

FREE

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 175

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

05-21-23-27-38

Megamillion: 24

Jackpot: \$12 million

FANTASY 5

16, 17, 19, 25, 33

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 8, 5

Evening picks: 0, 6, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star

Race Time: 1:48.44



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In April, when the Republicans on the New York City Board of Elections killed a plan to repair voting machines that had underrecorded votes in the 2000 election (with most of the unlucky voters being Democrats), Republican Commissioner Stephen Weiner denied that his party's disinterest in properly functioning machines showed bias against Democrats: "There are some people who don't want (their vote) register(ed), but who report to the polls for civic reasons."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is easier to stay out than get out."

— Mark Twain



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Parcel tax question remains in limbo

More than 1,000 votes still to be counted

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Residents of Santa Monica and Malibu may have to wait until as late as Monday for the final results of the Measure S vote that took place Tuesday.

About 1,000 votes remain to be counted and though officials hope to make an informal announcement today, the final tally may not be handed down for several days.

Measure S, which requires two-thirds of the vote to become law, would generate roughly \$6.5 million annually for the local school district by levying a flat \$225 parcel tax on each of the 32,400-plus pieces of property in Santa Monica and Malibu. The measure would last for six years.

Of the 16,892 ballots cast Tuesday, Measure S garnered 66.8 percent, or just 17 votes more than the mandated two-thirds. But with roughly 850 absentee ballots still to be counted and about 325 provisional ballots that need to be verified and counted, the election could swing either way.

Provisional ballots are those given to voters whose names do not

appear on polling place voter lists.

Officials spent Wednesday separating the Santa Monica-Malibu ballots from the roughly 2,800 last-minute votes, which came in for various elections that took place throughout Los Angeles County on Tuesday.

"If it stays the same and if I can raise the funds, I'm going to ask for a recount."

— MAT MILLEN

Citizens Against Unfair Taxes

Once the Santa Monica-Malibu ballots were separated, workers began the laborious task of verifying signatures and preparing the votes to be counted.

"We are processing what we can," said Marcia Ventura, a spokeswoman for the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder's office in Norwalk. "But it is a manual process."

The counting is expected to begin tomorrow, Ventura said.

See TAX, page 5

Appeals court upholds state's ban on MTBE gas

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court on Wednesday upheld the state's ban of the fuel additive MTBE, saying there's nothing in federal air quality regulations preventing it.

Major producers of MTBE argued that the ban conflicts with the objectives of the federal Clean Air Act and should not be allowed.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed and upheld the September 2001 decision of a federal judge in Sacramento.

"Congress left the states authority to enact legislation gov-

erning matters of public health and safety," Judge William A. Fletcher wrote for the unanimous 9th Circuit.

Messages left for attorneys representing MBTE producers were not immediately returned. But a spokesman for the Oxygenated Fuels Association, Frank Maisano, said the MTBE trade group was not surprised by the ruling given the 9th Circuit's past rulings on environmental issues.

"It doesn't really change the fact that Governor Davis made a political decision to ban MTBE for political purposes, and in the end consumers are paying the price for it," he said.



John Wood/Daily Press

Tom Donovan leads a hymn for about 100 people Wednesday during a church gathering at the Salvation Army on 11th Street. Donovan, who said, "Every day is a good day," overcame tragedy and addiction with the help of local charities.

Past the Turning Point

Former homeless man turns his life around with local charities

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Tom Donovan used to be homeless and spent the better part of two decades in and out of jail, racking up drunk driving and drug possession charges.

But after the 49-year old carpenter was paroled from a 32-month sentence at Avenal State Prison in 1997, he decided to try a different approach.

Thanks to the help of two Santa Monica charities — the Salvation Army and Turning Point — Donovan got back on his feet, landed a secure job and rented a small apartment in town.

"For the first time in my life, I even have a 401(k)," said Donovan, who now volunteers at the two charities he once depended on. "I have to say, it feels wonderful to be in a position to give something back."

Donovan, whose wife and two children were killed in a car accident in the 1980s, said he is incredibly grateful for the opportunity he was given to rebuild his life.

He hesitated to mention the tragic accident because he said it

sometimes makes other people with legitimate problems, but without one defining tragic moment, somehow feel less entitled to help.

"I'm a life that was saved. It was five years ago. It ended a cycle of homelessness and it ended a cycle of incarceration."

— TOM DONOVAN

Turning Point alumnus

Plus, Donovan said he had a problem with drinking and methamphetamines before his wife, 11-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter were taken from him.

"I was devastated," he said Wednesday. "It truly escalated the problem and it made it harder to grab a hold of anything of value in my life."

"It's been almost 20 years now and it almost gives me credence or justification, when in fact (my

See CHARITIES, page 5

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, June 5, 2003:

Even though confusion often surrounds your ideas and choices, you don't always agree with others about your limits. Often you will take a stronger stand, moving key issues in another direction. A smile goes a long way with others, especially if you want to keep an amiable relationship while doing your own thing. Revitalize your day-to-day life in a fashion that feels appropriate to you. If you are single, it will be your choice to remain so, as you have so many admirers. Living with someone or having a close relationship could become important after August. If you are attached, a relationship will develop in a new way and in a new direction. A new home or domestic change lies ahead. LEO loves to laugh and share.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Be willing to adjust plans, though another creates his or her share of uproar. Don't be surprised at the amount of flak that comes your way. Passion runs high in emotional situations. If you look past the obvious, you'll know that someone cares a lot. Tonight: Start your weekend early, if you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Family and partners demand your attention whether you want them to or not. You could discover that someone is testing his or her limits with you. Sort through the words and listen to the feelings. Remain centered. Tonight: Entertain at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others speak their minds, and you might want to put your hands over your ears. Not everyone has to like what you are saying. Be more in touch with your desires when dealing with a partner. Detach if you feel an onslaught of mixed feelings. Think before reacting. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Just because you view a money matter in a certain way doesn't mean that someone else does. You might be taken aback by just how assertive an associate or partner could get. This person wants his or her way. You will have to find a way to make everyone happy. You can. Tonight: Do some summer shopping.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ What you want could easily drop into your lap if you change how you approach a situation. You might need to slightly readjust your thinking, and everything will flow. A boss does what he or she can to keep you in the office. Sort through immediate confusion. Tonight: Where you want to be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You discover that there are many ways of helping others, but you do need to lie back and do more observing. Your perspective grows. Don't react to what others say, especially about a key project. Tonight: Be nurturing to someone who might be a hothead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Meetings and networking prove to be instrumental in what might be going on. You want to deal with a loved one, perhaps more directly. You find this person might be reactive if you don't give him or her some personal time. Tonight: Play along. Anything remains possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Bosses push, and you need to respond. Realize more of what you want from a situation that is tied to a partnership. Though you might get some flak, there is also a lot of caring. Use your good sense here. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your optimism, luck and perception draw admirers, but more important, they open an unanticipated door. Though you might not agree with someone, there is much to be said about his or her views. Tonight: Opt to do something off the beaten path.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Visualize and create more of what you want with the help of a partner. Not everyone has to agree with you. You're about work and efficiency. Allow your sixth sense to emerge. Deal with finances directly. Tonight: Be a team.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others ask for feedback, which you give. Use your ingenuity to help make what they want a reality. A child or loved one could be confused; help this person. Your understanding plus energy make an excellent mix. Tonight: Go with another's ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might need to prove your point or help someone see a situation differently. As it happens, your perceptions might not be 100 percent right. Emphasize efficiency and security over a devil-may-care attitude. Tonight: Pace yourself.

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LOCAL



Local Boy Scouts make Eagle

By Daily Press staff

Eight local members of the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 2 of Santa Monica, will be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at ceremonies Sunday.

They will be honored for their exemplary efforts at a troop family reunion picnic followed by a court of honor starting at 1:30 p.m. at Camp Josepho Boy Scout Camp in Pacific Palisades.

The scouts to be honored are:

- Nicholas W. Bascue, 17;
- Alexander A. Farivar, 17;
- Daniel Fliegel, 16;
- Brandon Gunter, 18;
- Matthew S. Ishler, 17;
- John F. Muller, 17;
- Sean A. Theile, 17;
- Jameson T. Winthrop, 18.

The Eagle rank honors extraordinary effort and leadership. The highest rank in scouting, it is earned by about two percent of all Boy Scouts. This year's crop of eight Eagle scouts is the largest number fielded by Troop 2 since its inception in 1947.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, a scout must demonstrate proficiency in first aid, citizenship, camping, swimming and emergency preparedness. In addition, Eagle candidates must coordinate and complete a community service project that provides significant benefit to the community and involves at least 100 hours of effort by the young men, their families and other scouts. Candidates must also demonstrate significant leadership abilities while executing the project.

In a year that has seen significant funding cuts for education, many of the young men from Troop 2 devoted their attention to projects assisting local public schools.

Farivar and Gunter, both seniors at Santa Monica High School, did projects aimed at sprucing up the Samohi campus. Farivar organized and completed the construction of a new redwood fence around the school's rose garden, while Gunter led a team that cleaned and repainted the

steps of the school's Greek Theater.

Muller, a Santa Monica resident and a senior at Harvard-Westlake School, organized a drive that collected more than 2,000 children's books for La Ballona Elementary School, a primarily Hispanic Title I school in Culver City. Bascue, a student at Santa Monica's Concord High School, led a team that built shelving for the salad garden at McKinley Elementary School in Santa Monica. McKinley students use the garden for science classes and for growing produce for their lunches.

The remaining four scouts chose projects dedicated to children, conservation, public health and supporting a local church. Those projects were:

■ A drive that collected hundreds of toys for the Delta Sigma Theta State Preschool in Santa Monica, and the Gramercy House homeless shelter in West Los Angeles, conducted by Fliegel, a junior at Santa Monica High School;

■ A fencing construction project to prevent erosion in the trails of Topanga State Park, conducted by Ishler, a junior at Samohi;

■ The refurbishing and reorganization of the library at the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, organized by Theile, a senior at West Los Angeles Baptist High School; and

■ A drive that collected more than 325 pairs of prescription eyeglasses, which were donated to the Lions Club International for people in developing countries, conducted by Winthrop, a junior at Santa Monica High School.

Troop 2 is one of the oldest and largest Boy Scout troops in the Western United States. By troop policy, Troop 2 does not engage in or condone discrimination of any kind. Since 1947, the group has seen more than 225 of its members attain the rank of Eagle.

For information on attending the picnic and court of honor, call Suzie Kim at 453-5581.



The mix of NW wind swell and weak SW swell will hold through Thursday and into Friday. In other words, rideable but weak surf is on tap for the next two days.

BAD NEWS: The N swell we were hoping for on Saturday isn't going to come through and neither is the tropical storm.

GOOD NEWS: Rideable waves are better than none.

OUTLOOK: A stronger but shadowed SW this weekend. Weaker SW pulses will continue through next week.

Today the water is:

65°

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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The Q-Line

Four years ago, the Santa Monica City Council passed an ordinance banning fees on ATM withdrawals by a 4-3 vote. The banking industry immediately filed lawsuits against the law and in July of 2000, a U.S. district judge in San Francisco struck it down.

Santa Monica (as well as the City of San Francisco, which passed a similar ban) appealed that decision to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which also overturned the law. City officials then appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused last week to hear the case.

Some city officials have grumbled that

they knew the law would never stand up and that Santa Monica wasted thousands of dollars on attorney fees pursuing the case. Others say it was a "consumer protection issue."

So this week Q-Line wants to know: "Was the ATM fee ban a waste of time and taxpayer money from the beginning? Or was it a valid case of protecting residents from being gouged?"

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

Railing against 'save our schools' mantra

Editor

As we wait for the final Measure S ballots to be counted, let's start the count-down.

How long before the SM-Malibu Unified School District starts whining about no money again? How long before we get hit up for more donations because the \$6.5 million they will receive is just not enough and they can't get by without more?

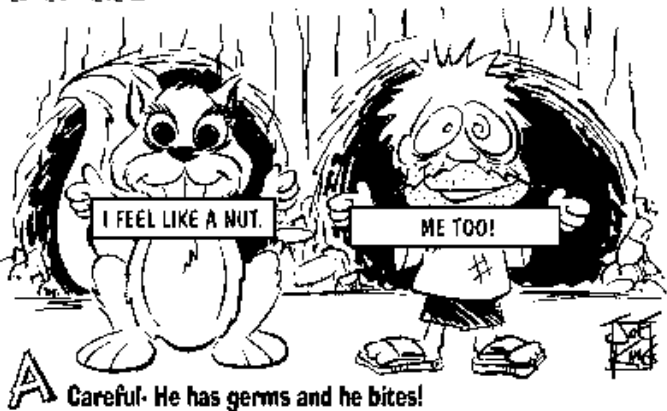
How long before our teachers feel the need to further promote the district's agenda in the classrooms? If I hear one more 7-year old regurgitate the mantra of "save our schools" again I'm going to vomit. Our kids can't read or add but they all know that the "wealthy" landowners are evil and hate children because they won't give in and just pay more taxes to save our schools. It's what they've learned in class this year, just ask them.

Now you'll get more of our money, congratulations. Now do something meaningful with it. Perhaps hire someone to weed out the reportedly 20 percent of children who do not belong here — that's a logical start.

John Linfesty
Santa Monica

FUNNY PAPERZ Q

Can you spot the indigenous species found underground at the Palisades Park cliffs?



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Hatin' those at top is really just hatin' ourselves



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

High school basketball phenom Lebron James has penned an endorsement deal with Nike for an estimated \$90 million. He has yet to test his mettle against the world's best in the NBA.

Actor Keanu Reeves, star of the popular "Matrix" film franchise, will net more than \$100 million for starring in the pair of sequels being released this year. This from a thespian continually and mercilessly attacked for his inability to stretch himself as an actor.

Has the world gone mad?

Are there people any more undeserving of such extravagant riches?

Absolutely!

It appears necessary, from time to time, to remind ourselves that we are living in a capitalist society that espouses to anyone who will listen the wonders and possibilities of free enterprise. We all have equal opportunity to chase the American Dream and we all contain within ourselves the ability to succeed wildly in one area of our lives or another.

The NBA? Maybe not. Hollywood Walk of Fame? Not likely. But somewhere out there lies are destiny, our road less traveled.

So just stop hatin' already!

The talk around water coolers, in bars

and pubs, inside coffee shops and on talk radio typically goes something like this:

"Did you hear Keanu Reeves is getting \$100 million for starring in 'The Matrix' movies?"

"Damn, he can't even act."

Somehow we have come to a place in our lives where we feel justified in deciding another person's worth. Who are we to say what an actor or a basketball player is worth to their employer? Just because their chosen professions place them squarely in the spotlight doesn't mean they have to stand there with billfold in tow.

Few among us are so open about our own finances when put on the spot. Likely, because we don't really feel our financial incomes are indicative of our own self-worth.

Once upon a time in America, champions of business, inventors and entrepreneurs were idolized and placed on pedestals — Thomas Edison, Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller — for realizing what we called "the American Dream."

These were men who realized fortunes beyond the public's comprehension, men who came from meager beginnings, men who picked themselves up by their bootstraps and drove forward with passion and vision and determination.

So what has changed in our collective mindset? Are we jealous that some people are born prettier or with bodies ideally suited to play professional sports?

Not all of us were intended to be NBA players. Not all of us were intended to be cinematic action heroes. We just need to find our own niche, find our own doorway

that opens freely after having run into a series of walls.

To be honest, our envy of those achieving success in a given field says a lot more about ourselves and our own sense of self-worth than it does the people we feel justified in tearing down. What it really means is that we haven't found our doorway and we are growing increasingly frustrated or have just plain given up altogether.

Or maybe the envy stems from the likes of James and Reeves making their jobs look so easy, but that's how things appear to those on the outside looking in when someone is good at what they do. In fact, when you are good at what you do, it does look easy to others because it comes so naturally to you.

Few among us have found our true calling, where the barriers of resistance just seem to fall away before us. They are the lucky ones, but that's not to say there isn't a calling for each and every one of us out there.

There is little doubt the Lebron Jameses and Keanu Reeveses of the world are doing exactly what they were put on this planet to do. The cold, hard truth of the matter is most of us can't do what they can do without even thinking about it; they do it instinctively.

But plenty of our neighbors are doing precisely what they were intended to do — priests, teachers, scientists, artists, chefs, you name it — but they are able to go about it minus the deep-seeded resentment by others that comes along with financial wealth.

And I'd be willing to wager my own

modest paycheck that they are less likely to begrudge Reeves and James for their success because they know that financial gain truly is not indicative of self-worth.

So Lebron James and Keanu Reeves are going to be sitting pretty for the rest of their lives. So what? It isn't money out of our own pockets, unless of course we are buying Nike sneakers, attending NBA games, going to "Matrix" movies or buying those silly movie-inspired sunglasses that will be out of vogue in three months.

And if that's the case, they deserve whatever rewards befall them because they prompted us to leave our house and spend money in the first place.

A pair of news reports last week were troubling, both concerning Reeves and his overflowing wallet.

In one, the actor notorious for living in hotels, plopped down a cool \$5 million for a spread in the Hollywood Hills — his first real permanent residence since hitting the "big time." Another story, garnering decidedly less press and less reader interest, detailed how Reeves was giving back more than \$80 million of the \$100 million he earned for the "Matrix" films to the costume designers and special effects creators on the films, sharing the wealth and thanking those who helped him onto the pedestal.

In the end, our hatin' says a lot more about us than it does the likes of Keanu Reeves.

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. To reach him, send e-mail to tooroom@aol.com.)

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

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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



Vote recount may delay Measure S final results

TAX, from page 1

If the final results are as close as they were on Tuesday night, residents may have to wait even longer for a final word because those involved on either side of the issue could request a recount.

"Hopefully we won't need to have a recount," said local architect Ralph Mechur, co-chair of the campaign in favor of Measure S. "But with a razor-thin margin, it's hard to know."

Mat Millen, who heads Citizens Against Unfair Taxes, said he may ask for a recount if the returns don't come back in his favor.

"If it stays the same and if I can raise the funds, I'm going to ask for a recount," he said, adding that he was already researching the procedure and costs associated with such an undertaking.

Anybody can request a recount, though that person must pay for it. The request must come within five days of the formal election announcement and the cost can range from \$2,000 all the way up into the tens of thousands of dollars, Ventura said.

The price tag for demanding a recount depends on two things: How many precincts are counted and how many boards (groups of four workers) the person that asks for the recount wants working simultaneously.

Four people have to verify each vote by hand. The cost per day is \$1,962 for one board, \$3,142 for two boards and \$4,322 for three boards, according to documents

from the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder.

Mechur said if Measure S loses and his group decides to request a recount, they would probably look first at absentee ballots.

But both sides said they need to raise more money and devise a strategy before staging a recount.

"Hopefully we won't need to have a recount. But with a razor-thin margin, it's hard to know."

— RALPH MECHUR

Co-chair of campaign in favor of Measure S

Supporters of Measure S raised more than \$200,000 and spent it on a finely-tuned campaign that targeted regular voters, Democrats and parents with children in local schools. They hired two campaign consultants and produced a handful of mailers, in the end outspending their competition by \$193,000.

Millen's group raised only about \$7,000 and spent it on a couple hundred lawn signs and a single mailer. Millen and his supporters said Wednesday that the margin of votes sends a clear message that residents feel the tax is unfair.

"It was a bought election," he said. "I spent about a buck and a quarter a vote and they spent about \$20 a vote."

Charity honors volunteers

CHARITIES, from page 1

problem) was not having good life-coping skills."

Donovan, who was born in Compton and grew up in Glendale and San Fernando, now works as a mold-maker at the Sanford-Papermate pen factory in Santa Monica. He credited Gary Galazka, his department supervisor at the plant, and the people at Salvation Army and Turning Point for helping him change his life.

John Maceri, the executive director of Ocean Park Community Center, which oversees the non-profit Turning Point, characterized Donovan as a success.

"We don't see ourselves as changing people or fixing people," Maceri said. "We're empowering people to rebuild their lives."

For 20 years, Turning Point has run a 55-bed operation that takes people from a variety of shelters and recovery centers and helps them blend back into society as productive citizens. The facility is located at 1444 16th St.

In Donovan's case, he was coming from the Salvation Army, where he spent six months immediately after he was released from prison. He then stayed at Turning Point for 9 months, landed a full-time job at Sanford-Papermate and saved 80 percent of his salary, as per the charity's rules.

Without the transition, Donovan said he might have slipped back into drug and alcohol abuse.

Turning Point honored a handful of volunteers for their service and commitment on Sunday at a brunch and silent-auction fundraising event titled "Blues by the Sea," which was held at Loew's Hotel.

The shoemaker Skechers received the "Brilliant Star Award" for giving free shoes to Turning Point, as well as for the actions of Brian Kimball, a marketing executive at Skechers who serves on the Turning Point Resource Board and cooks breakfast once a week at the facility.

"We don't see ourselves as changing people or fixing people. We're empowering people to rebuild their lives."

— JOHN MACERI

Ocean Park Community Center executive director

Irene Romero, Kyre Carsey, Shannon Wilcox and Sophie Kidian received the "Open Heart Award" for establishing "Irene's Place," a mock restaurant at Turning Point that dishes out generous portions of home-cooked food spiced with love and affection.

And Becky and Michael Neidorf won the "Generous Spirit Award" for their ongoing commitment to Turning Point during the last seven years.

Donovan, wearing his Salvation Army volunteer uniform, addressed the crowd of roughly 250 who gathered for the event.

"I'm a life that was saved," he said. "It was five years ago. It ended a cycle of homelessness and it ended a cycle of incarceration."



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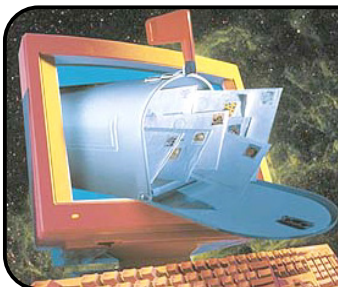
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Dennis C. Hardin, M.F.T., Ph.D., is a licensed psychotherapist and marriage counselor specializing in personal growth and goal achievement. He is the author of *THE ETHICS OF PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT*. He has also been certified by the Albert Ellis Institute in the techniques of rational-emotive therapy. His specialty is developing self-help methods which enable clients to retake control of their lives and remake their own destiny.

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STATE

Voters have mixed views on parcel tax for education

BY TOSHI MAEDA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Voters in four Bay Area counties expressed mixed views on temporary property tax increases designed to keep local schools afloat amid California's state budget crisis, according to election results made available Wednesday.

New or higher parcel taxes appeared to have passed with the required two-thirds vote in at least five of the 12 school districts where the ballot measures appeared Tuesday. County officials said the results would be finalized after they count absentee ballots.

Supporters had argued the taxes, which will be in effect from two to eight years depending on the district, were needed to prevent teacher layoffs, maintain smaller class sizes, keep school libraries open, and to subsidize other education basics threatened by budget cuts.

According to Gov. Gray Davis' budget plan announced last month, the state education system will receive \$45.6 billion this year - a \$1.5 billion fall from last year.

The governor's plan stresses cuts on such expenses as books, teacher and principal training and reading assistance.

Here's a quick look at preliminary election results from the 12 school districts in Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Marin counties.

Passing:

■ In San Mateo County's Burlingame Elementary School District, 71.9 percent of the voters approved a measure that will introduce an annual \$76-per-parcel tax for eight years. Money raised by the measure, expected to reach \$550,000 a year, is intended to restore smaller third-grade classes, bring back three librarians and save the district's remedial reading programs.

■ In San Mateo Foster City Elementary district, 69.3 percent of the

voters approved a \$75-per-parcel measure that will be in effect for seven years. The tax will be used for teachers' salaries, libraries and maintaining small classes.

■ In the San Carlos Elementary district, also in San Mateo County, 69.9 percent voted for a \$98-per-parcel measure, which is intended to raise nearly \$1 million yearly for eight years. The district plans to use the money to bring back a middle-school counselor job and a remedial reading program, and for teacher salaries.

■ Some 77.7 percent of voters residing in Alameda County's Emery Unified district approved a \$50-per-parcel tax to raise about \$1 million annually for six years - equal to the amount the district had to cut from its \$7.3 million budget for next year.

■ In Marin County's Larkspur Elementary district, a \$75-per-parcel tax passed with 74.7 percent of the vote. The measure will raise \$325,000 a year for two years, funds the district hopes to use to rehire nine teachers, including ones for music, science and physical education classes.

Failing:

■ In Cabrillo Unified district, San Mateo County, 65.4 percent of those who voted on Tuesday said no to a \$250-per-parcel measure, which was designed to raise nearly all of the \$2.6 million that the district cut from next year's \$23 million budget.

■ A \$150-per-parcel tax to benefit the Newark Unified district in Alameda County was rejected with 50.7 percent of voters opposing it.

■ In Bolinas-Stinson Union district, Marin County, 62.5 percent voted against a \$50-per-parcel increase to an existing annual parcel tax of \$198.

■ Four districts - San Jose Unified, Campbell Union, Franklin-McKinley, and Mountain View-Whisman - in Santa Clara County failed to get the two-thirds vote needed to pass their parcel tax measures.

Advocates blame Democrats for corporate bill's failure

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Consumer advocates blamed two Democratic lawmakers Wednesday for the failure of a three-strikes bill banning corporations that commit three felonies in a 10-year period from doing business in the state.

The advocates placed a fake wanted poster of the two lawmakers on a Web page, accusing them of being soft on corporate crime.

"Any politician who believes that convicted corporate felons should not have the same responsibility to society as other three-time felons is out of touch with the public's anger over the lack of corporate accountability," said Jamie Court, executive director of Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, a Santa Monica-based consumer group that supported the bill.

Court's ire was sparked by the failure of Sens. Debra Bowen, D-Marina del Rey, and Jackie Speier, D-Daly City, to vote for a bill by Sen. Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, that was defeated in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The legislation would bar corporations with three felonies of fraud, tax, bribery,

extortion, consumer protection, civil rights, labor, employment, antitrust, political campaign or finance laws within 10 years from doing business in California.

The first two crimes could take place anywhere in the country. The third would have to be in California to trigger the ban.

A first or second offense would have to be disclosed on the Internet and in newspaper ads.

Speier said she liked parts of the bill but considered other sections "overly broad." She said she was willing to work with the measure's supporters to reach a compromise.

Bowen said she didn't see how the bill could guarantee that no jobs would be lost if a corporation was barred from doing business in the state, unless the company was replaced with a state-run enterprise.

The bill takes its name from the state's three strikes law, which mandates sentences of 25 years to life in prison for individuals convicted of a third felony with two prior violent felonies.

Supporters described it as the toughest corporate crime measure proposed in the nation and said it would be a major deterrent to corporate malfeasance. But critics said it was among legislation that would make California appear inhospitable to business.

STATE



Phil Spector tells magazine actress killed herself

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Record producer Phil Spector said that the actress shot to death at his mansion early this year killed herself, *Esquire* magazine will report in its July edition.

"She kissed the gun. I have no idea why," Spector said in an interview about the death of B-movie actress Lana Clarkson. "I never knew her, never even saw her before that night. I have no idea who she was or what her agenda was."

Esquire writer-at-large Scott Raab said Wednesday he interpreted Spector's "kissed the gun" remark to mean that Clarkson shot herself, not that she literally kissed the gun. Clarkson was shot in the face.

Spector, 62, was arrested Feb. 3 for investigation of murder. He was released after posting \$1 million bail. He has not been charged, and authorities say they are investigating.

Spector told the magazine he did not know where Clarkson got the gun.

A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department statement issued in March said investigators discounted suicide.

"We did not believe it was a suicide, and we still don't," sheriff's Lt. Daniel Rosenberg reiterated Wednesday. Autopsy results have been sealed.

Spector has worked with such artists as the Beatles, Ike and Tina Turner, Ramones, Shirelles and Ronettes and is credited with creating the distinctive, heavily layered "wall of sound" that gave an orchestra-like feeling to such pop classics as "Da Doo Ron Ron" and "Then He Kissed Me."

Raab said Spector told him that he did not witness the shooting. After hearing a shot, Spector went to the foyer, where

Clarkson's body was found, the producer told Raab.

Spector said he called police himself. "It's 'Anatomy of a Frame-Up,'" he said in the interview. "I didn't do anything wrong. ... If they had a case, I'd be sitting in jail right now."

Clarkson, 40, had a spotty career that included Roger Corman's "Barbarian Queen" and "Amazon Women on the Moon." Her first speaking role had been in "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

Spector said Clarkson was "loud and drunk" before they left the House of Blues club on the Sunset Strip in West Hollywood, where she worked as a hostess.

"She asked me for a ride home. Then she wanted to see the castle," Spector said, referring to his mansion in suburban Alhambra.

"She grabbed a bottle of tequila from the bar to take with her. I was not drunk. I wasn't drunk at all. There is no case. She killed herself," he said.

While reporting the story, Raab joined the producer on a chartered flight from Los Angeles to New York and at restaurants and a concert. Spector seemed terrified and, angry about the publicity surrounding the case, Raab said.

Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office, said she could not comment on the article or the case because the investigation is under way.

In the interview, Spector said he had given his lawyer, Robert Shapiro, \$300,000 worth of gifts and travel and criticized the attorney for charging a high fee to get him bailed out of jail.

"When Robert came in, as a courtesy, as a favor, he shoulda gotten me outta jail. As a courtesy — not for seven figures," Spector said.

Bomb plot suspected in L.A.

BY ROBERT JABLON

Associated Press Writer

MONTEREY PARK — Authorities revealed Wednesday that they have been investigating a now-imprisoned man who allegedly collected semiautomatic assault weapons, ammunition, pipe bombs and barrels of jet fuel and appeared to be planning to attack an unknown building.

There have been no charges filed involving the materials but the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is investigating, Los Angeles County sheriff's officials told a headquarters press conference.

The man, John Noster, 38, is currently in prison for vehicle theft and has refused to talk to investigators, sheriff's Sgt. John Demooy said.

"He was definitely planning on targeting a structure, location, individuals, and would have created significant damage," Demooy said.

Authorities, however, were not able to identify the target, he said.

An investigation that began last fall led to discovery of three pipe bombs, two incendiary devices, six 55-gallon drums of jet fuel, five assault weapons, smokeless powder, cannon fuse, electric matches, and thousands of rounds of ammunition including military tracers, and \$188,000 in cash at several locations, authorities said.

The guns, ammunition and cash were in a garage "with a \$3 padlock on it,"

Demooy said.

The ATF was investigating Noster for firearms and explosives violations and planned to present a case to federal prosecutors in the near future, ATF spokeswoman Latese Baker said.

Noster had traveled back and forth across the country in a pickup with a camper shell after leaving a Los Angeles sporting goods company where he was an accountant. Investigators placed him in Texas, Arkansas and Oregon.

Noster worked for Easton Sports, which makes aluminum bats, hockey gear and bicycle frames, until he voluntarily left in November 2000, said John Cramer, vice president and general counsel.

Nicholas Khan, a Beverly Hills attorney who represented Noster in the theft case, declined to comment on the new allegations. "He was white-collar professional, seemed like an intelligent man and I believe if charges are brought against him ... that he'll be vindicated in court," Khan said.

The existence of the probe was revealed in the unusual circumstance of announcing commendations for members of a regional auto theft investigations team that discovered the materials.

"The potential of this suspect was very, very significant," Sheriff Lee Baca said.

The discoveries began after the auto theft unit began an investigation last September into the fraudulent purchases of a pickup, camper, motorcycles and off-road vehicles called Quadrunners.

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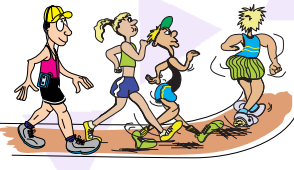
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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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NATIONAL

Partial abortion ban passes

BY JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The House voted Wednesday to ban a procedure that abortion foes call "partial birth" abortion, moving the restriction a crucial step closer to President Bush's signature.

With the 282-139 vote, Congress was on the verge of ending a practice that Rep. Steve Chabot said was "truly a national tragedy."

Abortion rights groups said they would challenge it in court as soon as it becomes law, thrusting the issue of the ban's constitutionality toward a divided Supreme Court.

The ban would be one of the most significant restrictions on abortion since the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision recognizing abortion rights. Ken Connor, president of the anti-abortion Family Research Council, said passage was indicative of "a tide that is running against Roe v. Wade, which will eventually be dismantled."

Bush — unlike former President Clinton, who twice vetoed partial birth abortion bans — urged Congress in his State of the Union address in January to give him a bill he could sign.

The administration strongly believes the bill "is both morally imperative and constitutionally permissible," the White House said in a statement.

The Senate passed a nearly identical bill in March, but differences with the House must still be ironed out before the legislation is sent to the president. Likely to be deleted: nonbinding language added by the Senate in support of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

Abortion opponents have pushed the bill since Republicans captured the House in 1995, saying they want to stop a particularly abhorrent means of ending a preg-

nancy. "Partial birth abortion is a gruesome and inhumane procedure and it is a grave attack against human dignity and justice. This practice must be banned," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., at the opening of the debate.

Under the bill, partial birth abortion is defined as a procedure in which the fetus is killed after the entire fetal head is outside the body of the mother or, in the case of breech presentation, "any part of the fetal trunk past the navel is outside the body of the mother."

The legislation characterizes the procedure, which typically involves puncturing the fetal skull to bring about death, as "the overt act, other than completion of delivery, that kills the partially delivered living fetus."

Physicians who knowingly perform the procedure would be subject to up to two years in prison.

Opponents of the bill cited a 2000 Supreme Court ruling that struck down a similar Nebraska law as unconstitutional, and said women would still have access to late-term abortions using other procedures.

Reps. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and James Greenwood, R-Pa., offered an alternative that would make it illegal to perform any abortion procedure after the fetus has become viable — meaning it is able to survive outside the womb — unless the doctor determines that ending the pregnancy is necessary to preserve a woman's life or protect her from serious adverse health consequences. It was defeated 287-133.

The health exception has been a major sticking point: Clinton, in his two vetoes, cited the lack of an exception for instances in which a woman's health is endangered. The current bill contains an exception when the life of the mother — but not her health — is at risk.

Alleged member of jewel theft ring jailed in Las Vegas

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — An alleged member of an international ring thought to have stolen nearly \$2 million in Las Vegas jewelry heists has been arrested, authorities said Wednesday.

Juro Markelic, 47, a Serbian national, was arrested Monday, just hours after a yellow diamond pendant worth more than \$700,000 was stolen from a jewelry show, police Sgt. Priscilla Green said.

"This team is very active, and they've been working the West Coast very hard," Green said at a downtown news conference.

In March 2002, thieves with the same description stole two necklaces valued at a total of \$120,000 from a jewelry store inside the Rio hotel-casino.

In December, police said the group snatched the \$1 million "Millennium Necklace," a 96-carat platinum piece with 2,000 white Russian diamonds. The piece was on display at a jewelry store in The Venetian hotel-casino's shopping mall.

On Monday, the same group of professional thieves struck The JCK Show at the Sands Expo and Convention Center at The Venetian, police said. The group also has been linked to a heist at a Denver jewelry store.

Green called the group a "professional distract team" that targets high-dollar jewelry stores. In each case, members of the group distracted employees, while others

snatched the jewels.

Markelic was arrested after an alert exhibitor noticed him walking around the convention center after Monday's show and identified him as one of the people involved in the heist, Green said. Officers responded and arrested Markelic.

Markelic is being held at the Clark County Detention Center on grand larceny and conspiracy charges. Police declined to say whether he was cooperating with investigators.

Police Capt. Terry Mayo said the group has at least four other members, is well-dressed and blends in with wealthy customers.

"They're not robbers. They're not burglars. They're not the guys in black cat suits," Mayo said. "It's just an organized group of people who put on a show for the workers."

Las Vegas police have asked for assistance from Interpol and the FBI in locating the rest of the suspects, who might be Serbs or Russians. Police also have contacted jewelry organizations and provided them with surveillance photographs of the group.

Las Vegas has been the site of a number of jewelry heists in the past decade.

In 1996, nearly \$2 million worth of jewels was stolen at a trade show. Three years later, a security guard at a Chinatown jewelry store was shot to death during a heist. And in 1998, a roving gang of Los Angeles thieves drove a car through the doors of a jewelry store.

NATIONAL



Hillary says she found solace in hard work as first lady

BY CALVIN WOODWARD AND SIOBHAN MCDONOUGH

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — When the going got tough in the White House — and when didn't it during the Clinton years? — Hillary Rodham Clinton got busy. The former first lady threw herself into her duties partly to escape all the cascading troubles, she says in her new memoirs.

In "Living History," the New York senator also talks about her determination to play a policy role in her husband's administration — and takes some responsibility for "botching" health care reform.

She acknowledges being insensitive at first to those who felt she was taking the role of first lady too far off the traditional course.

The book comes out Monday. The Associated Press got an early copy.

In it, she invokes another strong-willed first lady to describe how she got through the tribulations of her time in the White House. "Eleanor Roosevelt once said, 'If I feel depressed, I go to work,'" she writes.

If policy activism was a balm, it was also her passion, and she makes no apologies for taking on difficult issues during the eight years of her husband Bill's presidency.

In the 562-page volume, she also offers a blistering indictment of President Clinton's behavior with Monica Lewinsky and his lying about the affair. Even so, she says she still loved her husband and did not feel he betrayed his country.

There were many other persistent, if less sensational, burdens during their eight years in the White House. She says she got through them with hard work, religious faith, trusted friends and travel. Ireland was her favorite foreign destination.

She recounts the six "brutal" months after Inauguration Day in 1993: Her father died. White House aide and friend Vincent Foster killed himself. Her mother-in-law was dying. Critics were making hay with the missteps of a new administration.

"I did what I often do when faced with adversity," she said. "I threw myself into a schedule so hectic that there was no time for brooding."

Asked Wednesday about her book's account of the Lewinsky episode, the senator said, "I hope people will read the book. This book is about many things."

Speaking outside her Senate office, she said of the public interest in her story: "I worked very hard on it — to talk about my growing up, my values, my beliefs. And I think all of these questions people will be able to answer for themselves within the context of the entire book."

Lewinsky declined through a spokeswoman to say

anything immediately about the book.

In the memoirs:

■ Clinton says that after her husband finally confessed to a sexual relationship with Lewinsky, after denying it, "I didn't know whether our marriage could — or should — survive such a stinging betrayal. ... This was the most devastating, shocking and hurtful experience of my life."

■ She acknowledges that "on bad days, I faulted myself for botching health care, coming on too strong and galvanizing our opponents."

■ She wrestles with the question of why Foster killed himself when he did not seem out of sorts. She says that as she learned more about clinical depression, "I began to understand that Vince may have appeared happy because the idea of dying gave him a sense of peace."

■ While joking about having imaginary conversations with Mrs. Roosevelt, she says that she would "visualize" the former first lady because that would help her analyze problems.

■ Of her famous description of a "vast right-wing conspiracy" dogging her and her husband, she says she might have phrased her point more artfully. But she stands by its essence, as it related to independent counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation.

"I do believe there was, and still is, an interlocking network of groups and individuals who want to turn the clock back on many of the advances our country has made," she says, contending these interests will use all tools at their disposal to achieve their ends.

■ She says she never read the Starr report but considered its release — complete with sexually explicit allegations — "a low moment in American history."

■ Clinton deals at length with the Whitewater investigations, which she says were politically motivated.

Anticipating keen interest, Simon & Schuster ordered a huge first printing of 1 million copies and Clinton was paid a \$2.85 million advance toward the \$8 million deal. The book's list price is \$28.

Florida millionaire secretly had two lives

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A millionaire road builder kept two families 20 miles apart — a double life discovered only after his first wife died.

Now, the attorney representing the oldest son of Douglas "Diesel" Cone wants prosecutors to look into the March death of 75-year-old Jean Ann Cone, which was ruled an accidental inhalation of exhaust fumes in her garage.

"My client has concerns other than the suspicious death of his mother," attorney Norman Cannella said in Wednesday's St. Petersburg Times. "These concerns do involve substantial financial assets."

Cannella, who represents Douglas Cone Jr., said he has not yet had a chance to meet with Mark Ober, the state attorney for Hillsborough County. The state attorney's office declined to comment Wednesday. The senior Cone, 74, did not immediately return a message left at his Tampa office.

Cone, who built many of the area's highways, was married to socialite and philanthropist Jean Ann Cone for more than 50 years. They lived in a prestigious Tampa neighborhood and sent their three children to the exclusive Berkeley Preparatory School, which named its library for Jean Ann Cone.

Hillary Carlson, a school trustee, and her husband Donald also sent their two children to the private school in the 1980s and 1990s. They paid for its baseball complex, known as Carlson field.

Donald Carlson never appeared at the school and his wife told friends her husband traveled often for a sensitive government job. The family lived in a secluded 67-acre estate in north Hillsborough County.

Public records show no Donald Carlson associated with Hillary Carlson, but neighbors shown a picture of Douglas Cone knew him as "Don" and that he lived with Carlson, the Times reported.

Jean Ann Cone was found March 20 by her daughter, slumped behind the wheel of her Rolls Royce in a closed garage with the ignition in the on position. Daughter Julianne McKeel told police her mother had a habit of driving into the garage and closing the door before turning off the car's engine as a safety measure.

The medical examiner attributed the death to accidental car exhaust inhalation and reported her blood-alcohol level as 0.18, more than twice the legal driving limit.

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INTERNATIONAL

A corner of Manitoba witnesses a slithery marvel

BY TOM COHEN
Associated Press Writer

NARCISSE, Manitoba — At first glance it's just a hole surrounded by aspens in glowing spring leaf. Then you notice the ground is moving.

From every crack in the limestone bedrock, snakes slither by the thousands, some tangled into balls, rolling over rocks and tree trunks, starved for love after hibernating through the seven-month Manitoba prairie winter.

Dozens of sex-crazed males wrap themselves around females in hopes of getting chosen to mate, watched by crowds of tourists who have trekked three miles on foot.

"It's a snake ball! It's a bowling snake ball!" yelled Michael Moloney, clutching a handful of serpents on a visit for his eighth birthday.

Resembling mythical Medusa's snake hairdo, the tangles of red-sided garter

snakes are one of the more unusual wildlife occurrences of North America, attracting thousands of spectators during the monthlong migration.

"There's nothing else out here but the snakes," said Darlene Herron, who sells snacks from a trailer in the parking lot of the remote region between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba, 420 miles northwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.

The crowds start showing up on Mother's Day, she said, though, "I don't know why anyone brings their mother to the snake dens."

Nobody knows exactly how many red-sided garters come out of the Narcisse snake dens each spring. A conservative estimate is 50,000. They are harmless, yellow-striped with red markings, and 18 inches to three feet long.

The snakes go five to eight feet underground in the fall to keep from freezing, spending months jammed in dank, dark crevices with no food beneath the frost line.

When warmer temperatures beckon, they climb out hungry for frogs and toads to eat and the chance to mate with a longer, thicker female.

Dave Roberts, the Manitoba Conservation wildlife technician in charge of the Narcisse dens, explained how males will swarm a lone female, flicking tongues on her back to detect the pheromone that is their aphrodisiac.

Once the female has chosen a male, the mating ball unravels and the spurned males look for another partner. Baby snakes are born in the late summer, usually 20 to 50 at a time, with an estimated 2 percent surviving to adulthood, Roberts said.

Though he knows the most intimate

details of snake anatomy and behavior, the 47-year-old Roberts says some mysteries remain.

"What mechanism occurs that causes a female to be receptive or not receptive?" he wondered out loud as a thick damsel charged across the bottom of a den, at least six males creeping up her back.

Why do some males also give off pheromones that attract other males? Perhaps to confuse rival suitors, Roberts suggested.

The spring migration occurs in a region of limestone quarries where mining was prohibited in 1982 and four of the snake dens were declared part of a larger wildlife management area.

3rd Infantry moves into Baath resistance stronghold

BY CHRIS TOMLINSON
Associated Press Writer

HABANIYAH, Iraq — In a high-profile show of force, the U.S. military poured more than 1,500 combat troops into a swath of central Iraq on Wednesday, signaling that any violent resistance to American occupation would be met with harsh punishment.

U.S. troops, sweeping out dust and sifting through debris left by looters, set up their headquarters at two Iraqi air bases and a railroad station outside Fallujah and Habaniyah, cities where anti-American demonstrations and attacks have been particularly aggressive.

Commanders have tripled the number of troops around the cities in a bid to quell supporters of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party and decrease the sniping at American patrols that has killed two U.S. servicemen at a checkpoint. Conservative Sunni Muslims wield great influence in the communities.

No immediate problems were reported as the forces deployed.

The combat troops from the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade arrived to take over the area from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Two battalion-sized task forces took up positions around the city of Fallujah, 30 miles west of Baghdad; another task force took over two military airfields in Habaniyah, five miles farther west.

Two major highways connecting Baghdad to Syria and Jordan run through the two cities, where about 300 soldiers from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment have maintained a mostly symbolic presence.

But after violent demonstrations and several attacks on U.S. troops, commanders decided to send in the battle-tested 2nd Brigade, which captured most of Baghdad during the war.

In addition to patrolling the area, the brigade will also work with local leaders on community service projects at schools and hospitals to improve relations with residents.

Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, commander of American ground forces in Iraq, said he doubted the attackers were coordinating their efforts.

"These are localized, decentralized

attacks by those who were part of the old regime. I don't see a national effort across Iraq," McKiernan said Wednesday. "I don't see any pattern of centralized command and control over these incidents."

He said the spate of attacks signifies a last-ditch effort by Saddam's supporters — not a gathering resistance movement.

"I see it as the culmination of the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime," McKiernan said at a news conference in Baghdad. "They don't want a democratic Iraq to succeed because they don't have a role in it."

In Fallujah and the neighboring cities of Ramadi and Habaniyah, the streets were quiet Wednesday as soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division went on patrol. Residents went about their business, passing American forces without incident.

The road between Baghdad and Fallujah was crowded with U.S. Army trucks moving west.

Anger in Fallujah grew in late April, when confrontations between residents and American forces left 18 Iraqis dead and at least 78 wounded. Residents accuse U.S. troops of using excessive force and of not respecting Islamic practices.

As troops moved into Fallujah, other American infantrymen immediately began setting up shop at Habaniyah Air Base, built by the British in the early 1950s.

Habaniyah grew up around the air base, where abandoned Soviet fighter jets and cargo planes still sit on the runway, slowly deteriorating. Uniforms left at the base have the insignia of Republican Guard troops, and hundreds of gas masks litter the barracks.

An Iraqi special forces base was located northeast of Fallujah, and many military-age men in the cities, some in very good physical condition, have scowled or made obscene gestures toward U.S. troops.

"You can tell who used to be in the military," said Capt. Chris Carter, commander of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, which is occupying the air base.

At dawn Wednesday, the 2nd Brigade loaded 88 Abrams tanks and 44 Bradley Fighting Vehicles onto cargo trucks and dropped them off outside the two cities.

BY CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY
Associated Press Writer

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — A U.N.-sponsored war crimes court charged Liberian President Charles Taylor with crimes against humanity Wednesday for a 10-year terror campaign in which tens of thousands of people were killed, raped, kidnapped or maimed in neighboring Sierra Leone.

Taylor, a warlord-turned-president, long had been accused of running guns and keeping close ties to Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front, the rebels whose ruinous battle for control of Sierra Leone's diamond fields ended last year.

The indictment accuses Taylor of "bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law," said David Crane, the American prosecutor of the joint U.N.-Sierra Leone war-crimes court that issued the indictment and subsequent arrest warrant.

The indictment sparked panic in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. Civilians, apparently afraid of a violent power struggle if Taylor is removed, rushed home by the thousands, crying out frantically for their children, and soldiers careered through the streets in machine-gun mounted jeeps.

Military brass ordered members of Liberia's army, marines and navy to their barracks.

The Sierra Leone tribunal was created by the United Nations and Sierra Leone to try serious violations committed since Nov. 30, 1996, when rebels signed a peace accord that failed to end the war.

News of the indictment found Taylor in nearby Ghana, surrounded by African leaders trying to end a three-year campaign by Liberian rebels to oust him. Liberia's two rebel groups control about 60 percent of the country and are fighting ever more aggressively to take Monrovia.

There apparently was no attempt to arrest Taylor, and he and his entourage flew home to Monrovia late Wednesday, a day earlier than planned.

Ghana's attorney general, Papa Owusu Ankomah, said authorities had not received the indictment and, once they did, would need time to review it. That gave Taylor plenty of time to return home, where arresting him would be extremely difficult.

One of the people who helped create the Sierra Leone-U.N. court, based in Freetown, decried the failure to arrest Taylor away from his home country.

"Now that he's on a plane back to Liberia, he's an indicted head of state and an indicted fugitive," said David Scheffer, a former U.S. ambassador. "Among the bad guys in the world today, Charles Taylor is in the top five and therefore there is simply no plausible argument for him to remain at liberty."

Taylor, in sunglasses and cream-colored suit, looked tense as he arrived at the talks' site in Accra, Ghana's capital, minutes after the indictment was announced. He unexpectedly said he would surrender power soon, but did not mention the Sierra Leone indictment.

"If President Taylor is seen as a problem, then I will remove myself," Taylor told the conference hall, speaking of himself in the third person. "I'm doing this because I'm tired of the people dying. I can no longer see this genocide in Liberia."

His announcement drew loud applause from the dignitaries in Accra, including Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo and South Africa's Thabo Mbeki.

"It has become apparent that some people believe that Taylor is the problem. President Taylor wants to say that he intends to remove himself from the process," Taylor said.

Taylor told delegates he does not want to stay in office a day after the end of his term. It is unclear when that might be, though Taylor has talked of elections for this year and said he planned to run.

Taylor sparked civil war in Liberia in 1989 with a failed coup attempt. The war killed hundreds of thousands in the West African country. He was elected in 1997 after emerging as the strongest warlord from the conflict.

Taylor aligned himself with Sierra Leone's rebels early in their war, selling them weapons in exchange for diamonds he would then sell abroad. Taylor's ties to the Sierra Leone rebels date back more than a decade to when he trained with rebel leader Foday Sankoh in Libya. Sankoh also was indicted and is in custody.

Taylor still is under U.N. sanctions for alleged gunrunning and other ties with West Africa's many rebel movements. The sanctions include a ban on travel outside of Liberia.

Crane, the prosecutor, made clear he had timed the indictment to Taylor's trip abroad. It was unclear who would have the standing to arrest Taylor. David Coker, a spokesman for a U.N. peace mission in Sierra Leone, called it the responsibility of the Sierra Leone government.

SPORTS



Ducks must win in NJ or there goes the Stanley Cup

BY ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Talk about culture shock.

As the Anaheim Mighty Ducks traveled from the comfortable confines of the Pond to the inhospitable New Jersey swampland for Game 5 of the Stanley Cup finals, they found themselves as far away from Fantasyland as possible.

In Anaheim, the colorful local fictional characters are Mickey, Goofy and Donald. In New Jersey, they're the Sopranos. If the Ducks didn't know they weren't in friendly and oh-so-sunny Southern California any longer, they knew it when they pulled into their rain-drenched team hotel and found it swarming with fans — not of hockey, but of several rap stars performing at nearby Giants Stadium.

It is in this setting that the Ducks will try Thursday to do what would truly have been seen as a fantasy before the season started: close within a victory of winning the Stanley Cup.

Convinced that their twin 3-0 losses on

New Jersey ice last week are nothing but a distant memory following two momentum-restoring overtime wins at home, the Ducks talked Wednesday of not wasting what could be a once-in-a-lifetime chance.

"You could coach or play in the league forever and you might not get back to here," said first-year coach Mike Babcock, who inherited a team that was coming off three straight last-place finishes.

But to win the Cup, the Ducks must win at least once at Continental Airlines Arena, where they are 0-8 since Feb. 11, 1996. They realize the task will be difficult, but that waiting until a Game 7, if it is necessary, likely would be far more difficult than winning Game 5.

"This our chance, and we can't fall down," defenseman Sandis Ozolinsh said.

"We're confident we can win some things here," goaltender Jean-Sebastien Giguere said. "Obviously, if we want to win the thing, we need to win one here."

The Ducks were the best road club in the playoffs, winning six of seven, before a dismal debut in New Jersey that sug-

gested the series would end quickly. It didn't, but Devils coach Pat Burns thinks returning home will get the Devils back to the way they were playing a week ago.

There was one setback for the Devils on Wednesday. Center Joe Nieuwendyk, out since the Eastern Conference finals because of a hip-related injury, tried skating but quickly shut it down and almost certainly won't play in Game 5.

"There was no reason to push it," said Nieuwendyk, who didn't skate at full speed before leaving the ice. "We wanted to get a barometer of where it was, and the trainer indicated I should come off. It's frustrating, but it's something I have to deal with."

The Devils were hoping that even a less-than-100 percent Nieuwendyk could help on faceoffs, which the Ducks are winning at a 61 percent rate. Burns didn't officially rule him out, but he wasn't optimistic.

"We thought maybe he'd be able to play, but he can't. We've got to get that out of our minds," Burns said.

Even without Nieuwendyk, the Devils

felt they were the aggressors when the series started, only to become passive and tentative in the 3-2 and 1-0 losses in Anaheim. But the Devils are more comfortable at home, where they have allowed only 10 goals while winning 10 of 11 playoff games. They're only 4-6 on the road.

"In Games 1 and 2 they were chasing us, in Games 3 and 4 we were chasing them," Burns said. "We've got to get back to them chasing us. If we knew (why) ... we probably would be celebrating now. I wish we were, but we're not."

The Ducks want to do it the same way they did in Anaheim: Keep the games close and low-scoring and the Devils on their heels; ride their hot goaltender, Giguere; and don't do anything foolish or reactive that would let the Devils get back to what they had last week.

Even if the Devils are back in Jersey.

"It's like Mike Babcock said, 'I've never seen a fan score a goal or take a hit or give a hit,'" the Ducks' Steve Thomas said. "It's playoff time, and it doesn't matter (where the game is played)."

Will corked bat tarnish Sammy Sosa's reputation?

BY NANCY ARMOUR
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — With one mighty swing, Sammy Sosa shattered his bat and, quite possibly, his reputation.

Sosa has been baseball's quintessential power hitter the last five seasons, a lovable slugger with an infectious smile and a feel-good story. While Mark McGwire and Barry Bonds got the records, the Chicago Cubs' outfielder got most of the adulation.

But with a piece of cork clearly embedded just above the handle of his bat Tuesday night, fans and other major leaguers can't help but wonder.

Has it all been a sham?

"That's why I'm here right now, to explain that that was a mistake," Sosa said after the game. "I just took the wrong bat. I don't need to use that."

"It's a crisis we've got to deal with. I understand it's hard right now," he added. "I just apologize. That's the only thing I can say, from the bottom of my heart."

Cork was found in Sosa's bat when it shattered after he grounded to second in the first inning of a 3-2 victory over Tampa Bay.

Sosa said he accidentally pulled out a bat he uses to

put on home run displays for fans in batting practice. He has had dozens of bats break in the past few years with nothing suspicious found, and he insisted, "I never use anything illegal."

Major league baseball confiscated the bat for testing, along with 76 others that were in his locker. Cubs president and chief executive officer Andy MacPhail said he expects any punishment to be based on what — if anything — is found in the other bats.

Sandy Alderson, executive vice president of baseball operations in the commissioner's office, was on his way to Chicago. MacPhail said the club expects to hear a decision before Wednesday night's game against Tampa Bay.

He said he expected the punishment to be less severe if none of the other bats contains cork.

"He came up forward and told everybody what the circumstances were, and 76 clean bats would validate his story," MacPhail said.

"If there are other bats that are tampered with, then I would understand the penalty is going to be more severe."

Sosa just came off the disabled list Friday after having the nail taken off his right big toe and missing 17 games.

Entering Tuesday, he was just 2-for-15 in his three

games since coming off the DL, including one five-strikeout game in which he also had the game-winning single against Houston.

He was in the lineup for Wednesday's game, and manager Dusty Baker sought him out in the clubhouse to give him a hug and an encouraging pat on the back. Sosa didn't speak to the media before the game, but he mugged for cameras as he came out for batting practice, even doing his trademark heart tap for one.

"I don't think he's worried about it," Baker said. "He has to worry, No. 1, about his own conscience. He goes to chapel with us every Sunday. I'm sure he's more concerned about his friends, family and how God feels about forgiving him."

Several other players have been caught or have admitted using a corked bat. But none has had the gaudy resume of Sosa.

In a five-year stretch from 1998-02, he hit 292 home runs. He's the only player to hit 60 or more homers in three seasons, hitting 66 in 1998, 63 in 1999 and 64 in 2001.

He's No. 17 on the career list with 505 homers. And at just 34, many believe he'll have a chance at Hank Aaron's record of 755 homers.

Sammy Sosa's bat part of baseball's cheating culture

BY STEVE WILSTEIN
AP Sports Columnist

Sammy Sosa's corked bat is only the latest chapter of chicanery in baseball, a sport filled with petty larcenies, grand thefts and clever cheating.

In baseball, it's legal to steal bases but not quite legit to steal signs, though teams do it all the time.

Over the years, bats have been corked, filled with rubber, and hammered with nails to give them extra clout. Pitchers have thrown spitters, greased balls with petroleum jelly, scuffed them with emery boards and rubbed them on their belt buckles to give them funny twists. Managers have stooped to giving their pitchers refrigerated balls to deaden them when the visiting team is up.

More than any other sport, baseball has tolerated and even celebrated cheating as part of the game for more than a century. As the title of one book on the subject suggests, "It Ain't Cheatin' If You Don't Get Caught."

Whether or not Sosa made an innocent mistake playing with a corked bat

Tuesday night, he stepped over to the shady side of sports and stained a career that seemed destined to land him in the Hall of Fame. He may get there yet, even if skeptics will always wonder if some of his 505 home runs so far have come with the help of funny bats.

Not that there's any proof that corked bats do any good, anyway. Some believe the opposite is true.

"You have a slightly lighter bat and you're going to hit the ball a little less far," said retired Yale professor Robert K. Adair, the author of "Physics of Baseball."

Adair contends a corked bat may reduce by about 3 feet what would have been a 375-foot drive from a conventional wooden bat.

Yet even if cork is more a mythical boost than a real one, Sosa still broke the rules and became the sixth major leaguer to be disciplined for a corked bat since 1997.

Sosa's trick bat — he says he previously used it only for batting practice — doesn't sink him to the level of Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson, who loaded up on illegal steroids to win the 100-meters at the 1988 Olympics before being caught

and stripped of the gold.

But Sosa's crime, even given baseball's felonious history, puts him in the company of other cheaters, in and out of sports.

"There are cheaters in sports, just as there are on Wall Street and in corporate America — people who try to gain an unfair advantage," Peter Roby, director of Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, said Wednesday. "We don't know that Sosa was corking all his bats, but it certainly does put a shadow on all his accomplishments. And it sends an unfortunate message to fans and young players that cheating goes on at the highest levels of the game."

Sosa's image had been one of joy and generosity. He applauded his rival, Mark McGwire, during their home run record chase in 1998 and insisted he never touched the kind of muscle-builder McGwire acknowledged using. Where McGwire had andro in his locker, Sosa pointed to Flintstones vitamins in his.

That clean-cut image makes Sosa's fall all the more hurtful for his fans.

"Your reputation, at the end of the day, is all you really have," Roby said. "That's

what I think is unfortunate about Sosa. He feels like he let people down."

Sosa admitted as much.

"It's going to be tough. Some fans are probably not too happy about it," Sosa said. "I've got to deal with that ... I know that I lost the fans and they have been great to me. It's a mistake, and I take the blame for it."

From Little League to the Olympics, sports are supposed to build character and teach integrity. Yet at every level, there are players, parents, coaches and officials who would just as soon cheat and lie in pursuit of fame and fortune.

Elite athletes, asked if they would take a pill that would help them win an Olympic gold medal even if it could eventually kill them, overwhelmingly said they would, Wichita State sports psychologist Greg Buell said.

"The whatever-it-takes-to-win mentality has overtaken any sense of fair play and ethics," Buell said. "What Sammy Sosa did was nothing less than cheating. He said he made a mistake but people are always going to say, 'Yeah, right, but how many of those homers were hit with an illegal bat?'"

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 - 13 Change
 - 14 Secretary of State Powell
 - 15 Wrestling need
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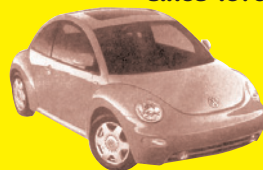
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DAILY PRESS seeks full-time general office assistant. Must be an organized, reliable self-starter, possessing the ability to work under deadlines with attention to detail. Solid computer skills a must! Duties include but not limited to: answering phones, data entry, light accounting. Fun work environment! Send resume via e-mail: ross@smdp.com.

FIGURE MODEL wanted. Fit female model wanted for figure drawing by artist. No experience necessary. Call (818)501-0266



Inside Sales.
Turn incoming calls into sales.
Leads provided.
Must be self-motivated.
Bankcard industry.
References required.
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INSIDE SALES. Turn incoming calls into sales. Leads provided. Must be self-motivated. Bankcard industry. References required. (310)980-7253.

JOHNNIES PIZZERIA Cafe needs shift supervisor P/T. Experience a must. 3rd St. Promenade location. (310)395-9062

MANICURIST WANTED. great work environment, loads of CASH!! Call 310-452-8985 and ask for Cash.

P/T NIGHTCLUBBING: Do you enjoy music & dancing & interacting w/people. Then you may apply. www.royal-entertainment.org.

RETAIL ASSISTANT Manager. Must have retail clothing experience. Excellent starting salary. Room for growth. Fax resume attention Bob. (310)260-4813, ONE, 332 Santa Monica Blvd.

Employment

RETAIL SALES Famous Sports Videos, Santa Monica area Assistant Manager. No experience. Will train, flexible hours, good pay. Call (310)820-8939 12-3pm.

SCHOOL BUS Driver P/T LOCATION: Topanga Canyon. Salary, \$14.00/hour. Deadline July 1st. Must have Class B, with P endorsement, 2 years experience. Contact Renee or Judy. (310)455-3725, Fax: (310)455-7209.

TELEMARKETING: EXPERIENCED closers, an easy 9k/month. Experienced openers, an easy 3.5K/month. Movie investments, plush offices in heart of entertainment industry. Commission only. Experience only. Leave message (310)478-0926.

For Sale

COMPLETE IBM compatible computer systems w/software, monitor & keyboard. \$175 Call Hal, (310)704-7484.

imac & ipod for sale. Top end, great deal. Worth \$2400. Will sacrifice \$2000. (631)793-6006

Furniture

7 PIECE Bedroom Set. All brand new! Wood sleigh bed, mattress set, nightstand, and more. Moving and must sell! List \$2500. Giveaway \$795. (310)350-3814.

CHERRY SLEIGH Bed. Solid wood. Still in box. List \$795. Sacrifice \$295. (310)350-3814

ITALIAN LEATHER Sofa & Loveseat Brand new, still in crate from designer home show. List \$3000. Sacrifice \$995. Must sell! Will deliver! (310)350-3814.

KING DOUBLE Pillowtop Mattress Set. Brand new, brand name. Must sell! List \$895. Sacrifice \$295. (310)350-3814

MOVING: MUST scarifies oversized kelly green recliner. Less than one year old. \$250 (310)902-9690.

QUEEN DOUBLE Pillowtop Mattress Set. Plush, name brand, still in plastic. Warranty. Was \$595. Sacrifice \$175. (310)350-3814.

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

Pets

DOGGIE POOP bags, bark-free stop barking, vicious dog repeller, muzzles, cat water fountains. www.petexperts.com

LOVING HOME needed for super sweet & gentle chow/retriever mix. Mommy leaving country. TAM (310)266-2391.

Vehicles for sale

90 CHEVY Lumina, 2-door, 66,000 miles. Excellent condition. \$3,000 firm. (310)394-6601.

93 NISSAN Sentra: Black 2-door automatic, 96,000 miles. Well maintained w/alarm. \$2K, OBO, (310)451-3654.

Wanted

CLASSIC & SPORTS Cars. American, English or European. Running or not. Cash paid. Sportscar LA (310)398-2198

MALE ENGLISH speaking care giver seeks long term live-in situation. Certified in first aid & CPR. Available in early July. (310)201-8860.

MATURE STUDENT Nurse C.S.M.C. Requires free accommodations in return for light errands/companion. (310)450-4828

WANTED

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For Rent

GEORGETOWN LAKE MT De-luxe 4 bdrm overlooking pristine mountain lake. Blue ribbon fishery. Minutes from Jack Nicklaus golf course. Hike, boat, swim, horseback ride. Wildlife galore. Stunning sunset views. \$1200 per week. (310) 899-3777

For Rent

APARTMENT BUILDINGS wanted on Westside qualified buyers & 1031 tax exchange. Agent: Susan (310)266-4311.

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

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

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BRENTWOOD \$1250.00 Traditional 2bdrm/1ba. Upper, newer carpet, fridge, stove, laundry & parking. No pets.

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For Rent

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

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BRENTWOOD ADJ. \$1650.00 Gorgeous 2bdrm/2ba. A/C, Alarm, D/W, fireplace., hardwood, high ceilings, microwave, fridge, stove, controlled access, walk in closets, pet ok, Roman tub.

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For Rent

HOLLYWOOD Starting @ \$1025.00 to \$1050.00 Contemporary 1bdrm/1ba. Pet ok, living room, new carpet & paint. Jacuzzi, gated underground parking. Upper & lower units available, only some have fireplaces!

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

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LOS FELIZ \$1075.00 2+2, Courtyard sundeck, backyard w/lots of trees, exclusive professional building, A/C, carpets, D/W, fridge, stove, sauna, no eviction, bad credit OK.

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MAR VISTA \$800 1bdrm, 1ba lower. Built-ins, refrigerator, carpet, blinds, parking & laundry. Gated building. No pets. Pacific Ave. West of Centinela.

MDR ADJACENT \$1375 Large 2bdrm/2ba, newer gated building, 2 car gated parking, AC, fireplace, quiet neighborhood, laundry. 1 year lease. (310)466-9256

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SANTA MONICA \$1200 2bdrm/2ba, R/S, hardwood floors, laundry, quiet, parking. Westside Rentals (310)395-7368

For Rent

MDR PENINSULA \$2095, 2+2 w/2 car parking. Great location, 1 building from beach. Private rooftop patio with ocean view, 1 year lease. Will consider small pet with extra deposit. (310)466-9256 ext.102.

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N. HOLLYWOOD \$985.00 2bdrm/1ba, new carpet, new appliances, all new, gated parking, A/C, balcony, stove, large closets, pool, no pets, walk to shops.

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W. HOLLYWOOD \$1450.00 Townhouse 2bdrm/1.5ba. Front unit, new paint, new blinds, lots of kitchen cabinets. Off street parking, laundry facilities on premises, dishwasher, hardwood floors, refrigerator, stove.

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SANTA MONICA \$1250 2bdms/1ba, appliances, no pets. 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #11 Santa Monica, CA 90404. Manager in #19.

VENICE BEACH front 1930's bath house. \$895. Completely renovated 4-story brick building w/lots of charm. Singles w/ul kitchens and bathrooms, exposed brick, laundry room, storage available, water, gas and heat paid. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)450-1934.

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For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 N. of Wilshire. Contemporary, spacious, 2bdm/2ba, stove, dishwasher, parking, pet OK, W/D in unit, mini-blinds, fridge.

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SANTA MONICA \$1575 2bdm/2ba, patio, refrigerator, walk-in closet, upper unit. 1 block west of Centinela. Call Howard. (310)477-1235

SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Immaculate Unit, new carpet, original ceramic tile in kitchen and bath separate kitchen, laundry, facility, refrigerator, stove, street parking pets OK.

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SANTA MONICA \$850 1bdm/1ba, pet ok, walk to SMC, great loc, gated building. Westside Rentals (310)395-7368.

SANTA MONICA \$950 1bdm/1ba, R/S, laundry, quiet, bright, flex lease, parking, utilities included. Westside Rentals (310)395-7368

SANTA MONICA CANYO \$1550 Large single w/ocean views, 1 block from beach, just renovated, full kitchen, walk-in closet, bathroom. Parking & utilities incld. (310)714-1609

SANTA MONICA Studio \$800 Large, R/S, quiet, six month lease. Westside Rentals (310)395-7368.

SANTA MONICA Studio \$850 Large main room, utilities included. Westside Rentals (310)395-7368

SANTA MONICA Studio, pet ok, r/s, laundry quiet, bright. \$775. Westside Rentals (310)395-7368.

SANTA MONICA: N. of Wilshire. Refurbished building for rent. 2&3 bdrms from \$1950 & up. 1214 Idaho, (310)869-0468.

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VENICE BEACH \$1000 Beautiful, recently remodeled single 1/2 block from beach. Hardwood floors. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)466-9256

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For Rent

STUDIO CITY \$1000.00 1bdm/1ba New w/d in each unit, new bbq and sun patio w/ fountain, central air & heat, mirrored wardrobe doors.

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STUDIO CITY \$850.00 Contemporary lower 1bdm/1ba cat ok, D/W, gorgeous building, gated parking, patio, A/C, tiled kitchen, new linoleum bath.

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VALLEY VILLAGE \$750.00 1bdm/1ba, super quiet bldg, BBQ, vertical blinds, new carpet very clean, parking laundry, gated entrance, stove, swimming pool.

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VENICE \$1175 Spacious 2bdm. Completely remodeled, new everything, hardwood floors, parking included. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext.102.

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VENICE \$1475 2bdm/1ba w/garage. Single-level fourplex, garden courtyard, water paid, cat ok. Available (310)663-7640.

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

VENICE BEACH \$1095 1bdm w/lots of light and hardwood floors. 1/2 block to beach on quiet walk street. All utilities included. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)466-9256

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VENICE BEACH \$1995 1bdm/1ba + loft and private 2 car garage. Stunning ocean view, new carpet, paint and stove, dishwasher. Laundry, 1 property from the beach. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)466-9256.

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For Rent

VENICE DUPLEX \$1525.00 2bdm/1.5ba w/hardwood floors, W/D hookups, off street parking, fresh paint and lots of natural light. Close to beach, shops and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310)466-9256 ext. 102.

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VENICE/SM \$975 Extra large corner top studio. Senior only 62+ 1 parking, two blocks to ocean. Security building. (310)261-2093.

WeHo \$750.00 Character, gas stove, fridge, carport, laundry, secure entry, new carpet new linoleum floors. Close to the Grove.

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WeHo \$795.00 Spanish 1bdm/1ba, high ceilings, stove, fridge, crown moldings, w/c, cat, carpet.

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

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Houses For Rent

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SANTA MONICA Duplex \$950 Pet ok, R/S, yard, new carpet, parking. Westside Rentals (310)395-7368

SANTA MONICA Duplex, studio, R/S, balcony, laundry, parking. \$895 Westside Rentals (310)395-7368.

SANTA MONICA Triplex \$1400 2bdm/1ba, cat ok, hardwood floors, quiet, laundry, parking. Westside Rentals (310)395-7368

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THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Swedish, Deep-Tissue, Sports Massage. Intro: \$39 for 70 minutes. (CMT) Vicky (310) 397-7855

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MOVING SALE: 450 San Vicente Blvd. #205, Santa Monica. Everything must go! Saturday 6/7 & Sunday 6/8. 10am-4pm

MULTI FAMILY yard sale. Tons of great stuff. Saturday June 7th. 8am-4pm. 1307 Hill St.

Personals

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

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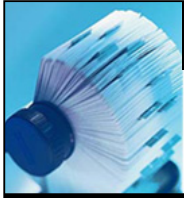
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BACK PAGE

Killer plus two other inmates escape from prison

BY MIKE RECHT
Associated Press Writer

CONCORD, N.H. — A convicted killer and two other inmates escaped from a state prison on a busy street Wednesday by cutting through two fences.

Officials said the men shed their green jumpsuits soon after escaping, but would not say where the jumpsuits were found.

The prison was locked down and police — some with dogs — went door to door through nearby neighborhoods. State police and National Guard helicopters joined the search.

State police Col. Gary Sloper said authorities strongly believe the inmates had outside help, but declined to elaborate.

"Right now my concerns are, where are they, and how do we get them back," Sloper said.

Officials said it was the first escape in at least a decade from the medium-security area of the prison, north of downtown.

Corrections officers on routine rounds found the holes in the fences no more than 20 minutes after the morning escape, Sloper said. He declined to say how the three might have gotten tools to cut the fences, but said he believed they were at their prison woodworking jobs when they escaped.

Sloper said there were no indications of break-ins or stolen cars near the prison, which sits along a busy street of homes and businesses. Behind the prison are many acres of woods and old granite quarries.

The inmates were identified as Kevin Gil, Philip J. Dick, and Christopher McNeil.

Gil, 31, was sentenced in 2001 to 45 years to life after pleading guilty to stabbing a man to death in a motel

room in 2000.

Dick, 23, was serving 15 to 30 years for attempted murder of police officers during a 1999 shootout.

McNeil, 35, was imprisoned for parole violations on drug convictions and other crimes. State police said he was sentenced to 35 years in prison in 1994.

Corrections Department spokesman Jeff Lyons said another inmate tried to climb over one of the razor-wire fences in the early 1990s but was cut badly and caught.

Manilow breaks nose walking into wall

By The Associated Press

PALM SPRINGS — Barry Manilow is trying to get the feeling again after walking into a wall in his bedroom and breaking his nose.

But the singer, who's famous for his monstrous proboscis, is maintaining his typical self-deprecating humor about the injury on May 28.

"I veered to the left instead of the right and slammed right into the wall," Manilow said in a statement Tuesday. "I may have to have my nose fixed and, with this nose, it's going to require major surgery."

The 56-year-old singer said that he'd returned to his Palm Springs home after spending two weeks in Malibu working on longtime friend Bette Midler's upcoming Rosemary Clooney tribute album.

In the middle of night, he awoke disoriented and walked into a wall. He passed out for four hours after the accident but was OK, his manager said.

On Wednesday, his publicist, Jerry Sharell, said the bruised entertainer didn't require surgery.

"The doctors say it should heal fine and continue to be big," he joked.

Taco Bell loses \$30M in ad campaign suit

BY JAMES PRICHARD
Associated Press Writer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A federal jury Wednesday ordered Taco Bell Corp. to pay \$30.1 million to two men who claimed the fast-food chain stole their idea for the advertising campaign featuring a talking Chihuahua.

Thomas Rinks and Joseph Shields, both of the Grand Rapids area, sued Taco Bell in 1998, saying they pitched the idea for a character called "Psycho Chihuahua" more than a year before Taco Bell began airing the dog commercials in 1997.

They said Taco Bell advertising

executives reached an oral agreement with them to use their idea, but then introduced the Chihuahua character without paying them.

Taco Bell has said it decided to use a talking dog in commercials after the ad agency TBWA-Chiat-Day proposed it.

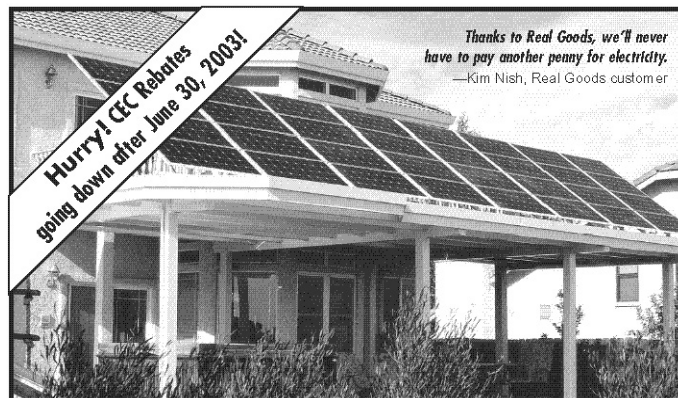
"It's been a long time," Rinks said. "It's been 5 1/2 years of litigation and it's just really exciting that the jury system works the way it's supposed to work and that the truth is finally going to be out there."

Taco Bell's parent, Louisville, Ky.-based Yum! Brands Inc., said it will appeal. The company also said it will

reduce its second-quarter earnings by 6 cents per share to cover the verdict.

"Taco Bell continues to strongly believe that the Chihuahua character was created by the Chiat-Day advertising agency, not the plaintiffs, and we intend to appeal the jury's verdict," said Laurie Gannon, a spokeswoman for Taco Bell Corp., based in Irvine, Calif.

The ads, since discontinued, featured a Chihuahua named Dinky that appeared to say "Yo quiero Taco Bell," which is Spanish for "I want Taco Bell." The campaign became wildly popular and led to toys, T-shirts and other products featuring the little dog.



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