

FREE

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 165

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

0000

FANTASY 5
12, 16, 20, 21, 38

DAILY 3

Afternoon: 4, 9, 9

Evening: 0, 9, 7

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 09, Winning Spirit

2nd Place: 05, California Classic

3rd Place: 08, Gorgeous George

Race time: 1:48.12



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

Some patrons of the Minneapolis Public Library have so freely taken advantage of the lack of restrictions on Internet usage that they have for years been openly viewing pornography, but also subjecting female employees to sexual comments and in some cases have masturbated at the library's computer stations. (These allegations appeared in a March lawsuit by a dozen female library employees, accusing the library of long maintaining a "(sexually) hostile work environment.")



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you can't laugh at yourself, make fun of other people."

— Bobby Slayton



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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Members of the Santa Monica Police SWAT Team, loaded down with equipment, walk down an alley near an early Friday morning raid conducted on the 1900 block of 17th Street.

Residents organize in face of violence

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

An emergency meeting was called this week by residents concerned about gang violence in their neighborhood.

Oscar de la Torre, director of the Pico Youth and Family Center, led the meeting at Virginia Avenue Park, which was held on Wednesday.

Concerned about gang-related shootings three days in a row last week and another incident two weeks ago

See MEETING, page 5

Four arrested in connection with Pico shootings

Three apartment raids link suspects to recent violence in neighborhood

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Police arrested four people and recovered weapons Thursday and Friday in connection to the recent gang-related shootings in an eastside Santa Monica neighborhood.

Santa Monica Police conducted searches at three apartments in Santa Monica, resulting in the arrest of

See RAID, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Santa Monica police officers are briefed before the raid Friday morning.

MTA board votes to increase L.A. bus fares

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County's transit board voted its first fare hike in eight years Thursday, a \$10 increase in the monthly pass, as it sought to deal with budget woes.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority board voted 9-4 to raise the cost of a monthly pass for bus and rail transit to \$52. Semimonthly and weekly passes will jump \$6 and \$3, respectively.

And the price of a single ticket was lowered 10 cents to \$1.25.

The hikes, which take effect Jan. 1, are expected to provide about \$40 million in additional revenues annually.

However, monthly passes will be unchanged at \$20 for students and \$12 for senior citizens and the disabled. MTA spokesman Marc Littman said about 24 percent of riders buy single tickets compared to 39 percent who use passes. However, single-ticket riders contribute about 10 percent more ticket revenue.

Littman said the agency wanted to make the system more equitable by lowering the cost of single tickets.

"We find that the poorest of the poor tend to pay the regular cash fare because they cannot afford a regular pass," said Littman. "They are forking out the full cash fare. That's not fair."

The county's transit system is the second-largest in the country with at least 500,000

round-trip riders daily.

Bus and rail fares have been unchanged since 1995 and the price of a monthly pass hasn't increased since 1989, while at the same time inflation has raised costs by 51 percent, Snoble said.

The changes are part of the agency's \$2.8 billion budget for fiscal 2003-2004, which was approved Thursday. It includes layoffs and decreased bus service along with an additional \$147 million in spending — a 6 percent increase — to pay for construction projects and operation of a new rail line between downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena.

Thirty new buses also will be purchased.

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Catch up with friends, Virgo



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, May 24, 2003:

Understand what works. Pressure often builds, and you don't know exactly what to do to make the situation flourish. Let go of a traditional viewpoint, especially professionally. The unusual functions in an unprecedented manner. Learn to walk away from black and white thinking. If something unpleasant occurs, know that ultimately everything will work out for the better. If you are single and haven't met "the one" yet, get ready. Your gregarious nature draws many toward you. If you are attached, sometimes your sweetie might be willful or touchy. Help this person move through his or her moods. A positive change on the home front is likely after August. PISCES can be challenging.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You thought you were going to get some peace and quiet! But you find others to be cranky. What should you do? Isolate yourself, my dear Ram, or nap, because Sunday will be yet another story. Prepare for an upcoming event. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Take your time. Snooze a little longer than usual. You'll have a great time no matter where you are. Loosen up and be more playful. Christen this weekend with all the sense of luxury and enjoyment that is associated with your sign. Tonight: You are the party!

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Others make demands because they know you give a lot. Nevertheless, run up the flag and lead the gang into one of the most fun weekends of the year. Your efforts will be rewarded by Monday. Make the most out of the moment. Tonight: All eyes turn to you.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Take off, even if there might be a hassle or two on the way. Just don't make anything more important than it really is. Meet someone halfway or even just go and visit him or her. Be ready to do some exploring. Do things differently. Tonight: Take a risk!

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Someone wants to do what he or she wants and not what you desire. Let it be. Go along with this person's needs, and you could be delighted by what happens later. Trust more often, following through on what you desire. Laughter surrounds you. Tonight: Say "no" to a friend and "yes" to a loved one.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Though a close roommate (maybe even the family cat) could be cranky, let it go. Spoil this person and get everyone and your weekend back on target. It can happen — know that. Others walk toward you. Tonight: Throw a party. Catch up on a friend's news.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might need to pull the barbecue together or do something special for your friends. Many of you will be completing the tail end of a project as well. Don't worry about the lack of activity or celebration for the moment. Tonight: Do whatever is easy.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You seem to be having a party. Help a loved one or would-be loved one get into the spirit of the weekend. You know just what to do to put a smile on others' faces. Make it your obligation to do just that! Tonight: Play away.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ If you want, invite friends over for a fun get-together. Realize that spontaneity is your forte. Nothing has to change here. Imagine. Create more of the atmosphere you thrive on, even if a partner is touchy. Tonight: Make it easy. Remember, your home is your castle.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Call friends and loved ones and wish them the best. Your levity makes a big difference. Gather with your pals, making the most of an opportunity. Listen well to news that another shares, reading between the lines. Tonight: Love the moment; love who you're with.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ An opportunity heads your way. Don't worry so much about the cost. Do whatever you need to do to make the most of the moment. Others could be a bit cranky. Decide not to participate. Do your thing. Tonight: Be available.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You are personality plus. Don't do anything halfway. Others appreciate your cheery spirit and happy ways. Your laughter helps those who might not be as spirited as you. Know that anything is possible. Tonight: What would make you happy?

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

There will be drama for 8th graders today

By Daily Press staff

To raise money for its New York City trip in June, the John Adams 8th grade drama group will perform "Not-Quite-Shakespeare in the Park" today from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Miles Playhouse located in Christine Reed Park on Lincoln Boulevard, just north of Wilshire in Santa Monica.

Scenes include "Who's on First," "Walker London," "Saturday Night Live," and the "Grapes of Wrath." Admission is \$5. After the performance, there is a silent auction, chair massages, caricature drawings and refreshments.

Donations for trip scholarships can be made to JAMS Drama Boosters. For more information, contact JAMS drama teacher, Ms. Marcia McCarthy, at (310) 453-2326, ext. 186.

Let the games begin

By Daily Press staff

About 350 Special Olympics athletes will compete today in the inaugural Los Angeles Regional Games at Brentwood School, hosted by the students of Brentwood School and Westside Special Olympics.

The athletes, from Long Beach, South Bay, Los Angeles, the westside, Santa Clarita and Tri-Valley area programs, have been training regularly in their events, and will compete in track and field, golf and tennis.

The games are a part of the year-long competition offered by Special Olympics. Athletes compete throughout Southern California in 23 sports on a local level as well as regionally, in the summer and winter games, as well as internationally during the World Games.

The students of Brentwood School, many of whom have been working for months to coordinate all aspects of the event, including fund-raising, logistics, public relations and games management, will host the Los Angeles Regional Games.

Special Olympics Southern California serves more than 11,000 children and adults with mental retardation in an 11-county region of Southern California. The program offers sports training and competition in 23 individual and team sports on a year-round basis. Athletes range in age from 8 to 80. SOSOC is one of 52 accredited Special Olympics entities operating in the United States. For more information about Special Olympics Southern California, visit its Web site at www.sosoc.org.

Exhibition to benefit parks, open space in Los Angeles

By Daily Press staff

Hamilton Galleries and Latin American Contemporary Galleries in Santa Monica are hosting an exhibition of landscape paintings on May 31 to help promote the creation of more parks and open space in L.A. County.

Tickets for the opening reception of the exhibition, which is titled "Beautifying the Landscape of Los Angeles," are \$50 per person. All ticket proceeds and a percentage of the art sales will be donated to Olive Branches, a group that promotes park building and green space in Los Angeles.

Complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres are part of the 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. opening reception.

May 25 concert concludes symphony season

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Symphony concludes its season with a free program featuring a cello performance of Dmitri Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 on May 25.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on Fourth and Main street. At 6:45 p.m., UCLA Professor Raymond Knapp will give a pre-concert lecture.

The program begins with Claude Debussy's Petite Suite and concludes with Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.



The week ended with some pretty small waves in the bay, but better days are ahead. For now, it's a hodgepodge of NW wind and ground swell with a shadowed SW in the wings.

BAD NEWS: Saturday morning will more or less suck. It will build through the day.

GOOD NEWS: Sunday should be fun, small and perfectly acceptable.

OUTLOOK: A new SW fills in Monday, with best waves on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Today the water is:

58°

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

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:11	2.1	12:03	0.4	5:31	3.9	6:51	4.7
SUNDAY	1:04	1.5	12:41	0.7	6:37	3.8	7:17	5.0
MONDAY	1:46	1.0	1:13	1.0	7:31	3.8	7:40	5.2
TUESDAY	2:22	0.5	1:40	1.3	8:19	3.7	8:03	5.4
WEDNESDAY	2:55	0.1	2:06	1.6	9:02	3.7	8:25	5.6
THURSDAY	3:27	-0.2	2:31	1.8	9:43	3.6	8:49	5.7
FRIDAY	3:59	-0.4	2:56	2.1	10:23	3.5	9:15	5.8

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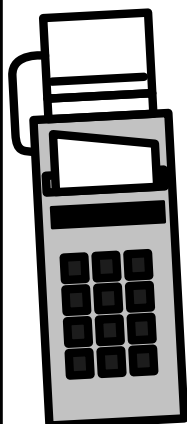


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OPINION

LETTERS

City's homeless policies create tourist fears

Editor:

Being the good Democrat that I am, I was all set to vote yes on Proposition S. This is because I never bitch about taxes and it seems unfair to penalize our children (I have none, by the way) just because our city is run by a bunch of morons.

Then I saw today's article in your paper that reported that Delta Airlines almost didn't renew its contract with a Santa Monica hotel because their employees didn't feel safe in Santa Monica due to the homeless population. That got me thinking (and I hate to say this) that maybe the Republicans have a point about taxes. Why is it that the city uses a tax increase as the first solution to the problem? How about working harder on growing revenues or cutting costs?

Santa Monica is sitting on a gold mine of potential tourist dollars but people are scared to visit or shop in Santa Monica because of the out-of-control homeless situation. Visitors are disgusted or down-right scared by it all. Meanwhile, our city leaders think it is all about love and that we shouldn't let all the bums in the park, the street, the mall, the... everywhere frighten us. That may be true. In fact, many of us, while annoyed by it all, are inured to it.

But why can't our councilmembers see that it's not what "we" think, it's what they — the visitors to our city — think that is important.

Mr. Bloom says, "The reaction from Delta was a little over the top...they need to hear the truth about Santa Monica..." No, Mr. Bloom, it is you and your cohorts in City Hall that need to hear and listen to the truth: Your policies on homeless are making people afraid to come to Santa Monica and that is ruining the city's tax base.

So I say hold your nose and vote yes on Prop S. We can't change the city's ways overnight and it's not fair to penalize the children. But remember this vote and go out and vote next time to remove our inept and irresponsible city councilmembers.

Tom Fuller
Santa Monica

'Education is the touchstone of democracy'

Editor:

My husband and I moved to Santa Monica 20 years ago for its public schools. Our three children have benefited enormously from the education they've received: devoted teachers, challenging curriculum and fantastic students from every background you can imagine.

Despite the draconian cutbacks in state funding, our community — Republicans and Democrats, renters and homeowners, elderly and young — has historically shown its sustained commitment to the public schools. Even in the last election, the parcel tax measure passed by a majority of 61 percent, just shy of the 67 percent required by state law.

We need to come together again for Measure S. What's more important than an educated populace? Education, after all, is the touchstone of democracy.

Joy Horowitz
Santa Monica

SMC needs new leadership

Editor:

On Thursday, March 15, the president of Santa Monica College, Dr. Piedad Robertson, and a rubber-stamp Board of Trustees (with the notable exception of Nancy Greenstein) passed the single most devastating cuts in the history of Santa Monica College. There were many options before the board that would have maintained both the financial and academic integrity of SMC. On top of this, the May

See LETTERS, page 5



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No monkeying around with Shakespeare writers



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

The press has been reporting for the past week or so that monkeys are not as good at writing plays as humans.

Surprisingly, the experiment that yielded this startling result was not paid for by United States taxpayers. Researchers at Plymouth University in England were behind this one.

The idea was to test the old saying that if you give an infinite number of typewriters to an infinite number of randomly typing monkeys, they will eventually produce the entire works of Shakespeare.

This famous supposition supposedly demonstrates the role of chance in evolution and the creative process. However, when six monkeys at the Paignton Zoo were given a computer for a month, they didn't come up with Shakespeare. They didn't come up with a single word. All they

produced were five unintelligible pages.

This result has been perceived by many as proof of monkeys' inferiority to humans. I don't see it that way and think the monkeys deserve another chance.

I admit that the six hairy writers — Elmo, Gum, Heather, Holly, Mistletoe and Rowan — did not write a single play in a month. But what does that prove?

Would anyone seriously suggest that Shakespeare wrote his plays in the very first month that he was given the opportunity to write? Like all writers, he probably wrote a lot of gibberish in the beginning too.

Then there is the issue of six monkeys and only one computer. Would Shakespeare have come up with his plays if five other writers had been fighting him for use of his quill? Isn't it possible that Holly might have been the monkey who was good at dialogue but was pushed aside by Heather, who got the typing job because she was good-looking?

The most unfair aspect of the experiment was that the monkeys were not given the same incentives that human writers have. Writers need pressure. There was no gorilla of a producer, editor or net-

work executive standing over the monkeys saying that they wouldn't eat unless they wrote something good.

There wasn't a more successful writer monkey in the cage next door who always seems to get the good jobs just because of his connections.

Did these monkey writers come from dysfunctional families? Had they been politically, religiously or sexually oppressed? Had they been through tragic love affairs? Had they been told over and over again that there's no chance that they would succeed?

Did they get kicked out of school by a mean fifth-grade teacher who should have given me — I mean them — one more chance? Writers are often inspired by a desire to prove wrong those who doubted them. Were the monkeys given this motivation? No, they weren't.

Many people feel that procrastination is a necessary part of the writing process. Hemingway supposedly sharpened dozens of pencils before he would start writing. Some current writers check their e-mail repeatedly, make unnecessary phone calls and re-arrange their desktops

before they begin writing. Were the monkeys taught that they should arrange their bananas in perfect little stacks before they try to produce literature? No, they weren't.

So, the only fair thing to do would be to repeat the experiment. Give the monkeys more time. Let them use their past struggles. Teach them how to rationalize watching Sports Center one more time before beginning the next paragraph. Have a pretty actress-monkey sashay into their cage and tell the monkey writers that they're geniuses. Then they'll start writing.

Maybe it won't be Shakespeare but given a fair chance, I see no reason why these monkeys shouldn't be able to grind out TV reality shows.

Unless they're already more evolved than that.

Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.

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OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

revised budget from the governor's office proposed a 50 percent reduction in the very cuts that resulted in the initial program elimination proposal, a proposal that was touted as a "last resort" being driven by a reduction in funding.

SMC's elimination of architecture, automotive technology and public safety were about the exercise of power and an attempt to intimidate and control remaining faculty at the college. The actions of both the administration and the Board of Trustees reflect a deep-seated contempt for the community of Santa Monica, shared governance, academic freedom and free speech.

Students were held in the highest contempt during public comments with Trustee Roney at one point interrupting a student who criticized the president and warning that he was close to "slander."

Just one minute was given to each speaker to voice their opposition. Trustee Carol Curry ducked out before the vote was held. No cogent arguments were made by any of the trustees or administrators to support program elimination. In fact there was no debate, only hand-wringing and it appeared the issue had been decided between the trustees and administration in closed session before the open meeting.

Piedad Robertson has systematically alienated students, faculty and staff at SMC through her actions. She has failed the community of Santa Monica and acted in a fiscally irresponsible manner by engaging in empire-building, pursuing the acquisition of land and the erection of monuments at the expense of education. The supreme irony in all of this is that Measure U money continues flow, building empty facilities for nonexistent students.

It is time for new leadership. I urge the community of Santa Monica to support the students, faculty, and staff of Santa Monica College in a vote of no confidence against the president of the college.

William Hogan
Santa Monica

No love for 'flea circus' city government

Editor:

Having read Thursday's article on the city council's vote to make it illegal for people to camp on the Palisades bluff, I thought at first that this was simply a reprint of your April Fool's edition. Assuming that camping is illegal in Palisades Park itself, I find this vote a waste of time and resources.

Now that the most radical rent control law in the nation has been brought into reasonable terms, perhaps an evolving electorate will someday vote this flea circus of a city government out of office.

John Gorman
Santa Monica

Activist draws correlation between violence, poverty

MEETING, from page 1

in which a stray bullet went through two walls and hit a dresser in a bedroom of Maritza Casillas' home.

Casillas lives on 17th Street with her four children. Casillas brought pictures that showed how the bullet traveled through her home.

Wednesday's meeting was organized by de la Torre, a local group called Mothers for Justice, Virginia Avenue Park personnel and the NAACP.

The meeting was called by parents and families who are concerned about the recent violence that has broken out in the neighborhood, which is the poorest in Santa Monica.

"It was something last minute," said de la Torre, who is also a member of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board. "We felt we needed to respond."

More than 50 people showed up to the meeting, including Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown, schools Superintendent John Deasy and school board member Julia Brownley.

Santa Monica Police officers were present at the meeting, though they were not officially invited, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

"We were told about the meeting and we felt it was important to be there," he said. "We weren't asked to be there or participate."

The group plans to create a task force or a youth support network to help deal with the neighborhood's violence problem. The group also discussed how to respond to youth violence and offered suggestions on how to improve the situation.

"We have no youth violence response program that involves everyone including service providers, police and schools," de la Torre said. "We are very good at responding to crisis but sustaining a positive outcome around this issue is very difficult."

He added that there was a series of fights between youth at local schools before the recent shootings occurred that wasn't necessarily gang-related.

"It was connected to more than just the shootings," de la Torre said. "There is racial tension."

De la Torre said the community has held meetings and organized at least three times in the past seven years when violence has broken out in the neighborhood. And while it helps initially, violence always seems to reappear.

"Violence comes in cycles, it's not

See MEETING, page 7

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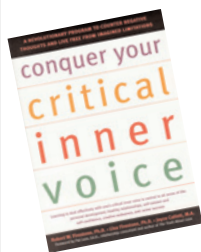
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LOCAL

SMPD responds to rash of shootings in neighborhood

RAID, from page 1

three people.

A fourth suspect, identified as Ashia Boldwar, 20, was arrested separately on a robbery warrant. Police believe he was allegedly involved in one or more of the three shootings that occurred earlier this week and one earlier this month — all within a three-block radius in the Pico neighborhood.

Also on Thursday at about the same time, SMPD arrested Terrence Brown, 23, in front of his residence in the 1800 block of 17th Street. Brown, who police believe was allegedly involved in the shootings, was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and outstanding warrants.

After Brown's arrest, SMPD issued a warrant and searched his apartment, where officers recovered a firearm and about 100 bullets. Brown was booked into the Santa Monica Jail. His bail is set at \$53,000.

Santa Monica Police SWAT teams and dozens of other officers descended on one apartment on 17th Street and one on 11th Street early Friday morning, resulting in two arrests.

The first search, which occurred at 7 a.m., resulted in the arrest of Richard DeLa Cruz, 30, who lives at 1963 17th St. He was arrested and charged with probation violation after police found evidence in his apartment that allegedly links him to the recent shootings in the neighborhood. His bail was set at \$12,500. Police wouldn't elaborate on what the evidence was.

The second search occurred about an hour later in the 1400 block of 11th Street, and resulted in the arrest of Richard Hernandez, 19. Police searched Hernandez's apartment where they found evidence allegedly linking him to the shootings. Hernandez has no bail because he violated his felony probation, police said.

THE SEARCH

Up to 14 SWAT team members, loaded down with sub machine guns, sidearms, bullet-proof vests, shields and gas masks, descended upon DeLa Cruz's apartment. After making initial contact with DeLa Cruz inside via telephone, police ordered him, his wife and their 8-year-old son out of the residence.

Tactical officers then secured the apartment so four SMPD detectives could search for weapons and ammunition. Police describe DeLa Cruz as a "subject of interest" in the rash of shootings.

SMPD has been gathering intelligence on the locations and their occupants for the past several days as part of its ongoing investigation into the shootings that occurred last Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. None of the shootings resulted in injuries.

"(SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr.) wants to make a significant impact here," said SMPD Deputy Chief Phil Sanchez, who was Friday's tactical commander. "As a community, we will not tolerate youth violence so he authorizes these types of deployments to show the predators that we won't tolerate this behavior."

Before Friday's searches, more than 40 officers were briefed at 6 a.m. by SMPD Lt. Ray Cooper. SWAT teams were then deployed to a staging area near the locations, where they distributed their tactical gear and prepared for the raids.

A second briefing was conducted at the staging area by Sanchez. Once SWAT teams were set with their gear and instructions, officers shut down 17th Street and surrounded DeLa Cruz's residence.

Officers called DeLa Cruz's residence and initially got voice mail. After a second call, DeLa Cruz answered and said he would exit the apartment. After a few minutes, DeLa Cruz, his wife and child came out. They were detained in the alley while SWAT members searched the apartment for additional people.

"It gives them the opportunity to get out because our main goal of the special entry team is to bring the incident to a peaceful resolution, especially when a child is involved we want to minimize our actions," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "Prior to doing this, we always get intelligence on these locations so we aren't surprised."

By 7:20 a.m., detectives entered the apartment and searched for weapons and ammunition for about an hour.

In about 90 percent of the search warrants issued by SMPD, police first call the location and allow the occupants a few minutes to surrender.

"The destruction of evidence is not likely to occur ... you can't flush a gun down the toilet," Fabrega said. "If this was a narcotics search, we wouldn't be waiting for them to come out."

The searches involved personnel from three offices of the SMPD, as well as officers regularly assigned to the neighborhood. The operation also included personnel from members of the crisis negotiation team, which remained at the staging area. They stood ready to deploy to either location in case the searches became hostage or barricade situations.

"These are high risk warrants and the subjects may be armed," Fabrega said. "So we bring ample personnel to anticipate what is going to happen."

As detectives searched his apartment, DeLa Cruz was questioned by police while his wife and child stood nearby with other officers. The child wore a police jacket to stay warm.

A TROUBLED NEIGHBORHOOD

The Pico neighborhood is part of the city's eastside and has been plagued with gang violence and drug-dealing for years. Most of the tension is territorial — between the Graveyard Crips and the Santa Monica 17th Street gang — as well as racial. One gang is black, the other Latino.

Two of those arrested Thursday and Friday are black, while the other two are Latino.

For the past decade, most of the gang activity has been in a relatively small section of the neighborhood — 17th Street and Michigan Avenue. And many of the gangmembers are youth or young adults who are on parole or probation, police said.

"These parents need to realize that by them not getting involved, their sons and daughters that are involved in gang activity may end up dead," Fabrega said. "You can't tell me that these parents don't know what's going on."

"They need to open their eyes and they need to start being parents."

The latest shooting happened at 5:18 p.m. on Tuesday, when residents called the SMPD to report shots being fired in

See RAID, page 7

LOCAL



Police: Violence has 'scared a lot of people'

RAID, from page 6

the alley on the 1800 block of 17th Street.

On Monday at about 4:50 p.m., SMPD responded to a call from residents in the 1900 block of 20th Street, who said they heard shots fired and then saw two black men fleeing the scene in a small vehicle. No other details could be provided by witnesses, police said.

On Sunday, a group of people were shot at in broad daylight at the corner of 17th Street and Michigan Avenue. SMPD officers responded to the 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 late-model Chevy Suburban with alloy

rims wheels, headed south on 17th Street after the shooting, police said.

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.

Evidence, including bullet casings, has been recovered from all of the scenes. That evidence will be matched up with what was recovered at the three locations searched Thursday and Friday, police said.

More suspects are being sought in connection with the shootings and SMPD is working closely with Los Angeles County probation officials and state probation authorities.

"They've scared a lot of people in the area," Fabrega said.

Residents organize peace movement in neighborhood

MEETING, from page 5

consistent," he said. "I would argue there is a connection between poverty and violence ... poverty is violence."

The larger issue is getting to the root of the problem and understanding why youth are risking their lives with violence, de la Torre said. Residents said they are frustrated because they don't feel safe in their own community. They want more police presence but don't want youth of color harassed by police, de la Torre said.

"What are we teaching our kids? We are sending 13-year-olds to jail ... we are producing gang bangers. And there is serious racial animosity in the prisons right now and it's spilling over onto the streets."

— OSCAR DE LA TORRE
School board member and activist

"The issue is visibility because the community doesn't feel safe if police aren't visible," he said. "They want a high level of professionalism from the police. They want more police presence and they don't see it."

"People are upset that it happened three days in row."

Fabrega said 97 percent of the shootings that have occurred in the neighborhood in recent years have involved blacks or Hispanics. He added that no one particular ethnicity is targeted by police.

"Officers do not stop individuals for no reason," he said. "They have to have

reasonable cause."

McKeown told people at the meeting he would discuss beefing up police presence in the neighborhood with his colleagues in City Hall.

But Fabrega said there are police patrols in the neighborhood every day, 24 hours a day. And during the past three years, SMPD has added patrols there, including a helicopter that monitors the area from the sky.

Patrols include officers assigned to the beat regularly, as well as plain clothes officers traveling in unmarked cars and non-police cars.

Many resident agree with comments made earlier this week by Peter Tigler, vice chair of the Pico Neighborhood Association, that on-going violence wouldn't be tolerated in other Santa Monica neighborhoods.

"It's a hard reality to grapple with," de la Torre said. "There is a tale of two cities. It's social economic classes and race."

De la Torre also raised the issue that the state government spends more money on prisons than it does on schools.

"What are we teaching our kids? We are sending 13-year-olds to jail ... we are producing gang bangers," de la Torre said. "And there is serious racial animosity in the prisons right now and it's spilling over onto the streets."

The challenge for parents who are poor is that they have to work more than the average person just to make a living and aren't as available to their children as they should be, officials say.

"They have their hands full ... they are working parents and trying to keep up with the cost of living in Santa Monica," de la Torre said, adding a recent RAND survey shows the largest population of single-parent families on the westside of Los Angeles is in the Pico neighborhood.

Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29 at Virginia Avenue Park and a peace march — part of the newly-formed "Pico Peace Movement" — is planned for June 8.

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STATE

Lawsuit: Michael Jackson on the brink of bankruptcy

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson, the King of Pop who amassed a half-billion-dollar fortune over the past 20 years, is saddled with debt and teetering near bankruptcy, his former financial advisers say in a lawsuit.

The lawsuit, set for trial June 18, claims Jackson's extravagant spending has created "a ticking financial time bomb waiting to explode at any moment."

Union Finance and Investment Corp. of South Korea filed the lawsuit in Los Angeles County Superior Court, claiming Jackson owes the firm \$12 million in fees and expenses, plus interest. Jackson previously paid the firm \$3 million, the firm said. The lawsuit also seeks punitive damages.

Brian Oxman, a Jackson family attorney, said he does not believe the 44-year-old singer is near bankruptcy.

"I see no signs of this impending disaster," Oxman said. "I cannot say it for 100 percent sure because nobody knows his financial statements. But I can say it for a reasonable certainty."

Oxman also said that Union Finance has been paid for its work.

The lawsuit was filed in April 2002 by Union Finance, described as one of South Korea's leading financial advisory firms. Jackson hired Union Finance in 1998 to help straighten out his finances, according to the lawsuit.

"When they were retained, plaintiffs believed that Jackson was incredibly wealthy," the lawsuit states. "At the time plaintiffs agreed to work for Jackson, there was no clue that Jackson's extravagant lifestyle had all but bankrupted him."

The firm said it soon discovered that

Jackson had only two months' worth of available funds.

Union Finance's lawyer said that he stands by the allegations in the year-old lawsuit and that he took Jackson's deposition last week in Beverly Hills.

"For whatever reason, Michael Jackson is not paying his debts," said Pierce O'Donnell, a leading entertainment finance lawyer. "He has little or no means of income. He lives off a line of credit."

He added: "The day of reckoning is near."

Forbes magazine last year estimated that Jackson was earning \$50 million a year at the height of his popularity in the 1980s and '90s and had amassed \$500 million over his career. Forbes estimated Jackson has \$200 million in debts but a net worth of \$350 million.

Jackson's 1982 album "Thriller," which has sold 26 million copies, is second behind the Eagles' first greatest hits album in all-time sales in the United States. But sales of recent Jackson albums have sagged.

Jackson's assets include his Neverland ranch in the hills above Santa Barbara and homes in Southern California and Las Vegas. Most of Jackson's assets are in musical holdings worth an estimated \$450 million, including 200 Beatles titles and songs recorded by Elvis Presley, Forbes reported.

He is a voracious spender. In 2002, he racked up a \$100,000 hotel bill on a brief trip to New York, according to Forbes.

Union Finance said it helped Jackson obtain \$200 million in loans through Bank of America between 1998 and 2000. In his deposition last week, Jackson said he didn't know how much he owed on the loans, O'Donnell said.

ChevronTexaco asks judge to dismiss Nigerian death claims

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — ChevronTexaco Corp. urged a federal judge Friday to dismiss a lawsuit alleging it was complicit in the deaths of nine Nigerians during African oil protests in 1998 and 1999.

The suit was filed on behalf of victims of attacks on protesters on an offshore oil platform in May 1998 and on residents of two villages in January 1999.

ChevronTexaco told U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston that the San Ramon-based company is not liable for wrongful death and other damages to survivors. The company said it cannot be sued in American courts for the actions of its subsidiary, Chevron Nigeria Ltd.

The subsidiary is accused of being linked to the Nigerian military that allegedly carried out the attacks on protesters who boarded the Parabe platform nine miles off the Nigerian coast. It is also accused of assisting in the raid on the Opia and Ikenya villages nearby the oil concern's exporting facility, Escravos Terminal.

ChevronTexaco attorney John M. Grenfell told the judge that, while the oil giant has full financial control of the subsidiary, CNL controlled its own daily operations and that the subsidiary left the parent out of the loop about the region's volatility.

"They had no instructions from the United States on how to handle this situation," Grenfell said. He later added that there was "no basis for plaintiffs' claims that CNL acted under the control of the Chevron Corporation."

The attack on the Parabe occurred after environmental demonstrators occupied the platform. Two were killed and two others wounded by the Nigerian military flown to the site in helicopters.

The suit said the Chevron subsidiary provided the helicopters and helped to plan the assault on nonviolent protesters. Chevron described the protesters as armed youths who took more than 200 workers hostage.

The suit also said ChevronTexaco provided planes, boats and planning for unprovoked military attacks on two villages in which some villagers were killed. ChevronTexaco said villagers had fired on the soldiers.

The suit alleged that ChevronTexaco houses, feeds and equips soldiers at company sites, and that the attacks were meant to silence environmental opposition.

Outside of court, Oronto Douglas, a Nigerian attorney representing the two villages, said they were completely burned and hundreds of residents became refugees. Seven residents were killed, he said.

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STATE



Davis rethinking plan to drop agenda-posting mandate

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Hit by criticism from open meeting advocates, Gov. Gray Davis is rethinking a plan to save about \$9.3 million a year by dropping a mandate that requires local government boards to post their agendas.

Spokesman Steve Maviglio said Friday that Davis hopes to find a way to keep the posting requirement in place but avoid the cost of reimbursing local governments for complying with it.

"Does it make sense for them to Xerox their (meeting) notices and get paid for that?" Maviglio asked.

He said the posting proposal would be reviewed "as part of a larger discussion we want to have on mandates with the Legislature. ... We're seeking to see if we can protect the open government provisions and save the state money."

Critics say the proposal to drop the posting requirement "strikes at the heart" of the state's open meeting laws by making it easier for local governments to slip through controversial decisions without much public notice.

"As soon as something comes up that will be highly controversial or highly embarrassing the inclination will be to try to minimize the publicity of it," said Tom Newton, general counsel for the California Newspaper Publishers Association. "That's been the history."

Davis proposed last week that lawmakers abolish the requirement that city councils, county boards of supervisors, school boards and other local government boards post their agendas in public at least 72 hours before their regular meetings and 24 hours before special meetings.

The governor also suggested that lawmakers suspend another 34 local government mandates as part of his plan to erase a \$38.2 billion budget deficit. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local governments for the cost of mandates it imposes on them.

"A school district one-fifth the size of another district ... would have a claim five times as large for agenda preparation and posting."

— TERRY FRANCKE
General counsel

The administration said the agenda posting requirement, which was suspended during an earlier budget crisis in the 1990s, forces local governments "to perform activities that any responsible public agency should perform without being mandated, and retaining it would continue the state's obligation to pay the cost."

Terry Francke, general counsel for the California First Amendment Coalition, said most local governments probably would continue to post their agendas and abide by a requirement that they provide a brief description of each item to be acted on.

But some agencies might not post agendas or they might use vaguely worded descriptions to disguise controversial proposals or find it easier to add last-minute items to their agendas, he added.

"It's that kind of behavior by a minority of agencies once in a while that would be the serious problem," he said. "Right now if they act that way the law allows a court to set the action aside. Without the mandate, you really can't do anything about it but kick and scream."

Both Francke and Newton questioned whether the amount the state pays local agencies to comply with the posting requirement is justified.

Francke said he once sampled reimbursement claims filed with the state controller's office and noticed "some

astonishing anomalies" in the amounts requested to cover the posting requirement.

"A school district one fifth the size of another district ... would have a claim five times as large for agenda preparation and posting," he said.

Francke said local agencies have persuaded the State Board of Control, the three-member panel that rules on mandate claims, that the cost of posting agendas includes "not only the clerical cost of typing it up but administrative time and attorney time in reviewing it to make sure it complies with the law and training and a variety of other costs."

Said Newton, "You get these highly paid, highly skilled local government lobbyists that have the ability to go in there and find costs where mere mortals would never find them."

Dwight Stenbakken, legislative director for the League of California Cities, said reimbursement claims filed by local agencies are "thoroughly vetted" by the board. The reimbursement process "is not quick or reliable when it comes to making payments but it is thorough."

The "vast majority" of cities would keep honoring the posting requirement without a mandate, Stenbakken said. "This is a practice that should be observed whether it's mandated or not, whether it's paid for or not."



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Unarmed man killed in New York police raid

BY MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — An unarmed African immigrant visiting his rented storage room was shot and killed by a plainclothes police officer who was guarding counterfeit merchandise down the hall, police said Friday.

Ousmane Zango was shot four times after a chase through the hallway of a Chelsea storage facility where he repaired sculptures and drums imported from Africa, police and acquaintances said.

Two rooms in the facility had just been raided by Staten Island officers investigating a compact disc counterfeiting operation, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said Friday.

Zango was visiting his cramped, improvised studio around 4 p.m. Thursday afternoon. Down the hall, an unidentified officer was guarding counterfeit CDs that were seized in the raid.

Zango had no connection to the counterfeiting operation and no criminal record. Kelly said it was unclear why the officer began to chase him.

The shooting brought back memories of the death of African immigrant

Amadou Diallo, who was shot and killed by four white officers who said they mistook his wallet for a weapon.

The officers were cleared of murder and other charges in a state criminal trial in 2000, and the case inflamed racial tensions in New York.

Civil rights activist and Democratic presidential candidate Al Sharpton decried the latest shooting.

"Something does not smell right about this and something clearly must be dealt with," he said. "It seems that we are beginning to see a pattern of police misconduct again reminiscent of some of the days we thought we put behind us."

The department's Internal Affairs Bureau is investigating the shooting, Kelly said.

The shooting also comes a week after police mistakenly raided the apartment of a 57-year-old Harlem woman who went into cardiac arrest and died after officers detonated a flash grenade and handcuffed her.

A police informant had wrongly identified Alberta Spruill's apartment as one used by a drug dealer to stash cocaine and heroin.



Nabil/Associated Press

Rescue workers evacuate a resident from a collapsed building in Reghaia in the Boumerdes region, about 30 kilometers east of Algiers on Thursday.

Algerians quake kills 1,600, 2-year-old saved

BY KIM HOUSEGO

Associated Press Writer

CORSO, Algeria — A wide-eyed Algerian toddler was tenderly lifted from the ruins of her family's home Friday, two days after a devastating earthquake killed more than 1,600 people — a tiny survivor found by rescuers who heard her plaintive cries for her mother.

Two-year-old Emilie Kaidi survived beneath the shattered concrete of her collapsed ground-floor bedroom, sheltered by a door that fell across a television set.

A Spanish volunteer, wedged in a tiny hole in the rubble, handed the black-haired little girl dressed in a red shirt up to other rescuers. She did not have any visible injuries, and later waved as she was taken away in an ambulance.

Emilie's parents also survived the Wednesday evening earthquake that destroyed their hometown, Corso, east of the capital Algiers. However, her sister, 4-year-old Lisa, was missing.

Despite the dramatic rescue, workers said they were losing hope for finding more people alive after the 6.8-magnitude quake.

Rescuers have stopped listening for voices of the living, and instead were being guided by the scent of decaying bodies, said Saa Sayah, a captain in Algeria's civil protection unit.

"There is not much hope here," he said in front of a collapsed four-story building in the city of Boumerdes. "We have already pulled up four bodies, but we can't get further inside."

More than 1,600 people were confirmed dead and 7,207 injured — but the death toll was expected to rise, with more bodies thought to be buried and with little heavy machinery to clear the devastation.

Villagers suffering from shortages of food, water, electricity, shelter — even blankets — accused the government of a poor response to the earthquake.

Left to their own devices, residents struggled in vain to move huge slabs of cement with their bare hands or shovels.

"We have only our hands and ham-

mers," Corso resident Ismail Lizir, 42, said. "There has been no sign of local authorities."

"Nobody has visited us, not even to establish a death count," said 34-year-old Yoscef Manel. "Helicopters flew overhead and the interior minister drove through, but it's noise for nothing."

The government tried to help, moving dozens of ambulances, 3,000 police and security agents and electrical workers into the quake zone. The army sent tents, ambulances and engineering equipment, and water trucks were making the rounds of stricken villages.

Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia announced that victims would receive monetary aid and housing.

Countries around the world sent assistance. Germany promised a field hospital, Sweden and Switzerland dispatched sniffer dogs, Russia sent rescue experts. Turkey — a country often hit by quakes — pitched in with a search team, tents and medicine.

President Bush called Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and assured him of the "support and friendship of the United States," the official news agency reported.

In Corso, the quake flattened the bakeries and food was running low. A pharmacist dumped her stocks of medicines onto the pavement and volunteers distributed them.

"We are giving them away to those who need them," said Malek Fadalia. "You can't make people pay at a time like this. People are dying."

In Algiers and across the damaged area, many woke up in streets and public parks Friday after spending the night outdoors, fearful of continuing aftershocks. Police were on heightened alert to stop thieves from looting abandoned homes.

Victims' bodies were wrapped in blankets and plastic bags at morgues. Townspeople searching for missing relatives covered their faces against the stench of decay as they moved from body to body,

Tie-breaker



U.S. Senate Pool via APTN/Associated Press

Vice President Dick Cheney, is shown in this image from video after casting the decisive vote in the U.S. Senate, 51-50, for approval of \$330 billion in new tax cuts for families, investors and businesses on Friday in Washington.

Tobacco jury awards \$19 million

By The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK — An Arkansas man was awarded more than \$19 million Friday after a jury found that a tobacco company's defective product contributed to his wife's death.

The federal verdict includes \$15 million in punitive damages against Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co. and \$4,025,000 in actual damages in the 1999 smoking-related death of Mary Jane Boerner.

The suit was first filed in June 1998 by Henry Boerner and Mary Jane Boerner. Mrs. Boerner, who had smoked for 36 years before quitting, died the following year at age 69.

Jurors deliberated for three days before agreeing that Brown & Williamson's product is defective because it's unreasonably dangerous by design.

Jurors found in Brown & Williamson's favor on an allegation that cigarettes once had inadequate warning labels.

SPORTS



Sorenstam misses the cut in PGA Tour debut

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Annika Sorenstam was good enough to play against the men, but only for two days.

Her historic ride at the Colonial ended abruptly Friday afternoon when she stumbled to five bogeys in a span of eight holes and missed the cut by four shots.

She made a 14-foot par putt on the 18th hole for a 4-over 74 and left the green in tears, emotionally worn out from the intense scrutiny of being the first woman in 58 years to play on the PGA Tour.

Sorenstam played two rounds over the 7,080-yard Colonial in 5-over 145 and tied for 96th, finishing ahead of 11 players.

No one knew how she would fare against the best players in the world, especially on a course that was longer and tougher than anything she has played.

By the end of her remarkable two days, no one cared. She teed off Thursday morning amid resounding cheers. Late Friday afternoon, she walked toward the 18th green to a standing ovation that shook the tradition-rich club.

Sorenstam had to scramble for par on the final hole — something she was forced to do throughout a hot, sticky afternoon before another raucous gallery.

Her two-day total of 145 was eight strokes better than the odds out of Las Vegas, and she impressed some of her skeptics with alarming accuracy despite intense pressure over 36 holes.

Sorenstam wound up 13 strokes behind co-leaders Kenny Perry (64) and Dan Forsman (66), who will take a one-stroke lead into the weekend.

It probably won't be the same.

Sorenstam brought a buzz to Colonial not seen since Ben Hogan was prowling a course that became known as "Hogan's Alley."

For one week — and maybe longer — this was "Annika's Alley."

"It's been fantastic," Sorenstam said. "They have

"It's been fantastic. They have cheered me on from the first tee to the 18th hole. I didn't want to let them down."

— ANNIKA SORENSTAM
Female golfer

cheered me on from the first tee to the 18th hole. I didn't want to let them down."

Babe Zaharias was the last woman to compete on the tour, in 1945. If there is another, Sorenstam says it won't be her.

"It was a great week but I've got to go back to my tour, where I belong," she said. "I'm glad I did it, but this is way over my head."

Some of the men applauded her nonetheless.

"The way she handled herself with style and grace ... it's kind of a sad ending, I suppose," Forsman said. "I want to see the rest of the story."

For a fleeting moment, this looked as if it might have a storybook ending.

An afternoon start brought slightly tougher conditions on the course, and wild enthusiasm among the thousands of fans outside the ropes. Fans were stacked so deep behind the green that some cheered without ever seeing the shot.

Support came from all quarters.

"I hope she makes the cut," President Bush said from his ranch in Crawford, about two hours away.

Sorenstam raised everyone's hopes early.

She saved par from the bunker twice on the first three holes. In between, she fired at the flag and holed an 8-foot birdie putt on No. 2 to get to even par for the tournament, just inside the cut line.

Still, there were signs she was not on top of her game, that three months of buildup and three days under intense

scrutiny were starting to take their toll.

It began to unravel on No. 5, the last of a three-hole stretch known as the "Horrible Horseshoe," when her tee shot sailed to the right and into the trees.

Sorenstam was lucky the branches knocked the ball into the rough instead of sending it into the hazard. She punched out to the fairway, missed the green to the left and had to make a 15-foot putt for bogey.

Another chunked chip on No. 6 led to another bogey. She took three putts from 70 feet on the eighth hole, her first effort barely making it up the ridge.

"I wasn't as tough as I thought I was," she said. "I was so nervous."

Just like that, she was at 3 over for the tournament and in need of at least two birdies on the back nine just to qualify for the weekend.

Her hopes ended quickly with a pair of three-putts — from 30 feet on the 10th, and from close to 50 feet on No. 12, when her short par putt lipped out and sent her to 5 over. Sorenstam said she wasn't trying to prove anything to anyone, least of all that she could beat the boys.

Even those at the top of the leaderboard were impressed. "I played with Tiger two times last year ... and the media scrutiny was really intense out there," Perry said. "I performed very poorly. And she shoots 71. My hat's off to her. I think she did a great job."

Jesper Parnevik, who had a 68 and was among those at 6-under 134, said after a practice round with Sorenstam on Tuesday that for her to break 75 both days would be a realistic goal.

Sorenstam was better than that, and well under the 153 predicted by the Las Vegas bookmakers.

"She played amazing," Parnevik said. "I guess we have the Shark, the Tiger and now we have the Superwoman."

Now she goes back to her day job.

After two rounds on the most demanding stage, before the kind of crowds she has never seen and might not ever again, Sorenstam has a title to defend next week outside Chicago in the Kellogg-Keebler Classic.

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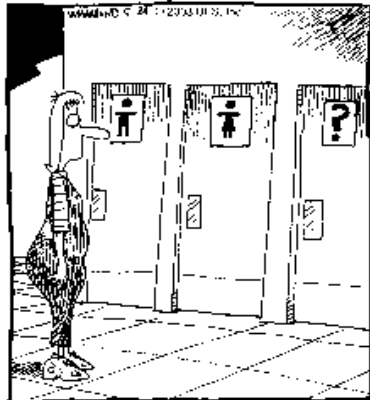
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- 1 Flavorless
 - 6 Prepares to travel
 - 11 Ohio or Delaware
 - 12 Think
 - 13 Coarse stuff
 - 14 Model art
 - 15 Overseas
 - 17 "Hail" to Caesar
 - 18 Tijuana two
 - 19 Breaks away
 - 22 Compass dir.
 - 23 J.R.'s home
 - 24 Cart pullers
 - 25 Top-notch
 - 27 Eyes
 - 30 Entered with stealth
 - 31 Sewer critter
 - 32 "Tubular!"
 - 33 "Bonanza" setting
 - 35 Broadway backer
 - 38 Casual eatery
 - 39 Colander's kin
 - 40 Free of censorship
 - 41 Fast runners
 - 42 Tiny sounds
- DOWN**
- 1 Prepares for frying, perhaps
 - 2 Passes the bar?
 - 3 Disinclined
 - 4 Sleuth Wolfe
 - 5 Boring
 - 6 Cocoa source
 - 7 Copy
 - 8 Summer noise-maker
 - 9 Scoundrels
 - 10 1992 U.S. Open champ
 - 16 Gives a hand to
 - 20 Batted fourth
 - 21 High trains
 - 24 Atlas page
 - 25 Brain holders
 - 26 Account book
 - 27 Strut
 - 28 Invented
 - 29 Sels in
 - 30 Investor's worry
 - 34 Tarzan transport
 - 36 Cain raiser
 - 37 French article

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Yesterday's answer

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- 27 Strut
- 28 Invented
- 29 Sels in
- 30 Investor's worry
- 34 Tarzan transport
- 36 Cain raiser
- 37 French article

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Investigators quarantine more Canadian herds

BY TOM COHEN
Associated Press Writer

TORONTO — Investigators placed four more farms under quarantine Friday, including three involving feed production in British Columbia, in a widening search for the cause of North America's first case of mad cow disease in a decade.

Brian Evans, chief veterinary officer for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, said the total number of farms under quarantine was 13 — eight in Alberta, where the lone case so far of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, was found; two in Saskatchewan; and three in British Columbia.

The British Columbia farms under quarantine were feed suppliers, Evans said. Cattle feed from animal sources contaminated with BSE is considered the most likely cause of the infected cow from an Alberta farm.

Evans defended Canadian safeguards against BSE, such as a 1997 ban on giving cattle feed made from ruminant animals such as cows and sheep, but acknowledged that violations can occur.

"It's the individual feeding the animal who has the ultimate responsibility," he said, adding investigators had yet to find evidence of any wrongdoing.

Test results confirmed the BSE case on Tuesday, more than three months after the infected cow was slaughtered on Jan. 31. The lone case so far caused the United States and other countries to immediately ban imports of beef products from Canada, threatening the livelihood of an industry worth \$22 billion (U.S.) to the economy.

Some U.S. legislators have criticized the

delay in testing and called for guarantees of improvement before reopening the U.S. market, which consumes more than 70 percent of Canada's beef product exports.

Alberta Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan said Friday that improvements would be considered.

"We have a system and it did work," McClellan said. "Should we change our testing priorities? If our trading partners would ask us to change that, certainly we'll look at that. Absolutely."

Agriculture and veterinary investigators were tracing that cow's history to learn where it lived, how many calves it produced and what it ate. The growing list of quarantined farms reflects the thoroughness of the investigation, rather than any indication of further spread of BSE, said George Luterbach of the CFIA.

Early indications showed the infected cow might have been born on a Canadian farm, which would make it the first case of a North American-born animal contracting the illness known as mad cow disease which decimated the British beef industry in the 1990s.

The outbreak has caused the United States, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Singapore and New Zealand to ban all beef imports from Canada, despite reassurances from Canadian government and industry officials that the beef was safe.

Canadian investigators removed all the cattle from one Alberta farm and were destroying the herd to examine the brains for further possible cases of BSE. Test results were expected early next week.

"I don't believe that cow came in contact with anything that gave it that dis-

ease on my farm," owner Marwyn Peaster said Thursday.

While Canadian authorities and farmers say the lone case of BSE presents minimal public risk, the closing of major foreign markets to Canada's beef products brought immediate cuts in production and uncertainty to a \$22 billion industry.

The only previous case of BSE in North America was in 1993, involving a bull imported from Britain. The animal and its herd were slaughtered, but no trade

bans resulted.

The recent infected cow was slaughtered Jan. 31 but kept out of the food chain because it was believed to have pneumonia, officials said. Testing was delayed several months because there was no suspicion of BSE, as well as a backlog of higher priority cases, officials said.

Mad cow disease first erupted in Britain in 1986 and is thought to have spread through cow feed made with protein and bone meal from mammals.

Prescription drug Lipitor recalled because pills are fake

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An estimated 100,000 bottles labeled as the cholesterol-lowering medicine Lipitor are being recalled because they contain counterfeit pills, the Food and Drug Administration warned Friday.

The FDA said the fake pills were discovered after some health complaints but would not elaborate because a criminal investigation is under way.

Lipitor users should immediately check their bottles to see if they have the fake version, which could pose a potentially significant health risk because the counterfeit pills will not lower cholesterol, the FDA said.

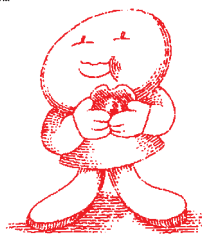
The recall covers original 90-pill bottles. To spot the fake version, look for the words "Repackaged by MED-PRO Inc., Lexington, Neb." on the lower left corner of bottles that bear the following lot numbers:

- 20722V, expiration 09-2004
- 04132V, expiration 01-2004
- 16942V, expiration 09-2004

Patients who have those recalled bottles should not take the pills but return them to the pharmacy where they were bought.

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