

FREE

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2002

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

More panhandlers prompt merchant-city debate

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Most people would agree that vagrants and transients on the Third Street Promenade are a problem.

But there are varying opinions about what should be done about it and whose fault it is that it's gotten out of control.

About 50 Third Street Promenade merchants met last month to express their frustrations over transients sleeping in doorways in front of their

stores, chasing tourists away through aggressive panhandling, and defecating and urinating in public.

Many wondered out loud why the city isn't doing more to stop a problem that has clearly worsened in the past several months.

City officials say they are trying to deal with the situation, but there is no quick, easy solution. And they say it's not fair that merchants are pinning the blame solely on City Hall.

It is up to the mall merchants, as well as police and city officials, to tackle the issue head on, they say.

While merchants continuously complain that transients chase away business, officials say they do little to end the disruption.

It's up to merchants to call police when they see vagrants breaking the law, then press charges and be willing to testify in court when it's time to prosecute.

"If you see a crime, contact the police, wait and tell the officers 'I want this guy arrested,' and be willing to follow through in the court process," said Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega.

But most merchants aren't willing to spend the time and energy in seeing the prosecution carried out, city officials say.

"Without people taking that time and effort, we can't follow through on prosecution," said Mark Richter, manager of Santa Monica's economic development department.

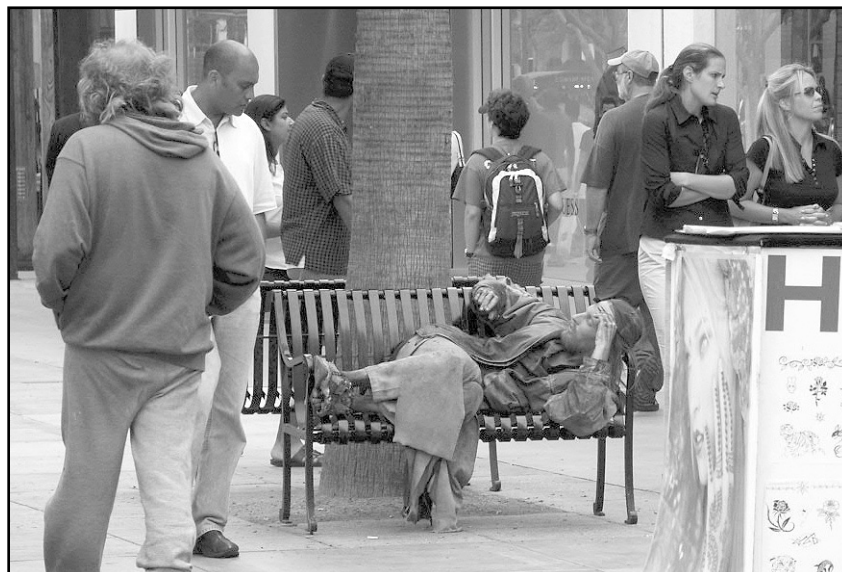
Up to 75 vagrants sleep on the Promenade each night in the doorways of businesses. Once they are awakened by police at about 6 a.m., they spread out and begin their day begging tourists for change.

But just because merchants don't like them is not reason enough to arrest them.

"We are not going to enforce the laws based on the merchants' opinion," Fabrega said. "People have a right to equal protection of the law."

A few politicians take exception to recent comments made by Promenade landlord Ernie Kaplan, who complained that no city representatives attended last month's merchant meeting when dozens of horror stories were told about the

See PANHANDLERS, page 5



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Homeless transients who beg for change and sleep on the Third Street Promenade are a common sight.

Why work when you can beg?

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A young girl spent Monday's lunch hour on the Third Street Promenade begging for and receiving \$1 and \$5 bills from at least a half dozen people in less than an hour.

Identifying herself as "Brittany," she said she needed money for food and to pay for her motel room in downtown Los Angeles, which is \$45 a day.

"Brittany," who says she is 18 years old, makes about \$50 a day panhandling.

She was offered a job that would pay cash daily. She was supposed to come to the Daily Press office at 3 p.m. on Monday, but she never showed.

Brittany said she is trying to get back home to Hawaii, but her parents won't help her. Her father just got out of rehab, she said.

The manager of the restaurant where Brittany set up shop said she comes in to the restaurant with her boyfriend frequently, orders lunch and alcohol.

Even though she said she didn't have identification, she provided an ID at the restaurant that said she is 21 years old.

City skate park plan draws old guard ire

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

After years of painstaking planning, Santa Monica may finally get a skate park tonight.

But even if the city council approves the \$572,000 proposal, it is unlikely to quiet the vocal criticism leveled at the park by the founders of modern skateboarding, which essentially evolved along the Santa Monica-Venice border.

"Basically, the beach is where it all started — the roots of skateboarding comes from that area," said Santa Monica native Tony Alva, a professional skateboarder who helped found the sport.

"It comes from the beach scene in Santa Monica and Venice, where people gathered to go surfing and hang out at the beach and that's where any skate park should be built," he said.

Alva and other local skateboarding enthusiasts want the city to build the new facility in Crescent Park, which is adjacent to the beach between Bay and Bicknell Streets.

City officials want to build the skating facility in Memorial Park, directly where newly acquired playground equipment is now located. Under the city's proposal, the playground equipment would

be squeezed between the little league baseball fields and the parking lot.

Memorial Park is located at the corner of Olympic Boulevard and 16th Street.

"...They've done nothing but take from the skaters and surfers and used that image to make money off our lifestyle."

— TONY ALVA
Professional skateboarder

"The biggest factor is that the money is there," said Neil Carrey, a recreation and parks commissioner. "It's questionable that if we don't build it there now, that we would ever get a skate park."

Critics of the Memorial Park location say those playing organized sports and those skateboarding won't mix well at the park. Supporters, however, believe everyone will get along just fine.

"It's not like we're putting a

See PARK, page 5

Get your fictitious name on file

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

If you're suing a business, make sure you get the legal name correct or your case will be dismissed.

West Los Angeles-based J.A. Communications learned that lesson the hard way Monday when three of its cases were dismissed by Judge Pro Tem Michael Koenig in Santa Monica Small Claims Court.

The cell phone business' owner, Jay Adams, attempted to sue three of his customers for breach of their cell phone contracts.

But, when a business writes a contract between itself and another individual, the busi-

ness' owner must officially have papers on file with the court proving he or she is the holder of the contract, because legally there is no real person with the business' name.

In legalese, it's called filing a "fictitious name" declaration. J.A. Communications had no such name on file.

"Many of the larger businesses in Santa Monica know to have this on file," Koenig said. "It's these little guys who don't know all the rules."

The court requires the document so the owner can be held accountable for any judgments against them, Koenig said.

See CLAIMS, page 3

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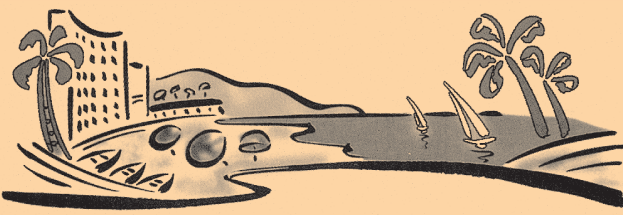
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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You easily could go to extremes trying to impress someone close to you. Be realistic about how you handle a loved one. You might get this person in the habit of always expecting this. Dig into your imagination when dealing with your family and security-related matters. Tonight: Home is where the heart is.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You discover that there is such a thing as too many opportunities or offers. If you're feeling overwhelmed, stop and list your priorities. You solve many problems this way. Don't close any doors, if possible. Use your soft, diplomatic style. Tonight: Head for a favorite haunt.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Listen well to what someone shares concerning money and a long-term desire. You also might, as a result of news, change plans slightly. Don't be rigid or set in your ways. Use your innate creativity when seeking out unusual answers. Remember that there are no problems, only solutions. Tonight: Buy a treat on the way home.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Surprises happen when dealing with finances. An associate or someone you count on could change his or her mind at the last moment. Realize your monetary limits. Remain positive as you approach work and associates. Tonight: Whatever makes the Moon Child happy.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Slow down, especially as others might throw a boomerang in your path. Keep smiling as you figure out what is going on. Don't make any commitments in the present atmosphere; rather, sleuth through issues as only you can! Tonight: Take a break from it all. Make it OK to run away!

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You could be undermined by a "surprise" happening. Detach from events, refusing to take on a situation or to take another's swift reversal personal. Keep focused, aiming for more of what you want and need. A meeting helps you regroup. Tonight: Laughter heals. Join your friends.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Stay on top of changes and deal with a friend head-on. How you react to another could have a substantial impact on your relationship. Don't push another too hard, either. You might be thrown off by an associate's unpredictability. Tonight: Breeze past a problem.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Read between the lines, especially with a frazzled family member. You might feel as if enough is enough. Laughter and lightness mark your decisions, particularly concerning work. Seek out experts, predominantly those involving a highbrow topic. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You, above many, can deal with others and their odd behavior. Associates might run in the opposite direction when carrying on. Know that this trait can make all the difference in a pinch. Use care when working with an associate, understanding his or her reaction. Tonight: Go along with another's request.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others run with the ball, and, in some fashion, you feel as if you don't have the control you desire. Carefully review a situation that involves finances before you decide to pull out. Decide honestly what your motives are. Tonight: Go along with plans.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Dig into work rather than causing yourself trouble. Your disruptive streak might be more of a problem for a loved one than you realize. Don't cause yourself unnecessary problems. Don't cause others unnecessary problems, either. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Your frolicsome manner takes you in another direction at work, but it could ultimately prove quite disruptive. Listen to what another suggests and follow through. Your creativity pokes a hole in an idea. Present this insight with care. Tonight: Let romance in.

QUOTE of the DAY

“When I was a boy I was told that anyone can become President; I'm beginning to believe it.”
— Clarence Darrow (1857-1938)

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Measure U committee to hold first meeting

By Daily Press staff

The recently appointed Santa Monica College Citizens Bond Oversight Committee will hold its first meeting at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 26 in the Ilona Jo Katz Board Room (Room 117 of the Business Building) at Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd.

As required by state law, the 16-member committee was appointed to oversee the implementation of projects funded by Measure U, the \$160 million bond measure for capital improvements passed by Santa Monica-Malibu voters last March.

The first meeting will be largely organizational, with election of officers, review of bylaws and schedule of future meetings topping the agenda. The committee — which will meet regularly under the Brown Act, California's open government law — is responsible for reviewing quarterly reports to ensure that bond money is spent only for purposes set forth in the ballot measure.

Council asks to hear from public on noise ordinance

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica City Council has authorized amendments to the noise ordinance in order to afford greater protection to residents living in proximity to industrial and commercial businesses and to make the ordinance fully and fairly enforceable.

Toward that goal, a community meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 24 from 7-9 p.m. at the Ken Edwards Center, rooms 103, 104 and 105. City staff and its consultant, Mestre Greve Associates, will outline planned revisions to the ordinance and receive additional public input about community noise issues. This input will be considered as the ordinance update evolves.

The current noise ordinance was adopted in 1995.

Mestre Greve Associates is a nationally recognized community noise-engineering firm.

The Ken Edwards Center, located at 1527 4th St., can accommodate up to 60 participants. The facility is wheelchair accessible and served by Big Blue Bus lines 1, 3, 7 and 8. Metered parking is also available.

Registration for this meeting is not necessary but is encouraged to ensure that enough handout materials and seating are available. Interested persons may call 310 -434-2634 or use the on-line registration form to confirm their attendance.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Bill Rodrigues as listed above with your comments, concerns, and/or suggestions. Written statements are preferred.

Tour of current city projects offered

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica residents are invited to take part in a unique examination of the wide range of improvement projects occurring throughout the community during a tour aboard a Big Blue Bus.

The "Whole Lotta Projects Goin' On IV" session of the City of Santa Monica's Leadership Series is scheduled for Saturday, July 20, from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

Seats on the free tour of more than 20 recently-completed and in-progress construction and infrastructure improvement sites (downtown, parks, beach area, sewers, streets) are available on a first-registered, first-served basis.

Environmental & Public Works Management Department director Craig Perkins will lead the two-hour tour, departing at 10 a.m. from the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street.

The projects tour is just one of the courses offered in this year's Leadership Series, which covers a variety of city government-related topics designed to inform and engage Santa Monicans.

To register for the tour or for more information about the Leadership Series, call 458-8301. Web users can visit www.santa-monica.org/communication/cityforms/leadership_series.htm to register on-line.



A decent amount of leftover swell puts surf in the knee to waist-high range today, getting smaller as the week goes on. Dawn patrol still holds the most promise for consistency, decent for the afternoon glass right before sunset. There should be small wind swell waves at northwest exposures, knee to waist high.

Wednesday, a new west by southwest swell will be showing, though near shore islands shadow most LA County spots.

(Information compiled by Jesse Haley.)

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	2-2'/Fair	B
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Good	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Good	B

Tides:	3:24 a.m. Low / -0.43'	9:49 a.m. High / 3.49'	2:15 p.m. Low / 2.29'	8:29 p.m. High / 6.07'
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During the construction of Santa Monica's \$15 million transit mall, driving downtown could be a tricky endeavor. No turn signs combined with closed lanes made for some of the worst congestion the city has seen.

The situation seemed at times almost ironic, since the new transit mall is intended to better integrate mass-transit and "streamline" traffic snarls.

Two weeks ago, the city celebrated the end of the construction and the beginning of its new downtown. However, with summer fully upon us, the new traffic system is being put to the test for the first time.

This week Q Line wants to know:

"Now that construction is complete, is driving downtown any easier? If not, what do you believe should be done to better alleviate congestion?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

Business owner irked by law

CLAIMS, from page 1

"It's more of a tracking device so people can't hide behind a shell identity," he said.

However, Adams was upset nobody told him the document was necessary for his cases to proceed to trial.

"This is ridiculous," he said. "You mean all the times I came in to file these complaints, nobody could have told me about this?"

Adams said he couldn't understand why the court's clerks didn't tell him to file the proper paper work.

But court clerks are not allowed by law to give legal advice, including advising litigants on any additional paperwork that might be needed.

"It's not their job," Koenig said. "They are clerks and they are not there to be your advisor."

Filing a "fictitious name" declaration with the small claims clerk requires only a single form and two pieces of identification.

Adams will be allowed to re-file his claims and will have to return to court at a future date — after he proves the business belongs to him.

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OPINION

Ordinance differs from other 'living wage' laws

During the last two weeks, I have described the essential features of the City of Santa Monica's Minimum Wage Ordinance. One last task is to distinguish the ordinance from so-called "living wage" laws.

This distinction is important because proponents have consistently placed this label on the ordinance even though it is dramatically different and, therefore, will have very different impacts.

Baltimore adopted the first "living wage" law in 1994, which covered employees of companies entering into contracts with the city worth at least \$5,000.

This type of ordinance — referred to as a "contractor only" ordinance — is the most common. More recent laws have expanded the base of covered companies to include firms receiving some form of financial assistance, such as tax incentives, in excess of a designated level — \$100,000 in the case of Los Angeles, Oakland and San Jose. Only a very few cities have adopted laws that include city employees.

When limited to companies doing business with the city, these laws have a reasonable basis and, even if not the best way to help alleviate poverty among low-wage workers and their families, at least plausibly have this effect.

A large city such as L.A. enters into service contracts paying millions of dollars annually. Normally, these contracts would be awarded to the lowest competent bidder. Supporters of "living wage" laws contend that in many cases, workers performing the required services are paid wages insufficient to provide for their families. Therefore, they must rely on governmental assistance.

It seems incongruous to have a system in which workers must seek additional governmental support when their wages are, at least indirectly, paid by the city. Therefore, it is reasonable for a city to require that wages be raised to avoid this result.

It is more efficient and realistic for the city to insist that wages be higher even if the result is a slightly higher contract price — the city is paying either way.

The "contractor only" ordinances are much like "prevailing wage" laws that require municipal contractors to pay, at least in some cases, wages higher than those that might be paid in a totally free market.

For this reason, they are supported by unions representing municipal workers in order to reduce the incentive for outsourcing work to private companies.

The same theory holds when the ordinance extends to companies receiving financial assistance. These are companies the city hopes to attract because of the jobs created and tax revenue expected to be produced.

However, if the workers will be added to relief roles, the city will not be getting what it bargained for and the economic consequences of the higher wage can be taken into account in negotiating the terms of the assistance to be provided.

In contrast, Santa Monica's ordinance, as discussed in this column two weeks ago, applies to all service contractors

irrespective of the amount of the contract, and to city employees but does not apply to companies receiving financial assistance.

This difference may be because of the extensive amount of money given by the city to nonprofit organizations, which would be hampered if they were required to pay wages at the level mandated by the ordinance.

Most importantly, of course, the city's ordinance also extends to private companies having no business relationship with the city simply because of their location and sales volume. As a result, the ordinance is actually a hybrid, with some aspects of a typical "living wage" law while resembling a minimum wage law that increases the minimum wage by more than 80 percent from \$6.75 to \$12.25 per hour.

It is this unique character which must be considered when assessing the likely impacts of the law — a subject I will turn to next week.

(Tom Larmore is a Santa Monica resident and a property rights attorney.)

Guest Commentary

By Tom Larmore

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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LOCAL



Merchants, city play blame game over beggar problem

PANHANDLERS, from page 1

problems vagrants create.

But as Bayside District Corp. Executive Director Kathleen Rawson pointed out, the meeting was just part of a regular merchants' gathering when a number of issues were scheduled to be discussed and therefore city representatives weren't invited.

"I was never invited to the meeting," said Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, who is running for re-election this fall and serves as the liaison on a task force that deals with Promenade issues. "I take special offense because I try to go to the meetings and work with Bayside."

The Bayside District oversees the outdoor mall and serves as a bridge between private business and the public sector.

"The fact that the city isn't responsive isn't fair," Rawson said. "Our board discussed it and the public safety committee will make a recommendation to the city."

City representatives did attend an official Bayside District Board of Directors meeting later that day when they explained trespassing laws and listened to merchant complaints.

"The message is very clearly heard," Richter said. "We need the cooperation of (the city, the police and the merchants) to take back people's property rights."

While they all agree the problem has to be tackled collectively, officials from City Hall and the police department don't agree on how to go about enforcing existing laws.

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said the state's trespassing law should be more regularly enforced. The law makes it illegal to stay on private property if someone has been asked to leave. So technically, anyone who sleeps in a doorway, which is

private property, should be arrested.

"If we enforce the trespassing laws steadily, people may move along," Moutrie said. "I actually think the easiest course is probably enforce the state's trespassing laws."

"My advice is before you adopt a new law, make sure you enforce the ones you've got," she added.

The catch to the trespassing law is that a business owner must file a letter with the city every 30 days saying they don't want anyone on their property, which police then use as a complaint to make an arrest.

Rawson said there are about 80 letters from Bayside merchants on file at City Hall.

But if vagrants are sleeping outside the doorway and on the public street, the city's camping law is applicable. That law makes it illegal to "camp" in public places. So if someone has items that suggest they are camping — such as a bed roll — they can be arrested.

And because not all merchants have letters on file with the city that express their intent to keep vagrants off of their property, the police can't enforce the trespassing law because it's private land.

However, if the city amended its no camping ordinance so it applies to private property, and in particular, the "vestibules" in front of the stores, then police could arrest the vagrants who sleep there.

"We need a law that specifically addresses camping on private property," Fabrega said.

The police department also takes the position that the city's policy on feeding people in public places like Palisades Park and City Hall attracts transients to the downtown area.

"Perhaps the city should establish regulations for the feedings," Fabrega said.

Council asked to preserve skateboarding's heritage

PARK, from page 1

gang center next to baseball fields," Carrey said. "My concern with the location is the parking situation — it's already awful and the skate park would only make it worse."

Officials believe the city would face a lengthy approval process and difficulty in obtaining state and regional permission to build the park on the beach because California closely regulates any coastline uses.

For instance, in Santa Barbara it took 10 years to get all the necessary approvals before it could build its beachside skate park.

Also, officials worry that because Santa Monica's beaches draw a regional crowd, locals who want to use the skate park could be crowded out.

"There seems to be a belief that the more something is inside the city, the less people come from elsewhere come to use it," Carrey said. "But when you are at the beach, it becomes an attraction for people outside the city."

To Alva, the draw should be considered a positive aspect. Skateboarders worldwide know Santa Monica as the birthplace of the sport and a skate park on the beach would bring them to the city.

"Santa Monica revolves around the

tourist industry," he said. "Something like this would only attract more people to the area and bring the city more business."

"It would be another attraction for those who want to enjoy another piece of the California lifestyle."

But more than helping the city with its slumping tourist business, Alva said the city owes it to its skateboarding heritage to not only build the park, but to build it in the right place.

"The city has the money, the energy, and the youth on their side," he said. "But they've done nothing but take from the skaters and surfers and used that image to make money off our lifestyle."

"It's time for the city to step-up and do something right by us now."

A petition is being circulated asking the city council not to approve the current proposal and move the skate park to the beach, where they say there are more mass-transit bus lines and adequate parking.

"We strongly encourage the city council of Santa Monica to stop playing politics with our future and approve the beach location," the petition states, "so we can preserve Santa Monica's reputation as the skate/surf capital USA and the birthplace of modern skateboarding."

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STATE

Cop videotaped roughing up handcuffed teenager

BY PAUL WILBORN
Associated Press Writer

INGLEWOOD — A police officer who was videotaped slamming a handcuffed teenager onto the back of a car and then punching him during a weekend arrest has been relieved of duty, a police official said Monday.

"What occurred within the video is extremely disturbing to the Inglewood Police Department and to the administrators of the city," police Lt. Eve R. Irvine said.

Officer Jeremy Morse, a three-year police veteran who is seen in the videotape striking 16-year-old Donovan Jackson in the face, was placed on administrative leave. Morse is white and Jackson is black.

The tape shows the prone teenager hoisted to his feet by Morse and slammed onto the rear trunk of a police car. The officer put a hand on the back of the teen's neck, slugged him with his other hand and then appeared to choke him. Two other Inglewood officers appeared to intervene, with at least one trying to pull away the first officer's arm.

Irvine identified three other Inglewood officers who were present but were not relieved of duty: Officer Bijan Darvish, a two-year veteran; Officer Mariano Salcedo, an eight-year veteran and training officer; and Officer Antoine Crook, a one-year veteran.

The Inglewood officers were assisting two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies who were investigating a car that had an expired vehicle registration. The teen was a passenger in the car, which was being driven by his father, Koby Chavis, 41, who was also cited for driving with a suspended license.

The Sheriff's Department also began an internal affairs investigation, and the district attorney's office was also notified, Irvine said.

The teen lunged at one of the deputies and a physical altercation occurred before a bystander began videotaping the arrest at a gas station late Saturday afternoon, Irvine said.

Exactly what happened before the camera rolled remained under investigation.

The videotape showed a bloody gash over Morse's

left ear. Irvine said he also sustained laceration on an elbow and knee. He was treated at a hospital and released.

Pressed on whether the altercation justified the officer's actions, Irvine said, "I'm certainly not saying it's justified at this time. That's why the investigation has been initiated."

Irvine said sheriff's investigators had collected images from gas station surveillance cameras but she did not know what they showed. Two cameras were visible at the station.

The family of the youth and their lawyer, Joe Hopkins, brought the youth before television cameras to show marks on his face and neck. The teen made no remarks. Hopkins said he is emotionally handicapped.

"I doubt he is emotionally capable of doing what they say he did," Hopkins said.

According to Hopkins' account, the father and son pulled into the station to get gas and the son had gone to get potato chips when the deputies passed by and came back, initially confronting the youth and

ordering him against the car.

"From there it went crazy," Hopkins said.

The youth was seated on the ground when the Inglewood officers ran up, Hopkins said. The youth stood up and a deputy grabbed him by the neck before the city officers began to beat him, the attorney said.

Hopkins said the teen wore a heavy chain around his neck and the officers dragged him by it until it broke.

"In that video the kid is essentially unconscious. He is out of it," said Hopkins, who alleged that a black officer used a racial slur against the father.

The videotape was recorded by Mitch Crooks, a tourist from Sacramento who was staying at a motel across the street from the gas station.

The teenage passenger became "combative" during the investigation, said sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Richard Myers. "Force was needed to subdue him and take him into custody. He was subsequently booked for assault on a police officer."

A doctor's dream



Nick Ut/Associated Press

Tricia Althen, a member of the Hollywood Beautification Team, plants a tree to honor the memory of Yeneneh Betru, a doctor who was killed on American Airlines Flight 77 on Sept. 11, during a tree-planting ceremony in front of Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank on Monday. Plans are underway to open a dialysis wing at Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, set for Sept. 11, 2002, the family announced during the ceremony.

NATIONAL



Terror law used successfully has uncertain future

BY TIM WHITMIRE

Associated Press Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — On the very day last month that Mohamad Hammoud became the first person convicted under a 1996 law that bans aid to terrorist groups, a federal judge in California declared the statute unconstitutional.

Though federal prosecutors expect Hammoud's conviction to stand, questions surround the future of the law as the government plans to use it against two major defendants: the alleged "20th hijacker" Zacarias Moussaoui and John Walker Lindh, the American accused of taking up arms for the Taliban.

"With an issue this important, and with the questions being raised, it's something the U.S. Supreme Court may ultimately take a look at," said Deke Falls, Hammoud's lawyer. "I think they'll have to within the next three years."

On June 22, a federal jury in Charlotte found Hammoud guilty of providing

material support to the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. The 28-year-old Lebanese-born Hammoud could spend the rest of his life in prison.

Hammoud was accused by the government in March of funneling profits from a cigarette-smuggling ring to Hezbollah. He was convicted under a 6-year-old law that prohibits aid to groups and individuals classified as terrorist by the U.S. State Department.

After the verdict, U.S. Attorney Bob Conrad said the conviction opens a new front in the war against terrorism.

"The fact that there are terrorist fund-raising cells in Charlotte means there are terrorist fund-raising cells elsewhere," he said. "We will try to prosecute elsewhere."

On the same day the verdict came down, U.S. District Judge Robert Takasugi in Los Angeles declared the law unconstitutional and threw out a March 2001 case against seven people accused of directing charitable donations to an Iranian group designated terrorist by the government.

Takasugi said the law violates foreign organizations' due process rights because it gives them no opportunity to contest their terrorist designation.

For now, Takasugi's ruling has no effect beyond the Los Angeles case, and the Justice Department has said it plans to appeal.

Hammoud also plans to appeal his conviction. Before his trial, defense lawyers in the case raised objections that echoed Takasugi's ruling but were rejected by the presiding judge.

Similar pretrial motions in the Lindh case, which is to be tried in Alexandria, Va., were denied last month by a federal judge there.

Federal prosecutor Ken Bell, who tried the Hammoud case, said he does not believe Hammoud's conviction could be overturned on due process grounds.

"Since Hezbollah claims to have no presence in the United States, in our opinion they would have no due process rights to contest the designation" as a terrorist

organization, Bell said.

John Cline, an Albuquerque, N.M., lawyer who represented one of Hammoud's co-defendants, said there are serious problems with the law, including a provision that bars defendants charged with material support from contesting a terrorist designation.

As the law is written, he said, "unless Hezbollah is willing to show up in a U.S. court and challenge its designation, the designation is going to stand."

In yet another major case brought under the material-support law, the government in April indicted New York defense attorney Lynne Stewart on charges of relaying messages from her client, imprisoned blind cleric Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, to an Egypt-based terrorist group. A translator for Abdel-Rahman was also charged.

Cline said he believes the U.S. Supreme Court will have the final say on the material-support law and some post-Sept. 11 legislation.

Republicans say they'll force vote on nuclear waste site

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Republican senators said they will force a vote Tuesday on a proposed nuclear waste site in Nevada, despite a plea by the Senate's top Democrat not to interrupt consideration of a bill to deal with corporate accounting abuses.

Meanwhile, two key Republican senators — Orrin Hatch and Bob Bennett of Utah — were assured if they go along with the Yucca Mountain site the Bush admin-

istration would help keep nuclear waste from being stored in their state.

After a meeting at the White House, Hatch and Bennett said they were shifting from undecided to favoring the Nevada site, although they continued to have some concerns about transporting the waste.

A Senate vote will determine whether President Bush will be allowed to proceed with his plan, announced in February, to bury 77,000 tons of nuclear waste beneath the volcanic ridge known as Yucca Mountain 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

The House already has approved a resolution overriding Nevada's objections to the project.

GOP senators have accused Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., of trying to block the project by not bringing it up for a vote by the July 25 deadline. So, GOP senators informed the White House on Monday they would force the issue on the Senate floor Tuesday, triggering a vote on the resolution.

Under a provision unique to a 1982 law governing nuclear waste disposal, any senator can force a vote on the resolution. Normally, only the majority leader brings up legislation for consideration by the full Senate.

In a letter to Bush, Daschle asked the president to intervene. he called the GOP push on Yucca "ill-considered and ill-timed" and an attempt to sidetrack action on legislation to overhaul accounting laws in light of recent corporate accounting scandals.

But the administration made clear it wants the Yucca decision resolved, and the sooner the better.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said he expects the Senate to begin consideration of the Yucca Mountain resolution Tuesday. The 1982 law limits debate to 10 hours and allows for no amendments or filibuster.

Nevada's two senators — Democrat Harry Reid and Republican John Ensign — have been scrambling to try to get enough votes to kill the Yucca project.

They lost two potential GOP allies Monday when Hatch and Bennett announced their support of the Yucca waste site.

For weeks the two Utah senators had expressed concern about the thousands of shipments of use reactor fuel that are expected to go through their state on their way to Nevada if the repository is built, including much of it through Salt Lake City.

But they said they feared that if the Nevada site were not approved, the nuclear industry would begin to ship its waste to a proposed private storage site on an Indian reservation in Utah's Skull Valley.

In return, the senators got a commitment from the White House: Abraham promised that the Energy Department would refuse to provide any federal money to transport waste to the proposed private site, making it unlikely that utilities would want to ship wastes there.

\$500K worth of funds released for project to treat mentally ill homeless

By The Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Pressed by state legislators, Gov. Kenny Guinn's administration will release \$500,000 for a pilot project to find and treat the mentally ill homeless in southern Nevada.

The state Human Resources Department initially froze the funds to help cure the \$200 million-plus deficit that the state faces in the current two-year budget cycle.

HRD Director Mike Willden said a request for proposals will be released this week so companies and organizations can bid for the con-

tract to provide services for the mentally ill homeless.

The 2001 Legislature, which provided the \$500,000, estimated there were more than 7,000 adults homeless in southern Nevada and that about a third "have severe and persistent mental illness."

After the state announced it wouldn't start the program as scheduled in July because of the budget shortfall, the Legislative Interim Finance Committee last month told Guinn it wanted the project to go forward.

"The IFC sent a message," Willden said. "I don't know that the

message was needed. The governor is sensitive to the homeless issue."

Willden said he hopes to get approval for the contract from the state Board of Examiners by its Sept. 10 meeting.

The company that wins the contract will be responsible for finding housing, getting medications and directing those eligible to appropriate programs.

Willden said he wants to get the project off the ground so it can gather information to present to the 2003 Legislature, which convenes in February.

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BUSINESS

Merck reported \$12.4B in revenue it never collected

BY THERESA AGOVINO
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Merck & Co. recorded \$12.4 billion in revenue from its pharmacy benefits unit over the past three years even though the subsidiary never collected the money. The news sent company stock falling Monday.

Merck, the world's third-largest drug maker, said it had followed generally accepted accounting practices and the practice didn't affect earnings since the revenue was offset in financial reports as an expense.

But its stock fell amid heightened investor suspicion about corporate accounting following debacles at Enron, WorldCom and elsewhere. On the New York Stock Exchange, Merck stock fell \$1.05 a share to close at \$47.81.

The revenue in question came from co-payments paid by consumers using prescription drug cards under insurance plans. The pharmacy keeps the co-payment, which covers only part of a drug's cost.

Merck counted patients' co-payments to druggists as revenue generated by its Medco unit, which handles prescriptions for 65 million Americans through retail pharmacies, a mail-order program and its Internet pharmacy.

The total amount was \$12.4 billion from 1999 through 2001, Merck said in a filing Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Medco, however, did not actually receive those co-payments.

"Merck-Medco's practice of recognizing retail co-payments as revenue has no

impact on net income or earnings per share because a corresponding, equivalent amount is also included in cost of revenues," Merck spokesman Chris Loder said Monday after The Wall Street Journal reported on the SEC filing.

Loder said Merck's independent accountant, PricewaterhouseCoopers, concurs with the accounting treatment. He also said the Securities and Exchange Commission reviewed Merck-Medco's accounting practices as part of the company's plan to spin off the unit in an initial public offering this week.

Banc of America securities analyst Patrick Hojlo said the accounting method wasn't a big deal and noted that Caremark Rx Inc., one of Merck-Medco's competitors, also uses it.

"I think this is getting blown out of proportion given the sensitivity around accounting issue," he said.

The accounting practice itself was reported in an April SEC filing but the exact amount of revenue in question was reported for the first time in Friday's SEC filing.

Merck, hurt by slumping profits and a slowdown in its drug pipeline, has been under pressure to spin off its Merck-Medco subsidiary. The IPO has been delayed twice and its price slashed because of market conditions.

Merck, based in Whitehouse Station, N.J., is the world's third-largest drug maker. The Merck-Medco unit had \$29.1 billion in revenue last year, more than half its parent's overall sales. But Medco's razor-thin profit margin, barely 1 percent, hurt Merck's bottom line.

Economic outlook still bright for second half despite news

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — On Wall Street, investors are suffering through another round of corporate accounting scandals and stock market blues. On Main Street, things may be looking up.

Private economists are predicting solid growth for the second half of this year after a roller coaster opening six months.

The optimism is based on a belief that consumers, bolstered by low mortgage rates and interest-free auto financing, will keep spending, especially if forecasts of a declining jobless rate come true.

It is a view at odds with all the recent gloom in financial markets.

Another turbulent week saw the Dow Jones industrial average plunge briefly below the 9,000-point mark only to close with a 324-point rally.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq index and the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index both dropped below the lows they had hit immediately following the Sept. 11 attacks.

The market weakness reflects continued fallout from the latest corporate accounting scandal, this time at the country's second largest long distance telephone company. WorldCom announced it was eliminating 17,000 jobs.

"Instead of overdosing on euphoria, investors now are in the grips of despair, pessimism and mistrust that is being

fueled from all the accounting troubles," said David Jones, chief economist at Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. in New York. "This is an unwinding of all the excesses that went into the high-tech bubble."

The investor worries have not been helped by the numerous government warnings of terrorist attacks, which sent consumer confidence skidding to a four-month low in June.

"We need to separate economic fundamentals from this crisis in confidence," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "The economy is fundamentally sound."

Sohn and other analysts are convinced that last year's recession is over, probably ending this January or February. The National Bureau of Economic Research, the official arbiters, is waiting to pinpoint the month.

Analysts see little danger of a "double dip" recession in which growth slips back into negative territory.

The gross domestic product — the economy's total output — raced ahead at an annual rate of 6.1 percent in the first quarter. Analysts believe it grew by a more sedate 2.5 percent rate in the April-June quarter.

Still, averaged together, the GDP was growing in the first half of this year at a none-too-shabby 4 percent-plus rate. Economists believe growth in the second half will be a tad below that level, helped out by a variety of factors.

BUSINESS



Two former WorldCom executives take the Fifth

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Invoking his Fifth Amendment right, WorldCom's former chief executive officer refused to answer questions Monday from a congressional panel investigating nearly \$4 billion in accounting irregularities at the telecommunications giant.

"I do not believe I have anything to hide in these or any other proceedings," Bernard J. Ebbers told the House Financial Services Committee. He said he'd been advised by his Washington attorney, Reid Weingarten, to remain silent because of the range of investigations by the Justice Department and Securities and Exchange Commission.

WorldCom's former chief financial officer, Scott Sullivan, also refused to testify, "based upon the advice of counsel."

John Sidgmore, WorldCom's president and chief executive officer, blamed the company's former management for the accounting problems.

"WorldCom uncovered this problem internally," Sidgmore said in prepared testimony. "The kind of initiative demonstrated by our internal audit group is to be applauded and will continue to be encouraged."

WorldCom Chairman Bert Roberts called the accounting improprieties "an outrage to me," and said auditor Arthur Andersen was responsible. "To my mind, the failure of our outside auditors to uncover them is inconceivable," he said.

Melvin Dick, the senior Andersen audit partner for WorldCom, testified that neither he nor any member of the Andersen team "had any inkling" of the improper accounting.

WorldCom is the latest major corporation to face allegations of executive wrongdoing and accounting irregularities — driving down public confidence in business and the stock market. Congress already is investigating the bankruptcies of Enron Corp. and telecommunications company Global Crossing and the role played by account-



Dennis Cook/Associated Press

Former WorldCom Chief Executive Officer Bernard Ebbers, center, flanked by Melvin Dick, the senior Andersen audit partner for WorldCom, left, and former WorldCom Chief Financial Officer Scott Sullivan are sworn in on Capitol Hill on Monday, prior to a hearing on accounting irregularities at the telecommunications giant before the House Financial Service Committee.

ing firms. Andersen has been convicted of obstruction of justice for destroying Enron-related documents.

In an attempt to boost sagging investor confidence, President Bush is proposing tougher penalties — including jail time — for corporate officials who lie on financial statements, an administration official said Monday.

The White House planned on Monday to formally endorse the goals — but not all the details — of legislation introduced by Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., that would tighten oversight of the accounting industry. The administration wants to empower the SEC to ban corporate executives and directors who commit wrongdoing from serving in those roles again, a step the bill does not take.

WorldCom, whose interests include No. 2 long-distance telephone company MCI, is battling to avoid bankruptcy

after disclosing that it disguised \$3.9 billion of expenses as capital expenditures to appear more profitable.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has filed a civil fraud suit against WorldCom, and the Nasdaq Stock Market plans to delist the company's shares, which have plunged from more than \$63 in June 1999 to 22 cents Monday.

Wall Street analyst Jack Grubman, who had promoted WorldCom stock, said in testimony prepared for the hearing, "I regret that I was wrong in rating WorldCom highly for too long" but insisted he was unaware of the company's true financial condition.

Grubman also insisted he had no advance knowledge of the huge earnings misstatement before downgrading his recommendation for WorldCom stock on June 21.

The Business Roundtable, a group of chief executive officers of major corporations, said it was "appalled, angered and, finally, alarmed at the stream of revelations which have emerged."

"Where there have been violations of law, we believe that the violators should be prosecuted — promptly and to the fullest extent possible," the CEOs said in a statement. They also endorsed the SEC's new requirement that chief executives and chief financial officers certify that their company financial statements are accurate, as well as legislation before the Senate this week to tighten oversight of the accounting industry.

The House committee chairman, Rep. Michael Oxley, R-Ohio, said that of all the companies in the recent wave of corporate scandals, "none has yet shown the audacity to commit fraud on the scale that has been alleged here."

The panel's ranking Democrat, Rep. John LaFalce of New York, said he hopes "President Bush after a year and a half ... will finally join with us in trying to effectuate these reforms."

The president on Tuesday is expected to recommend new criminal penalties for corporate officers who lie on financial statements, something that Bush believes should draw jail time, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer has said.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'Sex and the City' author weds ballet dancer in NY

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Candace Bushnell is no longer a single girl in the city. The author of "Sex and the City" has gotten hitched.

Bushnell, whose best-selling book was adapted into the HBO television program starring Sarah Jessica Parker, married Charles Askegard July 4 on a wind-swept Nantucket beach in Massachusetts.

"One has to be open-minded when the right man comes along," Bushnell told The New York Times on Sunday. "And I know it's freaky, but this just seems like the natural thing to do."

"We're both independent, so we complement each other in a good way," said the groom, a 33-year-old ballet dancer she met eight weeks earlier. "It's fun to be out on the town with her, but when we're alone, that's when it's really great."

After the couple were declared man and wife, Bushnell ran across the sand and leapt at Askegard, who caught her and held her above his head.

It is her first marriage and his second.

"Life is constantly evolving," said Darren Star, the creator of the hit HBO show. "Everyone has to have a new chapter."

Bushnell's "Sex and the City" was a collection of columns she had written for the New York Observer newspaper. She also is the author of "Four Blondes."

■ **NEW YORK** — The difference between athletes and movie stars is easy to identify for Samuel L. Jackson.

The actor of such recent fare as "Changing Lanes," the latest "Star Wars" episodes and the upcoming thriller "XXX," has had a lot of time to think about the issue while preparing to host the ESPY Awards on ESPN this week.

"Athletes take things more seriously. We have a lot of drama around here with the show because certain athletes won't come on because ESPN said something bad about them," he told the July 15 edition of Newsweek magazine, on newsstands Monday.

"As an actor, you get criticized and rejected all day. We don't take it personally."

■ **MIAMI** — Swinging chads and a confusing presidential election helped inspire John Sayles to film his next movie in Florida.

A native of Schenectady, N.Y., Sayles has used other locations for his films, including Texas ("Lone Star"), Alaska ("Limbo"), Ireland ("The Secret of Roan Inish") and Latin America ("Men With Guns").

Then came the 2000 election.

"The election helped me focus ideas that I had been thinking about for a long time," Sayles told the Miami Herald on Sunday. The product is the film "Sunshine State."

"It reminded me how much Florida is a place of parallel communities that don't always intersect and have totally different ways of looking at the world. They might do certain things together, but they don't necessarily mix."

The sprawl of development and the segregation of communities within a supposed melting pot are both examined in the film. But he stops short of calling his movie a cautionary tale against overdevelopment.

"It's more of a cautionary tale to simply pay attention," he said. "When you just sit back and everything becomes a theme park, you can really lose your soul and your connection to a place."

■ **PHILADELPHIA** — Bow Wow, the singer-turned-movie star in "Like Mike," wasn't too worried about making the transition to the hard court.

A fan of basketball, the 14-year-old rapper needed less preparation than most when he tackled the role of Calvin Cambridge, a down-on-his-luck basketball fan who stumbles across a pair of old-school high-tops and becomes a basketball star.

"I just had to get adjusted to it, but it's good I could play a little; I'm happy about my balling. Probably saved Fox a lot of money" by not paying for expensive basketball lessons.

"This was my first movie, and the experience was wonderful," Bow Wow, who has dropped the Lil' from his name, told the Philadelphia Inquirer last week. "I had a lot of fun doing it, having the opportunity to work with many actors and NBA stars."

■ **RANCHO MIRAGE** — David Hasselhoff has checked himself into The Betty Ford Center for treatment of alcoholism.

The former "Baywatch" star, who turns 50 next week, issued a release Monday announcing the voluntary stay at the hospital.

"He realized his social drinking had increased more than he was comfortable with and he decided to do something about it," publicist Richard Hoffman said in a statement.

The actor checked in June 26; his representatives said they didn't know how long he would be there.

Hasselhoff's recent roles included a cameo appearance as himself in the summer comedy "The New Guy" and he performed on Broadway last year in the musical "Jekyll & Hyde."

SPORTS



Baseball players fail to set strike date, prepare for walkout

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

ROSEMONT, Ill. — Baseball players failed to set a strike date Monday but said they will prepare their teammates for the possibility of the sport's ninth work stoppage since 1972.

Members of the union's executive board, meeting on the day before the All-Star game, left a hotel near Chicago's O'Hare International Airport saying they will go back to their teams and get a consensus on whether players are ready to

strike to fend off the economic changes owners have proposed.

"From the players' standpoint, a strike is a last resort," union head Donald Fehr said. "It would not be entered into unless the players feel they had no other viable option, and it is our hope over the next few weeks we will be able to have the kinds of serious and substantive discussions with major league owners we have heretofore been unable to have, and will resolve these issues."

During a five-hour session, Fehr briefed players on the slow-moving talks,

which are scheduled to resume Thursday in New York.

Owners have proposed a vast increase in the percentage of local revenue each team would share and a tax on high-payroll teams, which combined would slow the increase in salaries. They have skyrocketed from an average of \$51,500 in 1976 to \$2.38 million on opening day this year.

Owners say only the large-market teams can win, and that more revenue sharing and a drag on salaries is needed to restore competitive balance.

"Guys have paid the price for you,"

Cleveland pitcher Paul Shuey said. "If it comes to that, you pay the price for the future."

Fehr said setting a strike date was never on his agenda for Monday.

"That was never the purpose of the meeting nor was it the result of the meeting," he said. "We did, of course, discuss all options for the future but no action in that regard was taken."

Fehr said the player representatives will ask each of the 30 teams to give the union's executive board authority to set a strike date.

Judge will be asked to decide fate of Ted Williams' body

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press Writer

HERNANDO, Fla. — Ted Williams' estate will ask a judge to decide if the baseball great's body should be cremated or frozen, a move to try to resolve a family feud over the remains.

Al Cassidy, the executor of the estate, will file Williams' will in state court on Tuesday or Wednesday and ask the judge to rule on the issue, John Heer, a lawyer for Williams' oldest daughter, said Monday. Heer contends Williams wanted to be cremated.

The daughter, Bobby-Jo Ferrell, has accused her half brother, John Henry Williams, of moving their father's body from a Florida funeral home to Alcor Life Extension Foundation, where bodies are frozen.

She says John Henry Williams wants to preserve their father's DNA, perhaps to sell it in the future. The brother has not returned repeated calls seeking comment.

Ferrell plans to "rescue" her father's body from the cryonics company in Scottsdale, Ariz. She says the body already is frozen.

"My dad's in a metal tube, on his head, so frozen that

if I touched him it would crack him because of the warmth from my fingertips," Ferrell told The East Valley Tribune of Mesa, Ariz. "It makes me so sick."

Karla Steen, a spokeswoman for Alcor, would not confirm Monday that Williams' body is at the facility. Ferrell has said she was told by the funeral home that the

body was taken to Arizona.

Ferrell did not return several phone messages Monday and no one answered the door at her house. Bill Boyles and Pam Price, attorneys for the estate's executor, also did not return a phone message.

Ted Williams, the last major league hitter to bat better than .400 in a season, died Friday at age 83.

One gored in sprint on second bull run

BY MAR ROMAN

Associated Press Writer

PAMPLONA, Spain — A sprint in front of some of Spain's largest bulls left one person gored Monday on the second run of the internationally famed San Fermin Festival in Pamplona.

A Spaniard was gored in his left shoulder and three other people suffered minor injuries as a crowd of at

least a thousand young men, mostly dressed in traditional white and red, ran ahead of six bulls and six steers.

Many of Pamplona's runners said they had not slept, attending instead the city's all-night street party. But they were apparently awake enough to test their bravery and speed.

All 12 animals ran the 900 yard course down cobblestone streets to a bullfighting ring where the six bulls

face certain death in the Monday afternoon bullfights.

During Sunday's run three people were injured.

Jose Maria Perez, a 32-year-old Spaniard, was the most seriously hurt, with an injury in his thigh. Australian Luke Versace and an American identified as Lindsey Saint, 19, of Overland Park, Kan., were both hit in their left knees at the end of the run.

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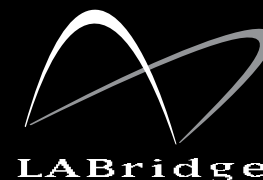
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INTERNATIONAL

Court finds dancer guilty of moral corruption

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Ruling that teaching traditional Iranian dance corrupts the nation's youth, a court banned an Iranian-American dancer from leaving Iran for 10 years and from giving dance classes for life, his lawyer said Monday.

Mohammad Khordadian, Iran's best-known male dancer, was also given a 10-year suspended jail term for promoting moral corruption by holding dance classes in the United States, according to the ruling, handed down Sunday. It also barred him from attending public celebrations or weddings of people who are not his relatives for three years, lawyer Abdolrahman Rasouli said.

"Khordadian is innocent. He has done nothing wrong to deserve punishment," Rasouli told The Associated Press.

Khordadian, 46, could not be reached for comment. During his trial, he told the court he never intended to corrupt anyone.

The dancer was jailed in May as he was making his first visit to Iran in 20 years.

He was released from Tehran's Evin prison on Sunday. The 10-year suspended jail term will be implemented if he is convicted again on the same charge.

Rasouli said the dancer will appeal the verdict.

"Khordadian's release from jail is an important step forward. He loves to live in Iran, but it would have been

great if he had been allowed to sell his house in the States first," Rasouli said.

The lawyer quoted Khordadian as testifying: "Dancing is my job and I had no intention of promoting corruption among the youth."

Khordadian was a taxi driver in Tehran before he left in 1980. His graceful body movements and aptitude for dance encouraged him to pursue dance as a career.

He is best known for a belly dance called "Arabic Dance." In it, Khordadian wears traditional clothes and takes the stage with one group of women dancers on his right and another group on his left.

Men and women dancing together in public is not permitted under Iran's strict interpretation of Islamic behavior.

Khordadian's dance programs are widely watched by Iranian expatriates and many inside Iran on Los Angeles-based, Persian-language satellite television channels.

A Web site promoting his classes in the U.S. is now dedicated to helping him overturn the ruling.

Rasouli said the court's ban on Khordadian's leaving Iran was intended to "keep him away from an atmosphere that may provoke him to repeat his offenses."

Khordadian was traveling on an American passport and obtained his visa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, before traveling to Iran to visit his ailing father and relatives, Rasouli said.

The ruling coincides with a new crackdown on what

Iranian officials call "acts of social immorality." Young Iranians driving around with music blaring out of their car radios have been charged under the social immorality rules.

The reformists have protested that "acts of social immorality" have not been clearly defined.

"Social virtues and discipline will never be established by the use of police force," the pro-reform newspaper Aftab-e-Yazd said last week.

"Citizens complain of arbitrary police action. Many citizens say they have been arrested and body-searched without doing anything wrong and others complain of insulting police behavior," the daily said.

Sweeping social restrictions imposed after the 1979 Islamic revolution have gradually been eased since the election of reformist President Mohammad Khatami in May 1997. But women must still wear headscarves and the mingling of unrelated men and women is frowned upon.

After losing control of parliament in February 2000 legislative elections, hard-line followers of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have tried to protect their eroding power by thwarting Khatami's growing reform movement.

Hard-liners, through their control over unelected institutions such as the judiciary and police, have closed pro-democracy publications and jailed or harassed scores of prominent reformist journalists and activists.

Shimon Peres meets with Palestinian finance minister

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met Monday with Palestinian Finance Minister Salam Fayed, the first face-to-face contacts on that level in months.

Yoram Dori, a spokesman for Peres, said the meeting lasted about 1 1/2 hours and covered economic issues. Palestinian officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the meeting was in a hotel in west Jerusalem, the Jewish side of the city.

Fayed said this was a preparatory meeting, and he expected "more expanded meetings will be held in the future between us."

The meeting took place during one of the longest stretches without an Israeli fatality since fighting broke out between Israel and the Palestinians in September 2000. However, Israel continues to arrest would-be attackers and has taken control of seven of eight major West Bank cities and towns, enforcing curfews and hunting down militants.

On Monday, during a break in the curfew in the West Bank town of Qalqilya, several thousand Palestinians attended the funeral of 9-year-old Shukri Daoud, who died after suffering critical head injuries June 27, when Israeli soldiers fired on Palestinians who had violated the curfew.

Daoud's body, his head still wrapped in white bandages, was carried through the streets of Qalqilya on a stretcher amid shouts of "Allahu Akbar!" or "God is great."

Israel admitted its forces "acted improperly" in firing on Daoud and two other children who were injured that day. The shooting heightened Palestinian frustration with the takeover of the main population centers, which Israel says is necessary to prevent attacks.

The high-level talks were to focus on ways to ease the frustrations and burdens faced by about 700,000 Palestinians living in the West Bank under Israeli military control, an Israeli government official said Monday.

Dori said the Peres-Fayed meeting was "the first of a series that will be held. There will be a continuation." He told The Associated Press that Peres would also

meet other Palestinian officials.

During 21 months of Palestinian-Israeli violence, high-level meetings between the two sides have been rare. Peres, who represents the dovish Labor Party in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's broad-based coalition government, has pressed for contacts despite the fighting, but Sharon, who heads the hawkish Likud, has insisted there can be no negotiations until Palestinian terror attacks stop.

However, after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat reshuffled his Cabinet a month ago, Peres pressed for and received permission to talk with some of the five new ministers Arafat appointed, including Fayed and Interior Minister Abdel Razak Yehiyeh.

Sharon insisted the talks be confined to economic and humanitarian issues, not political matters. Dori said the meeting was limited to economic concerns, but he gave no further details about the talks.

Palestinian Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said the meeting wouldn't accomplish anything and represented another attempt by Israel to change the Palestinian leadership by meeting only with newly appointed ministers.

Palestinians said ministers from the two governments last met in March, before a series of Palestinian suicide bombings led to a major Israeli invasion of the West Bank that lasted six weeks. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said it did not know the last time Cabinet ministers held face-to-face talks.

Israel's army launched its latest incursion into Palestinian cities after attacks that killed 31 Israeli civilians from June 18-20. Since then, more than 30 Palestinians have been killed, but no Israelis.

The Palestinian leadership has demanded Israeli forces leave the West Bank cities, but Israeli officials have said their occupation is open-ended.

One senior security official said Sunday that Israeli forces could remain in Palestinian areas for up to one year, until Israel finishes fencing off the West Bank from Israel. When asked about the time frame, Sharon spokesman Raanan Gissin said Israeli security services had determined that occupying Palestinian areas

was necessary to end attacks.

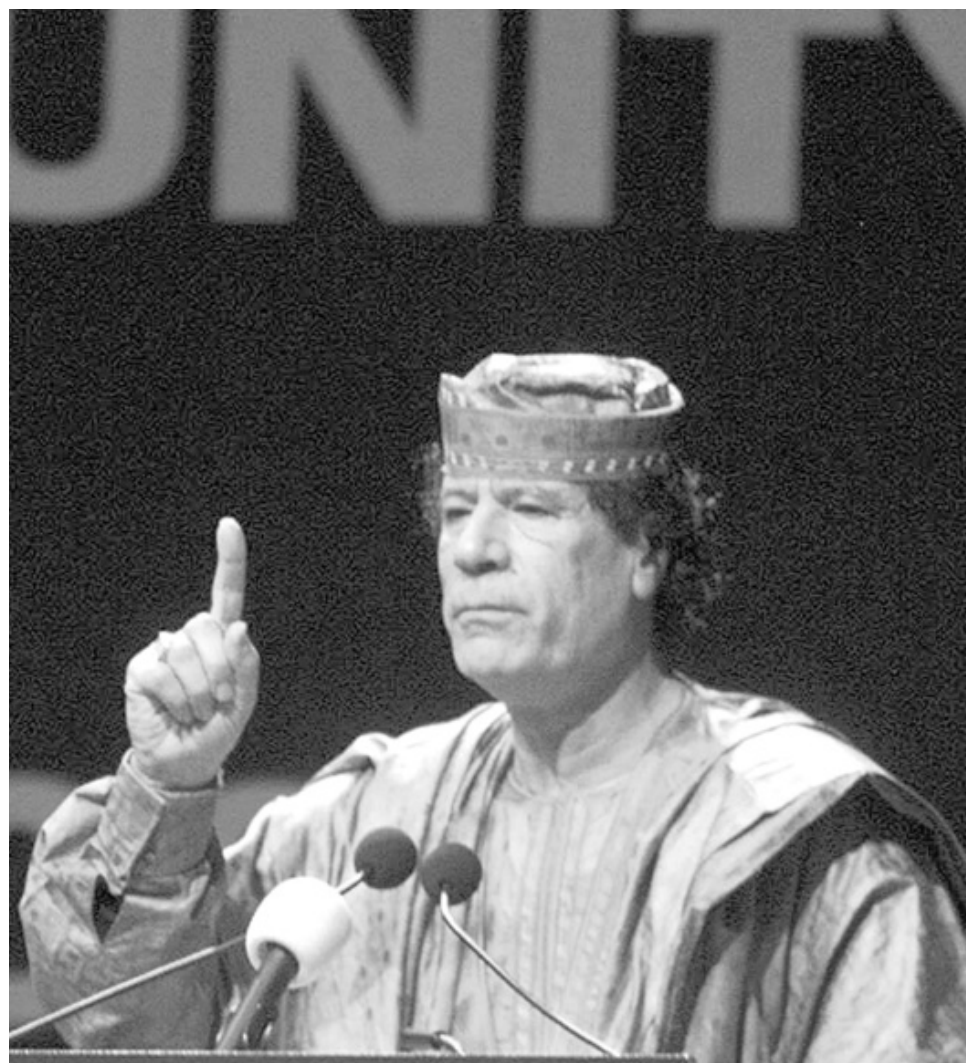
"If you sit inside the cities, you can reduce the number of bomb belts that get out to the (suicide bombers), until you have a buffer," he said.

In a separate development, diplomats at the United Nations said top U.N., U.S., European Union and Russian officials would meet in New York next week to

discuss efforts to end the 21-month-old conflict.

The meeting starts July 15 with Secretary-General Kofi Annan, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, and senior EU and Russian officials. They will be joined the following day by officials from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan, the diplomats said.

African unity summit begins



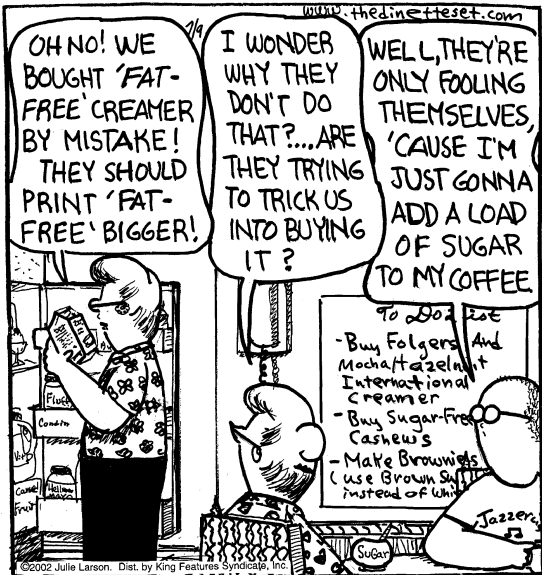
Obed Zilwa/Associated Press

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi addresses the opening of the 38th Organization for African Unity (OAU) summit in Durban, South Africa on Monday. Leaders from across Africa gathered Monday to bid a formal farewell to the Organization of African Unity, a much criticized regional body formed to usher the continent out of the colonial era.

COMICS



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



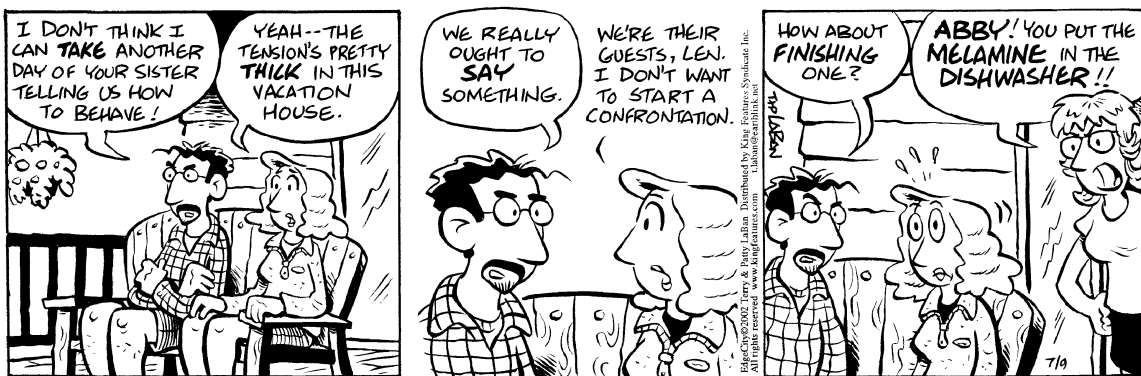
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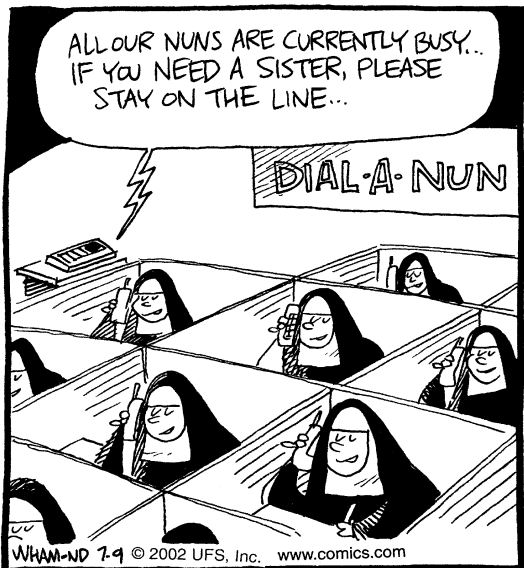
"I'm sorry, Kyle ... but Tommy can't come out to play today. He has worms."



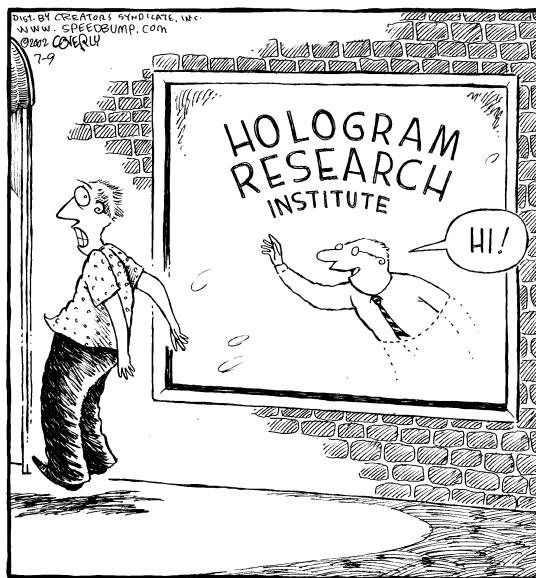
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Yesterday's answer

- ACROSS**
- NFL pioneer George
 - Tag datum
 - Stand
 - Ontario tribe
 - Act as host
 - Flightless bird
 - Boy king
 - Opposite of oui
 - 1972 Winter Games setting
 - roll (successful)
 - Pipeline flow
 - One with regrets
 - "Heist" director
 - Flat finish
 - Stepped down
 - Squirrel's prize
 - "East of Eden" brother
 - Crude bookmarks
 - French friend
 - Unprocessed
 - Take to court
 - Van McCoy lyric of 1975
- DOWN**
- Baja "Bye!"
 - Entangled
 - Abattoir offering
 - Goads on
 - Pluto's domain
 - Scent
 - Illuminated
 - Fire after-math
 - Boss's directive
 - Snap
 - Sprint
 - Resolve
 - Prince topper
 - Catch
 - Fling
 - Frost or Burns
 - Velocity
 - Lot material
 - Fashionable
 - Armed group
 - Political independent
 - Ark builder
 - Togs
 - Elroy's dog
 - Occupied the throne
 - Watermelon waste
 - Simmering
 - Knight's title

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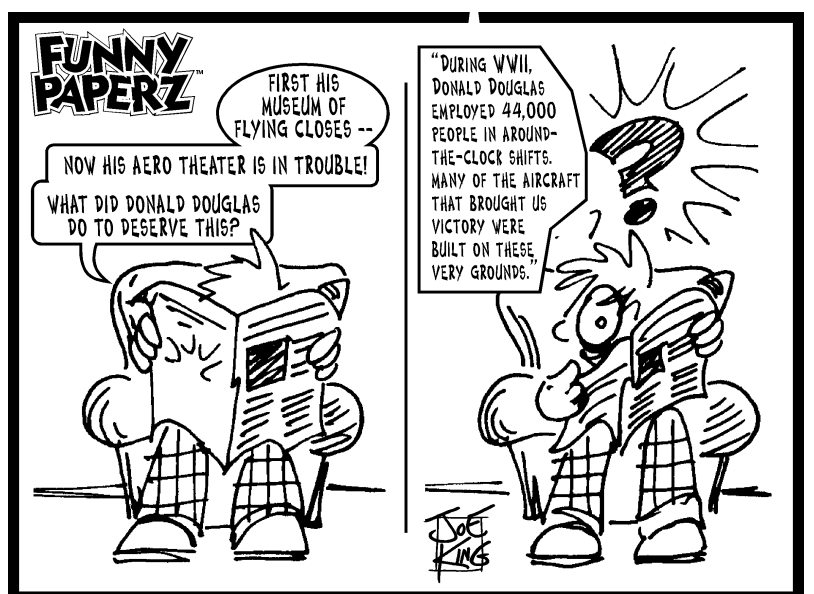
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Man gets green light for tongue fork surgery

News of the Weird reported in 2000 that New York doctoral student Erik Sprague was part-way through surgically making his body lizard-like (sharper teeth and forked tongue, and with implanted forehead bumps and scale-like skin soon to come). In June 2002, the Michigan House of Representatives considered banning tongue-forking surgery, but by 53-43 decided such bodily transformations were none of the government's business. (The issue had come to light when Bay City, Mich., tattoo artist Seth Griffin began publicly seeking a surgeon for his tongue-separation surgery after once performing it on himself only to see the tongue eventually fuse back together.)





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Santa Monica Daily Press

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

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

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

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

Announcements

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

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LOST CAT Franklin/Broadway on 6/26/02. Large male Tabby grey/black/brown markings. Should have bell/tags. Answers to Carson. Cash reward. (310)795-2919.

Classified Advertising Conditions

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

Calendar

Tuesday, July 9, 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

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

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

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.

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 veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

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

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

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

Noella Hutton, 8:30 pm, Topaz, 9:45 pm, The Peak Show, 11:00 pm. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310)393-6611.

Wednesday

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.

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

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

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Chris Sullivan's One Man Irish Show, an all-new musical theatre celebration. The audience is invited to participate in a mystery auction immediately following the performance. All proceeds benefit the Save the Playhouse Campaign. Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage, 1211 Fourth Street (between Wilshire & Arizona). Admission is \$10.00. For reservations, please call the Playhouse Box Office at (310)394-9779 ext. 1 or visit the santamonicaplayhouse.com website.

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

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

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



BACK PAGE

Haute couture in Paris: Designers turn in their fall line-ups

BY SUZY PATTERSON

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — Feathers were flying and bras were aluminum at Dior's Monday show of fall haute couture by designer John Galliano.

Clothes? Forget it. The garments on display in the tent at the Auteuil race course — Galliano favors dramatic, inconvenient locations — were more appropriate for a costume party.

A puffy, round, short olive anorak with salmon lining over very long legs and high heels led off to the enthusiastic singing of the London Community Gospel choir.

On marched a girl looking like she was straight out of the Lido, Paris' famous cabaret, with a huge ostrich-feather halo, a crimped and ruffled pink satin top, over a skinny beige skirt and stiletto heels.

A lot of outlandish coifs followed, so many that it looks as if Galliano and his milliner Stephen Jones are actually working for the Lido.

One version had a kind of leopard face at the front, a huge cascade of greenish feathers down the back. A brown jumpsuit went under this.

For a dress suggestion, Galliano offered a short draped sheath with a cartoon print pattern, an enormous denim-blue bow like a shoulder fichu on the top.

In the shock market, there were some aluminum bras and protruding metallic stomach features — though the draped or lace skirts that went with this might be wearable under other tops.

But feathers and furs were the star of this show: a multicolored ostrich feather gown was remarkable, and some full-skirted dresses were blown up by a wind machine to show the colorful feathers, reminiscent of Marilyn Monroe caught by the camera with her skirt flying.

Sequins, sparkles, lame and interesting alligator-looking leathers added expensive icing to this collection. But hip as they are, the wild fashions are still not very wearable anywhere except a costume party.

Things were a bit easier at Torrente, a fashion house

that can be criticized for making clothes fancy. But they are usually wearable.

Designer Rose Mett of Torrente turned in a very dressy collection. The sportiest outfit was a ruddy long coat in ostrich leather over a short skirt.

But the evening gowns were luscious. Remarkable was a taupe chiffon and organza in empire style with sparkly decor on the bodice, mink trim at the armholes.

Some of the rhinestone and lace dresses with see-through effects were lovely — both innocent and sexy, looks which Rose Mett has practiced for years.

A dramatic if uneven debut in Paris was made by Lithuanian Juozas Statkevicius. Models emerged with full iridescent skirts over lean taffeta pants, or in cutaway styles. Less tempting were the white silk tent dresses with pillows sewn into the hem — unless the belle wanted to sleep after the ball right in her gown.

Meanwhile, Yohji Yamamoto put on a show of superb clothes at the Garnier Paris Opera, to celebrate 20 years of his own house, showing his top "Femme" line. He is known worldwide for his sober, dark clothes for women and men.

He has also branched out into couture-style clothes for women.

Now, he goes back to his roots — intricate draping or simple cutting, in upmarket ready-to-wear, interesting silhouettes, and most everything in black and white.

The finale in all black looked much like Yves Saint Laurent's amazing parade of 50 ways to do a tuxedo a few years back.

But this was Yohji, done beautifully to the tune of Bolero by Ravel.

The models had started out in blue boiler suits (loose jumpsuits), and wearing tulle coifs over pillboxes. Not appropriate for the opera. But things went on to Nehru pant suits, wide-trousered outfits in silk, black strapless outfits, with double lampshade white skirts over full underskirts.

Mini-dresses with frills all over made a contrast.

But Yohji came into his own with tiered black or white painted strapless silk or organza gowns. Not to mention the asymmetric dresses and coats with intricate panels, standout bustiers, or an amusing outfit with suspenders and a very full skirt.

Cherry spitting talent runs in family

By The Associated Press

EAU CLAIRE, Mich. — The Young Gun was a little better than the Pellet Gun.

Rick "Pellet Gun" Krause — a 12-time winner of the annual Cherry Pit Spitting Championship — was defeated by his eldest son, Brian "Young Gun" Krause on Saturday.

Brian Krause, 24, spit a cherry pit 61 feet, 2 inches to beat his 48-year-old father, who topped out at 55 feet, 10 inches.

Rick Krause's youngest son, 19-year-old Matt "BB Gun" Krause, was third with a distance of 45 feet, 2 1/2 inches.

"This is the first time we ever did that," Brian Krause said of the one-two-three finish. Brian's son, Braden Krause, won the under-5 division with a spit of 14 feet, 4 inches.

The Krauses have come to embrace their status as pit-spitting royalty. Rick Krause appeared for his turn to spit wearing bright red tights and riding a sparkling purple motorcycle as rock music played in the background.

He also signed "Pellet Gun Krause" trading cards and posed for photos with fans prior to the contest.

"Cherry pit spitting is like a good sneeze. They're both therapeutic," said Herb Teichman, owner of the event's site, the Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm.

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**What do Shaq and Lenny
Krayzelberg have in common?**

as quoted in USA Today



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