

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

100% organic news. Picked fresh daily.



Seth Kotok/Special to the Daily Press
Lakers fans cheer at J.P.'s bar. Inset: Nathan Wree, Gina Longg and Gene Elliott celebrate the Lakers sweep of the NJ Nets.

Lakers fans celebrate

By staff and wire reports

As time ran out for the NJ Nets Wednesday night, Lakers fans at J.P.'s bar on 11th Street and Wilshire Boulevard went hysterical — jumping up and down and slapping high-fives.

And jubilant Lakers fans danced and waved three fingers in the air while "I Love L.A." blared at the Staples Center as more than 18,000 fans celebrated the team's third straight title.

When the Lakers wrapped up their

NBA Finals sweep with a 113-107 victory over the Nets in New Jersey, streamers and handmade purple and gold airplanes rained down on the joyous but well-behaved crowd at the Lakers' home arena.

Many fans held up cell phones to share the noisy celebration with friends and family who weren't able to get one of the \$10 seats in front of giant TVs.

The fans quieted only to listen as Shaquille O'Neal was interviewed on TV. Jimmy Gomez, a member of the hip hop

See LAKERS, page 10

Garage appeal denied, becomes political issue

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica woman's plan to alter her historic home has been garaged by the city.

An appeal of a Landmark Commission verdict denying a resident in the Third Street Historic District from adding a garage to the front of her Ocean Park home was turned down by the Santa Monica City Council Tuesday night.

Shirley Bly, a local real estate agent, wants to knock down a large deck in front of her home and in its place install a two-car garage. Her plans had been denied by the Landmarks Commission, which oversees historic and landmark buildings. She appealed to the city council.

Only Councilman Robert Holbrook wanted to allow the garage, while his colleagues said they feel the project would intrinsically alter the appearance of the neighborhood.

"It just seems to me what is there now

could be so much better," he said. "It looks like a big wooden box is sitting in front of the house, blocking it from view."

"And I guess it's going to stay that way for a very long time, unfortunately."

However, opponents of the plan say by adding a garage door to the front of the structure, the historical nature of the 1920's California-style beach bungalow would be destroyed.

And because the plans would tear down about 50 percent of a retaining wall directly in front of the home, they believe it would forever alter a unique feature of the 2500 block of Third Street.

"I think the deck is pretty bad and removal of it would be beneficial to the district," said Councilman Ken Genser. "But so much of the character of the district is defined by the sloping hill and the retaining wall."

"Cutting into it would distract from the meter or the rhythm of the neighborhood."

See GARAGE, page 4

Shell announces an end to MTBE in its Calif. gas

City suing company for contaminating its wells

By staff and wire reports

SACRAMENTO — Shell Oil said Wednesday it will stop using MTBE in the gasoline it sells in California by year's end, beating Gov. Gray Davis' extended deadline by a year.

Davis pushed back the deadline to Jan. 1, 2004, in March, saying the phase-out could produce gasoline shortages and drive prices as high as \$3 a gallon because there are only seven ethanol suppliers in the country.

But the Renewable Energy Action Project, a coalition of environmental groups, had predicted Shell and other suppliers would act by year's end after BP, the state's largest provider, announced last month it would end its use of the additive by Davis' original deadline of Dec. 31, 2002.

Shell is the state's second largest supplier with about 18 percent of the market. Together with Phillips Petroleum Co., which also announced an early switch, the three companies account for about 55 per-

cent of California gasoline sales.

"We feel certain that the necessary supply of ethanol is available," Shell Oil Products US President Rob Routs said in announcing the company's decision. He said Shell is "working diligently" with regulators and within the petroleum industry to make sure there's an adequate supply of ethanol by year's end.

"The governor wants to get rid of MTBE completely and put forward a deadline for Californians not to be hit hard at the gas pump by price hikes," said Davis spokesman David Chai. "If they can meet the deadline early and pass along the price breaks they got to California motorists, we're in favor of that."

Methyl tertiary-Butyl Ether is a colorless chemical that at very low concentrations smells like turpentine and is a suspected carcinogen. It is added to gasoline to help cut air pollution.

Six years ago high levels of MTBE contamination was found in seven of Santa Monica's 11 wells.

Early tests found that the water at five of the city's largest water source — the

See MTBE, page 4

Judge's Ten Commandments poster ruled unconstitutional

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — A federal judge ruled that a poster showing the Ten Commandments should not be displayed in a county courtroom.

U.S. District Judge Kathleen O'Malley ruled Tuesday that Richland County Common Pleas Judge James DeWeese's purpose for posting the commandments was "generally laudable" but "constitutionally deficient, because the debate he seeks to foster is inherently religious in character."

Gene Kapp, spokesman for American Center for Law and Justice, which represented DeWeese, said the center was working on an appeal. DeWeese, a county judge since 1991, did not return a call

seeking comment.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio sued DeWeese and Richland County commissioners over the poster last year. Bernard Davis, an ACLU member in Mansfield, said the display made him feel as though the judge forced religion on him.

Attorneys for Richland County argued that the Ten Commandments was more than a religious text and had a significant influence on the modern legal system.

The U.S. Supreme Court last year declined to hear a similar case involving a Ten Commandments display outside a government building in Elkhart, Ind. It let stand a lower court ruling that the marker violated the constitutional boundaries between church and state.

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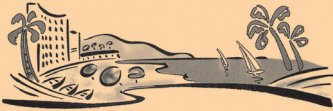
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your mood swings easily. If debating about a work-related matter, what seems OK in the a.m. might not be acceptable by night. Let your creativity kick in and come up with solutions. Brainstorm with those you respect. Tonight: Consider an early beginning to the weekend.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Clear your desk this morning, returning all your messages. Good news greets you as a result. You could easily be distracted. Keep in mind what you need and want to accomplish. Plan on working late or closing your door in the afternoon. Tonight: Another lets you know how much he or she cares.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Sometimes you don't use all your assets. You have a lot going for yourself. Take a strong action. Reach out for another. You might not believe that this person could do what he or she promises. Get ready to step back and observe. You could be pleasantly surprised. Tonight: Speak your mind.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your natural style seems to part the waters in front of you. Nothing seems too hard in your present mood. Tackle work. Ask that special person a question you have been putting off. Good news follows in your wake. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Play your cards close to your chest, especially those involving love and money. Let others express their views, giving you a better sense of direction. When you decide to reveal your thoughts later in the day, you slice through many issues. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ If you can, get a head start on your day. Your most successful time will be in the daylight hours. Move quickly through your must-do list in order to allow for some free time. Your feelings might be quite intense. Know that someone returns them. Tonight: Add some mystery.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ All eyes turn in your direction. How you feel about someone could change substantially. Others will give you the benefit of the doubt right now. Do understand that even with all the smiles, others count on you coming through. Tonight: Head down the winning path.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Detachment allows you to express more affection for others. You will understand those you care about better and know what to say to help them. Good news results from a phone call or message. Another whispers some important news in your ear. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Deal with others on a one-on-one level. You make waves and money, if you use your smarts! Others delight in the attention from you. A relationship also benefits from this type of time and attention. Focus on a loved one. Tonight: Discuss weekend plans.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others go out of their way for you, making your life easier. Don't make it complicated, but enjoy what is happening. An associate has stronger feelings than you're aware of. Carefully consider options that surround a loved one. Tonight: Dinner for two.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Much happens if you opt to be less abrupt and grease the wheels of change. Another won't be so touchy if you use an extra bit of diplomacy. Be sensitive to a co-worker or associate who might want more from you. Tonight: Out.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Take the day off, if you can. Emphasize pleasure, rather than work, if possible. Another has very strong feelings. Share more of yourself with this person. Playing hooky is OK, sometimes, and it might increase your work performance. Tonight: Settle in.

QUOTE of the DAY

“Friends may come and go,
but enemies accumulate.”

— Thomas Jones

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LOCAL



CrimeWatch

Robber can't get dough from Baja Fresh

■ An armed man attempted to rob Baja Fresh, located on the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard, at 11:05 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, but was unsuccessful, according to police.

The manager told Santa Monica Police that the suspect entered the store earlier that evening, but then left when other customers entered the restaurant.

The suspect returned later and told the manager he was there to clean the fans. The manager said the fans didn't need cleaning. The suspect pulled out a handgun and demanded money. The manager explained there was no money, and the suspect turned and walked out, according to police.

No money was taken and no one was injured.

The suspect is described as a black male in his mid 30s, six feet tall with a heavy build and a one-inch-long beard. He was wearing a dark blue hat, a jean jacket and light blue pants.

■ Three people walking along the 1600 block of the beach were approached by a group of seven to eight Latino men who demanded their money on Saturday, June 1 at 12:50 a.m. One of the men threatened the victims with a small knife, police said.

The victims were robbed of a Lakers jersey, black Jordan gym-shoes, and a wallet containing \$10 in cash.

■ Herbert William Henn was arrested on Friday, May 31, for wielding his CLUB steering wheel lock as a weapon.

At 2:21 p. m., a man was walking past John Adams Middle School on the 2400 block of 16th street when Henn began yelling from across the street and waving his CLUB lock, police said. The man by the school ignored the yelling man and kept walking.

Seconds later Henn crossed the street and confronted the walking man, flipping his CLUB in a menacing way. After a few moments Henn went back across the street. The victim called police.

Santa Monica police arrived and arrested Henn, a 45 year old white male from Santa Monica, and booked him for brandishing a weapon. His bail was set at \$1,000.



L.A. county is in store for a mix of new swells from the southwest today. It will give exposures a foot on top of Wednesday's height. Zuma and County Line's best sets will be shoulder high. Expect shadowed and unexposed spots like Topanga to remain flat, relying on dying wind swell for inconsistent ankle-to-waist high waves.

Extended storm reports predict further increased swell activity Friday. Four and five footers are on tap for the weekend.

(Information compiled by Jesse Haley.)

Location	Thursday	Friday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Fair	B
Topanga	1-3'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A

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Making it sing



Jeff Chang strips rust from the pipes of a whistling chair on Ocean Front Walk by the Santa Monica Pier this week in preparation for a new coat of paint.

Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

■ Santa Monica Police cited a woman for swiping a hat and a pair of underwear from Urban Outfitters on the 1400 block of Third Street Promenade on Wednesday, May 29, according to police.

At about 9:20 p.m. an Urban Outfitters employee heard the store's security alarm go off, and looked up to see the suspect leave the store. The employee rushed outside and confronted the suspect, asking her to open her purse. The suspect complied, the employee recovered the hat and underwear and placed the woman in custody, police said. The employee then called police.

The suspect is a 20-year-old white woman from Ventura County, who was issued a misdemeanor citation for petty theft.

Anyone with additional information regarding these crimes should contact the Office of Criminal Investigations at 310-458-8451.

The Q Line

After a win Sunday, the Los Angeles Lakers are on their way to being NBA champs once again. While they are doing a fine job keeping the New Jersey Nets at bay, fans know not to jinx their record by claiming victory too early.

However, Southern Californians are optimistic that their basketball team will prevail. Flags are being flown and parties are being thrown.

This week, Q-Line wants to know,

"What would be the best thing about the Lakers winning the NBA championship and how should we celebrate when the Nets are dunked?"

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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LOCAL

Garage first project to be denied in historic district

GARAGE, from page 1

Council members Herb Katz and Pam O'Connor said they could support a new garage proposal that did not impact the front of the property, but Bly said that wasn't likely.

"I don't think I can afford to pursue it any further," she said. "And anyway there isn't anywhere else to put it. We can't move it to the backyard because there's not enough room."

At least 100 residents from throughout the city jammed into the council chambers and overflowed into two areas set up with monitors displaying the televised meeting.

And instead of dwelling completely on the aspects of the garage project, the debate between residents quickly became tangled with a homeowners association which recently formed to combat the creation of future historical districts.

The group fears the city will take the results of a recently completed survey of homes north of Montana Avenue — one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the city — and arbitrarily create six districts recommended in the report.

Calling themselves "Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation," the newly-formed committee — headed by local land use attorney Tom Larmore — is circulating a petition in an effort to allow homeowners a choice as to whether their

homes should be classified as landmarks, or structures of merit. The measure would create an ordinance which mandates that the homeowner have final say in whether or not his or her structure is historic.

The group needs 6,000 signatures to place the measure on the November ballot.

Committee members believe the current ordinance imposes restrictions on private property and constitutes an unwarranted intrusion of personal freedoms.

"I think people got a taste of the realities of having historic districts," said Larmore. "And I think this will only help to strengthen support for our cause."

Some council members felt the impassioned crowd was the result of dubious political tactics being used by the association, which calls itself Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation.

"In Santa Monica right now there is a difference of opinion" when it comes to historical districts, said Councilwoman Pam O'Connor. "Issues have been distorted for political purposes and scare tactics have been used."

City officials point out that in the 12 years since the Third Street Historical District has been created, this is the first time a construction project has been denied.

"We're not trying to freeze anything in time," said O'Connor. "This is about preserving those characteristics that make this neighborhood unique."

Oil companies voluntarily removing MTBE from gas

MTBE, from page 1

Charnock Wells — contained more than 600 parts per billion of MTBE. The other two wells — known as the Arcadia Wells — contained 86 parts per billion. The state has determined that water must contain less than 5 parts per billion before it is safe to drink.

The pollution closed the wells, forcing the city to import nearly 80 percent of the 12 million gallons of water it uses each day.

"MTBE is a tricky chemical," the city's utilities manager Gill Balboa recently said. "It finds its way into the ground water easily, it moves through the aquifer very quickly and it is very difficult to remove."

Santa Monica is suing Shell and 17 other makers and refiners of MTBE and MTBE-laden products for poisoning its drinking water supply. The amount of damages and the cost of building a water treatment center is estimated will be several hundred million dollars.

Until the ground water is cleaned, the oil companies are paying \$3.5 million a year to import drinking water to the city.

Though the oil companies were successful in moving the trial to an Orange County court, the city has won every challenge to its lawsuit. A trial is expected to begin by the end of the year.

Since 1997, Santa Monica has budgeted \$2.2 million annually for the study, investigation and now treatment of the MTBE-contaminated wells at the Charnock wells in Mar Vista and the Arcadia wells, which are located in West Los Angeles.

Ethanol is a corn-based additive that also helps gasoline burn cleaner. Either product can be used to meet a federal

requirement that gasoline contain a 2 percent oxygen additive to cut down on air pollution.

Davis unsuccessfully sought a three-year waiver from that requirement.

BP, which sells gasoline under the ARCO brand, said last month it already has signed contracts with several ethanol suppliers. Phillips Petroleum, which sells gasoline under the Union 76 brand, began eliminating MTBE two years ago.

The Renewable Fuels Action Project called on San Francisco-based ChevronTexaco to join the move, which would mean about 75 percent of the state's gas stations would be MTBE-free by year's end.

ChevronTexaco will eliminate MTBE "as soon as possible" because of customer demand, said spokeswoman Nicole Hodgson. However, "there are a number of uncertainties," including Davis' deadline delay and the company's use of a common pipeline with other shippers who may not all make the switch away from MTBE at the same time.

Shell's announcement is significant in judging how the industry might voluntarily meet Davis' original deadline, said Bob Dinneen, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Renewable Fuels Association, which promotes ethanol.

Shell not only refines and markets gas in California, but runs a major petroleum pipeline and shipping terminal, he said, so it has a good idea what it will take to supply the state with enough ethanol to meet demand.

He predicted consumers will show a preference for companies that make the early switch away from MTBE.

STATE



Ex-student found guilty of killing four pedestrians

By The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — The son of a Hollywood television director was found guilty Wednesday of second-degree murder for killing four pedestrians with his speeding car on a crowded street and shouting "I am the angel of death."

David Attias, 20, who was on drugs at the time and has a history of mental illness, could face life in prison without parole. The next phase of the trial was scheduled to begin Thursday to determine if Attias was sane at the time of the killings.

Attias was an 18-year-old part-time student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, on Feb. 23, 2001, when he drove his 1991 Saab down a crowded street in a student housing area, hitting nine parked cars and five people.

Witnesses testified he then got out of the car and shouted: "I am the angel of death."

The jury of five women and seven men deliberated five days after a trial of nearly two months. Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Thomas Adams presided.

Attias killed Nicholas Bourdakakis, 20; Christopher Divis, 20; Ruth Levy, 20; and

Elie Israel, 27. Levy's brother, Albert Levy, 27, was injured but survived.

Attias was also found innocent one count of driving under the influence to cause great bodily harm.

During the trial, Attias' mother described a constant battle to treat her emotionally disturbed son and testified the last time she saw him before the killings he was skinny and looked like a "weirdo."

Jurors also watched a video taken immediately after the pedestrians were struck showing Attias fighting with several onlookers.

Because Attias pleaded innocent by reason of insanity, his mental status is at the heart of the case. Defense attorney Jack Earley argued that his client suffered a "psychotic break" and did not understand his actions when his car struck the pedestrians.

If Attias is found innocent by reason of insanity he would be placed in a mental hospital until it is determined he has been cured.

Drug test results showed signs that Attias had recently smoked marijuana and had the dental painkiller, lidocaine, in his bloodstream after the crash.

Judges dismisses lawsuit over L.A. redistricting plan

BY KATE BERRY

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A three-judge panel dismissed a lawsuit Wednesday by a Hispanic rights group that sought to overturn redistricting plans it said were designed to keep three white incumbents in Congress.

In a 91-page decision, the two U.S. District Court judges and one federal appeals court judge rejected the action brought by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund on behalf of 24 registered voters.

The suit alleged that Democratic legislators redrew congressional districts in Los Angeles and San Diego counties to protect Reps. Howard Berman, D-North Hollywood, Bob Filner, D-San Diego, and Brad Sherman, D-Sherman Oaks, from potential Hispanic challengers.

"It was a disappointment," said Thomas A. Saenz, a MALDEF attorney. "The evidence shows the state split the Latino community in order to ensure that

incumbent Congress members would not face a challenge from a Latino candidate."

In rejecting the lawsuit, the judges cited evidence of crossover voting by whites for Hispanic candidates and the extent of Hispanic political power in the areas as proof of no direct racial discrimination in the newly drawn boundaries.

MALDEF, which is also involved in redistricting cases in Arizona, Illinois and Texas, has not decided whether to appeal.

A lawyer for the state did not immediately return calls for comment.

Lawmakers are required to draw new districts every 10 years to reflect population changes revealed by the latest census.

MALDEF attorneys argued that the plans approved last year violated the Constitution and federal Voting Rights Act by either packing Hispanic voters into already-heavy Hispanic districts or splitting up voters to protect incumbents.

Under federal law, a constitutional claim against redistricting is assigned to a three-judge panel.

Hells Angel shot to death

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A Ventura Hells Angels member was shot to death outside an Arizona bar and investigators are trying to determine if the killing was linked to an ongoing power struggle between the Hells Angels and Mongols biker gangs.

Joshua William Harber, 25, of Oak View was shot once in the head early Sunday outside the Coyote Wild Bar & Grill in north Phoenix. Harber joined the Hells Angels about six months ago, Ventura chapter president George Christie Jr. said Tuesday.

Phoenix Police Department detectives were investigating several motives, including the possibility the killing was retaliation for the casino killings of three bikers during a confrontation April 27 between Hells Angels and the rival Mongols in Laughlin, Nev.

"We are looking at that ... it could be fallout," Sgt. Lauri Williams said Tuesday.

Christie wouldn't discuss the feud, but he confirmed Phoenix detectives were planning to come to Ventura this week to interview members of the motorcycle club.

Harber had traveled to Phoenix with five other Ventura members to "network," Christie said without elaborating.

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STATE

Mexican guest workers seek help to recover back wages

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The last time Juventino Ortiz tried to collect the rest of his pay for picking fruit in Northern California, a government official chased him out of his office.

In the 55 years since then, the Mexico City native forgot about the money, became a U.S. citizen and raised a family in Hollister, Calif.

But now, at 81, he and thousands of other former Mexican "guest workers" who say they were denied a portion of their wages want their money. At the very least, they want their day in court.

"Is it live or die? No," Ortiz said Wednesday in Washington. "It's the principle."

The Justice Department, in court papers, says the claim is too old and is trying to get a federal judge to dismiss a class-action lawsuit alleging hundreds of thousands of Mexicans who worked in America between 1942 and 1949 never received money deducted from their wages.

Legislation introduced Wednesday in Congress would prevent the government from having the suit dismissed on procedural grounds.

Ortiz was one of nearly 5 million Mexican guest workers recruited to the United States between 1942 and 1964 to harvest crops and maintain railroad tracks. The "bracero" program — which comes from the Spanish for "arm" — was launched during World War II to help fill jobs left vacant by U.S. workers called to fight.

In an unusual agreement between the U.S. and Mexican governments, the braceros had 10 percent of their wages deducted and sent, via Wells Fargo, to Mexican banks to serve as savings accounts. The agreement was supposed to serve as an incentive for the workers to return to Mexico once their contracts expired.

Ortiz said he tried unsuccessfully to get his money.

"I went back to Mexico City to the government office to see about my 10 percent," Ortiz recalled Wednesday. "They said, 'What are you talking about? Get out of here.'"

About 200 former braceros and their families rallied Wednesday in downtown

Los Angeles in support of the bill. Among them was Alfonso Ortega, 85, a migrant worker from 1942 through 1950 who was paid 60 cents an hour.

"I believe I have the right to the money," Ortega said through a translator.

Joaquin De Luna, 82, said U.S. officials didn't let him return home to his wife and children in Mexico when he decided he didn't like the impoverished conditions.

"I didn't want to pick their lettuce," he said through a translator.

De Luna said he doesn't believe he'll get back the 10 percent, but added, "If this country has any shame, it would give it back with interest and credit."

The lawsuit, filed last year in San Francisco, is against the U.S. and Mexican governments, along with four banks. Although the pay was as low as 30 cents an hour, advocates for the braceros say at least \$500 million is owed, including interest.

The suit is patterned after successful claims by Holocaust survivors against Swiss banks and German companies.

The Mexican government says U.S. courts have no jurisdiction in the matter. Wells Fargo spokesman Larry Haeg said a review of company records indicates it transferred all the money it received. A hearing is scheduled in U.S. District Court in San Francisco in early August.

Bill Lann Lee, former assistant attorney general for civil rights in the Clinton administration, said the Justice Department supported extending the statute of limitations in a lawsuit by black farmers alleging discrimination by the Agriculture Department.

"We think justice would be served by having the case heard on its merits," said Lee, whose San Francisco law firm represents the braceros.

The legislation, co-authored by Rep. Luis Guterres, D-Ill., and Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., would prevent the Justice Department from using the passage of time and sovereign immunity to block the claims.

"These issues are unrelated to the merits of the case," Farr said at a news conference in front of the Capitol. "They're just legal excuses for why they can't get to first base."

Farr represents the Salinas Valley, where many Mexican workers picked fruits and vegetables.

I-5 freeway in Oceanside area closed after jet fuel spill

By The Associated Press

OCEANSIDE — The southbound lanes of busy Interstate 5 were closed Wednesday afternoon after a collision involving a tanker truck carrying jet fuel, officials said.

The southbound lanes toward San Diego and the U.S.-Mexico border remained closed more than five hours after the accident, backing up traffic more than 10 miles into Orange County during the afternoon rush hour, said Officer Phil Konstantin of the California Highway Patrol.

The accident occurred about 1:10 p.m.

when a sedan and the tanker truck collided in the Oceanside area near the U.S. Marines Corps' Camp Pendleton base.

Two people in the sedan fled after the accident but were stopped by Camp Pendleton military personnel and turned over to the CHP for questioning, Konstantin said.

About 20 gallons of jet fuel spilled, which prompted the closure of the southbound lanes. The northbound lanes were closed for about 90 minutes starting at 4:30 p.m. when an extra tanker was brought to the scene to remove the jet fuel, Konstantin said.

There were no reports of injuries.

STATE



Groups prep for state fight over credit card "warnings"

BY JESSICA BRICE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California consumers groups are prepping for battle with some of the nation's largest bankers over a credit card "warning" law that the bankers helped design.

A group of high-powered financial corporations, including Chase Manhattan Bank USA, CitiBank and MNBA American Bank, filed suit a month before a California law was set to take effect that would require the companies to warn customers about how long it takes to pay off balances by just paying the minimum monthly payment.

State officials and consumer groups have criticized the suit, saying the banks never raised any of the concerns outlined in the suit although they actively participated in drafting the law.

AB865, which passed the Legislature and was signed by Gov. Gray Davis last year, was a watered-down version of a bill Davis vetoed the previous year because it would have required the credit card companies to send warnings to all customers.

The new law, set to take effect on July 1, requires the companies to send the warnings only to customers who make just the minimum payment for six months in a row. Credit card companies that have monthly payments of 10 percent or more of the entire balance are exempt.

The Consumers Union, which produces the popular publication "Consumer Reports" and sponsored the bill, estimates a \$1000 credit card balance with a minimum monthly payment of \$20 would take more than 17 years to pay off.

Howard N. Cayne, an attorney for the Washington, D.C.-based firm representing the banks, said the companies decided to sue because the statute is "unconstitutional."

"The California statute has the direct effect of impermissibly and unlawfully ... coercing banks to either raise their month-

ly minimum payments or to comply with an array of imposing, burdensome and expensive requirements," he said.

Cayne argued that because adding the warnings in monthly statements would be extremely costly, banks would have no other choice than to up their minimum monthly payments, which would violate federal law saying states cannot implement restrictions that infringe on interstate commerce.

The U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency submitted a letter in support of the plaintiffs on Tuesday, calling the statute "illmatched" to the goal of promoting financial literacy and "an impermissible means of achieving it."

But supporters of the bill, including its author, former Assembly Speaker Robert Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys, argue that credit card companies are not forced to change their minimum monthly payments or their repayment schedules.

"They're claiming the bill is going to be extremely costly," Hertzberg said. "But this isn't rocket science. It simply isn't that costly to tell consumers how long it's going to take to pay off their bill and at what cost."

Shelley Curran, a Consumers Union policy analyst who helped draft the law, said the bill was changed to satisfy all the concerns raised by the bankers.

Hertzberg called the lawsuit "disingenuous (because) the plaintiffs are using the very amendment they requested to the legislation as the linchpin for their suit."

Cayne would not comment on whether representatives had ever raised these concerns before, but said, "The fact that banks would be communicating with the state government suggesting changes doesn't at all mean they (supported) this legislation."

The case will be heard in a Sacramento federal court on June 28, when the bankers will ask for a preliminary injunction blocking the implementation of the law until the case is resolved.

Producers of 'Altar Boys' movie deflect assumptions

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — Its title smacks of a hastily produced, ripped-from-the-headlines tale of sex abuse by priests.

But the makers of "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys" are quick to emphasize that theirs is a coming-of-age film that has nothing to do with the current scandal in the Roman Catholic Church over cases of child molestation.

"We hope the title doesn't turn people off," said Jodie Foster, a producer of the independent film who also plays a supporting role as a nun. "I would love to get the message out there that it's not about priests molesting children."

Adapted from the novel by Chris Fuhman, the film opening in limited release Friday stars Emile Hirsch and Kieran Culkin as altar boys who rebel against authority at a Catholic school in the 1970s.

The boys develop a comic-book fantasy world where they assume super-hero alter-egos and battle Sister Assumpta (Foster), who becomes the evil motorcycle mama

Nunzilla in a series of animated segments.

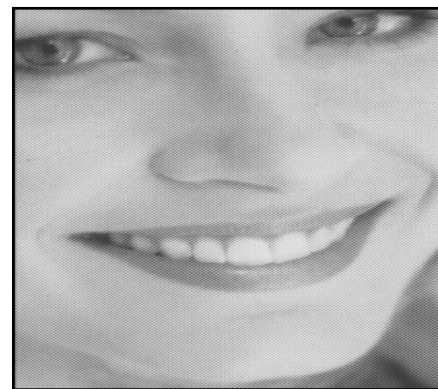
"Altar Boys" was made long before the current scandal and premiered at last winter's Sundance Film Festival. The release date also had been set before the scandal hit.

The filmmakers and distributor ThinkFilm already were locked in on the title and had no desire to change it anyway, they said. They had settled on advertising with a campy, comic-book edge, so the producers reasoned the marketing would make it clear that "Altar Boys" was not about sex abuse.

"There's no way anybody could look at that trailer or poster or the ads and construe the movie was about this kind of grave, awful problem currently facing the Catholic Church," said Mark Urman, head of distribution for ThinkFilm.

Vincent D'Onofrio, co-starring as a priest whose biggest vice is cigarettes, said the headlines might prod more people to see the film.

"You may get people going to see the movie to see what's so dangerous about the life of an altar boy," D'Onofrio said. "And hopefully, they'll get a nice surprise when they see it's a coming-of-age film."



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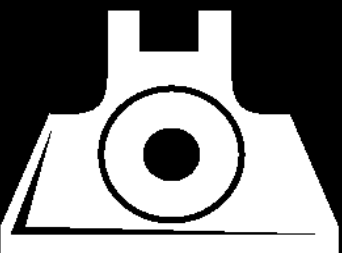
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NATIONAL

Man crashes twice in one day; suicide in question

BY FRED GOODALL
Associated Press Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — He was rich, handsome and dashing, a young man who thrived on speed and danger and died under mysterious circumstances.

Last week, Michael Antinori's experimental helicopter crashed into a Tampa house. He walked away with minor injuries and spent just a few hours in the hospital before being released, walking out with his parents.

Hours later, the 30-year-old Antinori climbed aboard his single-engine Cessna plane and circled over a busy city intersection for 40 minutes. Then the plane broke away and nose-dived into a dry cypress swamp 20 miles outside the city.

His death left his family and investigators struggling to explain what happened: Was it suicide? Or an accident?

Antinori left no note and his family has said through a spokesman that it suspects mechanical problems caused the crash. But the National Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday that the preliminary investigation found no obvious mechanical problems with either aircraft.

The Hillsborough County Medical Examiner's office is awaiting toxicology tests to determine whether he had been

drinking or under the influence of drugs. So far, the office has said only that Antinori died of head injuries suffered in the crash. The sheriff's department is also investigating.

"We may never know what happened," said sheriff's spokesman Rod Reder.

Investigators have said the engine on the helicopter was running after it crashed. And a witness to the Cessna crash said he did not hear the engine sputtering in the seconds before the plane hit the ground at an 80-degree angle.

"We just don't know," said John Brewer, a lawyer who has been acting as the family spokesman. "I can't speak to anything medically" that may have contributed to the crashes, Brewer said. "But as for personal problems, there were none. He didn't appear despondent."

Antinori's family has declined to talk about their son, and his friends are hesitant to talk until the investigation turns up some clue of what happened.

Some friends and family members believe Antinori may have climbed into the cockpit of a plane so soon after the first crash because he wanted to prove he was still a competent pilot.

"Aviation people will tell you it's important to get back up in the air immediately," Brewer said.

New limits set on hours resident doctors can work

BY DIANE SCARPONI
Associated Press Writer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Hoping to reduce the risk of dangerous errors by sleep-deprived doctors-in-training, an accreditation group for the nation's teaching hospitals announced new limits Wednesday on how many hours medical residents can work.

The rules approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education are the first national limits ever put on the total number of hours that medical residents in any specialty can be on duty.

Residents' work weeks will be limited to 80 hours and they must get at least 10 hours of rest between shifts. Also, they will not be allowed to be on duty for more than 24 hours straight. The new standards can be exceeded by as much as eight hours for approved educational reasons.

The council retained standards set in the 1980s that say residents should get one day in seven off and should not be on call more often than one day out of three.

The new rules take effect in July 2003. At hospitals around the country, there are often no limits on the total number of hours most medical residents can work in a week, though some specialties already impose 80-hour limits. Some doctors-in-training complain that they routinely toil more than 100 hours a week and are on call every other night.

Dr. David Leach, executive director of the accreditation council, said the long, punishing hours required of medical students can lead to errors that harm patients and can undermine doctors' education, because they can become too exhausted to learn effectively.

"Residents are doing more in less time

with less help," he said. "We felt, in recognizing that phenomenon, we needed to strengthen our standards."

Hospitals and doctors wondered how residents will be able to get all the training they need. They also said the rules could cost teaching hospitals millions of dollars to hire more doctors.

Grueling hours have been part of doctors' training for generations, and many older doctors believe such trial-by-fire training teaches physicians to make hard decisions when they are fatigued and under pressure.

In decades past, most residents followed a grueling schedule of 36 hours on and 12 hours off every two days.

"As much as it was traditional, it was not a good system," Herbert said. "People have even commented on the idea that it contributes to the dehumanization of doctors in training."

The accreditation council said the new rules are a response to changes in medicine that are putting more demands on doctors. Doctors are putting patients through batteries of tests that did not exist decades ago. At the same time, hospitals have cut back on nurses and support staff, so residents often end up doing paperwork and other mundane tasks.

An 80-hour week already is standard for residents who are studying to become emergency room doctors, said Dr. J. Brian Hancock, vice president of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

The council said it would act more quickly to sanction violators. The council can punish teaching hospitals by withdrawing its accreditation, a move that can cost the institutions students and millions of dollars in federal funding.

The Association of American Medical Colleges endorsed the new rules and said

NATIONAL



Have you seen this man?



Douglas C. Pizac/Associated Press
Salt Lake City Police Sgt. Fred Louis holds a wanted poster of Bret Michael Edmunds at a news conference on the disappearance of Elizabeth Smart on Wednesday in Salt Lake City. Edmunds is wanted for questioning only. Smart, 14, was reported kidnapped from her home last week.

John Gotti burial in Roman Catholic cemetery approved

BY LARRY MCSHANE

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Notorious mob boss John Gotti will be interred in a Roman Catholic cemetery alongside his son, but his family was denied permission to hold a funeral Mass for the convicted killer.

Gotti, responsible for at least five murders during his bloody reign atop the Gambino crime family, will not receive a Mass of Christian burial, the Rev. Andrew Vaccari, chancellor of the Diocese of Brooklyn, said Wednesday.

Instead, Vaccari said in a one-sentence statement, "there can be a Mass for the dead sometime after the burial of John Gotti."

Gotti died of cancer Monday at a prison hospital in Missouri. He had been sentenced to life in 1992.

The decision on the Mass echoed the ruling made by church officials after the Gotti-ordered murder of his Gambino predecessor, "Big Paul" Castellano, in 1985. Castellano's family received permission for a private Mass after his burial, but was denied a funeral Mass with the body in the church. But unlike Gotti, Castellano was also denied burial in a Catholic ceremony because of his life of crime.

Gotti's remains were removed from the Missouri prison on Tuesday for their eventual return to New York and his family, which has been splintered by federal prosecution. Two of his brothers, his son and his ex-son-in-law were all jailed at the time of his death; another brother and a

nephew were under indictment.

But the family released no information about plans for a funeral or wake. A spokesman for Gotti's daughter, Victoria Gotti, said only that there would be a "private service."

Gotti will end up in the family mausoleum that holds his son Frank, who died in 1980 at age 12 when he was accidentally struck by a neighbor's car. The neighbor, 51-year-old John Favara, disappeared four months after the accident and is believed to have been murdered.

The mausoleum is inside St. John's Cemetery in Queens, where an assortment of Mafia figures found their final resting spots. Those buried at St. John's include Carlo Gambino, Carmine Galante, Vito Genovese and Charles "Lucky" Luciano.

Wednesday's announcement did not say why Gotti was deemed qualified to be buried in a Catholic cemetery.

Victoria Gotti later released a three-paragraph statement, read by her longtime consultant, Matthew Rich.

"My heart is broken, but in this period of profound grief, we are comforted by all the generous and genuine support of those that loved this 'lion,'" the statement read.

The statement did not mention anything about the church decision to deny a funeral Mass.

In addition to Castellano and Gotti, the church has denied a funeral Mass to other mobsters: Galante and Gotti underboss Frank DeCicco.

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SPORTS

Los Angeles Lakers sweep New Jersey Nets clean

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

AP Basketball Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Proficiently and professionally, the Los Angeles Lakers finished strong, closed out the New Jersey Nets and won their third straight NBA title with a franchise first — a 4-0 sweep in the finals.

Shaquille O'Neal had another dominant night with 34 points and 10 rebounds and Kobe Bryant went back to playing a supporting role with 25 points in the 113-107 victory Wednesday.

The rest of the Lakers also came up big in the deciding game — just as they did a year ago against the Philadelphia 76ers.

It was the Lakers' 14th title in franchise history, five while the team was in Minneapolis — including a threepeat — and nine in Los Angeles. This, however, was the first time the Lakers beat an opponent in four straight games in the finals.

"These dogs went to work, and they worked real hard this season," coach Phil Jackson said.

After the final buzzer, the Lakers were subdued in

their celebration. They've gotten used to this drill, and the only people in purple whooping it up were several hundred Los Angeles fans in the stands.

Bryant walked over and hugged Nets coach Bryon Scott, and O'Neal sought out Nets guard Jason Kidd and then walked over to embrace his grandfather, who towed the sweat off O'Neal's face.

Jackson also went over to Scott, smiled and shook hands at midcourt.

Jackson tied Red Auerbach for most titles as a head coach (nine) and passed Pat Riley for the most career postseason victories (156). Jackson also extended his own record by winning his 24th straight playoff series, including three seasons with the Chicago Bulls.

The Nets all but conceded defeat with 44 seconds left, subbing for Kidd and Kenyon Martin despite trailing by only six points. Bryant made two free throws while the two Nets got a rousing ovation, and 14-year veteran Mitch Richmond hit the final shot of the game — and his only one of the series.

The Nets played gallantly, trying to salvage some respect in a series that turned out to be a mismatch. But the Lakers had a little too much of everything — 11 3-

pointers, big nights from their two superstars and double-figure contributions from Derek Fisher, Devean George and Robert Horry.

O'Neal, who considers nearby Newark, to be his hometown, won his third consecutive finals MVP award. He scored 36, 40 and 35 points in the first three games, finishing the series by going 12-for-20 from the field with four assists and two blocks.

He thanked his teammates for "looking for me and having the confidence in me to give me the ball."

"I told them if we made the finals I wasn't going to let them down," O'Neal said.



NBA Championship Sweeps

By The Associated Press

2001-2002

L.A. Lakers def. New Jersey Nets

1994-1995

Houston Rockets def. Orlando Magic

1988-1989

Detroit Pistons def. Los Angeles Lakers

1982-1983

Philadelphia 76ers def. Los Angeles Lakers

1974-1975

Golden State Warriors def. Washington Bullets

1970-1971

Milwaukee Bucks def. Baltimore Bullets

1958-1959

Boston Celtics def. Minneapolis Lakers

Fans celebrate three wins in a row

LAKERS, from page 1

band, "Black Eyed Peas," was among the throng celebrating the victory.

"It don't get no better than Laker fans. You bring all different types of people together," Gomez said. "You bring different gangs, you bring different cultures together, you bring men and women together, and they all create this ambiance of positivity."

Outside the arena, police helicopters hovered overhead, and lines of riot gear-equipped police — some on horseback — kept a watchful eye to make sure there was no repeat of the 2000 celebration, when there was brief rioting.

Unlike the regular season and the playoffs, Wednesday night's game brought a mostly blue-collar crowd to Staples instead of the corporate

executives, Hollywood stars such as Jack Nicholson, and entertainment industry brass who normally attend Lakers games.

Joe Espinoza, a welder from Oxnard, brought his three children to Staples for the first time, saying he hadn't been able to afford tickets before.

"We've been pointing out everything we see on TV," Espinoza said.

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INTERNATIONAL



French take five into custody in shoe bomb investigation

BY ANGELA DOLAND
Associated Press Writer

PARIS — French anti-terrorist police rounded up five people on Wednesday who are suspected of providing assistance to alleged shoe bomber Richard C. Reid in Paris, the second such sweep in two months.

The arrests came as officials in Germany said they had received intelligence of a possible al-Qaida plot to shoot down civilian airliners. Separately, Indian officials claimed they had evidence of an imminent al-Qaida attack on financial institutions in Bombay. And Britain said it was forming a 6,000-strong reaction unit in case of a Sept. 11-style attack.

Two Pakistanis and three North Africans with alleged sympathies to radical Islam were taken into custody at dawn in the Paris suburbs, police officials said on condition of anonymity. Several may also have had French citizenship.

They were being questioned at Paris police headquarters. During the sweeps in Evry and a notoriously rough neighborhood of Mantes-la-Jolie, authorities found radical pamphlets and three guns, the officials said.

Reid, a 28-year-old British citizen, is being held in the United States, and French police have been conducting their own investigation to track his activities in France before he allegedly tried to ignite his explosive-stuffed

sneakers on a Paris-Miami flight in December.

Le Monde newspaper reported the suspects detained Wednesday were identified by people arrested in a previous roundup. The new suspects had allegedly been seen with Reid eight months to a year before he boarded the flight.

Though police believe Reid had logistical support in the French capital, they have so far been unable to track down solid evidence, Le Monde reported.

In April, French police took seven Pakistanis into custody on suspicions they had helped Reid. Six were later released, and the seventh, who was in France illegally, was sent back to Pakistan, the newspaper said.

In Germany, a warning was triggered when a civilian intercepted radio traffic in the Middle East of someone talking about the possibility of attacks on airliners in Germany, said Udo Buehler, spokesman for the Hesse state criminal investigation agency.

A spokesman for the German Interior Ministry, Rainer Lingenthal, said there was no evidence a specific plot was in the planning stages, but added: "Of course we take this information seriously."

An internal report by the Hesse state criminal investigation agency outlined how al-Qaida members might bring down an airliner in Germany, the mass-circulation newspaper Bild reported.

The report said terrorists could use heat-seeking ground-to-air missiles or an unmanned drone aircraft carrying explosives to down a jetliner during takeoff or landing, Bild reported.

The report cited in Bild was compiled several weeks ago. When asked why authorities had not publicized the warning earlier, Lingenthal said: "The fact remains that there are no specific indications for any kind of an attack in Germany."

In India, police and banking officials said authorities had evidence that al-Qaida planned to attack financial institutions in Bombay in the next eight to 10 days.

"This is the first time we have received a specific threat of a plan to target financial institutions. The warnings we usually get are general ones," said O.P. Bali, a police director-general. "Basically, it is a threat from the al-Qaida."

India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, issued a warning Monday to all banks and financial institutions that stressed the need for heightened security measures.

The warnings in India and Germany came just two days after Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the May arrest of an American, Jose Padilla, on suspicion of plotting to set off a radiological "dirty" bomb in the United States. Padilla, 31, also known as Abdullah al Muhajir, was taken into custody at Chicago's O'Hare airport as he returned from Pakistan.

Secretary of Defense says al-Qaida at work in Kashmir

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The al-Qaida terrorist group may be operating in the Kashmir region dividing India and Pakistan, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Wednesday.

Rumsfeld, in talks Thursday with Pakistan's president, was sure to discuss Islamabad's role in finding Osama bin Laden's fighters, both in the remote tribal regions of Pakistan itself and also potentially in Kashmir.

"I have seen indications that there, in fact, are al-Qaida in the areas we're talking about, near the Line of Control" that separates the Pakistani and Indian sectors of Kashmir, Rumsfeld told a news conference in New Delhi, India, before flying to Pakistan.

"I do not have evidence of precisely how many, or who, or where" they may be, the defense secretary said. He spoke after meeting with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to discuss the Kashmir crisis and the long-term outlook for U.S.-India military ties.

For some time, Indian officials have

claimed that al-Qaida members have infiltrated Kashmir, in part because that would draw a dramatic parallel to the U.S. war against al-Qaida in Afghanistan. An Indian official said this week there is evidence of one- to two-dozen al-Qaida fighters in the Indian part of Kashmir.

Attacks on India by Muslim militants who want Kashmir to be independent, or part of Pakistan, are a main source of tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

But U.S. officials previously have said they see no hard evidence of any large numbers of al-Qaida in the Himalayan region.

Some of the Pakistani militants in Kashmir do have longstanding ties to al-Qaida, and some trained in bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan. A few non-Pakistani al-Qaida supporters are believed to have sought refuge in Kashmir, U.S. officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

But it appears that Pakistanis in the Kashmir region are acting of their own volition when they launch cross-border attacks on India, the U.S. officials said.

India has insisted that Pakistani

President Pervez Musharraf crack down on the militants' training camps in Pakistan and keep them from crossing into India. Musharraf assured India last week that he had ordered his forces to stop fighters from crossing.

Efforts to apprehend al-Qaida members, including in the remote and largely autonomous tribal regions along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, were to be a focus of Rumsfeld's talks Thursday with Musharraf.

Rumsfeld on Wednesday credited Pakistan with helping the United States get hold of al-Qaida fighters who left Afghanistan after the collapse of the Taliban regime last fall.

For months, U.S. and allied forces hunted for remnants of al-Qaida in Afghanistan but found almost none, leading many to conclude most had fled to

Pakistan or elsewhere.

"In the case of al-Qaida in Pakistan, the Pakistani government has been very cooperative with the United States in helping to locate (the terrorists), and in a number of instances they have turned them over to us," Rumsfeld said. "And that has been a very helpful thing."

The prospect of al-Qaida gaining even a small foothold in Kashmir is troubling, in Rumsfeld's view, because a terrorist attack there could trigger a sudden military response from either India or Pakistan, which might bring the countries to the brink of war.

Rumsfeld came to New Delhi and Islamabad to keep up international pressure for an easing of tensions. He credited India with helping to ease tension since Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage visited both capitals last week.

Man sentenced to 5 years for 1971 hijacking flight to Cuba

By The Associated Press

TORONTO — An American man who forced an airliner to fly to Cuba in 1971 in the only successful hijacking in Canadian history was sentenced Wednesday to five years in jail.

Patrick Critton, 54, had eluded capture for three decades, at one time working as a school teacher in Tanzania, before being found last year living in New York. News of his arrest broke on Sept. 11 as hijacked jets slammed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Critton was extradited to Canada, where he pleaded guilty to kidnapping and extortion. Judge Casey Hill took two years off his sentence for time served and recommended accelerated parole, meaning Critton could be released after less than a year in jail.

He can choose to serve the sentence in Canada or the United States. He has not said which he will choose.

U.S. police had been after Critton for an armed robbery that led to a shootout in 1971. On Dec. 26 of that year, he hijacked an Air Canada flight from Thunder Bay, Ontario, to Toronto,

allowed the passengers off the plane, then forced the crew to fly him to Cuba.

He was jailed in Cuba, but disappeared after his release.

A Canadian police investigator entered his name in an Internet search engine last year and came up with one reference to a Patrick Critton in Westchester County, New York.

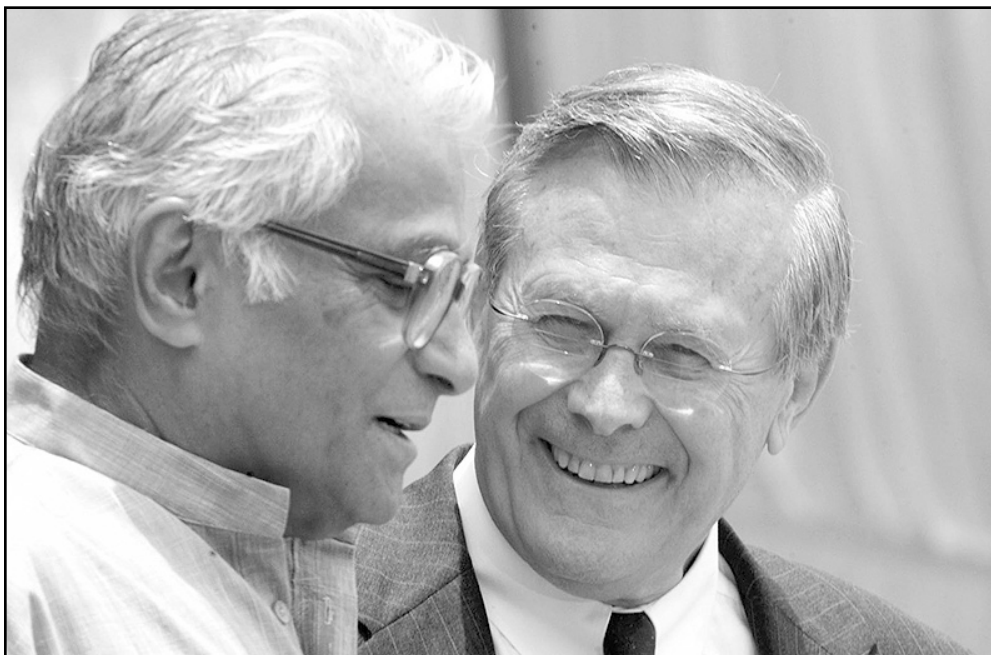
Fingerprints obtained by police matched those of the man who seized the Canadian flight three decades earlier.

With no charges pending in the United States for the 1971 robbery, Critton was extradited to Canada for the hijacking.

Prosecutors had sought a sentence of 10 to 12 years, while Critton's lawyer had asked for three to six years, noting that no passengers were hurt in the hijacking.

Helga Weterings, 61, was a flight attendant on the hijacked plane. She said Critton never threatened the flight staff and allowed the passengers to disembark in Toronto without even realizing a hijacking was taking place.

Andre said this showed Critton was not a violent criminal. He argued Critton deserved leniency because he had turned his life around after the hijacking.



Saurabh Das/Associated Press

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, right, shares a lighter moment with Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes during a news conference after a meeting in New Delhi Wednesday. Rumsfeld is visiting India and Pakistan in an effort to lower tensions between the two countries which have a million troops nose to nose along their frontier.

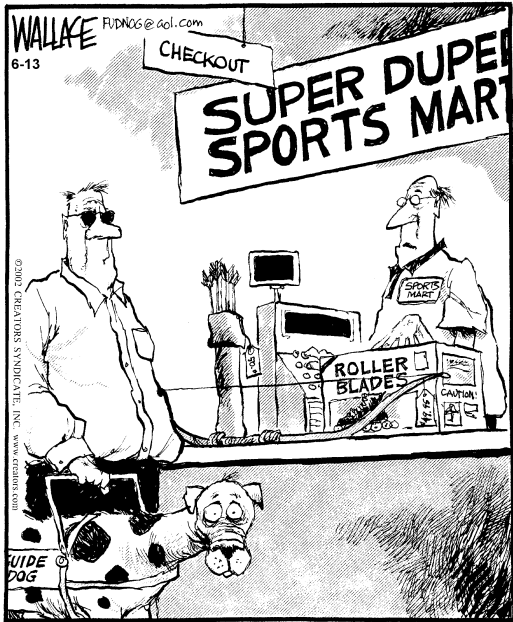


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Periphery
 - 6 Like some communities
 - 11 Like some diseases
 - 12 Delight
 - 13 Start of the Spanish year
 - 14 Austin resident
 - 15 Hire
 - 17 One in the stands
 - 19 Bother
 - 20 Lb. and oz.
 - 23 Gopher's work
 - 25 This counterpart
 - 26 Hotel offering
 - 28 Writer Oz
 - 29 Plankton critter
 - 30 Hightail it
 - 31 Mob leader
 - 32 Lisper's problem
 - 33 Snappy retort
 - 35 Thesis
 - 38 Portly
 - 41 Live
 - 42 "— ear and out ..."
 - 43 Small-minded
 - 44 Labeled
- DOWN**
- 2 Noisy commotion
 - 3 Back-stage waiting spot
 - 4 Deserve
 - 5 Campaign phrases
 - 6 Very beginning
 - 7 On the sheltered side
 - 8 Price additive
 - 9 Greek vowel
 - 10 Study
 - 16 Appended
 - 17 Wild
 - 18 Bouquet

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Yesterday's answer

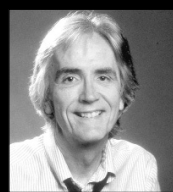
- 20 High-tech assembly area
- 21 Food in shells
- 22 Goblet parts
- 24 Mornings, briefly
- 25 Dam org.
- 27 Welcomes, as a new year
- 31 Begrimed
- 33 Piquancy
- 34 Sicilian volcano
- 35 Vitality
- 36 Chopping tool
- 37 Cherry center
- 39 French article
- 40 Koppel of TV

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41						42			
43						44			

6-13

STUMPED?

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



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Tourists jailed for three years for 'plane spotting'

- Eight British tourists were sentenced to three years in jail after being caught practicing their hobby of "plane-spotting" (similar to bird-watching) in Greece because authorities would not budge from their belief that anyone writing down airplane numbers must be a spy (Kalamata, Greece).
- Police sought a man who was making offers to women to clean out their septic tanks in exchange for sex or guns (Camden, Ark.).
- The director of the New Brunswick (Canada) Symphony was refused airline boarding until he baggage-checked his \$120 (U.S.) conductor's baton (a blunt-ended, flexible wooden instrument with a cork handle) (St. John, New Brunswick).
- A 46-year-old man, under orders to clean the junk off his property, instead created a giant sculpture of a bare human torso, bent over, with the back end aimed at the street, but was then arrested for disorderly conduct (Altamonte Springs, Fla.).

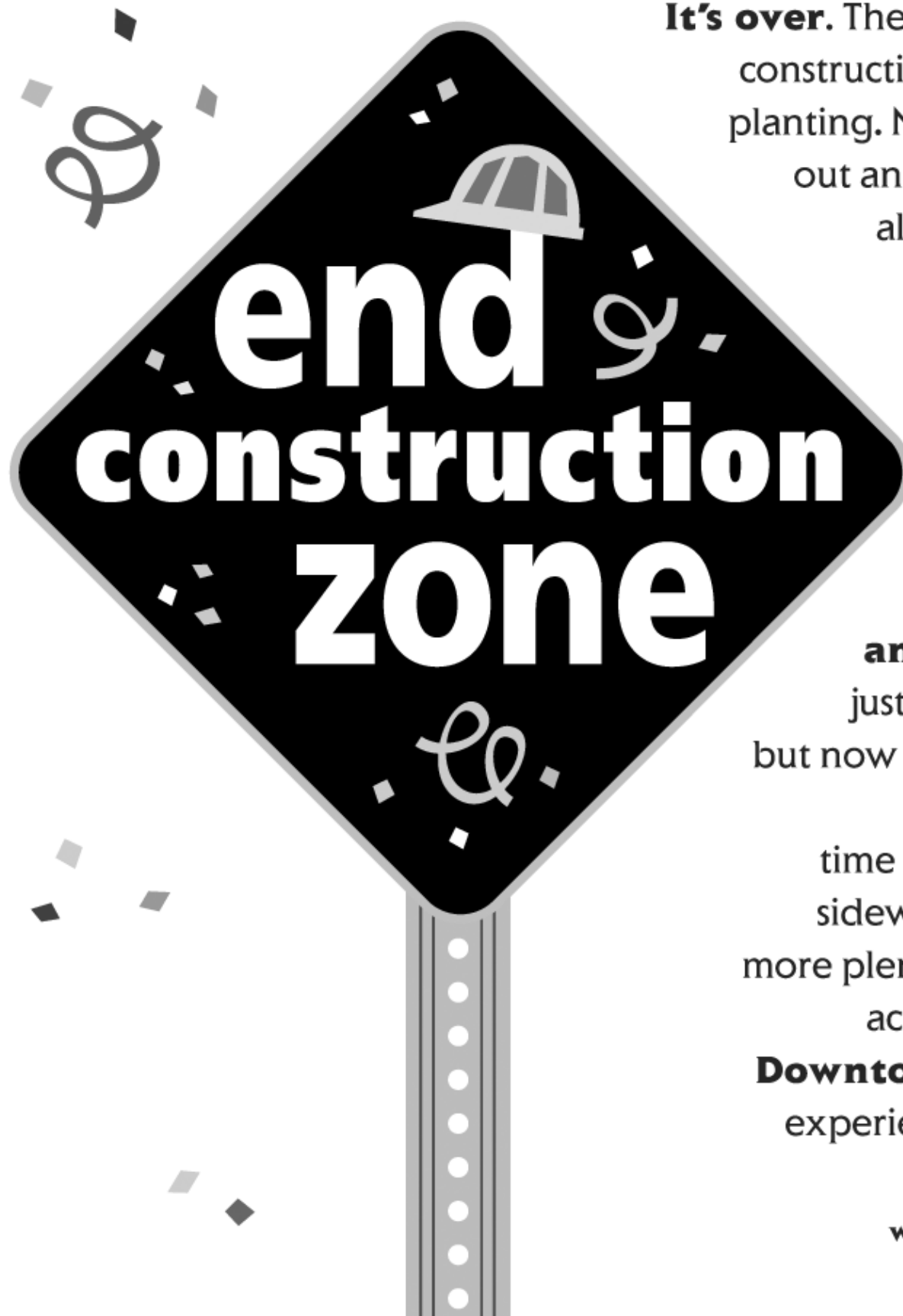


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*Apologies to Jeff Bridges

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Carolyn Sackariason
530 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 200
Santa Monica, CA 90401

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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The Calendar

Thursday, June 13, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
About a Boy (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Unfaithful (R) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45, 11:45, 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 5:45, 7:15, 8:45, 10:15.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood (PG-13) 10:45, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 10:00, 10:30. *Bad Company* (PG-13) 10:50, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:50. *Insomnia* (R) 11:00, 1:50, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG) 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45. *Enough* (PG-13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Spider-Man (Pg-13) 12:30, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 7:15, 7:30, 9:55, 10:15. *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones* (PG) 12:30, 1:00, 3:30, 4:10, 6:40, 7:20, 9:45, 10:25. *Undercover Brother* (PG-13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45, 9:00, 10:00. *Spirit of the Cimarron* (G) 12:35, 1:45, 2:45, 4:20, 5:10, 7:00, 7:40, 9:40.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Thirteen Conversations About One Thing (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30. *Kissing Jessica Stein* (R) 2:15, 7:15. *The Cat's Meow* (PG-13) 11:45, 4:45, 9:45.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Y Tu Mama Tambien (NR) 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15. dogtown and Z-Boys (PG-13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55. CQ (R) 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:30. Cherish (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10.

today

community

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

The Westside Family YMCA's Cardiac Therapy Program invites you to "Celebration of Life - And Extra Time." A special new video of the Westside YMCA's - 27 year medically monitored cardiac-rehab program will be previewed with an opportunity to meet the producer, the participants and the program directors. Heart-healthy refreshments will be served. Starts at 12:30 p.m., 11311 La Grange Ave., Los Angeles. Please call (310)575-0271 for more information.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Inaugural Elections will be held at the Venice United Methodist Church - Community Room. 2210 Lincoln Blvd. In Venice. Plenty of parking and refreshments for everyone. Early registration starts at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m. sharp! For more information please call (310)281-1943.

entertainment

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over 21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. This candlelit lounge fosters a community atmosphere. Kitchen features a full menu. Cover \$10 - \$3. Full bar. Over 21. (310)393-6611.

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

classes

Morgan Stanley cordially invites you to attend an exclusive seminar about Municipal Bonds: Today's Tax Free Alternative. This seminar will examine the myths in the market and explore the strategies that may help you reduce your taxes. Speaker will be Cynthia Ghaffari, Vice President. 1453 Third Street, Suite 200, Santa Monica. 6:00 p.m. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Call (310)319-5210 to reserve your space.

theatre

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Picon Pie! The World Premiere of a joyous and poignant musical play about the life and loves of legendary Molly Picon. Admission is \$23.50. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)394-9779 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

friday

community

Contemporary Crafts Market will be held today at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. 1855 Main Street, Santa Monica. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Admission is \$6.00. For more information please call (310)458-8551.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Bay Cities Jewish Community Center will be closing their doors and would like to invite anyone who has ever been affiliated with Bay Cities to attend their Final Graduation from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Graduation Ceremony and Program followed by refreshments. To RSVP or for more information please call (310)828-3433.

entertainment

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Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. This candlelit lounge fosters a community atmosphere. Kitchen features a full menu. Cover \$10 - \$3. Full bar. Over 21. (310)393-6611.

McCabe's, 3101 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. Wander through the gee-tars and other stringed things to this one-of-a-kind li'l shrine to live music. Music at 8 p.m., except Sunday., 7 p.m.; cover \$20 - \$10. No alcohol; coffee, tea, and sweets. All ages. (310)828-4403 or 828-4497.

14 Below, 1348 14th St., Santa Monica. If the band stinks, take advantage of commodious booths, pool tables, and fireplace. Full Bar. Over 21. (310)451-5040.

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to today'spaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.



BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Famous tow truck needs footwork

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Anyone concerned about the disappearance of Seattle's landmark Toe Truck from a busy exit off Interstate 5 needn't worry.

It's just out for some footwork.

Owners Ed and Connie Lincoln, the founders of Lincoln Towing, have decided that the pink truck with toes will be staying in town. After being spiffed up, it will return to the top of a parking-lot building near the Mercer Street off ramp for a few years before moving to the city's Museum of History and Industry.

"We'll miss coming down the Mercer ramp and seeing the Toe. But we'll go visit it," Ed Lincoln said. "We'd like to have our grandchildren and great-grandchildren be able to see it."

The truck — a Volkswagen microbus with fiberglass toes sticking up — has greeted drivers for 22 years. It was removed by crane June 2 for repair work on its cracks, worn Plexiglas windows, damp upholstery and fading paint. The truck is expected to be back within three months.

Two years ago, when the Lincolns announced their retirement, many Seattleites offered suggestions about where the Toe should go. Some said it should be sold over the Internet. A local candy maker said that if she could have the truck, she'd sell white chocolate miniature Toe Trucks, with all proceeds going to charity.

Talk about a light turnout

By The Associated Press

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — What if an election were held and nobody came?

Secretary of State Sharon Priest had predicted a light turnout for Tuesday's primary runoff in Arkansas, but the

turnout was nonexistent at two precincts in Garland County. "This hasn't happened in 27 years in any election," County Clerk Nancy Johnson said. "There's always somebody to vote. ... I've never known not to have anybody."

Johnson said the most votes cast at any one precinct in the county was 26.

A Democratic Party primary runoff for state land commissioner was the only statewide issue. It drew 97,000 voters — down from the 266,000 voters who cast ballots in the first round of voting May 21.

Including Republican voters, about 103,000 people turned out Tuesday to vote for candidates seeking state offices, including nine legislative seats. There were no statewide Republican races.

The turnout was about 7 percent of the state's 1.6 million registered voters.

McDonald's gets spammed

By The Associated Press

HONOLULU — The 78 McDonald's restaurants in Hawaii are adding a new menu item that's as much an American icon as the burger chain itself — Spam.

More than 3,000 portions of low-sodium Spam, scrambled egg and rice were served in a single day during a test run of the meal, according to Melanie Okazaki, McDonald's local marketing manager.

"I'm not sure why it has taken so long," Okazaki said of the Spam breakfast, which she said is offered at no other McDonald's in the world.

Hawaii residents consume 5.3 million cans of Hormel Foods' processed Spam luncheon meat each year, four times the national average. A favorite local variation is Spam sushi.

This weekend, Hormel is holding a "Spam Jam" for the grand opening of its 16,500-square-foot Spam Museum in Austin, Minn. The celebration honoring the

product introduced in 1937 as "the miracle meat" had been scheduled for September but was postponed after the terrorist attacks.

McDonald's officials will decide Aug. 1 if the canned meat will find a permanent place on the Hawaii menu.

The Spam breakfast joins other local specialties at McDonald's in Hawaii, including a local noodle soup called saimin and a Portuguese sausage breakfast.

Too pretty to be called 'Sodom'

By The Associated Press

CLINTON, N.Y. — According to the Bible, fire and brimstone destroyed Sodom as punishment for the city's sinfulness. Now several residents of Sodom Road are hoping the street's name will go up in flames.

"We just think Sodom is such an ugly name for such a pretty place," said Phyllis Sievers, who owns property on the road and is leading the effort to change the name to Edition Lane.

Residents of Clinton, about 80 miles north of New York City, are petitioning the town board for the name change. Twenty-five people who own property on the road have signed the petition; three have declined to sign.

The new name would have to be approved by the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response, to make sure there is no conflict with existing roads in the 911 emergency system.

Vivien Malloy, owner of Edition Farm on the corner of Ruskey Lane and Sodom Road, welcomes the change and would be honored to have the road named after her farm. The name Sodom Road is "laughable," she said.

The biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were known for incurring the wrath of God because of their sinfulness. Town Historian Bill McDermott told the Poughkeepsie Journal that he did not know how Sodom Road got its name.

The Haircutters

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