

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Police recommend \$4.2M red light camera system

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

A watchful eye may soon guard over some of Santa Monica's most dangerous intersections.

Officials hope cameras will catch those trying to "beat the light," which is said to cause the most traffic accidents in Los Angeles County.

The Santa Monica Police Department is recommending the City Council tonight approve a red light camera system, similar to those found in many surrounding west-side communities, that would initially cost taxpayers \$4.2 million.

But city officials believe they can more than recoup the costs of installing the system from the resulting citations. City officials are estimating that over five years, the red light system will result in \$57,300 more than it will cost to operate and install.

Under a five-year agreement, Redflex Traffic Systems would lease the equipment and maintain cameras at the city's six most troubled intersections — but only SMPD officers would decide which incidents deserve a citation.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A photo like this one could some day land in your mailbox accompanied by a ticket demanding \$250. The city is considering installing cameras at intersections to bust motorists, like these pictured, who run red lights.

Those caught running a red light on film would receive a \$250 fine, two points added to their driver's license — which typically results in higher insurance costs — and attend traffic school. A picture of the driver running the light would be sent

in the mail, along with the citation.

Photos would be collected daily from the cameras by Redflex and sent to SMPD's computer database where its traffic enforcement officers would pour over the pictures and decide which incidences are legitimate cases of motorists trying to get out of the intersection and those of when someone actually ran a red light.

"We would make all the decisions about whether the citation is enforceable," said SMPD Capt. Jacqueline Seabrooks. "We would make all of the enforcement decisions; that would not be done by the vendor."

The cameras have been widely criticized as being "money-makers" for the cities that use them, as well as invading the privacy of bystanders.

However, many officials whose municipalities use the red light cameras disagree. They say the cameras change the way motorists act and result in fewer traffic accidents.

"Overall there has been a dramatic decrease (in collisions)," said Joyce

See CAMERAS, page 6

Drawn-out Teasers' dispute reaches the finish line

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

After more than a year and a half of litigation, Teasers' restaurant owners and their former landlords recently settled the last of their disputes in Santa Monica Small Claims Court.

Tony Palermo and Dan Ringwood, Teasers' owners, were awarded last week \$5,000 of the \$7,500 security deposit being withheld by their former landlords.

Landlords Ernest Kaplan and Bob Gindy argued they shouldn't have to refund the security deposit because they had to pay to dispose of Teasers' old kitchen and bar equipment. At issue was the restaurant's 60-foot-long bar, which was anchored to the brick wall and the concrete floor, a walk-in freezer in the kitchen and another smaller bar in a back room.

"We've been suing each other back and forth for over a year and a half now. And not once was there a discussion about these ... fixtures."

— TONY PALERMO
Teasers' owner

Palermo said a settlement agreement prevented the landlords from seeking further damages and withholding the security deposit.

"We're released from any and all damages and claims," he said. "It's all written down in an agreement signed months after we vacated the building."

Palermo and Ringwood said the old equipment were permanent fixtures and therefore became the property of the landlords when they left the building.

"All the fixtures are 17 years old," Palermo said. "They were installed when we first moved into the space."

"Nothing that we left was moveable pieces of equip-

ment," he added. "What was left could have damaged the building if we had tried to remove it."

However, Kaplan and Gindy said much of the remaining items could easily have been removed by the owners and the expense should fall on their shoulders.

"Clearly some of those things could have been removed," Kaplan said. "They have interpreted things all along as they chose to and not by the letter of the contract."

See TEASERS, page 7

Jury duty is a burden for all to share

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Reporting to jury duty may be one of the most dreaded obligations of being an American.

In the Los Angeles Superior Court System, some people were exempt from ever having to serve because of their professions.

That's changed.

Judges, lawyers, firefighters, as well as other public safety and justice system professionals now share the burden of serving on juries.

"Those professions were granted excuses immediately," said LA Superior Court spokesman Kyle Christopherson. "It wasn't absolutely necessary for them to serve then. Now it is."

Up until a year ago, people who fell into certain professional categories were able to skirt out of jury duty. But the LA Superior Court System decided to level the playing field by mandating that nearly all residents serve on juries, regardless of what they do for a living.

A new system, called "1 trial" allows potential jurors to be "on call" for five days and report only to the courthouse if they are needed.

The old system required jurors to sit for days in the courthouse waiting to get selected. Often times they'd be turned away during the "voir dire" process when attorneys pick and choose the juries before the start of a trial.

Before the new system, court officials felt the public was better served

if certain professionals — particularly emergency personnel and judges — remained on the job instead of serving on a jury.

"It's not like we have pinch hitters," said Superior Court Judge Alan Haber, the supervising judge who oversees six courthouses and 46 judges on the westside.

However, the new system requires more people to be on call, which places more pressure on the entire population to fill jury slots. And because many people try to get out of jury duty, the LA Superior Court system has cracked down and won't except excuses like financial hardship anymore.

And to make the system even

See JURY DUTY, page 5

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★★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Others come to you, though you might be quite sour about an idea. Unexpected developments involving a friend and a long-time relationship delight and surprise. Curb a tendency to overindulge in your present celebratory mood. Tonight: Fulfill another's request.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Dig into work. A boss makes an unusual request that might be difficult to fulfill. Should you feel intimidated or overwhelmed, ask for some support or help. Paperwork and calls start piling up. Prioritize and find solutions. Tonight: Go along with already-established plans.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your mind drifts, delighting others with your imaginative plans. Look around. You might have a not-so-secret admirer. What would you like to happen here? Dig into work, and you'll accomplish a lot. You will make a key decision through concentrating on something else. Tonight: Happy at home.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Stirring out of your home might take an extra push. Think of something very special you might like to do. By energizing yourself in this manner, you cheer up and soar like an eagle. Later in the day, tap into your imagination, and you'll find answers. Tonight: Now for an adventure.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Express your innate sense of direction, despite someone's negativity. You've got what it takes. Allow others to have more influence on your decisions. You cannot be certain that you have thought out all details completely. Tonight: Happy at home.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ The pros and cons of a money matter finally get aired out. You'll find solutions if you just let go of a need to control or have things your way. Realize more of what might be needed. Make a gesture toward someone who might feel isolated. Tonight: Haunt your favorite spot.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Others will agree, even if you might have difficulty converting one person to your way of thinking. Your enormous charisma and creativity swing personal and professional matters to your favor. Deal with someone quite possessive. Tonight: Treat yourself to a new outfit.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Step back, and others will reveal their true colors. How something goes and what happens could change your mind about a particular development. Flow with the unexpected. Express your personality. Beam in more of what you desire in the afternoon. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Let others understand your goals and directions. Use the a.m. to move a sometimes-conservative associate to your way of thinking. Close your door later on, if you want to get something done. Your gregarious personality aches to socialize. Tonight: Just for you.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Check out information. You discover that there might even be a thread of truth in some gossip. When you're ready to take a stand, do so. You discover that others easily differ. Follow the path to success. A meeting turns into a celebration. Tonight: You are the action.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Take a hint from Capricorn's message. The likelihood of understanding what motivates someone at a distance might be close to nil if you don't walk in his or her shoes. Others respond to your enthusiasm and energy. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Be honest with yourself. If a partnership has become cumbersome, say so. Not everyone is in agreement with your ideas, but on a certain plane, a partner needs to be. Consider ways of clearing out a problem rather than avoiding the inevitable. Tonight: Choose an entertaining pastime.

QUOTE of the DAY

"If you become a star, you don't change, everybody else does."

— Kirk Douglas

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LOCAL



Stars turn out for Venice Arts



Jim Hubbard/Special to the Daily Press

Actress Ellen Burstyn and Venice artist Michael Linarte, 11, look at photos taken by Burstyn in South Africa. Linarte, as well as other artists, were on hand at Bergamot Station in Santa Monica this past weekend for a photographic art exhibit. It was part of a fundraiser for Venice Arts and Nkosi' Haven, a South African-based charity that provides care and education to HIV/AIDS afflicted mothers and children. There was a live auction featuring photographs taken by actress Alyssa Milano in the summer of 2000 while she was there shooting a film. Venice Arts raised money from the photographs several of their youth had taken while attending the United Nations World Conference Against Racism last year. The weekend's event, which drew more than 1,000 people, raised tens of thousands of dollars.

Senate OKs smoking ban within 25 feet of playground

By staff and wire reports

SACRAMENTO — A bill prohibiting smoking within 25 feet of a children's playground was approved Monday by the state Senate.

Current law bars smoking or disposing of smoking material in a playground or tot sandbox area. The bill by Assemblyman Juan Vargas, D-San Diego, would extend that prohibition to cover an area within 25 feet of the facility. Violations could result in \$250 fines.

Sen. Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, said the bill would protect children from being exposed to second hand smoke.

A 22-14 vote returned the bill to the Assembly for consideration of Senate amendments.

The City of Santa Monica is currently considering banning smoking from all public parks.



We have some surf in Malibu. Peaking southwest swell should look better today than Monday, forecasts calling for chest-high sets on the regular. Sunset and Surfrider will go off at low tide while Zuma gets better on the high side. Surfers may see some head high plus sets occasionally.

Plenty of leftover waves Wednesday, but expect surf to become less consistent as the day wears on.

South Bay breaks look smaller, without the glassy conditions of the north.

"C" advisories at Leo Carrillo, Paradise Cove and the Santa Monica Canyon storm drain, so steer clear.

Water temperature averages 68 degrees throughout the bay.



Today's Tides:

High-	1:01 a.m.	4.76'
Low-	7:23 a.m.	0.78'
High-	1:57 p.m.	5.20'
Low-	8:28 p.m.	1.42'

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

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.

DID YOU KNOW?:

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them "mind their own pints and quarts and settle down." It's where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's."

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OPINION

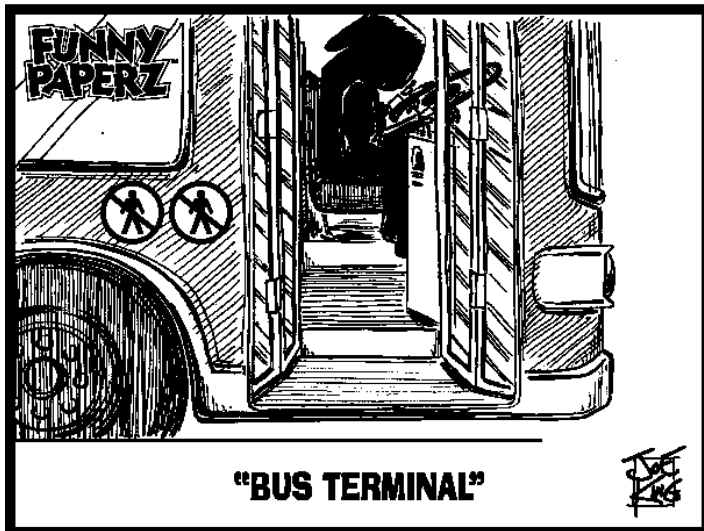
LETTERS

Tell us when bus drivers act up

Editor:

I'm writing in regards to the Q-Line question replies. There seems to be some misconceptions of how transit is operated in Los Angeles County. This includes both Santa Monica and MTA buses. First to introduce myself, I am a member of MTA Accessibility Advisory Committee and second vice chair. Some of the issues we deal with are driver discourtesy, like a driver not picking up wheelchair passengers (that was one of the comments made on the Q-Line). If this happens we advise the passenger to call the MTA disabled emergency hotline at 1-800-621-7828 where someone from MTA will assist them (usually by calling the next bus and or sending out a supervisor to check.) Now for the issue of operators using cell phones — this is against MTA policy and we want people to call customer relations and report them. They can help by having the line number and coach number (that's the four-digit number seen on the outside of the bus. And of course, during the day you can call customer relations at 1-800-COMMUTE and/or e-mail them at customerrelations@mta.net.

Mark Panitz
Mar Vista



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Hotel worker union wants its cake and eat it, too

(Editor's note: This is one of a series of weekly columns editorializing on the hotly contested living wage ordinance. The city council passed an ordinance last July requiring businesses in the coastal zone that generate more than \$5 million in annual revenue to pay their employees \$12.25 an hour. Those businesses and their supporters have asked for the ordinance to be rescinded, which is before voters this November.)

The Daily Press has asked organizers of Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism, which supports the living wage, to provide a counter-point opinion to balance out the debate, but no one has accepted the offer to date. Other supporters of the living wage measure have not come forward to express their opposing viewpoints, which the Daily Press welcomes.)

Two weeks ago in this column, I demonstrated that wages at the non-union Casa del Mar Hotel exceed those required by the city's Minimum Wage Ordinance as well as those paid at the unionized Viceroy Hotel where employees have the dubious honor of paying union dues and receiving lower wages.

The purpose of that column was to debunk the ordinance supporters' argument that the law was needed in order to force the "luxury beach hotels" to pay

fair wages.

The comparison illustrates another facet of the law — the exemption from its requirements for unionized businesses. If the ordinance were effective today, as originally planned, the Viceroy would be required to substantially increase wages for almost all job classifications, particularly tipped employees, were it not for the collective bargaining contract with Local 814 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.

Why should the law exempt unionized businesses if not to encourage them to allow union representation by reducing their wage requirements?

Like any business, Local 814 desires to expand its operations in order to become more profitable and influential. Over the past few years, it has been in the middle of organizing activities at the Fairmont Miramar, the Viceroy, Loews and the Doubletree with, at best, mixed success. By supporting a law that appeared to force hotel wages up to unsustainable levels and including an exemption in that law for collective bargaining agreements, Local 814 and its political puppets may have logically believed they had a tool to force hotel

owners to acquiesce in union representation. However, high wages at the beach hotels appears to have forced these folks to resort to Plan B — the inclusion of tipped workers.

From the beginning of the local effort to pass the Minimum Wage Ordinance, advocates of the law have recognized the problem with covering tipped workers — the fact that most of them make substantial incomes from tips even while being paid minimum wage, or close to it, by their employers.

In fact, this is the model on which restaurant economics is built. Even the economic study prepared for the city assumed that workers receiving at least one-half of their income from tips would be excluded.

When it became clear that the only employees at the luxury hotels not being paid at a level consistent with the law were tipped workers, the only way in which the union could obtain economic leverage over the hotels was to include those workers despite their overall income levels. (Indeed, one of the beach hotels calculated that if the law were in effect, 90 percent of the increased wages would go to employees already making \$50,000 annually.) Without including

these workers, the law would have had virtually no impact on the beach hotels even though they constitute Local 814's prime targets.

So let's review the bidding:

1. Local 814 conducts organizing campaign at one of the luxury beach hotels, so far unsuccessfully.

2. Local 814 supports a law doubling the minimum wage for these hotels (and certain other employers) but exempting unionized businesses.

3. Ordinance supporters recognize tipped workers as special class and city economic study assumes that workers earning at least one-half of their income from tips would be excluded from the law.

4. Wage levels at luxury beach hotels discovered to be already consistent with requirements of the ordinance except for tipped employees.

5. Final ordinance supported by Local 814 includes all tipped workers, denies the employer any credit whatsoever for tips received by these employees, and retains the union exemption.

So let's return to the original question — why should the law exempt unionized businesses if not to encourage them to allow union representation by reducing their wage requirements?

As a teenager might say, "Duh."

(Tom Larmore is a Santa Monica resident and a property rights attorney.)

Guest Commentary

By Tom Larmore

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

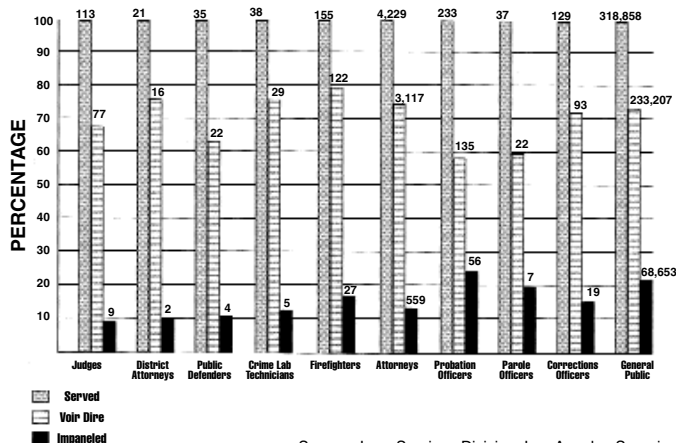
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LOCAL



JURY SERVICE BY SELECTED OCCUPATIONS — JUNE 1, 2001 - MAY 30, 2002



Source: Juror Services Division, Los Angeles Superior Court

Of the nine professions that used to be exempt from jury duty, the Los Angeles Superior Court System has increased those professionals' involvement in the courtroom by requiring them to serve.

LA Superior Court levels playing field with jury duty

JURY DUTY, from page 1

more fair, court officials decided that judges, lawyers and other judicial professionals should also serve.

"In the old days you would never serve on juries," said Hal Light, president of the Santa Monica Bar Association, who recently was summoned to serve.

Haber has a summons sitting on his desk to show up for jury duty, an obligation he is more than willing to fulfill.

He added if there is one type of professional that should serve on juries, it is attorneys since they contribute a significant portion of the burden on the already taxed court system — especially in Los Angeles County, one of the most litigious counties in the country.

In the past year, the Los Angeles Superior Court has recorded nearly 5,000 people serving on juries that are judges, deputy district attorneys, deputy public defenders, crime laboratory technicians, firefighters, probation officers, parole officers and correction officers.

Court officials report that 113 judges and 4,229 attorneys had reported for jury duty last year.

"This analysis underscores the reality that we are approaching true equity in jury service in Los Angeles County and that is notable," said James A. Bascue, Los Angeles County's presiding judge. "We have reached a point when citizens from all walks of life report for jury service and sit on juries."

Police officers and sheriff's deputies are not included because they are still exempt from having to serve.

When citizens report to a courthouse for jury service, they enter a pool of potential jurors that may be dispatched to a courtroom for possible placement on a jury. Once in the courtroom, the judge and lawyers on both sides observe and question the potential jurors during a process called "voir dire," a French term meaning "to see and to speak."

If a juror questioned during the process is found acceptable for jury service by the judge and all participating lawyers, the person is sworn in as a jury member. On the other hand, the prosecuting and defense lawyers, or the judge, can disqualify and excuse jurors for many reasons, including a concern that they may not be impartial.

Because judges and attorneys often know one another, judges are highly likely to be disqualified during "voir dire." Attorneys, assistant district attorneys and deputy public defenders also may be presumed to have a potential bias, especially in criminal cases.

"This analysis underscores the reality that we are approaching true equity in jury service in Los Angeles County and that is notable."

— JAMES A. BASCUE

Los Angeles County's presiding judge

"Often in the past, certain professionals were routinely excused from jury service or it was wrongly presumed that they would never be accepted as unbiased jurors in a criminal or civil case," Judge Bascue said. "We now know that this assumption was a myth. Members of the public — appropriately — saw the routine excusals from jury duty of judges, lawyers, prison guards and others in the justice system as preferential treatment.

"It fanned resentment," he continued. "It was an inequity and we moved to eliminate it."

An average of 69 percent of the members of the nine examined professions were sent to "voir dire" and an average of 14 percent were actually sworn in as jurors. Of the 73 percent of the general public that were sent to "voir dire," 22 percent actually served as jurors.

"It is true that judges, deputy DAs and deputy public defenders are far less likely to be seated on juries than the general public," said Judge Robert A. Dukes, assistant judge of the superior court. "But that's expected because they are so familiar with the courts and are likely to be well known to attorneys involved in the case."

"Still, it is highly significant that members of these professions serve on juries," he said. "Having nine judges and 13 percent of all attorneys actually seated on juries is testimony to the inherent equity in our jury system. We will continue to strive for a system in which everyone, and that means everyone, serves on jury duty."

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LOCAL

Cameras result in less accidents, officials say

CAMERAS, from page 1

Rooney, a transportation engineer for the City of West Hollywood. "It changes people's behaviors. We started with six intersections and now we have eight, and at all of them we have witnessed a decrease in accidents."

Rooney said the red light cameras resulted in such a high reduction of people running lights that it took West Hollywood longer than officials predicted to break even on paying for its system with citations.

"It's hard to make it pay for itself," she said. "Because of the high cost of the equipment and maintenance ... it took us almost a year longer than we thought to break even."

Seabrooks said the red light system is not meant to be a money-making proposition for the city.

"This is about traffic safety," she said. "No more, no less."

Officials also dismiss claims of "Big

Brother" invading residents' privacy because the cameras are only activated when a vehicle crosses a sensor in an intersection with a red traffic light.

"People are worried about the technology because they think it's a foot in the door for something more which could be problematic," said Lt. Dean Williams, who runs Culver City's red light camera program. "But you do not have the right to violate the law and photos are only taken of violations; not of on-going activity at the intersection."

The SMPD has created a list of 20 of the city's most accident-prone intersections where they propose the city begin installing the cameras. Though the list has not been released, Seabrooks said many of the intersections are on Lincoln Boulevard, near the freeway, as well as on Wilshire Boulevard and Colorado Boulevard.

"We've done a lot of homework," Seabrooks said. "It's been two years since council gave us the initial approval to look into a red light system."



CrimeWatch

Woman robbed in parking structure

By Daily Press staff

■ An armed man robbed a woman of her purse in a Santa Monica parking structure on Wednesday, July 31.

The woman walking alone at 11:43 p.m. in the structure on the 1400 block of Fourth Street heard a man approaching from behind. She turned to face him. He asked what level her car was parked and moved closer to her. The woman ran, but he grabbed her purse and snapped the strap. She turned and saw he was holding an object she believed was a weapon.

The man fled with the purse, and the woman ran to her car and called police.

The suspect is described as a white or Latino man, 20 years old, 5' 7" tall, with a medium build and wearing a dark shirt and dark pants.

The loss was estimated at \$95 for the purse and contents. The woman's wallet fell from the purse during the struggle. It was recovered.

■ A man attempted to rob a woman of 25 cents on Monday, July 29.

The victim was inside a store on the 3000 block of Main Street when a man entered and demanded 25 cents. As the victim talked to the suspect, she dialed 911. The man pretended he was holding weapon while she was on the phone with police. The suspect ran from the store.

The suspect is described as a white male, 38 to 42 years old, 5' 11" tall with a medium build and wearing a black baseball cap and a green, long-sleeved Army shirt. He appeared to be a transient.

■ Santa Monica Police captured Larry Anthony Casali after he shoplifted and threatened store employees with a knife on Monday, July 29.

An employee in a store on the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade watched Casali enter at 10:30 p.m. and wander the store for 20 minutes before ducking into a changing room with a sweatshirt. Casali left the dressing room wearing the sweatshirt under his jacket. He tried to exit, and was confronted by store employees who asked him to remove his jacket.

Casali told the employees he would cut them if they tried remove his jacket. He left the store.

Employees called Santa Monica Police, and minutes later they detained Casali on Santa Monica Boulevard where witnesses identified him as the suspect.

Casali is a 22-year-old white man and appears to be a transient.

The sweatshirt, valued at \$101.90 was recovered.

■ Santa Monica Police arrested George Salem for threatening a woman with scissors on Monday, July 29.

At 9:39 a.m. a woman approached the intersection of Fourth Street and Wilshire Boulevard and noticed Salem talking to himself. As she walked past, Salem lunged at the woman and swiped at her with the scissors.

The woman called police and reported she didn't know if Salem was trying to scare her or hurt her.

Salem was arrested and booked for displaying a weapon in a rude and threatening manner. His bail was set at \$1,000, and the scissors were taken into custody.

TEASERS, from page 1

When the restaurant shut down, its owners were paying \$18,000 in rent. When their lease expired, the building's landlords wanted market rate, which would have increased the rent to \$57,000

"We've been suing each other back and forth for over a year and a half now," Palermo said. "And not once was there a discussion about these ... fixtures."

By The Associated Press

Huntington Beach Councilwoman Connie Boardman has proposed an ordi-

"This is not a finished deal, as far as the FAA is concerned," FAA spokesman Jerry Snyder said of the Honolulu case. "We are going to pursue this. We still believe the authority to control the airspace is federal."

By The Associated Press

The focus on outdoor water waste is a slight shift from the tactics used during

"We'd save enough water to supply a medium-sized city like San Diego," he said.

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NATIONAL

Measure requires labels on genetically engineered foods

BY BRAD CAIN
Associated Press Writer

SALEM, Ore. — The food industry is mounting a major effort to scuttle the first attempt by a state to require labels on genetically engineered foods.

A measure that will be on the November ballot in Oregon would require labeling of all modified food and food additives sold in stores and restaurants, and any such food produced in the state.

"If this ballot measure passes, it would set a dangerous precedent that would result in significant costs to taxpayers and consumers," said Gene Grabowski of the Alliance for Better Foods, based in Washington. The national coalition of food producers and retailers, biotech companies and agricultural groups has hired a Portland consulting firm to put together what promises to be a multimillion-dollar campaign.

They are pitted against activists who worry that genetic engineering could cause unintended or harmful side effects.

"We could be creating something we can't control," said Donna Harris, a chief sponsor of the measure. "They haven't done any human testing of this in the United States."

Labeling requirements already exist in Japan and parts of Europe, but there are none in the United States so far. Oregon has broken new ground before, including its unique laws allowing doctor-assisted suicides and statewide voting by mail.

Based on the overall amount of genetically modified crops, industry and environmental groups estimate that 70 percent of processed foods on U.S. supermarket shelves contains some genetically engineered components.

The main crops that come from genetically altered seeds are soybeans and corn, along with canola that is turned into oil,

according to the Agriculture Department.

Products made from modified soybeans include bread, candy, cereal, chocolates, crackers, flour, frozen yogurt, ice cream, infant formula, margarine and pasta, according to the Seattle-based Campaign to Label Genetically Engineered Foods.

Proponents say genetic engineering can boost the nutritional content of food or allow farmers to grow more pest-resistant crops that require less chemical treatment.

Grabowski, the food industry spokesman, also said there is already plenty of government regulation of food quality and that fear of harm by genetically modified foods is unfounded.

"It's in all kinds of food, and there's never been a single case of illness or any other problem," he said.

Backers of the labeling measure say too little is known about the long-term health effects of genetically engineered foods.

The group has been leading a national effort to get Congress to pass a federal labeling requirement, but has made little headway. Winters said passage of the Oregon measure would send a strong message to Washington.

All sides agree that requiring labels would be expensive.

"The food manufacturers themselves often don't know if the ingredients they are using have been genetically modified," said Mike Rodemeyer, executive director of the nonpartisan Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology.

Such companies would have to track down that information, he said, "but the question is, who pays for the cost of doing those things?"

Rodemeyer said various polls and opinion surveys he's seen make it clear that most Americans support the labeling requirement.

Judge awards \$1.47 million to Dugway whistleblower

BY DEBBIE HUMMEL
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — A judge has ruled that Dugway Proving Ground should pay more than \$1.47 million in damages to a former employee who reported safety problems at the chemical-biological warfare research facility.

David W. Hall filed a whistleblower case against the Army in February 1997, four months before he retired out of what he says was fear of being fired.

Hall joined Dugway in 1986 to work in the facility's chemical laboratory. Dugway, an 800,000-acre military testing facility in the desert 60 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, researches defensive measures, detection and decontamination equipment and cleanup methods for chemical weapons.

Almost immediately after he was hired at Dugway, Hall began raising concerns about environmental and worker safety, the ruling states.

Among them:

■ Dugway was storing waste too close together, creating a potential fire or explosive hazard.

■ The toxic and hazardous chemicals were dumped down the Dugway Chemical Laboratory drain.

■ Chemical warfare gas masks at the depot were defective.

■ Two areas at Dugway were contaminated with chemicals.

Hall claims that one Dugway commander called him a "traitor" for revealing problems to officials outside the military. Dugway also required him to undergo additional background checks, suspended his security clearance, attempted to lower his employee performance marks and ordered him to undergo mental-health examinations.

Labor Department Administrative Law Judge David Di Nardi's Thursday ruling describes Hall as "a dedicated, conscientious and highly motivated public citizen."

"I find ... that (Dugway) has clearly, continuously and illegally discriminated against (Hall) through harassment, disciplinary procedures and outright threats," Di Nardi wrote in his decision.

Di Nardi's decision is a recommendation to the secretary of labor, who will make the final decision.

Depot officials were disappointed in the ruling and will appeal to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, said Dugway spokeswoman Paula Nicholson.

But Hall's attorney, Mick Harrison, said the award sends a message to employers not to retaliate against employees who raise environmental and safety concerns.

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NATIONAL

US Airways files for bankruptcy; first since 9-11

BY MATTHEW BARAKAT
AP Business Writer

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — US Airways, the first major airline to declare bankruptcy since last year's terrorist hijackings, won permission from a federal judge on Monday to continue operating temporarily while it tries to reorganize its finances.

The nation's seventh-largest carrier said flights would continue normally, and it expressed optimism that it will emerge from bankruptcy early next year. But airline stocks fell at the news, particularly those of United Airlines.

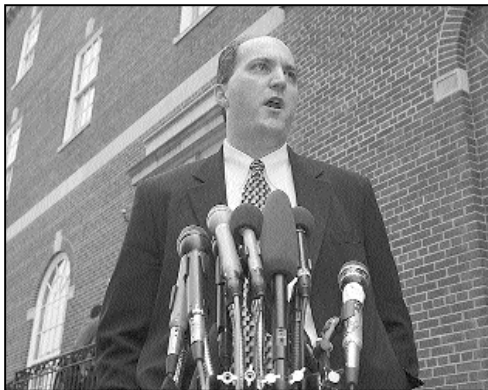
US Airways filed its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition Sunday, and appeared in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Alexandria on Monday to discuss the filing.

In addition to permission to continue operations, the airline sought an Aug. 30 deadline to negotiate wage and benefits concessions from unions representing more than half its work force.

The company is seeking \$290 million in givebacks. If representatives of its machinists and communications workers unions do not reach an agreement by then, the airline will ask the court to invalidate those labor agreements.

Pilots, flight attendants and transportation workers have already agreed to concessions that will yield \$550 million in annual savings.

In its Chapter 11 filing, the company listed assets of \$7.81 billion and liabilities of \$7.83 billion and said its cash



Rick Bowmer/Associated Press

Chris Chiames, US Airways' vice president for Corporate Affairs, talks to members of the media before heading back into the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Alexandria, Va., Monday, after lunch recess. A federal judge gave US Airways approval Monday to continue operations temporarily while it tries to reorganize its finances under bankruptcy protection.

flow was relatively stable. But Chris Chiames, US Airways' vice president for corporate affairs, said that would not last with the peak summer travel season about to end.

"You do not want to enter bankruptcy in a poor cash position," Chiames said at a brief news conference.

US Airways shares did not immediately open for trading by midday Monday. Among other airline stocks, UAL Corp., the parent of United, dropped 15.8 percent, down 82 cents to \$4.38, by early afternoon on the New York Stock Exchange while AMR, the parent of American, was down 95 cents to \$8.64.

Delta fell 51 cents to \$14.09, and Northwest declined 65 cents to \$8.06. Continental fell 81 cents to \$8.31, and Southwest declined 37 cents to \$12.89.

US Airways had been struggling well before Sept. 11. In July 2001, the airline suffered a blow when federal regulators balked at a proposed purchase by United Airlines that would have given US Airways investors \$60 a share.

After the attacks, no airline was harmed financially more than US Airways. The Arlington-based carrier is the largest airline at Reagan Washington National Airport, which remained closed for weeks after the attacks.

In addition, Chiames said, the airline suffered disproportionately when many travelers opted to drive or take the train instead of making short-haul flights up and down the East Coast — US Airways' strength.

"Clearly US Airways was impacted more than any other carrier after Sept. 11," Chiames said.

Last month, the federal government agreed to guarantee \$900 million of a \$1 billion loan package the airline had hoped would allow them to stave off bankruptcy. But US Airways executives had always warned that bankruptcy was a possibility even if they obtained the federal loan guarantee.

Chiames said the bankruptcy will not affect the company's long-term restructuring plan, which calls for cutting costs by \$1.2 billion a year.

The company also said it expects to generate an additional \$200 million a year through a recently announced "code-share" agreement with United that allows the two airlines to sell tickets on each other's flights. The partnership combines US Airways' strength on the East Coast with United's strength on east-west routes.

United has lost more than \$850 million this year, and the Chicago-based carrier retained a bankruptcy lawyer shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. United Airlines is also seeking \$1.8 billion in government guarantees.

The commercial aviation industry has lost a combined \$1.4 billion this year.

US Airways has had the industry's highest labor costs, but they have been cut back significantly through a series of deals with its labor unions. US Airways has been trying to get \$950 million in annual savings from its employees.

Bankruptcy fears heighten at United

BY DAVE CARPENTER
AP Business Writer

CHICAGO — The stocks of major airlines fell sharply Monday and there was growing concern that United Airlines, the nation's second-largest carrier, could follow US Airways into bankruptcy.

Shares of United parent UAL Corp., which have already had lost more than half their value since the start of July, sank another 27 percent to close at \$3.80 on the New York Stock Exchange. They traded at \$35 a year ago.

United has more than \$2 billion in cash reserves, more aircraft than US Airways and a superior route system. But high costs, daily losses exceeding \$1 million and lingering fallout from the Sept. 11 attacks threaten the same fate for United as its smaller rival if its recovery plan doesn't take off soon.

Without significant changes, analysts said, United could file for bankruptcy by the end of the year. Like US Airways, the majority employee-owned airline would likely continue to operate while reorganizing its operations.

United's labor costs are among the industry's highest and the carrier wants to roll back some of the hefty raises it negotiated recently.

"The way things are going, particularly with the unions, I think United is decidedly on the way toward Chapter 11," said veteran industry observer David Field, Americas editor for Airline Business magazine.

United officials have declined to discuss the prospects of a Chapter 11 filing. But interim CEO Jack Creighton told United employees Sunday that the government appears likely to reject the company's application for a

\$1.8 billion loan guarantee, which it considers key to its ability to compete in a struggling market.

United's pilots have agreed to conditional wage cuts as part of the financial recovery plan, but mechanics and flight attendants have not. The airline says the agreements are crucial to cutting costs.

Even the loan guarantee would not ensure that United can avoid bankruptcy, not after losing a record \$2.1 billion last year and another \$851 million during the first six months of 2002.

US Airways received a \$900 million loan guarantee and weeks later became the third airline since Sept. 11 to seek protection in bankruptcy court, following Vanguard Airlines and Midway Airlines.

Shares in AMR Corp., parent of American Airlines, fell Monday, as did stock in Delta Air Lines, Continental and Northwest.

Industry consultant Michael Boyd said United's strengths ensure its survival but it needs to quickly find a strong replacement for Creighton, who turns 70 next month and wants to step down.

"United Airlines is kind of Mark Twain with wings — rumors of their demise have been greatly exaggerated," said Boyd, president of the Boyd Group in Evergreen, Colo. "They've got good people and a good route system. What the rank and file really want is someone who can motivate them, someone who can come in and really shake the place up."

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NATIONAL



Ed Betz/Associated Press

George O'Grady, a Federal Aviation Administration employee, right, demonstrates an air traffic control screen following a news conference at an FAA facility in Westbury, N.Y., Monday. FAA controllers held news conferences in Boston, New York and Washington Monday, giving chronological accounts of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and how they forced an unprecedented shutdown of the U.S. skies.

Air traffic controllers offer detailed chronology of 9-11

BY STEVE LEBLANC

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — Regional air traffic controllers on Monday offered a detailed chronology of Sept. 11, when two planes were hijacked from Boston, but refused to say more about what actually happened on the planes.

American Flight 11 took off without incident at 8 a.m., and after it reached 11,000 feet was monitored by the Federal Aviation Administration's Boston Center, in Nashua, N.H., one of 20 FAA facilities nationally that monitor long-distance flights. United Flight 175 left 14 minutes later.

At first, there was no sign of anything out of the ordinary, as the American pilot acknowledged he had clearance to take the plane to 29,000 feet.

But then, when given permission to climb to 35,000 feet, communications fell silent, and the "blip" on the radar screen that was Flight 11 went blank, because someone on the plane turned off the transponder that sends out signals to controllers.

"We considered it at that time to be a possible hijacking," air traffic manager

Glenn Michael recalled.

FAA controllers held news conferences in Boston, New York and Washington on Monday, giving chronological accounts of the terrorist attacks and how they forced an unprecedented shutdown of the U.S. skies.

Representatives from Boston and the Boston Center in Nashua spoke at Logan Airport. They refused to answer questions about what happened on board — such as how the terrorists got control — citing the ongoing investigation.

They said there was nothing unusual about United Flight 175 while it was in this region's air space.

In fact, controllers in Nashua asked the pilot on Flight 175 if he could see Flight 11. He confirmed Flight 11 was still in the air, at about 29,000 feet.

Soon after, both flights were out of air space controlled by Nashua — and were crashed into the World Trade Center twin towers.

After the first crash, flights from the Boston area to New York were grounded. After the second, all air traffic from Boston was halted.

Good night's sleep may prove crucial in mastering new skills

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Get a good night's sleep after piano practice: It may prove crucial to learning new skills such as ticking the ivories.

Scientists have long known that adequate sleep is important for forming different types of memories. People can do better on a test with proper rest than by pulling an all-nighter, for example.

Learning motor skills involves a different part of the brain, and often a lot more practice, than memorizing facts. Is sleep important for that, too? Very, German scientists report.

Scientists at the University of Lubeck taught healthy young students different finger-tapping sequences, and then either let them sleep or kept them awake for eight hours. When they were re-tested, the rested students performed the tapping sequence

35 percent faster and made 30 percent fewer errors than the sleepy students.

It wasn't that the sleepy students were too tired to physically perform: The difference persisted a day later after both groups got a full night's sleep.

That suggests sleep is important for the brain to properly store the memories of the training "only within a critical time frame," the scientists report in Tuesday's edition of the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The latest study echoes Harvard Medical School research, reported in the journal *Neuron* last month. Those scientists taught groups of people a sequence of keys to type on a keyboard, and found those taught in the evening and re-tested after a good night's sleep did far better than those taught in the morning and tested 12 hours later before they went to sleep.

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INTERNATIONAL



Iraqi minister says weapons inspections no longer needed

BY SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A senior Iraqi official said Monday there is no need for U.N. weapons inspectors to return to Baghdad and branded as a “lie” allegations that Saddam Hussein still has weapons of mass destruction.

In response to the comments by the Iraqi information minister, the U.S. State Department said Baghdad was refusing to give a straight answer on resuming inspections after nearly four years.

“They refuse to face up to their obligations and obfuscate and look for ways to move the goal posts when it’s a simple situation,” spokesman Philip Reeker said.

“The issue is not inspections but verified disarmament,” he said. “Iraq needs to disarm.”

Iraq’s information minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, said President Bush was lying about the country’s alleged weapons programs to drum up support for his Iraq policy, which calls for Saddam’s ouster as a threat to the Mideast.

Bush “knows that he is standing in quicksand when it comes to his baseless talk on Iraq,” al-Sahhaf told the Arabic satellite television Al-Jazeera.

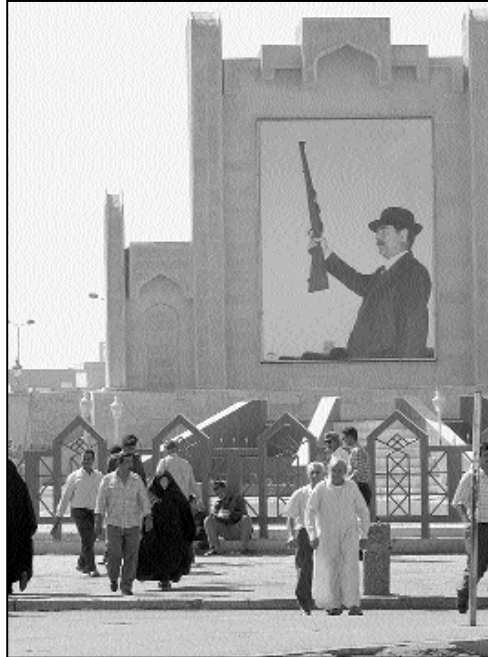
Al-Sahhaf also said Iraqi opposition leaders who met with key American officials in Washington last week were “bats ... and a bad American product.” He called American courting of the opposition figures “a stupid game that reflects their (U.S.) bankruptcy.”

His remarks came as many countries — including some U.S. allies — have expressed opposition to the possibility of U.S. military action against Iraq and as Baghdad has opened a campaign portraying itself as the victim of false U.S. propaganda.

Al-Sahhaf said the U.N. work concerning alleged Iraqi weapons programs was completed. “They claim something remains. This talk can be responded to and disproved,” al-Sahhaf said in the interview — conducted in Iraq and monitored in Cairo.

“This is a lie. This is an American stance,” he said of Washington’s insistence Iraq still possesses or seeks to build chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

“Inspections have finished in Iraq,” he declared.



Jassim Mohammed/Associated Press

People walk in front of a large portrait of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein holding a rifle in downtown Baghdad Monday. Iraqi efforts to convince the world it is a victim of false U.S. claims and allegations have risen in recent days along with the speculation Washington soon will wage war to oust Hussein.

A report by the U.N. inspection agency issued in January 1999 — a month after inspectors were withdrawn — mentioned priority issues that Iraq had not satisfactorily resolved. Those included its development of VX, a deadly chemical weapons nerve agent; its missile

production capabilities; and many remaining question marks about its biological weapons program.

Despite intense discussions within the Bush administration about preparation for a possible invasion of Iraq, the president said Saturday that he had no “imminent war plan” but that Saddam remains “an enemy until proven otherwise.”

It was not clear from al-Sahhaf’s remarks whether Iraq was shutting the inspectors out for good. Baghdad has been sending mixed signals on whether it will act on its recent invitation to U.N. chief weapons inspector Hans Blix to meetings in Iraq to determine how to resolve outstanding disarmament issues.

The inspectors’ return is a key demand of the U.N. Security Council, and especially of the United States.

In New York, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said there would be no comment on al-Sahhaf’s remarks. He said Secretary-General Kofi Annan had sent an Aug. 6 letter to Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri “and we’re still awaiting an official reply to that letter.”

Annan’s letter told Iraq it must accept the Security Council roadmap for the return of weapons inspectors. Sabri’s Aug. 1 invitation to Blix outlined a proposal for talks that was at odds with the council’s blueprint.

Later Monday, Sabri told reporters at Saddam International Airport that Baghdad was preparing a reply to Annan’s letter. He commented after greeting a top PLO official, Farouk Kaddoumi, who arrived in Iraq for talks.

Under U.N. Security Council resolutions, sanctions imposed after Iraq’s 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which led to the Gulf War, cannot be lifted until U.N. inspectors certify Iraq’s biological, chemical and nuclear weapons have been destroyed along with the long-range missiles to deliver them. U.N. weapons inspectors left Iraq in December 1998 in advance of U.S. and British airstrikes, and Baghdad has barred them from returning.

Baghdad has been insisting the Security Council reply to 19 political and technical questions it posed in March. Annan said last week that Iraq has not shown any flexibility.

Annan and Security Council members insist that Iraq follow a 1999 council resolution requiring inspectors to visit Iraq and then determine within 60 days what arms questions Iraq still must answer.

Colombia declares ‘state of commotion,’ aims to increase army

BY JUAN PABLO TORO

Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA, Colombia — President Alvaro Uribe declared a “state of internal commotion” in Colombia early Monday, authorizing the government to take special measures amid a spate of rebel attacks that has killed dozens since his inauguration last week.

The decree, which falls short of a state of siege, was made after Uribe called an emergency Cabinet meeting late Sunday. It allows the government to increase the number of security forces and increase

taxes to pay for it.

“We all have to be aware that a regime characterized by terror means extreme instability in Colombia,” said Fernando Londoño, interior and justice minister, who announced the decree just after midnight. “For this reason, the government has decided to declare a state of internal commotion.”

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, is blamed for killing 19 Colombians in a mortar attack on downtown Bogota last Wednesday as Uribe was being inaugurated. Colombia’s largest guerrilla group is also being held responsible for numerous bomb attacks

leading up to and after the inauguration.

The declaration invokes a provision in the constitution that allows the government to take special measures when there is a threat to “institutional stability, state security or citizen well-being.”

The emergency decree can be applied for 90 days, then reactivated for two more periods of 90 days, the second of which must be authorized by Congress.

Steps will be taken immediately to increase the size of the army and police force, said Defense Minister Martha Lucia Ramirez. About 10,000 more police officers will be hired, and two army brigades of

3,000 soldiers each will be added, she said.

Uribe also plans to create a million-strong civilian force of “supporters” to help inform police and the army of rebel and paramilitary activity.

These plans will be financed by a new tax, said Finance Minister Roberto Junguito. There are no plans to emit war bonds, for now, he said.

Uribe has emphasized the need for stricter laws to face the crisis in Colombia, ravaged by a 38-year civil war that pits rebels against the government and illegal paramilitaries.

Korean officials upbeat after first day of reconciliation talks

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — Resuming high-level talks after a nine-month hiatus, South and North Korean negotiators on Monday discussed sports exchanges, the reopening of a cross-border railway and more reunions of family members who were separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korea proposed the initiatives, spokesman Lee Bong-jo said, and there were no details on North Korea’s response. But representatives of both sides said significant progress was made in their efforts to revive the reconciliation process on their divided peninsula.

“If we join forces, there is no mountain or river we cannot cross,” Kim Ryong Song, the chief North Korean negotiator and a Cabinet counselor, said at a banquet following a 70-minute meeting at a Seoul hotel.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Philip Reeker said the United States thinks the resumption of dialogue between the two Koreas is a “positive develop-

ment and we certainly hope that it indicates a new attitude on the part of North Korea. Inter-Korean dialogue is the key to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.”

In the meeting, the South Korean side said it emphasized the need to implement agreements made before the reconciliation process stalled rather than trying to make new promises. A flurry of agreements were reached when reconciliation was first launched after a historic North-South summit in 2000, but they ground to a halt amid U.S.-North Korean tension last year.

The resumption of talks is a boost for South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who has been trying in his last months in office to revive his so-called “sunshine” policy of engaging North Korea. By law, Kim cannot run again, and his successor will be elected in December.

“Both South and North Korea do not have much time,” said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korean affairs professor at Dongguk University in Seoul.

“There is a presidential election in the South, and North Korea is at a point where it desperately needs outside aid to rebuild its economy,” Koh said. “Both sides

have no choice but to hold practical talks, rather than get into disputes.”

In another sign that North Korea is softening its stance toward its neighbors, the North’s state-run media said it hoped for success at Red Cross and Foreign Ministry talks with Japan this month.

“It is the consistent stand of (North Korea) to make the dialogue and negotiations effective and productive so as to solve all the problems,” said KCNA, the North’s news agency. It cited an editorial by Rodong Sinmun, the main state newspaper.

Japan and North Korea do not have diplomatic relations, and previous efforts to negotiate have ended in failure, partly in disagreement over the North’s demand for reparations for Japanese colonial rule over the Korean peninsula in the early 20th century.

The North’s communist government also appears to be moving toward a resumption of dialogue with the South’s chief ally, the United States. During a recent Asian regional security forum, North Korea agreed to accept a visit by a special U.S. envoy.



SPORTS

Ball players fail to set strike date; agreement expected

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Baseball players backed off setting a strike date Monday, saying they were hopeful recent progress in bargaining talks could lead to an agreement by the end of the week.

"We feel like there's a window of opportunity to get something done in the next several days and we're willing to explore that," Atlanta's Tom Glavine said following a 3 1/2-hour meeting of the union's executive board.

Glavine, a senior member of the board, said players were prepared to give the negotiating process "every chance to succeed." Talks were to continue Tuesday in New York, and the board scheduled a telephone conference call Friday to review developments.

"There has been progress on a number of issues over the last several days," union head Donald Fehr said. "It would be very nice if that progress continued and we reached a deal in short order. That's the goal."

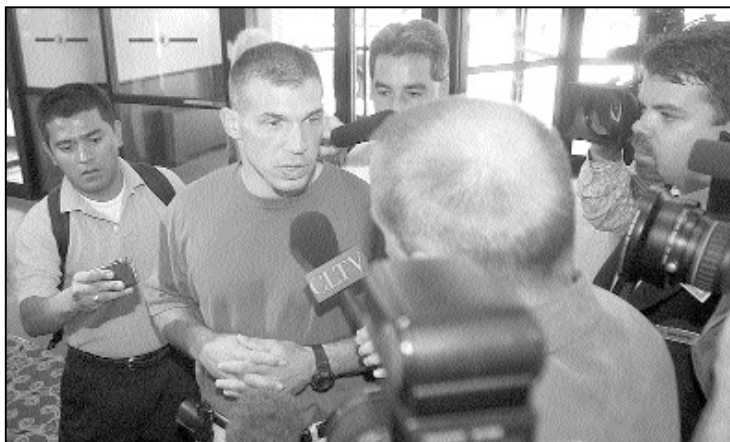
By delaying setting a deadline, the union increases pressure on the owners without the threat of an imminent walkout.

"You establish a date when you believe it is essential to reach an agreement, bearing in mind that a strike is the last thing the players want. And we are not at that point yet," Fehr said.

Rob Manfred, the owners' top labor lawyer, called the decision "a positive step."

"We look forward to getting back to the bargaining table, and hope we can reach a negotiated agreement without any need for the interruption of the season," he said. "Both parties feel pressure to reach an agreement because of the enormity of the harm that would be caused by a strike."

A strike date seemed inevitable once the executive board scheduled a meeting.



Stephen J. Carrera/Associated Press
Joe Girardi, center, of the Chicago Cubs, talks with reporters as he arrives for the baseball players' union meeting, Monday, in Chicago. On the anniversary of the start of the 1994-95 strike, the executive board of the baseball players' union was likely to set a date for a walkout that could end this season prematurely.

Making it seem even more ominous was that exactly eight years ago, baseball ground to a halt on this date, laid low by labor issues that eventually cost fans 921 games and a World Series. The 1994 strike lasted 232 days and was the longest stoppage in the history of U.S. major sports.

Eighteen teams were off Monday, and about 50 players attended the meeting, with more listening in on a telephone conference call. Fehr said players didn't want to have a public confrontation so close to the anniversary of last year's terrorist attacks.

"Sure it's a factor," he said. "Players understand Sept. 11. Half were on road when it hit."

Both sides pointed out how they had moved closer to an agreement since the talks began in January.

Last week, they agreed on a \$100,000

raise in the minimum salary to \$300,000 and to mandatory random testing for steroids. But they are still apart on the key issues of increased revenue sharing among the 30 teams and management's desire for a luxury tax on high-payroll clubs.

"I think both parties have shown flexibility in an attempt to get to a common ground with respect to those core economic issues," Manfred said.

Fehr spoke with commissioner Bud Selig before the meeting, but declined to reveal details of the conversation. "We talked about the overall situation in bargaining, the hopes we had as to what might transpire in the next few days," Fehr said.

At ballparks, players were relieved a deadline had been put off.

"Everybody is a winner if we can get through this thing without setting a strike

date," Colorado's Larry Walker said.

"If they come to the table and give us what we're looking for, there won't be a strike," Chicago Cubs star Sammy Sosa said.

In Crawford, Texas, White House deputy press secretary Scott McClellan said a strike "would be a terrible thing to have happen." President Bush, the former owner of the Texas Rangers, has "not been involved in any way," McClellan said.

"But it is clear," he added, "that a strike would be unfortunate and terrible for baseball fans across America, and the president is an avid baseball fan."

The luxury tax appears to be the most difficult issue, with Fehr describing it "as a big hurdle." While there was a luxury tax in place in 1997, 1998 and 1999, owners viewed it as largely ineffective. The key to finding a deal may be finding a tax level that can satisfy management's desire to restrain salaries while not slowing them so much that players would strike over the issue.

Owners made a new luxury tax proposal Sunday but Manfred declined to discuss it. He said that session "kind of got things back on track a little bit."

"It is possible to get an agreement in the very near future," Manfred said, without giving a specific time period.

Finding a way to slow salaries has been a perennial management goal, but players would like to 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.

Baseball has had eight work stoppages in since 1972. Players don't want to finish the season without a contract, which expired Nov. 6, fearful owners will lock them out or change works rules. The union's preference has been to control the timing of a confrontation, preferring late in the season, when more money is at stake for owners.

Priestley expected to fully recover following crash

BY STEVE BAILEY
Associated Press Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Actor Jason Priestley faces weeks of healing and rehabilitation but is expected to fully recover from head and spinal injuries sustained in a high-speed crash during practice for an auto race.

Less than 24 hours after his car slammed into the Kentucky Speedway wall at about 180 mph, the former "Beverly Hills, 90210" television heartthrob was alert, moving his arms and legs and communicating with doctors and visitors.

"He is becoming more and more aware of his surroundings," Dr. Stephan Stapczynski, chairman of the University of Kentucky Hospital's Department of Emergency Medicine, said during a news conference Monday.

The 32-year-old Priestley crashed during practice Sunday for a race in the Infiniti Pro Series, a developmental circuit for the Indy Racing League.

He was flown to UK Hospital with a spinal fracture and a moderate concussion, as well as a broken nose, facial lacerations and broken bones in both feet. He remained in seri-

ous but stable condition Monday.

"He does not have any injury that shouldn't fully recover," said Dr. Andrew Bernard, a UK Hospital trauma surgeon.

"(Jason Priestley) is becoming more and more aware of his surroundings."

— DR. STEPHAN STAPCZYNSKI
University of Kentucky Hospital

Priestley was transferred to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis late Monday afternoon. He had made previous arrangements to be transferred to the facility, which has treated several other Indy Racing League drivers, in the event he was involved in a serious accident.

"His condition has improved and stabilized to the

point where a transfer can be made safely," Stapczynski said in a statement.

Priestley may not need spinal surgery if his fractured ninth thoracic vertebra is stable, but probably will need surgery to repair the bones in his feet.

UK Hospital spokeswoman Mary Margaret Colliver said that since Priestley arrived Sunday morning, the hospital has been deluged with phone calls, cards, flowers, faxes and prayers from concerned fans. "The response has been unbelievable," she said.

Priestley, a native of British Columbia, starred as Brandon Walsh in the Fox network's "Beverly Hills, 90210," which ran from 1990 to 2000.

Priestley began auto racing in 1991 in the California Rally Series and won his first race at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in 1998. He is considered to be a knowledgeable and talented driver.

The crash occurred as Priestley roared out of the second turn in the final practice, apparently after driving through a patch of absorbent material that had been spread on part of the track about 10 minutes earlier to soak up oil from another car.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



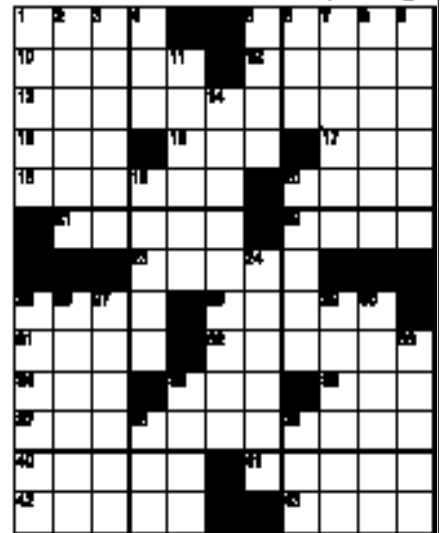
CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Some maze runners
 - 3 China weave
 - 10 Dole on
 - 12 Skater
 - 13 P.G. Wodehouse book
 - 15 George Lucas fix
 - 16 Make a knot
 - 17 Farm animal
 - 18 Dream out
 - 20 Toy with a tail
 - 21 Onset
 - 22 Priority
 - 23 Take care of
 - 24 Debt reminder
 - 25 Bolshoi
 - 31 High hike
 - 32 Wan
 - 33 stridently loud
 - 34 Had breakfast
 - 35 Paris agreement
 - 36 "Believer"
 - 37 P.G. Wodehouse book
- DOWN**
- 1 Dwight's wife
 - 2 Pastoral poem
 - 3 Pledge
 - 4 Historic time
 - 5 Quaker's pronoun
 - 6 Minute
 - 7 Without success
 - 8 Decade
 - 9 Diminish
 - 40 Model's asset
 - 41 Happening
 - 42 Baseball card info
 - 43 Yale player



Yesterday's answer

- 11 Whole
- 14 1940s
- 16 Flings
- 20 Plains
- 24 Popular
- 25 Manila
- 26 envelope
- 27 Portuguese place
- 28 Nonsense
- 30 Aden
- 33 Pub
- 34 Register
- 35 Believer's
- 36 Time for planning



5-13

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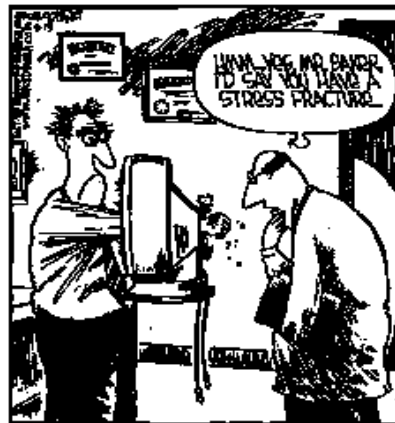
by TERRY & PATTY LEBAN



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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Rap lyrics used against artist in trial

- Prosecutors in Pottstown, Pa., said in May that they thought that some of rap singer Karim Ali Howard's lyrics might be used against him in his upcoming trial for cocaine trafficking. (A sample: "I'm going to sell coke until you call me pope, do dirt until the lord tries to stop me, it's gonna take hundreds of bullets just to drop me.")
- In June, Russell Adam Pelletier, 24, was convicted of murder in Louisa, Va., despite arguing that a supposed confession captured by undercover wire was just freestyle verse by Pelletier, who admits he writes misogynistic and violent rap music.

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movies

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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, *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, *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.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Men in Black II (PG-13) 4:20, 10:15, *The Bourne Identity* (PG-13) 12:55, 7:25, *Signs* (PG-13) 12:10, 1:00, 2:45, 4:00, 5:20, 7:00, 7:55, 9:45, 10:30, *The Master of Disguise* (PG) 12:20, 2:25, 4:45, 7:20, 9:30, *Reign of Fire* (PG-13) 4:10, 10:05, *Road to Perdition* (R) 12:45, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50, *K-11: The Widowmaker* (PG-13) 12:30, 7:15, *Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams* (PG) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

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.

Aero Theater
1328 Montana Ave.
Who is Cletis Tout? (R) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

Today Community

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

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

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

Music / Entertainment

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.

Wednesday Community

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

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

Classes

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

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

Music/ Entertainment

Cara Rosellini hosts The Gaslite's Comic Review, followed by open-mic comedy karaoke, at The Gaslite, 2030 Wilshire Blvd. 7:30 p.m. FREE! (310)829-2382.

Poetry N Go Club, 8 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

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.

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Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE

Presidential yacht 'Sequoia' now mostly history

BY LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Franklin Roosevelt installed a hand-operated elevator. Lyndon Johnson had it converted into a bar. Winston Churchill found the deck chairs uncomfortable. John F. Kennedy celebrated his last birthday in the salon.

After 77 years afloat, the yacht Sequoia has stories to tell, even though it hasn't been a presidential cruiser since Jimmy Carter sold it in 1977 as an unwanted symbol of the imperial presidency.

According to legend, the fish deck of the Sequoia, an isolated perch at the stern of the boat, was one of the few places in Washington where Richard Nixon felt comfortable.

Nixon cruised on the Sequoia 88 times during his presidency, discussed Vietnam policy with Henry Kissinger there, negotiated a Cold War arms agreement with Leonid Brezhnev on its top deck and, as Watergate grew to gigantic proportions, decided he must resign his presidency.

There is a story, says Gary Silversmith, the current private owner of the Sequoia, that on one of his last visits, when a steward poured his customary second scotch, Nixon unexpectedly, and for the first time, asked him to leave the bottle.

"If the president wants you to leave the bottle, you leave the bottle," the captain reportedly responded when the steward reported what had happened.

Silversmith, 46, a lawyer and collector of presidential memorabilia, bought Sequoia for a reported \$1.9 million. He has berthed the boat on the Washington waterfront and charters it for \$10,000 a cruise. He says the yacht has been used for political fund-raisers for both Republican and Democratic candidates and has proved popular

enough that it has paid its own expenses.

On a recent tour the Sequoia was flooded with sunlight, its teak and mahogany cabins hung with framed photographs of presidents and their guests, its wheelhouse fitted with a brass plaque listing the Navy officers who served as skipper from 1933 to 1977.

**"Being on the Sequoia was like
bobbing along in a glass bottle."**

— JULIE NIXON
Richard Nixon's daughter

Silversmith says the vessel, a designated national historic site, is almost certainly the most important piece of presidential history in private hands.

Built in 1925, the 104-foot, 150-ton Sequoia has a presidential suite, captain's quarters and two guest cabins. President Kennedy had a slot built into the transom above the door to his quarters so he could receive official papers while preserving his privacy. According to Silversmith, it was taken out of naval service to avoid the rule of no alcohol aboard a Navy ship.

There's some irony there because the Sequoia first saw government service as part of the effort to enforce prohibition.

The yacht was recruited for presidential service by Herbert Hoover, who played medicine ball on its top deck and used it for a Florida vacation. A photograph of the yacht is the centerpiece of his 1932 White House

Christmas card.

A reproduction of the card hangs in the yacht's salon with this inscription: "Some public opinion felt that Hoover's promotion of the Sequoia was an indication of his inability to grasp the suffering caused by the depression."

That didn't cause Franklin Roosevelt, Hoover's successor, to use the boat any less. There are photographs of FDR happily catching a fish on the Fish Deck.

Roosevelt and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower discussed plans for D-Day on the Sequoia.

Harry Truman is said to have pondered his decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan while in seclusion on the Sequoia. Years later, President Ford used the yacht to entertain Emperor Hirohito.

Truman installed a piano that both he and Nixon played. Truman also used the boat to play poker with friends. There's a Sequoia legend that during one tense game he slammed the 20-foot dining table, leaving a scar.

FDR, who used a wheelchair because of polio, had a hand-operated elevator installed so he could more easily move from his cabin to the main deck. Silversmith said that made Sequoia about the first handicapped-accessible boat in U.S. waters.

Johnson converted Roosevelt's elevator into a service bar and had the shower in the presidential stateroom lowered to better fit his tall frame.

Nixon embarked his family on Sequoia to tell them of his decision to resign the presidency, but the trip was not the quiet time he had hoped for.

Photographers lined the bridges along the Potomac River, peering down as the boat passed beneath.

"We were the subject of a death watch," daughter Julie said later. "Being on the Sequoia was like bobbing along in a glass bottle."

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**What do Shaq and Lenny
Krayzelberg have in common?**

as quoted in USA Today



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