

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

36, 13, 12 21, 33

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Afternoon picks: 8, 2, 1

Evening picks: 4, 5, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 09, Winning Spirit

2nd Place: 03, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:48.39



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Davidson County (Tenn.) judge Ellen Hobbs rejected the death-row appeal of murderer Abu-Ali Abdur Rahman, 52, scheduled for June 18, ruling that the state's lethal-injection cocktail is constitutional, even though one of the three drugs involved (Pavulon) is banned in Tennessee for animal euthanasia. And a congressional committee staff revealed in May that five U.S. companies that have relocated their headquarters offshore in order to avoid federal taxes were nonetheless awarded a total of nearly \$1 billion of taxpayer money in federal government contracts over the last fiscal year.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Behind every great fortune there there is a crime."

— Honoré de Balzac



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Judge: Evidence exists to try ex-con for murder

DA's case against Paleologus is 'ridiculous,' defense lawyer says

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The ex-convict accused of allegedly killing a Santa Monica woman will stand trial for capital murder charges, a judge ruled Thursday.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's office wrapped up its case against Victor Paleologus on Thursday during the second day of his preliminary trial, which allows the state to show it has enough evidence to argue the charges in front of a jury.

Parents of slain woman protest attorney's tactics

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The parents of a slain Santa Monica woman left the courtroom in downtown Los Angeles on Thursday relieved that the man accused of allegedly killing their only daughter will stand trial on capital murder charges.

Terry Wark and Kirk Johnson, parents of Kristi Johnson, sat through two days of testimony detailing the events that led up to their daughter's Feb. 15 murder.

Accused killer Victor Paleologus sat next to his defense lawyer, Andrew Flier, in an orange prison jumpsuit with shackles around his ankles. He avoided eye contact with Wark and Johnson, who sat behind him throughout the trial.

Paleologus was active in his defense, whispering to Flier and making notes during the testimony of nine police officers.

Kirk Johnson, who

See FAMILY, page 7

Paleologus, 40, could face the death penalty for allegedly killing 21-year-old Kristi Johnson. He allegedly lured her by posing as a publicity photographer and telling her she had a good chance of becoming the next James Bond girl in an upcoming film.

Johnson disappeared Feb. 15 after telling her roommates she was going to a photo shoot in Beverly Hills. She was found dead March 3 at the bottom of a ravine in Laurel Canyon, a remote neighborhood in the Hollywood Hills. Her ankles were bound and she was covered with a sleeping bag.

An autopsy on Johnson's body revealed that she was sexually assaulted and died of strangulation, as well as being the victim of blunt-force trauma and other contusions, said Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Eleanor Hunter.

Six Santa Monica Police officers and three officers from the Beverly Hills Police Department testified against Paleologus during the trial. They laid out evidence that the prosecution says

See TRIAL, page 7

Dixie dudes



Alex Cantarero/Daily Press

The Preservation Hall Jazz Band kicked off the 19th Twilight Dance Series on Thursday with its brand of Dixieland jazz. The event takes place each Thursday at the Santa Monica Pier from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. throughout the summer. Each week a different band or artist plays for free.

SMC teachers file lawsuit over layoffs, program cuts

Eight faculty members want programs, positions reinstated

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A handful of teachers filed a lawsuit against Santa Monica College, its board of directors and its president, alleging the school acted illegally when it axed six academic programs and laid off eight full-time teachers for next year.

The lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court earlier this month by the eight laid off teachers, demands the school immediately rehire the teachers and reinstate the cut programs.

"Most districts follow the law more carefully when they lay off teachers," said Lantz Simpson, president of the Faculty Association, a teacher union. "This is not common."

Simpson said SMC violated state and school procedure by failing to legally support or explain its decision to cut the programs and lay off the teachers.

But SMC officials maintained they've followed all the appropriate guidelines and

point to an administrative law judge's May 5 ruling that supported their decision.

"I'm not surprised (by the lawsuit)," said Robert Sammis, the vice president of human resources at SMC. "It's the typical process after an administrative layoff."

"They're looking for another chance," he added. "It's a long shot and I think they realize that."

Sammis said there are likely to be many more layoffs before the school bridges next year's multi-million dollar deficit. Eighty percent of SMC's \$112 million budget is spent on salaries, said Randy Lawson, vice president of academic affairs at the school.

The lawsuit follows a tempestuous debate administrators and the board of trustees are having with faculty at SMC, where officials are facing a multi-million dollar budget deficit for next year.

The eight teachers who brought the suit are Edward F. Bermudez, Mike H. Brandt, William Hogan, Richard V. Johncola, Stuart Sam, Lyle G. Stevenson, John Verdugo and Paul Walters.

In an effort that is estimated to save the

See FACULTY, page 6



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, June 27, 2003:

Much happens behind the scenes, which you choose to keep hush-hush. Unusually good news heads your way because of a natural asset. Finances strengthen if you use this asset properly. In fact, you could be more than delighted by what comes your way. Someone close to you could dissipate your funds if you let him or her handle them. Be discerning about all financial affairs involving others. You need to center yourself this year if you are to flourish. If single, you will easily meet people in September. Someone new could delight you and might become very special in the long-term. If attached, your relationship will be enhanced by frequent isolated getaways together. GEMINI understands you.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Act on inspiration; it could take you new places. Brainstorm, whether you're looking at political issues or a personal matter. Everyone can benefit from others' opinions — not that you have to run with everyone's thoughts. Tonight: Join a friend at a preferred haunt.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Finances flex and take you in a new direction if you're willing to absorb another's viewpoint rather than being "right." Opportunities come out of left field, which could involve property, family and/or real estate. Keep your security orientation. Tonight: Your treat.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You say what you feel, and others respond with phrases like "My, what a wonderful idea" or "Let's do it now." Respond to the moment. Allow multilevel communication to flourish. Read between the lines with a boss or key personality. Tonight: As you like it.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Step back and let others put their cards on the table. You might find that what someone else offers is just perfect. You might want to keep your opinions to yourself, but your smile tells it all. Others want to do for you. Let it happen. Tonight: Do your thing.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Meetings and get-togethers take you in a new direction. Visualize more of what you would like with the help of others. You could be surprised. Talk about what you want; others — especially one other person — could be enthralled. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Take your time with decision-making, even if you're absolutely sure. You could be surprised by what someone offers if you just hold back a little. Your willingness to integrate new ideas makes you the office sweetheart. A boss appreciates you. Tonight: Be present in the moment.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Mentally, you might be already gone. Prepare to take off in the near future. Don't do anything halfway if you can avoid it. Brainstorm in a meeting, and you could be delighted with the results. Take off your rose-colored glasses when looking at a relationship. Tonight: Ah, now relax.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to work with another rather than make a quick or snap judgment. This person has much more to offer than you might have originally realized. Think in terms of gains through working more with this person. Tonight: Dinner for two.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ No matter what you do, you end up pleased. Others naturally seek you out. Follow up on what you think might be right or something you have a hunch about. Good news comes from communicating. Return all calls! Tonight: You might want to do two or three different things.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Pace yourself carefully, as you might have a lot more ground to cover than you originally anticipated. Your lively ways draw a partner or a special new friend. You might finally give in to a long-desired purchase. You finally decide to go for it! Tonight: Run a special errand on the way home.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You clearly inspire others to a new level, especially those close to you. A new friendship could have a dreamy quality. Children are delighted with your company. With your popularity cresting, you might want to make this an early day. Tonight: Only where you can have fun.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your mind might be on family or a roommate. Check out an investment or a piece of real estate. Clear out an excess of energy by getting your work done and/or getting some extra exercise. Both might help you chill out while feeling great about what you're doing. Tonight: Happy at home.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sparks to cleanup Santa Monica Bay

By Daily Press staff

The Los Angeles Sparks will be at Santa Monica Beach on Sunday helping to make the beach a little cleaner for everyone.

Members of the professional women's basketball team will arrive at 10 a.m., just north of the Santa Monica Pier.

A few minutes later, Heal the Bay, one of the largest non-profit organizations in Los Angeles County, will make a presentation. Heal the Bay is asking for help from everyone to help make the Santa Monica Bay safe and healthy for both people and marine life.

The event will last all morning and into the afternoon. Fans who want to meet Sparks players are encouraged to attend and help them clean up the beach.

Planetarium to honor red planet

By Daily Press staff

With the excitement generated by the upcoming historic Mars "opposition" — as well as the launching of new Mars rovers — Santa Monica College's John Drescher Planetarium will present shows in July and, for the first time, in August that focus on the red planet.

The Planetarium shows — held every Friday in July and August except for July 4 — will take advantage of the upcoming Mars "opposition" on Aug. 28. That means that Mars will be the closest to Earth it has been since the Ice Age, 60,000 years ago.

The lineup is:

- "Janet Planet Planetarium Show" at 7 p.m., which will feature Mars.
- "Martian Closeup Part I" in July and "Martian Closeup Part II" in August, both at 8 p.m.

■ Instead of "Martian Closeup Part I" at 8 p.m. on July 25, the Planetarium will present a guest lecture, "Rocking and Rolling on Mars," by Albert Haldemann, deputy project scientist for the Jet Propulsion Lab's Mars Exploration Rovers. One Mars rover was launched earlier in June and another is scheduled to be launched June 28.

"Janet Planet" and "Martian Closeup" are held in SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The guest lecture on July 25 is held in Room 140 of the Science Complex, 1900 Pico Blvd.

"July and August are going to be out of this world in the planetarium, and we urge all attendees to wear red to celebrate Mars when they come to our family-oriented shows," said Shelley Bonus, who conducts the entertaining and informative "Janet Planet" and feature lectures at SMC.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$8 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

Citizens to discuss noise ordinance

By Daily Press staff

An ad hoc Citizen Task Force on Noise Abatement will meet Monday, June 30. Task force leaders say the planning department's draft noise ordinance update is seriously deficient in protecting neighborhoods. They intend to draft their own suggested ordinance and discuss enforcement options, according to a press release.

The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday at the Ken Edwards Center, located at 1527 Fourth Street in Santa Monica.



Swell was slowly winding down on Thursday with a touch of wind swell leftover, helping to cross things up at the better combo breaks. Standout spots pulled in a few overhead set waves in the morning, with average summer spots in the waist-chest high range.

BAD NEWS: Onshore winds in the evening.

GOOD NEWS: A handful of swells are hitting spots all over L.A.

OUTLOOK: A new, shadowed SW swell will build, offering up very inconsistent, but fun surf this weekend. Another S swell starts to build on Wednesday. Tropical Storm Carlos is now roughly 180 miles SSE of Acapulco, Mexico. It doesn't look like we'll get any juice, but stay tuned.

(Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? E-mail wood@smdp.com and let us know.)

Today the water is:

66°

Sunrise: 5:50 a.m.
Sunset: 8:15 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:50	-0.5	2:34	2.5	10:26	3.5	8:55	6.1
SUNDAY	4:24	-0.6	3:08	2.5	11:04	3.6	9:29	6.1
MONDAY	4:59	-0.7	3:45	2.6	11:42	3.6	10:04	6.1
TUESDAY	5:35	-0.7	4:25	2.7	(12:22)	3.6	10:41	6.0
WEDNESDAY	6:12	-0.6	5:11	2.7	(1:04)	3.7	11:21	5.7
THURSDAY	6:51	-0.4	6:09	2.8	N/A	N/A	1:48	3.8
FRIDAY	7:32	-0.1	7:23	2.8	12:07	5.3	2:32	4.1

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responses on page 4!!



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OPINION

The Q-Line

Readers sound off on increased parking ticket prices

This week, Q-line asked:

"Is \$47 too much to pay for a parking ticket? In what other areas could the city make some extra cash?"

Here are your responses:

■ "No I don't think \$47 is excessive for a ticket in the preferential parking area. After all, these people have to go to City Hall every year to get parking permits and when people who don't have permits park in these areas, the people who do have the permits have to park one or two blocks away from where they live. There are signs that visibly say two-hour parking and if these fools can't read the sign then they need to get ticketed. I walk every day and every day I see at least five to 10 cars parked in preferential spots that don't have preferential tags and they don't care. When you dance, you have to pay the fiddler, so you have to pay the \$47. If they get enough tickets, they're not going to park there anymore."

■ "Many years ago when the City of Santa Monica raised the bail on parking tickets from \$2 to \$5, I prudently began placing my loose change in the ashtray of my car. By doing so, I have always had change on hand for the meters. I have not had a parking ticket for the past 30 years."

■ "I think the increases are way too excessive. The way to increase revenue within the city is to clean up the city and get rid of the vagrants. The drain they make on city resources and lost revenue, since many visitors now shop and dine elsewhere, would contribute mightily to the short-fall."

■ "I can't wait for the next election because I'm going to be a candidate. I want prices rolled back and pennies to go into the meters again. I want all of those dividers that are not safe to be removed. We've got to get the city moving again, literally. I want all the preferential parking removed and I want four hours of free parking in the public structures."

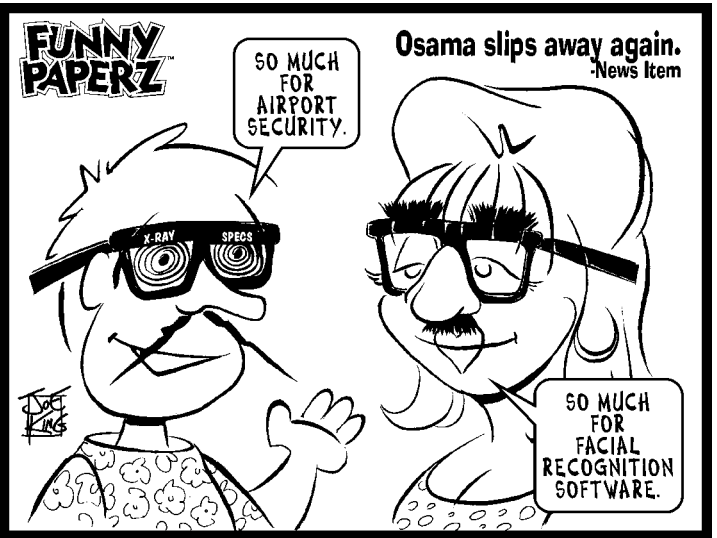
■ "A \$40 fine would be a fair amount. But I would really like to see the Santa Monica Police enforce the law against bicycle-riding on the sidewalk. Just about everyone who owns a bicycle thinks the sidewalks belong to them. It's extremely dangerous, especially for seniors. I had one fool on a bicycle tell me to wake up and get out of his way. A \$25 or \$30 ticket on them would bring in plenty of extra cash. Of

course, enforcement is the answer but right now we do not have that from the Santa Monica Police. However, they do a great job in writing tickets for jay-walking. They seem to have the time for that kind of violation. It appears that someone will have to be killed or severely injured before anyone will take any action."

■ "The City Council vultures are at it again. Hit us where it hurts. I personally think that these high cost tickets to the public who want to spend their money in Santa Monica is out of control. Such greed! For more revenues to the city, I would cancel two needless projects: the \$70 million Taj Mahal library project and the fluoridation scam."

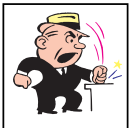
■ "Because the Council doesn't know how to budget, plan, or much less run a city, [Councilman] Bob Holbrook is the only one with common sense. Yes, these new parking tickets are way out of line. They are totally undeserved."

See Q-LINE, page 5



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City's parking policy is downright schizophrenic



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

It looks as if we are finally going to have preferential parking in our neighborhood. It's about time, too — five years after we petitioned the city.

The area on both sides of the Montana Avenue shopping district is one of the last neighborhoods adjacent to a busy, commercial strip to finally receive preferential parking. Zone "G" was approved by the City Council on Tuesday night.

Preferential parking zones were originally established along the coastal area, near hospitals, around Santa Monica College, adjacent to Main Street, around downtown and near other high-traffic areas.

Locals felt streets were being commandeered by nonresidents — tourists, employees, students, shoppers and other interlopers. Preferential or permit zones restrict or completely prohibit nonresident parking.

Residential streets near Lincoln, Pico, Santa Monica Boulevard, Wilshire, Broadway, Montana and even 26th Street and San Vicente now have restricted parking. Two-thirds of the city's streets have

restrictions to facilitate resident parking.

Many Montana Avenue businesses don't have on-site parking and residents complain that shoppers and employees wrest scarce parking from residents.

Five blocks in the single family residential area north of Montana already have parking restrictions. None of the streets south of Montana are restricted.

However, neighbors on two Idaho Avenue blocks and 11th and 12th streets north of Montana submitted petitions requesting restrictions, thus triggering action.

The city's traffic management department studied the area from Idaho to Alta, Lincoln to 17th Street. It determined that residents were displaced by nonresidents — a situation that always results in restrictions to make it easier for residents to park near their homes.

Many of the city's preferential zones require permits most of the time, such as the large Broadway/Santa Monica Boulevard neighborhood from Lincoln eastward, where permits are required 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. — 19 hours a day. In Sunset Park, permits are mandatory weekdays and weekday evenings over 40 square blocks.

However, when it came to parking mitigation for neighbors around the Montana Avenue commercial district, city staff apparently and inexplicably concluded that it was time to penalize residents for a

change.

Staff recommended two-hour parking for one side of the street (permit holders excepted) and unrestricted parking on the other side — for the entire area — including the streets that already had more stringent restrictions in place.

In other words, one-half of a preferential zone.

Allowing single side, unrestricted parking allows those storing cars, long-term parkers and nonresidents to monopolize half the available parking.

Residents and shoppers are left to fight for the remaining two-hour side.

When it came time for the City Council to approve staff recommendations, it all was going down hard. Herb Katz thinks preferential parking "is wrong," so he voted no.

Herb's been consistently against preferential zones and he's right. They're a pain in the behind. But with two-thirds of the city's streets already restricted, nobody wants to be shortchanged at this stage.

Councilwoman O'Connor couldn't figure out why one side of the street was bad for the neighborhood. She argued for business parking to stay on our streets because, if they don't park here, they'll park on someone else's street. She said the problem will expand as displaced nonresidents seek parking further out.

O'Connor lives on Ninth Street, just outside the zone.

Councilman McKeown joined the majority and voted "yes." I'm thankful for his vote but he should have recused himself because he lives within the zone, on 16th Street.

Keep in mind, restrictions only apply to blocks where submitted petitions have been approved — a fraction of the zone. However, as more petitions are submitted additional blocks will come on line.

The City Council's agonizing over one side, two sides, one hour, two hours, or even whether to approve anything illustrates how goofy this whole situation has become. And, if things weren't wacky enough, they ordered staff to develop guidelines for issuing a limited number of nonresident "employee permits" if they determine our neighborhood is under-parked.

Huge sections of the city are much more restrictive than our neighborhood. No one is suggesting issuing employee permits for these areas. Nobody is promoting employee parking in the many zones where "permit only" restrictions have left streets virtually empty, most of the time.

The city's parking policy is beyond goofy, it's down right schizophrenic.

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

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

OPINION



The Q-Line

Q-LINE, from page 4

■ “New parking ticket rates are totally absurd. It’s typical of a socialist-run city by people who have never had to face or pay a payroll in their lives. That is no business sense or experience. Yet, they’re running a good city into the ground. “No” on the new parking rates.”

■ “\$47 is too much to pay for a parking ticket. I believe that the city is worrying a lot about the schools. In part, they should start thinking about paying for some of the expenses of the schools like in any other reasonable country where they pay for schooling. Like in Paraguay, everything has to be free. So I hope they will take something like that into consideration.”

■ “I’m with the Citizens Against Noise and I think the city can raise extra cash by cutting down on honkers. It is illegal to honk except in the case of emergencies, which means that you can save someone’s life, which of course never happens. So, for all intents and purposes, honking is always illegal. The fine in Los Angeles for this is ridiculously low. It’s \$70. Compare that with New York City where it’s \$700. It should be raised in L.A. and enforced. The noise polluter lowers the quality of life for everyone. It’s not only the car in front of the honker, it’s the hundreds of people who live in residential neighborhoods who are subjected to this noise pollution.”

■ “Parking tickets are already too high. Everybody is already getting these tickets and it’s outrageous. A woman took her children to the park for a game and the park had limited parking and she parked. And to take her children to the park cost her \$47. She can’t afford it! What I’d like to know is what do they do with all this money?”

■ “\$47 is an outrageous price to have to pay for a parking ticket. I suggest that the city save money by scrapping the iron chairs situated on the Santa Monica beach. Scrap the so called “wave” that spans Wilshire Boulevard, looking like something the contractor forgot to take. Scrap the so called “chain reaction” sitting near the auditorium looking like an

atomic explosion. And scrap any other piece of junk of the same ilk referred to by some misguided person as art. I’m sure the scrap merchant would be very pleased to purchase those items for better use. Then fire the person who declared those pieces of junk to be art. And then shut down the department where that person was employed, never to be opened again.”

■ “I don’t think \$47 is too much to pay for a parking ticket. I hope the city makes a lot of money from these increased fines to meet other financial needs. My concern is that people who squawk about raising these parking ticket fees are saying that they’re being charged too much for breaking the law. I wish there was some way we could educate people to avoid parking tickets by obeying the law. They need to slow down, use the bus, or shop when it’s not so busy. In other words, use their common sense to avoid breaking the law instead of squawking that they’re being overcharged. We don’t want people to over-park. We want parking to be fair but there’s only so much land and it has to be maintained. I get very irritated by people who complain about parking fines.”

■ “\$47 is too much for a parking ticket as are all the other ticket increases. As far as improving the financial state of this city, I say we have a special election and replace the current mayor and City Council and start all over. These people have contributed and, in many cases, caused the current mess. We need fresh blood — people with integrity, insight and real concern for the citizenry.”

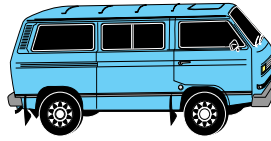
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LOCAL

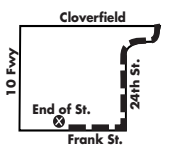
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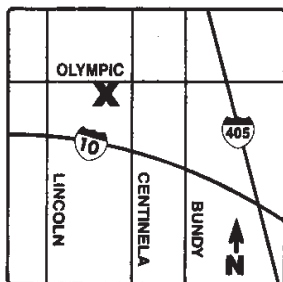
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Instructors claim college acted illegally with cuts

FACULTY, from page 1

school more than \$1 million, the board voted in May to eliminate six academic programs: architecture, geographic information services, public safety, recreation, tourism and hospitality and transportation technology.

Eight full-time faculty and dozens of part-time instructors lost their jobs as a result of the cuts, which left more than 500 students without a major course of study.

A handful of student and faculty groups had asked the school to plug the deficit without cutting programs, mostly by encouraging early retirements and trimming class offerings.

When administrators went ahead with the cuts anyway — saying they were acting to impact the least amount of students possible — SMC faculty and classified workers voted overwhelmingly for a vote of no confidence in Piedad Robertson, SMC's president.

They also made a call to action to SMC's board of trustees, demanding it reinstate the cut programs.

Then came the lawsuit. As well as challenging the way the school went about making the cuts, the lawsuit called the decision to cut transportation technology arbitrary, saying the estimated savings are dwarfed by the actual value of the equipment.

It also alleges that three of the eight laid-off teachers are competent to fill positions for which junior teachers have been hired.

"The remedy is that they be reinstated," Lantz said. "By the time the decision comes down they should have been working or we also want back pay."

Sammis said he expects the lawsuit to be turned down. He said it doesn't raise any legal arguments that were not addressed in the May hearing.

Herb Roney, chairman of the board of trustees, agreed.

"We've followed the processes that we know are mandated by code," said Roney, adding that the cuts were difficult but necessary.

While administrators figure SMC's

"It's a long shot and I think they realize that."

— ROBERT SAMMIS

Vice president of human resources, SMC

deficit for next year to be in the neighborhood of \$9.5 million, Simpson said it's actually closer to \$4 million, mostly from increased retirement and bonus costs.

Scott Lay, budget director for the Community College League of California, said that although the situation in state funding is much improved over the 10 percent cut schools were bracing for in March, there may still be some substantial shortcomings.

"The community college budget had been in such a yo-yo ride for the last six months," he said. "It's been a real challenge to the districts on how best to get through this crisis while keeping their doors open."

The state's annual \$4.8 billion contribution to California's 108 community colleges is currently expected to be down by 2 percent, Lay said. And the state controller announced this week that funding for community colleges will be delayed until a budget is adopted, a move that could quickly exhaust smaller school's reserve funds, Lay said.

To make things worse, Lay said Davis may wait on the results of the recall effort before making his final decision on the budget.

"If that's the case, a lot of community colleges will shut down," he said. "I can't underestimate how critical the situation is."



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LOCAL



Paleologus could face death penalty if found guilty

TRIAL, from page 1

links him to the events leading up to Johnson's disappearance.

The evidence also was meant to establish a pattern by Paleologus in which he lured at least seven other women by posing as a photographer for a James Bond movie or as a industry executive. In most cases, Paleologus asked the women to show up to the photo shoots wearing provocative clothing, including black high-heel stiletto pump shoes, a short black mini-skirt and nylons, according to testimony.

Those items of clothing are consistent with at least some of those Johnson was wearing when she was found dead. She also tried on the clothing at her 29th Street apartment for her roommate shortly before going to meet Paleologus on Feb. 15, SMPD Detective John Henry testified.

Henry also testified that Johnson's roommate said she had trouble walking in the six-inch high heels she had just purchased that day at the Century City Mall, where she reportedly had met Paleologus earlier.

Based on interviews with the roommate, Henry testified that Johnson was apprehensive about meeting Paleologus but very excited about the prospect of being the next James Bond girl.

Two days after Johnson's disappearance, Paleologus was arrested for allegedly stealing a BMW X-5 series from a Beverly Hills dealership under a stolen identity. He was taken to Los Angeles Men's Jail at the Twin Towers facility, where he was held with no bail because of a parole violation.

He had been released from state prison Jan. 20 after serving time for unrelated felony.

SMPD Sgt. Michael Cabrera testified that when he went to pick Paleologus up for questioning on Feb. 28 regarding Johnson's disappearance, jail personnel couldn't find him. The entire jail was put into lockdown mode while prison officials searched for him.

Paleologus was eventually found in the jail's kitchen — where he had no permission to be. Cabrera testified that he interviewed two inmates who load garbage into the trash compactor near the kitchen who said Paleologus offered them \$5,000 to help him escape.

Paleologus told his fellow inmates he was facing a life/death sentence, Cabrera testified. Both inmates described Paleologus as a "crazy" man who looked nervous and scared, Cabrera testified.

When Paleologus was transported to SMPD headquarters, Cabrera said he removed two paperback books from Paleologus' back pocket. Inside one of them was a folded up piece of toilet paper containing a one-inch long razor blade, leading officers to believe Paleologus would use it as a weapon.

Paleologus' attorney, Andrew Flier, who spent much of the trial attempting to poke holes in the officers' testimony, suggested that the razor blade could have been used for clipping fingernails or as an eating utensil.

Flier said Paleologus is innocent and is being targeted because of his criminal past. Paleologus has been convicted of six felonies since 1998 ranging from grand theft to burglary to assault.

Paleologus received three years probation after a jury deadlocked on charges against him in 1991 for attempted rape, assault and false imprisonment. In that case, he allegedly lured a woman into a hotel room after telling her she would meet famous people, including Madonna, at a party for record executives. Paleologus then allegedly tied the woman to a hotel bed and attempted to rape her but she was able to escape.

In his closing arguments, Flier said the prosecution failed "miserably" and offered a "ridiculous" case in seeking the capital murder charge.

"Unless I've been sleeping for the past two days, I have not heard one cent of evidence that Mr. Paleologus was lying in wait," Flier said, adding his client would have had to have waited and watched for an opportune time to ambush Johnson.

Deputy DA Hunter disagreed and said the evidence shows Paleologus' pattern of picking up women at shopping malls by saying he is a movie producer or photographer.

"He lures these poor women and acts out his fantasy," she said.

Detective Henry also offered testimony that placed Paleologus at an International House of Pancakes in West Hollywood just hours after he allegedly killed Johnson.

After retrieving Paleologus' cell phone from the L.A. County Jail, he found the name and number of an acquaintance Paleologus had met on Jan. 24. After interviewing the man, Henry learned that the two men met at the restaurant shortly after midnight on Feb. 16. The man told police that when Paleologus showed up, he noticed a 1 1/2 inch scratch above his right eye, Henry testified.

Two days later, Paleologus was arrested by Beverly Hills police after he allegedly stole the BMW off the car dealership lot. He ran from police after driving to the Beverly Center parking garage. There, he got out of the car and ran down Third Street and into the kitchen of sushi restaurant, where he was apprehended, police testified.

Paleologus was found with three different forms of identification — two driver's licenses and a visa card belonging to other men, and financial information belonging to the man Paleologus allegedly tried to purchase the BMW with.

The man whose driver's license and credit card Paleologus told police he had last seen it in the gym locker of the Century Plaza Hotel, where the St. Regis Hotel is and located within minutes of the Century City Mall.

Johnson's car was valet parked at the St. Regis Hotel on Feb. 16 but wasn't found for more than a week.

A real estate agent, who told police he had shown Paleologus at least 10 vacant homes in the Hollywood Hills area the week before Johnson disappeared, said he picked Paleologus up each time at the Century Plaza Hotel.

One of the homes, just blocks from where Johnson's body was found, was toured by Paleologus and belongs to Robert Wasvary — the man whose identity Paleologus attempted to buy the BMW with.

Police believe a vacant home located at 8583 Skyline Drive, another property Paleologus toured, may have been where he took Johnson before he allegedly raped and killed her. It was most recently occupied by actor Laurence Fishburne and is located several hundred feet from where Johnson's body was found.

Paleologus will be arraigned on July 10 on the capital murder charge, as well as six counts relating to the Beverly Hills case, including identity theft, filing a false financial statement, burglary, grand theft auto, forgery and receiving stolen property.

Parents hear painful testimony in trial

FAMILY, from page 1

lives in Michigan, sat next to his mother, Kathryn Johnson, taking copious notes of the testimony. When Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Dennis Aichroth ruled Thursday that Paleologus will stand trial on seven felony counts, Kirk Johnson began crying.

Wark, who lives in Los Gatos, Calif., rarely looked at Paleologus, who she described as a "creature." She said listening to the details leading up to her daughter's death while being in the same room with her accused killer was almost too much to bear.

"I had no desire (to look at him)," she said. "He is not worthy of my anger ... I will not allow myself to be another victim."

Both Kirk Johnson and Wark lashed out at Flier's aggressiveness in the courtroom and his statements in the press.

"Being here today and yesterday is a great insult to our justice system devised to divert attention and to protect the accused from the issue at hand, which is the brutal sexual assault and murder of my daughter, Kristi Johnson," Wark said. "It's an insult to the multiple prior

victims and their loved ones."

Kirk Johnson said he made eye contact with Paleologus once, who nodded at him. Kirk Johnson said his anger is growing toward Paleologus and Flier each day.

"I publicly denounce Andrew Flier, his tactics and he has used the media for his benefit," Kirk Johnson said. "He is using the media to taint jurors and witnesses."

In his closing arguments, Flier said the murder of Kristi Johnson is a tragic loss, but is adamant Paleologus is innocent of the charges. Flier, a former prosecutor and son of a Superior Court judge, said Wednesday he believes Paleologus didn't have anything to do with the murder.

Wark, who played an integral part in the search for Kristi Johnson before she was found dead on March 3, said no matter how much she tried to prepare for it, the ongoing trial of Paleologus is difficult to deal with. But she said she has faith in the process and that justice will be served.

"I was somewhat prepared for this, but never truly prepared to deal with the murder of my daughter," she said. "What we have to understand is that crimes like this are hate crimes against women."

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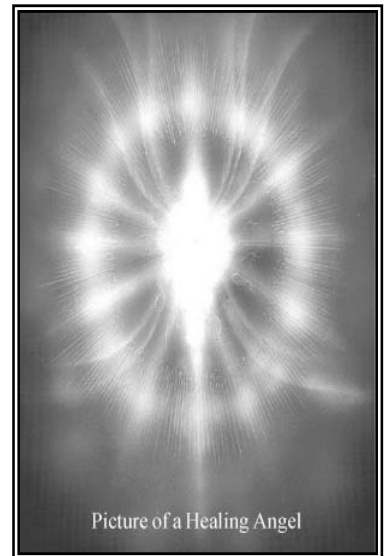
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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Gang busts yield 1/2 ton of marijuana

By The Associated Press

PARAMOUNT — Ten people were arrested and a half-ton of marijuana worth up to \$1 million was seized during raids on 15 homes by gang enforcement officers.

About 100 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies from various gang enforcement and special assignment units raided homes in Bellflower, Compton, Lynwood and Paramount at dawn Wednesday, Lt. Ralph Ornelas said.

At one home, deputies discovered three firearms and up to 1,000 pounds of pot in a converted garage.

"The odor was overpowering," Ornelas said, pointing at the thick, green drug bricks displayed at the Lakewood Sheriff's Station. "These were stacked to the ceiling."

An investigation by Deputy Darren Diviak into a gang-related shooting earlier this month in Paramount led to the bust. Diviak linked two people arrested on alleged assault with deadly weapon charges to others possibly involved in the possession or sale of drugs and weapons.

"It's good to make a difference ... by taking out the guns and drugs in a neighborhood," he said.

The names of those arrested were being withheld pending completion of the investigation, Ornelas said.

Drunken boater convicted of manslaughter

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — Jurors convicted a boater of misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter in the drunken driving death of a 12-year-old girl at Lake Silverwood.

Marc Sooter, 26, of Apple Valley was convicted Wednesday in the 2001 death of Sarah Noguez of San Bernardino. He faces a maximum penalty of one year in county jail when he is sentenced July 16, Deputy District Attorney Bob Bullock said.

The girl was a passenger in a boat with her 9-year-old brother and two other girls when there was a collision with Sooter's vessel.

Prosecutors wanted to charge Sooter with a felony because he admitted to drinking four to five beers the day of the accident, Bullock said.

"We did not have proof of gross negligence and we did not have enough evidence of intoxication," Bullock said.

A rookie state ranger investigating the crash interviewed Sooter at the scene and got Sooter to admit that he was drinking, but he let Sooter leave before conducting a field sobriety test, Bullock said.

"Sarah's father is a local CHP officer in San Bernardino, so you can imagine the frustration of having a ranger drop the ball like that," Bullock said.

Mayor to Hahn: Stay out of El Toro debate

By The Associated Press

IRVINE — Mayor Larry Agran fired off a letter to the mayor of Los Angeles and told him to stay out of the debate over plans for the former El Toro Marine base.

Agran's letter Wednesday to Mayor James K. Hahn said Irvine and a majority of Orange County voters were outraged over Hahn's attempt to get control of El Toro for use as another Southern California airport.

Besides terming Hahn's effort "unconscionable," Agran also told the L.A. mayor that Irvine is "not a land-use colony to be exploited by Los Angeles."

Los Angeles maneuvered secretly in Washington in a bid to turn the now-closed Marine air base into an airport. The city said it was under great pressure from neighborhoods around Los Angeles International Airport to relieve congestion in the air and on the ground.

"We respect Mayor Agran's views," Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Matt Middlebrook said. "But as he points out, Orange County is the sixth-most populous county in the nation, which begs the question: Why has Orange County not put forth a reasonable plan to alleviate the crush of air traffic that is coming to Southern California? Our hand is out to Orange County, asking, 'Help us to relieve this problem.'"

The Navy has said its decision is final on transferring the land to Irvine so it can build what is known as Great Park, a mixture of housing, commercial buildings and parks on the 3,700 acres of the old base. It would take congressional action to reverse the Navy decision.

Patient care protected by judge

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In still another roadblock at trimming health care costs, a judge barred the county from cutting patient services at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center.

Superior Court Judge David P. Yaffe said Wednesday in a carefully worded temporary restraining order that the county can proceed with plans to eliminate about 400 jobs at King/Drew by July 1. But he said patient care must be maintained.

Both sides claimed victory. County lawyers said cutting the work force won't affect patient care because the hospital is overstaffed. The doctors' union that filed the suit requesting the restraining order argued that dismantling part of the physician and nursing staff would undeniably hurt patients.

"When last I checked, if you have a doctor that sees a certain number of patients and you eliminate that doctor you affect patient care," said Robert Newman, an attorney representing the Union of American Physicians and Dentists.

NATIONAL



Regulators limit scope of Enron electricity sales

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal energy regulators on Wednesday punished bankrupt Enron Corp. for its role in manipulating Western power markets, but refused to modify long-term power contracts signed during the energy crisis.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission also took several steps toward holding wholesale power sellers accountable for driving up prices and withholding energy supplies in 2000 and 2001. California officials, voicing a familiar complaint, said the commission was moving too slowly and timidly.

Gov. Gray Davis said the state would appeal FERC's decision on the contracts. "By touting their punishment of Enron, they seek to hide the fact that they still have not punished any other of the dozens of generators who ripped off California," Davis said. "We will not let them get away with that."

Regulators have grappled for three years with the skyrocketing prices and power blackouts that followed the deregulation of electricity in California. Long-awaited refunds for California will not be ordered for several months and investigations related to the energy crisis will extend into 2004, FERC Chairman Pat Wood said.

In addition to imposing what Wood called the "death penalty" on Enron, regulators also took aim at Enron's partners in trading practices with such colorful names as Fat Boy, Get Shorty, Ricochet and Death Star.

FERC ordered the partners — two dozen companies, utilities and municipalities — to explain their role, saying they could be forced to return their profits. Wood said it was unclear how much money was at stake.

"It was only with the cooperation of others that these strategies could have been executed," the commission said in its order.

The City of Glendale, which serves 80,000 customers through its power utility, was among those covered in the order.

Steven Lins, Glendale's assistant city attorney, said, "Glendale didn't knowingly participate in any Enron trading strategies."

Enron was barred from selling electricity and natural gas in the United States at market-based rates — whatever price the market will bear. It can resume regular business once it emerges from bankruptcy proceedings and gets federal approval.

Wood said it was the first time the commission had imposed such a penalty on power sellers, although he acknowledged that Enron has ended much of its power trading.

"We send a clear signal that competitive markets must work in the interest of customers and the public interest," he said.

California's deputy attorney general, Vickie Whitney, viewed the action in the context of Enron's bankruptcy and legal troubles.

"It's like having a dead horse in the middle of the room and going up and kicking it," Whitney said.

An Enron spokeswoman said the company was reviewing the order.

"In the meantime, we are cooperating

"This order is a major step toward addressing the manipulation that contributed to the extraordinary Western power crisis."

— WILLIAM MASSEY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner

fully with FERC and other investigations," spokeswoman Karen Denne said.

The Houston-based Enron went bankrupt after a series of revelations of hidden debt, inflated profits and accounting tricks. Thousands of workers lost their jobs and investors were left with virtually worthless stock.

The company, which has been doing business, must file its bankruptcy reorganization plan by June 30.

Other action taken by FERC Wednesday included turning down requests for refunds for excessive power prices in the Pacific Northwest. California had been seeking \$1.5 billion in refunds for purchases made there, Whitney said.

Many Enron trading partners also were among the 42 wholesale power sellers that the commission ordered to justify their prices and marketing strategies in sales worth \$129 million.

"This order is a major step toward addressing the manipulation that contributed to the extraordinary Western power crisis," Commissioner William Massey said.

Staff investigators also will examine more than 400,000 bids submitted by wholesale power sellers during the summer of 2000, when prices first spiked.

In March, the agency's commissioners agreed with California officials that there was widespread manipulation of natural gas and electricity prices and supplies in California in 2000 and 2001.

Commission officials have said California can expect more than \$3 billion in refunds. The state is demanding nearly \$9 billion.

In addition, the state negotiated \$43 billion in long-term contracts during the power crisis, hoping to relieve its dependence on the short-term wholesale power that jumped more than tenfold in price.

California and several Western utilities have since argued that the long-term prices were closely tied to the short-term, or spot, prices that the commission has said were manipulated by Enron and other companies.

The state has renegotiated long-term contracts initially worth about \$30 billion.

Wood and Commissioner Nora Brownell — the commission's two Republicans — voted to uphold the remaining \$12 billion in contracts, saying that California was a willing partner and employed savvy negotiators.

Massey issued a strong dissent.

"The prices were not just and reasonable by any measure," he said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Attackers ratchet up ambushes against U.S. forces

BY NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Bomb and grenade ambushes Thursday signaled increasing anti-American resistance in Iraq, despite U.S. claims of mopping up opposition. One American soldier and two Iraqi civilians were killed, and two American soldiers were missing.

The fresh violence came a day after a U.S. Marine was killed while responding to an ambush in which three other Americans were wounded.

In Thursday's ambushes, a bomb exploded on the airport road, killing a U.S. soldier and injuring another, the U.S. military said. The road — heavily used by U.S. forces — has been the scene of several attacks using trip wires dangling from overpasses or grenades tossed from bridges.

Also Thursday, attackers threw grenades at a U.S. and Iraqi civilian convoy in west Baghdad, killing two Iraqi employees of the national electricity authority, U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police said. The convoy had U.S. Humvees at the front and the back and two Iraqi civilian vehicles in the middle. The victims were traveling in the same car.

A U.S. military spokesman, Maj. William Thurmond, played down this week's violence as a "spike" and not a trend. Thurmond said the spate of ambushes could be a response to recent U.S. raids on Baath Party strongholds.

"There have been more attacks recently but it's probably premature to say this is part of a pattern," Thurmond said. "We've kicked open the nests of some of these bad guys."

The U.S. military has blamed attacks on isolated remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime and his Sunni followers, claiming there was no organized resistance.

The Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera, however, aired statements Thursday from two previously unknown groups urging assaults on U.S.-led forces in Iraq.

One, by a group calling itself the Mujahedeen of the Victorious Sect, claimed responsibility for recent attacks and promised more. The other, by the Popular Resistance for the Liberation of Iraq, called in intellectuals, explosive experts and others to take "revenge" against America.

Al-Jazeera said it could not verify the statements, and U.S. defense officials had no immediate comment.

Meanwhile, a search was under way Thursday for two U.S. soldiers and their Humvee missing in Baghdad, a senior Pentagon official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident Thursday, a U.S. Army truck sat smoldering at the side of a highway 20 miles south of Baghdad. People at the scene said it exploded as if struck by a rocket-propelled grenade. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

On Wednesday, ambushers threw grenades from a Baghdad overpass onto a passing convoy of Army Humvees, said Marine Corps Maj. Sean Gibson. There were no serious injuries.

The same day, militants ambushed Marines in Hillah, 45 miles south of Baghdad, wounding three troops. Later, one Marine was killed and two were wounded when their vehicle — part of a quick-reaction force sent in response to the Hillah ambush — rolled over on the road's soft shoulder en route to the scene.

The names of the American and Iraqi victims were not immediately released. The latest killings raised the American death toll to 196 since the start of the war on March 20. At least 20 U.S. soldiers have died as the result of hostile fire since major combat was declared over in May.

On Tuesday, violence in the southern Iraqi town of Majar al-Kabir killed six British soldiers and wounded eight British paratroopers. The British military Thursday blamed the violence involving the paratroopers partly on a misunderstanding over weapons searches.

Maj. Gen. Peter Wall said the violence probably was sparked when British paratroopers entered the town, 180 miles southeast of Baghdad, during a "routine joint patrol" with local militias.

However, Wall offered no explanation for an attack at a town police station later Tuesday, in which six Royal Military Police were killed, some reportedly shot with their own weapons. He said he could not comment on those claims while an investigation continued.

Local people told reporters that violence was triggered by anger over heavy-handed weapons searches in Majar al-Kabir in which soldiers used dogs and entered women's bedrooms in defiance of Muslim sensibilities.

In London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair was asked whether it was a sensible tactic to try to disarm a nation where carrying weapons had become part of the culture.

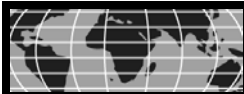
Blair acknowledged that Iraq was in a "process of transformation," but added: "It is important that it is proper law enforcement authorities that carry weapons and not all the citizens of the country."

The violence in the town shattered the peace that had reigned in Shiite-dominated southern Iraq since the fall of Saddam — and spurred British authorities to consider requiring troops to wear body armor and helmets.

The deaths represent the heaviest loss under fire for British troops in a single day since the 1991 Gulf War and take the British death toll during the latest Iraqi conflict to 42.

On Thursday, 11 pickup trucks filled with armed men from the local Iraqi security force patrolled the city on their own, with no British troops in the town center.

British forces in Iraq have been reduced to 15,500 from 45,000 during the war; two-thirds of them are ground forces. The United States has brought home some 130,000 troops from the region; 146,000 American forces remain in Iraq.



WORLD BRIEFLY

Politicians ready to produce reduced drug costs

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After weeks of intense negotiations and years of political promises, the House and Senate prepared to vote on legislation helping older Americans pay for prescription drugs.

The legislation, particularly the House version, would give private plans a larger role in Medicare — an effort to increase consumer choice and control costs ahead of baby boomer retirements.

Together, the bills represented the most far-reaching overhaul of Medicare since it was signed into law by President Johnson in 1965.

The Senate was starting the day with votes on amendments from Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., requiring pharmaceutical companies to give more details about a drug's risks in their advertising, and from Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, increasing payments for mammography.

By sunrise Friday, both the House and Senate were each expected to approve the full measures.

Boeing workers charged with conspiring to steal secrets

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Federal prosecutors charged two former Boeing managers with conspiring to steal trade secrets from competitor Lockheed Martin to help their company win an Air

Force rocket contract.

Kenneth Branch, 64, and William Erskine, 43, were charged with conspiracy, theft of trade secrets and violating federal procurement integrity laws, according to documents filed late Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

The action follows a federal lawsuit Lockheed Martin filed earlier this month against Boeing, the two managers and another former employee.

The deal, part of the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Program, was divided between the two companies in 1999. But Boeing was eventually awarded 21 rocket launches, while Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed, the nation's largest defense contractor, received seven.

Boeing fired both in 1999 after an internal investigation.

Attacks from Islamic militants will halt

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Palestinian negotiators said Thursday they have secured a commitment from Islamic militants to halt attacks on Israelis for three months, and Yasser Arafat said he expected an official announcement later in the day.

The Palestinian leader's statements were the highest-level comment yet on the emerging agreement by Hamas and other armed groups on a temporary truce. Palestinian Authority officials and

Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip cautioned the truce deal was not final, while Israel and the United States were skeptical about the value of such an arrangement, saying Palestinian security forces must quickly disarm the militias.

A truce might help end 33 months of violence, a necessary prelude to the U.S.-backed "road map" plan aimed at establishing a Palestinian state by 2005. The plan requires the Palestinians to break up the armed groups, but Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has ruled out using force, saying he fears it would lead to civil war.

Shells explode in U.S. compound in Liberia

By The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Survivors used makeshift stretchers and a wheelbarrow to carry out bleeding victims, some missing limbs, after shells exploded inside a U.S. diplomatic compound crowded with Liberian refugees.

The explosions on Wednesday came as rebels closed in on Monrovia, the last stronghold of President Charles Taylor. The city of 1 million, now packed with hundreds of thousands of refugees, teetered on the edge of an all-out battle between undisciplined armies.

At the United Nations, the British ambassador urged the United States to intervene in Liberia, a nation that was founded in the 19th century by free American slaves and has long had close trade ties with Washington.

The U.S. Embassy opened the gates of its residential compound to Liberians seeking shelter, and thousands of them crowded in Wednesday — hoping proximity to the Americans would mean safe-

ty.

Hours later, three pieces of ordnance landed within the high-walled compound and exploded, sending the refugees running.

The last Americans had recently been moved out of the residential complex to the heavily guarded U.S. Embassy across the street.

As fighting raged, the U.S. Embassy said it would further reduce its staff, but remain open.

Internet MP3 downloaders will face the music

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The music industry pledged to begin steps Thursday to file lawsuits against hundreds of individual computer users who illegally share music files on the Internet, an aggressive gamble to cripple online piracy by suing some of music's biggest fans.

The Recording Industry Association of America, citing significant sales declines, said it would begin searching Internet file-sharing networks Thursday to identify music fans who offer substantial collections of MP3 song files for downloading. It urged users to uninstall popular music-sharing software or adjust program settings to prevent such downloads.

The RIAA expects to file at least several hundred lawsuits seeking financial damages within eight to 10 weeks.

RIAA President Cary Sherman said that after Thursday, tens of millions of Internet users of popular file-sharing software will be exposing themselves to "the real risk of having to face the music."

SPORTS



SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

COLLEGE SPORTS

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The Atlantic Coast Conference invited Miami and Virginia Tech to leave the Big East and join its league.

Boston College and Syracuse, also were candidates for expansion, were left behind.

Miami and Virginia Tech are the Big East's two dominant football schools, and the move to go to 11 schools wasn't one of the expected scenarios after the ACC voted May 13 to expand.

Barker said the invitation to Virginia Tech, a dark horse candidate that was added last week at the insistence of Virginia, was "subject to final completion of the conference bylaw requirements" — a site visit that was under way in Blacksburg, Va.

Miami President Donna Shalala said school officials were disappointed that Boston College and Syracuse weren't included.

TENNIS

WIMBLEDON, England — Andy Roddick took the first two sets without a service break, then benefited from a disputed ruling to beat an irate Greg Rusedski 7-6 (4), 7-6 (1), 7-5 in a second-round match at Wimbledon.

Rusedski's profanity-laced meltdown came when he led 5-2 in the final set. He didn't win another game.

With Roddick serving at 30-15, Rusedski stopped playing a point when a fan erroneously shouted that a shot was out. Roddick won the point, and chair umpire Lars Graff let it stand, rather than replaying it.

In women's play, two-time champion Venus Williams overcame a slow start and erratic serving to beat Katarina Srebotnik 6-4, 6-1. She'll next play French Open semifinalist Nadia Petrova, who beat Angelique Widjaja 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Also advancing were No. 2 Kim Clijsters, No. 5 Lindsay Davenport and No. 7 Chanda Rubin. No. 9 Daniela Hantuchova squandered a fast start and lost to Shinobu Asagoe 0-6, 6-4, 12-10.

BASKETBALL

HOUSTON — Former Dallas Mavericks forward Roy Tarpley, banned from the NBA in 1995 for violating the league's substance-abuse policy, has applied for reinstatement to the league.

The 37-year-old Tarpley told Houston television station KRIV that he hopes to revive his NBA career soon.

An NBA spokesman declined to comment, citing the terms of the league's drug policy.

The NBA's Sixth Man of the Year in 1987-88, Tarpley is living in Houston and has been training with former Cleveland Cavaliers coach John Lucas.

After being banned from the NBA in 1995, Tarpley spent five years playing for professional teams throughout Europe. He was out of basketball this season.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK — Barry Bonds' record 73rd home run ball was sold to comic book icon Todd McFarlane for \$450,000 at auction.

McFarlane also bought Mark McGwire's 70th homer ball in 1999 for \$3.2 million.

The ball was sold by Alex Popov, who caught it, and Patrick Hayashi, who grabbed it off the ground after a scrum dislodged it.

ARLINGTON, Texas — A 15-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy were hurt when a bat swung by Texas outfielder Carl Everett slipped out of his hands and flew into the stands near the Rangers dugout.

The game between the Rangers and Oakland was delayed for about 10 minutes while medical personnel attended to the injured spectators. Both were conscious, but were bleeding from cuts.

The names of the injured fans weren't released.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The New York Yankees hired Luis Sojo as a special assignment instructor.

Sojo played in parts of six seasons with the Yankees from 1996-2001, and was a member of four World Series championship teams.

Sojo managed the Yankees' Double-A team in Norwich to the Eastern League championship last season. After deciding not to manage again, Sojo was playing in the Mexican League this season before retiring this week.

OLYMPICS

WASHINGTON — Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell will do all he can to keep the U.S. Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs even if that means scuttling congressional efforts to overhaul the scandal-plagued organization.

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-Vanity Fair, April 2002



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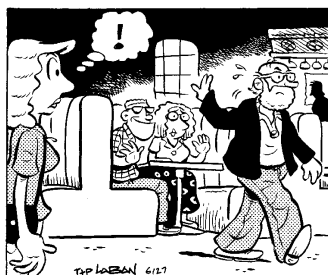
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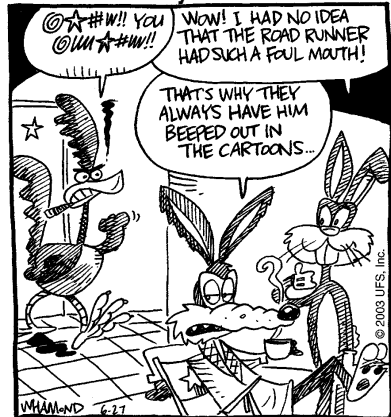
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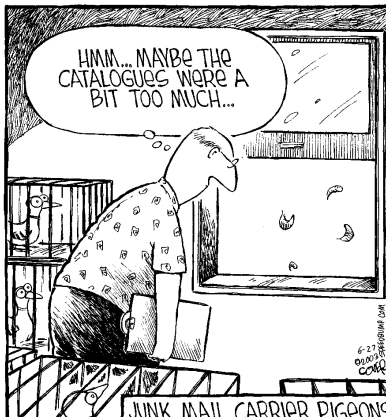
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BACK PAGE

Ozzy's wife blames herself for son's drug problems

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Kevin Costner is dancing down the aisle again, this time with his girlfriend of four years, Christine Baumgartner.

The 48-year-old director and star of "Dances With Wolves" and Baumgartner, 29, announced their engagement Thursday. No wedding date was set, publicist Paul Bloch said.

It's the second marriage for the actor, the first for Baumgartner.

The couple met four years ago and have been dating ever since, Bloch said, noting they both attended California State University, Fullerton.

Costner is promoting the film "Open Range," coming out Aug. 15, which he stars in and directed. Baumgartner is a handbag designer, Bloch said.

■ **NEW YORK** — James Spader is joining "The Practice."

The "sex, lies and videotape" star will play an ethically challenged lawyer next season on the ABC drama, the network said Wednesday.

After dodging cancellation to come back for an eighth season, "The Practice" is completely revamping its cast, largely to save money. Star Dylan McDermott has left, along with five other cast members.

Actress Rhona Mitra, who played the college temptress in "The Life of David Gale," also is joining the show in a role described as a "tough-as-nails" paralegal.

■ **NEW YORK** — Sharon Osbourne said she blamed herself for her son's alcohol and marijuana abuse.

Jack Osbourne, the 17-year-old son of Sharon and heavy metal rocker Ozzy Osbourne, returned home after two months in rehab on June 18. He entered a Pasadena, Calif., hospital on April 23, saying he "got carried away with drugs and alcohol."

"The first thing I did was put blame on myself — and in a way I always will," Sharon Osbourne, 50, told *Us Weekly* magazine for its July 14 issue. "It's a natural reaction of a mother to think, 'What could I have done differently? What could I have done wrong?' I thought I was a cutting-edge mom, and I didn't even know what was happening."

She also told the magazine that her colon cancer, diagnosed last July, is in remission.

"Oh, I'm fine. I'm an old battle-ax," she said. "I still have to go to checkups, but I am fine."

The family, which is the subject of the MTV reality series "The Osbournes," also includes daughters Kelly and Aimee.

■ **NEW YORK** — The usually unflappable Billy Taylor was admittedly "a bundle of nerves" just before his opening set this week at the Blue Note jazz club.

The 81-year-old pianist was performing for the first time at a jazz club with his trio since suffering a mild stroke in January 2002 that caused him to lose dexterity in his fingers and hands.

After the stroke, Taylor doubted he'd be able to perform again, although he continued working on a reduced schedule as a cultural commentator on CBS News' "Sunday Morning" and putting together jazz programs at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

"I had to get used to suddenly not being able to do certain things that I had been able to do for 70 years," said Taylor, interviewed in his dressing room between sets Tuesday night. "I was angry ... I was doing everything, but the only thing I couldn't was just play piano. I've been fighting and practicing and doing everything I can" to come back.

After months of practice and therapy, Taylor began making guest appearances and playing a few concerts earlier this year, including a party in his hometown of Greenville, N.C., which named a street and jazz festival for him, something he says he "wouldn't have imagined" growing up in the segregated South.

Then, Taylor decided he felt strong enough to do a six-night gig at the Blue Note with his long-standing trio of bassist Chip Jackson and drummer Winard Harper.

■ **LEBANON, Tenn.** — A criminal domestic assault charge against country music singer "Whisperin' Bill" Anderson will be dismissed in a year if he stays out of trouble, a Wilson County judge ruled.

Deborah Marlin, 41, took out a warrant against Anderson in March. She accused him of trying to injure her with the door of a moving vehicle and shoving her during an argument at the singer's Old Hickory home.

Marlin is a former girlfriend of Anderson's who said she lived with him for three years.

"I think it justifies me going (to court)," Marlin told *The Tennessean* for Thursday's editions. "They listened to my case and they did do something. It wasn't just dismissed. ... I feel satisfied with the conclusion."

The singer would be responsible for court costs, his attorney, Jack Lowery Sr., said Wednesday.

"He's as happy as he can be," Lowery said. "There is no probation, no plea, no kind of school, no restrictions. Just an agreement to continue the case and at the end of the year if there is no trouble it will be dismissed."

Anderson, 65, was the subject of at least three other domestic complaints by Marlin in February. None resulted in charges.

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