

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Two dead after Big Blue Bus accident

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Two people are dead and one is in critical condition after a Big Blue Bus plowed into their car in West Los Angeles Tuesday.

At about 7 p.m., a 1997 Honda Civic, driven by Robert Vicelich was turning left onto Manchester Avenue from Sepulveda Westway when it was struck on the driver's side by the bus, owned and operated by Santa Monica, said West Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Jack Richter.

Vicelich and one of his passengers, Elizabeth Ewing, were transported to Daniel Feeman Inglewood Hospital where they were pronounced dead.

A third passenger, who remains unidentified, is listed in critical but stable condition at UCLA Medical Center.

The 52-year-old bus driver, whose identity is not being released by authorities or city officials, sustained minor injuries. None of the 20 passengers on the bus complained of injuries at the accident scene.

**"They were nearly home.
It's a bloody tragedy."**

— ALLAN ROCHER
Australian Consulate general

The Honda Civic was pushed across Manchester Avenue, where it collided with another car that was wait-

ing in the left turn lane. The driver of that car, who was the sole occupant, was not injured.

"There are a lot of witnesses (investigators) need to talk to and right now it's all under investigation," Richter said.

The bus was on route No. 3, which goes from the Los Angeles International Airport to Santa Monica, said Big Blue Bus Customer Relations Manager Joe Sticher.

The bus driver, who has worked for the city for nearly 10 years, is traumatized by the accident and is taking a few days off, Sticher said. He added that he was advised by the city attorney's office to not release the driver's identity because the investigation is on-going.

It is unknown who is at fault for the accident. No charges have been filed against the bus driver.

See ACCIDENT, page 5

Group fights to save last remaining 'shotgun house'

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Preservationists across the city have launched an ambitious campaign to raise \$14,000 to move an 1880's-era shotgun house before it's demolished.

Members of the Ocean Park Community Organization, assisted by the newly-formed Santa Monica Conservancy, have convinced the city council to allow them to store the house on a vacant lot at the Santa Monica Airport for no more than two years while supporters raise money for its restoration.

The home — long-designated a city landmark — is believed to be the last remaining example of what the majority of residents of Santa Monica's Ocean Park Neighborhood lived in during the 1800s, preservationists said.

"One hundred and twenty years ago, 220 of these homes made up Ocean Park," said OPCO member Fred Whitlock. "Today, there's only one left, and we're trying to preserve it."

But to move the antique home, located at 2712 Second Street, the two groups will have to raise \$14,000. It's anticipated an additional \$94,000 will be needed to restore the home to its historical significance and find it a permanent location within the city.

Early Wednesday morning, OPCO members and preservationists gathered at the house to prevent construction crews from demolishing the structure. Before they could convince the workers to cease, two additions to the building and a gardening shack in the backyard had been leveled.

The building's interior had already been gutted, and many of the original windows, window sashes, moldings and trim had already been removed and thrown out.

"We're not going to have everything intact as we had hoped, but it's a last hour thing," said Tom Cleys, president of the conservancy group. "We're past the 11th hour, and we're way out in the 13th hour now."

Braden Powell, the owner of the build-

See HOME, page 5



William Pattnosh/Daily Press

Santa Monica Conservancy members Sherill Kushner and Tom Cleys wait outside the historic shotgun house Wednesday to prevent its demolition.

Voters to decide how Santa Monica can spend on housing

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

It's up to voters to decide if Santa Monica can fund new affordable, rental housing with money earmarked for low-interest loans to first-time home buyers.

The city council voted on Tuesday to put a question on the November ballot that will ask voters to allow all taxes collected on apartments converted to condo-

miniums be used to fund new affordable housing projects.

Currently, the city has about \$8 million earmarked for low-interest loans as an incentive for home ownership. However, demand for the loans has been low and in 17 years of existence, only 51 loans have been administered, city officials said.

The city wants to redistribute the money to build new affordable, rental housing. But residents must vote to

change the city's charter to access the funds, which were collected under Tenant Ownership Rights Charter Amendment — also known as TORCA — which expired in 1996.

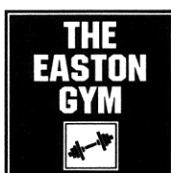
Of the roughly \$20 million collected under the tax — which called for a one-time fee equal to 12 times the maximum rent allowable under law — half went towards buying a mobile home park, building low-income housing and admin-

istrative costs. The administrative costs alone reportedly exceed \$1 million.

About \$2 million has been used for home loans, but the remaining \$8 million that would have gone into the home ownership program would be made available for building more affordable housing.

Detractors of the ballot initiative said combining the funds would ruin the home

See HOUSING, page 5



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★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-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

"Often it does seem a pity that Noah and his party did not miss the boat."

— Mark Twain (1835-1910)

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530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #200 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason . . .sack@smdp.com STAFF WRITER Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastrana del@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Angela Downen angela@smdp.com SALES REPRESENTATIVE William Pattnosh william@smdp.com CIRCULATION MANAGER Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
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LOCAL

The Q Line

Majority wants public feedings to end

Here are your responses to this week's question:

"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?"

■ "The city should do away with all public feedings, period. All they are doing is contributing to an increasing number of homeless, vagrants, hobos (whatever you want to name them) to come to Santa Monica and eat for free. As far as the feeding in Palisades Park, they've made it a mess. What's ironic is that they have signs that say don't feed the squirrels, but they feed the bums in the park. It's unbelievable. Santa Monica has a reputation for being the home of the vagrants. They need to polish their reputation. Look down Wilshire Boulevard! It's a mess from the homeless throwing crap on the streets, urinating, defecating and you know what else. This should be stopped. I think that the feedings in public places increases the number of homeless people that come into Santa Monica."

■ "The city should do more to eliminate the feeding of the homeless. They should be fed at the churches. They should open up their doors, not ours. They can pray."

■ "The homeless might argue that they have no bathrooms, not true. That is the reason they create a stench that almost makes me sick. But here is something which there is no excuse. The trashing of this expensive and once beautiful neighborhood by littering. That is the strewing of trash everywhere. It is outrageous. I think that all of these people should just be run off, and I don't care a bit what happens to any of them. Feed them? Are you kidding?"

■ "I don't have much to say about the homeless bums except that I'm sick and tired of looking at them. What I wanted to say is that your newspaper is a breath of fresh air in Santa Monica. It's

a wonderful newspaper, and it always prints the local news. All we have to do now is get rid of these councilmen and vote for another mayor. Anyhow, good luck with your newspaper, and I hope you manage to get rid of those bums. Want to know what I always tell them when they come begging?"

■ "Stop the feeding completely, immediately. If the church members want to continue the feedings, let them use the church halls. They can also put up a big sign in the halls that says 'No Tipping Please.'"

■ "I think feeding the homeless in the city parks and at City Hall is unacceptable. If the churches want to feed the homeless, they should feed them indoors."

■ "Stop all the feeding, PERIOD!"

■ "I have a very good solution as an alternative to feeding the homeless in the parks. I think the members of the city council, the city attorney's office and other officials of the City of Santa Monica, plus the churches, invite all of these derelicts to their homes and feed them on their lawns or in their parking lots. That will get rid of the people in the park, and they will be clean. If they are such Pollyannas and want to feed these people, let them do it on their property. Not in the parks that are used by everyone."

■ "I think they should ban all public feedings in Santa Monica. This only exacerbates the problem. It only makes it worse."

■ "I hardly agree that it's a positive thing to limit public feedings. The churches can do it in their own yards instead of ours."

See Q-LINE, page 4

Oh, where has my dog gone?



Franklin Smith/Special to the Daily Press
The unidentified owner of a dog named Milo (above with bowl), left the pooch in his car with the windows slightly rolled down. A passerby, showing apathy for the animal, opened the car door letting Milo out. A call was then made to local animal authorities and a search began for the missing canine.

surf report
Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Widespread rumors of tropical swell will bring out crowds as northern spots go off. Point Dume, Zuma and Malibu should have packed lineups, but there could be enough waves for everyone, assuming that's possible. Surf won't be as epic as some forecasts predicted, but the combo of south/southwest ground swells, and northwest wind swell, will hit chest- to shoulder-high. Lifeguards have issued rip tide warnings because of the strong swell.

South Bay spots rely on wind swell for mostly two-foot surf.

Swell combo will hold into Saturday, posting good surf in the two-three-foot range at south/southwest exposures.

Leftover swell will fade Sunday, windswell keeping South Bay in knee to waist level waves. The north will hit chest high occasionally, but average sets will stay around the waist.

Today's Tides:

Low-	5:51a.m.	-0.43'
High-	12:16p.m.	3.98'
Low-	5:12p.m.	2.27'
High-	11:07p.m.	5.53'

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



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OPINION

LETTERS

Limit the jets, please

Editor:

I read your story (“Plan approved to restrict some jet noise,” 07/24/02) in the Santa Monica Daily Press, and was heartened by the fact that "City officials have approved a plan to restrict some jets from taking off and landing at the Santa Monica Airport for safety reasons...”

I think your continuing coverage of this issue in the newspaper, combined with the efforts of Friends of Sunset Park, and whatever other groups or individuals who may be involved, has had a very positive effect with regard to the limitations being imposed, hopefully, on the take off and landing of the larger jets at the Santa Monica Airport.

Personally, I think the safety concerns, as well as the noise problem, will only get worse if steps are not taken now to prevent those large jets from having access to the airport. It would make sense that the jet operators would be in opposition to such a restriction, but they are, I assume, not the local homeowners who have to contend with the continuing and increasing problems related to possible accidents and increased noise. Most likely, they do not have to live with this daily threat to the surrounding homes. So, thank you for your continuing coverage on this serious matter.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

DUIs are no laughing matter

Editor:

I read Ron Scott Smith’s article regarding the DUI checkpoint conducted by the Santa Monica Police Department and found it rather funny. Not ha-ha funny, but funny in a scary way. Police department's around the nation are doing what the courts, the public and the government recognize as traffic safety education in an attempt to lower the number of drunk drivers on the road and the deaths they cause. (At last count, this number typically runs in the thousands each year.) You see, if the public is not educated and often reminded when it comes to driving while intoxicated, they tend to forget, drive while intoxicated, and KILL PEOPLE! If an intoxicated driver kills himself or herself in a collision, then the phrase "See ya’, wouldn't want to be ya'" applies. Of course, this often occurs with your "below normal tab" and "short drive home." National statistics show that most serious and fatal collisions occur within five miles from the average driver's home.

This obviously could fall into your "short drive home" scheme.

Have you ever walked up to a stranger's door to explain that their loved one was killed by a drunk driver? Do you have any idea what it is like to virtually destroy all that they know and love? As the bearer of bad news, you must endure the anger, rage, pain and suffering they feel and direct toward you, the messenger. You then have to explain how it occurred, why it occurred and then try to give them some sense of relief by suggesting that their loved one did not suffer when this 3000-pound bullet slammed into the loved one as they crossed the street. Then you get to give them a phone number where they can contact the coroner to retrieve the body after he's finished turning it into a canoe. Then they get to plant the loved one a few days later and try to figure out what they will do for the rest of their lives. Oh yeah, that's a blast!

We all realized that if a person is so intoxicated that they actually drive into a checkpoint while high as a kite, as one did that night, then they deserve to be in jail. If people drive without a driver's license and without insurance, then they don't deserve to be driving a vehicle. It's these kinds of drivers who crash into people like you and me. As you were sitting there with the "evil bottle of swill" in hand watching the officers, did you think that perhaps they were doing the public a service by attempting to remove the irresponsible driver? Did you think that perhaps they would rather be at home with their families in a Saturday night instead of standing in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard waiting for the next drunk to drive over the cones and into them? When you were stopped, were the officers courteous and explain what they were doing? Did these "hulking officers" get you out of there in just a few moments or keep you until you thought you required the assistance of counsel?

If the police department saved only one life or prevented injury to other people, including you, then it was worth the effort. This was not funny at all. It was deadly serious. Your article was "funny," but not ha-ha funny. This was not a laughing matter. My guess is that you'll hear more from the mothers whose children have been killed by drunk driver. I think they are MADD.

Christopher Dawson
Santa Monica

King rules

Editor:

The artist behind “Funny Paperz” (Joe King) is consistently the best thing on your comics page. Keep it up, Joe!

Hank Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

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.

The Q-Line

CONT. from page 3

■ “The public feedings should not be limited, they should be ended. The alleged homeless, transient, criminals are ruining this town. I would not go near the Third Street Promenade for any money. It’s disgusting. It has to stop now. No more!”

■ “I’m surprised the city council has not called for a funded committee to study the out of control ‘homeless’ problem that they have created themselves. I have nothing but total empathy for the local business owners and residents who are powerless to remove the blight that has scarred this city. Yes, we should not only limit the size and frequency of the public feedings, but in my opinion eliminate them altogether. Let the outside church groups feed the people on their own property. Let’s see how their parishioners react?”

■ “This week’s question is a puzzle to me? Should the City of Santa Monica do this or that about feeding the needy? Regardless if you are rich, poor, young or old, people get hungry. This is the way God made us. Regardless if a person eats

from a golden or paper plate in the city park, people get hungry, and this, too, is the way God made us. For anyone to limit the food intake based solely on the fact that they have no place to live, sleep or eat, that person or persons are paying God and whoa unto them. Be thankful that there are people out here who do care that the needy get food. What the hell is wrong with the fat cats in City Hall and around Santa Monica? Put yourself in the poor man’s shoes and see how hungry you get.”

■ “The city should not limit meal programs for hungry people. Every time there is an economic downturn in this city, the homeless become the scapegoats. Homelessness is growing throughout our country, and the only cure is more affordable housing. People should be outraged but not by homeless, rather by homelessness because it indicates the failure of our society to provide for ourselves. We are a society judging from what’s going on in the world today consumed by greed. I think that those of us who want to give charity to people in need are not going to be deterred by laws that say we can’t feed people who are hungry.”

■ “I work at the Coffee Bean & Tea

Leaf in Santa Monica, and I think the homeless situation is getting out of hand. I helped an elderly gentleman who walks with a very slow gate. He told me he went to a restaurant, and they refused to serve him because they thought he was homeless. He’s not homeless. That’s what I’m upset about. It’s gotten so out of hand that some restaurants are jumping to conclusions thinking because a person walks with a slow gate that they are homeless.”

■ “It is a question of sanitation. Not only do they urinate everywhere and throw their cigarette butts into the dead grass, but they also, after they have been fed, don’t want to walk to the garbage cans, which are close by. So they throw their paper plates and food they don’t want to eat into the bushes. And sometimes they even throw their shopping carts over the stone wall into the bushes. The park cleaners are not allowed to go over the stone wall to clean. They remain there for weeks.”

■ “If you feed them, they come. If you don’t, they won’t. Please don’t say it’s the climate that draws the homeless here. It’s the free handout atmosphere that does. Feeding them only enables them to remain homeless.”

■ “I’m a new homeowner in Santa Monica. I do agree that the city should do more to limit the public feedings. I have family in England and in the south, and when they come here to visit, I can’t even take them for a walk in Palisades Park. It’s actually quite embarrassing.”

■ “I think personally they should be drastically limited. It’s just adding to the disablement of Santa Monica, which is now getting a feeling of being Los Angeles City, not in Los Angeles County. As a long time resident, my husband and I feel it would be good if this was finally addressed properly. For a long time it’s been an acceptable part of this city, and I don’t think it should be. I’d like to have a bit more quality here in Santa Monica.”

■ “People wonder why there is such a problem with feedings attracting so many homeless? I can remember back not too long ago to the problem with wildlife. Remember, ‘Don’t feed the bears.’”

■ “Please do something. They are not all mentally retarded. Some of them are just lazy and enjoy their freedom from working for a living. I see them at Reed Park, and I tell you it’s a summer social. Santa Monica

See Q-LINE, page 6

LOCAL

Shotgun home must be cleared away by Monday

HOME, from page 1

ing, met with OPCO officials late Wednesday night at a Main Street cafe. He agreed not to knock the structure down as long as the group moves the house by Monday morning, and he demanded they must reimburse him a few thousand dollars the construction delays will cost him.

As of Tuesday evening, the two groups had raised \$2,000, but OPCO members said a supporter, who wishes to remain anonymous, has agreed to loan the organization enough money to move the building. However, fundraising continues to pay back the loan.

"The level of community support that has gone into this has been unbelievable," said Pam Vavra, a conservancy member. "It's just super."

The city has issued the needed permits to move the structure, and today officials expect the building to be raised off its foundation in preparation to be transported to the airport, Vavra said. Any time between tomorrow evening and Saturday morning the building is expected to be moved.

A shotgun-style home is a single building separated into various rooms which are not connected by hallways. The style — which was developed during the Civil War when opposing military camps would dig into locations — caught on because the structures could be built quickly and cheaply. After the war, the shotgun-style caught on with companies that would

mass-produce the shacks as residential homes and ship them west, where they could be sold cheaply to settlers.

The homes were shipped to Santa Monica by rail during the late-1800s. Settlers of the area could buy a shotgun-style home and a small tract of land for very little money, and the homes quickly dotted the landscape.

The city had designated the house a landmark almost ten years ago, but a new owner of the home convinced Landmarks Commission officials that the structure was too small to live in and it could not be further expanded. A demolition permit was then granted.

"If preservation is going to destroy someone's investment completely, demolition permits can still be issued," said Nina Fresco, an OPCO member and a landmarks commissioner.

Preservationists foresee using the building once it's preserved as a museum, an art gallery, a public meeting space or even as a day care facility. They believe the preserved building could become a local attraction.

"It really speaks to our city's history of tourism and how Santa Monica was developed and created by Realtors," Whitlock said.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to save Santa Monica's remaining shotgun home should contact OPCO at (310) 385-3350 or e-mail them at opco@opco.org.

Santa Monica will debate streamline loan process

HOUSING, from page 1

loan program and make Santa Monica a difficult place to live for the middle-class to live.

"All the new housing being built in Santa Monica right now is either for the wealthy or for the low-income," said Paul DeSantis, a longtime supporter of publicly-financed low-income housing. "Home buyers, especially those in the middle-class, are becoming almost nonexistent in Santa Monica."

But supporters of the initiative said combining all the money into one pot

would not prevent the city council from still making low-interest loans to first-time home buyers.

"This would only allow the revenue set aside to be used for affordable housing," said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie. "It would not preclude the use of ... tax revenue for home-owner applications, but it would for the first time make all the money available for low-income housing."

The council delayed debate on a resolution which intends to streamline the TORCA loan process until its next meeting on August 13.

Accident victims all worked at Australian consulate

ACCIDENT, from page 1

"The city is cooperating with the investigation," Stichter said. "We're saddened for the loss of life, and we're also concerned about our driver and ensuring that he is OK."

The last time a Big Blue Bus driver was involved in a collision that resulted in a fatality was in January 1998, Stichter said.

Vicelich, Ewing and the third passenger all worked at the Australian Consulate together and were presumed to have been on their way home from work at their offices in Century City, said consulate general Allan Rocher. The

three of them lived in Marina Del Rey.

"They were nearly home," Rocher said. "It's a bloody tragedy."

Vicelich, a New Zealander, had been a passport servicer, but recently moved to a different department.

"Ironically, his tasks were to notify next to kin for the same kind of thing," Rocher said.

Ewing, a U.S. citizen, worked as a finance administrator and the unidentified passenger, also a U.S. citizen, is a part-time employee in the finance department.

All three individuals have worked at the consulate for about three years, Rocher said.

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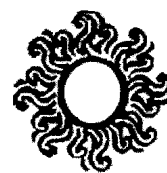


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LOCAL □ STATE



The Q Line

CONT. from page 4

is like a marked city for hand-outs. Much more than our neighboring suburbs. This is not unlike the old hobos who marked the gator fence post for food. We are marked. I also really hate when they dump garbage bags out of the bins looking for whatever the heck they need."

■ "I did an experiment the other day, and I made a nice sandwich--organic bread, whole wheat, organic ingredient--and I tried to give it away to homeless people. Nobody wanted it. I came to the conclusion that they are very well fed in Santa Monica. They feel comfortable here. I think it is very good that these people are trying to feed the needy, but please do it in your own backyard. Let them come to you. Do not bring them to us."

■ "I do agree that the city should limit the size of public feedings. I don't think they help. I'm sure there are other ways the city can address these problems."

■ "Unless Palisades Park is going to be renamed Skid Row Park, the public feedings there must stop. What should be a grassy paradise has become a seedy patchwork of sleeping bags, blankets, shopping carts, cigarette butts and spread out laun-

dry. All a consequence of public feedings."

■ "The private and non-profit outreach programs should bring the groups to their locations where the services can be provided and where the homeless can become familiar with the locations of these different 21 organizations. This way the homeless will get to the services and the services to the homeless."

■ "On the issue of public feedings, it is my position that regulating them into nonexistence would only mask the problem by shifting it to another city. The best actual solution that I have been able to conjure is something as follows:

"Most homeless people do not WANT to sleep in such high-profile areas as the Promenade, yet they must sleep SOMEWHERE. By designating a parking lot as a legal sleeping ground, you could both control where the homeless slept and do them the favor of legalizing a necessary function (it is currently illegal to sleep/camp anywhere in public in Santa Monica, and homeless people lack private property). Public feedings, held at these same sleeping lots, would serve the treble purposes of nourishing the homeless, giving them an incentive to stay in the designated areas and keeping them off the Promenade. If you are going to chase the homeless out, it would be kind of you to provide a place for them to go."

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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LA civic groups announce anti-secession effort

BY PAUL WILBORN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Describing secession as a potential fiscal and social disaster, a coalition of civic groups announced its opposition Thursday to the November ballot initiatives to split off Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley into independent cities.

Included in the diverse coalition are at least two dozen religious, civic and advocacy groups, including the League of Women Voters, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Muslim Public Affairs Council, the Latin American Civic Association, the Progressive Jewish Alliance, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

"We believe the vast resources a regional city can bring to bear on behalf of its residents can only be tapped if we stand together and remain one city," said Cindy O'Connor, president of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles.

O'Connor said her group's 600 members overwhelmingly oppose secession, in part because studies on the financial implications are inconclusive.

"The thing we find most troubling is that there is no information that you can rely on," she said.

While the coalition won't raise money for a campaign, the League will help

coalition members spread the anti-secession message to their membership.

Secession will be particularly bad for the city's poor and disenfranchised, said Rabbi Mark Diamond, executive vice president of the Southern California Board of Rabbis.

Diamond and other speakers characterized the secession movements as attempts by a few business people to move away from the problems of Los Angeles.

"This is leading to this false expectation that we can forget about the problems of Los Angeles and we'll have a better future," said Salam Al-Maryati, executive director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council.

One leading secession supporter denied that the breakaway movements would hurt the poor.

"To insinuate that the people of the valley would care less about the poor or the homeless is insulting," said Richard Katz, chairman of the San Fernando Valley Independence Committee.

"It's not like LA's done such a great job. The poor are still poor. The homeless are still homeless and LA still has significant problems," Katz said.

Voters citywide will decide Nov. 5 whether to approve secession for the San Fernando Valley, with 1.3 million people, and Hollywood, with about 180,000 people. To secede, the initiatives must win a majority of votes in the proposed new cities as well as in Los Angeles as a whole.

STATE



Bill to let entertainment industry disrupt Internet music downloads

BY TED BRIDIS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Hollywood escalated its fight against Internet trading of movies and music, successfully urging key lawmakers to consider letting the industry use hacker tactics to stop Americans' exchange of songs and films they didn't buy.

The broad new legal powers proposed by a congressman — and endorsed quickly by several others — would let record and movie studios hack into Americans' personal computers to find illegally shared music and movies. They could also try to disable or interfere with file-swapping programs.

It also would let industry use denial-of-service attacks — commonly launched by hackers to flood commercial Web sites — to knock personal computers offline so they can't trade copyrighted songs and films.

Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif., who represents part of Hollywood and is the House's single largest recipient of political donations from the entertainment industry, said his legislation "allows copyright owners to use technology to deal with technological piracy."

Berman said his bill, introduced Thursday, would not let the industry spread viruses, destroy files or hack into a consumer's personal data. Instead, he said, it would simply let them disable improperly traded films and songs. He likened it to a car dealer repossessing a vehicle for delinquent payments.

"There is no excuse or justification for this piracy," said Berman, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary subcommittee on courts, the Internet and intellectual property. "Theft is theft, whether it is shoplifting a CD in a record store, or illegally downloading a song."

His measure is aimed at disrupting the practice of downloading or offering copies of pirated music, movies or software popularized in the late 1990s by the Napster service.

To date, the industry has fought illegal trading mainly by suing companies that operated file-sharing networks.

But technology has made it possible to decentralize those file-trading networks, allowing users to trade from computer to computer without a service like Napster.

The industry currently must trace users individually and persuade the users' Internet providers to pull the plug on violators. It also has resorted to seeding networks with fake files to frustrate people looking for free music.

Recording Industry Association of America chief Hilary Rosen called the bill an "innovative approach to combating the serious problem of Internet piracy."

"It makes sense to clarify existing laws to ensure that copyright owners ... are at least able to defend their works from mass piracy," Rosen said.

The Motion Picture Association of America praised Berman's efforts but cautioned in a statement that "there are aspects of the bill we believe need changing."

The Business Software Alliance noted the high costs of pirated software but did not directly endorse the bill.

"Congressman Berman will further the critical debate over Internet piracy, and we look forward to this continued dialogue," spokeswoman Jeri Clausing said.

A critic, Alan Davidson of the Center for Democracy and Technology, said the legislation "provides a hunting license for copyright holders to seek out legitimate users of the Internet."

The proposal would lift civil and criminal penalties against entertainment companies for "disabling, interfering with, blocking, diverting or otherwise impairing" the online trading of pirated songs and movies.

An attack knocking an Internet user completely offline would not be permitted "except as may be reasonably necessary" to prevent a copyright violation, the bill states.

Under the bill, companies would not be required to warn users in advance of their actions. A user wrongly attacked could sue only if he or she suffered more than \$250 in economic losses and obtained the U.S. attorney general's permission to file a lawsuit.

Berman received at least \$186,891 from the entertainment industry during the 2001-2002 election cycle, including \$31,000 from The Walt Disney Co. and \$28,050 from AOL-Time Warner Inc.

Other sponsors of the bill include Reps. Howard Coble, R-N.C.; Lamar Smith, R-Texas; and Robert Wexler, D-Fla. Coble also received significant entertainment industry contributions.



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San Diego man arrested with drugs on NM train

By The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE — A California man was arrested at the Albuquerque train station for allegedly trying to transport 31 pounds of marijuana.

Larry Owens, 23, of San Diego was being held at the Bernalillo County Detention Center on a \$12,500 bond.

Owens was a passenger on an eastbound Amtrak train that stopped Monday afternoon in Albuquerque.

According to a complaint filed in Metropolitan Court, a drug enforcement agent knocked on the door of Owens' room in a sleeping car and spoke with him.

The complaint did not say what led authorities to Owens.

Owens' luggage was later detained and turned over to state police. The complaint said a field test determined the bag's contents to be marijuana.

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STATE

Astronomers say asteroid, Earth unlikely to collide

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

AP Science Writer

PASADENA — The latest possibility that an asteroid could slam into Earth has proven harder to dismiss than most.

A mile-wide asteroid could strike the Earth on Feb. 1, 2019, and while astronomers say the chances of such a global catastrophe are slim, they'll be watching the space rock closely for the next year or so.

The space rock has attracted more attention for a longer period than usual. But National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronomers say the asteroid's stay on its Earth Impact Risk Summary page is likely to be temporary.

"One way or another, this thing is coming off the risk page," said Donald Yeomans, manager of NASA's near-Earth object program office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He noted that the odds of the asteroid striking the Earth are about one in 250,000 and expected to become even less.

The asteroid was dubbed 2002 NT7 upon its discovery two weeks ago.

Scientists who have observed the rock over 100 times since then say it is larger than others, and calculate six other potential impact dates after 2019.

They will refine their estimates over the next year while tracking the asteroid's 837-day orbit of the sun.

"At that point, if it's still a threat, I'd start to get a little concerned, but not before then," said Gareth Williams, associate director of the Minor Planet Center in Cambridge, Mass.

If 2002 NT7 crossed paths with the Earth, it would enter the atmosphere at nearly 64,000 mph and strike with the explosive energy of 1.2 million megatons of TNT, according to JPL estimates.

The odds of that happening, however, are low. The 2019 date ranks a one on the zero-to-10 Torino scale, meaning the chances of a collision are about the same as a random object of the same size hitting the Earth in the next few decades.

Last month, an asteroid the size of a soccer field missed the Earth by 75,000 miles — less than one-third of the distance to the moon in one of the closest known approaches by objects of its size.

VH1 to produce reality TV series for Minnelli, Gest

BY LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — Newlyweds Liza Minnelli and David Gest will be serving dinner at their house and you are invited as VH1 launches the latest version of a home invasion reality television series.

Trying to imitate the ratings magic of sister channel MTV's "The Osbournes," VH1 convinced Minnelli and Gest to open their Manhattan penthouse to television viewers.

"It's an intimate evening at our house, kind of like our wedding," quipped Gest, referring to their lavish, celebrity-studded March nuptials that included 15 bridesmaids.

The Oscar-winning actress and her producer husband took part in a news conference Thursday at the House of Blues nightclub.

Minnelli, who said she was more nervous about meeting reporters than opening her home to the public, looked trim and healthy in clingy black slacks, blouse and long jacket. She kept a tight hold on her husband through much of the news conference and deferred to him on several questions. For his part, Gest appeared relaxed but hid behind sunglasses for most of the news conference.

The couple's show will emphasize music, with Minnelli singing solo and joining equally famous entertainer-friends in duets, Gest said.

Although he refused to name confirmed performers, he suggested they would include such musically diverse artists as Mary J. Blige, Alan Jackson, Dr. Dre, Al Green and Barry White.

Minnelli, 56, and Gest, 48, said they are willing to open up their kitchen, dining room and music room, but not much more.

"I won't let anybody into the bedroom or the bathroom," Minnelli said.

Gest said the show will not echo "The Osbournes," the series that peers into the

daily lives of aging rocker Ozzy Osbourne, his wife Sharon and two of their children. "The Osbournes" has become MTV's biggest hit ever and is coming back for a second season despite Sharon Osbourne's colon cancer surgery and ongoing treatments.

"We love the Osbournes. I think they're fantastic ... It's not the Osbournes," Gest said of his show, which he described as more of a musical jam with dinner thrown in.

**"It's an intimate evening
at our house, kind
of like our wedding."**

— **DAVID GEST**
Liza Minnelli's husband

Asked how close their high-profile show business lives could be to reality for most people, Minnelli responded, "What's reality?"

The couple didn't detail the format of the show or describe how much time they would spend singing, talking or eating.

Minnelli and Gest, who produces concerts and television specials, attracted a flurry of attention with their marriage. They fielded several questions Thursday about their relationship.

"It's quite a trip being married to this man. David has an energy I find fascinating," Minnelli said.

Gest, noting they've known each other for a year, said, "I'd say we're more happy now than the first day we met."

He spoke proudly of his wife, detailing a list of accomplishments, including losing weight, getting off pills and alcohol, staging acclaimed concerts and winning a new recording contract.

"Look at my wife now. It's incredible but Liza is back," Gest said.

STATE



Iran community alarmed over arrest of famous dancer

BY SANDRA MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — In the 23 years since Iran's Islamic revolution, emigres who made Los Angeles their capital in the West have braved interrogations and detentions to visit the families they left behind.

The chance to see loved ones was always worth the risk and the hassle, but that narrow portal between East and West is now in jeopardy of being slammed shut.

Mohamad Khordadian, a Los Angeles resident who has become Iran's best known male dancer, was arrested in May during his first visit home in two decades. The government said he was a corrupting influence on the nation's youth and ordered him to remain in Iran for 10 years.

The punishment has resonated with his community in Los Angeles. The county is home to a third of the nation's 277,000 Iranian immigrants.

"Personally, I would love to go back and see my old house and visit my grandparents, but I am afraid," said David Yacobi, 40, a custom frame shop owner who echoed the sentiments of other exiles as he browsed titles recently at the Ketabsara Persian bookstore in West Los Angeles.

An Iranian court sentenced Khordadian, 46, to a suspended 10-year jail term for the corrupting influence of his Los Angeles-based dance classes and videos. The July 6 decision bans Khordadian, a naturalized U.S. citizen, from leaving Iran for a decade and from giving dance classes for the rest of his life.

That Khordadian has been allowed to serve time out of prison offered little consolation.

"Basically, he is in jail," Yacobi said. "If you tell a dancer you can't dance or a singer you can't sing, you are in jail. You can't do the thing you love. He will go crazy."

Contacted in Tehran, Khordadian's lawyer, Abdolrahman Rasouli, said he plans to appeal the decision by Saturday.

Although Khordadian has been absent from the lively

cluster of Persian restaurants, bookstores and markets in West Los Angeles — nicknamed Tehrangeles — since his May arrest, his dance videos continue to be hot sellers. His plight also has been a topic of animated discussion on Farsi-language radio and television shows.

"A lot of people have been surprised by the whole situation," said Abbas Chamanara, owner of the Music Box, a Persian music and film store. "They are sorry for him."

He said demand for Khordadian's dance videos, which sell for \$15, had more than doubled following news of the star's arrest.

"A lot of people have been surprised by the whole situation. They are sorry for him."

— ABBAS CHAMANARA

Persian music and film store 'Music Box' owner

In the more than two decades since Iran's pro-Western Shah was overthrown in an Islamic revolution, Iranian exiles have established a thriving home in Los Angeles. They're clustered largely in affluent enclaves such as Beverly Hills, Westwood and parts of the San Fernando Valley.

Restaurants offer familiar tastes, such as rosewater ice cream. Popular concert venues regularly headline Iranian talents, such as a planned Sept. 28 show of Persian music legend Googooosh at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles. And the University of California, Los Angeles offers degrees in Iranian studies.

The community includes two daily newspapers, two radio stations and several magazines, but its power to

sway events back home rests with the stream of live Farsi-language television programming transmitted by satellite television stations.

One station, the Persian Broadcasting Company in Encino, beams 24 hours of entertainment and news programming to an estimated 15 million viewers in Iran, who watch secretly using outlawed satellite dishes.

"Even a poor man, they have a satellite dish," said Massoud Jamali, a partner in the entertainment company. "That is their only connection to the Western world."

Despite the community's relative wealth, the homeland remains a forbidden, unwelcoming place for many emigres.

Ghazal Valipour, who with her husband owns the Ketabsara bookstore, knows the lesson well. Valipour, 33, a doctor with an elegant manner, said Khordadian's arrest brought back memories of her own 24-hour detention during her last visit home seven years ago.

"It's so easy to get arrested while you are there. There are no standards," said Valipour. "It's hard to know who will get arrested and who will not."

Iranian entertainers say they are especially vulnerable to persecution for clashing with the country's official interpretation of Islam.

After the revolution, the clerics ruled that female voices corrupted men and that western music was decadent. War hymns, traditional songs and instrumentals became the only legal music in Iran.

"We can't perform there, we can't go there and we can't sell our albums," said Andy Madadian, an Iranian world music singer scheduled to appear before some 6,000 fans at an outdoor Hollywood theater next month.

Mehdi Zokaei, editor in chief of Javanan International, a weekly Persian magazine, said exposure on the satellite television stations might be what got Khordadian into trouble. Zokaei said what might have most offended the mullahs was seeing Khordadian dance with women, which is strictly forbidden in Iran.

Disney ordered to pay \$14.9 million

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Superior Court jury awarded \$14.9 million to a talent agency that claimed The Walt Disney Co. underpaid commissions to the creator of the show "Home Improvement."

After a two-week trial, the jury found by a vote of 11-1 Wednesday that Disney failed to pay agreed-upon commissions after the show, which starred Tim Allen, became a hit on the ABC Television network.

The Agency for the Performing Arts represented the show's creator, Matt Williams. The show aired on ABC from 1991 to 1999.

Disney said it is considering an appeal.

"We are disappointed by the verdict, particularly since we had prevailed on the vast majority of the claims in this case," Disney said in a statement. "We believe we had satisfied our obligation to APA. However, the jury disagreed with our interpretation of the definition of base license fee. There are solid grounds for appeal."

If the verdict stands, Disney would share liability with several profit participants and the company itself would be liable for only 22 percent of the award, according to Disney sources familiar with the matter.

Plaintiff attorney Larry Feldman said how Disney shares the financial load is its business.

Feldman had argued that Disney agreed to pay a commission on the "base license fee" that it received from ABC for each episode. In 1991, that fee was \$410,000.

Feldman said the deal with Disney called for the commission to rise, assuming that the base license fee would rise at a rate of 4 percent per year.

By the end of the series, ABC was paying Disney \$3 million per episode, but Disney was paying APA a commission only on the original fee, plus the 4 percent growth rate.

Disney did not own ABC in 1991 when the deal was struck. It later acquired the network when it bought Capital Cities/ABC in 1996.



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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



City of Santa Monica
Police Department

Santa Monica Daily Press

A Team Event to Fight Cancer



NATIONAL

Mine rescue



Keith Srakocic/Associated Press

Workers pour concrete and gravel around a large pipe that is to be used as a base to drill a large hole to rescue trapped miners in a coal mine in Somerset, Pa., on Thursday. Nine coal miners were trapped in a flooded shaft early Thursday after they apparently ruptured a nearby abandoned mine that was filled with water, officials said. Hours later, rescuers reported hearing tapping.

Denver TV shows photos of prostitution customers

BY ROBERT WELLER

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — There are 11 men who probably never wanted to get their 15 minutes of fame this way. They were the first guests on "John's TV."

The program premiered on the city's cable access channel Thursday. It included a slide show of men convicted of soliciting prostitution with their names shown below their photos. The images are also displayed on the city's Web site.

A Denver cop standing by his cruiser warns rather ominously that anyone hiring a hooker may be arrested.

The idea for using publicity as a deterrent started with the publication of photos in newspapers. Several other cities have already started TV shows: "BUSTED" in Orlando, Fla., "Shame TV" in Charlotte, N.C., and in Calgary, Alberta, it is the "Calgary Ho Down."

"I see it as a deterrent. We know we are not going to stop the problem. There is a reason why they call it the oldest profession in the world," said Pamela Corvelli, a neighborhood activist who has campaigned for a crackdown on prostitution.

She lives half a block from East Colfax Avenue, a busy street named after the late Vice President Schuyler Colfax

that is a favorite of prostitutes, pimps and drug dealers.

Corvelli said she is not opposed to prostitution if it is confined to traveling businessmen calling an escort service from a hotel room.

"We don't want them coming onto our front porch or into our back yards. I cannot even go to the store without being propositioned. One pimp asked me if I was working for anybody because I could make a lot of money for him," she said.

Andrew Hudson, spokesman for Mayor Wellington Webb, said: "When we heard the horror stories from the community — finding condoms in back yards, sex in the allies, children seeing people having sex in cars, we knew we had to do something."

Hudson said putting more police in the area wasn't doing the job. "We decided we need to do something unconventional. We think this is a deterrent that will work. People won't want their wives, colleagues, bosses and members of their churches to see them on this show."

He said the city decided not to show the photos of the prostitutes because their situation is already desperate enough, and "we don't want to advertise."

"Prostitution is not the glamorous, Julia Roberts kind of picture people think it is," he said.

SPORTS



Baseball can have labor deal before strike, lawyer says

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Baseball's top labor lawyer thinks there's a way to work out a new contract without another strike.

Sounding unusually optimistic, Rob Manfred said after Thursday's five-hour bargaining session that the sides will meet again Friday and probably will have sessions for five straight days starting Monday.

That would be the longest period of sustained talks since the previous contract expired Nov. 7.

"I have said repeatedly, publicly, that I believe it is possible for us to reach a negotiated agreement without having an interruption of the season, and I still believe that," said Manfred, baseball's executive vice president for labor relations.

Players, fearful owners will change work rules after the season or lock them out, are threatening to strike in August or

September, which would be baseball's ninth stoppage since 1972.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, concurred with Manfred that the sides had made progress on revenue sharing.

Union head Donald Fehr was traveling home from Montreal and hasn't been updated on the session. Gene Orza, the union's No. 2 official, wasn't as optimistic but did say the talks were "informative and enlightening" and that "we were able to narrow the focus of what we have to do."

"There are still substantial problems," he said. "I don't mean to sound pessimistic. I just don't think bells and whistles are in order."

He agreed with Manfred that an agreement was possible without a walkout.

"I don't think anyone's ever doubted that," Orza said. "It depends how much are people willing to recede from their positions."

The central issues are management's

proposals to increase the amount of locally generated revenue each team shares from 20 percent to 50 percent, and to have a 50 percent luxury tax on the portions of payrolls above \$98 million.

Players think those plans would drain too much money from the big-spending teams that push salaries higher.

The previous contract contained a 34-to-35 percent luxury tax for the 1997, 1998 and 1999 seasons, with the threshold at the midpoint between the teams with the fifth- and sixth-highest payrolls.

Because the threshold wasn't fixed, owners thought the tax was largely ineffective. Players think the tax acted as a restraint, keeping the highest spenders from having far-higher payrolls than their closest rivals.

"It would be very difficult for me to get the clubs to ratify an agreement that did not contain a form of payroll regulation," Manfred said. "I don't believe the clubs are

prepared to accept an agreement with the same precise luxury tax that was in the last agreement. There was one particular structural flaw with that agreement that made it largely ineffective: The threshold went up if the high-payroll clubs spent more."

He disputed the union's contention that a high tax is tantamount to a salary cap, such as the NFL and NBA have, saying that teams were willing to add payroll and pay a tax from 1997-99.

"I'm sure no matter what agreement I negotiate this time, they'll probably do it again," Manfred said.

The union is opposed to a tax, saying it blocks clubs from spending as much as they want to on players.

"We didn't bite into taxes at all," Orza said.

Because of the union's reluctance to accept a tax, it probably will be the final unresolved issue as talks progress.

Lance Armstrong almost certain to win Tour de France



Christophe Ena/Associated Press

Overall leader Lance Armstrong of Austin, Texas, foreground, in action in the pack during the 17th stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Aime and Cluses, French Alps, Thursday. At right is third placed in the overall ranking Raimondas Rumšas of Lithuania.

BY MICHAEL MCDONOUGH

Associated Press Writer

CLUSES, France — Lance Armstrong rode an unremarkable final mountain stage in the Tour de France on Thursday and finished far behind the winner.

In other words, it was a perfect day.

The leg from Aime to Cluses was the last chance for rivals to seriously challenge Armstrong. When it ended, no threat emerged, and the Texan retained an overall lead of 5 minutes, 6 seconds.

With such a huge advantage, Armstrong is almost certain to take a fourth straight title on Sunday.

"I sleep pretty good at night with the lead that we have," Armstrong said after the 17th stage, which he finished in 24th place, 4:36 behind winner Dario Frigo of Italy.

He certainly can afford to relax. The three remaining stages are much

easier than the mountain legs, in which huge chunks of time can be won or lost.

Probably the biggest threat to Armstrong now is the possibility of illness or injury, particularly in Friday's hilly leg from Cluses to Bourg-en-Bresse.

However, Armstrong is also favored to win the last time trial on Saturday, and further extend his lead over second-placed Joseba Beloki of Spain.

Taking the 31-mile stage from Regnie-Durette to Macon would make up for one of Armstrong's few weak moments in the Tour, his loss in the ninth-stage time trial.

"It was not a good day," he said of the stage, which he finished in second place, 11 seconds behind Santiago Botero of Colombia. "I don't know why, I didn't feel great."

The slip was soon forgotten as the Tour headed into the mountains.

Armstrong took the overall leader's yellow jersey by winning the first mountainous stage at La Mongie, in the Pyrenees. He opened a 1:12 lead over Beloki, which he more than doubled the next day by winning at the Plateau de Beille with a spectacular uphill sprint. He was so far ahead of Beloki that he had time to zip up his bright yellow jersey as he neared the line.

His lead grew to 4:21 after the climb up the formidable Mont Ventoux, and he added another 45 seconds in the most grueling stage of the entire race, Wednesday's trek from Les Deux-Alpes to La Plagne.

Armstrong's smooth performance in the mountains was helped by his rivals' lack of aggression.

"It's fair to say that there have not been many attacks," the U.S. Postal Service rider said. "But the event is challenging. The late mountain stages are real hard mentally."

League umpires threaten more legal action against owners

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Major league baseball umpires threatened more legal action against owners over management's insistence that union representatives leave dressing rooms 30 minutes before games begin.

Union lawyer Larry Gibson said Thursday that owners violated the umpires' labor contract by setting the time limit and by threatening to remove union representatives from ballparks and to revoke their credentials if they violate the time limit.

He said owners also violated umpires' rights by prohibiting non-lawyers associated with the union from entering the dressing rooms without advance permission from management.

"Your threats are highly offensive and very unprofessional," Gibson said in a three-page letter to Rob Manfred, baseball's executive vice president for labor relations.

"In my 35 years of law practice, you are the only lawyer to have ever threatened me physically," Gibson said.

Umpires and owners resumed their fighting last week over Questec, a system that is being used to track ball-and-strike calls by plate umpires. Umpires say the machine doesn't accurately track pitches, and claim owners are using it as an evaluation tool in violation of the labor contract.

Owners sued in federal court last Thursday in an attempt to discipline union head John Hirschbeck, and umpires filed a grievance the following day that accused management of violating their labor contract by refusing

to provide information on the controversial system.

Manfred said owners have acted within their rights and had a different view of his Wednesday conversation with Gibson.

"I told him if he could not comply with the conditions under which his credential was issued, his credential would be revoked and he would be asked to leave that stadium," Manfred said. "If he considers that violence, that's OK. He is a guest in the facility. I consider it

enforcing the rules."

Gibson, a lawyer for the World Umpires Association, said time limits had not been enforced until now.

"The fact that he's violated the rules previously and we did not catch him is not of any relevance," Manfred said.

On Sunday, umpires demanded that Questec Inc. remove a reference on its Web site that says umpers support the system. Questec has not removed the reference and has not returned telephone calls seeking comment.

SoCal tennis pro loses in three sets

BY TOM A. McFERSON

Special to the Daily Press

Despite a valiant effort late into the night at the 2002 Mercedes Benz Cup, Southern California resident Taylor Dent saw his quest for a second straight tournament championship cut short on Wednesday by seventh seeded Xavier Malisse of Belgium, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

Dent, who had won eight of his last nine matches, started off slowly at the Los Angeles Tennis Center on the UCLA campus, losing the first set six games to one. After improving his game and winning the sec-

ond set, Dent continued his solid play and found himself up a service break on two different occasions in the third. Each time, however, Dent proceeded to drop serve, and Malisse, ranked No. 22 in the world, eventually took advantage and secured the win.

Malisse, a semi-finalist in last month's Wimbledon, will next take on Andy Roddick in the quarter-finals. With top seeded Tommy Haas now out of the tournament, the winner of this match should be the favorite to reach Sunday's final. Roddick is 3-0 lifetime against Malisse, with their last match occur-

ring in Tennessee earlier this year.

In the first match of the night, Roddick had to work, but eventually put away wild card Brian Vahaly, 7-5, 6-4.

Former UCLA star Justin Gimelstob bounced back after an ugly singles loss with a first round doubles win. Gimelstob and teammate Michael Llodra will next play number one seeds Donald Johnson and Jared Palmer.

Other big names still in the tournament include second seed Andre Agassi, eighth seeded Max Mirnyi of Belarus and three-time French Open winner Gustavo Kuerten.



INTERNATIONAL

Chinese companies deny transferring arms technology to Mideast

BY JOE MCDONALD

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — Two Chinese companies targeted by U.S. government sanctions denied Thursday that they had transferred arms technology or related goods to the Middle East.

The companies were among nine Chinese firms accused last week of violating U.S. law on arms transfers to Iran and Iraq or separate legislation meant to control the spread of chemical and biological weapons. The companies were identified Wednesday.

"The U.S. government's accusation is absolutely fabricated," said a manager at Jiangsu Yongli Chemicals and Technology Import and Export Corp. who wouldn't give his name. He said the company hadn't dealt with Iran or Iraq in "a long time" and sold them only nonmilitary goods.

A spokesman for another company, CMEC Machinery and Electric Equipment Import and Export Co. Ltd., also denied the accusations.

"We have never had weapons-related business with Middle East," said the spokesman, who wouldn't give his name.

He said the company was the same entity as another firm cited — CMEC Machinery and Electrical Import Export Co.

A third company cited, China Shipbuilding Trading Co., said it had no immediate statement. But a manager there who wouldn't give his name complained that the U.S. government "exaggerated the facts."

Other companies cited by the U.S. State Department weren't immediately available for comment. One didn't answer the telephone Thursday; another was not listed.

Washington has repeatedly accused Chinese firms of spreading missile or other weapons technology to Iran, Pakistan and elsewhere.

In the announcement Wednesday, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher noted that the sanctions do not extend to the Chinese government. The department gave no details of the accusations, though another official said the primary destination of the items involved was Iran.

Under the Iran-Iraq Act, the U.S. government is barred for two years from doing business with the sanctioned entities or

Pilgrims prepare for pope



Dan Loh/Associated Press

Pilgrims wait in line to go through security at the entrance to Exhibition Place in preparation for the welcoming ceremony for Pope John Paul II during World Youth Day festivities Thursday, in Toronto, Ontario.

issuing export licenses on their behalf.

The law on chemical and biological transfers carries the same penalty for one year or until further notice.

Jiangsu Yongli and CMEC Machinery and Electric Equipment Import and Export Co. said they both did business

with U.S. companies but wouldn't give details or say how the sanctions might affect those dealings.

On Monday, a Chinese Embassy spokesman in Washington, Xie Feng, denied that Chinese companies have violated U.S. non-proliferation statutes.

Britain's Diageo agrees to sell Burger King for \$2.26 billion

BY BRUCE STANLEY

AP Business Writer

LONDON — The Whopper is heading home.

Britain's Diageo PLC announced a deal Thursday to sell Burger King Corp., the world's second-largest fast-food business, to a consortium of U.S. investors.

Diageo, the world's largest producer of alcoholic beverages, will unload Miami-based Burger King for \$2.26 billion in cash and turn its focus to popular liquor brands such as Johnny Walker Scotch and Smirnoff Vodka.

Burger King's buyer is a consortium of venture capital firms led by Texas Pacific Group. The trio also includes Boston-based Bain Capital and Goldman Sachs Capital Partners, the private equity arm of U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs.

"This is the end of what has been a strategic journey, if you like, for Diageo," the company's chief financial officer, Nick Rose, told reporters in a conference call. "We feel that we've achieved a clean separation at a very good value for our shareholders."

The deal, reached after days of intense negotiations, is crucial to Diageo's strategy of concentrating solely on its more lucrative liquor business. Diageo said two years ago that it planned to unload Burger King in a sale or spinoff.

The change in ownership is also expected to boost Burger King, which has suffered in past years due to inadequate marketing and the lack of a coherent management strategy.

Diageo shares jumped 8.4 percent in London to close at 740 pence (\$11.62) per share. The company's U.S.-traded shares gained \$2.27, or 5 percent, to \$46.52.

Bain has practical experience with the fast-food franchise business from its ownership of the Domino's Pizza chain, and Texas Pacific is understood to have close ties with senior executives at Burger



Associated Press

Burger King President Christopher Clouser talks about the future of the Burger King chain after it was announced that the company had been sold early Thursday. During an interview with The Associated Press, he promised the company will stay as a Miami company. Diageo PLC announced Thursday it has agreed to sell its fast-food business Burger King Corp. for \$2.26 billion in cash to a consortium of U.S. venture capital firms led by Texas Pacific Group.

King. These contacts and knowledge about the fast-food industry appear to have given the consortium an edge against other would-be buyers of Burger King, said one source familiar with the talks leading to the sale.

"With a world-class brand, a fundamentally sound strategy, and a committed organization and franchisee base, we are confident that Burger King Corp. has a very bright future," said David Bonderman, chief executive of Texas Pacific Group.

Sales for Burger King's largest franchise-holder, AmeriKing, fell by at least 5 percent last year at restaurants that stayed in operation for more than 12 months.

Other Burger King franchisees experienced similar declines, said Gregory Thomas, a management consultant at Detroit-based McTevia and Associates.

Burger King chief executive John Dasburg said the Texas Pacific consortium's members "have outstanding track records" in restoring troubled companies to profitability and in managing consumer brands and retail businesses.

Dasburg himself can claim credit for much of the recent improvement at Burger King, analysts said.

Since he took control there 16 months ago, the chain — famed for its Whopper hamburger — has improved relations with

its franchise-holders, expanded its product line and strengthened its marketing. The Texas Pacific consortium has asked Dasburg and his senior management team to stay on at the company.

Franchisees praised the sale.

"We look forward to being owned by a company more in line with our business and that will invest in the brand," said Kathy Porter, spokeswoman for the National Franchise Association. Members of the association, which is based in Marietta, Ga., own more than 90 percent of Burger King's 11,435 restaurants.

Dasburg's continued leadership, together with the consortium's deep pockets and retail experience, "should spell great things" for Burger King as it competes against market-leader McDonald's, Thomas said.

"I think they could give McDonald's a run for their money, absolutely," he said.

Diageo decided in March that Burger King's performance had improved enough for the business to be put up for auction, Rose said.

Diageo, which aims to close the deal in the fourth quarter, plans to plow money from the sale into its drinks business. However, Diageo is satisfied with the range of its current portfolio and doesn't plan a buying spree for new brands.

"Very little will be added to our business, particularly on the spirits side," Rose said.

Diageo, headquartered in London, already owns nine of the world's 25 best-selling liquor brands.

"What could they buy that would actually improve value? Probably not a lot, if anything. They are pretty well placed in all categories," said David Liston, an analyst at London brokerage Gerrard.

Diageo's predecessor company, Grand Metropolitan PLC, acquired Burger King in 1988 as part of its purchase of the U.S. company Pillsbury.

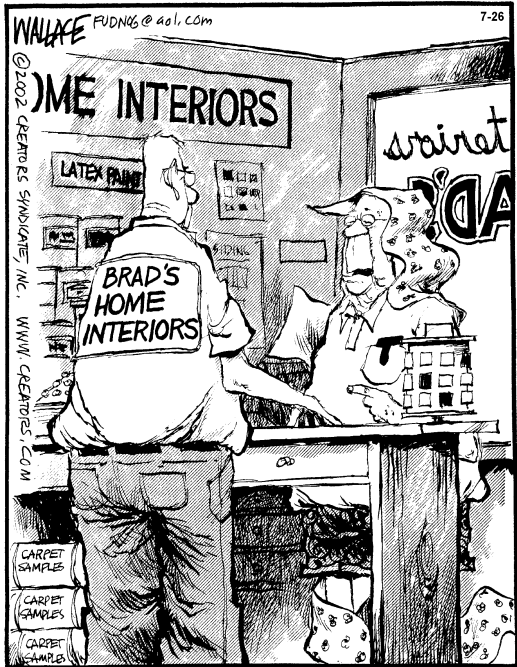
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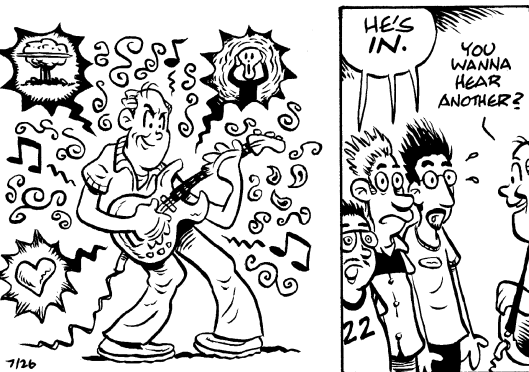
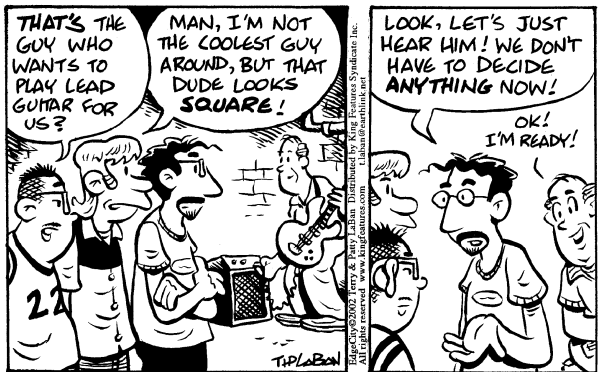
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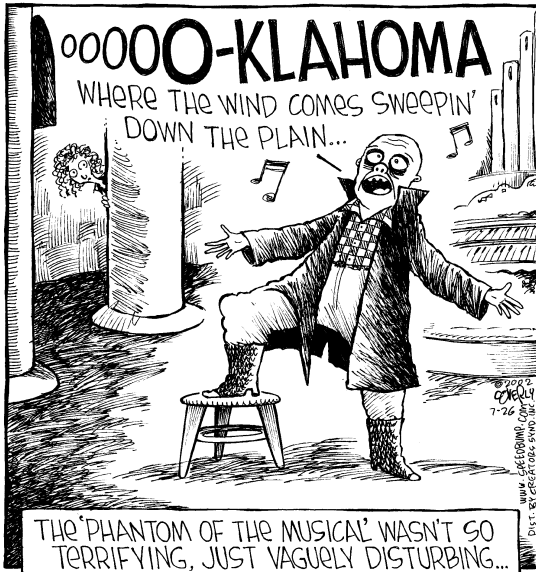
by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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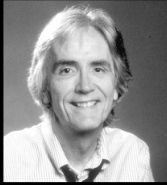
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 - 24 Ventilate
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7-26

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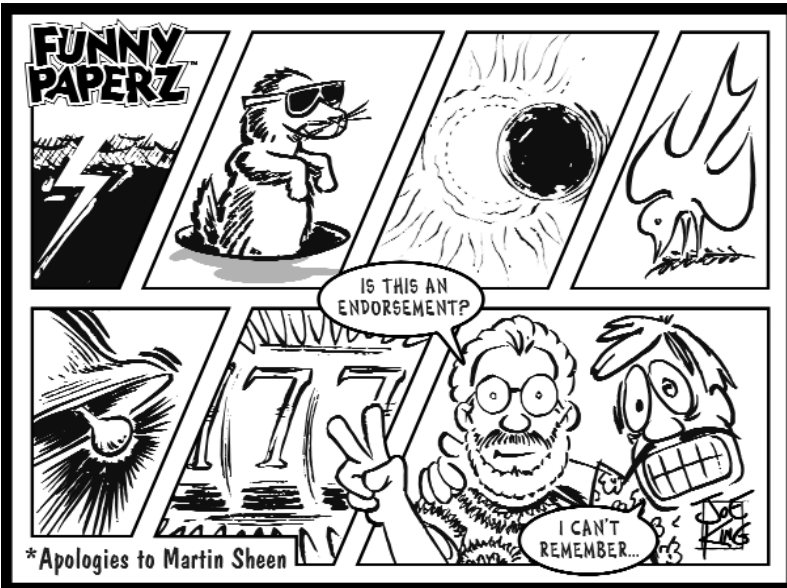


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Kashmir resort's gondolas travel into Indian territory

- The Jammu and Kashmir State Cable Car Corp. continues to run its gondolas at the mountain resort of Gulmarg (according to a July Washington Post dispatch), passing within 3 miles of the "Line of Control" that separates Indian and Pakistani forces in Kashmir (and despite the gondolas occasionally picking up ground fire); business is down considerably for skiing, hiking and golf, but still, frolickers show up.
- According to a June report in Lebanon Daily Star (via The Wall Street Journal), Israeli and Hezbollah forces on the Lebanese border, on stand-down from live ammunition, recently exchanged "fire" with a paint-gun blast, pingpong balls and eggs.





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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

SANTA MONICA \$725.00 Studio, PET OK, r/s, crpt, pool, lndry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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

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

Guest Houses

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

SANTA MONICA \$850.00 Furn Gst hse, hrdwd flr, lrg clsts, w/d. yard, pkgng Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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

Houses For Rent

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

SANTA MONICA \$1195.00 Ctg, PET OK, hrdwd flr, pkgng inc. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Houses For Rent

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, lndry, 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

SANTA MONICA \$1195.00 2 bdrm Twnhse, r/s, patio, lrg clsts, crpt, pkgng inc. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Roommates

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

SANTA MONICA Apt. to share \$650.00 (unfurnished) Private bedroom, share bath, no pets, stove, dishwasher, microwave, fireplace, street parking. Available now! (310)260-4711

W.L.A \$800.00 2+1 House to share. Lrg/yard, across from park, W/D. Non-smoker, no pets. (310)312-8927.

Commercial Lease

ART STUDDO 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.

Storage Space

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

STORAGE UNIT 1105 18th Street. No pets. Good size storage space. (310)394-8121.

Vehicles for sale

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

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

Massage

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

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

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

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

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

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

WE ARE THE CLASSIEST GIG IN TOWN!

Call Angela at
the Santa Monica Daily Press
310.458.7737 ext.101

CLASSIFIEDS



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

Announcements

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

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

Services

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

License number 701350

Services

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BETTER than small claims; \$10
Pick your new job; \$25
(310)398-4130

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

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

Services

MIKE'S PLUMBING
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(323)874-8399
(323)356-7711

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

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

Services

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

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

Health/Beauty

OJAI'S BEST Kept Secret Monte Verde Garden & Spa Massage, Sauna, Spa & more! Located on a beautiful secluded 21/2-acre setting. Call:(805) 649-6899

ADVERTISE!

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.

**Can't find the Daily Press in your neighborhood?
Call us. We'll take your suggestions.
(310) 458-PRESS (7737)**

Calendar

Friday, July 26, 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-11: 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

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

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

Classes

Los Angeles Arts Academy, Summer Art Camp in Santa Monica & Westchester. Ages 5 to 13 years old. Lots of fun: art, acting, singing, karaoke, drawing, sculpture, drum circles, field

trips & more! June 24 through August 16, M-F 9 a.m. To 3 p.m. (except field trip days). Now enrolling! laarts@earthlink.net.

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.

Saturday

Community

Chili Cook-Off! The Bitter Redhead Bar, located at 2101 Lincoln Blvd. In Santa Monica, 2 blocks South of Pico, is holding it's Second Chili Cook-Off. Open to the public. \$5.00 tasting fee. \$8.00 judging fee. For more information, call (310)450-6776. If you would like to enter a chili, please call the same number. Space is limited. Prizes awarded to the top three finishers.

Classes / Lectures

Take One Film & Theatre Books welcomes Frederick Levy! He will be speaking about at signing his book *The Hollywood Way: A Young Movie Mogul's Savvy Business Tips for Success in any Career*. Take One is located at 11516 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Los Angeles. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. For more information please call (310)445-4050.

Theatre / Arts

Santa Monica Children's Theatre Co. presents a

newly forming musical theatre company for children. Every Saturday from 10:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Quest Studios, 19th & Broadway in Santa Monica. Tuition is \$325 per month - covers cost of all classes and productions. Contact Janet Stegman at (310)995-9636.

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

Music / Entertainment

Mount Olive Film Night. A World War II veteran becomes "unstuck in time" in this film based on a 1969 novel by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Music by Glenn Gould. A light supper served at 6:00p.m. Film starts at 7:00p.m. FREE Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean Park Boulevard (310) 452-1116

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



Millions abound for Ameritrade

By The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — It's been a good financial week for the millionaire chairman of online discount broker Ameritrade.

On Tuesday, the company said net income for the third quarter was \$5.8 million, versus only \$70,000 for the same quarter a year ago.

On Monday, the Douglas County Board of Equalization valued Chairman J. Joe Ricketts' mansion well below the \$6 million valuation placed on it earlier this year by county assessors.

If that evaluation had stood, it would have meant a tax hike of about \$40,000.

Commissioners this week valued his 17,000-square-foot mansion in the pricey Fairacres section at \$4.77 million. That means Ricketts' tax bill will increase by \$15,000.

Flying saucers hit home

By The Associated Press

CONCORD, Mich. — Double-takes abound when

people pass by Alan Lewis' house, where a flying saucer appears to have landed in the yard.

It's actually a 600-pound model made of fiberglass, aluminum, steel and plastic, and adorned with colored lights. A plastic alien peers out from the silver spacecraft, which resembles an upside-down satellite dish propped on a plastic tube.

"I like having something not too many people have," Lewis said. "All the neighbors I've talked to, they're all for it. They think it's cool."

He said he bought the model from a roadside merchant just north of Lansing and paid \$400, which included \$200 for delivery. He bolted it to a large concrete slab near the side of his house about six weeks ago.

"I'm thinking of putting a strobe light on the inside so it'll flash at night," he said.

Cathy Murdock drives past Lewis' house in the pre-dawn hours on her way to work at the Silver Spoon restaurant. When it's dark, Lewis lights up the saucer with yellow, red, blue and purple lights. A white dome light is on top and a spotlight shines on the alien.

"The first time I saw it, it was 5:30 a.m.," Murdock said. "I thought, 'Oh my gosh, a UFO!'"

Murderer found attending funeral

By The Associated Press

BAKERSFIELD — A man wanted for murder was arrested after a sheriff's deputy read an obituary that said he was going to be a pallbearer at a funeral.

Gilbert Orsono, 24, was arrested Wednesday after authorities staked out a Bakersfield cemetery. He was taken to Los Angeles County jail where he is being held

on \$2 million bail.

Kern County sheriff's deputies had been on the lookout for Orsono when a deputy read that he would be at a funeral Wednesday.

Authorities believe Orsono killed a man with a sawed-off shotgun in Pomona in February 2000.

Orsono, a known gang member, killed the victim after the two had a fight in which the man disparaged Orsono's gang, police said.

Orsono was questioned in Kern County and then driven back to Pomona for booking.

Gator lounges in wading pool

By The Associated Press

TINLEY PARK, Ill. — It's "see you later" for a 4-foot baby pet alligator that was caught by an animal control officer wading in a child's backyard pool.

Donna Crafton said her son, Daniel Crafton, 35, bought the alligator at a reptile show in Indiana last week. She said he put the alligator in a 3-foot-deep pool "to get some sun" while he set up an aquarium in his nearby home.

The alligator was captured Monday and taken to the Animal Welfare League of Chicago Ridge after police acted on a village ordinance prohibiting residents from having snakes and like animals, village manager Dave Dorgan said.

Another ordinance prohibits people from keeping vicious animals.

Donna Crafton said the pet alligator wasn't vicious, but Dorgan said there was a very real danger. No citations or fines have been issued.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press: Attn. Editor
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