

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

8, 39, 29, 30, 22

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 5, 8

Evening picks: 9, 0, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 10, Solid Gold

2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

3rd Place: 11, Money Bags

Race Time: 1:43:57



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Recent alarming headline:

■ "From Hyenas' Privates, a Potential Public Good" (a May Contra Costa Times report on how both male and female hormones flow through hyenas' genitals, in part shaping them, which scientists say offers clues in how to treat potentially hermaphroditic humans).

■ "Psychologists Dissect the Multiple Meanings of Meow" (a May Cox News Service report on how cats may display many alterations of their standard vocalization depending on why at that time they want humans' attention).

■ "15 Injured in Kite Contests" (a report from Britain's Independent TV on competitions featuring contentious Hindus and Muslims in Gujarat, India, in which aggressive participants use twine coated with powdered glass).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When in doubt, duck."

— Malcolm Forbes



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Mix work, pleasure, Libra 2



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Murder trial of local mechanic to wrap up

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Closing arguments will be made today in the murder trial of a Pico Boulevard mechanic who is accused of shooting and killing a transient last July.

Jurors will soon decide if Michael Ward Bell, 54, of Los Angeles, is guilty of first degree murder for firing six shots at Andre Watson, a homeless man with a history of mental illness.

Bell, who managed BT Automotive on the 2600 block of Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica, testified Wednesday that he was acting in self-defense after being attacked by Watson with a box cutter.

Watson was extremely intoxicated on the day he died and had recently been released from jail after serving half of a 15-day sentence for attacking two teenage girls with a box cutter on Santa Monica Beach, witnesses testified.

Santa Monica Police Officer D. Legerski testified Thursday that Watson was barred from returning to the beach after leaving two 17-year-old girls shaken but unhurt after he threatened them.

Dr. Gordon Plotkin said Watson's corpse had a blood alcohol content of .13 percent, though that level was measured after a full blood transfusion that diluted the level of alcohol. Although the exact level of alcohol in his blood can't be determined, Plotkin said it was probably two or three times higher than .08, the legal limit to drive.

Dave Hobek, the owner of a Phoenix hotel for transients, testified that Watson was a calm man most of the time but sometimes erupted into violent behavior. Dr. Lisa Remsing, who diagnosed Watson at County-USC Hospital before the fatal incident, said Watson was paranoid and his mind was filled with "assaultive" ideas.

Watson had apparently stopped taking the

anti-psychotic drugs Remsing prescribed sometime before his fatal encounter with Bell on July 1, 2002 because the coroner determined there were no traces of the medication in his body, witnesses testified.

More than 30 expert and eyewitnesses were called in the trial, which enters its seventh day today.

John Raphling, Bell's public defender, called about 20 of the witnesses. Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Mark Burnley called 12.

Because Bell has admitted he shot Watson, Burnley said his challenge was to prove that Bell was not acting in self defense. He claimed that Bell acted deliberately and passed up numerous opportunities to protect himself without injuring Watson.

"He walked out of the shop when he could have locked himself in," Burnley said. "He

See TRIAL, page 4

Samohi seniors celebrate graduation with poems, songs

At ceremony, students urged to heed passions and hug parents

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

More than 700 Vikings joined the alumni ranks Thursday during Santa Monica High School's 149th graduation ceremony.

"Four years have been like the blink of an eye," said Jose Lopez, a teacher at Samohi, who kicked off the ceremony by reminding students of the importance of passion.

"For true happiness, you must listen to your heart," he said. "To love is to live."

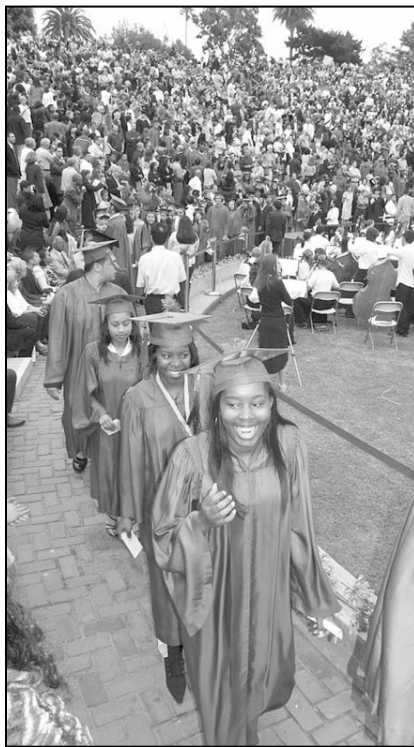
A handful of class leaders read poems and sang songs at Samohi's Memorial Greek Theater for the class of 2003, whose students wore robes of gold and blue.

Rochelle Amber Boyd dedicated her poem, "If We Only Had Love," not just to all 3,500-plus people present, but "to the whole world."

"If we only have love, we can bury all the knives, not push, not shove, but live peaceful lives," said Boyd, whose poem was met with a roaring standing ovation.

Christine Yi, the senior class president, sang a song originally performed by R&B group Boyz 2 Men entitled "Hard To Say Goodbye." Before she could finish, Yi, who was overcome by tears, was met with booming applause.

But it wasn't only students on the stage Thursday. Administrators also took the opportunity to pass last-minute pearls of wisdom to the



John Wood/Daily Press
A senior at Santa Monica High School can't hold back a smile at Thursday's celebration.

See GRADUATION, page 4

Lawmakers expected to ask cities for tax increases

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — As work on the California budget crisis came to a standstill Wednesday, Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson said Democratic lawmakers will leave the Capitol early next week to venture "to all corners of the state" urging support for tax increases.

Saying the people of California need to know the "truth" about the state's \$38.2 billion budget deficit, Wesson said Assembly Democrats will carry his message that the state must cut spending and raise taxes to fix its financial problems.

Lawmakers will be expected to visit their own districts as well as Republican strongholds to lobby city councils, boards of supervisors, public safety officers and other community leaders. The tour will run three days beginning Monday night. Legislators would be expected back Thursday, June 26, when Wesson said he will ask the Assembly to vote on a budget plan that will include some mix of cuts and savings as well as tax increases.

"We are going to go out to see if we can get allies throughout the state that will join us in this fight to save California," said Wesson, D-Culver City.



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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, June 20, 2003:

Your innate creativity draws many. You come up with unusual ideas and actions. You seem more than willing to learn about different styles and cultures. Travel marks your year; if not that, foreigners could play a significant role. You will find that communication flows no matter where you are or who you're with. A new home is likely in the next year, with a potential move or change for the better. Some of you might add to your household. If you are single, you could easily meet someone quite special. You might decide to let this relationship develop into marriage. If you're attached, you'll have an unusually dynamic year together. A major purchase seems a strong possibility. PISCES can be a source of gossip.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Take in news, though you just might sit on the information for a while. You might have a last-minute change of plans that pleases you. A loved one makes an overture, which more than delights you. Everything is possible. Tonight: Happily disappear with a special person.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Friends delight you, though a partner or associate could easily rain on your parade. You or a boss could be unusually inspired to finish the task at hand. Express completely what is on your mind. Tonight: A meeting could dissolve into a friendly Friday night get-together.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ A must appearance seems inevitable no matter what you do or with whom. Don't worry about disappointing a partner; just do your best. Make it OK to reveal some of your unusual insight and evaluations. Tonight: Lead the office out the door.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You have a unique perspective, though others might not agree. This dissension could impact the workplace. You see right through others' flak, allowing new potential and possibilities to open up. Think and talk ideas. Tonight: Wherever you are, others want to know more about you.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ As you see it, a partner dominates the scenario. Is this OK? Only you can answer this question. But realize that at a certain point, you might need to back off. Express your ideas, but within a closed circle. Tonight: Go along with another's plans — for now. Keep your cards close to your chest.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Meetings prove to be important, though you could be distracted by all the people and what goes on. Recognize that you could disappoint a family member. Discussion among friends and business associates is animated and direct. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your ability to work with others draws many to you. Though you might not always hear what you want, you could be delighted. You relate with a great deal of charm and intelligence. Others cannot get enough of you. Tonight: Mix work and pleasure.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Your imagination helps you make money, but it could also cause you to spend excessively. Be careful just how far out your risk-taking takes you. A call from a distance might be inviting as well as informative. Follow your heart here. Tonight: Start the weekend in style.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ The basics count when dealing with a partner or associate. You might not want to do anything halfway right now. This person might be more than willing to let you know where he or she stands. Open the door for this conversation. Tonight: Be somewhere comfortable.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You might want to lighten up a conversation but find this task difficult. Clear your mind and let go of issues. Someone close goes out of his or her way just for you. His or her feelings could be more than apparent. This person has many great suggestions. Tonight: At your favorite spot.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Take a hard look at your finances. You might want to evaluate work and whether someone is just pacifying you or for real. This piece of information could be quite critical in your decision-making process. A friend's suspicions could be unfounded. Tonight: Treat a friend to munchies.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You might want to do a double take or re-evaluate a situation more carefully. Your thoughtfulness makes a big difference to a child or loved one, who, at times, might be vague. Feelings expand, and emotions are expressed. Tonight: Happy as a clam.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chemistry professor awarded 'Chair of Excellence'

By Daily Press staff

Dr. Jamey Anderson, a widely-respected Santa Monica College chemistry professor, has been named the recipient of the Marvin Elkin/Northrop Grumman Chair of Excellence.

Anderson will receive \$5,000 a year for the next three years to be used for projects of his choice that will enhance his teaching. He plans to use the funds for upgrading the college's Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Laboratory, allowing chemistry students and teachers to run more complex experiments.

"Not only has Dr. Anderson been responsible for the installation and maintenance of a highly sophisticated piece of equipment, he has trained students on the instrument, giving them skills usually offered only at graduate schools and which are highly valued in the chemical industry and academia," said SMC President Dr. Piedad F. Robertson.

"His dedication shows in his students, who have gone on to such institutions as Berkeley and MIT," she said.

Anderson is the second recipient of the Elkin award, which was the first of four chairs of excellence established at SMC. The first recipient was physics professor Richard Masada, who was named in 2000 and who used his award money for robotics research.

The other chairs of excellence are in biology, music and earth science. Such awards — believed to be rare for a community college — are administered by the SMC Foundation and are funded from the interest earned on the endowments.

Anderson, who has taught chemistry at SMC for five years, received a bachelor's of science in chemistry from Andrews University in Michigan and a doctorate in organic chemistry from UCLA.

An accomplished pianist as well as a scientist, Anderson lives in Van Nuys with his partner, Brian Driscoll.

Wilshire/Montana group to hold annual meeting

By Daily Press staff

The Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition will host its annual meeting on Saturday, June 28 from noon to 3 p.m. at Reed Park Auditorium.

This year's annual meeting will feature refreshments, presentations and discussions among residents. The scheduled speakers this year are water resource specialist Kim O'Cain from the city's Water Resource Management Section, who will discuss water conservation and urban runoff, transportation planning manager Lucy Dyke — from the city's traffic division — regarding the new developments in traffic in the neighborhood and a spokesperson from the Santa Monica Police Department, who will speak on neighborhood-centered policing.

Other agenda items include election of board members and discussion of neighborhood concerns.

The annual meeting is often attended by City Councilmembers and city officials, so it gives everyone a chance to present his or her views directly to his or her representatives.

"This is an opportunity for everyone to be heard," said Rob Rader, vice-chairperson of the Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition.

There will also be door prizes for attendees provided by local merchants, including gift certificates from Three Bags Full, L'Oliphant, Michael's Restaurant and Pavillions.

The annual meeting is being catered by Step Up On Second.

The Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition has the largest population within its boundaries of any neighborhood organization in the city. Its boundaries are Montana Boulevard to the north, Pacific Coast Highway to the west, 21st Street to the east and Wilshire Boulevard to the south. Meetings are the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Ken Edwards Center on Fourth Street. Annual membership dues are \$10 per person and \$15 per family.

surf report

Today the
water is:

65°

Sunrise: 5:48 a.m.
Sunset: 8:11 p.m.

More average surf for Los Angeles, but it's better than nothing.

BAD NEWS: Our S is on the way out.

GOOD NEWS: The NW holds steady and strong.

OUTLOOK: A new SW will build through Saturday, brining in some chest-high waves at the best spots. A steep S off of South America should send us some better surf for early next week.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:59	0.3	10:52	2.4	2:33	4.2	5:12	4.3
SUNDAY	10:49	0.5	N/A	N/A	4:06	3.9	5:45	4.8
MONDAY	12:02	1.6	(11:36)	0.7	5:33	3.8	6:19	5.4
TUESDAY	12:59	0.7	12:22	1.0	6:49	3.8	6:55	5.9
WEDNESDAY	1:50	-0.2	1:06	1.3	7:56	3.9	7:33	6.4
THURSDAY	2:38	-0.9	1:50	1.6	8:56	3.9	8:13	6.8
FRIDAY	3:27	-1.4	2:34	1.8	9:53	3.9	8:55	7.0

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LOCAL

Witness: Mechanic took deliberate aim at transient

TRIAL, from page 1

walked past his car, he had the keys and he could have gotten in. Instead he continued on and walked west down Pico."

Watson was shot in front of the SGI-USA building, a Buddhist community center, which is more than 100 feet from BT Automotive.

Joseph Beedle, a military police officer who was parked across the street from Bell's shop when the shooting occurred, testified that Bell took careful and deliberate aim at Watson, cocking the trigger and stepping toward him between each shot. He added that during the shooting, Watson lay curled up in a fetal position on the sidewalk.

When asked Thursday why his client fired on Watson six times, Raphling replied, "He was in a panic and he had no choice. The guy was coming at him and he had to act."

"He feels terrible about it but he also feels like he had no choice."

Burnley told a different story.

He put Santa Monica Police officers on the stand, who testified that Watson was not found holding any weapon. Instead, the officers found two small box cutters in Watson's front left pocket. One had a three-inch handle with a small push-button blade and the other was circular in shape, about one-inch in diameter with a small protruding blade.

Bell testified that he didn't see what Watson was holding when he jumped him, Raphling said. He also testified that

Watson earlier approached his shop with a blade in his hand. Watson had spent the day hanging out down the street from Bell's shop, witnesses from both sides testified.

At the end of the day, Bell said Watson made a gesture indicating that he wanted to slice Bell's throat. After a heated argument, Bell went back to his shop, where he finished the day's business, showered and poured himself a drink, he testified.

Watson then tried to enter the shop with a blade in his hand, Bell testified. When Bell realized the bay doors to his garage were still open, he said he panicked. He grabbed the .357 Magnum he keeps in his file cabinet and ran into the street. As he walked toward a trash bag he believed to be Watson's belongings, Bell testified that Watson jumped on his back.

That is when he fired six bullets, four of which connected with Watson's hip, calf and thigh. Watson died about 90 minutes later from loss of blood.

Bell, who is being held on \$2 million bail at the Men's Central Jail in downtown L.A., sat next to Raphling in a black suit and prison-issued black slippers throughout the trial. Three friends sat behind him in the courtroom, one of which is a friend and colleague of 12 years who flew in from Connecticut.

Jurors will hear closing arguments Friday before deliberating. The case is being heard by L.A. Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen at the Airport Courthouse near LAX.

Ninety-five percent of grads to continue education

GRADUATION, from page 1

audience.

Principal Ilene Straus reminded them to be grateful to their parents, who have given each of the students "roots and wings."

"Give them a hug, tell them you love them and let them take as many pictures as they want to," she said to laughter.

Ninety-five percent of Samohi's 705 graduates plan to continue their education. More than 130 will go on to University of California campuses, with another 76 going to California state schools.

More than 140 of this year's graduates will go on to private schools and 23 will study in public schools out of state, said Clara Beard, a college counselor at Samohi.

Another 200-plus will continue their studies at community colleges.

The graduates have earned nearly \$1 million in scholarships and grants, Straus said.

But not all the students are going straight back to school next fall. Seven students said they plan to take a break to do some traveling and 29 kids will go directly into the workforce, Beard said.

**"Give them a hug,
tell them you love them
and let them take as
many pictures as they
want to."**

— ILENE STRAUS
Samohi principal

Another four plan to join the military academy.

About 70 students either didn't know what they want to do next or didn't report their plans to school administrators.

The most important thing, said Superintendent John Deasy, is that graduates move ahead as men and women of integrity, to speak and act honestly no matter what the cost.

"Wherever you go and whatever you do," he said. "You will always be a graduate of Samohi and make us proud."

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Santa Monica Daily Press



REAL ESTATE

Clarifying relationship between landlord, tenant



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

Thanks to everyone who reads this column.

TMKS1 recently wrote in and wanted to know who is responsible for the upkeep of the rent controlled apartments, so we went back to Tracey Condon, the public information manager for the Rent Control Agency of the City of Santa Monica.

Jodi Summers: Who is responsible for the upkeep of a rent-controlled apartment?

Tracey Condon: Repairs, basic maintenance — those are the owner's responsibilities.

JS: According to the city, is there a maintenance schedule that Santa Monica landlords should follow? Do they need to paint or change the carpeting after the tenant has occupied the apartment for a specific length of time?

TC: There's no particular timeframe, it just needs to be done when it needs to be done. In other jurisdictions they may have specific timeframes, but we don't in Santa Monica. It's more — say the paint is peeling or cracked, or severely discolored — then the tenant needs to give the landlord written notice of the problem. Then the tenant has to wait 30 days, and if the owner hasn't remedied the problem within that period, then they can file a petition for a rent adjustment.

Once the city is contacted, we first try and solve the problem through mediation. We have a mediator on staff who works with the tenant and the owner to get repairs scheduled and made. But, if mediation doesn't resolve all the issues then a hearing can be scheduled.

Before the hearing, we have an investigator go to the property and take pictures of the conditions. The hearing officer listens to the testimony of the tenant and the owner. Then, based on the testimony and the evidence presented a hearing officer

might render a decision — for example, the tenant may pay a reduced rent until the repairs are made.

You can read all about it in chapter 4 of the Rent Board Regulations. A specific range is specified for each of the various problems that might exist, for example, a leaking roof, paint that needs to be repainted, carpeting.

JS: What happens if the damage is caused by renter neglect?

TC: State law allows a landlord to reduce a tenant's security deposit and the end of their tenancy for specific reasons, one of which is any necessary repairs beyond ordinary wear and tear. So if a tenant causes damage, the owner could make the repairs now and keep copies of the receipts. When the tenant vacates, the landlord can reduce their security deposit by that amount. They have to itemize any deductions they take from the security deposit.

JS: What happens if the tenant is negligent and does not report leaks or other problems that can cause more serious damage?

TC: Then the owner could keep the receipt and they could reduce the security deposit, but then if there's a dispute about the reductions in the security deposit, then ultimately that will need to be decided in small claims court.

JS: What are the tenant's responsibilities?

TC: To maintain the condition the apartment was in when the tenant first signed their lease.

JS: What happens if a tenant wants to decorate or change the carpeting?

TC: That is the tenant's choice. Upon their departure, the landlord will need to put the apartment back into rentable condition. If he needs to change their decor back to something more mainstream, the costs may be deducted from the tenant's security deposit.

(If you have local real estate questions, please e-mail them to Jodi Summers at 6/19/03 jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call at (310) 309-4219 and we will do our best to serve your property needs.)



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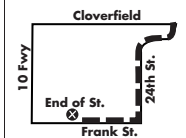
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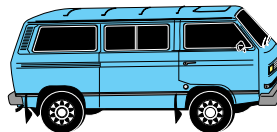


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LETTERS

'Operation Freedom' was justified**Editor:**

I sincerely appreciate Hayes-Raitt's efforts to be a goodwill ambassador to the Iraqi people, though it is very apparent in the June 19 article, "Back to Baghdad," that her agenda includes a sentiment that is against American policy.

Quite frankly as an American, I feel that her goodwill is tainted by her opposition to the very war that destroyed the oppressive regime which tortured, abused and murdered its own citizens, and, that has created the potential for a bright future of freedom and democracy for those citizens.

How odd that a driven, career-oriented woman such as Hayes-Raitt has chosen to chastise the very president that has brought liberty to the women of Iraq. Hayes-Raitt emphasizes the casualties of this war but the article seems to ignore the fact that the Iraqi regime brought it upon their own. Remember that they breached several important UN resolutions, inducing a completely justified response by the U.S. and its allies. Not to mention the fact that no military campaign of this magnitude has ever left so few casualties. Now, I am a caring and loving person who feels the pain of the Iraqis who have suffered under Sadaam and the consequences of his actions and I think it is very important to show the Iraqi people that we care. Yet we cannot forget the forest through the trees. I think if Hayes-Raitt took a poll of freedom-loving people in Iraq she would find that most are quite happy that Sadaam has been deposed. I am glad that Hayes-Raitt is open to dialogue about the politics of this war and look forward to her updates on the Iraqis' personal stories with a hope for a change in her opinion about the good that has been implemented by her own country.

Jeff Peri
Santa Monica

It's not about the car you drive**Editor:**

Regarding your June 17 article titled "Report: Pico residents are poorer, less educated," I would like to respond to one of Oscar de la Torre's comments. In the article he states that "Samohi students whose parents take the bus to work suffer psychologically when they compare themselves with classmates who drive expensive cars to school from neighborhoods north of Montana."

First off, it's a good thing Oscar de la Torre doesn't work for the Big Blue Bus. At a time when progressive thinking cities, such as Santa Monica, are struggling to encourage more residents, rich and poor, to take public transportation, Oscar seems to indicate that this would hurt their egos, especially their kids.

Unfortunately, Oscar points out one of the flaws in our society. I grew up poor and white and had to beg for a ride home every day in the parking lot throughout high school or walk home. I'm doing fine, thanks in part to my parents, who never really taught me that having an expensive, luxury car would make me happier or more suc-

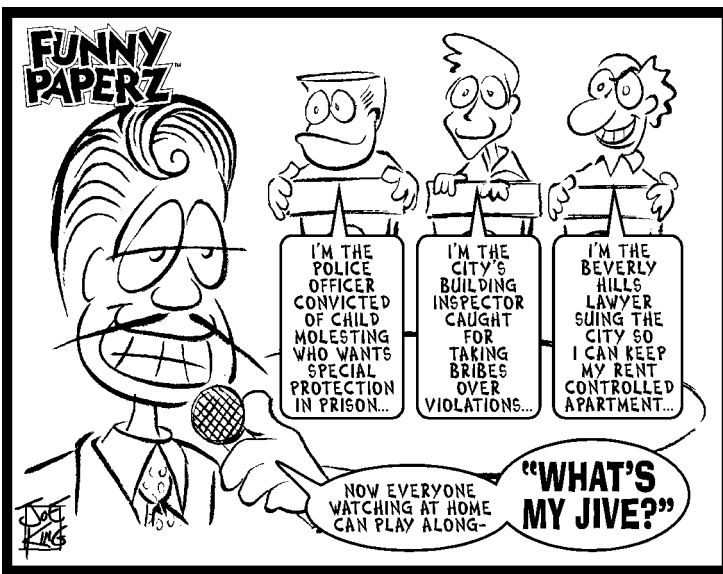
cessful. They pressed education, decency, integrity and respect. I guess times have changed, or parents, or something? Maybe the city could establish a budget for expensive cars, hopefully SUVs, to donate to poor people so they feel better about themselves ... oh, and their kids won't suffer from a lack of self-esteem. What a great idea! Maybe I'll get rid of my mid-90's model Toyota Camry and get myself a really nice car. Besides, the rear of my car doesn't have many numbers and letters back there. I'm sure I'll be happier. Or maybe are values are tweaked? Just an observation.

Karl Bruskotter
Santa Monica

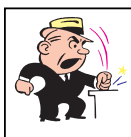
Traffic islands will make you happy**Editor:**

In response to Ms. Reeves letter (SMDP, June 18).

See LETTERS, page 7



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Rent increase, pass-alongs are bad for renters

**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

The city's Rent Control Board approved the annual general rent adjustment for 2003/2004. Amazingly, it's another regressive rent hike.

The RCB just approved an annual increase of 3 percent with a minimum adjustment of \$15 and a maximum top end of \$30. The adjustment specifies the amount a landlord can hike rent on an occupied, rent controlled apartment.

While renters in the cheapest units, such as a \$300 studio, face much bigger hikes percentage wise, those paying more than \$1,000 a month get a break. For example, a tenant in a \$3,000 per month unit faces a \$30 hike or a 1 percent increase.

All of the Rent Control Board commissioners are members of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights. This powerful political organization claims they're for the disenfranchised and those on the lowest rungs of the socio-economic ladder.

So why is the RCB giving high rent tenants a break again this year? Last year, it approved a straight across-the-board \$11 increase. Over two years, tenants in apartments costing more than \$1,000 a month have had their rent hiked by only \$41! Sweet!

Sounds like all the SMRR talk about "protecting the poor" is a crock of hypocrisy to me. It all rings of George W. Bush, whose economic policy somehow seems to benefit just those in the upper incomes.

Two weeks before the last election, I received a "Yes on S" political mailer supporting the school parcel tax. It was co-signed by Betty Mueller, chair of the Rent Control Board. It said, "It (the parcel tax) will only cost the average renter less than \$3 per month."

OOPS. The RCB hadn't officially decided whether landlords could pass along the costs. The matter still hasn't even been agendized. It appears as if Mueller jumped the gun when she implied that the pass along was a fait accompli and that renters would pay the cost of the tax for sure.

A couple Santa Monica landlords informed me that SMRR had approached landlord organizations and suggested if

they supported the school tax measure, the RCB would allow a pass-along to tenants.

The Apartment Owners Association of Los Angeles was a prominent endorser on "Yes on S" campaign materials.

While I can't say for sure that a deal was cut, the circumstantial evidence is strong. SMRR co-chair, Denny Zane, members of SMRR's steering committee and numerous SMRR activists like Mueller strongly supported the measure.

The Rent Control Board historically approves pass-alongs of taxes and bond costs. It's a very sweet deal for landlords, who pay nothing, and a sour deal for renters, who pay everything.

Between the unfair rent hikes and pass alongs, SMRR seems to be using renters as pawns in a game of power-grabbing, influence-peddling and muscle-flexing.

Zane has told his political allies he's thinking about running for Fran Pavley's Assembly seat. Between Zane's political ambitions and next year's municipal elections, it's good business for the SMRR co-chair and his organization to make as many friends as possible — especially with high income, market rate renters and homeowners with kids in school.

In other matters, according to the SMDP on June 18, Robert Bisno, a local

developer and businessman is suing the RCB for "class discrimination." He says the new city ordinance that allows landlords to raise rents on apartments not used as a tenant's primary residence is illegal.

If City Hall has the power to pass laws discriminating against a person for the amount of time that individual is in or using their place of residence, watch out, "Big Brother" is here.

Inviting landlords to spy on tenants and determine if they are improperly using their apartment by not spending enough time in them as grounds to hike rents or evict is an unwarranted intrusion by landlord and government alike. Those who think that red light cameras are an invasion of privacy should be in shock.

The reason for the ordinance is that the city (SMRR, once again) wants to fill these units with renters and SMRR voters. But, who is City Hall to dictate who or what class of people can live on private property?

The next thing you know, they'll be ordering single family homeowners to build granny flats and rent them to hotel workers.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

I agree with Ms. Reeves regarding the new down/up handicap ramps reconstruction being a waste of money but the old ones did not "conform to code," I was told. I guess the city needs a couple of attempts to get things right, never mind the cost. But they are not totally useless. They are a great boon to sidewalk cyclist that can now ride comfortably two or three abreast as they silently sneak up behind you. Has anyone ever told these people that adults riding bicycles on the sidewalk is against the law?

I disagree about the uselessness of the "pedestrian-haven-center islands." If Julia was a senior with arthritic knees and wanted to cross the road and the nearest stop lights are a block away she would be grateful for the islands.

She should look into the number of deaths and injuries caused by impatient motorist who try to whizz around you rather than stop a second to let you safely cross on pedestrian crossings. The islands give you time to take a second breath to make the next charge. We have a high number of seniors living in Santa Monica who don't drive anymore. I think they will be very happy with them. I'm sure once construction is finished everyone will be happy.

M Iles
Santa Monica

SMC dismantles disabled program

Editor:

In regards to the article by Nancy Cattel-Luckenbach, ("Santa Monica College president criticism is misdirected," SMDP, June 17) — it is completely wrong because if as she states in paragraph number four, that under Dr. Robertson's leadership the college "has received millions of dollars each year through grants." If that's true, then why is it that a government funded program is being cut in half?

The program that I'm talking about is the Disabled Students Program. I'm a disabled student and as a student in that program, I'm always able to make appointments with the counselors whenever I need to. If the program is cut in half as Dr. Robertson plans to do, it is going to hurt the many students besides myself that are in the Disabled Students Program. This program is a necessity to the college and disabled

students at SMC. If the program doesn't have enough funding then it will be hard for students like myself to receive proper counseling and complete my education at Santa Monica College.

Margaret Talai
Disabled student at SMC

Criminalizing the homeless does no good

Editor:

I realize Greg Thomas' plan (SMDP, June 18) is to bankrupt the City of Santa Monica by scapegoating the city's homeless. Very clever of him to suggest a mass arrest of all 1,400-plus homeless. That way, the costs of the new jail to hold them, the guards to watch them and the costs of feeding and maintaining them will quickly empty the city's coffers.

Or, perhaps he's planning on making a killing by selling his property to the city as a site for the new jail.

In any case, I'm glad he didn't suggest firing squads or gas chambers. Inflammatory anti-homeless remarks without consideration of the real-world consequences do no one any good and actually promote vigilantism. There have been several recent incidents of homeless being assaulted both verbally and physically. Some citizens now consider it open season.

For Mr. Thomas' information, the homeless citizens of Santa Monica probably pay a greater percentage of taxes to the city than most Santa Monicans. After all, they can't afford to take a limo to Beverly Hills to do their shopping. They spend nearly all of their money here in town and pay city sales taxes!

If Mr. Thomas really wants the homeless off the streets, we welcome him (and any concerned others) to join with Supporting Homeless Existence Leading To Enabled Recovery (S.H.E.L.T.E.R.) in its efforts to provide alternatives to the streets, both day and night, for them.

Kenneth A. McCrae
President, S.H.E.L.T.E.R.

The Q Line

Readers sound off on homeless question

Earlier this week, Q-line asked: "What can be done regionally to alleviate Santa Monica of its growing homeless population?"

Here are your responses:

■ "To solve the homeless problem, you could build housing for homeless veterans on the grounds of the federal building. There's plenty of MP land there, a hospital and security. The mentally impaired homeless should be taken to a proper facility. The rest could be housed in the new Belmont Learning Center. Maybe they could be educated and learn something. It can't be used for students. It should be put to some good use. And then we could get them all out of Santa Monica."

■ "You should have thought of that when you started feeding all these homeless. It's like a dog, if you stop feeding them, they're going to go away to someplace else to look for food. Why should Santa Monica, Beverly Hills and Culver City get themselves involved in a program that has not been successful in Santa Monica? All it's created is more homeless. There's some members of the City Council who are Pollyannas when it comes to the homeless and they don't want to face the fact that these people are causing businesses to lose money, especially on the Promenade. And I guess they'll wake up when a lot more businesses move out of the Promenade. I live four blocks from the Promenade. I do not shop in Santa Monica. I do not put up with the homeless coming

up and panhandling me for money. The Promenade and the areas around it — Wilshire, Arizona, Santa Monica, Broadway and Colorado, all Santa Monica — smell to high heaven. I just can't imagine why this City Council has allowed this problem to denigrate Santa Monica. It used to be a real nice city. I was raised here. I went to school here. I moved out of here 40 years ago and I'm sorry I moved back. I'm moving out of here in the next six months and, boy, am I glad. People need to vote out the City Councilmembers that have voted to extend this homeless problem and then maybe something will be done about it, but I doubt it because now it's too late. It's like closing the barn door after the horse is loose and I don't blame Culver City, West Hollywood or Beverly Hills for not getting involved. Can you picture Beverly Hills and the homeless sleeping in their parks and on the streets of Rodeo? No, I can't."

■ "The only hope for anyone soaked in alcohol is sobriety."

■ "So we have to have yet another committee to sit down and ponder the problem of homelessness. How many does that make? Whatever these collective heads come up with, please don't ask the beleaguered taxpayers for any more money. Cut the salaries at the top and eliminate the fat from the staffing at all levels. Santa Monica is a lost cause anyway."

■ "First of all we need a City Council that works to resolve the city's problems, not create them."

■ "First of all, we have to stop feeding these vagrants and homeless people

that hang around Santa Monica and stop handing out money for nothing. People need to learn that one has to earn their way in this world. My suggestion would be to start some kind of work program at all levels of skill and intelligence. There is lots that can be done in the world and certainly these people that are on the boards and different committees can come up with something with their kind of work experience and intelligence for these idlers to do so they won't be forced to steal and just hang around and be a public nuisance."

■ "Identify where each homeless person came from and provide a one-way ticket back. Mandated by the federal government, each city should have the responsibility of only assisting their own homeless folks."

■ "I have a business in downtown Santa Monica and I see two things. First, you have to apply all the regulations. For example, you're not supposed to give food to the homeless. Second, you should, perhaps, give tickets to the people who do so. If we do that, maybe it would work."

YOUR OPINION
MATTERS!

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Pension fund raises fees

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — The nation's largest pension fund voted Wednesday to offset rising health insurance costs by boosting fees for certain medical services — a move critics say will hurt CalPERS members, especially retirees.

The higher fees imposed by the California Public Employees' Retirement System for emergency room visits will curb costs by discouraging members from visiting the emergency room when a regular doctor's visit will do, said board member and insurance consultant Sidney Abrams.

"You certainly want to eliminate abusive patterns of utilization," he said. "Beyond that, it shifts costs from some participants to other participants."

Under the new plan approved Wednesday, CalPERS members who belong to Blue Shield of California, Kaiser or Western Health Advantage HMO plans will pay \$50 for every emergency room visit — an increase of up to

\$25 for regular members. The emergency room fee will also apply to members over the age of 65, who now pay nothing for the service.

California State Employees Association President Perry Kenny said the plan unfairly shifts the cost of medical care to the workers. He said it cheats former state workers over the age of 65 who are promised 100 percent medical coverage from the state.

Oracle ups takeover bid

By The Associated Press

REDWOOD SHORES — Oracle Corp. on Wednesday raised its hostile takeover offer for rival business software maker PeopleSoft Inc. by nearly 24 percent to \$6.3 billion.

Oracle said it would offer \$19.50 a share in cash for all outstanding shares of PeopleSoft.

On June 6, Oracle offered \$16 a share, or \$5.1 billion, in an effort to take over its rival in the lucrative business software market.

PeopleSoft said that earlier offer was an attempt to derail its plan to combine with a third software maker, J.D. Edwards & Co., and took steps to derail the Oracle bid.

"In the last few days, Oracle executives have had the opportunity to speak with the holders of a majority of PeopleSoft shares," Oracle chairman and CEO Larry Ellison said Wednesday in a statement in which he announced the higher offer. "Many of those shareholders indicated the prices at which they would tender their shares."

"Therefore, Oracle is raising its all-cash offer to \$19.50 per share. Oracle remains committed to acquiring PeopleSoft and will not be deterred by management's maneuvers to maintain control of a company they do not own."

Election reforms proposed

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Secretary of State Kevin Shelley proposed reforms to the state's election code Wednesday that he said would avoid problems like those that plagued Florida in 2000 and 2002.

California should end all use of punch-card voting machines of the sort that made "hanging chad" a part of the American lexicon, Shelley said. Incompletely punched voting cards were improperly recorded during Florida's 2000 election, ultimately requiring a U.S. Supreme Court decision to install Republican George W. Bush as president.

The state also should provide more training for election officials, and more information for voters on how to cast their ballots, Shelley said. Confusion among Florida voters in how to properly

complete their punch cards added to the state's woes.

"California will not become another Florida on my watch," Shelley said in a statement accompanying his proposals.

The old punch-card machines should be replaced with modern touch-screen or optical scan systems, he said.

Cities weary of battles

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — A favorite tool used by cities to snatch stores and car dealers from one other in California's bare-knuckle fights for sales taxes would be outlawed under a bill that passed a key Assembly committee Wednesday.

The bill would ban subsidies, tax breaks and public improvements frequently offered to retailers to leave one city for another, fattening the winning city's treasury with money for police cruisers and new parks.

The Assembly Local Government Committee passed the bill 5-2.

The proposal, which passed the Senate last month, has the blessing of cities and counties weary of battling one another for businesses. Most offer a range of enticements including temporarily waiving property taxes and reinvesting sales taxes in the firm that generated them. Cities also frequently promise street widening, upgraded traffic signals and expanded freeway offramps.

"It would be very helpful if we did not have the authority to provide these subsidies," said Ken Emanuels, a lobbyist for city and county redevelopment agencies that rebuild California's older neighborhoods, including downtowns.

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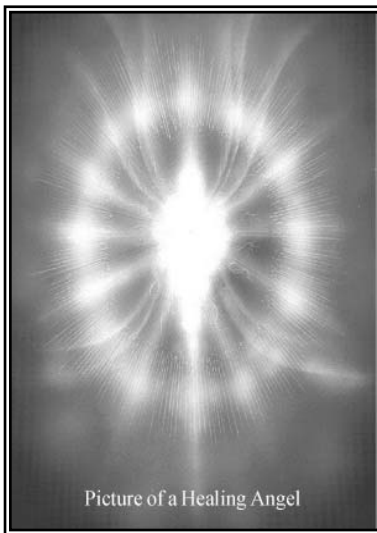
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STATE



Registered immigrants face deportation, tough choices

DEBORAH KONG
AP Minority Issues Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Esam Jalboush said goodbye to his three brothers and the life he'd built over 15 years in the United States, and headed north to Canada.

But Mohamed Cherif is vowing to fight to stay with his wife and baby son Youssef, who was born in Fairfield, Calif. just a month ago.

The two men are among the 144,000 mostly Middle Eastern men who have registered with federal authorities since last fall, when officials began a program to keep better track of visitors from 25 countries considered high risks for terrorist activities.

Like about 13,000 others believed to be in the country illegally, Jalboush and Cherif received notices to appear at immigration hearings, which could lead to deportation. Some, like Cherif, hope to remain. Others, like Jalboush, are choosing to leave a country they say no longer respects their rights.

"I don't want to be living somewhere where I'm discriminated against," said Jalboush, who was loading a television, VCR and other belongings into his car as he prepared to move last week. "I feel like I have no pride or rights here."

Immigrant advocates and lawyers say the registration program and deportations unfairly target Middle Eastern and Muslim men and do little to protect the nation against attacks because terrorists would probably not register.

"Instead of automatically viewing noncitizens with suspicion, the administration should focus its resources on investigating and apprehending those who intend to commit acts of terrorism," said Jayashri Srikantiah, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California. "The government must stop targeting innocent people based on their ethnicity and religion."

But Carl Rusnok, a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said the program can help identify terrorists. "The reason we chose those particular coun-

"I don't know what the future holds for me. Fifteen years of dreams is gone, and you're going to start from scratch."

— ESAM JALBOUSH
Immigrant

tries is because those countries are the ones where Al Qaeda was most active," he said.

As Jalboush packed the last of his possessions in his small studio apartment, he reflected on how his departure is a far cry from the dreams he had when he arrived 15 years ago.

A Palestinian who grew up in crowded refugee camps in Jordan, Jalboush hoped to "live a normal life, starting with going to school and ending with having a career" in the United States.

"I came here thinking now I have a real opportunity to create a future and to get out of the refugee camp," said Jalboush, 34.

He earned a bachelor's degree in economics at Sonoma State University, putting himself through school by driving a taxi. For the last two years, he was a supermarket manager, and eventually hoped to own a store of his own. He planned on buying a house, raising a family. "I thought this was going to be my home," he said.

All that changed when Jalboush went to register with immigration officials in March. They told him he was in the country illegally between the time he finished college on a student visa and when he got married and applied for

a green card a year later.

They canceled his application for a green card, placed him in deportation proceedings and detained him in a county jail cell for 24 hours. As Jalboush looked down at the metal chains binding his wrists and ankles, he knew he had to leave.

"When the government asks me to go to register, I will have to do that because that's what a good citizen does," he said. "Had I known that I would end up in jail even for one night, I would not go to register. I would leave the country before that."

Though Jalboush made up his mind to try and enter Canada as a refugee, the decision hasn't been easy.

"I don't know what the future holds for me," he said. "Fifteen years of dreams is gone, and you're going to start from scratch."

Cherif, who came to the United States hoping to earn a business degree three years ago, has chosen a different route.

He met his wife, Ruba, when he walked into the Fairfield insurance company where she works. The two married last year and in January, he went to register.

Immigration officials told him his student visa was invalid because he hadn't taken the required 12 units of courses. Cherif, who said officials at the City College of San Francisco advised him that he didn't need a student visa because he was applying for a green card, was shocked.

"We don't want to leave. He's here to study, I want to work. We have an American kid," said Ruba, who was raised in the United States after her family fled Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf War.

The couple has hired immigration attorney Banafsheh Akhlaghi to fight Mohamed's deportation. They have even discussed separating if he is forced to return to Tunisia.

"I don't want to take her back to Tunisia and take her away from her family," said Mohamed, 24. "She's been living here for over 13 years. All her family is here, her parents, her sister, her grandparents."

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WORLD BRIEFLY

U.S. increases pressures on Iran

By The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Wary of Iran's nuclear ambitions, the United States ratcheted up pressure on the Islamic country from two directions: before the board of the U.N. nuclear agency in Austria, and in comments by President Bush in Washington.

Bush said he and other world leaders would not tolerate nuclear weapons in Iran. Though his words of warning were strong, Bush gave no indication Wednesday that Iran, which he has characterized as part of an "axis of evil" along with Iraq and North Korea, might face military action under his policy allowing pre-emptive attacks where he sees threats.

Bush spoke to reporters in Washington after Kenneth Brill, the U.S. ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, chastised the Islamic country in a pointed statement delivered to the agency's board during a three-hour debate that featured 23 speeches.

After the session, Bush urged the international community to "come together to make it very clear to Iran that we will not tolerate construction of a nuclear weapon."

The United States insists Iran submit to more intrusive inspections after what Brill called a "deeply troubling" report from the U.N. agency.

Alligator kills 12-year-old boy

By The Associated Press

TAVARES, Fla. — A 10-foot alligator attacked and killed a 12-year-old boy who was swimming near a marina in central Florida, police said.

Brian Griffin was pulled under the dark water Wednesday, minutes after two friends spotted alligators and screamed for him to get out of the Dead River where they had been swimming, witnesses said.

Deputies and witnesses saw the alligator surface at least once with the boy in his jaws, but the animal quickly disappeared across the river, the Orlando Sentinel reported in a story for Thursday editions.

The boy was under for at least 25 minutes before a sheriff's helicopter spotted him and dropped a buoy to guide deputies, who pulled him up. The boy was pronounced

dead Wednesday night at Leesburg Regional Medical Center, deputies said.

"We saw gators all day," said 14-year-old Justin VanGorder, who said he was swimming with Brian. "Every time we saw them, we would get out of the water." Justin said he and the other boy saw alligators and got out of the water, but Brian wouldn't get out.

Authorities said they are dealing with more alligator complaints because so many of the reptiles are turning up around rain-bloated retention ponds, ditches and canals.

Drought conditions feed wildfire

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Homes and businesses were evacuated in a mountain community because of a wildfire feeding on pine forest ravaged by drought and bark beetles.

About 150 acres had burned by Wednesday near the hamlet of Summerhaven, on Mount Lemmon outside Tucson, said fire information officer Marylee Peterson. The fire started Tuesday about two to three miles from Summerhaven.

By afternoon, flames had drawn to within a mile or less of the community, said Forest Service spokesman Randall Smith. Still, the fire was not advancing as quickly as it had earlier.

All residences and businesses in Summerhaven were evacuated late Tuesday. About 20 fire trucks were posted in the southern Arizona community Wednesday, Peterson said.

Elsewhere, a blaze in the Sierra Nevada near Carson City, Nev., had been contained after burning 1,200 acres and closing a highway to Lake Tahoe.

Fear, frustration fueled fracas

By The Associated Press

BENTON HARBOR, Mich. — Residents of this city, plagued for years by poverty, high unemployment and racial tensions, say frustration and fear fueled two days of street riots in response to the death of a motorcyclist during a police chase.

Things calmed down Wednesday night, as police reported no incidents, in part because of rain, a heavy presence of police in riot gear and calls by the crash victim's family and city leaders to stop the violence.

It was anything but quiet Monday and Tuesday nights, when hundreds of people roamed a six-to-eight-block area, setting fires and attacking passers-by, police officers and firefighters. Protesters burned at least six buildings and five cars and injured about a dozen people.

Terrance Shurn, 28, lost control of his speeding motorcycle and crashed into a building as he was being pursued by Benton Township police. Shurn was black; the officers who chased him into the city are white.

Ministers walked through the area, talking to residents and discouraging them from violence. Shurn's brother, Raynard, 33, also called for peace at a community meeting Wednesday.

Rumsfeld downplays Baghdad attacks

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Baghdad has less violent crime than the U.S. capital, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in playing down recent deadly attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq.

The attacks are deliberate attempts to kill Americans, but they are not well coordinated by any central leader or group, Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon news conference Wednesday.

"You've got to remember that if Washington, D.C., were the size of Baghdad, we would be having something like 215 murders a month," Rumsfeld said. "There's going to be violence in a big city."

About a dozen U.S. servicemen have been killed by hostile fire in Iraq since President Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

Rumsfeld described the resistance as "small elements" of 10 to 20 people, not large military formations or networks of attackers.

Bush pushes economic policies

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush chose a state he narrowly lost in 2000 to deliver a third speech this week devoted to the politically crucial issue of what his administration is doing to boost the lagging economy.

Democrats seeking to bump Bush from the White House hope he will be vulnerable on the economy during next year's presidential race. Bush's stepped-up focus on the nation's economic woes comes as he begins raising money for his bid for a second White House term.

On Tuesday in Annandale, Va., Bush talked about his administration's worker-training efforts. On Monday in Elizabeth, N.J., he promoted the huge tax cuts he signed into law last month, particularly those meant to spur small businesses to invest in new equipment.

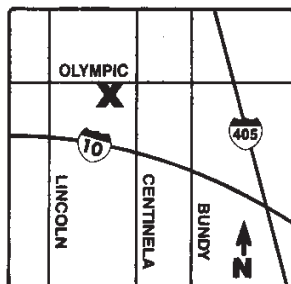
Those small-business cuts were also the main topic of Bush's visit Thursday to a high-tech company in Fridley, Minn.

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SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

BOXING

LOS ANGELES — Vitali Klitschko is grateful for the respect champion Lennox Lewis is giving him — such as it is.

"I know he predicted he would knock out (Hasim) Rahman in the second round. Right now he is giving me five rounds," Klitschko said Wednesday at a news conference, smiling and peering across the podium at Lewis. "Thank you very much."

Lewis grinned.

The champion stopped Rahman in the fourth round of their November 2001 rematch. Rahman had taken Lewis' WBC and IBF titles by stopping him in the fifth round of their first bout the previous April.

Lewis doesn't predict that he will knock out Klitschko within five rounds, saying only he will end Saturday night's heavyweight title fight early "if an opportunity presents itself." The champion did say he doesn't expect Klitschko to go the distance.

Emanuel Steward, Lewis' trainer, is the one saying the champion will take out Klitschko by the fifth round.

Steward explained that Lewis always seems to fight better against taller foes. He expects both fighters to be aggressive in the early rounds and said "Vitali doesn't know how to run."

Klitschko is 6-foot-7, two inches taller than Lewis.

TRACK AND FIELD

SANTA CLARA — Maurice Greene bounced with nervous energy as he gave each answer, his fingers lightly drumming on the podium. Then came a question that caught him off guard.

In the back of the room, Tim Montgomery raised his hand. The man who smashed Greene's world record in the 100 meters had a simple question.

"Would you like to have it back?" Montgomery asked.

"I WILL get it back," Greene responded.

The verbal sparring between two men who both claim to be the world's fastest has resumed, just in time for the U.S. track and field championships that begin Thursday at Stanford.

That's the only battle they'll wage this weekend — they won't meet on the track at Stanford, and may not race each other until the world championships in Paris in August.

But that has not prevented them from renewing a bitter rivalry that has added spice to track and field the past few years.

COLLEGE SPORTS

RICHMOND, Va. — Atlantic Coast Conference presidents have asked Virginia Tech to consider joining three other Big East schools in jumping to the ACC as part of its expansion plan, two sources told The Associated Press.

The sources spoke to The AP on the condition they not be identified.

The decision to add Virginia Tech was made during a three-hour teleconference of the nine league presidents after it appeared that the original expansion involving Miami, Boston College and Syracuse would not get the required seven votes for approval, a government source with knowledge of the talks said.

OMAHA, Neb. — Stanford pitcher John Hudgins was cruising against Cal State Fullerton in the late innings Wednesday, but Cardinal coach Mark Marquess was nervous anyway.

Carlos Quentin brought instant relief with two outs in the eighth, hitting his second home run of the game in Stanford's 5-3 victory at the College World Series.

The victory — Stanford's first in five games this season against the Titans — forces a rematch Thursday to determine which team will represent its side of the bracket in the best-of-three championship final that starts Saturday.

"I was happy I could contribute because we needed a run at the time," said Quentin, who has 12 homers this season. "I got the green light from coach on a 3-0 pitch. When you can contribute like that, it makes you feel good about yourself."

Hudgins turned in a second straight strong performance, allowing five hits but only one after the third inning in a complete game.

As good as Hudgins was, Marquess said Quentin's eighth-inning homer was a welcome sight.

"There is a huge difference between a one-run lead and two-run lead when you go into the ninth inning," Marquess said.

ATLANTA — The director of academic services at Georgia Tech was reassigned a month after 10 football players were declared academically ineligible for next season.

Carol Moore will become a special assistant to the vice provost. She will be replaced by Col. James Stevens, a former Georgia Tech player who is retiring from the U.S. Air Force after a 27-year career.

Stevens, who has master's degrees in business administration and logistics, has been a professor of aerospace studies at the school for the last three years.



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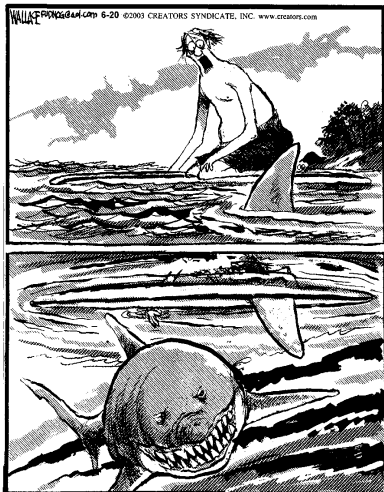
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 - 13 Messing of "Will & Grace"
 - 14 Skater Boitano
 - 15 Advantage
 - 17 Tails
 - 18 Nashville show
 - 20 Help, in a way
 - 22 Anything but
 - 23 Elementary school kid
 - 26 Pink hue
 - 28 Lathered up
 - 29 Posh
 - 31 Spot
 - 32 Bedrock pet
 - 33 Proof-reading mark
 - 34 Finn carrier
 - 36 Tie
 - 38 Take — off (sit)
 - 40 Cold
 - 43 Menu
 - 44 "Arthur" star
- DOWN**
- 45 Down source
 - 46 Conductor Previn
 - 1 Flop
 - 2 Tad's dad
 - 3 Actor-turned-director
 - 4 Late
 - 5 Forest creature
 - 6 Little lie
 - 7 Sanction
 - 8 Actor-turned-director
 - 9 Warty critter
 - 10 Some heirs
 - 16 Anvil setting
 - 18 Formerly
 - 19 Spot for laps
 - 21 Optimal
 - 23 Blue-print
 - 24 Olympic weapon
 - 25 Kremlin denial
 - 27 Cause trouble
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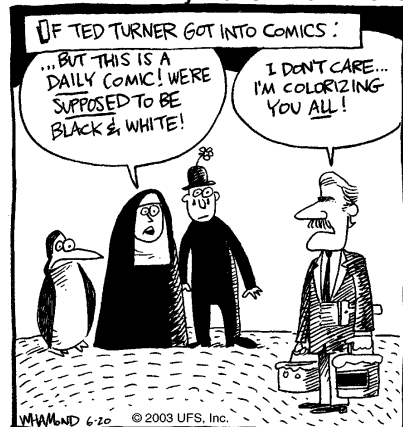
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Announcements

"I SOLD it one day! When I put my futon for sale in the Daily Press, it took me one day to sell it...thanks!" Nina Stewart, Santa Monica.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. Bush !!! for locating the Weapons of Mass Destruction "that are a direct eminent threat to the U.S. , " arresting Saddam Hussein, killing and maiming 8-9000 innocent civilians, 200+ Americans, destroying their cities, poisoning the environment, taking over the Iraq Oil Industry, Pumping their oil, and cutting billions of \$\$\$ for our education, health, veterans, etc.,... in order to do so!

"THE FIRST day I put my laptop for sale in your paper, I got several offers and sold it that day! Thank you Daily Press!" Jamie Schuler, Santa Monica.

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BIG YARD SALE : Saturday 6/21. 9am-2pm. 16049 Temecula Street, Pacific Palisades (off El Medio) .

GARAGE SALE: Saturday morning, June 21. 908 11th Street, 8am-12pm, piano, furniture, couches and electronics.

JUNE 20TH: Redecorating Sale. Finish with shabby chic-like style furniture, clothing, kids stuff, planters and more! Santa Monica, 955 Centinella Ave. 10am-4pm .

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'Sex and the City' waiter acts his part at party

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Call it a case of life imitating art.

Early in the upcoming season of HBO's "Sex and the City," actor Jason Lewis plays a hunky waiter at a trendy Manhattan restaurant populated largely by women who want to get close to him.

The women engage in an unspoken competition for his romantic attention won, of course, by the man-eating Samantha, played by Kim Cattrall.

At a party celebrating the new season Wednesday night at the American Museum of Natural History, Lewis stood chatting with a buddy a few feet away from a bar serving key lime martinis. More than a dozen women hovered nearby, most checking his movements out of the corner of their eyes.

Stars Cattrall, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon and Sarah Jessica Parker — and many of their TV men — circulated at the party in the museum's whale room.

Parker hugged singer Sheryl Crow. Financier Donald Trump, "Everybody Loves Raymond" actor Peter Boyle and much of "The Sopranos" cast also made the scene.

The sixth season of "Sex and the City" premieres Sunday at 9 p.m. EDT.

■ **NEW YORK** — Former President Clinton and former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani shared a backstage handshake at a charity luncheon.

That wouldn't be news ordinarily, but a New York Post columnist reported Wednesday that organizers of Samsung's Four Seasons of Hope luncheon had labored to keep the Republican ex-mayor and the Democratic former president far apart because they

"can't stand each other."

Giuliani arrived at Cipriani's restaurant after Clinton had left the podium Wednesday but met him backstage and offered his hand. Later, he told the crowd: "I want to make it clear that on the way in I shook hands with President Clinton."

As the crowd tittered, he added, "And I don't want you to read anything into this but I also — just in order to prove that any allegation to the contrary is untrue — I gave him a little hug. Don't read anything into that. We don't need any more rumors."

The Post reported that Giuliani didn't want to shake hands with Clinton publicly. "He just doesn't want to share the limelight together," an unnamed source told the newspaper.

Giuliani spokeswoman Sunny Mindel denied the report and said Giuliani arrived late because he was watching his son, Andrew, in a golf tournament.

Jim Kennedy, a spokesman for Clinton, said: "President Clinton has been at events with Mayor Giuliani recently and enjoyed visiting with him at this charitable luncheon."

■ **LAS VEGAS** — Rodney Dangerfield will not perform at the MGM Grand Garden Arena next month as planned.

Dangerfield, 81, needs more time to rest after recent surgery, said Kevin Sasaki, the comic's Los Angeles-based publicist.

Sasaki said Dangerfield's doctor decided the July 19 show would have been too demanding and advised rescheduling it later this year.

"Rodney is in pretty good health," Sasaki said. "The doctor just feels that Rodney needs more time to recover before undertaking a big concert."

Dangerfield was released from the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Center on April 21, nearly two weeks after undergoing surgery meant to improve his blood flow for an upcoming heart valve replacement.

The bug-eyed comic is best known for his self-mocking line, "I don't get no respect," and for his roles in the films "Ladybugs," "Back to School" and "Caddyshack."

■ **LONDON** — Prince William got a taste of local spirits during a tour of a Welsh agricultural fair.

William, who turns 21 on Saturday, sipped locally produced liqueurs and real ale as he attended the Welsh Food Fair Thursday with his father, Prince Charles.

"I don't normally do real ale, I like cider, but this is good," said William as he sampled a beer called Amnesia.

The prince revealed in an interview with Britain's Press Association news agency last month that his favorite tippie is alcoholic cider rather than beer.

Britain's drinking age is 18.

The prince, who is on summer vacation from his studies at St. Andrews University in Scotland, was greeted by a children's choir who sang "Happy Birthday" in English and Welsh as he arrived in Bangor, north Wales, aboard the Royal Train.

William blew out 21 candles on a cake bearing the words "Penblwydd Hapus William" — "Happy Birthday William" in Welsh.

DID YOU KNOW?: The first TV commercial was a 20-second ad for a Bulova clock, broadcast by WNBC, New York during a game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Philadelphia Phillies in July 1941. Bulova paid \$9 for that first TV spot. Bulova also was the first watch in space.

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