

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues.

Council allows corporate naming of public property

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Over the mayor's objection, the city council has enacted a policy that would allow public facilities to be named after corporations.

"To do that would be selling off our assets," said Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein.

With a glut of new public buildings in the

works, the city council hammered out a policy Tuesday intended to guide future politicians on how to name new public facilities.

The city council voted 4-2 in favor of allowing buildings to be named after local, national and international corporations or persons who have made significant contributions to the community.

Fearful that mega-corporations would want to buy the naming rights to some of the city's more popular tourist attractions

for advertising purposes, Feinstein and Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown fought to forbid the practice.

"What disturbs me the most is this self-delusional idea that by allowing corporate naming we wouldn't be putting our public spaces up for sale," Feinstein said. "I am flabbergasted we would allow large economic incentives to name our public facilities."

Feinstein argued that as Santa Monica continues to face increasingly difficult

economic times, corporations could offer to help the city complete capital improvements in exchange for the naming rights.

To balance the city's budget this year, the city council had to cut or suspend more than \$20 million worth of capital improvements.

However, the city continues to move forward with a \$120 million redevelopment

See CORPORATES, page 5

Skate park beach location denied

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica will finally get its skate park, but it will be miles away from the beach where modern skateboarding is said to have been invented.

The Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved building a \$570,000 skateboarding facility at Memorial Park, which is at the corner of Olympic Boulevard and 16th Street.

Some founders of the sport, which they say originated along the beach in the Ocean Park neighborhood, lobbied to have the facility built at Crescent

Park, which is adjacent to the beach between Bay and Bicknell Streets.

However, council members feel a beach location would heavily draw outsiders who would push out local residents from using it. Some also are concerned that a facility by the beach would require a long public input process that could drag on for years.

"Skateboarding is not a crime, but continually skateboarders are restricted from places where they can skate," said Mayor Mike Feinstein. "We need to finally give people a place where they can go."

See PARK, page 5

Rats make way into affluent areas

By The Associated Press

Rodents are abandoning the sewers and scampering into fancy neighborhoods and restaurants that can only yield one response from humans: Rats!

Urban sprawl and warm temperatures have driven rodents from their homes throughout Los Angeles County and pushed them into affluent areas such as Beverly Hills, Malibu and Santa Monica. County health officials said they have received more complaints in recent months because of the apparent move.

"Rodents do not know they've crossed Santa Monica Boulevard into Beverly Hills and shouldn't be there," said Terrence Powell, county director of environmental services. "Rats love palm trees, too. To them, they're classy, high-rise condos."

County health officials don't believe there has been a rise in the rodent population. But they believe California's drought has dried up some of the rodents'

food sources. As a result, the rats have become more adventurous, county health officials said.

"In higher socioeconomic areas, rodents can survive forever and not be seen," said Frank Hall, county chief of vector management.

Recently, county officials were shooting a video for employees to educate them about breeding habits of rodents. They filmed the video at a manicured yard at an expensive Pacific Palisades home. Health officials trapped more than 250 rodents at the home before they stopped counting.

"The moral to the story is rats will go anywhere they have food," Powell said. "It's ironic that many of the things they like are on the street of the very affluent."

The county health department closed seven restaurants on Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade in April and May for rodent problems. Some of the sidewalk cafes were built without devices that guide rodents away from key areas.

Horsin' around



Andrew H Fixmer/Daily Press
Teresa Rivera plays with her 18-month-old daughter Zoe at Memorial Park on Wednesday. The play ground will be moved to make way for a new skate park.

Dealership to pay settlement up to \$6.5M for banned junk faxes

By staff and wire reports

ST. LOUIS — A car dealership agreed to pay up to \$6.5 million to settle a class-action lawsuit over its unsolicited "junk fax" advertisements, which are barred by federal law, a lawyer said.

Promotions for Newbold Toyota-BMW of O'Fallon, Ill., were faxed to more than 33,000 businesses and homes in the 314 and 636 area codes around St. Louis in early 2001.

The dealership's owners did not know

the practice was illegal when they hired a company to do the advertising, said lawyer Steven Katz, who filed the case last year.

If a judge approves the settlement after a September hearing, anyone who received a fax can claim as much as \$500 for each advertisement received, the standard penalty under the federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Katz said he did not expect everyone to file a claim.

A notice of the settlement was sent — by fax — to the 33,000 numbers turned over by the company that did the faxing

for the dealership. That company, American Blast Fax of Dallas, is out of business, he said.

Several local businesses in Santa Monica settled the same type of suit, which was levied by a local consumer watch dog group called The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights.

John Cassese, owner of The Dance Doctor on Fourth Street paid the consumer group the \$610 settlement with 61,000 pennies in seven large boxes.

Owners of Shazti on Main, Akbar

Cuisine of India, Rosti, and Familia Toscana also were sued. Akbar is the only business that hasn't settled — it has decided to sue Faxertise, a fax agency based in Sliver Lake that contracted with Akbar to send out the faxes.

Faxertise told Cassese it would send an advertisement for his dance studio to 9,350 phone numbers in five different westside communities. Cassese, as well as the other business owners, didn't know the service was illegal.



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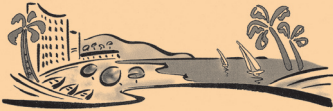
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Confusion marks your interactions, with both individuals and groups. Confirm plans before skipping off. If tension develops, creativity, humor and intellect will save the moment. Find answers rather than getting upset with the moment. Remember, this too will pass. Tonight: Think weekend.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might think a superior could be a touch daffy. Think through decisions carefully, understanding that you might be a bit off as well. Gain clarity through a process of asking and confirming what you have heard. Tonight: Run home and vanish!



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others want to hear what you think. Curb a tendency to allow your mind to roam. You will communicate in a much more effective manner as a result. Don't back away from the inevitable with an in-law or someone at a distance. Tonight: Swap jokes with a jovial associate.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Be very careful when dealing with funds — yours and others. Though you might be absolutely sure of yourself, you could make a mistake. Consider your options carefully here. Make sure everything involving insurance policies are on the up-and-up. Tonight: Pay bills first.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You're all lightness and fun right now. Use care when dealing with an associate who might feel more than friendship for you. Ask yourself not only what you feel here, but also what you would like. Guide this relationship accordingly. Your charisma speaks. Tonight: The world is your oyster.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Slow down, especially with your daily routine. You could easily stumble over yourself and make a mistake. Consider options that involve your work and health most carefully. Schedule a checkup if you're overdue, be it with the dentist or doc. Tonight: Easy does it.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You are caught between the push and pull of a situation that you might be most uncomfortable with. A child or loved one needs direction from you. Be subtle as you lead this person down the right path. Stop putting another on a pedestal. Tonight: Playtime.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Deal with a boss who insists on running the show. You cannot get away from this person's demands. Listen to another more carefully. You might make assumptions that simply do not work. Realize that you could be misreading what is happening. Tonight: A must show.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Reach out for another at a distance. You might not be exactly sure what the best way to handle a problem is. Get others' feedback. Tap into your creativity, and you'll find solutions with ease. A partner gives you a piece of his or her mind! Tonight: Relax your mind.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Confusion lies close to home. Don't allow yourself to make a monetary mistake. Carefully consider options that revolve around your personal finances. Cautiously check out ideas with someone in the know. Wait to commit. Tonight: Do for another.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might not be seeing another clearly. On the other hand, you also could prefer to put this person on a pedestal. Be sure about what you want and expect from him or her. Is this person fulfilling your needs? Only you can answer that question. Tonight: Be a follower.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Reach out for another at a distance. Your ability to understand others saves the day in a stressful, work-related situation. You might think you have a hunch about what is going on, but you will discover that reality might be a lot different. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.



QUOTE of the DAY

**“Outside every thin woman is
a fat man trying to get in.”**
— Katherine Whitehorn

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LOCAL

For the birds



Jamie Soberer/Special to the Daily Press
A man passes the time feeding grateful pigeons near the Santa Monica pier on a sunny Wednesday afternoon.

Police Dept. gets Emmy

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Police Department-produced 30-minute video documentary, "Every 15 Minutes-For My Friends," was honored with an Emmy Award in the children/youth programming category at the recently held 54th annual Los Angeles Emmy Award ceremonies. A one-hour edited version of the event, hosted by comedian Paul Rodriguez, will be aired Saturday, Aug. 10 on KCBS TV (Channel 2).

Appearing on stage to receive their statuettes were the producers — SMPD Chief James T. Butts, Jr., Lauralee Asch, of the SMPD community relations unit, and Tom Mitchell, who also wrote, direct-

ed and edited the prize-winning entry.

John Beard, Fox 11 TV anchor, who also was awarded an Emmy, narrated and appeared in the video, which depicted the tragic effects of teenage drinking and driving. Also appearing in the documentary were St. Monica High School students, their parents and teachers, Santa Monica police and fire personnel and UCLA/Santa Monica Hospital emergency room medical professionals.

The award-winning video has been airing on Santa Monica CityTV and also has been used as an educational tool for all graduating seniors at St. Monica, Santa Monica, Olympic and Crossroads high schools.

Jeweler in Beverly Hills convicted of embezzlement

By Daily Press staff

A 55-year-old Beverly Hills diamond dealer has been convicted of embezzling more than \$1.6 million in jewelry from three New York diamond dealers, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office announced Wednesday.

After deliberating two days, an eight-woman, four-man Superior Court jury on Tuesday found Richard Maslan guilty of eight counts of grand theft by embezzlement, said Deputy District Attorney Allan Fork, who prosecuted the case. The trial lasted two weeks.

Fork said Maslan was given high-end jewelry to sell on consignment in his Beverly Hills store on Wilshire Boulevard. But when Maslan's business ran into

financial difficulty, the dealer began pawning the items. Maslan was convicted of stealing several items, including a 10-carat loose diamond valued at \$470,000, a diamond necklace valued at \$510,000 and a pear-shaped diamond ring valued at \$174,000. Maslan has been in the jewelry business for 25 years, but had operated his store Maslan & Co. in Beverly Hills since 1992, Fork said.

Maslan was charged with thefts occurring between September 1997 and September 1999. The case was filed on March 14, 2001, after an extensive police investigation, Fork said.

Maslan faces up to 10 years in state prison, Fork said. Sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 12.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

South swell showed well Wednesday and should continue today. Northern spots like County Line and Leo Carrillo will post shoulder-high sets with occasional head-highs. Locations with less south exposure will see waist-high surf on average.

Friday will see ground swell from the northwest, but due to the extremely steep angle of approach, it should miss most of LA County.

Look for a clean dawn patrol, afternoon blowout, and glassy evening conditions. Reports continue to show warm, A-rated water.

Today's Tides:

Low- 5:19 a.m. -1.07'
High- 11:48 a.m. 3.82'
Low- 4:25 p.m. 2.26'
High- 10:31 p.m. 6.27'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Poor	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Poor	2-3'/Fair	A

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 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.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Engage yourself in democracy

Editor:

RE: The SMDP July 4 AP wire story into investigations of double voting in November 2000.

Obviously it's a felony to vote in more than one place or more than one state and persons that commit voter fraud should be prosecuted. Election laws should be enforced. (And in Florida the culprits who illegally and unethically by a deliberate scheme conspired to disenfranchise votes by eliminating their names from voter rolls should be prosecuted and punished.)

If the numbers in the AP story are true that 800 people voted twice it also means the low voter turn-outs are even worse than previously thought.

However, in terms of real and historic scandal look no further than the millions of people who notoriously fail to register, don't vote and do complain loudly. That apathy while not a crime is the biggest embarrassment because the privilege and responsibility of voting in a democracy is a fundamental right.

In a constitutional and representative form of government, democracy's promise is diluted when we don't vote and don't participate. Excuses are just ... excuses.

Apathy in 2002 means things just get tougher in 2003.

Thinking last week about the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson and the founders 226 years ago makes one wonder how saddened they might be about voting trends in our lifetime. They wouldn't be surprised that politicians are out of touch. But they would also be hopeful about a renaissance of citizen participation.

The enduring message of history is to embrace Democracy and be an engaged citizen. Register. Vote.

Chuck Levin
Santa Monica

Where's the movie listing?

Editor:

Enjoyed very much the front page story on Montana Avenue's great and venerable

movie theatre, the Aero. But I fear your pr help in getting folks to support the Aero were defeated when you neglected to even include the moviehouse in your event listings of local cinema ...

Hank Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

Why harp on the homeless?

Editor:

Mine was probably the first letter that your paper printed. And I reiterate: Yours is an excellent Santa Monica organ. In a perverse way I also admire an editor who calls Broken Wrist, Nevada, a Podunk town and walks away winning honors in a new city with a new vehicle. Carolyn Sackariason however appears to be unschooled in our homeless problem, at least in today's inset: "Why Work When you can beg?"

Brittany is an entrepreneur, as the inset shows, verging on the border or criminality. If she makes \$18,250 a year ("50¢ a day"), I assume she pays the state a federal income tax and is registered and licensed as a panhandler. If not, is the story accurate? Maybe. Sackariason shows the gal's barefaced ability to lie about her age to have a drink. If she does this in business, it's called fraud. But Ms. Sackariason has a job for Brittany. Hmmm.

Was Carolyn's reason to offer the job that none actually existed but our editor knew that Brittany would now show up anyway? Or was it simply because of the old girl network?

I wrote editor Sackariason twice on a job offered in the paper's ads. Never got an answer. Well, not exactly accurate, I did get "woofed at" by a guy on the computer. Don't believe he liked homeless either. Is that SMDP's general sensitivity about homelessness? Probably not. Each of the other times I've been cordially received. But Carolyn, the job. Let me have it. I'll wait for your answer until five o'clock.

Julien Thompson
Santa Monica

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

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LOCAL



City projects bring new chances for civic naming

CORPORATES, from page 1

ment of the Civic Center, the building of a new \$50 million Main Library and a \$95 million overhaul of downtown public parking. All would offer significant naming opportunities, officials said.

But others on the council said politicians wouldn't allow for distasteful naming of buildings because it would likely enrage voters. They also argued that it may be appropriate to name a new park or a building after a corporation that made the project a reality.

"There may be appropriate circumstances when we want to recognize a corporation or an individual who makes a significant donation of land or money to the city," said Councilman Richard Bloom, who cited Douglas Park as an example, which he said was named after Donald Douglas — an aircraft manufacturer that donated the land.

"What we want to do is avoid the 'McDonald's Pier' or any other corporation that would use naming as a source of advertising," he added.

Councilman Robert Holbrook said he couldn't understand the outrage over allowing the city to name public property after corporations.

"I just don't share the view that all corporations are bad," he said. "Even the Red Cross is incorporated, would you not want to name something after them?"

McKeown tried to compromise by suggesting that the city allow the names of non-commercial corporations only, but his proposal died when no one supported it.

Another point of contention for Feinstein and McKeown — both of whom are Green Party activists — is that the policy doesn't allow for a mandatory length

of time between the death of a beloved local figure and when the council could officially name a civic institution after them. Originally, senior city staff had recommended a five-year time period, but the council eliminated that requirement.

"We shouldn't be naming public buildings after the death of the week," McKeown said.

"I am flabbergasted we would allow large economic incentives to name our public facilities."

— MIKE FEINSTEIN
Mayor of Santa Monica

However, the majority of council members said there hasn't been a lot of pressure to name public areas after recently deceased community leaders.

"There hasn't been a stampede to name things after people," Holbrook said. "We have beloved people pass away all the time and we aren't faced with naming decisions. Adopting that requirement would be locking us into a policy that doesn't make a whole lot of sense."

Councilman Ken Genser argued the naming policy is nothing new. He said it's what the city has been doing for years, only now the council has made the practice official by putting it on paper.

"I hope this policy is kept in perspective," he said. "It's not changing anything that we haven't already done for decades."

Santa Monica skate park may be ready in one year

PARK, from page 1

Concerns over delaying a new park sparked officials from both the Recreation and Parks department and the city council to approve the current plan, though many would prefer to see it on the beach.

Officials believe if the park was built at the beach, the city would need to get approval from the California Coastal Commission, which could cause long delays. However, both Santa Barbara and Venice Beach received approval within a year, officials said.

Councilmen Ken Genser and Robert Holbrook are concerned that putting the skate facility in Memorial Park will overcrowd an area that already has baseball fields, a playground and a gym.

"It may make sense on paper," Genser said, "but putting it there feels wrong."

However, Councilman Richard Bloom said the one patch of open space at the park where the playground will be relocated to make room for the skateboarders goes largely unused.

"By putting the skate park there, we are activating a dormant area," he said. "It's a patch of green area that is rarely used by anyone."

Councilwoman Pam O'Connor argued building the skate park in Memorial Park will attract a lot of different age groups, which other parks do not do. Parents with multiple children can bring all their kids to the park, so while one plays baseball the others can skateboard or play on the swing sets, she said.

After six years of asking for a skate park, supporters said they are not concerned where it is located as much as they are concerned that one actually gets built.

"The kids that began this process with me are now in college and some others are in rehab, unfortunately," said Heidi Lemmon, a skate park organizer. "Let's get these kids off the streets and finally give them a place to skate."

About a half dozen young skateboarders from Santa Monica showed up at the meeting to say they need a skate park.

"I just don't want you guys to sit on these plans, so get to it right away" said Timo Schultz, 13. "I don't want to be 25 and still waiting for a skate park."

City officials said the planning and construction of the new skate park should take about one year. A special team of architects and contractors will be organized to design the facility with input from local skateboarders.

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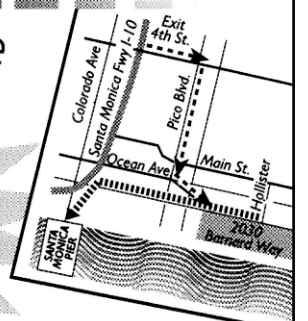
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STATE

Police brutality video being compared to Rodney King

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

INGLEWOOD — The black 16-year-old videotaped being smashed into a car and punched in the face by a white police officer filed suit in federal court Wednesday against the officer, the city of Inglewood and Los Angeles County.

The civil rights suit, filed on behalf of teenager Donovan Jackson and his father Coby Chavis, also names three other Inglewood police officers and three sheriff's deputies involved in the Saturday evening arrest.

It seeks unspecified damages and alleges negligence, misconduct and violation of constitutional rights to due process and against unreasonable search and seizure.

"It was Donovan today, it was Rodney King yesterday, it's untold people in the graveyard that cannot speak out that have been abused by police and it's time to stop," Donovan's cousin Talibah Shakir said at an emotional news conference held outside federal court in Los Angeles to announce the lawsuit.

"This nation has been faced with terrorists and I ask you was that not a terrorist act on Donovan?"

Officials with the Inglewood Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department declined comment on the lawsuit.

The videotape, which has been played repeatedly on television since Saturday, shows Inglewood Officer Jeremy Morse lift Jackson, who is handcuffed, to his feet and slam his face into a car. Morse, who has a streak of blood next to his ear, then strikes Jackson on the face with a closed fist.

The footage has sparking comparisons to the 1991 taped beating of King, which led to deadly riots when the Los Angeles Police Department officers who beat the black motorist were acquitted of most charges.

Some civil rights activists view the Jackson video as every bit as explosive, but most agree a major difference has been the reaction this time around of law enforcement agencies and elected officials.

"The response by the LAPD during Rodney King was very, very defensive by Chief (Daryl) Gates. The response here by both law enforcement agencies

involved has been the antithesis of being defensive," said Ira Reiner, who was Los Angeles County district attorney when King was beaten. "There are substantial reasons for people to be extremely upset but extremely upset does not equate to riot."

Inglewood police and the Los Angeles County sheriff and district attorney are investigating. U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft issued a statement Wednesday calling the tape troubling and noting the FBI had opened a civil rights investigation at the request of the Los Angeles U.S. attorney's office.

"It's a horrible, horrible sight, and quite frankly when I watched that video it was reminiscent in many ways of the LAPD beating of Rodney King. It was almost like a replay," said John Mack, president of the Los Angeles Urban League.

He commended the response of officials including Inglewood Mayor Roosevelt F. Dorn, adding, "I think it prevented this situation from potentially getting out of hand, and that's a major difference between the King beating and this incident."

Accounts vary dramatically about what took place at the Inglewood gas station before a guest at the EconoLodge across the street started rolling tape.

Sheriff's deputies said Jackson grew violent as they questioned his father after noticing he was driving with expired tags. In a report written before the videotape became public and released Wednesday by the Sheriff's Department, Deputy Carlos Leon describes trying to get Jackson to sit in his patrol car while his father was questioned.

"Without warning, the subject lunged at me raising his hands in front of him," Leon wrote. "...I took the subject to the ground."

Jackson's attorneys, and supporters including a newly formed group called the Donovan Jackson-Chavis Justice Committee, say Jackson cooperated with deputies. They allege sheriff's deputies, and Inglewood police who arrived to provide backup, attacked him and his father without provocation.

"They started the physical altercation," said Chavis' attorney John E. Sweeney. "...There's no question they lied about what happened. They filed a false police report which is a felony."

Jackson is developmentally disabled, his attorneys said. Sheriff's investigators are reviewing a surveillance video from the Thrifty gas station but declined Wednesday to discuss its contents.

Condit's wife can pursue libel lawsuit

BY BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO — The wife of Rep. Gary Condit can pursue her \$10 million defamation suit against the National Enquirer for a headline that said she attacked Chandra Levy, a judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Oliver Wanger rejected all the tabloid's arguments to dismiss Carolyn Condit's lawsuit regarding a story published last summer after Levy vanished in the

nation's capital.

The Enquirer published headlines on its Web site in July and on its Aug. 7 front page that said: "Cops: Condit's Wife Attacked Chandra."

The publication reported that Condit called her husband's Washington condominium from her Ceres home and "flew into a rage" during a "heated phone screamfest" with Levy. The story, based on an unidentified source, said the confrontation occurred just before Levy vanished.

Carolyn Condit said she never met Levy or spoke with her. Washington police have said there was no truth to the Enquirer report.

Levy's skeletal remains were found May 22 in a Washington, D.C. park and her death was ruled a homicide.

Wanger also dismissed the Enquirer's claim that Condit had no right to file the lawsuit because she never demanded a retraction. Under California libel law, a newspaper must be given a chance to correct erroneous information before a suit is filed.

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STATE



Passenger taken off plane after asking about pilots' sobriety

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — America West airline took it very seriously when a passenger made an offhand remark about the crew's sobriety.

The woman was escorted off the plane, questioned at length and sent packing on another airline after asking a flight attendant, "Have you checked your crew for sobriety?"

"The woman kept saying: 'I was just kidding, can't you guys take a joke?'" said Ron Wilson, a spokesman for San Francisco International Airport. "But it's not the old days."

The airline interpreted the comment as an accusation after the woman and the pilots went to the station manager for America West, which was embarrassed this month by two pilots caught trying to fly a passenger jet while drunk in Florida.

Police were not notified of the incident, and the flight left for Tucson, Ariz., Monday morning after a 12 minute delay. The passenger, whose name was not released, was rerouted on an American Airlines flight.

Patty Nowack, an America West spokeswoman, said that the

woman initially told a flight attendant her comment was serious, and that the airline had to explore the cause of the comment and whether the remark indicated the woman might be unstable.

"If it turns out she was

joking, we may have reacted harshly," Nowack said. "But we always say safety and security is never a joking matter. With those kinds of concerns, you have to take them seriously and further investigate."

But David S. Stempler,

president of the Air Travelers Association, called America West's reaction "an abuse of authority."

"That's not a security matter. This (pilot sobriety) is obviously an issue of concern for passengers," he said.

Heat puts racer down



Cyclist Pamela Harris of Onyx, Calif., is placed on a stretcher after collapsing due to intense heat and exhaustion following her time trial run at the USCF Masters Road National Championship Time Trails in Bakersfield, Calif., on Tuesday where temperatures were over 100 degrees during the race. Harris was not taken to the hospital but remained in the area and was reported to be doing fine after a while.

Felix Adamo /Bakersfield Californian

Mexican men claim SUV came with stash of nearly 40lbs. of marijuana

BY BEN FOX

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — A man being held in a Mexican prison on drug charges claims the U.S. Customs Service failed to remove nearly 40 pounds of marijuana from a sport utility vehicle sold at a government auction.

Francisco Rivera Agredano and his business partner were arrested at a checkpoint near Ensenada, Mexico, after soldiers found 22 packages of marijuana in a secret compartment underneath the upholstery wall of his 1987 Nissan Pathfinder.

But, in a legal claim filed against the Customs Service, Rivera asserts the marijuana wasn't his but had been left there by the previous owner — who was arrested a year earlier trying to cross into the United States from Mexico with 60 pounds of marijuana hidden in the gas tank.

Lawyers for Rivera and Alfonso Calderon Leon, Mexican citizens who run a printing business, say an analysis by three experts, including one from Mexico's attorney general's office, concluded the marijuana was old and moldy and had been stored for a long time in the SUV.

Customs Service officials said

they had not yet seen the legal claim and declined to comment.

A Customs spokesman in Washington, Dean Boyd, said he was aware of at least two previous such claims in the United States. Both were rejected by a federal court, he said. He had no further information on those cases.

Vince Bond, a Customs spokesman in San Diego, said he knew of no similar incidents of drugs being left in a confiscated vehicle but acknowledged it could be possible.

"We take great pains to see that any hidden compartments are found and any narcotics are removed from the vehicle," Bond said.

A legal claim is typically the first step before filing a lawsuit against a government agency. After Customs responds to the claim, the lawyers for Rivera and Calderon have six months to file a lawsuit.

The lawyers held a news conference Wednesday in Tijuana to publicize the case. Teresa Trucchi, an attorney in San Diego, said they hoped to persuade Customs to check to see if it had a sample of the original drug load to see if it could be compared to the marijuana seized near Ensenada in January.

In their claim, Rivera, 39, and Calderon, 33, ask for \$9.3 million. Trucchi said they don't really expect to receive that much money, but had to ask for a specific figure to fill in the claim form.

The main purpose of the claim, she said, is to get them released from prison.

"It seems pretty obvious to me that this (marijuana) was left in the car at the time of the Customs seizure," she said. "It's really a shame."

The previous owner of the Pathfinder was stopped on Jan. 25, 2001, as he entered San Diego from Tijuana, Mexico. He pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana for sale and was sentenced to 39 days in the county jail, according to copies of court records provided by Rivera's lawyers.

The SUV was confiscated and sold by the federal government at auction, like hundreds of other vehicles seized from drug couriers each year in Southern California.

Rivera bought the vehicle in September 2001 for \$2,600. They were stopped at the checkpoint north of Ensenada on Jan. 24 and arrested. Last month, they were sentenced to five years in an Ensenada prison.

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NATIONAL

Idaho topless car wash raises money and tempers

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW, Idaho — Strictly from a financial standpoint, the topless car wash operated by Daisy Mace and her friends is booming.

But civic leaders and rival car wash owners are seeing red, and are trying to shut down the sudsy spectacle.

Mace contends the real boobs are on the City Council.

"Idaho state law says there is no difference between topless men and topless women," Mace, 22, said this week. "The councilmen are trying to impose their own morals."

Mace and her friends found themselves short of rent money recently and decided to hold a car wash to raise funds. Spontaneously, they ripped off their shirts and found it wasn't bad for business.

"Everybody liked it so much we continued," said Mace, a sassy Spokane native whose orange hair and nose ring blended right into the funky downtown scene in this college town.

Five times in the past month, the epidermal entrepreneurs — including several topless men — have set up shop on the streets of Moscow with hoses, rags and soap. They don't have set hours, but once they tack up a few "Topless Car Wash" signs, the customers appear.

Patrons are asked only for donations, with most paying from \$15 to \$20, Mace said. There is a party atmosphere, with barbecue and music.

Moscow, home of the University of Idaho, is a liberal anomaly in staid Idaho. Still, the City Council is hastily trying to enact a law to prevent topless car washes. The debate bogged down over how much of a breast can be legally uncovered.

Council member Peg Hamlett is also an aerobics instructor and said many of her clients would be in violation of some

of the proposed laws.

The latest proposal, to be voted on Monday, sets a minimum of covering the areola with a length of material running in a straight but narrow line across the breast, similar to a pair of suspenders, Hamlett said.

The issue is deadly serious for Tony Heath, owner of T.C.C. Car Care. His business has dropped by more than \$100 a day since the unclad competitors set up shop.

"They have no business license," Heath complained.

Heath doesn't care if the women go around topless, but believes profiting from it is wrong. He also is crying discrimination.

"Guys can't go around topless and make money," he said.

"We're the first to take advantage of the lack of an ordinance," said Loni Kirchner, 20, of Hamilton, Mont., an enthusiastic car washer who nevertheless declines to work topless.

Idaho state law requires only that genitals be covered in public, Hamlett said.

The car washers have received some tough lessons in the perils of free enterprise.

They were evicted from their apartment after holding a car wash there. They've been called prostitutes.

Their customers include women, an entire volunteer fire department and its truck, and even a family. But they acknowledged that most have been men.

"But not middle-aged weirdoes," Mace said, as she and her friends sipped strawberry lemonades in a downtown eatery.

The women do not act seductively as they wash cars. "We act exactly as we would if we had our shirts on," Kirchner said.

They have not been asked for sex. They shoo away any gawkers or anyone with a video camera. Guys who want more than one car wash are sent packing. When one truck load of guys got a bit frisky, Mace hosed them down.

Regulators approve private casino for high-rollers

BY LISA SNEDEKER
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — For the first time since gambling was legalized in Nevada in 1931, high stakes gamblers may soon be allowed to place their bets in private.

State regulators on Wednesday approved the MGM Grand hotel-casino's application for Nevada's first private gambling salon for high rollers.

The Gaming Control Board unanimously voted to recommend the application for the resort's owner MGM Mirage Inc. The salon is expected to open in August if the Nevada Gaming Commission approves the application at its July 25 meeting in Las Vegas.

The private salon would be equipped with high-tech surveillance devices to allow regulators to monitor betting and ensure that the games are fair.

Attorney Bob Faiss, representing MGM Mirage, told the board the private gambling areas "will strengthen the ability of Nevada casinos to compete in the high-end market with gambling operations in other jurisdictions."

The private gambling salon license will come up for review in two years, said

Gaming Control Board Chairman Dennis Neilander.

"It's brand new so we don't have any experience with it," he said referring to the two-year license limit.

Neilander added that the state's tax forms will be revised in order to keep track of the private salons' revenues.

Bob Moon, marketing chairman for MGM Mirage, said the company will promote the salon to a limited number of foreign gamblers.

"We also anticipate developing some high-end players in the domestic market," he said.

While MGM Mirage told the board the company has no intention of opening a private salon at any of its other casinos, another Las Vegas casino — Caesars Palace — has applied to open a salon.

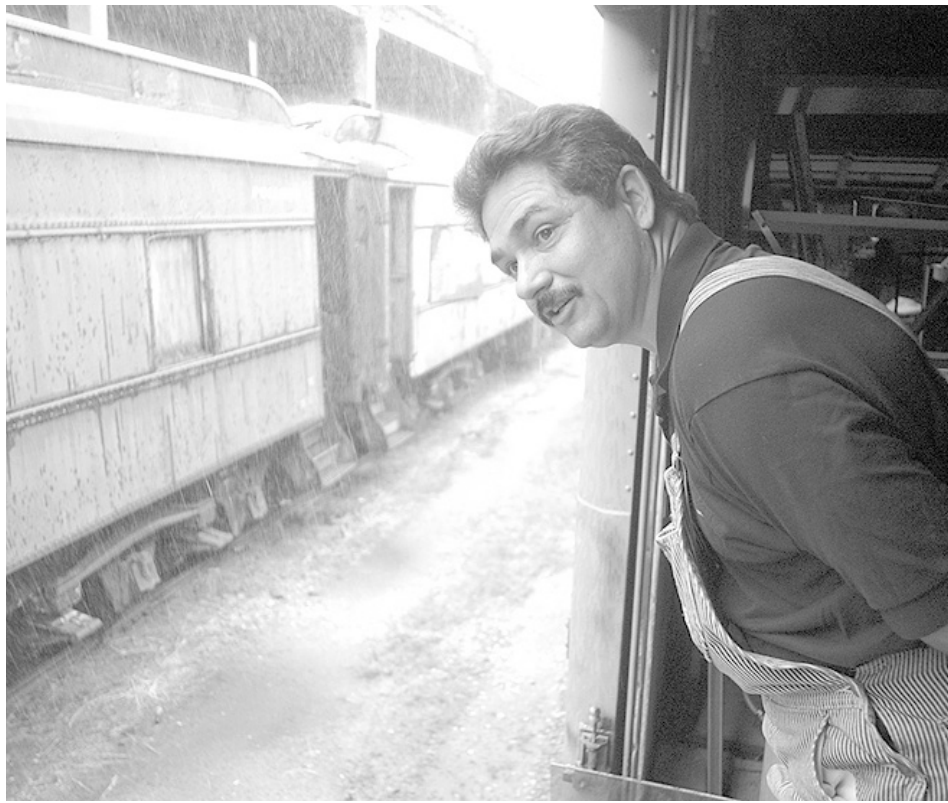
The Park Place Entertainment Corp. resort last month filed the second application for a salon since the Nevada Legislature last year approved letting casinos offer private gambling.

Gaming Control Board member Scott Scherer has said other big properties may be waiting to see whether MGM Grand succeeds with its salon before taking the plunge.

NATIONAL



A step back in time



John McCusker/The Times Picayune

Richard Jacobs of the Louisiana Railway Heritage Trust looks out the side door of an old baggage car in New Orleans on Wednesday, June 26. With the help of friends, experts and volunteers, Bruce Brown, president of the Louisiana Steam Train Association in New Orleans, hopes to clean out the cars and transform them into a walk-through exhibit that will travel the state in 2003 to celebrate the Louisiana Purchase bicentennial. If all goes according to plan, the cars will share the stage with the Southern Pacific Railroad No. 745 steam locomotive, which Brown is renovating with the help of a steam locomotive restoration expert from North Carolina and \$800,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Alabama's governor cleared of ethics violation

BY BOB JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Removing at least one of the clouds hanging over Gov. Don Siegelman's re-election bid, the Alabama Ethics Commission cleared him Wednesday of allegations he illegally profited from the state's participation in the national tobacco settlement.

In a 3-1 vote, the commission decided there was no evidence Siegelman violated state ethics law, which prohibits use of public office for private financial gain.

The complaint had been brought against the Democrat by Mobile lawyer and political activist Jim Zeigler, a Republican.

The dispute had to do with two lawsuits that Siegelman filed against the tobacco industry when he was a lawyer in private practice. After Siegelman was elected governor, the state of Alabama in 1999 agreed to settle those lawsuits and join in the national tobacco settlement.

Later, Siegelman's former law firm paid him about \$800,000 in what he said was compensation due for past work on various cases, including the tobacco litigation.

Zeigler charged that the money was in part a payoff to Siegelman for using his influence as governor to settle the lawsuits.

The ethics commission is still considering a separate complaint filed by Zeigler that Siegelman used his position to profit from the sale of his Montgomery house, which sold for about \$100,000 more than its appraised value.

A separate state and federal investigation of the administration is also under way, and includes a review of

Siegelman's personal financial dealings.

The governor's campaign spokesman, Rip Andrews, said the ethics ruling was no surprise. "This was nothing but a baseless politically motivated Republican attack that has now been exposed completely," Andrews said.

Zeigler, who lost a primary race for state auditor in June, said the ethics panel "attempted to whitewash the governor's activities."

"Under the facts it's quite clear he used his own office to settle his own lawsuit. And then he took the money for doing so after he had promised not to," Zeigler said.

Siegelman withdrew from the tobacco case in 1997, a few days before he announced his candidacy for governor. He told reporters at the time: "Not one penny will be paid in legal fees to me from this case."

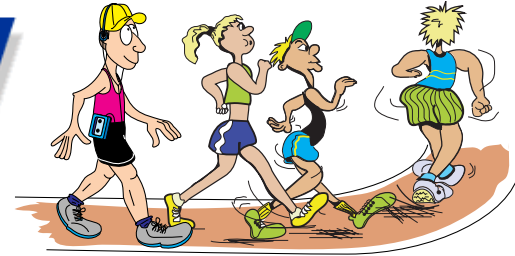
Siegelman will face Republican Rep. Bob Riley in the Nov. 5 election.

Alabama received a \$3.8 billion share of the more than \$200 billion national tobacco settlement.

Siegelman originally denied receiving any compensation for his role in the tobacco litigation, saying that the \$800,000 he received over the past three years was for other work he did with the law firm of Cherry, Givens, Peters and Lockett of Mobile.

But Siegelman's attorney, David Cromwell Johnson, said last week that part of the money was for his role in the tobacco litigation. Johnson, however, said the ethics complaint was baseless because Siegelman was legally entitled to the money.

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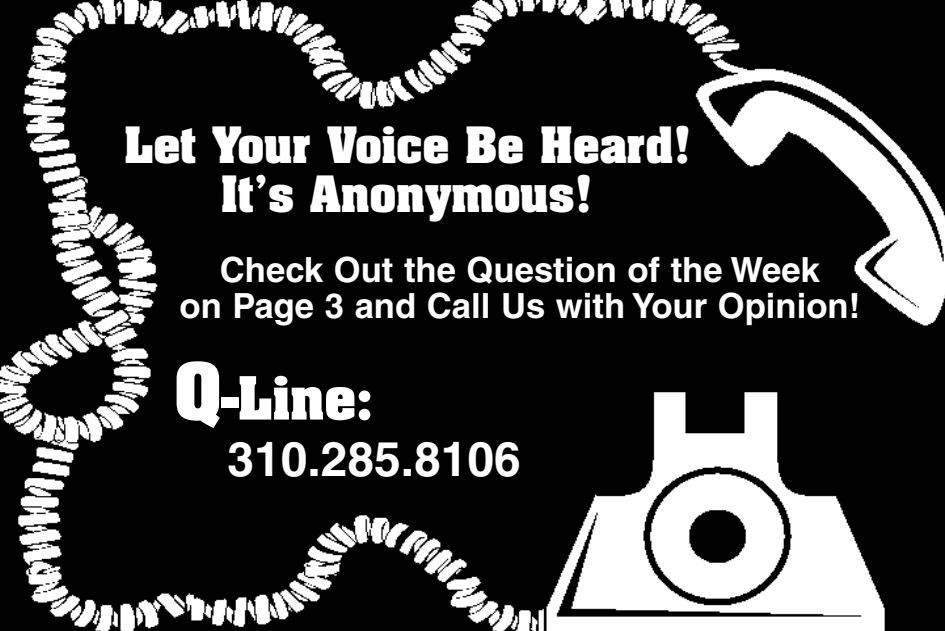
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NATIONAL

Study finds common knee surgery doesn't work

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

A type of knee surgery performed on more than 300,000 Americans each year to ease arthritis pain is worthless and perhaps even harmful, government researchers say.

The study looked at arthroscopic knee surgery for osteoarthritis, the painful, steadily worsening, wear and tear on joints that affects 12 percent of senior citizens. The operation is done to clear out debris or repair damaged cartilage.

In a type of study only rarely conducted, some patients got a real knee operation, while others underwent sham surgery.

At every point over the next two years, those who had the fake surgery could climb stairs and walk slightly faster on average than those who had gotten real operations.

In arthroscopic surgery, a flexible viewing tube called an arthroscope lets the surgeon see inside a joint. Only tiny incisions are needed, and patients heal quickly.

Arthroscopic knee surgery for osteoarthritis costs roughly \$5,000, or a total of \$1.5 billion a year in the United States, said Dr. Nelda Wray, a researcher at the Houston VA Medical Center who led the study.

"We think that money could be better spent," she said.

The findings could prompt insurance companies to refuse to pay for the procedure. Other treatments for arthritic knees include pain relievers, cortisone shots, hot packs, exercise and, as a last resort, knee-replacement surgery.

Dr. William W. Tipton Jr., executive vice president of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, said other researchers should duplicate the results before doctors, patients and insurance companies react. But he said the study confirms some doctors' growing suspicions.

He said many orthopedic surgeons already feel that arthroscopic surgery should not be used except in certain circumstances, such as acute sports injuries to ligaments. Tipton added that he has arthritis

but is opting for knee replacement surgery. The study was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Surgical procedures are often not subjected to the kind of rigorous testing done on medications. Some critics consider sham surgery unethical because of the risk of harm to study volunteers.

But Sam Horng and Franklin G. Miller of the National Institutes of Health said in an accompanying editorial that the VA study "exemplifies the ethically justified use of placebo surgery."

In the study, 180 veterans 75 or younger were divided into three groups for arthroscopic surgery at the medical center, all done by the same expert surgeon between 1995 and 1998.

One-third had arthroscopic debridement, in which debris and rough and torn pieces of cartilage are removed or sanded down. Another third had arthroscopic lavage, in which debris and calcium phosphate crystals are flushed out. The remaining third likewise were anesthetized and had three incisions made in the knee, but the surgeon only manipulated the knee as if working on it.

No one knew which procedure they had for two years, during which they received regular evaluations.

During that period, all three groups said they had slightly less pain and better knee movement, with the sham-surgery group often reporting the best results. That apparently reflects the well-known "placebo effect," in which patients feel better simply because they believe they have been treated.

However, tests in which the patients were timed as they walked and climbed up and down stairs found that patients in the two treatment groups were slower than they were before surgery.

For much of the study, patients in the sham-surgery group were faster than they were before the operation. By the end of the two years, though, they were about the same as they were before the sham surgery, because their knees continued to deteriorate.

Mummy of pharaoh looted from his tomb will be returned

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Satisfied a mummy looted from his tomb 150 years ago is that of Ramesses I, founder of a famed Egyptian dynasty, Emory University officials have agreed to return the long-lost pharaoh.

"If George Washington's body were found abroad, we would certainly hope that it would be sent back to the United States," Peter Lacovara, curator of ancient art at Emory's Michael C. Carlos Museum, said Tuesday.

The return of the 3,000-year-old mummy will not interfere with the museum's long-standing plans to exhibit the ancient corpse next May through April 2004 Lacovara said.

"It is exciting to be collaborating more closely with our colleagues in Egypt and to be moving closer to the moment when we return the mummy to the people of Egypt," Lacovara said, "and to have an opportunity to share an exhibition with visitors before its departure."

The well-preserved corpse — its arms crossed right over left, with the left hand

appearing to grasp an object, possibly a scepter — is the centerpiece of a large Egyptian collection the museum purchased in 1999 from the Niagara Falls Museum in Ontario, Canada.

The Ontario museum likely received the mummy from a Canadian doctor who had the artifacts smuggled out of Egypt in the early 1860s, about the time tomb raiders discovered a cache of royal mummies at Deir el-Bahri near the Valley of the Kings. It was from that cache that the remains of Ramesses I disappeared.

Carbon dating also puts the body in the era of Ramesses I, who rose to the throne in 1293 B.C. and ruled for two years. His grandson, Ramesses II, was a builder and warrior believed to be the pharaoh of the Bible's Exodus story.

Egyptian officials say they are satisfied the evidence establishes its royal heritage, including the location of the raided tomb, the style in which the mummy was wrapped and embalmed and its facial features. A specialist from Cairo's American University examined the mummy earlier this year.

SPORTS



All-Star fiasco example of why baseball's in trouble

BY NANCY ARMOUR

AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE — John DeClue took 9-year-old son Kyle to Miller Park to see his very first All-Star game. The boy ended up getting an up-close look at why baseball is in trouble.

When the teams and management agreed to stop the game with the score tied 7-7 in the 11th inning, fans were left in the lurch — again.

No winner. No real explanation. No player to receive the MVP award, newly named after the late Ted Williams. And little appreciation for the disappointment and rage of fans already upset by a possible strike and reports of steroid abuse in the sport.

"They did not do themselves any service by doing this," DeClue said, holding Kyle's hand as they left the ballpark in a stream of disgruntled fans early Wednesday morning.

Players will be well rested when they return to work this weekend, but fans who shelled out as much as \$175 for their tickets — and plenty more to scalpers — didn't get what they believed they deserved.

Some fans still haven't come back to the ballparks after the 1994 strike, holding a grudge against rich athletes and their even richer owners.

Those that have stayed are venting their anger in letters to newspapers and on talk radio, threatening to quit baseball for good if there's another work stoppage.

And just when the sport had a chance to redeem itself, to give people something positive to grab onto, baseball showed again that it seems to be out of touch with its fans.

"I don't think it's going to have a long-term impact on the integrity of the sport," Houston Astros outfielder Lance Berkman said.

Oh, no? Try telling that to David Cuscuna, who came from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to see the game.

"They treated it like it was a meaningless game," he said. "It sends a lot of bad messages."

Both teams had run out of players, and managers Bob Brenly and Joe Torre didn't want to risk hurting pitchers Freddy Garcia and Vicente Padilla by making them go more than the two innings they'd already worked.

But fans didn't know that. There was no explanation at the park when Torre and Brenly consulted with commissioner Bud Selig after the top of the 11th. The Fox Sports broadcasters figured out what was going on, but even they didn't know what would happen.

"What is the decision? Why should it take so long?" announcer Joe Buck asked.

Finally, with only two outs left in the bottom of the 11th, the stadium public-address announcer told the crowd a tie would be declared if the NL didn't score.



M. Spencer Green/Associated Press

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, center, American League manager Joe Torre, left, and National League manager Bob Brenly pause during a post game press conference at the All-Star Game in Milwaukee on Tuesday. The game was called in the 11th inning with the score tied at 7-7.

"The decision was made because there were no players left, no pitchers left," Selig said. "This is not the ending I had hoped for. I was in a no-win situation."

He said he was so upset he couldn't sleep, and he vowed Wednesday to make sure the game never ended in a tie again.

It was only the second All-Star game tie, the other one coming in 1961 because of rain.

Fans booed Selig, yelling "Let them play!" Many left

the stadium in disgust, not even waiting to see the final two outs. Some fans in right field tossed bottles.

"I'm assuming Bud made that call?" asked Joyce Petrowski, who'd come to the game from Phoenix. "Well, he's not winning any fans."

And the way things are going, baseball can't afford to lose any more.

Attendance at ballparks throughout the country is dropping. Fast. Fancy Miller Park is on pace to draw nearly 1 million fewer fans this year, which would set a modern record for largest drop-off in a new ballpark's second season.

Ratings for the All-Star game, which rebounded last year, dropped 14 percent to a 9.5, the lowest ever in prime time and the second-lowest ever, ahead of only an 8.6 for the 1953 game in Cincinnati.

Fox said ratings for its national Game of the Week, however, are up from last year. Ditto for regional games on Fox Sports Net.

"If something were to happen and there would be a work stoppage, in our careers the game would never be the same," Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Curt Schilling said. "I'm 35 years old. I want to play five or six more years. I don't want to play five or six more years in front of 7,000 people."

Others doubt that would happen. The national pastime is too ingrained in American society, they say.

"It would be hard for me to believe a strike would eliminate major league baseball from our culture," Berkman said. "Not that it wouldn't be catastrophic. But you can't convince me people wouldn't come back."

All-Star game gets worst TV rating ever

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — There wasn't a winner in the All-Star game but there was a loser: the sport's television rating.

Tuesday night's controversial 7-7, 11-inning tie in Milwaukee set a record for baseball's lowest-rated All-Star game, getting a 9.5 rating and 17 share, Nielsen Media Research said Wednesday.

The rating was down 14 percent from the 11.0 for the American League's 4-1 victory last year in Seattle. The previous low was a

10.1 for the AL's 6-3 win two years ago in Atlanta.

Like network ratings in general, the All-Star game rating has steadily declined. From a peak of 28.5 in 1970, dropped below 20 for the first time in 1987. The game drew a 15.7 rating in 1994, then dropped to 13.9 the following year after a strike wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years.

Tuesday night's game was seen by an average of 10,023,000 households, less than half the 20.38 million that tuned in 20 years earlier.

The rating is the percentage of tel-

evision households in the United States watching a broadcast, and each point represents 1,055,000 homes. The share is the percentage watching a program among those households with televisions on at the time.

Because of a lengthy pregame show, the game started later than in recent years, after 9 p.m. EDT. Commissioner Bud Selig stopped it at 12:35 a.m., when the teams ran out of pitchers.

Some in the sellout crowd of 41,871 threw bottles on the field, booed and chanted "Let them play!" and "Bud must go!"

Armstrong's team finishes second in Tour time trial

BY JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

CHATEAU-THIERRY, France — The Spaniards sped to victory and a blown tire stalled the rival Danes, ensuring a "good ride" and a second-place finish Wednesday for Lance Armstrong's squad in the Tour de France team time-trial.

Team Once won the stage, clocking 1 hour, 19 minutes, 49 seconds in the 41.85-mile run from Epernay to Chateau-Thierry, northeast of Paris. Armstrong and his U.S. Postal teammates were 16 seconds behind.

"As close as it was, there's a little bit of regret," said Armstrong, bidding for a fourth Tour championship. "We could have been a little more aggressive in the first 20 kilometers (12.4 miles)."

Still, he said, it was among the best showings by USPS in its current form.

The strong performance by U.S. Postal helped Armstrong move into third place — seven seconds behind — after starting the day in fifth.

Igor Gonzalez Galdeano, riding for Once, became the first Spaniard in seven years to don the yellow jersey of the overall leader. Joseba Beloki was in second, four seconds behind his teammate.

Thousands of fans lined the route for



Alain Avare/Associated Press

The Once team rides to victory during the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Epernay and Chateau-Thierry, eastern France on Wednesday.

Wednesday's fourth stage, marked by cloudy skies but only one brief dose of rain near the finish. That was a contrast to the downpour during the time trial a year ago, when two of Armstrong's teammates fell on the slick roadway.

"Compared to last year, it's a big relief — coming in second without any problems," Armstrong said.

The Danish team CSC-Tiscali finished third, but had a rough ride.

CSC-Tiscali, whose racers include

France's Laurent Jalabert and American Tyler Hamilton, clocked the fastest time through the first two intermediate splits. Then Michael Sandstod got a flat tire and had to change his bike. His teammates slowed to wait for him before speeding ahead. But the damage was done — the team lost time.

CSC-Tiscali finished 30 seconds behind USPS.

The overall standings underscored the importance of faring well in the team

time trial.

After Wednesday's stage, the first 14 racers in the overall standings were either from Once or USPS. The Telekom team of German sprinting specialist Erik Zabel, who held the yellow jersey coming into the day's action, finished nearly three minutes behind Once. Zabel sank to 39th place overall.

In addition, the team time trial winner can reap an important psychological advantage over other riders, said Frenchman Bernard Hinault, one of only four riders to win the Tour de France five times.

"The time trial gives us an idea of the strength of each team," he said. "It's difficult to make any predictions about them before this test, because the teams have changed so much since last year."

Last week, at a news conference before the start of the Tour, Armstrong said he believed this year's Postal Service team is the best yet. The team gained two new riders — American Floyd Landis and Czech Pavel Padrnos — and saw the return of Benoit Joachim of Luxembourg, whom team leaders selected for the 2000 Tour but not last year's.

Thursday's fifth stage takes the 189 cyclists along a 120.9-mile stretch from Soissons, the capital city of the first French king, Clovis, to Rouen in Normandy.



INTERNATIONAL

Kid glove diplomacy



Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi/Associated Press

An Israeli soldier puts his hands on a Palestinian boy, as he explains to the child's parents that they are not allowed to leave the West Bank town of Qalqilya on Wednesday.

Hunting supporters saddle up in London

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Dressed in traditional jackets and breeches, pro-fox hunting supporters saddled up and rode through the streets of London on Wednesday to protest what they see as a government attempt to ban the sport.

Around 80 demonstrators rode on horseback from Piccadilly Circus in central London to the Houses of Parliament to give lawmakers petitions opposing the abolition of the sport.

"We are decent, hardworking people," said huntsman Alex Ford, who rides with the Llangeinor Hunt in South Wales.

"The politicians who want to destroy our jobs know nothing of our way of life, but want to interfere with it because of the spin they swallow whole from the anti-hunters. It's time to beat urban bigotry. We will never accept a ban," he said.

The demonstration, organized by the Union of Country Sports Workers, is part of a program of summer protests led by the pro-hunting Countryside Alliance, an umbrella body of rural groups. The protests are to culminate in a major pro-hunting march through London on Sept. 22.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labor government came to power in 1997 promising a free vote in Parliament on whether to ban the traditional sport, a favorite of the aristocracy as well as other rural people. But a consensus has not been easy to come by.

In March, the House of Commons overwhelmingly backed an outright ban, but Parliament's upper chamber, the more tradition-bound House of Lords, voted instead for restrictions on hunting.

Neither vote is binding on the government, but officials said afterward they would take six months to assess legislators' opinions before deciding what to do.

Opponents say the sport is cruel because dogs pursue the fox to its death. Opinion polls have consistently shown a majority of Britons oppose hunting with hounds. But hunting supporters say a ban would be insensitive to the wishes of country dwellers, and affect the whole balance of rural life by putting thousands of people out of work.

If Bush decides to attack Iraq, the strike could be sudden

BY SALLY BUZBEE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The United States is capable of launching a rapid attack on Iraq by marshaling 50,000 troops at the Kuwaiti border in roughly a week, airlifting them in and bringing their tanks and heavy equipment on ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

That would give Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein just a few days' notice, rather than the six months he had before the 1991 Gulf War. It also might eliminate America's need to rely on bases in neighboring countries like Saudi Arabia or Jordan, whose governments say they want the United States to leave Iraq alone.

A risk is that Saddam still would have time to launch missiles — perhaps carrying poison gas or anthrax — toward U.S. troops in Kuwait or civilians in Israel, say military experts eyeing the options if President Bush decides to take on Iraq.

Such a surprise attack also might fall short of the main goal of toppling Saddam, requiring a backup plan involving thousands more American troops.

For now, Bush seems focused on covert action: He signed an order earlier this year directing the CIA to increase support to Iraqi opposition groups and allowing possible use of CIA and Special Forces teams against Saddam.

Bush also recently unveiled a new policy that allows for pre-emptive action against enemies who have weapons of mass destruction.

If covert attempts fail, many expect Bush to try military action, and perhaps look for an element of surprise.

"We could have a situation where on Monday, it first looks like there will be a war, on Friday troops are in Kuwait, and by (the next) Thursday they're in Baghdad," said John Pike, a defense analyst in Washington.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Wednesday that Bush has indicated he's made no decisions on Iraq. "The president

is, of course, consulting with nations around the world about all of America's plans, diplomatic and otherwise, in the war against terrorism," Fleischer said.

Many U.S. officials and lawmakers believe 200,000 or more soldiers could be needed to topple Saddam, a force that would require months to move to the region.

The hope behind a swifter attack is that the Iraqi army would crumble in shock if Saddam — with little warning — appeared doomed, said retired Rear Adm. Stephen Baker, an analyst at the Center for Defense Information in Washington. Thus, fewer American troops would be needed for success, the argument goes.

U.S. officials might try to delay knowledge of any such impending attack by, at first, explaining the troop movements as merely the beginning of a six-month buildup.

There are risks.

One is that Iraqi troops, especially Saddam's Republican Guard, would not give up, instead bogging American soldiers down in difficult urban warfare within Baghdad.

Using fewer American troops also increases the risk that Iraq might disintegrate into ethnic conflicts if Saddam falls, said Anthony Cordesman, an analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

The biggest risk is that Saddam would retaliate with biological or chemical weapons. That might happen even if America does a slow military buildup, said Baker, who along with others considers this the critical danger.

In any surprise attack, the keys would be:

— Air power:

The United States could launch strikes off aircraft carriers in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, and from land bases in Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Diego Garcia and possibly Turkey. The military also might try, early on, to seize airfields in western Iraq itself and also use Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

Help from neighboring Saudi Arabia or Jordan isn't strictly needed, Cordesman said, but it

would give the United States more military flexibility to have Saudi staging areas.

Jordan reiterated on Wednesday that it would not allow foreign troops to use its territory for any attack against Iraq, a position the Saudis also have publicly taken.

— Moving troops and equipment:

Transport ships carrying heavy equipment, weapons and tanks from Guam, Diego Garcia and elsewhere could be sent to the Persian Gulf region without attracting much initial notice.

The public would learn that a large convoy was moving toward Iraq only when the ships passed through the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf, a day or so from docking in Kuwait. Other heavy equipment is stored in nearby Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Once in Kuwait, the ships could provide tanks to waiting U.S. soldiers.

Some 10,000-15,000 troops already could be in Kuwait through normal rotations. An additional 35,000-40,000 could be flown in quickly from surrounding bases or ships.

The U.S. military also might try to employ Iraqi opposition forces like the Kurds in the north, or dissident generals, but there are strong risks to that.

— Stopping missiles:

The United States would try to use reconnaissance aircraft like the unmanned Predator to find and prevent Saddam from launching short-range ballistic missiles armed with chemical or biological weapons.

Najib al Salhi, a former Iraqi general opposed to Saddam, contended in a recent Washington speech that the United States could prevent such launches. But most U.S. experts call that wishful thinking.

Many Iraqi missile launchers are hidden either in hardened bunkers, or beneath sites like hospitals or garages. It's considered likely that Saddam would manage to launch at least some toward either U.S. troops or toward civilians in Israel.

Specialists remove damaged missile tubes from hull of nuclear submarine

By The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Workers have begun removing damaged missile tubes from the salvaged wreck of the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk and will dismantle the missiles, taking off the warheads and destroying the boosters, a naval official said Wednesday.

Specialists at a shipyard in the northern city of Snezhnogorsk, where the submarine is being taken apart, have removed four of the seven silos that still contained the 33-foot-long missiles, Northern Fleet Commander Gennady Suchkov said, according to the Interfax-Military News Agency.

The Kursk was carrying 22 Granit cruise missiles when it sank to the Barents Sea floor after an explo-

sion in its bow in August 2000, killing all 118 aboard. The missiles in undamaged silos were removed last year.

After all the silos are removed from the hull of the submarine, the warheads will be taken off the missiles and the booster portions destroyed, Interfax quoted Suchkov as saying. It said the missiles, which weigh 7.7 tons, have a range of 1,800 feet.

The Russian government said last week that leaky torpedo fuel caused the explosions that destroyed the Kursk, wrapping up the sensitive investigation into one of the country's worst post-Soviet disasters.

Officials had earlier theorized that the vessel was destroyed by a foreign submarine, possibly American or British.

COMICS



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 - 30 Work leather
 - 31 Compass pt.
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 - 10 Porker's place
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 - 20 French cheese
 - 21 Musical Shaw
 - 22 Puccini opera
 - 24 Light metal
 - 25 Not to mention
 - 27 Irons
 - 31 Chad neighbor
 - 33 Gambling mecca
 - 34 Tiny bit
 - 35 Feline foot
 - 36 Nest egg, of a sort
 - 37 Race segment
 - 39 Lupino of films
 - 40 Lair

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- 24 Light metal
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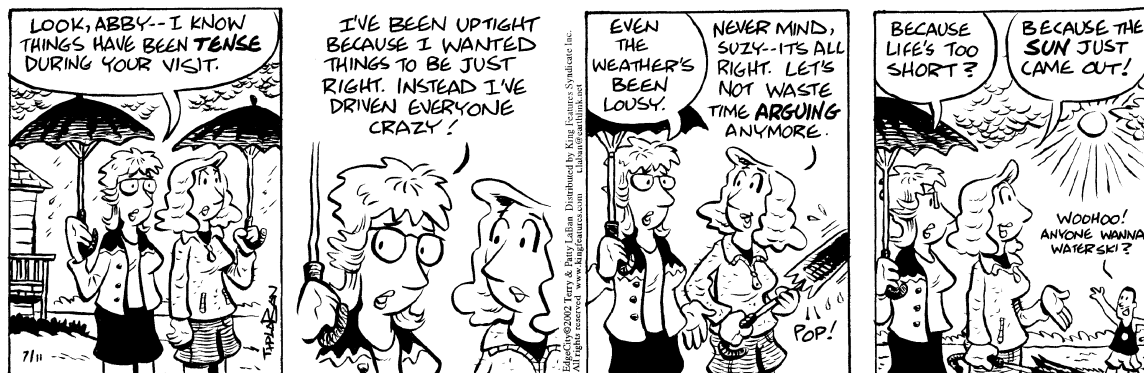
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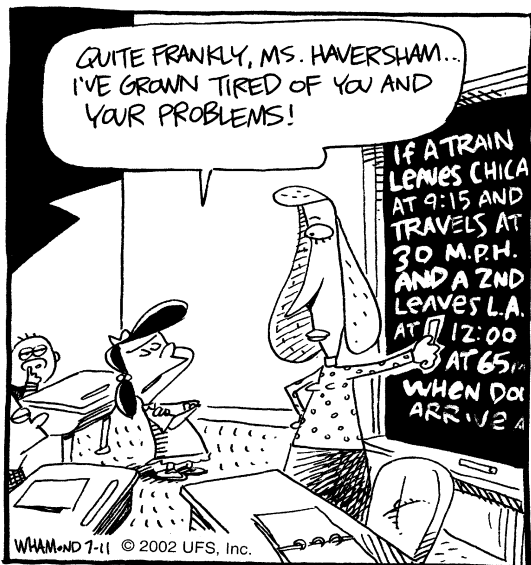
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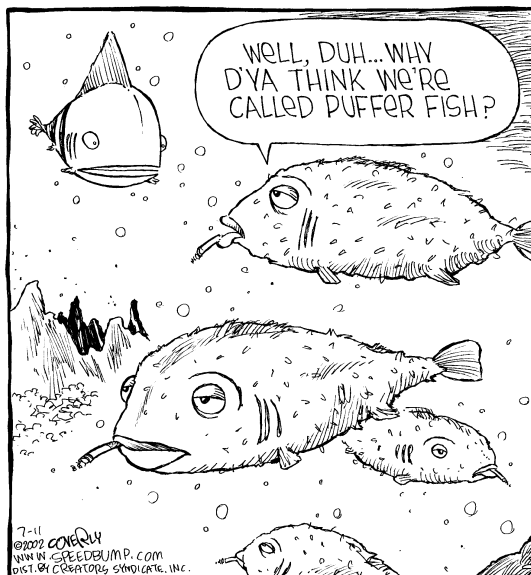
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

McDonald's tests breakfast of eggs, rice and Spam

- McDonald's began test-marketing a breakfast meal of egg, rice and Spam at its restaurants in Hawaii (where Spam is a highly revered food).
- Opponents of a planned prison near Kaikohe, New Zealand, petitioned the High Court to halt construction because officials had not considered the environmental impact of "taniwha" (folkloric monsters in the area).
- A beekeeper was called to rid a house of thousands of bees from 12 honeycombs that had been built between the walls of the house (Kansas City, Mo.).
- The deputy director of Child Support Enforcement for the District of Columbia was sued by his own office for foot-dragging on support for his own 20-year-old, born-out-of-wedlock son.



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COMFY BED. For sale queen boxspring, mattress, frame. Bought one year ago for \$1000. \$250. (310) 490-2450.

ESTATE SALE various. Queen Anne Dining room table, plus chairs, etc. Saturday. (310) 394-7000.

REFRIDGERATOR KENMORE, white, 7 yrs old, excellent condition. Runs great \$250. (310)770-8833

SANTA MONICA furniture business for sale. Great deal, must sell, very good location. Willing to carry inventory more than 75K, asking only 45K. (818)472-6033.

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

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 2 bdrm, r/s, carpet, large closets, laundry, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SM NORTH of Wilshire. \$2,250 953 7th Street. 2bd/1ba bungalow triplex unit. 1,400 sf. Hardwood floors, formal dining room with built-in china cabinet, eat-in kitchen w/breakfast booth, service porch with full size w/d, stove, fridge, new garage w/automatic door opener. Available now. Please do not disturb. (310)451-1181.

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

For Rent

ATTENTION SENIORS HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Low income senior apartment complex in Santa Monica is taking applications for Efficiency apartments. Must be 62 years of age or older. Max income is \$30,850 for one person. To receive more information and a pre-application, send a self addressed stamped envelope to Santa Monica Christian Towers, 1233 Sixth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 or call (310) 394-3017. Completed preapplication must be returned to Santa Monica Christian Towers. All approved and completed applications will be placed on the waiting list for future vacancies. Equal Housing Opportunity

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

SANTA MONICA \$1275.00 2 bdrm, carpet, a/c, large closets, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

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

SANTA MONICA \$775.00 Studio, r/s, parking, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$900.00 1 bdrm, cat ok, r/s, hardwood floors, laundry, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SM OCEAN PARK \$2150.00 2bd/2ba duplex. Hardwood floors, fireplace. Bright spacious rooms. Double garage/workshop. Laundry, deck. Fenced/brick patio. Near beach/Main St. (310)452-1600.

Guest Houses

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

Guest Houses

SANTA MONICA \$1000.00 Guest house, r/s, carpet, laundry, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1150.00 Cottage, pet ok, stove, near SMC, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$795.00 Guest house, patio, carpet, w/d, yard, parking, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Houses For Rent

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

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

Townhouses

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 2 bdrm townhouse, r/s, carpet, garage. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Roommates

SM \$800.00 +utilities. Private room in 4/bdrm condo. Bedroom has sliding glass door to lrg/patio. Pool table/BBQ/W/D/12 blocks from beach, great neighborhood! W/C pet. Available immediately. (310)395-4348.

VENICE \$550.00 plus utilities 2bdrm/1bath. Good light, prefer female. (310)392-8022

Commercial Lease

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

RETAIL/OFFICE APPROX 718 sq feet. Ground floor unit. Parking. One year lease. \$1,300 per month. Sullivan-Dituri. (310)453-3341.

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Spring Cleaning? Classifieds for \$1 per day.

Santa Monica Daily Press

up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word
call 310-458-7737 and make some cash off your new, clean house.



Vehicles for sale

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL DEEP-TISSUE Swedish massage. Introductory offer: \$38/hr or \$68/2 hrs. Women: only \$30/hr. Paul: 310.741.1901.

Massage

SUMMERTIME SOOTHER! Shiatsu, Lymphatic, Deep Tissue, Sports, with handsome masseur. For women/men/couples. In/out. Angelo. (818)503-1408.

TAKE CARE of yourself. Increase well-being and decrease stress. Rebalance body and mind. Michael, CMT/LMT. 310-902-1564.

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

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Accupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

TRADE? Looking to trade massage with a female therapist. Non-sexual. Paul (310)741-1901.

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

Announcements

ESL TUTOR Reasonable rates. Flexible schedule. Ask about our U.S. Naturalization Exam Prep Program. (310)943-7249

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.

NEED RIDE from Santa Monica to Rolling Hills Estates on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday morning. Call Relay at 711 ask for David's TDD at (310)828-4180

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

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

Services

DETERMINED COLLECTION Agency will collect your receivables, debts, judgements and individual issues. No recovery, no fee. (310)709-3251.

Services

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

JAPANESE & Chinese tutoring. Language and culture. Office or home. Phd. \$25/hour. (310) 273-2198, (310)738-4429

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

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

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

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.

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

TREAT YOURSELF RIGHT! Don't overpay for your advertising needs! The Santa Monica Daily Press will help you reach 15,000 interested readers for only a buck a day! Call (310)458-7737 to place an ad today.

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.

LOST SOMETHING? Find what you're looking for with the Santa Monica Daily Press! Call (310)458-7737 and place an ad today.

Calendar Thursday, July 11, 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.

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.

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.

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.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pan-

theon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

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!

Friday

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.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

ACLU fights cops on profanity arrests in Pittsburgh area

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — Erica Upshaw was having one of those days.

The mother of three was rushing a load of groceries to her sister's house when she was pulled over by an officer who said she had made an incomplete stop.

When told her driver's license was suspended, Upshaw used a profanity to describe her day. She ended up in jail for her choice of words.

"It was so humiliating," recalled Upshaw, 28, who said she was trying to get home to tend to a 6-year-old daughter who had just lost a tooth.

The American Civil Liberties Union says that when North Braddock police arrested Upshaw in the summer of 2000 for foul language, the officers joined a growing number of police who have crossing a line drawn by the courts.

Upshaw's case is at the center of one of two lawsuits the ACLU filed last week in federal court in Pittsburgh, accusing area police departments of violating people's right to free speech. The lawsuits seek unspecified damages.

The lawsuits are intended to warn police across the nation, said Witold Walczak, executive director of the ACLU's Pittsburgh chapter. He said officers need to realize they create tremendous stress on people and should expect emotions to spill out.

Every state has laws against foul language, but the courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have generally agreed that the words have to be used in a violent or sexually obscene context, said John Burkoff, associate dean and law professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Uttering something vulgar or profane is not, in itself, grounds for arrest, he said.

In one case out of Michigan, Timothy Boomer, a canoeist who let loose a stream of curses after falling out of a canoe, was found guilty three years ago of violating a law against cursing in front of women and children. He was fined \$75 and ordered to perform four days of community service. In April, though, an appeals court struck down the 105-year-old law and threw out the conviction.

Jim Pasco, executive director of the National Fraternal Order of Police, disputed the notion that police are misusing the disorderly conduct laws. He said officers may feel it is necessary to arrest someone on a minor charge to prevent more serious crimes.

The ACLU said it has been receiving five or six complaints a year from western Pennsylvanians arrested for swearing. Last month, Pittsburgh police agreed to pay \$275,000 to settle 32 cases brought by the ACLU, some of them involving profanity arrests.

In Upshaw's case, a judge threw out the disorderly conduct charge because her words were scatological but not sexually explicit. And a driving-without-a-license charge was dropped when it turned out that her suspension resulted from a computer glitch.

But she still ended up spending an afternoon in jail. She could have gotten up to 90 days in jail and a \$300

fine on the disorderly conduct charge.

Upshaw contends she was calm and swore only once. "They were really hostile," she said. But a police report said officers warned her five times to stop cursing, and described her as "loud and belligerent."

"Our police aren't out there just to arrest people who swear," said North Braddock Police Chief Henry Wiehagen. "There had to be a little more involved than just her vocabulary."

The ACLU's second lawsuit stems from the arrest of Amy Johnson, 27, a Chatham University student, and Gregory Lagrosa, 29, a University of Pittsburgh student. Johnson swore at a passing Homestead patrol car.

Johnson claimed that the car came dangerously close to the couple in a crosswalk.

A judge dismissed the charges, again because Johnson's words were not sexually obscene.

'Shopaholic' stole \$240K; must do time

BY MIKE ROBINSON
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — A woman who embezzled more than \$240,000 but got off with probation by claiming to be a "shopaholic" who had run up huge credit card bills must go to prison after all, an appeals court ruled Wednesday.

Elizabeth Roach, 48, should not have received the break that enabled her to avoid serving time, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said. It sent the case back for resentencing.

Roach submitted bogus expenses totaling \$241,061 to Andersen Consulting, the Chicago management consulting company where she

was an associate partner with an annual salary of \$150,000. She had run up tens of thousands of dollars in credit-card debt stemming from purchases of jewelry and clothes at Barney's New York, Neiman-Marcus and other fancy stores.

Last year, U.S. District Judge Matthew F. Kennelly placed her on probation for five years and ordered her to spend six weeks in a work-release program at a halfway house followed by six months of weekend house arrest.

Federal sentencing guidelines call for a 12- to 18-month prison term. But Kennelly gave her a break, acknowledging that chronic depression had

caused her to go on out-of-control shopping sprees. He said her illness resulted in reduced mental capacity.

Federal prosecutors appealed, saying she should get at least a year behind bars.

The appeals court agreed that Roach suffered from depression and had "turned to unnecessary and excessive shopping to relieve the pain." The appeals court also said that reduced mental capacity can be grounds for giving a defendant a break.

But the court said her compulsive behavior explains her out-of-control shopping, not the offense for which she was punished — submitting phony expenses to her employer.

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What do Shaq and Lenny Krayzelberg have in common?

as quoted in USA Today



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