

FREE

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Volume 1, Issue 207

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues.

Midnight Special Bookstore nears final chapter

Independent store to move off Promenade

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

After nearly two decades of stirring political sentiment along the Third Street Promenade, Midnight Special Bookstore will close its doors by the end of the year.

The politically left-leaning bookstore is closing on the Promenade because rents along the outdoor mall have increased well above what the store can afford to pay, said the store's owner, Margie Ghiz.

For more than 10 years, Midnight Special's landlord, Wally Marks, has subsidized the store's rent, allowing it to maintain a visible presence on the Promenade. According to Ghiz, Marks passionately believed in the store and tried to encourage its success.

"He built this beautiful store because he believed in us," Ghiz said. "The whole family has given a tremendous amount of

support. They have been the kind of landlords communities need."

However, circumstances no longer permit the Marks family to continue their "substantial" subsidy, Ghiz said. She is now looking for new locations throughout the Los Angeles area, though local officials are trying to keep the store in Santa Monica.

"We are going to do whatever we can to keep them in the downtown," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp. — which manages the Promenade in partnership with the city. "We're on it. I hope we find something. I am optimistic, but I guess I have to be."

The Midnight Special Bookstore was started 32 years ago in Venice by civil rights activists, according to Ghiz. By the end of its first year, two of its founders had been arrested and jailed for refusing to give the FBI the names of their friends and customers who were attending anti-Vietnam War meetings.

"A proud beginning!" Ghiz reflected.



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

A consumer passes by the Midnight Special Bookstore toting a bag from Barnes & Noble. The independent store can't compete on the Promenade any longer.

See BOOKSTORE, page 6

Sign campaign aims to end loitering, trespassing

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Signs are popping up in windows of downtown businesses warning transients that loitering in front of their store can land them in jail.

And it appears to be working. Merchants along the 300 block of Wilshire Boulevard report fewer people are camping in their doorways since the signs were posted.

Sharon Steen, owner of Central Pharmacy on Wilshire Boulevard, said she had trouble with a homeless woman who would leave trash and old food in front of her store every morning. When Steel's husband asked the woman not to sleep in front of their shop, the woman allegedly threatened him with a gun, she said.

"It's something we don't want to see happen," Steen said. "We don't want this area to become a gross, skid-row type neighborhood."

Since John Warfel, who is Steel's landlord, posted the signs in her front window more than a month ago, there have been no further problems, she said.

The signs read: "Please be advised, the front of this building is private property. Persons occupying this property without the express permission of the owners of this building are subject to arrest under penal code 602(n) and/or municipal code section 3.12.360. Thank you."

"It's something we don't want to see happen. We don't want this area to become a gross, skid-row type neighborhood."

— SHARON STEEN
Central Pharmacy owner

The penal code says that anyone forcibly blocking the entrance to a place of business can be arrested and fined.

The municipal code cited on the signs is a 50-year-old ordinance that forbids anyone from blocking the entrance to a business or a public street.

However, state law supersedes any local ordinances regarding trespassing, and state law says that police can only ask someone to leave private property if the owner has already asked the person to leave. If the owner of the property is not present, then the police can't do anything.

The state also allows businesses to file a letter with the Santa Monica Police Department asking officers to remove anyone trespassing on their property.

Under current law, the letter expires every 30 days. After that, the owner must file another letter with the police department.

The proliferation of vagrants on the downtown outdoor mall has frustrated many Third Street Promenade merchants, who complain that transients are chasing away customers because they are aggressively panhandling, as well as urinating and defecating in public.

See SIGNS, page 6

Vandals shoot at man's window after witnessing crime

By Daily Press staff

A man who witnessed three men vandalizing a car in an alley on the city's east side was shot at by one of the suspects, according to police.

On July 5, Santa Monica police responded to a call at about 4:30 a.m. that shots were being fired in the neighbor-

hood of 18th Street and Delaware Street. After searching the area on foot and by car, police found no evidence supporting the report, authorities said.

However, a few hours later, Santa Monica Police were called to investigate a report of a car vandalized in alley No. 16, located at 18th Street and Delaware,

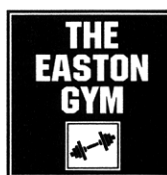
police said. While gathering information, police interviewed a man who said he heard commotion in the alley and yelled from his window to three males who were allegedly slashing the car's tires.

One suspect, described as a teenaged, slim black male, reportedly shot at the resident and the three of them then fled

on foot. The resident went back to sleep, not thinking the gun fire was directed toward him.

Police later found shell casings and a bullet hole in the resident's building near his bedroom window.

The other two suspects are described as black males between 16 and 19 years old, about 5' 11" and thin.



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HOROSCOPE

Aries, today consider options



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Make a decision to give more of yourself in your present domestic life. Sometimes you get so involved with causes or friends that you forget the importance of a key friend. Carefully consider options that surround a domestic offer. Tonight: Happy as a clam at home.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You might finally make a decision about a purchase that could make your daily life more fun or easier. Others might opt to let someone know how they feel about their relationships. Let feelings flow. Tonight: Find a reason to celebrate.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Consider options that surround a money situation more carefully. Be smart and take an offer, even if it might cost you more than you're aware of. In the long run, you'll be a lot happier because of this advance or step you take. Tonight: Your treat.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Express your positive personality. You're full of fun and understanding. You'll cruise through any project once you focus. Use your high energy and personality to clear your desk. Know that anything is possible right now. Tonight: You choose.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You could be surprised by another's offer. Pinch yourself. Before you say yes, recognize the implications of going along with this associate's plan. Be sure this is OK with you. Consider a present carefully, knowing that you don't need to get it immediately. Tonight: Take a break from it all.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Realize that you can have what you want without greasing the wheels of change. Consider your options. A meeting might be far more positive than you surmise. Carefully realize limits that revolve around a new friendship. Tonight: Go for what you want.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Recognize what is happening with a work-related matter. An associate thinks you're the best thing since sliced bread! Grab an offer right now, even if you think it's too good to be true. Maintain a level of skepticism, and you will prevent disappointment. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ With new information and the ability to break patterns both emotionally and mentally, you will come out ahead. Accept an offer that might involve some travel or education. The more open you are to change, the better off you will be. Tonight: Take a drive. Listen to a favorite CD. Stop for an ice-cream cone.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ An associate goes out of his or her way to make amends. Relate on a one-on-one level with this person, whether your bond is emotional or intellectual. As a result, you'll gain positively if you follow with another's beat. Tonight: Continue the theme. Dinner for two.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your fun-loving ways come out with a jovial associate. You cannot put a stop to what is happening here. Be more playful and high-spirited, going for the moment. Later on, in several months, you might look back at this period as one of your happier times. Tonight: Follow along.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Recognize a work opportunity. Zoom in and go for what you want. You have what it takes to help others be enthusiastic. Don't hesitate to be an office leader. Cruise through work. Schedule a checkup with the doc in the near future. Tonight: Do what you find relaxing.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ A relationship might be more overwhelming than you realize. Loosen up with another, enjoying what he or she offers. Use that person as a muse, and you'll get a lot more done quickly. Your imagination goes pleasantly haywire. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

QUOTE of the DAY

**“Forgive your enemies, but
never forget their names.”**

— John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)

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LOCAL

Tree takes out Mercedes



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The unfortunate owner of this Mercedes convertible didn't have a good day on the links, especially when she returned to her car in the parking lot at Penmar Golf Course in Mar Vista on Tuesday to find a tree had fallen on top of her car. Three other cars also fell victim to the fallen tree.



Shadowed spots suffer small surf due to near-shore islands today as a westerly, southwest swell struggles to reach shore. Fading southwest swell and northwest wind swell hold enough to keep breaks in waist- to chest-high surf. Strong onshore winds expected for the afternoon.

A new south swell will show Thursday afternoon. Shadowed spots from the west, mostly south exposures, show improvement.

Current beach advisories show low pollution levels while temperature holds in the mid 60s.



Today's Tides:

LOW	3:24 a.m.	0.43'
HIGH	11:07 p.m.	3.72'
LOW	3:39 p.m.	2.27'
HIGH	9:48 p.m.	6.35'

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'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Poor	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Poor	2-3'/Fair	A

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

North of Wilshire/Montana residents to meet

By Daily Press staff

The Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition will host its annual neighborhood meeting on Saturday, July 13, at Reed Park Auditorium, from noon to 3 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kevin McKeown and city spokeswoman Judy Rambeau will talk about examples of effective resident participation in city affairs, as well as discuss neighborhood concerns. Representatives from various boards and commissions, and local service organizations, also will be present.

Dr. Ken Breisch, director of programs in historic preservation in the school of architecture at the University of Southern California, will kick-off a discussion regarding the residents' role in preserving historic resources in the community.

"Considering the recently lowered threshold for public review of development projects in the city, as a neighborhood group we have more influence than ever before on new construction projects," explains Pam Vavra, the neighborhood association chairwoman.

Attendees will learn about the Santa Monica Conservancy, still in its formative stages. Neighborhood members will have an opportunity to show their support for the Montana Branch Library by purchasing a paving brick inscribed with their name. The event is open to the public and free of charge, including lunch.

Exhibit of Santa Monica photos on display at library

By Daily Press staff

"The Big Wheel," an exhibition of photographs of the historic Santa Monica Pier and Pacific Park by Juanita Richeson, is on display until Sept. 20 on the second floor of the Santa Monica Public Library Main Library Art Gallery, 1343 Sixth Street. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

The series of 24 black-and-white photographs on view were taken between 1994 and 2002. For Richeson, apart from piers and fairs, few venues exist where people from all walks of life interact so freely. Her photographic series emphasizes the social and ethnic diversity of the visitors to this famous seaside locale.

On Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library auditorium, Richeson will present a slide-lecture, "Pleasure by the Sea: Photographers, Promenades, and Piers," as part of the Library's Tuesdays with books, evening edition program.

For more information about the exhibit, contact the library at (310) 458-8600, or visit the photographer's Web site at www.metropolisphotos.com.

The Q Line

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 sum-

mer 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.



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OPINION

LETTERS

How to determine if your kid is learning

Editor:

I read with interest your (July 1) article about the relationship (or lack thereof) between state efforts to reduce the number of students in elementary and secondary school classes, and achievement on test scores. It is time to challenge the assumption that scores on norm-referenced, multiple-choice standardized test have any value in assessing the education that goes on in a classroom.

In regard to the SAT-9, which until now has been used as the measure for judging California schools and students as "good" or "bad," I'd like to make the following comments:

■ The SAT-9 is marked on a curve, and any question that is answered correctly by "too many" students is not scored. Half of all test-takers will fail, or score "below average," which certainly contradicts President Bush's promise to "leave no child behind."

■ CalCARE, an education organization, called the questions on the SAT-9 "simple, obscure, boring, irrelevant, out-of-context, random, and ambiguous. One could easily make the case for more than one correct answer, and it also contains information that is simply wrong."

■ Experts say that the SAT-9 is only a measure of the socio-economic status and educational attainment of the parents whose children take the test. This factor is particularly pernicious, because test scores are used to label schools, neighborhoods, and communities as "good" or "bad," when what is reflected by the label is the ethnicity and education of the community.

There are so many better ways of determining whether students are learning. I urge you to go to the SMMUSD's district office and look at the student work on display there to get a sense of how well our students learn, or to engage in a discussion with a student from any district school. There isn't a shortcut to assessing learning, and the standardized tests currently in use in California are certainly not a substitute for authentic assessment.

Abby Arnold
Santa Monica

No more empowerment by fools, please

Editor:

Regarding the founding of a new group to fight FOR historic districts: I am a retired architect and fully realize the value of preserving buildings of character and historic value.

I also have suffered the empowerment of fools that has taken place in Santa

Monica in recent years and have no faith that the judgment of those who would be the arbiters of public taste and historic value could be counted on to be fair. I am very glad that I no longer have to deal with Santa Monica's inept and rigid bureaucracy in my daily life.

James Mount
Santa Monica

Greed destroys

Editor:

Re: The proposed 834-838 16th Street condo development

After listening to many people in our neighborhood, I would love to convey, in my words, their sentiments.

Greed

Brings turmoil to tranquility.

Turns beauty to ugliness.

It browbeats and bullies,

Twisting truth to serve its own selfish benefit.

Greed destroys.

The proposed development, and its developer, Norman Salter, epitomize Greed.

Our neighborhood — citizens and voters of Santa Monica, have expressed their will by action and petition; no more 'Manhattanization' of Santa Monica neighborhoods.

We trust our elected city council will respect the people's will, and will not be coerced by threats from special interests.

Robert Bell
Santa Monica

The VERITAS 'mendacium'

Editor:

In Latin, "mendacium" means an untruth, a falsehood, a lie. Two examples of "mendacium" appear in the first citywide mailing from the "Veritas" election reorganization campaign, received by Santa Monica households this month.

Veritas supporters in their glossy brochure claim that Santa Monica voters do not elect their mayor. That's a downright "mendacium." Surely the truth campaigners know that everyone voting in city council elections is voting for several future mayors since each of the council members rotates into the honorary job of running council meetings and cutting ribbons that comprise the duties of mayor.

What's more, the VERITAS mass mailer declares that taking away from Santa

See LETTERS, page 5

Recent corruption smells like corporate spirit



EDGE of the WEST

By Ron Scott Smith

It's in the house. And I don't know how to get rid of it.

I had the doors and windows locked, but it crept in and I can't get rid of it.

I hear it when I use the phone. I see it when I watch the TV. I taste it in my cold medicine. And I smell it everywhere — nasty fumes left behind as the American greed machine runs amok, off into that hole in the sunset.

Smells like corporate spirit.

Here are some checks I wrote this week. Paid to the order of:

■ WorldCom — (phone bill). Biggest bookkeeping deception in history, so they say. A whopping \$3.8 billion in fraud; stock shares selling for pennies; 17,000 workers laid off. It hits home with lousy

service and bogus charges on every bill. Busted.

■ Adelphia — (cable bill). \$241 million taken from company funds to pay CEO's personal loans; stock's down 70 percent; mayor seeks to boot them out of Santa Monica. It hits home with stupid, unwanted pop-up ads appearing every time you change channels, generating all the more revenue to hide away off-shore. Busted.

■ Rite Aid — (cold medicine). Overstated income by billions; company computers allegedly thrown into the Susquehanna River, destroying evidence of vast fraud; indicted executive says "they'll need a Trident sub to find those computers." It hits home when they couldn't find my prescription, either. Busted.

■ Martha Stewart — (frying pan and crock pot). Empire starts to crumble after it's revealed she sold millions in drug stocks just before they crashed, based on inside advice from her good buddy, the CEO. Somebody bought those shares

from her. It hits home when the eggs stick to the non-stick surface frying pan. Busted.

■ Enron — via So Cal Edison — (electric bill). Edison residential rates still inflated so as to pay off debts incurred through buying fake electricity from Enron snake oil salesmen. It hits home when phony rolling blackouts mean hot days and dark nights during 2001 power outages. Busted.

Every one of those checks was deposited into corporate mega-accounts, every one of whose top cats are facing prison time for stealing from you and me in broad daylight. It's now 10 p.m., do you know where your 401K plan is?

We need one of those color code things dreamed up by the White House to give us easy visual distinctions between the various levels of terror we feel day to day. Let's get one of those going to rate the level of corporate greed that routinely pillages workforces and small time investors all across this land. When Qwest and Dynegy are soon finished cooking their books into ash, and are about to go bank-

rupt as their leaders take all the money and run, beware that you are now entering code blue or something similarly cool like that White House thing.

The guy who lives there, the President, speaks out in the angriest tones he can muster, but his heart isn't in this battle. He may be distracted by preparing to fight his own battle over alleged financial shenanigans while wearing his corporate mogul hat in Texas. It's one of those things that make you go, "hmmm." He lashes out about executives being held more accountable for the accuracy of their balance sheets. You go, sir.

He knows, as we all do. It's the system, stupid. Dogs will be dogs, and, if unleashed, they will run wild through the halls of unregulated capitalism, chewing up everything in sight.

Now if I can just get them out of this house.

(Ron Smith is a Santa Monica resident and his column appears each Wednesday in the Daily Press. Reach him at Edgeofthewest@aol.com)

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.

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

Monica voters their historic right to vote for government more democratic and more representative. That argument is clearly a “mendacium.”

If the so-called truth campaigners are so willing to use “mendacium” in their very first political mailing, how can we expect them to tell the truth? Santa Monica voters must respectfully conclude that the VERITAS scheme is a pack of “mendacii.”

Rufus Baker
Santa Monica

P.S.: Thanks to the Santa Monica Public Library reference desk for researching their Latin dictionaries.

City full of hot air

Editor:

I attended the official commendation ceremony for Eddie Greenberg who was recognized for 25 years of faithful service to our city with a plaque, a cake from the Broadway Deli, a badly written song, poorly sung by a kid with no voice (he couldn't play in the Holidome Lounge in Paramus, NJ) preceded by a lot of long winded, self-serving speeches by our elected politicians. After 25 years, at least a Rolex knock-off would have been more appropriate than all that silly ceremony.

Mayor Feinstein, wake up. You have lost at least this vote.

Jay Rubenstein
Santa Monica

Participatory government?

Editor:

Re: Misleading Statements Letter (06/19/02)

Mr. Victor Fresco seems to have a problem with the U.S. Constitution: Exercise of Free Speech (A Flyer); Right of Free Assembly (A Big Turnout at City Hall); and the Right of Citizens to Petition their Government for redress of a grievance (The Creation of Potential Historic Districts). Here is where Mr. Fresco and the Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation disagree. Mr. Fresco is of the opinion that the city of Santa Monica is merely “conducting an inventory.” Could it be that he has been misled by false information? Could it be that he is out of touch with the vast majority of his fellow homeowners?

Victor, perhaps if you were to come along with me, knock on doors, and visit with several hundred fellow homeowners as I have, you might come to a different conclusion. HVP is a Nonpartisan, Broad Based, Grass Roots organization of concerned homeowners who would prefer a more moderate, balanced, and even-handed approach to Historic Home Preservation. This process would involve the active participation, consent, and approval of the homeowner. What's wrong with that, Vic?

Phil Grunland
Santa Monica

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- 14th and Santa Monica Boulevard
- Wilshire Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Colorado Boulevard and 3rd Street
- Santa Monica Courthouse
- Arizona Avenue and Second Street
- Arizona Avenue and Fifth Street
- Three newsstands at the intersection of Arizona Avenue and Fourth Street

- Broadway and Lincoln Boulevard
- Broadway and 10th Street
- Colorado Avenue and Second Street
- Santa Monica Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Broadway Avenue
- Lincoln Boulevard and Pico Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Strand
- Two newsstands at the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Raymond
- Main Street and Kinney
- Main Street and Strand
- Main Street and Ocean Park
- Main Street and Ashland
- Montana Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard
- Montana Avenue and Euclid Street
- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

Watch for future newsstands at a location near you!



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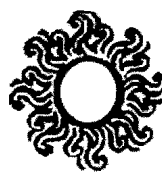
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LOCAL

Small bookstores consider leaving Promenade mall

BOOKSTORE, from page 1

While corporate chain bookstores carry a large and wide-ranging inventory, Midnight Special focuses on political and social titles. Ghiz wanted to turn the purchase of a book into a political act.

"We don't do this to make money," Ghiz said. "We do what we do to make a difference."

Ghiz complained that the mega-chain bookstores don't have a voice or express a point of view. But their popularity has influenced how people now view the purpose of bookstores, she said.

But at Midnight Special, the whole concept is to make people think for themselves and be exposed to new ideas, Ghiz said.

"People are beginning to think a good bookstore doesn't have a point of view, but it's unpatriotic not to have a point of view," she said. "I feel that if you are going to have a bookstore, you are not only going to have the books but you have to have a space to discuss them with somebody else."

"That's why we had the poetry readings, so people could have a place to be poets and say what they have to say and others could hear that," she added.

Word of the shop's imminent closing spread fast along the Promenade Tuesday afternoon. Ardent customers were devastated at the news.

"This is the best resource for books that are hard to find — it's a small place and it's not one of these huge conglomerates," said Jamie Altshule. "They are a part of what is cool about Santa Monica, and it's the only decent place left on the Promenade."

For others, the store represents a place to find new ideas.

"They have absolutely the best poetry section around," said Jess Tucker. "I do all my general book shopping there."

Operators of other independent book stores on the Promenade said they are crushed to hear Midnight Special will be leaving. Some said they too may pack up if the rents do not cool off.

Retail space is going for between \$10 and \$12 a square foot, officials say. Restaurant space is going for an average of \$7 a square foot.

Midnight Special has nearly 6,000 square feet of retail space. Ghiz declined to say how much she pays in monthly rent.

"You pay a premium to be on the Promenade," said Douglas Woods, manager of Hennessey & Ingalls, an art and architecture book store.

"People are beginning to think a good bookstore doesn't have a point of view, but it's unpatriotic not to have a point of view."

— MARGIE GHIZ
 Midnight Special owner

"I think the remaining independents are asking if it's worth paying that premium and so far the answer has been a resounding 'no.'"

Woods said Hennessey & Ingalls has been considering moving its shop off the Promenade for a while.

"Eventually, we'll go," he said. "But if we move, we'll be somewhere in the city. We don't want to leave town."

Lee Kaplan, owner of Arcana, an art book shop, said to succeed on the Promenade, independent book stores must specialize their content and provide stellar customer service.

"We know where the books are and we have a knowledgeable staff," he said. "That's what you have to do."

Kaplan's store has been on the Promenade since the early 1980s, before the area was revitalized. Back then there were numerous new and used book stores because there was plenty of large spaces with cheap rent, he said.

"We'll still be on the Promenade for years," Kaplan said. "It's not an ideal location but it would be a nightmare for us to move."

No trespassing signs only do so much, officials say

SIGNS, from page 1

Other downtown establishments have used "No Loitering" signs, but they haven't been very effective.

At Polly's restaurant, also on Wilshire Boulevard, a prominently displayed "No Loitering or Panhandling" sign mostly goes unnoticed, said the restaurant's manager.

"If our customers complain we try to ask the person to move on," said the manager, who declined to give his name. "But if they don't want to (move) there isn't much we can do."

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp. — which partners with the city in managing the Promenade, said her organization has

been giving out no trespassing signs to businesses for years.

The signs Bayside distributes are used to inform police officers whether the business has a letter on file with the department asking them to remove trespassers.

"The cops wouldn't necessarily know off hand if there is a letter on file," Rawson said. "So we created these signs in the first place to give them a visual cue."

Rawson cites the need for a re-assessment by the city of the laws it currently has on the books to determine how to make them more effective.

"It works as best that it can work," she said. "All this boils down to is that we need more better ability to discourage people from camping in doorways when businesses are closed."

STATE



Big Brother contestants gather



Tony Esparza/Associated Press

The 12 competitors on CBS' "Big Brother 3" gather Saturday night, July 6 in Los Angeles. In front are, from left, Danielle Reyes, Fairfield, Calif.; Amy Crews, Memphis, Tenn.; Lisa Donahue, Los Angeles; and Josh Feinberg, Merrick, N.Y. In back from left are Tonya Paoni, Las Vegas; Chiara Berti of New York; Lori Olson, Foxboro, Wis.; Roddy Mancuso, Morristown, N.J.; Jason Guy, Mobile, Ala.; Gerry Lancaster, Shadow Hills, Calif.; Eric Ouellette, Milford, Conn.; and Marcellas Reynolds, Chicago. The series starts tonight.

Spielbergs donate \$12 million for equestrian site

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Film director Steven Spielberg and his wife, actress Kate Capshaw, have donated \$12 million for the purchase of a site that has been used as a community equestrian club.

The 8.3-acre site north of Sunset Boulevard was threatened by development until Spielberg and Capshaw decided to give the charitable gift. The land, acquired by the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1961, had been earmarked for sale to developers who planned to build expensive homes in the canyon.

School district officials approved the sale June 26. Escrow will likely close in about 18 months.

The property will remain open space accessible to horse riders, according to

leaders of the Sullivan Canyon Preservation Association, which operates riding rings at the site and will own the land.

"It's an incredibly generous gift," said Mary Sweeney, who heads the association. Its 140-member riding club is open to the public for yearly fees that total \$350 per rider and \$500 per horse.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, a group tied to area park districts, sued in an attempt to force the school district to sell the land to the authority for \$2 million. A Superior Court judge ruled against that group in January.

Spielberg and his wife have a home and outdoor riding ring next to the equestrian site. Those facilities replaced a proposal by Spielberg to build a five-story, domed equestrian center on the lot.

Health care group hires agent to repair tarnished image

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — The health care industry, tired of playing the bad guy in movies such as "John Q" and television shows, has hired an agent to help get better roles.

The American Association of Health Plans, which represents more than 1,000 health maintenance organizations, has hired the William Morris Agency to help "build bridges" with writers, producers and directors and to offer technical advice for shows.

"A huge segment of America is impacted by drama, which you could also call 'soft news,'" Mark Merritt, senior vice president of the AAHP, said Tuesday. "What we're trying to do is get a level playing field. We're not saying it's verboten to attack some part of the health care system. We're saying there is another

side to what we do."

Films and TV programs have often portrayed dedicated doctors fighting heartless hospital administrators or insurance companies. In recent years, that theme seems to have escalated with movies such as "As Good as It Gets" and television shows such as "ER" and "Chicago Hope."

Two hospital shows set for ABC and CBS this fall feature doctors providing care for patients in defiance of HMOs.

The AAHC said it is hoping to have some influence on plot lines and scripts, but is not expecting to have veto power over stories.

"We're not here as censors," Johnny Levin, senior vice president of William Morris Consulting, said. "No one wins by telling people what to write, what to produce and what to direct."

Financial terms of the AAHC's hiring of the agency were not disclosed.

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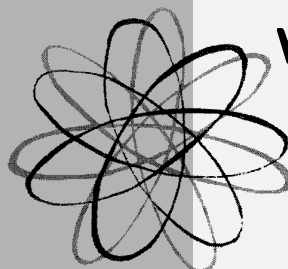
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NATIONAL

Bush urges tougher penalties for corporate corruption

BY SANDRA SOBIERAJ
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — President Bush called for doubled prison terms and aggressive policing Tuesday to combat fraud and corruption in scandal-tarred corporate America, promising to do “everything in our power to end the days of cooking the books.”

Democrats faulted his proposals as inadequate and Wall Street investors yawned.

Bush, wearing a Big Apple lapel pin, traveled to the heart of Manhattan's financial district to respond to the corporate accounting scandals that have shaken investor confidence, threatened an economy struggling to recover from recession and called into question his own decades-old transactions as a private businessman.

“At this moment, America's greatest economic need is higher ethical standards — standards enforced by strict laws and upheld by responsible business leaders,” Bush told a business-suited audience parsimonious with its applause.

“There is no capitalism without conscience, there is no wealth without character,” he said, offering a prescription of prosecution for individual cheats rather than an overhauling of the fundamental system of business regulation.

Bush signed an executive order creating what he called a “financial crimes SWAT team” at the Justice Department, which had had no division charged solely with prosecuting corporate fraud. He proposed doubling the maximum prison terms for such fraud to 10 years and strengthening laws that criminalize document shredding and other forms of obstruction of justice.

He endorsed guidelines proposed by the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq to keep people with personal financial interests in a company off its board of directors or audit committee. And he sought a ban on private loans between chief executives and their companies.

He asked Congress for a stronger Securities and Exchange Commission — one with 100 new enforcement officers plus more investigators and an extra \$100 million to work with.

Goldman Sachs, American Express and ConEd were among the companies that bought tables at the luncheon organized by The Association for a Better New York, whose members include major CEOs in Manhattan.

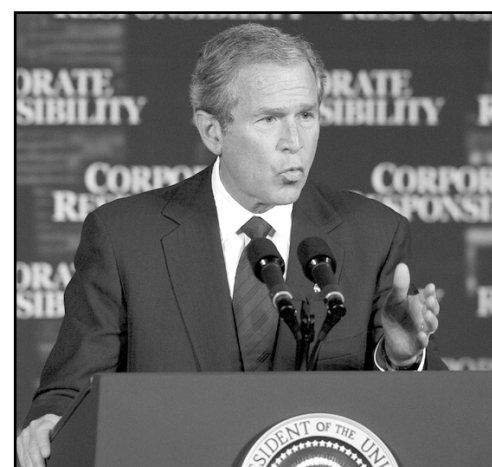
Titters of knowing laughter rippled through the ballroom when Bush took after stock analysts who have misled clients in order to puff up stock prices. “‘Buy’ should not be the only word in an analyst's vocabulary,” Bush said.

Stocks, whose indexes have dropped to five-year lows amid the scandals, continued to fall as Bush spoke.

“Investor sentiment and confidence in the market will only improve if they see some teeth behind some of these proposals,” said Will Braman, chief investment officer at John Hancock Funds. “It will take more than just one speech.”

On the other hand, Seth Taube, former SEC enforcement chief for the New York region, said increased prison terms will do nothing to deter misdeeds. “Businessmen care about money, not jail,” Taube said.

Mark Zandi, chief economist for the Economy.com consulting firm, summarized Bush's approach as: “All that is needed is to throw the bad apples out of



Kathy Willens/Associated Press

President Bush speaks to business leaders of the Association for a Better New York on Tuesday, at a Wall Street hotel ballroom in New York. Bush called for stiff new penalties for corporate criminals and a crackdown on boardroom scandals, promising that his administration would “end the days of cooking the books, shading the truth and breaking our laws.”

the proverbial barrel.”

“The problems appear more systemic, however, and require broader action,” Zandi said, predicting that Bush's plan will do little more than “temporarily stanch the bleeding in financial markets.”

A one-time oil company executive and longtime opponent of government regulation of business, Bush was elected to the White House with overwhelming support from corporate America. That support has become a liability with the recent months' cascade of business scandals: billions of dollars in hidden losses at Enron, a \$4 billion discrepancy in the books at WorldCom, tens of thousands of workers out of jobs and retirement savings, CEOs refusing to testify to Congress.

Bush's own transactions while a director at Harken Energy Corp. in the early 1990s have drawn new scrutiny.

Organized labor, which recently began to look Bush's way on energy policy, is firmly against him on the issue that has suddenly gripped Washington this election year.

“From his first days in office, President Bush advanced legal and regulatory changes to loosen controls on big corporations,” AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said Tuesday.

Congress' top Democrats — Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt — appeared on Capitol Hill with out-of-work WorldCom and Enron employees to counter Bush's speech with their own “investor's bill of rights” announcement.

They insisted upon a new federal board to regulate the accounting industry.

Bush no doubt shares public outrage over corporate corruption, said Daschle, D-S.D. “The question is whether he is willing to take action on that outrage and support the legislation which will actually help solve the problem.”

Bush spoke at a Wall Street hotel just blocks from where suicide hijackers struck the World Trade Center on Sept. 11 and he saluted the neighborhood's comeback as the kind of resilience he's hoping for in the American economy.

With November elections sure to hinge in part on the condition of the economy, a big part of the White House agenda on Tuesday was damage control.

NATIONAL



Public nervous about jobs, economy's future

BY WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

Like many Americans, attorney Larry Anderson is nervous about corporate accounting scandals and their possible future effects on the stock market, but he's keeping his investments in Wall Street for now.

Public attitudes about the economy haven't changed much over the last six months, despite well-publicized problems at big companies like Enron and WorldCom. People have become slightly more nervous about the economy's future prospects and jobs, say those who track such attitudes.

President Bush was traveling to New York on Tuesday to outline how he will address growing public concerns about big companies that misrepresent their financial picture.

Bush said Monday that a "key element of economic growth is consumer and investor confidence in our markets and in the integrity of corporate America. And right now, that confidence has been shaken."

The public is sending mixed signals about the economy, say economists and opinion researchers.

The number of investors who say they will put more money or less money in the market has not changed significantly over the last six months, said Thomas Riehle, president of the polling firm of IPSOS Reid, which polls for Business Week and the Cook Political Report.

"Investors are reserving judgment as opposed to making new judgments," Riehle said. "I wouldn't expect to see investors running for the exits."

Greg Cole, a 34-year-old corrections officer who lives in Mercersburg, Pa., said he isn't worrying much about the ups and downs of the stock market.

"I'm in it for the long-term," he said. "I really don't pay much attention to it. I'm young yet."

One reason many people don't panic with each gyrations is that so many have their investments in programs like 401(k) retirement accounts, economists say.

"Most of the money that goes into the stock market is almost on automatic pilot," said economist Mark Zandi, chief econo-

mist at Economy.com, a consulting firm in West Chester, Pa. "It takes an effort to stop those flows. The market would be in much worse shape if contributions weren't on automatic pilot."

ABC News pollster Gary Langer said "all the hand wringing about the effect of corporate irresponsibility has been somewhat overblown."

Consumers have continued to spend on big items like cars and homes.

"Consumers certainly recognize that inflation is still low, interest rates are low," said Richard Curtin, director of consumer surveys at the University of Michigan. "That's helping to maintain their spending."

Riehle said his polling suggests "people have grown more comfortable with their household budgets compared to six months ago."

Economist Ken Mayland of ClearView Economics in Pepper Pike, Ohio, said he sees many signs that the economy is growing

stronger, including healthy consumer spending and increased industrial production.

"What we're seeing in our consumer confidence survey is that there has been some improvement in consumer confidence, but not a tremendous improvement," said Lynn Franco, director of the research center at the New York-based Conference Board. "People are cautiously optimistic."

Yet some people have grown more anxious about the economy's future, according to several economists and pollsters. In a recent poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, the number who expected the economy to get better had declined from four in 10 to three in 10.

"We've been doing some analysis that shows the public's perception of the economy is more linked to the state of the stock market than was the case 10 years ago," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center.

Plane crash memorial



Judi Bottoni/Associated Press

A memorial for Pan Am Flight 759, that stands outside Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, is shown on July 3, 2002, in Kenner, La. The crash on July 9, 1982, killed all 146 people on the plane and eight more on the ground. Twenty years later, it remains the worst crash ever caused by wind shear.



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NATIONAL

Pro-marijuana proposal wins spot on Nevada ballot

BY BRENDAN RILEY

Associated Press Writer

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Nevadans will vote in November on a proposal to ease the state's once-harsh marijuana laws and allow adults to possess up to 3 ounces of the drug.

Susan Bilyeu, deputy secretary of state for elections, said 74,740 signatures turned in by Nevadans for Responsible Law Enforcement in support of an initiative petition were valid.

More than 34,000 names were tossed out in the verification process. But that still left the advocates above the minimum requirement of 61,336 names.

But the petitioners just barely met a requirement that the total include 10 percent of the voter turnout in the last election in at least 13 of Nevada's 17 counties. They fell short in three counties, and were only four signatures over the minimum in Esmeralda County and just 19 signatures over the minimum in Eureka County.

Had the petitioners lost those two counties, they would have been one shy of the 13-county requirement.

Billy Rogers of Nevadans for Responsible Law Enforcement said his group was confident of success despite the close margins in the two rural counties.

"The success of our petition drive provides solid evidence that most Nevadans think it's a waste of their tax dollars to

arrest people for small amounts of marijuana," Rogers added.

Rogers said his organization spent well over \$300,000 getting signatures, and now must start mapping out campaign strategies to ensure statewide approval in November.

Until last year, Nevada had the strictest marijuana law in the nation. Puffing on a single marijuana cigarette was a felony, punishable by prison term of a year or more.

Such penalties were rarely imposed, and the old law didn't stop Nevadans from approving the use of medical marijuana in 2000. State legislators in 2001 also passed a law making possession of less than an ounce a misdemeanor.

If the ballot proposal is approved this year and again in 2004 by voters, Nevada would have one of the most relaxed marijuana laws in the nation.

It still would be illegal for minors to possess the drug or for anyone to sell marijuana to minors, and driving-under-the-influence laws would still apply. It also would be illegal to use marijuana in public. Schools, prisons and casinos are specifically mentioned on the proposal's list of no-smoking sites.

Marijuana would be taxed like cigarettes and other tobacco products and sold in state-licensed shops. A distribution system would be set up to provide low-cost medical marijuana.

Census: South Carolina leads the nation in mobile homes

BY JENNIFER HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — The Rev. Lawrence Beadle's three-bedroom home along South Carolina's Grand Strand is appointed with all the traditional touches: black shutters, a picture window and a carport.

Those amenities may be part of the reason mobile homes such as Beadle's are growing in popularity here and across the country.

According to the 2000 census, South Carolina is the nation's mobile home capital.

One in five South Carolina households is a mobile home. New Mexico ranks a close second. West Virginia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama, Wyoming, Arkansas, Montana and Kentucky round out the top 10 states with the highest percentages of mobile homes — or "manufactured housing," as the industry prefers to call them.

"When people come to visit — from the outside they form an opinion. But when they come inside they say, 'Wow, what a beautiful home,'" says Beadle, 74.

Many people think of the old tin-can trailers no wider than a car when they hear the words "mobile home." But that's not the case nowadays.

Many mobile homes these days are roomier and well-appointed. And industry leaders say federal and state regulations require today's mobile homes to be of a much higher quality than those made 30 years ago. In the North, for example, mobile homes now must be able to hold

up under heavy snow, and in the Southeast, they have to withstand hurricane-force winds.

The new versions fit many of the needs of first-time homebuyers, retirees, even the governor of Arkansas.

Gov. Mike Huckabee moved into a triple-wide in 2000 — and endured Jay Leno's wisecracks — while the Governor's Mansion in Little Rock was being renovated. One in seven households in Arkansas is a mobile home.

Bob Martindale, who sells manufactured homes in Myrtle Beach, says many people are skeptical at first. "You end up trying to educate people," he says. "Most people have a stigma in their minds."

Nationwide, nearly 8.7 million households, or 1 in 13, are mobile homes, according to census figures. That is up from 7.3 million in 1990. The number of mobile homes in South Carolina increased 17 percent to 355,499 during the 1990s.

Florida led the nation in the total number of mobile homes, with 842,701, or close to 10 percent of all U.S. mobile homes.

Mobile homes were least prevalent in the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Connecticut and Massachusetts, accounting for less than 1 percent of all households there.

John Cone, executive director of the Home Builders Association of South Carolina, recommends people invest in an ordinary site-built home instead, in part because the property is almost certain to increase in value. But he admits mobile homes "certainly make affordable housing, and in a state where we have many poor people, it makes sense."

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SPORTS



Peter Dejong/Associated Press

Robbie McEwen, of Australia, reacts as he wins the third stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Metz and Reims, eastern France on Tuesday.

McEwen wins third stage of Tour de France, as Zabel takes overall lead

BY JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press Writer

REIMS, France — Australia's Robbie McEwen used a closing sprint to win the third stage of the Tour de France on Tuesday, as three-time champion Lance Armstrong slipped to fifth place in the overall standings after finishing in the main pack.

McEwen, of the Lotto-Adecco team, covered the 108.2-mile stage through the flat wheatfields of eastern France between Metz and Reims in 4 hours, 13 minutes and 17 seconds. He raised his arms, fists clenched, as he crossed the line for his first stage win at the Tour since claiming the final leg in Paris in 1999.

Germany's Erik Zabel, a sprint specialist with the Telekom team, finished second and claimed the leader's yellow jersey from Swiss rider Rubens Bertogliati, who had held it for two days.

"This is a great day for me and my team," Zabel told France-2 Television.

Armstrong, of the U.S. Postal Service team, finished shortly after McEwen, and dropped from fourth to fifth in the overall standings. Armstrong opened his bid for a fourth straight title by winning the time-trial prologue.

During the second stage on Monday, while many around him crashed or cramped, Armstrong rode just as he planned, breezing through a forested region of western Germany under a scorching sun. He finished 61st, slipping to fourth place overall.

"I was surprised by the huge crowds; I was impressed," Armstrong said.

Spain's Oscar Freire won the 112-mile stage and Bertogliati retained the leader's jersey for a second day.

Thousands lined the route between Luxembourg and Saarbruecken, many

cheering Zabel. One woman had "Zabel" written on her stomach in his team's pink colors.

U.S. Postal officials said the team was sticking to its strategy of protecting Armstrong and riding in the front of the pack, where accidents are less likely, in the early stages. The Texan intends to step it up a notch in the later mountain stages, one of his many strengths.

"It was nervous today, but quite easy," Armstrong said.

Some who sought to push the pace in the relatively flat stage ran into trouble.

Norway's Thor Hushovd shared the lead for much of the day but finished last after stopping several times to nurse a leg cramp. At one point, he hunched over his handlebars in pain and had to have his thigh massaged by a trainer. He struggled to the finish 19 minutes after the main pack.

There were four crashes, one involving Armstrong teammate Benoit Joachim, who wasn't seriously hurt. Spain's Samuel Sanchez of Euskaltel injured his right knee and right elbow in a crash and was taken to a hospital in Saarbruecken for X-rays.

Freire spoiled Zabel's homecoming in a sprint in the final few yards. Freire, the world road champion, sped over the line just ahead of Zabel and a pack of 176 other riders.

Freire finished in 4 hours, 19 minutes, 51 seconds, the same time as the main pack. McEwen placed second while Zabel, who wore the green jersey awarded to the Tour's fastest sprinter, was third.

"To return to my country in the green jersey, it's still not too bad," he said.

Bertogliati finished 29th but kept the yellow jersey he took from Armstrong on Sunday. Armstrong had lost the yellow jersey only once before — in 1999, the year of his first Tour victory.

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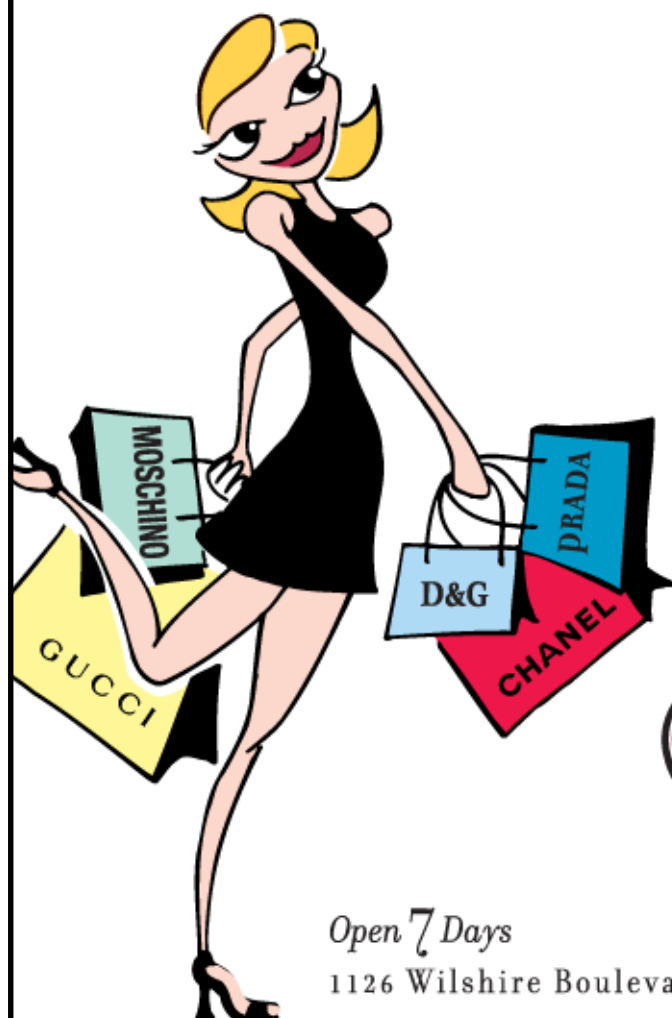


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INTERNATIONAL

Hundreds of American Jews move to Israel for new life

BY JASON KEYSER

Associated Press Writer

BEN GURION AIRPORT, Israel —

In the face of Mideast violence, nearly 400 Americans moved to Israel Tuesday to build new lives in the Jewish state — the largest single group to arrive in years.

“We could have lived a cushy life, but that’s not important,” said, Tamar Rudy, a 27-year-old mother of four who left a legal assistant’s job in Baltimore. “Raising our kids here is important.”

More than 21 months of fighting and a worsening economy have kept many immigrants away. There were 45,000 newcomers to Israel last year, compared with 60,000 in 2000, according to the Jewish Agency, a quasi-government group that brings immigrants to Israel.

Some of the immigrants who arrived Tuesday said they were tired of waiting for the fighting to end. Others said a desire to be closer to the biblical homeland and to strengthen the Jewish state outweighed their fears.

Essential for others were grants of \$5,000 each donated by American Evangelical Christians, who want to encourage Jews to live in the Holy Land — which they see as foretold by the Bible.

Bishop Huey Harris of the First

Pentecostal Tabernacle Church in Elkton, Md., raised \$2,500 from his congregation.

“What I’m seeing is the Scriptures being fulfilled right before our very eyes,” he said from Maryland. “What’s next? I’m looking for the church to be raptured, Jesus returning for the church ... and the Jews would receive him as their Messiah.”

Some immigrants said they felt awkward about accepting the money but were grateful for it. Many Israelis have mixed feelings about the support of the Evangelicals, since their ultimate goal is to convert Jews to Christianity.

Israel, a country built on immigration, drew nearly 1 million newcomers from the former Soviet Union over the last decade, but bringing Western Jews, with their successful businesses and comfortable lives at home, has been a bigger challenge.

“The U.S. has the biggest Jewish community in the world — 5.5 million people. That’s more than Israel,” Jewish Agency spokesman Efraim Lapid said. “We see the community in the U.S. as a strategic reservoir.”

The El Al charter flight from New York brought the first group of Jewish immigrants to arrive en masse in recent years. Half are to live in Beit Shemesh, a city just outside Jerusalem. Three families are moving to Gush Etzion, a bloc of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and several hundred other Israelis, many of them American immigrants, greeted the 371 newcomers with hugs in the shade of an airport hangar.

One of the new arrivals was Noa Hirsch, a 22-year-old law student from Pittsburgh. She said she came to Israel “to join my people in my land.”

Hirsch said she was moving to Jerusalem and didn’t worry much that the city has been hard-hit by Palestinian attackers.

“Maybe I’m being foolish, but I don’t think so,” she said. “Terror is everywhere. I’m not going to let someone tell me how to live my life.”

Palestinians blame Israel for the 21 months of violence, charging that Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and its restrictions on their movement have embittered many. Traditionally, Palestinians have opposed Israel’s wide-open immigration laws for the world’s Jews, while Israel limits Palestinian immigration.

Michal Hershtal, 22, of Memphis, Tenn., is the first from her family to live in Israel. “Somebody’s got to start,” said Hershtal, who will settle near Tel Aviv with her husband Danny, one of a few passengers from Canada.

Tamar Rudy plans to join her sister and mother, who already live in Israel. She and

her husband Mitch hauled 17 big boxes to their new home in Ramat Beit Shemesh.

“When I’m here, I feel like it’s where I belong,” she said. She wants her four children, the oldest just 7, to be closer to their Jewish identity.

It’s a big sacrifice. Her husband just finished dental school and the family had a house in Baltimore.

Tamar Rudy’s mother, 55-year-old Nomi Malek, 55, was born in Hungary and came to Israel as a girl before moving to the United States. Her father survived the Auschwitz concentration camp; his first wife and three children perished.

“My mother didn’t want to raise me in a place where she suffered,” Malek said. A new generation of immigrants, like her daughter, is coming in search of something spiritual, not for refuge, she said.

Malek, who returned to Israel after a divorce, hesitated to encourage her daughters to follow. “I could not tell them to come,” she said. “I feel responsibility. But I’m happy,” she said, hugging her daughter.

At Rudy’s new apartment, her children were already at play. Three-year-old Yisrael was splashing around in a lawn sprinkler and 5-year-old Tzipora searched a box for her favorite doll.

Rudy beamed as she crossed the threshold, shouting, “Honey, I’m home.”

High hopes and cynicism greet birth of African Union

BY DINA KRAFT

Associated Press Writer

DURBAN, South Africa — In a blur of streaking fighter jets, Zulu dancers and parachuting soldiers, African leaders on Tuesday launched the African Union, an ambitious new body that seeks to pull the beleaguered continent out of poverty and conflict.

“We as Africans have a common and a shared destiny. Together we must redefine this destiny for a better life for all the people of this continent,” South African President Thabo Mbeki told thousands at a celebratory kickoff at a stadium in this coastal city.

Mbeki, the African Union’s first chairman, has been a driving force behind its creation. He envisages it as the engine to transform Africa, sparking foreign investment and development through the promotion of democracy and good governance.

Delegates at the stadium glowed with optimism as they slipped out of suit jackets to dance along to the new African Union theme song: “African Unity let’s make it a reality/ Unity is the key to the African Century.”

Talk of unity won’t be enough, said critics who questioned whether the new body would have the resources or political will to enforce its lofty goals or would be another toothless bureaucracy like its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity.

It is doubtful the union, modeled in part after the European Union, would have the power to reign in the despots and corruption-riddled governments that plague the continent, the critics said.

Money will also be a challenge, since the union will inherit the OAU’s more than \$40 million debt and does not appear to have a better plan for funding itself.

Regardless, African leaders have hailed the 53-nation African Union as a new organization for a new era — one that links a commitment to democracy and human rights to economic development.

Plans for the union include a security council, a legislature and an economic development plan.

Its muscle is to be a peace and security council, whose 15 rotating members may be able to send a continental peacekeeping force to intervene in cases of genocide and war crimes.

The union’s other key element is the New Partnership for African Development, which seeks billions of dollars of international investment in Africa in return for stable democratic governance and fiscal responsibility.

Only African Union members that comply with NEPAD’s basic tenets will be invited to join that body. A

mechanism of peer review is to be set up so the members can police each other.

“For Africa to see fundamental changes, there must be a major change in the attitude and thinking of its leaders.”

— NOEL TWAGIRAMUNGU
Human rights official

Critics doubt their leaders’ commitment to a union that in theory will take away some of their power, and they question whether it will be allowed to use soldiers to end civil conflict and human rights abuses in African countries.

“For Africa to see fundamental changes, there must be a major change in the attitude and thinking of its leaders,” said Noel Twagiramungu, a human rights official in

Rwanda, where more than 500,000 people were killed in a 1994 genocide while the OAU did nothing.

“The biggest problem facing the AU,” he said, “is that none of the present leaders can stand up and say, ‘I am a credible leader with moral authority and my peers should follow my example.’”

South African opposition lawmaker Joe Seremane said Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi’s efforts to take a leadership role in the union did not bode well for its future.

“Is Libya’s human rights record and its grossly undemocratic system of government acceptable to South Africa and other democratic countries?” Seremane asked.

During the summit, Gadhafi suggested the chairman’s term be expanded from one year to five and that a pan-African army be established and based in the chairman’s home country. His proposals were quickly shuffled off into a bureaucratic holding pattern.

Gadhafi, who first proposed the union, has made no secret of his desire to be its leader, and hopes to have its headquarters in Libya. At Tuesday’s rally he shook his fist in the air and roused the crowd.

Three Americans gored in bull run

By The Associated Press

PAMPLONA, Spain — Bulls turned a sprint into an agonizingly slow, messy and dangerous jaunt at the San Fermin festival Tuesday, goring three Americans and injuring five others.

Two bulls strayed from the pack and became disoriented, charging at just about anything that moved. The 900-yard run dragged on for 12 minutes, three times longer than usual.

Among the Americans seriously injured was Justin Skonberg, 22, who suffered an 8-inch gash in his right thigh. Howard Marzan, 30, from Puerto Rico, suffered a 6-inch gash in his left thigh, and James Brandau, 69, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was jabbed in the left leg, the Navarra regional government said. It did not give their home towns.

Two Spaniards also were gored,

and three people were treated for neck injuries, a broken wrist and other problems on Tuesday, the third of eight runs at Spain’s most famous summer festival.

One bull accompanied by steers that are supposed to keep the pack in a cluster ran back the wrong way. Organizers took the extraordinary step of putting a wooden barrier up to stop them.

The bull plowed into crowds and flipped people into the air as if they were toys. It poked one skinny young man in the thigh and tossed him in the air twice. On the ground, with the bull breathing in his face and armed only with a rolled-up newspaper, the man crossed his arms and tried not to look. He eventually escaped.

Another daredevil kicked that bull in the rump and grabbed it by the horns. Stick-wielding bull han-

dlers who try to act as shepherds hit the man, as did other runners. At San Fermin, touching the bulls is seen as disrespectful.

Another bull fell on slick cobblestones just a yard from the doorway of a coffee shop, triggering a pileup of screaming humans crawling to safety. The bull took two minutes to get up. One runner tugged at the 1,100-pound animal’s tail to try to get it moving again.

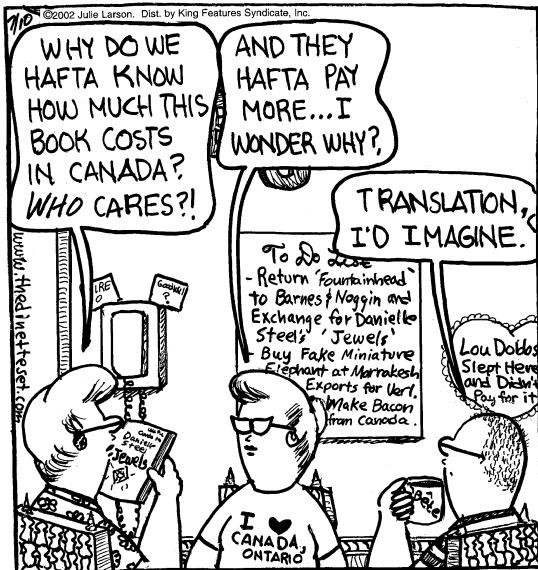
The centuries-old fiesta, also known for its all-night street partying, became internationally famous with the publication of Ernest Hemingway’s 1926 novel “The Sun Also Rises.”

Since record keeping began in 1924, 13 runners have been killed and more than 200 injured by the bulls. The last to die was an American, Matthew Tassio of Illinois, in 1995.

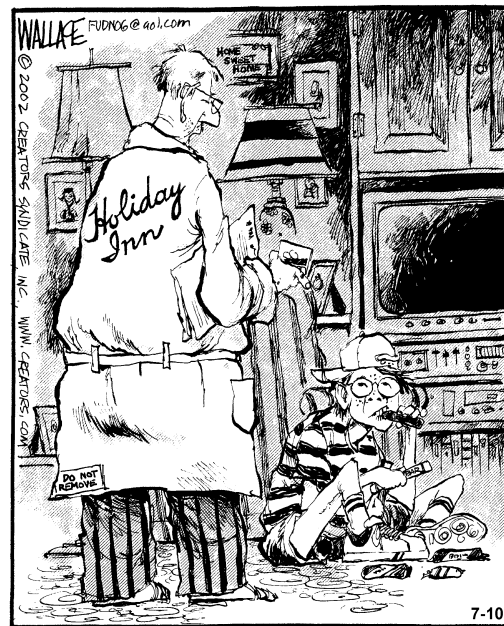
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- 1 Trims
6 ERA or RBI
10 Conductor Seiji
11 Tea party crasher
12 Not feral
13 Tatter
14 Yodeling milieu
15 Dress size
16 Vast expanse
17 "... man — mouse?"
18 Born
19 Music genre
22 Daze
23 Palette fill
26 Soup accompanier, at times
29 Basketball's Holman
32 "The Simpsons" bartender
33 Struggle
34 Charm
36 Hotel furniture
37 One of Santa's team
38 TV's Philbin
39 Hollywood worker
40 Without help
- DOWN**
- 41 Misplaced
42 Sinclair of "Trapper John, M.D."
1 Bleaching chemical
2 Flowery shrubs
3 Protective wall
4 Lambs' moms
5 Blue
6 Narrow cut
7 Deflected rebound
8 Keen aperitif
9 Conical home
11 Numerical prefix, of a sort
15 NFL player
17 Garnish
20 "Isn't that obvious?"
21 Wine
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25 Like some doors
27 Nonsense
28 Tenant

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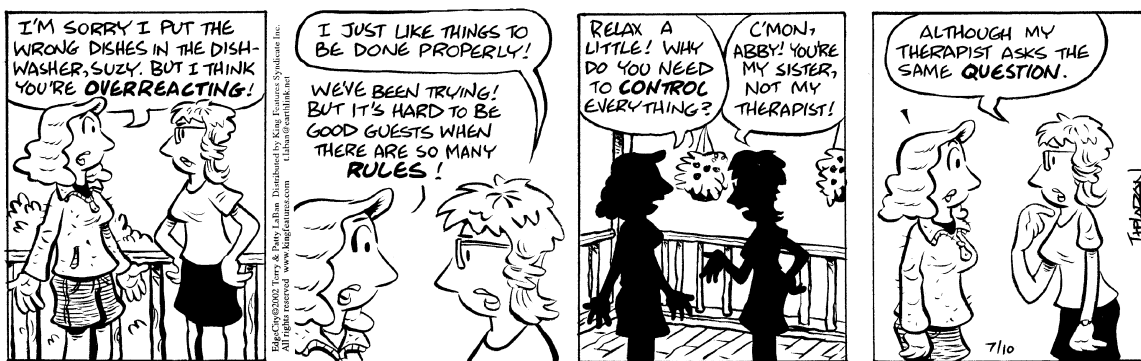
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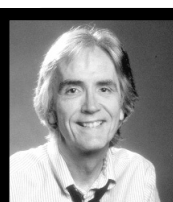
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

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- The U.N. World Food Summit, devoted to helping the 800 million people starving worldwide, opened in Rome with a luncheon of lobster, foie gras and goose stuffed with olives for the 3,000 limousine-using delegates (June).
- Officials at California's Lawrence Livermore Laboratory decided that their brand-new, \$62 million storage facility for low-level radioactive waste was not secure enough from terrorists and that until modifications were made, the waste would continue to be stored outside, underneath a tent (May).



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

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

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

Computer Services

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

Computer Services

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

Business Opps

WORK SMART while sleeping. Call (866)NO-DEBT-3. Refer by Preston. Also send \$30.00 to "Making Life Better" P.O.B 829, Burnet, Texas, 78611-0829. Refer 02-319. Plus call (800)363-6177. Refer #1666778 to earn free long distance service and other utilities.

Health/Beauty

ACT NOW!!! I need people to lose 5-100 pounds! All natural. Doctor recommended www.results4you.com/cc. 1-888-236-2139

Lost & Found

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

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
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. *The Powerpuff Girls Movie* (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00. *Like Mike* (PG) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Minority Report (PG-13) 11:40, 12:30, 3:15, 4:00, 7:10, 7:50, 10:30. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* (PG-13) 11:10, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG) 11:20, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50. *Men in Black II* (PG-13) 11:00, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40.

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

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.

Arts / Entertainment

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

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

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

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

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

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.

Thursday

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.

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

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

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The Rhythm Room- DJ Sets By: DJ Haul, Fisher P & Mason. Boujoubumbastic, 10:00 pm, Rhythm Room All Stars, 11:00 pm. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310)393-6611.

SPLAT! stand up comedy, 8:30 p.m., \$5. Comedy Underground, 320 Wilshire Blvd. *The showtime entrance is in the alley. Show info/Reservation line: (310)451-1800. No drink minimum!

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

ODDS & ENDS

Fans turned away for game

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The starting pitcher said it felt like playing in a cemetery. It was so quiet he could hear the beer and peanut vendors in the stands.

The Charleston Riverdogs lost 4-2 to the Columbus RedStixx on Monday night as the Class A Tampa Bay Devil Rays affiliate padlocked the gates and kept hundreds of fans outside Joe Riley Stadium.

This was "Nobody Night" — a promotion designed to set the record for professional baseball's lowest attendance.

"I understood what was going on, but you know, a couple of guys said, 'We're professional athletes, it kind of stinks not to have fans there the whole time cheering you on,'" Riverdogs pitcher John Vigue said.

Only reporters, scouts and employees were allowed into the game. Fans were turned away and sent just outside the ballpark to a party where discounted food and beer were offered.

Hundreds gathered outside the main gate, waiting to come in once the game was declared official after the fifth inning and the attendance was recorded as zero.

Bob Quirin, 57, of Millstadt, Ill., wasn't thrilled to see only four innings.

"I don't think it's a real good idea," he said. "I thought it was kind of silly."

Jurors on graveyard shift

By The Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. — The recorded telephone message to 160 prospective Snohomish County Superior Court

jurors was clear: Report for orientation at 5 a.m. sharp.

The message also was wrong.

It was corrected Sunday evening to give the correct time, 8:30 a.m., but by then many had quit checking the call-in phone message.

About 70 arrived Monday morning to find that the room where they had been told to go was unlit, unheated and — except for themselves — unoccupied.

"It wasn't funny sitting around a cold, dark room," said Alix O'Donnell.

"We were peeved," said Diane Halverson.

Finally, the court staffer who made the mistake appeared and tearfully apologized, receiving applause from many of those who had showed up 3 1/2 hours early, Halverson said.

"She felt very bad," she said. "Her apology, people felt, was heartfelt."

County officials did not identify the employee.

The blunder occurred Friday while the county's regular jury coordinator was on vacation, said Val Stone, assistant court administrator. She said she corrected the message as soon as a friend told her of the error.

"We screwed up, made a big mistake," Stone said.

In the future, she said, more than one person will check the jury voice message.

Bee keeper survives 1,000 bee stings

By The Associated Press

LINZ, Austria — A 90-year-old beekeeper was recovering in a hospital Tuesday after suffering 1,000 bee stings, the Austria Press Agency reported.

Hermann Danner was stung a week ago when he approached his two hives without protection gear.

"It was a battle that lasted about half an hour — but

it was unsuccessful," Danner was quoted as saying by APA.

Danner was barely moving when a neighbor found him and alerted medics. Doctors counted about 1,000 stings on his body, said Guenter Watzl, head physician at the hospital in Kirchdorf an der Krems, a small town about 120 miles west of Vienna.

"At such an old age, a couple of hundred stings could be deadly," APA quoted Watzl as saying.

Danner was expected to recover fully.

Pet owners hope parrot peeves thieves

By The Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. — Gail and Bill Brooks hope whoever stole their parrot is annoyed enough with his noise to be having second thoughts.

The owners of the Pet Pavilion have collected nearly \$3,000 to offer as a reward for the return of Bonzo, a 10-year-old African gray parrot they raised from birth and brought with them when they moved from Florida.

Bonzo, less than a foot tall and worth about \$2,000, vanished from the Brooks' emergency animal care and boarding operation June 23 while they were on vacation in Hawaii.

African grays are not rare and have a typical lifespan of 50 years in captivity and 75 years in the wild. Bonzo is uncommonly noisy, Gail Brooks said.

"Whoever stole him is probably getting tired of him asking, 'Where's Bill?'" she said. "It really is like having a child in the house when he's here."

Bonzo readily sings a version of the song "Bingo" using his own name and squawks "Bonzo pretty, Bonzo smart" and "Night, night" at bedtime.

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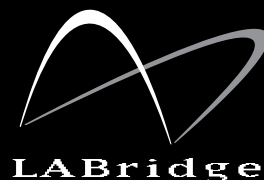
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