

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

5, 39, 12, 15, 18

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 1, 4

Evening picks: 2, 6, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 03, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 05, California Classic

Race Time: 1:41.24



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In the latest news from Philadelphia's Monell Chemical Senses Center, a researcher said in June that his study had found that men's underarm odor has a stress-reducing effect on women. The week before that, The Wall Street Journal, profiling the Gillette Co.'s research lab, reported that lab director Ahmet Baydar is working not just on ordinary antibacterial-plus-fragrance products but on a substance that actually blocks odor receptors in other people's noses. (Gillette's tests use a synthetic mal-odor compound so strong that more than a few molecules can make a room uninhabitable, and involve five odor judges who sniff actual armpits and rate them 1 to 10, with 10 meaning "your head snaps back.")



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never eat more than you can lift."

— Miss Piggy



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Traveling in style



Actors dressed in Egyptian garb parade down the Promenade on Friday promoting a Discovery Channel special, which chronicles the expedition that found the possible remains of Queen Nefertiti's mummy.

Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Three new local principals ready to go to work

BY PATRICK KINMARTIN
Special to the Daily Press

With summer coming to an end, three new principals in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are set to begin their new jobs.

Martha Duran-Contreras of John Muir Elementary School, Stephen Martinez of the Adult Education Center and Ernesto Leon of the Edison Language Academy were selected for the positions by the district earlier in the summer. The selections were made by the different schools based on several criteria, including interviews and resume reviews, according to the district. Here is a closer look at the three new principals in the district:

MARTHA DURAN-CONTRERAS, JOHN MUIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The school year is yet to start, but Duran-Contreras might already be recognizable to some

students and parents at John Muir. Last year, she was highlighted on the PBS television series "Teaching Reading L-2 — A Library of Classroom Practice."

Although she enjoyed the experience, Duran-Contreras jokingly said she "has no plans to go into TV anytime soon" and will remain committed to her career as an educator.

"Education has always been where my heart is," she said. "It's like Cesar Chavez once said, 'It is up to us to educate from the heart.' That has always been my approach."

Duran-Contreras has never been one to doubt the value of education at a young age. She was born in Mexico, then came to California with her Spanish-speaking family and quickly picked up English.

She ended up becoming the first member of her family to earn a college degree when she

See PRINCIPALS, page 5



Martha Duran-Contreras



Stephen Martinez



Ernesto Leon

City Hall not liable in Blue Bus lawsuit

Jurors express sympathy for elderly plaintiff but rule against her

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

After a day and a half of deliberations, a jury on Friday cleared City Hall of liability in an accident that left an elderly Big Blue Bus passenger with a broken hip.

But after delivering their verdict, jurors cautioned City Hall not to interpret the ruling as a complete victory.

"This is not a verdict for the City of Santa Monica," said juror Bruce Bolkin, president of a Sylmar-based printing company and a former attorney. "We do not think this was right. We think this was woeful."

Bolkin and other jurors said they believed City Hall should train bus drivers to be more careful with elderly passengers so the same accident doesn't happen again. But ultimately there were too many questions raised by city attorneys to legally justify ruling in Olive Karony's favor.

Karony, 85, of Santa Monica, broke her hip on the Big Blue Bus No. 3 line in July of last year when the bus took off, causing her to fall. Her lawyers argued in the trial that City Hall was negligent because it does not require its bus drivers to wait for elderly people to be seated before they start moving.

But Deputy City Attorney Norman Hirata said that if

See BIG BLUE BUS, page 6

Bush to avoid recall talk while in state

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

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 "campaign for George W."

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.

Aides said the administration expected overall growth to reach the point where the economy begins to add jobs around the end of the year. "We're upbeat about the chances for our fellow citizens who are looking for work to be able to find a job," Bush said.

The economic advisers' meeting reflected concern in

See BUSH, page 7

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
 ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 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.

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LOCAL



SMC lecture series on environment set to begin

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College will launch its fall "Environmental Lecture Series" Thursday, Sept. 4 with a tour of its Center for Environmental and Urban Studies.

The tour, led by SMC biology professor Doug Allan, will begin at 6:45 p.m. in Room 140 of the Science Complex, 1900 Pico Blvd. Participants will then walk to the nearby center at 1744 Pearl St., where they will learn about the facility, its native garden and the nonprofit sustainable works program that is housed there. The tour and the lecture series are free.

The center — which is open to the public — features displays, a library and information center, video collection, native garden and other services and activities related to environmental and urban studies. SMC has been offering a multi-disciplinary associate of arts degree in environmental and urban studies since the fall of 2001.

Sustainable Works, which is funded by the City of Santa Monica, offers programs that promote environmentally sound prac-

tices in businesses, colleges and residential communities. The project trains SMC students, Santa Monica residents and business owners on ways to be "greener" through recycling, composting and native garden planting, reducing energy consumption, changing consumer habits and more.

The monthly Environmental Lecture Series covers a wide range of topics, from composting to "smart cities."

All the lectures are at 6:45 p.m. in Room 140 of the Science Complex. Seating is on a first-arrival basis. For information, call (310) 434-3909.

The lectures are:

■ Sept. 25: "The Sustainable Communities Movement."

■ Oct. 9: "Recycling, Composting, Better Gardens and Less Garbage."

■ Nov. 6: "Smart Cities are Sustainable Cities."

■ Nov. 20: "Playa Vista Night," which will focus on the recent Playa Vista development in the Marina del Rey area, one of the largest and most controversial projects in the history of Los Angeles County.

Library to review book on former NYC mayor Giuliani

By Daily Press staff

On Sept. 9, the Santa Monica Public Library's Tuesdays with Books Program will feature a review of a new book about former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

The book, "Rudy Giuliani: Emperor of the City" by Andrew Kirtzman will be reviewed by Edward Chersky at 1:30 p.m. at the Ken Edwards Center, 1528 Fourth Street.

According to Tish Durkin, a political reporter at the New York Observer, "Kirtzman has produced a kaleidoscope of insight into the bright, shifting, political mind of Rudy Giuliani. As with the well-told tale of any emperor, this one has the fabled rise, the pinnacle reached, the settling into stasis the intrigues at court, the hints of mania — and, of course, the omnipotent dragon lady."

For more information, call (310)458-8646 or visit www.smpl.org.



Today the SSW swell will stay strong in the morning and mix with the now-steady NW wind swell. Expect waist- to chest-high surf at the best spots.

OUTLOOK: All swells fade through the day and even more so into Sunday. Expect the next big boost late next week, unless the tropics pull out a wild card.

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: 6:24 a.m.
Sunset: 7:43 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:32	0.8	7:00	2.0	12:01	4.9	1:02	4.7
SUNDAY	6:59	1.4	8:04	2.0	12:45	4.2	1:37	4.7
MONDAY	7:26	2.0	9:33	2.0	1:41	3.6	2:18	4.6
TUESDAY	7:54	2.5	11:17	1.7	3:19	3.1	3:12	4.6
WEDNESDAY	8:42	2.9	N/A	N/A	6:24	3.0	4:21	4.7
THURSDAY	12:34	1.2	(10:41)	3.2	8:00	3.3	5:29	4.9
FRIDAY	1:23	0.8	12:07	3.1	8:30	3.6	6:24	5.3

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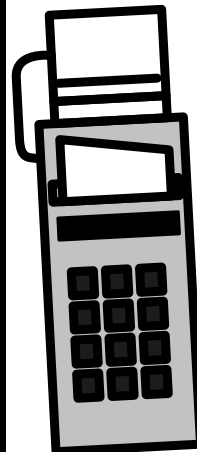
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LETTERS

'Vicious' councilman sets record straight

Editor:

Bill Bauer's Friday column had me so worried I went back and watched the videotape of last week's OPCC relocation hearing. "(Other council members) and McKeown," he wrote, "were especially critical of Pico neighbors, accusing them of waging a malicious, distortion-filled smear campaign..."

I certainly didn't remember saying anything like that from the dais, and indeed, the tape instead shows me reflecting on how fear distorts dialogue and admitting I have compassion for that — because when I'm fearful myself, I understand how it affects me adversely. I acknowledged the real concerns that people have to protect their neighborhood.

Then I thanked the Pico residents for coming out, and suggested that instead of the daytime access facilities for OPCC we could use part of the proposed site for affordable housing targeting Santa Monica young adults who otherwise must often move out of the neighborhood that is their home. The Pico residents present burst into applause.

I don't disrespect residents so viciously EVERY Tuesday night, do I?

Kevin McKeown
City councilman
Santa Monica

Iraqis should be taught U.S.-style politics

Editor:

To show the Iraqi people what our soldiers are dying for in their behalf — freedom, liberty and democracy as exemplified by our great nation — we should send them a videotape tutorial detailing the electoral process as exemplified by the current situation in California, where we thought we elected a governor a few months ago, but apparently didn't.

Add to that the presidential election of 2000, where the man who currently resides in the White House was not elected by a plurality of the American voters, but rather was selected by those majority members of a Supreme Court who were appointed by previous presidents of the same political party as he is, and our system of government clearly stands tall, in the geopolitical mirror as the fairest of them all.

How can they not love and adore us when all we're doing is occupying their country and trying to impose our system of government on them?

David Stoughton
Santa Monica

A local paradox

Editor:

Your revelation that most employees of Santa Monica's government live elsewhere (except for the City Council) now raises this question some of us have about a local paradox.

Does this news help provide some insight into City Hall's profound indifference about our pending forced medication/fluoridation of Santa Monica people (and tourists) via our water?

If no, then what does?

Gene Burke
Santa Monica



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Turn it off and sensationalized news will go away



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

The latest ratings are in and they're down for news programs.

Analysts believe it's because the public has grown tired of so much serious news. Personally, I hope it's for the opposite reason — that we're tired of so much non-serious news.

I don't know about you, but I'm sick of sensationalism in the media. So many stories involve violence, celebrities, sex or "shocking surprises." It's not bad enough that they emphasize these stories, but they often mislead us well.

Last week, I heard a tease on the news that said, "Al Gore makes an important announcement about running for president in 2004." Of course, when they returned from the commercial, I learned that the "announcement" was that he had

not changed his mind and still had no plans to run in 2004.

In print, they use big and bold print to catch our eye. Presumably, some people don't read the entire article or column, but just skim to the bold print. And often, these are just teases too.

It's got to stop.

In California right now, a porn star and Arnold Schwarzenegger are together on the gubernatorial ballot. However, that doesn't mean that this woman deserves the same amount of attention that he does.

The Clintons are always in the news, whether they have done anything newsworthy or not.

And when it comes to actors and actresses, the lurid trumps everything else.

When Hillary Swank won an Oscar for her role in "Boys Don't Cry," some people weren't interested in her wonderful performance — they just wanted to see Hillary naked.

So much of the news we see, hear and read is negative. President Bush is in great physical shape. He prides himself on running and he's pretty fast. In fact, if he and

the first lady ever had a race, it certainly wouldn't surprise me if George Bush beat his wife. But we don't see many stories about the president's being in wonderful health. Instead, America is flooded by negative stories rather than positive ones.

Of course, many famous people love publicity, so it's understandable that sometimes the sensational aspects of their lives are emphasized. Because of his commercials, people don't think of Bob Dole as a war hero or public servant. Today, when people think of Bob Dole, they think of Viagra and Britney Spears.

From the play they get in the news, you'd think that shark attacks are more common than stubbing your toe. The reality is that shark attacks are quite rare, but, unfortunately, this is the kind of sensationalized reporting that gets people to pay attention.

Right now, some news outlets are "all Kobe, all the time," even though all they've had so far is a preliminary hearing. What do people think — that Kobe will confess before the trial begins? And why are people being so critical of the woman?

Nobody has demonstrated that the alleged victim wants publicity or her own talk show. Shouldn't we leave them both alone and just let justice take its course?

We are assailed by far too many "facts" about celebrities. I honestly wouldn't care at all if Demi Moore's boyfriend is actually 40 years younger than she is!

And why is every financial and business detail about these people news? Who is really interested in learning that Jennifer Lopez doesn't change her underwear as often as she changes her agents?

There's only one way to trash trash news. If we all just turn off and turn away from it, I guarantee that all media outlets will immediately stop giving us manipulative, sensationalized "news."

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the Modern Times column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

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LOCAL



New faces at three schools

PRINCIPALS, from page 1

graduated from Loyola Marymount University in 1977.

In 1978, Duran-Contreras began work in the Inglewood Unified School District where she worked for six years as a substitute, classroom and adult ESL teacher.

She came to the SMMUSD in 1985 to teach at Will Rogers Elementary School. Since then, she has taught all grades at the school and served on several different committees, including the language appraisal team and the instructional leadership team.

While at Will Rogers, Duran-Contreras also lectured at UCLA's graduate education school, worked for a large education consulting firm and served on President George W. Bush's National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, which enabled her to present workshops for Spanish speaking parents.

"That experience really opened my eyes," Duran-Contreras said. "You can always learn something new — no matter how long you've been in the business of teaching."

Duran-Contreras will now set her sights on becoming a principal for the first time in her 25-year career. She said there are many things she hopes to accomplish at John Muir, but ultimately her aim is to make "a great school out of one that is already good."

Although it is her first job as a principal, her background and experience make her a natural leader, said Maureen Bradford, the principal of Will Rogers who worked with Duran-Contreras for 15 years.

"She has such a keen insight," Bradford said. "She has always had a gift for thinking globally and being able to see the big picture. She became known (at Will Rogers) as someone parents and students could go to for sound advice."

"Now that she's gone, I think will be visiting her many times for that insight as well."

STEPHEN MARTINEZ, ADULT EDUCATION CENTER

As a lifelong Santa Monica resident who went to school in the district, Martinez has worked in various capacities as an educator in the area in which he grew up.

His first teaching job was at Will Rogers Elementary School and he comes to the Adult Education Center after spending eight years as the principal of Edison Elementary School.

"I have always felt my work locally has been a step toward giving back what I have received from this community," said Martinez, a 1968 graduate of Santa Monica High School. "And that will especially apply to my new position as I begin working with adults in the area."

Although he has worked predominantly with children throughout his career, Martinez's experience as a bilingual educator landed him at the Adult Education Center, a school that specializes in English as Second Language programs for adults.

In 1976, he was named the SMMUSD Board of Education's director of bilingual education after two years as a teacher at Will Rogers.

He went on to become principal of Farragut Elementary school in Culver City, where he set up El Moreno — California's first multi-language program with Japanese and Spanish immersion at the same school.

From 1992 to 1995, he worked on the Carnegie Task Force, a program put together by national bilingual educators who worked in conjunction with the government to examine and improve the nation's focus on bilingual elementary education.

He returned to Santa Monica in 1995 to take over as principal at Edison, where he stayed for eight years.

"I know there are going to be a lot of people at this school who will be sorry to see him go," said Nancy Rankin, an Edison teacher who worked with Martinez all eight years. "I've worked under eight principals in my career and he was by far the best."

Martinez said he hopes to expand the Adult Education Center's offerings to include more programs such as vocational classes and enrichment opportunities. He also said he would like to further develop the school's plans for computer lab classes.

Accomplishing those goals will be a welcome challenge for Martinez, who has what many feel is a proven track record in the city.

"He has done so well because he knows how the district works and how to get things done around here," said Linda Basley, another Edison teacher who worked with Martinez for his entire tenure at the school.

"He knows everybody, and that will only help him continue to be of major benefit to the educational community," she said.

ERNESTO LEON, EDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Leon comes to Edison as its first new principal in eight years with a master's degree in education from Harvard and a stint on the National Association of Bilingual Education in Washington, D.C. under his belt.

But his impressive resume was not the only reason he was hired at Edison.

"We noticed he was very supportive and receptive of everyone's ideas, and that's key when you're looking for a good principal," said Rankin, who interviewed Leon during the hiring process. "If you go around and ask those faculty here who have met him, I think the consensus would be that he is going to be a great fit for the school."

After spending a year in Washington as a writer and research analyst for the National Association of Bilingual Education, Leon returned to California in 1993 and became a bilingual teacher in the Oakland Unified School District.

In 1997, he moved back to Los Angeles, where his teaching career began six years earlier with the LA Unified School District. In his second term with the LAUSD, however, he took a position as the district's bilingual coordinator.

"I learned very quickly bilingual education is not only beneficial, but also practically necessary in today's society," Leon said. "There is a very direct link between what a bilingual education promotes and what our society and economy needs."

Leon was brought out to the Azusa Unified School District in 2002 to become the assistant principal at Murray Elementary School. Then, when the position at Edison opened up last spring, Leon jumped at the chance to fill it.

"It's a special opportunity," he said. "I really believe a good language program is key to building a solid community and Edison has that type of program."

Leon said he hopes he can help students at Edison achieve their goals in attaining the "best bilingual education possible," while continuing to build the school's dual-language immersion program by providing experienced educators.

"Working collaboratively is crucial in building a successful education program," he said. "Edison already has an illustrious history, but the challenge now is to keep it going."



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FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt just returned from her second trip to Iraq, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit in February. She also saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts. The trip revealed much devastation — and much inspiration.

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Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.

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LOCAL □ STATE



Effort for Camarillo schools to breakaway moves ahead

By The Associated Press

CAMARILLO — Proponents of an effort to break away from the Oxnard Union School District gathered 9,590 signatures on a petition to place the issue on a local ballot.

"Today is kind of like taking your final exam at the university level. It's a huge sigh of relief that we are where we are," said Ron Speakman, president of the Pleasant Valley Elementary school board, which wants secondary schools in a unified Camarillo district.

The petitions were turned over Thursday to the county education department for verification by the Ventura County clerk. It's the first step in what could be a three-year process.

If verified, the county superintendent of schools and the county Board of Education has 120 days to review the petition before making a recommendation to state education officials. The state education department will evaluate factors such

as district size and financial effect before it makes a decision on whether to go forward. The county can then call an election.

If successful, the community group will create a new unified school district that would merge Adolfo Camarillo High School with the 14 elementary and middle schools in Camarillo's Pleasant Valley School District.

Efforts to secede from the Oxnard district began in 1992.

"I think we are at a point in our development as a city, with more than 60,000 people, that we should proceed to see if people want to have their own high school and their own unified school district," said Bill Little, former Camarillo city manager and an organizer of the petition drive. "Thousand Oaks did it, Moorpark did it, and it's time for us to do the same thing."

Proponents argue they will be better off financially with their own district and the move would give local residents more control over how tax and bond funds are spent.

City Hall unlikely to change Blue Bus training guidelines

BIG BLUE BUS, from page 1

City Hall enacts stricter training guidelines, it will become more vulnerable to litigation.

Currently, bus drivers are only required to wait for people with disabilities or with special needs to be seated before they begin driving. Simply being elderly is not considered a special need.

Despite that, Hirata argued during the trial that Sanchez had waited for Karony to be seated but that she stood up after the bus was in motion and began walking toward the back of bus before she fell.

Karony, who now walks with a cane, sat alone in the courtroom long after the verdict was rendered.

"I just can't believe this," she said through tears. "The only thing that was against me was I can't remember after I fell what happened."

"How this jury could decide against me I just don't know. I wish someone could explain this to me."

Twelve expert and eyewitnesses testified during the week-long trial, which was presented to jurors for deliberations Wednesday afternoon. Other than bus driver Victor Sanchez, of Palmdale, and Karony, the only two other eyewitnesses were an Australian couple who witnessed the accident and testified via satellite.

The couple was on the bus at the time of the accident and said Karony was walking down the aisle when the bus took off with an unexpected lurch from the intersection of Sixth Street and Wilshire Boulevard, causing Karony to fall.

Hirata attempted to poke holes in their testimony, pointing out that neither of the witnesses actually saw Karony board the bus. He also showed jurors a medical worker's report indicating Karony fell when the bus came to a stop and not when it first pulled away from the curb.

Karony, who at the time of the accident

was on her way from the YMCA to her Montana Avenue home, was taken to St. John's Hospital where she underwent surgery to have a plate and pins permanently installed in her hip.

"People need to go to the council or do something because it's ridiculous."

— MICHELLE BRAUER
Juror

She spent a week in the hospital, three weeks at a nearby rehabilitation center and now lives with a permanent in-house caretaker. In the trial, Karony asked for nearly \$300,000 in past and future medical expenses, as well as an unspecified amount in pain and suffering.

Catherine Lerer, one of Karony's attorneys, said she is considering filing an appeal.

"She doesn't care that much about the money," said Lerer, who added that City Hall had made earlier settlement offers but declined to say for how much. "She just wanted to be vindicated by a jury."

In the meantime, Sanchez, who sat beside Hirata in his Big Blue Bus uniform for the entire trial, said he is relieved by the ruling and will likely return to his route on Monday.

Lerer said that because City Hall won, she doubts it will change the way it trains bus drivers.

But some jurors on Friday demanded City Hall not remain idle.

"People need to go to the council or do something," said juror Michelle Brauer of Mar Vista, a Loyola-Marymount Law School student, "because it's ridiculous."

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Santa Monica Daily Press



STATE

Bush in Santa Monicas to plug environmental record

BUSH, from page 1

the White House about sagging confidence in Bush's stewardship of the economy. A poll released Wednesday showed 36 percent said they approved of his economic performance. More than half, 52 percent, in the CBS News poll said they disapproved of his handling of the economy.

Leaving Thursday morning for a two-day visit to Southern California, Bush was expected to rake millions more into his reelection campaign account with a fund-raiser each day — one Thursday evening in San Diego and the other Friday at lunchtime in Irvine, Calif., outside Los Angeles.

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."

Speaking with reporters Wednesday, Bush bristled at the suggestion that the recall campaign was the dominant item on the nation's political agenda right now.

"There's maybe other political stories," he said. "Isn't there, like, a presidential race coming up?"

Bush said his California swing wouldn't include a plug for Arnold Schwarzenegger's much-hyped candidacy

— or even a mention of the race.

"I'm going to campaign for George W., as you know," he said.

The president also added a qualification to his statement last week praising the prospect of the Republican movie star taking the governor's mansion. "He would be a good governor — as would others running for governor of California," Bush said.

Bush and his advisers have tried to keep the White House distant from the confrontation that has California's Democratic governor, Gray Davis, facing a recall election on Oct. 7. Schwarzenegger is one of 135 candidates vying to replace Davis if voters approve his recall.

Bush aides said they were standing clear of the Republican-backed effort.

"I haven't asked anybody to get engaged, and I'm not aware of anybody that has been engaged," White House chief of staff Andrew Card told reporters.

Bush himself feigned only as much interest in the developments as any other political junkie, calling it merely "a fascinating bit of political drama," even though the outcome could have significant consequences for his own chances of making a play for California in 2004. Bush lost the

nation's most-populous state by 1.3 million votes in 2000, but his political advisers dream of turning that around next year.

The aggressive money-gathering push that the president began in May and continued in California this week is set to extend into the Northwest and Midwest with at least three other fund-raisers this month. Tacked on to each of those appearances are official presidential events in which Bush can promote pieces of his agenda, often hand-picked to highlight a political strength or address a possible vulnerability. Those events also allow the White House to bill taxpayers for part of the travel costs.

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. Bush has several environmental events scheduled this month aimed at attracting more support from suburban women and rural voters.

But those forays have provoked advance criticism from conservation groups. The National Parks Conservation Association, for instance, contended that Bush's policies on air quality, oil drilling, wildfire prevention and privatization of National Park Service jobs are damaging, not helping, national parks.

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Firm wants to build fuel station off Oxnard

By The Associated Press

OXNARD — An Australia-based firm wants to build a \$500 million offshore gas terminal to receive California-bound liquefied natural gas shipments.

BHP Billiton's floating terminal, the first on the West Coast, would be built 20 miles off Oxnard. The liquefied gas would be converted to vapor through a heat exchange system and transported by an undersea pipe to a utility's pipeline near Ormond Beach, officials said.

Houston-based Crystal Energy earlier proposed a similar facility — converting an old offshore oil platform 11 miles off Oxnard — but it met opposition from environmentalists and several Ventura County leaders.

"My opinion hasn't changed," Mayor Manuel Lopez said after BHP's announcement Thursday. "This is something that continues to concern me."

BHP said their project is different from Crystal Energy's plan and that city and county officials should not confuse the two. Their facility would extend beyond shipping lanes and marine mammal migratory patterns, as well as away from the Point Mugu Navy base and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Woman sentenced for sleeping with son's friend

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — A day-care worker studying to become a teacher was sentenced to a year in jail for having sex with her son's 15-year-old friend.

Tani Lynne Maine, 40, was convicted of having unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor and committing lewd acts on a minor, both felonies. She was sentenced Thursday, and the judge said she must register as a sex offender.

Prosecutors said Maine climbed on top of the boy as he slept on a waterbed next to her 12-year-old son in July 2001. Her son testified later that he woke up and saw his nude mother on top of his friend, who was spending the night in the home.

Maine could have been sentenced to nearly four years in prison, but Superior Court Judge Bob Krug decided on a one-year county jail term.

The divorced woman's two sons have been placed in the custody of child welfare authorities.

Maine had been attending San Bernardino Valley College and was taking courses toward earning a teaching credential, Deputy District Attorney Verna Carey said.



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page 2

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NATIONAL

Howard Dean accused of hypocrisy on spending limits

BY RON FOURNIER

AP Political Writer

NEVADA, Iowa — Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean backed away from his pledge to adhere to spending limits, saying some advisers want to explore opting out of the Watergate-era public financing system because of his sudden fund-raising success.

Dean said he still intends to accept taxpayer money and spending restraints, and suggested he has discouraged his staff from considering alternatives right now. But he left open the possibility of following President Bush's lead in rejecting public financing.

"Could we change our mind? Sure," he said. One rival campaign accused Dean of hypocrisy.

Just five months ago, Dean committed to accepting taxpayer money and vowed to attack any Democrat who didn't.

The about-face follows his emergence as the Democratic Party's biggest fund-raising threat. Dean collected \$7.6 million in the fund-raising quarter that ended June 30, more than his eight rivals, and aides said Friday that he is on pace to far exceed that total in the next quarter.

In an interview Thursday, the former Vermont governor said he did not recall promising to accept public financing and the limits that go with it. Under a program designed to curb special interest influence, candidates who agree to state-by-state and overall spending limits get federal matching dollars for the first \$250 of each donation they receive.

"I was asked very early on and I said I intend to take the match," Dean said. "I think what I said is that we weren't looking into that as an option."

However, in a March 7 interview with The Associated Press, Dean committed to accept the taxpayer money. The promise was echoed by a campaign spokesperson.

"We've always been committed to this. Campaign finance reform is just something I believe in," he said in March. Dean also said his position was not based on any political considerations, such as the size of the field or how much money he can raise.

On Friday, however, Dean cited Bush's plans to raise \$200 million — five times the spending limit — as a reason for keeping his options open.

"I think public financing is a good thing. The question is what do you do with an opponent who can murder you from March to December?" Dean said.

Democrats worry that their nominee will emerge from the primaries broke, restricted by public financing caps, while Bush holds a huge financial advantage until he accepts public financing after the GOP convention in September 2004.

Dean said it's too early to determine whether he will reject public financing in the primaries. For one thing, he said it is "a little optimistic" to assume he could raise more money than is available under the federal system.

Candidates who take the matching funds can get up to \$18.7 million — money Dean would be turning away if he rejects the system — and are limited to about \$45 million in spending through the primary season.

The Federal Election Commission last month declared Dean eligible for matching funds. Dean signed a letter to the commission in June promising to abide by the program's rules, including its spending limits. Under FEC practice, Dean could withdraw, however, because he hasn't yet received a matching fund payment, commission spokesman Bob Biersack said.

The campaign of Democratic rival John Kerry said Dean's letter binds him to public financing.

"Governor Dean has said repeatedly that he supports the system, he's threatened to attack other candidates who don't participate, and he's signed a binding contract with the federal government to participate in the system," said Kerry campaign manager Jim Jordan. "It would be shocking if he breaks his word and breaches a binding contract for purely political reasons."

Dean reported raising about \$10.5 million in the first two quarters. Assuming he matches his second-quarter total and posts another \$7.6 million by Sept. 30, he would have collected \$18 million heading into the last three months of the year, Dean said, calling that "a long way between here and \$44 million."

But some of his advisers believe Dean has an outside shot of raising the kind of money needed to abandon the public financing system.

"We're not looking at that as an option, although there are those in our campaign that insist on thinking privately that they want to look at it as an option," Dean said.

In March, Dean warned his rivals not to opt out of public financing.

"It will be a huge issue ... because I think most Democrats believe in campaign finance reform," he said at the time.

Dean made the remarks when the party leaders considered Kerry to be the most likely candidate to bust the spending limits.

The Massachusetts senator, who is independently wealthy, has not said whether he will accept public financing. Associates say his decision might be driven by what Dean does.

Kerry and Dean are the only two candidates who have combined fund-raising success with high poll ratings in key states.

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NATIONAL



New problems arise as power grid comes back to life

BY LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press Writer

A massive power blackout retreated stubbornly Friday as power officials struggled to understand why the historic outage spread in minutes through the northeastern United States and southern Canada. Lights flicked on and air conditioners restarted for some, but new problems arose as the power system struggled back to life.

There were growing indications the original problem began in Ohio, rather than New York or Canada, as some had thought.

In Connecticut, Gov. John G. Rowland issued an emergency plea for residents to save power Friday morning after a state transmission line fizzled. "There presently is insufficient capacity to remain a reliable power supply," John Wiltse, a spokesman for the governor, said after a transmission line that feeds southwestern Connecticut went down around 5:45 a.m.

Cleveland weathered its worst water crisis in history as the blackout shut all four major pumping stations. The pumps which serve more than 1 million residents in the city and 20 suburbs began operating Friday morning, but the National Guard tanked in 7,600 gallons of drinking water to help until taps flowed again.

In New York City, power was restored Friday morning to parts of all five boroughs and some suburbs, but millions faced a morning rush hour without subway service or many traffic lights and no timetable for full restoration of power.

"Today will also present challenges," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg told reporters. He asked essential city workers to come in but told nonessential counterparts to stay home and urged citizens to use judgment about working Friday.

"There are worse things than taking a summer Friday off from work," he said.

Bloomberg said a trying, hot night had cost the life of a 40-year-old who suffered a heart attack during one of New York City's 60 serious fires, most caused by candles used to stave off darkness. There were 800 elevator rescues; 80,000 calls to 911 and a record 5,000 emergency medical service calls. Emergency personnel

"worked incredibly hard to get us through the night safely," Bloomberg said.

In Michigan, some customers may have to endure a weekend without electricity. Everywhere officials urged residents, businesses and travelers to cope with the inconvenience.

"This is truly one of the instances where we're all in this together," Gov. Jennifer Granholm of Michigan said during a statewide address Thursday night. "So be calm, be supportive of your neighbor." State workers in Michigan's capitol, Lansing, were told to report to work Friday but in harder-hit Detroit to the east, they were ordered to stay home.

While terrorism was swiftly ruled out by President Bush and other officials, there was scant indication of what had caused the outage, which began on the cusp of Thursday's afternoon rush hour in Eastern cities.

There are indications it probably "started somewhere in the Midwest, perhaps Ohio," Michehl Gent, president of the North American Electric Reliability Council, said Friday on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America." Gent, whose nonprofit council was formed after the 1965 Northeast blackout to promote the reliability of the bulk electric systems, did not say what those indications were but expressed confidence that terrorism was not involved.

New York Independent System Operator president William Museler said huge power fluctuations originating from a Midwest power plant started the downfall of the grid. He said the power swings became so large that the Ontario, Canada, system could not sustain them, and the problem migrated to New York.

The New York Independent System Operator, which runs the state's wholesale electricity market and monitors power usage, said it had detected a sudden loss of power generation at 4:11 p.m.

More generally, industry and government experts blamed a system composed of interconnected grids that has not been upgraded to meet power demands.

The disruptions were as diverse as they were widespread.

A small explosion at the Marathon Oil refinery 10 miles south of Detroit was

blamed on the outage which cut power to a pump, allowing a buildup of gasses that ultimately exploded in a smokestack. No one was hurt but police fearing additional explosions or possible release of toxic gas evacuated hundreds of residents from a one-mile radius around the refinery.

In New York City, thousands of stranded commuters were forced to sleep in bus and train terminals and even in the streets. Hundreds of out-of-towners at the Marriott Marquis slept on sidewalks because the hotel did not have a generator to power its electronic room keys.

In Sudbury, Ontario, 210 miles north of Toronto, more than 100 miners at a nickel mine were stranded in underground lunchrooms because the outage halted elevators to bring them to the surface, but authorities said they were not in immediate danger because they had water and backup power was running the ventilation system.

In Cleveland, the loss of power wasn't the only problem. About 1.5 million residents faced a crisis because there was no electricity to pump water from Lake Erie. At least three Eastern suburbs were out of water and officials said Western suburbs could go dry.

With sewage treatment plants blacked out, untreated waste releases forced the closing of beaches in New York City and Cleveland.

About 540,000 customers in Ohio were without power, mostly in the Cleveland area.

In New Jersey, where more than 1 million homes and businesses lost power at the peak of the outage, all but 50,000 had been restored by 5:30 a.m. Friday and full service was expected a few hours later. Northern New Jersey commuter railroads and buses announced limited to full service Friday.

In Connecticut, where nearly 310,000 customers served by two power companies lost power, all but about 53,000 had service restored by early Friday.

But in New York, where early estimates had 80 percent of the state without power, the percentage only dropped to some 60 percent near midnight.

Despite the outages in Manhattan, New York's financial markets had no intention

of shutting down.

The New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq resumed stock trading on schedule Friday morning, but the American exchange delayed trading because problems at a Consolidated Edison substation prevented air conditioning from reaching the trading floor.

However, businesses from Manhattan through the Midwest were anxious about technical glitches and more power outages a day after the biggest blackout in U.S. history.

In San Diego, the president said, "slowly but surely we're coping with this massive, national problem," and added that he would order a review of "why the cascade was so significant."

Bush said he suspected that the nation's electrical grid would need to be modernized.

New York Gov. George Pataki praised his constituents for pulling together to help each other. While New Yorkers poured out of immobile subway cars, emerged from stuck elevators, began long walks home or rested in local establishments, one unidentified man saw beauty.

"You can actually see the stars in New York City," he said.

Anne Block, a law student in Lansing, Mich., said she used what little light was coming through a window to finish an exam at Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

"We were taking an exam and boom, the lights went out. But I was determined to finish. I kept writing. I wanted an 'A.' There was no way I was going to stop writing my exam," she said.

Electric industry and government officials said the nation's power grid has needed major upgrades for years, but industry experts said there were three major obstacles in the way: the expense, environmental opposition and people who didn't want power facilities near their back yards.

Both federal and state agencies, as well as congressional committees, are expected to investigate the blackout and try to determine why measures put in place to isolate grids and keep power disruptions from spreading failed to do so.

Law enforcement agencies were ready for any security problem.

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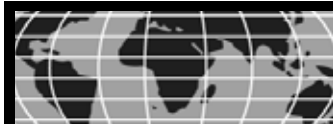
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WORLD BRIEFLY

Peace plan back on track

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel agreed Friday to withdraw from four more West Bank towns, ending weeks of deadlock with the Palestinians over security issues and putting a troubled U.S.-backed peace plan back on track.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan reached the deal at a time when the "road map" peace plan and a Mideast truce seemed in serious jeopardy because of renewed violence that included two Palestinian suicide bombings this week.

It was not clear just how much U.S. pressure helped end the dispute over who should make the next move under the peace plan: Israel, which is supposed to pull back from more areas of the West Bank; or the Palestinians, who must dismantle militant groups.

Under the agreement reached Friday, Israel would withdraw from the West Bank towns of Jericho and Qalqilya next week and remove some military roadblocks.

Taking down the roadblocks is seen as a major confidence booster. Israeli checkpoints, set up at the start of fighting nearly three years ago to keep out militants, have all but paralyzed life in the West Bank.

Israel would then withdraw from the towns of Ramallah and Tulkarem in the last week of August, provided there are no shooting and bombing attacks and the Palestinian security forces begin dismantling militant groups, said Shirli Eden, an Israeli Defense Ministry spokeswoman.

'Blanket of fear' in Iraq

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A "blanket of fear" will hang over the Iraqi people until Saddam Hussein is captured or killed, the commander of coalition forces in Iraq said Friday.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, speaking with Associated Press Television News, said finding Saddam would help end the guerrilla resistance that has killed 60 Americans since May 1.

"I believe that as long as Saddam is out there, and we can't positively either kill him or capture him, there will remain a blanket of fear over the Iraqi people," Sanchez said. "If we can accomplish that task then it will be a significant turning point in the belief ... of the Iraqi people that that regime will never come back."

In a Shiite Muslim slum in Baghdad, meanwhile, an imam equated the American occupation with Saddam's brutal repression of the Shiite majority. An estimated 25,000 people jammed the mosque and the surrounding area for Friday prayers.

The imam's sermon was heavy with references to an incident Wednesday in which a Black Hawk helicopter appeared to have purposely blown down a Shiite religious banner from a communications tower, sparking a melee in which one Iraqi was killed and four were injured.

The Americans said the dead man fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a Humvee and was killed when soldiers returned fire.

Virus writer made a mistake

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Microsoft may write flawed software, but it can take solace in the fact that the author of the "blaster" worm also made at least one mistake.

That error may be Microsoft's biggest weapon in fending off part two of the Internet attack that started Friday and is expected to continue into Saturday. The worm, which so far has infected more than 350,000 computers around the world, now aims to bring down Microsoft's Web site for software patches by flooding it with traffic.

The Department of Homeland Security said it has not noticed any activity from the worm yet, but urged home users and small and mid-sized businesses to download the patch from <http://www.dhs.gov>.

The virus-like infection, also dubbed "LovSan" or "MSBlast," exploits a flaw in most current versions of Microsoft's Windows operating system for personal computers, laptops and server computers. Although Microsoft posted a software patch to fix the flaw on July

16, many users failed to download the patch, leaving them vulnerable to the worm, which first started hitting computers around the world on Monday.

The worm caused computers to reboot frequently or disrupted Internet browsing. But it also packed a second punch: starting at midnight local time on Aug. 16, infected computers that have not cleaned up the virus will in effect turn into a legion of zombies instructed to repeatedly call up a Microsoft Web site that houses the software patch. With so much traffic flooding the network, the site could be unreachable and computer users would be unable to access the patch.

But there's a flaw. The worm instructed computers to call up <http://windowsupdate.com> — which is an incorrect address for reaching the actual Microsoft Web site that houses the software patch. Although Microsoft has long redirected those who visited that incorrect address to the real site — <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com> — the company disabled the automatic redirection Thursday in preparation for the onslaught of infected computers.

Pledge mandate tossed out by judge

By The Associated Press

DENVER — A federal judge Friday blocked a Colorado law requiring public school students and teachers to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, calling the law discriminatory and divisive.

In issuing a temporary injunction, U.S. District Judge Lewis Babcock said the law discriminates against teachers by allowing students to opt out with a note from their parents. Teachers cannot opt out.

The judge also said the law pits students who choose to say the pledge against those who do not, and students against teachers.

"What is instructional about that?" Babcock asked. "You can't compel a citizen of the United States to recite the Pledge of Allegiance."

Babcock said failing to recite the pledge conceivably could lead to suspensions for students and firings for teachers, although supporters of the law said there were no penalties.

The injunction will be in effect until a yet-to-be-scheduled hearing on the challenge. Until then the pledge can still be recited, but people can't be required to say it.

Liberia's hungry people break through front lines for food

GLENN MCKENZIE

Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia — Embracing loved ones and gulping down whatever food they could find, tens of thousands of hungry Liberians on Friday broke through the front lines that had divided the capital for 10 weeks of deadly siege. U.S. Marines and West African peacekeepers stood guard as the first aid ship docked.

Singing gospel songs, women surged over a bridge lined with bullet casings and shrapnel after crowds overran razor-wire barricades in search of rice, oil and other goods. All around, men and women toted bags, baskets and even wheelbarrows on their heads as they ventured out for food.

Monrovia's New Bridge had been a deadly no-man's-land since July 19, separating the cut-off and soon starving government side from the warehouses and other stockpiles around the rebel-held port.

Fighting in Monrovia has killed well over 1,000 people, and left hundreds of thousands of others wasting by the day.

A 14-year-old girl, Soleh Sando, stopped to accept a woman's gift of cornmeal, which she swallowed raw. "I haven't eaten in four days. I don't need to cook it today," she said.

Nearby, Musu Daffah dropped a bowl of cornmeal and ran sobbing into the arms of her sister, 24-year-old Memma, who was coming home after surviving repeated mortar attacks on the government side.

"Hallelujah," Daffah cried. "Hallelujah."

Celebrations followed the rebels' withdrawal from the port and much of the surrounding areas. They remained on the edges of the capital Friday, rather than withdrawing to the Po River, miles outside Monrovia, as agreed.

The pullout, negotiated by an 11-day-old West African peace mission and U.S. diplomats, was in keeping with the rebel pledge to lift their siege of Monrovia once warlord-president Charles Taylor resigned and left the country, and once peacekeepers deployed.

Withdrawal opened the port, and the wealth of food around it, to residents and refugees who'd subsisted on leaves, spiny snails and little else on the government side.

West African peacekeepers, trying to control the chaos, had planned to open the front-line bridges later Friday. But waiting crowds filling the streets on both sides overwhelmed the peacekeepers soon after daylight, sweeping past the barbed wire barricades.

"Nobody opened the bridge. They just overpowered us," said Pvt. Moses Peter of Nigeria, a peacekeeper.

Crowds raised their hands as they pushed past peacekeepers, showing they had no weapons.

At the port, West African forces and about 40 U.S. Marines held the newly razor-wire lined perimeter, guarding the first aid ship that docked Friday.

The aid ship held 3 tons of high-protein

biscuits. More aid was due to arrive on flights and in relief ships standing by off neighboring countries, said Hans Vikoler of the World Food Program.

At Methodist University, U.N. World Food Program officials were able to deliver the city's first truckload of food aid — bags of cornmeal — in weeks.

More aid is needed, said Jacques Klein, the U.N. special representative to Liberia. "We need a massive airlift here to deal with an international crisis," he told Associated Press Television News.

U.S. forces moved in Thursday, a 200-strong deployment landing by helicopters at Liberia's main airport to take some of the pressure off the steadily building West African peace mission.

The troop deployment is the first by the United States to Africa since Somalia in 1993.

U.S. troops include a 150-member rapid reaction force based at the airport, ready to back up West African peacekeepers in any assault.

Marines guarded the landing strip Friday in two Humvees armed with heavy caliber machine guns.

Rebels seized Monrovia's port and surrounding neighborhoods on Monrovia's Bushrod Island in a July 19 offensive aimed at ousting Taylor, a former warlord blamed for 14 years of bloodletting in the nation founded by freed American slaves.

The siege was the latest, and deadliest, of three since early June. The true death toll

is impossible to calculate, but clearly high.

Blocked from cemeteries by fighting, residents had little choice but to gather the bodies of friends and strangers and slip them into marshes or bury them in Atlantic beaches ringing the city.

Many of those pouring across Friday came searching families.

"I heard my house was hit by rockets, and I've not heard from my family," said Philip Seh, an unemployed electrician who had been looking for jobs in central Monrovia when rebels divided the city.

Crossing over, he sought his wife, three children and brother on the former rebel-held side.

"I need to check to see if they're all right," Seh said, jostling across.

Taylor's former militias were crossing as well, residents said.

Taylor's fighters were feared during the siege for nightly rape and looting sprees on the government side. People in shantytowns near the bridges set off alarms, banging pots and pans, when three men were seen swimming across overnight holding knives.

Women and children fled, and men lit bonfires of wood and tires in slum alleyways, their ashes still burning late Friday.

Fighting continued Friday around the provincial town of Gbarnga, 110 miles north of the capital, government Gen. Adolphus Dolo said. A former stronghold of Taylor, the crossroads town is now in rebel hands.

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

BASEBALL

■ **ATLANTA** — Russ Ortiz doesn't want to think about 20 wins. Not yet, anyway. Ortiz pitched seven strong innings to become the first 17-game winner in the majors and Atlanta Braves, getting two more homers from Javy Lopez, defeated the San Diego Padres 7-4 Thursday night.

Keeping with the theme for this Braves team, Gary Sheffield and Chipper Jones also homered. Atlanta has 18 homers in its last eight games and 182 for the season, on pace to shatter the franchise record of 215.

Ortiz (17-5) is one shy of his career high for wins, but he insists that he's not thinking about individual achievements. Sure, 20 wins is a distinct possibility. Still, he doesn't want to let his mind drift that far ahead.

"For me, it doesn't work to look three starts ahead instead of my next start," he said. "There's always been a part of me that's not into my next start. I learned a long time ago that I can't look ahead."

Sheffield's homer extended his hitting streak to 18 games, tying his career high. Jones homered for the third game in a row — all since his father, a former college coach, came to town to provide a few hitting tips for his slumping son.

"We've got to keep bringing him in," manager Bobby Cox said. "Put him on the payroll."

■ **MIAMI** — Eric Gagne put an end to the Florida Marlins' last-inning heroics.

The Los Angeles Dodgers' closer struck out the side in the ninth for a 6-4 victory Thursday afternoon, extending his major-league record for consecutive saves at the start of a season with his 40th.

Florida beat Los Angeles the previous two nights with walk-off homers in extra innings, but the Marlins went down 1-2-3 on 11 pitches against Gagne.

"It seems the more work he gets, the more effective he gets," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said.

Over the past 20 innings, the right-hander has allowed no runs and three hits while striking out 32.

"His numbers speak for themselves," Florida's Mike Lowell said. "You know you'll have a tough at-bat, because he throws hard, and he throws off-speed pitches for strikes."

The Marlins lost the lead in the NL wild-card race to the Philadelphia Phillies, who moved one-half game ahead by beating Milwaukee 4-3. The Dodgers closed to within four games and salvaged a split of their four-game series in Miami.

"It's nice to come away with a split after the tough games we played the past few days," outfielder Jeremy Burnitz said.

Burnitz and Adrian Beltre hit two-run homers, increasing the Dodgers' season total to 83 — lowest in the major leagues.

FOOTBALL

■ **SAN FRANCISCO** — Ken Dorsey still knows how to win, even when it's only for Bay area bragging rights.

Dorsey threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to fullback Matt Stanley with 2:19 left, giving the San Francisco 49ers a 14-10 victory over the Oakland Raiders on Thursday night in the annual Battle of the Bay exhibition game.

Rick Mirer led the Raiders to the San Francisco 9 in the final minute, but the veteran quarterback fumbled a fourth-down snap with 26 seconds left.

Dorsey, who led the University of Miami to 38 victories and a national title during a prolific college career, had another strong game in his fight to make the 49ers' roster.

Playing for his favorite childhood team against its cross-Bay rivals, the seventh-round draft choice was just 6-of-15 for 47 yards — but he made all of the most important throws during a 71-yard drive. Stanley nearly dropped the soft screen pass, but recovered from his bobble and dove across the goal line.

Brandon Doman — Dorsey's competition for the No. 3 quarterback job — also threw a TD pass as the 49ers (2-0) rallied to beat the Raiders' third-string defenders in the fourth quarter.

BASKETBALL

■ **MINNEAPOLIS** — Lisa Leslie is back and the Los Angeles Sparks are ready to make their run.

Leslie scored 19 points in her return after four weeks on the injured list as the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Minnesota Lynx 87-83 Thursday.

The Sparks were 4-7 during Leslie's 11-game absence after she bruised her right knee in the WNBA All-Star game.

"I think we were missing our leadership and people were forced to play different positions," Leslie said. "But it was a good learning experience for all of us. We have two starting teams now."

It was the 15th straight win for Los Angeles against Minnesota.

All-Star forward DeLisha Milton, also playing for the first time since injured with a left-ankle injury, added 21 points and 11 rebounds. Nikki Teasley had 15 points and 11 assists.

"It's a great feeling having the group together, back as a unit," Milton said. "From a spiritual and emotional standpoint we feel a level of comfort."

"Now that we got our team healthy we want to go into the playoffs on a run not a limp," said Sparks coach Michael Cooper, who was particularly impressed with the way Teasley managed the game and fed her teammates.

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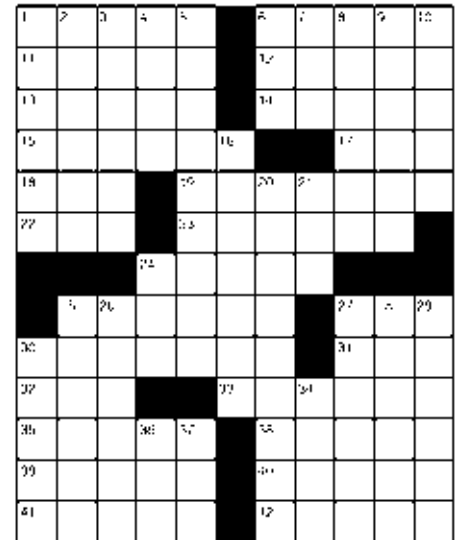
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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

Compiled by Natalia Aivazova

WEEKEND, AUGUST 16, 2003

EVENTS

Dog Show

Come and watch as the best of all breeds as owners show off their best, and most beautiful friends. Event takes place between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Santa Monica Civic Auditorium (310) 458-2288 1855 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 Admission: Adults \$7.00; Senior Citizens and children under 10: \$3.00. Auditorium parking: \$8.00.

Toddler Story Time

The youngest members of the community can enjoy an introduction to the world of stories and books while their parents unwind with their own best seller. Event begins on Saturday at 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble Booksellers 310-260-9110 1201 Third Street Promenade Santa Monica, CA 90401

CULTURE

Puppettalia!

Watch a puppet show at the Santa Monica Puppet and Magic Center. This is a great place to take the kids and to unwind after a long day.

1255 2nd Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 (310) 656-0483

Mary Mary, Quite Contrary

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents on of their many fantastic plays for children. This time around a young girl wonders if she has outgrown her favorite fairy tales. The show is family friendly, with bright colors and fun characters. It is perfect for kids and those who are young at heart. 1211 Fourth Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 For more information call: (310) 394-9779

Because of You

The Life and Loves of Sholom Aleichem

Evelyn Rudie and Chris DeCalo created 'Because of You' a musical based on the letters and stories of Sholom Aleichem, the creator of the characters in "Fiddler on the Roof." Aleichem wrote about the Russian-Jewish experience, including works in Yiddish at a time when there was no literature in the language.

Santa Monica Playhouse 310-394-9779
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ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gingertini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Saturday Fresh Funk and The Headhunters perform followed by Soul Rising on Saturday.

1026 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica (310) 393-6611

Club Sugar

Here local DJs spin everyone's favorite beats all night as crowds of party-goers enjoy the night life. Tonight monthly resident Troy Roberts joins Josh on the decks at PURE. Saturday, July 26 Admission is \$12 but the price is cut in half for those who arrive before 11 p.m. 4 Broadway (@ Lincoln) Santa Monica 90401 For more information call: (310) 899-1989

MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'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 11:00 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, 7:00, 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

MANN 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.W.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

Blackout cancels Iggy Pop & Stooges rock concert

By The Associated Press

■ **CLARKSTON, Mich.** — A high wattage rock band and a venue named after a power company couldn't make the show go on during the blackout that hit the state.

Iggy Pop & the Stooges had finished a sound check Thursday at DTE Energy Music Theatre and were headed back to their Auburn Hills hotel when the power went out, the Detroit Free Press reported on its Web site.

It was supposed to be the biggest Detroit rock reunion of the year: Iggy with brothers Ron and Scott Asheton performing their first hometown show in three decades, in front of what would have been a packed crowd of fans.

The concert was rescheduled for Aug. 25.

Fans seeking refunds can get them at their point of purchase. That may not be much consolation for those who'd trekked from England, California and elsewhere to witness the big night.

"I'm so bummed," said Eric Danville, who flew in from New York. "It had to be an act of God or a solar flare that would keep me from seeing the Stooges."

■ **NEW YORK** — A bicyclist has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against CNN anchor Jack Cafferty for leaving the scene of an accident.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday in state Supreme Court in Manhattan, alleges Cafferty was "reckless and grossly negligent" when he knocked Billy Maldonado off his bike with his Cadillac and drove away on May 14.

A call to Cafferty's attorney was not immediately

returned.

Earlier this month, the anchor was ordered to pay a \$250 fine and perform 70 hours of community service after pleading guilty to leaving the scene of an accident.

A traffic officer and about five pedestrians ran after Cafferty's car to stop him after the accident, but Cafferty drove through at least two red lights and around other vehicles without stopping, dragging the bike beneath his car, according to a police complaint.

Cafferty later told police that he'd seen a man on a bike who may have been a messenger weaving in and out of traffic as he drove south on Ninth Avenue. He told police that when he looked in his mirror, he saw the man getting up off the ground but was unaware he had hit the bicyclist.

Maldonado had told police he was slightly injured. His lawsuit called the injuries serious.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — A photographer charged with using photos of Cameron Diaz in an extortion attempt was denied release on his own recognizance and was ordered to stay away from the actress.

John Rutter, 41, had been scheduled to enter a plea Thursday in Superior Court, but Commissioner Jeffrey M. Harkavy postponed the arraignment to Aug. 28 to allow him time to hire a private attorney.

Rutter was arrested Tuesday and held on \$250,000 bail. Harkavy said that if Rutter could post bail, he was not to contact Diaz.

The photographer faces charges of attempted extortion, grand theft, perjury and forgery for allegedly trying to use photos of the 30-year-old actress to try to extort

\$3.3 million from her. He faces up to six years in prison if convicted, the district attorney's office said.

Attorneys for Diaz and Rutter have declined to describe the photos or discuss the contents of a videotape taken from Rutter's Venice apartment. Rutter told the syndicated news program "Inside Edition" in mid-July he took the pictures well before Diaz's big break in the 1994 film "The Mask."

Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office, also declined to discuss the photos.

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

■ **HARTFORD, Conn.** — The Justin Timberlake/Christina Aguilera concert in Hartford that was canceled this week is back on.

The show has been rescheduled for Aug. 22, a week after the original concert date. The Hartford Civic Center will honor all tickets from the first date, promoters said.

Concert organizers canceled after three stagehands were injured when a lighting grid above the stage at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, N.J., collapsed Aug. 9.

About 30 people were working below the 100-by-100-foot grid when it buckled and lurched before falling, forcing postponement of the sold-out Boardwalk Hall show.

Concerts scheduled for this past Monday in Albany, N.Y., and Wednesday in East Rutherford, N.J., were also postponed.

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