thresh-

old for downtown buildings to 7,500 square feet, thereby creating the need to create design standards.

City staff has recommended that the ROMA Design Group, which has done other projects for the city and specifically downtown, be awarded the contract.

The ROMA Design Group will assist the city in developing guidelines for downtown development, prepare zoning code modifications and conduct a public process involving businesses, architects, and community and neighborhood organizations.

City staff proposed financing the project with \$28,000 remaining from a wireless antenna update study, \$65,000 earmarked for another project and \$57,000 from other savings in the planning and development department.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Record number of SMC students nab internships

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College is sending a record 17 students to serve in federal government and university internship programs throughout the nation this summer.

The interns will work at a wide variety of organizations, including scientific research labs, Congress, and federal government agencies. Projects include the Human Genome Project, laser technology, energy-efficient lighting, building and fire research, and chemical absorption as it applies to drug treatments.

In almost all cases, students receive stipends that cover transportation, housing and living expenses.

"We are proud to have placed these extraordinary students in highly sophisticated internships at prominent organizations throughout the United States," said Marvin Martinez, SMC associate vice president of planning and development.

Students will be interning at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley; National Institute of Standards & Technology in Gaithersburg, Md., a U.S. Commerce Department agency just outside Washington, D.C.; U.S. Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington, both part of the U.S. Department of Energy; UCLA's Membrane Biology; Loyola Marymount University's engineering program; and the U.S. Defense Department through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

In addition, four students are serving in Congress through SMC's renowned Dale Ride Internship program.

The SMC student interns, who come from a wide variety of backgrounds, are:

■ Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory: Amir Iranmahboob, Aram Kim, Engdu Workneh and Maya Yanover.

■ National Institute of Standards & Technology: Peyman Kangavari, Ji-Young Shin and Therasa Kim.

■ U.S. Department of Energy: Stavan Patel, Talayeh Rezayat and David Uniman.

■ U.S. Defense Department (through the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities): Jorge Galvez.

■ Universities: Anahit Trdatyan at UCLA and Hussein Nassar at Loyola Marymount University.

■ Congress through the Dale Ride Internship program: Allison Sandera, Hee-Jung Kim, Wendy Monteon and Danielle Gregg.

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## surf report

Look for a mixture of slowly fading NW wind swell and leftover SW swell. Northern L.A. spots should see 2-foot-to-3-foot surf at many exposed spots and some bigger sets at best NW/combo breaks. South Bay spots see mainly wind swell with surf in the 2-foot-to-3-foot range, with best breaks getting some sets to shoulder high.

Today the  
water is:

# 57°

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

|           | LOW TIDE |        |         |        | HIGH TIDE |        |         |        |
|-----------|----------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
|           | Morning  | Height | Evening | Height | Morning   | Height | Evening | Height |
| SATURDAY  | 5:10     | -1.6   | 4:21    | 1.9    | 11:42     | 3.9    | 10:39   | 6.6    |
| SUNDAY    | 6:04     | -1.5   | 5:07    | 2.3    | (12:48)   | 3.6    | 11:26   | 6.2    |
| MONDAY    | 7:02     | -1.2   | 6:02    | 2.7    | N/A       | N/A    | 2:05    | 3.5    |
| TUESDAY   | 8:07     | -0.8   | 7:22    | 3.0    | 12:19     | 5.6    | 3:30    | 3.6    |
| WEDNESDAY | 9:15     | -0.4   | 9:13    | 3.0    | 1:23      | 5.0    | 4:46    | 3.8    |
| THURSDAY  | 10:20    | -0.1   | 10:57   | 2.6    | 2:43      | 4.5    | 5:40    | 4.1    |
| FRIDAY    | 11:16    | 0.2    | N/A     | N/A    | 4:12      | 4.1    | 6:20    | 4.5    |

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## The QLine

Santa Monica College announced last month that because of severe financial cutbacks on the state level, it is too broke to throw the city's only July 4th fireworks celebration. The \$50,000 event, which the college has put on for 20 years, won't happen this year.

Mayor Richard Bloom has spearheaded an effort to keep the event going and brought the issue in front of the City Council last week. There has been discussion about looking to the community

to help pay for it. A fund-raising effort is now underway.

This week, Q-Line wants to know:

"Is it important for Santa Monica to have a Fourth of July celebration? Would you help pay for it?"

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.



## TAXES

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## OPINION

## LETTERS

## Let the homeless build our future

Editor:

Santa Monica has decided to rebuild its main library and that is a very good thing, despite all the criticism by the yes on "S" camp, who would like to see any and all available public monies go to the now "traditional" funding mismanagers — the educators.

Libraries are for the benefit of all of the public, including the student children. No one can reasonably bitch that the funding required to build ought to belong rightly to them for their pet programs and what have you. \$70 million is thought to be small in comparison to what huge budget monies the educators still have to work/play with, even with the present state budget cuts. Their funding gripes are wholly with the state government up in Sacramento, and not with the county or local government or taxpayers. Rebuilding the breakwater with pleasure and commercial boat mooring and the needed shoring up of the eroding 100-foot cliffs at Palisades Park are two examples of public projects which appear to take precedent to the funneling of more gifted municipal funds into what has now been perhaps rightfully described as "The black hole" of school budgets.

Missing out on the generous federal government matching funds to implement these two necessary projects which would both ensure public safety and increase the quality of local tourism would be a tragedy. There is a time limit in place on the availability of the federal matching funds. And in addition to the foregoing, the Santa Monica City Council ought to ensure the public it serves, by passing much needed local laws and/or ordinances, that the multi-million dollar projects to be started, such as the new library, have as diverse as possible of a labor force employed by all of the contractors and sub contractors performing any work in the city of Santa Monica.

In addition to this, that all labor being hired for this huge demolition-construction project be hired directly from the local population, instead of bringing in distant outsiders. They should include the diverse mix of ethnicity and talents among Santa Monica's available and willing homeless who rightfully deserve a first real opportunity — a chance to work.

Thom Trybus  
Santa Monica



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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](mailto: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.



## Bush's tax cut plan is pie in the sky



Evelyn Jerome

■ Trickle-down economics. What a great idea. Haven't we tried this before?

Bush says he wants to stimulate the economy and that giving big tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy will accomplish that. While I agree, to an extent, that business drives the economy by employing workers, it can only be sustained when goods consumption is increasing. More people making stuff requires more people buying stuff. And consumer confidence is the glue that holds it all together — so any tax cuts should be crafted with this as the top goal.

Call me crazy. Call me demand-side.

But I don't think all tax cuts are inherently a bad idea. I agree that tax breaks stimulate the economy — just tax breaks for a different sector on the taxpaying spectrum.

I look at it this way: Rich people buy what they want regardless of the economy. It's middle-income people who buy according to their means (and occasional beyond). Targeted tax breaks should recognize that this is where the difference can be made in our sluggish economy.

All of the recent fuss has been over dividend tax cuts. Washington is clamoring about tax rates on unearned income. They're talking about how big of a gift to give the top 5 percent of American taxpayers. Maybe that's why it's called a stimulus "package." They're deciding

what color paper to wrap the gift in.

Instead, they should focus on a stimulus "strategy," targeting tax breaks towards middle-income and lower-income families, especially those with children.

And they must recognize that spending tax dollars on health care, education and infrastructure (like roads and public transit) will benefit those low- and middle-income families down the road.

It's absurd that as states and municipalities are swimming in red ink, Washington is determining how NOT to collect \$350 billion in tax revenue this year. At the same time, they should be figuring out how to collect the billions in revenue they don't see when corporate America hides it under its figurative mattress each April.

While I support some sensible tax cuts,

I can't fathom the depth of fiscal irresponsibility on display right now in Congress.

Republicans should realize that voters are smart enough to see that most of us have drawn the short straw with this tax cut plan. If they don't, Democrats have an excellent opportunity to hone their message, focus on the issues that directly affect middle-class families, like health care, education and taxes, and come up with a winner in 2004.

(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](mailto:evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com).)



Todd Flora

■ President Bush insists that his original \$1.3 trillion tax cut was insufficient and America now needs an additional tax cut close to \$1 trillion. Never mind that under his "stewardship," we have returned to the deficits that his father and President Reagan made an art form. If the 1980s had us doubting the merits of their trickle-down fantasy, then the debt-reduction success of the 1990s sealed the deal. Bush's current tax cut fever must be stopped in its tracks.

Say what you want about the GOP's hand in trimming the budget deficit during the Clinton era. The leadership then — as it does now — had to come from

the top. President Clinton and his savvy economic advisor turned Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, made it clear that their administration would reign in the budget deficits that had stalled economic growth and put an unsustainable fiscal burden on future generations. The strategy paid off, as dwindling deficits helped contribute to a booming economy and a popular presidency.

The nonpartisan Concord Coalition, an organization with which I am proud to have served, has warned repeatedly of the consequences that would arise out of the new Bush tax cut. Specifically, the group points out what Congress and the media have not — that the Bush team budget assumptions are way off course. Bush's plan assumes that his original 10-year tax cut will expire in 2010. But

inevitably, there will be a Republican effort to extend it when the time comes.

Further, President Bush's projections also assume that spending on national defense, homeland security, health care and transportation will all go DOWN over the next several years. But domestic pressures on transportation infrastructure, prescription drugs and increasing health care coverage alone make these assumptions unrealistic at best. The rising costs of war in Iraq and subsequent rebuilding efforts — not to mention increased pressures to spend on homeland security — make the assumptions an absolute joke. Even without a tax cut, the deficit will grow to record levels higher than currently projected.

Are we supposed to be thankful that Congress may restrict the tax cut to

"only" \$350 billion? Our short AND long-term economic growth picture would be significantly improved if we instead controlled spending, reduced debt, reformed Social Security and Medicare for the long-term, and engaged in a healthy national dialogue about domestic and international spending priorities.

The Bush team can wave the flag all they want, but in this debate, the patriotic banner will belong to those who demand fiscal responsibility.

(Todd Flora is a professional issues manager who previously served as western regional director of The Concord Coalition, a national budget watchdog organization. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at [junkfood6@aol.com](mailto:junkfood6@aol.com).)

## LOCAL



# City officials say hotel is the right fit for neighborhood

HOTEL, from page 1

greater personalized service than what large hotels can provide, he added.

"It's boutique lodging but we fall in the middle of the rate disparity (in Santa Monica)," Howery said. "We provide the same level of luxury that competes with the big boys but don't have the enormous operational costs of the big hotels."

Wallace, who said the venture is a multi-million dollar investment, said she hopes to break even this year.

The Ambrose's bookings thus far are strong and business since the grand opening last month is encouraging, Howery said.

"We wanted a soft opening because things have to be tested out," he said. "You don't know what you have to do until people sleep in the beds and use the bathrooms."

## HOTEL FILLS NICHE

It's been several years since a new hotel opened in Santa Monica, said Mark Richter, manager of the city's economic development department.

He said because Santa Monica is a destination point for many travelers — both vacationing and on business — the city could use more hotels, particularly small ones like the Ambrose.

Richter said the hotel occupancy rate in Santa Monica is somewhat higher than the rest of the metropolitan area because there is more demand here and the majority of hotels are concentrated downtown or near the beach.

"(The Ambrose) is filling a niche for the business traveler and it's more neighborhood-serving and, in a sense, community-serving," Richter said. "By no means has the Santa Monica market reached a saturation point."

Depending on occupancy, the Ambrose could generate more than \$400,000 in annual revenue for the city, based on its 12 percent tax on hotel rooms, Richter said.

The last hotel to open was the remodeled Viceroy, a high-end luxury hotel on Ocean Avenue that is known to be exclusive and expensive.

Santa Monica City Councilman Ken Genser said even though it may seem like the saturation level of hotels in the city has reached capacity, there is room for more like the Ambrose.

"It's not exactly what we would call a bargain hotel but it does fill a niche," he said. "It's somewhat unique and is in line with a neighborhood hotel. I think broadening the mix is useful."

## A NEIGHBORHOOD HOTEL

The Ambrose is situated in the middle of a Santa Monica neighborhood mostly comprised of apartment buildings and Saint John's Health Care Center.

Howery said while the hotel's clientele is "nobody and everybody," the Ambrose will market toward professionals, mostly in the production field of the entertainment industry, who frequent Santa Monica on business. The hotel also will draw people who use the surrounding hospitals — Saint John's and Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

The Ambrose also attracts its fair share of day travelers who come from nearby cities such as Santa Barbara, and Santa Monica residents who have family and friends visiting.

"It's centrally located," Howery said. "When you think of Santa Monica, a lot of people think of the ocean and all of the entertainment, but off the beaten path can be good for people."

The Ambrose is designed to provide another option for tourists who want the comforts of home, one-on-one service and luxury at a moderate price. The concept is similar to what travelers can find in Europe.

"Europeans are accustomed to small hotels and they have a natural draw to these kinds of properties," Howery said.

Beyond marketing through the travel and hotel industry, drawing people to the Ambrose is based on relationship building and word of mouth, Howery said.

"Once people find us, we garner their attention," Howery said.

## COMFORTS OF HOME

Wallace, whose father owns the Best Western on Santa Monica Boulevard, spearheaded the hotel's interior design. It is traditional with dark furniture, linear designs and simple but contemporary decor. All of the furniture was designed for the hotel and includes both vintage and classic style mission tables in the lobby and private rooms.

For more than a year, Wallace hunted throughout Los Angeles, particularly Chinatown, to find one-of-a-kind pieces for the hotel. To create a warm, cozy feel to compliment the classic craftsman design, Wallace found the right colored Asian rugs, unusual art from local artists and unique collectibles.

"We wanted an authentic feeling with the depth and richness but also have a softer feminine touch," Wallace said. "It's new so you can't pretend it's an old building."



The Ambrose Hotel



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## LOCAL □ STATE

# City law easier to enforce in court, SM police say

BLUFFS, from page 1

steep slope, city staff said. The embers could blow onto Palisades Park and onto the roofs of buildings across Ocean Avenue, officials said.

When a slide occurs, whatever earth, rocks and debris slide down the bluffs likely would land on the PCH, which is heavily used by fast-moving vehicles, officials said.

Over the years, the city has made efforts to keep people off of the bluffs with a fence that extends the length of the park, between the Santa Monica Pier and northern city border, where it becomes Pacific Palisades Bluff.

There also are signs posted saying to keep out of the area. Stairways and pedes-

trian overpasses lead to the beach and allow beach access. But people still use the area, endangering themselves and motorists below, city staff said. The steep terrain also makes it difficult for emergency workers to reach people on the bluffs. If police had to enter the area, officers would have to repel down using climbing gear, said Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega.

A state trespassing law already prohibits people from entering the area but it's extremely broad.

"A municipal code is easier to enforce in a court of law," Fabrega said. "A lot of these penal codes are broad based and sometimes we need the ordinance to be more narrow."

## Residents angry over violence

SHOTS, from page 1

and Michigan Avenue.

SMPD officers responded to a call at 1:55 p.m. from residents who reported that a group of men standing at the intersection were the victims of a drive-by shooting.

SMPD officers spoke to several witnesses who said two male Hispanics drove by the group of three or four men and fired several shots.

The car, described as an older model Chevy Suburban with alloy rimmed wheels, headed south on 17th Street after the shooting, police said.

The driver is described as a male Hispanic, between 19 and 20 years old, with short black hair and wearing an unknown colored T-shirt.

The passenger is described as a male Hispanic, between 20 and 25 years old, with a shaved head and wearing a white T-shirt.

Another shooting occurred on May 9 in the 1800 block of 17th Street. At about 9:10 p.m., SMPD officers responded to the area and spoke to the person who reported the shots to police. The witness said at least two shots were fired, but no suspects were seen in the area. No one was injured.

It is unknown whether or not the shootings were gang related. However, the neighborhood has long been an area where gang

violence and drug dealing are common.

Some residents are angry at what they perceive as a lack of police patrol in the neighborhood and the failure to suppress on-going violence in the area.

Peter Tigler, vice chairman of the Pico Neighborhood Association, said while the neighborhood hasn't experienced any shootings lately, violence flares up periodically.

"(The violence) cycles in and cycles out and the city does nothing," he said.

He added that City Hall could run background checks on tenants of publicly-funded apartment buildings in the area and evict those with criminal records.

"How would anyone feel if this was in any other neighborhood?" Tigler asked. "Would people put up with it? The answer is 'no.'"

The issue of violence in the Pico neighborhood has been a source of contention between its residents and City Hall for years.

When several shootings occurred last year, the SMPD stepped up its enforcement and patrols in the neighborhood, using even a helicopter to monitor the area from above.

Anyone with information regarding the shootings should call the SMPD robbery/homicide unit at (310) 458-8451, or the watch commander at (310) 458-8426.

## Ways in which to ease gridlock

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — A six-year blueprint for easing gridlock in Los Angeles County includes rail lines, buses, car pool lanes and a proposed 4.5-mile freeway tunnel through the never-built portion of the Long Beach Freeway through South Pasadena and Pasadena.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's list of funding priorities through June 2009, known as the Short-Range Transportation Plan, is open for public comment through July 3, MTA spokesman Brad McAllester said.

One of the most ambitious proposals for the San Gabriel Valley is a study about the feasibility of digging twin tunnels to close the gap in the Long Beach

Freeway to the Foothill Freeway.

"There's new tunneling technology that's available now," McAllester said.

The MTA will likely hire a firm to conduct a study, which would determine the cost, feasibility, logistics and the impact tunneling construction would have on the three communities, said Shahrzad Amiri, director of the MTA's San Gabriel Valley area team.

An underground highway would produce much less disruption at the surface than the California Department of Transportation's trench-style of construction, in which about 1,400 homes would be lost.

ideal development with Fish and Wildlife or the state Fish and Game folk," Bragg said.

## NATIONAL



# Glover latest star under criticism after speaking out on U.S. foreign policy

BY SONYA ROSS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — “Lethal Weapon” actor Danny Glover is the latest celebrity facing an icy brand of national pride that puts the pinch on public figures who question American foreign policy.

A threatened boycott seeks to force telecommunications company MCI to dump Glover as its pitchman because of views he expressed about Cuba and against the Iraq war.

Similar frostiness extended to the Dixie Chicks, and actors Sean Penn, Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon when they came out against war in Iraq. Glover said this chill comes from right-wing factions that he denounced as self-appointed thought police.

“It’s basically this rabid nationalism that has its own kind of potential of being maniacal, in some sense. As we march down and wave the flags, we must be sure of what we’re waving them for,” Glover said in an interview.

“The whole idea is to crush any kind of dissent,” he said. “Something is happening now that is very dark and very sinister in this country, and for us to not admit it is happening is, in some ways, for us to be blind.”

There is so much concern about this in Hollywood that in March — before the fighting even began — the Screen Actors Guild issued a statement warning studio executives not to deny work to entertainers who speak against war in Iraq.

“Even a hint of the blacklist must never again be tolerated in this nation,” the union said.

Attacks on the wallets and credibility of people who speak out against U.S. policies is not a new concept. It happened during World War I and most notably in the 1950s, when many a Hollywood career perished before Sen. Joseph McCarthy’s Communist-hunting committee on “un-American activity.”

Free speech experts say this latest round of attacks does not rise to the level of McCarthyism or celebrity blacklisting, but could lead to that if left unchecked — particularly now that the United States is embarking on new foreign policy doctrines such as pre-emptive military action in the name of fighting terrorism.

“We are at an important point in our history and we need a serious, open debate about it,” said David Kairys, constitutional law professor at Temple University.

“Criticizing Danny Glover, or wishing all sorts of ill fortune to him, would be counterproductive. The way to counter this is for more and more people to stand up ... in an atmosphere where people can express their views, and not be afraid they’re going to lose their jobs.”

In Glover’s case, it was not just his anti-war activism that drew the wrath of the right. It also was his signature on a two-

paragraph statement from 160 artists and intellectuals that appeared May 1 in the Cuban government newspaper Granma.

That statement, addressed to “The Conscience of the World,” called the Iraq war an unprovoked, unjustified invasion and said there is “a strong campaign of destabilization” against Cuba that could be used as “a pretext for an invasion” much like that launched against Iraq.

**“Something is happening now that is very dark and very sinister in this country, and for us to not admit it is happening is, in some ways, for us to be blind.”**

— DANNY GLOVER  
Actor

That second portion was seen by some conservatives as favorable to Fidel Castro’s government. On May 8, the public interest group Judicial Watch called for the MCI boycott, saying Glover lent tacit support to Castro’s brutal crackdowns on dissidents when he signed that document.

Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton said the boycott is not about Glover’s right to free speech.

“He has those rights. But we have the right to criticize him. We have the right to try to criticize MCI for endorsing those views through his contract,” Fitton said. “Glover is coming out in support of a terrorist murderer, Fidel Castro. People who are against murder and torture are repulsed by his support, and MCI is slow on the uptake.”

Glover replied, “This is much larger than me. It’s larger than my comments, and my signing a letter supporting Cuba’s right to self-determination. People can take that in whatever way they can. ... They will use the war and they will use my signing a letter as a pretext for their attacks.”

Such attacks are a byproduct of the high degree of partisanship in America right now, said Jerome A. Barron, constitutional law professor at George Washington University. The best remedy is to bring opposing views together in open debate, he said. Allowing it to go “unpunished or without response” could open the door to restricted speech in America.

“We should call it into account, and point out that when people like Danny Glover take a position, as Americans they are entitled to do so,” Barron said. “The only way you can deal with it is for people like (the media) to point out what’s happening, and people like me to condemn it. The remedy for those who would silence speech is more speech.”

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# Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and program

## Safety first: How to pick the perfect car seat

### Guest Commentary

By Christina Pols, R.N.

**QUESTION:** There are so many infant car seats available. How can I tell which one is best for my baby?

**ANSWER:** Not all car seats fit all cars, so it's best to have it fitted to your car before your baby is born.

In addition, many hospitals, including Saint John's Health Center, will not allow new mothers to take their babies home until a car seat has been installed in their vehicle. Under California law, babies must ride in a car safety seat or booster until they are at least 6 years old or weigh 60 pounds.

When selecting an infant car seat, the most important factor to consider is whether it fits your child properly, depending on size and age. Newborns generally fit best in an infant-only

seat, which is certified for use up to 20-35 pounds, because the harness can be adjusted snugly.

When strapping the harness over your infant, the harness should fit tightly over the child's shoulders with no more than two fingers of slack in the collar area. In addition, the car seat should not move more than an inch in any direction, including forward, backward and side-to-side.

The safest place for your infant is the center of the car's rear seat facing backward. Keep babies facing the rear as long as possible, at least until they are 1 years old, to protect their neck and spine. In a head-on collision, a forward-facing baby's neck can stretch up to two inches, while their spine can only stretch one-fourth of an inch, resulting in possible death or severe injury to the baby. Never place your infant in a front seat with an air bag.

As your baby grows, make sure there is at least one inch of space between the top of the baby's head and the top of the safety seat. Usually babies will outgrow an infant-only seat before they are 1 years old.

For economical reasons, you may decide to purchase a convertible car seat for your infant rather than an infant-only seat. If so, you should select a convertible seat that allows the baby to sit rear-facing as long as possible. Choose a convertible seat with a five-point harness instead of a harness with an attached shield, since the shield lies in front of the face or neck and is not appropriate for an infant. In addition, a five-point harness can be adjusted to fit almost all sizes of children up to 40 pounds.

Once the child is old enough to sit facing forward, making sure the car seat is adjusted to the upright position and the shoulder straps are moved from the center to the top slots. In addition, the vehicle seat belt may need to be moved to a different part of the safety seat. Be sure to follow the seat manufacturer's instructions when making any adjustments.

*(Christina Pols, R.N., is the parent education coordinator at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For more information, call parent education at (310) 829-8731 or visit Saint John's Web site at [www.stjohns.org](http://www.stjohns.org).)*

## EDUCATION, SUPPORT GROUPS AND OTHER RESOURCES

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Louise Tellalian — 6:30 — 9:30 p.m.  
Call (310) 826-5774 to register

### MOMS TO BE SUPPORT GROUPS

**Pump Station** — see calendar

### SM/UCLA Medical Center — Registration required

3rd Wednesday each month at SM/UCLA Medical — Corky Harvey — 6:30 — 9:30 p.m.  
(310) 319-4947 to register

### LA LECHE LEAGUE

Santa Monica Chapter — 323-933-4614  
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### BABY CARE CLASS

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One Saturday each month — 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.  
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# Monica Mom

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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.

#### 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** - 2 pm - 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 and 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-B00K, 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

**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

# Saudi ambassador to U.S. warns of new attacks

BY DONNA ABU-NASR  
Associated Press Writer

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia** — New intelligence suggests terror attacks could happen in Saudi Arabia or the United States, the Saudi ambassador to America warned Monday.

"There is chatter, a high level of chatter regionally and in other international spots" about possible attacks in Saudi Arabia or the United States, Prince Bandar bin Sultan told reporters in the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

Car bombers attacked three housing

compounds outside of Riyadh on May 12, killing 34 people. Prince Bandar said that Saudi authorities had received advance warning of a terror attack hitting Saudi Arabia before those bombings.

"Yes, we had warning, yes we had heightened alert but we never had a specific time and place designated," he said.

U.S. official said Monday that Saudi and U.S. investigators are fully cooperating in the probe into the Riyadh attacks, though an FBI team is not interrogating suspects.

Also Monday, a man standing with a gun outside the U.S. Consulate in Dhahran, 300 miles east of Riyadh, was

arrested and was being questioned by Saudi police, a U.S. Embassy official said.

U.S. diplomats said no one was injured or threatened in the incident, but that the consulate was closed until further notice. In 1996, a truck bombing killed 19 Americans at the Khobar Towers barracks near Dhahran.

The Saudi interior minister, Prince Nayef, said Saudi authorities have arrested four suspects apparently linked to Osama bin Laden's terrorist network over the car bombings. Asked whether the four men in custody belonged to al-Qaida, Nayef said, "All indications point to that."

Nayef's comments to reporters Sunday were the strongest sign yet that bin Laden's terrorists — who have carried out deadly strikes from Nairobi, Kenya, to New York — may have played a part in the bombings in the Saudi capital.

Nayef called for an international crackdown on terrorism. But he described a limited role for U.S. investigators in the kingdom, saying they had come to examine "the sites and we welcomed them based on that, for examining only."

His comments may have been an attempt to answer any domestic criticism his government is ceding control to the Americans.

At the same time, a U.S. official said Saudi investigators were "being totally cooperative." Both sides have been saying they expect better coordination compared to the investigation into the Khobar Towers bombings, when U.S. officials

complained about being denied access to evidence, witnesses and suspects.

More than 60 FBI and other U.S. investigators are assisting Saudi authorities with the probe into Monday's attacks.

"We're getting real and good cooperation," the U.S. official in Riyadh said Monday. He said reports that Saudi authorities were obstructing the investigation were "100 percent false."

He said the FBI was not interrogating any of the suspects. The FBI team was "in close touch with the Saudis. They have had full access to the sites," the official said.

"We've had an effective and pleasant reception. They're not being hostile, diffident or standing with arms folded," he said, adding that the Saudis were being "real partners in this."

He said that there weren't "tens of thousands of active al-Qaida members" in the kingdom, but "we believe the al-Qaida presence here is more than a single cell or two."

Nayef told reporters that investigators had identified three of the badly mangled bodies of nine Saudi men thought to have carried out the Riyadh attacks. The three were among 19 suspects sought in connection with a weapons cache found May 6 linked to al-Qaida.

The government had said the 19 were believed to be receiving orders directly from the Saudi-born bin Laden and had been planning to use the seized weapons to attack the Saudi royal family and American and British interests.

## Bombing of mall is fifth suicide attack in 48 hours

BY STEVE WEIZMAN  
Associated Press Writer

**AFULA, Israel** — A Palestinian woman blew herself up during a security check outside a mall on Monday, killing three Israelis in the fifth suicide bombing in 48 hours — a violent challenge to a U.S.-backed Mideast peace initiative and the new Palestinian prime minister.

The bombings, as well as suicide attacks in Saudi Arabia and Morocco in the past week, also raised questions about President Bush's ability to stem global terrorism.

Monday's blast in the northern working-class town of Afula near the West Bank was claimed by a militia linked to the mainstream group Fatah, proving particularly embarrassing to the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, who has denounced violence and promised to rein in the militants.

"We strongly condemn the killing of innocent civilians, be they Palestinian or Israeli, which contradicts our moral values and tradition and only feeds into the hatred of the two peoples," Abbas said Monday.

But Abbas added that Israel's military operations in the West Bank and Gaza "contribute to the surge of violence."

He repeated his demand that Israel accept the "road map" peace plan, complaining that the wave of attacks has eased pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to sign on to the three-year blueprint to stop 31 months of violence and create a Palestinian state.

Israel blamed Yasser Arafat for one of the steepest spikes in violence in nearly three years of fighting, saying he encourages terror, even if he is not directly involved in planning attacks. Arafat angrily denied the accusations, claiming Palestinian security agents have foiled several attacks.

Sharon resisted renewed pressure from his Cabinet to expel Arafat, apparently because of U.S. opposition to a step that could derail the "road map" plan and send the situation spinning further out of control.

After the Iraq war, with Bush promising to turn his attention to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there had been hope of a breakthrough in ending 32 months of fighting. However, Palestinian militants have often stepped up attacks at critical times in peacemaking, to prevent progress. Sharon, in turn, has given veto powers to the militants by insisting that violence must stop before negotiations can begin.

Bush said he was determined to push ahead with the peace plan, a prescription for ending violence and setting up a Palestinian state by 2005. "We're still on



Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi/Associated Press

**Forensic experts from the Israeli police examine the scene of a suicide bombing at a shopping center in the northern Israeli town of Afula on Monday.**

the road to peace," the president said. "It's just going to be a bumpy road. But I'm not going to get off the road until we achieve the vision."

The blast in Afula went off at 5:14 p.m. at a back entrance to the Shaarei Amakim mall, where shoppers were waiting in line for a security check.

The attacker, identified as Hiba Daraghme, 19, from the West Bank village of Tubas, detonated the explosives as she stepped up to security guards, witnesses said.

"There was a big explosion and my friend and I were blown over backwards," said Etti Piton, 19, a border police-woman. "I saw bodies, but I don't want to think about it," she added, crying.

Two guards, a man and a woman, were among the three people killed. Forty-seven people were wounded, several of them seriously.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Fatah, and the Islamic Jihad group both claimed responsibility for the bombing. The two militias have carried out joint attacks in the past.

The bomber was an English literature student, described as very devout by her father, Azem. She usually wore a veil over her entire face except her eyes, a particularly conservative covering rarely seen even among religious Palestinian women. She left home Monday afternoon, saying she was going to class, her father said.

## SARS has spread on four airline flights, says WHO

BY EMMA ROSS  
AP Medical Writer

**GENEVA** — Health chiefs from around the globe were screened for SARS by rubber-gloved nurses in lab coats on Monday as they arrived for the first annual meeting of the World Health Organization since the emergence of the new disease.

WHO Director-General Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland appealed to governments worldwide to work closer together in the fight against SARS, which has made more than 7,700 people ill in 31 locations.

"It has never been clearer than today that a secure, healthy future for us all depends on cooperation across borders and between institutions," Brundtland told the opening session of the World Health Assembly.

"We can no longer rely on national efforts alone to implement the scaled up system of global alert and response that the world now needs," she said.

Before delegates could enter the assembly room, they had to fill out a form stating they had no symptoms of SARS and had not been in contact with SARS patients. Only then were they given the green sticker on their badges authorizing them to attend.

As the 10-day meeting got under way, WHO medical experts announced they have determined a total of 16 people became infected with SARS on airplanes, all early in the outbreak before airlines adopted tough screening measures.

"There were 35 flights on which SARS-infected people who were symptomatic with disease traveled," said Dr. David Heymann, WHO's chief of communicable diseases. "We know, however,

that on only four of those planes was there actually passage of the disease. We believe that 16 people on four different airplanes got infected."

Of those, 14 were passengers sitting within four seats of the SARS patient and two were flight attendants, said Mike Ryan, WHO's coordinator of the global effort to prevent the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome.

"Proximity is a huge part of this picture. The vast majority have been within two rows in front or two rows behind. Not sharing toilets, not walking up and down the aisle, not sitting in the waiting area — none of those issues seem to be associated," Ryan said at a news conference on the sidelines of the WHO session.

All 16 cases occurred before March 23, four days before the U.N. health agency recommended that airlines screen passengers for signs of SARS and advised that suspected cases not be allowed to travel. SARS is not contagious unless symptoms are showing, experts say.

"The phenomenon of airline transmission of SARS is historical now, we believe," Ryan said. "Of course, there is always a risk if a SARS patient gets on a plane, but the idea is to prevent them from getting on the plane in the first place and the risk, we believe, has been reduced now to infinitesimally low levels because of screening and surveillance."

"We're not seeing anyone with infection getting on flights at the moment," Ryan said.

Further details, such as when the flights took place, where the planes flew to and from and how many people were infected on each plane, were not immediately available.

## SPORTS



# NFL owners to discuss playoff expansion plans

BY BARRY WILNER  
AP Football Writer

**PHILADELPHIA** — When NFL owners think about expanding the playoffs, they don't see a dilution of the product. They see two more postseason games, two

more sold-out stadiums and two more television dates.

The owners meet in Philadelphia on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss adding two more teams to the playoffs, one in each conference. That would mean only the club with the best conference

record would have a bye, and there would be six games on the first weekend of the postseason.

Several league executives fear one bye would be too much of a competitive advantage, one reason a decision was not made at the March winter meetings. Instead, the issue was tabled for further study, and a determination should come this week.

One big fear is that having 14 playoff qualifiers in a 32-team league could lead to a sub-.500 team making it.

"We had no problems last year with the alignment," said Tampa Bay general manager Rich McKay, co-chairman of the competition committee that voted 8-0 against recommending an increase in playoff qualifiers. "The teams that made the playoffs were the teams with the best records."

In 2002, the worst record to make the playoffs was 9-7. The last time a postseason qualifier was at .500 was Dallas in 1999. Since 1990, when the league went to three wild-card entries, two other teams made it at 8-8: the Saints in '90 and the Jets in '91.

In every case, the 8-8 wild-card team lost its first playoff game.

There are other concerns about adding two more playoff games, including which television network broadcasts the games, and how they would be scheduled. Would the league have three games on Saturday, one at night, and three more on Sunday?

Then, of course, there is the distinct advantage of being the only conference team not in action on the first weekend of the playoffs.

In March, commissioner Paul Tagliabue and McKay noted the proposal to expand the playoffs was a change in an agreement to wait two years with the new eight-division alignment before addressing the playoff structure.

"There are some things that need to be considered," said Titans coach Jeff Fisher, the other co-chairman of the competition committee. "Talk about giving one team a bye, that's going to change things significantly."

"The system we had in place worked last year ... The teams that won byes in both conferences ended up participating in the conference championship."

Tagliabue also opposes a 14-team playoff at this time, as does McKay. Both were surprised the proposal by the Patriots and Chiefs received so much support in March, although enough votes to pass it probably were not available at that time.

At some point, a proposal to put 16 teams into the playoffs is bound to be made, particularly if the 14-team setup passes and then is found to be unfair. With 16 playoff teams, of course, all byes would disappear.

Also on the agenda this week are reports on the status of the NFL Network; Super Bowl planning, though no Super Bowls will be awarded; NFL Europe; the league's workplace diversity initiatives; and its stadium financing program.

Stadium plans for the Los Angeles area are not on the agenda, but could be added.

The coaches career development symposium with approximately 100 NFL assistant coaches also will be held.

## Safe slide to second



Tom Gannam/Associated Press

Chicago Cubs' Lenny Harris slides into second with a double as St. Louis Cardinals' Edgar Renteria waits on the throw from right fielder J.D. Drew in the fifth inning on Monday, in St. Louis.

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# COMICS

## The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



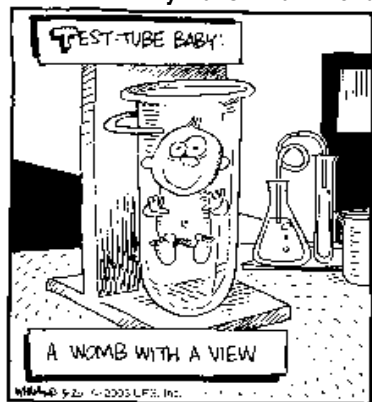
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  - 10 Lot units
  - 12 Clear
  - 13 Illegal trading
  - 15 Anvil's place
  - 16 Actor Holm
  - 17 Pitching no.
  - 18 Page fastener
  - 20 Soothe
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  - 22 "No if, — or buts"
  - 23 School paper
  - 25 Battle reminder
  - 28 Lock
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  - 37 Mutual fund type
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- 43 Mine finds**
- DOWN**
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  - 3 Turkish peak
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  - 5 Incline
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  - 7 Hire
  - 8 Log-on need
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  - 11 Abilities
  - 14 Violent whirlpool
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| TAMES    | FOYER   |
| ETAS     | BAH     |
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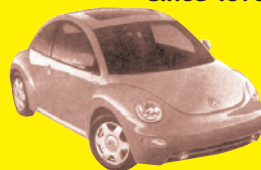
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**QUEEN DOUBLE Pillowtop Mattress Set.** Plush, name brand, still in plastic. Warranty. Was \$595. Sacrifice \$175. (310)350-3814.

**QUEEN ORTHO Mattress Set.** New, still in plastic w/warranty. Must sell. \$125 (310)350-3814.

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### 1981 VOLVO

White sedan. New radiator, new transmission, light cosmetic damage. 167k \$1,200 firm (310)394-0530

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**FEMALE NURSE** Student desires position as companion/assistant to elderly person in exchange for free rent. References (310)699-9005

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**ATTRACTIVE SM** \$1999. Gorgeous 2bdrm/2ba. 7 unit bldg., quiet, laundry, three blocks from the beach. Huge, balcony, facing the ocean, parking, parquet floors, wooden ceiling (310)399-1273

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**BEVERLY HILLS** ADJ. \$1550.00 Vintage 2 story 1920's duplex. Master Bedroom, entertainment center, 2bdrm/1ba, living room, eat-in kitchen, bright, Mexican tile, faux fireplace, lots of architectural detail, hardwood floors. Permit street parking.

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**BEVERLY HILLS** ADJ. \$1550.00 Vintage 2 story 1920's duplex. Master Bedroom, entertainment center, 2bdrm/1ba, living room, eat-in kitchen, bright, Mexican tile, faux fireplace, lots of architectural detail, hardwood floors. Permit street parking.

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**BRENTWOOD** \$1050.00 Completely refurbished spacious single, full kitchen, dining area, balcony, fireplace. End unit, good views, 2nd floor, laundry, 2 pools, extra storage, covered parking + guest parking. Furnished option. Consider pets. Bob (310)457-4146

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**BRENTWOOD** \$750.00 Charming upper unit, hardwood floors, laundry on premises. Unit has formal kitchen, carpets, large closets, fridge, stove. Will consider pets.

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**CULVER CITY** \$650.00 Quiet, single, remodeled building, pool, landscape, balcony, carpets. Convenient to shopping, premises, dishwasher, fireplace, refrigerator, stove.

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**HOLLYWOOD** Starting @ \$1275.00 - \$1350.00. Contemporary 2bdrm/2ba, pet ok, living room, new carpet & paint, jacuzzi, gated underground parking. Upper and lower units available, only some have fireplaces!

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## CLASSIFIEDS

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**VENICE** \$1900.00 2BDR/1BA 203 Dimmick. Duplex, near beach. Private yard, garage, appliances, water include. 1 year lease. (310)779-0499

### For Rent

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### For Rent

**WeHo** \$750.00 Classic New York style brick building hardwood floors, pet ok, stove, ceiling fan, crown molding. Close to shops and restaurants. Parking available.

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### Houses For Rent

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**ANYONE KNOW** the whereabouts of Roberta "Bobby" Roberts. Have her call Jamie Mudra. (949)632-1646

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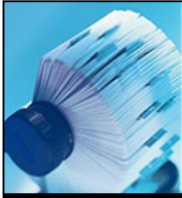


- 17th Street and Montana Avenue
- 14th Street and Montana Avenue
- Montana Avenue, between 14th-15th Streets
- 7th Street and Montana Avenue
- 3rd Street and Wilshire Boulevard
- Ocean Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard
- Wilshire Boulevard, between 22nd-23rd Streets
- 14th and Santa Monica Boulevard
- Wilshire Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Colorado Boulevard and 3rd Street
- Santa Monica Courthouse
- Arizona Avenue and Second Street
- Arizona Avenue and Fifth Street
- Three newsstands at the intersection of Arizona Avenue and Fourth Street
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- Broadway and 10th Street
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- Santa Monica Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Broadway Avenue
- Lincoln Boulevard and Pico Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Strand
- Two newsstands at the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Raymond
- Main Street and Kinney
- Main Street and Strand
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## BACK PAGE

# Rockefeller heir impostor pleads guilty to fraud

BY TOM HAYS

Associated Press Writer

**NEW YORK** — A French con man who hoodwinked high society on both coasts by posing as a Rockefeller heir — one who spoke poor English with an accent — pleaded guilty Monday to federal fraud charges.

Under a plea bargain finalized Monday with Brooklyn prosecutors, Christopher Rocancourt, 35, would serve about five years in prison, then face deportation. The deal spared him a possible term of up to 20 years and settled pending charges in Los Angeles and Long Island.

Rocancourt still could be ordered to pay millions of dollars in restitution and

fines at sentencing on Sept. 12. But his attorney, Victor Sherman, told reporters his client is broke.

"Whatever funds there were are gone," the lawyer said.

Rocancourt, by his own account the son of a prostitute mother and alcoholic father, found his version of the American dream through sheer gall and gullible victims.

"I became the reflection of their own vanities," he wrote in an autobiography recently published in France and Canada.

Rocancourt used aliases like Christopher Rockefeller, William Van Hoven and Fabien Ortuno, the name on his fake French passport, while hobnobbing with the rich and famous in Hollywood and the Hamptons. He vari-

ously introduced himself as an international businessman, a movie producer and the son of Sophia Loren.

During the late 1990s, Rocancourt used the Rockefeller name to bilk investors, promising them fantastic returns while demanding cash up front for expenses, court papers said. In one case, he collected a \$100,000 advance fee from a woman in a meeting at The Waldorf-Astoria hotel to arrange a \$4.2 million loan, then stalled her for months before disappearing with her money.

Rocancourt used his ill-gotten gains on

fancy cars, helicopter rides and expensive hotel rooms. He was arrested after skipping out on a \$19,000 bed-and-breakfast bill on Long Island, but he jumped bail and fled to Canada with his wife, a former Playboy model, authorities said.

An FBI manhunt caught up to Rocancourt in 2001 in British Columbia, where he was posing as a Formula One race driver. He pleaded guilty to Canadian charges of cheating a businessman out of \$100,000 and served a year in prison before being extradited to the United States earlier this year.

## Man sets new push-up record

By The Associated Press

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** — What began as a quest to beat his dad doing push-ups as a 12-year-old ended 28 years later with a likely world record for Tim Sikes.

Sikes on Saturday managed 3,669 push-ups in an hour — well above the current record of 3,416 recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records and set by Canadian Roy Berger in 1998.

Sikes said he trained three hours a day, six days a week since last July. While the number of pushups works out to more than one per second, "if you hang in there, you can break through the pain," he said.

Sikes did 75 push-ups at a time and took 15-second breaks to set the record at

a Murfreesboro karate studio. Several times he had trouble getting off the floor, his arms red from stress and covered in perspiration.

His feat was part of a fund-raiser for the Boy Scouts of America and a United Way program. Witnesses signed a document after the event that will be sent to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Sikes said a push-up competition with his father as a child inspired his dedication to physical fitness.

"I came home from working out with some athletes and was telling my dad how much I could lift," Sikes said. "My father asked me how many push-ups I could do, and then he beat me. I guess that's how it all started."

## Suspected bank robber arrested asking for get-away directions

By The Associated Press

**FLORENCE, Ore.** — A man suspected of robbing a bank was arrested after he told the son of the bank manager he had to get out of town quickly and asked him for directions to the bus station, police said.

Police arrested 48-year-old Sandine LaGrand Friday after the bank was held up earlier in the day. It was not immediately clear how much money was taken.

The robber entered Klamath First bank in this coastal town and passed a teller a note demanding money. After the teller handed over the cash, the man left the bank and fled on foot.

A short time later Jared Torgison — whose mother is the manager at the bank

— was on the street across from the bank, when a man approached him and asked for directions to the bus station, explaining that he had to get out of town quickly, police said.

Torgison, whose mother had told him about the robbery, thought LaGrande looked like the suspect: a white man with short blond hair, wearing a gray sweat shirt and blue jeans.

Torgison called the bank on his cell phone and told employees to look outside and verify that the man was the one who robbed the bank, police said.

They did.

Officers arrested LaGrande a few blocks from the bank and charged him with second-degree robbery.

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