

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

All-star moves



Jesse Haley/Special to the Daily Press
The final stop in a national street ball tournament ended in Venice Beach this weekend, where all-star NBA players and those endorsed by AND-1 show off their moves in front of an estimated 5,000 people.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer struggles as films falter

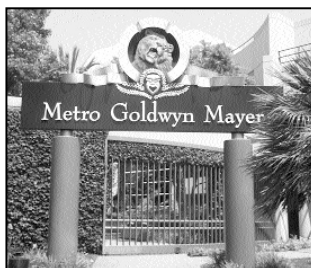
BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

This November, secret agent James Bond will once again save the world and raise the fortunes of Santa Monica-based Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., the studio releasing the 20th installment of Hollywood's longest-running film franchise.

By now, the venerable studio had hoped to wean itself from the financial fix provided by yet another Bond film.

But after two years of new management appointed by MGM's principal shareholder, billionaire Kirk Kerkorian, the company still finds itself struggling to deliver consistently profitable films and unable to pursue its larger goal of transforming itself into a major media company.

Chief executive Alex Yemenidjian



has long said MGM needs to gain more direct access to viewers in the same way rivals AOL Time Warner and The Walt Disney Co. have done through major acquisitions.

"We've consistently stated we need to be a part of a larger organization," Yemenidjian said during a

See MGM, page 5

Politics inside powerful coalition creates division

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A possible civil war may be brewing inside a powerful renters group that has dominated Santa Monica politics for decades.

Leaders of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights remain divided after last weekend's convention when the group elected to endorse local activist Abby Arnold in her bid for a city council seat currently held by Bob Holbrook.

Three city council members who side with the renters group signed a letter distributed at the convention calling on delegates to vote for anyone but Arnold.

They wrote in their letter that Arnold was not a true champion of renters' causes and she is being propped up by the local Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees union and Santa Monicans Allied for Responsible Tourism, a local activist group fighting a proposed repeal of the city's living wage ordinance.

Arnold's critics say she has made derogatory comments on issues affecting renters in the past and she worked against some reforms they were trying to make. They also say the union has rammed Arnold's nomination through and as a result, it has left little room for other nominees to have a chance.

Instead of reconciling after the convention, the two sides remain distant and at least two councilmen said their relationships with the union's leaders are now damaged.

"Certainly my perception is that there is a re-examination among many council members about their relationship with the union," said Councilman Ken Genser. "I don't think policy decisions will be affected but the relationship has been effected."

Mayor Mike Feinstein said while he will work hard to advance causes important to workers, he is unsure how he will support the union's leaders.

"I'm here to serve the entire

community on labor issues and I am here to ensure laborers have a fair stake as a part of our local economy — nothing about that will change," he said. "But I hope this is bringing about a sober re-evaluation of tactics and strategies within the union as well."

The union first became active in local politics in the 1996 election when it began endorsing city council candidates, many of whom were supported by SMRR. The overlap drew the two groups closer and the relationship was further strengthened in the 1998 campaign when the two organizations ran parallel campaigns.

In 2000, the two groups formally joined campaigns to fight against a ballot initiative they believed would have

undermined efforts to enact a living wage ordinance. Since then the two have tied the themes of workers and renters' rights together in local politics.

"I think that SMRR and SMART and the union is an extraordinary coalition unique in the United States," said Kurt Petersen, organizing director of the hotel worker's union. "While we have some differences, our common goals are what keep us together — protecting renters and protecting workers will keep us together."

However, the leadership of SMART and SMRR, disagree on endorsing Councilwoman Pam O'Connor's bid for re-election. SMART leaders feel O'Connor had undermined

See POLITICS, page 6

Rift in SMRR may give its opponents a chance in fall election

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A division within a politically influential renters group may allow its unorganized opponents a shot at victory in this fall's city council election.

Some believe a faction of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, splintered after the endorsement of local activist Abby Arnold, may coalesce around the campaign of Josefina Aranda, which may not leave enough votes for either candidate to win the city council seat held by Bob Holbrook, who is running for re-election.

"I think the effect of (Aranda) running is more likely to help elect people from the hotel, developer, landlord coalition," said Denny Zane, a SMRR co-chair. "And I think that's regrettable."

Zane hopes Aranda will stay involved within SMRR but take the sidelines this election for the good of the group.

"I think Josefina is a gem and I really look forward to having her as a long-term member in the community and in SMRR," he said. "But I think she should let these wounds heal and be a force united."

Aranda supporters say they are not going to spoil this November's election by continuing to promote her for a council seat.

"If anybody did any spoiling it's those who spoiled the endorsement process with their manipulation, and it remains in the residents' hands about who they want on the council to

See CANDIDATES, page 6

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LOCAL



Malibu turns up nose at access to public beaches

BY LAURA WIDES

Associated Press Writer

MALIBU — It's a stretch of coastline that defines California — set after set of picture-perfect surfing waves, a sweeping backdrop of forested ravines behind a line of beachfront mansions, long stretches of near empty sand.

And much of it is off-limits to the public.

California's coast has become more accessible in recent years as the state has tried to acquire public land. But nowhere has the fight to keep the public out been so ferocious as in Malibu, home to Hollywood moguls and the superrich.

The city and some of its wealthiest residents are engaged in a long-running feud with the state's Coastal Commission, a

fight that centers on whether the public should be granted more access to the some of the state's most picturesque coastline.

Along one strip, where Steven Spielberg has a house, beachfront homeowners steer the public away by roping off narrow sections of sand and keep visitors confined there by using private security guards mounted on all-terrain vehicles.

"It does seem a bit extreme," said Jens Holst, 45, who brought his 11-year-old daughter to a Malibu beach on a recent weekend.

His daughter, Samantha, doesn't understand why she's prohibited from sitting on most of the beach.

"Nobody even uses it," she said, gazing at a long stretch of empty sand. "If we have to stay in between those chains, they

should at least make the space bigger."

The latest twist is a lawsuit filed by the city, an enclave perched along Highway 1 about 25 miles west of Los Angeles, and David Geffen, the movie and record mogul who has represented such socially conscious acts as U2 and Joni Mitchell.

The suit, expected to be heard in Los Angeles County Superior Court in September, seeks to stop the state from opening a public path next to Geffen's beachfront home.

Geffen's spokesman, Andy Spahn, said it might make sense to create more public access, just not next to Geffen's home.

"This location makes no sense," Spahn said, citing concerns about traffic, parking and the potential environmental harm that sunbathers could cause. The suit also alleges that opening access would cause "great injury" to Geffen's property and privacy.

Geffen and city officials said they aren't against providing access — the city does have some public beaches — but they want the state to provide a more detailed plan for opening additional areas.

"We're not saying there's anything wrong with this access-way," said Christi Hogan, attorney for the city of Malibu. "We're concerned about the process of it."

She said the city was not consulted about the easement.

Steve Hoye, whose small nonprofit Access for All hopes to maintain a path next to Geffen's home if one is allowed,

said he understands Geffen's concerns but disagrees.

"They are not enough reason to keep people out," he said.

The larger conflict between Malibu and the Coastal Commission is partly a factor of definitions.

Under the state Constitution, waterways, including the surfline, are public, but access to beaches can be limited.

The area below the average high tide line is public, while areas above that may be private.

In Malibu, some homeowners have hired surveyors to plot the high tide line, placing it in spots that are frequently under water. The practical effect is denying access to the public.

The Coastal Commission says that only the state can define the official average high tide line, but so far it hasn't done so in Malibu.

Nearly 30 years ago, California voters decided overwhelmingly that the public should have access to the state's beaches when they approved the California Coastal Act.

"People who live on the beach tend to think that the beach belongs to them. But in fact, it does not," said Sara Wan, chairwoman of the California Coastal Commission, which regulates coastal development, preservation and access.

But how to gain that access in areas

See COASTAL ACCESS, page 7



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Coastal access areas in Malibu are few and far between. Once the public enters the beach, they will find they can't go far because of trespassing laws. The area pictured above shows a home bordering a coastal access area and a section of the beach that is shut off from the public, allowing only residents to walk the coastline.

The Q Line

The headlines continue to indicate the city is in a major economic slump. Budget shortfalls of up to \$8 million annually, 5,000 jobs cut from City Hall and millions worth of capital improvements put on hold, prove that Santa Monica is suffering — not just in government, but also in business.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: "Is the City of Santa Monica doing

everything it can to promote and support businesses here? What suggestions can you offer the powers that be?"

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

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Surf improves as a stronger southwest swell builds this morning. Don't expect much on dawn patrol, but by afternoon we should be seeing two- to three-foot waves at south facing breaks.

Tuesday's surf will remain waist- to chest-high most of the day.

Northern spots look significantly better than the South Bay, which should be ankle- to waist-high in wind swell, but not well enough exposed to the southern hemisphere to pick up the ground swell.

Water is clean north of the Malibu Creek and south of the Santa Monica Pier, but off Palisades you'll find "B" ratings.

Today's Tides:

High-	12:02 a.m.	5.43'
Low-	6:47 a.m.	0.10'
High-	1:09 p.m.	4.96'
Low-	7:15 p.m.	1.43'

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



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OPINION

Xena the Warrior Princess: The final chapter



The FunHog*
By Dan Dunn

"Are you The FunHog?"

Depends on who you are, is my standard response to that loaded question.

"My name is Alexa," said the tall red-headed stranger. "A friend of mine who works for the Xena convention told me you were coming. I think you're funny."

"Well, thank you," I said skittishly, still badly shaken over having been recognized at that sort of gathering.

"And I'm a lesbian."

"You don't say? I'm a Democrat ... nice to meet you."

Turns out, my conversation with Alexa the unabashed lesbian was the closest thing to normal I experienced at the Xena: Warrior Princess convention. I was there researching a story for my monthly column in Women's World Monthly ... well, that, and I needed a break from my insane former ex-now-present girlfriend Tina, who seemed hell-bent on becoming my ex again.

So I found myself at a convention billed "Xena and the Ass Kickin' Women of Sci-Fi Television." And yes, it was as scary as it sounds.

For four solid hours, Bottomfeeder and I mingled with assorted freaks and mutants of all shapes and sizes — many decked out in Medieval finery — and came away from the ordeal with a crystal clear understanding of what the world would be like if, say, everyone in it were to be lobotomized.

Robert Trebor was the celebrity guest at the convention. According to Alexa, Trebor's character, Salomeus, appears sporadically on both Hercules: The Legendary Journeys and the spin-off series, Xena. Both of which, I might add, are no longer in production — but ASS KICKIN', I guess, is in syndication.

"It would have been nice to have one of the main stars here, or at least more than just one guy," sighed Alexa.

Perhaps, but the majority of the audience didn't seem to give a damn about the lack of star power at the convention. When Trebor — a short, pudgy anomaly on a

television program noted for its hard-bodied men and women — took the stage, the auditorium exploded with camera flashes and shrieks of approval.

"Thank you so much — wow! It is so great to be here," Trebor lied.

At least I think he was lying. He had to be lying, I reasoned, because I couldn't imagine that any Hollywood actor would enjoy being in such close quarters with the hundreds of starry-eyed genetic malformations who turned out for the occasion.

"Maybe we should leave. I think it's only a matter of time before the collective mood here turns ugly," I whispered to Bottomfeeder.

"Shhhhh!!!" he shushed. "I'm trying to hear Salomeus."

Damn straight he was. I hadn't seen Bottomfeeder so rapt since the last "Cops" marathon aired on Fox. He was among kindred spirits at the Xena convention; surrounded by people who, like him, actually care whether the nitwit couples on "Change of Heart" stay together.

"How do you think I'd look in leather body armor?" Bottomfeeder asked.

I shrugged nervously, then scribbled a note on my pad: "Need to move this man out my home as soon as possible!"

After blathering on for what seemed like an eternity about wizards and sorcery and syndication, Trebor jokingly admitted he was apprehensive about being at the convention, especially after he discovered a gun show had taken place earlier in the day in an adjacent auditorium.

"I don't know if you want to have our fans around guns," he chuckled nervously.

I don't know if you want these people around water pistols, buddy. It wouldn't be long before one of them drowned.

"There were some really strange people going into the gun show," Alexa told me, munching on a candy bar. "I don't like guns."

Neither do I. I'm not a fan of any type of weaponry, which is why I got so nervous when a long-haired guy wearing leather and chainmail walked by brandishing a longsword.

"Stranger than him," I said, gesturing towards the Hercules wannabe.

"That's not too strange," laughed Alexa. "That's what you'd expect to see at a Xena convention ... that, and lesbians."

I pulled out the notepad again, made another note. "Enjoy the ride, Hog," I wrote largely. "And for God's sake man, quit the damn Women's World Monthly gig immediately!"

And so I did. With one short, polite phone call to Nancy the Editor, who — not surprisingly — accepted my resignation without protest. Sometimes, it's clear to everyone involved that The End has arrived.

The next day, Fisher the Agent called me — furious. When the WWM column went away, so too did his hefty commission. He told me he thought it best I find other representation, and I told him I thought he was a dumb-ass. Then we shared a laugh and said goodbye.

Once I broke the news that I was no longer pulling down \$8,000 a month as a high-profile columnist, Tina dumped me for — are you ready for this? — The Bottomfeeder!!!! Yep! He moved out of my place, and into hers ... and, for the life of me, I can't figure whether I'm happy or sad about it.

A Sting lyric keeps dancing about in my head: "I'm so happy, I can't stop crying."

It's like the point made by the great beat poet Jerry Seinfeld when he wrote about in-between time. Like that period when you have a new job, but don't start for a few weeks. It's akin to the concept of "recess" in kindergarten, a "hall pass" in high school and "blanket presidential pardon" as an adult.

My whole life is like that. It is not without pleasures, but in the down times it also reminds me of the brilliant advice given by the writer Curtis Robinson: "Always remember, consumer credit is not such a great thing for financial optimists."

So it's recess, break time. I have that part down, and plan on joining the "Gore 2004 Campaign" to find out about that pardon stuff.

Ain't life grand?!!!!

(Dan Dunn is a Santa Monica resident. For more FunHog fun, check out thefunhog.com)

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LOCAL



MGM's films cost an average of \$25M each

MGM, from page 1

recent conference call with analysts. "Our preference is to be the surviving entity, the acquirer, and to grow MGM and give it more scale, more diversified revenue streams and more vertical integration. Nothing has changed in that regard."

The company has diversified, buying a stake in four domestic cable channels as an outlet for its films and other programs. But apparently unhappy with the pace of such efforts, MGM late last year started shopping itself around, touting the value of its library of more than 4,000 films.

But its asking price of around \$30 per share attracted no takers, according to sources at other studios approached by MGM.

Since then, media stocks have dropped sharply along with the rest of the market. MGM's stock, which could have been used as currency in an acquisition, is trading around \$10, down from its 52-week high of \$23.25. Companies likely to be interested in MGM are having their own problems and are conserving cash.

In its most recent quarter, MGM doubled its losses, posting a net loss of \$121.8 million, and reconfirmed its earlier expectation of a net loss in its shares of between 85 cents and 89 cents for the full year.

Yemenidjian "pulled all the levers he could and it's gone as well as you could expect," said Harold Vogel of Vogel Capital Management. "But it's a relatively small fish swimming in a giant sea. It's late in the game for acquiring or building cable networks or acquiring competitive distribution assets. They're doing a great job in a difficult environment."

To be sure, MGM has taken steps since 1999 to become less dependent on the notoriously unreliable first-run feature film business. It has launched MGM-branded cable channels reaching 34 mil-

lion subscribers in 40 countries outside the United States, is producing several popular cable television shows and turning its vast film library into cash-producing DVD releases.

It bought a 20 percent interest in four cable channels owned by Rainbow Media — American Movie Classics, Bravo, The Independent Film Channel and WE: Women's Entertainment — and recast its United Artists division as an independent film label.

Executives said they have learned from their mistakes and are limiting their exposure to future theatrical releases. Next year's slate of seven films will have an average cost of less than \$25 million each, MGM said.

By lowering its risk on new films, MGM hopes to score bigger overall profits.

While MGM has so far failed to interest a buyer, speculation builds that it may be planning an acquisition.

The company issued new stock recently and renegotiated a credit line, giving it \$1 billion in addition to whatever additional cash Kerkorian might agree to invest.

The most likely move would be for MGM to purchase at least a controlling interest in the four cable channels owned by Rainbow Media.

MGM paid \$825 million last for its 20 percent stake in the firm and has expressed interest in increasing that share.

In the short term, MGM may simply have to wait until its box office fortunes turn and boost its stock price. The big question is whether Kerkorian, who first bought the studio in 1970, will wait that long.

"Kirk is not gaining net worth with this investment," Vogel said. "But Mr. Kerkorian has the depth of capital to hold on for a long time and wait until the cycle turns around."

UA struggles to stay alive with MGM's bleak future

BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

SANTA MONICA — Bingham Ray has one of the toughest jobs in the movie business — reinvigorating one of the most prestigious film labels in history while its parent company struggles and may be sold.

Ray is president of United Artists, which was founded in 1919 by Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and D.W. Griffith. The studio operated as an artist-centered company for decades, churning out such hits as "Some Like It Hot" and a string of James Bond films, starting with 1962's "Dr. No."

In 1967, the company was sold to Transamerica, which owned it until UA released one of the most notorious flops in movie history, "Heaven's Gate," in 1980. The next year, UA was bought by MGM.

The label has been struggling ever since, trying to find its own voice while operating under a series of owners. Ray's mandate is to give UA new life as MGM's distributor of lower-budget independent films.

"United Artists is a brand name that in many ways has been neglected for years," Ray said. "We're not empire building here. We're not out to conquer Harvey Weinstein. We're not even on his radar screen."

Weinstein is head of the highly successful Miramax studio.

Ray is an ebullient film fan who co-founded October Films in 1991. In his 10 years there, he helped champion such independent films as "Secrets and Lies," "The Last Seduction" and "Joe Gould's Secret."

At UA, Ray's challenge is to buy or make films with budgets of less than \$10 million and deliver the occasional breakout hit that will pay for the rest of the slate. To that end, Ray jumped at the chance to buy the new Michael Moore documentary, "Bowling for Columbine," which won a prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

He also snatched up "Personal Velocity" days before it won the Grand Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival. UA is also producing "Nicholas Nickleby," based on the Charles Dickens classic.

To help pay for such risks, UA will make a sequel to its hit horror flick "Jeepers Creepers," which will appear in theaters early next year.

But don't expect Ray to abandon his independent roots.

"I don't want to do lower budget Hollywood films," Ray said. "I want to do really interesting independent films and try to find the audiences whose needs aren't being met."

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LOCAL

Sour grapes or political differences causing rift?

POLITICS, from page 1

their cause by voting for a lower mandatory living wage, which is why they didn't endorse her.

SMART chose not to endorse a final candidate for the third open seat knowing SMRR would endorse O'Connor, because they feared it would damage the coalition of the three groups.

While O'Connor won an easy endorsement from SMRR, the contentious endorsement of Arnold has caused a rift in the political party.

"I think it's fair to say that this is more than difference of opinion," Feinstein said. "This not only involves significant policy differences in that those of us who have not supported Abby have concerns about her true dedication to affordable housing and tenant protection."

Petersen disagrees that any rift has formed between his union and SMRR. He said the large turnout at SMRR's convention was evidence the rank-and-file of both groups still support each others' causes.

"Keeping the coalition together is very important so we are going to work as hard as we can to elect coalition candidates," he said. "People are excited and passionate. I respect that but I know we are all aiming for the same goals."

According to Feinstein, the relationship between the union and some SMRR supporters is not the only relationship Arnold's endorsement has damaged.

"I think we are at a time where people are willing to question a lot of the (SMRR) premises and the (SMRR) leaders that have brought us to this point," Feinstein said. "If we were a national government with a parliamentary system, one might hear calls for a vote of no confidence in the SMRR and SMART leaders."

SMRR co-chair and founder Denny Zane said the tensions are part of the post-convention process and the group will be united once again.

"I get the impression that Mike in particular is sort of trying to fan the flames of a possible rift and I am concerned about why," he said. "This is partly sour grapes because the candidate he supported didn't win."

Feinstein endorsed Pico activist

Josefina Aranda, but she failed to win endorsements from SMART, SMRR and the union.

Longtime SMRR activist and former councilwoman Judy Abdo agrees a split within the group is not likely.

"I think (the convention) was a sort of small 'd' democracy in action," she said. "People organized, they got their people out and the votes were clear on who they supported."

"Some people are unhappy with the unions but others are pretty committed to working within the coalition," she said.

Arnold said she has heard only congratulations since the convention.

"I am surprised, I'm very surprised they see this as a permanent rift because I certainly don't," she said. "In terms of direct communication with me, I have had many SMRR members and activists contact me and tell me they plan to volunteer on my campaign."

However, she hopes all traces of bitterness will recede once the campaign is in full swing.

"I don't want to risk the future of rent control or other progressive issues in Santa Monica over a primary battle," she said.

Zane believes once it becomes obvious who SMRR's opponents will be in this year's election everyone will fall into line.

"One of the problems happens when your adversaries appear weak and don't appear to have strong candidates, it invites minor divisions to look bigger than they actually are," he said.

In every campaign since at least in 1996, there has been a slate of candidates on the opposing side of SMRR, usually consisting of people who side with developers and big business, like luxury hotels. But so far this year, no such slate has appeared.

It would seem ironic, at best, that in the one year SMRR faces little organized opposition to its council candidates, it would tear itself apart from within.

But Zane says that flat out will not happen.

"It's always the sort of thing that happens when your advocates look weak," he said. "In the short run there will be some snarling and carrying on, but in the long run it will be a small bump in the road."

Green Party candidate will continue to campaign

CANDIDATES, from page 1

serve them," said Mayor Mike Feinstein, an Aranda supporter and SMRR's highest elected official.

Aranda, a Green Party member like Feinstein and current councilman Kevin McKeown, is a resident of the Pico neighborhood, an area of the city's eastside that is marked by gang violence. For decades, the neighborhood has not had representation on the city council.

"I think that Josefina has every chance to win in November," Feinstein said. "She is a natural listener and integrator that is exactly the right person for the political vacuum that has been created by the ill-conceived endorsement (of Arnold) that we have seen this past week."

Arnold's detractors say she does not believe in rent control and tenants' rights issues strongly enough, and at least two

council members believe she was endorsed because of the machinations of a local union representing hotel workers.

Aranda said she does not see herself as a spoiler and she vows to continue her campaign until the end.

"I don't believe any candidate should look at themselves as a spoiler," she said. "You are going to run a campaign because of the issues you believe are important to the community. I am about including as many people as possible into a campaign that can represent all voices of Santa Monica."

And Aranda discounts the claims that her candidacy will only weaken SMRR's chances of winning Holbrook's seat.

"I think it's just another way to paint some criticism for my candidacy," she said. "I think people know better than that because my candidacy stands on its own and because there are issues that are important to me."

LOCAL



Buried in sand, trash



Franklin Smith/Special to the Daily Press
Matt Kenady is buried up to his neck in sand while Ken Nakaya, Koji Maruyama and his wife, Aimi, are buried up to their necks in garbage at Will Rogers State Beach Saturday as part of a beach clean-up effort held each year by Los Angeles-based KPMG accounting firm.

State's coastal commission has final say on beach access

COASTAL ACCESS, from page 3

choked full of homes, such as in parts of Malibu, has been a stumbling point ever since the Coastal Act became law.

One way the state has tried to do that is by offering beachfront homeowners a trade-off. When they want to expand or modify their homes, the state will grant a permit in exchange for the rights to the beach in front of their house. It has gained the rights to dozens of strips in Malibu that way, but the state hasn't claimed them for public use because it has no way to maintain them.

The commission now relies less on such exchanges after a series of lawsuits challenging the process.

Geffen is one of the homeowners who ceded the rights to a strip of beach in front of his property and another alongside it in exchange for the right to modify his house. He's now contesting the state's attempt to make them public.

Such conflicts have been played out for years in Malibu, which often has had a contentious relationship with the Coastal

Commission.

In January, the commission endorsed a proposed land-use plan that declared more than half the city environmentally sensitive habitat. The action was intended to end years of bickering between the commission and Malibu over the city's inability to approve land-use rules that comply with the state's Coastal Act.

The city has a history of approving construction projects that the commission ultimately rejects or modifies because they hinder beach access or obscure ocean views from Pacific Coast Highway.

In the 10 years the city has been in existence, it has not opened or accepted responsibility for a single easement along its 27 miles of coast, said the commission's Wan.

Ultimately, she said, the state will have the final say on providing access. How long that will take and how great the access remain unclear.

"I don't believe that any of these lawsuits will be successful in the end," she said. "It's a delaying tactic, and it's very expensive."

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STATE

After Clinton, CA finds Bush an indifferent suitor

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., offers this challenge to those who say the Bush administration will step in to help California avert a looming crisis over water: "How much are they willing to bet?"

Feinstein's assessment is shared by other Democratic officials who say their fears about George W. Bush have been realized after observing the White House's reluctance to help solve California's energy crisis, its refusal to buy offshore oil leases and now its threats to cut the state's supply of Colorado River water.

After a torrid eight-year political romance between California and the Clinton White House, the state is finding the Republican president to be, at best, an indifferent suitor for reasons of politics and ideology.

"It's not a Clintonesque love affair by any means," said Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, a political scientist at the University of Southern California. "The state was very important to Clinton and Gore."

Republicans counter that it was California that spurned Bush in 2000, handing Al Gore a 1.3 million vote victory in the state. Despite that, Republicans said, the president has treated California well.

They disputed, for example, that he turned his back on the state during the energy crisis, noting that his appointees eventually imposed effective price caps that Bush himself opposed.

Nor has the president ignored the state politically, White House spokesman Ken Lisaius said. Several Californians serve in Bush's Cabinet, including Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, a Democrat, Lisaius said.

"The president has been to California several times during the course of his administration and he'll be back again in August," he said.

Campaign cash continues to be an important part of Bush's relationship with the state. California is the largest source of campaign contributions for both parties, and Bush has been the most successful fund-raiser for GOP gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon, helping take in more than \$5 million so far.

As he is nationally following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the president remains popular in California, where 63 percent of registered voters approve of the job he is doing as president, according to a July Field Poll. That figure is down from a high of 76 percent following the attacks, but far better than the 41 percent approval rating he received just before Sept. 11.

A White House official said it is too early to know how vigorously Bush will contest California in the 2004 election. In a close election, the state could command the president's attention, at least to force Bush's Democratic opponent to spend time and money there.

"Obviously, the electoral victory is what you're after, but there are frankly strategic victories short of that," said Rob Stutzman, spokesman for the state Republican Party.

But the president's political forays into California have been mixed. Even California's Republican voters delivered a rebuff to the president, solidly backing Bill Simon over Bush's choice, former

Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, in the gubernatorial primary.

The White House hoped Riordan's more moderate politics would work to unseat Democratic Gov. Gray Davis, a persistent White House critic. There also is a remote possibility that Davis could run against Bush in 2004.

While Bush may hope to inflict damage on Democrats in the state, he has demonstrated that Republicans don't need California to win the White House. Democrats do, which helps explain the attention Clinton and Gore lavished on the state, starting even before Clinton's election.

"It's not a Clintonesque love affair by any means."

— **SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE**
Political scientist at USC

When Los Angeles erupted in riots in 1992, the Democratic candidate traveled to the state before the incumbent Republican president, George H.W. Bush. And after the 1994 Northridge earthquake, Federal Emergency Management Agency director James Lee Witt, an Arkansan, was so well-known that some Democrats jokingly suggested that he should run for California governor.

The sense, at least among Democrats, is that Bush has little reason to care about the state.

"It's very clear that this is an Administration that has trouble locating California," said Feinstein, who often works closely with California Republicans.

After Bush agreed to buy out federal oil leases off the coast of Florida, where the president's brother, Jeb, is governor, California officials asked for the same deal for 36 leases off California's coast.

No dice, was the White House's reply, although the administration offered to negotiate a buyout of some offshore California leases. Davis refused, reasoning that agreeing to negotiate was to concede that some new drilling would be acceptable.

Where Clinton's politics and California's interests often coincided, Bush faces a different political reality.

"When they have to make a decision that would offend some other part of their constituency in order to do something for California, they always seem to come down on the anti-California side," said Bill Carrick, a Democratic political consultant.

In that sense, Jeffe said, Bush's opposition to capping power prices during the height of the energy crisis was easy to understand.

"They come out of the oil patch, so it's not surprising that they'd side with the industry because the industry is part of their base," she said.

The political math also would not seem to be on California's side as it tries to stave off a reduction in its share of Colorado River water large enough to satisfy 1.6 million Southern California households for a year. The cutback could come if the state fails by the end of the year to show it has a plan to reduce its take from the river.

Five of the six other states that get water from the river voted for Bush in 2000.

STATE



Wireless networking could shake up telecom industry

BY MATTHEW FORDAHL

AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE — There's high-speed Internet in the air.

A technology originally developed to link PCs in small, wireless clusters is spurring grassroots efforts to create Internet "clouds" that could eventually bypass the networks of big telecommunications providers.

So far, the greatest buzz over WiFi, or Wireless Fidelity, has surrounded the sharing of connectivity among neighbors, friends and strangers.

But the inexpensive technology, known scientifically as 802.11b, may be destined for something much bigger. Users are expanding homegrown networks with little or no control from the local phone or cable company.

"This feels like the Internet from 1994," said Scott Shamp, director of the New Media Institute at the University of Georgia, which is working with Athens, Ga. to install a wireless cloud downtown.

Such wireless networks don't require millions of dollars for digging trenches, laying cables or building towers. Anyone who wants to be a service provider only needs a dedicated Internet connection and a \$200 access point.

Users pop a \$70 card into their desktops or laptops to link to the networks, usually within a few hundred feet of the access points. Some products even have built-in transmitter and receiver capabilities, allowing users to grow the network while they're online.

Intel Corp., for one, says it plans to build such functionality into chips.

Wireless clouds could support a new generation of technology, from always-on portable phones and handheld computers to futuristic sensors that could continually update weather or smog conditions, for instance.

Coverage remains limited today, a far

"The decline you've seen in (telecoms industry) market value may not just be some trend that will bounce back with the rest of the market."

— NICHOLAS NEGROPONTE

Massachusetts Institute of Technology media laboratory director

cry from what is offered by cable, phone and cellular companies. WiFi is still mostly used to provide Internet to laptops and desktops in homes and offices as well as airports, hotel lobbies and coffee shops.

But advocates say WiFi's organic growth, low cost and simplicity bodes well for future development. And while current wireless equipment extends DSL or cable Internet service to several hundred feet, the range can grow to a dozen miles or more with the addition of a stronger antenna.

Countless free access points are up and running. Most are advertised on the Web. A group in London has even proposed marking hotspots with chalk.

So far, these early efforts do not threaten service providers.

But they could eventually spell trouble for the debt-laden telecom industry, which has spent billions rolling out wired and terrestrial networks, said Nicholas Negroponte, director of the Media Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"The decline you've seen in (telecoms industry) market value may not just be some trend that will bounce back with the rest of the market," Negroponte told a recent Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee meeting. "It may not bounce back because we're going to use telecommunications very differently."

Most of telecoms' grumbling over WiFi stems from customers publicly sharing their cable or DSL service.

"We believe that's theft of service,"

said Sara Eder, a spokeswoman for AT&T Broadband, which provides cable modem service.

AT&T is not alone, though enforcement is difficult. SBC Communications recently rewrote its policies to forbid connection sharing outside the home. Time Warner Cable in New York has sent out a warning letter to about 10 subscribers who were sharing their connections.

Other providers say they don't mind if connections are shared, provided it doesn't diminish speeds for paying customers.

But it remains to be seen whether grassroots groups can maintain the momentum necessary to provide free cov-

erage for entire cities or regions, or whether corporations will step in. Already, reports are circulating about plans by major tech companies to deploy a nationwide network.

Sales of WiFi access cards and base stations are taking off, with sales expected to grow from \$1.9 billion in 2001 to \$5.2 billion in 2005 despite price drops, according to research firm Cahners In-Stat.

The sky is the limit for potential applications, said Shamp, who is preparing to launch the wireless cloud in Athens later this year.

"We're designing a sandbox," he said. "We want a place where people can experiment."

In San Francisco, Dan Augustine and Jason Luther started SF Wireless, which has 40 volunteers working on a project that not only provides free connectivity but has a goal of replacing wired infrastructure and providing content specific to their neighborhood.

Industry has had no choice but to respond.

Cell phone companies are hedging their bets by adding WiFi capabilities to products.

Schwarzenegger chips in \$1 million for school initiative

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Arnold Schwarzenegger is putting his financial muscle behind a California ballot measure to fund after-school and early morning programs.

The November initiative has received \$3.6 million so far, with the actor kicking in \$1 million, new campaign finance reports show. The initiative leads the money race for all statewide ballot measures.

The measure, Proposition 49, is widely viewed as a way for Schwarzenegger to establish his policy credentials and to provide a prelude to his eventually seeking public office.

The initiative would earmark as much as \$550 million a year for after- and before-school programs for elementary and junior high school students.

A. Jerold Perenchio, chairman of the Spanish-language Univision network, also donated \$1 million to the measure, according to campaign finance reports.

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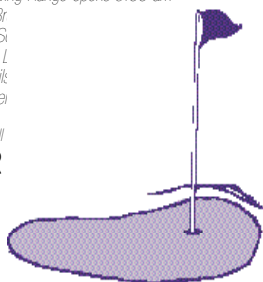
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NATIONAL

GOP senators say Bush needs to make case for war

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

Members of Congress said Sunday that President Bush has not yet made his case for an invasion of Iraq, although they would support him if there is evidence Saddam Hussein may use weapons of mass destruction.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia urged the president to give diplomacy more time to resolve the Iraqi situation and reiterated it will not allow the use of Saudi soil in an attack against Saddam.

Saudi Arabia also confirmed that it was holding 16 alleged al-Qaida members who had been turned over by Iranian officials in June after they sought refuge in that country.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., said that while not inevitable, it now is "probable" that an invasion of Iraq will be necessary. But, he added, President Bush has to clearly tell the public why Saddam is a danger.

"The president has to make the case that ... to wait for provocation (from Saddam) is to invite a very, very large disaster," Lugar said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he agreed that the president has not yet made the justification for a war with Iraq, but that "he's in the process of doing that."

Noting that Saddam has biological and chemical weapons and may eventually get a nuclear capability, Thompson said on "FOX News Sunday": "Do we sit back and hope that we can negotiate our way out of that situation with Saddam? I don't think so."

But Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said an attack on Iraq might simply prompt Saddam to use weapons of mass destruction "because he'd have nothing to lose."

"He's a survivalist. He is not a suicide bomber. ... The question is how do you contain him," said Levin on NBC's "Meet the Press." Levin said there should be continued pressure to resume United Nations weapons inspections in Iraq.

Thompson, however, argued that an agreement over weapons inspections, if not unfettered, would

simply give Saddam time — perhaps two or three years — to possibly develop a nuclear capability.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia reiterated that if Iraq were attacked, it would not be from Saudi soil.

"Under the present circumstances ... with no proof that there is a threat imminent from Iraq, I don't think Saudi Arabia will join in," Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, said on ABC's "This Week" program.

"We see that there is movement on the diplomatic front ... and we think it is only right to give this diplomatic solution a chance before going to war," said the prince.

Saudi also said Iran in June had turned over to Saudi Arabia 16 alleged members of al-Qaida, who had fled Afghanistan into Iran, and that information obtained from interrogating them is being shared with U.S. officials.

"The innocent will be let go and the guilty ones will be incarcerated and go to trial," the prince said.

Despite intense discussions within the administration about preparation for a possible invasion of Iraq, Bush on Saturday

said he had no "imminent war plan" but that Saddam remains "an enemy until proven otherwise."

Bush said he believes the American people understand that chemical, biological, or eventually nuclear weapons in the hands of Saddam "are very dangerous for ourselves, our allies."

On Sunday, Lugar said: "At the end of the day we have to separate those weapons of mass destruction from Saddam."

Likewise, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said while the justification of an attack still must be fleshed out by the Bush administration "we can't wait for Saddam Hussein to unleash a weapon of mass destruction."

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., joining Hutchison on CNN's "Late Edition," acknowledged that Saddam is a threat, but said she favored a push for open inspections on Iraqi weapons, and not war.

While agreeing with Levin's approach of containment, Boxer said, nevertheless, Saddam "needs to know if ... he even thinks of using any weapons of mass destruction, he's history."

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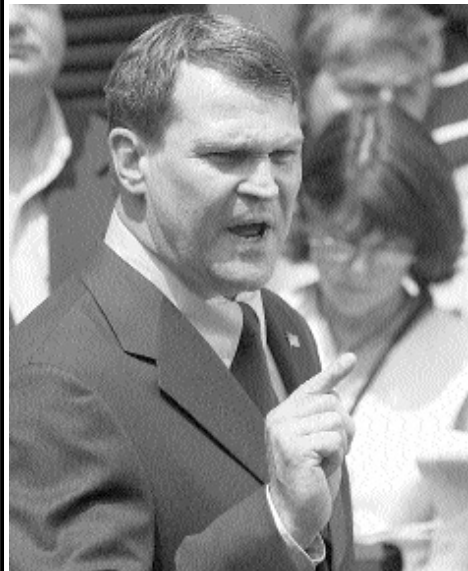
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Anthrax suspect



Rick Bowmer/Associated Press

Dr. Steven J. Hatfill, a bioweapons expert under scrutiny for the anthrax attacks, defends himself during a news conference outside his lawyers' office Sunday, in Alexandria, Va. Law enforcement officials have said Hatfill is one of about 30 scientists being looked at in the anthrax investigation. "I am a loyal American and I love my country," Hatfill said. "I had nothing to do with the anthrax letters and it is terribly wrong for anyone to contend or think otherwise."

INTERNATIONAL



Israeli, Palestinian leaders continue the blame game

BY GREG MYRE
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — The Israeli and Palestinian leaders traded recriminations Sunday, each accusing the other of stoking the Mideast conflict. A Palestinian gunman was killed and three Israelis were wounded in scattered violence.

The two leaders exchanged angry charges despite recent contacts between the two sides and talk of a possible and limited Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and then the West Bank.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he did not believe Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's government would take action to prevent Palestinian attacks against Israel.

"Arafat is the head of terrorism and no one is counting on him," Sharon told a Cabinet meeting, according to Cabinet Secretary Gideon Saar.

Arafat said he did not think Sharon's government was serious about peace negotiations.

"This government is looking only for more escalation for its military plans. They are not looking to achieve peace," Arafat said at his mostly destroyed compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops tracked down and shot and killed a Palestinian militant after he opened fire on Israelis working on a fence at a Jewish settlement of Dugit in the northern Gaza Strip, wounding one of them, the army said.

The Palestinian gunman hit the Israeli worker with at least five bullets in his arms and legs, according to the Barzilai Hospital in the Israeli city of Ashkelon.

Israeli troops chased the gunman to a house in the nearby Palestinian area of Beit Lahya and killed him in a gun battle, the army said. Troops then blew up the house.

The militant Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli workers and identified the gunman as Basil Naji, 22.

In the northern West Bank town of Jenin, Palestinian gunfire wounded two Israeli soldiers, the army said.

Meanwhile, Pope John Paul II delivered one of his most forceful denunciations of Middle East violence, lamenting that Palestinians were subjected to "collective punishment" and Israelis were gripped by fear.

"When will one learn that coexistence between the Israeli and Palestinian people cannot result from arms? Neither attacks, nor walls of separation, nor retaliation will ever lead to a just solution of the conflict under way," John Paul said Sunday at his summer palace in Castel Gandolfo, a hill town near Rome.

The Israel-Palestinian talks, since stalled, had focused on Israeli forces leaving Palestinian areas in the Gaza Strip. If calm prevailed, Israel then would examine withdrawing from parts of the West Bank, where troops are in most Palestinian cities and towns.

Sharon called the Palestinian proposals for an Israeli withdrawal "a trick designed to coincide with the talks between Palestinian officials and U.S. leaders."

A Palestinian delegation was in Washington last week for discussions with senior Bush administration officials on stabilizing the region and reforming the Palestinian security forces.

Arafat said he was encouraged by the Washington discussions, which included the highest-level meetings between U.S. and Palestinian officials in recent months.

"There were very positive talks and today (Sunday) they will return and give a full explanation," Arafat said of the Palestinian team.

The Palestinian Authority's interior minister, Abdel Razak Yehiyeh, met CIA director George Tenet outside Washington on Saturday and said he was revamping what remains of a Palestinian security force devastated by the Israelis, and firing officers he found to be incompetent.

Russia's death toll rises



Misha Japaridze/Associated Press

Rescue workers search a bus which was swept into the sea by torrential flooding and then capsized as they look for flood victims near the village of Shirokaya Balka, close to the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, 625 miles south of Moscow, Sunday. The signs on the rescuers' jackets read: Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry Rescuers. Rescue crews searched Sunday the debris-strewn shoreline and destroyed vacation resorts on the Black Sea Coast for more victims of torrential floods. The death toll from the flooding rose to 55 people on Sunday, according to the Krasnodar region's Emergency Situations Ministry.

Tycoon misses second attempt at gliding altitude record

BY RAY LILLEY
Associated Press Writer

OMARAMA, New Zealand — American adventurer Steve Fossett's hopes of breaking the world gliding altitude record looked good for a while Sunday, but in the end he couldn't find the elusive winds that would have pushed him into the stratosphere.

Fossett and retired NASA test pilot Einar Enevoldson spent five hours soaring to 30,000 feet as they searched over a 85-mile stretch of sky for the lift needed to reach thermal waves about 6,000 feet above them.

As with their first attempt at the record Saturday, Fossett said they "failed to find the elevator" to lift them through the gap and break the world-record height of 49,009 feet set over California's Sierra Nevada range in 1986.

Fossett, a 58-year-old Chicago multimillionaire turned adventurer, hasn't given up on breaking the 16-year-old gliding world record. Fossett said he'll be back in New Zealand in November with Enevoldson to prepare for a third attempt on the altitude record in June of 2003.

It took Fossett six attempts to become the first man to make a solo balloon trip around the world in July.

Fossett said the German-built glider worked "very well and is capable of making the flight" to world-record heights.

"I think in June we might have four or five opportunities," he said.

Things went well Sunday for the first four hours, but hope faded when they couldn't find the lifting winds. They had hoped to soar into the stratosphere at 62,000 feet — nearly twice the altitude at which commercial passenger jets fly.

Asian air pollution may be changing weather patterns

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — The "Asian Brown Cloud," a 2-mile-thick blanket of pollution over South Asia, may be causing the premature deaths of a half-million people in India each year, deadly flooding in some areas and drought in others, according to the biggest-ever scientific study of the phenomenon.

The grimy cocktail of ash, soot, acids and other damaging airborne particles is as much the result of low-tech polluters like wood- and dung-burning stoves, cooking fires and forest clearing as it is of dirty industries, the U.N.-sponsored study found.

"When you think about air pollution, many people think of industry and fossil fuels as the only causes," report co-author Paul Crutzen, a scientist at the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, Germany, told a news conference in London.

Often ignored, he said, was "biomass burning," including forest fires and the burning of vegetation to clear land or to warm the homes of poor people.

More than 200 scientists contributed to

the study, overseen by the U.N. Environment Program in preparation for the World Summit on sustainable Development opening Aug. 26 in Johannesburg, South Africa. They used data from ships, planes and satellites to study Asia's haze from 1995 to 2000.

The scientists say more research is needed but that some trends are clear. Respiratory illness appears to be increasing along with the pollution in densely populated South Asia, with one study suggesting the 500,000 premature deaths annually in India.

The dense cloud of pollution — also caused by auto emissions, factories and waste incineration — cuts the amount of sunlight reaching the ground and the oceans by 10 to 15 percent, cooling the land and water while heating the atmosphere.

That phenomenon appears to have altered the region's monsoon rains — increasing rainfall and flooding in Bangladesh, Nepal and northeastern India, while cutting back needed seasonal precipitation in Pakistan and northwestern India.

Floods, drought, sunlight reduction and

acid rain all can hurt agricultural yields, with the report indicating the pollution may be cutting India's winter rice harvest by as much as 10 percent.

Veerabhadran Ramanathan of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif., one of the report's authors, said the extent of the sunlight loss was "a major surprise."

Scientists say it's too early to draw definite conclusions about the impact of the cloud, and of similar hazes over East Asia, South America and Africa.

"We need much more basic scientific data to be able to establish what are the consequences for human health and the environment," said co-author Crutzen, co-winner of the 1995 Nobel chemistry prize for his work on the ozone layer.

But they warn the impact could be global since prevailing winds push pollution clouds halfway round the world in just a week's time.

For many years, scientists believed only lighter greenhouse gases — such as

carbon dioxide that is produced from burning fossil fuels such as gasoline and oil — were global in reach and effect.

They now say microscopic, suspended particles of pollutants — generically called aerosols by atmospheric scientists — also travel the globe.

It's unclear what the haze's relationship is to global warming, which most scientists believe is caused by the emission of greenhouse gases that trap the Earth's heat. The pollution cloud appears to cool the area below by blocking sunlight.

Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the U.N. Environment Program, said scientists and policy-makers "should avoid making premature final assessments," but should start trying to cut pollution by introducing more efficient heating stoves in developing countries and turning to solar power and other clean sources of energy.

The environmental group Friends of the Earth said "urgent action is desperately needed to tackle the causes behind this huge toxic cloud."



SPORTS

Baseball players likely to set strike date today

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — All the drama in baseball this season hasn't been confined to the field.

Some of the toughest pitches are being hurled across Manhattan conference rooms, where owners are demanding economic changes that could spark the game's ninth work stoppage since 1972.

And it could come to this: No World Series for the second time in nine years.

Players are likely to set a strike date when their executive board meets Monday, possibly leading to a walkout in late August or early September. The key stumbling block appears to be management's demand to slow escalating player salaries — a luxury tax on teams with high payrolls.

"Eventually, it all has to be tied together," said Atlanta pitcher Tom Glavine, the National League player representative. "There's caution on our side because obviously the big issues — revenue sharing and luxury tax — are out there. Those can set the negotiations in motion quickly in one direction or the other."

Finding a way to slow salaries has been a perennial management goal long before Bud Selig became commissioner in 1998. Players, however, would like keep things the way they are. Since 1976, the last season before free agency, the average salary has jumped from \$51,500 to \$2.38 million, a 46-fold increase.

Selig said it has reached the point where only the richest teams can compete. He thinks revenue-sharing — taking from the biggest clubs and giving to the smaller ones, like his family-owned Milwaukee Brewers — is the only way to restore competitive balance.

"The system is so, in my judgment, badly flawed, it's going to take a myriad of

solutions," Selig said earlier this month.

One owner who sticks up for big-market clubs is George Steinbrenner, whose New York Yankees' payroll is \$135 million. He doesn't think they should have to subsidize smaller teams.

Steinbrenner also thinks profit-sharing should be used to raise payrolls, not help teams rack up profits. But he's not certain how much his opinion counts these days.

"Bud Selig and I have been friends for a long time. I'm not sure how much he relies on me anymore," Steinbrenner said in an interview published Sunday in The New York Times. "I don't know. He kind of has his allies, and most of them are small-market guys."

There seemed to be some progress in negotiations the past week, with players ending their decades-old opposition to mandatory drug testing and agreeing to be tested for illegal steroids starting next year.

Players also are amenable to increasing the amount of local revenue teams share. But they oppose the luxury tax, which could force high-spending clubs to trim tens of millions of dollars from payrolls.

"We don't consider players to be a luxury," union head Donald Fehr said.

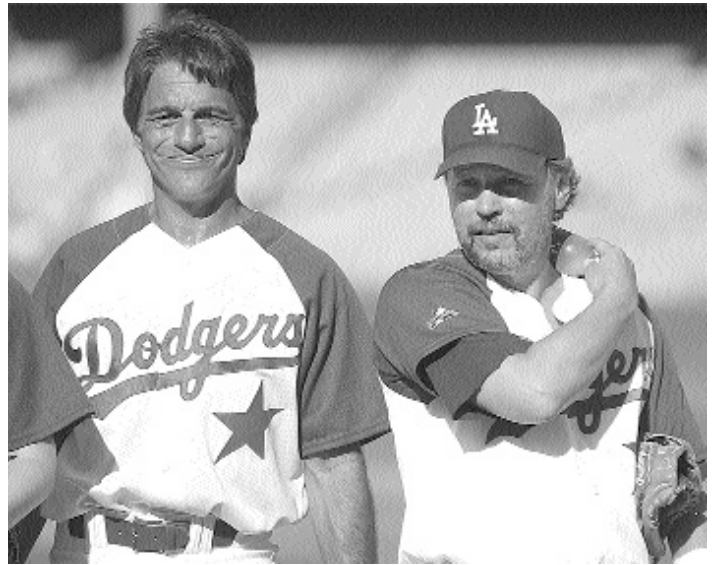
The union doesn't want to leave itself open to a lockout, which would delay a confrontation until next spring, when owners have less money at stake. That's why a strike date probably will be set.

"The simple fact that we haven't set a date yet shows how much we understand it will affect the game and the fans," New York Yankees reliever Mike Stanton said. "But we don't want the fact that we haven't set a date to be seen as some sign of weakness. We'll do what we have to do."

Arizona pitcher Brian Anderson said part of the reason to set a strike date is to spur negotiations.

"It's like anything else in life — you talk about getting your car washed, and

Hollywood hits the field



E.J. Flynn/Associated Press

Actor Tony Danza, left, stands next to actor Billy Crystal, who uses a water bottle to stay cool while waiting to be introduced before the celebrity baseball game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Saturday.

you procrastinate and procrastinate all week long," he said. "We all do it. But all of a sudden, if your car has to be in a car show on Saturday, you go get it washed, because there's a deadline, and that is the purpose of setting a strike date."

Monday's meeting in Chicago takes place on the anniversary of the 232-day strike in 1994 that led to the cancellation of the World Series for the first time since 1904.

But a big difference this time is that both sides have had dozens of bargaining sessions in recent weeks and have narrowed their differences. Nine years ago, when owners demanded a fixed ceiling on salaries known as a cap, the first substantive talks didn't take place until three months after the walkout.

"There's good reason to be optimistic at this point," said former pitcher David Cone, a key member of the players' negotiating team during the last walkout. "The framework's there for an agreement,

unlike last time."

The last strike wiped out the final 52 days and 669 games of the regular season and forced cancellation of the first 23 days and 252 games of the following season. It ended only after a federal judge issued an injunction restoring the terms of the former labor contract, ruling owners had illegally changed work rules.

Baseball, buoyed by the opening of 13 new major league ballparks since 1990, has boomed. Revenue nearly doubled since the last strike, from \$1.87 billion in 1993 to \$3.55 billion last year.

But Selig says the 30 teams combined for \$232 million in operating losses last year, figures questioned by some in Congress and even by New York Mets co-owner Nelson Doubleday, who claimed in court papers that Selig and his aides have conspired to create "phantom losses."

Upset in women's division at Manhattan Beach Open

By The Associated Press

MANHATTAN BEACH — After taking a season off to give birth to their first children, Annett Davis and Jenny Johnson Jordan returned to the winner's circle here Saturday defeating top-seeded Holly McPeak and Elaine Youngs in the women's AVP 2002 Michelob Light Manhattan Beach Open crown.

Playing only a domestic schedule this season, the second-seeded Davis, of Tarzana, Calif., and Johnson Jordan, of Tarzana, Calif., scored a 21-13, 21-23 and 15-9 win in 59 minutes over McPeak and Youngs.

The upset ended a four-event, 25-match winning streak for McPeak, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., and Youngs, of Durango, Colo., the No. 2-ranked team on the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour with three Gold Medal finishes this season.

Davis and Johnson split the \$20,000 first-place prize, winning their first pro beach title since 2000. McPeak and Youngs were sharing \$14,000 for second place.

Meanwhile, the men's competition was down to six tandems in contention for the Manhattan Beach crown.

The defending Manhattan Beach men's champions — third-seeded Stein Metzger, of Honolulu, and Kevin Wong, of Pearl City, Hi. — dropped an elimination match to 20th-seeded Jake Elliott, of Isle of Palms, S.C., and Brian Soldano, of Isle of Palms, S.C., scoring 21-19, 15-21 and 15-13 in 66 minutes to place 17th.

The \$175,000 event will be televised by Sunday from 4-6 p.m. on NBC. It will be the first of two national broadcasts for the 2002 AVP Tour.

The men's final Sunday will be aired "live" while the women's title match from Saturday was taped and will be aired following the men's championship match.

Davis and Johnson Jordan earned a trip to the title match by defeating sixth-seeded Nancy Mason, of Hermosa Beach, Calif., and Rachel Wacholder, of El Segundo, Calif., in 16-21, 21-15 and 15-10.

Third-seeded Carrie Busch, of Hermosa Beach, Calif., and Leanne Schuster, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., scored 21-18 and 21-9. Davis and Johnson Jordan, who finished fifth at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, had placed third in the first three AVP Tour events this season.

Priestley crashes during practice



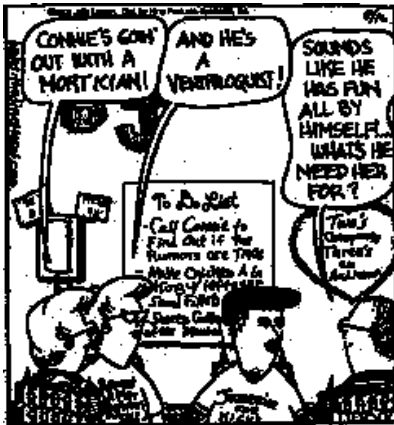
Garry Jones/Associated Press

The car of driver Jason Priestley shows front end damage as it is brought back to the garage area after Priestley crashed the Infinity Pro Series car during a practice session for the Kentucky 100, Sunday, at the Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky. IRL officials describe his injuries as serious. Priestley, a former star of the "Beverly Hills 90210" television series, was flown by helicopter to the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington.

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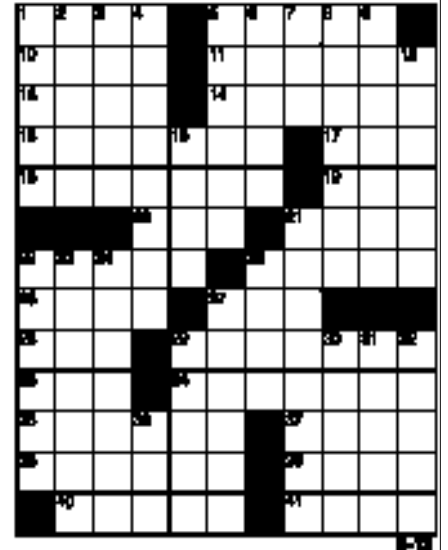
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 5 Police uphold it
 6 Arrest
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 8 Agitate
 9 Land measure
 12 Sluggard
 18 Sign of things to come
 23 Camera positions
 23 Infirmary
 24 Set
 25 Heals
 27 Covered with gold



Saturday's answer

21 "How Will the Wolf Survive?" band
 22 Camera positions
 23 Infirmary
 24 Set
 25 Heals
 27 Covered with gold
 28 Corn
 29 Singer Cam
 31 Door-matting comedy
 32 Computer key
 38 Honolulu souvenir

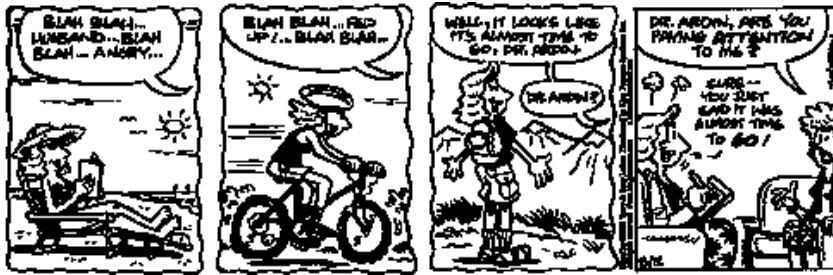


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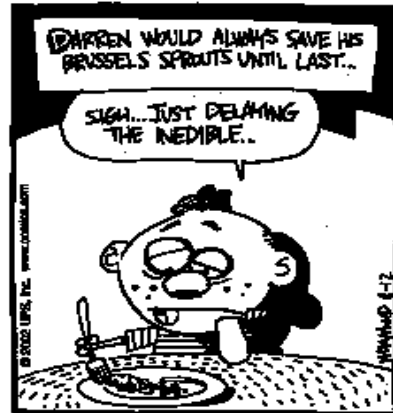
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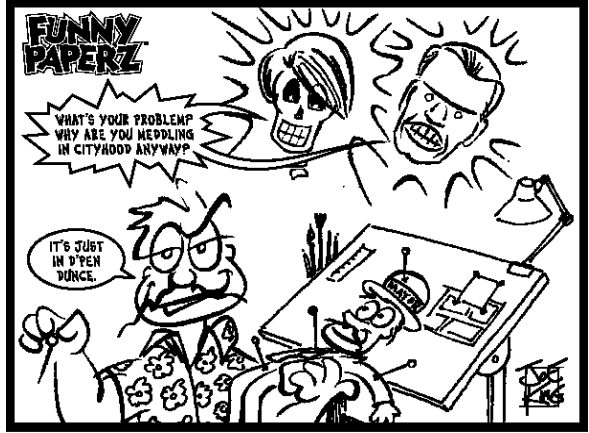
Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Female abuse approved in Punjab village

In July, for the second time in a month, a village council in Punjab province approved an abuse of females that had to be stopped by the Pakistan government. Tribal law allows a convict to be pardoned if the victim's family accepts cash compensation, but the council pardoned condemned murderers who agreed to send cash and their eight teenage daughters for marriage to elderly relatives of their victims. Two weddings had already taken place by the time the police halted the deal.





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BACK PAGE

Japanese drop out in droves from new ID system

BY YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO — Ever since their computerized ID system switched on a few days ago, Japanese citizens have dropped out in droves from what many resent as a "big brother" monitoring of the people.

The dozens of protest groups that have popped up are planning a rally Monday at which demonstrators will show their outrage by ripping up the papers being sent out by the government to assign every citizen an 11-digit number.

"To start with, giving a number to people is a violation of our individual human rights," said Eiji Yoshimura, one of the protesters. "We have absolutely nothing to gain from this system."

Several local governments have refused to participate in the system, which began last Monday. Yokohama, a Tokyo suburb of 3.4 million people, is giving its residents a choice of hooking up or not.

The government is assigning each of Japan's 126 million citizens an ID number that will link into a nationwide computer system. The idea is to streamline Japan's cumbersome bureaucracy by making it easy to obtain basic personal information during administrative procedures.

Critics worry about loss of privacy, and some fear government officials will misuse the information.

The disenchantment some Japanese express toward the registry underlines a deep, although often hidden, distrust of government that is surprisingly common in a nation known for orderly, conformist behavior.

"I don't especially enjoy being called by a number. It feels like a prisoner," said Yasuyoshi Ban, a 60-year-old truck driver.

One worry is the computer system will be vulnerable to computer hackers. An even bigger fear is the potential for abuse by someone inside the government using the stored personal information for improper ends, such as harassing dissidents. Some people worry about criminals stealing identities.

Eventually, the new "Juki Net" will give bureaucrats

access to information now contained in unconnected computer systems, such as the family registry, social security file and residence record.

"I don't especially enjoy being called by a number. It feels like a prisoner."

— YASUYOSHI BAN
Truck driver

The national government, which has made electronic governance part of its policy, spent years preparing Juki Net, which is shorthand for "residents' network" in Japanese.

For now, only a person's name, address, gender and date of birth are stored under their ID number. Next

August, people will receive a card embedded with a computer chip, allowing instant identification.

Supporters promise the card will make it easier in the future to get passports and social security benefits.

So far, there is only one tiny benefit — it allows people to obtain proof of residence papers from any government office in the country. Such documents, which are essential for such matters as opening bank accounts, now can be picked up only at a person's neighborhood office.

Juki Net, which costs \$157 million a year to run, has been hit with glitches in the early going.

The city of Naha on Okinawa had problems getting the system started for two days. Twins and other people with the same birthday in a single household got wiped off the records in the central city of Daito. In Sanda, 23 people with foreign spouses received papers showing them married to random Japanese residents.

Central government officials shrugged that off as growing pains.

Domino's pizza delivery may charge \$1

BY MARY SELL
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — There's no such thing as a free lunch — and the same may soon hold true for pizza delivery.

Domino's Pizza, which grew into a giant in the industry on its promise of fast, free delivery, is now testing a \$1 delivery charge in 350 of its 4,800 outlets and will decide by the end of the year whether to implement the charge nationwide.

Spokeswoman Holly Ryan said the rising price of cheese and the cost of making and delivering pizza left Domino's with a choice: Add a delivery fee, raise pizza prices across the board, skimp on ingredients or fire employees.

Domino's chose the fee, and it isn't alone. Pizza Hut, which tested delivery fees a couple years ago, now

charges 50 cents for every pizza delivery. The Dallas-based pizza chain has 8,000 outlets in the United States.

One-hundred Domino's restaurants across the country started charging for home delivery in November. The fee was implemented at an additional 250 stores in February.

"It's still a very small number," Ryan said Saturday.

She said customers so far have shown little reaction to the change. At the end of the year, the company will go over the response and impact and then decide whether to take the charge nationwide.

Domino's, based in Ann Arbor, recently reported second-quarter earnings of \$41.6 million, an increase of 13.9 percent over the same period last year. The privately held pizza maker had sales of \$904.3 million for the period ended June 16, a 6 percent increase over the year-ago period.

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