

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

SMC theater proposal divides neighborhood

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Residents remain divided over a controversial proposal for a 536-seat theater on Santa Monica College's Madison Campus.

On Wednesday night, the theater's architects for the first time gave a solid glimpse of what they are proposing be built on the city block-sized college campus between 10th and 11th Streets and Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue.

According to schematics presented at the meeting, the theater would be set back 100 feet from 11th Street and 80 feet from 10th Street, the two areas with the nearest concentrated residential population. Architects said they were doing everything possible to prevent sound from escaping or entering the theater.

"Believe me, we are just as concerned about the noise of the buses coming in as (residents) are concerned about getting noise outside," said Michael Stebbens with Renzo Zecchetto, the firm designing the theater. "We wouldn't be doing our job right if people are able to hear noise from the performances from the parking lot."

SMC is proposing to build a new 27,100-square-foot theater and convert the existing school auditorium into a classroom and rehearsal hall. The existing

campus is 39,540 square feet, and the project would increase it to roughly 66,640 square feet.

"It's laughable that studies show that two people come to theater performances per car."

— SUSAN SUNTREE
Friends of Eleventh Street, co-director

Officials see the performing arts center as filling a large void on the westside for cultural activities. In addition to lectures and rehearsals, the facility would provide a venue for theater performances, dance, chorale, symphony orchestra and guest speakers.

Residents at the meeting said they remained concerned the proposed 300-space parking lot would not contain enough parking for a theater that would seat more than 500 and require dozens of staff members.

The building's architects assured resi-

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City moves forward with case against artist

Judge won't grant dismissal

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A henna artist who was arrested last month for drawing on people's skin will have to prove in front of a jury that it's his First Amendment right to do so.

Santa Monica Superior Court acting judge Roberta H. Kyman on Wednesday denied Luke Chanthadara's motion to dismiss eight misdemeanor charges filed against him by the city for continuing to perform the art. City Hall banned the practice at the beginning of the year. Chanthadara was cited for operating without a business license.

Chanthadara's attorney, Paul Mills, argued that not only should the charges be dropped, but that the \$300 Chanthadara had in his wallet, along with his art sup-

plies, should be returned to him. Police seized Chanthadara's property when he was arrested July 20 on the Third Street Promenade as evidence to be used at trial. Between four and six plain-clothed police officers equipped with a video camera arrested Chanthadara while he drew non-permanent designs on the skin of tourists on the Promenade.

Henna is a 3,000-year-old tradition of painting designs using a reddish-brown dye on the skin, but the city council voted last year to ban the practice on any public street. Since the city cannot constitutionally forbid a form of art, it instead refused to issue business licenses for artists to work publicly.

Even though she denied the motion for the return of property, Kyman agreed to give Chanthadara his money back — but

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Dancing the night away



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
A couple dance Thursday night at a free Delbert McClinton concert, which was part of the Twilight Concert Series at the Santa Monica Pier.

Director of hotel union feels snubbed by council

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The director of one of Santa Monica's most active unions said he was snubbed by the city council.

Kurt Petersen, the organizing director of the local Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Union, was not even considered Tuesday by the city council to fill one of two vacancies on the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board.

The union is actively trying to organize the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel and the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel,

and it currently represents workers at the Fairmont Miramar and the newly opened Viceroy Hotel.

"This was definitely a snub, and it's very disappointing," Petersen said. "It's a shame that council people would be scared by the hotel industry."

Santa Monica's business community and managers of the city's luxury hotels urged the city council to make an appointment that would not politicize the convention board but instead pick candidates based on their knowledge of tourism.

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Relax as you look at what has happened. As a result, your perspective will transform, and you'll feel far more positive. Reach out for a fellow associate or friend. Discussions illuminate your day. A lunch might go on a long time. Tonight: Kick up your heels. You need to.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Be kind to an associate you care a lot about. Your sense of direction helps mend a bridge between this person and you. Bosses and authority figures finally listen with an open mind. If possible, plan to leave work early. Tonight: Make nice.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others charge in again, but ah, what a difference! You hear good news. Detachment helps you understand a loved one and his or her actions. You discover that not everything is quite as it seems. Lighten up and add a more jovial tone to your interactions. Tonight: Consider being a party animal.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You see a work or health-related situation with a whole new perspective. You might not exactly be sure as to what works for you. Invigorate your work with more open dialoguing with a key associate. Help another make a dream a reality. Tonight: Join friends for munchies.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your efforts are paid back in multiples. What was difficult this week, now eases up in the nick of time. An associate delights you with a new enthusiasm and direction. Schedule a lengthy late lunch if possible. Fun infiltrates work. Don't make it a big deal. Tonight: Play the weekend in.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Slow down and deal with the basics. You know what is important to you. Follow through in these areas. An associate helps you pave the way to greater success. Share more of your vulnerabilities with this person. You're building a stronger team. Tonight: Mosey on home.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Others receive your words positively. Exchange ideas, being willing to share more of your dreams. Listen well to a child or loved one whom you find unusually resourceful. You have something to learn here. Your creativity adds to a relationship. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Take the lead in a financial matter. What before seemed impossible now becomes a reality. A boss suddenly beams with your ideas, wanting to give you more feedback and information. Share good news, but make no promises just yet. Tonight: Treat yourself.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You smile, and others smile back. You ask, and others answer. You delegate, and others go for it. Use your magnetic ways right now to create much more of what you want. Others respond, especially someone at a distance. Tonight: Whatever floats your boat.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Pull back some and let others do the work. A partner proposes an interesting business and/or moneymaking scheme. Know that you don't need to answer immediately. Do what is good for you, rather than being intimidated by the moment. Tonight: Take some personal time.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your imagination delights others, especially a group of friends. Whether making plans or working together, you tend to help a group meld together. Work with a strong associate or loved one, as you aren't changing him or her. Tonight: You are the party.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Others assume the lead. You cannot do much about changing others' ideas. Take the proper stance with a boss, not assuming anything. Use your high energy constructively, as you knock some paperwork off your desk. Tonight: A must show.

QUOTE of the DAY

**"I've been on a diet for two weeks
and all I've lost is two weeks."**

— Totie Fields (1931-1978)

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LOCAL



It's not a toy!



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
An unidentified teenager was frisked and then arrested by Santa Monica police for possession of a deadly weapon at the Third Street Promenade Thursday. The teen allegedly wielded a three-and-a-half-foot sword, which a police officer (right) confiscated.

The QLine

Readers blame city for bad business

Here are your responses to this week's Q-Line question:

"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?"

■ "Over the last 15 years, the city has been doing everything it can to discourage existing and prospective businesses. There has been a marked exodus of reasonably priced family restaurants and an influx of high-end restaurants. Fast food lunch is the food order of the day. Auto repair shops are told to be 'environmentally friendly.' The trendy Trader Joe's was business non grata on Wilshire Boulevard. Ocean Avenue and Santa Monica Pier businesses had to jump through administrative hoops to establish themselves and stay in business, then face city council oversight of its employment practices, respond to civil rights abuse allegations, and scrutiny over its profit margin. Building permits take two to three years to be granted. Real estate interests have to face the ever-present sledgehammer intervention posture of the rent control board. If the powers that be were to lift the heavy hand of regulation from around the throat of business, maybe business could play a more productive role in Santa Monica and not have to worry about how much longer they could afford to stay in business in Santa Monica."

■ "The city does little to assist or promote business. In fact, it goes out of its way to antagonize business. For almost 20 years, the homeless have impacted business negatively, chasing away tourists as well as residents. Yet city policies continue to attract them in record numbers. The city prosecutor defends the rights of these individuals to live in public spaces. The SMRR city council folk defend the right of our brothers and sisters to imbibe, defecate and fornicate in public. The police — now in full force — no longer can remark, 'We don't have the resources,' but smartly divide its manpower into specialized task forces, thereby limiting responsibility for action. Now they blame merchants for not executing citizens arrests, and the residents of Pico for tolerating gangs and drug dealers. The church groups from outside the city continue the 40-plus weekly feedings in our parks. How convenient for them that their neighborhoods are free from blight. Responsible cities do not allow such massive feeding programs, which, in effect, roll out the red carpet for all the derelicts, bums,

winos and miscreants to camp in our alleys. But this is exactly what SMRR wants. They want to show the world that they are in charge and can destroy the city with impunity all in the name of preserving affordable housing. Too bad they can't see they're killing the proverbial goose that lays the golden egg that funds their march to the workers paradise. Remember this when you vote in November."

■ "When you dance, you have to pay the fiddler. Now is the time for Santa Monica to pay up. Santa Monica is not friendly towards new businesses as evidence by the denial of Target and Trader Joe's. Instead, they okayed a Staples store? What gives? The powers of Santa Monica seem to be concentrating their sights on the Promenade. You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Other cities such as West Hollywood and Culver City are welcoming new businesses. Businesses that choose to relocate from Santa Monica. Santa Monica can no longer depend on the hotels and the tourist trade to support it. They need to look further beyond tourism."

■ "No. They need to do something about the problem with the transients laying all over the sidewalks and hitting people up for money every five or ten feet. I live in Santa Monica and I could walk to the grocery store, but I choose to drive to Pacific Palisades to do my shopping because it's so wonderful up there. There aren't any bums all over the place. I just can't believe this is not doing great harm to tourism. When I have visitors from out of their town, they are just appalled at this situation. It looks like a huge skid row everywhere you go in Santa Monica. I think it's very sad. I think the city needs to figure out something and do it very quickly. It's going to get to the point where no one is going to want to live here let alone shop here."

■ "I believe that a lot of the businesses in Santa Monica has to do with tourism. I have to say that when I read the newspaper and I see in the crime report that a woman is approached by a transient who is talking to himself, who obviously has a problem mentally and lunges at her with a pair of

See Q-LINE, page 4

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Fading swell from the south keeps exposed beaches in waist-to rarefied, chest-high waves. Expect a drop from Thursday's heights. Conditions should remain clean at south facing breaks, a little northwest wind swell helping at west facing exposures.

Further fading Saturday, swell stays on the decline. Most breaks sport waist level surf, occasionally better.

Sunday, however, we should begin to see something new fill in. The steep, southern hemisphere swell, from off the Australian coast, is expected to build into early next week. Expect a boost of about a foot Sunday at south facing breaks.

Today's Tides:		
High-	6:00 a.m.	3.24'
Low-	10:27 a.m.	2.47'
High-	5:04 p.m.	5.42'

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



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The Q Line

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scissors, I don't think this is conducive to having a good tourist attraction. I go to Santa Monica on occasion, but I try not to go to the Promenade because it's become very dirty. Also there are so many people who are transients who panhandle aggressively and are very, very dangerous. The tourism is going down the tubes."

■ "The 5,000 jobs are gone. Past history. Getting 5,000 people to replace them will not be easy when you consider that owners of high-rise office and business buildings are still asking \$4.00 a square foot in a \$1.60 per-square-foot market. The owners of hotels have priced themselves for only the affluent. These building owners need a hard punch of reality to bring them back to their highly educated senses. The carte blanche, free spending days of dot.coms are over."

■ "No. The biggest mistake we made was not letting Target come in. Trader Joe's as well. The small businesses are being pushed out and the charm in Santa Monica is going, and it's not going good."

■ "The reason Santa Monica is losing business is because the shops are too expensive, and it looks like every other place in the world. I've heard tourists say these things to me when I sit and do my artwork at Starbucks. I'm a homeless person that has been here since 1996, and I've seen this place decline because of all the high-end shops moving in and all the mom and pop places moving out. Now I hear they are trying to get rid of the street performers!"

■ "I don't think there are 5,000 people working over at City Hall. I think there are 1,500 or so. I think you should print a retraction. Also, I don't think that the role of city government is to promote and support businesses. I think the role of the city is to support its people. Sometimes the

business and the people are at conflict. I wish you would not use this question until it's accurate. There are not 5,000 employees at City Hall."

■ "We could give them the raspberry like they do in Brooklyn? If this were Brooklyn, we would give them the triple raspberry. What can we do for them? Come up with a better idea and we can give you a raspberry, too."

■ "We all know that tourism is a major part of our local economy. The tourists I have spoken with are appalled by the number of homeless and their sometimes aggressive behavior. I sympathize with the business owners, who in addition to their exorbitant operating costs, have to deal with the filth left behind by the homeless, mentally ill and the simple derelicts among them. This is a problem on a national level that in large part began during the Reagan years when so many were released from mental hospitals. Is the tourism impacted by the simple derelicts? Yes, it is. We need to realize that many tourists come from countries where a large portion of their countries' resources are spent to deal effectively and humanely with this problem, and are thus even more shocked by it than us local citizens. Again, it's a problem that needs to be dealt with on a national level. Simply providing more public bathrooms does not address the core problem. Our local government leaders were not elected to be social engineers for the entire country. If tourists do not feel safe and comfortable here, they will simply avoid the area. One more thing, if hotel rates increase because of the living wage ordinance, it may be an additional reason for tourists to avoid the area. You either believe in a free market system or not. Note to all hotel workers: If you plan on raising a family of four or five or six on hotel worker wages, forget it! Put it off for awhile. Get a better education that will lead to a better paying job and then plan your family. Carefully. Always know that in a free market system, things can go well or not. That's life, that's reality."

OPINION

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LETTERS

Hoping for a representative government

Editor:

I do hope that when voting time comes around we can change the structure of City Hall from what resembles an oligarchy to a real democracy and maybe even elect our own mayor. Wouldn't that be a neat treat?

Last year, I worked on collecting signatures to allow Target to build on the old Henshey's lot at Fifth & Santa Monica. Every objection the committee came up with, mainly parking, Target addressed.

Target even had planned for bus shuttles (which they would finance) to cut down on any congestion, plus 363 more parking spaces than now exist.

Margaret Kanoi
Santa Monica

Opposition to city's largest political party in total disarray?



AS I SEE IT

By Bill Bauer

People are concerned about things that directly affect them. The city's annual surveys on community issues always indicate homelessness, overdevelopment, traffic, parking, lack of park space and other livability issues are at the top of the list of residents' complaints.

Many Santa Monicans feel that Santa Monica for Renters Rights-backed elected officials ignore community problems and are more interested in solving the world's social problems. So, you'd think SMRR opponents would be working hard to wrest control of city government from those who currently hold power. Think again.

SMRR co-chair, Denny Zane labels SMRR's opponents as "those rich hotels, landlords, developers and business interests." Denny conveniently forgets about the homeowners, renters and the rest of us who think that city government should represent "us" instead of every union organizer and transient looking for a free handout.

The problem in a nutshell is that SMRR's opponents are like a gaggle of feuding factions unwilling and unable to unite to fight the common enemy.

There are the hotels opposed to the living wage. There are some groups who are concerned about too much development, and then there are the developers who say that it's too hard to develop here. There are landlords out to protect their interests, and there are those upset about the seizing of property rights through landmarking and mandatory disabled access rulings. There are groups who want more parks and recreational facilities and lots of people who want better schools.

But, with no leadership and virtually no communication, these factions can get nothing done. All the disenfranchised who have been "left out" of the process for over two decades still couldn't muster a single credible candidate for city council, school board and most other offices.

It's unfortunate that Tom Larmore, Bob Holbrook, Herb Katz and other opposition leaders didn't forge a coalition and develop a good slate of viable candidates for public office and a strong marketing plan to get them elected.

One reason why the SMRR opponents

couldn't come up with candidates was because few credible persons would run without assurance of financial backing and support from the deep pockets — which never came. One by one, top potential candidates decided not to run leaving no one to challenge the SMRR/Green/Big Labor juggernaut.

The big question is will the hospitality industry ride into town at the last minute with their beaucoup bucks and highly paid, out-of-town and out-of-touch public relations firm as they did in 2000? Maybe they will orchestrate the same kind of ignorant, uninformed and offensive issue-oriented campaign as they did in the last elections, proving to all of us that they've learned nothing from their overwhelming defeat at the polls two years ago.

But now that nine candidates have qualified for city council, a couple of names have risen to the surface, like cream. They could effectively challenge the SMRR/labor endorsees given the right backing and some breaks. Councilman Bob Holbrook, who entered the race at the last minute, is seeking reelection and will probably get universal support from SMRR opponents.

Outspoken activist Chuck Allord is

feverishly gathering backing from widely divergent community groups opposed to SMRR. Physician Matteo Dinolfo also is now trying to drum up anti-SMRR support after he pursued and failed to get SMRR's endorsement for city council.

It is unlikely there will be a Holbrook/Allord/Dinolfo slate. Unlike SMRR, whose strength is to agree and stand united, the opposition agrees to disagree, making a cohesive, united front impossible. It is unclear whether the hospitality and business community — a major source of non-SMRR money — will back candidates or funnel their resources into a repeal of the living wage and supporting VERITAS, a voter reform measure.

If the anti-SMRRs don't get their act together, we will all be victims. If SMRR and the pro-unionists win big, the "mandate to govern" will lead to a lot more Green, extreme, big labor government and even less incentive to deal with community issues.

SMRR's own enemies will have literally, once again, handed them the power to govern at our expense.

(Bill Bauer has been a resident of Santa Monica for 25 years and is a freelance writer.)

LOCAL



Residents suggest shuttles to ease traffic congestion

PROPOSAL, from page 1

dents that recent studies of Southern California theaters show that the parking-to-seat ratio was more than adequate. Still, neighbors weren't convinced.

"It's laughable that studies show that two people come to theater performances per car," said Susan Suintree, co-director of Friends of Eleventh Street. "Go to any performance at Santa Monica College and see how impacted the neighborhoods are. There's no parking, and it brings all this congestion to residential streets."

Other residents said traffic congestion could be mediated and would be outweighed by the advantages of having the theater in the neighborhood.

"I could see a circulation problem if it isn't handled properly," said John Verone, a Ninth Street resident. "But it will be a plus for the folks north of Pico to have something as nice as this in their neighborhood."

Residents and officials talked about including the cost of parking when theatergoers bought their tickets, and even possibly giving a discount for those who arrived by public transportation.

Some residents recommended traffic could be lessened by having some ticketed theater patrons park at Santa Monica College's main campus on Pico Boulevard and be bused to the location.

"I like the idea of having people order tickets in advance and include parking in the price of the ticket for ordering early," Verone said. "And then maybe shuttle people who come late."

Suintree is also concerned the theater's two planned concession stands would

serve alcoholic beverages during intermissions. College officials said alcohol is not allowed on any of its campuses, and it would not be served at the theater's shows.

But Suintree said she had been served wine at catered events held at the college, and believed events at the theater would also provide alcohol. Even though Suintree said she isn't opposed specifically to alcohol being offered at the college, she is concerned about the affect it could have on the neighborhood.

"We already have the most bars in the city in our neighborhood," she said. "We don't need another place that serves alcohol."

The theater would be located directly behind the campus' main building. And while the tallest point of the building would stretch 60 feet high, the building would be centered on the campus so not to affect the views of residents living in many of the apartment complexes nearby.

Stebbens argued the theater would affect the views of its neighbors far less than if a row of apartment complexes were built in its place. Under current city zoning, those buildings could be 60 feet high as well, but they would be much more massive in size.

The architect also displayed samples of colors and materials that would be used on the exterior of the building to illustrate the colors and textures being proposed. A beige stucco is being considered for the tallest portion of the theater, while a zinc gray may be used for the theater's trim.

"But we're not committed to anything yet," Stebbens said. "Any of this could change."

Henna artist alleges civil rights violation, suing city

ARTIST, from page 1

not because police failed to have probable cause to seize it.

"Strictly in the interest of justice I am going to rule that the money be returned," she said. "I think it's the right thing to do ... but I think the arrest was lawful and there was a basis to take the evidence."

Mills argued that police had no basis for arresting Chanthadara, and city officials have refused to specifically cite where in the municipal code it says he cannot practice his art form.

Mills maintains that the city has set up a catch-22 scenario that leaves Henna artists in peril for practicing their art in Santa Monica. He said the city will issue business licenses to practice Henna from a cart or storefront location. But the artists can't afford the \$1,800 a month cart or high storefront rents along the Promenade. He alleges the city is denying business licenses without just cause.

Kyman denied the motion to dismiss because she was unable to determine why Chanthadara was denied a business license.

"I don't know whether or not the cart requirement is why he was turned away at the (business license bureau) window and why he was standing here today," she said. "Is it why he was not granted a business license? I don't know ... the fact is there is not enough information in front of the Court."

Deputy City Attorney David Fairweather could not say why the city didn't

grant Chanthadara a business license, but did say Chanthadara could have appealed the decision.

However, Mills argued that the burden falls on the city to prove the arrest was warranted.

"The city has had more than a month to answer why he was turned down for a cart and Mr. Fairweather can't answer that," Mills said. "The people have the burden to justify their actions and they have not met that burden."

He also argued that Chanthadara had nothing to appeal — he was flatly turned down. Citing U.S. Supreme Court rulings, Mills said it is Chanthadara's First Amendment right to continue performing his art even though a city ordinance prohibits it. "It is perfectly proper to violate and then challenge the license requirement," he said. "This request for dismissal is for the interest of justice."

But Kyman said because there were seven previous infractions against Chanthadara, the city had enough probable cause to arrest him.

A Sept. 6 meeting with Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins has been scheduled to set a trial date. The jury trial could take up to seven days.

Chanthadara faces up to four years in prison and \$8,000 in fines on the eight charges. He's pleaded not guilty to all of them.

Chanthadara is also suing the city in Federal court, arguing his civil rights are being violated and his freedom of expression is being suppressed by the city.

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Council member suspicious of political machinations

DIRECTOR, from page 1

The council apparently heeded the advice, and appointed West Hooker, owner of a restaurant on the Third Street Promenade, and Carl Buchta, general manager of the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, to the board. Petersen's nomination was not discussed.

"They (council members) were so scared by business that they wouldn't put somebody on the board from labor," Petersen said. "It will continue a sad history of excluding labor from the table in Santa Monica."

Petersen has been instrumental in helping enact the city's living wage ordinance, which would raise the minimum wage for low-income workers at coastal Santa Monica businesses that earn more than \$5 million a year from \$6.75 to \$10.50 with health benefits or \$12.25 without benefits.

Opponents of the ordinance have challenged it, and voters will be asked on the November ballot whether or not they want the living wage ordinance to be implemented.

Petersen applied for the vacant position on the board because he wanted to bring labor's voice to the city's tourism industry. Labor representatives already serve on the tourism boards of major California cities, as well as New York City, he said.

After the nominating convention last month for Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, a powerful, local political group,

there had been an apparent fallout between Petersen and Mayor Mike Feinstein, Councilman Richard Bloom and Councilman Ken Genser. The elected officials opposed a candidate supported by Petersen, who eventually won the endorsement.

Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown said he thought it was suspicious the nominations for the Convention and Visitors Bureau board had been delayed last June until Tuesday's meeting, which is the first meeting after the SMRR convention.

"It may have been to have it postponed until after the (SMRR) convention so that council members seeking the endorsement wouldn't feel pressured to vote for him," McKeown said.

Typically, nominations are not delayed unless new applicants apply for a board or commission vacancy and have not been interviewed by the council. However, there had been no new candidates for the board's vacancies when Councilman Richard Bloom asked the nomination process be delayed last June.

"I remember being surprised because we had more than a good number of candidates," McKeown said.

Bloom has previously said he does not remember why he asked for the nominations to be delayed.

"It could have been because the meeting was getting late or that we didn't have a full council," he said. "I'm not sure why I asked for that."

Report: Schools' Academic Performance Index flawed

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — Lawmakers called for repairs to California's sweeping school performance system after a newspaper reported it was so flawed that one in five students aren't included and millions of dollars were awarded based on unreliable scores.

"We need to look immediately at these injustices," said state Sen. Joe Dunn, D-Garden Grove.

State Sen. Dede Alpert, the San Diego Democrat whose bill created the system, has asked the experts who created the process to fix it, the Orange County Register reported Wednesday.

The Academic Performance Index, or API, has an average error rate of 20 points that was not publicly announced until July, although the program was passed by the Legislature in 1999, the newspaper said in a series of articles.

The state's 7,300 public schools are judged by the results, which are used to dole out cash awards that can help a financially strapped school stock its library, playground or science lab.

But the statistical scheme penalizes schools with multiple ethnic groups even when they show more academic improvement than mostly white campuses, the paper said.

The API was the centerpiece of Gov. Gray Davis' efforts to improve California's struggling schools. It was designed to measure academic performance and school growth with an academic scale that awards 200 to 1,000 points per school. It relies heavily on the Stanford 9

standardized test, the latest results of which will be released Aug. 29.

Schools showing academic improvement can win cash awards — more than \$800 million so far and a projected \$67.3 million this year.

But because of the error rate, 35 percent of the money is slated for schools where improvement had little or no statistical significance, the newspaper reported. That meant it was impossible to tell if many schools who received the money deserved it and others who didn't were wrongly left out.

In addition, more than half of the schools where teachers won bonuses of up to \$25,000 for raising tests scores were unable to meet state improvement goals the next year.

Part of the reason for the error is that the state excludes about \$28,000 of the 4.5 million students in grades two through 11 who are tested to determine school API scores, the Register said. About six out of every 30 students in a classroom will have their scores dropped because of API loopholes.

Meanwhile, predominantly white schools won cash awards at about twice the rate of ethnically diverse schools, the Register found. That is because a school must not only raise its overall API score but the scores of each major ethnic and racial group, and also of its poor children. Schools with only a single ethnic group thus gain a statistical advantage. An average of \$21 per student in awards went to schools with mainly white populations last year, compared to \$9 per student at the most diverse schools, the paper found.

STATE



NASA loses contact with comet-chasing spacecraft

By The Associated Press

PASADENA — NASA lost contact with a \$159 million spacecraft early Thursday, when the robotic probe was to have left Earth orbit on a journey to explore several comets.

NASA's Comet Nucleus Tour, or Contour, spacecraft was programmed to fire its solid-rocket motor for 50 seconds at 1:49 a.m. PDT, boosting it from orbit where it remained since its launch July 3.

At the time, the octagonal spacecraft was about 140 miles above the Indian Ocean and was too close to Earth and moving too fast for NASA's Deep Space Network of antennas to track.

The network was to have picked up a signal from Contour 48 minutes after the burn, as the spacecraft moved away from Earth. By late morning, the giant dish antennas in California, Australia and Spain had heard nothing.

"We really are still in a search mode, trying to communicate with the spacecraft," NASA spokesman Don Savage said.

Without the maneuver, the spacecraft

would remain stuck in Earth orbit.

The mission's operations team was searching along the predicted paths Contour might have taken in an effort to pinpoint its location in space.

"They are operating on the assumption that the burn went as planned," said Michael Buckley, a spokesman for Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, which built the spacecraft, with assistance from Cornell University, for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The spacecraft was in Earth orbit since its launch last month, looping around the planet every 42 hours on an elliptical path.

Thursday's motor firing was to have increased the spacecraft's velocity by 4,299 mph, releasing it from the Earth's grasp and sending it on a comet-chasing orbit around the sun.

The mission plan called for Contour to meet up with comet Encke in 2003, Schwassman-Wachmann 3 in 2006 and perhaps comet d'Arrest in 2008.

Contour is part of NASA's Discovery program of low-cost missions.

Nude man terrorizes San Gabriel home, collapses, dies

By The Associated Press

SAN GABRIEL — A naked man invaded an apartment and was thrown out, then jumped back in through a window and collapsed and died after terrorizing a family, authorities said.

The man, identified as a neighbor who did not know the family, walked through the apartment's front door about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Brenda Cambra said.

A 27-year-old man pushed the intruder outside, but he banged on the door and then crashed through the glass front window, sustaining numerous cuts, she said.

The intruder headed toward a bedroom where two children were sleeping as their 28-year-old mother struggled with him and pushed him into a bathroom, Cambra said.

The melee continued until the children's father pulled the attacker off the woman, she said. Then, covered in blood, the intruder collapsed and died.

The family rendered first aid to the man until paramedics arrived and pronounced him dead at the scene.

The intruder's name was not released, and the cause of death is under investigation. Authorities also withheld the name of the family.

California man arrested with 11 pounds of cocaine in SUV

By The Associated Press

GULFPORT, Miss. — A San Diego man was held Thursday on drug charges after his arrest for having 11 pounds of cocaine in his sports utility vehicle when stopped on Interstate 10, authorities said.

Prisciliano Garcia Huerta, 46, was stopped by Harrison County deputies on Tuesday and fled on foot. The sheriff's canine unit was used to hunt him down, Sheriff George Payne said.

"He attempted to fight one of the canines that were chasing him and was bitten several times," Payne said.

The man was treated for dog bites at Memorial Hospital at Gulfport and transported to jail.

Sheriff's Lt. Tony Sauro said he

stopped a 1985 Chevrolet Suburban on I-10 for a traffic violation. Sauro said Garcia Huerta gave written permission for a search of the vehicle and agreed to follow deputies to a police garage for an inspection of suspicious repair work.

"He was very cooperative until he rammed my car," said Sauro. "Then he swerved, and a tractor-trailer went slap between us."

Sauro was not injured.

State Bureau of Narcotics agents seized the SUV and the drugs, which officers said were hidden in the engine block.

Garcia Huerta is charged with possessing cocaine, assaulting an officer and traffic violations. He was being held without bond.

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NATIONAL

Terrorist victims' families sue Saudi princes, banks

BY LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Some 600 family members of Sept. 11 victims filed a trillion-dollar federal lawsuit Thursday against Saudi officials, banks and charities, charging they financed Osama bin Laden's network and the attacks on New York and Washington.

The 15-count lawsuit, modeled after action filed against Libya in the Pan Am flight 103 disaster, seeks to cripple banks, charities and some members of the Saudi royal family as a deterrent to terrorist financing schemes.

But the suit also is therapeutic, and the plaintiffs face long odds, the families acknowledged.

"It's not the money. We want to do something to get at these people," said Irene Spina, whose daughter, Lisa L. Trerotola, 38, perished in the World Trade Center. "There's nothing else we can do."

"This is the right thing to do," said Matt Sellito, father of Matthew Carmen Sellito, 23, who also died in the World Trade Center. "If the odds are stacked against us, we will beat them."

The 258-page complaint, filed electronically Thursday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, seeks more than \$1 trillion and charges the defendants with racketeering, wrongful death, negligence and conspiracy.

Lead attorney Ron Motley said the money would likely come largely from assets held by the defendants in the United States. He said the plaintiffs were after more institutions than those whose

assets already have been frozen by the U.S. and other governments.

The complaint also ignores the Bush administration's delicate diplomatic balancing act with Saudi Arabia by bluntly blaming the kingdom's officials and institutions for the attacks.

"That kingdom sponsors terrorism," Motley told reporters at a news conference. "This is an insidious group of people."

The complaint names more than seven dozen defendants, including the government of Sudan, seven banks, eight Islamic foundations and three Saudi princes.

Those listed include Mohammed al Faisal al Saud, Turki al Faisal al Saud, and Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al Saud, Khalid bin Salim bin Mahfouz, the National Commercial Bank, and the Faisal Islamic Bank.

Officials from the Saudi Embassy did not immediately return a call for comment.

President Bush's administration has been careful not to blame the Saudi government for the attacks in its drive build a coalition for its war against terrorism.

Prince Saud said last week that the 70-year-old U.S.-Saudi alliance was as solid now as before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

He said Osama bin Laden, who was stripped of Saudi citizenship and is accused of directing the al-Qaida attacks, had intended to drive a wedge between the two countries when he chose 15 Saudi citizens to be among the 19 hijackers.

Several plaintiffs, fighting tears, said they would dedicate the rest of their lives to punishing those who financed the attacks.

IRS is latest federal agency to lose track of computers

BY CURT ANDERSON
AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON — Another big batch of government computers has gone missing, this time at the Internal Revenue Service, and they could hold private taxpayer data such as Social Security numbers and bank account information.

An audit released Thursday shows the IRS is unable to account for an unknown number of the 6,600 laptop and desktop computers loaned to volunteers who assist low-income, disabled, non-English speaking and older people with their tax returns.

The audit follows similar reports that the Customs Service had lost track of some 2,000 computers and that the Justice Department was unable to find 400. An audit this summer of other IRS programs indicated 2,300 computers were missing.

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, senior Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, said in a letter to the White House that the latest disclosure cries out for a "government-wide effort" to prevent computers from being lost, stolen or misplaced.

"I'm worried that just as dryers have a knack of making socks disappear, the federal government has discovered a core competency of losing computers," Grassley wrote White House budget chief Mitch Daniels.

John Dalrymple, commissioner of the IRS Wage and Investment Division, said the agency's management "recognized

that inadequate internal controls and accountability over computers were areas that needed dramatic improvement."

The latest audit, from the Treasury Department's tax inspector general, examined computer equipment loaned by the IRS in 2001 for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly program. About 1.1 million returns were prepared under the two programs, including 700,000 that were filed electronically.

Auditors could not account for 93 percent of computers when doing a random check of a central IRS inventory database. While that does not automatically mean the computers were lost or stolen, there is no way to be certain.

Even more troubling is that missing computers could private taxpayer data. "Information on tax forms is regarded as a prime target for identity thieves," the audit says.

In addition, the IRS could not guarantee that such information had been removed from the computer hard drives at the end of April as required.

In response, IRS officials said an inventory and consolidation of the equipment should be completed by July 2003 and that instructions have already been issued to managers to make sure taxpayer files are deleted. The agency promised a list of other improvements, some begun before the audit was made public.

NATIONAL



National security advisor calls Saddam an evil man

BY JANE WARDELL
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is an evil man who will wreak havoc on the world if the West does nothing to stop him, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said in an interview broadcast Thursday.

Rice said the U.S. belief was undiminished that there was a "moral case" for removing Saddam.

"This is an evil man who, left to his own devices, will wreak havoc again on his own population, his neighbors and, if he gets weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, all of us. (It) is a very powerful moral case for regime change," she told British Broadcasting Corp. radio. "We certainly do not have the luxury of doing nothing."

There is growing speculation the United States will soon launch a military campaign to oust Saddam, and polls here suggest a majority of Britons opposed to joining an attacks.

Echoing President Bush, Rice said that Saddam's pursuit of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in defiance of its disarmament pledge after the 1991 Gulf War was a powerful case for a regime change.

"He has used chemical weapons against his own people and against his neighbors, he has invaded his neighbors, he has killed thousands of his own people," Rice said in the interview for the BBC's Sept. 11 anniversary radio series,

"This is an evil man who, left to his own devices, will wreak havoc again on his own population, his neighbors and, if he gets weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, all of us."

— CONDOLEEZZA RICE
National security advisor

"The Diplomatic Jigsaw."

"He shoots at our planes, our airplanes, in the no-fly zones where we are trying to enforce U.N. security resolutions."

Rice said breaking down the al-Qaida network was the priority after the Sept. 11 attacks "because we did not know how many more World Trade Centers were already planned and ready to go" but Saddam was now a focus.

"Clearly if Saddam Hussein is left in power doing the things that he is doing now this is a threat that will emerge, and emerge in a very big way," she said.

"History is littered with cases of inaction that led to have grave consequences for the world. We just have to look back and ask how many dictators who ended up being a tremendous global threat and killing thousands and, indeed, millions of people, should we have stopped in their tracks," she added.

Brent Scowcroft, who served as national security advisor to the first President Bush during the Gulf War, cautioned against taking on Saddam with the war on

terrorism in progress.

"...the central point is that any campaign against Iraq...is certain to divert us for some indefinite period from our war on terrorism. Worse, there is a virtual consensus in the world against an attack on Iraq at this time," Scowcroft wrote in Thursday's Wall Street Journal.

Rice rejected criticism that any action against Iraq would worsen the situation in the country and said the West would have an obligation to improve life for ordinary Iraqis.

"I would think that at the end of any action that we might take toward regime change, it would be an obligation for all of us to make certain that things are better for the people of the country and the people of the region."

Menzies Campbell, foreign affairs spokesman for the opposition Liberal

Democrat Party, said Rice's arguments for removal of Saddam did not stand up under international law.

"In international affairs it is not enough to claim a moral authority in cases where the United Nations has been involved," he said.

"There will be no world order if the most powerful states are entitled to remove other governments at will. There is no doctrine of international law which justifies regime change."

Gerald Kaufman, a lawmaker from the governing Labor Party, said in an article published Thursday in the Spectator magazine that there was broad opposition in Parliament to a strike against Iraq.

"(Prime Minister) Tony Blair would find it difficult to support and participate in a war against Iraq whose majority in the House of Commons was provided by the (opposition) Conservatives," Kaufman said.

He argued that the "hawks" in the U.S. administration were giving the president poor advice.

"Bush, himself the most intellectually backward American president of my political lifetime, is surrounded by advisers whose bellicosity is exceeded only by their political, military and diplomatic illiteracy," Kaufman wrote.

Coalition planes strike Iraqi air defenses, U.S. military says

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON D.C. — Aircraft from the U.S.-British coalition patrolling southern Iraq bombed two Iraqi air defense sites, the U.S. Central Command said.

The attack on Wednesday with precision-guided weapons at about 5 p.m. EDT was a response to Iraqi actions threatening coalition planes patrolling the southern no-fly zone, a Central Command statement said.

In Iraq, an unidentified military spokesman said four civilians were injured in the attacks, the official Iraqi News Agency reported Thursday.

"The evil U.S. and British warplanes attacked residential areas and service installations in Wasit and Missan provinces ... Wednesday night," the spokesman said, according to agency. Wasit and Missan are 106 miles and 267 miles respectively southeast of Baghdad.

"Our courageous air defenses drove the planes away," he told INA.

The strike was the latest in a series of incidents in the no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq. Coalition planes struck an Iraqi military communications facility on Aug. 5.

The no-fly zones were created after the 1991 Gulf War to protect Iraqi dissident populations from President Saddam Hussein's

military. Saddam says the zones are a violation of Iraqi sovereignty and his military often tries to shoot down warplanes patrolling the areas.

Central Command says Iraq has fired on coalition planes 85 times this year. The command, based in Tampa, Florida, is responsible for the region.

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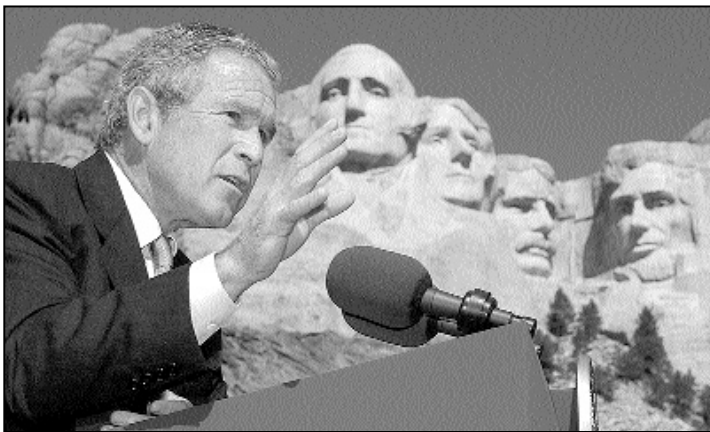
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NATIONAL



Ken Lambert/Associated Press

President Bush speaks about homeland security and the budget at the base of Mount Rushmore National Memorial Thursday in South Dakota.

Bush pitches homeland security plan at monument

BY LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON
Associated Press Writer

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL, S.D. — President Bush, using Mount Rushmore as a dramatic backdrop, pressed Congress Thursday to give him a flexible, fast-moving homeland security department unfettered by work rules and red tape.

"We can't have our hands tied," exclaimed Bush, with the granite-carved heads of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt hovering overhead.

"I'm a little worried about some of the noise I hear" about the shape of the bill in Congress, Bush said. "We need to be able to move resources."

Bush was referring to opposition among Senate Democrats to his proposal for a waiver exempting agency employees from federal labor relations rules and prohibit them from joining unions.

"They need to be working in concert," he said. "I don't have that authority under the Senate bill. ... It is important in times of war to have flexibility. I need flexibility to be able to run this department."

An age of terrorism demands no less, he declared. Bush said America has a challenge in fighting terrorism, "and we are going to win that war."

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle, South Dakota's senior senator, was in the audience as Bush spoke at Grand View Terrace under the mountain on which the first secretary of homeland security.

So was Tom Ridge, Bush's director of homeland security, who said the structure of the new department must not be bound by "cumbersome" rules.

Ridge coordinates homeland security policy from the White House, and Bush has not said whether he'll nominate the former Pennsylvania governor to be the first secretary of homeland security.

Bush has said in speech after speech that he wants broad leeway to assign and transfer personnel of the new department, at will, if necessary.

But one senior Senate Democrat — Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut — said the president is turning an urgent quest to improve the nation's internal security into a labor-management dispute.

The president's appearance was the wrap-up speech of a two-day Midwest swing that took him to a university cam-

pus in Milwaukee, the Iowa State Fair and fund-raisers for GOP gubernatorial candidates in Wisconsin and Iowa. He was returning to Texas late Thursday to resume a summer vacation at his 1,600-acre ranch near Crawford.

In speeches throughout the week, Bush has portrayed Senate Democrats as unreliable on security issues, especially in connection with his decision to unify many protective functions in a single cabinet department.

**"I'm a little worried about
some of the noise I hear.
We need to be able to
move resources."**

— **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President of the United States

Bush contends the Democrats are attempting to saddle him with "a big fat bureaucratic rule book" when they demand Civil Service and union protections for the new department's work force.

"The Senate looks a little shaky," Bush told a fairgrounds crowd in Des Moines, Iowa Wednesday. "They want to protect their turf. They want to protect the special interests."

Shortly after Bush spoke at the Iowa event, Lieberman appeared to promote his own presidential aspirations in 2004 and to raise questions about the White House stance on homeland security.

"I don't understand the tactic that President Bush is following," said Lieberman, asserting that the two sides agree on 90 percent of the issues on the table.

Lieberman said he is puzzled at Bush's effort to remove federal protections for federal workers who will be transferred to the new department.

In a private meeting before his speech, Bush addressed economic recovery issues with a group of South Dakota residents drawn largely from the agricultural community.

South Dakota has been hit by a long dry spell, and Bush said: "I understand what drought means to people making a living off the land."

"We want to help deal with this drought," he said. "We want to help the hurting people."

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INTERNATIONAL



River at highest level in more than a century at Dresden

BY CLAUS-PETER TIEMANN

Associated Press Writer

DRESDEN, Germany

Floodwaters in Dresden rose to their highest level in more than a century Thursday, threatening the Baroque city's famed opera and art collections as east Germany became the focus of flooding that has killed at least 100 people across Europe.

A levee broke about 80 miles to the northwest near a huge chemical industry complex at Bitterfeld, prompting officials to order the evacuation of the town of 16,000. But authorities later revoked the order after the Mulde River began receding.

"The situation has calmed down," said emergency services official Reiner Jacob. "The chemical park is not in danger at this time."

In Dresden, the Elbe topped the 26 1/2-foot mark for the first time in more than 100 years, Mayor Ingolf Rossberg said. It was expected to rise another foot, close to the 29-foot level reached in 1845.

In South Asia, torrential rains pushed up water levels Thursday in rivers along the Himalayan foothills, where monsoon floods have killed nearly 900 people across India, Bangladesh and Nepal and displaced or trapped more than 25 million.

Chinese officials reported flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains have killed 108 people over the past 10 days in the central Chinese province of Hunan. Those deaths raise to more than 900 the number of people reported killed by heavy rains this summer.

Even before Thursday's surge in Germany, floodwaters had damaged landmarks of Dresden, including the famed Semper Opera and Zwinger Gallery, where volunteers helped bring thousands of priceless masterworks to higher floors this week. The city's main train station is also waterlogged and has been closed for days.



Heribert Proepper/Associated Press

Rescue workers evacuate a resident from the flooded area of Karlin in Prague on Thursday. A four-story building collapsed in this neighborhood, which was hit by the flooding of the Vltava River.

Largely destroyed by a February 1945 Allied fire bombing near the end of World War II, rebuilt Dresden is one of Germany's top cultural attractions and tourist spots. Many of the landmarks are near the banks of the Elbe.

On Thursday, workers were pumping river water out of the Semper Opera's basement, where it had damaged stage equipment and costumes, said Christoph Bauch, the opera's chief of stage technology.

State officials said no damage to paintings at the Zwinger Gallery had been discovered so far after hundreds of masterworks were evacuated from storage in the basement. The gallery's upper floors were not touched by the floods.

About 170 intensive care patients were

evacuated overnight from several Dresden hospitals and brought to other facilities. Some 3,000 residents were evacuated from newly flooded areas in the morning to gyms, schools and private homes.

The rising Elbe has been fed in part by high water on the Vltava — the river that devastated Prague over the past week.

On Thursday, Czechs crowded onto Prague's riverfront lookout points to watch the Vltava's muddy waters recede.

Generally clear skies over Germany on Thursday and a forecast of sunny weather promised relief here. But downstream from Dresden to the north, several cities on the Elbe — notably Magdeburg — braced for their share of flooding that has left 11 dead in Germany.

To the southeast in Europe, the rain-swollen Danube also raised alarms. The river was rising Thursday in Romania and in Hungary, where the Cabinet called an emergency meeting to review flood preparations. The river was expected to peak on Sunday in Budapest, the capital.

Slovakia declared a state of emergency in the capital, Bratislava, where authorities expect the Danube to reach crest Friday.

In Austria, where the floods left seven dead, the capital Vienna was spared major flooding as the Danube's water level receded.

In the town of Schwertberg, the raging Danube partially tore loose a 100-foot-long steel bridge Thursday. Authorities called for a special mountain crane to keep it from collapsing and being swept downstream.

Floodwaters swamped a breeding ground for flamingos at the zoo in Wels, triggering panic among hundreds of birds and forcing zookeepers to move eggs from nests to higher ground.

"The flamingo parents were nervous wrecks, but it was our only chance," zookeeper Daniela Artmann told the Austria Press Agency on Thursday.

But floodwaters continued to subside in most of Austria's hardest-hit areas Thursday, and emergency personnel began shifting from sandbagging operations to mopping up.

In Prague, thousands of sandbags kept the raging Vltava from punching through and flooding the historic Czech capital's quaint Old Town. Officials said the Vltava dropped 3 feet overnight, but many parts of the city remained under water.

Hundreds of thousands of Czechs fled the rushing waves of the Vltava and dozens of other rivers, searching for higher ground. About 70,000 inhabitants of the capital's 1 million people left their homes, city officials said.

Freeze may be lifted on those with ties to Osama bin Laden

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — In a move aimed at making life easier for more than 200 people allegedly linked to Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network, the United States has proposed partially lifting a freeze of their financial assets to allow them to pay for food, rent and other living expenses.

A draft resolution circulated to the 15-member U.N. Security Council and obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday would authorize the country where the individuals live to determine the amount of money that can be released.

The Security Council in January shifted sanctions from the government of Afghanistan to bin Laden, his al-Qaida terror network, and the remnants of the country's former Taliban rulers.

It ordered all nations to impose a travel ban and arms embargo and freeze the assets of individuals and groups on a list compiled by a council committee monitoring the sanctions. The latest list issued on May 22 includes more than 200 individuals and over 60 banks, companies, organizations and other entities.

The individuals on the list come from a range of countries including Afghanistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Sweden, Somalia, Italy, the United States, Britain, Yemen, Libya, Tunisia, Germany, Kenya, Tanzania, Jordan, Uzbekistan and Switzerland.

The U.S. draft resolution is a response to complaints from some individuals on the list and their governments that the January resolution was making people subject to sanctions destitute because it did not make sufficient provisions for living expenses.

The proposed U.S. "technical amendment" would allow the countries where individuals on the list live to determine the amount of money necessary for basic

expenses "including payments for foodstuffs, rent or mortgage, medicines and medical treatment, taxes, insurance premiums, and public utility charges."

The funds would then be released. Funds could also be unfrozen to pay for some legal fees and service charges, and for "extraordinary expenses" which would have to be approved by the sanctions committee.

In addition to providing for the release of some frozen money, the draft resolution would provide for interest or other earnings on frozen accounts, and payments due to

individuals on the list under contracts or other agreements, to be frozen as well.

The United States is expected to formally introduce the resolution to the council next week.

Council diplomats said the United States is also working on a resolution to address another problem with January's resolution — how to get off the U.N. list. The resolution being drafted would spell out the steps individuals and groups must take to have their names removed, the diplomats said.

Terror suspects try committing suicide

BY PAISLEY DODDS

Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

Four terror suspects being held at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay tried to kill themselves in their cells, a military official said Thursday.

One man tried to slash his wrists with a plastic razor, and three others tried to hang themselves with "comfort items" at Camp Delta, the prison in eastern Cuba where 598 men are being held, said Army Lt. Col. Joe Hoey, a detention mission spokesman.

The suicide attempts occurred in August, but military spokesmen gave no details on exactly what they used or how seriously they were hurt. Comfort items include a towel and sheet.

"All of these men are monitored

very closely and their attempts were not successful," Hoey told The Associated Press.

Since the first detainees arrived in January, none have been charged by the U.S. government, which says it may try them in military tribunals, send them home or hold them indefinitely. The detainees are being interrogated and are not allowed lawyers.

The legal limbo has outraged human rights activists and psychologists who say the uncertainty the men face is unbearable and counterproductive to interrogators seeking information.

"Once you're in that condition, you're not rational," said psychiatrist Stuart Grassian of Harvard University in Boston, an expert on the affects of long-term confinement

in maximum-security conditions.

"Leaving people in confinement, or pushing them to the breaking point, won't necessarily improve the ability to get information," Grassian said. "When people break, a lot of times it isn't in a way that's particularly useful to anyone."

Dozens of detainees, who represent 38 countries, have staged hunger strikes to protest their indefinite detentions. Others are being treated for psychological disorders and several are being medicated with antidepressants or anti-psychotic drugs.

Many of the men have made statements that they wanted to die or kill themselves, Hoey said, and several others have tried to harm themselves, but the actions were not considered suicide attempts.



SPORTS

After delay, Woods opens PGA with a couple of birdies

BY ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

CHASKA, Minn. — Tiger Woods birdied two of the first three holes after a two-hour delay because of lightning and shared the early lead in the opening round of the PGA Championship on Thursday.

Tied with Woods was playing partner Ernie Els, who chipped in from 60 feet for birdie just after play resumed, plus Minnesota pro Cameron Beckman, Davis Love III and Thomas Bjorn.

Woods and Els, who started play with defending champion David Toms, were six holes into their rounds. Beckman and Love, each playing on the front side, had three birdies and a bogey through eight holes. Bjorn also was eight holes into his round.

Woods, Els and Toms had just hit their tee shots on the 410-yard, par-4 10th hole when the horn sounded to halt play.

During the last major tournament at Hazeltine National Golf Club, the 1991 U.S. Open, spectator Billy Fadell was killed and five others were hospitalized when they were struck by lightning.

Once play resumed Thursday, Els, the British Open champion, hit his second shot just to the left of the green, then holed out — drawing a Tigerlike roar from a large gallery that had spent a restless two hours waiting.

Woods missed his birdie putt from about 12 feet on No. 10, but nearly chipped in on the 597-yard, par-5 11th hole for the first of two straight birdies. He hit an iron to within a couple of feet on the 465-yard, par-4 No. 12.

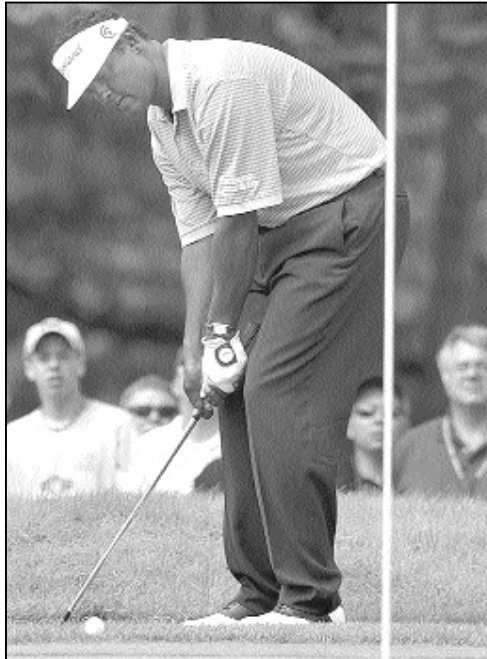
Els gave back a stroke on No. 14, a 357-yard par 4, but birdied the par-5 15th hole after missing a long putt for an eagle.

The last major of the year — the PGA calls it “Glory’s Last Stop” — is often the least appreciated, least identifiable and least watched of golf’s version of the Final Four.

But no tournament has a better field.

All but two of the world’s top 100 are entered, led by Woods, who no longer can win the Grand Slam but still can finish a first-ever All-American Slam by winning the Masters, U.S. Open and PGA in the same year.

“I always feel that’s one thing the PGA Championship has going for it — we’ve always got the best players in the field,” Thomas Bjorn said. “That’s a great, great thing



Amy Sancetta/Associated Press

Vijay Singh chips onto the green at the second hole during the first round of the PGA Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., on Thursday

to have for a championship. If you look at all the tournaments that are played throughout the world over the whole year, this has got to be the strongest field.”

And not just this year, either.

“I think we have the best field of all time,” Woods said.

That’s why the PGA just could be the toughest of the four majors — well, at least to predict. Of the last 14 PGA winners, 11 had never captured a major before, including Toms in 2001.

Phil Mickelson and Sergio Garcia, arguably the most

skilled golfers in the field without a major title, wouldn’t mind if that soon becomes 12 of 15.

“I’m here to try to win, and it doesn’t matter if it’s the PGA, the U.S. Open or whatever major,” Garcia said. “I wouldn’t mind if the PGA was my first major. It would be great.”

Mickelson has won twice this year and has 21 career PGA Tour victories. But the frustration that always accompanies him in majors is best illustrated by his PGA second-place finish a year ago at the Atlanta Athletic Club.

Despite shooting 14 under — the best score ever by a non-winner — Mickelson lost by a stroke to Toms, who wouldn’t have won without his hole-in-one on No. 15 during the third round.

“I think it would have been more frustrating had I not had a chance to win,” Mickelson said. “Although I didn’t beat every single player in the field, I played to a level that I need to play at to win a major championship.”

But when? Only Harry “Lighthouse” Cooper (31) and MacDonald Smith (24) have won more times on tour without claiming a major championship. Mickelson has never held the 54-hole lead in a major, but has finished second or third in five of the last 14 majors.

The biggest question going into any major, of course, is whether anyone in the field can play up to Woods’ level.

Woods seemed loose, relaxed and confident during his early morning practice round Wednesday, even trotting out his famous bounce-the-ball-at-the-end-of-his-club trick for his huge gallery.

Woods has won seven of the last 12 majors, despite his weather-related breakdown in the British Open — a pro career-worst 81 in the third round — that prevented him from going for the Grand Slam at Hazeltine.

What also makes the PGA especially difficult to handicap is its ever-changing venues. Unlike the U.S. Open, which sticks mostly to a fairly predictable circuit (Pebble Beach, Oakmont, Baltusrol), the PGA likes to stop at the new or rarely frequented: Hazeltine, Valhalla, Sahalee, Crooked Stick, Whistling Straits.

“It’s the major that plays in the most different golf courses than all the others,” Garcia said. “The PGA always seems to move a little more, but they always seem to find some really nice courses to play.”

“It’s a tournament that you want to have in your house — and, hopefully, I’ll have a good chance in it.”

Baseball labor talks hit snag; union to set strike date today

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK

Baseball’s labor talks hit a snag when negotiators delved deeper into the key economic issues, leaving the union’s executive board on track to set a strike date Friday.

Rob Manfred, the owners’ top labor lawyer, has repeatedly expressed optimism, but even he admitted little headway was made at the bargaining

table Wednesday.

“Occasionally in this process, you have bumps in the road. Today probably would be a bump in the road,” he said.

When it met Monday in Chicago, the union’s executive board deferred a decision on a strike date, preferring not to add pressure to talks when they were at a delicate stage.

The board is to hold a telephone call Friday, and without progress probably would set a strike date,

most likely Aug. 30, according to a person familiar with the players’ deliberations who spoke on the condition he not be identified.

“I think Friday is a big day,” Seattle pitcher Paul Abbott said. “Setting a date would spark some negotiating.”

Union officials did not comment after the day’s second bargaining session. Players and owners moved only slightly on the key issues, according to sever-

al people on both sides of the talks.

The sides met Thursday morning, then broke for internal discussions. It was unclear if they would meet again later in the day.

Management’s proposal for a luxury tax on the payrolls of high-spending teams, as expected, is a divisive issue, one that could cause baseball’s ninth work stoppage since 1972.

Owners have proposed a 50 percent tax that would start with teams over \$100

million, including 40-man rosters and benefits, with the full rate phased for the very highest spenders.

The union has discussed a tax that would start with teams over about \$140 million — only the New York Yankees project to be above that next year — with a much lower tax rate.

Management wants the tax to restrain spending and salaries, while the union maintains a tax must be looked at in conjunction

with revenue-sharing, both part of a system to transfer money from high-revenue teams to low-revenue teams.

“I don’t believe that difference is an impediment to an agreement at this point,” Manfred said.

But the difference in numbers is. Players fear that a large increase among the teams in the amount of shared locally generated revenue, when combined with a stiff luxury tax, would drain so much money from the high-revenue teams that it would cause a significant drop in salaries.

“Negotiations are never easy. You work every day to make steady progress,” said Boston’s Tony Clark, the AL player representative. “I’m cautiously optimistic. It’s touch and go.”

Manfred said the sides moved closer on drug testing Wednesday. While the union has proposed mandatory random testing for steroids only, owners also want testing for nutritional supplements like the testosterone-booster androstenedione and for “recreational” drugs such as cocaine.

NFL First-Round Signings

By The Associated Press

1. Houston, David Carr, qb, Fresno State — \$60 million, 7 years.
2. Carolina, Julius Peppers, de, North Carolina — \$50 million, 7 years.
3. Detroit, Joey Harrington, qb, Oregon — \$36.5 million, 6 years.
4. Buffalo, Mike Williams, ot, Texas — terms undisclosed.
5. San Diego, Quentin Jammer, db, Texas.
6. Kansas City (from Dallas), Ryan Sims, dt, North Carolina.
7. Minnesota, Bryant McKinnie, ot, Miami.
8. Dallas (from Kansas City), Roy Williams, db, Oklahoma — \$9.3 million, 5 years.
9. Jacksonville, John Henderson, dt, Tennessee — \$10.23 million, 5 years.
10. Cincinnati, Levi Jones, ot, Arizona State — \$11 million, 5 years.

11. Indianapolis, Dwight Freeney, de, Syracuse — \$9 million, 7 years.
12. Arizona, Wendell Bryant, dt, Wisconsin.
13. New Orleans, Donte Stallworth, wr, Tennessee — \$8.9 million, 5 years.
14. N.Y. Giants (from Tennessee), Jeremy Shockey, te, Miami — \$8.533 million, 5 years.
15. Tennessee (from N.Y. Giants), Albert Haynesworth, dt, Tennessee — \$8.3 million, 5 years.
16. Cleveland, William Green, rb, Boston College — \$7.85 million, 5 years.
17. Oakland (from Atlanta), Phillip Buchanon, db, Miami — \$7 million, 5 years.
18. Atlanta (from Washington through Oakland), T.J. Duckett, rb, Michigan State — \$7.5 million, 5 years.
19. Denver, Ashley Lelie, wr, Hawaii — \$7.1 million, 5 years.
20. Green Bay (from Seattle), Javon Walker, wr, Florida State — \$6.7 million, 5 years.
21. New England (from Tampa Bay through Oakland and Washington), Daniel Graham, te, Colorado — \$7 million, 5 years.

22. N.Y. Jets, Bryan Thomas, de, Alabama-Birmingham — \$6.6 million, 4 years.
23. Oakland, Napoleon Harris, lb, Northwestern — \$7 million, 5 years.
24. Baltimore, Ed Reed, s, Miami — \$6.2 million, 5 years.
25. New Orleans (from Miami), Charles Grant, de, Georgia — \$6.5 million, 5 years.
26. Philadelphia, Lito Sheppard, db, Florida — \$5.7 million, 5 years.
27. San Francisco, Mike Rumph, cb, Miami — \$6.35 million, 5 years.
28. Seattle (from Green Bay), Jerramy Stevens, te, Washington — \$6.2 million, 5 years.
29. Chicago, Marc Colombo, ot, Boston College — \$5.6 million, 5 years.
30. Pittsburgh, Kendall Simmons, ot, Auburn — \$6 million, 6 years.
31. St. Louis, Robert Thomas, lb, UCLA — \$5.75 million, 5 years.
32. Washington (from New England), Patrick Ramsey, qb, Tulane — \$5.7 million, 5 years.

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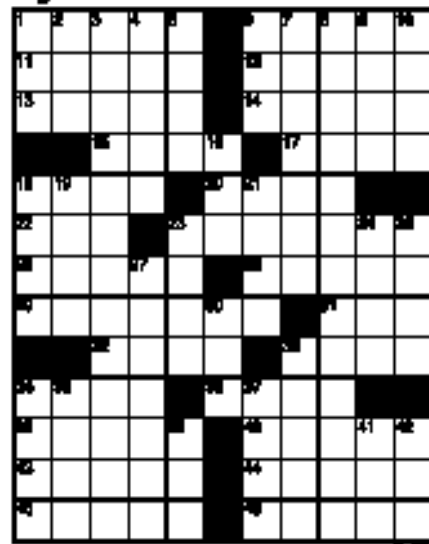
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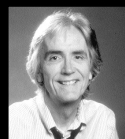


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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

'Special needs' students harass teacher

The City of New York agreed in July to pay a Sri Lankan-born schoolteacher \$50,000 for the "hostile work environment" he encountered in the classroom because of his nationality. The administrators said they couldn't stop students from hassling him because they were emotionally troubled "special needs" students protected by law.

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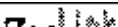
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Calendar

Friday, August 16, 2002

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

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section. Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE



A not so good Samaritan

By The Associated Press

FERGUS FALLS, Minn. — After being struck by a pickup truck, a teenager said he was stunned when he recognized a member of the ambulance crew that took him to the hospital as the driver he says hit him.

"I looked at him; I think he looked back at me," said Morgan Taylor, 16. "It was kind of weird. I was scared. I didn't dare say anything."

The 18-year-old emergency medical technician is expected to be charged next week with felony criminal vehicular injury and misdemeanor reckless driving, according to the Grant County attorney's office.

According to police, Taylor and a friend were walking home July 27 when they recognized a girl in a pickup truck's passenger seat at a park. The boys did not know the driver.

"They were starting to talk to them or harass them or whatever," said Elbow Lake Police Chief Luverne Sik.

The driver backed up, and Taylor's friend hopped in the back of the truck. Taylor was hit when the driver pulled forward, Sik said.

The driver told investigators that one of the boys became confrontational, so he left. Taylor said the driver just sped away.

Taylor said his friend helped him limp to a nearby clinic, where the doctor called an ambulance to take him to the hospital. When the ambulance arrived, Taylor said he recognized the pickup driver as part of the crew.

Vacation time in jail

By The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — It wasn't the way Eric Greene hoped to spend his vacation: passing the afternoon in jail after being arrested at gunpoint and charged with robbing a bank.

After making a transaction at Members First Credit Union bank in Susquehanna Township on Friday morning, Greene said he returned home in the afternoon and found that police had kicked in his door and were pointing their guns at him.

He was arrested and charged with stealing \$60,000 from the bank in an armed robbery that morning. He was released into his parents' custody.

"I didn't understand why they had arrested me or anything," the 26-year-old said. "I kept trying to tell myself 'I'm on vacation.' It was like watching something in a movie, but I was the star."

Susquehanna Township Police Chief Robert A. Martin said Wednesday it was a case of mistaken identity and all charges against Greene had been dropped.

Detrick Dawkins, 18, who was also arrested in the robbery and charged with bank robbery, aggravated assault and related charges, remained in Dauphin County Prison on \$100,000 bail.

Greene said his family has hired an attorney and that he plans to take legal action against the police department for the incident.

Candidate sued over punctuation

By The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The humble hyphen is at the center of a dispute over the listing of a congressional candidate's name on a primary ballot.

One of four Democrats seeking an open Sarasota-area congressional seat sued one of his opponents over the punctuation in her name, which affects where it will appear on the ballot.

Candidate Patrick Feheley objects to his rival being listed as Candice Brown-McElyea. He prefers Candice Brown McElyea.

Candidates will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order when voters go to the polls on Sept. 10. Brown-McElyea comes before Feheley; McElyea, used alone as a last name, doesn't.

Feheley's suit seeks to determine whether a candidate "may for the purpose of gaining a preferable ballot position change their surname after having qualified as a candidate."

Brown-McElyea says Brown is part of her last name, not her middle name.

"There's no statute, no law, that says I did anything wrong," she said. "You can be anything you want on the ballot."

The suit was filed in Tallahassee, the state capital, because the state Division of Elections certifies names for the ballot.

Hospital houses horses

By The Associated Press

LODI, Ohio — Most hospitals build garages when they need more parking. Lodi Community Hospital built a horse shelter.

The hospital, Ohio's smallest with just 25 beds, has had hitching posts for years so Amish patients had a place to tie up their horses.

The posts were removed when the parking lot was repaved and a helicopter pad was added during the hospital's renovation. That left only light poles for the tethering of horses.

The hospital paid Amish workers \$500 to build a 12-by-14-foot horse shelter. It can hold three horses or a horse and buggy. For religious reasons, the Amish shun modern conveniences such as electricity and cars.

"I think a lot of times, the Amish people think they're looked down upon," said Dr. Jeffrey A. Burkey, a physician at a practice on the hospital campus, 26 miles west of Akron. "This allows them to feel a little more comfortable."

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