

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

100% organic news. Picked fresh daily.

Gone fishing



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
A fisherman spends his morning angling in the surf, along with runners beach enthusiasts and surfers at Bay Street this week.

Man escapes courthouse, slips through hand-cuffs

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A man who allegedly stole a car in Santa Monica slipped through his hand-cuffs and fled from the courthouse Thursday before he was caught in the nearby high school campus.

Julio Valenzuela, 27, is a Los Angeles County Jail inmate but was being held in Santa Monica to appear for his first court hearing.

He was arrested on June 4 by Santa Monica Police for taking a vehicle without the owner's consent, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Bill Spear.

At about 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Valenzuela was being transported from "court lock-up" to the courthouse via an open area between the two buildings. While walking through the plaza, he detached himself from sheriff's deputies and took off running.

Valenzuela ran through the courthouse's security gate, across the east parking lot and Fourth Street. He then, for some unknown reason, entered Santa Monica High School's track area, which is cordoned off by a tall chain link fence.

Deputies gave chase to Valenzuela on foot and apprehended him within minutes.

"It was the best recovery I've ever seen," said an unidentified Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy.

Samohi is heavily guarded with security personnel at its entrances and exits so

chances are Valenzuela would not have made it very far on campus.

High school principals were notified immediately that a jail escapee was heading for Samohi, which almost went into lock down mode.

"It was the best recovery I've ever seen."

— LOS ANGELES
COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY

"We were aware of the situation the entire time," said schools superintendent John Deasy, adding this was the first inmate-related incident at the school, which is located directly next to the courthouse and jail.

Supervising Judge Alan Haber, who oversees the Santa Monica Courthouse, said escapes are very uncommon and the facility is secure.

Two police cars and a few sheriff's

See ESCAPE, page 3

Playhouse raises \$60K

But local thespian group has to raise another \$40K by the end of the month

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica playhouse has raised \$60,000 in its effort to buy the theater it has been renting for more than four decades.

But the local thespian group needs to raise an additional \$40,000 by the end of this month to be able to continue in their quest to buy their theater located at 1211 Fourth Street.



File photo
The Playhouse may have to move out of Santa Monica.

"Under the deal we struck, we have to meet certain benchmarks throughout the year for the deal to stay viable," said theater spokeswoman Sandra Zeitze. "I believe if we don't make those benchmarks that would mean all bets are off."

"But I haven't actually ever considered that we wouldn't meet them," she added. "If we don't come up with the down payment by the end of the year, we won't be able to stay in Santa Monica."

The Playhouse Young Professionals Company held an event last week that raised more than \$6,000 in one night for the theater — a huge boost in the fundraising efforts.

The Santa Monica Playhouse has been told its rent will be increased to more than \$12,000 a month starting next January, but the venerable theater group can barely pay the \$10,000-a-month rent for its prime downtown location on Fourth Street between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue.

However, the theater group's landlord, local attorney Jules Kievits, isn't viewed as the villain. He is giving the theater group 18 months to raise \$400,000 to buy the building. Every six months the group must reach fundraising milestones, or risk losing it all.

The group has asked the Santa

See PLAYHOUSE, page 3

Vegan inmate released after griping over prison food

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A vegetarian who refused to eat jailhouse meals while locked up for her participation in a May Day clash with Long Beach police last year was released to home arrest.

Sarah Roberts, 26, of Los Angeles, said Thursday that she subsisted mostly on fruit and lettuce and was "skeletal" after her 10-day stay in the mental ward of the downtown Twin Towers Correctional Facility. She was released May 31.

Roberts had been sentenced to six months.

Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said Roberts had applied for and qualified for release under a home-arrest program.

Roberts was convicted by a jury May 21 of unlawful assembly and wearing a

mask while in commission of a public offense.

Roberts said she told Superior Court Judge Bradford Andrews at her sentencing last month that she would have trouble serving a jail term because of her stance against eating meat and animal byproducts such as milk and cheese.

"He suggested I stop eating vegan," Roberts said. "I explained to him that, to me, animals aren't food. They're dead bodies. My ethics command me not to eat them."

Sheriff's Lt. Alma Espinoza said efforts were made to accommodate Roberts, who was housed in the mental ward because of depression.

"We just got a general understanding about what she could or couldn't eat, and we went from there," Espinoza said.

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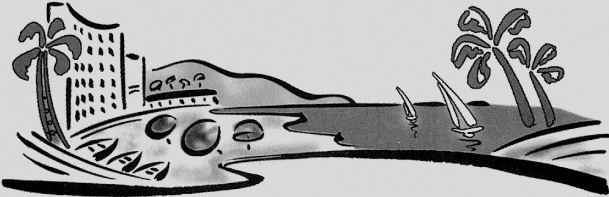
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Hone your sensitivity skills before you walk out the door. Others might want to clear their minds of everything. Indulge those around you or, better yet, appreciate that someone finally vents his or her feelings. Tonight: Go to a favorite spot.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You cannot say or do too much for those around you. Even a neighbor appreciates your efforts and sensitivity. Clear out a problem, perhaps involving a loved one and/or a child. Spending plays into this issue as well. Tonight: You're the cat's meow.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Really, you might want to think through a decision carefully that revolves around your personal life. "Think" is the operative word here, rather than blurting out the first thing that comes to you. Indulge a friend or loved one. You don't need to wait until his or her birthday! Tonight: Treat yourself too!

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Put your best foot forward, and you'll notice that others will as well. You can end a conflict that started in the past few weeks. Bring a peace offering with you, whether you feel it is your fault or not. Good will makes all the difference. Tonight: Celebrate the moment.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Don't count on another to come through for you in the way you want. Expectations can be a problem. Rather, remain grateful for another's clarity. Finally another will talk; if not today, in the near future. Understand someone else as well as yourself. Tonight: Out on the town.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Make plans to do something you have been putting off for a while. Invite someone to join in. Both of you gain from a day away from others just relaxing. Bonding intensifies with friends as well as loved ones. Tonight: Try something totally different.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A special someone makes an overture — finally. You have been waiting awhile for a change of direction. Discussions need to be high-brow, not petty. Your understanding of yourself, as well as another, can move you through a problem. Tonight: A must appearance.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Someone goes out of his or her way for you. You could be extremely touched by this person's sharing. Make sure you want to share more of yourself with a partner. Don't indulge in "rubberband" behavior. You make yourself, as well as others, crazy. Tonight: Get tickets for a concert or movie.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Someone close to you makes an offer you might deem as too good to be true. Is this possible? Don't hesitate, despite recent events. Simply jump in and go with the moment. Don't worry so much about a project. Tonight: Express your intimate and nurturing side.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Indulge your innate playfulness and sense of humor. Before you realize it, you're not tired — in fact, you're most revitalized. Perhaps now, with renewed energy and perspective, you can see how very much others care for you. Tonight: go with the action.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your domestic life proves to be a great source of enjoyment and caring. A project that starts up right now could be very important, not only from an investment point of view, but also in a personal way. Think in terms of gain. Tonight: Don't stress out; order in.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Be upbeat and positive. Not everyone thinks as clearly as you do. Just because your perspective might be one way, doesn't mean others will agree. Add a special touch to an important relationship. Dote on another as much as you want. Tonight: A good old-fashioned date.

QUOTE of the DAY

"I don't know anything about music.
In my line you don't have to."
— Elvis Presley (1935-1977)

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LOCAL

City asked to give \$75K to Santa Monica Playhouse

PLAYHOUSE, from page 1

Monica City Council to help them in their fundraising efforts by donating \$100,000 or providing matching funds for the theater. The minimal amount needed from the city is \$75,000.

"We would be happy with anything they can give us," Zeitzew said. "You can't go to the county or even the state and say 'please support us' if your own city hasn't put anything forward showing they want you to stay in the community."

But the city is under extremely tight budget restrictions this year, and it had to cut \$23 million to close a revenue shortfall. Taxes from retail sales and hotel room bookings are down due to the drop-off in tourism from the recession and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

The city recently completed a financial assessment of the theater and its fundraising, and found the theater could successfully raise the money it needs with a minimum donation from the city. A final decision will be made at the council's June 18 meeting.

"My hope is we will find at least \$75,000 to help them out," said Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown. "But there's a lot of things I'm hoping we can pull off under these tight conditions."

City officials have said there has been an intense e-mail campaign to save the playhouse.

"Interestingly, we're getting e-mails from all over the world," McKeown said. "But it's Santa Monica taxpayer money that would go for that."

Meanwhile, the theater group continues with its campaign by hosting weekly fundraisers. Local comedians and actors have put on benefit performances. Audiences have emptied the change from their pockets and written checks.

"I guess you could say we still have some other irons in the fire," Zeitzew said. "We're not counting on this weekend's garage sale to bring in the balance."

Parents of children who are participating in the youth performers' class are hosting a garage sale to benefit the playhouse this weekend.

"People are very generous," she added, "but they want to make sure the people they give their money to have some viability."

To learn more about this weekend's garage sale or any of the theater's other fundraising events, go to the group's Web site at www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

Or for information about making a donation to "Save the Santa Monica Playhouse," call (310) 394-9779 ext. 1.

Littered with activity



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The center court of the Third Street Promenade is usually full of activity, some of which is concerning to local business owners who complain of litter and loitering. Local officials are planning to put a food court in the space that will host several different restaurants that will offer their specialties. Officials hope the new amenity will clean up the area and showcase the downtown's eateries.

Suspect back in custody after attempted escape

ESCAPE, from page 1

deputies took Valenzuela back into custody at Samohi's east entrance on Seventh Street, with about a dozen students looking on.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Prison escapee Julio Valenzuela was captured by sheriff's deputies at Santa Monica High School on Thursday.

Valenzuela now is facing charges for escaping a county facility, a misdemeanor. He is being held on \$45,000 bail in the Los Angeles County Jail.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, which handles courthouse security and provides bailiffs in the courtrooms, has released a report detailing security concerns they have with the city's proposed plan to redevelop the area, which could include alterations to the county facility, City Hall and the local jail. The report has not been made public.

Sources familiar with the report said sheriff officers are concerned about a proposed Civic Center Drive and a public athletic field that would be located near where county prisoners are brought into and out of the courthouse everyday.

It's during that time, when prisoners are being unloaded off the bus, that there is the highest chance for an attempted escape or an incident.



The ocean is a volatile place. And while the storm that blew bona fide three-and-four-footers across L.A. County early this week fades into history today, a new swell is building. This one hails from the same area in the southwest Pacific as the last. Beach breaks promise

inconsistent waist-high surf with some chest level on plus sets.

NW wind swell pitches in for clean, steep waves.

Saturday, expect new swell to peak and surf to gain a foot at most at exposed southwest spots. Water will be warm, around 60 degrees, and waves will measure waist-to-chest-high.

Sunday things die down as the swell passes on and strong winds become weaker. Waves will lose a foot or more on average, though plus sets occasionally reach chest height.

(Information compiled by Jesse Haley.)

Location	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	2-4'/Far	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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STATE

State officials warn that vaccinations are needed in event of bioterrorist attack

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California must be ready to vaccinate entire regional populations in the event of a bioterrorist attack, the federal government said Thursday.

"The risk of a bioterrorist attack is recognized now to be significant and pressing," Jerome Hauer, director of the federal Office of Public Health Preparedness, warned in a letter approving the state's preliminary plans.

While the federal government is preparing to respond, "success in dealing with an epidemic depends primarily on how rapidly and effectively local and state programs can respond," Hauer told California Health Services Director Diana Bonta.

That includes having detailed regional plans to obtain vaccinations or antibiotics from the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile, and administer them to the entire regional population within three to five days.

Hospitals in an area need to be ready to handle a sudden surge of 500 acutely ill patients.

And each hospital needs to be ready to set up isolation areas in their emergency rooms for suspected smallpox cases.

California has until Oct. 1 to detail how it will meet those requirements for handling "an acute epidemic," Hauer wrote.

George Vinson, a career FBI agent who now is security adviser to Gov. Gray Davis, said that with the preliminary approval, "now what we have to do is get down and drill a little deeper into the actual operational planning."

For instance, where will the vaccine stockpile be stored? "How are we going to secure it, and move it in a hurry if we need it?" Vinson said. Which hospitals will handle how many victims under what circumstances?

Planning for 500 victims may be unrealistic, he said: "We may have to be ready for more than 500 if you're doing it in a populated area."

However, Vinson said a major goal is to quickly isolate any outbreak to keep the number of victims in check.

Hauer's approval of the state's preliminary plans qualifies California for a \$56.6 million federal grant to beef up its public health and emergency response systems to deal with bioterrorism threats. It follows \$14 million released to the state in January after President Bush signed a \$1.1 billion appropriation designed to help states improve their public health systems.

Though Hauer approved California's regional and statewide plans Thursday, he

said the state needs to demonstrate that the various information and communication systems used in California can connect to each other and to the federal government.

The state also needs to show that mutual aid agreements and other cooperative efforts are in place, particularly between Los Angeles and state agencies.

Los Angeles, along with Chicago and New York City, are receiving separate grants.

"The risk of a bioterrorist attack is recognized now to be significant and pressing."

— JEROME HAUER

Federal Office of Public Health Preparedness

Los Angeles received \$5.6 million in January and \$3.6 million Thursday, but \$9 million was withheld until the city provides more details on its plans to renovate space for a modern laboratory. That will likely happen quickly, said Bill Pierce, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

California was one of 24 states to receive full funding, as did Chicago and New York City, Pierce said.

It's the first time federal, state and local governments have come up with a plan to prepare for a terror attack, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said in announcing the funding.

The state is required to spend 80 percent of the money for hospital improvements. But the state can use portions of the grant for more planning, to improve its infectious disease monitoring and investigation, to help hospitals prepare to deal with a large number of casualties, and to improve reporting of disease reporting between hospitals and public health departments.

Of the total \$70.8 million coming to California under the program, nearly \$10 million will go to create regional hospital plans to be used in the event of a terror attack.

However, Thompson said both the regional hospital plans and the statewide plans will help in non-terror responses, for instance to a flu epidemic.

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STATE



Dan Rosentrauch/Contra Costa Times

Stephen Figueroa, 14, left, Jeffrey Figueroa, 13, center, and their father, Steve Figueroa, talk to the media outside Contra Costa County Court in Martinez, Calif. on Thursday.

13-year-old boy sentenced for gum wrapper spitball

By The Associated Press

MARTINEZ — A 13-year-old boy was sentenced Thursday for hitting another boy in the eye with a gum wrapper spitball.

Jeffrey Figueroa was ordered to spend six days in juvenile hall and to contribute 150 hours of community service at an eye bank. He and his parents were ordered to have anger management counseling.

His parents also must take parenting classes.

Figueroa was facing up to eight years in juvenile hall after being convicted on felony charges of battery and mayhem for hitting a classmate at Walnut Creek Intermediate School with the gum wrapper.

The boy who was hit had to have surgery after the September incident.

Figueroa's older teen-age brother, Stephen, who was convicted on a lesser charge, was sentenced to five days in juvenile hall, community service and counseling.

Contra Costa County prosecutors called more than 20 neighbors who complained about the boys' behavior.

"These kids aren't going to get in any trouble. We're going to make sure of it," said Steve Figueroa, the boys' father. "We're going to keep them in the house."

Man may face life in prison for providing pot to son

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A man accused of helping his son make marijuana-laced brownies may spend the rest of his life in prison because of the state's three-strikes law.

Steven Wells, 48, of Mira Mesa faces felony charges of furnishing marijuana to a minor, adulterating food and failing to register as a sex offender.

Wells was convicted in 1992 on two felony child molestation charges, which means he faces 25 years to life if he is found guilty of the recent allegations, prosecutors said.

Defense attorney Bill Nimmo conceded in court Thursday that his client gave the boy the drug, but said he wants that charge reduced to a misdemeanor.

"He likes his marijuana," Nimmo said.

Prosecutors also charged Wells with child abuse, saying he hurt his son when he gave him the marijuana, but Superior Court Judge Marguerite Wagner dismissed that charge.

"I'm not convinced it causes great bodily injury for a 15-year-old to have a (laced) brownie," she said.

Wells was arrested in January after his ex-wife noticed that the brownies her son brought home had a strange smell. Authorities said the boy asked his father for some marijuana, which he used as a secret ingredient for the baked goods.

"It's a sign of government out of control."

— **BILL NIMMO**
Defense attorney

It's unclear whether the boy ate any of the brownies, but his 5-year-old sister did. The girl was not harmed by what she ate.

Nimmo doesn't believe that Wells should be given a life sentence for providing marijuana to his son.

"It's a sign of government out of control," he said.

Wells remains free on \$50,000 bail. His next court hearing is scheduled for Aug. 28.

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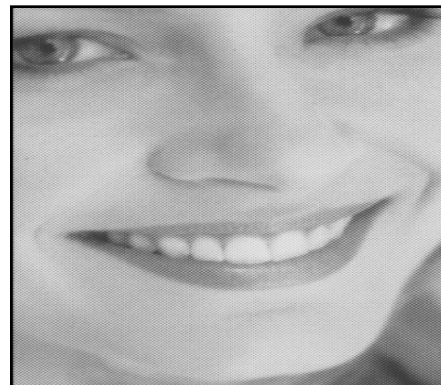
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NATIONAL

Lawyer ordered 6 months in jail for being a 'no show'

BY MIKE CRISSEY
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — A judge who was fed up with a lawyer's delays found him in contempt of court and ordered him jailed the maximum six months without bail.

Allegheny County Judge David Cashman said he cited Joseph Hudak after the lawyer skipped two trial dates in late May for Kevin Somerville, who has been jailed for 18 months awaiting trials on charges including armed robbery, drug possession and assault.

The drug charge has been pending since June 1999.

There have been eight delays in the cases — seven caused by Hudak, Cashman said. He said Hudak didn't warn Somerville, who he had been hired to represent, the judge or prosecutors.

"He cavalierly decides he is going to run the system the way he wants and everybody else be damned," Cashman said Wednesday, a day after he sent Hudak to jail. "Mr. Somerville is not the nicest person in the world, he has done

some bad things, but that doesn't mean he should be tossed aside."

Hudak's aide told the judge he needed the May 20 delay because the lawyer was in Erie for a drug case and then had to go to Philadelphia for a death penalty case. When he missed another court date two days later, the judge held him in contempt. He also dismissed Hudak from Somerville's case and said he would appoint a new attorney.

Hudak "was trying to juggle too many balls at the same time," said his attorney, Kevin Flaherty.

Flaherty said Hudak has apologized.

On Thursday, Flaherty asked the judge to release him, saying the jail time had gotten the lawyer's attention. Cashman responded, "I think not," and declined to rule. He gave no indication of when Hudak would be released.

It is unusual for lawyers to be cited for contempt of court, legal experts said. Only about a dozen lawyers nationwide are held in contempt each year, said Martin Pinales, secretary of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

70-year-old man jailed in legal dispute over Web postings

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A 70-year-old man has been in jail for more than three months for refusing to delete from his Web site addresses and other personal data of employees at the retirement home that evicted him.

The jailing of Paul Trummel, a native of England who moved to the United States in 1985, has drawn fire from national and international writers groups that support his First Amendment claims.

"Our concern is that he's being punished for speech on the Internet that should be protected," said Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in Washington, D.C.

Other groups that have questioned the jailing include the National Union of Journalists in London and Reporters Sans Frontieres of France.

Trummel was jailed indefinitely on Feb. 27 for violating an anti-harassment order by King County Superior Court

Judge James A. Doerty. Doerty ruled in April 2001 that Trummel had been abusive and stalked residents and administrators at Council House, a low-income retirement home in Seattle.

Doerty ordered Trummel to remove from his Web site the home phone numbers, addresses and other personal data on employees at Council House, and imposed fines of \$100 a day for failing to comply.

Trummel also was ordered to remove a picture making administrator Stephen Mitchell resemble Osama bin Laden.

Council House managers and some residents say Trummel is delusional, obsessive and inflammatory. He was evicted last year, partly because of his Web site and newsletter Disconnections, a takeoff on the center's official publication, Connections.

Last week Doerty limited Trummel's phone privileges, saying he was still harassing residents and staff members, and he was placed in solitary confinement. His incarceration is set for court review June 17.

Second Vegas hotel asks for private casino for high rollers

By The Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — With Nevada's first private casino salon for high-rolling gamblers coming up for approval by state regulators next month, a second Las Vegas casino has applied to open another.

Gaming Control Board Chairman Dennis Neilander said that barring any delays, an April application by the MGM Grand hotel-casino should come up for consideration in July.

Caesars Palace, a part of Park Place Entertainment, on Monday filed the second application for a salon since the Nevada Legislature last year approved letting casinos offer private gambling.

Gaming Control Board member Scott

Scherer said other big properties may be waiting to see whether MGM Grand succeeds with its salon before taking the plunge. The hotel is owned by casino giant MGM Mirage Inc.

The salons were legalized to allow privacy-seeking high rollers to wager out of the public eye. Gambling in private had previously been forbidden by Nevada law.

The new private casinos allow gamblers with at least \$500,000 in cash or a credit line. Minimum wagers on private casino slot machines and table games will be \$500.

Lawmakers approved the change so Nevada could compete with other gambling locales where private wagering is allowed, including Europe, Asia and one tribal casino in Connecticut.

NATIONAL



Senator upset over celebrity participation on Capitol Hill

BY MALIA RULON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — C-Span is looking more like "Entertainment Tonight" these days.

Check out the glitterati who have shown up at congressional hearings recently: Julia Roberts. Christie Brinkley. Michael J. Fox. And now Kevin Richardson of the pop group Backstreet Boys.

Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, says enough is enough. He boycotted Thursday's hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works clean air subcommittee to protest Richardson's appearance.

The singer testified about mountaintop mining, a practice in which the top of a ridge or mountain is sheared off to expose a coal seam. Dirt and rock waste then is pushed into nearby valleys and waterways.

"It's just a joke to think that this witness can provide members of the United States Senate with information on important geological and water quality issues," Voinovich said Wednesday. "We're either serious about the issues or we're running a sideshow."

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., opened Thursday's hearing by defending his invitation to Richardson.

"Mr. Richardson is here as more than a well-known celebrity," Lieberman said. "He is knowledgeable on this issue and has in fact worked to protect the environment in his home state. I believe his voice will add to our understanding of the issue."

Richardson has an environmental group called Just Within Reach. It has been active on mountaintop mining, which is used in Richardson's home state of Kentucky.

Richardson sat in the back of the hearing room while waiting to testify. His prepared remarks did not include any reference to Voinovich.

Political analysts agree there's a fine line between celebrities with legitimate expertise and those who have been invited to appear before Congress just to draw media attention.

Fox and former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali told members of Congress last month that more money is needed to turn scientific findings into a cure for Parkinson's disease, which they both have.

"We're either serious about the issues or we're running a sideshow."

— GEORGE VOINOVICH
U.S. Senator, R-Ohio

Last year, pop singers Alanis Morissette and Don Henley told a congressional panel that artists' concerns have been ignored during legal battles between recording labels and Internet companies like Napster.

Earlier this year, the Senate Environment committee heard from Brinkley on nuclear energy. Roberts spoke about Rett Syndrome during tearful testimony last month before the House Appropriations Committee.

Ross K. Baker, a political science professor at Rutgers University, said celebrities bring notoriety to issues that might not otherwise draw much attention.

"If they get a celebrity in there, the cameras will follow and what might have been a hidden or invisible issue will suddenly become a matter of public discussion," he said.

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Skakel heads to jail



Douglas Healey/Associated Press

Michael Skakel enters the court in Norwalk, Conn. on Friday for the deliberation phase of his trial. Michael Skakel was convicted Friday of beating Greenwich neighbor Martha Moxley to death in 1975 when they were 15.

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SPORTS

Shaq's solid shooting helps L.A. to a 106-83 victory

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

AP Basketball Writer

LOS ANGELES — Shaq 2, Nets 0.

In another display of his massive superiority, Shaquille O'Neal had such a great game that even his free throw shooting was stunning.

Scoring 40 points, making several pretty passes and doing just about nothing wrong, O'Neal led the Los Angeles Lakers to a 106-83 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Friday night.

The Lakers took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals, toying with their opponents while never trailing. Los Angeles led by as many as 20 points, let the Nets creep back within six early in the fourth and then quickly ended any comeback thoughts New Jersey might have had.

The most memorable image from this game may have been O'Neal standing at the foul line, his right arm extended in a follow-through as he watched free throw after free throw go in. The Nets sent the notoriously poor foul shoot-

er to the line 14 times, and O'Neal knocked down a dozen of them while showing a surprisingly soft touch.

New Jersey stuck with single-coverage against O'Neal in the first half, then finally went to double- and triple-teams in the second half. But no matter what wrinkles they threw at O'Neal, there was no stopping the NBA's most unstoppable force.

The 7-foot, 350-pound center had six dunks to go along with an array of short jumpers and bank shots as he finished just six points shy of his career playoff-high.

Kobe Bryant added a quiet 24 points and Derek Fisher had 12 for the Lakers, who can win their third consecutive championship and give coach Phil Jackson his ninth title in 12 years by winning just two more games.

Game 3 is Sunday night at New Jersey, just a few miles from O'Neal's hometown of Newark. And unless the Nets find a way to contain him, their prospects of bringing the series back to Los Angeles are rather slim.

O'Neal was 14-for-23 from the field with team-high totals of 12 rebounds and eight assists. He left to a thunderous standing ovation with just over a minute remaining.

Kerry Kittles scored 23 points and Jason Kidd added 17 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Nets.

The game got away from New Jersey late in the third quarter after Kidd made two free throws to cut the deficit to 65-57.

O'Neal passed out of double coverage and found Bryant for a 3-pointer, then hit four consecutive free throws and a 9-foot fadeaway. A 3-pointer by Brian Shaw off an assist from O'Neal completed a 12-0 run and gave the Lakers a 77-57 lead.

New Jersey scored the final four points of the third quarter and made three quick 3-pointers early in the fourth to pull within 83-77, but O'Neal went to the line and scored points 39 and 40 with 7:19 left.

Fisher hit a 3-pointer off an assist from O'Neal with 5:53 left for a 90-79 lead, and the Lakers turned it into a blowout by closing the game with a 12-0 run.

With Kidd scoreless and O'Neal all but unstoppable, the Nets still found themselves trailing only 49-43 at halftime.

New Jersey shot just 15-for-49 in the half, including 0-for-6 on 3-pointers, and missed four of eight free throws in the second quarter. But the Nets were able to hang in by controlling the offensive glass, grabbing 15 offensive rebounds to the Lakers' three.

O'Neal reached 30 points by dunking and making a free throw off a perfect pick-and-roll pass from Bryant with 6 1/2 minutes left in the third — just before the

Lakers' 12-0 run gave them a lead that was too big for the Nets to overcome.

"I'm not trying to intimidate anyone. I'm just trying to win," O'Neal said. "I'm just focusing on number three. I don't get into that intimidation."

A steal and dunk by Bryant gave Los Angeles its first double-digit lead, 23-13, and Robert Horry delivered a beautiful touch pass on the break leading to a dunk by O'Neal that made it 27-17.

O'Neal dunked off an inbounds pass and converted a three-point play early in the second quarter, giving him 21 points and the Lakers a 40-31 lead. O'Neal also mixed in a little Showtime of his own, hitting Shaw with a no-look pass for a layup.

By the time he went to the bench with 56 seconds left in the half, O'Neal had 23 points in 22 minutes.

Notes: Bryant was visibly upset with the officiating at several times, including one instance late in the second quarter when his face slammed into Jason Collins' elbow. ... O'Neal caused a blonde starlet in the front row to blush when he smiled at her and said hello during a brief stoppage in play in the third quarter. ... Nets guard Lucious Harris struggled again on offense, shooting 0-for-9 after going only 1-for-5 in Game 1.

National Basketball Association	
By The Associated Press	
All Times EDT	
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Sunday, June 9	
L.A. Lakers at New Jersey, 8:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, June 12	
L.A. Lakers at New Jersey, 9 p.m.	
Friday, June 14	
L.A. Lakers at New Jersey, 9 p.m., if necessary	
Monday, June 17	
New Jersey at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m., if necessary	
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Ninth inning drive not enough for Dodgers; Lopez gets shot down

BY DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE — As the crowd at Camden Yards stood and cheered in anticipation, Rodrigo Lopez needed just one more out to finish his first complete game and shutout in the major leagues.

After Eric Karros ruined it all with a single, Lopez had to settle for a standing ovation and a well-deserved win.

Lopez allowed six hits over 8 2-3 innings and Melvin Mora hit two home runs as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 Friday night.

Lopez (6-1) took a three-hitter into the ninth inning, but gave way to Jorge Julio after giving up three singles, including Karros' liner to center that scored a run when Chris Singleton bobbled the ball.

Dave Hansen followed with an RBI single, and a passed ball put runners at second and third before Julio struck out Adrian Beltre for his 11th save.

"I wanted the complete game so bad. Getting my first complete game in the majors would have been a big thing for me," Lopez said. "But the bottom line is the Orioles got the win, and that's what it's about."

After Karros' single, many in the crowd of 33,624 jeered as Baltimore manager Mike Hargrove walked to the mound. After Hargrove signaled for Julio, the fans stood and gave Lopez a rousing standing ovation as the pitcher headed for the dugout.

"Too bad I couldn't finish the game, but it was a great

feeling to get that standing ovation," Lopez said. "That's something you never forget."

Hargrove wanted Lopez to go the distance, but winning the game superseded that sentiment.

The Dodgers came in having won 13 of 19, averaging 6.5 runs per game over that span, but they were stymied by a pitcher who went winless in six games with San Diego in 2000 before playing in the minor leagues all last year.

"He didn't break a sweat for the first five or six innings," said Dodgers' leadoff man Dave Roberts, who singled in the third but was picked off first. "He had a good slider, working both sides of the plate and getting first pitch strikes."

Making his 15th career start, Lopez outpitched Andy Ashby (5-5), who had won his last three starts. Ashby allowed four runs and eight hits in 7 2-3 innings.

"The kid threw the ball well," Ashby said. "I made a couple of mistakes and then they took advantage of it. The runs late in the game hurt."

Mora put the Orioles up 1-0 with a shot to left in the third inning that traveled an estimated 412 feet.

Ashby shrugged off a one-out double by Jeff Conine in the fourth, then retired the side in order in the fifth. But Mora led off the sixth with his seventh homer to give Baltimore a 2-0 lead.

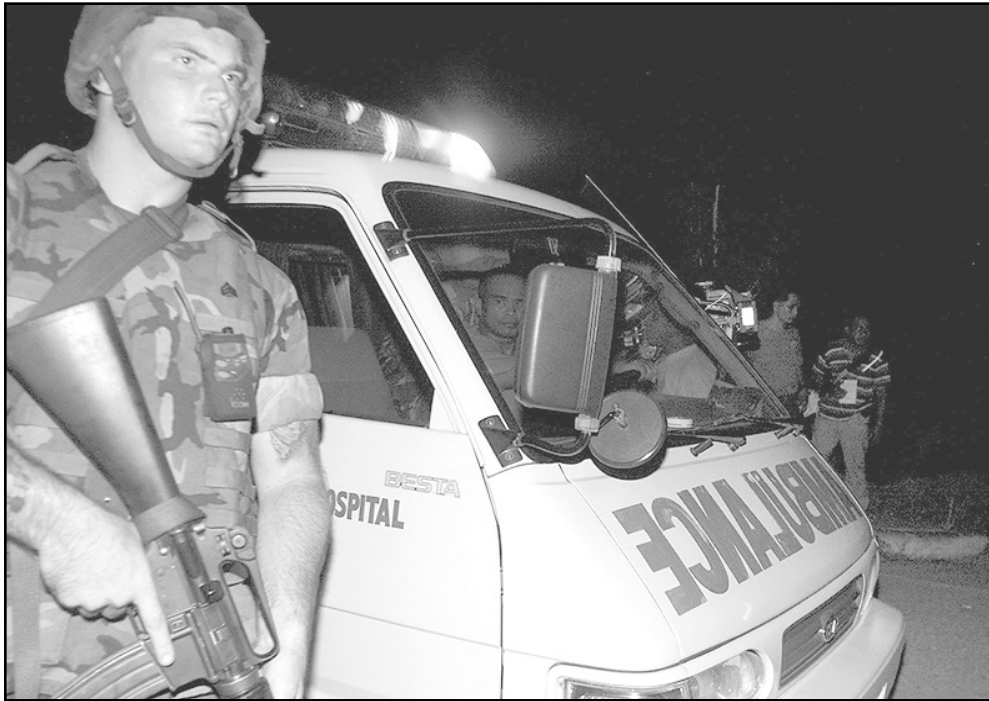
The Orioles made it 3-0 in the seventh when Jay Gibbons hit a leadoff double and scored on a single by Tony Batista.

Brian Roberts homered in the eighth for a 4-0 lead.

INTERNATIONAL



Two hostages killed, one rescued in Philippines raid



Bullit Marquez/Associated Press

A U.S. soldier escorts an ambulance carrying wounded hostage Gracia Burnham to a waiting helicopter for airlifting to an undisclosed destination Friday evening in Zamboanga, southern Philippines. U.S.-trained commandos freed Burnham after more than a year in captivity Friday but her American husband and a Filipino nurse were killed during the shootout with their Muslim extremist kidnappers.

BY JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press Writer

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines — A yearlong hostage crisis involving an American missionary couple came to a bloody end Friday. U.S.-trained commandos managed to save only one of the three captives — American Gracia Burnham — and even she was wounded.

Her husband and a Filipino nurse were fatally shot in the two-hour firefight in the Philippine jungle, as were at least four of their kidnappers — members of a Muslim extremist group linked to al-Qaida. Seven soldiers were wounded, the Philippine military said.

It was not clear who killed Martin Burnham, 42, of Wichita, Kan., and the nurse Ediborah Yap. They were discovered only after the battle as soldiers searched for wounded. The military said Yap was alive when found but succumbed to her wounds.

Gracia Burnham, 43, underwent surgery in the city of Zamboanga for a gunshot wound to the thigh, then was flown to Manila en route to the United States, where she has three school-age children.

"I was so happy when I got out of the jungle," she told doctors in Zamboanga. And she said her husband's death was part of God's plan: "That is God's liking. That is probably his destiny."

The Philippine government promised a fierce campaign to annihilate the Abu Sayyaf.

"The terrorists will not be allowed to get away with this," President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said as the military sent more special forces to the area with orders to pursue the guerrillas relentlessly.

The military will now unleash its full arsenal "to finish off" the Abu Sayyaf, said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. The group's numbers have dwindled to fewer than 100 from about 1,000 a year ago.

Arroyo also defended the troops involved in Friday's fighting, saying they "tried their best to hold their fire" for the safety of the hostages.

President Bush said he talked with Arroyo by phone and she assured him "justice would be done."

The Burnhams were kidnapped from a beach resort with 19 other people on May 27, 2001. Some captives — including American Guillermo Sobero — were beheaded. Others escaped or were released.

The captives were transported across the Sulu Sea to Basilan island, where thousands of troops were deployed to search for them. They remaining three hostages were found Friday about 40 miles away, near the town of Siraway on the main island of Mindanao in Zamboanga del Norte province.

No American troops took part in Friday's mission, American and Philippine officials said, but the U.S. military trained many of the Filipinos with night goggles, high-tech headsets and other sophisticated gadgetry.

The United States also has deployed Orion P3 surveillance planes and

unmanned reconnaissance aircraft to support the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Recently, U.S. surveillance detected unusual boat movement between Basilan and Mindanao islands. Ground troops were sent in, including Philippine marine reconnaissance units, army Scout Rangers and other elite companies.

"The surveillance equipment of the Americans was very instrumental in locating where the Abu Sayyaf was," said Philippine Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio.

"The surveillance equipment of the Americans was very instrumental in locating where the Abu Sayyaf was."

— EMMANUEL TEODOSIO
Philippine Brig. Gen.

Some 1,200 Americans are in the Philippines as part of Bush's global fight against terrorism. The U.S. presence — scheduled to end next month — is the largest outside Afghanistan, where an international coalition is pursuing bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Philippine officers said the guerrillas evaded the troops for days but heavy rains slowed them down Friday. They were spotted by Scout Rangers early Friday afternoon resting under trees in a downpour.

"We were following them since last night," Pfc. Rene Mabilog said while being treated for his own arm wounds. "This morning, we found their tracks and we followed them. There were about 30 of them."

At least four were killed, and the soldiers were scouring the jungle for others.

Mabilog said the guerrillas stopped to rest because it was raining heavily and the soldiers advanced to about 30 yards behind them.

Martin Burnham's body was being flown on a U.S. military aircraft to a U.S. base in Kadena, Japan.

Paul and Oreta Burnham, received news of their son's death at home in Rose Hill, Kan.

"The Lord will give us the strength to get through this," Paul Burnham said. He said Arroyo had called him.

Other members of his family also expressed confidence that their faith would carry them through.

His brother, Doug Burnham, said the family spoke to Gracia Burnham by phone, and "she wants to come back as quickly as possible to be with the children."

The Burnham children — Jeff, 15, Mindy, 12, and Zach, 11 — were returning to Kansas with their other grandparents, Norvin and Betty Jo Jones of Cherokee Village, Ark.

U.N. pressure forces Iraq to trim illegal oil surcharges

BY BRUCE STANLEY

AP Business Writer

LONDON — Iraq is reducing the surcharges it makes customers pay for its oil as the United Nations intensifies pressure on Baghdad to forego the illegal source of cash, energy analysts said Friday.

Hurt by plummeting sales of crude, Iraq also is believed to have halved the surcharges in an effort to lure back wary traders and avoid further pain for its long-battered economy.

Since its defeat in the Gulf War, Iraq has sold the bulk of its crude under close U.N. supervision. The U.N. oil-for-food program is designed to keep Iraq, one of the biggest OPEC producer countries, from using its oil revenues to pay for imports that it could put to military use.

The Iraqi government introduced surcharges as a way of partially circumventing U.N. control over its only source of hard currency.

The country has illegally earned at least \$2.3 billion in illegal surcharges on oil and commissions from commodities contracts, according to a report released last month by the U.S. General Accounting Office.

The United Nations has recently cracked down on the practice to stem the flow of what it considers illegal funds into Iraqi government coffers, said Michael Rothman, a senior analyst at Merrill Lynch in New York.

As a result, oil trading companies that buy Iraqi crude and sell it to refineries in the United States and other third parties have started making themselves scarce. Some traders have expressed fear that the United Nations might penalize them for paying the surcharges, Rothman said.

Iraq exported 2.1 million barrels of

oil a day as recently as two weeks ago. Last week, its daily sales plunged to 370,000 barrels as buyers looked for crude elsewhere.

Iraq initially sold its oil at a discount to the prevailing market price and then levied a surcharge that was roughly equal to the amount of the discount. Analysts estimate that the surcharges ranged from 25 cents to 35 cents per barrel of oil, although precise details are hard to come by.

As business has dried up in recent days, anecdotal evidence suggests that Iraq has slashed the surcharge to 15 cents a barrel or even less as a sales incentive. Contracts of light, sweet crude for July delivery were trading Friday at \$24.75 a barrel, down 4 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The United Nations began last year to try to quash Iraq's surcharges by imposing a system of retroactive pricing on Iraqi oil. Under this system, buyers of Iraqi crude don't know until the end of each month what price they will end up paying.

Iraq's reputation as an unreliable supplier hasn't helped its standing with customers. Iraq has abruptly interrupted crude shipments in the past, most recently on April 8, when it announced a 30-day boycott on oil exports to countries that support Israel.

In addition to its official, U.N.-monitored exports, Iraq is widely believed to smuggle a large share of its oil across its land borders and by ship through the Gulf.

Iraq smuggled out as much as 480,000 barrels of oil a day in March, according to the GAO report, which estimates Iraq has earned \$4.3 billion from oil smuggling since 1997. Most of this oil went across the long borders Iraq shares with Syria, Jordan and Turkey, the GAO said.

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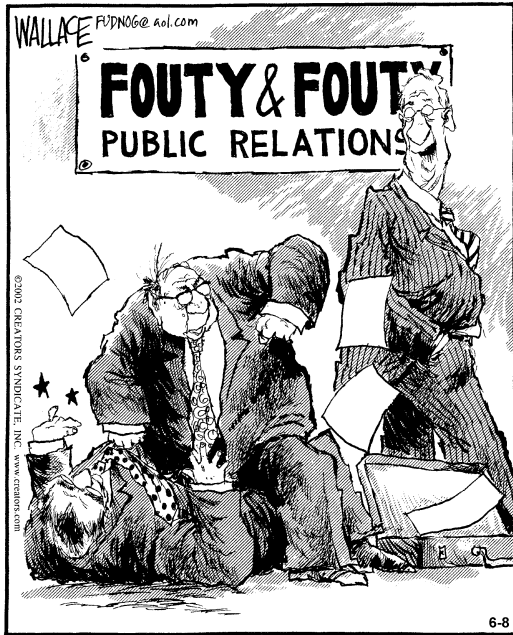


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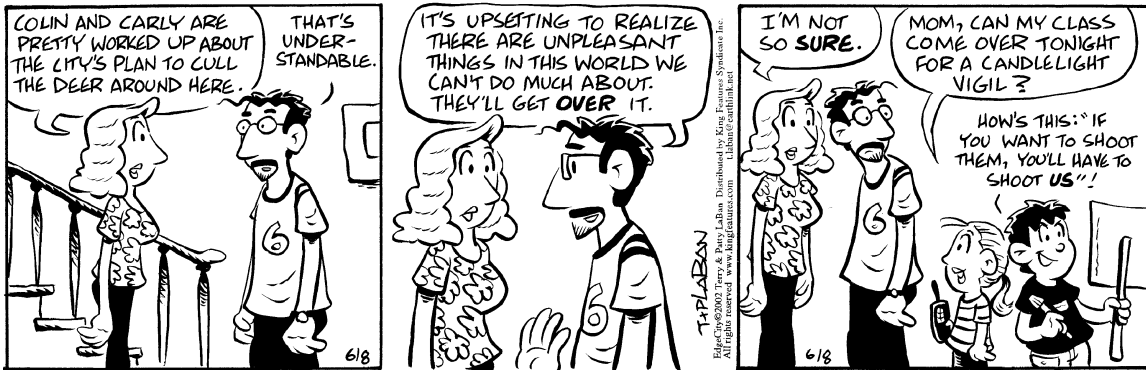
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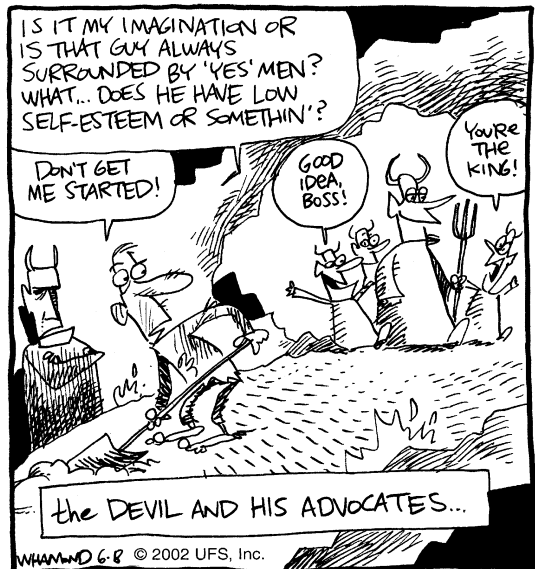
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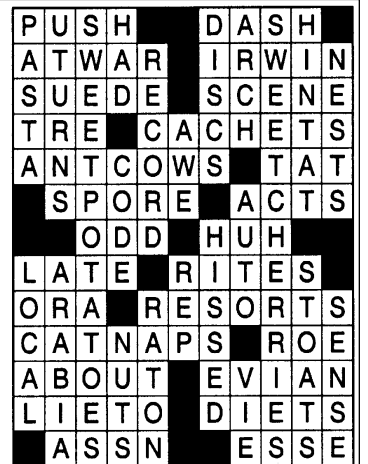


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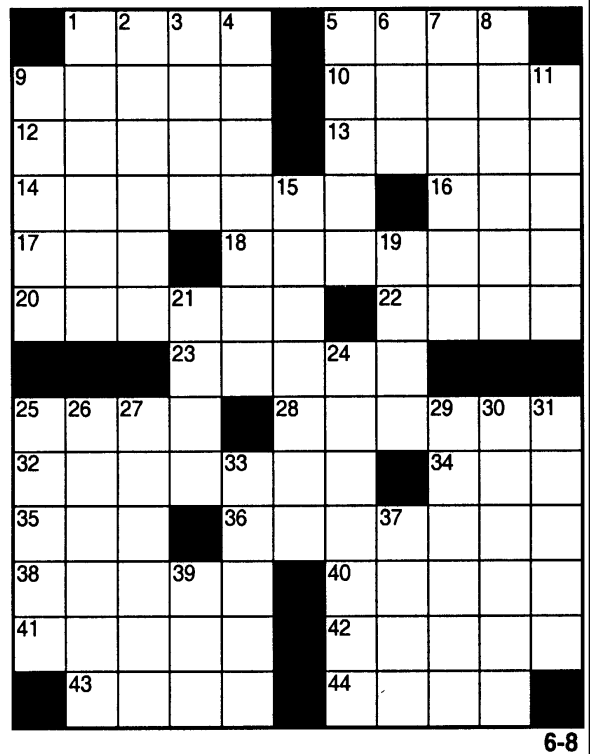


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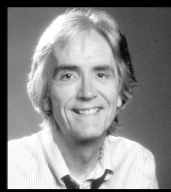
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6-8

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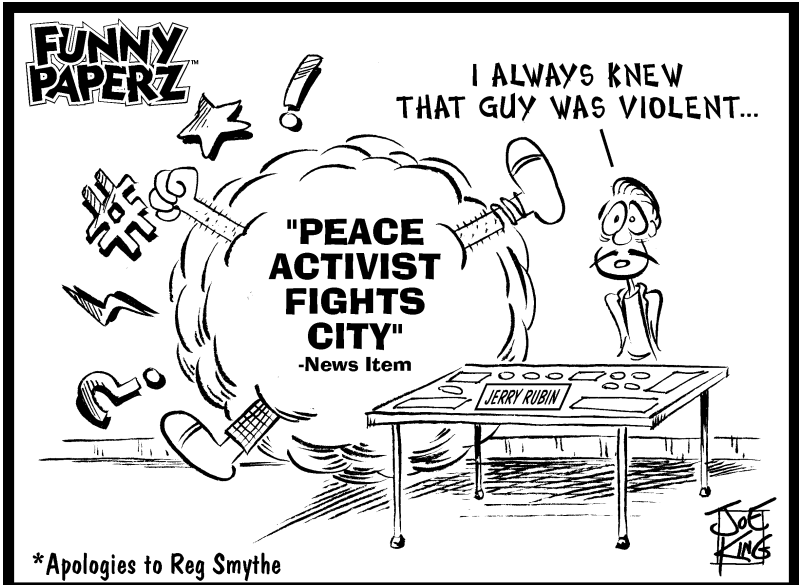
NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

'I Love Lucy' tactic used as a distraction

• Reminiscent of Classic Scenes from "I Love Lucy": Graham Wright, 51, who was sentenced to eight years in jail in January for several bank robberies in Southport, England, told the court that his girlfriend never knew he was a wanted man because, when he sensed a crime report with his picture about to come on television, he started dancing in front of the TV set to distract her.

• In May in Uniondale, N.Y., a gold Mercedes-Benz sports sedan was delivered by mistake to Ruth Shepard's driveway, causing her to believe it was a surprise Mother's Day present; a short time later, she was arrested for resisting police officers' attempts to get the car back for its rightful owner.



*Apologies to Reg Smythe

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BACK PAGE

One of the keys to wine tasting is spitting with style

BY LINDA ASHTON

Associated Press Writer

LOWDEN, Wash. — The best advice wine grape grower Patricia Gelles ever got on spitting was: "Practice in the shower."

Cellarmaster Robert Chowanietz offered this tried-and-true contribution: "Stay close and try not to splash."

Once the province of snooze-chewing loggers and major league ballplayers, spitting has joined swirling, sniffing and sipping as a smart part of tasting wine.

"Otherwise, you get drunk, if you've got lots to taste," said Gelles, a general partner at Klipsun Vineyards on Red Mountain, west of Richland.

Still, if you were raised anyplace other than a barn, chances are spitting in full view of others or — heaven forbid — indoors, just doesn't come naturally.

"It sort of goes against the grain," said winemaker Kay Simon, who owns Chinook Winery in Prosser. "You don't taste food and spit it out."

Simon keeps on hand a collection of attractive ceramic crocks, which can serve as discreet individual spittoons.

"Glass containers are sort of gross," she said. "Opaque containers are good."

A lot of people are more comfortable spitting into a handheld cup than aiming for a communal bucket, and those sloppy distance shots rarely make friends anyway.

"It's probably a little more genteel to pick the spittoon up and spit into it, rather than standing back two or three feet and hope you make it," said Terry Flanagan, who owns Ryan Patrick Vineyards in Rock Island.

The pros almost always spit, even into clean drains or gutters on winery room floors, which can be hosed down.

"They do make convenient spitting areas," Flanagan

said. "I know I've done it many a time myself."

At Woodward Canyon Winery in Lowden, west of Walla Walla, Chowanietz might taste 30 times in a single day, usually in the morning on an empty stomach, so there's no flavor interference with his palate.

"There's no drinking involved at all," he said. "You can't do your job without spitting."

For those who don't know spit about spitting, the wine world is awash with suggestions.

"There's no drinking involved at all. You can't do your job without spitting."

— ROBERT CHOWANIEZ
Cellarmaster

Try it in the tub or the kitchen sink. Don't be shy, and don't drool. Purse your lips to avoid splatter, aim for the center of the spittoon and put some power behind it. But if the bucket's full, watch out for splashback. For those iffy early attempts, wear a dark shirt.

If you're a musician, think about employing that embouchure, the method of applying the lips and the tongue to the mouthpiece of a wind instrument.

Even genetics might play a role in successful spitting. "It's all in the tongue shape," Gelles said. "If it's wide

enough, you can make a sort of little valley."

Chowanietz has designed stylish spittoons with stainless steel sinks in old wine barrels to try to encourage the reluctant to give it a try.

"We were getting kind of concerned about the big open-house weekends right along the highway (U.S. 12), and we were suggesting that people spit when they taste," he said.

Jeff Cutter, a prosecutor for the city of Yakima, which calls itself the gateway to Washington wine country, likes the idea of sober tastings.

"I would just as soon not see those folks in here," he said.

If a spittoon isn't readily apparent in a winery's tasting room, don't hesitate to ask, Simon said.

Jamie Peha, the marketing and promotions director for the Washington Wine Commission, coordinates the state's biggest wine and food event, Taste Washington, and knows all the ins and outs of accommodating sippers and spitters.

"People want to taste the wines and keep a clear head while doing it," she said. "A lot of people are educated that spitting is part of tasting."

With 110 wineries pouring for more than 2,500 people, Peha ordered 200-plus plastic spit buckets — which were actually pretty pastel wastebaskets — for the April charity event in Seattle.

"They're huge, with two handles on the side, which makes it easy to quickly exchange and empty them," she said.

Of course, there are those who contend that spitting is an unfortunate waste of good wine, in which case, a designated driver should probably be part of their tasting plans.

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