

FREE

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 214

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Mothers nurse their rights

Women respond to mother who was asked to cover up or leave mall

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

About 75 mothers publicly nursed their children in the food court of Santa Monica Place Mall on Wednesday to protect their breast-feeding rights.

The event was staged in response to Los Angeles resident Abbe Dotson, who was breast-feeding her 5-month-old daughter, Ruby, and was asked to cover up or leave the mall last month by a security guard.

But California law, along with every other state in the country, has passed laws protecting a woman's right to breast-feed in public. Unlike many other states, California also allows women to sue anyone that blocks them from breast feeding their children.

Because Dotson didn't have a blanket to cover up the act, she had to leave the mall. As she left, Dotson was watched by the guard as she exited the building.

When she called the mall's security department the following week, she said nobody knew breast-feeding publicly is a protected act.

That's when the idea of holding a "nurse-in" was organized.

"I want women to feel like they can make the choice to breast-feed and not to feel obscene," she said. "The most natural aspect of a woman's breast is nourishment, but when we do we are made to feel obscene."

Instead of filing a lawsuit against the Macerich Co., which owns and operates the mall, Dotson contacted the California Women's Law Center to help her organize the event in an effort to raise awareness about women's rights. Most of the women, who came from the Los Angeles area, heard about the event by word of mouth and decided to be part of it.

In an unsigned press statement, Macerich Co. said it recognizes women have a right to breast-feed in public and said its employees will be informed of the state law.

"Macerich and our shopping centers wholeheartedly support California laws protecting a mother's right to breast-feed in

public," the company's statement reads. "Families are important to us not only in California but also in the many communities we serve across the country."

The company said it has built "family restrooms" with special diaper changing stations and "quiet breast-feeding areas" in many of its newly renovated malls. There are no breast-feeding facilities at Santa Monica Place.

Many of the mothers at the event said they had never been ostracized because of their breast-feeding and they were

See MOTHERS, page 4



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
Nearly 100 mothers held a 'nurse-in' at Santa Monica Place Mall on Wednesday to send the message that it's OK to breast-feed in public.

A not so memorable endorsement by Sheen

Actor says he doesn't remember whether or not he endorsed Jerry Rubin

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Even though City Council candidate Jerry Rubin says Martin Sheen has endorsed his campaign, the famous actor can't remember if he did or not.

Rubin sent out a press release last week stating that Sheen, an activist, has endorsed his campaign.

But a spokesperson for the actor said Sheen could not say

whether he personally knew Rubin or if he had extended his endorsement.

"But that doesn't mean he didn't do it," said Glennis Liberty, a spokeswoman for Sheen's activist activities. "It just means he's unsure whether he did (it) or not."

Rubin does not have a letter from Sheen endorsing his candidacy. He said he was told of Sheen's endorsement by Valerie Sklarevsky, an activist who lives near Sheen's Malibu home.

According to Rubin, Sklarevsky saw Sheen at a protest and asked him to endorse Rubin for city council, which Sheen agreed to do.

When Sklarevsky was



Jerry Rubin

See ENDORSEMENT, page 4

Radio talk show contest winner denied nose job

BY JOHN WOOD
Special to the Daily Press

A doctor has been ordered to pay \$5,000 to a Venice woman for failing to give her a "Cinderella Story Makeover" that she won on LA talk radio show, a judge ruled last week.

On March 15, Columbine Bloodworth was picked from three women on Conway & Steckler's on-air contest co-promoted by KLSX 97.1 and plastic surgeon Dr. George Boris of Culver City because she had "small breasts and not a nice nose," said Carolyn Cohen, a consultant at Boris' office.

But Bloodworth, a 32-year-old photographer, said she only wanted a nose job. According to the winner release form and the contest rules, Bloodworth could choose between a nose job or a breast

implants. However, when she arrived at Boris' office, consultants there told her she had to have both surgeries as part of the complete makeover.

"She had to do everything. But she wanted just the nose job. It's like if you go to the 'Wheel of Fortune' and you don't want to pull the wheel — you just want to play cards," Cohen said.

The office couldn't deliver the results Bloodworth wanted, Cohen admitted.

"We don't do Michael Jackson's nose on somebody who is a Mexican," she said.

Doctor Boris said Bloodworth came in with unrealistic photographs, asking to have her nose look like Brooke Shields'. Not only that, Boris said Bloodworth also wanted her chin done and liposuction.

When Boris realized he couldn't do

See CONTEST, page 4

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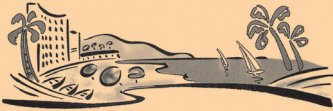

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Another finally makes an attempt to be far more pleasant, to your relief. Don't push too hard to make someone understand. Let this person make the effort. He or she will, if you step back. Being assertive might not always work. Tonight: Go along with plans.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others approach you. You can count on hearing several requests. Confusion surrounds a boss, or perhaps yourself, if you're a boss. Make sure everyone is in sync. Listen well to others. Return calls and listen to the other side of a story. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Follow through on work, clearing your desk. You could keep missing an important call. Once you finally connect, relax and tell another what is on your mind. Don't allow frustration to overcome you. Stay on top of a project. Tonight: Relax, doing something you love.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your imagination might delight you and many others, but a partner could blow his or her fuse. Be careful with this person; he or she is only letting you know how much he or she cares. Honor feelings, as you want yours valued. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You might be considering staying home more often. For some, a home office seems like a great idea. Caring multiplies with your interest. A loved one might have mixed feelings or be confused about a situation. Stay anchored with others. Tonight: Order in.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Say what you think, but don't be surprised if you have to reiterate a point in two or three different ways. Be patient with an associate who you care a lot about. Schedule a lunch meeting. Make time for that special someone. Tonight: At your favorite haunt.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Handle your expenses with firmness, not giving in to a child or your own foibles. You might not be able to be everyone's fairy godfather or godmother. Don't feel as if you need to keep explaining. Put your efforts into your work. Tonight: Your treat.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ The Moon in your sign passes power to your hands. Whatever your personal agenda might be comes out. Explain yourself carefully, not giving in to frustration. You want your message heard loud and clear. Do nothing halfway. Tonight: It's your call.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Step back and take your time making a decision. You can rest assured that you're not getting the complete story right now. Carefully consider options that surround you. You might opt for a very different idea than you originally thought. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Stay goal-oriented. Listen carefully to someone who might pass you a financial tip. Don't allow another to confuse you. Ask all the needed questions, even if you're in a meeting. Others appreciate your inquiries. Tonight: Decide on your weekend plans.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ "Playful" describes your mood, but another might not appreciate your vagueness and/or silliness. Deal with those around you as sensitively as possible, recognizing where their heads are. Success follows those who adapt. Tonight: Now do your thing!

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your intuition could be off, but your intellectual skills more than make up for the lack. Use the available resources to seek out answers and information. Office gossip needs to be checked up on before you decide to nix it. Tonight: Follow the music.

QUOTE of the DAY

“You can get more with a kind word and a gun than you can with a kind word alone.”
— Johnny Carson

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL

New Santa Monica pool opened to public

By Daily Press staff

After year-long construction delay, Santa Monica officially opened its newest municipal pool Wednesday.

City officials, elected leaders and residents gathered poolside to watch aquatic demonstrations from the Santa Monica College swimming team and munching hors d'oeuvres.

The new municipal swimming facility, located at the corner of Pico Boulevard and 17th Street, has one Olympic-sized 50-meter competition pool and one smaller instructional and recreational pool. There also is a two-story structure in between the two pools which houses offices, locker rooms and showers.

To make up for the long delays and celebrate the pool's opening, from Thursday to Sunday the pool will be open free of charge. After that, residents will be charged \$2.50 per swim or they can purchase 20-swim passes for \$20. Swimming lessons also are available.

Planning the new swimming pool facility began in 1998, with a focus group and sessions for public input, to replace a structure that had been damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Crews clean the new municipal pool Wednesday before the grand opening poolside party held last night.

In addition to uses by local aquatic groups, the new pool also will be home to the Santa Monica College's swim team. Since the city demolished the old facility in 1999, the team hasn't had a place of their own to practice.

	Children	Adult	Senior/Student
Resident	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$1.25
Resident w/Pass	\$.50	\$2.00	\$1.00
Non-Resident	\$2.00	\$5.00	\$2.50
Non-Resident w/Pass	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$1.50

* Family Weekends: \$3.00

New fees for the Santa Monica pool

The Q Line

Last week the Santa Monica City Council adopted an official policy that allows public facilities and places to be named after corporations or individuals that contribute monetarily or beneficially to the community.

While the majority of the council supports such a policy, two of its Green Party members — Mayor Mike Feinstein and Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown — are vehemently opposed to the idea, saying the city is selling public property to the

highest bidder.

So this week Q Line wants to know,

“Do you have a problem with corporate naming of public property? Will it benefit or harm the city?”

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.



CrimeWatch

Man robbed on Arizona Avenue

■ A man was held at knifepoint by a group of men and robbed of his watch at 2:30 a.m. on July 5.

The Spanish-speaking victim was walking on the 300 block of Arizona Avenue when four guys approached him. The first suspect flashed a knife and demanded the victim's money. The victim had no money, so the robbers stole his Casio digital watch and took off running. The victim then called Santa Monica Police.

The first suspect is described as a black male of undetermined age, 5 feet, 10 inches tall, and wearing a black sweater with white stripes and baggy black jeans.

The second suspect is described as a black male of undetermined age, 5 feet, 10 inches tall, and was wearing a white shirt and baggy black jeans.

The other two suspects are black males of undetermined age, roughly 5 feet, 7 inches tall, and also were wearing baggy black pants.

■ Two women and a man were robbed by two men armed with a CLUB steering wheel lock at 12:20 a.m. on July 5.

The three victims were walking on the 1200 block of Pico Boulevard when one of the suspects approached the male victim and demanded his money. The suspect then hit one of the women with the CLUB, grabbed her purse and the two suspects ran to a car and drove off.

The loss of property is a purse containing miscellaneous ID cards and an unknown amount of cash.

The first suspect is described as a Hispanic male 20-25 years old, 5 feet, 7 inches tall, 160 pounds, and was wearing a dark navy shirt and light jeans.

The second suspect is described as a male Hispanic in his early 20s, 5 feet, 11 inches tall, 220 pounds and was wearing a gray T-shirt.

The vehicle is a dark blue late model Ford Expedition.

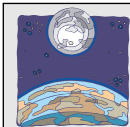


Southwest swell builds, northern LA County spots are showing the best thanks to their good exposure angle. Surf will reach chest-high on good sets, but should stay mostly in the knee- to waist-range. Forecasts call for northwest wind swell to kick up a little.

Dawn patrol looks good for fun, clean sets.

Current conditions persist Friday as surf hangs steadily around knee- to waist-level. Good wind swell spots get inconsistent, chest-high plus sets.

Temperatures cool to low 60s.



Today's Tides:

High-	5:32a.m.	3.29'
Low-	10:52a.m.	1.67'
High-	5:33p.m.	5.55'

Location	Thursday	Friday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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LOCAL

Women have a right to breast-feed publicly

MOTHERS, from page 1

startled to hear of Dotson's experience.

"I was surprised it happened, especially in Santa Monica where it's so progressive," said Patty Martyn of West Hills. "But hopefully this sends a strong message to the entire community."

Others said they think the law is a testament to the United States' puritan heritage that women have to be protected by law in order to breast-feed their children.

"It's a funny thing to think you have to be protected to feed your baby," said Michelle Roberts of Culver City. "It seems funny to me that we would even need that law."

However, California Women's Law Center statistics indicate women are increasingly being asked to cover up or not breast-feed in public. The group's senior staff attorney Nancy M. Solomon said in the past seven months there have been at least six incidents reported to

them throughout the Los Angeles area.

"It's legal to breast-feed in public — period," she said. "You can't ask them to cover up or ask them to go into a bathroom."

**"I want women to feel like they
can make the choice to breast-feed
and not to feel obscene"**

— **ABBE DOTSON**
Mother

The California Women's Law Center successfully sued Borders Books over a similar incident in the LA area. The Los Angeles-based center settled the case after the company agreed to re-train its staff on the state law.

Santa Monica pediatrician, Dr. Jay N. Gordon, said children who are breast-fed turn out to be healthier and more intelligent than those who are not.

"It has been well established that breast milk is the best form of nutrition and the optimum protection against disease for infants," he said.

Dr. Gordon said breast-fed babies' immune systems, and children who are breast-fed have lower rates of meningitis, diabetes, allergies and obesity while women who breast-feed experience healthy weight loss, lower rates of post-partum anemia, and reduced risk of breast and other cancers.

Mothers at the event said breast-feeding has made them feel much more healthy.

"It builds a stronger, healthier baby and it helps the mother feel much more natural," said Kristen Hayed of Thousand Oaks. "We should make it as easy as possible for a woman to breast-feed."

Martin Sheen not likely to campaign in Santa Monica

ENDORSEMENT, from page 1

asked to comment, she said she was only trying to help Rubin and didn't mean for the endorsement to go this far.

"It was done months ago and it's really not a big deal," she said. "Martin is supportive of activists who are trying to make this a better world for the future and Jerry is one of those people."

But Sklarevsky said she never thought Rubin would take the endorsement so seriously.

"If Jerry wants to write all that stuff in his press release, then that's his own doing," she said. "I didn't know Jerry would make a big deal of it, that's his problem."

Rubin said he stands by Sheen's endorsement.

"I'm sure he did it and the person that said he did it told me so, so you know I mean, I don't know what to say," Rubin said. "He said I could use his name, and

I'm sure he said that."

Rubin indicated that Los Angeles Times' columnist Pat Morrison had run a story about Sheen's endorsement of his campaign. A search of the newspaper's Web site revealed a three sentence-long blurb taken from Rubin's press release.

Sklarevsky said she knew Sheen from environmental protests in an effort to save the Ballona Creek wetlands in Playa Vista. She said Sheen authorized her to speak on his behalf.

"I feel bad for even being involved in this," she said. "We live in Malibu so we won't be voting in Santa Monica's election anyway."

Rubin's press release says he has protested along with Sheen at "numerous peace, anti-nuclear, environmental, homeless rights and union-related rallies and protests during the past 20 years."

The statement further explains, "Sheen also appears with Rubin in the award-win-

ning documentary film 'The Last Stand: The Struggle to Save Ballona Wetlands' narrated by actor/activist Ed Asner and produced by filmmaker Sheila Laffey." The program has periodically been aired on Los Angeles public broadcast television station KCET.

Rubin said he considers Sheen's endorsement to be one of the best he could have hoped for.

"Can you think of anyone who has been more active than Martin Sheen, because I know I can't," he said. "Along with his acting, he has always been there to help out with whatever he can."

Similarly, Rubin said he hoped the endorsement would set a positive tone for the entire city council campaign.

"My message is that I would like to see a positive campaign," he said. "We can do it with out name-calling and personal attacks."

"There's always a way to do it respectfully, without placing blame or pointing

fingers," he said.

Liberty said Sheen was busy preparing for the taping of a new season of "The West Wing," in which Sheen plays the President of the United States.

He also is spending a lot of time campaigning for candidates he has endorsed throughout the country. Sheen has been in Florida frequently stumping for former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno in her run for the governor's office of that state, Liberty said.

"He is a nationally known figure," Liberty said. "So I don't know how involved he'll be in a Santa Monica election, but it probably won't be a lot."

Sklarevsky added that Sheen would not be taking an active role in Rubin's campaign.

"Martin's not going to hold a fundraiser or send out a press release or write a letter," she said. "He's way too busy for that."

Candidate Rubin receives celebrity endorsements

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Santa Monica Daily Press

Celebrity activists have endorsed Santa Monica resident Jerry Rubin in his quest for a seat on the city council.

Casey Kasem, a nationally syndicated radio personality; Alexandra Elizabeth Belcarra Paul, an actress notable for her role on Baywatch, and Ron Kovic, who's life was chronicled in the movie "Born on the Fourth of July," have all endorsed Rubin.

"Through the years Jerry has been very active as a progressive activist and we have met at many of the same rallies," said Kasem, who describes his politics as progressive.

"I know of the number of things he has tried to draw attention to and the causes he has worked on that needed help, and in my opinion he is someone that would make a good councilman," he said.

Like Kasem, Alexandra Elizabeth Belcarra Paul pledged to volunteer on Rubin's campaign and attend events if

asked.

"I am so happy you are running for Santa Monica City Council, and I want to give you all the support I can," Alexandra Elizabeth Belcarra Paul wrote in a letter to Rubin dated June 4.

"I have known you since 1983, and you are one of the most caring and passionate activists that I have ever met, always working to make this world a better place," she wrote. "Santa Monica would be lucky to have you as a councilperson."

Though none of the celebrities live in Santa Monica, Rubin said that each has been active in causes taking place in the city.

"They have come to different rallies here and stuff," Rubin said. "They are very dedicated activists working for any number on very laudable on-going social causes, and I am honored to have all of their endorsements."

He added, "And if there is any other activist-celebrities out there that want to endorse me please call me."

Radio makeover contestant played by the rules, she says

CONTEST, from page 1

what Bloodworth was asking, he refused to do any work on her.

"I thought she was trouble from the beginning," he said. I didn't want anything to do with her because I felt she was setting me up."

Bloodworth claims she was sent back and forth between the radio station and the doctor's office. Fed up with getting the run around, Bloodworth sued Boris and Infinity Broadcasting, the parent company of KLSX. She sued for the maximum small claims amount of \$5,000, so she could get the nose job performed by another plastic surgeon.

Judge Pro Tem Stanley O. Epstein, a Marina Del Rey attorney who frequently hears small claims hearings in Santa Monica and Culver City, said the radio station "gave her the run around" but he ultimately ruled that Boris was solely liable for not

honoring the prize, based on the rules and winner release form which Bloodworth provided as evidence.

"I abided by all the rules and they denied me my prize," Bloodworth said. "The prize was either the nose job or the boob job. There was no dispute over that in the courtroom."

Bloodworth guessed the reason why the radio station and the doctor's office pushed for the breast implants was because the contest was more marketable that way.

"Then I would go back on the air and they would say, 'oh look at that rack,'" she said. "That would be fair but that's not what the rules said."

Jack Silver, director of programming for KLSX 97.1, the local station that broadcasts the Conway & Steckler show, which airs Monday through Friday 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., didn't return calls from the Daily Press.

Bloodworth said she



Brooke Shields

A Venice woman asked a plastic surgeon to have her nose look like Brooke Shields. The doctor said the request was unrealistic.

still plans to have her nose done. She has gotten two estimates that range between \$6,500 and \$10,500. She plans to use the \$5,000 judgment, plus some of her own money.

"I have every intention of getting the nose job I've wanted for 15 years," she said.

Boris said he plans to appeal Judge Epstein's ruling.

GOOD THING YOU RECYCLE YOUR PAPER...
CHANCES ARE YOU'RE READING IT AGAIN.



Santa Monica Daily Press



STATE



Search for killer begins



Damian Dovarganes/Associated Press

Orange County Sheriff Mike Carona, left, speaks during a news conference Wednesday in Stanton, Calif. The nude body of a girl found in a rugged area southeast of Los Angeles was identified Wednesday as that of 5-year-old Samantha Runnion, Carona said. Runnion was kidnapped outside her home Monday by a man who drove up and asked for help finding his dog. At right is FBI agent Richard Garcia.

World's stinkiest flower blooms in Encinitas

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

ENCINITAS — So many said they had never before come so far to smell something so bad.

The world's biggest and stinkiest flower is in full, er, bloom in Southern California — something that's happened only 15 or so times in the United States.

The 4 1/2-foot-tall amorphophallus titanum or titan arum, considered by some the plant kingdom's greatest superstar, is drawing crowds to Quail Botanical Gardens curious to smell the odor that gives the plant its nickname, the corpse flower.

"Eeeeeewwwwwwwwwwwww," said 9-year-old Todd Fritz, who dropped to his knees Monday and writhed on the ground in mock agony when he caught a whiff. "It's the worst thing I've ever smelled."

Dennis Gulyas, a self-described admirer of bizarre things, said the odor reminded him of an unventilated high school gym locker.

"It's the farthest I've gone to smell something that bad," said the San Diego man, who made a 20-mile trip to the garden.

Ken and Ruth Mitzner brought along a pair of respirators, just in case.

Native to Indonesia, the titan arum blooms only a few times in its life span and rarely blooms in cultivation. For eight hours, it emits a nauseating odor to attract pollinating, carrion-eating beetles.

"It's like the girl that's been waiting years to go to town and find her man and now she only has eight hours," said the plant's owner Jim Booman, who planted titan arum seeds seven years ago at his greenhouse in Vista.

The titan arum starts life as a small tuber then shoots out a single tapered column that grows at the furious rate of up to

six inches a day. It can reach heights of up to nine feet before opening its cup-like petal, which looks like a giant turnip-colored flower, but it is technically what is known as an inflorescence, a cluster of flowers. The actual flowers are hidden deep near the base of the column.

Renowned British naturalist Sir David Attenborough has called it "the greatest superstar of the botanical world."

The plant has been met with disbelief since its discovery in 1878 in the rain forests of Sumatra. On its first public display in London's Kew Gardens a few years later, the bloom revealed a massive phallus-like central column that shocked Victorian England.

The plant has been seen in bloom only about 15 times since its first U.S. display in New York in 1937. About 63,000 people flocked to Huntington Library in San Marino when a titan bloomed in 1999.

"It's a textbook find of a plant," said Julian Duval, director of the Quail Botanical Gardens, where the titan arum began blooming Monday. "Everybody knows about it. Nobody's seen it."

A great deal remains unknown about the plant because it is difficult to find in the wild, and especially hard to find flowering. No one is sure how rare it is or how long it takes to bloom in the wild. A botanist scoured Indonesia for two weeks to find the seed that produced the plant that flowered in Encinitas.

Booman runs a business that raises unusual specimens to interest children in plants, but tending to the corpse flower was the most difficult challenge he has faced.

"Now, if it dies, I've finally seen it," he said.

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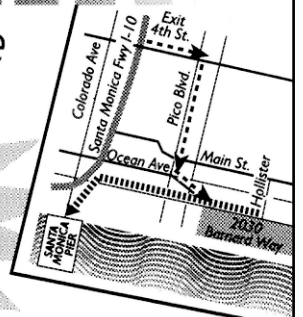
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STATE

Voices a growing commodity in phone automation

BY MAY WONG
AP Technology Writer

MOUNTAIN VIEW — You don't know Darby Bailey, but you may have already talked to her on the phone.

Thousands of people hear her crisp and pleasant recorded responses every day when they call AT&T's toll-free directory assistance or dial E-Trade for a stock quote.

Voices like Bailey's are in high demand as a growing number of companies employ speech recognition technology to save cash and combat caller alienation.

Instead of unwieldy touch-tone tap dances, callers are engaged in faux conversations.

"Touch-tone menus are very frustrating experiences — right up there with standing in line at the DMV," said Mike McCue, president of Tellme Networks Inc., which sells voice automation software.

With the financial services and airline industries leading the way, some companies use voice-activated systems to better route calls to live people. Others use them to replace some human agents altogether — except for complex transactions.

"It's more intuitive, more natural than using a touch-tone pad," said Tom LaCentra, customer service director for the credit card division of Wells Fargo & Co.

After decades of research, speech recognition technology has gotten good enough that some analysts predict the voice will one day become our sole means for interacting with machines.

Hold on to your keyboards and phone pads, though. This technology is not foolproof yet.

Major providers such as SpeechWorks International Inc. and Nuance have reached 90-plus percent accuracy rates in recognizing speech and generating correct responses. But systems still have difficulty understanding thick accents or callers on bad cell phone connections.

People who prefer a live interlocutor may still find computerized voices annoying, so most companies offer a way out. Typically, pressing "0" will get you a human. Also, when automated systems can't understand or han-



Associated Press

A speech recognition expert studies voice samples on his computer. Voice automation is becoming a growing trend in technology.

dle a request, they usually route callers to a live person.

Having embraced voice automation, corporations sold on it are now upgrading their systems to lend them some personality.

After months of market research, Wells Fargo's credit card division decided on a young, hip but serious voice that sounds like a 30-something male business banker.

"We thought our customers might like some fun in the system, but they told us, 'No.' They just wanted someone professional," LaCentra said.

Wells Fargo, which led efforts by banks nationwide to reduce transactions handled by tellers in bank branches, will soon test its speech-automated phone system in select markets and hopes to expand it nationally next year.

Early adopters say voice automation pays off in consumer satisfaction.

Since online travel site Orbitz upgraded to a voice-automated system in June, allowing customers to get confir-

mations or cancellations, calls solved without an agent have risen from 3 percent to more than 15 percent, said Eliah Kahn, Orbitz' vice president of customer experience.

Voice systems can shorten phone calls, especially with impatient customers who end up punching numbers that lead them into telephonic blind alleys.

Charles Schwab Corp. installed a system in 1997 that allows callers to speak — asking for quotes — rather than push buttons. Today, its clients can even trade stocks and confirm transactions that way.

Most clients calling Schwab's main customer lines choose the voice option over touch-tone, said Cecily Baptist, Schwab's vice president of voice technology. Transferring cash, for example, takes 14 steps with the touch-tone method and as few as five steps via voice, she said.

At least a quarter of Fortune 500 companies invested in voice-automated systems in 2001, up from 12 percent in 2000, and by 2007, the voice technology market will reach revenues of nearly \$3 billion, up from \$485 million this year, predicts the research firm Datamonitor.

It's been good to voice actors, who nowadays include telephone greetings and message prompts in their demo tapes.

Darby Bailey's work with Tellme is a far cry from the stilted, robotic responses of systems past. In a friendly, conversational tone, Bailey's recorded voice — aided by a computer program that listens for key words and phrases and responds by piecing her words and phrases together — will ask callers to state their requests.

She'll then respond with "OK, here's the number," or, in E-Trade's case, with the stock information.

In April, AT&T eliminated 200, or nearly half, of its toll-free directory assistance operators after switching all of its weekend and evening services and part of its weekday services to speech automation.

The National Weather Service thinks a new speech-automation system may even help save lives.

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STATE



Ann Johansson/Associated Press

Sonny Skyhawk, chair of the American Indians in Film, left, Karen K. Narasaki, chair of the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition, and Esteban Torres, chair of the National Latino Media Council, held a press conference at the AFTRA offices in Los Angeles on Wednesday, where the Multi-Ethnic Media Coalition issued report cards on network diversity.

Group slams TV networks for lack of ethnic diversity

BY LAURA WIDES
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A coalition of ethnic groups slammed the major television networks Wednesday for failing to significantly increase diversity in programming and called on advertisers to pressure CBS, which it says has the worst record.

"This is a first step toward something larger and larger. If there's no response, we'll turn up the heat," said Alex Nogales, president of the National Hispanic Media Coalition.

Two years ago, the coalition secured agreements from the four major networks to increase the number of minorities on screen and off. There have been some improvements, particularly for African-Americans, but the coalition says much more work is needed.

The group released its third annual diversity "report card" at the American Federation of Television & Radio Artists in midtown Los Angeles. ABC and Fox upped their grades slightly over last year, moving from D-minus to C-minus and C-minus to C, respectively. But both NBC and CBS slid backward. NBC moved from a C to a D-plus, and CBS moved from a D-plus to a D-minus.

The report focused on the inclusion of Asian Pacific Americans, Hispanics and American Indians. The NAACP will present its own report later this summer.

Responses from the networks were mixed.

CBS disputed the coalition's findings. "CBS will continue to do what we know is the right and positive thing and not be sidetracked into engaging in a divisive and negative debate," the company said in a statement.

Mitsy Wilson, FOX's senior vice president for diversity, who attended the event, said her company has made significant changes. She noted the network's upcoming 21 series have 18 writers of color. Wilson attributed the changes to the coalition and FOX's executive team.

ABC president Alex Wallau said the network will continue increasing the presence of minorities in front of the camera in such shows as "My Wife and Kids" and an upcoming American Indian mini-series, as well as encouraging writers and directors with fellowships and grants.

NBC denied it had decreased minority presence. "Last fall, every new series NBC put on the air had a diverse cast, and the same will be true for this fall for our five premiering shows," the company said.

"This is a first step toward something larger and larger. If there's no response, we'll turn up the heat."

— ALEX NOGALES
National Hispanic Media Coalition

The coalition saved its harshest words for CBS. Members cited several shows set in cities with large minority populations that feature mostly white casts, such as "Presidio Med."

Karen Narasaki, chair of the Multi-Ethnic Media Coalition, criticized the show for failing to include any Asian Pacific Americans among its main cast.

"Presidio Med" is based in San Francisco, where one in three people is Asian-American and where a significant portion of the medical profession, from orderlies to nurses to doctors, are Asian-American," she said.

CBS said it intends to cast more Asians in guest roles as the series progresses.

The coalition is urging main corporate sponsors of CBS — General Motors, Proctor & Gamble, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Philip Morris, Johnson & Johnson, Unilever, and AOL Time Warner — to pressure the network to increase diversity.

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NATIONAL

Baring it all



Geoff Crimmins/Associated Press

A woman who did not wish to be named holds a sign in Moscow, Idaho, on Tuesday protesting the city council's new ban on bare-breasted women in public. Several people picketed to remind motorists that Moscow's topless ordinance went into effect Tuesday. The Moscow City Council passed the ordinance in response to a topless car wash that had been operating in Moscow for several weeks.

Court papers detail mob shakedown of actor Seagal

BY DIEGO IBARGUEN

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Court papers filed this week by federal prosecutors detail alleged attempts by Gambino crime family associates to extort hundreds of thousands of dollars from action star Steven Seagal.

The papers were filed in connection with a bail hearing for reputed Gambino captain Anthony Ciccone, who was among 17 alleged mob figures charged in a 68-count federal racketeering indictment in June. On Tuesday, a federal judge ordered Ciccone to remain in custody.

Although the papers did not identify the actor, law enforcement sources have said it is Seagal, whose films include "Marked for Death," "Under Siege" and "Exit Wounds."

The court papers say the 50-year-old Seagal was in Canada when four alleged mobsters visited him to make demands. Wiretapped conversations show Julius Nasso, Seagal's longtime producer, par-

ticipated in demanding that Seagal pay \$150,000 to the mob for each movie he made, the papers said.

Ciccone told Nasso he should be tougher with the actor, saying "you really gotta get down on him ... 'cause I know this animal, I know this beast."

Investigators have said Seagal was so shaken that he paid \$700,000 to the mob, though that information was not included in the new filing.

The papers allege that after Ciccone became concerned that Seagal was talking to others about the attempted extortion, he ordered an underling to "smooth this guy over — he's going around saying stupid things."

Seagal's attorney, Martin Pollner, had no comment on the case Wednesday.

Earlier this year, Nasso sued Seagal for \$60 million for allegedly backing out of a contract to perform in four motion pictures. He said Seagal made his decision on the advice of an unknown Buddhist spiritual adviser.

Yeast experiments challenge scientists' notions about aging

BY WILLIAM MCCALL

Associated Press Writer

An entire diet and supplement industry has sprung up around the notion that one of the keys to a long life is removing oxygen molecules called free radicals from your body. But now experiments with yeast have called that theory into question.

The experiments challenge the notion that free radicals play a central role in aging and longevity.

Sales of "antioxidant" vitamins and supplements have grown since earlier studies suggested that free radicals damage cells and DNA.

Another way to reduce free radicals is a severely restricted diet. Scientists have known for more than 60 years that limiting food intake to about two-thirds of normal can extend the lives of rats and keep them

healthier, a finding that has been duplicated in yeast, fish, worms and other creatures.

But in a study in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*, yeast cells lived 20 percent longer after scientists made genetic changes that speeded up their metabolism, or the rate at which cells turn food into energy. Metabolism produces free radicals.

"The old idea was there was simply less production of oxygen radicals and less oxidative damage to the cell with calorie restriction," said Leonard Guarente of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who led the study. "But I think the results of this study really challenge that idea."

In an accompanying commentary, Siu Sylvia Lee and Gary Ruvkun of Harvard Medical School warned that what applies in yeast does not necessarily apply in animals.

NATIONAL

Kids of working moms have less verbal and mental development

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

The children of mothers who go to work full-time before the youngsters are 9 months old have poorer mental and verbal development at age 3 than those with stay-at-home mothers, Columbia University researchers report.

Researchers measured the cognitive and verbal development of children at various ages and found lower scores for 3-year-olds whose mothers took jobs working 30 hours per week or more before the child was 9 months old.

But Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, one of the study authors, cautions mothers not to panic about the findings.

"There are effects, but they are not huge effects. Your child's life will not be ruined," she said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

The study results are reported in the July-August issue of the journal Child Development.

Important contributors to the children's development also included the quality of child care, the home environment and the sensitivity of the mother, the researchers found.

Even after taking these factors into account, the researchers found lower cognitive development for the children of mothers who worked full time during their child's first nine months.

Children's mental and verbal development was measured at 15, 24 and 36 months.

For mothers who went to work full-time in the child's first nine months there was no significant effect on the child at 15 months or 24 months. But at 36 months the children of working mothers had lower scores.

The team found that this effect was reduced for mothers who were more sensitive to their children and for those who had better child care.

"By sensitivity we mean being responsive to the baby," Brooks-Gunn said. "If the baby needs comforting, the mother is comforting. If it's active, she's talking and playing with him. It means responding to where the child is."

She said that "having a very sensitive mother does minimize the negative effects we saw." Also important is quality child care, she said.

"The things I would say to mothers are be highly sensitive when you are with the baby and get the best child care you can afford." The best care is to have one caregiver to one or two infants, she said, although she acknowledged that can be expensive.

She added a plea to American business and the government to do more with family leave policies so women can delay going back to work or return part time.

The study also found that the effect of having a mother working full-time before nine months was greater for boys than girls and for children in married families rather than single mothers.

Brooks-Gunn said she was very surprised that children of married couples were more affected than those of single mothers.

"I found it in a couple of studies, so it's probably real. I'm not sure what it's due to," she said.

Brooks-Gunn is a professor at Columbia Teachers College. Her co-authors Jane Waldfogel and Wen-Jui Han are professors at Columbia University's School of Social Work.

Activities parents pick don't excite their children, and vice versa

BY ERIN MCCLAM
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Working moms and dads and their children talk a lot about the need for more "quality time" together. But parents often don't agree with the kids on what constitutes quality time, a study says.

A quarter of the children in the national survey said a family vacation is one of the top three ways to spend quality time with their parents. Only 11 percent of parents agreed.

More than one-third of parents said helping with schoolwork and watching their kids' after-school activities counted as meaningful time together. Just 15 percent of the children agreed.

The two generations must bridge the gap to develop stronger, healthier relationships, said the authors of the study, conducted by the Atlanta-based Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

"Kids are saying that they want the act to be more fun-focused, more interactive," said Roxanne Spillett, the organization's president. "Fun is an essential ingredient."

She said virtually any time parents and kids spend together is good time, but youngsters are likely to draw

more from the experience if they see their parents having fun, too.

The findings are the result of 1,000 telephone interviews with parents and children — members of the same families — conducted last month. The children were 10 to 14 years old.

The study found 52 percent of parents admit they do not spend enough quality time with their children, and 57 percent of children believe their parents' work gets in the way of meaningful time.

"There's a lot of roadblocks to it," said Kip Bowen, a counselor with Family Counseling Service of Tuscaloosa, Ala. "Work seems to be more and more important. And we've got the TV, the Nintendo as the baby sitter now."

Ethan Feldman, a 12-year-old from Evanston, Ill., said he considers himself one of the lucky ones. His mother does not work outside the home, and his father is usually home nights and weekends.

"With my dad I do a lot of board games, baseball stuff and other sports," Ethan said. "With my mom, we mostly talk and do a little bit of cooking stuff."

"Not that many families have it like we do," he said.



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briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

MTA Localizes Operations

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NATIONAL

Nevada judges bill state \$28,237 for Hawaii trip

By The Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — At a time when the governor must cut state spending by a quarter billion dollars, 21 Nevada judges billed the state a combined \$28,237 to attend a June convention in Hawaii.

Records released Tuesday by the Administrative Office of the Courts show six Supreme Court justices claimed total expenditures of \$10,237 at the four-day State Bar of Nevada convention. That's an average of \$1,706 each.

The 15 other judges who attended the convention were limited to \$1,200 each in state-reimbursed expenses.

Paul Brown of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada said many people still believe the judges "went on a vacation disguised as a convention" because it was held in Hawaii.

"I wonder how much of the time they spent on the beach," Brown told the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

State court administrator Ron Titus said funds for the Supreme Court justices' travel came from state general funds and administrative assessments paid by people convicted of misdemeanors.

Travel for the other judges who attended the Hawaii convention came from administrative assessments and other court-assessed fees, Titus said. "Not a dime came from taxes," Clark County Chief District Judge Mark Gibbons said of the reimbursement he received. "We have no control over where the State Bar holds its conventions. I liked it better when it was at Lake Tahoe."

Gibbons added he participated in three

seminars and "didn't have much time for the beach." He also said he paid more than \$2,000 to cover his wife's expenses and his costs that were not paid by the state.

Of the Supreme Court justices who attend, only Chief Justice Bill Maupin didn't turn in any claims for reimbursement. He faces a re-election campaign this fall against former Clark County District Judge Don Chairez.

"I wonder how much of the time they spent on the beach."

— PAUL BROWN
Progressive Leadership Alliance

Justice Nancy Becker claimed \$1,950 in expenses, the most of any justice, while Justice Myron Leavitt billed for the least expenses, \$1,377.

In addition to Gibbons, other judges who claimed expenses included new Clark County District Judge Michelle Leavitt, the daughter of Justice Myron Leavitt, and District Judge Michael Gibbons of Douglas County. He's the brother of Mark Gibbons.

State Bar of Nevada President Gloria Sturman said the decision to hold the June 12-15 convention in Hawaii was made long before the state's current budget problems.

About 430 people, including 280 members of the State Bar, attended the convention.

FBI chief says he personally believes bin Laden is dead

BY CHRISTOPHER NEWTON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — FBI counterterrorism chief Dale Watson said Wednesday he believes Osama bin Laden is dead — the first time a senior U.S. law enforcement official has publicly given an opinion on the al-Qaida leader's status.

Watson, speaking at a conference of law enforcement officials at a downtown hotel, quickly emphasized that he had no evidence that bin Laden was dead, but his comments suggest that the FBI has no intelligence that proves bin Laden is alive.

"Is (bin Laden) alive or is he dead?" Watson said. "I am not really sure of the answer....I personally think he is probably not with us anymore but, I have no evidence to support that."

Watson also said that bin Laden's network of terrorist training camps has been dismantled, but "there is no question in my mind...we will be attacked again."

Watson, who rarely makes public appearances, is the top official for counterterrorism and counterintelligence in the FBI. He did not elaborate on his comments on bin Laden and rushed away from reporters after he spoke.

Since December, reports of bin Laden's whereabouts and well-being have been sporadic and from different sources.

Earlier this month, a London-based Arabic newspaper said Osama bin Laden was wounded in a U.S. bombing raid in Afghanistan last year but is in good health.

There was no way to verify the report in London-based Al-Quds Al-Arabi. U.S. officials say they have no evidence bin Laden was wounded in the U.S. bombing of al-Qaida hideouts in Tora Bora, Afghanistan, late last year, but acknowledge it is a possibility.

The newspaper's editor said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press that bin Laden underwent surgery to remove shrapnel from his left shoulder.

"... I personally think (bin Laden) is probably not with us anymore but, I have no evidence to support that."

— DALE WATSON
FBI counterterrorism chief

Atwan told the AP on Monday that sources close to the al-Qaida leader "confirmed to me that the man is in good health" after recovering from the wound.

While the Bush administration has said publicly it does not know whether bin Laden is alive or dead, some U.S. counterterrorism officials have privately acknowledged they believe he is alive.

On Saturday, the head of Germany's Federal Intelligence Service, was quoted in the Welt am Sonntag newspaper as saying bin Laden is alive and hiding along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

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SPORTS



Halgand wins stage; Armstrong still second overall

BY MICHAEL MCDONOUGH

Associated Press Writer

PAU, France — Patrice Halgand picked up the first stage victory by a French rider in this year's Tour de France on Wednesday.

Halgand's average speed of 30.337 mph was the third-fastest in Tour history. Lance Armstrong and overall leader Igor Gonzalez Galdeano finished in the main pack.

Three-time defending champion Armstrong was 40th, nearly 4 minutes off Halgand's pace, and remained in second place in the standings, 26 seconds behind Gonzalez Galdeano.

It was disclosed Wednesday before the 10th stage that Gonzalez Galdeano tested positive for salbutamol last week, but organizers said he is cleared to use the restricted substance. Salbutamol treats asthma and is banned unless athletes have a prescription.

Traces were found in a July 12 test at the end of the stage from Forges-les-Eaux to Alencon, Tour spokesman Philippe Sudres said.

UCI, world cycling's governing body, "has long had a medical justification for this rider" to use salbutamol, Tour de France deputy director Daniel Baal said.

Halgand, who rides for the Jean Delatour team, surged in the final climb of the relatively flat 91-mile leg from Bazas to Pau in southwestern France for his first Tour stage victory.

He attacked in the final 3 1/2 miles, and beat countryman Jerome Pineau by 27 seconds. Halgand finished in 3 hours, 15 seconds.



Peter Dejong/Associated Press

Lance Armstrong of Austin, Texas, right, crosses the finish line, followed by overall leader Igor Gonzalez Galdeano of Spain during the 10th stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Bazas and Pau, southwestern France on Wednesday. Patrice Halgand of France won the stage.

Gonzalez Galdeano has held the yellow jersey worn by the race leader for six stages, and will wear it in Thursday's opening mountain leg from Pau to La Mongie, high in the Pyrenees.

The 98-mile ride features two difficult climbs and should see Armstrong make his first serious bid for the race lead.

Gonzalez Galdeano has been the talk of the Tour, suddenly touted as Armstrong's next big rival.

Armstrong is a little puzzled.

"I never feel safe," the Texan said Tuesday. "But I wonder sometimes where such confidence comes from, when there's been no precedent, or rather, where the buzz comes from."

While undeniably talented, Galdeano did not come close to scaring Armstrong in the Tour's key mountain stages last year.

He lost 4:03 to the U.S. Postal Service rider in the opening mountain stretch from Aix-Les-Bains to L'Alpe d'Huez. By the end of the 2001 Tour, he trailed by 13:28.

"I was reading all of this stuff — this is such a big war between Armstrong and Galdeano," Armstrong said. "And I thought, I've got to look at the Tour last year."

"I looked at L'Alpe d'Huez: four minutes. I looked at the final: 13 minutes. These are big chunks of time."

Unfortunately before the race started, a 7-year-old boy was hit and killed by a car on the route.

The boy was crossing the road about 15 1/2 miles from the route's start when he was hit by a car belonging to a Tour sponsor. It was the first death of a spectator since 2000, when a 12-year-old boy was hit and killed by a Tour car.

"It's a tragedy," deputy Tour director Daniel Baal said. "A child's death puts everything else into perspective."

Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc said the boy, Melvin Pompele, was hit by a car belonging to candy maker Haribo, a race sponsor, while crossing the road. Many Haribo cars throw small gifts of candy to fans during the race.

Tiger Woods on a grand slam mission at Muirfield

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

GULLANE, Scotland — Two larger-than-life posters of Tiger Woods stand guard at the entrance of this coastal town steeped in golf tradition, an ominous reminder that the 131st British Open is all about one man and one mission.

No one has ever won the Grand Slam.

Woods is halfway there.

The next step is Muirfield, which has seen all this before.

Jack Nicklaus came to the famous links 30 years ago with hopes of becoming the first player to win all four major championships in the same year. He finished one stroke behind Lee Trevino and never got another chance at golf's Holy Grail.

Now, it's Tiger's turn.

Having won the Masters and the U.S. Open in convincing fashion, Woods goes after the third leg of the Grand Slam when the British Open begins Thursday at Muirfield.

"It's going to be a fun challenge," Woods said.

At only 7,034 yards for a par 71, Muirfield is by far the shortest course in the major championship rotation this

year and figures to give more players a realistic chance.

Links golf is not about power but precision, making the right decision off the tee, staying out of pot bunkers and the knee-high rough framing both sides of the fairway.

No matter the course, Woods is just as feared.

"There is still one man to beat this week," Thomas Bjorn of Denmark said. "He just is better than everyone else, and I don't think the golf course matters that much. As long as he does his thing, he will still go out as the favorite."

Woods is no stranger to historic moments, or the pressure that comes with them.

Two years ago, after winning the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach by a record 15 shots, he became the youngest player (24) to win the career Grand Slam when he won the British Open at St. Andrews, the home of golf.

He followed that with a PGA Championship, then the Masters the following spring for an unprecedented sweep of the professional majors.

His mental strength is his greatest weapon, and he has used that to block out the distractions and hype over his pursuit of history.

"In 2000, everyone was asking me about being able to

complete the Slam at St. Andrews," he said. "I kept saying all week, 'First of all, I've got to play well and take care of business, and that will be an end result.'

"That's the same plan I have this year."

Critics called his four straight majors the "Tiger Slam," maintaining they have to be won in the same calendar year.

Nicklaus disagrees.

"He's done something nobody else has done, having all four at the same time," Nicklaus said. "Whether he does them all in one year, I think it's insignificant. If he did it, basically it would be two of them. That's not only unbelievable, that's super unbelievable"

That's not all that Nicklaus finds hard to believe. He wonders why no one has been able to give Woods much of a fight in the majors. Woods has won his eight major championships by a combined 44 strokes; Nicklaus won a record 18 majors by the same margin.

Nicklaus had to fight off Arnold Palmer, Trevino, Tom Watson.

Woods' biggest battle has come from Bob May.

"Tiger knows he can win," Nicklaus said. "The other guys aren't so sure."

Even in the days leading up to the British Open, some players have already conceded that their best hope is for Woods to be off his game.

"When I've played well, Tiger still has beaten me," two-time U.S. Open champion Ernie Els said. "Maybe I'm not good enough, then. Who knows?"

The National Football League Preseason Schedule

By The Associated Press

Saturday, Aug. 3

San Francisco vs. Washington at Osaka, Japan, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Aug. 5

Houston vs. New York Giants at Canton, Ohio, 5 p.m. (ABC)

Thursday, Aug. 8

New York Jets at Pittsburgh, 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Aug. 9

Cincinnati at Buffalo, 4:30 p.m.
Jacksonville at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.
Detroit at Baltimore, 5 p.m.
Oakland at Dallas, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 10

Green Bay at Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Denver at Chicago at Champaign, Ill., 5 p.m.
Houston at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
New England at New York Giants, 5 p.m.
St. Louis at Tennessee, 5 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 5 p.m.
Kansas City at San Francisco, 6 p.m.
Indianapolis at Seattle, 7 p.m.
Arizona at San Diego, 7 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 12

Miami at Tampa Bay, 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Aug. 15

New Orleans at Miami, 4 p.m.
Oakland at Tennessee, 5 p.m. (ESPN)
New York Jets at Baltimore, 5 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 16

Tampa Bay at Jacksonville, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Buffalo, 4:30 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 5 p.m. (FOX)
Seattle at San Diego, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 17

New York Giants at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Indianapolis, 3 p.m.
Philadelphia at New England, 5 p.m. (CBS)
Dallas at Carolina, 5 p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 5 p.m.
Houston at Kansas City, 5:30 p.m.
Green Bay at Arizona, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 18

Pittsburgh at Washington, 5 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 19

San Francisco at Denver, 5 p.m. (ABC)

Thursday, Aug. 22

San Diego at St. Louis, 6 p.m. (CBS)

Friday, Aug. 23

Baltimore at Philadelphia, 5 p.m. (FOX)
Carolina at New England, 5 p.m.
Jacksonville at Chicago at Champaign, Ill., 5 p.m.
Tennessee at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 24

Pittsburgh at Detroit, 9:30 a.m.
Buffalo at Indianapolis, 3 p.m.
New Orleans at Cincinnati, 4:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Dallas, 5 p.m.
Miami at Houston, 5 p.m.
New York Giants at New York Jets, 5 p.m.
Washington at Tampa Bay, 5:00 p.m.
San Francisco at Oakland, 6 p.m.
Denver at Arizona, 7 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 7 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 26

Cleveland at Green Bay, 5 p.m. (ABC)

Wednesday, Aug. 28

San Diego at San Francisco, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 29

Chicago at Miami, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 4:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Cincinnati, 4:30 p.m.
Baltimore at New York Giants, 5 p.m.
Buffalo at Detroit, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Jacksonville, 5 p.m.
New England at Washington, 5 p.m.
Arizona at Oakland, 6 p.m.
Seattle at Denver, 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30
Indianapolis at New Orleans, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at New York Jets, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Cleveland, 5 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Houston, 5 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 5 p.m.
St. Louis at Kansas City, 5:30 p.m.



Alastair Grant/Associated Press

Tiger Woods of the United States plays from the 16th tee during a practice round for the British Open golf championship at Muirfield, Scotland on Wednesday. The British Open is scheduled to start on Thursday.



INTERNATIONAL

Israel searches for militants who ambushed bus

BY YOAV APPEL
Associated Press Writer

EMMANUEL, West Bank — Israel mounted a massive manhunt Wednesday in the rocky hills of the West Bank for militants who ambushed a bus near a Jewish settlement, killing eight Israelis. One Israeli soldier and a Palestinian gunman were killed during the search.

Separately, a top Palestinian official told The Associated Press that Yasser Arafat was considering the appointment of a prime minister to share the running of day-to-day government affairs once a Palestinian state is declared after a planned January election.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Nabil Shaath said Arafat had signed a decree asking him to convene a team of legal experts to come up with proposals on creating a prime minister post and other constitutional issues.

The death toll of Tuesday's attack reached eight Wednesday after a premature baby delivered by Caesarean section after the attack died, doctors said. The boy, whose mother remained in serious condition, was believed to be the youngest victim of more than 21 months of fighting.

Others killed in the ambush included an 8-month-old girl, her father and grandmother.

Heavy exchanges of fire continued Wednesday between Israeli army forces and Palestinian gunmen in the area of the Jewish settlement of Emmanuel where the attack occurred. A Palestinian gunman and an Israeli soldier, Lt. El'ad Grenadier, 21, were killed in gunbattles, military officials said. Three Israeli soldiers were also injured, one seriously, the army said.



Eitan Hess-Askenazi/Associated Press

An Israeli soldier patrols near the fence of the West Bank Jewish settlement of Emmanuel on Wednesday, a day after Palestinian gunmen ambushed an Israeli bus killing eight people and injuring more than 15 at the entrance of the settlement.

Israel called off a high-level meeting with Palestinians scheduled for Wednesday after the ambush.

The well-planned attack, claimed by three different Palestinian groups, came as officials from a Mideast policy planning group called the Quartet met in New York to try to come up with a formula to try to stop nearly two years of Israeli-Palestinian violence and spur resumption of peace negotiations.

Officials from the United States, Russia, European Union and United Nations expressed concern for the plight of the Palestinians but differed over the role of Arafat.

Israel blamed Arafat for the attack at

the entrance to the settlement of Emmanuel, which is located between the Palestinian towns of Nablus and Qalqiliya in the northern West Bank. Israeli forces control those towns and five others after launching a large-scale invasion following Palestinian suicide bombings in Israel last month.

Raanan Gissin, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, warned that Israel would remain in the areas until Palestinian security forces are revamped to stop terrorism.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who advocates resuming talks with the Palestinians, canceled meetings with Palestinians planned for Wednesday and

said the Palestinians were harming themselves by carrying out attacks.

Israel has insisted that Arafat be replaced, and President Bush agreed. However, in the New York talks, the other members of the Quartet disagreed with the demand.

Arafat denounced Bush's call for a leadership change, saying in an interview with Associated Press Television News he would run in January elections if the PLO leadership agreed.

"They (the United States) have to understand that this is not Afghanistan and that they can't change things as they want," he said.

Shifting at least some executive powers to a prime minister could provide a way out of the impasse created by the refusal of both Israel and the United States to deal with Arafat directly.

The Palestinian Authority, in a rare move apparently aimed at the Quartet meeting, condemned the attack in the West Bank "as part of its continuous policy which rejects targeting civilians, whether they are Israelis or Palestinians."

While the Palestinian leadership has denounced suicide bombings in Israel, it rarely criticizes attacks in the West Bank, where many Palestinians consider Jewish settlers legitimate targets in the struggle for control of the territory the Palestinians want for a state.

Three Palestinian groups rushed to claim responsibility for the first fatal attack on Israeli civilians in nearly a month: Hamas, the radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, affiliated with Arafat's Fatah movement.

Chevron Texaco oil facility takeovers spread in Nigeria

BY D'ARCY DORAN
Associated Press Writer

ESCRAVOS, Nigeria — Hundreds of unarmed women seized control of at least four more ChevronTexaco facilities in the Niger Delta Wednesday, even as the 10-day occupation of an oil terminal by other village women ended.

The occupations were spurred at least in part by the crushing poverty in which villagers live amid the region's oil wealth. Nigeria is the world's sixth-largest exporter of oil and the fifth-largest supplier to the United States.

The women involved in the latest takeovers, all members of the Ijaw tribe, were refusing to leave until they had met with senior company executives to press their demands for jobs and community improvements.

"We are going to sit here until Chevron sends its managing director to us, even if it takes two years," said Josephine Ogoba, a protest leader.

She said the women now controlled five facilities. ChevronTexaco's Nigeria subsidiary confirmed takeovers at four flowstations near the villages of Abiteye, Makaraba, Olero Creek and Otunana, but company officials had no information on a reported occupation at Opueketa.

The women's protests were a departure for Nigeria, where armed men frequently use kidnapping and sabotage to pressure oil multinationals into giving them jobs, protection money or compensation for alleged environmental damage. Hostages generally are released unharmed.

Ogoba said the women had not tampered with equipment at the facilities, but it was not clear whether they were still operating.

The latest actions mirrored a 10-day occupation of the multimillion-dollar Escravos terminal, some 50 miles to the west. But Ogoba said the protests were unrelated.

There was a buoyant mood Wednesday afternoon at Escravos after ChevronTexaco executives and women's representatives signed a seven-page memorandum to end

that siege.

The signing came two days after both sides reached a verbal agreement in which the company promised to provide jobs and amenities for nearby villagers.

Only a few dozen of the initial 700 American, Canadian, British and Nigerian oil workers trapped inside the Escravos terminal remained on Wednesday.

About 200 workers were allowed to leave on Sunday, and hundreds more departed in a ferry Tuesday morning, protesters said.

Kingsley Kuku, spokesman of the Ijaw Youth Council, said the latest takeovers were also aimed at gaining control of oil facilities in Ijaw territory that the tribe feared might otherwise be claimed by the newly victorious women at Escravos.

Although the Escravos protesters include women from

several different ethnic groups, the core group is of the rival Itsekiri tribe.

"Our women are without fear. They are participating actively in our struggle and have embarked on this action without the use of arms, not even brooms," Kuku said.

He warned that Ijaw men would "burn down all Chevron oil facilities" if police or soldiers tried to forcibly remove the women or otherwise harmed them.

Protesters at the Abiteye flowstation, however, said they were only interested in jobs and amenities — not tribal disputes.

The company said it was also willing to build schools, provide water, electricity, a community center, and help the women establish poultry and fish farms to supply the terminal's cafeteria.

Saddam: Iraq will triumph in the end

BY SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — President Saddam Hussein said Wednesday that Iraq will emerge victorious and predicted the failure of what he called foreign hostile schemes against Iraq.

In a televised speech marking Iraq's national day, Saddam said Iraqis are not afraid of the "propaganda of foreign powers ... and Iraq will eventually emerge triumphant." He also exhorted Iraqis to fight for their country's independence and freedom.

"The wind will blow away foreign rattling as the noise of an evil tyrant," he said in an implicit refer-

ence to U.S. war threats and plans to remove him from power.

Changing the regime in Baghdad is a declared policy of President Bush, who accuses Iraq of sponsoring terrorism and producing and stockpiling weapons of mass destruction.

Bush 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. If covert attempts fail, some expect Bush to try military action.

Wednesday's address came one day after Saddam, in his first newspaper interview in years, said he believed the

entire Arab world, not just Iraq, is threatened by the United States.

Iraq is under tough U.N. economic sanctions imposed following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. They cannot be lifted unless U.N. inspectors verify it has no weapons of mass destruction, the capability to produce them or the long-range missiles that could deliver them.

The inspectors left the country ahead of U.S. and British strikes in December 1998 and Baghdad have barred them from returning since then. The United Nations has so far failed to persuade Iraq to allow them back and Bush has warned Saddam of unspecified consequences if he doesn't.

COMICS



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Yesterday's answer

ACROSS

- 1 Airport carriers
- 5 Astounds
- 11 Vaccine type
- 12 In this manner
- 13 Ballet bend
- 14 Comments to the audience
- 15 Speaking blunder
- 17 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 18 Diminished
- 22 Consumerist Ralph
- 24 Lathered up
- 25 Swelled head
- 26 Tiny
- 27 Convoy component
- 30 Swansea setting
- 32 Archfiend
- 33 Dudgeon
- 34 Enlivened
- 38 Niche
- 41 Taboo
- 42 Non-natives, in Hawaii
- 43 Lot sight
- 44 Optimally
- 45 Telegram period

DOWN

- 1 Men in blue
- 2 Woody's son
- 3 Exited the plane, in a way
- 4 Shirt part
- 5 Jai —
- 6 Feels the lack of
- 7 Hands on hips
- 8 Last letter, overseas
- 9 Jargon suffix
- 10 Emergency broadcast
- 16 See 43-Across
- 19 Reprimanded
- 20 Foil's kin
- 21 Colors
- 22 NBA team
- 23 Taj Mahal setting
- 28 Sweet-talk
- 29 Rascals
- 30 Expert, for short
- 31 Concert venues
- 35 Relish
- 36 Golden Rule word
- 37 Info
- 38 Cry of insight
- 39 Back muscle, for short
- 40 Corn holder

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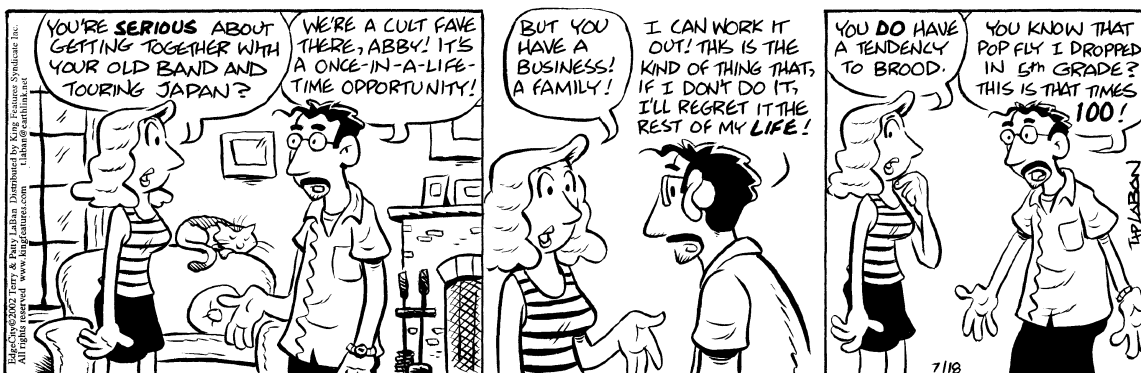
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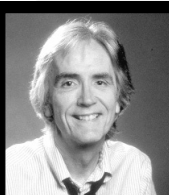
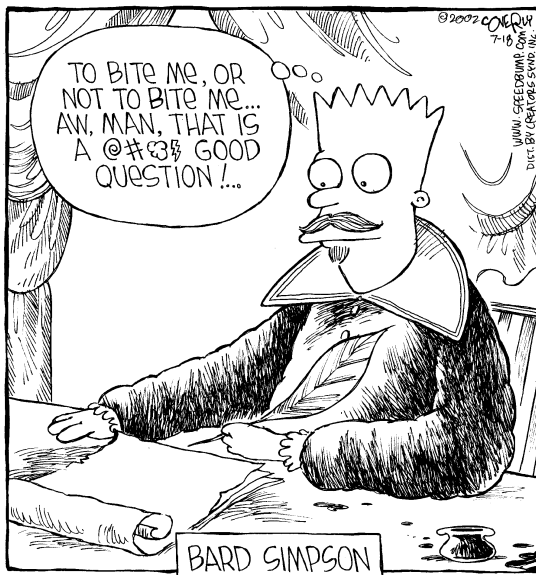
Reality Check®

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Woman wins \$14M in suicide attempt

A jury in New York City recently awarded \$14.1 million to a 38-year-old woman who was badly maimed after she was hit by a subway train after lying down purposefully on an underground track in a probable suicide attempt. According to a New York Law Journal report summarized in a June New York Times story, the jury found that the train conductor, who had already slowed to 15 mph following a report of someone lying on the tracks, should have been going slower. (The judge lowered the award to \$9.9 million after finding that it was 30 percent the woman's fault.) [New York Times, 6-25-02]

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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

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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.

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 \$1100.00 2bdms, r/s, hrdwd flrs, d/w, close to SMC, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1250.00 Clean 2bdms, r/s, crpts, balcony, lrg clsts, Indry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1250.00 Cozy 2 bdrm, R/S, hardwood floors, w/d hook-ups, balcony, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1350.00 Clean 2 bdrm, stove, hardwood floors, large closets, D/W, W/D hook-ups, garage. Westside Rentals. 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$680.00 Cute Studio, cat ok, r/s, crpts, lrg clsts, Indry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$680.00 Charming studio, cat ok, R/S, carpets, large closets, laundry, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$875.00 Spacious 1 bdrm, r/s, crpts. close to SMC, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$898.00 Charming 1 bdrmm, pet ok, r/s, hrdwd flrs, garage. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$900.00 Spacious 1 bdrm, R/S, carpets, large closets, laundry, parking. Westside Rentals. 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$995.00 Traditional 1 bdrm, cat ok, R/S, carpets, large closets, laundry, pool, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SM OCEAN Park \$1400.00 1bdrm, hardwood floors, gas paid. Charming building. 3001 Fourth St. (310)396-1439.

Guest Houses

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SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 Guest house, everything new! R/S, parking, new carpet, new floors. (310)829-3582.

SANTA MONICA \$1350.00 Cozy guest house, pet ok, hardwood floors, patio, W/D, pond, parking. 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.

SANTA MONICA \$1300.00 Cozy Dplx, r/s, hrdwd flrs, deck, close to beach, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1150.00 Nice cottage, stove, hardwood floors, pet ok, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1195.00 Charming Cottage, pet ok, hrdwd flrs, new kitchen, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1495.00 Charming Dplx, r/s, hrdwd flrs, patio, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1600.00 Charming Hse, pet ok, r/s, crpts, w/d hkups, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1600.00 Charming house, pet ok, R/S, carpets, W/D hook-ups, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1850.00 Lovely hse, pet ok, r/s, hrdwd flrs, frplce, Indry, deck, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Townhouses

SANTA MONICA \$1195.00 Huge townhouse, R/S, carpets, patio, large closets, W/D hook-ups, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1845.00 Charming spacious duplex, cat ok, R/S, hardwood floors, fireplace, W/D, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Roommates

ROOMATE NEEDED SM \$800 garage bedroom in three story house. Must see! (323)691-3563

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.

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ART STUDO Approx 800 sq. ft. \$1200.00/mo. No live in. Off Main St. (310)396-1439 ext. 234.

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.

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CLASSIFIEDS



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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.

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Massage

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

STRONG PROFESSIONAL Deep Tissue bodywork by fit therapist. Introductory offer: \$35/hr or \$65/2 hrs. Paul: 310.741.1901.

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

I'M THE lovely Dessarae looking for four men to give me \$700 a piece ASAP. 310-319-0462

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

ALLDIS PLASTERING Interior finish plaster. Acoustic ceilings plastered smooth (no dust). (310) 458-9955

License number 701350

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

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.

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

GOT A Service only you can render? Let 15,000 potential readers know about it by running an ad in the Santa Monica Daily Press. It's only a buck a day!! Call (310) 458-7737 and place your ad today!

SPECIAL EDUCATION Day program. Tutoring. Saturday program also available. For more information call Nelda. (310)459-5973.

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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.

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.

WOULD YOU care to be a private investor? I have a \$3,500 project and I hate Venture Capitalists. Robert Greene (310)394-1533.

Vehicles for sale

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

LINCOLN VERSAILLES 1977 Runs good. VERY low mileage! \$1,500.00 (310)829-1314.

Yard Sales

CORNER OF Santa Monica/3rd, Sat. 7/20, 8am-1pm. Bike accessories, snowboards, furniture, women's clothes size 4-6, books, lots more!

MOVING OUT of the state! Everything must go. Appliances, furniture and televisions. 13961 Osborne St. #109, Arleta CA. Sunday, July 21. 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

YARD SALE Sat 7/20 9-12. 2529 6th St. Vintage furniture & cameras, toys, more!

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

Calendar

Thursday, July 18, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
The Sum of all Fears (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. *The Bourne Identity* (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. *The Powerpuff Girls Movie* (PG) 12:00, 2:15. *Like Mike* (PG) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15. *Scooby-Doo* (PG-13) 4:30, 6:45 9:00.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Minority Report (PG-13) 11:40, 3:15, 7:10, 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. *Halloween: Resurrection* 11:45, 2:15, 5:00 7:40, 10:00.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Lilo & Stich (PG) 12:10, 2:35, 4:40, 7:05, 9:15. *Mr. Deeds* (PG-13) 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10. *Insomnia* (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:45, 10:15. *Reign of Fire* 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00. *The Crocodile Hunter* (PG) 12:00, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30. *Road to Perdition* 12:30, 1:30, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00, 7:35, 9:45, 10:20. *Eight Legged Freaks* (PG-13) 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Fast Runner: Atanarjuat (NR) 11:30 | 3:15 | 6:45. *Lovely and Amazing* (R) 12:15 | 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:15 | 9:45. *Notorious CHO* (R) 10:05.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Y Tu Mama Tambien (NR) 12:00 | 2:35 | 5:10 | 7:45 | 10:15. *Sunshine State* (PG-13) 12:45 | 3:50 | 7:00 | 10:10. *Me Without You* (NR) 1:00 | 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:50 | 10:10.

The Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
The Emperor's New Clothes (PG) 5:30pm 7:30pm
9:30pm *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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.

Theatre / Arts

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Picon Pie! The World Premiere of a joyous and poignant musical play about the life and loves of legendary Molly Picon. Admission is \$23.50. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)394-9779 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Music / Entertainment

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

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.

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

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Pulse - Through kinesthesia, sight, sound,

touch, taste, and smell, pathways clear for your deeper embodiment and wider expression. Each session is supported by live music with Christo Pellani of Soundformation Music and/or by recorded music. Altars devoted to the senses, spirit and play enrich the environment and amplify your awareness. Third Friday of the month, 7:30 p.m. To 9:30 p.m., Continuum Studio, 1629 18th Street #7, (North of Olympic in Santa Monica) Cost \$12.00. For more information please call Kara Masters (310)455-2743.

Arts/ Entertainment

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

Open Mic Music. **UnUrban Coffeehouse**. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

All Improv Night! **Addle Essence**, 8 p.m., \$5. OFF THE WALL, 9 p.m., \$5. Unusual Suspects, 10 p.m., \$5. Comedy Underground, 320 Wilshire Blvd. *The showtime entrance is in the alley. Show info/Reservation line: (310)451-1800. No drink minimum!

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to 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



Brooklyn Bridge for sale

By The Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Iowa — Wanna buy the Brooklyn Bridge?

Not the New York City landmark — but the one in Brooklyn, Iowa.

Mayor Jim Rhinehart thinks the bridge over Little Bear Creek could be resold now that a \$1.7 million replacement is on the way.

"We're trying to figure out what to do with that bridge," said Rhinehart, mayor of the town of 1,367 people about 40 miles west of Iowa City.

The narrow steel truss, built in 1927, could be used as a driveway, for example, or put in a park or recreation area.

"I thought we should put it on the Internet," said local businessman Alex Wehrle. "There aren't too many Brooklyn Bridges for sale."

Man chomps pit bull

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Man bites dog — really.

Police said a Long Island man bit a pit bull that was attacking his pet Siberian husky, and may have saved the pooch's life.

Richard Robbins, 44, said he was walking his three dogs Saturday morning when three pit bulls dashed from their owner's side and one attacked his husky, Gina Marie.

Robbins sank his teeth into the attacking pit bull's head. He suffered multiple puncture wounds in the attack.

"I wasn't going to watch my dog die," Robbins said.

Suffolk County Police Lt. Kenneth Fasano said Gina Maria "would have been severely injured or even killed" without Robbins' intervention.

The pit bulls' owner faces charges of assault and reckless endangerment.

'G,' a new trial

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — A man who won a new trial on federal gun charges because his jury had too many people whose last names started with the letter "G" has been acquitted.

Roderick B. Carter, 24, of Opa-Locka, had been charged with possession of a handgun by a convicted felon. U.S. District Judge Adalberto Jordan granted Carter a new trial after Carter's attorney argued that his client's right to a jury of his peers had been violated.

Federal jury pools in Miami are selected by dividing potential jurors alphabetically by the first letter of their last name and then selecting letters randomly.

Carter's attorney, David O. Markus, argued that because the jury pool was full of Hispanic names that started with "G" — such as Garcia, Gomez, Gonzalez and Gutierrez — Carter, who is black, could not have gotten a fair trial because the jury did not have a fair cross sample.

The judge declared a mistrial in May. The original 12-person jury had seven Hispanic members; last week, Carter was acquitted by a jury of six blacks, two whites and four Hispanics.

Plastic pistol bandit?

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A 72-year-old man has filed a lawsuit over an incident last year in which he was

arrested for carrying a plastic pistol while delivering a singing telegram.

Fritz Herring said he told deputies at the Hennepin County Government Center why he was there and they retrieved paperwork from his pocket that had information about his telegram appointment.

Still, he was taken to jail and held for nearly 12 hours, he says.

In the lawsuit filed in federal court in Minneapolis, Herring seeks damages for false imprisonment and defamation, among other claims.

Dog disqualified to run

By The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — It's back to the doghouse for one aspiring House candidate.

State election officials refused to qualify Percy, a 5-year-old border collie mix, as a rival to Secretary of State Katherine Harris in her bid for Congress.

Percy barked loudly when veteran elections official Ed Kast told the dog's owner, Wayne Genthner, his dog didn't meet the state's elections requirements.

"He's a canine and therefore not a qualified elector," Kast said.

Genthner, a Republican, then decided he'd run himself as a write-in candidate. The 42-year-old charter boat captain said he was frustrated with highly financed, sterile campaigns that avoid meaningful debate.

"People are almost disdainful of the political system as it is now," Genthner said. "Percy exists to me as a binding none-of-the-above ballot selection."

Percy and his volunteer campaign staff had been handing out flyers with slogans such as, "Never made a mess in the House! Never will!" and "PERCY! Putting the LICK back into Republican."

Harris, who drew worldwide attention in her role as Florida's chief elections officer during the 2000 presidential recount, is a heavy favorite to win the race.

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What do Shaq and Lenny Krayzelberg have in common?

as quoted in USA Today



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