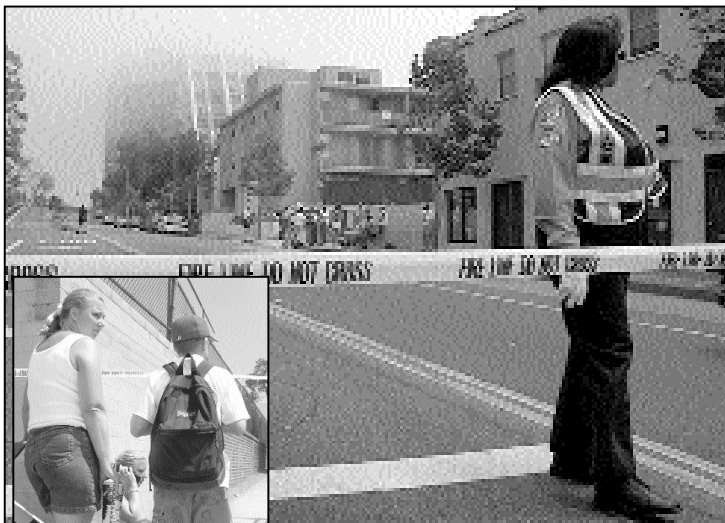


Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Sheraton evacuated while police search for gunmen



BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Hundreds of people were evacuated Friday from the Santa Monica Four Points Sheraton Hotel while police conducted a seven-hour-long, room-by-room search for two alleged gunmen. They were never found.

The Santa Monica Police Department received a 911 call from a housekeeper at 10 a.m. The woman said she had been approached by two men — one armed with a handgun — demanding that she let them in a room.

The woman escaped by locking herself in a fourth floor hotel room where she called police. The suspects then went up one floor and demanded that another housekeeper let them in a room. That housekeeper also escaped by locking herself inside.

At least 25 Santa Monica police officers — wearing bullet-proof vests and carrying assault rifles — swarmed into the hotel, taking control of the lobby. They searched the hotel floor by floor.

When police determined the suspects were no longer in the hotel, the search was called off at 5 p.m. Police speculate the suspects must have fled before offi-

cers arrived on the scene.

Police describe the first suspect as a male Latino, approximately 28 years old, 5' 7" tall and weighing 180 pounds. He is described as having a mustache, and was wearing a white T-shirt with a logo, blue jeans, a blue baseball cap and white tennis shoes.

"I just want to get to my daughter out. I can't stand this."

— SUE DUBEAU
Hotel guest

The second suspect is described as a black male, approximately 31 years old, 5' 6" tall, with an average build and a mustache. He was described as wearing a white T-shirt with a logo and a black baseball cap.

A West Palm Beach, Fla. woman staying at the Sheraton for her brother's wedding,

See EVACUATION, page 5

Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
Guests of the Four Points Sheraton Hotel on Pico Boulevard are evacuated Friday morning while Santa Monica Police search for two gunmen. Inset: Hotel guest Sue Dubeau talks to her daughter, still trapped in the hotel, via cell phone while her family surrounds her on the street.

Deadline for Santa Monica political candidates passes

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Nine people have officially filed petitions to run for three seats on the Santa Monica City Council in this November's election.

Four candidates waited until the last minute on Friday's filing deadline to deliver their petitions to be considered for a council seat. The other five had sent in their papers earlier in the week, and one candidate — Matteo Dinolfo — already has been qualified by the city clerk to be a candidate.

The others — Pro Se, Abby Arnold, Jerry Rubin, Josefina Santiago Aranda, Chuck Allord, Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, Councilman Kevin McKeown and Councilman Robert Holbrook — will be certified by the city clerk's office by Wednesday.

"I really don't know what the attraction for running for office really is but they do it."

— JUDY ABDO
Former councilwoman

To be certified by the city clerk's office and to reserve a spot on November's ballot, potential candidates have to gather 100 signatures from residents who are registered to vote in Santa Monica.

Last month, more than 19 residents — many of whom were political unknowns — had drawn papers from the city clerk's office for a possible run. Council members each serve a four-year term.

"Both times I ran there were a lot of candidates," said Judy Abdo, a former mayor and councilwoman. Abdo participated in a June candidates' forum sponsored by the city's League of Women Voters to educate potential candidates about the realities of political life.

"Some go through the whole (election) process and have a great time," she said. "They don't spend any money, but they show up at forums and get interviewed. It's fun to them."

But Abdo warned against pigeon-holing why candidates decide to run or become involved in Santa

See CANDIDATES, page 5

Bad car purchase a case of 'buyer beware,' judge rules

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A judge ruled Thursday that a Mar Vista man is stuck with a lemon after he bought a salvaged car from a local rental place.

Adrian John Yardley sued Pico Economy Rent-a-car, located at 2208 Pico Boulevard, in Santa Monica Small

Claims Court for selling him a car he had been renting for three months. Yardley claimed the rent-a-car business should have told him the car had been totaled.

Richard Salazar, the business' assistant manager, said he was not clear whether the company had disclosed the salvage title or not, but he said the shop had

offered to fix the car or return Yardley's money. Yardley refused the deal because Salazar would not throw in a free rental while the car was in the shop.

"And they did not offer to give me my money back," he said. "That's why I took the car back in the first place and I would have gladly accepted it."

But Judge Pro Tem Peter Kunstler ruled Yardley was owed nothing. Kunstler noted that Yardley had signed a contract that stipulated he was buying the car "as is" and therefore had no claim.

"I think this is a case where there is a contract that has been signed saying this

See LEMON, page 5

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You drive through a project like a tornado through a town. Don't hesitate to remodel a room or take on a new commitment, although a partner could give you flack. You don't always have to do the politically correct thing. You have enough energy to go around. Tonight: Dance the night away.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You're ready for fun and games. You could be upset when a partner or friend veers in a totally different direction. You cannot change this person, but you can give him or her space. Besides, when you're obviously having such a good time, he or she will join in! Tonight: Frisky — aren't we?

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Consider canceling plans and spending some quality time with your family or those close to you. Don't be surprised if you get some flack. You're paying the price for being so desirable! Invite others over for dinner or dessert. Tonight: At home.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Whether out roaming or browsing through a favorite store, you have a ball. Carefully consider options that surround your day. You might need to let go of one set of plans to cover all the ground you want to cover. You seem unstoppable. Tonight: Out and about.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Pressure builds within a relationship or a potential relationship. Willfulness can separate rather than bring together. Use your strong personality and vitality in a more positive manner. Others will respond then. Tonight: Your treat.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Move a venture off the back burner. Unfortunately, you might start an uproar where you least want it. Fireworks could ensue, but at the same time, they clear the air. Realize what is happening behind the scenes. Tonight: An overture goes far.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might not mean to upset someone or vice versa. Both of you could find it difficult to immediately sort through feelings. Be vulnerable and open, rather than taking an assertive action. You will get a better response. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A family member or one whose authority you care about lets you know where he or she stands. Intensity marks your decisions regarding finances and feelings. Bring friends together, whether it is for a party or a game. You enjoy yourself anywhere. Tonight: Do what makes you happy.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You have a lot of ground to cover. Reach out for a parent or an important associate. At times, this person can test your limits, but this also gives you a wonderful opportunity to detach. Hop in the car. Take a drive with or to a loved one. Tonight: In the limelight.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A partner reaches out, perhaps not in the manner you would like. Consider the underlining message, and don't get so uptight about the delivery. Your caring perspective creates a bond that otherwise might not be possible. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Others seek you out with unprecedented speed and determination. You might decide to take the day off with a special friend, despite all the invitations. You could upset some people, but you need to please yourself right now. Tonight: Let someone else lead.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Someone might want something that you aren't prepared to give. Dump work; you cannot always think work. Be more playful. Let others lead you down the path to fun. Schedule more time with loved ones and friends. Tonight: Where the action is.

QUOTE of the DAY

“When your IQ rises to 28, sell.”
— Professor Irwin Corey to a heckler

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



Jamaican style



Franklin Smith/Special to the Daily Press

Morgan Heritage performs at Thursday's Twilight Concert Series on the Santa Monica Pier. The band, made up of family members, dished out reggae straight from Jamaica. Upstream (inset) opened with their energetic style of rock influenced reggae, techno, funk, hip-hop and soca.



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Building southwest ground and moderate northwest wind swell puts surf in the two- to three-foot range at best breaks today. Most spots see inconsistent, waist-level waves and below.

A more satisfactory swell is due Sunday, late afternoon and early evening, a stronger southwest that should give waves an additional foot on top of Saturday's height.

By Monday, the swell will fill in at southwest facing breaks, and surf should get better.

Today's Tides:		
Low-	5:25 a.m.	-0.87'
High-	11:46 a.m.	4.72'
Low-	5:09 p.m.	1.61'
High-	10:11 p.m.	6.20'

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

Gavel II Gavel

From the people's court in the Byron Y. Appleton Honorary Courtroom in Santa Monica.

By John Wood

Santa Monica Superior Court judges recently found that:

City tree wreaks sewage havoc

■ The City of Santa Monica must pay Santa Monica homeowner David Burger \$2,000 after tree roots grew into his sewer line.

Burger told the court he called Roto-Rooter Plumbing & Drain in April to estimate repairs to his sewer line, which had been infiltrated by one of the city's Australian Melaleuca — a variety of tree with a menacing reputation, according to Burger.

While the plumber examined the situation, a city inspector recommended that Burger route the replacement sewage line around the roots of the tree, to avoid a recurrence of the problem, according to court testimony.

Burger said the city is removing the Melaleuca trees in a two-block area of his neighborhood. He asked that his tree be cut down early, but city officials refused.

So Burger paid his Roto-Rooter plumber \$7,500 to run 30 feet of new sewage line from his home to a new connection spot on the city's line.

Burger filed a claim with the City of Santa Monica, seeking reimbursement for the additional expense of navigating the new pipe around the pesky Melaleuca.

When Burger's claim was denied, he sued the city for \$5,000, the maximum allowable in small claims court.

The Roto-Rooter plumber who did the work on Burger's sewer line testified that the tree roots forced him to extend the line an extra six feet.

The city sent a paralegal, a tree arborist and a waste water official to represent it in court, claiming that natural deterioration of the old lines allowed the tree to infiltrate the pipe.

But Judge Pro Tem Ruth Kremen ruled against the city, calculating that the extra piping required to dodge the tree's roots represented \$2,000 of the \$7,500 bill.

News never meant to print

■ A Pacific Palisades advertising consultant will not be reimbursed for creating a real-estate investor newsletter for Los Angeles resident Klara Bergman.

Judge Pro Tem Richard Shcolnek ruled that "there was no meeting of the minds, and therefore no contract" between Bergman and Art Detman, an advertising consultant who had worked for Bergman for 15 years.

Bergman had paid Detman "upward of \$100,000" for ongoing consulting over the years. But then in December their relationship deteriorated.

Detman, who sued for \$1,212, said Bergman asked him to write and design "The Bergman Report," a monthly newsletter geared towards real estate investors. But it never was printed.

While Bergman acknowledged that they had met to discuss the idea, she told the court she had never authorized Detman to work on the project.

"I did not ask him for a newsletter," said Bergman. "I asked him for a concept."

Cat fight in court

■ A home inspector, a real estate agent, a seller and a buyer all share responsibility for the complaints of Marlene Ranta, a first-time buyer of a Montana Avenue townhouse.

Judge Pro Tem Norman Axe awarded Ranta \$3,750 for damages to the townhome she said occurred before she moved in last summer. Axe distributed responsibility

See GAVEL TO GAVEL, page 6

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OPINION

LETTERS

SMRR should apologize

Editor:

It is my hope that Santa Monicans For Renters Rights will extend an apology to Joe Weichman for the disrespectful way that he was treated at the end of the SMRR meeting of Sunday, Aug. 4, 2002.

Santa Monicans For Renters Rights must add Joe Weichman to the slate post facto. Joe Weichman is good neighbor and a highly regarded member of the community and deserves a post haste apology from Santa Monicans For Renters Rights.

Leadership is not based on how you stand but how you move.

Pro Se
Santa Monica

Sick of SMRR tactics

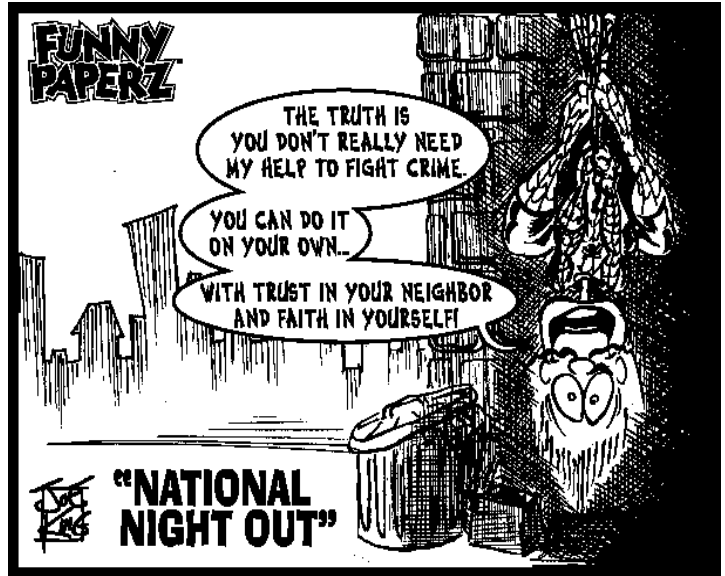
Editor:

I am a 15-year Santa Monica resident, and I want to say that I am sick of (Santa Monicans For Renters Rights.) What brought my emotions up so high that I would write a letter to the editor, you ask?

How about their manipulation at the convention. How could an organization go against their own rules to prevent college board candidate Joe Weichman from receiving the SMRR endorsement? And to make matters worse, the action was done by Nancy Greenstein, co-chair of SMRR, who just happens to be running for the same position.

This is not the first time they've done this. Remember Kelly Olsen? Same thing. And the list doesn't stop there. This has happened five or six times before. How can the SMRR leadership do such terrible things? I am fed up with SMRR politics. We need a change.

Jerry Maxfield
Santa Monica



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- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

Watch for future newsstands at a location near you!

LOCAL



Many airline employees staying at Sheraton Hotel

EVACUATION, from page 1

said she had left Friday morning to eat breakfast with family members, leaving her 17-year-old daughter in their fourth floor hotel room.

But when Sue Dubeau returned, police had blocked Pico Boulevard between Fourth and Sixth Streets, trapping her daughter, Jessica, in their room.

"I just want to get to my daughter out," she said, tears streaming down her face. "I can't stand this."

Dubeau — like many of those evacuated from the hotel — were able to talk by cell phone with loved ones trapped inside the 160-room hotel. Some trapped in their hotel rooms said they watched the situation unfold on televisions and were apprised of developments via phone conversations with those standing outside.

Some of those evacuated said they had just awakened to eat breakfast when police officers carrying assault rifles stationed outside elevators told them to gather in the lobby.

"At first they seemed a bit casual about it all," said Mike Thie, a British Airways employee staying on the hotel's sixth

floor. "And then all of a sudden they were telling us to stay away from the windows and then they evacuated us."

Many staying in the hotel were employees of British Airways, United and Delta airlines. Police said it was unlikely there is a connection between the attempted armed incursion and the airline employees.

Several Delta airline pilots said company officials had instructed them to stay put in Santa Monica while another crew assumed their flights. They said no delays or interruptions in service would result from the incident.

"We have local crews available," said Delta Capt. George Becker. "This should have little to no effect on service."

While the day-long search was being conducted, police and city officials opened up the civic center auditorium so the displaced hotel guests could have a place to rest and have access to restrooms. But many decided to go watch a movie or take a break on the beach while they waited to get back into their hotel rooms.

Police encourage anyone with information to call SMPD detectives working on the investigation at (310) 458-8495.

Council, college and school board races about to begin

CANDIDATES, from page 1

Monica's politics.

"I really don't know what the attraction for running for office really is but they do it," she said. "But I doubt it is about any one particular issue. They all have their own particular reasons for running."

Six candidates have filed for the five four-year term seats that are up for grabs on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Board this year.

School Board President Julia Brownley and newcomer Emily Bloomfield already have their petitions certified by the city clerk's office. Ann Cochran, Ana M. Jara, school board member Brenda Gottfried, and Shane McCloud have filed petitions which the clerk's office will certify by Wednesday.

Oscar de la Torre — a local Pico youth

activist endorsed by local political powerhouse Santa Monica's for Renters Rights — did not file his papers.

Four candidates have filed to run for the three two-year term seats up for election on the city's Rent Control Board.

While only Thomas D. Carter has been certified by the clerk's office, Rent Control Board Chair Alan Toy, board member Betty S. Mueller and newcomer Jennifer Kennedy have filed petitions.

Six candidates have declared themselves for the four, four-year term seats on the Santa Monica College Board of Education.

Incumbent Nancy Cattell-Luckenback and newcomer Herb Rooney have been certified, while Bill Winslow, incumbent Dorothy Ehrhart-Morrison, Nancy Greenstein and incumbent Carole Currey have filed their petitions.

Judge rules contract holds man to his auto purchase

LEMON, from page 1

is an 'as is' deal with no warranty," Kunstler said. "Even though they may have not disclosed it had a salvage title, I am just clear that you got the car under an agreement that you signed."

Yardley said he spent \$2,400 renting the vehicle. Then Salazar offered to sell him the vehicle because Pico Economy Rent-a-Car was in the process of replacing the vehicles in its fleet.

"I even told my boss we should sell it to him at an extremely low rate since he had been a longtime customer," Salazar said. "But I do know that we sold it to him in 'as is' condition with no warranty."

Shortly after buying the vehicle for

\$1,700, it broke down and required \$600 in repairs. Yardley said his mechanic couldn't understand why the car was having so many problems until the mechanic searched the car's vehicle identification number and found it had been salvaged after an insurance company had totaled the vehicle.

"The mechanic said it was a mess," Yardley said. "And after he did a search, he came back and said 'no wonder.'"

But Kunstler said Yardley had been driving the car around for three months without having significant problems and had apparently been happy with the vehicle up to that point.

"Otherwise you wouldn't have purchased the car in the first place," he said.

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LOCAL □ STATE



Gavel II Gavel

GAVEL TO GAVEL, from page 1

evenly between Ranta and the three defendants, who will each have to pay \$1,250 toward the \$5,000 claim, which is the maximum that can be collected in small claims court.

Ranta claimed that her agent, her inspector and the seller of the Santa Monica home all failed to disclose several odorous patches of cat urine in the carpet and underneath the sub-flooring. She also claimed there were pre-existing leaks under every sink and other areas of general disrepair. She told the court she spent more than \$10,000 in repairs.

"I've been through hell and back with this one," Ranta said. "It's been terrible. Everything had like a domino effect: It was non-stop."

After several unsuccessful meetings and phone calls, Ranta brought the case against Coldwell Banker agent Orchid Griffin, Robert Gaudveault of La Rocca Inspection Systems, and Robert Peeples, the seller of the property.

"I really felt like I would be protected by the people I hired. These are professional people, each of them received a sizable amount of money to protect me — and they didn't," Ranta said.

Axe said although Ranta hired people to protect her investment, she should have been more alert to pre-existing problems.

"It's tough to realize what everyone was really doing," Axe said. "I try to use common sense. One of the things you're trying here is negligence. Looking at this situation, I know you're not a pro, but you're a person, you have eyes. You could have seen some of these (problems with the property)."

Still, Axe scolded the agent, inspector and seller for not working together to fully inform Ranta.

"Everyone has an expertise and she went to the professionals for help," Axe said.

The defendants all claimed they had performed their jobs thoroughly, each spending a great deal of time with Ranta and on the property before and during escrow.

They alleged that Ranta couldn't be satisfied.

"The plaintiff wanted a new house," Peeples said.

But Axe didn't buy it.

After entering judgment, he compared the defendants' behavior to rifts between two government agencies.

"The FBI and the CIA won't talk to each other because one handles domestic issues, the other international. They each have their own bailiwick. So what happens? Guy gets on a plane, flies into a building, 9/11 happens."

Best Buy?

■ Best Buy Inc. must reimburse Bruce Shaffer of Santa Monica for a faulty Fujitsu laptop he purchased in March.

Shaffer alleged that the laptop acted up the first day he bought it.

"I took it home and it had problems. The LCD matrix had some weirdness and (the computer) kept shutting down," he said.

Shaffer took it back to the Best Buy outlet three different times, asking to have it fixed. On each occasion, he said, the outlet was not receptive to his requests.

"Ultimately, I tried to speak with someone at headquarters (in Minnesota)," Shaffer said. But Shaffer was unable to establish communication, even after mailing his laptop to the company headquarters.

Judge Pro Tem Ed Schaffer ruled against the retailer, who was not present, and awarded Shaffer \$2,060, plus court costs.

'Millennium Challenge' preps military for future war

By The Associated Press

VICTORVILLE — Marines fighting a fictional war of the future destroyed a simulated "weapons of mass destruction" site at the former George Air Force Base in the California desert on Thursday.

The scenario was part of Millennium Challenge 2002, the largest exercise in U.S. military history. About 13,500 troops from all branches of the military been holding live exercises at Western bases and conducting computer simulations.

The goal of the exercise, which ends Aug. 15, is to help the United States develop a quick-strike strategy to quickly control and end a war. The scenario centers around a military buildup in a Middle Eastern country in 2007 and resulting United Nations sanctions.

In addition to the simulated destruction of the weapons of mass destruction — a phrase that President Bush has used in reference to Iraq — Marines were to engage in a 96-hour urban combat exercise that shifts between all-out fighting and peacekeeping.

A U.S. intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, has told The Associated Press that if war with Iraq comes, that country's best option is to force the United States to fight in cities, where the threat of high civilian casualties restricts operations.

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STATE

Tulelake City Hall shuts down for lack of liability insurance

By The Associated Press

TULELAKE — City Hall in the tiny city of Tulelake was locked up tight Friday after officials lost their liability insurance coverage due to post-Sept. 11 fallout in the insurance industry.

"It was kind of a shock to everybody, but here we are. We're into uncharted waters," said City Recorder Joe Cordonier.

The city is scrambling to get into one of the existing pools of self-insured small cities, a process that could take anywhere from two weeks to two months.

For now, Tulelake, a one-stoplight town on the California-Oregon border with a population of about 1,000, is trying to balance public health and safety with the need to minimize its exposure to lawsuits. Water and sewers are still in operation, for instance, but public works vehicles are being kept off the road.

The small city staff is still reporting for work, but the doors are being kept closed to the public.

The town's three police offi-

cers have stopped patrolling, but they will respond to "genuine emergencies." County sheriff's deputies are also available to help out.

Cordonier says officials were told insurers were unwilling to provide coverage because the state won't allow them to exclude acts of terrorism.

A spokesman for the city's former insurer confirmed the company is reevaluating covering public entities in California, but declined to specify why.

California Department of Insurance spokeswoman Nancy Kramer said the state doesn't have the authority to tell insurers what to cover and hasn't demanded that they provide terrorism coverage.

However, the Insurance Commissioner has rejected terrorism exclusion language proposed by the industry for standard policy forms as being too broad and has asked for a narrower definition.

Before Sept. 11, terrorism was covered by domestic insurance policies mainly because it wasn't seen as a threat and wasn't listed as an exclusion. After the attacks, insurers, facing record payouts of between \$30

billion and \$50 billion, announced they would no longer cover terrorism.

That's proved a problem for several entities, including the Golden Gate Bridge, which recently saw its premiums double to \$1 million a year, while coverage dropped.

Congress is considering legislation that would use federal money to subsidize the cost of insurance coverage in future terror attacks.

This is Tulelake's second crisis in as many years.

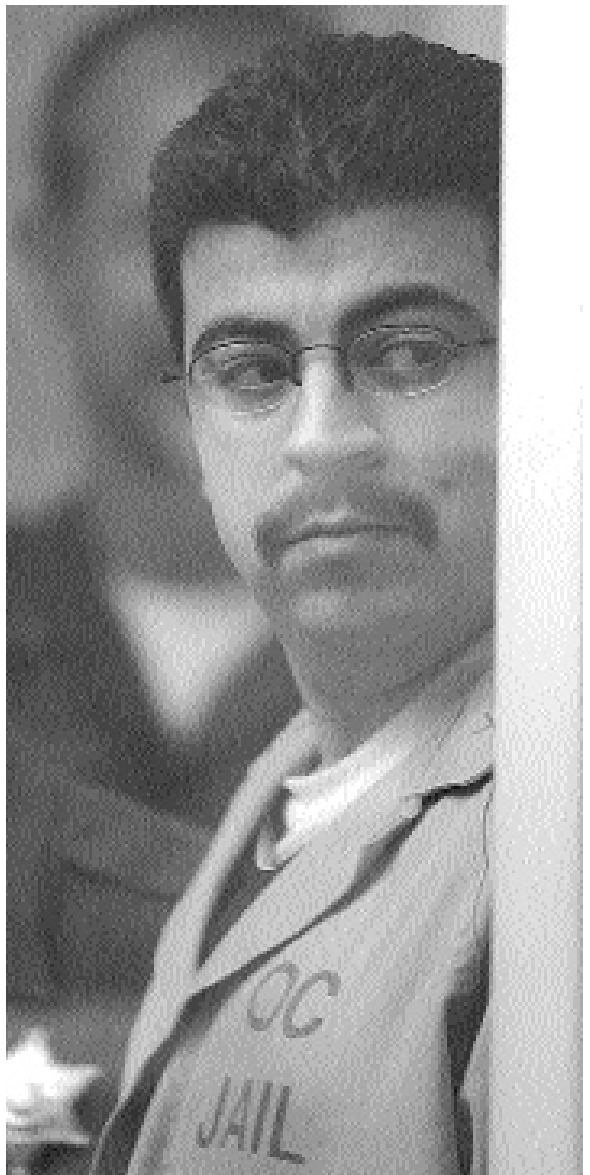
Last year, farmlands turned to dust when water was cut to 1,400 farms irrigated by the Klamath Reclamation Project to protect endangered suckers and threatened salmon.

"Our little community has had enough hard knocks," Cordonier said.

City officials learned about two months ago they had insurance problems, but weren't able to come up with an alternative before the policy expired.

The City Council was holding emergency meetings to decide what to do next. Garbage is a pressing problem, and officials hope to contract out to a private company.

Pleading innocent



Nick Ut/Associated Press

Alejandro Avila, accused of kidnapping and killing 5-year-old Samantha Runnion, stands behind bulletproof glass in a courtroom during his arraignment, Friday, in Santa Ana, Calif. He pleaded innocent as prosecutors investigated additional claims against him in a separate case.

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The Q Line

NATIONAL



NYC mayor seeks smoking ban in all bars, restaurants

BY ULA ILNYTZKY
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — The city said Friday it will try to ban smoking in all bars and restaurants by focusing on the potential health threat to hospitality workers.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg will ask the City Council next week to outlaw smoking in the roughly 13,000 establishments not covered by the current law, which permits smoking in bars and in restaurants with fewer than 35 seats.

It would be the second time in as many months that the Bloomberg administration has targeted smokers; in July, it raised the cigarette tax from 8 cents to \$1.50 a pack.

"If you are a bartender or a waiter or waitress and work in an establishment where there is smoking, in an eight-hour day it's the equivalent of you smoking half a pack of cigarettes yourself," said Bloomberg, who quit smoking 18 years ago.

"No employer would allow their employees to work in a place with asbestos in the air," he said. "This is just as dangerous and that's why we should stop it now."

Elena Deutsch, director of Tobacco Control at the American Cancer Society, said the mayor's proposal would protect workers.

Not everyone shared their concern.

"Being subjected to smoke is part of my job," said bar-

tender Tony Trincanella, leaning on an ashtray-strewn counter at Milos' Greek restaurant in midtown Manhattan.

"This is just as dangerous and that's why we should stop it now."

— MICHAEL BLOOMBERG
New York City mayor

In July, the New York State Restaurant Association dropped its longstanding opposition to the current smoking law after a survey showed most members were in favor of it.

The association will now poll members about whether they support a full ban on smoking, said E. Charles Hunt, executive vice president of an association chapter.

"It's not going to happen," said Trincanella. "There is too much politics from restaurant owners and the fear of losing customers."

"You have the right to do what you want," chimed in lunchtime patron Nicky Polak, a social smoker who

believes smoking should be allowed in the bar area.

Brendan McCormick, a spokesman for Philip Morris, said the company supported "reasonable restrictions" but felt "business owners should have the flexibility in how they deal with smoking in their establishments."

"We believe that the current law in New York City is working," said Scott Wexler, executive director of the Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association, which represents 10,000 on-premise licensees of bars and taverns in New York City.

Bloomberg pointed to California as proof that there would be no economic loss.

"All of the evidence suggests that in California, where they did this, that actually the patronage of restaurants and bars — the amount of money spent in them — goes up, not down," he said.

Most states have some level of restrictions on public smoking. In addition to California, Delaware and several municipalities, including El Paso, Texas, enforce total bans in bars and restaurants.

Maine, Utah and Vermont ban smoking in restaurants but not bars.

According to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, as of July 5, nearly 400 communities have ordinances that ban smoking in all restaurants, and 89 have ordinances prohibiting smoking in all freestanding bars.

Screenwriter urges Hollywood to cut smoking from films

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — "Basic Instinct" screenwriter Joe Eszterhas has throat cancer after a lifetime of smoking, and is urging Hollywood to stop glamorizing cigarette use the way he says he did.

Eszterhas writes in an op-ed piece in Friday's New York Times that he was diagnosed with the disease 18 months ago. Much of his larynx is gone, he says, and he has difficulty speaking and being understood.

"Smoking was an integral part of many of my screenplays because I was a militant smoker. It was part of a bad boy image I'd cultivated for a long time — smoking, drinking, partying, rock 'n' roll," the 57-year-old writes.

"Smoking, I once believed, was every person's right. ... I don't think smoking is every person's right anymore. I think smoking should be as illegal as heroin."

Eszterhas says he has trouble forgiving himself for the rampant cigarette use in his films.

"Smoking, I once believed, was every person's right."

— JOE ESZTERHAS
Screenwriter

"I have been an accomplice to the murders of untold numbers of human beings. I am admitting this only because I have made a deal with God. Spare me, I said,

and I will try to stop others from committing the same crimes I did."

The writer of such guilty-pleasure movies as "Flashdance," "Sliver" and "Showgirls" says he has learned there are "1,000 better and more original ways to reveal a character's personality" than with cigarettes.

In 1992's "Basic Instinct," Eszterhas says, smoking was part of the sexual subtext.

"Sharon Stone's character smokes; Michael Douglas' is trying to quit. She seduces him with literal and figurative smoke that she blows in his face," he says. "In the movie's most famous and controversial scene, she even has a cigarette in her hand."

Eszterhas says he has stopped smoking and drinking since his cancer was diagnosed, and now walks five miles a day and attends church on Sunday.

"My hands are bloody; so are Hollywood's. My cancer has caused me to attempt to cleanse mine," he writes. "I don't wish my fate upon anyone in Hollywood, but I beg that Hollywood stop imposing it upon millions of others."

He is receiving treatment at the Cleveland Clinic but is not staying there, a hospital spokesman said Friday.

Two laptops missing from Central Command recovered; suspect in custody

BY MITCH STACY
Associated Press Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — Two laptop computers that had been missing from the military command center coordinating the war in Afghanistan were recovered Friday, and a suspect was in custody, an Air Force spokesman said.

One of the computers that disappeared Thursday from the U.S. Central Command contained classified information.

Maj. Mike Richmond, a spokesman for the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations, wouldn't comment on a motive but said the laptops apparently weren't taken because of information they contained. He also said the theft had nothing to do with espionage.

The computers were recovered from a private residence. The suspect is a member of the military who had access to the secure area where the laptops were kept, but Richmond declined to identify his branch or rank.

"He was one who was on the list and had access, and in the course of talking to him and others, we got a confession out of him," Richmond said.

Central Command, led by Army Gen. Tommy Franks, is responsible for U.S. security interests in the Middle East. It oversees the continuing military operation in Afghanistan and has been deeply involved in planning for a possible U.S. effort to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The headquarters is part of MacDill Air Force Base.

The suspect eventually will be turned over to his commanding officer, who will decide whether to pursue charges or other disciplinary action, Richmond said.

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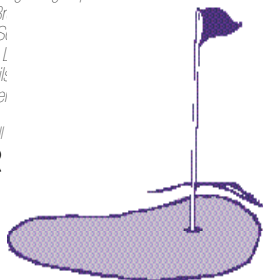
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NATIONAL

Democrats find issues in bid to keep control of the Senate

BY WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

Democratic candidates are talking more about corporate scandals in their bid to hold onto control of the Senate, running ads in many competitive states and weaving the theme into campaign speeches.

In Arkansas, Colorado and Texas, candidates from both parties claim their opponents are vulnerable on the subject. In Minnesota, South Dakota and Tennessee, Democrats have decided to make the issue central to their campaigns, although Republicans think other issues will dominate.

Democrats are trying to find a powerful issue that will help them hold onto a 50-49-1 edge in the Senate. But the corporate scandal issue could be complicated by both parties' close ties to business, some analysts say.

"I'm not sure this issue is a clear winner for Democrats in the Senate contests," said Bruce Buchanan, a political scientist at the University of Texas. "I'm guided by the Senate race in my own state, where it cuts both ways."

"For either of them to throw stones living in a glass house is risky."

Republican John Cornyn, the Texas attorney general, and Democrat Ron Kirk, former mayor of Dallas, both have extensive ties to big corporations which make it difficult to make corporate accountability the central issue of the Senate campaign.

"People are concerned about this issue, but neither side in this race seems to have a major advantage," said David Beck with, a spokesman for the Cornyn campaign. Kirk aides agree it's crucial in the home state of failed energy trading company Enron, but say it's not the dominant issue.

The issue has taken center stage in Colorado, where former U.S. Attorney Tom Strickland, the Democrat, is challenging Sen. Wayne Allard, the Republican.

The Strickland campaign is trying to paint Allard as a close ally of Qwest, a Denver-based telecommunications company that is the subject of a federal probe. Allard's campaign aired an ad touting his support for legisla-

tion passed by Congress and signed by President Bush to toughen enforcement on corporate wrongdoing.

Strickland aides say Allard fought measures in the past that would improve corporate accountability and only changed his approach recently because of public anger. Aides to Allard counter that Strickland worked for a firm that lobbied for Global Crossing, another telecommunications company that is under investigation after its collapse.

In Minnesota, Democratic Sen. Paul Wellstone, a former college professor, is highlighting the years he has pushed for corporate accountability while criticizing Republican Norm Coleman, an attorney and former mayor of St. Paul, for taking contributions from corporations under investigation, including WorldCom and Global Crossing. Wellstone hasn't put up ads on the topic at this point.

Coleman aides describe the GOP candidate as a former prosecutor and say his campaign is passing along the contributions he got from those companies to funds set up to help the

companies' employees.

It's not yet clear "who will benefit most on that issue," said Larry Noble, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics. "Both the Republicans and the Democrats have been receiving lots of money from various corporate sectors."

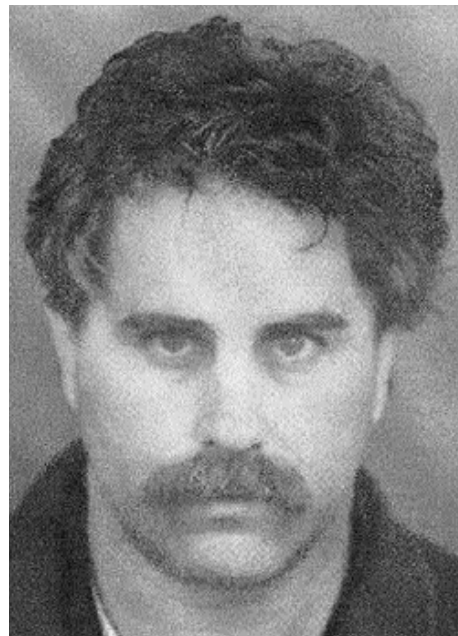
"We may end up with a situation where the Republicans take a greater hit," he said, "but the Democrats are not free and clear."

The effectiveness of a campaign focused on corporate scandals could depend on whether the nation's economy continues to slide, said Norman Ornstein, a congressional scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Democrats are convinced the corporate issue can work in their favor and have been putting up new ads on the topic in a half-dozen competitive states. Several of those campaigns have been financed by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Recent polls, both public and partisan, suggest Republicans are viewed as more sympathetic to big business than to ordinary Americans.

Parents and pornography



Associated Press

Lloyd Emerson is shown in this Clovis Police undated handout photo. Emerson is one of a group of parents that sexually molested their own children and sent pornographic pictures of them worldwide over the Internet, U.S. Customs officials said Friday, after announcing 20 arrests in the United States and abroad.

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INTERNATIONAL



Forty-one dead in European floods, many missing

BY ALEXANDER MERKUSHEV
Associated Press Writer

NIZHNAYA BAKANSKAYA, Russia — Heavy rain and wind swept southern Russia's Black Sea coast on Friday, threatening more of the flooding that has killed at least 34 people in the region. One village was hit with a 6 1/2-foot wall of water.

Seven people died in other parts of Europe this week in floods caused by pounding storms, some dropping record rainfall.

Choking back sobs, 72-year-old Yevdokia Aksyonova surveyed what remained of her modest home — a few bricks, a piece of iron bedpost, and a TV antennae poking out of the mud.

The 6 1/2-foot wall of water flashed through her village of Nizhnaya Bakanskaya on Thursday. When she returned from higher ground, Aksyonova found a huge, uprooted tree had rammed her house, smashing it to bits.

"How can I live now," she said, huddling with her dog — the only thing she did not lose — in a shack that survived the flood. "I've lost everything I've saved during my life."

At least 34 people have been killed along Russia's Black Sea coast, the governor of Russia's Krasnodar region, Alexander Tkachev, told ORT state television. He said the flooding had done an estimated \$32 million in damage.

Residents of Nizhnaya Bakanskaya were in shock Friday after the torrent of water that washed away homes, roads and people in the village of 8,000 people. Many residents are missing but the number isn't known.

Sixteen of the dead in Russia were found in the village of Shirokaya Balka, near the Black Sea port of Novorossiisk, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. Rescue workers there managed to save two people trapped under a collapsed house.

Rescuers discovered the body of a young girl in nearby Abrau-Dyurso. Six people camping there are missing. Four bodies were recovered from another village, also called Dyurso. The region is a popular spot for summer vacations.

Thursday's heavy rains forced the evacuation of at least 600 people, destroyed at least 20 homes and damaged 70 others in eight villages near Novorossiisk, the emergency ministry reported.

Authorities were evacuating people from Shirokaya Balka, Abrau-Dyurso and another nearby village Friday as the new storms hit the region, threatening more flooding, said Leonid Nardekov, an official with the Krasnodar Region emergencies department.

In Central Europe, severe rains caused floods that swept through towns and forced thousands to evacuate.

In the Czech Republic, a 21-year-old student was killed Thursday by a falling tree that crushed a cottage, and a firefighter died of a heart attack during a rescue operation elsewhere in the country. A 19-year-old girl was missing after her raft overturned on a swollen river, and authorities were searching for a man whose car was swept away in another river.

Two were dead in Romania and two farmers were killed in storms in Bulgaria. Police in Italy said lightning killed a 35-year-old fisherman Friday in the town of Porto Tolle, about 30 miles south of

Venice. Heavy rains raised the sea level around Venice by 35 inches above average, raising fears of flooding there.

Austrian rescuers worked to reach villagers stranded on rooftops, while 150 salvage personnel prepared to head to the hardest-hit parts of Lower Austria

province on Saturday to reopen roads and railways silted in the flooding.

Forecasters in Austria also warned more rain was expected to soak the hardest-hit areas this weekend. Vast parts of the provinces of Upper Austria and Lower Austria remained under water.

Sports, crime often overlap in former Soviet Union

BY STEVE GUTTERMAN
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — The turbulent recent history of the former Soviet Union is packed with events that suggest — in some cases as fleetingly as a photograph, in others as powerfully as a fatal gunshot — connections between organized crime and sports.

The latest allegations charge a reputed mobster from Uzbekistan with fixing two premier Olympic ice skating events. Alimzhan Tokhtakhounov denies the accusations, as do Russia skaters and sports officials — who ridicule the very idea that athletes would need help winning gold in a sport they have dominated for decades.

The case against Tokhtakhounov has yet to go to court. But in other cases the tie between crime and sports is clear.

In 1994, a reputed crime boss who headed a foundation for retired athletes was gunned down in Moscow. Russia's top ice hockey official was shot dead in April 1997 after speaking out about the growing influence of organized crime in sports. Two months later, the female director of a top soccer club met the same fate.

"These links go back to Soviet times, when sports was a big criminal sphere," said Yevgeny Volk, head of the Heritage Foundation's Moscow office. Top athletes were relatively well-paid and had many advantages, including the ability to travel abroad and buy coveted Western goods.

The 1991 Soviet breakup sent the process into overdrive. As the economy collapsed and simultaneously opened up, criminals sought control of the oil, gas and metal industries — and of athletes,

who began competing outside the country more often and earned hard currency.

"This attracted the interest of the criminal world," said Volk. "Many athletes had to resort to 'roofs'" — Russian slang for protection rackets. "That is, they had to pay one group of bandits to protect them from another."

According to a 1997 U.S. Senate investigation, a "significant portion" of NHL players from the former Soviet Union were the targets of extortion — in some cases by mob figures who demanded six-figure payments in exchange for not harming relatives back home.

Within Russia, aging athletes with little prospects for the future, and younger ones who were not among the best, were recruited into private security units or criminal gangs — groups that in many cases were virtually indistinguishable.

The sports and crime worlds were drawn even closer together in the mid-1990s with the creation of the National Sports Fund, a group set up under the aegis of President Boris Yeltsin's tennis partner and sports minister to revive Russian sports.

The fund was among special interest groups that enjoyed vastly profitable exemptions from tariffs on imported alcohol and cigarettes — privileges that invited corruption and drew criminal elements.

"Moscow at the time was divided among 20 criminal groups, and each had its own spheres of influence and its own people in the National Sports Fund," said Ruslan Dubov, sports editor of the newspaper Novaya Gazeta.

The privileges "enriched organized crime, not our athletes," said Volk.

City stops coin-fishers stealing from Rome's Trevi Fountain

BY AIDAN LEWIS
Associated Press Writer

ROME — Close your eyes, turn your back to the Trevi Fountain, and flip a coin over your shoulder — legend has it that this is the recipe for a prompt return to Rome.

But for years, if tourists opened their eyes, turned around, and glanced into the wildly ornate fountain, they might have caught sight of something unexpected: a tubby, middle-aged man splashing around scooping up the change.

For more than a decade, the unemployed 50-year-old Roberto Cercelletta has made a handsome living taking a dip in the fountain before dawn to fish out the coins. But annoyed Roman city officials have apparently gotten fed up. Last week they began blocking coin-collectors and on Wednesday they installed video cameras and motion-sensors to catch violators.

Cercelletta, a quirky local character known across Rome by his nickname "D'Artagnan," has been less than keen on

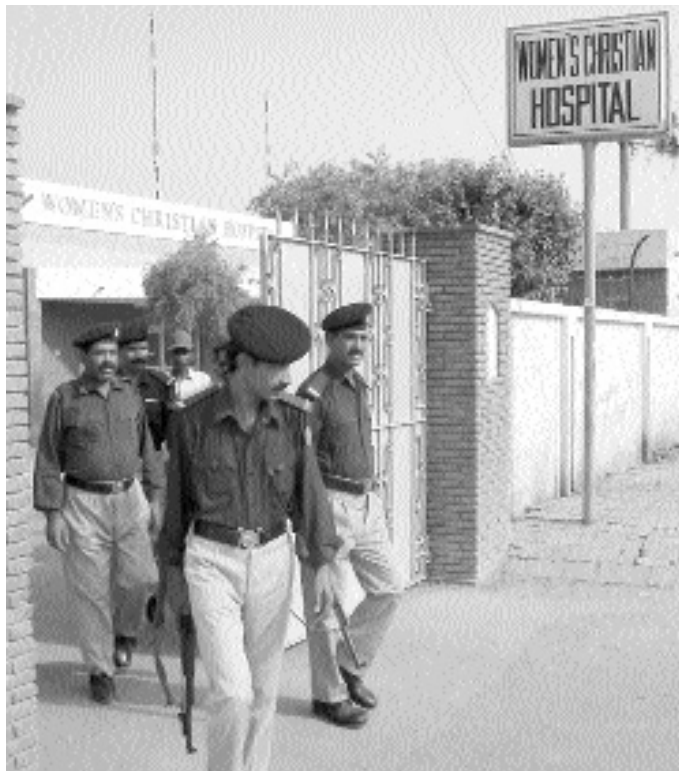
giving up, coming back even after he was banned. One day he shouted to the crowd and lightly slashed his belly with a blade in protest. Later, he scuffled with police at the fountain and was arrested.

Cercelletta says he's given up for now. "But, if I'm dying of hunger and am forced to return to the fountain to get money, if they try to stop me then, I will cut myself up again," he said from his cell-phone at his house in the Roman suburbs.

Often-permissive Romans might not have been bothered, were it not for the fact that the money is supposed to go to the Catholic charity Caritas. City officials say that they now collect about \$1,250 each day from the fountain and pass it on to the charity, which uses the money to help AIDS patients.

Just in case any other coin-fishers get ideas, the city is monitoring its new video cameras 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And the new motion-detector system is designed to prevent any type of large intrusion into the fountain.

On guard



Khalid Tanveer/Associated Press

Pakistani policemen stand guard in front of the Women's Christian Hospital in Multan, Pakistan, Friday. Authorities have tightened security around Christian institutions and all property belonging to religious minorities after the bloody attacks on a Christian school and Christian hospital.



SPORTS

Hometown of oldest NFL player lobbys to induct him into football Hall of Fame

BY CASEY LAUGHMAN
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Glenn Presnell had to upstage the Galloping Ghost to make it from a small Ohio river town to the NFL.

Presnell is 97 now, making him the NFL's oldest living player. As the league prepares to begin its 81st season, Presnell is a largely overlooked figure from the sport's early days.

Still, supporters in his hometown of Ironton haven't forgotten him, and they continue to lobby for his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"I know how good I was," Presnell said during a recent interview. "It would be fun and nice to be in there."

Presnell was the star quarterback and running back for the Ironton Tanks when the semipro team faced Red Grange and the Chicago Bears for a 1930 exhibition in Cincinnati. Presnell got loose on the left side and outgalled Grange for an 88-yard touchdown as Ironton surprised the Bears 26-13.

When the Tanks folded later that year, the NFL remembered Presnell, and he signed with the fledgling Portsmouth Spartans. Presnell led the league in scoring in 1933, and two years later, after the team had moved to Detroit, he played on the Lions' NFL championship team.

On July 21 — less than two weeks before the latest Hall class was inducted upstate in Canton — the state of Ohio placed a historical marker at Ironton High School to honor the Tanks, who played at the school's field from 1919-30. After Presnell unveiled the memorial, Pro Football Hall of Fame executive director John Bankert told a crowd of about 500 people that Presnell belongs with the other 216 men enshrined in Canton.

"Could he play in today's game? You bet," Bankert said. "He was a genuine superstar in the National Football League. He was a complete player. He was a 60-minute man who played both offensively and defensively. He was an excellent passer, a runner, a punter, a place-kicker."

"He has been nominated for the Pro Football Hall of Fame and remains eligible. So Glenn, don't give up hope."

At 5-foot-10 and just shy of 200 pounds, Presnell was a formidable runner

and a versatile player who excelled in an era when offensive outbursts were rare. He scored six touchdowns in 1933, tying for the league lead with the Giants' Ken Strong. Never a terribly accurate passer — he had 17 career touchdown passes against 37 interceptions — he had six scoring passes in 1933.

He also kicked a 54-yard field goal to beat Green Bay 3-0 in 1934.

Another interesting fact about Presnell: He picked the Lions' uniforms, the same color scheme they have today.

"Mr. (George) Richards, the owner, the day I was up there and signed my contract, he said, 'There's a table out there in that next office covered with uniforms. Why don't you pick out the colors you like?'" Presnell said. "I went out, my wife was with me, we saw this Honolulu blue and silver, and we fell in love with it."

Presnell was born July 28, 1905, in Gilead, Neb., and played college football at Nebraska. It was in Lincoln where Presnell had his first encounter with Grange, in 1925. The Cornhuskers shut out the All-American and his Illinois team, 14-0.

Five years later, Presnell got the better of Grange again, as a member of the Tanks. Before that victory over the Bears, Presnell threw two touchdown passes as Ironton defeated the Giants 13-12 in another exhibition.

"It made us feel real good to think that we could outdistance two outstanding pro teams like that," Presnell said.

After his NFL career, Presnell coached at Nebraska in 1942 before serving a stint in the Navy. He later spent 24 years at Eastern Kentucky as an assistant coach, head coach and athletic director.

Presnell still lives in Ironton, in southern Ohio near the Kentucky and West Virginia borders, with his wife of 25 years, Mary. He watches a lot of football on TV — colleges on Saturdays and the pros on Sundays.

In his southern Ohio drawl, Presnell talks with wonder about how much the NFL has changed over the past seven decades.

"Our game back when I played was more like the college game," Presnell said. "You ran until you needed the long yardage and then you threw a long pass. Now they pass on every down."

effort, and we do want to win," Mariucci said. "We're back in a rhythm after our trip, and we want to start getting guys focused for the games we have coming up."

Jeff Garcia, who played two series in Osaka and then questioned his teammates' commitment to improvement, likely will play into the second quarter against the Chiefs. Backup Tim Rattay, who had a middling preseason debut, might play the rest of the game, including some time with the 49ers' first-stringers.

The 49ers' top defense also will get plenty of chances to shut down quarterback Trent Green and the Chiefs' offense, which still will be without star tight end

Forehand return



Al Behrman/Associated Press

Carlos Moya, of Spain, hits a forehand in a quarterfinal match against Rainer Schuettler, of Germany, at the Masters Series Cincinnati tournament, Friday, in Mason, Ohio.

WTA Tour JP Morgan Chase Open Results

By The Associated Press

Friday at The Manhattan Country Club, Manhattan Beach, Calif.
Purse: \$585,000 (Tier II) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Quarterfinals

Chanda Rubin (12), United States, def. Serena Williams (1), United States, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.
Jelena Dokic (4), Yugoslavia, def. Rita Grande, Italy, 6-4, 6-1.
Ai Sugiyama, Japan, def. Jennifer Capriati (2), United States, 6-3, 6-3.

and Cal alum Tony Gonzalez, who remains unsigned.

The Chiefs left their training camp in rural Wisconsin on Friday anxious to start the exhibition season. Except for a workout with the Minnesota Vikings, Kansas City has been on its own this summer.

"We kind of hit that point in camp where you're sick of hitting each other and going against each other," Green said. "Everybody is looking forward to playing San Francisco."

Vermeil, a Northern California native, seems unlikely to run up the score on the 49ers in the same way Steve Spurrier's Redskins did last week. Though the 49ers weren't impressed by Washington's pedal-to-the-metal approach, they realize they shouldn't have allowed the 38-7 game to turn into a blowout.

"We're evaluating effort out here from every guy, so it's time to pick it up," said Cedrick Wilson, who will return punts along with Jimmy Williams in their ongoing audition for the full-time job. "These games are only the preseason, but some of us don't get to the regular season unless

we play well here."

The Chiefs will give minimal work to Green and NFL rushing champion Priest Holmes. New receivers Johnnie Morton and Eddie Kennison will wear the arrow-head helmets for the first time, and Billy Baber will fill in for Gonzalez.

Mariucci won't be able to accuse the Chiefs of using their first-string offensive line too much, however: Two starters and a key backup might miss the game.

Right tackle John Tait won't return until Monday from the training camp fight that left him with 17 stitches in his head. Tait's backup, Willie Jones, has a sore back, leaving 49ers defensive ends John Engelberger and Chike Okefor going against third-stringers Marcus Spears and Victor Allotey.

In addition, left tackle Willie Roaf won't play much, if at all, as he continues to recover from offseason knee surgery.

The 49ers have their own line issues. Versatile guard Dave Fiore is expected to start at center for the second straight game in place of Pro Bowler Jeremy Newberry, whose leg injury needs more time to heal.

SF Niners looking for better results against Kansas City

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Sure, exhibition games mean nothing. Still, it never feels good to lose by 31 points, as the San Francisco 49ers did in their preseason opener last week in Japan.

Like Kansas City coach Dick Vermeil, Niners coach Steve Mariucci has simple goals for the Chiefs' visit to Candlestick Park on Saturday night. But Mariucci doesn't mind admitting he'd prefer a victory, even if it means using just two quarterbacks.

"We're going to give it a complete



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Calendar

Saturday, August 10, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Full Frontal (R) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00. Stuart Little 2 (PG) 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 6:40. Blood Work (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20, 11:40. Martin Lawrence Live: Runteldat (R) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Minority Report (PG-13) 11:40, 3:15, 7:10, 10:30. Austin Powers in Goldmember (PG-13) 11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:20, 12:20. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:10, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50. The Country Bears (G) 12:15, 2:30. XXX (PG-13) 12:00, 12:30, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:30, 10:15, 10:45, 12:15.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Men In Black II (PG-13) 11:55, 5:15, 10:30. The Bourne Identity (PG-13) 11:35, 2:20, 7:25. Signs (PG-13) 11:00, 11:45, 1:35, 2:25, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45. The Master of Disguise (PG) 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50. Reign of Fire (PG-13) 5:00, 10:05. Road to Perdition (R) 11:20, 2:05, 4:55, 7:50, 10:40. K-11: The Widowmaker (PG-13) 2:15, 7:30. Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams (PG) 11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Sex and Lucia (NR) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. Lovely and Amazing (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Tadpole (PG-13) 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55. Read My Lips (NR) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. The Good Girl (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55. Buddha Heads 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15.

Today

Community

Ice Cream Social, at the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica. Two plus hours of songs and sundaes. Suggested donation for kids: \$5.00. Suggested donation for non-kids: \$8.00. Hosted by The Santa Monica Oceanaries barbershop chorus. (1008 11th Street, two blocks north of Wilshire), starting at 6:00 p.m.

Art in Literature Series - Come discuss the "Girl with a Pearl Earring," by Tracy Chevalier, at the Santa Monica Public Library Auditorium, 2:00 pm, 1343 Sixth Street. For more information, call Rebecca at 310-434-2644.

Classes

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.

Theater / Arts

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

Music / Entertainment

The Empty State Theater at 2372 Veteran Ave. in W. Los Angeles proudly presents: "The Fortune Room Lounge Show" A musical improv show featuring the "Stella Ray Trio" and "The Lucky Players". Every Saturday night at 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00, drinks included w/admission. Lots of parking! For information or reservations please call (310)470-3560.

Music Showcase. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301

Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Comedy Underground - Improv and stand up night. Loosely Based \$7.00 w/reservation. \$10.00 at the door. 8:00 p.m. Rotating Talk Show \$7.00, 9:30 p.m. 320 Wilshire Blvd. (310)451-1800

Sunday

Theater / Arts

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Picon Pie! The World Premiere of a joyous and poignant musical play about the life and loves of legendary Molly Picon. Admission is \$25.50. Show starts at 6:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)394-9779 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Arts / Entertainment

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veg-

gie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over 21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

14 Below, 1348 14th St., Santa Monica. If the band stinks, take advantage of commodious booths, pool tables, and fireplace. Full Bar. Over 21. (310)451-5040.

Almost Vaudville. 2 pm and 5 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

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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

Group says you can be big, beautiful and healthy, too

BY JUSTIN BACHMAN
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — When people see Phyllis Warr, a short, stout woman who tips the scales at more than 250 pounds they assume she's out of shape — until she starts getting down on the dance floor.

Cathy Davis Pannone weighs more than 300 pounds, but in the swimming pool she glides along with a grace that justifies her nickname — cat.

The National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance has a new message to sell at its annual convention this week: Being fat doesn't mean you can't be fit.

"We're large, we're in charge, we're out and we're proud," said Warr, a Chicago high school teacher who is among about 200 people attending the convention that runs through Sunday.

"You have to show the world. You can't change the world unless you show them," Warr said.

By throwing their weight around at yoga and water aerobics classes, dance parties and fashion shows,

NAAFA members are hoping to wean the national debate on health away from its obsession with weight.

"We're large, we're in charge, we're out and we're proud. You have to show the world. You can't change the world unless you show them."

— **PHYLISS WARR**
High school teacher

"What we're being told now is that fat causes every (medical) problem," said Barbara Altman Bruno, a counselor and former NAAFA board member. "It's much too simplistic."

Jeanette DePatie, a certified fitness instructor who proudly advertises her girth by calling herself "The Fat Chick" in her exercise video, said she's living proof that health and weight equate: she ran a marathon last year.

"Take care of yourself the way you are," she says.

Bruno advises overweight people to avoid expensive health clubs — which tend to have thinner members — and instead look to community gyms. While working out, she says, skip times that attract teenage boys.

"They're the worst harassers," she said.

Sandy Schaffer, a certified fitness instructor from New York, said doctors are stunned at how healthy she is.

"They can look at my (test) numbers until they're blue in the face and they won't be convinced," she said.

So call them fat, a word members use freely to help remove its stigma. Just don't call them couch potatoes.

"We really need the medical community to focus on ways of making us healthy and not on making us thin," said Frances White, a San Francisco public television consultant and NAAFA board member.

Officials reach deal in dispute over diplomats' parking tickets

BY MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — City officials agreed not to begin towing consular vehicles after striking a tentative deal Friday to end a dispute over more than \$20 million in unpaid parking tickets.

"We have an agreement in principle" with the State Department, said Mayor Michael Bloomberg, adding that details still need to be worked out.

The tentative deal resulted from a telephone call from Secretary of State Colin Powell to Bloomberg, just hours before

tow trucks were ready to roll Friday morning, Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler said.

The State Department agreed to dramatically reduce the number of consular license plates it issues and promised to help the city collect some of the fines it is owed, Bloomberg said.

The agreement broke the latest impasse in a decades-old dispute over diplomatic abuses of city parking ordinances. While diplomats are expected to obey the laws of host countries, international treaties guarantee them immunity from prosecution.

The city says it is owed \$21.3 million

in unpaid tickets issued to vehicles with diplomatic or consular plates between 1997 and 2000. Egypt tops the list of offending countries, racking up \$1.9 million in parking fines on its cars since 1997, the city says.

Earlier, the State Department had hinted at legal action if the city proceeded with plans to punish scofflaws by towing cars with consular license plates.

State Department officials said a crack-down on diplomatic offenders could lead to retaliation against U.S. diplomats in other countries.

Bloomberg had previously said that

only a last-minute court order would stop the city from towing the cars with consular plates. Diplomatic plates, which rank higher, remain exempt.

There are 1,600 vehicles with diplomatic license plates and 700 with consular plates in New York City. The State Department, not the state, registers such vehicles.

Sen. Charles Schumer and Rep. Vito Fossella, both of New York, have said they will introduce legislation requiring foreign governments receiving U.S. aid to reimburse cities for the cost of scofflaw non-payments plus 10 percent, retroactive to January.

What do Shaq and Lenny Krayzelberg have in common?

as quoted in USA Today



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