

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

5, 31, 24, 28, 22

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 1, 3, 3

Evening picks: 5, 8, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 07, Eureka

Race Time: 1:43.69



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

According to Norway's Newspaper VG (which is currently running a series on odd summer jobs), teenager Svein Tore Hauge's job may take the prize: Armed with a shovel and a container, he works at Saerheim Plant Research, following cattle around and catching their excreta before it can hit the ground. Because the work-product is used for scientific study, it must be "pristine," free of grass, dirt, foreign bacteria, etc. Sometimes, it's easy, he said, but, "Sometimes it just sprays in all directions."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"These are days when it takes all you've got just to keep up with the losers."

— Robert Orben



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Smile tonight, Aries 2



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John Wood/Daily Press

Big Blue Bus driver Michael Burton, the longest-serving city employee, will retire in December after nearly four decades.

Bus driver found his true calling in life

Kindness, smile gained him many friends during 36 years behind wheel

BY PATRICK KINMARTIN
Special to the Daily Press

When Michael Burton stood at the front of a Big Blue Bus for the first time, his mind began to race.

"I felt like I was like looking down the edge of a cliff — it was like the darn thing never ended," he said, recalling the day he began training as a driver. "It was humongous, and I was about to drive it ... All I remember thinking was, 'What am I getting myself into here?'"

Little did Burton know he was beginning what would become a

highly fulfilling career. Burton has driven a Big Blue Bus around Santa Monica ever since that day in 1967. His 36 years on the job make him the longest employed city worker.

Burton, 63, was honored by the City of Santa Monica during the Big Blue Bus' 75th anniversary commemoration last March. At the ceremony, he was given a clock with a Big Blue Bus on it as a symbol of the city's gratitude for the time he has put in.

"You don't think about it until people remind you, and then it just hits you in the face," Burton said. "I can't believe it when I sit and think about it. I could have never envisioned 36 years."

But what's more impressive

See BURTON, page 9

Organization's finances released to some members

Legal complaint requesting documents ignored by board chair

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A neighborhood community organization's finances that were kept secret for more than two years apparently have been released to some of its board members.

However, the one person who legally requested bank statements from the Ocean Park Community Organization hasn't received them, despite having filed a complaint in Los Angeles Superior Court nearly a year ago. In that complaint, OPCO member Tom Fuller demanded the release of financial records for 2000 and 2001.

The complaint, filed last September, has gone unanswered

by OPCO chairman Rick Laudati. The organization missed its deadline last fall to respond in court to the complaint. The inaction put OPCO in technical default, thus preventing the organization from defending itself.

"I have a right to see them and I asked for them."

— TOM FULLER
OPCO member

Because of legal technicalities, Fuller and his attorney, Gary Clouse, were asked by Superior Court Judge Allan J. Goodman to amend the complaint. The court required that Laudati be served

See FINANCES, page 8

SM beaches are better, but still among state's dirtiest

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica Bay beaches are among the dirtiest in the state, according to a report released this week by a national environmental group.

However, the report also said water quality in 2002 improved over 2001 and 2000, largely because of drier weather.

Beaches in Los Angeles County were either closed or slapped with advisories for a total of 913 days in 2002, making them the second dirtiest in California, directly behind those in Orange County, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council's 13th annual report on water quality.

Ninety-two percent of beach closures and advisories in 2002 were caused by high levels of bacteria stemming from "undetermined sources," according to the report, which attributed 7 percent to rain

and 1 percent to sewage discharge.

Santa Monica Beach was either closed or hit with a warning 59 times in 2002, while Will Rogers State Beach was targeted 34 times, according to the report. To the

See BEACHES, page 9

Heal the Bay's 'Beach Report Card' this week:

Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave.	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St.	A
Santa Monica Beach at Pico Blvd.	C
Santa Monica Beach at Arizona Ave.	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave.	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon	A+

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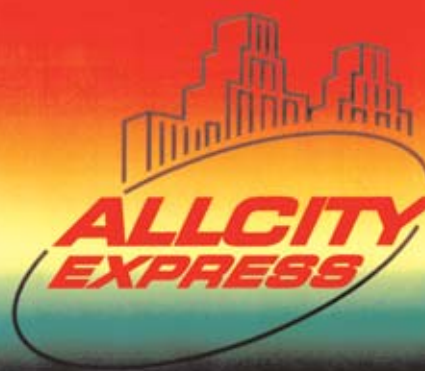
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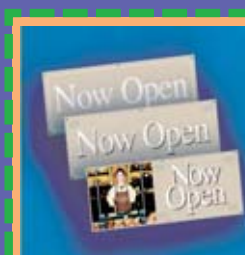
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2003

You might feel a bit out of sorts this year. Learn to get past negativity, and instead drum up your detachment. Learn to examine your possibilities without putting in any of your intuitive energy. You could find that a friend who has a different and perhaps more creative view is instrumental in your decisions. Travel and education could play significant roles in your year. If you are single, a trip might be key to meeting someone quite different and unique. This person could be a foreigner, as well. Learn to understand your different styles. If you are attached, your relationship will open new doors, if you're willing to get off your position and understand where someone else is coming from. ARIES charges you with energy.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Use your energy, optimism and intellect to zero in on what you want. You could easily make mistakes or make a wrong choice. Let your personality melt others' resistances. You'll gain as a result. Know that anything is possible. Tonight: Grin your way into the night.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Take your time making decisions. Someone might push very hard to have you see his or her perspective. You might not want to agree, but on the other hand, you will look at what is presented. Take your time, and don't feel like you must answer. Tonight: Take some time off.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You know what you want, but at the same time, you need to exhibit extra caution and care. A child or loved one could push you very hard. Emphasize your goals and where you are heading. You might be a bit overwhelmed. Tonight: Join your friends.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You could inadvertently rain on another's parade. Understand someone's limits rather than pushing this person too hard. Be more aware of your work needs and what must be done. Listen to someone you respect. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Look beyond the obvious, not getting tied up in your stuff. Detach and intellectualize if need be. Do needed research. An important no-no is having a knee-jerk reaction; instead, see a problem with some distance. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Friends seek you out. Find out information that could help you make a difference. A partner or key associate might be an unusually creative resource. Deal with others on a one-on-one level. Avoid groups. Tonight: You're best off with one special friend.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Defer to others who seem to have a better idea than you. A must appearance could be unusually difficult. Avoid taking a leadership position if you can; instead, work with others as a team. Success comes through groups. A loved one goes out of his or her way for you. Tonight: Say "yes."

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Pace yourself rather than charging in headfirst. An even approach will help you complete work with greater efficiency. If you hear information that makes you uncomfortable, understand that right now you cannot change it. Focus on what you can change. Tonight: Out with co-workers.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ A partner could shut down. Don't take this action personally, but rather look at the fact that something might be going on with this person. Keep conversations flowing. Add that touch of imagination and humor that helps others loosen up. You could be surprised at what you learn. Tonight: At home.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Center on your priorities. You're able to make a considerable difference because of being isolated and focused. Calmly deal with a family member who might not be seeing life as you do. Give others the room to be independent. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ What you can do by making a phone call or reaching out for another could make all the difference in what happens. Sometimes you cannot or should not expend the physical energy. Choose the telephone or the computer as your mode of communication. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Finances need to take a higher priority, and it might be important to step back and do less of what a child or partner desires. Your imagination and tendency to risk could be a mistake. Walk a conservative course right now. Tonight: Pay bills first.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
 Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL

The Q-Line

Readers sound off on homeless shelter

This past Sunday, Q-line asked:

"Should the OPCC homeless shelter be moved to the city's eastside? If not, where is the best place to put it?"

Here are your responses:

(Editor's note: The City Council approved the eastside homeless shelter location on Wednesday. However, it agreed to keep daytime services at the current OPCC location and only use the new shelter for overnight services and possibly affordable housing.)

■ "Once again, the people have been thwarted. It is my opinion that a compromise is no real solution. So much for the will of the people."

■ "Absolutely not. What were they thinking? I think they need to do their research a little better. There's definitely too many children in the area. Too many homes, people sleeping on their front porches as it is already. We have enough homeless in the area."

■ "As a member of the Disabilities Commission, at our Aug. 4 meeting I was the only commission member voting to approve the OPCC proposed project. OPCC did its homework; they examined 23 other locations. Our commission since February had about 15 pages on the OPCC plan. The homeless, the mentally ill, people with dual diagnoses and veterans are the commission's largest constituency. In my opinion, at our Aug. 4 meeting OPCC, its clients and the project deserved nothing less than the commission's support."

■ "No, I don't think that the homeless shelter should be moved to the eastside. Why should you inundate the whole city with a bunch of homeless? You already have a whole mess in the downtown area of Santa Monica. Now you want to take this mess and move it to the eastside? I'm sure that had you proposed a homeless shelter over in the Montana area, it would never have been passed because it would have caused such an up-cry that the City Council would look really bad. The City Council has managed to inundate this whole city with homeless by their feeding programs

and they don't do anything to stop it. They make all these ordinances and do not enforce any of the ordinances regarding the homeless sleeping on the streets. I walked Wilshire Boulevard this morning and there were four people sleeping in one block between Fifth and Fourth streets. The police are not enforcing anything. Why would you inconvenience the residents on the eastside? This is reprehensible to move it from one mess to another mess."

■ "There's an underlying reason behind moving the homeless shelter to the eastside. The reason is to clean up the downtown area. This is not going to cut it. The people on the eastside don't want this homeless shelter there. It would create a mess. The homeless urinate in the parks, everything in Palisades Park. Why subject the people on the eastside to the mess you have downtown? All it's going to do is spread the homeless further east and you're never going to get back to what Santa Monica used to be 20 to 30 years ago. It's impossible. I don't think this homeless shelter is going to help the homeless at all because there are a lot of drugs and illegal activity going on in Palisades Park especially."

■ "Absolutely. Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue would be a perfect place for a homeless shelter. In addition to that, the \$74 million library project, which is just about completing its demolition phase, ought to include 5 to 10 percent employment of laborers who are extracted from the homeless population to help relieve Santa Monica's homeless problem. Employment opportunities are the best way for these people to get off the street."

■ "An excellent location to install a homeless shelter would be on the front lawn of the United States Federal Building on Wilshire Boulevard and Westwood. Do not let that space go to waste!"

■ "Absolutely not. Not in a nice resi-

surf report

Yes Kevin, the water really is 65 degrees today. But it feels warmer, we promise.

Get ready for a new SSW to start showing this morning and fill in by afternoon. It should set up some fun waist-high-plus waves before fading by Sunday.

OUTLOOK: There is some typical summer activity off of Baja that's worth watching, but no news on it yet. Also, there's a head-high swell headed our way for the end of next week. Nice one.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

65°

**Sunrise - 6:17 a.m.
Sunset - 7:54 p.m.**

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:32	-0.8	1:39	2.5	9:11	4.0	7:55	6.7
SUNDAY	3:14	-1.1	2:29	2.3	9:48	4.3	8:41	6.8
MONDAY	3:53	-1.1	3:15	2.0	10:22	4.4	9:24	6.8
TUESDAY	4:29	-1.0	3:58	1.9	10:55	4.5	10:05	6.5
WEDNESDAY	5:03	-0.7	4:40	1.8	11:27	4.6	10:44	6.1
THURSDAY	5:34	-0.2	5:23	1.8	11:58	4.7	11:22	5.6
FRIDAY	6:04	0.3	6:08	1.9	N/A	N/A	12:30	4.7

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dential area. Absolutely not. I think a good use would be of the RAND Corp. site way away from residential areas. There are enough of them wandering around residential areas as it is. Why put a shelter in this area where they will be hanging even more. Absolutely not!"

■ "The proposed homeless shelter should be placed in the Montana area because our wonderful neighbors there should share the love. They always want to place their wonderful love for the homeless in the Pico area. Let's also share it. Put it a little north of Montana. A one time fee, buy some wonderful land there, it's more beautiful. And put the homeless people there. Let's share it."

■ "No. Ocean Park Community Center should stay out of residential areas. A stop has to be put on all these expansion plans and siphoning of taxpayer money to feed, house, clothe, and rehabilitate the country's vagrant population, who by hook or by crook are beating a path to Santa Monica, the homeless utopia. Let the Ocean Park Community Center relocate to a vacated area, perhaps the old RAND Corp. property far from residential areas. They should really stop expanding because it is a never-ending cycle. The more they build, the more will come, the more money, the more feeding programs. It's never going to stop. Santa Monica can't care for the world's homeless population."

See Q-LINE, page 5



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LETTERS

Maybe city workers don't want to live here

Editor:

Your article about the majority of Santa Monica city employees not living in Santa Monica raises several interesting questions.

Because most city employees do not live here, is this why city staff brings forward and supports the multitude of homeless programs and services the city provides? And if they don't live here, why should city employees be concerned with the fallout?

And your article didn't provide any substantive information or analysis about the salaries paid to city employees. Are city employees, including its upper management, our firefighters and police being paid enough so they could to live here?

Or maybe they just don't live here by choice.

Perhaps given the option of living in Santa Monica — where I can't take my two children to the public parks, the Promenade or even the grocery store without being hassled by the homeless or having to avoid stepping in their bodily waste — city employees choose to live elsewhere so that their lives are not impacted by the homeless attracted by the city's many programs and services.

Is it possible city employees prefer clean, livable, sustainable places where they can safely walk the streets, visit parks and go shopping with their kids?

Katherine Marie Anderson
Santa Monica

Don't move OPCC shelter, close it

Editor:

The taxpaying citizens of Santa Monica don't want the OPCC shelter moved, we don't want it anywhere.

When are the elected officials of this city going to realize that we don't want these criminals on our streets. We needed to tax property owners \$225 more because our schools are in dire need of money — but we can find a few million for a new bum shelter!

This is insane, just like the majority of the homeless that are attracted to our city thanks to our "compassionate" elected officials. STOP THE BUM SHELTER AND THE ILLEGAL FEEDINGS!

Jeff Bender
Santa Monica

Santa Monica is 'mostly beautiful'

Editor:

My husband and I are currently on a month's vacation from England. It is also our honeymoon after getting married on July 15 in Las Vegas.

Santa Monica is one of the most wonderful sea resorts we have ever visited. Beautiful beaches, clean sand, plenty of green spaces to sit and relax, the shopping areas are excellent, plus everyone we have met is so friendly and willing to help you.

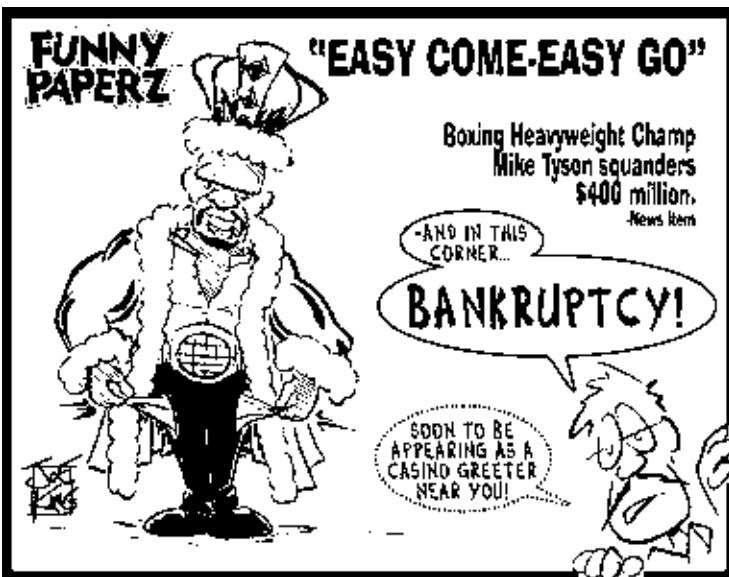
I have only one thing that has twinkled our stay a little: the number of homeless people and vagrants that seem to be in Santa Monica. Maybe this is a problem nationwide in America, but there seems to be a very large percentage based here.

On quite a few occasions my husband and I have been pestered by them asking for money. We have always politely refused them saying we are on vacation and do not have that much spare money ourselves. They mostly seem to understand. But, one of the vagrants who asked us for not only \$1, but \$10, approached us while we were relaxing on our hotel patio. So now he knows our hotel and our patio and keeps coming and annoying us. It has certainly took a shine off our stay here in Santa Monica.

We were certainly not heartless people and gave to charities at home. But these people have no intention to look for a job or to even keep themselves clean. So why aren't the police or council doing more to sort this problem out? I was here three years ago and there was the same number of them then.

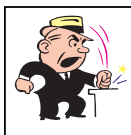
I hope these people don't leave a lasting impression on other foreign tourists as they have us. It would be a big shame, because Santa Monica is mostly beautiful.

Michelle and Gary Hamblett
Sheffield, England



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City spin machine stifles opposition to OPCC project



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

The 1994 Public Safety Act, section 2.69.010(f), states that the city is to: "Prevent an increase, and, wherever feasible, reduce city overall expenditures relating to homeless services."

The City Council passed this ordinance on Sept. 13, 1994. Ken Genser and Bob Holbrook, who were both on the council at the time, voted "yes."

This week, the City Council, led by Councilmen Ken Genser, Kevin McKeown and Mayor Richard Bloom, wholeheartedly endorsed and approved staff recommendations that the city fully fund Ocean Park Community Center's acquisition of 1751 Cloverfield for relocation and expansion of its homeless services.

It was a done deal from the start.

The cash-strapped city will pony up \$9.2 million in housing and transit funds for OPCC to purchase the property — for their Daybreak shelter only.

Council instructed staff to find a way for the Access drop-in center to remain on or near its present locale on bus property at Seventh Street and Colorado Avenue —

likely necessitating millions more for OPCC in the future.

Pico activists are mollified because without Access's estimated 250 daily clients at 1751 Cloverfield, their neighborhood won't become Skid Row.

Supporters and detractors accused each other of peddling lies and misinformation. Bloom, Genser and McKeown were especially critical of Pico neighbors, accusing them of waging a malicious, distortion-filled smear campaign while ignoring half-truths and misstatements promulgated by OPCC, project supporters and even the city itself.

I got a kick out of the OPCC director, who told the council how he personally talked to nearby Bergamot Station art gallery owners.

"When they heard the truth, they understood what we were doing," he said, implying support. Later, Bergamot Station's tenant manager presented a petition to the council, signed by 36 gallery owners decidedly against the project.

Oops!

The same held true at Crossroads School. OPCC implied Crossroads was okay with the project. Not true.

Assistant Head Master Bob Riddle said the school heard about it from a parent and its only contact from OPCC was a phone message. The school has serious concerns because of the shelter's proxim-

ity to Crossroad's campus.

Typical of rhetoric I heard at City Hall on Tuesday night was a letter to the Daily Press from Chris Knauf (Aug. 13, 2003). Knauf, a Disabilities Commission member implied that I was "putting spin on" and "wrong" when I wrote that his commission "voted not to support OPCC's project." For the record, they voted not to support the project at its intended site by a 10 to 1 vote!

Knauf continued, "One-thousand beds are needed every night and currently only 35 are provided by OPCC."

Wrong.

There are already hundreds of homeless beds here at Samoshel, Sunlight Mission and others. Knauf and others accuse me of misinformation and "anti-homeless hysteria." Fine guys, but get your facts straight first.

During public input, a prickly Genser demanded that Chuck Allord — who is against the project — tell him, "How many of OPCC's clients are criminals?"

I think Genser was baiting Allord because Genser knows this information is not available and client records are confidential.

Attorney Mat Millen later responded to Genser with police department statistics stating that in 2000 and 2001, there were 300 calls for service for the two blocks adjacent to OPCC's current location, most

of which, Millen said "...involved serious crimes such as assaults and robberies."

Bottom line: The city just gave away nearly \$10 million to a private, non-profit whose services provide no benefit to residents and whose clients cost us tens of millions more for police, fire and other expenses, annually — all while ignoring critical community needs, such as schools and parks.

Bloom, Genser and McKeown's response: "How can housing money be diverted to education?"

Nobody I know has suggested using housing money for schools.

Earlier this year, the same council members stalled and procrastinated on a school bailout, thereby forcing another school parcel tax on us — AND they still shortchanged our kids in the end. Meanwhile, they stand on their collective head to accommodate the world's vagrants and transients.

Between "requests" by staff for commission endorsements and City TV's refusal to air Citizens for a Safer Santa Monica's "No Skid Row" video, the machine has done everything it can to limit debate, control, spin and legitimize what is and always has been a done deal, and a spurious one at that.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

OPINION



The Line

CONT., from page 3

■ "Yes. The homeless shelter should be built on the eastside — the eastside of the United States in an upscale suburb of Washington, D.C., where the politicians and bureaucrats live because they are responsible for the degradation of America. One of the founders, maybe Jefferson, said something like, 'If you ever allow a central bank to be established in this country, you'll see your children's children homeless in the streets.' That's the present day reality with the Federal Reserve."

■ "Add homeless shelters to the school district and put the homeless in Malibu. They'll be happy to get yet another subsidized service."

■ "No. The homeless shelter should not be moved to the eastside. It should not be in Santa Monica at all. We've done enough for the homeless."

■ "Yes. I think it should be moved. I think its the perfect site for it and I think there's a lot of misinformation out there."

■ "There should be a shelter in Santa Monica and I like the location of Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue. I vote yes."

■ "The homeless shelter should not be moved. We don't want bigger shelters anywhere in the city. Keep it as is."

■ "OPCC should not move. It has a new expanded home in the new bus yards. This has been approved and has been funded in the master plan. What is the sudden compulsion? If this agreement was so easy then what has changed? What is now so important to get OPCC to get an even bigger home? What arrangements are being made here behind the public's back to do this?"

■ "The homeless shelter should not be moved to the Pico neighborhood. Give those residents a break. Cloverfield and the 10 Freeway connection is already congested and pedestrians who do not use crosswalks will cause terrible traffic jams. OPCC is not solving the homeless problem in Santa Monica. They are encouraging it and making it worse. Enough is enough. Put the homeless shelter in the police station."

■ "No. The OPCC should not be allowed to relocate into any residential area. The escalation of these homeless vagrant services should stop. The situa-

tion is already out of hand. More and more of this type of person is jumping on the gravy train. Meanwhile the quality of life for Santa Monicans has deteriorated substantially. The area has become dirty, sickening, unsafe and very annoying. I realize that this is a security for the so-called do-gooders, but that issue has to be faced also."

■ "I believe that its a bad idea to relocate the OPCC to the eastside of Santa Monica. This would be a lot more convenient for the homeless, because it would be closer to where they feed and closer to the police, since a large number of their calls are dedicated to transient populations anyway. They could be at the police station or the RAND center, which would keep them away from the residential areas. This would be better for everyone all around."

■ "I don't think we should have the homeless shelter anywhere in the city of Santa Monica. I think we should take the homeless and distribute them around the other cities — Culver City, Beverly Hills and Mar Vista. Put them all around and build one shelter in the middle, in between all those cities. Put it in Beverly Hills. Then those people can see what has been going on in Santa Monica."

■ "I'm homeless myself and to relocate and spend more money on staffing, who by the way enjoy milking the clock, will do absolutely nothing to help solve our problem. I've come from zero and have been able to surface pretty much on my own. Thank you for Sam's show. I have to thank you for that. Everything is catered to the few people who choose to live this vulgar lifestyle provided everything that is being given. There is a surrounding odor that envelops the OPCC and I'm sure that relocating would do nothing to lessen the problem. There are a few cats who are here on pursuit of a dream and are working hard to make that happen. I that know if I was a resident around the Cloverfield area, I wouldn't want an establishment such as the OPCC to open up in my area. As a homeless person myself, I am going to have to favor against a new OPCC center. I see this as propaganda to promote more homelessness, not to mention, abuse of the system who don't want to do a damn thing but receive hand outs. The money being used on a new and improved department should be used towards a housing fund for those individuals who believe and function in a clean environment and will jump-start best and will be able to give back to the community."

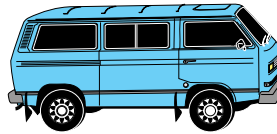
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Entertainment

Film Reviews

‘Magdalene Sisters’ leaves viewers angry

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

If a more powerful, thought-provoking film has been released this year, I’ve yet to see it.

But be forewarned, “The Magdalene Sisters,” which is based on actual events, is difficult to watch (especially for staunch supporters of the Catholic Church), and designed to leave audiences feeling emotionally devastated and angry.

Still, I couldn’t recommend another film more highly.

“The Magdalene Sisters” is set in sexually-repressed Ireland in 1964. At the outset, we’re introduced to three young women who are about to fall from their rigid, male-dominated society’s graces: Margaret (Anne-Marie

Duff) is raped by her cousin at a wedding; Rose (Dorothy Duffy) gives birth to a child out of wedlock; and Bernadette (Nora-Jane Noone) is deemed too popular with the boys who cling to the fence outside her orphanage.

With these offenses on their records, the inadvertent “mortal sinners” are imprisoned indefinitely inside the forbidding walls of a Magdalene asylum. There they are subjected to intolerable cruelty by the Sisters of Mercy, who force their charges to act as a free labor force for a lucrative full-service laundry business. Recall every prison movie convention you’ve seen and know that you’ll get that and more here.

The performances are nothing short



of remarkable, especially those by Noone (making her film debut as the headstrong survivor Bernadette) and Geraldine McEwan in a wicked turn as the sadistic overseer, Sister Bridget.

Director Peter Mullan makes no attempt to conceal his outrage and disgust at what transpired for over 100 years in these Magdalene asylums, the last of which was closed only eight years ago. And justifiably so.

But because his message is driven

home with all the subtlety of a thunderous blow to the head, the movie begs for a counter-punch we’re incapable of delivering. So we’re left feeling beaten and frustrated like the victims of the asylums ... and maybe that’s exactly as it should be.

(Rated R for violence/cruelty, nudity, sexual content and language. Running time: 119 minutes)

The horror: ‘Freddy vs. Jason’ is laughably unscary

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Ideally, recycling washed-up psychopathic killers from overextended slasher series will not become de rigueur in Hollywood, where original ideas are apparently harder to come by than Saddam Hussein.

But if it does (and we’re just one big opening weekend away from being assured it will) here’s hoping that in, say, 10 years — when the guy in the mask from “Scream” squares off with the hook-wielding fisherman of “I Know What You Did Last Summer” fame — that it’s a lot scarier than the embarrassingly awful horror flick

“Freddy vs. Jason.”

Of course, if you’re looking for a good laugh, “Freddy Vs. Jason” is hands down one of the funniest motion pictures of the summer! (Exclamation point added for possible inclusion in newspaper advertisement.)

In what New Line Cinema is billing as the “ultimate showdown,” Freddy Krueger (Robert Englund, once again entirely too enamored with his own schtick) from the “A Nightmare on Elm Street” franchise squares off against “Friday the 13th” villain Jason Voorhees (Ken Kirzinger, AKA unknown actor in a hockey mask).

For fans of the series, both of which lost their luster roundabout their sixteenth or seventeenth installment, the film is likely to be the ultimate let-down. Even the most unsophisticated of audiences will likely be put off by director Ronny Hu’s ham-handed attempt to pit these two titans of terror against one another at any cost, reason be damned.

Here’s how it goes down: Freddy’s feeling neglected in Hell, unable to invade people’s dreams (his Standard Mutilating Procedure) because, conveniently, a drug has been invented that prevents slumbertime reverie.

So Mr. Krueger journeys to the “bowels of Hell,” pretends to be

Jason’s mother and tricks the dimwitted destroyer into rising from the grave and doing his dirtywork for him.

While Jason is hacking a bevy of shapely D-listers to pieces, Freddy’s fearsome reputation is inexplicably restored, giving him the power to assume new life. Ahh, but killer competition rears its head — after all, there are only so many victims to go around in a small town like Springwood — and soon Freddy and Jason are at each others’ throats (slashing them, of course) in a turf war that will ultimately leave everyone in sight soaked in blood and bad one-liners.

Putting aside the ridiculous set-up, woeful acting, and the fundamental problem with this picture — that in pitting Evil against Evil, the filmmakers have left us without a hero to root for — what makes “Freddy Vs. Jason” so insufferable is that it isn’t even remotely frightening.

We’re laughing when we ought to be covering our eyes, yawning when we should be screaming. At the very least, horror films are supposed to be horrifying. Yet all this convoluted clunker does is mystify.

(Rated R for pervasive strong horror violence/gore, gruesome images, sexuality, drug use and language. Running time: 97 minutes)



ENTERTAINMENT



Richly textured 'Open Range' is a western worth saddling up for

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Kevin Costner directs and stars in this entertaining drama about a ragtag band of 19th-century "free-grazers" forced into a bloody showdown with a tyrannical rancher who rules a frontier town.

Though it's a bit too clumsy and maudlin in parts to merit consideration alongside Costner's Academy Award-winning "Dances With Wolves," the richly-textured "Open Range" boasts enough eye-popping scenery and well-choreographed gun battles to make it one of the better westerns in recent memory.

Costner plays Charley Waite, a reticent cattleman with a dangerous past who hooks up with the wise old Boss Spearman (Robert Duvall at his understated finest) to shepherd a herd across the picturesque American West (though the stunning vistas were actually shot in Canada).

In the bosom our unspoiled prairie, Charley and Boss have found comfort, if not peace. But trouble arrives when the men and their young charges, Mose (Abraham Benrubi of "ER") and Button ("Y Tu Mama Tambien") star Diego

Luna), come upon an area controlled by an ill-tempered rancher named Baxter (Sir Michael Gambon).

Baxter has designs to kill the free-grazers and lay claim to their cattle, but Boss, of course, isn't about to roll over and die. Neither is Charley, a former gun for hire with a still-itchy trigger finger and nothing to lose ...

... that is, until he meets the town doctor's sweet sister Sue (Annette Bening, doing her best in an underwritten part). Smitten, Charley finds his killer instincts at odds with his desire to settle down with a good woman.

Of course, these feelings, along with Mose's execution at the hands of Baxter's henchmen, raise the stakes considerably at the ultimate gun battle — the high point of "Open Range."

Though at times, Costner's over-romanticized view of the cowboy way of life registers a bit too high on the corn-o-meter, the film's action sequences are first-rate and the principals deliver solid performances. All in all, "Open Range" is a film worth saddling up for.

(Rated R for violence. Running time: 135 minutes)

Costner brings unconventional views to western genre

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

It's no secret Kevin Costner loves making movies about baseball, but his favorite genre — and the one for which he will best be remembered long after he's rode off into the sunset — is the western.

His first major role was as a gunslinger in "Fandango," and he kept his guns a'blazin' in "Wyatt Earp" and "Silverado." But it was "Dances With Wolves," an epic western Costner produced, directed and starred in, that earned him Best Picture and Best Director Oscars and secured his place among Hollywood's elite.

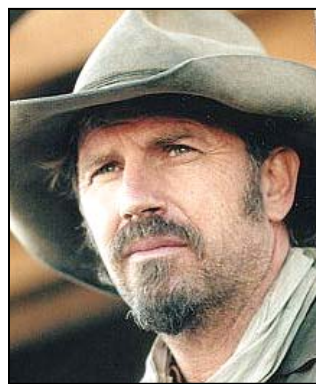
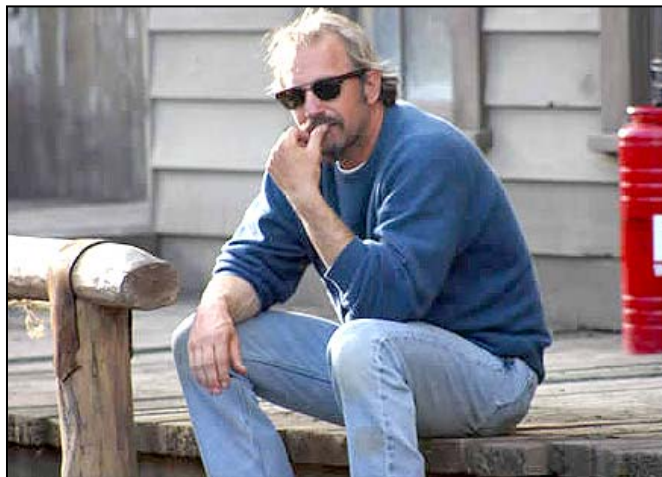
"The funny thing is, I directed 'Dances' myself because I couldn't get anybody else to direct it," Costner told me in an interview several years ago. "The conventional thinking at the time from everybody I showed (the script) to was the movie was too long."

Costner was convinced the project was a winner and financed the film in large part with his life's savings, making the movie he wanted people to see. The gamble ultimately paid off, but because he refused to compromise his vision along the way he was accused by some in the industry of being a control freak.

Costner countered: "The biggest misconception about me is that I'm controlling. My point of view is that you have to be in control of what you think. I feel like I can be pushed around about 99 yards, but that other yard is mine, and that's where I can't be pushed around."

"I don't let people push the movie around, and since they don't have a better word for that, they call it controlling."

Call it what you will, there's no mistaking who called the shots on



Costner's latest film, the sprawling western "Open Range," on which he once again claims directing, producing and starring credits.

This beautifully crafted film, which co-stars Robert Duvall and Annette Bening, ought to serve as a cogent reminder that when it comes

to the western — considered by many to be a dying breed — nobody does it like Costner.

"The idea behind making this movie was that westerns can be great, but too often in the recent past they haven't been," said Costner. "It's a genre that's been lazy, living

on glory from a long, long time ago. And I think younger generations aren't wrong in thinking westerns are bull---, because all too often it's been simplified to be just white hat versus black hat."

When the opportunity to make "Open Range" came along, Costner said he jumped on it primarily because he felt a deep connection to the material. He sees it as a period piece that transcends the era it depicts; a timeless story with universal themes that will resonate with modern audiences.

"The little things excited me about 'Open Range,'" he said. "Obviously you've got to get to the gunfight. And I'm going to take you there. But I'm going to try and break with tradition when I get you there."

To that end, Costner eschewed many of the conventions of the western.

The hero he plays, Charley Waite, won't hesitate to fire the first shot or shoot a man when he's down. And if you look closely enough, you can see him recoil slightly at the sound of his own gun.

When it's time for the big gunfight, the townsfolk don't scatter, they take to the streets to watch it all go down. Yes, there are those "little things" Costner relishes, too — a woman fussing over a tea set, a man digging his wagon out of the mud, a child playing with a dog in the street — but the director knows that at the heart of any great western lies good old-fashioned shoot-outs. And on that front, he delivers.

"I like big horizons, and I like running horses. I just know that about five seconds after you see that stuff, something else better be happening in the movie," he said, flashing that famous boyish grin. "Otherwise, it's like you're watching somebody else's home movies."



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LOCAL

OPCO board gives bank records to colleagues

FINANCES, from page 1

again, which took months because he couldn't be located. He finally was spotted at a DMV line at the end of May and was served with court papers.

Laudati had 30 days to respond to the complaint. Because he didn't answer, he and OPCO are now in technical default again, Clouse said.

A judge is expected to make a ruling on the case in September, but OPCO may have difficulties defending itself in the proceedings because of its default, Clouse said.

Meanwhile, a few OPCO board members said they received a packet of financial documents from fellow board member Susan Love Loughmiller last week.

Some members reported getting an estimated two years' worth of records.

"It doesn't say much," said OPCO board member Laurel Roennau, adding that he isn't sure why Fuller wants the documents so badly. "The thing I don't understand is what is he going to do with it once he gets it?"

Fuller, who got involved in OPCO in early 2001, asked to review the accounting books and finances, as well as a list of the organization's current membership. But his requests were ignored for more than two years. The silence piqued his curiosity.

"I have a right to see them and I asked for them," he said.

OPCO was formed in 1978 as a community organization for the Ocean Park neighborhood as a nonprofit corporation. Under California law, it's required to provide its membership with financial records, according to Fuller's complaint.

In his written request to Laudati in June 2001, Fuller said he was concerned about an apparent discrepancy between the number of reported members and the small amount of membership fees collected.

Love Loughmiller, who was appointed late last year after several board members resigned over the issue, wouldn't comment. She left a voice mail message this week citing pending legal action by an unknown group against the Santa Monica Daily Press over its reporting of the issue.

Love Loughmiller also threatened to sue the Daily Press several months ago, though no lawsuit has been served.

Laudati has repeatedly declined comment when asked the whereabouts of OPCO's money. Laudati didn't return a phone call seeking comment.

When board member Fred Whitlock was asked this week about OPCO's finances, he told a reporter, "I'm not commenting on that, sorry," and hung up the phone.

But other board members are talking about OPCO's finances — and its current status as a community organization.

"When you find out (about the status), I hope you tell me," said a frustrated

Roennau, who is unsure who is still on the board. He also said he doesn't know when it meets or what its purpose is anymore. "I'm totally in the dark."

Mike Strader, another OPCO board member, said the board hasn't met for two months. He said he isn't sure when it's supposed to meet.

"I think the whole thing is a tempest in a teapot."

— MIKE STRADER
OPCO board member

"It's not a full board and I'm not actually sure who is on the board," Strader said.

Strader said that when Fuller's complaint came up at the last board meeting, there was talk about getting an attorney.

"I think the whole thing is a tempest in a teapot," Strader said. "Rick has done a lot of good stuff for OPCO."

One of OPCO's functions is to review development projects and then recommend to the Planning Commission and City Council that they be approved or denied. Some OPCO board members who have recently resigned said they fear a lack of protection from liability should the organization's legality be questioned.

Close to a dozen board members have resigned over OPCO's inaction in the past year. Board members Audrea Golding Butler, Ted Winterer and Elan Glasser attempted to work out a resolution with the board to get the finances released last fall.

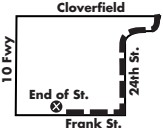
But they resigned in November out of frustration that no progress had been made. In early 2002, Bob Loftus, Joe Pipersky and Bill Sunblad resigned over the financial questions.

It's unclear how much money OPCO has collected from its members, how many members there are and what the dues structure is. Some estimates put the organization's membership between 150 and 500.

OPCO's last public bank statement sits in a file in City Hall. It details OPCO's finances from December 1999 to January 2000. At that time, OPCO had \$2,933 in a Wells Fargo Bank account. During that month, deposits totaling \$220 were recorded and \$240 worth of withdrawals were made — all of which were made from ATM machines in cash.

OPCO hasn't requested funding from the city for the last three years, but it has in the past. If City Hall contributes to neighborhood organizations, it requires that they provide financial records list their members.

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LOCAL



Bus driver grateful to have kept the city moving

BURTON, from page 1

than his loyalty, many close to him said, is how he goes about his work day in and day out. They point out that his friendliness and positive attitude has not wavered during his three-and-a-half decade tenure.

"He's always had a delightful personality, and it never changes," said Donna Wells, a Big Blue Bus customer service representative who worked as a driver with Burton for 24 years. "To this day, he comes in with a sparkle in his eye, a smile on his face and a good word for you."

Burton said his sociable demeanor stems from growing up in the South, where "people never pass by each other without extending some sort of greeting." He was born in Little Rock, Ark., and raised by a single mother who encouraged him to get into music at a young age.

Burton ended up receiving a music scholarship to the University of Arkansas AM & N, a predominantly black university in Pine Bluff, Ark. But after one year at the school, his mother sent him to Los Angeles to take care of his aunt while he continued to pursue his education.

It did not seem like a big deal to Burton at the time, but he quickly realized he would have to adjust to the Southern California way of life.

"When my train arrived in Los Angeles, I was blown away," he said. "It was so different from Little Rock. I wasn't used to seeing so many people, so

many palm trees.

"And I couldn't believe there was Mexican food. You could never find Mexican food in Arkansas at that time."

After living with his aunt and going to school in the area for a few years, Burton enlisted in the military. During the early stages of Vietnam, he was stationed in Japan to do work he said was "top secret." He spent the final two years of his service in Texas before returning to Los Angeles in 1965.

Burton struggled to find a steady job upon his return. He worked for the state, parked cars and labored on a Chrysler assembly line, but had a tough time finding a vocation he actually enjoyed.

While he was looking for work that would better suit him, a friend asked Burton to come along while he applied for a bus driving position with the Metro Transit Authority in Los Angeles. On the trip, Burton decided he would fill out an application as well.

"I just figured at the time it can't be too tough to get a job as a bus driver," he said.

He quickly found out it was. He never got the job with MTA in Los Angeles, admitting that his work history of constantly changing jobs probably cost him the chance.

But instead of giving up on becoming a bus driver, he decided to reapply with the MTA in Santa Monica. He got the job just in time to support his wife, Dorothy, who he had just married.

Burton clicked with the job immediately. He said he felt good about helping passengers get to their various destinations.

"I liked being a big part of their day," he said. "If someone needed to get to work, I was the one who got them there. I liked being the person they could depend on."

"I liked having conversations with them so they would have less anxiety about getting where they needed to be."

Burton's affable nature gained him popularity among Big Blue Bus riders throughout Santa Monica, as well as the respect of fellow employees, who admired his enthusiasm.

"His attitude is infectious," said Greg Jones, a Big Blue Bus driver who has become close friends with Burton. "If you're having a bad day, he's the guy you hope you run into when you come to work."

Although Burton remains enthusiastic about his work, he plans to retire in December. He said he wants to spend more time with his daughters, Marion, 35, and Debbie, 36. Both have families of their own, including a four-year old grandson Burton wants to watch grow up.

Until then, he said he will likely finish driving on his current route, the No. 3 Lincoln line from the LA Green Line Station on Imperial to UCLA. As he wraps up his career over the next few months, he said it will be hard not to look back on the last 36 years.

"I wouldn't have them go any other way," he said. "When you look at transportation, it's necessary. If transportation stops moving, so does everything else."

"And I'm grateful I was able to keep things moving all these years."

Santa Monica sets precedent for taking care of beaches

BEACHES, from page 1

north, Topanga Beach had 19 closures or advisories and Venice Beach had 18.

Some of those closures lasted a week or longer.

"We're not happy about it, but we have to remember that this is the region's bay," said Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, who sits on a regional commission formed to address the matter. "When I was growing up, you never thought twice about what you would throw down the drain and into the sewer. And that went on for years."

Exposure to storm drain runoff, one of the leading causes of ocean water pollution, can cause colds, fevers, chills, sore throats, diarrhea and other illnesses, according to a study by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, a state agency.

Officials said despite the dirty water, Santa Monica is one of the most progressive cities in the nation in how it deals with ocean pollution. A state-of-the-art treatment facility processes much of the city's runoff, while catch basins and filters weed out some chemical and biological pollutants that would otherwise flow to the bay.

Still, there is work to be done.

"What we haven't been so successful on is with the wet weather," said James Alamillo, beach report card manager for Heal the Bay, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of the Santa Monica Bay. "We're still quite a ways away."

But Alamillo said despite the problems associated with rain, only 2 percent of Santa Monica Bay beaches are contaminated.

"The rest of the beaches are safe," he said. "And people should be using the resource of why we want to live here in

the first place."

Four beach locations from the Pacific Palisades to Venice are monitored daily, said Alamillo, who added that another four are checked on a weekly basis.

"We are consciously setting a precedent for other cities."

— KEVIN MCKEOWN
Santa Monica City Councilman

Brian Johnson, manager of the city's environmental division, said Santa Monica is setting an example for other cities. He pointed to the \$13 million Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility, completed in 2001, which can treat 500,000 gallons of runoff each day and reroute it for irrigation purposes.

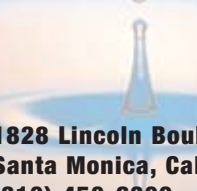
But Johnson said capital projects like SMURF are not the only solution.

He said the problem of dirty beaches is also being tackled through aggressive litigation, cleanup projects and technological advancements, such as new and improved filters in catch basins.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown said Santa Monica has come along way since 1909, when the first Santa Monica Pier was constructed as a bridge to carry the sewer line out to sea, where its contents could be dumped away from the shore.

"We are consciously setting a precedent for other cities," he said. "Especially Los Angeles, which is a huge area, most of which is paved over and from which a huge amount of toxins flow into the bay."

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Airport chief to resign

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — City airport agency chief Lydia Kennard said she will resign this fall to pursue private sector opportunities.

The resignation of the Los Angeles World Airports executive director comes as Mayor James K. Hahn promotes his \$9 billion-plus modernization plan for Los Angeles International Airport.

In addition to LAX, Kennard oversees airports in Ontario, Van Nuys and Palmdale, as well as an \$862 million annual budget. She was named acting executive director of the airport agency in 1999 and appointed director in 2000.

Kennard, who had planned to leave her \$259,000-a-year job prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but stayed on to help implement widely praised new security measures at LAX, said Wednesday that she supported Hahn's plan.

"Under Lydia's direction, the (city's) airports have set a high standard for airport management, financial stability, safety and security," Hahn said in a statement.

Under Kennard, one of the busiest airports in the world met federal deadlines to screen passengers and baggage, even as other major airports received extensions from Congress after complaining that they could not comply.

"Statistically we had the biggest challenge — we have more baggage than any other airport in the country and we have more passengers in terms of processing," Kennard, 49, said. "There was no real focus on not being able to do it — the focus was on getting it done."

She didn't detail her future plans.

Accused kidnapper to stand trial

By The Associated Press

INDIO — A judge ruled that Michael Riley, the alleged mastermind in last summer's kidnapping of 9-year-old Nicholas Farber from his father's desert home, is mentally competent to stand trial.

Criminal proceedings against Riley, one of four defendants, had been suspended because of questions about his mental condition. But Superior Court Judge Thomas N. Douglass Jr. ruled Wednesday after a two-day competency hearing that criminal proceedings would be reinstated because Riley, 49, understands the charges against him.

Defense attorney Arnold Liemans' only witness was psychiatrist Morton Kurland, who evaluated Riley during a jail interview and claimed Riley was psychotic and mentally incompetent to stand trial.

Deputy District Attorney Cindy Nguyen called several witnesses, including jail personnel, who described Riley as conversant, articulate and rational.

The judge said he had difficulty determining Riley was mentally incompetent based solely on Kurland's evaluation, noting the psychiatrist had only seen Riley once for one hour and had not reviewed police reports and other information.

Douglass also said that Kurland indicated he didn't have the time to determine if Riley was faking his behavior.

"All the information has come from (Riley) and no other source," Douglass said.

Riley, Debra Rose, Rodrique Van Blake and Elias Gutierrez are charged with abducting Rose's son from his father's Palm Desert home on Aug. 28, 2002. The boy was rescued and Riley and Rose, 38, were arrested near San Diego two days later.

All four defendants face an Aug. 25 trial.

Rose, Van Blake and Gutierrez are charged with burglary, assault, child abduction and false imprisonment. Van Blake, 28, Gutierrez, 29, and Riley also are charged with kidnapping.

Jimson weed sends teens to hospitals

By The Associated Press

SANTA PAULA — Three teenagers were hospitalized after apparently drinking tea brewed with a toxic jimson weed flower that causes hallucinations.

Police were called to a home late Tuesday after the family of an 18-year-old boy reported that he was hallucinating and unresponsive, police Chief Bob Gonzalez said. An ambulance took him to Santa Paula Memorial Hospital after he had a seizure.

The teenager remained in the hospital's intensive care unit on Wednesday.

A neighbor told officers that two teenagers at her house, an 18-year-old girl and a 16-year-old boy, were showing similar symptoms and they were also taken to hospitals.

The boy remained in intensive care at Ventura County Medical Center, and the girl was treated at Santa Paula Memorial Hospital and released, hospital officials said.

Gang members face life in prison

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Five members of a Santa Clarita gang were convicted of the retaliation stabbing and beating death of a 19-year-old rival lured to a remote north county area 18 months ago.

A Superior Court jury deliberated three days before returning verdicts Wednesday against Randy Franco, 22; John Romero, 21; Alfredo Hernandez, 23; Mario Aguillon, 16; and Katherine Mary Henson, 22.

They face life prison terms without the possibility of parole when sentenced in October for killing Byron Benito in January 2002.

STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 10

Thirteen other alleged gang members were charged in the Benito case. Deputy District Attorney John Colello said seven are awaiting trial and six others have pleaded to criminal charges or agreed to testify for the prosecution.

Benito was allegedly a member of a gang thought to be responsible for the killing hours earlier of Victor Flores, 19, a member of the defendants' gang, the prosecutor said.

Benito was lured to a remote industrial area where he was beaten, kicked, punched, hit with a crowbar and stabbed 33 times by the crowd, Colello said.

"They wanted Byron Benito as payback for their homeboy being killed. They were the judge, jury and executioner of Byron Benito," Colello said, noting it wasn't believed Benito had anything to do with the death of Flores.

Mysterious statue appears at dog park

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — There was an unusual dropping at a Silver Lake dog park: Someone showed up under cover of darkness and left a canine sculpture as a tribute to pets killed when the United States dropped atomic bombs over Japan in World War II.

"In Memory of All Dogs Killed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki," read the plaque beneath a statue of a dog.

"It's a political statement. It doesn't belong in the park," an outraged Ray Singer said as his chow mix and German shepherd sniffed at the statue. "It's an anti-war statement. This is the wrong venue for this sort of thing."

Park administrators and city officials were puzzled by the unauthorized statue, which was discovered in the tiny park on Aug. 6. Others wondered if the strange memorial was part of a reality television show, with a hidden camera videotaping onlooker reactions.

"We've got everybody calling us about it. It's not a good thing. A lot of people don't like it," said LaVerne Thenarse, a recreation assistant at the Silver Lake Recreation Center.

When park workers showed up Wednesday evening to confiscate the plaster statue, it shattered.

Athletic fields to be built at Taylor Yard

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A deal reached by the state and city will bring athletic fields to Taylor Yard near downtown.

California will lease half of the new 40-acre Taylor Yard state park to Los Angeles recreation officials, who will manage the soccer and baseball fields. The other half will be a more natural setting that will tie the park to the adjacent Los Angeles River.

State parks officials said last year they had no intention of building or managing athletic fields at the former Union Pacific railroad maintenance depot. Part of the property was purchased with voter-approved bond money.

Months earlier, Gov. Gray Davis had posed for pictures at the park site with Hispanic boys and girls from Anahuak, a popular youth soccer league that had no fields to call its own.

The agreement was negotiated over several months by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles, state Sen. Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, Councilman Ed Reyes, state parks Director Ruth Coleman and the mayor's office.

The city will run the fields and allow the state parks department to continue its mission of managing scenic places, not running recreation centers. Cedillo, Goldberg and others had threatened to change that mission with legislation, arguing that it was out of date for a state that is increasingly building parks in urban centers with bond money approved by inner-city voters.

The deal is still contingent on passage of AB 413, which allows the state to lease the land to the city for 25 years.

Recall ballot to contain 135 names

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California's historic recall ballot will have 135 candidates who range from the well-known to the unknown to the offbeat.

Among some full-time politicians, a handful of celebrities and plenty of people from the business world, there is an American Indian tribal chairman, a discount cigarette retailer, a used car salesman, a golf pro, a retired police officer, a bounty hunter, a porn star and a sumo wrestler.

The only name missing from the choices in the Oct. 7 election is the target of the recall effort: Gov. Gray Davis. The state Supreme Court refused to hear Davis' lawsuit to have his name added to the list of those who want his job.

Voters will decide whether Davis should be ousted and then pick who should replace him from the motley field.

The ballot was certified by the secretary of state Wednesday.

Better-known candidates who made the cut include Democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, independent commentator Arianna Huffington, Green Party standard-bearer Peter Miguel Camejo and four Republicans: businessman Bill Simon, who was defeated by Davis in November; actor Arnold Schwarzenegger; former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth; and state Sen. Tom McClintock.

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NATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Bush headed to SM Mountains today

By The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush planned to keep mum on California's unwieldy gubernatorial recall election as he swoops through the state to talk to troops about Iraq, boost his environmental image and — last but not least — "campaign for George W."

"I'll be doing a little spade work for the '04 campaign," a grinning Bush told reporters Wednesday after a two-hour meeting with his economic team at his ranch.

The president said he saw no need for new tax cuts now to spur the economy, insisting that the groundwork was in place for improving the nation's sluggish job market.

Leaving Thursday morning for a two-day visit to Southern California, Bush was expected to rake millions more into his re-election campaign account with a fund-raiser each day.

Earlier Thursday, Bush was to tell Marines at Miramar Air Station near San Diego in a speech and at lunch that the Iraq war and reconstruction were "essential to U.S. security."

Friday morning, Bush was heading for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to promote his plan to address a severe maintenance backlog in the national park system.

Medical malpractice bill moves forward

By The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A bill that caps damages received by medical malpractice plaintiffs in hopes of lowering insurance rates and helping the state retain doctors has won the support of lawmakers amid criticism by people on both sides of the debate.

The Legislature on Wednesday approved the measure, which is expected to be signed by Gov. Jeb Bush. Republican legislative leaders agreed to the bill last week after months of fighting over how to set caps on non-economic damages such as pain and suffering.

"I'm confident there will be a reduction in insurance premiums," Bush said. "I'm confident that we'll have a better system to deal with the small number of doctors that commit egregious malpractice."

But doctors whom the bill was intended to help have said they do not support it and insurance companies have said it probably won't lower rates. And malpractice victims said limits on damage payouts make it less likely lawyers will take cases, meaning access to justice could be denied.

The measure limits a doctor's liability for non-economic damages in most medical malpractice cases to \$500,000. A medical facility's liability would be limited to \$750,000 in most cases.

US aggressively pursuing terrorist cells

By The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — The international sting operation that led to the arrest of a suspected arms smuggler should serve as a warning that U.S. intelligence is aggressively pursuing terrorist cells and black market weapons dealers, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said.

Hemant Lakhani, a Briton described by a federal prosecutor as a "significant international arms dealer," was ordered held without bond Wednesday. According to an FBI affidavit, Lakhani had arranged to sell a shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile he believed was intended to shoot down a commercial airliner, and planned to smuggle 50 more.

The affidavit says Lakhani, dealing with an undercover FBI agent he believed to be a Muslim terrorist, was also recorded as saying Osama bin Laden "did a good thing" on Sept. 11, 2001.

In an interview Wednesday with CBS News, Ridge said the sting should send a message to terrorists that "we'll just keep comin' at you — one arms dealer, one cell at a time."

Lakhani, 68, is charged with attempting to provide material support and resources to terrorists and acting as an arms broker without a license. Lakhani's lawyer, Assistant Federal Public Defender Donald J. McCauley, refused to comment.

Glacier fire partially contained

By The Associated Press

WEST GLACIER, Mont. — The weather has been cooperating with firefighters battling a massive blaze in Glacier National Park, allowing them to complete part of a burnout to protect a historic lodge and houses near the western shore of Lake McDonald.

Crews planned to complete the upper portion of the burnout Thursday, creating a barrier that will rob the 39,750-acre fire of fuel, said fire information officer Marybell Lansford.

Forecasters said a dry cold front would hit the state Friday or later, giving firefighters time to prepare for the expected strong, erratic winds.

The fire forced the evacuation of the western part of Glacier for the second time in two weeks Sunday when it jumped a road that had been used as a barrier.

The park's popular Lake McDonald area, including Going-to-the-Sun Road from West Glacier to Logan Pass, remained closed to visitors.

NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL

WORLD BRIEFLY

BRIEFS, from page 12

US won't pay North Korea

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is seeking a new relationship with North Korea but is not offering economic assistance as an incentive for terminating its nuclear weapons program, Secretary of State Colin Powell says.

"We have put no economic proposals forward at the moment," Powell said Wednesday as U.S., Japanese and South Korean officials met at the State Department to forge a common strategy designed to induce North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

Powell has offered to put in writing assurances that the Bush administration does not intend to attack North Korea.

The three governments were preparing for negotiations with North Korea that are due to begin Aug. 27 in Beijing. China and Russia also will take part in the six-nation talks.

Taking a hard line, Bush said at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, that the United States and Asian nations "feel strongly about the peninsula being nuclear-free."

Libya to set up fund for Pan Am victims

By The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Libya has agreed to set up a \$2.7 billion fund for families of 270 people killed in the 1988 Pan Am bombing, the families' lawyers said, a move that could end U.N. sanctions and resolve an issue that has made the country an international pariah.

The agreement, which was reached Wednesday, was to be followed by a letter to the United Nations admitting responsibility for the attack, said the e-mail signed by attorneys James P. Kreindler and Steven R. Pounian and read to The Associated Press.

The attorneys appeared confident that sanctions would be lifted quickly, but U.S. and U.N. diplomats were skeptical.

Sanctions imposed by the Security Council in 1992 were suspended in 1999 after Libya handed over two agents indicted for the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, for trial.

But under the U.N. resolution, the ban on arms sales and air links to Libya can't be lifted permanently until Libya acknowledges responsibility for the bombing, pays fair compensation, renounces terrorism and discloses all it knows about the explosion.

The plane was blown up after taking off from London en route to the United States; most of those killed were Americans.

Protester killed in Iraq

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. troops fired into a crowd, killing one protester, after thousands of Shiite Muslims gathered around a telecommunications tower where they said American forces in a helicopter tried to tear down an Islamic banner.

The Americans said they opened fire after a rocket-propelled grenade was launched at them.

U.S. military spokesman Sgt. Danny Martin said the banner was apparently blown down by rotor wash from a Black Hawk helicopter. He said that four other people were wounded by American troops after a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at them during the protest in Sadr City, a Shiite Muslim slum in Baghdad.

Also Wednesday, guerrillas killed two American soldiers and two Iraqi civilians were killed after attacking U.S. soldiers in separate incidents north of Baghdad.



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SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press



BASEBALL

■ **MIAMI** — Once again the Florida Marlins poured out of the dugout shouting, hugging and jumping on each other. They've become good at staging celebrations because they've had a lot of practice.

Utility infielder Mike Mordecai hit the second game-winning homer by a Marlins reserve in two nights Wednesday, and Florida defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-1 in 11 innings.

Third-string catcher Ramon Castro beat the Dodgers with a homer in the 13th inning Tuesday. NL wild-card leader Florida has won 15 times in its final at-bat, including five since the All-Star break.

"This is a good feeling here, because you feel like you're going to win the game," Mordecai said. "How? Wait and see. But we do win games a lot of different ways."

Mordecai's two-out homer was his second of the year — and both have been game-winners.

He pinch-ran for Mike Lowell on July 23, then homered in the 12th inning to beat Atlanta. This time he pinch-ran for Lowell in the ninth, then found himself in the middle of another mob scene after hitting a 2-2 pitch over the scoreboard off Victor Alvarez (0-1) in the 11th.

"Everybody went plowing onto the field and hugging each other," Marlins outfielder Juan Pierre said. "It was like a College World Series-type atmosphere. I don't think I'll calm down tonight. I might sleep in my uniform."

■ **ANAHEIM** — Tim Salmon hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning, and Jarrod Washburn outpitched Mark Buehrle as the Anaheim Angels beat the Chicago White Sox 2-1 Wednesday night.

Buehrle (10-12) gave up hits to all three batters he faced in the eighth. Singles by Alfredo Amézaga and Garret Anderson put runners at the corners and Salmon lined the left-hander's 98th and last pitch to the wall in right-center.

Francisco Rodriguez (6-2) got the victory, allowing one hit over 1 2-3 innings. Troy Percival got three outs for his 24th save in 25 attempts.

The Angels turned an unusual double play in the eighth after third baseman Scott Spiezio fielded Tony Graffanino's sacrifice up the third base line. Second baseman Adam Kennedy took the throw at first, barely keeping his foot on the bag on Spiezio's wide throw, then threw to third — where shortstop Amézaga tagged out Jose Valentin.

Washburn, trying to win consecutive starts for the first time since June 4, allowed a run and four hits over 6 2-3 innings and was lifted after 107 pitches with the score tied at 1. The left-hander, who has allowed 27 homers this year, has not allowed a home run in 27 innings over his last four starts — his longest such streak of the season.

■ **OAKLAND** — The Boston Red Sox finally got to one of Oakland's aces.

Manny Ramirez and Kevin Millar homered and drove in three runs apiece as the Red Sox again pulled even with Oakland in the AL wild-card race, beating Mark Mulder and the Athletics 7-3 Wednesday night.

Bill Mueller had a run-scoring single among his three hits as the Red Sox won for just the second time in seven games. After losing the first two games of the series, Boston matched Oakland's 69-51 record atop the wild-card standings with an overdue outburst from its prolific offense.

Tim Hudson, Barry Zito and the A's bullpen shut down the Sox in the previous two games, but Boston canceled Mulder's plans for his 16th victory with a bevy of singles in the third, followed by Ramirez's two-run homer — his 28th of the season — in the seventh.

The expected pitchers' duel between Mulder and Derek Lowe didn't exactly materialize. Lowe (12-6) struggled through five innings, allowing five hits and two walks, but stayed in just long enough to get his first win in four starts.

Mulder (15-9) lost consecutive starts for just the second time this season, yielding nine hits, three walks and five earned runs in 6 1-3 shaky innings.

Jose Guillen homered for the A's, who lost for just the third time in their last 14 home games.



SOCCER

■ **SOUTHLAKE, Texas** — Landon Donovan had two goals and an assist as the San Jose Earthquakes defeated the Dallas Burn 3-0 Wednesday night.

It was the seventh victory for San Jose (10-3-6) over Dallas (3-12-4) in the last eight meetings.

Donovan scored his first goal in the 23rd minute when he fired a one-timer from outside the right corner of the penalty box into the left corner for a 2-0 lead. Donovan scored his sixth goal of the season in the 44th minute, firing a shot into an open net from just outside the goalie's box. Brian Mullan assisted on the score.

Brian Ching scored in the game's 11th minute on a shot into the right corner past D.J. Countess for his sixth goal of the year. Donovan tapped a pass from the top of the penalty box to set up Ching, who fired a shot from 18 yards away for the score.

Jason Kreis, the Burn's leading scorer, left the game in the eighth minute with a sprained left knee. Kreis, only three goals away from becoming the all-time leader in goals scored in MLS history, has failed to score a goal in his last six games.

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By Russ Wallace

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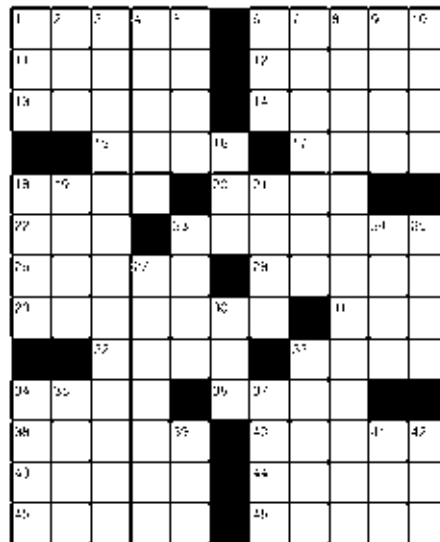
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Obituaries

JANET LOUISE LESCOULIE

A resident of the Santa Monica, Venice and Culver City areas for 88 years, she passed away August 4, 2003 at age 89 in Culver City. Beloved wife of Joseph E. Lescoulie for 66 years. A graduate of Venice High School, Janet was a community leader in the Culver City Rotary, Ann's, Child Guidance Clinic, and Culver-Palms YMCA Board of Managers. She was a member of the Bel-Aire Pres. Church Woman's Bible Studies. She leaves behind her devoted son Joseph Lescoulie Jr., and daughter-in-law Donna, along with her three loving grandchildren: Jonathan, Justin and James; sister Ora Marsh and family and niece Jeannette Hughes and family. Donations may be made in her name to the USC/Norris Cancer Research Center (323)865-3000. Gates, Kingsley & Gates (310)837-7121

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SANTA MONICA SCENE CALENDAR EDITION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2003

Compiled by Natalia Aivazova

EVENTS

Hot Summer Nights

You can spend a hot summer afternoon learning how to prepare Cuban cuisine from Ciudad's Randal St. Clair. Event begins at 6:30. Sur La Table (866) 328-5412 301 Wilshire Blvd.

CULTURE

Cinderella, Cinderella!!!

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents their take on the timeless classic Cinderella. The show is family friendly, with light-hearted songs, wacky stepisters, and of course, a handsome prince. The play's writers, Chris DeCarlo and Evelyn Rudie, incorporate lots of comic elements into the show, making it perfect for kids, and those who are kids at heart. Even the theater itself is entertaining, with horseshoes decorating the walls, 1211 Fourth Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 For more information call (310) 394-9779

ENTERTAINMENT

Magicopolis

This is a club which magic-loving families can enjoy together. It offers everything from card tricks to disappearing acts. Tonight visitors can enjoy "Escape Reality" a show combining magic, comedy and drama as audiences watch exploding special effects and elaborate escape artistry. Hosted by husband and wife, Steve Spill and Bozena Sparrow, this show is sure to entertain. 1418 Fourth Street. Santa Monica CA. 90401 For more information call: (310) 451-2241

Gotham Hall

This club has a great dance floor and live music, and there is still room left over for those who just want to shoot some pool. With the menu ranging from "Middle Eastern Hummus" to "Chicken Pot stickers" the food is sure to satisfy everyone. Tonight DJs Parrish, Mark Stylz and Brian Vasquez will spin hip hop at the club. Meanwhile Gotham Hall even has fun with fashion, dictating favorable themes to visitors. Tonight silver is in style.

1431 3rd street Promenade Santa Monica CA

McCabe's Guitar Shop

This shop does more than provide quality instruments, it also encourages the creation of music . Behind the posters and the guitars is hidden a performance room which often plays host to local musicians, providing a comfortable atmosphere. Tonight Steve Poltz performs at 8. Poltz, a former member of the Rugburns, has most recently made a name for himself as the co-writer of Jewel's "You Were Meant For Me." 3101 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405 For more information call: (310) 828-4497

Zanzibar

Created by the people behind Temple Bar this club offers a casual and comfortable atmosphere. It has a modest yet fun dance floor and a stage which is often occupied by local bands. Tonight the club features Bossa Nova, with spinning electronic beats and modern soul. 1301 5th St. Santa Monica CA. 90401 For more information call: (310) 451-2221

MOVIE GUIDE

LAEMMIE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
Whale Rider PG-13 — 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35,
The Magdalene Sisters — 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00,
American Splendor — 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
The Secret Lives of Dentists—1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
All About Eve— Sat&Sun only 11:30 a.m
Songs From the 2nd Floor — Sat&Sun only 11:00 a.m

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Le Divorce PG-13 — 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Swimming Pool R — 1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10:00

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
Freddie vs. Jason R — 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
Grind PG-13 — 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
Seabiscuit PG-13 — 11:00, 2:15, 6:05, 9:10, also 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
American Wedding R — 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
Bad Boys II R 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15
Finding Nemo G — 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:30, 9:55
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life PG-13 — 1:00, 4:00, 7:50, 10:30
Spy Kids 3D: Game Over PG — 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45
Freaky Friday PG—12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Open Range R — 12:20, 3:45, 7:05, 10:20

MANNN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Johnny English PG — 11:40, 2:15, 4:40,
The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen PG-13 — 7:00, 9:35 (both p.m.)
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13: 11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 10:10
S.M.A.T. PG-13 — 10:30, 11:00, 1:30, 2, 4:15, 4:45, 7:05, 7:35, 10, 10:35, 12:40
Passionada PG-13 — 11:30, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30,
Uptown Girls PG-13 — 11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50,

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Cameron Diaz photographer arrested for extortion

By The Associated Press

■ **VENICE BEACH** — A photographer has been charged with using 10-year-old photos of Cameron Diaz to try to extort \$3.3 million from the actress.

John Rutter, 41, was arrested Tuesday at his apartment in Venice. He was charged Wednesday with one count each of attempted extortion, grand theft and perjury, as well as two counts of forgery. He faces up to six years in prison if convicted, the district attorney's office said.

Rutter, who was jailed on \$250,000 bail, was scheduled to be arraigned Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Last week, a judge ordered the photographs and a videotape of Diaz, 30, sealed and set a Sept. 12 hearing in Superior Court on her request for an injunction against Rutter.

Attorneys for Diaz and Rutter have declined to discuss the contents of the videotape or describe the photos.

Rutter has said, however, that he contacted Diaz's attorneys to offer them first right of refusal for the photographs before trying to sell them to media outlets. He said soon after he contacted them, authorities raided his apartment and seized the photos.

A publicist for Diaz, co-star in the two "Charlie's Angels" films, has denied the actress ever signed a photo release and said a release that Rutter produced is a forgery.

■ **STOCKHOLM, Sweden** — The Swedish Film Institute offered a sneak preview Thursday of a new exhibit focusing on filmmaker Ingmar Bergman's first

forays into cinema.

The exhibit, which was shown to journalists and film devotees in the capital, Stockholm, will go on a European tour later this month with stops in Helsinki, Finland; Paris; and Rome and Turin, Italy. Each stop is expected to last about a month.

Titled "Before Ingmar Became Bergman," the exhibit is composed of personal letters, behind-the-scenes film footage and archived work from when he was in his early 20s and still a nascent filmmaker. The writer and director, now 85, donated the material to the institute last year. "We've tried to create an emotional environment that you can sink your mind into and where you can make your own interpretations," said Aina Bellis, a spokeswoman for the exhibit.

Bergman, whose 1983 film "Fanny and Alexander" won an Oscar for best foreign film, made about 60 movies before retiring from filmmaking.

He first gained international attention with "Smiles of a Summer Night," a 1955 romantic comedy that inspired the Stephen Sondheim musical "A Little Night Music."

But it was "The Seventh Seal," released two years later, that riveted critics and audiences. An allegorical tale of the medieval plague, it contains one of cinema's most famous scenes: a knight playing chess with the shrouded figure of Death.

■ **SAN FRANCISCO** — A federal appeals court rejected a "Star Trek" actress' lawsuit against dating service Matchmaker.com, ruling that a fake Internet profile posted with the star's comely image was not the

company's fault.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Wednesday the personal profile information published on Matchmaker's service is solely up to the user's discretion and the company is immune from the lawsuit.

Christianne Carafano, who uses the stage name Chase Masterson, has appeared in numerous films and television programs, most notably starring as the alien character Leeta on the TV series "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine."

Carafano sued Matchmaker after learning that an online profile using her photos had been created in 1999. The profile included her home address, phone number and text stating she sought a dominant man with "a strong sexual appetite."

Carafano received calls and e-mails from would-be suitors, who believed the actress was looking for a date online. She said she felt unsafe in her home and moved to hotels in Los Angeles for months with her son.

Matchmaker took the phony profile down, but only days after the initial request from Carafano's representatives.

"I am shocked, and I'm devastated," Carafano told The Associated Press. "It's obvious that Matchmaker participated in the creation of the profile which listed my home address in combination with blatant sexually explicit lies."

"As a result, I received a note from someone threatening to brutally stalk and rape me and kill my son," she said. "Matchmaker was not a passive vehicle."

Matchmaker is operated by Terra Lycos. Calls seeking comment from the company were not immediately returned.

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