

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

100% organic news. Picked fresh daily.

City buys \$2.5M worth of 'green' electricity

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica has purchased a year's supply of electricity for \$2.5 million from a renewable energy source.

By buying all of its electricity at once, the city saves about \$157,500 because it is not purchasing the same amount of energy from Southern California Edison, officials said. The city will use the electricity in all of its public buildings and facilities.

City officials say the cost savings was not their primary motivation. Over the past four years, the city has been buying its annual allotment of energy from Irvine-based electricAmerica, which sells energy generated from CalPine, a geother-

"The state legislature is very fearful utility customers were going to flee for private retailers like us who are providing 100 percent green energy at a discount."

— ROY REEVES
electricAmerica executive

mal plant located in Northern California.

The company then releases the electricity onto the grids operated by SoCal Edison, which serves Santa Monica. The city pulls the equivalent amount off the power lines.

"The amount we are paying for comes off the grid but we don't get those specific electrons," said Craig

Perkins, director of the city's environmental and public works department. Perkins was chiefly responsible for making the city's purchase.

Roy Reeves, an electricAmerica executive, said his company purchased a long-term contract of its own from the CalPine

plant at a fixed low rate before the energy crisis. That's how the company can sell "green" renewable energy, which typically costs more, at a competitive rate.

However, newly enacted state legislation which blocks citizens from switching to new electricity sources almost ruined Santa Monica's deal.

The law is intended to make sure the state is paid back for all the expensive long-term energy contracts it negotiated during last summer's crisis.

"The state legislature is very fearful utility customers were going to flee for

See ENERGY, page 6

Jury lets homeowner off the hook for fire

BY DAVE DANFORTH
Daily Press Staff Writer

A homeowner who failed to get an electrical inspection wasn't responsible for a fire that killed his tenant's dog and destroyed much of his life's work, a Santa Monica jury decided Wednesday.

The decision had been predicted by the judge who heard the case, who offhandedly remarked to lawyers out of the jury's earshot that he didn't think jurors would be able to pinpoint the cause of the January, 1999 fire in the home of Jeffrey Ganz of Culver City.

Ganz, 41, is a graphic designer and five-time Grammy nominee whose credits include work with Bob Dylan and Aretha Franklin. He blamed landlord Clarence Taylor for the fire, saying that faulty wiring and Taylor's failure to get an electrical inspection was the cause.

But Taylor countered that Ganz could have caused the blaze by converting a studio into an office, loading the circuits with electronic gadgets, and adding a shelf with a screw that could have shorted an electrical conduit.

Ganz wasn't home when the fire, which started in the wall of the studio, swept through it, killing his dog, Clarke. Much of his music and design work was reduced to ashes.

But the jury never got the chance to determine the amount of damages because although the panel found Taylor negligent, it couldn't determine the fire's cause.

Taylor bought the home in 1972 and lived there until he rented it out in 1987.

Ganz moved in 10 years later. The jury, deliberating a day and a half, didn't believe that Taylor was negligent in failing to have the home inspected because he had no reason to suspect danger. However, jurors did find that there were obvious wiring problems in the home and Taylor knew about them.

"This has been a textbook trial as to how every single thing can go wrong."

— ROBERT LETTEAU
Santa Monica judge

The jury found, by a 10-2 vote, that his upkeep of the home was negligent. But the same panel then voted 11-1 that his negligence didn't necessarily cause the fire. Such civil cases are decided by the weight of the evidence and require a vote of at least 9-3 on any issue. When the jury found it couldn't blame Taylor for the fire, the case ended.

"We just couldn't find a direct cause," one juror told both lawyers after the case. "Nobody was able to say what in particular caused that fire."

The case saw controversy when Santa Monica Superior Court Judge

See TRIAL, page 6

Fire guts home



Scott Berry/Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica Firefighter Dan Caldwell throws debris from the roof of a home that burned Wednesday morning on Ashland Avenue. The fire department had to cut through the roof to provide ventilation for the smoke. The resident of the home, who suffered first degree burns on his hand, lost a cat and a dog in the fire, officials said. Damage is estimated at \$45,000.

Free outdoor music starts today

By Daily Press staff

You know it's summer in Santa Monica when the free pier concert series begins.

The 18th Annual Santa Monica Pier Concert Series kicks off tonight at 7:30 p.m. with blues rocker Shuggie Otis and The Brother Johnson, a funk band.

Shuggie Otis was lured from semi-seclusion to the pier stage by the prospect of performing with The Brothers Johnson. Otis is the author of The Brothers mega hit, "Strawberry Letter #23." Shuggie is a prodigy guitar hero whose performances are rare these days.

The Brothers Johnson are the originators of the sophisticated funk R & B style that shook a generation and influenced almost every musician who came after them. They are back together after 18 years apart. The group began playing music together in the '70s with Billy Preston and collected seven Grammy nominations and six Gold and Platinum LPs. The Brothers were discovered by Quincy Jones who produced them and brought them to stardom.

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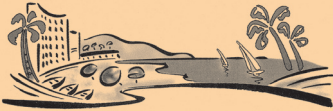
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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Work with others as a group, rather than independently. Success comes through looking at the common good. What someone shares as a dream could become a reality with some help. Give that extra push. Tonight: Add more fun to your life.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Carefully recognize another's limits. How you feel in the company of a boss might tell you a lot about your job and where you're heading. If you're not comfortable, timing works with you to make a positive change. Tonight: In the limelight.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Stretch your mind. Work on breaking out of the box in your way of thinking. Be more dynamic in word choice as well. You will note that others will be more interested and responsive as a result. You know that anything becomes possible if you just flow. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Just because someone sees a situation one way doesn't mean you have to agree. Carefully consider options that surround your personal life. Relate individually to those who make a difference in your life. Remain positive. Tonight: Have a long-overdue chat.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others seek you out. Be open to new possibilities. Not everything falls into place as you would like it to. Discussions prove to be animated with someone who simply might distort what he or she hears. Talks surround goals and a meeting. Tonight: Play the night away.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★ Dig into work. If you have a specific idea about what needs to happen, then take the lead. Others might not understand your vision. Talk to someone in charge who seems to understand you better than many. You know what you're doing. Tonight: Get some exercise.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might find the muse that could inspire you for the rest of your life. Or you might recognize a loved one as the muse that lights up your life. Don't worry so much about reactions. Share those special feelings. Tonight: Get into the weekend spirit.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Use the basic knowledge you have to increase the closeness in a key relationship. You might not want to share everything that is on your mind. Pick and choose your words. Another might tease you at work. Accept an invitation. Tonight: Enjoy life.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others seek you out. Juggling all you need to do could be a bit overwhelming, but you can do it. Associates discuss ideas in a more open and creative manner than usual. Together, success appears on the horizon. Tonight: Why not celebrate?

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ You demonstrate your savvy when you see through vagueness. Zero in on the basics, especially those involving work and money. Others appreciate your insights. Don't underestimate what is happening here. Tonight: Let another treat you.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your good will breaks past problems. Creativity helps an associate. Playfulness adds to a personal relationship. Understand the function of your present limits. Understand more of what others need. They will tell you, if you inquire. Tonight: It's your decision. Others respond.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Kick back and become a better listener. A family member or co-worker could reveal much more than he or she has in a long time. Be open to possibilities that surround an investment — perhaps a home-based investment. Tonight: Do your thing.



QUOTE of the DAY

“Whenever I’m caught between two evils,
I take the one I’ve never tried.”

— Mae West (1892-1980)

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LOCAL

World Cup hopefuls



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Coach Lalo Rodriguez sets up practice at Virginia Avenue Park Tuesday afternoon for team 'Seleccion Mexicana,' a group of kids ranging from 4 to 7 years old.

The Q Line

Last week Santa Monica's Recreation and Parks Committee recommended the city council ban smoking in all 15 of its public parks. Beverly Hills declared its parks smoke-free zones two years ago and Los Angeles is currently moving forward with plans to do the same. Meanwhile, recent scientific studies suggest second-hand smoke contains far more carcinogens than previously believed.

This week's Q-Line question is, **"Can you think of any reason Santa Monica should not completely ban smoking in its parks?"**

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.



There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Forget this northwest wind swell that has left local breaks flat and washed out. A small southwest swell is approaching shore.

Today, expect knee high surf at good spots. But Friday the new swell should begin to show and there will be inconsistent waist high sets.

Best time today to catch some clean wind swell waves will be the evening low tide at about 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. A spring suit or rash guard will suffice as water temperature enters the mid-to-high 60s.

(Information compiled by Jesse Haley.)

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	1-2'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	1-2'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	0-1'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	A
Topanga	1-2'/Poor	1-3'/Poor	A
Breakwater	1-3'/Poor	1-3'/Poor	A
El Porto	1-3'/Poor	1-3'/Poor	A
Tides:	6:11 a.m. Low / .79'	1:01 p.m. High / 3.79'	5:17 p.m. Low / 2.67'
			11:23 p.m. High / 5.70'

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Town hall meeting planned

By Daily Press staff

The only one of its kind scheduled, a town hall meeting will take place this Saturday in Santa Monica to prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in August.

Environmental and local government leaders from Southern California will convene the meeting on June 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Crossroads School.

Representatives from the Bush Administration and the United Nations will present the issues that will be discussed at the summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. Participants will have an opportunity to comment on the U.S. government's position and provide feedback.

The United Nations Earth Summit, scheduled for August in South Africa, is in disarray with the failure of the recent international preparatory meeting in Bali, Indonesia, to agree on a draft action plan.

"Californians have led the nation on facing many environmental challenges including green power, clean air, clean buses, water quality and urban forestry," said Irving Samoff, director of the Friends of the United Nations, one of the organizing groups for the town hall meeting. "Everyone attending will have an opportunity to contribute to the report of the recommendations that will be sent with a member of the U.S. Delegation to the summit in Johannesburg."

Representing the White House is Allan Hecht, associate director sustainable development, council on environmental quality. Representing the United Nations is Lowell L. Flanders, assistant director of the division for sustainable development. There will be 40 other speakers from various organizations.

Crossroads School is located at 1715 Olympic Boulevard.

Youth peace summit held

By Daily Press staff

After about four months of preparing, area youth held their first peace summit last week.

In January a "youth speak out on violence prevention" meeting was held at Santa Monica High School when nearly 100 people filled the school cafeteria to address youth violence in the city, partly in response to the murder of Deanna Maran, 15, who was stabbed at a party in Westwood on Nov. 17, 2001.

One of the ideas that was borne from that meeting was a retreat organized by youth to address violence in Santa Monica and how to end it.

Organized by the Santa Monica Youth Violence Prevention Coalition, the summit focused on definitions and personal experience of bias, discrimination and violence. In a video that was shot and edited by youth, students unveiled a somber reality of lives impacted daily by systemic violence either through gangs, the home environment, society's institutions or the culture in general.

A self-reflective exercise was then done and a youth panel moderated by a recent Samohi graduate broadened the conversation.

The Anti-Defamation League's Tessa Hicks offered an interactive movie presentation in which students became characters in the drama and made life-changing decisions surrounding issues of racism, homophobia, stereotypes and hate.

At the same time, Santa Monica Police Lt. P.J. Guido spoke with youth about their civil rights, procedures for making a complaint and finding the best course of action for them if the police stops them, searches their car or enters their home.

School officials say the summit provided an opportunity for young people to take a leadership role on the issue of violence.

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• Santa Monica College	• Rae's Restaurant
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- Major Hotels on Ocean Avenue
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OPINION

LETTERS

Tipping should not be required

Editor:

I read your newspaper on a daily basis and thought I'd like to use it as a platform to air my views on something that can be very delicate as well as controversial at times.

It has to do with a situation I witnessed at a well known 24-hour eating establishment on Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica last Friday night at about 11:30 p.m.

A gentleman who had been patiently waiting to be served was being totally ignored by the waiters and busboy, so he went to speak to the manager as to inquire what was going on. Before he could utter a word to the manager, one of the Mexican waiters yelled out loud, so that everyone in the restaurant could hear ... "SIR! WE ARE NOT SERVING YOU, BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T LEAVE A TIP THE LAST TIME THAT YOU WERE IN HERE!"

Not only did this shock the gentleman who was talking to the manager, but also everybody else who was in there at the time. The gentleman then confronted the waiter and told him that if the service that the waiter and his colleagues provide was not as poor as it always seems to be then he would consider leaving a tip, but as that was not the case, he would not leave a tip ... in fact it is up to the customer's discretion whether a tip should be left and not a mandatory thing that one should do when eating out.

The Mexican waiter then took offense to this and said that he and his colleagues only make minimum wage as it is and that they expect all patrons who eat in the restaurant to at least leave \$1 as a thank you, and if they don't they will not be served. At that point the manager interceded and apologized for the behavior of one of his employees and told the gentleman that he would serve him himself, as well as taking matters into his own hands with the waiter and other employees immediately.

This incident made me want to write to you, as it seems to be standard procedure within certain other eating and drinking establishments in Santa Monica where one must leave a tip whether service is good, bad or indifferent. I have even seen situations in certain British drinking establishments in the area where if the individual hasn't left a tip for the bartender or waiter, then some of the regular customers (whatever business it is of theirs any way in the first place) who frequent these establishments will "bully" that person to leave something.

To all those who work in jobs where tips are part of the service, let me tell them ... THAT TIPS LIKE DRIVING ARE A PRIVILEGE ... NOT A PLEASURE!!!! A TIP IS SOMETHING THAT A CUSTOMER UNDER HIS/HER OWN DISCRETION FEELS THAT WHOEVER PROVIDED A SERVICE TO THAT CUSTOMER ACTUALLY MERITS SUCH A GESTURE!!!! IT IS NOT MANDATORY FOR ANY CUSTOMER TO LEAVE 15% EXTRA OF WHAT SERVICE THEY RECEIVED BY ANY ESTABLISHMENT, IF THEY DON'T WISH TO DO SO!!!

I also find it insulting that in some establishments, they actually put at the bottom of the receipt ... "IT IS CUSTOMARY TO LEAVE A 15% GRATUITY FEE ON TOP OF WHAT YOU'VE ACTUALLY PAID FOR" What gives them the right to do that? Maybe if these establishments paid their staff a decent income in the first place then this thing wouldn't happen.

Let me ask these people the following:

- Does anyone tip a mailman for the delivering the mail?
- Does anyone tip a doctor/nurse for providing medical help?
- Does anyone tip a police officer for keeping law and order?
- Does anyone tip a firefighter for putting out a fire?
- Does anyone tip an IT guy for hooking their computer up?
- Does anyone tip a teacher for educating their kids?

So why is it that waiters and waitresses are the exception to this rule? If they are not happy with the pay structure of their jobs, then they should look for employment where they can live quite comfortably.

Like I said earlier ... A TIP IS SOMETHING THAT A CUSTOMER UNDER HIS/HER OWN DISCRETION FEELS THAT WHOEVER PROVIDED A SERVICE TO THAT CUSTOMER ACTUALLY MERITS SUCH A GESTURE!!!! IT IS NOT MANDATORY FOR ANY CUSTOMER TO LEAVE 15% EXTRA OF WHAT SERVICE THEY RECEIVED BY ANY ESTABLISHMENT, IF THEY DON'T WISH TO DO SO!!!

Frank Armstrong
Santa Monica

Smoking ban is fascism

Editor:

Santa Monica should concentrate on its major problem of homeless people whose appearance and behavior are anti-social. What right have they to intrude on a restaurant patio, interrupt conversations without "excuse me" and ask for money? Most normal, social, law abiding people wouldn't dream of doing this. Society only works when you have consideration for others. Don't diners on patios of restaurants have rights? Are homeless people above the law and exempt from our social customs? Santa Monica should not waste time on trivialities like smoking in parks. What next? Chewing gum in parks? Look at the mess on all sidewalks due to gum. Bums can sleep in parks but hard working law abiding people can't smoke! What nonsense! California has already gone over the top with the banning of smoking in all pubs and restaurants and this is just a further example of the PC majority seek-

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OPINION

LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

ing to display their moral superiority by persecuting a law abiding minority. If bums have civil rights then why don't smokers? I don't believe there are any statistics which show smoking in strict moderation ever harmed anyone.

Democracy does not consist of the majority forcing its opinions and behaviors on the minority. On some matters e.g. defense etc., we must have a single policy but on other matters e.g. religion, smoking etc., we should be free to choose for ourselves. It should be live and let live. Any fair-minded person can see that it is perfectly possible to have pubs and restaurants which offer smoking. You pay your money and you take your choice. What about the poor non-smoking employees? They go to a non-smoking place. By the way, take a look at the back of a restaurant from time to time. Guess what you're going to see? Employees out back taking a smoke!

I have studied the science of statistics and data have to be evaluated very carefully in order to understand what they say. I don't believe 90 percent percent of what is reported in the press about smoking studies. I agree with Winston Churchill "There are lies, there are damned lies and then there are statistics!" I believe that the problem with smoking is the same as for drinking, gambling, eating, etc. It is very harmful in excess. Eating in excess, which most people in this country do, will also kill many people. I suspect in future there will be far more people dying from the results of over eating than from over smoking. I'm much more offended by overweight people who go to a restaurant for recreational eating and leave large parts of their meal uneaten.

The reports I have read about the dangers of side smoke are grossly exaggerated. My parents both smoked like chimneys all through my childhood and it did me no harm whatsoever. I am in far better health than the vast majority of people my age. If the statistics on the dangers of side smoke had any truth, I would have been dead by the time I was 10 years old. If you don't like side smoke that's fine. No one should be obliged to suffer it. But don't invent statistics to enforce your point — just say you don't like smoke and that's good enough.

Let's start using our common sense and reject all the silly far fetched statistics which the press try to give us. Almost every type of food has some study which says it's bad for us. If this is true then obviously the human race would have died out centuries ago.

The basic problem is the neo-fascism of the PC majority which has a need to make itself feel morally superior by inflicting its dubious morality on a law abiding minority. This is not democracy. Democracy is live and let live where ever possible, which in the case of smoking can easily be done. Let the market decide which pubs can be smoking or smoke free. That's democracy.

We frown on excessive drinking and excessive smoking so why not stigmatize excessive eating? Let's bar overweight people from restaurants. The last thing they need is a big meal. Let's run them round the parks and make them pick up the litter. OK, I'm only kidding but it's the same mentality which seeks to persecute moderate smokers.

Neil Macaulay
Santa Monica

Discontent with City Hall

Editor:

I can fully understand the merchants with businesses on and near the Promenade being disgruntled with the problem presented by transients who make their home there, and the fact that City Hall does nothing to curb their wanton acts. More and more, I am finding that that is the case with City Hall.

They either find excuses for not enforcing codes, or ignore them completely. My experience is that these transients assume that the Promenade is their "home" and that they have every right to harass customers, merchants and whomever invades their territory. They are downright arrogant, disrespectful and threatening. I have not seen anyone urinate or defecate there, but, that being the case is just one example of their disregard and disdain for the property and businesses. Whether or not it is a public place has nothing to do with the fact that they are disrupting and destroying property. Santa Monica's climate, among other things is what brings them here. For the most part, they can sleep there year round without suffering the extremes of heat or cold. The same goes for Palisades Park. The transients may have rights, but so do we! I, personally, could not be more discontented with City Hall.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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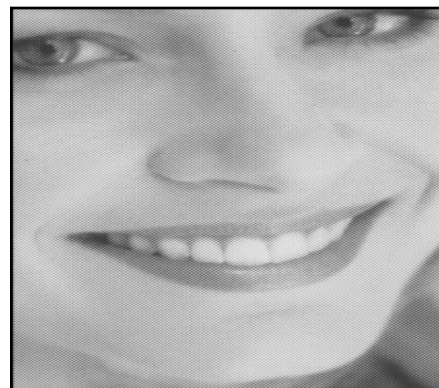
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State energy problems expected this summer

ENERGY, from page 1

private retailers like us who are providing 100 percent green energy at a discount," Reeves said.

By going with a company that didn't buy into the state's long-term contracts, the city may have been fined or forced to

go back to SoCal Edison. However, since city officials had a long relationship buying energy from electricAmerica, the sale was able to go through.

"If you want to be a direct access customer you have to pay a fee to the state, so few people are going to do that," Perkins

said. "That's how the state makes sure they have enough people to pay off all these bad long-term contracts."

Currently state legislators are debating whether the penalty fee, which is based on a percentage of the transaction, should be waived for people and municipalities that want to buy their electricity from renewable sources.

Even though the city purchases its energy supply from a different source, Santa Monica is still subject to any roaming blackouts from SoCal Edison's grid.

"If Edison's grid blacks out, we black out with it," Perkins said.

While last year's energy crisis caused several roaming blackouts throughout Santa Monica, the city has worked out an

agreement with SoCal Edison that power for the police and fire departments, as well as traffic signals and water pumps, is never disrupted.

With meteorologists predicting another long, hot summer many people are worried last year's energy problems will be repeated this summer.

City officials said only through conservation will those same problems be avoided this year.

"Last summer California customers reduced their electricity use by 20 percent," Perkins said. "I don't see why we can't do the same this year."

He added, "It's not about doing without, it's about not being wasteful."

Judge shows frustration over problematic trial

TRIAL, from page 1

Robert Letteau lectured both attorneys, R.J. Molligan for Ganz and Wendy Rosnagel for Taylor, that this was a "most contentious case" and was confused in a way that "is unfair to the jury." Letteau's remarks came during closing arguments and were heard by jurors. He became even hotter after jurors left the room.

"This has been a textbook trial as to how every single thing can go wrong," he said, frustrated over the unexplained loss of eight exhibits and a controversy over how instructions to the jury should be worded. The judge also felt the jury was frustrated by the uneven pace of the trial.

"Jurors get fed up. One juror said to me, 'I volunteer to work with the homeless. I can't stand these people. I hate rich people suing other rich people.'"

During closing arguments, Molligan likened the lack of an electrical inspection to Russian roulette. Although no tenant,

including Ganz, had ever complained about faulty wiring, the home was like a gun, loaded in one chamber, waiting to go off.

"Mr. Ganz was the victim of this home," he said. "His number came up."

But Rosnagel said Taylor had acted reasonably. Although electrical inspections seem common sense today, in 1972 there was no reason to ask for one without a reason, she noted.

One of the jurors echoed that reasoning. She said that an electrical accident had nearly occurred during the recent remodeling of her own home. However, asked if Taylor was negligent, she recalled that her father was of the same "old school" and wouldn't have requested an inspection unless he thought he needed one.

One juror expressed frustration that the panel wasn't able to ask questions.

"If we'd have been able to question the experts, we'd have gotten to the bottom of this," he said.

Pasadena plans \$95M for city's power plant expansion

By The Associated Press

PASADENA — The City Council approved issuing up to \$95 million in bonds to pay for modernization of the city's only power plant.

Bond money will be used to replace two aging electric generation units and retrofit others for pollution controls. Councilman Paul Little said the modernization will pay for itself by making it cheaper for Pasadena Water and Power to produce energy. "The new plants will generate electricity at a much lower cost than the existing plants," Little said.

Stung by high market costs for power in recent years, the city wants to refurbish its electric plant to reduce reliance on market purchases of electricity. In addition, the aging electric facilities are inefficient and spew a high amount of pollution.

Mayor Bill Bogaard said the new facilities will cut pollution by 80 percent.

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LOCAL

Local Sports

Blood, sweat, and air

Freestyle BMX draws thousands to the beach

BY JESSE HALEY
Special to the Daily Press

Nearly 110,000 people swarmed the Venice Beach boardwalk this past weekend to attend the Core Tour and Music Festival, an action sports competition with live bands and DJs.

The Core Tour showcased skateboard, in-line skate, mountainboard and freestyle BMX competitions with both open amateur and professional divisions.

The big show, the "King of Dirt" pro division series, drew the loudest, wildest crowd of the weekend. Fans packed bleachers and spilled out onto the grass. They pushed in against the sponsor bannered safety fence around the triple set of six-foot tall, hand- and shovel-sculpted kickers and landings.

Spectators of all ages were treated to the stunts, stylings and antics, the most fearless riders, the biggest tricks and the hairiest crashes freestyle BMX has to offer.

First place finisher Cory "Nasty" Nastazio charged through aerial sets with vicious proficiency. He made the most difficult freestyle tricks look routine — a backflip X-up, a fully extended superman seat grab and he pulled off a perfect 360-degree tail whip, a trick rider Greg Andrioli attempted twice but couldn't land.

The roster of pro riders also included Joe Marks, Shaun Butler, Josh Pile, Eric Lawson, and England's Stephen Murray, a gold medalist in both the X-Games and Gravity Games. Nastazio finished first by

a narrow margin over Marks while Murray took third.

Saturday's amateur King of Dirt should have belonged to Joel Hulsey, an aggressive young rider from Santa Rosa. Hulsey laid down huge, squeaky clean backflips and tail-whips during the qualifying round but that didn't save him when he came up short in the finals, crashing on three of four final runs. He dropped into fifth.

Event organizers were impressed enough by Hulsey's skills to sponsor his entry and pay the necessary fees if he rode the pro category Sunday. Hulsey ripped up qualifying runs, and took home 10th place in the finals.

"He's awesome. If he sticks with it, who knows," said pro rider Andrioli who took highest honors in Sunday's Big Air Challenge.

The field of riders was down to two when the height ribbon was elevated to 19 feet, four inches tall. Josh Pile took the first run but tore the ribbon when his back tire dipped mid-air.

Andrioli, a rookie pro from Las Vegas and a Core Tour first timer, bombed the drop in, hit the kicker

and soared over the height mark, landing easily to take the gold and a \$2,000 purse. Nastazio charged the course to throw a big-brotherly bear hug around Andrioli's dirt dusted shoulders, lifting him to bathe in riotous applause.

The existing Venice Beach skate park was the platform for the street course, though course designers added launch ramps, quarter pipes, picnic tables, rails, and boxes.

Sam Fogarty out-tricked the competition to earn first in the In-line Street competition while Jason Stinsman double backflipped his way into first in the Big Kicker, a three-story drop in to a launch ramp. Fogarty took second in the Big Kicker.

Vanessa Torres showed why she deserves the reputation of one of the top female pro skateboarders by winning Sunday's All Girl Skate Jam. Anna Gualt and Morgan Duey won the Grom and Intermediate divisions respectively.

The Core tour is a three-part series with upcoming events at South Street Seaport in New York City and Huntington Beach, Calif.



Jesse Haley/Special to the Daily Press
Josh Pile reels in a tailwhip during the King of Dirt competition.

Santa Monica Softball Standings

Coed "A" League Softball

1. Un Cut Diamonds	1 - 0
2. No Comments	1 - 0
3. Coyotes	1 - 0
4. Black Sox	0 - 1
5. Never the same team	0 - 1
6. Hurricanes	0 - 1

Coed "B" League Softball

1. UFB	1 - 0
2. Big Dogs	1 - 0
3. Dble Dble with Cheese	0 - 0
4. Machine	0 - 1
5. Wabi Sabi	0 - 1
6. Right Stuff	0 - 1
7. Flaming Butts	0 - 1

Coed "C+" League Softball

1. Out Laws	0 - 0
2. Marina Music	0 - 0
3. Cougars	0 - 0
4. Team Rusty	0 - 0
5. Big Dogiritas	0 - 0
6. Commitment	0 - 0

Men's Tuesday "B" League Softball

1. Skip Ac	3 - 0
2. Sports Harbor	2 - 0
3. Catholic Girls	2 - 1
4. Mustang	1 - 2
5. Softball Vigilantes	1 - 2
6. the Saloon	0 - 2
7. Over/Under	0 - 2

Men's Tuesday "C" League Softball

1. Damaged Goods	3 - 0
2. x PENN	2 - 0
3. Lolly Gagers	1 - 1
4. Rip Tide	1 - 2
5. Hit Men	1 - 2
6. 14 Below	1 - 2
7. OBriens	0 - 2

Men's Wednesday "C+" League Softball

1. Prime Time	2 - 0
2. Back Crackers	1 - 0
3. Ba da Bing	1 - 1
4. Coyotes	1 - 1
5. Raving Maniacs	1 - 1
6. Old Look	0 - 1
7. Revengers	0 - 2

Men's Wednesday "C" League Softball

1. Spiders	2 - 0
2. Karma	2 - 0
3. Buffos	1 - 0
4. Sonny McLeans	1 - 1
5. Big Deans	1 - 1
6. Black Sox	0 - 1
7. Warriors	0 - 2

Men's Thursday "C+" League Softball

1. Thunderin' Herd	1 - 0
2. Go Deep	1 - 0
3. Herd 2	1 - 0
4. Bears	0 - 0
5. Daily Pint	0 - 1
6. Good Shirt	0 - 1
7. Bulls	0 - 1

Men's "Thursday "C-" League Softball

1. Armadillos	1 - 0
2. Replacements	1 - 0
3. Dirt Bags	0 - 0
4. OMICRONS	0 - 0
5. Bros	0 - 0
6. Saint Johns	0 - 1
7. Corsairs	0 - 1

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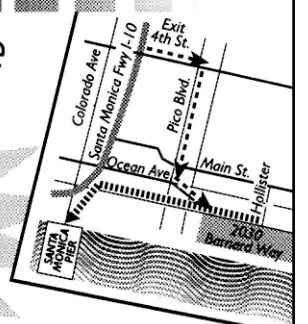
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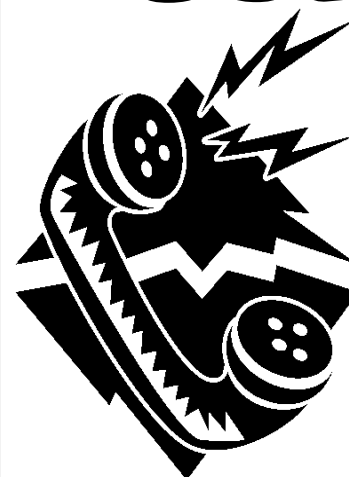
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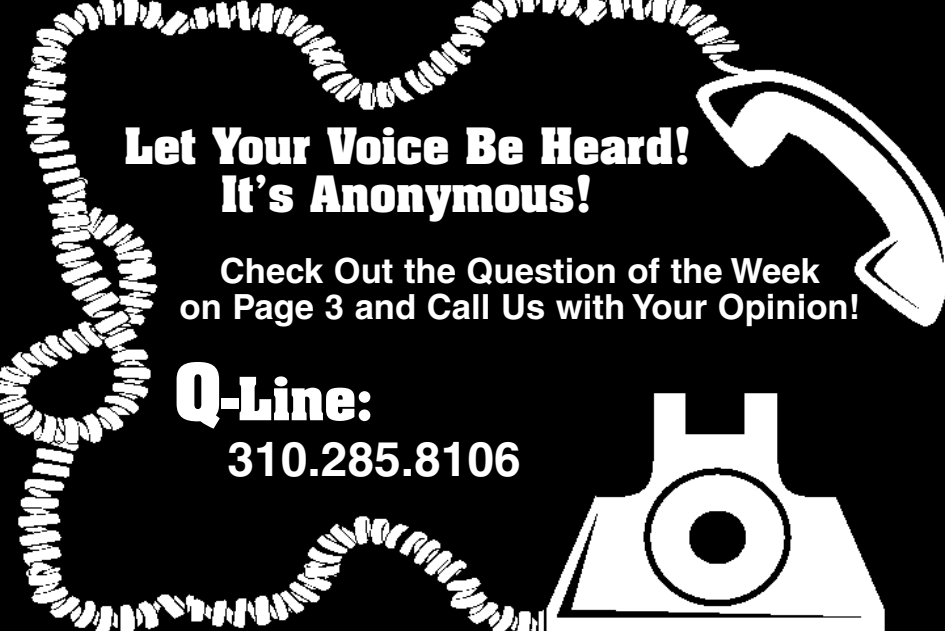
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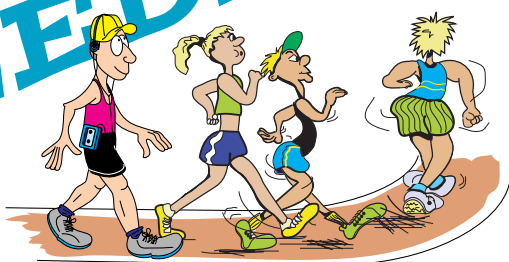
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STATE

Van Houten of Manson cult considered for parole

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — Of all the members of Charles Manson's murderous "family," Leslie Van Houten was always seen as the different one — the youngest, the one most vulnerable to Manson's diabolical control.

Now she hopes to be the first member of the cult involved in the 1969 Tate-La Bianca killings to get out on parole.

On Friday — nearly 33 years since the slaughter of actress Sharon Tate and six others shocked the nation — Van Houten, 52, goes before the state parole board for the 14th time. This time, she might have a chance.

The reason: Earlier this month, Superior Court Judge Bob N. Krug strongly admonished the board for flatly turning Van Houten down every time based solely on the crime. Such decisions, he said, ignore Van Houten's accomplishments in prison and turn her life sentence into life without parole, in violation of the law.

In addition, Krug said that Van Houten had successfully completed every rehabilitation program offered in prison and that her psychiatric evaluations "clearly indicate that she is not a present danger to society and should be found suitable for parole."

Van Houten was a 19-year-old Manson disciple in the summer of 1969 when she participated in the stabbing deaths of grocers Leno and Rosemary La Bianca in their home. Van Houten was not present the night before when Tate and four others were slain at the actress' Beverly Hills mansion.

Van Houten, Manson, his chief lieutenant Charles "Tex" Watson, and two other women, Susan Atkins and Patricia Krenwinkel, were convicted and sentenced to death for their part in the Tate-La Bianca murders. The sentences were later commuted to life when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the death penalty in the 1970s. All five are still behind bars.

Van Houten's initial conviction was overturned on the grounds that she received an inadequate defense; her lawyer disappeared and was found dead during her

trial, and she was assigned a replacement. Her second trial ended in a hung jury. A third trial ended in a conviction.

Deputy District Attorney Stephen Kay will be arguing against Van Houten's parole for the 14th time.

"This is not a garden-variety murder case and it should not be treated as such," he said. "I commend her for her good acts in prison and she appears to be a model prisoner. I think she should spend the rest of her life being a model prisoner. I feel because of what she did, she is not entitled to parole."

"I commend her for her good acts in prison and she appears to be a model prisoner ... I feel because of what she did, she is not entitled to parole."

— STEPHEN KAY
Deputy district attorney

In light of the judge's ruling, however, Van Houten can take her case to court if she is denied parole again.

Van Houten's lawyer, Christie Webb, said she has shown remorse and has been rehabilitated. Van Houten went through alcohol and drug rehab, group therapy and psychotherapy. She also obtained a college degree in literature and has helped run drug and alcohol programs for other women.

Webb said Manson's influence on Van Houten was powerful.

"She was the youngest. She was vulnerable and she was controlled by drugs and clever manipulation," Webb said. "All that LSD changed the chemistry of her brain."

The lawyer added: "I certainly have sympathy for the victims' families. But Leslie and her family are also among Charles Manson's victims. We are talking about one horrible night of violence in her life when she was clearly not in her right mind."

Pot-case defendant accused of trying to sway jurors by judge

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — An outraged Sacramento federal judge excused 42 would-be jurors in a medical marijuana case Monday after learning that some of them received a flier explaining how jurors are manipulated by judges.

U.S. District Judge Frank C. Damrell Jr. accused defendant Bryan James Epis of being responsible for their distribution and had him briefly arrested. In a heated exchange between Damrell and defense attorney J. Tony Serra, Damrell insisted that the one-page flier was "apparently prepared by your client" and declared that if Epis was behind the distribution, "that's criminal contempt." Serra, in turn, accused the judge of acting on "double hearsay."

The first-person statement, attributed to Epis, alleged that judges rarely inform jurors of their right "to judge the law itself

and vote on the verdict according to conscience." It also said that jurors cannot be forced to obey their "juror's oath," and have the right to "hang" the jury if they don't agree with other jurors.

Damrell plans to bring in a new panel of potential jurors Wednesday. He also set an Aug. 1 hearing to determine whether Epis is guilty of obstructing justice.

Pro-marijuana activist Jeffrey Jones was also cited for a misdemeanor attempt to influence jurors by handing out the fliers outside the courthouse. He was released pending trial.

Epis, 35, is charged with conspiring to manufacture at least 1,000 marijuana plants as the founder and supplier of Chico Medical Marijuana Caregivers. The crime carries a mandatory 10-year prison sentence. The case will be the first federal criminal prosecution involving a cannabis buyers' club to go before a jury.

STATE



Court declares Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional

BY DAVID KRAVETS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — For the first time, a federal appeals court Wednesday declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because of the words “under God” added by Congress in 1954.

In a 2-1 decision, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the phrase amounts to a government endorsement of religion in violation of the Constitution’s Establishment Clause, which requires a separation of church and state.

The ruling, if allowed to stand, means schoolchildren can no longer recite the pledge, at least in the nine Western states covered by the court.

Forcing schoolchildren to say “a nation under God” is as unconstitutional as saying “we are a nation ‘under Jesus,’ a nation ‘under Vishnu,’ a nation ‘under Zeus,’ or a nation ‘under no god,’ because none of these professions can be neutral with respect to religion,” Judge Alfred T. Goodwin wrote for the three-judge panel.

President Bush, in Canada for an economic summit, found the ruling “ridiculous,” White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

“The Supreme Court itself begins each of its sessions with the phrase ‘God save the United States and this honorable court,’” he said. “The Declaration of Independence refers to God or to the Creator four different times. Congress begins each session of the Congress each day with a prayer, and of course our currency says, ‘In God We Trust.’”

“The view of the White House is that this was a wrong decision and the Department Justice is now evaluating how to seek redress,” Fleischer said.

The ruling was also attacked on Capitol Hill, with Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., calling it “just nuts.”

Ruling on a direct challenge to the phrase “under God,” the court said President Eisenhower himself allud-

ed to the religious aspects of the pledge when he signed the law, and wrote that “millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural schoolhouse, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty.”

Congress approved the change at the height of the Cold War after a campaign by the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic men’s service organization. Americans deluged Congress with mail supporting the change, and religious leaders sermonized on the need to distinguish the U.S. pledge from that of communist countries.

The court noted that the U.S. Supreme Court has said students cannot hold religious invocations at graduations and cannot be compelled to recite the pledge.

But the appeals panel took it a step further, ruling the Constitution protects students who don’t believe in a monotheistic deity from even having to make an “unacceptable choice between participating and protesting.”

The case was brought by Michael A. Newdow, a Sacramento atheist who objected because his second-grade daughter was required to recite the pledge at the Elk Grove Unified School District.

Newdow, a doctor with a law degree who represented himself in the case, sued and a federal judge dismissed the case, leading to the review by the Ninth Circuit.

“I’m an American citizen. I don’t like my rights infringed upon by my government,” he said Wednesday in an interview. The pledge, he said, is a “religious idea that certain people don’t agree with.”

The government had argued that the religious content of “one nation under God” is minimal, but the appellate court said the phrase can reasonably be seen by atheists or believers in certain non-Judeo-Christian religions as an attempt “to enforce a ‘religious orthodoxy’ of monotheism.”

The Ninth Circuit, the nation’s largest federal appeals panel, covers Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state. Those are the only states immediately affected by Wednesday’s ruling.

The decision does not take effect for several months.

The appeals court gives parties time to appeal. The government now can ask the court to reconsider its decision, or appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In dissent, Judge Ferdinand F. Fernandez, appointed by the first President Bush, chided the decision by Goodwin, a Nixon appointee, and Judge Stephen Reinhardt, appointed by Carter.

Under “Newdow’s theory of our Constitution, accepted by my colleagues today, we will soon find ourselves prohibited from using our album of patriotic songs in many public settings,” Fernandez wrote.

“God Bless America and America the Beautiful will be gone for sure, and while use of the first and second stanzas of the Star Spangled Banner will still be permissible, we will be precluded from straying into the third,” he added.

Fernandez said the same faulty logic would apply to “In God We Trust” on the nation’s currency. And Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., was one of many lawmakers who immediately reacted in anger and shock to the ruling.

“Our founding fathers must be spinning in their graves. This is the worst kind of political correctness run amok,” Bond said. “What’s next? Will the courts now strip ‘so help me God’ from the pledge taken from new presidents?”

Harvard scholar Laurence Tribe predicted that the U.S. Supreme Court will certainly reverse the decision unless the circuit reverses itself.

“I would bet an awful lot on that,” Tribe said.

In fact, the Ninth Circuit is the nation’s most overturned appellate court — partly because it’s the largest, but also because it tends to make liberal, activist opinions, and because the cases it hears — on a range of issues from environmental laws to property rights to civil rights — tend to challenge the status quo.

The nation’s high court has never squarely addressed the issue, Tribe said. The court has said schools can require teachers to lead the pledge but ruled students cannot be punished for refusing to recite it.



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NATIONAL

Post-Enron fears force disclosure, scrutiny

BY DAVE CARPENTER

AP Business Writer

The list just keeps growing of big companies spiraling in scandals because of shady bookkeeping and alleged misdeeds involving lavishly paid top executives: Enron, Tyco, Global Crossing, ImClone, Adelphia. And now WorldCom.

WorldCom Inc. wandered down the same crooked path many corporations took in the freewheeling days of the go-go '90s, according to those who closely follow accounting and investing.

The experts don't know where it's leading, but they're virtually certain of one thing: There will be more.

"What we're seeing are the vestiges of an earlier era — an era of 'the end justifies the means,'" said Charles Elson, director of the Center for Corporate Governance at the University of Delaware.

"It's an infection that's working its way out of the system," he said. "But it will take awhile. Until it's gone, we'll see others."

That ominous warning was echoed by Gartner Inc. research fellow Ken McGee: "We're just now paying for the period of irrational exuberance. I'm afraid it's not over yet."

If the demise of dot-coms raised a red flag with investors about artificially inflated profits, it wasn't until Enron Corp.'s collapse in a heap of hidden partnerships last fall that the dark side of corporations — accounting fraud, insider trading and other deceptions — was widely exposed.

Since then, the business world has been rocked by scandals at the pace of nearly one a month.

Telecommunications giant Global Crossing Ltd. and its top executives were charged with deceptive accounting, with founder and chairman Gary Winnick cashing out \$734 million in stock before the company crashed.

Adelphia Communications, the nation's sixth largest cable TV company, kept secret billions of dollars in loan and loan guarantees to founder John Rigas and his family. Arthur Andersen, also the auditor for Global Crossing and WorldCom, shredded Enron documents and was convicted of obstruction of justice.

Tyco International Ltd.'s chief executive, Dennis Kozlowski, was charged with evading payment of more than \$1 million in sales tax on paintings by Monet, Renoir

and others. ImClone Systems Inc. CEO Sam Waksal was charged with insider trading, accused of tipping off family members to sell stock in the biotech firm before the government's refusal to consider its cancer drug became public.

Experts say the temptation to overstate earnings was too much for many companies to resist in the giddy days of the mid-to late '90s, when growth was easy, stocks soared and competitors flourished. Executives who were compensated heavily in stock options also were particularly eager to raise share prices for the day when they could cash out.

"We're just now paying for the period of irrational exuberance. I'm afraid it's not over yet."

— KEN MCGEE
Gartner Inc. research

But the system of checks and balances was wobbly.

Accountants, company board members and corporate auditing committees all succumbed to similar temptations.

"The pressures to perform during the bull market of the late 1990s obviously pushed some corporate managers and accountants over the line between aggressive but acceptable accounting practices and outright fraud," said Ed Yardeni, chief investment strategist at Prudential Securities.

The market decline of 2000 and 2001 made it more difficult to show that times were good, according to Columbia University accounting professor Itzhak Sharav. The Enron debacle also has flushed out more accounting irregularities, reflecting fear and caution as much as candor and openness.

Directors have become much more assertive, realizing they can be held personally liable if company shenanigans go unchecked. And new management teams and accounting firms are scrambling to purge any problems from their books.

"In this atmosphere, I have a feeling you're going to see the most conservative accounting you ever saw in the next two years," said Paul Danos, dean of the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

Models file lawsuit, accuse NYC agencies of fixing fees

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Six little-known models are suing some of the nation's top modeling agencies, accusing them of violating antitrust laws by inflating and fixing commissions they charge models for finding them work.

An industry executive denied the allegations.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court Tuesday, claims that Wilhelmina, Ford, Elite and other New York City-based agencies conspired to maintain matching, nonnegotiable commissions of 20 percent.

The plaintiffs claim that the conspiracy dates to the 1970s, when the agencies secretly hiked commissions — despite a 10-percent cap set by state law.

They "worked together to hide that fact from their models ... through sham contracts and other dishonest tactics that have persisted for years," the lawsuit says. "Models who threaten to complain are told they will be blackballed," it says.

Wilhelmina president Dieter Esch said the case has no merit.

"Wilhelmina has never engaged in any price-fixing," he said. "We expect the suit to be dismissed."

Calls to Ford and Elite were not immediately returned.

The suit seeks to expose the modeling industry's "dirty little secret," said Brian Rishwain, a Los Angeles attorney representing the plaintiffs. "It's an industry that's escaped scrutiny for years."

SPORTS



Agassi, Sampras, Safin all ousted in second round



BY STEPHEN WILSON
AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — First Pete Sampras, then Andre Agassi.

The two biggest American names in men's tennis lost in the second round at Wimbledon in stunning upsets Wednesday.

On an amazing day at the All England Club, second-seeded Marat Safin also was eliminated.

On a court nicknamed the "graveyard of champions," Sampras rallied from two sets down but came up short 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-4 against George Bastl, a Swiss player ranked 145th in the world.

Sampras experienced one of the worst defeats of his career against Bastl, who had won just one previous grass-court match. Bastl only made it into the draw Sunday as a "lucky loser" from qualifying after Spain's Felix Mantilla pulled out with a knee injury.

For much of his match, Sampras appeared out of sorts. He made glaring unforced errors, struggled with his serve, failed to run full-out for some shots and was nowhere near the player who has won a record 13 Grand Slam singles titles.

It was the seven-time champion's earliest exit from the grass-court championships in 11 years.

Later, on Centre Court, the third-seeded Agassi — champion in 1992 — went down in straight sets, 6-4, 7-6



Ted S. Warren/Associated Press

Serena Williams plays a return to Italy's Francesca Schiavone in their Women's Singles second round match on the Number One Court at Wimbledon on Wednesday. Williams won the match 6-3, 6-3.

(5), 6-2, to 67th-ranked Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand.

Agassi's one-sided defeat — which took only 1:47 — ranked as an even bigger surprise than Sampras' ouster. While Sampras' game has been in decline, Agassi has been playing well and he was considered a stronger contender for the title.

Agassi usually dominates matches with his punishing baseline game, but he was on the defensive. Srichaphan dictated the points, moving Agassi from side to side with ground strokes to all corners of the court.

Agassi had an unusually high number of unforced errors (35), 10 more than Srichaphan. The Thai player also served 15 aces and broke Agassi six times.

In the past two days, the tournament lost five of the men's top eight seeded players. No. 7 Roger Federer and No. 8 Thomas Johansson lost Tuesday.

With Agassi and Sampras out, Richard Krajicek is the only remaining former champion left in the draw.

Krajicek next faces Srichaphan.

In another major surprise, Safin was ousted 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (1) by Belgium's Olivier Rochus.

No. 2 Serena Williams sailed into the women's third round with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Francesca Schiavone of Italy, and No. 3 Jennifer Capriati was a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Marta Marrero of Spain. Four lower seeded women were ousted.

Four seeded women's players were eliminated in mild upsets.

Mary Pierce, a former French Open champion who has been struggling with injuries, ousted eighth-seeded countrywoman Sandrine Testud 6-3, 6-4.

American Chanda Rubin, who won last week's warmup tournament at Eastbourne, downed No. 14 Iroda Tulyagonova of Uzbekistan 6-3, 6-1.

Miriam Oremans beat No. 13 Meghann Shaughnessy of the United States 7-5, 6-3. French Open semifinalist Clarisa Fernandez, seeded No. 30, lost 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 to Els Callens.

Brazil takes Turkey 1-0 by playing a 'beautiful game'

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Sports Writer

SAITAMA, Japan — The expectations are simple. Brazil must win the World Cup — and with style.

So when the only four-time champions struggled just to qualify for the tournament, their aura of invincibility seemed gone.

Ah, but this is Brazil. And Wednesday night, thanks to a second-half goal from Ronaldo, the team famous for playing the "beautiful game" beat Turkey 1-0 to advance to their third straight final.

On Sunday, Brazil plays three-time winner Germany in Yokohama, where it will be favored to carry off another World Cup crown.

"I plan then and there to have the most important goal of my career," Ronaldo said. "Every goal I score is a victory. Every time I enter the pitch, for me it's an honor."

He scored the game-winner against Turkey in the 49th minute on a magical end-to-end rush begun by, of all people, goalkeeper Marcos.

Marcos also made a half-dozen brilliant saves against the Turks, who stunned everyone by reaching the semifinals in their first World Cup in 48 years.

After Brazil took the lead, Marcos barely got his hands on a deflection that would have been an own goal. It was his third sensational stop of the match. He made two more moments later: a soaring finger save on Ilhan Mansiz's floater and a diving block of Hakan Sukur's off-balance volley.

But few are as inventive.

Roberto Carlos, effective at both ends all night, chested the ball back to Marcos, leading to midfielder Gilberto

Silva's sprint down the left wing. He found Ronaldo, who despite being surrounded by four Turks, surprised goalie Rustu Recber with a quick, low right-footed shot.

The ball swerved just enough that Recber could only get his fingertips on it before the shot rolled into the net.

"The nightmare is over," Ronaldo said. "And now is just the time to enjoy and develop this happiness."

He was ill on the morning of the 1998 World Cup final and played poorly in Brazil's 3-0 loss to host France. He has since undergone two knee operations.

"We are trying everything we can to make it a different final with a different end," he said. "Here I am going to the final to get even more and more happy with my work."

Turkey made Brazil work hard twice in the World Cup. The Brazilians, considered a long shot by many people outside their country, won 2-1 in their opener on a controversial penalty kick by Rivaldo late in the game. In the semifinal, even though Brazil had many openings, Recber matched Marcos save for save.

Except for one, of course.

"This time they took it a bit more seriously," Turkey coach Senol Gunes said. "We have talented players. We wanted to be among the world's best, and we achieved that."

"The final against Germany will be relatively easy for them," Gunes added.

So bring on Germany, which, oddly, Brazil never has played in a World Cup.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bush encounters reluctance on Arafat-must-go policy

BY RON FOURNIER

AP White House Correspondent

KANANASKIS, Alberta — In the isolation of a heavily guarded mountain retreat, world leaders challenged President Bush's call for Yasser Arafat's ouster at a summit shaken by new economic tumult Wednesday.

Bush found scant outright support among Group of Eight leaders as he renewed his demand that Palestinians "make right decisions" and elect a new leader.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair came closest to the U.S. position — "there has been an attitude towards terrorism" under Arafat — while other leaders steered far clear of denouncing Arafat as they gathered in secluded serenity at a Canadian Rockies resort.

"With regards to the head of the Palestinian authority it is, naturally, for the Palestinian people — and them alone — to choose their representatives," French President Jacques Chirac told reporters.

The Mideast crisis consumed a large portion of closed-door talks on the first day of the summit, despite Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien's wish to focus on African aid, the global economy and terrorism.

In a grim reminder of threats posed by terrorism, camouflaged soldiers, tanks and anti-aircraft missiles stood guard over the green valleys and craggy peaks encircling the resort where Bush and his seven counterparts met.

They released a three-page agreement that seeks to combat terrorism by improving transportation security. The accord makes no immediate advances, but commits the nations work together on a series of initiatives such as new standards for reinforcing cockpit doors.

While the presidents and prime ministers easily formed a consensus against ter-



Katsumi Kasahara/Associated Press

G-8 leaders pose for photographers at the G-8 summit in Kananaskis, Alberta on Wednesday. From left are: Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, President Bush, French President Jacques Chirac, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Russian President Vladimir Putin, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, head of the rotating EU presidency, and European Commission President Romano Prodi.

rorism, they remained divided on other points, including Bush's trade and Middle East policies. Leaders sought vague agreement on African aid and efforts to help Russia manage its nuclear stockpile.

The sluggish U.S. economy also squeezed its way into the talks after Bush said a series of corporate scandals had helped weaken American markets.

"There are some concerns about the validity of the balance sheets of corporate America — and I can understand why," Bush said. "We've had too many cases of people abusing their responsibilities."

The remarks were prompted by news that telecommunications giant WorldCom Inc. misstated its earnings by \$3.8 billion. The revelation, which Bush called outrageous, rocked world economic markets.

"We will fully investigate and hold

people accountable for misleading not only shareholders but employees as well," Bush said.

Kept more than 60 miles from the summit site, anti-globalization protesters were less violent and turned out in smaller numbers than at past summits.

In relative solitude, the leaders tinkered with an African relief plan they expect to release Thursday. A senior German official said there was still debate over the percentage of overall foreign aid that each nation should dedicate to the continent.

Some countries want the bar set at 50 percent — a goal that other nations, including the United States, might find unrealistic.

With most of the sessions closed to the public, the leaders tried to make the best of their rare open sessions. Bush told reporters

said he had bumped into the British prime minister working out in the gym.

"An impressive regime," Bush said.

"You looked in pretty good shape yourself this morning," Blair replied.

On the Middle East, Chirac called for an international peace conference, a position at odds with Bush who has dropped talk of such a session until violence ebbs in the Middle East.

Bush advisers said the president doesn't disagree with Chirac and other European leaders who, traditionally more sympathetic to the Arab position, say that Palestinians — not America or its allies — must choose their government heads. U.S. officials said Bush won't interfere with Palestinian elections next year, even if Arafat is re-elected.

In one private session, according to a Canadian official, a leader asked who would decide whether Palestinian election results were legitimate.

Faced with the same question in his meeting with Blair, Bush replied, "The free world, the people that are going to be asked to put up money" to get the new Palestinian state on its feet.

"I can assure you we won't be putting any money into a society which is not transparent and corrupt," he said.

In a departure from most allies, Bush is warning Palestinians they cannot earn his support for statehood unless Arafat is thrust from power.

"That status quo is simply unacceptable, and it should be unacceptable to them," Bush said.

Blair gave that position a nod.

"It's not a question of saying we're going to tell people who they elect or not election. That's for them," Blair said. "But it's for us to say the consequences of electing people who aren't serious negotiating partners is that we can't move forward."

The case of the missing uranium — what else is gone?

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY

AP Special Correspondent

TBILISI, Georgia — International nuclear inspectors, already troubled by the disappearance of bomb-grade uranium from an ex-Soviet institute, want answers to an even more disturbing question: Has any equipment that makes such material disappeared as well?

The facts lie beyond easy reach, on the overgrown grounds of the abandoned facility in rebel-held Abkhazia, a breakaway province of this post-Soviet republic run by separatists as a de facto independent state since 1993.

Sometime after insurgents captured the Abkhazian capital, Sukhumi, driving Georgian scientists from the institute, its cache of highly enriched uranium — the stuff of nuclear bombs — vanished.

A 1993 inventory showed 655 grams (1.4 pounds) of the material at the site, the Sukhumi I. Vekua Institute of Physics and Technology. American nonproliferation specialists say Georgian sources report it may actually have totaled 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds).

It would probably take many times more than that to build a bomb. But the uranium dioxide pellets are of the highest grade — enriched to over 90 percent of the fissionable isotope U-235 — and it's the only known case of missing bomb uranium in the world, according to data maintained by California's Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Georgian authorities say they have no clue whether illicit traffickers, well-intentioned scientists or others took the material.

"There are many people who would be interested in it," the minister of Georgian state security, Valerian Khabardzania, said in an interview here in the Georgian capital, 210 miles southeast of the Black Sea coastal city of Sukhumi.

"It would have been easy for them to take it out by a ship coming in from Turkey, or from Ukraine. It's an

uncontrolled area."

Scientists of Russia's Atomic Energy Ministry, regaining brief access to the institute in 1997, later quietly informed Monterey nonproliferation experts that the uranium was missing from its bunker. In May 2001, an International Atomic Energy Agency mission, finally allowed to visit Sukhumi, also found no highly enriched uranium, said Kenji Murakami, safeguards division director, in a telephone interview last week from the Atomic Energy Agency headquarters in Vienna.

The IAEA mission was dispatched at Georgia's request and under U.N. auspices to inspect the security of cesium and other radioactive materials still at the institute. Security there was "far from acceptable," said an IAEA source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Sukhumi complex's work historically focused on enriching uranium to the high levels needed for bombs, and the U.N. agency, responsible for guarding against the spread of nuclear weapons, wants to learn what equipment was housed there and whether it is still there, the source said.

But the 2001 mission had neither the experts nor legal authority to conduct such an investigation. Even if it had easy access to Abkhazia, the IAEA still wouldn't have full international legitimacy for conducting an inspection; that would come only when the Georgian Parliament ratifies an international agreement granting the IAEA deeper access to nuclear programs.

The institute's history calls for such an investigation, the IAEA official said. "It needs a more extensive inspection" but, he said, "it needs a legal instrument."

Said another agency official, spokesman Mark Gwozdecky, "We're concerned about the situation in any non-nuclear-weapon state and the possibility they have equipment or material that could be involved in the development of nuclear weapons."

In the 1940s and 1950s, with the aid of physicists from

conquered Germany, Sukhumi scientists developed gaseous-diffusion and gas-centrifuge technologies, processes in which uranium isotopes are separated and enriched sufficiently to produce an atomic explosion.

After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Russian scientists at the institute withdrew to Russia, Georgia became independent, and ethnic Abkhazians rebelled. The last 200 scientists and technicians fled to Tbilisi in 1993.

Isolated Abkhazia, in an uneasy truce with Georgia, has no international recognition and access from Georgia is severely restricted.

For Iraq and other would-be nuclear powers, enrichment technology is a major stumbling block. Even 40-year-old centrifuges or other enrichment equipment, if available at Sukhumi, could benefit a state or group with nuclear ambitions, said physicist David Albright of Washington's Institute for Science and International Policy.

"Anything helps. They certainly would look for what they could learn there at Sukhumi. Proliferation has always happened through slow acquisition of equipment to build a program," said Albright, who helped stifle Iraq's plans as an IAEA inspector in the 1990s.

The Sukhumi institute eventually branched out to other fields. Its equipment inventory remains unknown to the IAEA, but institute staff may have worked on enrichment technology until the end. Ukrainian officials have disclosed that scientists who fled Sukhumi helped Ukraine develop its own centrifuge-enrichment technology in the 1990s.

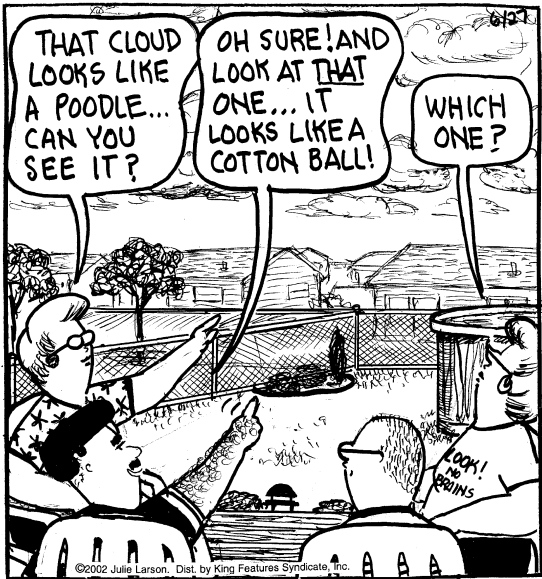
"The secrecy was so deep at Sukhumi. Nobody talked to each other about what was going on," said Valter Kashia, a space systems engineer who heads a Sukhumi institute-in-exile in Tbilisi.

Kashia said the secrecy might account for reports that the highly enriched uranium at Sukhumi amounted to more than indicated in the 1993 inventory. "The Russians there might have been up to other things."

COMICS



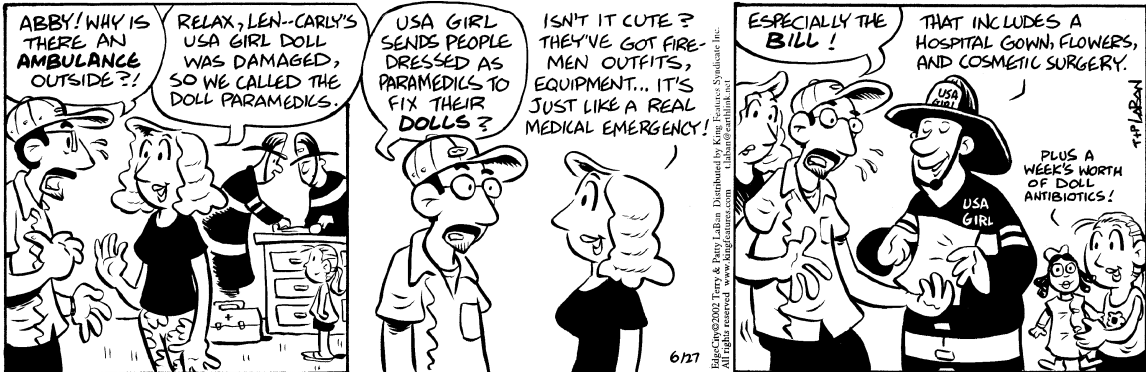
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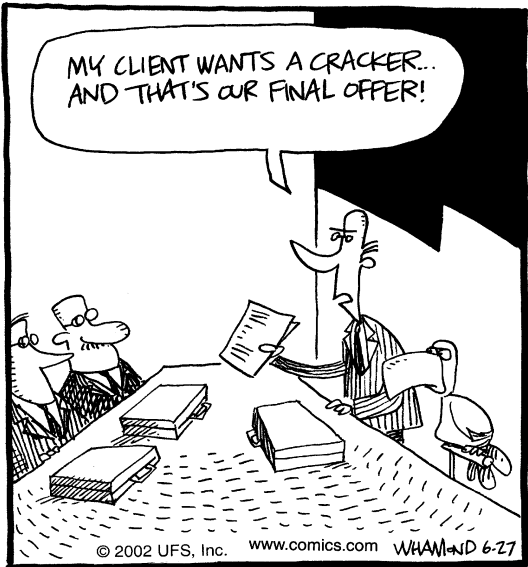
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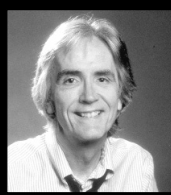
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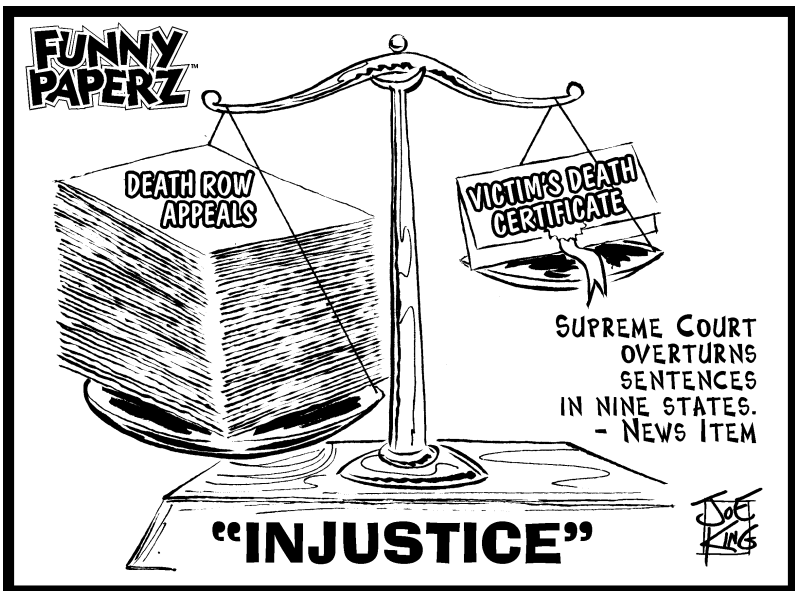


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Amish buggy racing causes collision

- Three young Amish drivers were charged with traffic violations after their late-night buggies' race caused a collision with another Amish-driven buggy (Leon, N.Y.).
- A 17-year-old boy who had allegedly vandalized a beekeeper's hives with a truck was identified because his family Bible had fallen out of the driver's side door during the incident (Northeast Harbor, Maine).
- A 24-year-old man dashed frenziedly out of his apartment after settling down to sleep and encountering a 3-foot-long snake under the sheets, left over from a previous tenant (Guelph, Ontario).





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SEA KAYAK Cobra Explorer sit on top. White with rear cut out for scuba, fins and snorkel or beer cooler. Two hatches, seat, paddle, and leg straps. Good condition. Excellent boat for surf, exploring, or just tooling around. Everything for \$400.00. (310)922-4060

Jewelry

INSTANT CASH FOR OLD JEWELRY AND OTHER UNUSUAL OLD INTERESTING THINGS. (310)393-1111

Rental Wanted

Comedy writer seeks apt. or room. Near UCLA. Cash or will trade plbg/service. Jim (310)902-1058.

For Rent

MARKET YOUR apartment in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters! For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

NEW STUDIO Apartments available from \$999.00 to \$1400.00. Six blocks from the beach. Three blocks from Third St. Promenade area! (310)656-0311. www.breezesuites.com

SANTA MONICA \$1150.00 2 bdrm, R/S, carpet, near SMC, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 Spacious studio, large bathroom. R/S, carpets. On Third St. Promenade. (310)917-2230

SANTA MONICA \$1300.00 2+2, R/S, carpets, large closets, laundry, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$2450.00 Luxurious condo, over 1800 sq. ft. Bright front unit, hardwood floors. Large deck, fireplace. (310)993-3631.

SANTA MONICA \$575.00 Bachelor, carpet, laundry. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$775.00 Furnished studio, R/S, carpet, laundry, parking, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$875.00 1 bdrm, R/S, carpets, near SMC, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA 1 bedroom, north of Wilshire, secluded cottage/bungalow. Wood floors, No pets. \$1,150. (310)395-2601

SANTA MONICA Sunset Park \$1900.00 Duplex 2bdrm/1bath. Bright, clean. Blonde hrdwd/floors, R/S, W/D. Separate dining area, fireplace. (310)392-1729.

SM OCEAN PARK \$2395.00 2bd/2ba duplex. Hardwood floors, fireplace. Bright spacious rooms. Double garage/workshop. Laundry, deck. Fenced/brick patio. Near beach/Main St. (310)452-1600.

Guest Houses

MARKET YOUR Guest House in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters. For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

SANTA MONICA \$750.00 Guest house, carpet, large closets, yard, utilities & cable included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Houses For Rent

MARKET YOUR rental house in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters. For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

SANTA MONICA \$1100.00 Cottage, R/S, hardwood floors, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 Duplex, hardwood floors, W?D hook-up, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1295.00 2 bdrm house, R/S, hardwood floors, yard, garage. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1600.00 2 bdrm house, pet ok, R/S, carpet, yard, near SMC, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$2700.00 House N. of Wilshire. 3 bdrm/1.5bath. Walk to Franklin Elementary and Lincoln Middle School. No pets. (310)854-5048.

VENICE WALK St. House near Abbot Kinney. 1bdrm plus bonus. Newly renovated 1923 original. Quiet, light, cheery. Hardwood floors, large closet, W/D, patio, yard, storage, pets negotiable. All utilities. Gardner. \$2500.00. 903 Nowita Place. (310)827-0222.

Roommates

ROOMMATE WANTED, Beverly Hills, \$450, utilities included. Own room, female preferred, excellent location. (310)489-8199.

SANTA MONICA House. \$800.00 Private bedroom plus share house. Yard, storage, parking. 1/2 utilities. (310)450-0910.

Commercial Lease

COMMERCIAL SPACE can be leased quickly if you market to the right crowd. Reach local business owners by running your listing in the Daily Press. Call (310)458-7737 to place your listing for only a buck a day.

OFFICE SUBLEASE, 1 office available, seconds to 10 and 405. \$600/month, avail. immediately, (310)392-6100.

Vehicles for sale

70 GRAND Torino. Runs good. New 2003 tags. \$1600.00 (310)313-0848.

Massage

MASSAGE CARING, soothing, relaxing full body therapeutic, Swedish / back walking. You will melt in my magic hands! Home/hotel/office/outdoors ok. 1-4 hours. Non sexual out call. Anytime or day. Page Doris (310)551-2121.

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310.458.7737 ext.101

CLASSIFIEDS



Massage

MASSAGE ENJOY a really great, amazing and wonderful full body massage. Swedish, deep-tissue and Tantra. (Platonic only!) No time limit. Will come to you. 24/7 Cute, slim, fit, petite mature chocolate. 14 years experience. Dolly's pager (310)236-9627.

PROFESSIONAL DEEPTISSUE massage by very fit therapist. Non-sexual. First visit only \$38/hr. Paul: (310)741-1901.

THE BEST solution to low cost advertising. Fill your appointment book by running your ad in the Daily Press. Only a buck a day, call (310)458-7737 to place your ad today.

TRADE MASSAGE? Looking for a female with or w/o formal training to trade massage with. Non-sexual. Paul: 310.741.1901.

VIBRATIONAL MASSAGE. I've been told this is better than sex. Outcall, non-sexual. \$20 for 30 minutes. Robert, (310)394-1533.

YOU'VE FOUND the lovely Dessarae. Hear me roar. Full body swedish, sensual massage. In/out call by a beautiful 27/year old. (310)319-1361.

Announcements

GET YOUR message out! For only a buck a day, call (310)458-7737 to run your announcement to over 15,000 interested readers daily.

HAVING A hair moment? Models needed, any service, upscale salon (Santa Monica). Call Q, (323)691-3563.

PRO SE of Neighborhood Project needs volunteers for events that honor our heroes. (310) 899-3888 pro.se@adelphia.net.

SANTA MONICA Children's Theatre Company. Professional training in singing, acting and dancing. Musical productions. (310)995-9636.

VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council! Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!

Services

ELECTRICAL WORK all types. Reasonable rates. \$35.00 Service Call. 25 years experience.

(310) 722-2644

Services

GUITAR LESSONS IN YOUR HOME. Learn guitar & have fun! Pete (818)563-2021.

HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

JAPANESE & Chinese tutoring. Language and culture. Office or home. \$24/hour. (310)738-4429

MEDICAL/DENTAL BENEFITS \$49.99/month for the entire family. (310)281-1920.

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT! Responsible/organized/energetic/punctual. Here to help keep your business organized and stress free. Brenda (310)450-3829.

A COMPASSIONATE Companion drives and accompanies you. Medical/Musical/Business/Travel events. \$18/hour (310)280-0695

QUICK AND Dirty (if the newspaper rubs off on your hands). Market your small business in our services section for a buck a day. Call (310)458-7737.

Services

TALENTED, DECORATIVE Painter. Walls, cabinets, furniture, moldings...glazing, antiquing, refinishing and much more! Call for estimate. (310)612-6042.

REMEDIES BY ROTH Carpentry, Handyman Services. Reasonable rates. Contact Michael: (310)829-1316 MSG. (323)610-1217 Cell.

Computer Services

COMPUTER & Networking Services Home or Office. PC & MAC. Honest & reliable w/ best rates. Includes 30 days Telephone Support & Warranty. 12 years exp. w/ References. Call Skye, Your Local Computer Guru @ 310-395-3939 anytime.

DURING THE day I work in High Technology Management. Everyone in the company relies on me for my computer expertise. I would rather work on my own. Digital Duchess 799-4929.

Classified Advertising Conditions

DOLLAR-A-DAY NON COMMERCIAL: Ad must run a minimum of 12 consecutive days. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. **REGULAR RATE:** \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 530 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 200. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

Can't find the Daily Press in your neighborhood? Call us. We'll take your suggestions.

(310) 458-PRESS (7737)

Calendar

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
About a Boy (PG-13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
The Sum of all Fears (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
The Bourne Identity (PG-13) 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Windtalkers (NR) 12:40, 4:00, 7:20, 10:40
Minority Report (PG-13) 11:30, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30
Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood (PG-13) 11:10, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
Bad Company (PG-13) 11:15, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:45
My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:20, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Spider-Man (PG-13) 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35
Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones (PG) 12:10, 3:15, 6:30, 9:35
Scooby Doo (PG) 11:50, 7:20, 9:50
Undercover Brother (PG-13) 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
Lilo & Stich (PG) 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15
Insomnia (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30
Juwanne Mann 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Thirteen Conversations About One Thing (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
The Fast Runner: Atanarjuat (NR) 11:30, 3:15, 7:30.

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
The Importance of Being Earnest (PG) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
Sunshine State (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10.

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Today

community

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.

Santa Monica Strutters, 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 Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

classes

Los Angeles Arts Academy, Summer Art Camp in Santa Monica & Westchester. Ages 5 to 13 years old. Lots of fun: art, acting, singing, karaoke, drawing, sculpture, drum circles, field trips & more! June 24 through August 16, M-F 9 a.m. To 3 p.m. (except field trip days). Now enrolling! laarts@earthlink.net.

entertainment

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.

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.

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.

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.

Cara Rosellini hosts The Gaslite's Comic Review, followed by open-mic comedy karaoke, at The Gaslite, 2030 Wilshire Blvd. 7:30 p.m. FREE! (310)829-2382.

Soul Station, Soul Jazz Soul, Dwight Trible & Friends, Damon Aaron, Babalade Olamina. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310)393-6611.

Poetry N Go Club, 8 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Friday

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.

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.

galleries/arts

TAG, The Artists' Gallery presents an evening of Spoken Word with local poets Susan Adhoot and Deborah Edler Brown. Admission is free, all are welcome, refreshments will be served. 7:00 p.m. TAG, The Artists' Gallery 2903 Santa Monica. (North-east corner of Santa Monica Blvd and Yale) (310)829-9556.

theatre/arts

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.

Los Angeles Arts Academy, Summer Art Camp in Santa Monica & Westchester. Ages 5 to 13 years old. Lots of fun: art, acting, singing, karaoke, drawing, sculpture, drum circles, field trips & more! June 24 through August 16, M-F 9 a.m. To 3 p.m. (except field trip days). Now enrolling! laarts@earthlink.net.

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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.

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

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.

Komdey Krunch. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Larry & Christian Show: sketch comedy, 8p.m. Comedy Underground, 320 Wilshire Blvd. *The showtime entrance is in the alley. Show info/Reservation line: (310)451-1800. No drink minimum!

Earl Harvin Trio, 9:00 pm, Los Hombres Calientes feat. Bill Summers & Irvin Mayfield, 11:00 pm. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310)393-6611.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.

Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@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

87-year-old man deemed sexy

By The Associated Press

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — He's 87 years old and still wears his trademark yellow swimsuit, but water skier "Banana" George Blair is still among the ranks of the nation's sexiest men.

Blair is the oldest of the more than 80 athletes featured in Sports Illustrated Women's 2002 swimsuit issue, which hit the stands Tuesday.

"There must be quite a few people out there who think I'm sexy. I'm elated. I'm just elated!" Blair said. "This is one of the biggest compliments I've ever received."

Blair learned to water ski at age 40 and began barefoot skiing six years later.

At age 81, he drove a race car for the first time, then learned to skydive the next year. Blair surfed for the first time when he was 83 and learned to bull ride at age 85.

Literature and libations

By The Associated Press

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. — A glass of wine with that book? A sip of specialty liquor-laced coffee with that CD?

Borders bookstore patrons will soon offer those options after the city council unanimously approved a request to permit the transfer of a liquor license to a restaurant inside a Borders store, The Detroit News reported in a Wednesday story.

Alcohol consumption will not be allowed inside the bookstore section and the restaurant where the liquor will be served will have its own separate entrance, said Dana Whinnery, Farmington Hills' assistant city manager.

Cosi, the New York-based company behind the

restaurant, started the concept in Paris and Manhattan.

Liquor licenses are still being sought, said attorney Kelly Allen, who represents the company in Michigan. The license still must be approved by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Sisters compete for pageant title

By The Associated Press

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — Venus and Serena Williams aren't the only sisters in competition.

This year's Miss Maryland contest is also a sister act. Rachel Ellsworth, 18, and sister Angela, 21, both want to represent Maryland in the Miss America pageant. Both are tap dancers. Both want careers in health care — one as a pediatrician, the other as a nurse.

"I don't think there is a feeling of 'I want to beat you,'" their mother Pam said. "It's not dog eat dog with them."

The pageant, ending with one woman winning \$18,750 in scholarship money, begins Thursday in Hagerstown's historic Maryland Theatre and culminates Saturday night.

Extermination rule 'batty'

By The Associated Press

BRADENTON, Fla. — Grant Griffin's one-bedroom apartment isn't big enough for him, and more importantly, bats have turned up in his shower, sink and sheets. So he is moving.

Exterminators aren't allowed to kill the bats, which are considered native wildlife and can't be trapped or poisoned, said University of Florida assistant professor Mark Hostetler. They can only be killed if they are rabid, which county health officials are testing for after Griffin and his girlfriend discovered bite marks.

"I'm freaked out. I'm about as freaked out as I can get," said Griffin, 49. "I feel like there are things crawling all over me."

Bats can be locked out of houses by closing up the holes — as small as half an inch — where they enter.

But now, in the peak of the three-month bat birthing season, that would prevent mother bats from returning to their babies inside the house. The babies would die and the stench would be unbearable, said Hostetler.

Baby born at Wal-Mart

By The Associated Press

ALBANY, Ga. — Shenna Williams was feeling labor pains, but she and her mother thought they had plenty of time to buy a disposable camera at Wal-Mart before going to the hospital.

While her mother, Katherine Williams, was in the store looking for the camera, Shenna's pain increased.

"I heard someone scream out. I said 'Lord, that's my child,'" Katherine Williams said Tuesday.

By the time she reached the front of the store, her daughter was on a bench by the cash registers preparing for birth.

Shenna said she managed to stay calm. "I just thought, 'I'm fixin' to be a mama now, I can't be scared,'" she said.

Michael Jerrod Williams was born at 6:15 a.m. Saturday and greeted by shoppers and store employees. Several recorded the event with disposable cameras.

"It's still all everybody's talking about," assistant manager Retha Simpson said. "Especially the ones that were working and saw the actual birth. It's still big news."

The store donated gifts, and Shenna named night manager Adrian Wright as godfather.

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What do Shaq and Lenny Krayzelberg have in common?

as quoted in USA Today



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