

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

100% organic news. Picked fresh daily.

Saturday night prostitution sting nabs eight

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Eight men were arrested Saturday night during an undercover prostitution sting on Lincoln Boulevard.

Three female officers from the Santa Monica Police Department used themselves as bait to lure "Johns" to a street corner on Lincoln Boulevard where they were propositioned and brought to a nearby hotel room. Once the men solicited sex, they were arrested for prostitution, which is a misdemeanor offense.

Known as a "Reverse John Sting," the undercover officers wore a wire underneath their clothing so vice detectives waiting in a hotel room could hear their conversations with the men, who approached the corner mostly by car.

Within 10 minutes of going undercover, the first female officer nabbed a man who agreed to pay \$20 for oral sex at about 9 p.m. His friend, who was a passenger in the vehicle, said he was going to wait "to see whether it was worth it"

Lincoln Boulevard is known as the westside strip for prostitutes, who come from places like Hollywood to turn tricks in Santa Monica and Venice.

when his friend returned from the hotel room.

His friend never came out. Instead, he was arrested and taken to the Santa Monica Jail.

Lincoln Boulevard is known as the westside strip for prostitutes, who come from places like Hollywood to turn tricks in Santa Monica and Venice. Because it is a state highway and serves as a main thoroughfare, hookers find the busy street a lucrative place to set up shop.

Residents and merchants off of Lincoln Boulevard know that well. Often times, they are greeted in the morning with drug paraphernalia and used condoms lying on the

street. It is the SMPD's goal to eliminate prostitution in the city.

"This is a quality of life issue," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "People say prostitution is a victimless crime but it's not."

Twelve officers made up of three teams were involved in the sting, which is the fifth one this year. On average, SMPD arrests between three and eight "Johns" during an operation, Fabrega said. He added that the clientele can be both white and blue collar workers.

"We could probably make more arrests if we had more personnel," Fabrega said.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
A man sits handcuffed in a hotel room with Santa Monica Police. He was arrested during a prostitution sting. Three female officers went undercover to nab would-be "Johns" on Lincoln Boulevard.

See STING, page 6

Enviros want commitments at next Earth summit

SM meeting outlines issues

BY TRAVIS PURSER
Special to the Daily Press

A town hall meeting planned to prepare environmentalists for the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development drew hundreds of people to Santa Monica this weekend.

This summer marks the anniversary of the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, where 10 years ago countries from around the world set ambitious recommendations for achieving worldwide sustainable development.

The summit has inspired both celebration and disappointment. World leaders publicly acknowledging and discussing environmental problems raised awareness, said Irving Sarnoff, founder of Friends of the United Nations, a local advocacy group. He declared the summit a success.

Others saw it as little more than a public relations ploy. Because it ignored economic and corporate globalization, which are key factors in determining the quality of human rights and the environment, the summit was a failure, said environmental watchdog Mike Dolan.

Now, the U.N. plans a follow-up World Summit on Sustainable Development Aug. 26-Sept. 4 in Johannesburg, South Africa. And environmentalists' expectations are higher than they were in 1992. They want commitments for action, not just recommendations.

That was the stance about 250 Southern California environmentalists hoped the Bush administration would adopt and carry with it to Johannesburg. President Bush has not yet announced whether he will attend.

Environmentalists met at the Crossroads School at Olympic Boulevard and 18th Street Saturday for the day-long meeting. Mayor Michael Feinstein, a Green Party member, spoke about measures Santa Monica has taken

to protect the environment.

Wearing his trademark ponytail and sandals, Feinstein declared that sustainability is the "underpinning" of Santa Monica's municipal policies.

"It is good for the economy to do the right thing," he said. "As long as you plan and set your goals in a respon-

See SUMMIT, page 7

State's \$1 billion experiment to reduce class size not as beneficial as hoped

Plans to reduce Santa Monica class sizes will continue

By staff and wire reports

California's \$1 billion-a-year experiment with class size reduction isn't producing the monumental benefits lawmakers had hoped for, according to a study released this week.

The Public Policy Institute of

California found that while many schools across the state boosted test scores, other schools appeared to benefit little, if at all, from the class size reduction law that passed in 1996.

Overall, schools that reduced their average class size by 10 students saw the number of third-graders with test scores above the national median jump by only 3 to 4 percent, according to the report released by the institute, a San Francisco-based think-tank.

The Santa Monica-Malibu

Unified School District plans to cut about 300 to 400 students per year, losing more than \$1.4 million in state funding.

Administrators say they plan to continue cutting class sizes throughout the district, regardless of the study's findings. They say nationwide tests show a direct correlation between lower class sizes and higher test scores.

"There's no question lower class sizes have environmental effects on

See CLASSROOMS, page 6

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Reach out for someone, Leo



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

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Though you might drag into work, you will be skipping out the door. Whether that fact promises a good day or a happy exit could be determined by your attitude. Midday, you get a second wind, feeling that anything is possible. Tonight: It's your call.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Use the daylight hours, when your energy peaks, and you're in primetime. If you opt for a long weekend, you might not care about what goes on, but know that you will need a nap late afternoon. Take your time with a friend. Tonight: Play it low-key.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Whether running for office or simply trying to clear out your errands, you emerge a winner. You enjoy yourself no matter where you are and no matter what you're doing. Jump on an opportunity, as it might not occur again for a long while. Tonight: Recognize the good times.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Put your best foot forward, and you'll gain as a result. You might not need to agree with others, but it might be helpful to understand where they are coming from. Not everyone is wrong. Accept responsibilities graciously this afternoon. Tonight: The spotlight is on you!

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Use your intuition with both money and love. Don't let something slide to the back burner. Reach out for someone at a distance who often expresses his or her caring. Detach by walking in another's shoes. Remain positive. Tonight: Reach out for someone.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ A friend points to the right path. Go. Don't hesitate, or you might be sorry later. Negotiations over a money or personal matter could be most successful, as long as you're both clear about your expectations. Don't worry so much. Tonight: Allow someone in.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal with others directly at work this morning. Though you might be overloaded, work could be demanding. Allow others to take the lead in a personal matter. Sometimes, by not making a decision, you make the decision. Tonight: Defer to another's wishes.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Relax and maintain a less-hectic pace. Creativity flourishes when you don't push too hard. Return all long-distance calls and messages. Work demands a lot of attention in the afternoon. Not everything is as simple as you would like. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Optimism surrounds you. Allow others to infuse their energy into your work environment. Though you're not usually serious, you might be quite focused. A financial offer might not come again. Jump on it, if you think you want this opportunity. Tonight: Let off steam.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Say what you think in the early part of the day. Your words fall on welcome ears and bring a positive response. Make calls and clear out your work, errands and messages. You might have a mini-bout with laziness this afternoon. Tonight: Make it OK.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Deal with others directly. You might want to rethink a decision that involves a car, computer or another form of communication. Honor the role of money in your life. Don't hesitate to ask for more of what you need. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Use the morning, when you still have a lot of get-up-and-go. Add that extra friendly touch wherever you go. Others are thrilled by your attention and caring. Know that you can dote on another without spending a lot. Use your creativity, please. Tonight: Your treat.

QUOTE of the DAY

"Weather forecast for tonight: dark."
— George Carlin

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LOCAL

Court proceedings begin for alleged murderer

Unsolved murder considered a 'cold case'

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Accused murderer David Thomas Wright appeared in court Friday, facing capital murder charges for allegedly killing a Santa Monica woman four years ago.

Wright, a 47-year-old black man who was homeless when he allegedly sodomized and brutally murdered Aviva Labbe, did not enter a plea. His arraignment has been continued to July 31, said Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Ellen Aragon, who filed the charges against Wright last month.

Labbe's murder had been classified as a "cold case" and remained unsolved for nearly four years. There were no suspects until a sampling of Wright's DNA linked him to the murder through the U.S. Department of Justice's database system.

Convicted felons are required to provide either a blood or saliva sample so their DNA is on file with the Department of Justice's data bank. That information is assigned a number, randomly put through the system about every three weeks and is tested against thousands of unsolved cases.

Wright's number came up last year. However, he already had been arrested for

another crime. Authorities found Wright serving a 6-year prison term for battery of a Santa Monica police officer. In January, a jury found Wright guilty of battery, resisting arrest, and failing to register himself as a registered sex offender.

Because authorities knew Wright already was in prison, Santa Monica Police took extra time collecting forensic data that would link him to the four-year-old murder case.

"They took their time and ran more tests to be sure," Aragon said.

Wright was officially charged with the murder on June 13, one day before the 4-year anniversary of Labbe's death, who was 20 years old when she was found sodomized and murdered in a walkway of a vacant home in Santa Monica.

The murder case against Wright is considered a "special circumstance" because Labbe was sodomized. A panel will review the case against Wright to determine whether the state will seek the death penalty.

Wright's rap sheet goes back to at least 1990 when he pleaded no contest to petty theft. In 1993, he was convicted of possessing a dagger and given probation.

In 1994, Wright was sentenced to two years in prison for assault. In 1999, Wright was acquitted for possessing a deadly weapon.

Fireworks spectacular



Thousands of people showed up at Santa Monica College for its annual pre-Fourth of July fireworks show on Saturday.



The mixed northwest and southwest swell angles that were good for waist-to-chest-high sets Saturday and Sunday die down today as a new surge of northwest wind swell blows in.

The lack of southwest activity will cause surf to drop a foot on average. Combination exposures promise waist-, occasional chest-high sets, while northwest only spots see smaller, knee-to-waist-high, wind swell waves.

Forecasts haven't indicated any new swell activity for Tuesday.

(Information compiled by Jesse Haley.)

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality	
County Line	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A	
Zuma	2-4'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A	
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A	
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A	
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A	
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A	
Tides:	1:48 a.m. High / 4.08'	9:02 a.m. Low / -0.82'	4:18 p.m. High / 4.20'	10:09 p.m. Low / 2.67'

The Q Line

First Enron, then WorldCom and now Xerox.

Their unique accounting practices are now on public display for all to see. And their dirty little secrets are coming back to haunt corporate America. The billions of dollars in overstated revenue is just the beginning, some say.

Xerox's overstated revenue of \$6.4 billion is the latest blow to corporate America in what has become a dizzying parade of accounting missteps.

Investors now sit around the dinner table betting whether the worst has come out in corporate America's earnings fabrication scandal.

This week Q Line wants to know:

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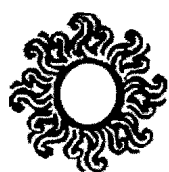
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OPINION

LETTERS

It's time to face city's vagrant issue

Editor:

I can certainly relate to the comments expressed by the merchants. Working in the hotel industry brings me into contact with visitors from all walks of life.

Visitors from other countries and other states cannot comprehend that a city as beautiful as Santa Monica can allow the problem of homelessness to get so out of hand. They are absolutely astonished at the enormity of the situation, and no visible control.

What is the most shocking to our visitors is the awful "urine" odor throughout the Third Street Promenade.

Aggressive panhandling, let alone the appearance of most of the homeless persons, is very frightening and intimidating. Negative comments abound from our visitors to such a degree that to hear, "I'm sorry I will not come back to Santa Monica. It's a lovely city but there are too many vagrants on the streets" is becoming commonplace.

Under the umbrella of homeless people is an element of druggies and drunks who ply their trade openly. There is an element of young people, vagrant and intimidating. How can we expect visitors to come to Santa Monica, only to be confronted by the enormous social problem perpetrated by the Santa Monica City Council, and let us not leave out the ACLU. Both of these groups have made welcome the homeless people roaming our streets. As one of the merchants clearly stated, "The homeless are enabled by the people in government in Santa Monica."

Then there are the self serving "do gooders" who set up food stations in, of all places, Palisades Park! Why not somewhere away from areas where tourists can visit, support our economy and go home with pleasant memories of our lovely city.

Let's face it, Santa Monica is a tourist city. We are known throughout the world as such. The Third Street Promenade is world renowned. Our economy needs the money spent in our city by all visitors. The coffers in City Hall receive 12 percent bed tax from each bed in our hotels. I hear that rate is going to be increased.

It is not my intention to minimize or trivialize the homeless situation. It is my intention to tell City Hall that the homeless situation will not disappear by ignoring it. If it is a problem too big for local government to resolve go to Sacramento. Go to New York, ask former mayor Giuliani how he solved the problem there.

Elizabeth Wilson Moyles
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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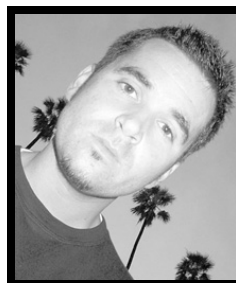
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LOCAL



The FunHog

By Dan Dunn

Dealing with the agony of raving lunatics on ecstasy

As a kid, I did the majority of my underage drinking in the dark alleys and on the dirty street corners of Philadelphia. As I got older — you know, 16 or so — the party moved from the street to the local VFW Hall, where on any given weekend night hundreds of rowdy neighborhood teens would drink themselves oblivious at a tribal ritual of manhood known as a Beef & Beer.

Now, for those of you who never experienced a Beef & Beer — and I'm assuming that to be pretty much everyone who didn't grow up in Philly since, like cheesesteaks and communities comprised entirely of extraordinarily obese people, it's a regional phenomenon — all you really need to know is that B&Bs were good clean fun. We drank a lot, fought a little, and on the good nights got to play tonsil hockey with a big-haired cheerleader or two. The cops left us alone, because damn near every kid in the neighborhood was related to a cop, and because the guys who ran the B&Bs invariably left a "spare" keg outside for the Boys in Blue to have down at the station.

They don't do Beef & Beers in LA. I'm sure they never did. And it's a safe bet that the teenagers in Philly don't have 'em anymore either, but since I'm in LA now, and I'm an adult (at least, my ID says I am), and this story is about something that happened last weekend, well Christ, am I off on a tangent here or what?

My point is this: Kids today go to Raves. I dunno why they're called Raves because from what I witnessed last Saturday night, nobody seemed to be talking with any real enthusiasm. Not much ranting either ... in fact, nobody was talking much at all — they were too dazed, and definitely too confused. If you ask me, instead of Raves, they ought to be called "E&Es — Ecstasy & Evians," since that's what every pimply-faced kid I encountered seemed to be on.

And what, pray tell, was I doing at a Rave with a bunch of aspiring young rehab patients? Well, I certainly wasn't looking for Robert Downey Jr., I can tell you that.

"Isn't this great?" Tina yelled. Or maybe she said "I'm finally graduating eighth grade." The DJ — who called himself Logic Bomb — had the music amped-up to such earsplitting levels that he made the sound man for The Who look like a wimp.

"Maybe you should go talk to Tommy," Tina screamed. "I think he's upset."

Tina, in her dementia — and that is the fairest way I can describe the girl's thought processes — decided to "reunite" me and my former best friend Tommy, her current fiancé, at a Rave. She thought it would be a "super cool and relaxing" place for us to hash out our differences — first and foremost being that I want, more than anything, for Tommy to be dead.

"Don't you think he looks upset?" she hollered, gesturing to Tommy, who was bobbing his head numbly and utterly rapt

by the condensation on his Evian bottle. "He's not upset," I howled above the din, "he's on E!" "Ornery? What makes you think he's ornery?" she shrieked. "He's not ornery ... he's on E!"

My point is this: Kids today go to Raves. I dunno why they're called Raves because from what I witnessed last Saturday night, nobody seemed to be talking with any real enthusiasm.

"Well, of course he's lonely. You're ignoring him!"

It was like being a bad version of that cell phone commercial.

"Tina" — and I was now bellowing in her ear — "I can't do this!"

"I know you're cartoonish ... that's what I always loved about you! That's what Tommy always loved about you. Look at him over there, he's a mess without you."

Tommy was rolling around on the floor, wrestling with what appeared to be a large glow stick.

"You are going to be his best man, aren't you, Hog?"

I was about to tell her I'd rather dip my freshly shaved butt in jalapeno sauce.

"It'll be fun ... and you'll get to plan his bachelor party."

"Look Tina," I screamed, "I'm flattered and all, but I just can't ... wait, did you just say I get to plan his bachelor party? Or was it 'Hugo owns a spatula named Artie?'"

Tina looked at me as though I were crazy. And suddenly I was! Crazy with ideas about how to make Tommy's bachelor party a night NONE of us would ever forget. Hell, I know hookers — most of whom have nasty diseases. And I know of sex clubs in seedy neighborhoods. The kinda places where a bachelor might go for his last pre-marital fling, and leave wrapped in trash bags in the trunk of some gangbanger's hoopty.

As Best Man and Master of Bachelor Party Ceremonies, I will be in complete control of my ol' pal Tommy for one glorious night that will certainly spell the end of his and Tina's unholy union.

Ahh ... Revenge ... what a sweet, seductive mistress you are!

(Next week: Tommy's rocking-raving-cool bachelor party and the Meaning of Life ... not necessarily in that order.)

(Dan Dunn is a Santa Monica resident and writes for Warner Bros. online. For more FunHog fun, log onto thefunhog.com)



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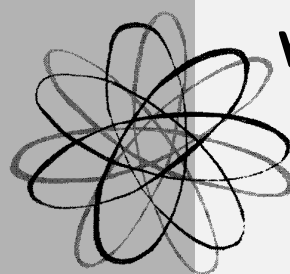
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LOCAL

Santa Monica Police Dept. cracks down on prostitution

STING, from page 1

That was evident judging by the activity the female officers generated on the corner within a two-hour period. At least a dozen cars either slowed, circled the block or stopped to inquire about engaging in prostitution. Some were taxi drivers and airport transport drivers, and two pizza shop employees stopped during deliveries.

SMPD rented out two rooms at a hotel that agreed to allow the sting on the premises. One room was used for the female officer to bring the man inside where vice detectives were waiting. Once they were arrested, the men were taken to a room next door, used as a command post.

SMPD used hotel rooms because it's safer than the officers getting into the suspects' vehicles. A few men asked the officers to get into their cars, but they refused.

The second man arrested was seen sitting handcuffed on the hotel bed in the command post while an undercover vice detective explained to him what he was charged with. Two of the female officers sat in the room while the third was outside on the street corner luring more unsuspecting "Johns."

The second arrestee told officers he'd "never done anything like this before." However, he seemed to know exactly what he was doing when he parked his convertible on Lincoln Boulevard, walked up to the officer and discussed with her how much it would cost for "straight sex." Once they agreed on \$30, he returned to his car to lock it and proceeded into the hotel room with the officer for "a quickie."

The female officers, who wore wigs and dressed modestly in jeans and blouses, told the men they were "working" and asked them if they were looking to "party." If they said yes, the officer asked the men what they were interested in. Officers told those who weren't serious that either they show her some "green" or keep moving so she could make some money.

"We could probably make more arrests if we had more personnel."

— FRANK FABREGA
SMPD spokesman

At one point, one of the female officers had three men lined up on the corner. A man driving a glass repair truck circled the block at least three times after he initially talked to the undercover officer about paying for oral sex. He asked the female officer to touch him but she declined saying, "I don't work for free. Show me some money." He then drove away.

Most of the men asked if the undercover officers were cops. In most cases, the officers didn't directly answer the question and just responded by saying, "Do I look like a cop? There are cops all around here." But a couple of times, the officers said bluntly that they weren't police, which is completely legal, Fabrega said.

Class reduction doesn't help LA Unified schools

CLASSROOMS, from page 1

learning," said Superintendent John Deasy. "It's critical we provide teachers, especially considering the work they have to do in the classroom, with the best tools and the best environment to work in."

Currently, out-of-district children make up 21 percent of the entire student body, bringing in more than \$12 million in state funding.

School officials said about 45 percent of the non-resident student body is from city or school district employees. Children with current permits and their siblings who have not yet reached the school age will be allowed to stay.

Schools feeling the greatest impact from increased enrollment are Santa Monica High School, John Adams and Lincoln middle schools, and Franklin and Juan Cabrillo elementary schools.

Los Angeles Unified School District's schools did not fare well with class size reduction, with some of its poorest schools seeing dramatic declines in test scores. Overall, Los Angeles third-graders improved scores by about 2 percent.

Minority and white students fared the same across the state, except in Los Angeles, where math scores at schools with predominantly black student populations dropped 15 percent.

Although the numbers seem surprising, the weak improvements can be attributed to the statewide teaching shortage, caused

in part by the class size reduction law.

"Originally, I was expecting a bigger effect," said Christopher Jepsen, co-author of the study. "But when I thought of all the new teachers that had to be hired, it's not that surprising."

"There's no question lower class sizes have environmental effects on learning."

— JOHN DEASY
Schools superintendent

Following the implementation of the law, thousands of new teaching positions were created, which pushed experienced teachers into more affluent areas and rookie teachers with emergency credentials into low-income districts.

Esther Wong, an assistant superintendent in the Los Angeles Unified School District, said the district has always had a hard time finding and retaining qualified teachers.

The district employs about 33,000 teachers and has up to 60,000 students in each grade level.

"We've had some minor gains ... but we can't attribute those gains to be solely the result of class size reduction," Wong said. Despite the lower improvements, she said the numbers were still encouraging.

LOCAL □ STATE

Environmentalists want results, not empty promises

SUMMIT, from page 1

sible manner, the economy can flourish" under principles of sustainability.

He outlined Santa Monica's achievements: 75 percent of city vehicles run on alternative fuels; 55 percent of paper and yard waste is recycled; city buses run on natural gas; a city purchasing program prohibits the buying of toxic cleaning materials and an urban runoff facility treats street waste before it reaches the ocean.

Allan Hecht, of the Bush Administration's Council on Environmental Quality, and former North American director of the U.N. Environment Programme, Noel Brown, also spoke.

"The fundamental way to achieve development, and to achieve sustainable development," is to invest in health and education and to address poverty, said Hecht, who is an associate director for sustainable development at the White House.

Hecht said he was not surprised when the crowd made hostile comments to him about president Bush's record on protecting the environment.

The environmentalists attacked him on a wide array of Bush actions from repealing president Clinton's roadless initiative for protecting wilderness to declining to sign the Kyoto Treaty on reducing greenhouse gases.

Hecht said he is not an expert on the entire scope of environmental issues.

"But in my view, we have to learn to do more with less," he said, prompting a brief applause. "The problem is huge. But the solution is not to put a cap on growth, because growth is needed to generate resources."

Friends of the United Nations, which organized the meeting, invited Hecht to speak on how the Johannesburg summit would fit into the Bush administration's agenda.

Hecht said the administration would help "reinforce existing policies" and

plans to be a "positive contribution" to water, poverty and energy policies. He also said the administration would help build partnerships among non-governmental organizations, civil societies and faith-based organizations.

**"The problem is huge.
But the solution is not
to put a cap on growth,
because growth is
needed to generate
resources."**

—ALLAN HECHT
White House Council
Environmental Quality

He added that he expected a "concrete, action-oriented agenda" to come out of Johannesburg.

Dolan is skeptical, however. The San Francisco-based western director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, expressed his anarchist leanings with more than just the green Doc Martin boots he wore under a gray business suit.

"It seems to me Johannesburg will be a failure, unless it explicitly names economic and corporate globalization!" he shouted. "It's going to be frustrating!"

One speaker acknowledged that the "scope of what we're trying to get our intellect around is daunting."

ChoQosh Auh'Ho'Oh, a Native American Chumash elder, addressed that concern in her opening ceremony during which she invoked the help of Father Sky and Mother Earth.

"We are the ones we've been waiting for," she said. "The obstacles are the path."

Planes crash killing six in Santa Barbara County

By The Associated Press

CARPINTERIA — Two private planes that took off from Van Nuys Airport on Sunday crashed separately in a remote forest in Santa Barbara County, killing six and sparking a 30-acre brush fire, officials said.

Both single-engine Beech Bonanza aircraft each had a pilot and two passengers aboard and were flying with a group of six other planes about 11:30 a.m. when the two aircraft flew into a canyon, said Jim Meloon, an operations officer with the Federal Aviation Administration in Los Angeles.

"Apparently the two planes flew into a canyon and they couldn't get out and crashed," said Meloon. "We don't know where they were going or what they were doing."

The planes did not collide mid-air, he added.

The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department is investigating the fatalities and the National Transportation Safety Board also is investigating the accident.

Officials did not know where the six other single-engine planes landed after the crashes. All eight planes were based out of Million Air, which rents hangar space for aircraft in Van Nuys.

The two planes crashed in the Matilija Wilderness, near Old Man Mountain, a remote location about 12 miles northeast of Santa Barbara, said Earl Clayton, a fire information officer with Los Padres National Forest.

"They were flying over the forest and two of the planes crashed into the mountainside and we have no idea what caused the crash," he said.

A brush fire that erupted in the area burned 30 acres, but firefighters by 6 p.m. had fully contained the blaze, Clayton said.

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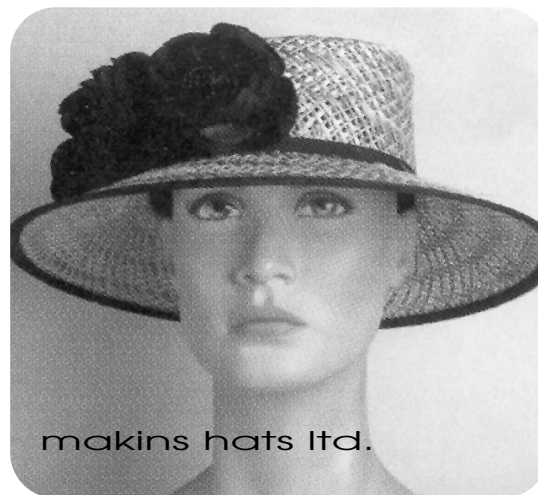
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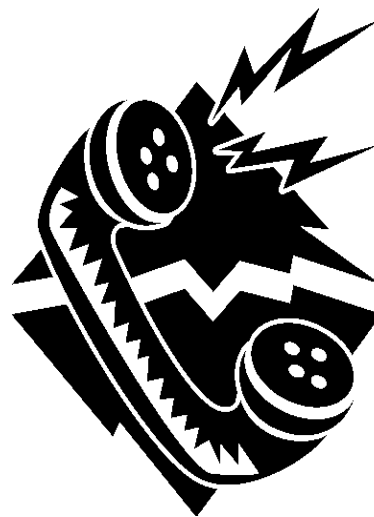
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STATE

Congresswoman rises to hero status among the left

BY MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SANTA CRUZ — President Bush and former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani may be the new post-Sept. 11 heroes for most of the United States, but in liberal pockets across the country, Congresswoman Barbara Lee — the Oakland Democrat who was the lone dissenter against the war on terrorism — is the leader du jour.

"There's no doubt she's a national figure now," said Scott Lynch, a spokesman for Washington D.C.-based Peace Action. "She's a hero to the entire progressive side of the electorate."

Saturday was declared "Barbara Lee Day" in Santa Cruz where a sold-out crowd packed the aisles of a revamped movie theater. Supporters jumped to their feet again and again, hooting and cheering when she told them "the lifeblood of democracy is the right to dissent."

"She's become a national moral leader in awakening the movement for justice, peace and a thorough re-examination of United States foreign policy," said Santa Cruz Mayor Christopher Krohn, who gave Lee a shiny key to the city.

The compliments have been echoed across the country.

In Eugene, Ore., she's been named winner of the Wayne Morse Integrity in Government Award for 2002.

Kimberly Ead, director of the Peace and Human Rights Project in Burlington, Vt., said in her community, Lee "means hope for our political system."

The most admired people in the United States these days are George and Laura Bush, Colin Powell and Rudolph Giuliani, according to a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll. Lee didn't even make the top 20 women's list, which included Madonna and Christine Whitman.

The poll of 1,019 adults was taken in December and has an error margin of plus or minus three percentage points.

But Michael Carrigan, program director of Salem-based Oregon Peace Works, said national polls don't necessarily reflect the views of the peace movement.

"We certainly don't see Bush as a hero. The people we admire are people like Barbara Lee, who had the courage to take a stand," he said.

Lee's profile among the left rose dramatically after her Sept. 14 vote against a resolution giving sweeping war powers to the president.

Before then, said Carrigan — a long-time peace activist — he had never even heard of her.

"It's like night and day," he said.

While the high profile vote drew Lee laudits from anti-war activists, it prompted death threats and vehement hatred from other Americans who felt she was unwilling to stand up for her country.

Council Nedd, a member of a Washington D.C.-based network of conservative African-Americans called Project 21, said Lee doesn't deserve to be called a hero.

"She gets a lot of attention for her wild rhetoric and vapid platitudes, but I wouldn't say she's an effective legislator, and that's what she was elected for," said Nedd.

Jerald Udinsky, a Republican financial economist who is running against Lee for her Congressional seat this fall, said Lee's anti-war vote was what motivated him to challenge her.

"I was outraged," he said, "that she didn't support America defending itself from a direct attack."

Despite widespread opposition to Lee, Udinsky said he's been unable to raise anywhere near the \$500,000 Lee has collected for her campaign from labor organizations, peace groups and others, according to data from The Center for Responsive Politics in Washington D.C.

**"There's no doubt she's
a national figure now.
She's a hero to the
entire progressive side
of the electorate."**

— SCOTT LYNCH

Spokesman for D.C. based peace action

"The national party feels there is a relatively low probability of success here, so it's hard to get funding," said Udinsky. "She's going to be hard to beat."

Born in El Paso, Texas, Lee is a self-described army brat — her father is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. She studied social work and was a community organizer before seeking office. She was elected to the House of Representatives for the traditionally Democratic ninth district of California — including Berkeley and Oakland — in a 1998 special election to fill the seat of retiring Congressman Ron Dellums for whom Lee had worked as an intern.

She's been a voice against war in Congress in the past — in 1998, she and four other members of the House voted against authorizing the bombing of Iraq after it refused to allow United Nations weapons inspections, and in 1999, she was the lone dissenter voting against sending U.S. forces into Yugoslavia.

But it wasn't until Bush asked Congress to back him in his efforts to fight terrorism that she became nationally known for her positions.

"There's a lot of people who think President Bush is a hero, but he's not my hero," said Carolyn Bninski at the Boulder, Colo.-based Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center. "Barbara Lee has a lot of courage. She listened to her inner voice and took a stand against what the popular culture was promoting. Now that's heroic."

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NATIONAL



Hundreds of new state laws nationwide take effect today

BY DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

Smokers in six states will pay more for their habit as of Monday, nudity with "artistic value" will no longer be off-limits to minors in Utah, and teddy bears will have official status as the state toy of Mississippi.

Hundreds of new laws take effect with the July 1 start of fiscal years in many states. The laws reflect legislators' concerns with the burdensome threats of terrorism and budget deficits, spiked with a few less-weighty matters.

Florida lawmakers, for example, found time to stipulate that cooking-school students under the legal drinking age can taste small amounts of wine during class — although they will be expected to spit it out after swishing it around their mouth.

Budget woes dominated many recent legislative sessions, and smokers were a preferred target in efforts to raise more revenue. As of Monday, the per-pack cigarette tax will rise by 49 cents in Vermont, 46 cents in Kansas, 40 cents in Indiana and Illinois, 31 cents in Ohio and 12 cents in Louisiana.

A measure raising the per-pack tax by 70 cents in New Jersey was awaiting the signature of the governor, who proposed the increase.

Kansas also is increasing inheritance, sales and business taxes, part of a bill aimed at raising \$252 million for the state.

Though terrorism already is covered by numerous federal laws, several legislatures — prompted by the Sept. 11 attacks —

"If we're going to adopt a state toy, based on what I've seen this session, it should be the football because we're good at punting."

— HILLMAN FRAZIER
Senator

passed their own anti-terrorism measures.

Oklahoma, Iowa, Idaho and South Dakota are designating terrorism a state crime; Oklahoma also outlawed committing a terrorist hoax, and Iowa outlawed possession of anthrax spores. Georgia is giving authorities broader powers to conduct wiretaps and listen to cell phone conversations.

Death penalty laws are changing in Indiana, where the minimum age for execution rises from 16 to 18, and in Alabama, where lethal injection becomes the primary form of execution. Alabama's switch leaves Nebraska as the only state with the electric chair as the sole means of execution.

Targeting drunken drivers, Wyoming, South Dakota and Mississippi are lowering the legal intoxication limit from 0.10 percent blood-alcohol content to 0.08 percent. The lower limit — now adopted by 32 states — conforms with a federal standard required by October 2003 to avoid losing some highway construction funds.

Wyoming lawmakers rejected similar legislation in the past, but approved the lower limit following a crash in which

eight University of Wyoming student-athletes were killed by a drunken driver.

Georgia lawmakers also responded to shocking, close-to-home news. Reacting to the macabre scandal at the Tri-State Crematory in Noble, Ga., where hundreds of rotting bodies were found earlier this year, they passed a law to ensure that crematoriums are subject to inspection and make it a felony to abandon a corpse.

Georgia altered its statute-of-limitations law so various violent crimes — not just murder — can be prosecuted even after seven years. The new law says such prosecutions can occur if DNA evidence becomes available for the first time.

Some anti-crime legislation is narrowly focused. Florida created new penalties for people who intentionally injure or kill a guide dog; Indiana made it a crime, punishable by a maximum \$10,000 fine, to flick a cigarette butt from a car.

Utah, at the behest of state pornography czar Paula Houston, rolled back a law banning any public nudity that might be viewed by minors. Fearing the old law might be struck down for encompassing a

work like Michelangelo's "David," lawmakers rewrote it to exempt displays that have artistic value.

Vermont, as of Monday, becomes the first state to require the pharmaceutical industry to disclose gifts — ranging from ball point pens to free trips — that it lavishes on physicians to influence their prescription choices.

In Georgia — despite one lawmaker's plea that there were more pressing topics to tackle — the legislature passed a bill recognizing grits as the state's official prepared food. The breakfast staple joins peanuts, peaches and Vidalia sweet onions as Georgia's designated food symbols.

Grits are popular far beyond Georgia, but Mississippi claims a distinctive reason for declaring teddy bears the state toy.

This year marked the 100th anniversary of a hunting expedition by President Theodore Roosevelt in the Mississippi Delta. After three days without success, the president was offered a captive bear to kill, and he refused.

A political cartoonist depicted Roosevelt's humane act, and toy bears thereafter became widely known as teddy bears.

Hillman Frazier was one of two state senators opposing the bill, calling it a frivolous distraction at a time lawmakers should be working harder to support Medicaid and education.

"If we're going to adopt a state toy, based on what I've seen this session, it should be the football because we're good at punting," Frazier said.

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NATIONAL

Part-time firefighter charged with setting Arizona wildfire

BY ALISA BLACKWOOD
Associated Press Writer

SHOW LOW — A massive wildfire that has destroyed more than 400 homes in Arizona was sparked by a part-time federal firefighter who hoped to make money fighting the blaze, prosecutors said Sunday.

Leonard Gregg, 29, had worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a contract firefighter. According to a statement filed in federal court by a BIA investigator, Gregg said he set the fire to make money as part of a fire crew and that he was also angry over family problems.

"This fire was started with a profit motive behind it," U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton said Sunday.

Gregg was arrested Saturday in connection with two fires set June 18 near the Fort Apache Indian Reservation town of Cibola. One fire was put out, but the other exploded up steep terrain and quickly spread, threatening the town of Show Low and overrunning two smaller communities just to the west.

The wildfire merged with another started by a lost hiker signaling a helicopter, becoming the largest in Arizona history. By Sunday, the 452,000-acre blaze had destroyed at least 423 homes. It was about 35 percent contained by fire lines near Show Low but continued to burn out of control to the west.

According to the criminal complaint, Gregg said he had set the fires near Cibola by using stick matches to set dry grass aflame. He said he didn't expect the fire to get so big.

At a hearing in federal court in Flagstaff, a tired-looking Gregg said, "I'm sorry for what I did."

But U.S. Magistrate Stephen Verkamp cut him off, saying Gregg shouldn't make any admission of guilt at the hearing.

The judge said an attorney would be appointed for Gregg and set a preliminary hearing for Wednesday. Gregg, a resident of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, is being held in the Coconino County Jail.

If convicted of both counts, Gregg could face 10 years in prison and be fined \$500,000.

Firefighters continued

to fight the blaze Sunday and were focused on keeping the flames from bursting out of steep canyons and into the 600 homes of Forest Lakes, about 40 miles west of Show Low.

In Show Low, residents were back in their homes for the first time since June 22.

About 25,000 residents were allowed to return to the area Saturday after firefighters were able to hold the blaze to within a half-mile of Show Low's edge. The town of 7,700 was untouched, but in nearby communities, dozens of homes had been burned and blacked by the flames.

As residents poured back into the area, they found a patchwork of burned homes around the communities of Pinedale, Pinetop-Lakeside and Hon-Dah.

"I just kept praying and I knew it was going to be all right," said Mary Capuozzo of Pinetop-Lakeside.

In nearby Linden, residents were still kept from the more heavily damaged subdivision of Timberland Acres, a square mile that had been dotted with log cabins, trailers and ranch-style homes.

Residents of areas farther west of Show Low, including Heber-Overgaard, where more than 200 homes burned, were still

under orders to stay out, among 3,500 to 4,000 people still kept from their homes.

In other developments: — In Wyoming, at least 36,000 acres were ablaze and crews were scrambling to contain six major lightning-caused fires that erupted late last week. Two were in the southeastern part of the state and threatened about 100 rural homes; four were in the northeast and threatened about 15 homes.

— Thousands of people fled the South Dakota gambling town of Deadwood because of a wildfire that was 30 percent contained Sunday morning. Two homes and six other buildings were destroyed in the town of 1,380 residents.

— Several grass fires flared up in North Dakota, including a 20,000-acre blaze that burned about 30 buildings and dozens of vehicles in Shields, a town of 15 residents, authorities said.

— Fire crews in Colorado extended their containment lines around a more than 71,000-acre wildfire north of Durango. It was 40 percent contained but still threatened 152 homes. The flames had destroyed 56 houses.



Associated Press

Leonard Gregg, left, is led into Federal Court in Flagstaff, Ariz. on Sunday. Gregg, a part-time firefighter who was charged Sunday with starting one of the two wildfires that merged into the largest in Arizona's history, told an investigator he set it to make money as part of a fire crew, according to court documents.

SPORTS



Team Williams' certainty starts off Wimbledon's week 2

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — Venus Williams loses the opening set, composes herself, then drops just three games the rest of the way.

Her sister, Serena, gets broken twice and is extended to two tiebreakers, but dominates each to win in straight sets.

Ah, top players playing top tennis when they need to.

The one seeming certainty in the sport — Team Williams — lent some sanity to the first three rounds of Wimbledon, while other female stars pretty much performed as expected, too.

Not so with the men.

Bye, Pete Sampras. Later, Andre Agassi. So long, Marat Safin. And Andy Roddick, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Roger Federer, and so on.

Who knows what the rest of Wimbledon holds in store after a first week in which all was upside-down at the All England Club: upset followed upset like a row of dominos falling, and not a drop of rain fell, leaving nearly as much brown as green on courts.

Of the top 17 men, only two will be in action when play resumes Monday with the fourth round: No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt and No. 4 Tim Henman, who's striving to give Britain its first men's champion since Fred Perry 66 years ago.

"It's just good to be alive in this tournament, good to

be still winning, because so much has happened," Henman said after benefiting from a questionable umpire's overrule in his four-set victory over Wayne Ferreira to reach the final 16. "Now it's a question of almost starting over again."

It's the first time at any Grand Slam tournament in the Open era (since 1968) that fewer than four of the top 16 men reached the fourth round. And half of the players left already have equaled or eclipsed their best showing at a major.

Only U.S. Open champion Hewitt and 1996 Wimbledon champ Richard Krajicek — who's played more this week than in the preceding 20 months because of serious elbow surgery — have won majors.

That's in keeping with the way things have been in the men's game.

Four straight Grand Slam tournaments have been won by first-time major champions — that's never happened before in the Open era — and eight men have divvied up the last eight majors.

"Tennis is more or less equal. Any player can beat any player," No. 2 Safin said after his 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (1) loss to 64th-ranked Olivier Rochus in the second round. "The people, they can play tennis. Short, long, big, fat, whatever."

Unlike other majors, Wimbledon has all 16 fourth-round matches on the same day. While the women's schedule reads like a "Who's Who" guide to the game — six of Nos. 1-7 are in it — the men's lineup is more like a "Who's He?"

Men's matches Monday, when the forecast calls for rain: Hewitt vs. Mikhail Youzhny, Henman vs. Michel Kratochvil, No. 18 Sjeng Schalken vs. Jan Vacek, Krajicek vs. Mark Philippoussis, No. 23 Greg Rusedski vs. No. 27 Xavier Malisse, No. 22 Nicolas Lapentti vs. Arnaud Clement, No. 28 David Nalbandian vs. Wayne Arthurs, and Feliciano Lopez vs. Andre Sa.

Among the pairings for a spot in the women's quarters are No. 1 Venus Williams vs. No. 16 Lisa Raymond, and No. 2 Serena Williams vs. Chanda Rubin. Also in it: No. 3 Jennifer Capriati, No. 4 Monica Seles, No. 6 Justine Henin (runner-up in '01) and No. 7 Jelena Dokic.

There is one true interloper: 134th-ranked Laura Granville, a qualifier from Chicago who owned one Grand Slam match victory before Wimbledon and is so anonymous that the official tournament Web site doesn't have her photo.

A Williams or Capriati has won nine of the last 11 majors, with Venus taking Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 2000 and 2001.

About the only thing that appears capable of blocking Sister Slam III, following all-Williams finals at September's U.S. Open and this year's French Open, is Venus' sore left knee.

She wore a patch on it Saturday, and limped slightly during both her 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 singles victory over 31-year-old Canadian journeywoman Maureen Drake and a later doubles win with her sister.

Brazil celebrates victory over Germany in World Cup

BY BARRY WILNER

AP Sports Writer

YOKOHAMA, Japan — The World Cup of upsets and upstarts ended with a fitting champion and a rejuvenated superstar.

Ronaldo scored both goals to lead Brazil to a 2-0 victory over Germany on Sunday for the team's record fifth title, capping a superb tournament that helped erase bad memories of his knee injuries and the team's 1998 World Cup final.

"Today we lived a beautiful dream," he said.

The Brazilians won with a style and artistry reminiscent of their past champions and overcame the cool efficiency of the Germans, who were undone by a blunder from the world's best goalkeeper, Oliver Kahn.

Brazil, just months ago considered one

of the weakest teams ever from the country, went 7-0 in the world's most popular sporting event, playing in the final for the third straight time.

Appropriately, the greatest of all Brazilian players, Pele, handed over the golden World Cup trophy to captain Cafu as fireworks and streamers flew from a stage on the field and teammates bounced up and down in a sea of silver confetti.

Pele then hugged and kissed Ronaldo, who tied his national record of 12 goals by scoring eight times in this tournament — the most in a World Cup since 1970.

Thousands of flashbulbs went off as the first World Cup in Asia ended in a much more satisfying way for Brazil and Ronaldo than in '98, when he was ill before the game and played poorly in a 3-0 loss to host France.

"Everything changes," Ronaldo said

through tears. "People said Brazilian soccer was decadent and in crisis. But this will prove that Brazil's soccer is alive."

Alive and beautiful, as it was for the champions of 1958, '62, '70 and '94. This team wasn't supposed to be as strong or graceful or cunning as those. But it was every bit as successful in its first World Cup meeting with Germany.

And Brazil certainly celebrated in classic Brazilian style.

At the final whistle, every Brazilian player ran onto the field carrying a flag or draped in one. Goalkeeper Marcos, who outplayed Kahn, kneeled in the net, his body covered with his country's green, blue and gold flag, as coach Luiz Felipe Scolari ran to hug him.

With a sign in Portuguese saying, "People of Brazil, thank you for the affection," players paraded before an ecstatic

crowd that chanted "Penatcampeao" (five-time champion) while it did the samba in the stands.

Each member of the Brazilian contingent held hands and gathered in a circle in the middle of the field just before Cafu accepted the trophy.

"We did not have a debt, but we are free now of the weight on our consciences," Ronaldo said.

The victory set off wild celebrations in Brazil, where the sounds of car horns, plastic trumpets and fireworks filled the air. Thousands of beach-goers danced in their bathing suits and yellow Brazil jerseys to the music of Samba drums before a giant-screen TV up on Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach.

Many fans in Germany were devastated. They hoped this team could end its surprising run with a fourth World Cup championship.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bits of doomsday changing hands, raises alarms

PART I: THE TRAFFICKERS

(EDITOR'S NOTE — "A choice between the quick and the dead," American statesman Bernard Baruch said of his plan to abolish nuclear weapons after World War II. The choice was made. Now, in a new war, who else may opt for the bomb? This is the first in a three-part series on the struggle to keep terrorism from going nuclear.)

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY

AP Special Correspondent

TBILISI, Georgia — On a date unknown, via unknown hands, the 361 black pellets were carried over a two-mile-high pass in the jagged skyline of the Caucasus, and down into Georgia's wide valleys.

The little delivery from Russia was then driven 170 miles across this former Soviet republic to the Black Sea coast. There, in the smoky port of Batumi, one of four Georgian traffickers took personal charge of the contraband and traveled a final few miles over the border into Turkey.

The Georgians thought they had a buyer for the pellets — 3 pounds of enriched uranium. But somehow the deal fell through. When the front man returned, the four found another interested party waiting for them, the police.

"It's happening everywhere, but Georgia seems to have become a favorite route," said Valerian Khaburdzania, the state security minister who described last July's operation, when his investigators tailed the smugglers from the Caucasus Mountains and then arrested them.

"Georgia is close to where the material is" — Russia — "and close to the people who want to buy it, in Turkey, in Iran," he said.

Laboratory tests found that the haul by Khaburdzania's men was not sufficiently enriched — loaded with the fissionable uranium-235 isotope — to be ready-made for a nuclear bomb. But it could have been, as it was 15 months earlier when 2 pounds of highly enriched uranium were seized and another smuggling ring undone in the same city of Batumi.

It was bomb-usable in Paris, too, last July, when French police seized three men with a small amount of U-235, an apparent "sample," international nuclear authorities say.

And there may be bomb-grade material, either uranium or plutonium, passing even today through any one of countless airports, seaports or unfenced borders, on its way to clandestine weapon-builders.

"That's the hell of all this," a U.S. anti-proliferation official said privately. What "material of concern," as he put it, has leaked or may leak from Russia or nuclear sites elsewhere?

"You don't know what you don't know."

In the lengthening shadows of Sept. 11, a nightmare of doomsday weapons is taking hold in the world. America may have the most to fear. Federal prosecutors say Osama bin-Laden's al-Qaida terror network has been trying since 1993 to obtain the makings of a nuclear weapon.

The fear reaches well beyond Washington, however — to the Middle East, for example, where many believe Iran and Iraq are in the market for bomb-usable material to counter Israel's nuclear force or U.S. pressure, or to keep up with each other, or dominate the oil region.

The fear extends even to this small, poor ex-Soviet republic. Georgia's remote Pankisi Gorge harbors anti-Russian guerrillas from neighboring Chechnya who have been joined by dozens of Arab fighters, Khaburdzania said.

"Maybe they're connected with al-Qaida," the Georgian minister wondered. "Maybe they're interested in nuclear terrorism. ... This trafficking is a very dangerous situation."

Washington is shoring up defenses: accelerating its \$1 billion-a-year effort to lock down "loose nukes" in the former Soviet Union; sending radiation detectors to crossing points on U.S. and distant borders. American "weaponers" are tinkering with primitive bomb designs in the sanctums of national laboratories, to see how terrorists might make one.

In a world stocked with an estimated 30,000 nuclear bombs, an unsettling new arms race is unfolding, a race to keep the next weapon out of a cargo container, or interstate truck, or the hold of a suicide pilot's light plane bound for New York, Washington or some other unlucky city.

Stealing one would be the direct route to a terrorist bomb, but the warheads are rigidly guarded. The easiest route would be a "dirty bomb," a conventional, non-nuclear explosion that would spread radioactive cesium,

for example, from medical radiotherapy equipment.

But the threat that haunts the sleep of strategic planners is the potential for a terror group to obtain sufficient fissionable material to fashion a crude bomb like the one America dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, a bomb that could kill tens of thousands and level the heart of a city.

Can they build one? Official pronouncements and technical nuances cloud the answers.

Some specialists contend the amounts the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regards as minimal for making a bomb are several times too large — that in reality, and with the right design, as little as 2 pounds of plutonium and 7 pounds of uranium processed to over 90 percent U-235 might achieve a nuclear explosion.

Official U.S. and international agencies counter that such engineering would be beyond terrorists' capabilities. But no one puts too fine a point on this balance between technical abilities and "bomb amounts."

"I don't have any reason to believe there's any sophisticated nuclear capability in al-Qaida. But I don't want to find out," said Linton Brooks, deputy chief of the U.S. Energy Department's nuclear security operations.

The way not to find out is to keep "material of concern" out of unwanted hands.

The former Soviet Union alone possesses an estimated 1,350 metric tons of it — half in weapons, half removed from warheads and stored, or in use in such places as civilian research reactors.

Bits of that material have surreptitiously leaked out since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The IAEA, which guards against nuclear material going astray, has recorded hundreds of trafficking cases out of Russia and elsewhere since the early 1990s, most involving waste or other radioactive material not useful for nuclear bombs. But a handful have involved bomb-usable material.

One of the most troubling cases played out in Prague, where Czech authorities, breaking up an international band of traffickers, seized 6 pounds of nearly pure U-235 in December 1994. The next year, ominously, the Czechs confiscated smaller samples apparently drawn from the same secret store of bomb uranium.

Here in Georgia, in the isolated separatist enclave of Abkhazia, at least 1.4 pounds of bomb-grade uranium disappeared sometime in the 1990s from an ex-Soviet nuclear institute. The IAEA worries that uranium-enrichment equipment may also be vulnerable to theft there, but it lacks easy access and authority to investigate.

It's the "dark" statistic — the undetected traffic — that naturally worries investigators most. "It's hit or miss," said George A. Anzelon, the American who runs the IAEA trafficking database. "For every important seizure, it's not hard to imagine how it might have gone undetected."

It's also not hard to imagine it going undetected when no one's trying. Two of four U.S. radiation monitors donated to Georgia were simply turned off by customs officers after being installed at border crossings last year, American officials told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Washington is trying to lead a global effort to block nuclear terrorism, sponsoring a conference here in Tbilisi in March, for example, at which officials from former Soviet republics were instructed in intercepting nuclear contraband. The IAEA's advocates, meanwhile, say it's time the U.N. watchdog agency's budget — long frozen because of Washington's anti-U.N. sentiment — be increased.

The IAEA, in the near term, is pushing to complete multilateral negotiations by year's end on a sweeping expansion of a treaty protecting nuclear materials. The treaty now sets security standards only for international transport, but would be broadened to cover the deadly commodities when they're in civilian use or storage anywhere.

In the longer term, nonproliferation advocates say, the world should adopt a treaty to cut off production of fissionable material, the stuff of bombs.

In an interview at his headquarters in Vienna, Austria, Mohamed ElBaradei, the IAEA's director general, said a second step after that would be "a gradual reduction of stockpiles, putting the excess irreversibly in the civilian sector under IAEA safeguard." He called this "a practical way to move toward nuclear disarmament."

But the first thing the nonproliferators want to cut off is the seepage from the former Soviet Union, the source in at least 13 confirmed cases of trafficking in "material of concern" since 1991.

A military offering



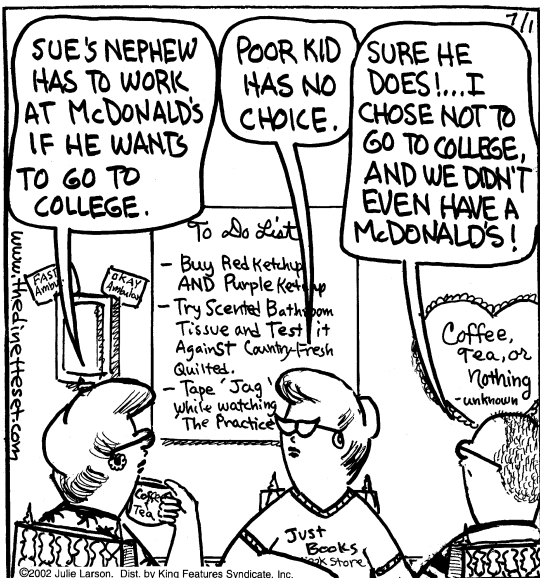
Ahn Young-joon/Associated Press

South Korean military soldiers offer flowers for the South Korean Navy sailors that were killed at the military base on Yeonpyeong Island, South Korea, in the West Sea on Sunday. North Korea refused to apologize Sunday for a sea skirmish in which four South Korean sailors died, saying the maritime border where the clash took place was illegal and should be abolished.

COMICS



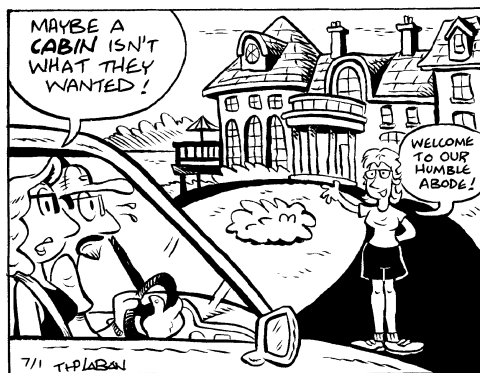
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39 Fall bloom

40 File's counterpart
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5 Topper
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7 Astronaut Buzz
8 Look at
9 Deserve
11 Stagger
15 Pourer's phrase
19 Sharpen
20 Possessed
22 Marshy areas
23 Life story eye
24 Black
25 Nabokov story
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27 Wiped clean
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29 Hen holder
30 Use foul language
33 Lustrous gem
35 Fire
36 Moose's cousin

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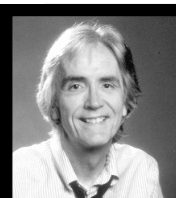
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

12-year-old girl arrested for prostitution ring

- A 12-year-old girl was arrested on charges that she coerced younger girls into prostitution in one of several local cases involving adolescent "pimps" (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; April).
- Jimmy Kave, 75, was charged with 16 sex-related counts for impregnating an 11-year-old girl (although he claimed the girl initiated the whole thing) (Bridgeport, Conn.; April).
- New Scientist magazine reported in April that a retired U.S. Army researcher's study had found that adolescent African-American girls are reaching puberty as young as age 8 because of the excessive hormones in shampoos marketed specifically for blacks (such as B&B Super Gro).





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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.

Calendar

Monday, July 1, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
About a Boy (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. *The Sum of all Fears* (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45. *The Bourne Identity* (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:30, 10:15, 11:45. *Juwanna Man* (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30 7:00.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Windtalkers (NR) 4:00, 10:10. *Minority Report* (PG-13) 11:30, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30, 11:15. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* (PG-13) 11:10, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. *Bad Company* (PG-13) 12:40, 7:20. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG) 11:20, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40. *Insomnia* (R) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Lilo & Stich (PG) 10:40, 12:55, 3:05, 5:25, 7:35, 9:30. *Hey Arnold! The Movie* (PG) 10:30, 12:40, 2:55, 5:00, 7:10. *Mr. Deeds* (PG-13) 10:55, 11:55, 1:45, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30. *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones* (PG) 10:30, 1:35, 4:40, 7:45, 10:50. *Scooby-Doo* (PG) 11:05, 1:20, 3:35, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15. *Spider-Man* (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:40.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Fast Runner: Atanarjuat (NR) 11:30, 3:15, 7:30. *Lovely and Amazing* (R) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Y Tu Mama Tambien (NR) 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15. *The Emperor's New Clothes* (PG) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. *Sunshine State* (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10. *Pumpkin* (R) 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05.

Today

Community

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.

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.

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.

Music / Entertainment

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veg-

gie 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.

Patrick Ney makes with the ha-has, at Flint's. 3321 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. FREE! 9 p.m. (310)453-1331.

Open Discussion/ Political Debate. **UnUrban Coffeehouse**. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

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

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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.

Classes

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

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Joy Jones & The Nappy Godchild Project, 8:30 pm, Niki Crawford, 9:45 pm, The Peak Show, 11:00 pm. **Temple Bar**, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310)393-6611.

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.

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KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

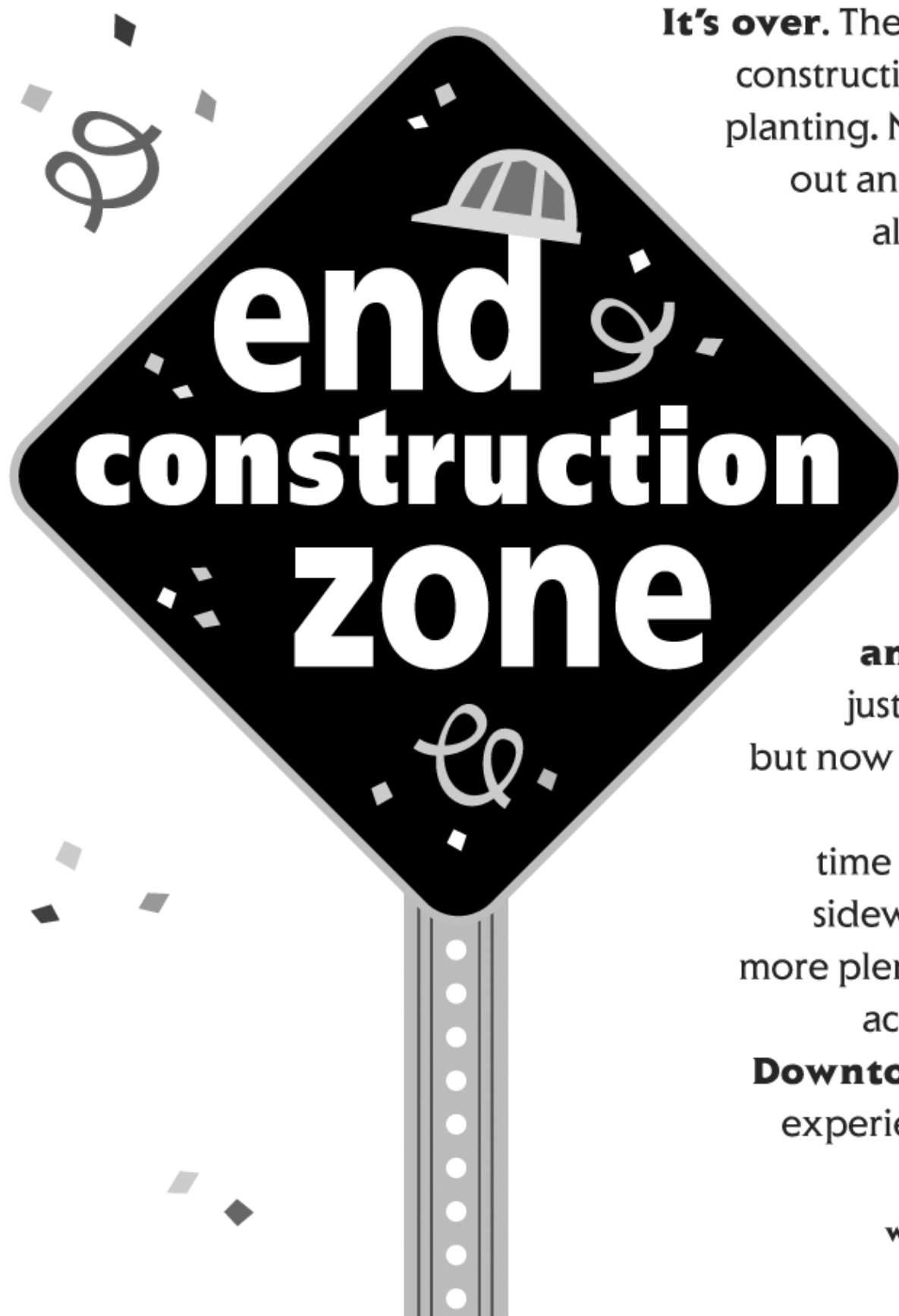
Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.

Fax all information to our Calendar

Editor: Attention Angela @ **310.576.9913**

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