

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

City divided over preferential parking permits

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

As available parking continues to disappear, residents throughout the city are taking back their neighborhoods and their parking spaces.

At least half of the city's eight square miles is dedicated specifically for residents to park their cars in front of their homes, making side streets off limits to the general public.

Each year, hundreds of people come

before the Santa Monica City Council asking for it to give them their own "preferential parking" zone because the pressures of thriving businesses surrounding them is ruining their quality of life. And more often than not, the city council gives them their space.

While some believe the zones are elitist and only serve as a band aid to the city's larger parking problem, residents who live in these dedicated areas say their lives have been changed for the better. It's

changed the city's budget too. About 20,000 residential parking permits are issued every year and at \$15 a pop, the city brings in about \$300,000 in revenue. That doesn't include the hundreds of \$38 tickets that are issued every year to motorists who are caught parking in the zones without a permit.

There are about 50 preferential parking zones throughout the city, with the first one created in the 1980s near the beach. Considered extremely controversial at the

time, the city council dedicated certain streets to residents there because beachgoers were taking up all the available spaces, leaving residents circling their neighborhoods to find a place to park.

Once the precedent was set, droves of other neighborhoods located next to commercial areas came to council chambers asking for the same treatment. Preferential parking zones then popped up near large office buildings, hospitals, the high school

See PARKING, page 5

Santa Monica residents are parking by the moonlight

That's what it has come to for some locals

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Sonja Braga has to draw a map to find her car in this city where finding parking is as strategic as it is an art form.

Braga has to park blocks away from her apartment on Third Street late at night. If she doesn't draw a map when she gets home, she won't remember what block her car is on.

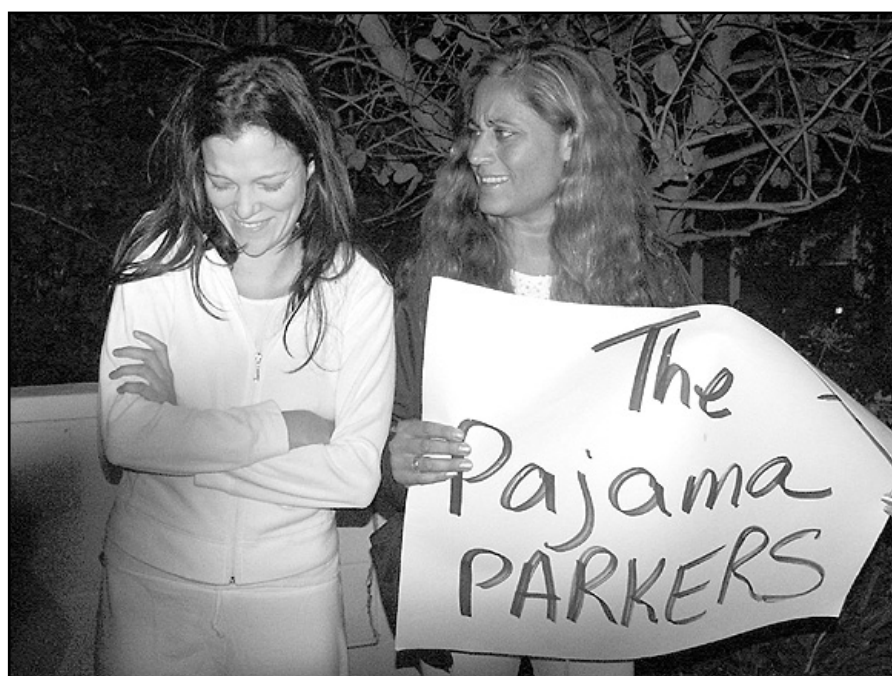
"You keep thinking you know where you parked, but then you can't find it," Braga

said. "My friend thought her car was stolen because she couldn't find it, but if you do the map, you're fine."

Braga and her neighbors have been searching for parking for years. They live just north of the Third Street Promenade, where hundreds of people come day and night to shop, eat and take in a movie. But even more of a problem are the employees who work along the outdoor shopping mall and nearby hotels and use Braga's street for parking.

When residents return home from work in the evening, they spend up to an hour looking for a place to park. And when they finally do

See PAJAMA PARKERS, page 5



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Pajama Parkers — Sonja Braga, left — and a neighbor pose recently before prowling the late evening hours in search for the ever-elusive parking spot.

Officials say smelly tap water poses no health risks

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Algae blooms in area lakes are causing a not-so-fresh taste at the tap.

The musty taste and smell of some tap water sparked Southern California water officials to issue a statement this week assuring residents the water is safe to drink.

Agencies supplied by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have fielded a number of telephone calls in recent days from residents worried about biological terrorism.

Officials said the smell and taste are caused by compounds produced by algae blooms in northern Los Angeles County's Castaic Lake, Riverside County's Lake Mathews, and San Bernardino County's Lake Silverwood.

The affected areas include Beverly Hills, Burbank, Glendale, Santa Monica, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Torrance.

Algae thrives during hot weather, but the resulting compounds are not harmful to the public, officials said. They are using copper sulfate sprinkled from helicopters to combat the algae, but it could be weeks before the smell is gone.

"Sensitive people will notice a difference in taste and odor," Don Kendall, general manager of the Calleguas Municipal Water District, told the Los Angeles Times. Kendall, whose district services portions of Ventura County, added, "It's strictly aesthetic. It's perfectly safe to drink."

Jill Wicke, manager of MWD's manager of water system operation said refrigerating the water will improve the smell and taste.

This is the second such announcement in a month. On July 3, water agencies warned residents in Riverside, Orange and San Bernardino counties about earthy smelling water.

More state beaches close in part due to vigilance

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California officials closed more beaches and sent out more water advisories in 2001 than in any previous year, according to a report released Wednesday by a national environmental group.

Last year, California reported 800 beach closings and nearly 6,000 water advisories. A third of the closures and quality warnings were in Southern California, and most were caused by high levels of bacteria.

But the news is not all bad.

The increase in closures is due in part to stricter monitoring, said the National Resources Defense Council in its annu-

al report.

The council rated Los Angeles and San Diego's water boards among the nation's five most vigilant when it came to fighting pollution from urban runoff.

"California has a good monitoring program, which is partly why it reports thousands of closures as opposed to other places that don't," said David Beckman, senior attorney for the council.

A Southern California environmental group, Heal the Bay, says the tightened controls over urban runoff are long overdue.

"But the flip side is that you're starting to see municipalities taking it beyond the regional boards and to the courts to fight them," said spokesman James Alamillo.

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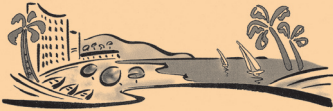
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Use the morning for anything that remains significant to you. In the afternoon, you'll want to pull back into your mind and thoughts. Be clear when dealing with a child or loved one. You could discover that others are extremely volatile. Tonight: Maintain a low profile. Get a good night's sleep.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Deal with bosses, though you could find someone to be more than difficult to please. Put your energy where it counts: where you can be successful. A meeting might lead you in a new direction. Schedule some time with your friends. Tonight: Where the gang is. Let the fun begin.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Detach this morning and realize where a misunderstanding could set in. Your perception could carry the office, as well as yourself, through a problem. Unexpected developments surround travel and news. Flex. Work with others. Tonight: Take charge. Be ready to work a little late.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Work with others directly. You might experience a jolt through a close associate or financial partner. You might feel as if you cannot gain control of a key matter. If you study your options and seek out expert advice, you'll gain. Tonight: Take off ASAP. Opt for something new.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others are unpredictable. You might end up confused. Your best bet is to talk through a problem, asking key questions that can make a difference. Be more sunny and upbeat when dealing with an important associate. You'll clear out a problem. Tonight: Togetherness counts. Add that special touch.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Plunge into work. Be determined to clear off your desk and reduce any remaining work. You might discover a new, unexpected problem out of the blue. Use your extraordinary people skills to make peace within the office. Let your mind relax, knowing that the weekend is near. Tonight: Dinner out.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ A child or new friend might be "acting up." Know that no matter what you do, you might not be able to settle this person down. Focus on where you can be successful with your work. Concentrate on one item at a time, and you'll relax. Tonight: Work late, unfortunately.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Domestic matters conflict with what you would like to accomplish. Pressure builds, causing abnormal tension. Tap into your unusual resources and ingenuity for answers. Gain a perspective so present happenings don't trigger you. Tonight: Fun and games with other light-hearted souls.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Discussions prove to be animated at best. Others cannot seem to get the gist of what is going on. You could also be stunned by present happenings. Loosen up when dealing with a family member. This person could be having a hard day as well. Tonight: Vanish home.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Finances prove to be difficult, if not unpredictable. You might want to take a careful look at your bank statements and similar documents. Speak your mind and deal with the facts. Seek out expert information before making any decisions. Tonight: Join friends.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You surprise some and confuse others. You feel fine, but realize that there could be ramifications for what you think is no big deal. Develop your sensitivities, and your relationships will improve. Stop and buy a card or two on your lunch break. Tonight: Treat another to dinner.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Review a personal matter in the morning. You could be confused by how another might be handling it. Loosen up. Remain positive. By afternoon, your energy mounts, and what might have bothered you before, becomes less difficult. Tonight: What you want.



QUOTE of the DAY

**"The only thing that saves us from
bureaucracy is its inefficiency."**
— Eugene McCarthy

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LOCAL



Your move



Jamie Seborer/Special to the Daily Press

Chess players gather to play weekly matches at Santa Monica Beach. The games have been known to draw large crowds.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Police recruit Spiderman for National Night Out

By Daily Press staff

Spiderman, Marvel Comics' fearless crime-fighter, will be the star attraction alongside Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. in the SMPD celebration of National Night Out Against Crime on the city's famed Third Street Promenade.

Set for Tuesday, August 6, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., all local residents interested in joining Spiderman and other featured participants in this year's symbolic crime-fighting parade should come to the staging area at the corner of the Third Street Promenade and Wilshire Boulevard by 6:30 p.m. The first 750 to register will receive free buttons, balloons and flashlights. Entertainment will include J & M Entertainment, Aspects of Live "Circus Extreme" performers, First AME Youth Choir and the Santa Monica High School marching band.

Last year, over 1,800 marchers set a record for the local event. "With the help of our local residents," Chief James Butts said, "I have every hope that Santa Monica will set a new record for this most important march against crime."

The parade will end in Palisades Park (Ocean Avenue at Broadway) and will include free food from Trader Joe's, 7-Eleven and Frito Lay. Kids can have their photos taken with Spiderman at the SMPD's booth. The Santa Monica Fire Department and such local organizations as Rock the Vote, ADT Security, Find the Children, Nurses Against Violence, Red Cross and American Medical Response will staff informational booths.

SMC offers free ESL classes

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College will offer free enrollment for its English-as-a-Second Language, or ESL, courses this fall, with sessions starting on Aug. 26.

Through SMC's Continuing Education Department, the free English classes are offered at all levels seven days a week in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. Also offered are free basic skills and keyboarding classes.

"These courses offer valuable training and help individuals in preparation for higher education or advancement in the work place," said Monica Torres, SMC community service specialist. "As the daughter of Mexican immigrant parents, I know that the opportunities in this country grow exponentially once the language barrier is broken."

Classes and registration are held at SMC's Madison campus, located on Santa Monica Boulevard between 10th and 11th streets--1310 11th Street. For information call, (310) 434-3400. For information in Spanish, call Torres at (310) 434-3407.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Hurricane Douglas has headed west for the open ocean from the south tip of Baja, sending south our way a swell whose angle gets better by the hour. Last night, surf was hitting shoulder range at good exposures.

The northern tip of LA County will be in tropical surf today and Friday. Expect best sets to come in every three to four feet, with occasional five footers.

An hour down the 405, Orange County spots like Huntington and Trestles enjoy better exposure, and look to be hitting overhead.

Today's Tides:

Low-	5:17a.m.	-0.69'
High-	11:43a.m.	3.96'
Low-	4:32p.m.	2.24'
High-	10:3p.m.	5.88'

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

The Q Line

A coalition of downtown landlords, business owners and residents recommended last week that Santa Monica City Council eliminate feedings in public spaces.

The Bayside District Corp., which manages the Third Street Promenade in cooperation with the city, voted to recommend the city council take steps to limit the number of people who can be fed in a public place, as well as the frequency of feedings groups can sponsor.

Some officials believe the root of Santa Monica's homeless problem stems from outside church groups that host public feedings in Palisades Park and on the front

lawn of City Hall, which draws hundreds of transients to the downtown area. There are as many as 21 public feedings taking place on a weekly basis.

So this week Q Line wants to know, "Do you agree the city should do more to limit the size and frequency of public feedings? Or do you believe there are better ways the city can address its homeless problem downtown?"

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

Homeless implications

Editor:

I would like to thank Kenneth McCrae for his response to my opinion letter which appeared in the July 13, 2002, Santa Monica Daily Press. For him to imply that I have never had to face homelessness is as much of an assumption on his part, as my assuming that some of those who stand in line for the free handouts have the ability to be gainfully employed.

His statement that "You keep harping on the fact that Santa Monica's homeless citizens have access to 21 meals a week" is fallacious. No where in my letter did I make any reference to the number of meals supplied to the homeless, nor did I "harp" on the same. He is right, the satire eludes me, and, furthermore, judging by the content of his letter, I wonder what else he is consuming other than three meals-a-day supplied to him.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Cops can be civil libertarians, too

Editor:

Let's say for the sake of conversation there's a fellow named Joe Terrorist who blows up people, places and things for political and/or religious reasons, and who lives in our community.

Hey, in a case like that, a gag order on divulging the efforts of law enforcement authorities trying to bring Joe to justice could be a good idea. After all, when you're on the trail of an outlaw, it makes sense not to let the miscreant know about it.

Civil libertarians are naturally concerned that the police might not have their chops together enough to tell Joe from the rest of the citizenry. Well, maybe the cops are civil libertarians themselves, or supporters of the Bill of Rights, and maybe they'll behave that way while doing their jobs.

Chief Butts seems to believe in civil liberties and to provide appropriate leadership to the force. When you're an activist promoting peace and justice, you should be careful not to draw a line around yourself.

Jerry Rubin believes in the rule of law, and in his very dynamic career as an activist, he doesn't close himself off from the larger body politic. When and if Santa Monica elects Jerry to the City Council, a lot of people may be surprised at the extent to which Jerry will lead from the center ... sort of the way Mike Feinstein has proven to be a revelation of enlightened and balanced progressivism during his mayoralty.

Jim Bernet
Santa Monica

Let the Henna artists paint

Editor:

Drawing. Making indelible marks. It is fundamentally basic to humanity.

The earliest examples of our cave-dwelling ancestors continue to compel with their sequential storytelling of prehistoric encounters with primordial man-eaters, while Spielberg's 3-D simulated sequel only draws yawns.

Our oldest religions base their own faith on the validity of pen and brush strokes under the direction of Divine Inspiration. One chose to define Himself as The Logo.

Our own republic proclaims its holy endowment of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" with the simple scrawl of a quill pen — "We the People" is a graphic image so archetypal, it defines the essence of democracy for an entire planet.

Even in the faddish world of entertainment, collectors in-the-know will admit that when all of the gaudy, vaunted, hand-painted animation cells of Disney and Hanna-Barbera have turned to dust like fools gold — the true and only original work of the animators will still remain in the sketches they left behind.

Why then, should such a benign and temporary past time as body painting, with soluble inks and dyes be so persecuted in this city that thinks so much of itself?

Even the peaceful practitioners of finger-painting have come under the thumb of our City Council. "Play with clay — go to jail" seems to be the mindset of politicians who are showing their true color: green with envy.

There are two kinds of people in this scenario: those who create, or support creation — and those who can't. Those that can't are jealous of those who do. They invest their entire life into either trying to control those who do or destroy their work in the process, somehow, in their minds, elevating themselves above the creators in the process — vindicating their own lack of talent.

Legend has it that Satan himself was jealous of us, God's creation — and thereby bent his will toward our destruction. Little has changed I think.

In a community whose true religion is vanity, i.e., cosmetic surgery, elective liposuction, fashion contact lenses and laser lasik surgery on credit... "Oh! I just have to have another pair of shoes BTW, these don't go with the color-change paint on my leased SUV" — Henna art and face painting are pretty tame souvenirs in a day where permanent mutilation and infection are real enough complications from doctors sworn to "only heal."

Are the same officers who arrested the artists today on the Promenade patrolling the cosmetic aisles of Santa Monica Place?

Are they ticketing the idiots trying to apply their eyeliner while behind the wheel?

In an atmosphere where the police routinely defend the fatal shooting of civilians claiming "he had a toothbrush" — perhaps the pen IS mightier than the sword.

I'd like to make this protest by drawing a cartoon on my ass and faxing to City Hall, except I've already got something back there and they wouldn't understand the allusion.

That and my fax warranty doesn't cover that kind of stress-test. I guess they can have my crayons when they pry them from my cold, dead fingers.

Joe King
Santa Monica

A different perspective on Santa Monica's homeless



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

Santa Monica is a city built on competition. The city thrives on it. Just look at us. We drive Jaguars and "Beamers" newer and niftier than those of our neighbors. We wear black sportscoats to the chain coffee shops on 90-degree afternoons because somebody oh-so-hip and important may be watching. And we struggle with issues of pansy envy as we spend countless hours manicuring our lawns to keep pace.

So why can't the homeless take their cues from the demographics that pass by their makeshift dwellings daily? Truth be told the city's vagrants and panhandlers could use a lesson in marketing. They just don't know their target audience. Most of Santa Monica's residents would be deemed at least modestly successful in their respective careers; they would almost have to be in order to afford housing in our little beach-side oasis. It would seem quite natural that those same residents (and supporters of the

homeless) would respond to effort and hard work as opposed to nonchalance and laziness. So why don't the transients who are quite capable of picking up a broom and sweeping up the mess they left behind from the night before get it?

Marketing 101: The Greasy Wheel Theory. The dog that wags its tail and licks its owner's face more often is gonna get the bone time and time again. Now I'm not suggesting that the vagrants and homeless begin licking our faces, but I am suggesting they begin to show a little initiative if they want to be rewarded.

In actuality, I admire the city's theoretical stance on the homeless situation, that we are all indeed equal and therefore equally invited to enjoy the resplendent and intrinsic beauty of Santa Monica. We do not turn our brothers away, no matter the circumstances that brought them here. It's a beautiful sentiment, but the respect we offer goes hand-in-hand with the problems that accompany vagabond visitors — panhandling, foul odors, public sleeping and ill-placed excrement.

Merchants and city officials will continue to point fingers at one another while the homeless population continues to proliferate. We have everything in our fair city, and especially along the Third Street Promenade, a vagrant or transient could

want — live entertainment, the beach, passersby with fat wallets, plenty of benches for weary panhandling bones and a thriving non-working-class subculture. We offer it to them free of charge, no questions asked. But maybe it's time we expected a little more from them, and they from themselves.

The way I see it, we need to approach the "problem" we place upon ourselves from a different perspective. Let's give them the tools they need to "market" themselves to us, and let's reward them in turn for a job well done.

I propose we equip our parks and public streets and the Promenade with run-of-the-mill tool caddies, and stock them with brooms and rakes (plastic) and garden weasels and invite the homeless sleeping on the streets and in the parks to begin pitching in. They can begin by cleaning up the storefronts or sod strips they called their beds the evening before, and spread out from there. Give them shirts as unofficial members of the city's maintenance team and let them go to town, as it were.

The transients can pay back the city that takes care of them, welcomes them and provides them with an income. They can clean the streets and lawns they sleep on rather than defecate on them. This not only serves to keep Santa Monica beautiful, but may just instill the transients with a sense of work

ethic and pride in the process.

I'll tell you this, I would go out of my way to stick a dollar or two in the hand of a homeless person I see sweeping the sidewalk or tilling the flowerbeds abounding in our city's public domains. If we all followed suit, those who chose to work would be reaping the rewards, while the listless, static vagrants would be left behind and hopefully, have a helping of humble pie. The ones that work will get ahead, the ones that don't will be left out in the cold. Competition breeds motivation and motivation breeds success.

"Give us your poor, your tired, your hungry," but don't let them abuse us!

The United States has always shone as a beacon to immigrants across the globe, not just for the personal freedoms it affords, but also for the opportunities it grants. Everyone entering Ellis Island had a dream, an ideal burned into their mindsets that if they worked hard, harder than the next guy, they could achieve all they imagined and more. The operative word there was "worked."

I'm not saying we must force anyone to work or advocating a socialistic society, but I sure respect someone who works hard more than someone who hardly works.

Michael J. Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica.

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

LOCAL



Residents' wait out the night hours for parking

PAJAMA PARKERS, from page 1

find a space, it's six blocks away from their apartments.

Braga and several of her female neighbors have dubbed themselves the "pajama parkers" because they go out late at night when everyone has left the Promenade. They move their cars to the front of their apartment building so they're waiting for them in the morning.

They go in groups for safety reasons, and they are usually dressed in their pajamas.

"It's scary," Braga said. "All you've got is scary, homeless people and gang bangers out here at night, so we organize and go with at least one other person."

When they grow tired of waiting around to move their cars, the pajama parkers use another tactic.

"I purposely stay out as late as possible, if I don't I could drive around for 45 minutes looking for a spot," said Third Street resident Cindy Marin. "By about 11 p.m. it frees up."

The pajama parkers have been shuffling their cars for about three years. But they may get some reprieve in the upcoming months as the Santa Monica City Council has approved a "preferential parking" zone for them. However, the zone still has to be approved by the state's Coastal Commission because the neighborhood is in the Bayside District.

The zone would restrict the public from parking on the street during the evening so residents are able to reasonably find a space in front of their homes.

Braga, who, after two years, got two-thirds of the residents on her block to sign a petition asking for a preferential parking zone, said her and her neighbors' quality of life has gone down hill because of the situation.

"Nobody visits us," because they can't find a place to park, she said. "The standard of life really sucks right here."

In 1994, Braga tried unsuccessfully to get preferential parking in her neighborhood. She was able to get enough signatures for other blocks near her — on Fourth and Fifth Streets between Wilshire Boulevard and California Avenue — but not her own.

She watched the blocks where she

helped gather signatures get preferential parking, which ultimately hurt her cause since she inadvertently helped available parking on neighboring blocks be taken out of the mix.

But for the past two years, she has slowly convinced her neighbors to sign the petition requesting that their block be set aside exclusively for them to park on.

"Every time I would get mad (at the situation) I would try to get signatures to cope," Braga said, adding a high rise building across the street from her apartment is predominately made up of senior citizens who are Russian, which made it difficult for her to communicate with them.

Out of desperation, Braga came up with a solution.

"I couldn't get into the Russian building for the longest time, but then I got a translator and brought snacks," Braga said, adding she finally got the signatures required for city council consideration. "I represent at least 150 people easily."

Braga's block is unique because it not only is used by Promenade users, but also by patrons of Michael's restaurant, which uses spaces in front of her apartment for valet services, even though they are supposed to use an underground parking structure on the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Third Street.

To make matters worse, there are a dozen paid parking meters in front of Braga's complex that require coins from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

City officials told Braga and her neighbors that the meters were temporary while a new parking garage was being built between Third and Fourth Streets, just south of Wilshire Boulevard. The structure is open, but the meters are still there.

And, there are a few spaces along the block that are "no parking" from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m., essentially making no space available throughout the day and night for residents who live there.

It's expected that the coastal commission will review the proposed zone in September, but Braga isn't holding her breath.

"Whose ears is this falling on? I wish they would speed it up because it's a safety issue here," she said. "We said 'we'll take anything,' because we feel trapped."

Officials juggle competing parking interests in the city

PARKING, from page 1

and Santa Monica College, the city's largest zone.

Each time residents go before the city council, the same emotional pleas are heard — they can't find a place to park even remotely near their home because employees of nearby businesses are filling up the streets. Noise, traffic, safety and inconvenience are all issues that have proved detrimental to their quality of life, residents say.

Depending on what the issues and needs are of residents, the city council will cut off public parking on streets during certain times of the day. Some zones allow only two-hour parking, which prevents people from parking in front of

homes all day or all night. Other zones, like the ones strung together in the Sunset Park neighborhood near the SMC campus, don't allow parking any time of the day. But often times, those streets end up empty while residents are at work, which has drawn criticism from some who call the entire practice elitist.

"It's like 'this is my street and this is your street,' it's out of hand," said Donna Block, who lives and works near 17th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, where another preferential parking zone is being considered. "It's a fraud. It continues to take over."

The council sees about four requests for preferential parking zones a year. The latest one approved was last month on

See PARKING, page 6

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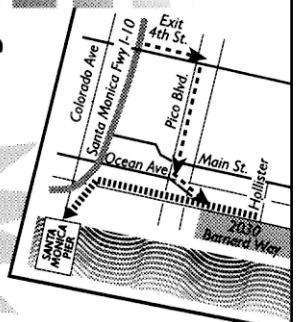
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LOCAL

Parking pressures felt by residents and merchants

PARKING, from page 5

Third Street between Wilshire Boulevard and California Avenue, where residents compete for parking with people shopping and dining on the Promenade, as well as by employees who work in those businesses. (See related story)

Then there's what city officials call the "monster study area," which roughly extends from Margarita Avenue and Fourth Street to 17th Street, and over to Wilshire Boulevard and back to Fourth Street. Although the zones are identified by sections, if they were to be approved over time, it would be the largest preferential parking area in the city.

The area includes several blocks that are predominately residential homes north of Montana Avenue, and a large area to the south between Montana Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard that consists of densely populated apartment buildings. Those areas are increasingly feeling the pressure of prosperous businesses along commercial corridors whose employees and customers use the neighborhoods as parking lots.

City officials decided that because there have been five requests for preferential parking in the area, they would study the entire section. As more requests for preferential parking started to file into City Hall over recent years, officials changed the way they handled studying preferential parking zones, said Lucy Dyke, a city transportation planning manager.

If one block requested a zone, it would take between six and nine months to study the area with traffic consultants counting cars, examining parking patterns and crunching the data. Then the next block would request a zone and another study would have to be completed, taking another six to nine months. So now officials look at entire "zones," and sections get pre-approved.

Once two-thirds of residents on a block sign a petition asking for a zone, they officially go before the city council for approval. Then there are a host of neighborhood meetings to air out all of the concerns.

"We try to make a record that's based on the data and the city ordinance," said Ruth Harper, a city transportation planning manager. "We try to adapt the regulations to address the needs of the people."

It is evident that competing interests between business owners and residents make preferential parking a necessary evil, some say.

Last month, the city hosted a meeting for those who live and work in the "monster study area" to discuss what could happen and allow city officials to listen to the issues from all sides. About 13,000 residents were invited to the meeting through a flyer in the mail and about 120 people showed up.

"This is a zone that has a variety of opinions," Dyke said. "There have been a few petitions for this area, but we have been hearing for years that people need parking over there."

The meeting became heated at times between business owners and residents who believe that parking should be made available for them. Merchants often times are against preferential parking because they have no other way to provide parking to their employees.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce sued the city last year claim-

ing preferential parking zones on residential side streets adjacent to Santa Monica Boulevard, where many of the city's autodealerships are located, infringe on local merchants' ability to conduct business. So far the chamber has lost the first round in court but it has appealed the court's decision.

As Montana Avenue continues to attract shoppers, neighborhoods adjacent to the commercial zone continue to feel the pressure. It is common to see waiters and waitresses parking on Idaho Avenue and other side streets at 5 p.m. to begin their shift. But when residents return home from their day jobs, all the parking has been gobbled up by those employees on Montana Avenue.

"What we hear from every single meeting is residents who bring up the point that the restaurant on the corner used to be less busy," Dyke said. "Residents feel the street belongs to them. In general, we share their views with them, but the council's decision on preferential parking really reflect taking advantage of the resources for parking in the city."

The pressure of available parking puts the city council in a precarious position because while politicians try to accommodate all of their constituents, they have to deal with very different issues and competing interests.

Because Santa Monica is mostly made up of dense neighborhoods with old apartment buildings that don't provide enough underground parking garages, and as many as four people living together who all have cars, there is just isn't enough parking for everyone, said City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor.

"I'm at a point where we shouldn't have anymore zones," she said. "We are going to be one big preferential parking zone."

"I understand both sides of the issue. I get a lot of letters from both sides, some say 'survival of the fittest,' others say they deserve parking in front of their homes," she added.

Some people also believe the problem of finding available parking will never go away and preferential parking zones only exacerbate the problem because it just shifts the burden to another part of town.

"It's like a domino effect, and it pushes it to a point," Dyke said.

Citizens like Block, the business owner and resident on 17th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, believe the city needs to provide parking lots for businesses either off-site or under their stores.

She suggests that the city consider using the small parking lots it owns for commercial uses, instead of planning to build affordable housing on them. They could either be used by businesses or residents on a permit-issued basis, Block said.

Mayor Mike Feinstein said the city is considering putting a ballot measure before voters to authorize the city to purchase vacant parking lots throughout the city — but whether they are used for affordable housing or parking remains to be seen.

Either way, it's going to be a fight, and politicians are in the middle of a battle that doesn't appear to have an end.

"The council is trying to do what's best for all the interests in the community," Dyke said. "Parking will always be an issue because there are more people with more cars."

STATE



Sequoias' natural fire resistance compromised by dense underbrush

BY COLLEEN VALLES
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO —

As some of the oldest and largest trees in the world, giant sequoias have a unique place in the human imagination.

Growing taller than the Statue of Liberty with trunks so massive they could provide lumber for 40 homes, the trees can withstand almost any natural fire. Some have been growing strong since the pharaohs' time.

But forestry officials worry that the fire now raging through the Giant Sequoia National Monument is something else — a conflagration blown by erratic winds and rapidly consuming a forest unnaturally thick with chaparral and small trees after years of aggressive fire prevention.

This fire is so intense that firefighters have said they won't be able to save the big trees if the flames reach them — and the edge of the wildfire was as close as a mile Wednesday to one stand of big trees, the Packsaddle Grove.

The grove includes the Packsaddle Giant, which has the fourth largest circumference of any sequoia.

"These are the most massive living organisms ever to exist on the Earth," said Matt Mathes, spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service. "We regard them as some of the most important parts of the national forest system."

The fire was far from the largest sequoia, the General Sherman, which at 275 feet tall and 30 feet across also is considered the world's largest thing by volume.

The monument is contained within the Sequoia National Forest, which has up to 13 million visitors a year.

Giant sequoias need fire to free the tiny seeds in their chicken-egg-sized cones, and easily withstand the smaller-scale, lightning-caused fires that have tickled the bases of their



Steve R. Fujimoto/Associated Press
A helicopter reloads a water bucket in the Kern River in the Sequoia National Forest while fighting a wildfire near Johnsondale, Calif., Tuesday.

trunks throughout history.

But decades of fire suppression has allowed brush and smaller trees to accumulate that burn intensely and can pass the fire up into the big trees' vulnerable limbs.

The trees have a natural defense mechanism against smaller fires — they flare out at the base, which helps deflect falling vegetation, lowering the chances of danger when the leaves and branches eventually burn.

The giant sequoias also are very resistant to insects and disease, said Tom Bonnicksen, professor of forest science at Texas A&M University.

"It's not entirely clear what ultimately kills them in old age," he said. "But they're very durable trees."

In prehistoric times, redwoods grew all over around the world, but as the climate and Earth's topography changed, giant

sequoias survived only on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada.

"They are unique in the world, and they have endured for millions of years," Bonnicksen said. "They are not only beautiful, but they are the last of their kind."

Fire is not the only threat to the trees. Unnaturally thick forests prevent seedlings from growing because they don't let sunlight down to the forest floor. Some groves have no young giant sequoias in them.

"I sincerely hope this scary situation will stimulate people to think about trying to restore this forest," Bonnicksen said. "If we don't restore it to something like it was historically, we may very well lose the giant sequoia, either to catastrophic fire or lack of ability to regenerate itself."

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STATE

Controller refuses to pay Davis, lawmakers

BY ALEXA H. BLUTH
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California Controller Kathleen Connell is refusing to pay elected officials, including state Assembly members who have failed to approve a state budget and Gov. Gray Davis, until a three-week budget standoff is resolved.

"We are getting to the point where we are having bills that have been presented to the state that cannot be paid," said Connell, a Democrat who's in charge of cutting state workers' paychecks and paying the state's bills.

Most of the state's 250,000 non-legislative workers are being paid this week, Connell said.

But Connell's office did not send paychecks this month to hundreds of elected and appointed officials, including members of the Legislature, the governor's Cabinet and Connell.

"That is a decision on my part," she said, calling it inappropriate to pay them until the budget is signed.

The Assembly has been unable to pass the \$99.1 billion budget and \$3.6 billion in tax increases needed to help balance it. The plan — crafted by Davis to close a \$23.6 billion budget deficit — was supposed to go into effect July 1.

Davis commended Connell Wednesday, saying lawmakers "need to set the example."

"We expect the citizens of the state to get their work done in time; we have to get our work done in time," Davis said in a prepared statement. Davis also withheld elected officials' paychecks when he was state controller during budget delays in the recession of the early 1990s.

"If she paid me, I would not take the money," Davis told CNN Headline News.

Twenty-five days into the fiscal year, California is feeling the pinch of operating without a state budget.

California is legally unable to pay leg-

islative staff and tens of thousands of private vendors such as those who supply food, equipment and services to the state's hospitals and prisons, she said. "They are truly victims of this budget impasse."

Connell said state schools are being fully funded despite the stalled budget and that California has enough cash because of a temporary loan secured earlier this summer to help pay the bills.

The state also still is paying state retirees and disability insurance, local sales tax and fees reimbursements to local governments and personal income tax refunds.

The state Senate approved the budget June 29 and then adjourned until August. But the spending plan fell five votes short of passage the following day in the Assembly, the day before the new fiscal year began July 1. Since then, Davis and Democratic leaders have been trying to negotiate for the Republican votes to approve the measure.

Davis kept up the pressure Wednesday, as he visited San Francisco General Hospital's AIDS oncology ward and blasted the Republican Assembly members for leaving Californians in limbo by not passing the budget that includes funding for HIV and AIDS programs.

"The benefits of those programs cannot go to the hospitals, community-based facilities and the AIDS clinics that serve people until the budget is passed," Davis said.

Davis accused Assembly Republicans of "putting people's lives in jeopardy."

"If they don't have another plan — and to date they don't — for a budget, then they should get out of the way, let the budget pass and let the state go on with its life," he said.

Republicans complain the Davis budget relies too heavily on tax hikes and faulty revenue assumptions and will strap California with billions of dollars in deficit for the next half-decade. They say they won't vote for the budget until Davis submits a plan without tax increases.

Telemundo executive: NBC link will help fuel growth

BY LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

PASADENA — Telemundo is moving to narrow the gap between it and Spanish-language media giant Univision with the resources of sister company NBC and new programming, executives said Wednesday.

Telemundo, which already shares news division resources with NBC, will be airing in Spanish the 2004 Summer Olympics, next January's Golden Globe awards and other special events already scheduled for English-language sister network NBC.

The Telemundo broadcasts will be tailored to the interests of Hispanic viewers, said James McNamara, president and chief executive officer of Telemundo Communications.

With the Olympics, for example, Telemundo would be more likely to emphasize sports such as soccer, baseball and boxing.

"We're going to turn Olympic soccer

into our World Cup, which probably means we'll do it live," he told a meeting of the Television Critics Association.

The Golden Globes will be broadcast in Spanish, with instant translations provided of English-language acceptance speeches.

New series planned for Telemundo include "Protagonistas de la Musica," in which contestants vie for a recording contract; "Los Teens," a youth-oriented drama; and the revenge drama "La Venganza."

Two holiday specials were announced for December, including the monthlong novela — or serial — "Feliz Navidad Mama," and the four-hour miniseries "La Virgen de Guadalupe."

McNamara said the lineup will help Telemundo in its contest with Univision Communications, whose companies include the U.S. broadcast networks Univision and TeleFutura and the Galavision cable network.

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NATIONAL

Feds arrest Adelphia founder John Rigas, two sons

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Warning that corporate crimes will result in “handcuffs and a jail cell,” federal authorities arrested the founder of Adelphia Communications and his two sons Wednesday on charges they looted the now-bankrupt cable giant and used it as their “personal piggy bank.”

Former chief executive John Rigas, 78, and sons Timothy, 46, and Michael, 48, were accused of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from the nation’s sixth-largest cable company, costing investors more than \$60 billion.

Two other former executives — James Brown, 40, and Michael Mulcahey, 48 — were arrested in

Pennsylvania.

The defendants could get up to 30 years in prison and millions in fines if convicted of the most serious charges. The Rigases were freed on \$10 million bail apiece, secured by cash — \$1 million for John Rigas and \$500,000 for each son — plus land and other property.

Defense attorneys refused to comment, and prosecutors will now take the case to a grand jury for an indictment.

In addition to the criminal charges, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed a lawsuit and called the case “one of the most extensive financial frauds ever to take place at a public company.” The SEC is seeking restitution, fines and an order barring the defendants from ever head-



Louis Lanzano/Associated Press

John Rigas, founder and former chairman and CEO of Adelphia Communications Corp., is led from New York's main Post Office building by U.S. postal inspector police Wednesday on his way to federal court in Manhattan. Rigas was arrested Wednesday along with his sons, Timothy and Michael, both former company executives, accused of looting the now-bankrupt company.

ing a company.

The arrests are the third major prosecution of cor-

porate officers announced in New York in the past six weeks. Criminal charges

have been brought against former executives at Tyco International in state court and against ImClone Systems in federal court.

The White House, which has been criticized as being too close to big business, said the Adelphia arrests prove it can crack down on corporate fraud.

“This government will investigate, will arrest and will prosecute corporate executives who break the law, and the Justice Department took action today,” President Bush said. He called it “a day of action and a day of accomplishment in Washington D.C.”

The arrests follow months of turmoil surrounding Adelphia, a Coudersport, Pa., company with 5.7 million cable subscribers in more than 30

states. It filed for bankruptcy protection last month after revealing billions of dollars in off-the-balance-sheet debts — much of it money taken out of the company by its founding family.

Federal investigators said the company fraudulently left \$2.3 billion in liabilities off the books, inflated earnings and falsified its number of subscribers. They also said the Rigas family borrowed more than \$2 billion from the company without reporting it to the SEC.

John Rigas also allegedly took \$13 million from the company to build a golf course, and received more than \$67 million in undisclosed loans and at least \$1 million per month in secret cash payments.

Sharpton files \$1 billion defamation suit against HBO

BY SAMUEL MAULL

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — The Rev. Al Sharpton sued HBO for \$1 billion Wednesday, saying he was defamed by the cable network’s airing of a 1983 FBI surveillance tape of him discussing a drug deal.

Sharpton said HBO showed a selectively damning portion of videotape in which he and a federal agent posing as a drug dealer discussed a cocaine shipment. The tape was aired Tuesday night on “Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel.”

Sharpton, who was not charged with any crime as a result of the tape, said agents recorded a second tape that

removes any suspicions about his actions.

On that tape, Sharpton said, he and a record company executive tell the undercover agent, “Don’t ever talk to us about a drug deal.”

He said he asked HBO to show that tape also, but it did not.

Michael Hardy, one of Sharpton’s lawyers, said the decision to air “an incomplete and edited tape unfairly puts Rev. Sharpton in a false light, thereby actually defaming him with malice and a gross irresponsibility.”

HBO spokesman Ray Stallone said the lawsuit was “so silly that it is unworthy of comment.” He said the network had given Sharpton an opportunity to respond on

air and to provide the second tape.

The state court lawsuit names HBO, HBO Real Sports, AOL Time Warner, reporter Bernard Goldberg and reputed former organized crime hood Michael Franzese as defendants. It demands \$500 million in compensatory damages and \$500 million in punitive damages.

Sharpton said Franzese and the FBI agent, who was posing as a Latin American businessman, had approached him to discuss promoting boxing matches and musical events.

“In the middle of conversation he started talking about how he could cut me in on a cocaine deal,” Sharpton said. “I didn’t know if he was armed. I was scared so I just nodded my head to everything he said and then he left.”

Sharpton suggested the videotape was aired in an attempt to derail his possible 2004 presidential run.

FBI spokesman Joe Valiquette said Tuesday that he had not heard the tapes and that to his knowledge the FBI had not released them.

Connecticut court says it cannot dissolve civil union for gay couple

BY KATHRYN MASTERSON

Associated Press Writer

HARTFORD, Conn. — A gay couple’s attempt to have their civil union dissolved was rejected by a Connecticut appeals court Wednesday in what is believed to be the first such test of the law outside Vermont.

Glen Rosengarten and Peter Downes were married in Vermont in 2000, six months after that state enacted the first law in the nation allowing homosexual couples to enter into something akin to marriage.

The Connecticut appeals court ruled that it cannot dissolve their union because Connecticut law does not recognize such relationships.

Vermont remains the only state that allows civil unions, and no state outside of Vermont has approved any dissolutions.

When Vermont passed its law,

activists hoped that other states would legally recognize civil unions entered into in Vermont, in the same way that a marriage performed in one state is recognized in all states.

Lambda Legal Defense, a gay rights organization, said it knows of no other case of a gay couple trying to dissolve their civil union outside of Vermont.

Rosengarten applied in July 2001 to have the relationship dissolved in a Stamford, Conn., court. The Superior Court ruled that it did not have jurisdiction.

Rosengarten appealed to the Appellate Court, the second-highest court in Connecticut, which ruled that unions between same-sex couples do not fall under the state’s definitions of family relations matters.

Gary Cohen, Rosengarten’s attorney, said his client wanted a formal dissolution to protect the inheritance

of his three adult children.

“This is not a test case,” Cohen said. “These are two very private people who want to have this resolved with dignity and discretion.”

Cohen said he would encourage Rosengarten to appeal to the Connecticut Supreme Court.

In the two years that Vermont’s civil union law has existed, 4,222 couples have received licenses, said Bill Apao, director of public health statistics. More than 80 percent of those couples — 3,533 in all — were from out of state. The state has granted six dissolutions, Apao said.

Though anyone can get a civil union license in Vermont, state law requires at least one party be a Vermont resident before the family courts will rule on a dissolution. Rosengarten lives in Connecticut and Downes lives in New York.

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NATIONAL

States raid rainy day funds to cope with budget woes

BY STEVEN K. PAULSON
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — States have used up two-thirds of their cash on hand and their rainy-day funds trying to cope with budget crises, legislative leaders from across the country said Wednesday, as they called for government help.

By June 30, the end of the fiscal year for 46 states, the gap between revenues and spending hit \$36 billion, leaders said at the National Conference of State Legislatures annual meeting.

The difference is expected to hit \$58 billion during the next fiscal year, leaving many states scrambling to pay for continuing programs and federal mandates.

"The rainyday funds are there for a rainy day. This is somewhere between a rain storm and a hurricane," said conference president Stephen Saland, a Republican state senator from New York.

Saland said many states were forced to cut reserve balances and programs this past year, while others raised taxes.

At least 26 states collected less revenue during the past fiscal year than they did the year before, and 19 tapped cash reserves, according to a survey conducted in June by the association.

States also raised taxes by \$6.7 billion,

breaking a trend of tax cuts that began in 1994. Only one state, Hawaii, cut taxes by more than 1 percent while 16 raised taxes by more than 1 percent.

Only four states — Nevada, Wyoming, Alaska and Delaware — had year-end balances that were 10 percent or more of general fund expenditures.

Nevada managed to preserve a balance despite a \$114.5 million gap between revenue and spending. That gap represents 6.2 percent of the total budget. That gap should increase to about \$200 million this fiscal year, the NCSL said.

Four states — California, Kentucky, Massachusetts and North Carolina — had not passed budgets when the survey was compiled.

NCSL Executive Director William Pound said the next fiscal year, which began July 1 for many states, will be a bigger challenge now that the reserves are dwindling.

Legislators blamed a declining economy, the Sept. 11 attacks and recent business scandals for the declines.

Saland also said the federal government has contributed to the problem, increasing state participation in programs like Medicaid and asking states to assume a bigger role in anti-terrorist activities.

Global effort sought to curb deaths of marine mammals

BY RON DEPASQUALE
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — An international effort is needed to curb the deaths each year of tens of thousands of dolphins, whales and porpoises who become tangled in fishing gear, experts said Wednesday.

The alert was sounded during the two-day meeting of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

An estimated 60,000 dolphins, porpoises and whales die in fishing entanglements annually, according to Duke University scientists. Even when disentangled, most still die from infections.

The commission intends to make recommendations on how to lessen the number of mammals dying in fishing gear to Congress and President Bush next spring.

"This is not just a problem in U.S. coastal waters. This is an international

problem, and the question is what kind of leadership role will the U.S. play in solving it," said Andrew Rosenberg, a commissioner and dean of life sciences and agriculture at the University of New Hampshire.

Rosenberg is also co-chairman of a World Wildlife Fund committee that has issued an international "call to action" on the issue and intends to lobby the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, which sets fishing policies for more than 100 countries.

The conservation group is already teaching foreign fisheries about innovations that lessen mammals' mortality, such as "pingers," which emit noises that drive porpoises from nets.

"They really don't want dolphins, porpoises and whales in their gear when they're trying to catch fish they can sell and eat," said the Wildlife Fund's Karen Baragona.

16-year-old teenager accused of leading a burglary ring

By The Associated Press

McKINNEY, Texas — A 16-year-old boy is accused of leading a burglary ring that carried out more than 600 break-ins of homes and cars.

"An older burglar might have done this in his entire career," Detective Kathy Hudson said.

The boy, who was not identified because of his age, was arrested July 11 after he was caught breaking into a car in McKinney, about 20 miles from Dallas, police said. He remained Wednesday in a juvenile detention center.

The ring stole computers, cameras and cash, netting more than \$56,000

from around the McKinney area over the past year, authorities said.

On some nights, the boy committed as many as 20 break-ins and helped coordinate 500 car break-ins and 130 home burglaries carried out by the eight other members of his gang, ages 17 to 21, police said. More arrests were possible.

"All the people that we have interviewed say that the 16-year-old is the one who tells them where to go and what to do," Hudson said.

The boy dropped out of school, had little contact with his parents and viewed the burglaries as a way to make a living, Hudson said.

SPORTS



As new victory looms, Armstrong recalls past defeat

BY MICHAEL MCDONOUGH

Associated Press Writer

LA PLAGNE, France — Even as Lance Armstrong closes in on his fourth straight victory in the Tour de France, he couldn't help remembering his worst performance.

Armstrong extended his overall lead to more than 5 minutes Wednesday, finishing third behind Dutch rider Michael Boogerd in the grueling 16th stage — the most difficult of the three-week Tour.

The 30-year-old Texan finished well ahead of his nearest rival, Spain's Joseba Beloki, and stretched his lead from 4 minutes, 21 seconds to 5:06 — a huge margin now that the Tour's toughest stages are over.

And yet, he could not relax heading into Thursday's 88-mile run from Aime to Cluses in the Alps.

Armstrong was recalling the difficulties he had in the 2000 Tour on the stage from Courchevel to Morzine — which he called at the time "the hardest day of my life on a bike."

Armstrong suddenly tired while pushing up the Col de Joux-Plane pass in the final mountain stage two years ago. The U.S. Postal Service team rider finished the leg far behind his archrival, Jan Ullrich of Germany, and lost nearly two minutes off his overall lead.

Armstrong blamed lack of food and sugar for his loss of form.

That was his last weak spell in any Tour de France. In 2001, he was flawless throughout, and this year he has consistently increased his lead over Beloki.

Barring illness or injury, Armstrong is almost certain to win a fourth straight title when the Tour ends on Sunday.

Armstrong's lead in this Tour is less than the 6:15 advantage he held over Fernando Escartin after 16 stages in 1999. It is also less than the 5:37 lead he had over Ullrich in 2000, after a disastrous day at Joux-Plane.

His lead is one second more than the advantage he had over Ullrich in 2001.

Major upset at Mercedes Cup

BY TOM A. MCFERSON

Special to the Daily Press

Tennis fans who stayed into the night were rewarded with great tennis and a stunning result at the 2002 Mercedes Benz Cup: Qualifier Alex Bogomolov Jr., currently ranked No. 278 in the world, upset number one seeded Tommy Haas of Germany 6-4, 6-4.

Bogomolov, Jr., who had to win three matches just to qualify for this tournament, kept his poise and continued to execute his game-plan of pounding the shaky Haas backhand. He next plays Nicolas Kiefer, also of Germany.

Time after time, Bogomolov Jr. went after the Haas backhand, and it continued to pay off. By the end, Haas, who came out swinging freely on the backhand side, was reduced to chipping the ball back, hoping for a mistake.

This was the first match in almost two months for Haas, and it showed. He had taken some time off to care for his parents, who were both injured in a motorcycle accident in Florida.

The favorite did win in the first match of the night, with second seeded Andre Agassi hammering Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark. Agassi should get more of a challenge from his next opponent, American Robby Ginepri.



Peter Dejong/Associated Press

Overall leader Lance Armstrong of Austin, Texas, speeds down the Madeleine pass during the 16th stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Les Deux Alpes and La Plagne, French Alps, Wednesday. Armstrong placed third in the stage, extending his overall lead in his bid for a fourth straight title.

Thursday's stage features four tough climbs, but none that compare to the three climbs in Wednesday's leg from Les Deux-Alpes to La Plagne. Also, he won't have to face Joux-Plane.

Armstrong is also expected to extend his lead in Saturday's individual time trial.

He finished last year's race with a 6:44 advantage over Ullrich, aided, in part, by his stunning time-trial run.

Boogerd, of the Rabobank team, won Wednesday's 111.29-mile stage in 5:48.29.

Spain's Carlos Sastre was second, just ahead of Armstrong. Both finished 1:25 behind Boogerd, and 37 seconds ahead of Beloki. Armstrong earned 8 bonus seconds for finishing third.

Former UCLA star Justin Gimelstob, who was given a wild card entry into the tournament, continued his rapid descent with a lackluster loss to German Nicolas Kiefer. Looking irritable and out of sorts, Gimelstob had trouble mounting any kind of challenge, and quickly dropped eight of the last nine games to lose the match.

Gimelstob, who left UCLA early to begin what many thought would be a promising pro career, is now struggling just to win matches nevermind tournaments. He has accumulated a 3-4 record this year on the tour, and has been forced to play Challenger tournaments (the minor leagues of professional tennis) to get his game back in order.

Taylor Dent and Andy Roddick, two young Americans who have been labeled "The Future of American Tennis," were scheduled to play their respective matches Wednesday night.

Other big names still in the tournament include Xavier Malisse of Belgium, a semi-finalist in last month's Wimbledon; eleventh ranked Sebastien Grojean of France; and three-time French Open winner Gustavo Kuerten.

The Mercedes Benz Cup is played at the Los Angeles Tennis Center on the campus of UCLA, near Pauley Pavilion. The tournament continues through Sunday.

Conner, crew dodge sinking feeling after sloop is saved

BY BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — Dennis Conner and his crew still can't believe how lucky they were that their yacht's voyage to the bottom of the sea was a short one.

Stars & Stripes (USA-77), Conner's new \$5 million America's Cup sloop, sank in 55 feet of water about a mile off Long Beach on Tuesday.

Having dodged disaster, Conner was feeling a little jovial Wednesday while recounting the accident.

"Technically, it was not a sinking. It was a grounding and a swamping," he said, noting that 60 feet of the 110-foot mast was still sticking out of the water when the boat hit bottom.

The sloop was lifted out by a giant crane hours later and was back in its storage cradle on Terminal Island by dusk. About half of the 15 sailors had to jump into the Pacific Ocean, the others simply hopped onto chase boats.

"Talk about lucky," navigator Peter Isler said "We were amazingly fortunate, and we continue to count our blessings."

Isler was among those who had to jump overboard.

"At least the water was warm," he said. It could have been a lot worse.

Stars & Stripes (USA-77) and its slightly older stablemate, Stars & Stripes (USA-66), had been out training earlier in the day in Catalina Channel, where Conner estimated the water is 2,000 feet deep in places.

"It happened in shallow water, by the grace of God or by sheer luck," Conner said. "Otherwise it would still be out there."

The 80-foot, high-tech yacht sank in four minutes after the rudder post broke off, leaving a 14-inch hole in the carbon-fiber hull. Conner, who has won and lost the America's Cup more than anyone in its 151-year history, with four victories and two defeats, wasn't aboard. He rarely sails anymore, focusing instead on raising the

\$40 million needed to compete in the race.

When the mishap occurred, the yacht was on its way to pick up a group of corporate sponsors for an afternoon sail.

The sinking will have little effect because the team's two-boat training period was to have ended Thursday, said Bill Trenkle, a crew member and director of operations for Team Dennis Conner.

USA-77 will be shipped to Auckland, New Zealand, next Wednesday, as planned, Trenkle said, and repaired there.

The America's Cup trials begin Oct. 1 in Auckland, and Conner expects the boat launched in late May to be ready.

The damage "is definitely not mortal," he said.

Isler said it took about 30 seconds to get Stars & Stripes under control after the rudder broke. The crew started to drop the sails then saw the water flooding in.

"I didn't have a chance really to think," Isler said. "Just act fast, helping to pull down the sails, pass out life jackets, get the pumps and airbags distributed in the right place, and then it was time to jump in."

Conner thinks a broken bearing led to the sinking. He said the crew tried to stuff the mainsail storage bag into the hole, "and it got sucked in like a straw."

The other thing that saved Stars & Stripes was being so close to the giant ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. A 300-foot barge with a crane had just finished a job five miles away and was quickly sent to the scene.

Divers fastened slings around the hull, the mast was secured, and the boat was raised.

"It was high and dry before dark," Conner said.

"You never want to have the trauma of going through something like this, but if you have to, there was no better place for it to happen," Conner said.

USA-66, which was launched in February, will be shipped to New Zealand a week after USA-77 is sent.

"That spreads the risk," Conner said.



INTERNATIONAL

U.S. loses fight to block U.N. vote on torture convention

BY DAFNA LINZER

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — The United States on Wednesday failed to muster enough support to block a U.N. vote on a plan meant to enforce a convention on torture and its attempts to do so were widely criticized by European and Latin American allies.

The plan, which calls for independent visits to prisons as a way for halting the practice of torture, was passed 35-8 with 10 abstentions in the U.N. Economic and Social Council, known as ECOSOC.

A U.S. proposal to reopen 10 years of negotiations on the document failed when it was voted down 29-15 with eight abstentions.

Denmark, which read a statement on behalf of the European Union, accused the United States of intentionally stalling in order to kill the proposal. Costa Rica,

which sponsored the plan, “urged all delegations to vote against” the American request.

Human rights groups and diplomats argued that the plan, which would be optional for countries to adopt, was essential to ending torture around the world.

But the United States said parts of the plan were incompatible with the U.S. Constitution. Privately, U.S. diplomats said allowing outside observers into state prisons would infringe on states’ rights.

Among the U.S. concerns was also language that could allow for international and independent visits to U.S. prisons and to terror suspects being held by the U.S. military at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

The anti-torture proposal enjoyed wide support among Western European and Latin American countries.

Human rights advocates argue that the optional protocol is essential to enforce an international convention on torture passed 13 years ago and since ratified by about

130 countries, including the United States. Countries are supposed to enforce the convention on their own, but rights groups argue that that isn’t working everywhere.

“A vote against the optional protocol would be a disastrous setback in the fight against torture,” said Martin MacPherson, head of Amnesty International’s legal program. People were tortured or ill-treated by authorities in 111 countries last year, according to an Amnesty report.

Activists feared that if the United States succeeded in reopening the negotiations, “it will mean a kiss of death,” for the protocol, said Rory Mungoven of the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

The protocol has been under negotiation for a decade. Its objective, according to the text, is “to establish a system of regular visits undertaken by independent and national bodies to places where people are deprived of their liberty, in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment.”

Israel offers Palestinians financial, security gestures

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Facing a storm of criticism for its raid on Gaza, Israel offered Palestinians a series of goodwill gestures Wednesday and blamed faulty military intelligence for the deaths of nine children and four other civilians in the fatal attack on a Hamas military chief.

Palestinians, meanwhile, claimed militant groups were about to sign a cease-fire declaration before the attack. Israeli officials dismissed those reports and defended the bombing, even as they admitted intelligence surrounding the attack was flawed.

“It’s a tragedy because innocent people got killed. It’s not a tragedy because a cease-fire was imminent,” said Daniel Taub, a Foreign Ministry spokesman. “Unfortunately that wasn’t the case.”

As Israelis braced for promised retaliation, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said a troop pullback would go ahead from some occupied areas of the West Bank if they remain calm. He also said the government had released millions of dollars in blocked Palestinian taxes and issued 4,000 permits to Palestinians who work in Israel.

Each measure already was under negotiation during talks between Peres and the Palestinians before the Tuesday bombing, which killed Salah Shehadeh, who Israel says was responsible for dozens of attacks in the past 22 months of fighting and at the top of their most-wanted list of terrorists.

Peres said he hoped to press forward with negotiations on security and economic issues — including a Palestinian offer to resume security cooperation. Palestinians said there was no decision about continuing the talks.

Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas spokesman, said any cease-fire was off.

“After yesterday’s heinous massacre in Gaza, there will be no more respect for a Zionist child or the so-called Zionist civilians,” he said.

As politicians blamed an intelligence failure, the army said it would investigate the air raid on a crowded residential area of Gaza City when entire families were home asleep. The blast destroyed the building that housed Shehadeh and also killed his wife and one of their children. Three other buildings were damaged.

“The intelligence was apparently not complete,” Israeli President Moshe Katsav told Israel Army Radio, saying political leaders bore the responsibility.

With the Israeli leadership admitting problems surrounding the attack, the media began questioning the use of what was reportedly a one-ton bomb in such a densely populated area.

“It’s possible that the designation of the bomb was not right,” said army spokeswoman Capt. Sharon Feingold.

The head of military planning, Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland, said the army had used the weapon because of its accuracy but acknowledged “wrong calculations”

Laid to rest



Vadim Ghirda/Associated Press

The bodies of three children recovered from the rubble of an apartment building destroyed by an Israeli airstrike Tuesday in Gaza City are carried during their funeral march in Gaza on Wednesday. An Israeli warplane attacked a house in the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, killing at least 15 people, including Salah Shehadeh, commander of the military wing of Hamas.

were made.

Israeli media concluded the strike was a public relations debacle for Israel. “The assassination and the embarrassment,” read the headline in Maariv. Haaretz said the army would investigate what it called the “Gaza bombing disaster.”

Amid the angry criticism, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Peres and Finance

Minister Silvan Shalom met to discuss resuming talks with the Palestinians and easing the hardships in the Palestinian territories, Army Radio said.

Peres told reporters after the meeting that the army still intended to withdraw from areas of Hebron and Bethlehem if they remained calm and if the Palestinians assumed control.

Blair vows tests for Northern Ireland outlaws, crisis remains

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press Writer

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Prime Minister Tony Blair vowed Wednesday to toughen Britain’s enforcement of paramilitary cease-fires in Northern Ireland and to punish violators — a commitment that failed to soothe either side in the province’s fraying Catholic-Protestant government.

It also did not seem to deter those committed to tearing down the province’s 1998 peace accord. A bomb claimed by Irish Republican Army dissidents damaged the home of Lord Brookeborough, grandson of a former Protestant prime minister of Northern Ireland, and suspected IRA dissidents tried but failed to hijack the main Dublin-to-Belfast train.

Addressing lawmakers in the final summer session of Parliament, Blair said Wednesday the IRA and outlawed anti-Catholic groups must demonstrate they are “not engaged in any preparations for terrorism.”

“It is not enough for people to be on cease-fire and

think there is some tolerated level of violence,” Blair said. Blair’s statements brought protests from both sides.

Catholic politicians argued Britain was placing too much emphasis on IRA cease-fire violations at a time when most of the violence was coming from outlawed Protestant organizations, whose representatives are excluded from the power-sharing government.

Mainstream Protestant politicians complained Britain had made no commitment to expel Sinn Fein from the coalition if IRA violations continue. They warned that power-sharing — the central achievement of the peace accord — faced suspension or collapse within months.

Blair’s minister for Northern Ireland, John Reid, said the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party faced the toughest test because it was the only paramilitary-linked party in Northern Ireland’s four-party Cabinet.

Reid, who has the power to recommend to Northern Ireland’s legislature that it expel Sinn Fein from the administration, said Sinn Fein’s involvement in the government “calls for a measure of responsibility and trust. And trust depends on confidence that the transition from

violence to democracy continues apace, has not stalled, and will be completed without delay.”

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams protested that Britain ought to be focusing solely on attacks on Catholics by Protestant outlaws, chiefly the Ulster Defense Association, whose 1994 cease-fire has already been ruled invalid by Britain.

“The real crisis is the rising sectarianism in our society, and the failure of all leaders to address it. The reality is that people in Belfast are living in fear of attacks from the UDA, not the IRA,” Adams said.

The latest Catholic victim of Ulster Defense Association, 19-year-old Gerard Lawlor, was gunned down Monday near his north Belfast home. His parents, Sharon and John Lawlor, said Wednesday they bore no ill will to his killers.

“God forgive them for what they done. There’s no point in hating these people,” said Sharon Lawlor. “They’ll find out one day what it’s like for us. We’re not their judge at the end of the day, God is.”

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



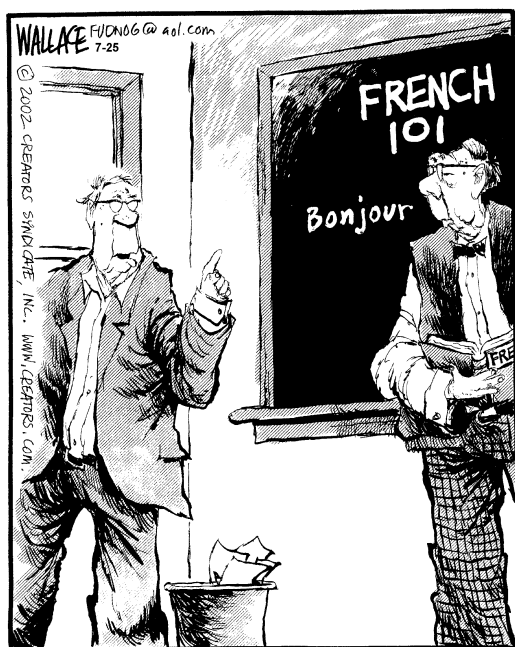
by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



By Dave Whammond



By Russ Wallace



"Pardon me. I just got a job as a translator. Any chance I can get through this class by tomorrow?"

By Dave Coverly



ACROSS

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 - 10 Matador's foe
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 - 14 Fixing a sneaker
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 - 20 Washroom fixtures
 - 23 Old auto
 - 24 Are real
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 - 27 Greedy desire
 - 28 Indicated pain
 - 29 Restful
 - 32 Telling the tale
 - 36 Circle of light
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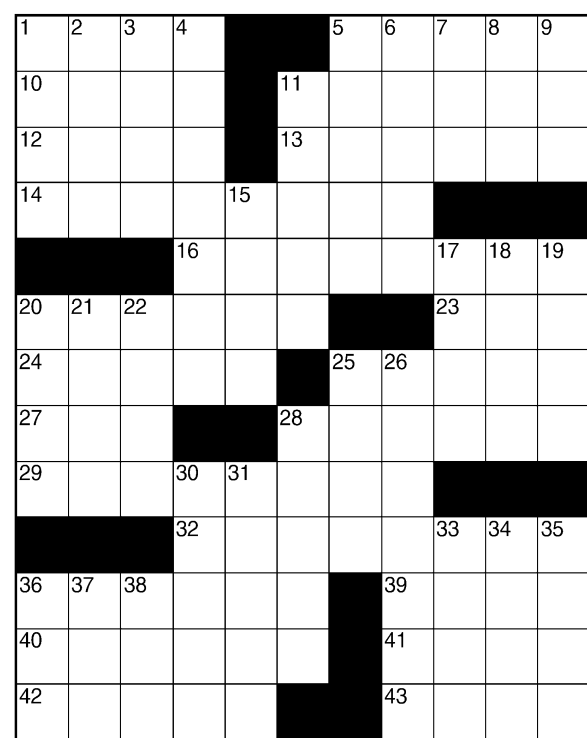
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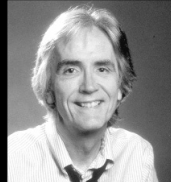
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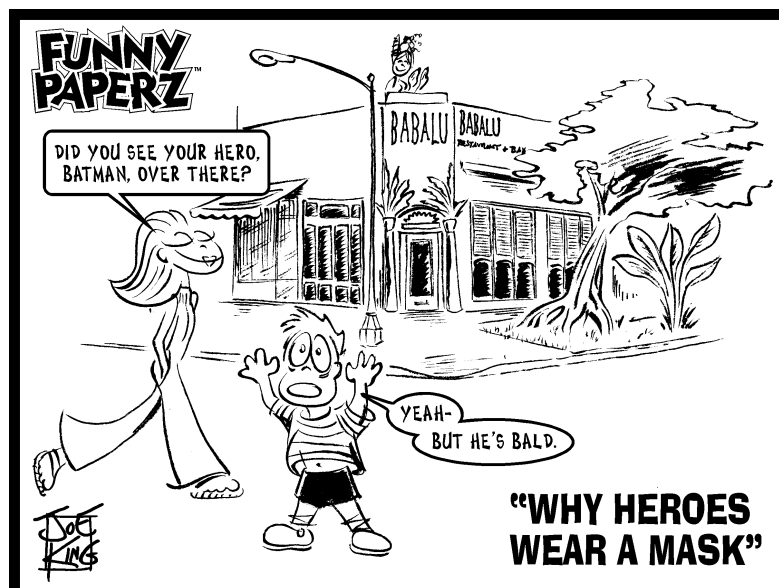


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

- Imprisoned Brazilian drug king Fernandinho Beira-Mar somehow arranged for a shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missile to be delivered to his cell at Bangu One prison before the government confiscated it (June).

- A high school senior who plagiarized a paper and whose English teacher failed her was nonetheless given a last-minute makeup test in order to graduate, after her parents' lawyer threatened the school district with lengthy litigation (Phoenix, May).
- A federal environmental official warned of another serious danger of home methamphetamine labs, that they create 5 pounds of dangerous toxic waste for every pound of meth (Bulls Gap, Tenn., May).



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TRUNDEL BED. Heavy pine, natural wood, head and footboard, two mattresses, \$500 OBO. (310)459-5013

Furniture

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BUTCHER BLOCK OAK DRESSER SET One five drawer (stacked) dresser and one nightstand-style dresser w/ one drawer and two-door cabinet. \$350 OBO. Billy at 586-1986

SOLID OAK DRESSER 5 stacked drawers, w/ European glides. Light blond classic. \$200 OBO. Billy at 586-1986

Pets

KITTENS 3 Tuxedo and 1 Tabby. M/F, short hair, box-trained, shots/fixes. \$45.00 (310)712-6810 or (310)399-4456.

For Rent

2 BDRM 1 bath, 2031 20th st./Pico. First floor, hrdwd. \$1350 (310)273-6639 (310) 450-0646

BRENTWOOD \$1050.00 BEAUTIFUL, large (600 sqft) guest studio, kitchen, beams, no pets, util. incl., (310)476-8941.

BRENTWOOD ADJACENT \$1550.00 2bdrm/2ba condo. Central air, fireplace, 2 car garage, R/S, gated building, carpet. (818)404-7516.

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 \$1199.00 to \$1585.00. Six blocks from the beach. Three blocks from Third St. Promenade area! (310)656-0311. www.breezesuites.com

SANTA MONICA \$1250.00 2 bdrm, r/s, crpt, lrg clsts, Indry, pkgng inc. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1395.00 2 bdrm, PET OK, lrg clsts, crpt, pkgng inc. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1595.00 2bdrm/2ba Upper, patio, stove, refrigerator, carpets, blinds, tandem parking, no pets. 1 year lease. (310)395-9344

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SANTA MONICA \$800.00 Studio, r/s, hrdwd flr, lrg clsts, pkgng inc. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$995.00 1 bdrm, CAT OK, r/s. crpt, lrg clsts, pool, Indry, pkgng inc. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Guest Houses

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Houses For Rent

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SANTA MONICA \$1395.00 Hse, PET OK, r/s. hrdwd flr, firepl, w/d hkp, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1500.00 2bdrm Trplx, PET OK, r/s, hrdwd flr, Indry, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA House \$3500.00/month. North Wilshire, close to beach. 3bdrm/2.5 bath. Front & back yard. Hardwood floors. Central air conditioning. W/D hook-ups. Secure area: (661)822-6644, (661)330-0836 cell.

Townhouses

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Roommates

APT. TO share. \$575 Fully Furnished/ Pvt. room. Month to month. Share utilities. Close to UCLA+SM College. Sam (310) 453-6649

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ART STUDIO 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.

RETAIL STORE off Main St. 2300 sq. ft. \$2.00 per ft. 208 Pier Ave. Agent (310)396-1439 ext.234.

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GARAGE STORAGE only. Very central, Santa Monica location. \$125/month. (310)828-6621

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Phone: 310-458-7737

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

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010	Meetings	250	Wanted	600	Services
020	Legal Notices	300	For Rent	650	Health/Beauty
100	Employment	400	Real Estate		

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MESSAGE 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.

Massage

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

MESSAGE THERAPIST C.M.T., M.S., Therapeutic massage with specialty in physically challenged elderly and rehabilitation. Burke (310)459-5973.

Announcements

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

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

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!

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MATURE BABYSITTER Several years experience. References available. Call Joanne at (213)880-4207.

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

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HELP
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Vehicles for sale

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

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

Business Opps

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

Yard Sales

HUGE GARAGE Sale, Sunday 7/28. 10-2pm. 824 11th St., SM

LET US know what's for sale! Reach over 15,000 readers daily for only a buck a day! So turn that old t.v. into cash! Call (310) 458-7737 and place your ad today!

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 25, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
The Sum of all Fears (PG-13) 9:30. *The Bourne Identity* (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30. *Like Mike* (PG) 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15. *Stuart Little 2* (PG) 11:00, 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 5:45, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Minority Report (PG-13) 11:40, 3:15, 7:10, 10:30. *K-19: The Widowmaker* (PG-13) 12:00, 12:30, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:30, 10:15, 10:45. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG) 11:20, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50. *Men in Black II* (PG-13) 11:50, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40. *Halloween: Resurrection* 11:45, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Lilo & Stich (PG) 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 7:05. *Mr. Deeds* (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35. *Insomnia* (R) 9:15. *Reign of Fire* 11:15, 1:50, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20. *The Crocodile Hunter* (PG) 10:45, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40. *Road to Perdition* 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55, 10:50. *Eight Legged Freaks* (PG-13) 11:25, 1:55, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00.

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

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Y Tu Mama Tambien (NR) 12:00 I 2:35 I 5:10 I 7:45 I 10:15. *Read My Lips* (NR) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. *Me Without You* (NR) 1:00 I 3:15 I 5:30 I 7:50 I 10:10. *Tadpole* (PG-13) 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55.

Today

Community

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

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

Theatre / Arts

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.

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.santamonica-playhouse.com.

Music / Entertainment

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!

Komdey Krunch. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa

Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover.

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

Los Angeles Arts Academy, Summer Art Camp

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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.

Theatre / Arts

Los Angeles Art Premiere - Artist: Tali Almong. Platform 9, 2727 Main St., Santa Monica. 7 p.m. To 10 p.m. For more information please call (310)392-7393.

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



Case of the missing trout

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Rainbow trout are vanishing from the fish pond at California's Capitol Park, state police said.

The fish pond at the 40-acre park is within view of security cameras of the state Capitol, said Dennis Williams, assistant chief of the California Highway Patrol's Protective Services Division. A 4-foot-high perimeter fence and "no trespassing" signs make it clear the trout are not to be harassed or hooked.

But the fish keep vanishing.

This spring, Fisher counted 35 trout in the 25,000-gallon pool. As of mid-July, there were 19. Six succumbed to disease or heat, but the others are missing in action — apparently snatched from the water, he said.

By fall, poachers likely will have whittled the population to fewer than 10, Fisher said.

"The trout are for display only," Williams said. "If we catch someone trying to catch a fish, we'll get them to leave without further ado."

Several of the pond's trout span 18 inches or more. One fish weighed 6 pounds, Fisher said.

All-ages nudie show

By The Associated Press

NICOLLET, Minn. — Wide-eyed teenage boys lined up at the Mirage Pure Gold early Wednesday as the strip club, battling this small town over rules barring

nude dancing, opened its doors to all ages.

Although the dancers kept their clothes on for the night, about a 100 people age 16 and up paid a \$10 cover to watch the ladies' moves.

The Mirage Pure Gold opened last year in this town of about 900 in southern Minnesota. At the time, the town had no zoning rules for adult businesses.

City leaders quickly convened and on Wednesday morning, the town's recently adopted adult-use ordinance took effect, requiring dancers to be covered — however scantily. But the ordinance said nothing about age requirements.

In response, the Mirage had its dancers cover up — but also opened its doors to kids as young as 16.

Dan Wietecha, city administrator, wouldn't comment on the owners' plans. But he said if the club complies with the ordinance, the city will not take action.

Benzinger said the club's attorneys plan to go to federal court to seek an injunction prohibiting the city from enforcing its new ordinance until after a federal hearing can be held.

A bird-brained computer

By The Associated Press

NEWARK, Del. — Everyone's familiar with the computer mouse. But the computer chicken?

Researchers in the University of Delaware's ACRES program — Affordable Composites from Renewable Sources — have developed a computer processor made from chicken feathers.

The head of the program, chemical engineering professor Richard Wool, said researchers looked to chicken feathers because they have shafts that are hollow but strong, and made mostly of air, a great conductor of electricity.

The chicken-feather chip is made from soybean resin and feathers crafted into a composite material that looks and feels like silicon.

In early tests, electrical signals moved twice as

quickly through the feather chip as through a conventional silicon chip, researchers said.

"The first time, Dr. Wool's response was, 'Recheck,'" said Chang Kook Hong, 34, the postdoctoral research associate who headed the research. "I repeated the test three times with the same results. Then he said, 'You have a hit here.'"

Problems still remain, including the natural bumps and irregularities that come from using an organic base, said Dr. Dennis Prather, an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering.

Travelers employees design new logo

By The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Travelers Property Casualty Corp. has a challenge for its employees: Come up with a logo that can fill the shoes of the company's famous red umbrella, which it lost when it split from Citigroup last year.

The Hartford insurer will accept logo designs from workers and members of their immediate families. The designer of the logo that gets chosen will win a trip for four to Disney World.

When Travelers regained its independence from parent company Citigroup in December, it agreed to relinquish the logo by March 2004. Citigroup retained Travelers Life & Annuity, which will continue to use the red umbrella.

Travelers hopes to announce a winner in September. A panel of executives and other employees will judge the entries. The entry judged the best will win the prize, whether or not the company actually ends up using the logo.

Travelers spokesman Keith Anderson conceded that cost concerns played a role in the company's decision not to hire a consultant, but said the company believes its employees could come up with better ideas than a consultant.

Designs that include umbrellas of any color will be disqualified.

What do Shaq and Lenny Krayzelberg have in common?

as quoted in USA Today



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Light the Way to a Cure



Santa Monica Relay For Life Santa Monica College, Corsair Field

On Saturday, August 3, 2002, at Santa Monica College, Corsair Field, we will be holding a Relay For Life luminary ceremony at 9:00 p.m. The luminary bags will line the track and will have the name of a person for whom the luminary was purchased. You may purchase a luminary in "honor" of someone who is battling cancer, or has survived cancer, or in "memory" for someone who lost his or her battle with cancer. You do not need to be present or a participant in the Relay to take part in this ceremony. But everyone is invited to attend and to light their luminary candles. It's the most powerful and moving part of Relay!

Donations for the luminary bags are \$10.00 each. They will also be available the day of the event for \$10.00 each.

For additional information regarding the purchase of luminary bags, please call Arthur Spencer at 310.451.1358 or Maxine Tatlonghari at 213.368.8537.

Relay For Life



A Team Event to Fight Cancer

