



FREE!

Santa Monica Daily Press

July 31-August 1, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 224



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Letter carrier Martha Cherry, 49, was fired by the Postal Service in White Plains, N.Y., in 1997 after 18 years of apparently walking her rounds too slowly. Wrote a supervisor, of the 5-foot-4 Cherry: "At each stop, the heel of your leading foot did not pass the toe of the trailing foot by more than one inch. As a result, you required 13 minutes longer than your demonstrated ability to deliver the mail to this section of your route."

■ Postal worker Douglas C. Yee, 50, was indicted in 1996 in San Mateo, Calif., for pulling off bulk-mail scams that grossed him \$800,000. Found in Yee's garbage were notes he had written to God expressing gratitude for His continued help in evading police. Read one: "Lord, I am having a difficult time myself seeing you as a God who hides crime, yet your Word says that it's your privilege (or glory) to do just that."

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON JULY 31, 1777, the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, was made a major-general in the American Continental Army.

■ In 1556, St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus — the Jesuit order of Catholic priests and brothers — died in Rome.

■ In 1875, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, died in Carter Station, Tenn., at age 66.

■ In 1919, Germany's Weimar Constitution was adopted.

■ In 1948, President Truman helped dedicate New York International Airport (later John F. Kennedy International Airport) at Idlewild Field.

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Piecing together city's parking puzzle

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Officials here are eyeing 11 properties as possible pieces of a \$250 million parking puzzle they hope will solve downtown's problems in little more than a decade's time.

When the plan was originally announced in 2002, the project was expected to cost \$92.5 million.

The City Council authorized staff earlier this week to begin gathering information about properties on Fifth Street and on Broadway as potential sites for

city parking structures. However, before the city can move towards purchasing any of the properties, staffers will have to report back to the council.

As to who will foot the estimated \$250 million bill remains unclear, but the costs will most

likely be passed on to motorists, developers and business owners in the downtown area, said Suzanne Frick, director of the planning department.

According to Frick, the \$92.5 million plan to add nearly 2,000 parking spaces downtown through the addition of new parking structures, as well as the demolition and rebuilding of three of the 1960s-era downtown structures, did not take a variety of factors into account.

The plan, which will also upgrade 2,931 spaces, was signed off by the City Council in 2002 after a task force designed to address the shortage of downtown parking did nearly a year of research. City Hall hired a consultant for \$150,000 to help the task force find potential parking places and figure out how to finance them.

Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson said the project's estimated cost has been driven up as property values have risen and officials have refined the city's plans. For example, city officials are now looking into building a large amount of underground parking, which could substantially increase the cost of construction.

Anderson said City Hall also has taken a group of potential construction costs into account in the new estimate that it did not in the \$92.5 million estimate, like soil treatment costs and the extra costs of building on relatively small

See PARKING, page 6

And the beat goes on ...



Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press

Band members from Ex-Centric Sound System energize the pier crowd on Thursday at the Twilight Dance Series concert with their Israeli/Ghanaian world music.

Cat scratch fever: Residents hiss at cat de-clawing

Residents deliver impassioned pleas in favor of a ban

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Nearly two dozen local veterinarians, pet groomers, animal rights activists and cat lovers descended on City Hall this week, asking elected leaders to draft a law making it

illegal to de-claw cats.

Some spoke through tears as they told elected leaders about the unintended consequences of de-clawing cats, saying it leads to behavioral spats, an adversity to litter boxes and extreme paw pain. Many claimed the "systematic mutilation" of cats was performed

only to pad the pockets of free-wheeling veterinarians.

"De-clawing, whether it's done with a laser a scalpel blade or dog nail clippers ... is removing the last bone in a cat's toes," said veterinarian and local resident Jennifer Conrad, who brought the matter before City Council. "It's your knuckle, it's the equivalent of

removing that.

"You imagine, even under anesthesia, how painful that would be to wake up from."

A different speaker told the council the surgery costs anywhere from \$150 to \$750, and is routinely done without anesthesia. Though Europe has banned the

See SCRATCH, page 7

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 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
***** Letting go and enjoying happens naturally. You might feel pulled between friends and loved ones. You will tend to overdo it. Join friends; have a spontaneous party. Add music or whatever touch you need to have everyone enjoy his- or herself. Tonight: Raise cane.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
*** You are pulled between two different interests. Juggling what is going on will take talent. Someone is likely to be out of sorts. Decide to go out for a movie and perhaps an early dinner. You need to relax and let your mind wander. Tonight: What starts as an early night could develop into a late party.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
***** Reach out for someone at a distance. How you feel might be a direct reflection of your ability to rearrange your schedule. So many invitations and so many people to choose from. Tonight: Investigate a new restaurant or jazz/blues spot.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
*** You juggle finances with finesse and ease (so you think). A partner might be very confused about what you are doing. Don't try to pull the wool over this person's eyes. Be straightforward in your discussions. Tonight: Be a duo.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
***** You might feel pushed and pulled between and betwixt friends, associates, loved ones and your needs. Allow someone you love to take control, and go along for the ride. If you are single, you could meet someone who will dazzle you. Tonight: Relish every moment.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
***** Focus on enjoying yourself through a favorite pastime. Don't feel like you always need to have spectacular plans. You might need some time off from all that is going on. Relax with those who are able to chill out. Tonight: A movie or concert.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
***** Your focus needs to be on a child or loved one. Friends might be quite distracting, or you might have something you want to do. Let go and just be with that special person. You will find this time well-spent. Tonight: Add some music or a movie.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
*** You are in a pressure cooker, no matter how you cut it. Evaluate your needs; although you might want to be out on the town, a family member comes first. You find staying close to home very rewarding. Tonight: Stay close to home.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
***** Even if you are planning to take off, you probably won't. You find out that someone in your immediate surroundings wants to hang out with you, and you with him or her. Visit where you don't need to always talk — like a movie or concert. Tonight: Let your imagination decide.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
*** What becomes obvious, if not today then very soon, is that you need to curb your spending. Money runs through your fingers like water. This pattern really isn't you. You can and will get it under control. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
***** The Full Moon in your sign adds to your energy and magnetism. Others come forward and want to be part of your plans. You might have special plans. Be polite, but follow through on what you want to do. Tonight: Just for you.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
** Use today for yourself and something personal that you might have wanted to take care of. Listen to other's suggestions and invitations, but stick to your guns. You might want to cocoon and screen your calls. Tonight: Keep it low-key.

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LOCAL



Convention winds down with a high-octane bash



(Editor's note: Politics, positioning and partying is the name of the game at the Democratic National Convention this week. Santa Monica Daily Press columnist Dr. Lara Brown is spending the week in the thick of it. Here, she'll give readers on the Left Coast a taste of the Beantown scene).

BY LARA BROWN

Special to the Daily Press

Thursday's finale: It all came down to this for almost all the delegates. Get to the hall (very early) and get to the "post-gavel party" at the Museum of Science where word on the street was that Bon Jovi would be playing and the candidates would likely make an appearance.

I ended up not going to the hall because believe it or not, as a political scientist, I actually wanted to see the speech how the "American people" would see it. I have been on the floor before, under the balloon drop and I know how wild, crazy and exciting it is, but that wasn't what I wanted to see, so I traded my credential for a couple of Museum of Science tickets with a good friend who is a donor and we planned to meet up afterwards. The only bad side of doing this was that Congressman Raul Grijalva (Ariz.) is a friend of mine (I've known him since he was a City Councilman in Tucson) and he was giving the nomination speech for Sen. John Edwards at 5:45 p.m. Of course, his speech was not broadcast, except on C-SPAN and that station is not available in my hotel room, so I called my dear friend, Ana Ma, his chief of staff,

who is currently on leave, but whom I knew would be in the convention hall, probably in the front row on the floor, for the play by play. Thank goodness for cell phones! And I'm pleased to say that Raul was awesome!

But this wasn't the only story of the night. My roommate, Sonia Lopes, had a nightmare with her pre-Kerry speech, post-stage sitting experience. As I mentioned yesterday, she has been doing stage duty every night of the convention from 6 p.m. to about 8:30 p.m. and this time when she got off-stage and began walking back to her seat on the floor, the fire marshal stopped her. "Too many people," they said. They told her that she was going to have to watch the speech from the hall of the Fleet Center. She immediately broke out in tears and began crying: "I didn't come all this way to watch the speech from the hall, I've got to get to the floor." As she began explaining her story, the crowd around her was getting larger and sensing the unfairness in her situation. Of course, the press were immediately attracted to all the drama and the Kerry people being sensitive to that, they worked with Secret Service to walk her around backstage, through the underground tunnels, into the arena, and to the California delegation seats. What a night. But at least she made it.

All of my friends who were on the floor told me Kerry's speech was astounding. That he rose to the occasion. That the floor was packed and that it was like taking a shower (because everyone was so hot and sweaty) with all 5,000 delegates at the convention. There was no doubt that Fleet was 30 percent smaller than the Staples Center.

The late night bash was an incredible party, but a bit of a let down. No Bon Jovi. No candidates. Only lots of great dancing music (the DJ mixed everything from YMCA to Yeah), a hearty buffet, an open bar, and a huge museum made for wandering and people watching. The event lasted until the wee hours and it certainly seemed that the entire Democratic Party was there. It was a perfect way to end the convention. Next up, Inaugural.

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For Saturday, the tropical swell will turn more to the SSW, mix with steady NW wind swell and some SW swell. Most southerly exposed spots are again in the knee- to waist-high range, while standout SSW/combo breaks pull in shoulder-high sets.

By Sunday, look for a new SE Southern Hemi swell to slowly fill in and mix with the wind swell and SSW tropical swell. Similar sizes are expected at most breaks off the swell mix — mainly knee- to waist-high at the better S/combo breaks.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

69°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:19	1.5	10:24	1.7	2:11	3.6	3:22	4.9
SUNDAY	9:07	2.0	11:49	1.0	3:56	3.2	4:15	5.3
MONDAY	10:11	2.4	N/A	N/A	6:00	3.1	5:13	5.7
TUESDAY	12:55	0.3	11:26	2.6	7:31	3.3	6:10	6.2
WEDNESDAY	1:50	-0.5	12:36	2.6	8:31	3.6	7:06	6.7
THURSDAY	2:38	-1.1	1:37	2.5	9:17	3.9	7:59	7.0
FRIDAY	3:23	-1.4	2:31	2.2	9:58	4.2	8:49	7.2

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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 5.**

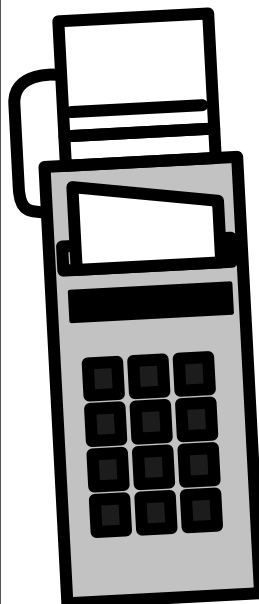


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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

See how they like it in Pico

Editor:

This is in response to your query, “Fed up with violence in the Pico neighborhood?” I fled the crime in the Oakwood area of Venice after a resident of the low-income housing projects committed a murder near my house. This was a quiet neighborhood 22 years ago when I moved here. Then Santa Monica Renter’s Rights conspired with Community Corporation of Santa Monica to duplicate the Yonkers, N.Y., policy of over concentrating low income housing projects in a minority neighborhood.

With each new housing project, crime has increased. But there is a solution. There are two homes for sale on 17th Street, across from CCSM low-income housing projects. The executive director of CCSM and the director of the Santa Monica Housing Authority should each buy one of these homes and move in.

They can then 1) resign from the board of directors of the Not in My Back Yard (NIMBY) Association. When the gang members and drug dealers start shooting they 2) can demand city resources be directed to the Pico neighborhood to eliminate crime in and around the low-income housing projects (see the HUD Report, In the Crossfire) and 3) having to live with the consequences of their policy of over concentrating low-income housing projects in a small area near their own homes will result in change.

Mike Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Bush best beware of crying wolf

Editor:

What’s the terrorism warning color code today? I don’t know. I stopped caring a long time ago. The Bush administration has Tom Ridge coming out with warning alerts so often it’s become mesmerizing. What’s dangerous about all these “danger, danger” alerts is that, like the boy who cried wolf too often, if we have an imminent terrorist attack, most people won’t react properly.

Of course, the Bush administration doesn’t want to be caught not warning us in case all the “chatter” they hear from terrorists is the real deal. I imagine terrorists laughing a lot as they “chatter” away with no intention of attacking us. They know our leaders aren’t competent enough to figure out what’s really going on.

Most Americans have been too brainwashed by doublespeak to demand real accountability for our leaders’ mistakes. Have you noticed anybody in the CIA or FBI who’s been fired for mistakes leading to the tragedy of 9 /11 or the unnecessary war in Iraq? The terrorist “wolves” will make us suffer for supporting entrenched bureaucratic stupidity.

John Wisdom Dancer
Canoga Park

Appeasing the thugs is no answer

Editor:

Will there still be a \$100,000 mural painted at the Virginia Park project? Doesn’t that sound like a bit too much to pay for yet another mediocre spray-paint graffiti “art job” to distract motorists in this area?

With Santa Monica’s heavy budget woes of late, coupled with that of the schools, it would seem that there would be no money available for such frivolous squandering. Or was the scarce funding begrudgingly made available by City Council to Oscar de la Torre’s “at risk boys” to keep them from tagging or otherwise vandalizing the new park?

The Pico thugs have effectively excluded anyone else from participation in work on that huge public project, and it now begs the question: Will anyone else in Santa Monica be able to use the new public park and all of its facilities or is it now their little turf exclusively?

Don Johnson
Venice Beach

A jab at the jibs

Editor:

JibJab.com may be the satiric touchstone of a nation now, thanks to the Spiridellis’ animated Woody Guthrie parody (SMDP, July 27, page 1), but does anybody else find it disheartening to see their (John) Kerry “I’ve won three purple hearts” character blowing up Vietnamese friendlies by the river? JibJab may have “no political agenda,” according to Evan Spiridellis. So is it just me being too p.c.?

P.S. Attention Hitchcock fans: The two hippies pictured by the tent bear a strong resemblance to our local jib jabbers.

Henry Rosenfeld
Ocean Park

New wrinkle in soldiering



MODERN
TIMES
BY LLOYD GARVER

Understandably, it’s not always easy to get young men and women to join the military. The services have long told possible recruits that if they enlist, they not only get to serve their country, but they get to see the world and receive an education. Now they have a new enticement that is consistent with today’s society: “Join up and we’ll give you a free nose job or breast implants.”

Members of all four branches of the U.S. military can get cosmetic surgery for themselves and their families. The Army did about 500 cosmetic plastic surgeries last year. I don’t mind that taxpayers are paying for these surgeries. I feel soldiers deserve any kind of medical treatment that they wish. They’re risking their lives. Let them look pretty while they’re doing it if that’s what they want. I’m just surprised that the epidemic of cosmetic surgery has reached into the military.

I shouldn’t be so surprised. The number of cosmetic procedures has skyrocketed in recent years. Breast augmentations keep going up — and out. The same goes for liposuction, eyelid surgeries and hair transplants. And about a quarter of all procedures are performed on people between the ages of 19 and 34. People are getting rid of “age lines” before they even have age. I guess soldiers are entitled to be just as vain as the rest of us.

There’s nothing wrong with people trying to look younger. If it makes them feel better and they’re aware of any possible risks, go for it. But why do so many people feel a need to do it? Why are we still so obsessed with looking young? What happened to “40 is the new 30” and “you’re only as old as you feel?” We’re lucky to live in a time when all these anti-aging choices are available to us. It’s just a shame so many people feel they have no choice but to use them.

I don’t know if anyone will actually join the military just to get free nose jobs for the whole family. “Join up and we promise nobody will ever shoot at you” would seem like a more effective lure.

But I know that’s not realistic. So, maybe some people will actually enlist because of the cosmetic perks. Will the recruiting officers start showing “before” and “after” pictures? Will they be saying things like, “Son, you’ll be proud to wear this uniform and this new chin?” Drill Instructors will no longer be exaggerating when they tell the new recruits, “We’re going to give you a whole new body.” Maybe we’ll start hearing things like, “She’s a tough soldier. She’s full of silicone and vinegar.”

Will they be doing sex change operations next? Are the Marines going to say, “We’re looking for a few good men. But if you’re a woman, we can fix that?”

The whole thing seems so, well, un-military. It goes against the image of the soldier. Superficial looks aren’t supposed to be important to soldiers. It’s who you are on the inside that counts. Traditionally, tough soldiers proudly showed off their scars. They didn’t try to hide their laugh lines. Soldiers got fit through exercise, not liposuction. They didn’t worry about sleep, let alone if their eyelids were a little droopy. In the past, soldiers always wanted to be in a unit with a good cook. In the future, are they going to want to be in a unit with someone who does good noses?

Maybe I’m being irrational. It’s just hard for me to get used to the idea. But just because someone has cosmetic surgery is not going to make him or her less brave or a worse soldier. It’s even possible that cosmetic surgery could make them better soldiers. If you feel better about yourself, you probably do a better job.

But I do have one caveat for you soldiers out there. A spokesperson for the Army says that one reason they’re happy to do these surgeries is because “the surgeons have to have someone to practice on.” Doesn’t your GI butt deserve a doctor who’s already had practice?

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

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OPINION



The QLine

WELLER'S DAY WILL COME

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you agree with the judge's decision to keep Russell Weller's statements private? If you were a juror, would it change how you looked at the case?
Here are your responses:

☉ "Mr. Weller's and his wife's statements should not be made public unless they were informed by the police that their statements would be recorded and made public. In the final analysis, this is a horrible personal injury and liability court case. The city of Santa Monica has a long history of not accepting responsibility when the city's actions are irresponsible. The Twilight Dance Series held on the Santa Monica Pier, which I attend during the summer on Thursday nights, are a sight for an automobile catastrophe. People and automobiles mingle freely together as automobiles enter onto the pier parking lot. The entrance to the parking lot is only 10 feet from a crowd of thousands of people. The only thing separating the crowd and the automobiles are a few wooden sawhorses and yellow tape. One car veering to the west into the crowd would wreak havoc. As for Mr. Weller, even if criminal intent can be proven, my interest would be entirely with those who suffered a terrible loss to Mr. Weller's and the city of Santa Monica's actions. A large, fair, monetary settlement is in order. Also in my opinion, the open air vegetable market is still not safe due to no barriers as of yet being set in place."

☉ "On the farmers' market matter, the farmers' market driver, who is 87 years old and could be suffering from

Alzheimer's or something else that we don't know about, his statement that the judge deemed should be kept private. I'm sure that the prosecution, as well as the defense, has access to those statements, and if they felt that they shed any light on the accident, I'm sure they would have pressed for the release of those statements. The press is demanding that the statements be released, but the prosecution and the defense is not. Let's wait and see how this plays out. I'm certain at one point those statements will be released to the press and to the public during the course of the trial."

☉ "Regarding the judge's decision on Mr. Weller's thing: Having been on the receiving end of a lot of bad tragedies in my family, I think it's OK. The truth does come out."

☉ "The judge ordered that the rest of the report be made public. Why haven't we seen another word about it in either the Daily Press or the LA Times?"

☉ "I'm thoroughly against the judge's decision to keep Weller's statement private. This man has not spoken a single word. He has not apologized to the victims. Weller has said nothing. So I think everything should be made public, and the public should know what has happened and what is going on."

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LOCAL

Parking construction
costs still not set in stone

PARKING, from page 1

sites. He said the original estimates were based more on industry standards, while recent numbers account for the city’s actual project.

“Whenever you start a construction project, there are a variety of estimates that float around as time goes on, and they usually don’t go down,” Frick said.

Both Frick and Anderson stressed that the estimates are far from set in stone. City officials are working on designs for new parking structures, and will only be able to put small parts of the larger plan into the yearly budget.

Miriam Mack, the city’s manager of economic development, said only about \$13.8 million had been set aside in the city budget for the quarter-of-a-billion-dollar project.

City Councilman Herb Katz, who expressed concerns at a council meeting this spring that many of the properties initially identified have since been bought or are about to be, said City Hall has been moving as quickly as it can.

“It’s been moving slower than I had hoped, but I think the city had to go slowly,” Katz said. “We knew when we came up with the concept that we didn’t have the money right then — we knew that we were looking into a dream land, but one that had to be addressed.”

As to how City Hall could make ends meet for the plan, Frick said meter and parking rates could be raised; bonds could be issued or business owners could be charged for the creation of new parking.

The task force considered tacking on an extra 50 cents per square foot to exist-

ing properties in the downtown area and expanding the assessment district to include an additional 1.9 million square feet of commercial space. That district would stretch from north of Wilshire Boulevard to Colorado Avenue, and from Sixth Street to Ocean Avenue.

The task force reasoned that property owners would benefit from additional spaces and, therefore, should help pay for them. New commercial development in the Bayside District already pays into a shared parking fund and is not required to provide separate parking. The downtown area has seen about 50,000 square feet of growth each year in the past eight years.

There already are 5,180 spaces in 10 downtown garages, 1,085 private off-street spaces and 236 metered spots downtown.

Before the task force convened, City Hall asked the public through a telephone survey about downtown parking. The vast majority of residents said finding a parking space is difficult and nearly two-thirds thought it should be increased.

Research by the task force backed that sentiment up — there were 2.1 spaces per 1,000 square feet of commercial space. That’s considered low given the high proportion of retail, entertainment uses and the attraction of the Promenade, officials said. Most comparable cities have nearly twice the amount of spaces, according to city documents.

City Hall is currently doing an Environmental Impact Report on the plan, which should be completed within six months, Frick said. Construction will not begin until after that report is filed and millions of dollars are found, she said.

Homeless woman arrested
for stabbing man on beach

By Daily Press staff

A homeless woman was arrested by police after she allegedly stabbed a homeless man at the beach Thursday night.

At 9:54 p.m., Santa Monica Police responded to the 1700 block of Ocean Front Walk where they found the victim lying on the ground with several stab wounds to the upper body. Apparently after the assault, the suspect, identified as Jackqualyn Tracey Weathers, 33, fled on foot southbound on Ocean Front Walk, police said. She was detained by officers in the 2000 block of Ocean Front Walk. Witnesses positively identified Weathers

as the person who allegedly assaulted the man — described as homeless and 42 by police. Officers recovered the weapon used in the stabbing.

The victim was transported to a local hospital, and after surgery, is listed in serious condition but stable.

Weathers was booked at the Santa Monica Jail and charged with attempted murder, probation violation and an outstanding felony warrant. Her bail has been set at \$1,025,000.

Anyone having any information regarding the incident is encouraged to contact the robbery-homicide unit at the SMPD at (310) 458-8451.

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LOCAL



What's new, pussycat? Not a de-clawing clause

SCRATCH, from page 1

procedure, only the City of West Hollywood has done so in North America, said still another speaker.

Council members scratched, voting 3-3 on the proposal to draft a law, with one absent. While some said de-clawing cats was inhumane and cruel, others agreed more information needed to be gathered to make a balanced, objective decision.

"Maybe there's a reason that only one city in the United States has done this so far," said City Councilman Ken Genser. "This may be a no-brainer decision, the absolute right thing, I just don't know. But hearing that statistic ... raises questions in my mind that I think need to get checked out by an independent source."

City Councilman Kevin McKeown countered that opponents of the proposed law already had missed one opportunity to be heard. McKeown, in recent months, has spearheaded efforts to legally change dog "owners" to dog "guardians" in official city documents and has opposed poisoning the ground squirrels that contribute to the weakening of the Palisades Bluffs.

"I think the fact that none of them came down here in person to tell us it was OK to cut off a cat's toes tells you something about how they really feel about the fact that they're still doing this barbaric practice," he said.

City Councilman Bob Holbrook said it

wasn't just about right or wrong, it also was about whether City Hall had jurisdiction over the matter.

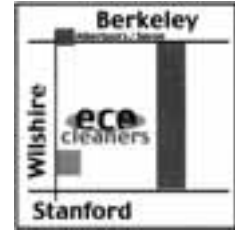
"I believe this is an issue of their profession," said Holbrook, a licensed pharmacist. "We can't talk to any cats about it ... It's a professional privilege and priority in the practice of veterinary medicine. I'm not going to get involved in this any further."

City Councilman Mike Feinstein didn't buy into that argument, saying Santa Monica has often taken the lead on progressive issues it feels are important.

"We're replete with examples here of us taking a lead on a local level, in order to move state policy," he said. "I think that's one of the things that residents of this city have asked successive city councils to do in a variety of environmental and social justice deals, and this is justice between species — and one that I think should have high prominence."

But with Mayor Richard Bloom in favor of waiting to take action until more information could be gathered, the effort failed. Supporters on the council were expected to raise the matter again with City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, who was absent, on the dais. If the proposal to draft a law eventually is pushed forward, it still must return to the council for two more rounds of voting before becoming law.

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STATE

Out of spotlight, Californians seek new ways to help Kerry

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

BOSTON — California seemed the center of the political universe four years ago, when a popular Democratic governor, Gray Davis, hosted the Democratic convention in Los Angeles. The state's mother lode of electoral votes appeared up for grabs, and nearly 50 Californians made speeches from the podium.

This year, the state is a virtual lock for Democrat John Kerry, Davis is history after being ousted by Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the convention spotlight has gone to Democrats from the 17 or so battleground states.

Still, Californians aren't just dreaming for the good old days — they're putting their energies elsewhere, funding the national campaign and working as foot soldiers in the movement to oust President Bush in November.

Some of California's most powerful Democratic donors gathered over wine and an elegant Italian meal to celebrate one big success — the whopping \$19 million contributed by Californians in a fund-raising campaign led by state Treasurer Phil Angelides and Kerry state finance chair Mark Gorenberg.

The state has always been the political world's biggest cash cow, with its high-tech moguls and Hollywood executives. But donors acknowledge getting a bit weary of seeing so little attention from the candidates after providing them with so much financial support.

"I do think they're getting tired of it," said Richard Lieff, a San Francisco attorney and one of the Kerry campaign's top fund raisers.

Richard Rubin, a member of Kerry's national finance team who has raised about \$300,000 for the campaign, agreed.

"Put it this way, I think they'd like to believe they're not going to be forgotten," said Rubin, a lawyer and lobbyist.

At least one guest at Tuesday's thank-you luncheon said donors' feelings don't matter now.

"I don't care if they're tired of it," said Judge Bill Newsom, the father of San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, who has raised over \$100,000 for Kerry so far. "This is a watershed, the most critical election of my lifetime. It's the equivalent of a religious war."

Over their daily breakfast meeting Wednesday, California delegates heard a spirited speech from Donna Brazile, who ran Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign. Gore defeated Bush by 1.3 million votes in California, the cornerstone of Democrats' electoral vote strategy.

"Thanks for all the help you gave us in 2000," said Brazile. "You may not be a battleground state this time, but you're part of the battlefield."

Few say it's impossible for Bush to carry California's 55 electoral votes this year, but many activists are so confident in a California victory that they're taking their battle fatigues elsewhere.

Members of Congress, like Lois Capps of Santa Barbara and Mike Thompson of St. Helena, are organizing bus trips ferrying college students and other activists into Oregon, Nevada, Arizona and other states where polls show the vote remains a toss-up.

"We have the opportunity to be the best kind of exporter to other states," Capps said.

And there's always a need for more money, and California Democrats are digging deep. Delegate Susan Kennedy, a member of the Public Utilities Commission, said she and her partner are pulling money from their home renovation fund to keep writing checks to the Kerry campaign.

"We are giving more than we ever have, or realistically should," Kennedy said.

But there are still those who warn that Democrats shouldn't take California quite so much for granted, pointing to the political volatility demonstrated in last year's recall election.

"I'll be quite candid, I wish there were much more of an operation in California," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein. "You lose California, you lose the election. Big time."

When Davis pulled up at a chic French restaurant Wednesday for an exclusive lunch hosted by celebrity chronicler Tina Brown, it must surely have felt like old times. Flashbulbs popped, curious onlookers craned their necks, and TV crews trained their lenses on him.

"What'd you think of Howard Dean's speech last night, Governor?" an interviewer asked, and Davis delivered a smooth sound bite for the cameras.

"Such a nice man," said a woman in the crowd, watching Davis. "Such a shame what happened to him."

If Davis is feeling sorry for himself this week, he's certainly not letting on. Just nine months after his humiliating recall from office, Davis is soldiering on, and receiving something of a hero's welcome from fellow delegates.

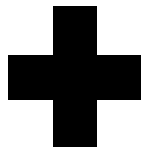
"It's been a wonderful, wonderful reception, thank God," Davis said.

Davis and his wife Sharon have been all over Boston, attending delegate briefings, partying with Bill and Hillary Clinton, and doing a humorous turn on the Jimmy Kimmel Show with Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn.

But Davis says his most important job is to help Kerry, a fellow Vietnam veteran he's known since 1987. "Politics is in my blood," Davis said. "I'm convinced America is ready for a change."

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STATE



Let the spending begin: Senate approves state budget

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Almost a month later than Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger had hoped, the state Senate approved a \$105 billion budget Thursday to end a standoff that had degenerated into name calling and threats of political retaliation.

A bipartisan group of senators voted 28-11 for the budget, following a 69-11 vote in the Assembly Wednesday. The budget now goes to Schwarzenegger, who is expected to sign it Saturday.

"It's a relief that it's done, although this is a budget we could have had a month ago," said Sen. Wes Chesbro, D-Arcata. "The state can pay its bills, there's no new taxes and we're funding basic services."

Final passage of the budget ended, for now, a time of frayed nerves in the Capitol during which much of the bipartisan spirit of the governor's first few months in office crumbled under the weight of partisan tension. Such bickering drew in even Schwarzenegger, who called Democratic legislators "girlie men" whipped by special interests during a July 17 rally in Southern California.

Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders reached a final deal Monday, but that wasn't enough to make it easy for the Legislature to find the votes needed to pass the budget and its 21 trailer bills.

Lawmakers from both parties criticized parts of the proposal Thursday, frustrated that again the Legislature was not attacking the spending imbalance directly either through tax increases or deep spending cuts. Instead they were relying largely on one-time solutions.

"It's a budget for us to like and our children to hate," said Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City, who reluctantly voted for the proposal. "This is a budget of delays and deferrals, gimmicks and big fat IOUs."

After a meeting with city mayors in Monterey, Schwarzenegger called the budget "a really good compromise. It's not perfect, but it's a really good compromise under the circumstances — the way things are run in Sacramento."

Schwarzenegger, who had promised an on-time budget this year, spent much effort cutting deals with interest groups, such as schools and local government, to help get it passed on time.

Because California is one of the few states with a requirement that spending bills receive support of two-thirds majority, the state budget is routinely late — an

issue that helped cause the recall of former Gov. Gray Davis last year and has hurt the state's credit rating, still the lowest in the nation.

The Legislature's Democratic majority, while it liked much of the budget Schwarzenegger proposed in May, forced the administration to remake many of its special agreements. Also, the final spending plan includes far fewer of the spending cuts originally sought by the governor and Republicans. Although he held the line on a tax increase, Schwarzenegger was forced to use nearly \$7 billion in borrowing to pay for all the programs that Democrats refused to cut.

Schwarzenegger had to cope with dissatisfaction among his fellow Republicans, who were upset about the higher spending. To sweeten the package for conservatives, Schwarzenegger and Democrats negotiated for weeks over side issues, such as the repeal of two labor laws, which had little to do with the actual budget.

Even after the final budget agreement was reached among Schwarzenegger and party leaders, winning votes was not easy, especially for Republicans. Only four Senate Republicans voted for the budget, while 10 opposed it.

Several of the bills needed to implement the budget were stalled on the Senate floor much of the day because there were not enough votes.

A handshake deal between legislative leaders and the governor doesn't mean legislators have to vote for it, said Sen. Chuck Poochigian, R-Fresno, who supported some of the trailer bills but not the budget plan itself.

Although public schools will receive \$2 billion less next year than educators could have demanded under voter-approved funding guarantees, classroom spending will still increase nearly \$300 on a per pupil thanks to an agreement between school officials, the governor and the Legislature.

In a landmark accord with cities and counties, the state will save another \$2.6 billion over the next two years. In exchange, the Legislature has agreed to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot that if approved would permanently prohibit the state from shifting local tax money for other purposes as the Legislature has many times in the past.

The budget restores money to state universities to lift an enrollment cap on incoming freshmen and provides a cost of living increase for welfare recipients.

While the governor failed to get concessions he wanted from employee unions, the budget does include about

\$104 million in givebacks from the prison guards and changes in the pension system that the administration hopes will generate \$2.7 billion over 20 years. The state is also getting \$1 billion one-time payment and \$300 million in ongoing support from Indian tribes with gambling casinos.

The administration can also claim nearly \$5 billion in spending cuts.

But like last year, the cuts do not come close to cover the spending and the state was forced again to use borrowing, one-time savings and accounting gimmicks to close the gap. The budget includes \$2.7 billion from the sale of Proposition 57 bonds approved by voters in March as well as the diversion of another \$1 billion from transportation money and another \$1 billion from the sale of bonds to pay the state's pension obligation.

Other gimmicks include \$1 billion in savings from adjusting the recording of past tax revenues and \$143 million saved by delaying when checks are sent to some public health providers.

For next year, the deficit could be more than \$10 billion, some legislators said.

"We're told that this is a step in the right direction," said Sen. Tom McClintock, R-Northridge. "Actually it's a step in exactly the wrong direction."

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Kerry is so very: Pelosi tones down Bush bashing

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

BOSTON — Like other speakers at the Democratic convention, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi agreed to tone down her Bush bashing and focus instead on promoting John Kerry.

So Pelosi's speech Thursday night was full of praise for Kerry and a commitment to winning back the House of Representatives. But she wanted to say so much more.

"I would have said that President Bush was responsible for many troops losing their lives and limbs, hundreds of billions of dollars to taxpayers, and cost to our reputation in the world because of lack of planning in Iraq," Pelosi said after her speech.

Pelosi has lobbed rhetorical bombs throughout the week, mostly concerning the Iraq war, that have left activists cheering and critics fuming.

At a breakfast meeting of the California delegation Monday, Pelosi called the war a "grotesque blunder." And at an event later in the week for EMILY's list, a fund raising group for women candidates, Pelosi again lashed out at "the incompetence of President Bush in the conduct of the war in Iraq."

In her speech Thursday, Pelosi did not mention Bush by name, but rather chided Republicans for the party's handling of Iraq, as well as education, the environ-

ment, and the overseas outsourcing of jobs.

"The American people have wisely rejected the cynical tactic of fear in time of war, in time of economic downturn, and the ongoing struggle against all forms of discrimination," Pelosi said in the speech. "Democrats do not exploit fear to divide and distract the nation."

Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt said that regardless of the tone of her criticism, Pelosi had engaged in "relentlessly negative" attacks on the president throughout the campaign.

"Nancy Pelosi is a San Francisco Democrat far outside the mainstream of American politics," Schmidt said.

But Pelosi said she only wished she could have said more.

"The American people know the war is a failure," she said. "Many of them are embarrassed. They don't want to disagree with the president, but they know it could have been done in a better way."

While Pelosi said she understood the need for restraint in the convention speeches — "You have to pull it back for TV and because it's a nominating convention" — other Democrats aren't so sure.

"I don't quite understand the theories of the Kerry campaign," said Robert Borosage, who heads the Campaign for America's Future, a liberal activist group. "I'd let the lions of the party take their shots at Bush, and let Kerry and Edwards rise above it."

Salt teen: Government drops charge against alleged arsonist

BY MARK THIESSEN

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The government has dropped the most serious charge against the 18-year-old Provo man accused of setting an arson fire at Brigham Young University, and a federal judge has allowed him to leave the state until his trial.

The government decided to scrap the count accusing Harrison David Burrows of using a destructive device, which carries a 30-year sentence, said U.S. attorney's office spokesman Stephen Sorenson. The decision came after prosecutors reviewed available evidence.

He said federal prosecutors will continue to review the case, and could reinstate the charge later.

Burrows now only faces a charge of destruction of property by fire for the July 8 blaze at BYU's Ellsworth Farm that caused about \$30,000 damage. According to an FBI affidavit, he allegedly took responsibility for the destruction in the name of the Animal Liberation Front.

He faces five to 20 years if convicted. He pleaded not guilty Thursday.

According to court documents, Burrows lived with several like-minded people in Provo after his parents recently moved to West Virginia.

U.S. Magistrate Brooke Wells on Thursday told Burrows he had the choice of remaining in jail until his Sept. 27 trial, or he could live with his parents — and under strict rules — in West Virginia.

"You are not going to return to Provo

to live with the people you previously lived with," she said.

Burrows said he would "very much appreciate the opportunity" to return to living with his parents.

"I promise you there will be no misconduct," he said.

However, Assistant U.S. Attorney Rob Lunnen said his office may appeal Wells' decision. She delayed Burrows' release until 1 p.m. Friday to give prosecutors time to file an appeal with U.S. District Judge David Winder.

If Burrows is allowed to leave the state, he will be under house arrest with electronic monitoring. He will only be allowed to leave the house to work, and he must get a full-time job.

He also cannot use a computer, possess firearms or destructive devices or contact the ALF or any of its members.

Burrows allegedly confessed that he set fire to a considerable amount of cardboard at the BYU farm on July 8, according to the affidavit filed by FBI agent Steven Fillerup.

Burrows also told Fillerup that an accomplice set fire to two garden tractors, and both spray-painted pro-ALF graffiti.

He also told the agent that he called a Salt Lake City television station and took responsibility for the fire in the group's name, according to the affidavit.

Burrows also took responsibility for other vandalism at BYU, which included freeing caged rabbits and birds from an on-campus farm. He has not been charged in those incidents.

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NATIONAL



Democrats buck history's odds without a governor

BY ROBERT TANNER

AP National Writer

BOSTON — Voters like governors, so it seems. Only one presidential ticket in the past 36 years won on Election Day without one candidate whose work experience included running a state. And two senators winning? Go back to 1960.

This year's double-senator slate of John Kerry and John Edwards bucks the odds of recent history. But these are unique times, say many of the country's 22 Democratic governors.

Pivotal issues of war, terrorism and diplomacy change the usual equation, governors say, even as they wholeheartedly acknowledge the appeal their office has had to voters across American political history.

"The American people like to see governors on tickets. Governors actually have had to deal with day-to-day problems that senators and congressmen don't have to," said New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who was in the running to join Kerry's ticket.

"But this is an extraordinary year, with an extremely volatile electorate, and a volatile and unpredictable foreign policy," said Richardson, who chaired the convention. "You're going to see foreign policy as one of the main issues."

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm said it's a necessary trade-off: giving up the executive, CEO-like experience of a governor in exchange for the global perspective of a senator. "At this time in our nation's history, having that foreign policy experience is critical," she said.

Few here at this four-day rally of praise and applause will stand any whisper that their candidates may not have the right resume. After all, Democratic primary voters soundly rejected the lone governor, Howard Dean, who spent nearly 12 years as Vermont's governor. (Sen. Bob

Graham, who had earlier been Florida's governor, dropped out before the primaries began.)

Not everyone agrees. It's not so much the appeal of governors but the vulnerability senators have on the campaign trail that makes governors attractive, said Norm Ornstein, a political analyst at the conservative American Enterprise Institute. Senators are trailed by a record of "thousands or tens of thousands of votes cast, large numbers of which involve compromise almost by definition," he said.

Those votes make a senator an easy target as a "flip-flopper." And governors don't have the same history.

Political scientists debate the relevance of history here. Some say candidates' success is not about their last elected office, but about cementing political factions, or about personality, or whether they can bring in a particularly crucial state or region.

"I don't think voters know the difference between what a governor does and what a senator does," said Nelson Polsby, who teaches political science at the University of California, Berkeley, and is co-author of "Presidential Elections," one of the standard texts on the subject. "That's all nonsense."

Other observers say a look back at the nation's political history shows a clear trend.

"Governors have won more major party nominations, more general elections, and more Electoral College votes than any other category of presidential candidate," writes Christopher DeMuth, president of the American Enterprise Institute, in an article called "Governors (and Generals) Rule."

DeMuth examined presidential races from 1828 to 2000, looking closely at the success of presidential candidates who were either governors, former governors or military leaders.

He found that governors have been generally more successful through the nation's history, and that success has grown, especially in the last 50 years.

It's not as if Kerry and the Democrats weren't aware of the history. On the short list for the vice president slot was not only Richardson and Graham, but Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, who was vetted by the Kerry campaign and informed that he wasn't chosen less than an hour before the Edwards choice was announced.

Vilsack dismisses any notion of historical trends or statistics on the appeal of governors. What matters, he said, is when voters examine the candidates closely.

"Where do they come from? Do they share my values?" voters will ask themselves, Vilsack said. "(Kerry and Edwards) understand what a lot of folks in my state — and in the heartland — are thinking and feeling."

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NATIONAL

Regional forester downplays roadless plan's effects

By The Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — The regional head of the U.S. Forest Service says she does not expect the Bush administration's proposal to lift protections on roadless areas to cause the dramatic changes some have predicted.

But Gail Kimbell, who took over as head of the agency's Missoula-based Northern Region earlier this year, said this week that there would be "opportunities to make adjustments" in management of the region's forests.

The Bush administration announced this month that it plans to overhaul a Clinton-era ban on logging and road building on some 58.5 million acres of

roadless areas in national forests.

Under the Bush plan, the prohibitions would be scrapped in favor of a new plan that allows governors to petition to have those protections put back in place. Federal officials would have the authority to reject or accept those requests.

The proposal, still in draft form, would affect 6.3 million acres of roadless areas in Montana. The Forest Service's Northern Region covers Montana and portions of northern Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota and eastern Washington.

Conservation groups have blasted the Bush plan, saying dropping the protections could lead to more logging and oil and gas development and a general deterioration of forest health.

The Bush administration has emphasized that the rules will give state governments more say in the future of roadless areas. It also will require state officials to expend resources in studying those roadless areas and trying to determine how they should be managed.

"A statewide look is going to be a huge undertaking," Kimbell said during a visit to the Custer National Forest offices in Billings.

If a state wants to do something different from what the Forest Service intends, its request will be reviewed by a federal committee and the final decision will be up to the secretary of agriculture. There's no guarantee that a state request will be granted.

National forests in Montana have plans in place to manage those roadless areas without the Clinton administration roadless rules. Those plans, hammered out years ago after intensive public participation, balance the need to protect resources, wildlife and human uses on the land, Kimbell said.

As for claims that the Bush proposal opens forest land to large-scale logging, Kimbell said: "I'm not there for a minute."

But, she said, there's no doubt that timber companies and others are watching the new proposal closely.

"I'm certain there are a number of interests who would like to see less restrictions on these areas," Kimbell said.

Remote Alaska island is home to petrified forest

BY DAN JOLING

Associated Press Writer

UNGA ISLAND, Alaska — If you want to stroll through the only forest in the Shumagin Islands, you have to wear rubber boots and wait until the tide goes out.

In the Shumagins, where the wind never seems to stop, only change directions, the few live trees were planted by people. But along a stretch of beach on the northwest corner of Unga Island, there's a grove that hasn't grown for millions of years.

Wind and water have worn away a 50-foot bluff to reveal a forest of petrified tree stumps that appear to be marching into the ocean.

"It's like there was a great big Paul Bunyan — chopped them off all even," said Bill Dushkin, president of Shumagin Corp., the Alaska Native village corporation for Sand Point, which owns the land under the trees.

The trees are one of the oddities of Alaska, right up there with warm-blooded dinosaur fossils found north of the Brooks Range on the North Slope. The trees are believed to be sequoia, which grow in

northern California, or metasequoia, now found mostly in China. Neither have any business being so far north.

Unga is the largest of the dozen or so Shumagin Islands, 570 miles southwest of Anchorage near the tip of the Alaska Peninsula.

The petrified forest, much of it below tide line, covers about five miles of beach. On a sunny day, the petrified tree stumps stand out white and bright against the gray-black beach rock. From the bluff, they look like marshmallows spilled out on charcoal. The stumps range in diameter from a couple of feet to about 9 feet across.

Hardly anybody visits this part of Unga. A small airplane can land a mile away but the few people who visit usually come by skiff. On a sunny summer day, with the mountains of the Alaska Peninsula as a backdrop six miles away, the only sound was the beating of a raven's wings and the occasional breaker washing against beach rocks.

Bruce Giffen, a geologist with the National Park Service, said the trees were a product of the Miocene or Oligocene epochs about 25 million years ago, when paleontologists believe the Earth was warmer and the first horses and elephants with trunks emerged.

The trees were toppled by a lahar, a flow of ash and coarser products mixed with water pushed out in the form of a mud flow by a volcanic eruption.

"Flow from the volcano came down and engulfed those trees and basically snapped them off at their stumps, or somewhere in the height of the trees," Giffen said.

The lahar may have been a big area of mud that destabilized on a steep slope.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be hot, but they certainly can be hot," he said. And his guess is that the material was hot.

"There's very little in the way of leaves or needles," he said, indicating that those parts may have burned.

The mud snapped off the trees and encased them. Over millions of years, the organic material of the trees was replaced by minerals seeping into the trees and taking their design.

Different minerals turned the trees different color. Some are studies in slate and white. Some are cream, red or orange.

No one knows how far inland the petrified forest extends. High in the bluff, additional trees are emerging.

One of the largest is on the beach, a preserved log 67 paces long.

Dushkin first saw the trees as a boy on a trip to dig razor clams. When villages were allowed to claim federal land under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Shumagin Corp. chose this part of Unga.

Dushkin is a commercial fisherman, but he says even he can tell that the geology of Shumagins is different from what's on the nearby Alaska Peninsula.

"It's not the same as the stuff you get on the mainland," he said. "It's like apples and oranges."

Dushkin sees tourism possibilities in the forest. His corporation owns the only hotel in Sand Point, a city of about 1,000 a half-hour's boat ride away. Dushkin would like to attract visitors in the months when the area's main source of dollars, commercial fishing, has slowed.

So far, only a few small cruise ships stop at the petrified forest. One of them is the Clipper Odyssey leased by Zegrahm Expeditions, an adventure tour company based in Seattle.

Zegrahm President Scott Fitzsimmons said Unga will be a stop in August for a cruise that starts in Nome and visits islands in the Bering Sea. Visitors take inflatable boats to Unga to see the petrified forest, or bird rookeries or the abandoned Unga town site.

"They're looking for an education experience," Fitzsimmons said.

The cruise ship's lecturers are augmented by Shumagin Corp. members hired as guides.

Dushkin believes visitors may someday be seeing the forest through glass-bottom boats. He has approached the beach in his fishing boat, with radar indicating something on the ocean floor 12-18 feet high, rising like posts.

"I think there are underwater trees there," he said.

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NATIONAL

GOPs struggling over who to support this fall

BY JAY REEVES

Associated Press Writer

MOULTON, Ala. — Hiking into a sun-dappled canyon lined with wild ferns and hemlock trees, Lamar Marshall sighs. These days, he says, it's hard to be a Republican who loves the environment.

Marshall, 55, is a liberal-bashing, Bible-believing, gun-toting hunter — just like many of the white men at the core of the GOP's base — and he voted for George W. Bush four years ago. But he's disgusted by the administration's environmental record, including its proposal in July to open more untouched national forest to new roads.

"Conservation is conservative," he said. "Bush is a gross liberal."

Marshall is a leading member of REP America, a grassroots group of GOP conservationists who call themselves "green elephants." He and like-minded members are torn over how to vote this year since they feel they can't support Bush but they can't stomach Democrat John Kerry.

"I'm hearing the same thing from a lot of other good, longtime Republicans all over the country," said Martha Marks, president and founder of REP America, based in Albuquerque, N.M. The "REP" part of the group's name stands for Republicans for Environmental Protection.

REP America isn't big, with only 2,500 members nationwide and a political action committee that controls a mere \$30,000.

But a poll released in July by the National Wildlife Federation highlighted the potential importance of conservation issues in this year's election.

In a national survey of 752 hunters and anglers in June — with 68 percent saying they voted for Bush in 2000 — environmental issues ranked among the top five issues of concern behind terrorism, education and the Iraq war.

A majority of those in the poll strongly supported some of the administration's conservation programs, especially one to let private landowners restore hunting and fishing habitats. But they opposed key administration proposals seen as loosening pollution controls on industry.

Greg Petrich, a registered Republican and avid sportsman from Juneau, Alaska, has gathered signatures from more than 670 gun clubs and shooting ranges opposed to the Bush road plan, which Petrich said would endanger the Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska by opening up new lanes for loggers.

Petrich won't say how he intends to vote. But he isn't shy in his assessment of Bush's policies toward preserving public wilderness areas.

"Whoever is advising him is an idiot," said Petrich, a member of REP and director of the Northern Sportsmen Network, which has rallied opposition to administration land proposals.

The Bush campaign says the president has a great environmental record that

includes legislation to promote land conservation, improve air quality, preserve wetlands and clean up old industrial sites. Yier Shi, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee, said REP America isn't officially affiliated with the party.

"Anybody can claim they are a Republican environmental group," he said.

The party does recognize another group, the Council of Republicans for Environmental Advocacy, founded by Bush Interior Secretary Gale Norton and criticized by REP America as little more than an industrial front organization that takes money from polluters.

Marks, a Mississippi-born Army brat who helped found REP America in 1995, says it is "the only Republican organization that focuses on the environment and the only environmental organization for Republicans."

The group's honorary board members include Republican Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island and Susan Collins of Maine; 13 Republican congressmen; and two former administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency under GOP presidents, William Ruckelshaus and Russell Train.

Marshall, a former industrial designer who moved to the Bankhead National Forest in northwest Alabama and now heads a group called Wild South, has made a name for himself among Southern environmentalists for filing lawsuits to

protect public lands from logging and other potential threats. His hero is President Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican widely considered one of the nation's all-time leading conservationists.

Once active in the John Birch Society, Marshall says he can't stand the "Birkenstock-wearing, eco-weenies" who make up the crowd at most environmental conferences and tend to vote Democratic. But his environmental activism and criticism of the Bush administration haven't made him many friends within the GOP, either.

"I don't know what to do about this election," said Marshall, who leads a Bible study and is a member of the National Rifle Association. "I can't vote for Bush. (Kerry) would be better for the environment, but he's scary to me."

What about independent Ralph Nader, who ran as the Green Party candidate in 2000? "I'd never vote for him. He's too liberal," Marshall said.

While hunters and anglers generally are conservative, Petrich said they're also fiercely protective of the woods and lakes where they spend their recreational time. Republican or not, he said, Bush could lose support among them over anything that's perceived as threatening the areas they cherish.

"At the least they're disappointed in seeing anti-environment action by the Bush administration," he said. "It's definitely dampening enthusiasm."



INTERNATIONAL



Fallujah fighting kills 13; Powell makes a trip

RAVI NESSMAN

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Fierce fighting between U.S. Marines backed by fighter aircraft and insurgents using small arms and mortars killed 13 Iraqis in Fallujah overnight, and Secretary of State Colin Powell made an unannounced visit to Baghdad on Friday.

"We have to make sure that these insurgents understand that we will not be deterred ... The terrorists will be defeated, there can be no other option," Powell said after meeting with Interim President Ghazi al-Yawer.

Powell's stop in the capital followed a decision Thursday by Iraqi authorities to abruptly postpone a national conference of political, religious and civic leaders considered a crucial step on the road to democracy.

Officials said the two-week delay of the gathering came at the request of the United Nations, which hoped to persuade more Iraqis to participate even as key factions threatened to boycott and others failed to choose delegates. Officials insisted pushing the event back would have no effect on Iraq's first democratic elections, scheduled for January.

A militant group set a Friday deadline to behead one of seven foreign truck drivers if its demands, including a pullout by their company, were not met. The Kuwaiti company said it was sending an official to Iraq to work with Sheik Hisham al-Duleimi, head of an organization of Iraqi tribal leaders trying to negotiate the hostages' release.

Al-Duleimi told The Associated Press that he has been negotiating with Egyptian and Indian officials regarding the captives, but had not yet spoken to the kidnappers.

"I appeal to the kidnappers to be patient and to refrain from beheading one of the hostages and to extend the deadline until positive results can be reached," he said.

In northern India, villagers detained 37 foreign tourists, most of them from Britain, to protest the kidnappings of the three Indian workers in Iraq, police said Friday.

The tourists, traveling in two buses, were stopped Thursday night near Santoshgarh village in Una district, the home of two of the three Indian truck drivers being held by kidnappers in Iraq.

Overnight in Fallujah, U.S. Marines and Iraqi troops engaged in an hourslong battle with insurgents, the military said. Witnesses reported hearing scores of mortar rounds fired toward the city's eastern edge, where Americans are based, and planes flying overhead.

The military said the fighting began when insurgents attacked a joint patrol of Marines and Iraqi troops with gunfire, mortars and rocket propelled grenades. The troops responded with gunfire, tank fire and aircraft bombing raids, which hit a building the insurgents had fled to, the military reported.

Twelve auto repair shops and two houses were destroyed in the clashes. U.S. Marines said they suffered no casualties.

Dr. Salim Ibrahim at Fallujah General Hospital said an estimated 13 Iraqis were killed and 14 others wounded in the fighting. Ibrahim said he could not give an exact count of the dead, because many of the bodies had been torn apart.

A wounded man, lying in a hospital bed with his pants covered in blood, tiredly asked, "What is our fault?" according to footage from Associated Press Television News. "My mother and sister were killed."

A medical worker bandaged a crying toddler's forehead that was covered with blood. "This is just a child ... does he look like a terrorist?" an angry man asked.

"Danger to noncombatants is a sad reality of warfare," Marines spokesman Lt. Col. T.V. Johnson told The Associated Press. "Our forces go to extraordinary lengths to minimize the impact of military action upon civilians."

Johnson added that when insurgent fighters occupy residential areas, "they exponentially increase the risk for civilians."

Iraq has been torn by a series of attacks, kidnappings and other violence in the 15 months since Saddam Hussein's regime fell.

Al-Yawer said the recent surge in the attacks, including a car bombing outside a Baqouba police station Wednesday that killed at least 70 people, showed insurgents were growing more desperate.

"I think the bad guys, the enemy, the army of the darkness is getting more helpless and hopeless. That is why they are stepping up these things. Time and the place is on our side," al-Yawer said.

An insurgent group linked to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said

Thursday it had kidnapped a Somali truck driver and would behead him if his Kuwaiti company did not stop working in Iraq.

Another militant Islamic group posted an Internet warning threatening any Islamic or Arab nation contributing troops to a Saudi-proposed Muslim force for Iraq — a proposal supported by U.S. officials and Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

"Our swords will be drawn in the face of anyone who cooperates with the Jews and the Christians," the group said in a statement posted Thursday. "We will strike with an iron fist all the traitors from

the Arab governments who cooperate with the Zionists, secretly or openly."

Malaysia's foreign minister, Syed Hamid Albar, said his country will not contribute troops to a Saudi-proposed Muslim force for Iraq, but will not discourage other Muslim countries from doing so.

Yemen and Bahrain have offered help under certain conditions, and foreign ministers from Algeria, Bahrain and Tunisia met Thursday with their Iraqi counterpart to discuss prospects of sending of Arab troops to Iraq. Pakistan could send several hundred troops.

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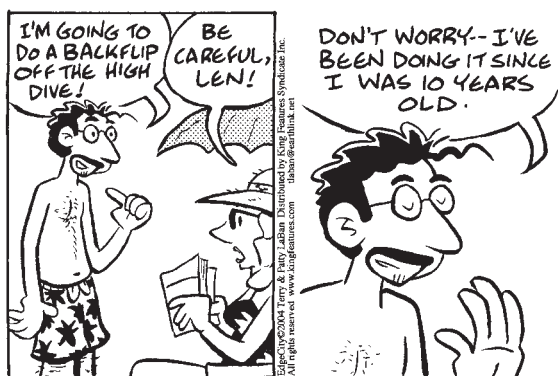
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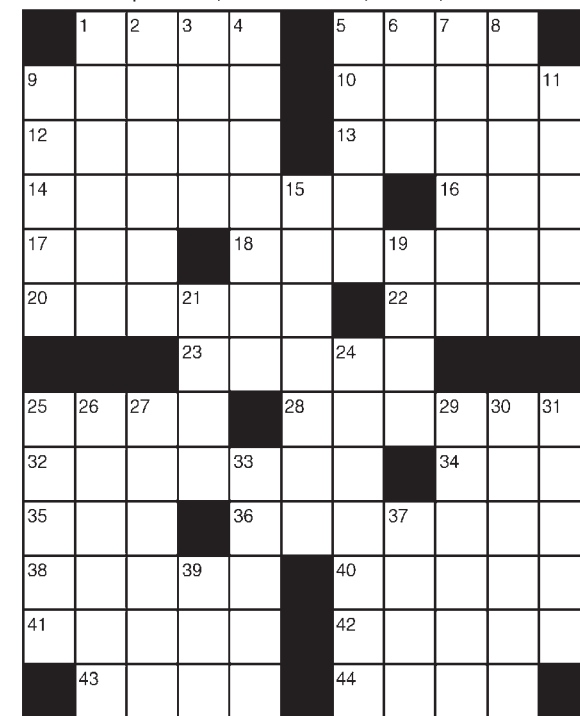


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15 Opie's care- taker	29 Band aide
19 Visionary	30 Whole
21 Feds	31 Finishes
24 Future frog	out of the money
25 Color	33 Rose feature
26 Singer Emmylou	37 Thunder sound
27 Power problem	39 Horse- shoe shape

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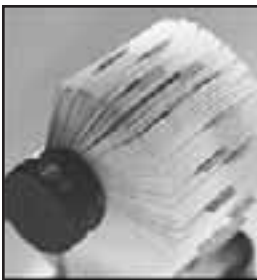
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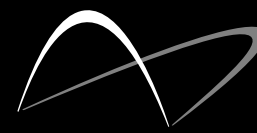
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

For 'Long Island Lolita', time and tome heals all

By The Associated Press

■ **GARDEN CITY, N.Y.** — Amy Fisher, the former gun-toting teen who spent seven years in prison for shooting her lover's wife in the face, has an autobiography called "If I Knew Then..." due out in the fall.

Fisher, who turns 30 in two weeks, is now married and raising a young son in an undisclosed Long Island community, her co-author, Robbie Woliver, said this week.

Woliver is also the editor-in-chief of The Long Island Press, a free weekly that has featured Fisher as a columnist for the past several years.

Fisher was released from prison in 1999 after serving seven years for shooting Mary Jo Buttafuoco in the head during a confrontation outside Buttafuoco's Massapequa home. Fisher was having an affair with Buttafuoco's auto mechanic husband at the time.

The Buttafuocos have since moved to California and are no longer married.

The \$15.95 paperback, being published by Barnes & Noble-owned iUniverse, starts with Fisher's troubled childhood, details her relationship with Buttafuoco, her prison time and her life and rehabilitation in the past five years.

In an excerpt, Fisher writes, "There were so many warning signs in my past. I am hoping that by reflecting on and writing about my life, some of it very painful, I can help stop others from getting into the same kind of trouble."

She also provides a warning to children and parents, saying, "I did these stupid things, and I'm here to tell you, this is what you should watch out for."

A spokeswoman said Fisher will earn an undisclosed "cut" from the book, but proceeds are also going to several organizations such as Million Mom March, Amnesty International American prison projects, the

Legal Aid Society's Prisoners Rights Project and various local domestic abuse shelters.

■ **COPENHAGEN, Denmark** — Acclaimed actor, singer and civil rights activist Harry Belafonte has been named a goodwill ambassador for the upcoming Hans Christian Andersen bicentennial celebrations.

Belafonte is the 47th celebrity tapped to help increase awareness about the famed fairy tale writer ahead of celebrations marking his 200th birthday in 2005. Organizers announced his selection Thursday.

He will receive a diploma from Culture Minister Brian Mikkelsen Aug. 6 at Copenhagen's downtown Tivoli amusement park.

The 77-year-old Belafonte — famous for his blend of rhythm and calypso-inspired music — is well known for his role as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador and as a leader in the 1960s civil rights movement.

■ **NEW YORK** — "Sex and the City" fans who miss seeing Kristin Davis' pretty face each week won't have to wait long to see her again: She's Maybelline New York's new celebrity spokeswoman and will appear in the cosmetics brand's TV and print ads that will debut at the end of the year.

"Kristin is the perfect personification of the Maybelline New York spirit — fun, flirty, sophisticated and sassy," said Cheryl Vitali, senior vice president of marketing for Maybelline New York-Garnier, in a statement. "Now that Kristin's joined our family, her captivating presence and vitality will speak volumes to women everywhere."

The company describes Davis' look as refreshing and timeless.

"Maybelline is such an icon in the beauty industry. Their wonderful products continue to be favorites of mine," the 39-year-old Davis said Wednesday.

■ **NEW YORK** — Rob Thomas and his wife have a new addition to the family — a dog.

The matchbox twenty singer adopted Tyler, a 4-year-old terrier-basset hound mix, after seeing him during the filming of a documentary at Pets Alive, an upstate New York animal shelter.

Thomas said Tyler was minutes from being euthanized when he was rescued by the no-kill shelter.

"We had to leave him alone for the first time the other day, and it broke our hearts," Thomas told The Associated Press in a phone interview Thursday. "We're definitely not leaving him home when we go on tour."

The adoption comes as Thomas' Sidewalk Angels Foundation, which works with charities to aid those in need in big cities, is set Tuesday to hold a benefit at the China Club to raise money for the Middletown, N.Y., shelter. The benefit, by designer Ron Chereskin, will feature acoustic performances by Thomas, Jewel and Darryl Hall.

Thomas and his wife, model Marisol Thomas, said they chose to raise money for the shelter after learning it takes retired carriage horses and police horses.

■ **NEW YORK** — Alex Rodriguez collected baseball cards long before he was ever on one. Now the New York Yankees third baseman finds himself as the first official pitchman for Topps trading cards.

"I remember collecting a lot of cards as a kid, more than I could afford," Rodriguez said. "Topps is the company that I've grown up with, so this is a special deal for me."

The deal announced this week also grants New York City-based Topps exclusive rights within the MLB trading card category for autographed baseball cards, game-used memorabilia cards and Rodriguez's image use on packaging and advertising.

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