



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

July 16-17, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 211

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

6 8 13 30 32
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$28 Million

FANTASY 5

16 17 18 21 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 3 4
Evening: 0 6 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 04 Big Ben

RACE TIME: 1:40:28

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The North Dakota legislature voted in April to ease licensing for carrying concealed weapons by removing the shooting test (to hit a miniature human silhouette at 21 feet), but that was over the objection of licensee Carey McWilliams, 31, who told an Associated Press reporter in March, "You've got to have standards." McWilliams, who hit the target 10 out of 10 in his most recent test, is legally blind, able to distinguish only shades of light (thus apparently giving new meaning to "concealed weapon" when he looks for his).

■ Veteran criminal George Kaminski, 53, complained in March to a Sharon (Pa.) Herald reporter about his most recent prison assignment, to a minimum-security facility in Mercer, Pa., because the grounds were short on clover. Kaminski has collected 72,927 four-leaf clovers in the last 10 years, entirely on the grounds of various prisons, but he is alarmed that an Alaskan man now claims to have 76,000 and has applied to the Guinness Book for recognition. "The (Alaskan) guy's got the whole world," said Kaminski, "(but) I have two or three acres."

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Drumming up support



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

Members of the Saharan band Tinariwen, who hail from the Adrar des Iforas of the Republic of Mali, jam at the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday during the free Twilight Dance Series concerts, held each week during the summer.

Hammer faces the music

Ex-Samohi band director hears from victim, girl's parents at sentencing

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — A judge approved the settlement of an underage sex case involving Carl Hammer, while warning the former Santa Monica High School band director that his attitude will require "adjustment" if probation is to prove successful.

Hammer, 39, was sentenced on Friday following the terms of an agreement in which he pleaded no contest to a felony charge of false imprisonment related to a sexual encounter that occurred with a 15-year-old girl on June 6, 2004.

See **HAMMER**, page 13

LOCAL

City, schools perked by the state budget

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — With the state budget approved earlier than usual, both City Hall and local schools can anticipate more than \$1 million coming their way sooner than expected.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the \$117.3 billion California state budget on July 11, the earliest a spending plan has been adopted in five years.

"We came together not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Californians to create a fiscally responsible and compas-

See **BUDGET**, page 8

New Library moving forward

Council boosts funding

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — The new library has been anything but free, with City Council approving an additional \$3.12 million for the city's main branch still under construction, but elected officials are confident the investment will pay major dividends for the city shortly.

The passing of the city's budget for next year included with it the additional funding for Santa Monica's new library, set to open in January.

Council recently approved the boost for the city's new, expanded

See **LIBRARY**, page 8



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A crew toils Friday at the site of the future Main Library, set to open in January.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Some of you might feel major changes in the wind. You have had a lot of pressure on the domestic front, as Saturn, the planet of responsibility, was visiting the "home" sector of your chart. Today the planet moves, becoming a stabilizer and positive force. Tonight: Pop open a bottle of champagne.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ For the past few years, there has been a weight or heaviness in your communications. Being light and silly hasn't happened easily, until today. Accept a happy invitation with friends. Tonight: You have reason to celebrate.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ The planet Saturn has been trying to teach you financial lessons that will help you cruise through your life with greater ease. Today it moves out of that area of your chart. You could feel as if a weight has been lifted off your shoulders. Tonight: Try the role of couch potato.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Wave goodbye to the 2-1/2-year transit of Saturn in your sign. Your stamina has been tested, as well as the validity of what you have chosen. You might have suffered some losses, though you will soon find that they were for the better. Tonight: A full-scale celebration is in order.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ You might sense a change in the wind as Saturn enters your sign for 2 1/2 years. During this period, the authenticity of your life choices will be tested. You also might let go of what doesn't work for you anymore. You are starting a new 39-year life cycle. Tonight: Entertain at home.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You feel obligated to tell it like it is. Others will listen, but you might not get the response you had been wishing for. Communication is key, as it links you to the outside world. Consider a workshop in the art of choosing your words. Tonight: Chat with a tried-and-true friend in your life.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Saturn in your career house has put inordinate demands on your professional and personal lives. Today this planet waves goodbye to enter a part of your chart where you can really evaluate your long-term desires. Tonight: Make merry.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ The Moon in your sign naturally tosses you into a leadership position. You might be in a period where you will have to accept more and more responsibilities, but the end results will be worth it. Tonight: You make the call.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Dealing with close associates could have been difficult and frustrating the past few years; the problems will ease up. You naturally give others more space and understanding. You will not get as triggered or upset. Tonight: Time for you.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Some of you might have felt a loneliness or coldness from those you care about. If you are single, you might have experienced the sadness of being alone. Saturn, your ruling planet, in your opposite sign has caused this stress, but will be leaving this segment of your chart. Tonight: Party — others are more lovable.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You have had unusual physical strain and work demands on you for the past 2 1/2 years. Today, Saturn, the teacher planet, enters your relationship area. You will learn a lot about yourself and your interactions. Tonight: Show up at another's shindig.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You have solidified a relationship during the past few years. Every moment might not have been easy. The time has come to work on your professional and daily life. Sometimes you might feel overloaded. Tonight: Enjoy a movie.

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LOCAL



A site to behold



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Workers lay gravel on the floor of what will become a new 170,000-square-foot, four-story, 133-unit housing and retail development to occupy the entire block bounded between Neilson Way and Main Street, and Bay Street and Bicknell Avenue. The site, which will encompass 107 apartments, is on the west side of Main Street where Pioneer Boulangerie Bakery once stood.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross will help you save a life, wax you up

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans have an opportunity to learn how to save a life while they're poolside.

The Santa Monica Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering free "Splish-Splash," first aid classes. Participants will be taught the basics of first aid by certified American Red Cross instructors.

The classes will provide skills and techniques that could save a life in an emergency, officials say. Recognizing an emergency, how to properly communicate with emergency medical services and paramedics, how to check for consciousness, recognizing injuries, controlling bleeding, caring for muscle, bone and joint injuries, treating burns and caring for sudden illnesses will all be covered in the class.

Class size is limited and it is strongly suggested that those interested in taking the classes pre-register.

Classes begin Saturday, July 23 at the Santa Monica municipal swimming pool on the campus of Santa Monica College at 1700 Pico Blvd. Two classes will be offered. The first goes from 10 a.m. until noon and the second class goes from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Interested persons should ask for the "Splish-Splash free first aid class" and specify morning or afternoon class. Register by calling the Santa Monica chapter at (310) 394-3773.

For additional information, contact American Red Cross of Santa Monica, (310) 394-3773 or online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

In other Red Cross news:

Youth volunteers will hold a car wash that will benefit a wide range of youth

See BRIEFS, page 6



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SURF REPORT

On Saturday, the SW swell will continue, but decline throughout the day. Head-high sets can be expected in the a.m. In the afternoon, this swell is likely to fade by 20 percent. Expect this SW'er to decline on Sunday, with size around chest high.

Today the
water is:

64°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:32	1.0	10:33	2.4	6:40	2.9	5:42	5.5
SUNDAY	1:26	0.3	11:40	2.5	7:59	3.1	6:32	6.0
MONDAY	2:13	-0.4	12:44	2.6	8:53	3.4	7:21	6.5
TUESDAY	2:57	-1.0	1:42	2.4	9:35	3.6	8:11	6.9
WEDNESDAY	3:40	-1.5	2:36	2.2	10:15	3.9	9:00	7.2

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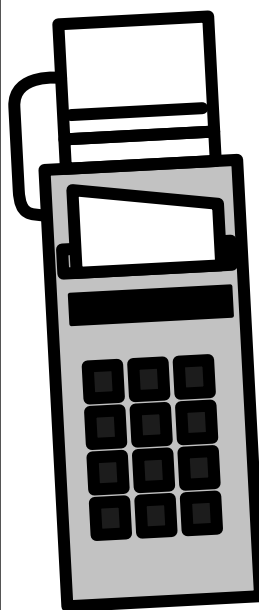
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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.

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The QLine

FAIL SAFE: NOT ALL RESIDENTS FEEL SECURE

This past week, Q-line asked:
"Do you feel safe in Santa Monica? Where would you not go because you feel unsafe?"

Here are your responses:

© "I certainly do not feel safe in this city, surrounded 24-7 by drug addicts, drunks, crazies and assorted criminals hanging out. I don't know where the police department gets their fanciful statistics from, probably because a lot of the threats and crime goes unreported, or the statistics are juggled or sanitized like most of the statistics we're getting out of Washington D.C. We, the people, are just to swallow all this baloney. I would not go anywhere in Santa Monica after dark, and certainly not in the early morning hours until there was a lot of pedestrian and vehicular traffic around to offset the threat of the bums and vagrants prowling around."

© "First, I wish to thank the Santa Monica Police Department and other event crowd control staff in the manner they maintain crowd control safety on the Santa Monica Pier, especially on Thursdays during the summer's Twilight Dance Series. They do an excellent job. A great amount of personal injury crimes, including shootings occur when there are ego personality flare-ups. These can occur in schools, bar rooms, churches, and anywhere else people gather. Still, crime will occur. A burglary will occur where there are the best goods, i.e. oil paintings, gold jewelry and diamonds. Do I feel safe anywhere in Los Angeles County? No."

© "The Pico neighborhood — that is not a safe place to go to. Parks are certainly not safe. There are bums all over the place, garbage all over the place, either they're drunk or they're raving lunatics. You never know what those idiots are going to do ..."

© "South of Colorado Avenue would be an area I wouldn't go unless it was an emergency. The reason for this is, there is so much crime that isn't highlighted by the police department that occurs, and any area that has high crime, I don't want to be near. Also, it has gotten to the point where there are certain areas on Wilshire Boulevard where you know you will be accosted by the homeless and the mentally ill, and you don't like to go to those locations. For example, the 7-Eleven on Seventh Street and Wilshire Boulevard."

© "Always being skeptical of statistics, I still feel that the police department has done a wonderful job of combating crime in Santa Monica. It's not the car chases and the bank robbers that get the adrenaline going that make the job hard. It's the small barking dog calls, the loud neighbors and music, that constantly sap the strength and response of the police officers — that's a very hard part of their job. As a civilian employee of the police department over 30 years ago, I can attest to how hard they work. Two areas I would not go in this town after dark would be around 20th and Pico, or 17th and Michigan. As a senior police officer

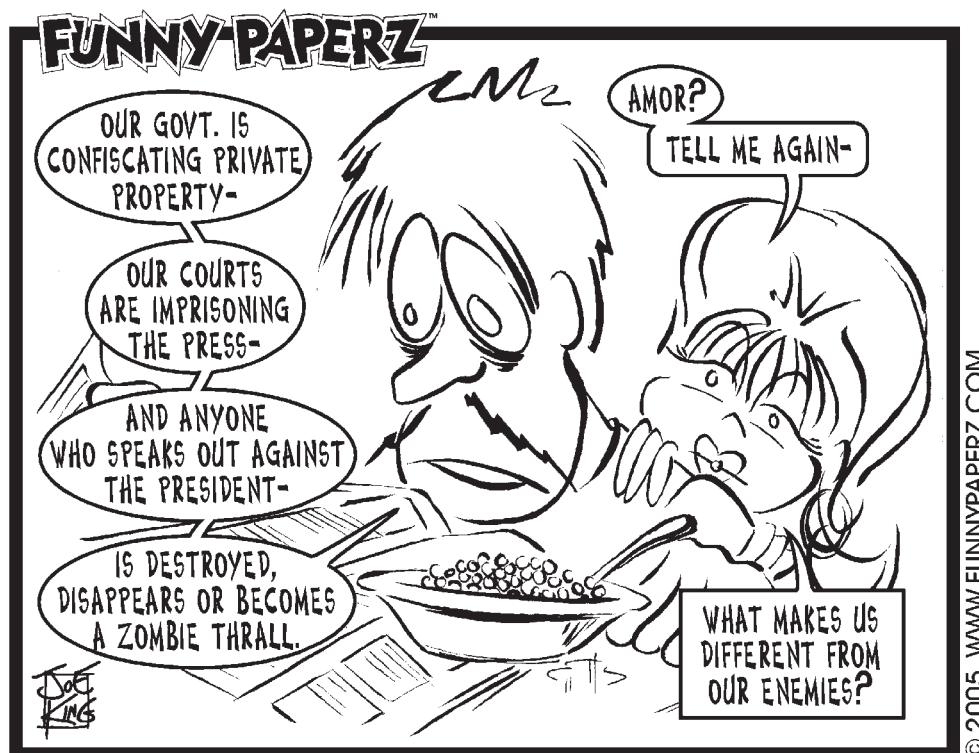
once told me, 'Whenever you have a community, you're always going to have those who steal from others because they feel that it belongs to them.' No, I'm not talking about rent control or affordable housing. These are crimes that even the police can't handle."

© "I think Santa Monica is the safest city you could live in, and I've lived here for a good, long time. But when the shades go down, you better watch out, because there is a lot crime that goes on in this once-peaceful city. But, if you need to live in the city, I think Santa Monica is the best that you can get, except for the bumpy roads, because I'm in a wheelchair."

© "Well, I was born and raised in the city of Chicago. I spent most of my adult life in Manhattan and never had a problem. The day I came to Santa Monica, we parked in a parking structure, and the glass was smashed and everything that could be taken was taken. About two years later on Wilshire Boulevard in broad daylight, I was mugged, pushed down, and my purse was stolen. Where wouldn't I go? Pretty much everywhere, and anywhere that the homeless would hang out, Pico and Lincoln. Bottom line: I don't feel safe in Santa Monica."

© "The only reason why current statistics are down in the city of Santa Monica is because the Santa Monica Police have an apparent 'look-the-other-way' policy toward vagrant crime. We have three examples just over the past few months. No. 1, when we go into Vons, we often see drunken vagrants buy liquor, and the drunken vagrants then take their liquor out to the alley or to the Broadway side of Vons to drink. We once tried to call the 9-11 operator who, literally, berated us for wasting precious time on 9-11 reporting a problem that should be reported to the general police line. Item No. 2 is the fact that we once passed the front of Toys 'R' Us when Toys 'R' Us was in business and there was a transgendered vagrant jumping up and down in front of the store with naked breasts and a thong that barely concealed his penis. Three different police cars passed that intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Fourth Street, and you could obviously see the police officers looking at this, but not one officer did anything about it, despite the fact that kids were going in and out of Toys 'R' Us and were exposed to the sight. The final example was we found a family sitting on a bus bench sharing their joints with their two young sons — smoking marijuana with their two young sons. We pointed this out to a motorcycle cop who took a look, and seemed very uninterested in the situation and drove on. So, vagrants pretty much rule in Santa Monica. Crime is down because police allow vagrants to rule in Santa Monica."

OPINION



AND IF YOU WAVE A FLAG AT ME I'LL SLAP YOU DOWN TO HALF MAST...

Don't take my house



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Just when newspapers and magazines are filled with stories about how the values of our homes have skyrocketed, the Supreme Court ruled that our houses could be taken away from us. All the local government has to do is pay us the "fair market value" and they can have our homes and sell them to other private individuals to build condos, shopping malls, or hotels — anything that will bring in more tax revenue while supposedly improving the neighborhood. If I were to sell my house, I wouldn't want the "fair market value," I'd want the inflated value that all those news stories talk about. But I don't want to sell my house. We've only lived in it for seven years, and we haven't even unpacked all the boxes yet.

Sandra Day O'Connor's announcement about her retirement has mobilized people all along the political spectrum. Conservatives worry that President Bush won't appoint someone conservative enough, and liberals fret that he'll name someone "too conservative." There has been much talk of the "litmus test" of the next Justice's position on abortion or religion. I want the president to use a different litmus test: Appoint someone who will oppose the right of local governments from taking our houses just as O'Connor did.

Traditionally, the principle of Eminent Domain has been used to allow the government to take private property for "public use," such as highways, schools, courthouses, etc. That's been a dubious practice, but at least one could sometimes understand the justification in terms of making improvements to benefit more and more people. But forcing people to sell their house just so a new condo, a "Best Buy," or a McDonald's could be built in its place just doesn't seem right. As Justice O'Connor put it, "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party." She went on to

say, "Nothing is to prevent the state from replacing any Motel 6 with a Ritz-Carlton, any home with a shopping mall, or any farm with a factory."

I have to admit that I would probably love any Supreme Court opinion that used "Motel 6" as an example. I look forward to future law students referring to famous cases such as "Brown vs. Board of Education," "Roe vs. Wade," and, of course, "Motel 6 vs. Ritz-Carlton." But it's also a good example because it shows how wrong this decision was.

I've also given considerable thought to the idea of their taking away my house and building a shopping mall in its place. You dream of owning your own home, you save, you sacrifice, and it's finally yours, and then they take it from you and turn it into a place where kids hang out while they're cutting school? I don't want our bedroom turned into a stand where people buy cinnamon pretzels. I don't want our family room transformed into a Victoria's Secret.

Had I been one of the Justices ruling on the case (and, Mr. president, I am available, by the way), I would have added another thought in my dissenting opinion. If this is to be the law of the land — if they can take our houses and put shopping malls in their place, they should at least guarantee the former owner of the property a permanent parking space. And it should be in the shade, near the entrance.

So, I'm all for lengthy hearings and even filibusters if it will get us another Justice who will oppose local governments from taking over our homes. It seems UnAmerican. The government should not be allowed to deprive us of our sacred and inalienable right of the painful act of writing that mortgage check each month.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

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

COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY GALAL KERNAHAN

Watching your garden grow should be natural

The Earth wept like a desperate mother sobbing for a wayward child. Tears gushed from two springs. Or, saintly tears they seemed to a priest amidst the leather-jacketed Spanish soldiers, loaded mules and bawling cattle.

The springs were found by a half dozen horsemen, who rode off first thing each morning to look for the next night's stopping place. Galloping ahead to find water has become a continuing part of the California story.

The explorers covered about 12 miles a day. It was August, 1769. The Gaspar de Portola party had already trekked more than 700 miles north from Loreto on the western shore of the Gulf of California.

Whiffs from the underworld at the La Brea Tar Pits startled the men crossing the Los Angeles plain. Further on, they came upon tears streaming from the ground. The priest was reminded of a Fourth Century North African mother. Saint Monica prayerfully cried her son, Augustine, from perceived vice to accepted Christian virtue.

The name took. The area eventually became the Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica. In 1875, a town began not far from the springs. It was incorporated in November, 1889. It was named Santa Monica.

It grew in the 1900s as a place to visit and a place to live. Its sandy shore drew thousands. Pacific Ocean Park opened in 1950. The Santa Monica Freeway and extension were completed in 1966.

The population was 7,208 in 1905. In 2005, almost five times that many students attend Santa Monica's two-year community college. In early years, all sorts of local activities attracted visitors. Auto racing was popular from 1909 to 1919. Muscle Beach has long been a must-see. The movie crowd ebbs and flows along its coast.

West of the desert, Southern California population has soared. Its communities multiplied. Springs disappeared. Agriculture developed. Wells were deepened or abandoned. Two World Wars spurred manufacturing. Planes were built in Santa Monica.

Dams diverting water where Californians want it are not new. In 1781, early Los Angeles' settlers channeled their river into ditches serving their town.

But riding out to find water ahead has become more and more challenging. In 1913, an aqueduct began delivering Owens Valley water to Los Angeles. In

1941, the Colorado River Aqueduct began bringing water to Southern California. In 1971, the California Aqueduct began transporting water through the San Joaquin Valley to the Southland.

In the last 25 years, riders searching for tomorrow's water have found two unrecognized Southern California rivers. They are nowhere on the map because they can be anywhere.

One is drinking water that dripping faucets and unnecessarily copious showering, flushing, washing and leakage endlessly waste. The other is outside overwatering and "over the top" irrigation.

Not only is there a tendency to drown grass, but much of what we plant outside makes about as much sense climatically in Southern California as does putting sauerkraut in egg flower soup at a Paraguayan barbecue.

The city of Santa Monica and Santa Monica College are providing a vivid way to make the point. Across the street from an entrance to the college are two houses side by side in a tract originally built for aerospace workers. The one at 1718 Pearl St. is occupied by the Santa Monica College Police and has traditional landscaping and turf in front. The other at 1724 Pearl St. is a college student relations office with a "smart" (native) garden in front. Delivered by weather-sensitive drip or microspray devices, its watering is plant-specific.

This comparison project was partially funded by a 2003 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California grant.

According to the city of Santa Monica water resources specialist, these gardens have been seen by tens of thousands since their opening a year ago. They include school children, college students, Santa Monica residents and out-of-towners.

The native garden uses less than one-fifth the water the traditional garden needs. That adds up to a 62,400 gallons a year. It is a model tributary to a river of saved water.

There is water ahead. And you don't even have to leave home to find it.

(Galal Kernahan lives in Laguna Woods, Calif., and works as an independent contractor in cities like Azusa, Camarillo, Corona, La Mesa, Montclair, Oceanside, Rancho Cucamonga, San Clemente, San Jacinto and San Juan Capistrano and Santa Monica.)

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LOCAL

Girl's softball team clinches all-star title

BY SARA MILSTEIN
Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica's own Little League Softball team last week won the District 25 All-Star Tournament Championship for the 9- and 10-year-old division.

The winning team was not without humble beginnings, however. When the regular softball season ended on June 11, both the Santa Monica Minor Marlins and Mets had been eliminated in the District 25 Tournament of Champions by a Culver City squad. However, Santa Monica was given the opportunity to send 12 of its best players to the District 25 All-Star tournament, which was hosted by the Beverly Hills Little League on June 30.

Santa Monica's first win against West LA was a bittersweet victory. Their opposing team withdrew from the tournament, and Santa Monica won by default. The girls anticipated that their next game, set to take place on July 7 against North Venice, might not be so easy, yet they secured another victory, 16-8.

Their next game was held two days later against Malibu, a team that was on a roll, winning their previous two games by a combined score of 48-8. Santa Monica did not cower, taking out Malibu, 11-1.

The girls couldn't have predicted the intensity of their next contest, a rematch with North Venice on July 13.

In the top of the fourth inning, it was looking bleak for Santa Monica, already trailing by seven runs. North Venice had enjoyed a stunning rebound in the past two games, and now seemed to be back with a vengeance. North Venice scored two more runs in the fourth for a 15-6 lead, prompting the umpire to warn Santa Monica that the girls needed to score a run



Susan Bracey/Special to the Daily Press

to avoid losing by virtue of "the mercy rule."

"They came into that last inning determined to get the job done," said Fabian Padilla, parent and official coach at the league. "They already had the winning attitude because they never gave up, no matter what the score read. They had a lot of heart."

Santa Monica still had a lot of fight, evident through a stunning display of teamwork, and actually tied the score at 21-21. Lacking in pitching staff, North Venice could not throw a strike, walking in the tying run.

The next batter, Natalie Coutts, cracked a grounder to bring in the winning run. Santa Monica was victorious, by a 22-21 margin.

"The emotion was so high out there," Padilla said. "The kids just went crazy. They felt like giants out there."

The victory marks the first district win by a Santa Monica Little League team since 2002. Santa Monica's all-star team is set to play their first game against another Southern California District winner on July 22, when they'll face the West Torrance Little League.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

activities at the chapter.

The cost for an "expert" hand wash of any car, small truck or sport utility vehicle is \$5 the day of the event. Advance discount coupons entitling the bearer to a \$4 car wash can be obtained before July 19 from Red Cross youth volunteers, or at the front desk at the Santa Monica chapter.

The car wash is one of many youth activities sponsored by the Santa Monica chapter. Last year, more than 450 youth of middle-school and high-school age levels participated in programs that included disaster training, classes in first aid and CPR, working at various chapter public events and generally assisting around the chapter itself.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica is a publicly-supported, nonprofit corporation that provides health and safety education, youth services, CPR and first-aid training and local disaster awareness and disaster relief efforts.

The car wash will take place Tuesday, July 19 from noon until 5 p.m. in the parking lot at the Santa Monica chapter of the American Red Cross, located at 1450 11th St. For additional information or to obtain discount car wash coupons, contact American Red Cross of Santa Monica, (310) 394-3773 or online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



As prototype park ages, Disney looks to Far East

BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Hey Disneyland, you've just celebrated your 50th anniversary. What are you going to do next?

As its prototype theme park hits the half-century mark Sunday, The Walt Disney Co. is facing some critical challenges.

One is geographic. The company is set to open its 11th park in Hong Kong in September and could soon announce plans for another in mainland China. How many more places in the world can support a massive new multi-day theme park?

Disney's biggest challenge, however, could be keeping the attention and dollars of a generation raised on video games that demands more control over their entertainment than most Disney attractions provide.

"Almost everything Disney does today is passive while kids today expect everything to be interactive," said Martin Lindstrom, a brand expert and author who has consulted for Disney and other companies such as Mattel Inc.

Disney is counting on the Internet, cell phones, digital projectors and other technology to make its parks more appealing to Gen-Y while maintaining the nostalgia that appeals to baby boomers.

"The problem is that they're not doing it the full way, they're doing it a little bit," Lindstrom said. "If they don't do it, five or six years from now they will have a major problem."

Disneyland was wildly innovative when it opened on July 17, 1955. Founder Walt Disney used robotic figures, holograms and panoramic movies in circular theaters to spin stories for children. With virtually no competition, he had little trouble capturing the imagination of the world.

Over the years, Disney has pioneered new technology in rides such as "Mission Space" at Epcot in Orlando, Fla., and the revamped "Space Mountain" in Anaheim. But these days, the company finds itself competing against parks that feature taller, faster and scarier thrill rides.

"Disney is always going to address the competition, and the competition isn't just other theme parks," said Bill Coan, a former Disney employee who is now with Itec Entertainment, which designs theme park attractions.

"It's video games, 120 channels of TV

and shopping malls," he said.

The safety of new attractions will be a concern for Disney, which has long said it would never do anything to compromise the safety of its guests.

In Florida, a 16-year-old girl remained in critical condition after suffering cardiac arrest Tuesday on the "Twilight Zone Tower of Terror" thrill ride. A month ago, a 4-year-old boy passed out and died after riding Disney World's "Mission: Space" ride. His cause of death was still undetermined.

The "Twilight Zone" ride was reopened Wednesday after engineers deemed it safe, Disney said in a written statement that also reiterated concern for the girl and her family.

Disney's parks and resorts division earned \$193 million in operating profit during the second fiscal quarter, up 3 percent from the same quarter last year. Attendance at Disney's domestic parks is beginning to approach pre-Sept. 11 levels, the company said when it released quarterly earnings in May.

Disney is already introducing innovations at its parks around the world. "Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters" was recently unveiled at Disneyland. Riders turn circles in their cars while shooting laser cannons to defeat the evil Emperor Zurg.

They compete for points, but the interactivity doesn't end there. People at home can download a free video game and play right along with the riders in real time.

One of the more ambitious interactive experiments is the "Virtual Magic Kingdom," where players compete in cyberspace versions of Disney parks. They're given tasks, like finding images of Mickey Mouse hidden in the architecture, then receive points to "purchase" hats, T-shirts or other items for their online personas.

Cell phones also figure to play a role in parks of the future. An adventure game, for instance, could require guests to take a particular picture with their camera phone to activate an animated clue.

That approach will be critical as the company expands overseas. Disney is planning a park in mainland China, perhaps Shanghai, to take advantage of that country's growing middle class.

It's also contemplating smaller, more regional parks in places like South Korea, Singapore and Australia.

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City, schools mull how to spend funds

BUDGET, from page 1

sionate budget to be an instrument of good for the people," Schwarzenegger said. "This is a bipartisan budget we can all be proud of because it is balanced, does not raise taxes or include new borrowing, pays down our debt and makes a strong investment for California today and for our future."

The early budget adoption has guaranteed certain funds to both City Hall and local schools, representatives of which are trying to figure out how to best allocate the boost in funding each institution is set to receive this year. City Hall is awaiting \$1.85 million, while the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will receive approximately \$1.2 million to help offset its costs, officials said.

CITY HALL 'ENCOURAGED' BY STATE BUDGET

Santa Monica officials said they are encouraged by the latest state budget, particularly the agreement reached to repay a year early the Vehicle License Fee "loan" made from cities to the state in 2003.

Repayment of the VLF funds, used to balance past state budgets, is expected to bring approximately \$1.5 million to Santa Monica in 2006, with an additional \$385,000 to be received in Proposition 42 funds being released as part of the budget

agreement, city officials said. The money will be added to City Hall's \$386.8 million budget.

Prop. 42 revenue is generated by the gasoline sales tax and is generally used for roads and transportation systems.

"This additional revenue, when received, will allow us to restore cuts the council was forced to make when adopting a balanced budget in June and should also advance progress on the work plan on major community priorities," said City Manager Susan E. McCarthy.

The bipartisan budget adopted by the state legislature earlier this month represents a welcome departure from nearly two decades of the state's balancing its budget on the backs of cities. It also respects the intent of Prop. 1A, adopted by California voters in November 2004 to protect local funds, officials said.

"We are pleased that the state is addressing its fiscal issues without taking money from local cities, as has been its past practice," said Steve Stark, City Hall's director of finance. "Reforming the state's budget process is essential to ensuring that Santa Monica and all California cities can deliver local government services that residents expect."

Santa Monica officials anticipated that the VLF loan would be repaid in the 2006-07 budget plan.

Since the \$1.85 million will likely

come this year, City Hall might be able to start earlier on a few projects, said City Hall spokesperson Judy Rambeau.

Last month, \$231,000 was taken out of capital improvement funds that would have re-paved seven city blocks. In addition, \$23,000 was taken from City Hall's usual contribution to the Santa Monica Festival, which staff said may have some impact on event planning. This year's windfall may be used to help restore the full amount of those projects, Rambeau said.

Stark said that in addition to improvement projects, City Hall also would like to see a continued restoration of its staff — to pre-recession levels.

STATE'S SCRAMBLE HELPS SCHOOL DISTRICT

SMMUSD officials said the effect of the state's budget means the school district will not have to provide \$1.2 million for the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), a fund set up to pay for teacher pensions statewide.

The district's overall budget for 2005-06 is \$107 million. District officials said they were prepared, but uncertain, whether they would have to pay for a 2-percent increase to the cost of STRS prior to the adoption of the state budget. The governor had not clarified whether he might push a 2-percent cost increase for the pension

system onto schools statewide.

Officials said Gov. Schwarzenegger decided at the last minute to withdraw such a request and agreed to pay the needed contribution from the state's general fund in order to expedite the budget process.

Winston Braham, SMMUSD finance director, said one direct effect of the \$1.2 million the district will receive is that it has reduced the \$7,668,529 in new spending anticipated for 2005-06. That sum is being repaid from revenues the district managed to trim during the 2004-05 fiscal year.

However, Braham cautioned that the state still owes local schools money that's not being accounted for in the district's budget.

"The district no longer has to expend the \$1.2 million, but we are still not getting some money owed to us by the state," Braham said. "The bottom line is, it's a tit-for-tat situation."

The district also will make efforts to trim its 2005-06 budget this year, in order to have excess revenues it may use to shore up budget funding for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

"It makes good business sense," Braham said. "The district has absorbed additional increased spending that is typical of companies today, having to do with professional growth, benefits, etc."

"It will continue to look at cost-saving measures."

Coming soon: 8,000 boxes of stored library materials

LIBRARY, from page 1

library, intended to meet anticipated staff and research needs for a facility in which thousands are expected to visit daily, officials said.

A month-long grand opening celebration is planned for the first month of 2006. It will be handled by a consultant at a cost of less than \$85,000 and feature a series of events, during which time residents will be able to glean for the first time opportunities the new library will make available to the public, said acting City Librarian Greg Mullen.

"We were able to get all of the funding requests we made for next year," Mullen said. "We will be able to take advantage of having a new building to make people more knowledgeable about what's available at the new library."

"There's a lot people don't know about."

The two-story, 104,000-square-foot, environmentally friendly building, to be located along the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard, between Sixth and Seventh streets, was designed by local architects Moore Ruble Yudell. The international firm, based in Santa Monica, has also designed the parking structure for the city's Public Safety building.

The \$57.7 million project includes expansion already completed at Santa Monica's other library branches. The new library will be two-thirds larger than the old one. It is being paid for with \$25 million in bond money approved in 1998. The remaining sum has been accrued for years by City Hall through saving funds.

BUDGET IMPROVEMENTS

More than 8,000 boxes filled with books and other research materials will be brought out of storage and re-shelved for the opening of the new library. In addition, \$462,100 will be allocated from the \$3.12 million to purchase new books and materials.

The vast majority of the city's budget boost for the new library — \$1.11 million — is going towards an additional cost of a full year's worth of funding the new library's operations, which City Hall anticipates to be ongoing and is prepared to finance, Mullen said.

In addition, \$709,373 will go towards more staffing to support these operations. This will include 20 full-time positions and one part-time post. Mullen said some of these positions will be re-instated from prior budget setbacks, but many will be used to help adequately staff the expanded library's needs.

Added landscaping costs and maintenance will total \$211,000.

The 150 new computers the library will be purchasing, which will be Windows-based, will cost \$336,272.

The net anticipated revenue for the first years of the new parking structure — \$282,394 — will go towards paying for it.

A QUICK READ ON THE NEW FACILITY

There will be an underground, three-level parking garage that offers 500 spaces. In addition, a rear parking structure will offer 30 spaces. To keep within a "green" frame, there will also be several bike racks.

Councilman Richard Bloom said new library will be a "tremendous asset to the community."

The face of the library will be constructed in "see-through" glass to provide a sense of openness, Mullen said. The building will be accessible from three sides, with the main entrance being a ramp on the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Sixth Street. Entering the library from the ramp, visitors will come into a hallway that runs north and east, split by a 10,000-square-foot "see-through" courtyard. To the north will be the main reference desk, which is also accessible from the rear and subterranean parking garage by a ramp and elevator.

The courtyard will feature trees and tables where visitors can sit, read, write or enjoy a cup of coffee. The courtyard's centerpiece will be a large "Underwater Canopy," a circular structure hanging 11 feet above the ground, from which looking up, through a series of colorful glass plates, is intended to give one the effect of "staring up from the bottom of the ocean," Mullen said. The canopy was designed by Santa Monica artist Carl Cheng, intended to be part of the library's broader ocean-side theme. In addition, there will be a small fountain perimeter that surrounds the canopy and cuts through the courtyard. The water, along with the majority

of water used at the facility, will trickle to cisterns below the underground parking garage, recycled, and re-used.

The hall leading east on the first floor leads to the library's newer collections of books and magazines, where authors will also be highlighted. The east side of the first floor will also house fiction. There will be chairs and tables from which visitors can lounge and a children's area, which will be twice as large as its counterpart at the city's former main library. There will also be a new dedicated area for young adults. On the north side of the building will be an auditorium for community events that holds 135 people.

The second floor of the library, accessible by ramp or elevators toward the front entrance, will be more of a "quiet area" for serious study and research. It will house non-fiction materials and the Santa Monica's Historical society books and references. This is where the majority of the library's 150 computers will also be stationed, allowing for a variety of Internet research opportunities, Mullen said. A study area at the southwest corner of the second floor, above the main entrance ramp, will feature views of the ocean. Also, a terrace overlooking the courtyard will align the second floor. To the north side of the second floor will be several community rooms for meetings and functions.

Councilman Richard Bloom, who helped oversee the development of the new library over the decades, said during the budget sessions that the library will prove a "tremendous asset to the community."

LOCAL



Healing power



Photo courtesy

Latino members of the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles, including celebrities Jaime Aymerich (second from left), from Kirstie Alley's 'Fat Actress,' and film producer Aquiles Enríquez (standing, sixth from left), from 'Un Secreto de Esperanza,' recently helped clean up Santa Monica Beach under a Heal the Bay beach clean-up program. Afterwards, they received free surfing lessons from members of the Church of Scientology Celebrity Centre International Surf Club.

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Enron to pay \$1.5B settlement to three western states

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Bankrupt energy company Enron has agreed to pay \$47.5 million in cash in a settlement that could reach more than \$1.5 billion to resolve claims that it gouged California and other western states during the 2000-2001 energy crisis.

The settlement will end market manipulation and price gouging claims against the once high-flying Houston-based company, California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said. The agreement requires approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

In addition to the cash payment, Enron will provide California with an unsecured

claim for \$875 million in the energy company's bankruptcy proceedings. Oregon and Washington will receive \$22.5 million each from that unsecured settlement.

The settlement also calls for the company to pay a \$600 million penalty to the three states.

All the payments except for the cash settlement represent unsecured claims, which often generate payments of only a fraction of the face value. The final payment amounts will depend on the resolution of Enron's bankruptcy proceedings.

The deal will allow California to "squeeze justice from this corporate turnip," Lockyer said. "All things considered, this is a good resolution for the state's ratepayers."

The settlement helps Enron move for-

ward to resolve its bankruptcy "so that we can accelerate distributions to all other creditors," Enron's interim chief executive officer, Stephen Cooper, said in a statement Friday.

About \$65 billion in claims are awaiting settlement in Enron's bankruptcy case, company officials said.

Lockyer has painted Enron as the mastermind of California's energy crisis, which was marked by blackouts and soaring consumer energy prices. He said the company of using trading schemes to drive up the cost of electricity in the state's newly deregulated market.

California had sought nearly \$9 billion in refunds for overcharges by dozens of energy companies. Wholesale energy prices hit all-time highs during the crisis.

The state has been negotiating settlements with many of the energy companies through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Enron deal announced Friday is the second-largest of the state's energy settlements, behind a deal valued at greater than \$1.6 billion with Houston-based El Paso Corp.

FERC Chairman Joseph T. Kelliher said the settlement with Enron brings to nearly \$6 billion the amount of refunds related to the energy crisis negotiated through the commission.

"The dark cloud of litigation and regulatory uncertainty has been hanging over California for five years now," Kelliher said in a statement Friday. "That's too long. It's time for all of us to step up to the plate and resolve these remaining issues."

Agriculture secretary: Canadian cattle imports should resume in days

BY LIBBY QUAID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Truckloads of Canadian cattle could begin rolling into the United States next week after a federal appeals court ruling lifting a ban on the animals, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said Friday.

"Our hope is that we're talking about days and not weeks," Johanns, on a trade mission in Madagascar, told reporters by telephone. "It could be as early as next week, but we do want to make sure everything's in place."

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday unanimously overturned a federal judge in Montana who had kept the border closed with a ruling saying the U.S. beef industry faced "potentially catastrophic damages" and that American consumers faced "a genuine risk of death."

The United States banned Canadian cattle in May 2003, after Canada discovered its first case of mad cow disease. The U.S. was about to reopen the border in March, when U.S. District Judge Richard F. Cebull granted a request from ranchers to keep it closed.

Johanns said Friday that a paperwork hurdle is the only thing currently standing in the way. The Agriculture Department must issue procedures and update the list of beef products allowed to cross the border, then make sure state and federal authorities are using the same criteria for inspecting shipments.

The decision came a day after the Justice Department urged the appeals court in Seattle to reopen the border to imports. Justice Department attorney Mark Stern said lifting the ban is based on "good science" and would not result in the "infestation in American livestock."

During the hearing, the three justices suggested that Cebull should have given deference to the USDA's decision.

Judge A. Wallace Tashima said the law "does invest the secretary of agriculture with a certain amount of discretion." Judge Connie Callahan agreed, saying the USDA is "entitled to some deference. It's their whole job to keep up with the science to make those decisions."

The dispute has pitted ranchers against feedlots and packers that must pay more for cows to feed and slaughter without Canadian supplies.



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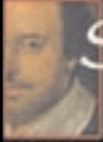
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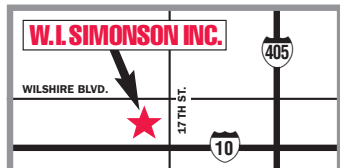
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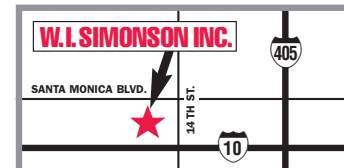
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LOCAL



Band leader gets probation

HAMMER, from page 1

Deputy District Attorney Eva Jabber said by pleading no contest to the false imprisonment charge, Hammer avoids facing at least three years in prison and the status of being a registered sex offender for the rest of his life.

As a result, Hammer is set to receive five years of probation and one year of counseling. During the probationary period, any contact with minors will require adult supervision. Hammer will be required to sleep 60 days in a residential facility starting in August, from which he will only be allowed to leave during the day for work. He will also have to attend a restitution hearing on behalf of the victim in November.

Those involved in the case said it's unlikely Hammer will return to work in the capacity of a music teacher in Santa Monica.

Judge Shiro Biderman, one of four judges who have been involved in the case as it made its way through the court system, noted Hammer has no prior record, while warning he would need to be diligent through his probation period to avoid any further mishaps with the law.

"For you to be successful in probation, your attitude will require adjustment," Biderman said. "Your actions have created this situation, and I did not hear that in your statement."

Hammer appeared in court wearing a light beige suit, blue-collared shirt and red tie. He appeared calm, as in his prior proceedings, but with noticeable bags under his eyes. Seven friends and family came to support him.

The victim, her mother and father arrived in court with more than a dozen family and friends. The young girl and her parents live next door to Hammer and were close with him, his wife and two children. They also attend the same church.

The victim, her parents and Hammer each spoke before his sentencing. It was a somber, emotionally-draining proceeding which lasted more than an hour.

"Do you know how hard it is to pray in the same temple with your daughter's child molester?"

VICTIM'S MOTHER

ter's relationship coming to light, her daughter had been threatened by Hammer "to keep her mouth shut."

Meanwhile, Hammer and the victim's family continued to attend the same church, as both families had done for years.

"You had the audacity to show up at the same church," she said. "Do you know how hard it is to pray in the same temple with your daughter's child molester?"

The victim said she spent the past year living in Utah, away from Hammer and her home. She described the pain she felt in the aftermath of her four-hour encounter with the former band director.

"You said, 'I wish we could do this all night, but I'd be in deep doo-doo,'" she said, alluding to what Hammer told her during the incident. "Well, now you're in deep doo-doo."

"I wonder if you have ever told the truth about the abuse."

The victim's father said over the course of the year he had learned to recognize a growing circle of pain between relatives, friends and community members aware of the circumstances driving the two families apart.

"I've watched loving people, still in ignorance, come into that circle of pain," he said. "I thought, 'you do not know it yet, but now you will.'"

"I look forward to this pain becoming a sobering

See HAMMER, page 14

A FAMILY SHARES ITS GRIEF, HOPE

The victim's mother conveyed to Hammer and the court how she and her family were becoming aware of Hammer's transgressions more than a year ago. Prior to any legal proceedings, she confronted him about it one day outside their church steps.

"I looked you straight in the eye, and I told you that you owe (my daughter) and I an apology," she said, staring at Hammer across the courtroom. "You said, 'yes, ma'am.'"

"I'm still waiting for that apology."

The victim's mother went on to describe how in the following weeks, once the investigation was underway, instead of the circumstances involving Hammer and his daughter's

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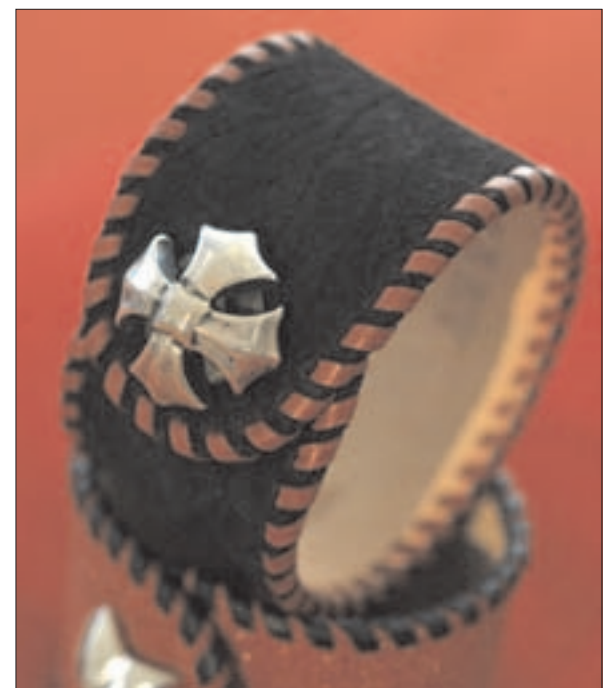
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LOCAL

Hammer: 'I apologize with deepest part of being'

HAMMER, from page 13

memory."

Hammer turned toward the victim's family and court and spoke at length about the support he has received from the community during the proceedings.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to express my deepest sorrow and regret over this incident," Hammer said. "I apologize with the deepest part of my being."

Hammer indicated that he accepted the plea agreement in order to prevent further hardship for those associated with the case. He mentioned the emotional and financial toll the case has had on his family, forcing them to rely

on the charity of others.

Hammer and his wife and children continue to live next door to the victim and her parents. During the past year, he has been on non-paid administrative leave. Samohi's award-winning band is widely respected, thanks in part to the tutelage of department chair Terry Sakow and Hammer.

Although he must stay 100 yards away from the victim, sources said Hammer's financial situation, along with having a felony on his record, will make it difficult for he and his family to move on.

"The prospect for teaching again is bleak," Hammer admitted.

"You said, 'I wish we could do this all night, but I'd be in deep doo-doo.' Well, now you're in deep doo-doo."

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Asseffa Deres came to the United States in 1971. Initially, he studied electrical engineering and began work in the defense industry. His business aspirations and acumen led him out of the defense industry and into the business world. Asseffa and his wife Sehin have owned and operated seven different businesses over the years. Since 1981 Asseffa has been buying, selling, and remodeling commercial and residential properties. Asseffa is a licensed real estate broker as well as a licensee contractor, a knowledge base that affords his clients confidence in his ability to represent them well in their real estate transactions. Since joining George Chung Realtors, Asseffa has been a consistent top producer. His dedication, trustworthiness, work ethic, and professionalism continually win him praise from clients and colleagues alike.

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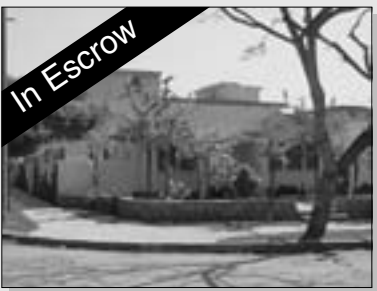
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Entertainment

Wilson faked it, but has made it

BY EMILY CHRISTIANSON

Special to The Daily Press

Owen Wilson has three basic rules for dating: "Fake it until you make it — that's rule one, two and three," he says.

A ladies' man? Yes. A romantic?

"That's something ex-girlfriends (including Sheryl Crow, Gina Gershon and several, well ... strippers) have never accused me of," the chronic bachelor admits.

They probably never thought the Santa Monica resident, who recently told *Playboy* magazine he should have taken his relationship with Crow more seriously, would be ready to settle down either. But now he concedes, "I am 36 and you can't stay at the party forever!"

Of course, you can always crash one. And that's exactly what Wilson and co-star Vince Vaughn do in the new romantic comedy "Wedding Crashers," which opened on Friday.

They play divorce mediators John Beckwith (Wilson) and Jeremy Klein (Vaughn) who spend their free time dropping in uninvited at strangers' weddings trying to meet women ... that is until John meets Claire Cleary (Rachel McAdams) at the most exclusive event of the year.

Call it a case of art imitating life.

"I definitely enjoy a good party, but I would be more likely to crash the Playboy Mansion than a wedding," confesses the actor known for his surfer tan, crooked nose and disheveled hair. "Maybe I just think bigger than my character."

Perhaps he's right. The sexy southerner, who won a 2004 MTV Movie Award for the kiss he shared with Amy Smart and Carmen Electra in "Starsky and Hutch," was living the ultimate playboy fantasy filming scenes surrounded by topless women.

"That was the only time that Owen showed up early," Vaughn jokes.

Before dating celebrities and walking the red carpet, Wilson and his showbiz brothers Luke (younger) and Andrew (older) were keeping their mom, a photographer, and dad, an ad executive busy in Texas.

The comic actor got the boot from St. Mark's Academy in Dallas his sophomore year and transferred to Thomas Jefferson School.

"I was cheating in geometry," says the self-proclaimed troublemaker. "We stole the teacher's edition



OWEN WILSON

book so I was handing in all these extra credit problems to make up for my bad test grades."

Next, his parents sent him off to a New Mexico military academy to get him back on track. It worked. He eventually graduated and enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin, where he met his best friend, Wes Anderson.

"We were at school together in Austin," Anderson told the BBC. "We exchanged short stories and started writing the script together for 'Bottle Rocket.' But I feel

the best part of our collaboration is working with him on set as an actor."

Although the low-budget production, starring Wilson and his two brothers, fell short financially, it was enough for the two writers to move on to more lucrative projects like "Rushmore" and "The Royal Tenenbaums," for which they received an Oscar nomination. Although the former roommates did not co-write Anderson's latest film "The Life Aquatic" with Steve Zissou, Wilson did star in the movie alongside Bill Murray.

The radio voice for Heineken and Michelob Lite and a 2002 *High Times* magazine Stoner of the Year nominee for his performance in "Zoolander," Wilson has collaborated on eight movies with pal Ben Stiller. They are now the leaders of Hollywood's notorious Frat Pack (with Luke Wilson, Vince Vaughn, Will Ferrell and Jack Black), an homage to the hit comedy "Old School."

"It's not some grand design, it's that these are the people that I think are funny and would like to work with," he says of the label.

Next up for Wilson, "The Wendell Baker Story." His brother Luke wrote, directed and starred in the film as an ex-con who lands a job at a retirement home. Andrew also directs and Wilson co-stars as head nurse.

"It's OK to be directed by your older brother," Wilson told the *American Statesman*. "I'm used to him bossing me around. But having your younger brother tell you what he thinks you need to do, that's more difficult to swallow. But I managed to rise above it. I told Luke that if he had anything to say to me just say it to Andrew and let him tell me."

Wilson admits that he and Luke, who were cast as the brothers Virgil and Turk in "Oceans Eleven," but backed out to do "Royal Tenenbaums," suffered from a bit of sibling rivalry growing up.

"There were a few cases of a girl whose number I had in my book, and then all of a sudden Luke was calling that girl," he says. "But it was OK."

They both agree there's no fighting when it comes to career.

"It bothers me when people ask if Owen and I are competitive," Luke told the *Los Angeles Times*. "It's not like 'my rentals are higher, but you're beating me at the box office'. We're not the Sunshine Boys, but we love each other. I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing if it wasn't for him."

Emmy set table but 'Desperate Housewives' may not get dessert

BY LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — Prime-time TV soap operas rarely bring home Emmys.

"Dallas," "Knots Landing" and "Dynasty" never won best-series awards. "Dynasty" set a record as the biggest also-ran in Emmy history with 24 losses and no wins.

But "Desperate Housewives," a dark satire about life in suburbia, may have found a way to finesse the system. ABC's freshman hit — which cleaned up Thursday with 15 Emmy nominations — asked to be considered in the comedy series category, usually home to half-hour sitcoms.

The ploy worked for another so-called dramedy, the legal farce "Ally McBeal," which was named best comedy series in 1999 on its second try.

"The proof of how sneaky those 'Desperate Housewives' really are is they pulled an 'Ally McBeal,'" said Tom O'Neil, author of "The Emmys" and host of goldderby.com, a Web site that handicaps the Emmys and other awards.

"I'm going, 'Geez, we should have gone over there, too,'" joked David Shore, the creator of Fox's drama "House." The series received five nominations, including a best dramatic actor bid for star Hugh Laurie and a writing nomination for an episode by Shore.

ABC's show is competing in a field that includes last year's winner, the quirky "Arrested Development," and "Will & Grace," which matched "Desperate Housewives" with its 15 nominations Thursday.

Also named in the category were "Scrubs" and "Everybody Loves Raymond," which wrapped after nine seasons and received a hearty farewell of 13 bids.

Wisteria Lane, home of the housewives, should be abuzz with the fact that only three of its stars, Teri Hatcher, Marcia Cross and Felicity Huffman, were nominated for best comedy series actress. Eva Longoria, who was also snubbed by the Golden Globe Awards, was conspicuously missing from the Emmy list as well.

Also overlooked was Nicollette Sheridan, who had gotten a Golden Globe supporting-actress nod for the show.

Maybe the sexually frisky characters played by Longoria and Sheridan were just too hot for Emmy voters to handle, suggested O'Neil.

It's also interesting that, in an industry regularly accused of bias against older actresses, the nominated "Housewives" are all 40 or older; Longoria is 30.

"I'm sad about it," Cross told The Associated Press. "I really thought Nicollette was a shoo-in. In terms of Eva, my prediction is she's leaving us all in the dust."

The lucky nominees might restrain their glee. The only nighttime soap star to win in a lead-acting category was Barbara Bel Geddes, who played the matriarch of "Dallas," as even Larry Hagman's deliciously villainous turn as J.R. Ewing in the 1978-91 soap failed to snag Emmy gold.

The drama category pits another freshman ABC hit, "Lost," against the sophomore Western drama "Deadwood," "Six Feet Under," "24" and "The West

Wing."

Last year's winner, "The Sopranos," isn't in the fight because it sat out last season. That appears to leave an opening for the spooky "Lost," about air crash survivors stranded on a mysterious island, but the show's thriller elements might give Emmy voters pause.

A prestige drama such as "The West Wing," which rebounded in quality last season and has claimed four consecutive best drama trophies, or a gritty groundbreaker like "Deadwood" might stand a better chance.

Proving that it can be tough for a big-cast show to lay claim to a lead actor nomination, "Lost" was blanked in the category. Naveen Andrews, who plays tough and sexy Sayid, and Terry O'Quinn, the inscrutable Locke, received best supporting actor bids.

The Emmy recognition of "Desperate Housewives" and "Lost" was a bonus for ABC, which was pulled out of a ratings slump by the two new series. "Desperate Housewives" finished the season as the fourth-most-watched program, averaging nearly 24 million weekly viewers, while "Lost" was No. 14 with an average 16 million viewers.

Television's most popular show, Fox's singing contest "American Idol," has a chance to finally win an Emmy. It was nominated again in the reality competition program category, facing "The Amazing Race," "Survivor," "Project Runway" and "The Apprentice."

The 57th Emmy Awards are scheduled to air Sept. 18 on CBS. A host has yet to be announced for the Shrine Auditorium ceremony in which 27 awards will be presented.

Hilary Swank, Kevin Costner to narrate 9/11 film

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hilary Swank and Kevin Costner will narrate the upcoming film "On Native Soil: The Documentary of the 9/11 Commission Report."

The actors will share voice-over duties for the feature-length film on the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, directed by former NBC News producer Linda Ellman.

"I was in lower Manhattan that horrible day" when the World Trade Center collapsed, Swank said in a statement Friday. "I was drawn to the project by the amazing stories of the 9/11 families and survivors featured in the film, and I am proud that by contributing my voice to the project, I can help their voices to be heard."

"On Native Soil" will tell five stories of survival and examine the 9/11 Commission's final recommendations. The film features interviews with people such as the victims' families, Sen. John McCain, a former FBI counterterrorism official and the former head of the CIA's Osama bin-Laden desk.

"I saw this film in a rough cut and wanted to become involved," said Costner. "It's honest, it's serious and it's not political. This film tells stories every American will and should want to know."

MONTPELLIER, France — If Sheryl Crow wrote a song about Lance Armstrong, the title would be simple and to the point: "Make 'em suffer."

"His little boy (Luke) always says, 'Make 'em suffer daddy,' so it definitely would incorporate that phrase," Crow said in an interview.

The 43-year-old rocker is on her second Tour de France, and is relishing seeing boyfriend Armstrong power his way to what could be his seventh straight win.

"It's one of the most inspiring events I've been involved in," said Crow. "When you see the spirit of these guys, it's crazy the lengths these riders go to. You know it's got to be painful, but their heart drives them to be great ... I love that seeking of greatness."

Despite rising early, spending hours on empty highways, smiling sweetly for countless fans and posing patiently for endless photos, Crow has found time to work on her new album, "Wildflower," which is due for release in September.

"I didn't bring my guitar, because I already have more stuff than all the riders," she joked. "I am working a lot during the day sequencing the record and picking mixes, videos. Now the busy work, it's not the creative fun stuff."

Crow said the title is intended as a reminder that "in

chaos there is beauty everywhere and it's important not to miss that."

The Tour de France — which whirls clockwise around the country in a blur of bright colors, heaving crowds, monstrous mountains and eccentric people — is a form of chaos she prefers.

"Cycling is like rock festivals like Glastonbury," said Crow. "A lot of bands and a lot of fans. They may be into one band but they'll stay and get into other bands. It's similar in bike racing, you have all these teams showing up and all these invested fans who are into the spirit of the event. A very community feeling experience."

HONG KONG — Jackie Chan says he prefers making movies in Asia because he can try risky new genres on his home turf, while in Hollywood, he stars in action comedies that are more likely to be box-office hits.

"In America, it's just 'Rush Hour 1,' 'Rush Hour 2' and 'Rush Hour 3,' then 'Rush Hour 4.' If 'Rush Hour 4' fails, that's it. But if it doesn't fail, there will be 'Rush Hour 5,'" Chan said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Chan was paired with Chris Tucker for two "Rush Hour" movies. His Hollywood films also include "Shanghai Noon" and "Shanghai Knights," co-starring Owen Wilson, and "The Tuxedo," with Jennifer Love Hewitt.

The 51-year-old actor said he understands that Hollywood producers are inherently risk-averse because of the huge monetary investments involved. He also knows his roles are limited because his English is limited.

"We can only play Hong Kong killers and Hong Kong police officers," he said.

Still, he aspires to the diversity of a Robert De Niro, and says it's the right thing to do artistically.

"Should I make movies just for strong box-office numbers? Should I become enslaved by movies? I don't want to stay at the same spot," he said. "I hope every one of my films is different."

NEW YORK — Martha Stewart is using some of her time under house arrest to write a guidebook for entrepreneurs who want to follow her path to business success.

The founder of the Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. merchandising and media empire is serving a five-month term at her home in Bedford, N.Y., after recently completing five months in a West Virginia federal prison for lying about a stock sale.

"Martha's Rules," a handbook for developing a busi-

ness from scratch, will be published by Rodale Inc. of Emmaus, Pa., in October, Stewart's company said Wednesday.

The book deal follows Stewart's decision to host a version of "The Apprentice" — the NBC reality show that weeds out contestants based on tests of their business acumen.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Motor City's Kid Rock has a new home in the Music City.

The Detroit rock-rapper, whose real name is Bob Ritchie, bought a three-story condo in Nashville's upscale West End area for more than \$800,000, real estate records show.

The 2,814-square-foot condo has three fireplaces, marble bathrooms, an elevator and a two-car garage. His assistants started moving him in Wednesday. Friends say he also plans to keep his place in suburban Detroit.

Ritchie has spent a lot of time in the country music capital and had one of the biggest hits of his career with "Picture," a country duet he recorded with another area resident, Sheryl Crow.

He's in Nashville shooting scenes for a video by country singer and pal Gretchen Wilson.

Not all of the entertainer's visits have been pleasant. In June, he pleaded no contest to criminal assault after he punched a disc jockey at an adult entertainment club in February.

He was given a suspended sentence of 11 months and 29 days in jail and ordered to complete eight hours of anger management classes.

A civil lawsuit is pending.

Ritchie, 34, was a hip-hop DJ when he broke through with 1998's "Devil Without a Cause," which successfully married hard rock beats with rap lyrics.

LOS ANGELES — Ethan Suplee, who stars in the new NBC comedy "My Name Is Earl," has welcomed the birth of his first child.

Suplee's fiancée, talent manager Brandy Lewis, gave birth to the couple's daughter June 23 at a Los Angeles hospital, publicist Kathy Manabat said Thursday. The baby is named Francis Clementine Suplee.

"They're happy and thrilled and spending time with their daughter," Manabat said.

Suplee's screen credits include "Without a Paddle" and "American History X." He will co-star with Billy Bob Thornton in the upcoming film "Mr. Woodcock."

Lewis, who manages Giovanni Ribisi and Juliette Lewis, has two daughters from a previous marriage.

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INTERNATIONAL

Iraqi forces in scattered areas of Baghdad

BY SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Six car bombs targeted American and Iraqi troops across Baghdad Friday, killing as many as 20 people, and the military said two U.S. Marines had been killed the day before by a roadside bomb near the Jordanian border.

In the deadliest attack, a suicide car bomber hit an Iraqi army base in the Shaab neighborhood of northern Baghdad, killing eight Iraqis, including civilians and security personnel, Maj. Khazim al-Tamimi said.

A suicide car bomb exploded Friday evening in western Baghdad targeting a police commando patrol, killing six policemen and wounding 11, police Capt. Taleb Thamer said.

Two Iraqi soldiers died and six were wounded when a suicide attacker detonated a car bomb near an Iraqi patrol in Andalus Square in central Baghdad, Col. Salman Abdul Karim said.

A car bomb also exploded near a U.S. convoy in the Rustamiyah area of southeastern Baghdad, wounding two Americans, the U.S. military said.

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed and 14 people wounded

in a suicide car bombing at the former Defense Ministry building in northern Baghdad, Iraqi officials said.

Another car bomb exploded in eastern Baghdad, wounding six people, including a U.S. soldier, police said.

Also Friday, a roadside bomb exploded as a U.S. military patrol was passing near the west Baghdad neighborhood of Amiriyah, police Lt. Majed Zaki said. U.S. soldiers and Iraqi insurgents exchanged gunfire after the blast, he said.

Elsewhere, a car bomb was discovered near Yarmouk Hospital, the largest in west Baghdad, police said, Security forces blocked the road and called experts to dismantle it.

A U.S. military statement put the overall death toll at 20 but gave no breakdown by attack. Al-Qaida's wing in Iraq claimed responsibility in Internet statements for the attacks in Rustamiyah and Andalus Square, but the authenticity of the claims could not be confirmed.

The explosions occurred on the Muslim day of prayer, ordinarily a relatively quiet period in the capital.

The two Marines assigned to the Regimental Combat Team 2 of the 2nd Marine Division were killed Thursday when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb near Trebil along Iraq's border with Jordan, the U.S. military said Friday.

At least 1,761 members of the U.S. military have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,356 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include five military civilians.

Earlier Friday, mortar shells exploded near the headquarters of an Iraqi commando battalion in the Sunni neighborhood of Azamiyah of north Baghdad, police said. Three mortars also fell across the Tigris River in the Shiite district Kazimiyah, police added. No casualties or damage were reported in those blasts.

Al-Qaida in Iraq also claimed responsibility for a largely unsuccessful suicide attack Thursday near the Green Zone entrance. The area is home to the U.S. Embassy and major Iraqi government offices.

The attack was meant to be part of coordinated assaults by a suicide car bomber and two pedestrians strapped with explosives. The attackers apparently planned to detonate the car bomb first. Then the two pedestrians would blow themselves up in the midst of troops, police and rescue workers rushing to the scene, U.S. officials said.

The car bomb exploded. But one pedestrian bomber was killed after an Iraqi policeman shot him, setting off his explosive vest, a U.S. statement said.

The second pedestrian bomber was wounded by shrapnel from that blast before he could detonate his own vest, and was in critical condition at a U.S. military hospital in the Green Zone, the statement said.

Five policemen and four civilians also were wounded by the explosions and gunfire, officials at Yarmouk

A suicide car bomb exploded Friday evening in western Baghdad targeting a police commando patrol, killing six policemen and wounding 11.

Hospital said.

Would-be bombers are rarely captured in Iraq. A 19-year-old Saudi was taken into custody after he somehow survived the explosion of his fuel tanker in December, a blast that killed nine people. A Yemeni was arrested in 2003 when his car bomb failed to detonate at a Baghdad police station.

There was no word on the identity of the failed bomber, but his arrest could yield valuable intelligence on the shadowy network of Islamic extremists, many of them believed to be foreigners linked to al-Qaida.

Also Friday, the U.S. command said American and Iraqi forces raided suspected "terrorist safe houses" in the Ghazaliyah and the Abu Ghraib districts Thursday. The areas are two of the most dangerous in the capital. Eight suspects were detained, a U.S. statement said Friday, and soldiers found an Iraqi general's uniform.

The raids occurred as U.S. and Iraqi troops appeared to be accelerating the search for insurgents, including those linked to Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, head of al-Qaida's branch in Iraq.

About 30 suspected members of the group, known as al-Qaida in Iraq, were arrested in the past week, the U.S. command said Thursday. They included Khamis Abdul-Fahdawi, known as Abu Seba, who was captured Saturday after operations in the Ramadi area and was accused in the kidnap-slaying of Egypt's top envoy and attacks against Bahraini and Pakistani diplomats.

A prominent Sunni Muslim cleric, meanwhile, condemned a suicide attack on Wednesday that killed more than two dozen people in Baghdad, including many children, but he blamed their deaths on the U.S.-led "occupation" that has "destroyed the country."

Sheik Ahmed Abdul Ghafour al-Samarrai, a moderate cleric in the influential Association of Muslim Scholars, described the attack as a crime against "newborn children and young boys ... who went to God complaining about people's injustice."

"What is the guilt of those children? Who permitted this act?" the white-turbaned al-Samarrai asked. "The occupation that destroyed the country and turned things upside down is responsible for that."

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2 teaspoons olive oil
1/4 cup chopped macadamia nuts

1. Combine spinach, cantaloupe, strawberries, and blackberries in a large bowl, and toss gently.
2. Combine jam, vinegar, honey, and oil in a small bowl; stir well with a whisk. Drizzle dressing over spinach mixture, and toss gently to coat. Sprinkle spinach mixture with chopped macadamia nuts. Yield: 6 servings (serving size: 2 cups.)



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INTERNATIONAL



Egyptians arrest chemist wanted in London bombings

BY MATT MOORE

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Police in Egypt have arrested an Egyptian biochemist who studied in the United States, and authorities investigated a possible link between al-Qaida and the suicide team that carried out the London bombings, officials said Friday.

Magdy el-Nashar, 33, was taken into custody upon his arrival in Cairo from abroad, the Egyptian official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because an official announcement of the information had not yet been made. El-Nashar, who studied at North Carolina State and Leeds University, was being interrogated by Egyptian authorities, the official said.

The official could not specify the date of the arrest or where el-Nashar was arriving from, but said it could be as long as a week ago.

Metropolitan Police in London said a man has been arrested in Cairo, but they would not confirm his name or characterize him as a suspect.

British and FBI officials were looking for el-Nashar, who recently had been teaching chemistry at Leeds University, north of London. The Times of London said el-Nashar was thought to have rented one of the homes police searched in Leeds in a series of raids Tuesday. Neighbors reported el-Nashar recently left Britain, saying he had a visa problem, the newspaper said.

Leeds University said el-Nashar arrived in October 2000 to do biochemical research, sponsored by the National Research Center in Cairo, Egypt. It said he earned a doctorate on May 6.

FBI agents in Raleigh, N.C., had joined the search for el-Nashar. North Carolina State spokesman Keith Nichols said a person named el-Nashar studied at the university as a graduate student in chemical engineering for a semester beginning in January 2000 until the spring.

"We're aware of an arrest in Cairo, but we are not prepared to discuss who we may or may not wish to interview in connection with this investigation," London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement. "This remains a fast-moving investigation with a number of lines of inquiry, some of which may have an international dimension."

Earlier, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair said investigators were hunting the organizers of the London transit attacks — perpetrated by what he called "foot soldiers" — and confirmed police were focusing on a Pakistan connection.

Three of the bombers who carried out last week's terror strikes were Britons of Pakistani origin. Pakistani intelligence officials said Friday that local authorities are looking into a connection between one of the three and two al-Qaida-linked militant groups in that country.

Blair told British Broadcasting Corp. radio that police believed they would discover an al-Qaida connection to the blasts that killed at least 54 people.

"What we expect to find at some stage is that there is a clear al-Qaida link, a clear al-Qaida approach, because the four men who are dead, who we believe are the

bombers, are in the category of foot soldiers," Blair said.

Authorities in Pakistan were looking into a connection between one of the London suicide bombers and two al-Qaida-linked militant groups in Pakistan, including a man arrested for a 2002 attack on a church near the U.S. Embassy, two senior intelligence officials said.

The investigation is focusing on at least one trip that 22-year-old Shahzad Tanweer made to Pakistan in the past year, said the officials, who work at two separate intelligence agencies and are involved in the investigation. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the secretive nature of their jobs.

One of the officials said that while in Pakistan, Tanweer is believed to have visited a radical religious school run by the banned Sunni Muslim militant group Lashkar-e-Tayyaba.

The sprawling school in Muridke, 20 miles north of the eastern city of Lahore, has a reputation for hostility. Journalists who have traveled to the school in the past have been threatened and prevented from entering. Lashkar-e-Tayyaba was banned by Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf for alleged links to a 2001 attack on India's Parliament.

ABC News, citing unidentified officials, reported that the attacks were connected to an al-Qaida plot planned two years ago in Lahore, Pakistan. Names on a computer that authorities seized last year from Muhammad Naeem Noor Khan, an alleged Pakistani computer expert for al-Qaida, matched a suspected cell of young Britons of Pakistani origin, most of whom lived near Luton, where the alleged suicide bombers met up on their way to London shortly before last week's blasts, according to the report.

Authorities have now discovered ties between Mohammed Sidique Khan — one of the July 7 bombers — and members of that cell who were arrested last year, ABC said.

In another international development in the inquiry, Jamaica's government said it was investigating a Jamaican-born Briton as one of the bombers.

At a news conference Thursday, police released closed-circuit TV video showing one of the four suicide bombers — 18-year-old Hasib Hussain — wearing a backpack as he passed through Luton train station north of London on his way to the capital.

Hussain allegedly set off the bomb that killed 14 people aboard the bus. That blast occurred nearly an hour after three London Underground trains blew up, and investigators don't yet know what Hussain did during that hour or when he boarded the bus.

Trying to map out Hussain's movements, police appealed for information from anyone who may have seen him in or around King's Cross station, where the four parted ways. They released a closed-circuit television image showing him wearing a large camping-style backpack as he strode through a train station in Luton.

The men traveled together from Luton to King's Cross just before the blasts, police said.

Police officially identified two of the suicide bombers

Thursday — Hussain and Tanweer, whom they say attacked a subway train between Liverpool Street and Aldgate stations.

Both were Britons of Pakistani ancestry, as was 30-year-old Mohammed Sidique Khan. Reports say the fourth attacker was Jamaican-born Briton Lindsey Germaine.

Jamaican Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Wilton Dyer said officials were waiting for Britain to confirm the identity of the suspect before they could help in identifying his possible origins in Jamaica.

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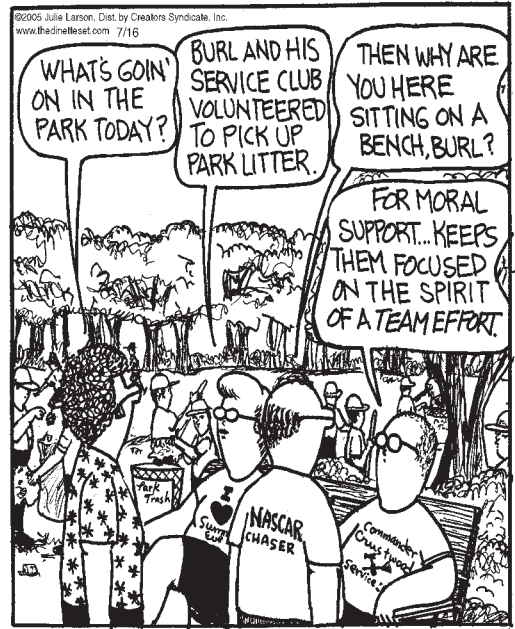
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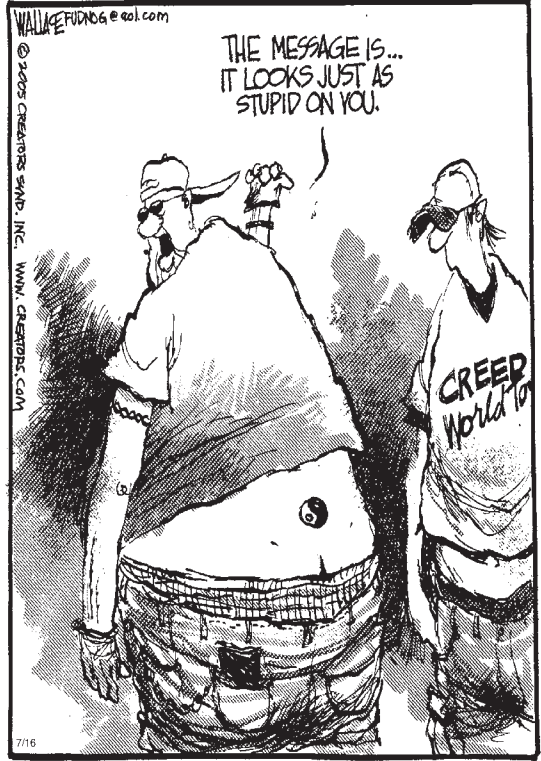


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