

FREE

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 169

Santa Monica Daily Press

The city's only daily newspaper.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Santa Monica Police Department 'Explorers,' Chris Perez, Chris Villa and Brian Castellanos, march with the American flag at Santa Monica's 64th annual Memorial Day order of exercises at Woodlawn Cemetery on Monday.

Yang goes from the court house to the White House

One of Santa Monica's own is now U.S. Attorney for L.A.

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
AND DAVE DANFORTH

Daily Press Staff Writers

You might say that Debra W. Yang likes life in the fast lane.

At 42, the Santa Monica resident is the first Asian-American to become a U.S. Attorney and one of the youngest.

As a newly-minted attorney who began practicing here, she had a penchant for trial work. Shortly after, Yang gained experience as a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles.

Before she reached the age of 40, she'd been made a judge. She most recently sat on the Superior Court bench in Santa Monica, where she'd grab a quick breakfast burrito behind the courthouse with the construction crowd.

Then Yang was made an unusual offer: a federal judgeship or the job of U.S. Attorney. "Your pick," the powers that be told her.

Now Yang may have to commute downtown in the fast lane. She began her latest job as U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California a little more than a week ago.

Although Yang wasn't the favorite of an attorneys' selection committee, her eventual nomination virtually sailed through the White House and U.S. Senate.

As part of a new bi-partisan selection process, Yang blew past her competitors and was nominated by President George Bush. Her confirmation won the

quick backing of California's U.S. Senators, both Democrats. She was confirmed by the Senate within two and a half months of being nominated.

Yang's new district is the second largest in the country. Some of her colleagues surmised she won the job due to an extensive resume for a vigorously young age — one which includes work as a trial attorney,

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U. S. Attorney Debra W. Yang

From clerk to U.S. Attorney, former judge makes the fastbreak

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
AND DAVE DANFORTH

Daily Press Staff Writers

She's presided over everything from Persian divorce cases to neighbor disputes to mold insurance claims.

After nearly two years of sitting on the bench in the Santa Monica Courthouse, Debra W. Yang recently hung up her robe for the high-powered position of U.S. Attorney.

Now she'll be taking on terrorists and corruption throughout Los Angeles.

May 10 was Yang's last day as a Superior Court judge in Santa Monica. She was sworn in as U.S. Attorney on May 17 and assumed her new position last Monday.

Four days before leaving her Santa Monica post, Yang was busy wrapping up her work amidst packing boxes in her chambers.

She's leaving more than 500 pending cases to her

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City hits target markets for tourists

As summer officially begins, officials pay close attention to tourism numbers

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

As Memorial Day officially kicks off summer, local business and tourism officials are crossing their fingers, hoping that tourists show up.

Santa Monica, which has enjoyed year-long tourism cycles, has had a steep drop-off in sales tax revenue and hotel occupancy rates stemming from the recession and the fall-off in travel after Sept. 11.

In response, city tourism officials

have begun an aggressive advertising campaign targeting countries where most of the city's visitors originate.

According to a recent study, most of Santa Monica's tourists come from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Western Canada, France, and Japan — even though Japanese tourists have fallen off quite a bit from before.

"South America was an emerging economy for us last year," said Debbie Lee, communications manager for the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau. "But South America's economy has weakened quite a bit and this year the UK's market is much stronger and they are probably the ones we are going to target."

The survey also has provided

tourism officials with cultural information about each country's tourists and what they are looking for in a vacation.

"For example, the German market is really hot on soft adventure," she said. "They come here to hike in the Santa Monica Mountains, rollerblade, bike and surf."

The tourism bureau is opening a visitor's booth at Santa Monica Place in June. Officials hope tourists will find information about attractions on Montana Avenue, Main Street and the city's museums, which may prolong their stay.

"Our hopes are with this new center we can offer comprehensive visitor services so that we can give information to tourists on the entire city of

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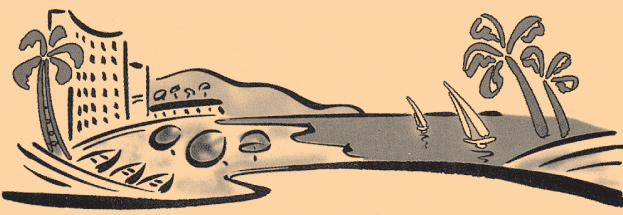
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Whether you're ready or not, the lights are on you. You have a decision of importance and significance to make. However, you might opt to postpone any heavy matters. You still carry on as if it is Memorial Day weekend. Tonight: Try to put yourself in the frame of mind to work!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your ability to see past what someone means and to understand others allows you to play amateur psychologist right now. Detach and observe the goings-on. Respond strongly but calmly to another's verbal shove. Know when to say "enough." Tonight: Start planning the next weekend!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Deal with partners and financial issues directly. Your ability to help others understand where you come from makes a big difference. Still, spending could be like a runaway freight train. Stop and regain control of what you want. Tonight: Play away.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Defer to someone, and you get the kind of positive results you need and want. Others seek you out and express an unusually convivial mood. Apparently, the long weekend helped others feel more positive and upbeat. Work as a team. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ How you deal with someone could change as a result of discussions. Your follow-through can make the difference between success and failure. Take special precaution to prevent undue anger and ensuing problems in the next few weeks. Make a personal call before you leave the office. Tonight: Enjoy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Allow more playfulness into your work and personal lives. Sometimes you drive a hard bargain in order to get to the finish line. You still need to do that, but, once you hit the jackpot, know to loosen up. Extremes mark your decisions. Tonight: So what if it is Tuesday?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Loosen up with your family. Refuse to take out your frustrations on them. Work demands unusual focus and drive. A flirtation might begin without you realizing it. Consider more of what you want from a loved one. Schedule your time carefully. Tonight: Buy flowers on the way home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Speak your mind carefully. Discussions prove to be animated and lively. Your fiery energy comes out when dealing with those at a distance and, perhaps, when traveling. You might want to take off now, but you will soon enough. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Take a strong stand financially. You'll gain as a result. Deal one-on-one with others. Anger and amour could be linked. Note an attraction to someone with whom you could easily lose your temper. Tonight: How 'bout some spring shopping?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your lifestyle could preclude a change in events. Review a personal matter carefully. Others could be more provocative in the next few weeks. You don't need to take their comments personally, but you will want to listen. Tonight: Let it all happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Focus more on your day-to-day life and less on mental schemes. Once you get done what you must, then you can allow your imagination to flow and take you elsewhere. Schedule a long-overdue appointment. Tonight: Go for a long walk.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Your imagination takes you in a new direction. Listen more to a child or new friend if you don't want a problem. This person needs to be valued, and you provide that. Just express your feelings more often. Avoid unnecessary tiffs. Tonight: Play away.

QUOTE of the DAY

"Whenever I'm caught between two evils, I take the one I've never tried."
— Mae West (1892-1980)

Santa Monica Daily Press

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



Bus company may get more for its 'moving billboards'

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica is ready to ink an advertising deal that would bring more revenue to its city bus system.

But plans to switch advertising companies has hit a stumbling block because the current agency, Gateway Outdoor Advertising, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The city's contract is being held as collateral by courts in New Jersey, where Gateway is headquartered.

Meanwhile, the publicly-owned bus company has received a bid from Viacom Outdoor for a five-year contract that would generate about \$6 million for the city. Because Viacom has agreed to pay the contract rate up front every year instead of making monthly payments, city officials believe they can make another \$180,000 in interest.

Deputy city attorneys have to travel to New Jersey to free up the contract with Gateway. The contract with the financially troubled agency was up for renewal when Viacom made its bid.

This isn't the first time Santa Monica has had trouble with Gateway. In 2001, the company failed to make payments on five outstanding invoices. The company failed to make the payments, even when the city offered it a payment schedule. Gateway has not made any further payments though it still uses the buses for advertising.

The city has seized \$1.2 million put up in collateral by Gateway when the contract was initially executed.

City staff and the city attorney's office are currently working on recovering any unpaid funds.

Big Blue Bus officials said the increase in advertising revenue from Viacom will help offset additional operating costs since signing the original contract with Gateway.

"This would go toward (offsetting) increasing operating costs from the increased services we are providing and from the general overall increase in operating costs," said Big Blue Bus spokesman Dan Dawson, a company spokesman.

Viacom will treat Santa Monica as a premium market for advertisers, instead of playing second fiddle to larger mass transit agencies like The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority or the Orange County Transportation Authority — which both use Viacom for their bus advertising.

City officials also were pleased that Viacom, a Fortune 100 company located on the East Coast, maintained offices and staff in Los Angeles.

Big Blue Bus counts on at least \$1 million in revenue annually from advertising sales for its total operating budget.

Earlier this month, the city council enacted a rate hike, allowing the basic adult local fare to increase from 50 to 75 cents. The fare increase, the first of its kind since the 1980s, will allow the bus company to continue expanding the number of buses on its routes and continue upgrading its fleet to more environmentally friendly vehicles.

A Santa Monica College celebration



Franklin Smith/Special to the Daily Press

Artists perform a dance called "tinkling," at the second annual Filipino Cultural Festival at Santa Monica College last week. There was free Filipino food, music, and dancing.



Franklin Smith/Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica College's athletes of the year were presented with awards and given recognition last week by their coaches and peers.

The Q-Line

The city of Santa Monica is facing an \$8 million revenue shortfall this year. City administrators have proposed slashing more than \$2 million from City Hall's departmental operating budgets. And millions of dollars in capital improvements will be cut from what was budgeted last year. That means many projects will be put on hold indefinitely.

Some residents have suggested that the city could run a much tighter ship.

City officials are meeting this week to begin figuring out how painful the cuts are going to be.

So this week Q-Line wants to know, "Where would you cut from the city budget?"

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.

Surf Report

A building swell out of the southwest boasts better waves into the waist and chest-high range today. Expect low onshore winds, clean conditions and inconsistent sets at Southwest exposures, where surf will be best.

On Wednesday, a swell from the west-northwest Pacific will weigh in at Northwest exposures around LA; those breaks averaging two to three feet.

Water looks clean, mostly A's according to LA Public Health; temperatures in the mid 50s.

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Poor-fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	2-3'/Poor-fair	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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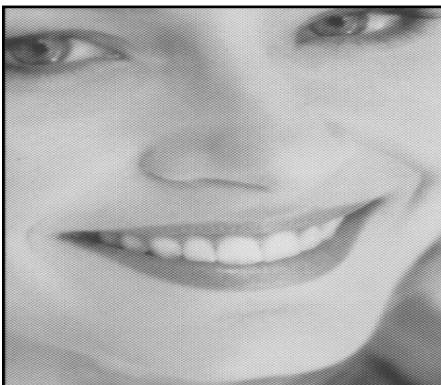


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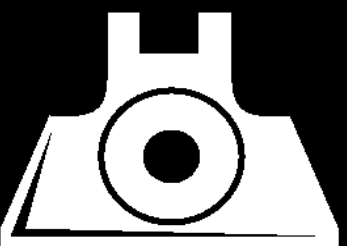
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LOCAL

U.S. Attorney will focus on terrorism, civil rights

U.S. ATTORNEY, from page 1

former U.S. prosecutor and supervising judge.

The Los Angeles native chose the four-year term as U.S. Attorney because she views herself first as a public servant ready to tackle terrorism—the top priority of the position — and other federal issues.

"If I can do something to contribute to making Los Angeles safer and have the opportunity to better the community, it's a dream job," she said in a recent interview.

Yang has clearly made few enemies throughout her career. She attracted rave reviews from a variety of attorneys, judges and academics with whom she's worked.

And a glimpse of her activity as a judge revealed a jurist who understood the value of quickening the pace of a trial, as well as having an unusual rapport with jurors.

Loyola Law School assistant dean Laurie Levenson, who worked with Yang briefly as a U.S. prosecutor, said the 260 lawyers in the office will have effective leadership and direction under Yang. She added that Yang's age will help her lead a new generation of prosecutors.

"I think she wants to be where the action is," Levenson said. "She'll hit the ground running, taking the general security of the entire community into account with fraud and gangs. We are the fraud capital of the country."

For Yang, an opportunity to be U.S. Attorney exemplified the American dream. Her grandfather emigrated from Canton, China, to give his family more opportunity.

"I am truly a patriot," she said recently during one of her last days as a Santa Monica Superior Court judge. "If not for the opportunities given to me, I'd be picking rice in the fields. But I am the U.S. Attorney."

Then, she added thoughtfully, "Where else can you do that? I am no one special, I'm just a kid from Chinatown."

But her colleagues and those who selected her for the position believe Yang is unique, and stood apart from other aspirants for the federal prosecutor's position downtown.

Her experience as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office and a supervising judge in the Los Angeles Superior Court system put her in perhaps the lead position for the post, as none of her competitors could claim both recent prosecutorial experience and a judgeship.

Yang also has a solid work ethic, say those who know and work with her. She has a hard-to-suppress passion for the law, and particularly for trials. In a phrase, she loves to take the field and play.

"A lot of people on that list were former prosecutors and she was always considered the dark horse of that list," said Mike Leahy, a partner with Haight, Brown & Bonesteel, where Yang first clerked in 1985, after graduating from Boston College Law School.

Leahy remains very close to Yang and has watched her career take off.

"Frankly, she got the nod because when she went and interviewed at the White House, she wowed them."

"Or maybe it's because her husband is from Texas," he quipped. "She had everything going for her."

Gerald Parsky, a West Los Angeles attorney who oversees nominations in California for the White House, said Yang easily could have excelled as either a federal judge or U.S. Attorney.

"I came away feeling extremely positive with her capabilities for either position," he said. "The most important thing to me for both of the positions is that they are qualified, confirmed and get the President's nod."

Most of those who worked with Yang over the years said she was picked by President Bush because she brought along "the entire package."

Roxanne Wilson, who worked with Yang early in her career, said her advantages went beyond the "intangibles" — her being a woman and a Chinese American. Even more experienced competitors could not commonly claim the triple crown of her experience: Trial lawyer, prosecutor and judge.

The experience gave her a varied perspective for an incoming U.S. Attorney.

"She has a relatively unique background of having done civil litigation and as a criminal prosecutor," Parsky said.

Still, the bottom line is that Yang's current job is a political position, and it didn't hurt that she is a staunch Republican.

Even so, Yang was also backed by the state's Democratic U.S. Senators — Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein.

Parsky, who picked Yang after a rigorous interview process by two committees, said a new, bi-partisan selection system was designed to present the right candidate to President Bush, giving him ultimate authority on the selection.

Parsky oversaw both committees with which Yang interviewed. One is charged with recommending federal judges; the other helps pick prospective U.S. Attorneys. Parsky appointed three of the six members of the federal judge committee. Those members also served on the committee for the U.S. Attorney. The state's Senators selected the other half of the six-man committee.

Both groups recommended to Parsky that Yang be nominated either for federal judge or U.S. Attorney. In the end, it was her choice.

"I think that the process is very good given the fact that we have a Republican president, whom I am very close to, and the support of Democratic Senators," Parsky said.

He noted that Yang met his three criteria for U.S. Attorney: Experience as a federal prosecutor, her leadership capabilities and her experience as a sitting supervisory judge.

"She understands the position and the need now for leadership is very important to me and her appreciation for what happened on 9-11 was clear," Parsky said.

Yang, as if on cue from the White House, underlined the notion that her top priority as a lead U.S. prosecutor will be the anti-terror campaign.

While she has always had a special interest in pursuing civil rights and white collar crime, the September attack has brought a new focus to the office.

"The No. 1 priority we are focusing on is terrorism and it's also the second and third priority," she said. "We (in Los Angeles) weren't at Ground Zero, we

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LOCAL



Yang brings along 'the entire package'

U.S. ATTORNEY, from previous page

weren't at the Pentagon and we weren't at Pennsylvania (where the fourth hijacked plane crashed), but the shock is still so tremendous. The attack and our security have rocked this country."

Yang also is serving on a civil rights committee for the Attorney General's office.

Retired Court of Appeal Elwood Lui, who chaired both nominating committees, said Yang knows the office and her experience there is recent.

But Lui also cited a personal element of why he selected Yang.

"You can see a dynamic, personable, intelligible person and that alone was enough," he said. "But she's also popular and well regarded as a practical attorney."

Yang replaced U.S. Attorney Alex Mayorkas, who stepped down last April after almost all of the 92 U.S. attorneys in the country were replaced by the new Republican administration. John Gordon was serving as interim U.S. Attorney.

Parsky said he felt that with both

Boxer and Feinstein backing Yang, she would be quickly confirmed and could jump-start an idling U.S. Attorney's Office.

The job, uniquely political while also professional, makes for a quirky tap-dance whenever control of the White House, and thus the Justice Department, changes.

Since Mayorkas left, many federal prosecutors in California put their criminal and civil caseloads on hold while awaiting new leadership.

More than a year after Bush was sworn into office and attorney general John Ashford was confirmed by the Senate, about a quarter of the vacant U.S. attorney jobs remain unfilled.

Meanwhile, California is on the front line of the war on terror, drugs and illegal immigration.

And in the state's Central District of the U.S. Attorney's Office, a burrito lover and Santa Monica judge is at the helm.

"It's vast and varied," Yang said. "It's somewhat invigorating."

Tourism slump expected for at least another two years

TOURISM, from page 1

Santa Monica and give them ideas they may not already heard of," Lee said. "And with that information we hope they will extend their stay and spend their money not just in one area but in the various areas of Santa Monica."

Hotel managers say their room bookings are still about 10 percent below compared to where they were last year. In order to stay competitive, many have had to slash their rates by more than 20 percent.

Larger luxury hotels are feeling the pinch from the fall-off in tourism far

"The wave of tourism has come very late this year. So much so that it is very unclear what kind of season we will have this year. It's unusual in that way."

— FRANCIOS KHOURY,
General Manager
Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel

more than smaller budget hotels, officials said.

"The wave of tourism has come very late this year," said Francios Khoury, general manager of the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel on Fourth Street. "So much so that it is very unclear

what kind of season we will have this year. It's unusual in that way."

Khoury said there wasn't much the hotel can do to soften the blow of a potential drop-off in tourism.

"We are preparing cautiously at this point," he said.

Typically, the city's tourism industry brings in about \$500 million a year. But city officials believe this year's sales tax revenue will be a steep decrease from previous years. The city is hurting from a \$8.8 million shortfall in sales tax revenue last year.

And officials said the trend could become worse, even if the hotels fill their rooms. As the hotels lower their room rates, the city makes less in taxes on each room.

"Travel, barring no other terrorist activities or those out of our control, should get back to normal by 2003," Lee said.

Tourism experts are predicting Santa Monica won't see a return to tourism levels that peaked in the summer of 2000 for another two or three years.

Officials said they also will be keeping a close eye on business travel, which made up a huge segment of the city's tourism.

"Before 9-11 much of the travel was corporate travel, and we saw a shift after that and with the economy the way it was, we saw a lot of business travel decrease," Lee said. "But my understanding is that the ratio of corporate travel versus leisure travel has remained the same, the numbers are just much lower."

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LOCAL

Debra Yang will miss the trials and the SM judges

YANG, from page 1

replacement, Superior Court Judge Jacqueline Connor.

Yang, 42, has come a long way since she started her career at a small law firm at Second Street and Santa Monica Boulevard almost two decades ago.

She has been a law clerk, a trial attorney, a federal prosecutor and a municipal judge throughout Los Angeles' Superior Court system, including West Los Angeles, downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood.

Even though she grew up in Los Angeles, Yang considers herself a true Santa Monica resident.

She lived here before the "Promenade was the Promenade" — a statement made by those who classify themselves as locals.

Yang has presided over six trials since she was assigned to the civil court last September. When she was handling civil cases under \$25,000, mostly evictions and small insurance claims, Yang was hearing about six trials a week.

"We had a lot of soft tissue cases," she said. "I had those down pat. I had them in and out in three days."

As a trial judge, Yang always tried to get the attorneys to settle their clients' disputes. But when they couldn't, the young judge was always ready for the fast-paced action of a trial. Her love for trials stems from watching good lawyering.

"If they can't settle it, then it's 12 in the box, let's go," she quipped. "I'm fascinated to see lawyers hone their craft. I love trials because that's when it all comes together for me."

And while Yang is excited about her new position as U.S. Attorney, her leaving Santa Monica was bittersweet.

"The judges in this courthouse are just terrific ... they just do the work," she said. "This was the best assignment, bar none."

She noted that Santa Monica, where she has lived for 20 years, becomes much smaller when she is faced with people who have appeared before her.

"I'd be shopping on the Promenade and someone would come up to me and say, 'you sentenced my friend,' or I would be on the pier and run into witnesses," Yang said.

Her goal always was to send a message even after everyone left her courtroom.

"In criminal courts especially, often times you are sentencing them unfavorably but if you treat them with respect and decorum and abide by the law they understood a little better about why I did what I did," she said. "At the end of the day, they are still people."

The week prior to leaving the Santa Monica Courthouse, Yang presided over a dispute between two neighbors.

"When I see that, it troubles me because their pride and dignity get in the way so I take the extra time to talk to them," she said. "I don't have to do that ... it's not just the message in court, but it's when they leave too. I want them to take it with them."

Yang's skills on the bench in Santa Monica included carefully listening to attorneys while also keeping cases from getting bogged down. During a recent

trial, she took care to humor jurors during what can be a tedious process. She also spent time explaining carefully the minutia of the jury experience, including instructions on the law, and the frequent occurrence of "sidebars" — privately whispered conferences during which she conferred with attorneys over sticky and technical legal issues.

Yang came to feel a particular bond with the Santa Monica Courthouse. She said she'll miss grabbing a quick burrito at the food truck behind the courthouse with workers there.

Because she lives in Santa Monica, she will now join the legions of commuters who have to travel round-trip to downtown Los Angeles to work.

Most of her experience bespeaks a fast and somewhat lucky ascent through the judicial system since her 1981 graduation from Pitzer College in Pomona and her subsequent 1985 law degree from Boston College Law School.

She began her legal career in 1985 at Haight, Brown, Dickson & Bonesteel, which was based in Santa Monica before the firm moved to Culver City. She was a clerk and associate at various law firms until she joined the U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles and spent the next six years prosecuting crimes including arson, kidnapping, securities swindles and computer hacking.

Yang was appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court bench in 1997 by former Gov. Pete Wilson. With the consolidation in the Los Angeles court system, by 2000 she became a superior court judge in Santa Monica. Yang first handled unlawful detainer (eviction) cases, then moved to other civil trials running the gamut from disputes over apartment mold damage to action in tossing out Santa Monica's challenge to an anti-corruption law.

Many of Yang's colleagues say her young age and appearance is a running joke throughout the field.

Retired Court of Appeal Elwood Lui, who chaired both nominating committees for Yang's selection for both U.S. Attorney and a federal judge, remembered the response from the Chief Justice when he introduced Yang to him at a Chinese lawyers dinner a few years ago.

"He came up to me and whispered, 'now she's a judge?'" Lui said.

Among Yang's most unique trials was a case heard last February involving a Persian Jewish couple whose two-week trial lasted longer than their marriage five years ago. The spurned husband sued for return of a Mercedes and cash he felt cheated out of, given the short relationship. But his ex-wife returned fire, winning the jury's sympathy after claiming he had effectively raped her and that the experience turned her life inside-out.

Yang said she loved that case because the lawyers presented their arguments well. She also noted that a woman sat in the courtroom every day taking copious notes. It turns out that she was a producer looking for a good story.

"It had everything you'd want for a made-for TV movie," Yang said.

STATE



University of California, Davis lab analyzes animal DNA to help fight crime

BY KIM CURTIS

Associated Press Writer

DAVIS — Scotland Yard investigators were stumped. A bouncer had been stabbed to death in the alley outside The Paradise Bar in South London. Pools of blood were left behind by the victim, the suspect and someone — or something — else.

"They swabbed the blood up off the floor, they extracted DNA from it," explained Marcia Eggleston, a researcher at the University of California, Davis. "When they typed it, they couldn't get a result."

Turned out it was animal blood, something few crime labs are equipped to analyze. So Scotland Yard turned to the Internet and tracked down the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at UC Davis and its extensive database of animal DNA.

The lab's verdict: The blood matched a bull terrier which was found to belong to a man who had been kicked out of the bar.

The finding helped put the killer in prison for life.

The lab's technicians, who work out of a small, nondescript building and several trailers on the Davis campus, most often test animal hair, which works best if it's pulled out at the root. But they also extract DNA from urine, saliva, feces, dead skin, dander and just about anything else.

No two people or animals, except identical twins, have exactly the same DNA sequence. Even though only limited segments of a person's DNA are scrutinized in typing, those segments will be statistically unique.

"You do the science, you hand them the results and you let them do what they do," UC Davis technician Glen Byrns said.

Forensics isn't the lab's main job. About 98 percent of its work is DNA typing to determine the bloodlines of horses. Since 1995, the lab has typed 600,000 horses.

"Horses are a multibillion dollar industry," Eggleston said. "If you buy a \$40,000 horse for your kid you want to know who it is. Are these pedigrees correct?"

The lab also has 25,000 samples for cattle, 32,000 for elk, 10,000 for dogs and 53,000 for members of the camel family, including llamas, alpacas and dromedaries. It is believed to be the largest animal DNA testing lab in the world, Eggleston said. It earned about \$4.7 million last year, nearly all of which went back into the lab.

About six years ago, the lab branched out into criminal work when a Simi Valley woman who owned three great danes called. One of her dogs had bitten a neighborhood boy's arm. She wanted to euthanize only the dog that had attacked.

"They heard that UC Davis did animal testing, so they were hoping we might be able to do something," Eggleston said.

The dog had left a saliva trail on the boy's shirt sleeve, which the lab matched to one of the swabs the woman had scraped on the inside of all three dogs' cheeks.

"We went, 'Wow, this is kind of cool,'" Eggleston said.

Jerry Ruth, senior forensic scientist at the National Fish and Wildlife Forensic

Laboratory, said his lab works on wildlife cases while UC Davis is committed to domestic animals, so rarely do they collaborate. However, the Davis lab has a good reputation, Ruth said, and he often refers the FBI and state and local police departments to the lab for domestic animal DNA typing.

The UC Davis veterinary school is considered the top program in the nation. "The work I've seen come out of the lab is consistent with the school's top ranking," Ruth said.

The Davis lab's criminal cases now fall into three categories: animals that kill or hurt people or animals, animal abuse

**"The work I've seen
come out of the lab is
consistent with the
school's top ranking."**

— JERRY RUTH

National Fish and Wildlife Forensic Laboratory

cases, and animals that can tie a suspect to the crime scene.

A few weeks ago, a bloody golf club arrived in the mail. Authorities believed it had been used to kill a dog. Would there be a match? The lab gets one or two such criminal cases a week, in addition to requests for parentage testing.

Tests start at \$250 apiece, mostly to discourage frivolous civil suits. Some are "simple little things," Eggleston said — roommates send carpet samples to prove to landlords it wasn't their cat that peed on the floor; ranchers send samples to confirm whose dog killed their cattle.

It's the more serious cases that are most rewarding.

A few years ago in rural Chickasaw County, Iowa, a Mennonite woman was gardening with her toddler and the family dog when a man arrived in a pickup truck. He got out, accosted the woman, dragged her to his truck and tried to rape her, according to Doug Strike, former chief deputy for the Chickasaw County Sheriff's office.

"We arrested him," Strike said. "But she couldn't pick him out of photo lineup, nor could she say this was the truck."

But the woman had seen the dog, a border collie named Rover, pee on the man's truck tire. Strike tracked down the Davis lab.

"We thought, 'Why not try it?' 'Why not think outside the box?' and it just worked out beautifully for us," he said.

The suspect ended up pleading guilty to attempted sexual assault.

"Parentage testing is important," Eggleston said. "But it's not as satisfying as helping to put people behind bars."

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SPORTS

Lakers hope to come back from 'jaws of defeat'

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — There's a new Mr. Clutch in town. Robert Horry is nowhere near the scorer Jerry West once was. But in the closing seconds, even with teammates like Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, he is indeed the man.

Horry came through again Sunday, making a 3-pointer as time expired to lift the Los Angeles Lakers to a 100-99 victory over the Sacramento Kings in Game 4 to even the Western Conference finals.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Sacramento, with Game 6 back at Staples Center on Friday night. Game 7, if necessary, is Sunday in Sacramento.

If the Lakers manage to win a third straight title, they'll have good reason to dwell on the shot by Horry. A loss would have put the Kings ahead 3-1.

"In this situation, if we don't win this one, it looks grim," Lakers guard Brian Shaw said.

A 3-pointer by Horry with 1:39 left cut Sacramento's lead to 96-93 and O'Neal made two free throws to draw the Lakers within one point with 26.9 seconds to play.

Vlade Divac made one of two foul shots with 11.8 seconds remaining to give the Kings a 99-97 lead. It appeared they would survive when Kobe Bryant missed a drive in the lane and O'Neal was short on a follow attempt.

Divac swatted the rebound past the top of the key and the ball went right to Horry, whose shot over Chris Webber was all net.

"It was a great day, it was a blessed day for us, thank God for Robert," said O'Neal, who interrupted a TV interview Horry was doing after the game to give him a hug and kiss. "I knew the shot was going down the second it left his hand."

Horry said he felt the same way.

"I never moved, I wanted the 3 all the way," Horry said. "When it came rolling out, it was like, 'Oh, look what I got.'"

"The thing is, you can't think in a situation like that. I was like, 'If I don't get the ball off in time, we lose. If I do, it's money.' It was a rhythm shot. I was just worried about getting my form and getting my money shot down."

The money shot gave the Lakers only their second lead of the game. The first was at 2-0 in the first 25 seconds, and that was erased when the Kings scored the next seven

points en route to building a 24-point lead in the game's first 14 minutes.

"That's a victory from the jaws of defeat," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

Horry has played this act before:

—In Game 3 of last season's NBA Finals, his 3-pointer with 47 seconds remaining finished off Philadelphia.

—He hit a 3-pointer with 2.1 seconds left at Portland last month to knock the Trail Blazers from the first round.

—In the conference semifinals against San Antonio, his 3-pointer with 56 seconds remaining gave the Lakers a seven-point lead as they eliminated the Spurs.

—There were other big shots in 1994 and 1995 when he helped the Houston Rockets win two championships.

"That puts him up there with all the clutch people you would name — Reggie Miller, Jerry West," Shaw said. "You have a right to put him right up there."

The Kings were stunned by the final turn of events.

"That was a lucky play, a fumble out of the inside to the outside," Webber said. "Coach didn't draw that up, that

wasn't a second or third option. Now Horry shooting it wasn't lucky, that's a big shot. That's a time-time player but that was a lucky play."

The capacity crowd of 18,997, which celebrated deliriously when Horry's winning shot swished, booed the Lakers off the court at the end of the first quarter with the Kings leading 40-20.

Bibby shot 8-of-11 in scoring 18 points in the first half, but went 1-of-5 for three points in the second half while being hounded by the taller Bryant.

The Kings shot 55 percent and scored 65 points in the first half, but were 42 percent while scoring 34 points in the second half.

The Lakers outrebounded the Kings 28-18 after half-time and 56-42 overall. Twenty-five of their rebounds were at the offensive end, giving them numerous second chances.

"This one should knock the cobwebs out," Horry said. "Hopefully, we can go out (to Sacramento) and get some wins and get back to the old Laker basketball."



National Basketball Association playoff schedule

By The Associated Press

ALL TIMES EDT CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7)

Saturday, May 18

L.A. Lakers 106, Sacramento 99

Sunday, May 19

New Jersey 104, Boston 97

Monday, May 20

Sacramento 96, L.A. Lakers 90

Tuesday, May 21

Boston 93, New Jersey 86

Friday, May 24

Sacramento 103, L.A. Lakers 90

Saturday, May 25

Boston 94, New Jersey 90, Boston leads series 2-1

Sunday, May 26

L.A. Lakers 100, Sacramento 99, series tied 2-1

Monday, May 27

New Jersey at Boston, late

Tuesday, May 28

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29

Boston at New Jersey, 9 p.m.

Friday, May 31

New Jersey at Boston, TBA, if necessary

Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, TBA

Sunday, June 2

Boston at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

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INTERNATIONAL



Bush: America won't forget D-Day's heroes

BY RON FOURNIER

AP White House Correspondent

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — As rain dampened the graves and monuments of D-Day soldiers, President Bush said Monday “the day will never come when America forgets them,” and summoned the heirs of the Normandy invasion to fight this generation’s scourge: terrorism.

“We defend freedom against people who can’t stand freedom,” the president said while commemorating Memorial Day at Normandy American Cemetery, where 9,387 men and women are buried.

Rows of white crosses graced a gentle slope of lawn spilling down to the cliffs of Omaha Beach, 100 yards from where Bush spoke. It was the site of some of the worst fighting on June 6, 1944 — a day that saw 135,000 men and 20,000 vehicles emerge from the English Channel in the first hour of fighting alone, as allied forces began the end of Nazi Germany.

“From a distance, surveying row after row of markers, we see the scale and heroism and sacrifice of the young,” the commander in chief said while a huge American flag snapped in the wind above him.

Linking the past to the present, Bush reminded his audience of soldiers, veterans and dignitaries of fallen U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan — the first battle casualties in the war against terrorism.

Nothing can ease the grief of their family members, Bush said. “They can know, however, that the cause is just. And like other generations, these sacrifices have spared many others from tyranny and sorrow,” he said.

French President Jacques Chirac, whose country was liberated by allied forces 58 years ago, nodded from the front row. Chirac was a late addition to the program. The White House did not include him in its initial plans, but he insisted on a role.

“Our security is still bound up together in a trans-Atlantic alliance, with soldiers in many uniforms defending the world from terrorists at this very hour,” Bush said.

Earlier, the president’s entourage of staff, security and more than a dozen vehicles arrived at the small town of Sainte-Mere-Eglise — greeted by hundreds of residents who cheered, “Chirac! George Bush! Chirac! George Bush!”

The two presidents attended services at the town’s Church of Notre Dame de la Paix.

Children waved tiny American and French flags.

The town was the first in France to be liberated after U.S. paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions landed in the town square. Fierce fighting broke out with German troops.

Some paratroopers were hit with bullets while dangling from trees, their parachutes snagged on limbs. Others fell helplessly into fires. One private, John Steele, famously became hooked to the church’s steeple. Steele, who was hauled into the church belfry by a German observer and taken prisoner, is a local legend — his like-



Doug Mills/Associated Press

President Bush walks past a number of head stones during a walking tour of the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, on Monday, where 9,387 Americans are buried. The cemetery sits near the beaches of Normandy, where U.S. troops landed in the June 1944 D-Day invasion.

ness hanging from the steeple from a parachute.

Chirac pointed it out to Bush, who chuckled.

During the church services, Army chaplain Kevin Leideritz praised the heroes of Normandy and wondered aloud if today’s generation could meet a similar challenge.

“Will we be ready?” Leideritz said. “Can we sacrifice our lives as soldiers did so many years ago?”

Outside the church, still scorched by the fires of D-Day, Bush spoke of the “sacrifices of our forefathers” and told townspeople that Americans are still willing to risk life for freedom.

“It’s a sacrifice I can promise you we’ll make. It’s a sacrifice we make for the good of America, for the good of France and for the good of freedom” throughout the world, he said.

From Sainte-Mere-Eglise, Bush took a helicopter tour of Omaha Beach, Utah Beach and Pointe Du Hoc, where U.S. Rangers of the 2nd Ranger Battalion became lore. Like medieval soldiers attacking a besieged castle, the

troops used grappling hooks and ladders to scale a 130-foot cliff and overtake a German position.

Bush spoke of them and other D-Day heroes in a speech that followed his long, solemn walk through rows of white crosses. Rain splashed his notes for the first half of his speech. By his closing, the clouds were backlit by a bright sun; the rain had ceased.

Bush, born two years and one month after D-Day, said: “All that come to a place like this feel the enormity of the loss.”

Every slain soldier “had plans and hopes of his own and parted with them forever when he died. The day will come when no one is left who knew them, when no visitor to this cemetery can stand before a grave remembering a face and a voice,” Bush said.

“The day will never come when America forgets them.”

As a Navy ship cut through the channel behind him, the president said, “We will always remember what they did here and what they gave here for future humanity.”

Pakistan’s president doesn’t want war; calls for pullback

BY KATHY GANNON

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan’s President Pervez Musharraf on Monday vowed not to initiate war and condemned attacks in India as “terrorist” actions, but promised to maintain his nation’s support for what he called Kashmir’s “freedom struggle.”

“We do not want war. Pakistan will not be the one to initiate war. We want peace in the region,” Musharraf said in a televised speech to the nation with troops from both countries on a war footing.

“Pakistan will always be with the Kashmiris in their struggle for independence,” said Musharraf, who appeared on television in his army uniform. “We are not the sort of people who will be cowed by our enemies.”

He said he has publicly condemned the deadly attacks in December against

India’s Parliament and this month against an Indian army camp in Indian-ruled Kashmir as “terrorist attacks.” He called for international pressure on India to open negotiations and reduce tensions along the border.

Indian army officers in Kashmir said troops fired at each other along a 175-mile section of the Line of Control dividing the disputed Himalayan region between India and Pakistan and forming the northern end of their 1,800-mile border.

Indian officials said an Indian soldier was killed and five villagers injured Monday. Pakistan’s army said Indian forces fired automatic weapons, mortars and rocket launchers into the Pakistani-controlled part of Kashmir on Sunday, killing nine civilians and wounding 42 others.

Musharraf interrupted his Urdu-lan-

guage speech Monday to briefly speak in English to promise the international community not to start a war. He also said in English that Pakistan was not allowing cross-border incursions by militants into Indian-ruled Kashmir, a charge that has been leveled by India as well as several world leaders, including President Bush.

Indian foreign ministry spokeswoman Nirupama Rao said after Musharraf’s speech, “What you see is not what you get as far as Pakistan is concerned.” She refused to say more immediately.

Musharraf, meanwhile, said Pakistan had taken “bold steps” by banning five Islamic militant groups in January. He accused India of failing to reciprocate.

“Unfortunately, we have not seen any positive response from the Indian side. I urge the world community to ask India to move toward normalization of relations,”

Musharraf said in an English-language plea.

He offered a formula.

The military ruler also called for a “de-escalation of tensions on the border, initiation of a process of dialogue, cessation of atrocities being perpetuated on the people of Kashmir, allowing international media and aid organization to enter Kashmir and see the situation on the ground.”

“Islam is a religion of peace, but if war is thrust upon us, every Muslim is bound to respond in kind. That is the kind of situation we face right now. We are being threatened with war,” he said.

“The armed forces are ready to respond, and we are aware of every move that India makes.”

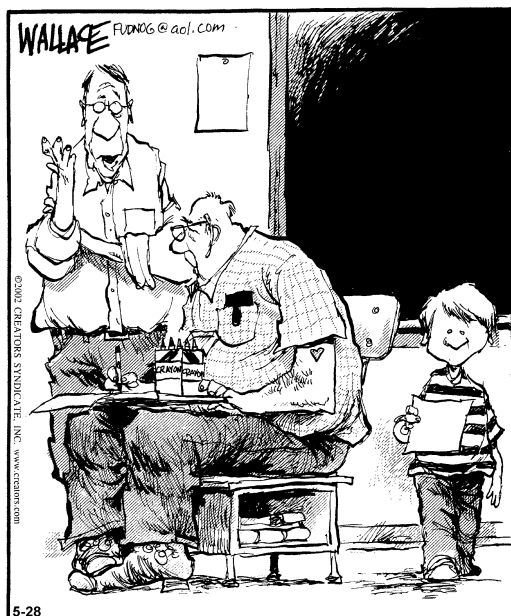
This weekend, Pakistan tested two ballistic missiles capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

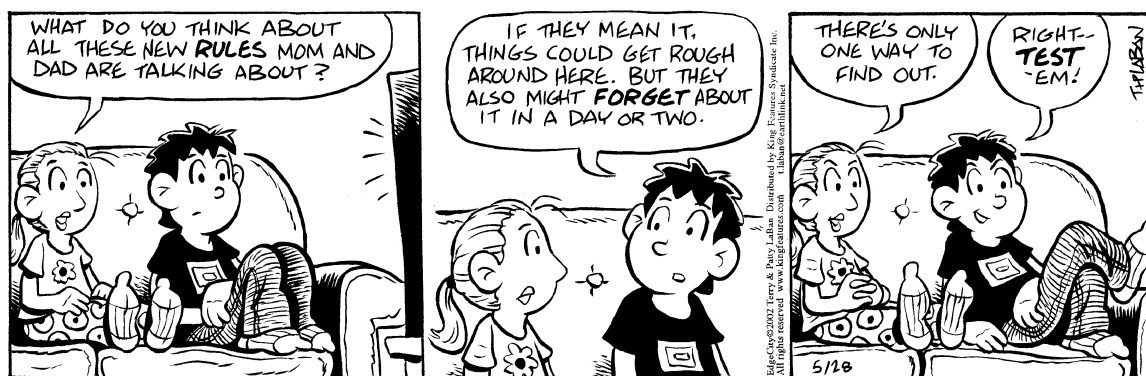


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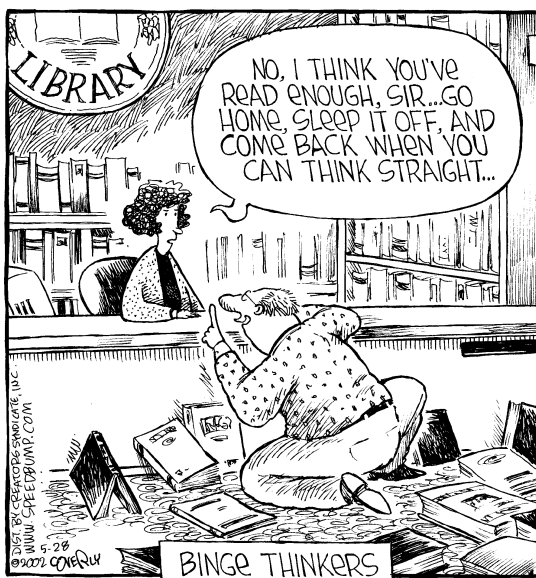
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ACROSS

- 1 Big name in publishing
- 7 Uttered
- 11 Less attractive
- 12 Singer Fitzgerald
- 13 Stubby writing implements
- 15 Kobe Bryant, for one
- 16 Stagger
- 18 Suit piece
- 21 Peruse
- 22 Deadly
- 24 Busy insect
- 25 Saloon
- 26 Feller in the woods
- 27 Angry
- 29 Flat
- 30 British school
- 31 Argued
- 32 TV, radio, and the like
- 34 Smooth writing implements
- 40 Margarine
- 41 Prepare for a busy day
- 42 Take
- 43 Pact

DOWN

- 2 Conceit
- 3 Everything
- 4 Ransacked
- 5 Flower part
- 6 Arduous journey
- 7 Hush-hush
- 8 Will Smith film
- 9 Under the weather
- 10 "— Kapital"
- 14 Not in a million years
- 16 Tom's "Jerry Maguire" co-star
- 17 Bother
- 19 Remove stubble
- 20 Levied
- 21 Cheer word
- 22 Young fellow
- 23 Writer Deighton
- 25 Stephen Vincent
- 28 Small drum
- 29 Go by
- 31 Hamelin character

C	A	R	B	S		S	A	L	O	N
U	B	O	A	T		A	L	O	H	A
T	E	T	R	A		D	E	N	I	S
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O	N	T	H	E	J	O	B			
R	O	M	A		S	N	A	R	E	D
E	V	E	N	T		G	R	O	V	E
S	A	N	D	E	D		E	D	E	N
			S	L	U	M	B	E	R	S
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P	L	E	A	T		O	N	T	O	P
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T	A	T	E	R		E	S	S	E	N

Yesterday's answer

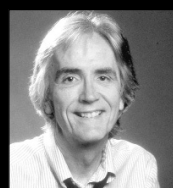
- 21 Cheer word
- 22 Young fellow
- 23 Writer Deighton
- 25 Stephen Vincent
- 28 Small drum
- 29 Go by
- 31 Hamelin character
- 33 Grime
- 34 Visibility lessener
- 35 Building wing
- 36 Zodiac sign
- 37 Greek vowel
- 38 Bolt's partner
- 39 Secret agent

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
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34	35	36							37	38
40										
42										

5-28

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-3168! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Sorted worshippers faith gauged by pain

News of the Weird reported in 1999 on an annual Hindu festival in Singapore in which worshippers of Lord Murugan reaffirmed their faith by sticking skewers through their skin, with the amount of pain endured taken as the gauge of devotion. Apparently, similar celebrations continue in other countries (though India has banned them as too barbaric). In January 2002, Murugan worshippers in Malaysia celebrated at the annual Thaipusam festival at the Batu Caves, eight miles outside Kuala Lumpur, by hooking and kebobbing their skin to the accompaniment of hypnotic, deafening music that helped create pain-softening trances.

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BACK PAGE

Protein may let brain's 'clock' signal body, study says

BY WILLIAM MCCALL
Associated Press Writer

A protein that helps control the motion of the human gut may also help the body keep time with the brain's biological clock, researchers say.

The hunt for a way to prevent jet lag and other sleep disorders has led to a better understanding of how an internal clock in the brain sets the 24-hour cycle of body activities like sleep and wakefulness, called the circadian rhythm.

But the way that clock signals the rest of the body to follow the daily cycle has eluded researchers.

A study in the May 23 issue of the journal *Nature* implicates a protein called "prokineticin 2" or PK2, which was previously known to help regulate gastrointestinal movements.

Researchers found PK2 had many features scientists would expect in a chemical messenger from the clock, said Qun-Yong Zhou, the University of California-Irvine pharmacologist who led the study.

For example, areas of the brain that control various body functions contain specialized receptors that PK2 can bind to to deliver a signal, Zhou said.

"It certainly looks like receptors are in the right place," said Joseph Takahashi, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute researcher at Northwestern University who cloned a gene in 1997 that helps regulate the circadian rhythm.

Takahashi said the PK2 protein likely is not the only brain clock messenger, but it will offer clues to others that control

body functions during the daily cycle.

He said it was too early to say whether it could lead to drugs to ease jet lag or other sleep disorders, but "we're coming closer to that."

The study examined the behavior of rats injected with the protein.

Rats normally are nocturnal, or active during darkness. But when PK2 was injected into the brains of the rats during darkness, they stopped exercising and moving about their cages, adopting behavior more appropriate for daylight.

Astronomers map earliest light emitted in formation

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Scientists analyzing tiny variations in the sky's background radiation have detected the earliest light emitted at the formation of the universe.

The detailed new images show indications first bits of matter that would evolve into the stars and planets that exist today.

"We have seen, for the first time, the seeds that gave rise to clusters of galaxies, thus putting theories of galaxy formation on a firm observational footing," said team leader Anthony Readhead of the California Institute of Technology.

"These unique high-resolution observations provide a new set of critical tests of cosmology," he said.

The research, detailed Thursday at a National Science Foundation briefing, was conducted using the Cosmic Background Imager, a set of 13 radio antennas located high in the Atacama Desert of Chile.

The instruments were able to detect minute variations in the cosmic microwave background, the radiation that has traveled to Earth over almost 14 billion years.

According to the researchers the fluctuations are indi-

cations of those first tentative seeds of matter and energy.

They added that the measurements provide evidence to support the theory of inflation, which states that the universe underwent a violent expansion in its first micro-moments. After about 300,000 years it cooled enough to allow the matter to form.

"We have seen, for the first time, the seeds that gave rise to clusters of galaxies, thus putting theories of galaxy formation on a firm observational footing."

— ANTHONY READHEAD
California Institute of Technology

On Friday, a team of European physicists reported similar findings based on new high-precision observations using a radio telescope called the Very Small Array

located on the island of Tenerife in the Atlantic Ocean.

The images show the beginnings of the formation of structure in the early universe, according to the researchers from the Universities of Cambridge and Manchester and the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias in Tenerife.

The team said that because galaxies must have formed out of the primeval fireball, they should have left imprints in the radiation in the form of tiny variations in temperature.

According to the National Science Foundation, the data collected in Chile is also helping scientists learn more about a repulsive force called "dark energy" that appears to defy gravity and cause the universe to accelerate at an ever-increasing pace.

"Each new image of the early universe refines our model of how it all began. Just as the universe grows and spreads, humankind's knowledge of our own origins continues to expand," commented NSF Director Rita Colwell.

The Science Foundation described the cosmic microwave background as a record of the first photons that escaped from the rapidly cooling, coalescing universe about 300,000 years after the explosion known as the Big Bang that is commonly believed to have given birth to the universe.

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