

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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SUPER LOTTO PLUS

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Megamillion: 10

Jackpot: \$12 million

FANTASY 5

29, 20, 22, 11, 4

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 0, 3

Evening picks: 3, 7, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 04, Big Ben

2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

3rd Place: 05, California Classic

Race Time: 1:46.43



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

A man allegedly seeking a street-corner prostitute was arrested and, per local law, had his vehicle confiscated, even though his vehicle that night was a municipal transit bus, which he was returning after a shift (Cicero, Ill.). A 45-year-old man fleeing police in a high-speed chase between Oak Ridge, Texas, and Lebanon, Okla., kept calling 911 on his cell phone, asking the operators to tell police to stop chasing him. The Cranbrook (British Columbia) Daily Townsman profiled Irene Weller's cat, Patches, which nurses not only her kittens but also two mice that Weller had recently ejected from the home.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If I had been present at creation, I would have given some useful hints."

— Alfonso the Wise



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City Hall worker sent to prison for bribery

Martin Aguirre asked for cash to cover up alleged code violations

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

A City Hall building inspector was sentenced on Wednesday to six months in county jail for soliciting bribes from Santa Monica businesses and residents.

Martin Aguirre, 29, of Downey, pleaded no contest in July to one count of bribery as part of a plea bargain that dropped the second bribery charge against him.

Aguirre was arrested by Santa Monica Police in February during an undercover sting operation. A few days earlier, Aguirre had solicited a bribe from a local businessman.

Dan Brookman, Aguirre's attorney, has asked the court that Aguirre's sentence be served from



Martin Aguirre

home with an electronic ankle bracelet to monitor his activity.

Brookman said because Los Angeles County jails are overcrowded, it's likely Aguirre will be given that option.

"He deeply regrets the entire incident," said Brookman, who added that Aguirre didn't have a criminal history at the time of his arrest.

"He's very remorseful. He exercised extremely poor judgment and he's hopeful that he will be forgiven by a higher power. And he intends to spend the rest of his life making up for this one episode of his life."

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Jones ordered Aguirre in July to pay \$628 in restitution to one of his victims, another \$2,000 in fines and serve three years of probation after he finishes his jail time.

Had he been convicted on both bribery felony charges, Aguirre faced

See AGUIRRE, page 6

Wedding photographer to pay \$24,600 in restitution

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

A local wedding photographer who failed to deliver pictures to more than 100 newlyweds agreed on Wednesday to pay \$24,600 in restitution to the couples who hired her.

The agreement concluded more than a year of legal trouble for Juli Anne Armitage, who in May pleaded no contest to four of 17 criminal counts of fraud levied by City Hall.

"I don't mind paying because I did collect that money," Armitage said. "What I don't like is being called a thief and a fraud."

Charges were filed against Armitage in December. But Armitage said she was wronged by the City Attorney's Office because it seized her computer, files and 10 boxes of negatives in March of 2002, leaving her without a way to contact



Juli Anne Armitage

clients or make good on her contracts.

Armitage said the City Attorney's Office refused to release her property for close to nine months before it filed the charges. It wasn't until she demanded that her belongings be returned that charges were filed against her, Armitage claims.

"I didn't even have a way to contact clients," she said. "I had to wait for people to start hunting me down and of course I didn't handle it that well. I got so emotionally distressed."

Armitage said her bad bookkeeping and lack of business sense led to her current situation. After being charged with 17 counts of fraud, Armitage missed a series of court dates and was taken into custody on a bench warrant in April. She spent 12 days in jail and worked out a plea that

See ARMITAGE, page 6



John Wood/Daily Press

Gov. Gray Davis announces \$53 million in new grants for California's environment in a press conference at Palisades Park on Wednesday.

Gov. Gray Davis announces coastal protection plans

Governor facing recall can't ignore GOP bid to oust him

By Daily Press staff

Gov. Gray Davis announced on Wednesday that \$53 million will be used to help protect and improve California's coast.

Davis, who made the announcement at a press conference in Santa Monica, focused on coastal issues but couldn't ignore the recall effort launched against him by the Republicans and the bid to replace him by movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"My most important job is to do the job people elected me to do," said Davis, who acknowledged he is in a difficult predicament but said Schwarzenegger has not yet provided voters with enough specifics about how he would run California if elected.

Davis, who also announced the leasing of a new electricity plant in northern California and lauded the state for not losing power in last week's blackout on the East Coast, said Republican proposals to balance the budget without raising taxes will jeopardize much-needed programs.

See DAVIS, page 6

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2003

You will have a tendency to be open and share more of yourself. Put your best foot forward in all situations and remain flexible to new information. Work with each situation individually, and you will get the net results you want. Meetings, groups and friends all help pave the way to what you want. You will develop the ability to make more money. Also be careful about how much you spend. If you are single, there is an intensity that is quite unique in a relationship that could appear suddenly. You will need to avoid power plays in order to let this relationship develop. If you are attached, a child could play a strong role in your interactions. GEMINI will always be your friend.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your best intentions run amok. You feel frustrated and surprised but are backed by strong emotions and caring. News could force you to regroup and restructure your plans. Your ability to think outside the box comes into play. Tonight: Flex with the moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You feel a lot of caring about a personal venture or an investment involving property. Extremes mark feelings and actions. As a result, you could upset an associate or trigger an unforeseen set of events. Tonight: Treat a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Defer to those around you. Caring seems to surround you, no matter which way you go or what goes on. Consider your options carefully, especially if someone challenges you. Someone might be unusually challenging. Tonight: Listen to the other side.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Indulge someone you care about. You easily could go overboard with an expenditure. Though it might feel right on some level, on another level, you could be very uncomfortable. Don't count on stability on the work front. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your positive attitude melts barriers and draws someone in a lot closer than you originally anticipated. What feels uncomfortable to you might be very easy for another. A child or loved one might be acting contrary just to be contrary. Tonight: Follow the action.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Take charge where you can. You are in a leadership position. Your instincts lead you in a new direction. Relax and follow through on what is important. Your instincts will also carry you past a problem. Be careful about a new acquaintance made today. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Realize the possibilities that surround a trip or special seminar. You will have the opportunity to break a pattern. A loved one or friend takes you in a new direction. Relax with a current situation; please, don't get uptight about a conversation. Tonight: Try a spot with music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Deal with others individually. You can sense a superior's warmth and approval. Not everything takes the spin you want or need. You might want to structure a stronger budget or revamp your finances in some other manner. Tonight: Go along with another's idea.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ If there is a problem at all today, it is likely to come from you. Hold up a mirror, especially in the afternoon, when you could easily lose your temper. Others show caring, perhaps in a detached way. Key information heads in your direction. Tonight: Go with another's request.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might be stunned by what you hear if you simply let others talk. An associate means well and could make a big difference. Learn to curb knee-jerk reactions. You come out on top no matter what you do or with whom. Tonight: Get your favorite type of exercise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Rethink an offer. If you think about it, it is heartfelt. You just might want to follow this person's suggestions and be open to a different type of idea. Think thoroughly about what you expect from a meeting or key tie. Could you have false expectations? Tonight: Definitely where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Tension builds, but understand that much comes from others' admiration of the quality of your work. Don't push limits and understand what might be going on in your immediate circle. Consider options carefully before plunging into a difficult power struggle. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

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LOCAL

No hazard here



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The 'passage way' sign in the alley between the Promenade and Fourth Street was quickly fixed on Wednesday — after it was noticed that the bar now attached to the pole had been dangling and was close to dropping several feet. The bar, which had posed a hazard for weeks, was noticed this week by the Bayside District Corp., which manages downtown Santa Monica with City Hall. Officials said the sign was scheduled to be fixed on Wednesday, which coincidentally was the same day the hazard was published in a photo in the Daily Press.

Music plus cake equals big bash on the SM pier

By Daily Press staff

Tonight's free concert at the pier will feature more than music, there also will be what's been dubbed "the world's largest" cake to celebrate the 75th birthday of Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus.

However, the Big Blue Bus' cake has to be bigger than 58 tons, which is the largest on record, made in Alabama in 1989.

The opening group of tonight's performance is Billy Richards' Coasters, a spin-off of the original Coasters, legends credited with "Yakety Yak" and "Love Potion Number Nine." The band was the first vocal group to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

The main show will feature The Platters, a veteran rock and roll band that has sold more than 80 million albums worldwide.

Pier officials also have promised

celebrity guests at tonight's concert.

The Platters have recorded nearly 400 songs since the 1950s and are credited with putting Mercury Records on the map. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990, have performed in more than 90 countries and have received more than 230 awards from all over the world.

The show runs from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the stage set up on the pier's parking deck. It is strongly recommended that visitors either walk, bike or use mass transit to get to the concert as parking is limited. A free shuttle is available from the 2030 Barnard Way parking lot south of the pier starting at 6 p.m. each Thursday. Concertgoers can reach the lot by exiting 1-10 west at Fourth Street, south to Pico Boulevard, turning right on Pico and following the Pier/Shuttle signs to the lot.

surf report

Thursday's surf should see some small SSW swell to mix with a touch of windswell. The best NW/combo breaks will see some waist-high sets. Maybe a toe-rider at Leo's.

Just watch out for those high tides.

OUTLOOK: In the first week of September we should see some head-high waves. Stay tuned.

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:

72°

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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The Q Line

An elderly Santa Monica woman who broke her hip on the Big Blue Bus last year recently lost a lawsuit against City Hall.

In the lawsuit, the woman claimed City Hall should compensate her for medical bills, as well as for pain and suffering because it does not require its drivers to wait for elderly passengers to be seated before they begin driving.

Jury members said they had compassion for the elderly woman but that there

were too many questions raised by city attorneys to rule for her.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should Big Blue Bus drivers wait for elderly people to be seated before they take off on their routes?"

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

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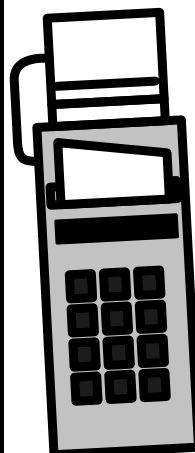
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OPINION

A 'fair and balanced' look at 'sick and twisted' news

EDGE
of the
WEST

By Ron Scott Smith



■ Fox News Channel, purveyor of the cheap shot and the slanted, has sued Al Franken for using the words "fair and balanced" in the title of his new book, claiming they own those words in that combination and nobody else can mess with them. Hmmm.

■ A copyright has been granted, giving the Edge of the West column exclusive rights to the phrase "sick and twisted."

■ This recall thing ... however problematic, however expensive, however divisive, however "sick and twisted" is clearly in order. Under his watch, we've seen a booming economy with a record surplus fall into a deep jobless swamp, buried beneath a record deficit. He's a fund-raising gigolo, a master of the art, and spends more time pandering to special interests at \$5,000-a-plate dinners than he does at governing. Misinformation, falsified figures and promises made-to-be-broken helped get him elected. He's a take-no-prisoners, down-and-dirty campaigner who would stop at nothing in the quest to retain power. And when we're done booting him out of the White House, we can then revisit the

Better hurry if you want one, the new George W. Bush action figure is selling out fast. It comes with a miniature replica of the American flag autographed by the President in a fit of fund-raising frenzy that had him forgetting that ... uh ... it's against the law.

California question.

■ I was up all night revisiting the California question, studying the Form and doing my handicapping, and after throwing out all the "sick and twisted" bad actors and artificially breasted blondes it came down to this: Bloodline rules. But just as I'm about to go public with my endorsement of Nathan "White Cloud" Walton as a shot out to his NBA and Hippie Hall of Fame dad, Bill, along comes the news on Arianna. It turns out the Brentwood bazillionaire has never met a loophole she doesn't like, and has been consistently able to avoid paying taxes on her bazillions, revealing a brilliant personal fiscal policy that leads any clear thinking voter to ask, "who better to captain the sinking ship and turn the red ink into black again?"

■ Speaking of captains, better hurry if you want one, the new George W. Bush action figure is selling out fast. It comes with a miniature replica of the American flag autographed by the President in a fit of fund-raising frenzy that had him forgetting that ... uh ... it's against the law. The figurine of the President is clothed in the full custom tailored jet-fighter-pilot attire that he wore

the day he flew onto the USS Strom Thurmond or whatever it was to declare the war was over.

It takes its rightful place in the storied pantheon of heroic children's toys, right alongside He-man, She-Ra, GI Joe, Obe Wan Kenobe and that Transformer that turned from a truck into an avenging robot. You can pull a string on the Bush figure's back and hear him speak timeless inspirations like: "We're gonna smoke 'em out of their caves," and "Bring 'em on," and "Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa," and "I'm embarrassed to be from the same state as the Dixie Chicks."

■ On the heels of the success of the Bush toy, rumor has it that additions to the series are in production. There's the Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld figure, bearing an uncanny resemblance to Dr. Strangelove. Pull his string and hear "I don't do quagmires," and the now famous words of wisdom "We know some things that we do not know. There are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know we don't know." Then there's the Dick "Grim Reaper" Cheney figure which comes with a miniature copy of

the "sick and twisted" \$650 million contract given without open bidding to his old firm, Haliburton, to retool the Iraqi-American oil fields. The John Ashcroft "Top Cop" figure completes the set. It comes with a miniature version of the semi-nude Spirit of Justice statue whose bare breasts are covered with miniatures of the real drapes the Attorney General ordered for the Great Hall at the Department of Justice so as not to be embarrassed when he's in there making America the way God wants it to be.

■ Making America the way God wants it to be and saving the world from things like evil and France is a tough gig and must take its toll on those doing the making and the saving. So the heroes of the current administration in Washington might want to consider relocating to Denver when they're done, where a stress-reduction measure will be on the November ballot. If it passes it will mandate, among other blessings, that soothing Indian music be played in public buildings, less stressful food be served in public cafeterias, and mass meditation focusing on peace and tranquility be offered to all.

■ Peace and tranquility appear to be far removed from the remaining 150,000 or so American troops in our new 51st state. Sweltering underneath bulletproof vests and metal helmets, through the tortuous Iraqi summer, they're being picked off daily, like ducks-sitting-in-a-row, by the Weapons of Individual Destruction that were apparently overlooked in the obsessive search for those

See SMITH, page 5

Last Call: Our quest for passion should exceed all else

TITTINGER'S
TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

A pair of footsteps repeatedly strikes the ground as the opening credits roll. Heavy breathing can be overheard. Suddenly, there is silence.

FADE IN: A lone runner stands idle on the rubberized track that encircles the Santa Monica High School football field off Pico Boulevard. It is a track he knows well, having worn out three pairs of running shoes within the past year. With hands pulling on the leg ends of his shorts in an effort to catch his breath, he suddenly rises and focuses on the handful of other recreational joggers making their way 'round and 'round, each sticking to the inside lane, making only left-hand turns.

Our thirtysomething protagonist, fit and good-looking, suddenly stands erect in the middle lane amid his determined gaze. A couple of women run past with blank expressions on their face, as if oblivious to the epiphany he is experiencing.

MICHAEL de PLUME meanders slowly over to the outside lane and resumes running, this time heading in the opposite direction. His first few steps are tentative, then more certain. Soon, he is running full tilt with confidence, discarding the looks of chagrin from the other runners who are pointed in the "right" direction.

A bounce in his step, de Plume smiles broadly as he runs.

CUT TO: Days earlier in a Santa Monica

An exterior shot of a brickfaced Santa Monica billiards hall late at night. A homeless man digs through a trash can for scraps on the street corner. By the tavern door, a contingent of twentysomethings smoke cigarettes and playfully punch one another.

apartment near Wilshire Boulevard. De Plume lies on his bed, channel changer in hand. The channels flicker by on the television with contemptible rapidity. In the living room, a computer monitor displays a blank white page, cursor flickering with contemptible rapidity. A closed loose-leaf binder rests on the carpet nearby. Its cover beginning to attract a fresh layer of dust.

Suddenly, there is a knock on the door. It is the resident FOOL ON THE HILL. He has tied his horse to the railing just outside the front door. de Plume opens the door for his visitor with a silent look of resignation and sits back on the couch.

Fool enters and sees the blinking cursor, the discarded binder of notes and the channel changer in de Plume's hand.

DE PLUME: "Look, I know what you're going to say."

(beat)

"I realize the whole screenplay thing hasn't been progressing the way we drew it up, but I'm tired. Come on, I've been working my tail off, working two and three jobs, seven days a week for the last year. Give me some credit. I'm working hard out here."

(beat)

"You're not much on words are you?..."
"Regardless, I know that look on your face and I know you're right, OK? I knew you were right before you so dramatically galloped over here. You happy? Jeez, cut me

some slack."

"You don't even have to say it. I'll save you the trouble. Yes, I've been working hard but not at the right things. What's been the point? Who am I saving serving up beers and pool tables a couple of nights a week? How was I contributing to this world toiling away at a nursery? You're right, paying the rent, hitting on girls and drinking on rooftops was not the mission. I know that. You can wipe that omniscient smile of yours off your face now."

CUT TO: An exterior shot of a brickfaced Santa Monica billiards hall late at night. A homeless man digs through a trash can for scraps on the street corner. By the tavern door, a contingent of twentysomethings smoke cigarettes and playfully punch one another.

CUT TO: Inside, de Plume grips the P.A. system microphone and announces to all the customers that it's "last call." He speaks with a decidedly handsome man who looks something like himself, only a bit more weathered with an additional 20-plus years on the odometer. The patron orders one more bottle of Guinness before de Plume and company close shop. The two have been talking about the retiring bartender's plans for the future.

BARFLY: "So what's your story? You're giving up all of this?"

Smiles wryly.

DE PLUME: "Hard to imagine, I know. Something just struck me. Maybe it's just the fact that I've been out here for a year and needed a change."

BARFLY: "I think it's more than that."

DE PLUME: "It is. I think I realized how I was working and playing and doing everything to distraction, as if to provide myself with an excuse not to write my screenplay — the ultimate irony considering that's what I came out here for in the first place. It's just time to get back to basics and stop making excuses. Hey, winners do what losers don't want to do, right?"

"It's just time."

BARFLY: "So you're quitting the bar?"

De Plume nods.

BARFLY: "And the column?"

DE PLUME: "I think I'll be able to do more good in the long run by following my passion and writing what's burning in my heart right now to be written. To be honest, I don't even have a choice anymore."

BARFLY: "Change is good, my friend. You need that nervousness in your stomach, like when you are falling in love — something you're so excited about you can't wait to get out of the bed in the morning. If you got that, kid, there ain't no failing."

DE PLUME: "So how does the story end? You gotta tell me."

BARFLY: "That's up to you. It has yet to be written, Michael, but it sounds like you are on the right track. Keep pushing those doors to see which will open and don't be afraid to veer from the comfortable path."

The bar patron fiddles around in his pocket but finds he has no cash remaining.

BARFLY: "Well, I've gotta hit the road, kid, and unfortunately the only tip I can leave you with is this — if you always do

See TITTINGER, page 5

OPINION



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SMITH, from page 4

storied bigger and badder ones. With a peace like this, who needs a war? Funny how the dreaded concept of gun control here in the US has become a crucial mission of the nation-builders in Iraq. Be careful what you don't want. But give credit where credit is due — a country is liberated. And soon they'll be free to elect their very own radical, fundamentalist, death-to-America regime. We're safer now, a lot safer now. You say Qusay, I say Huday, sing a happy tune. They're "out of business," said a triumphant Bush. Terror-alert-color-code red is nowhere in sight and America breathes easier, except for that little while when a giant blown fuse left 50 million people in the dark while the President was in our neighborhood raising more campaign money from the guys making and selling the giant fuses that break.

■ Fair and balanced. Fair and balanced. Fair and balanced. There. Used it three times without permission. So sue me Fox. You'll probably find me chilling somewhere over in "sick and twisted©" Denver.

(Ron Scott Smith can be sick and twisted, as well as fair and balanced whenever he feels like it. To reach him, e-mail to Edgofthwest@aol.com)

TITTINGER, from page 4

what you always did, you'll always have what you always had."

DE PLUME: "That's all I get?"

BARFLY: "Um, yeah ... hey, no one said following your heart was lucrative, but it will make you rich."

CUT TO: An exterior shot of de Plume's unassuming apartment at night. No horses are tied to the railing. The streets are quiet below, with the only sound evident being the rhythmic tapping of keys on a computer keyboard.

CUT TO: Inside, de Plume is once again deep in thought. The notebook binder, now clean, is open on the desk beside the computer monitor, its pages littered with hastily scrawled notes. The camera holds on de Plume as he sits seemingly motionless for a good minute or two, and then, as if in the throes of another epiphany, he sits forward and begins banging away on the keys with a relentless frenzy.

As the camera pans in it is evident he is smiling ... broadly.

FADE TO BLACK:

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer and a struggling screenplay author. He can be reached at TooRoam@aol.com).



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City Hall worker hopes to serve sentence from home

AGUIRRE, from page 1

a maximum of eight years in prison and \$4,000 in fines.

Addison Smith, president of the Ontario-based JAS, the staffing firm that offers contract services to City Hall and employed Aguirre, applauded the sentence.

"I'm glad he went to jail," said Smith, whose company has about 60 employees. "It's been a very trying time for the department and for myself."

Smith declined to comment on whether City Hall still hires workers from his firm. He said he always has and will continue to verify all applicants' references, as well as run background criminal and driver's license checks on potential employees.

Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Richard Wilson did not return calls seeking comment.

Aguirre, who began working at City Hall in October, was arrested after he solicited and accepted a bribe from Jim Allan, the owner of Post Haste Sound, located at 3313 Ocean Park Blvd.

Allan said Aguirre walked into his storefront and told him he didn't possess the proper construction permits. Aguirre asked Allan for \$1,500 in cash to ignore the supposed violation, Allan said.

Although Aguirre showed proof he was a code compliance and construction inspector, Allan knew there was nothing wrong with his building because it had previously been approved by local offi-

cials and was originally owned by a long-time family friend.

Allan told Aguirre he didn't have the cash on hand, but to come back the next day. After Aguirre left the building, Allan immediately called the police.

When Aguirre came back to the business owner a few days later to collect the cash, Santa Monica Police officers were waiting for him. The SMPD provided marked currency to Allan, who then made the transaction with Aguirre.

A little more than a month earlier, Aguirre told local resident Diane Smith that her garage was illegally converted into an apartment but he wouldn't red tag it if she paid him \$3,000 in cash.

When Smith was unable to provide the

cash, Aguirre returned to the property a few days later and accepted her offer of \$28.75 she had in her purse and a \$200 child support check, which she cashed at a bank while he accompanied her. He returned the next week and again accompanied Smith to the bank, where she gave him another \$300.

Aguirre worked as both a code compliance inspector and a construction inspector during December, January and the early part of February. Aguirre's responsibilities included investigating building and safety violations, work permits, maintenance complaints, work-related noise complaints, zoning violations, nuisance complaints, sign violations, outdoor merchandising compliance and construction sites.

Wedding photographer has three years to pay \$24,600

ARMITAGE, from page 1

eventually left her with one charge of fraud and formal probation because she returned the missing photos.

Armitage, now a resident of Ventura, worked out the restitution formula with Public Defender Kerry Golub and Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky.

Radinsky said Wednesday's agreement came after the last box of missing photos was discovered in a drawer in the courtroom of Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins. Armitage had brought the photos in during an earlier hearing and they had been misplaced by court workers.

Of the 55 couples the City Attorney's Office represented, 49 have gotten back some or all of their wedding photos, Radinsky said. But Armitage, who required a down payment, didn't show up for six weddings and is now required to pay back the full amount to those couples, Radinsky said.

Under the restitution compensation plan, an undelivered wedding album is worth \$500 and a missed engagement photo session is worth \$300, while parent albums are valued at \$225 and gift albums are \$60, Radinsky said.

Armitage is required to pay at least \$300 a month towards the \$24,600 and must pay the full amount by the time her probation expires in May of 2006. Radinsky said many of the couples did not pay Armitage the full fee and others latched onto the criminal charges too late, pre-

cluding them from seeking restitution in this action.

"We were really pleased that virtually all the people got their negatives, as well as a large number of prints," he said.

"For those remaining people (who did not receive restitution) they would be free to pursue a separate civil action."

Armitage said she is now working part-time as a waitress in Ventura. Despite her skills as a photographer, she

said she is unsure if she will return to the profession. She is even considering relocating because of the national media coverage her case received.

She said the 12 days she spent in jail left a lasting impression.

"I learned a lot," she said. "I learned to take the law more seriously. I learned patience."

Davis points to environmental successes

DAVIS, from page 1

Some of the programs Davis pointed to are the Coastal Commission, in an agency that protects the coastline, as well as California's public universities and medical programs for children. He urged voters to ask their politicians where the cuts would be made in order to balance the books.

Davis said the recall election has a thickening plot that looks like something out of a Hollywood moving and he's expecting a surprise ending when voters go to the polls on Oct. 7.

There are more than 900 miles of

coastline in California and Davis vowed to protect the coast from offshore drilling and other potentially harmful intrusions.

Davis also pointed to his successful efforts to raise more than \$100 million for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which has purchased 7,000 acres of undeveloped land.

The new \$53 million in grants comes from Propositions 12, 40 and 50, which were approved by voters in the last three years.

The Wildlife Conservation Board

will distribute \$33 million for acquisition and restoration projects, including a \$19.2 million program to help landowners, conservation organizations, counties and cities save open rangelands.

Another \$20 million in grants will be distributed by the State Coastal Conservancy to protect and improve coastal wildlife habitats and farmland, improve shoreline and beach access, and revive the economies of coastal communities, according to a press release.

After missteps, Schwarzenegger prepares to remake his case

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — At first, the Republican side of the race to recall Gov. Gray Davis looked like it would turn into a romp for actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, but his recent absence from campaigning and missteps have weakened his conservative credentials and energized his rivals' campaigns.

Now, while still facing questions about whether they'll back out to help Schwarzenegger, other Republican candidates, including businessman Peter Ueberroth, state Sen. Tom McClintock and last year's gubernatorial nominee, Bill Simon, have instead started attacking the rookie candidate.

The actor's past statements on key social issues — support for abortion rights, gay rights and some gun control — received wider scrutiny, while suggestions by his lead economic adviser, Warren Buffett, that California's property taxes were too low sparked outrage. Add to that a Field Poll that found despite massive publicity, Schwarzenegger was trailing the top Democrat in the race — Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante.

With the sense of invincibility diminished somewhat, even Schwarzenegger's staunchest supporters say the candidate needs to re-establish himself as the party's best choice to replace Davis.

"To believe this would be a picture perfect campaign was a pipe dream," said Rep. David Dreier, a Schwarzenegger adviser. "Sure, I wish Buffett hadn't said what he did. But campaigns are messy, challenging and difficult and these kind of challenges show strength."

Dreier, who urged Simon, Ueberroth and Rep. Darrell Issa to get out of the race after Schwarzenegger entered (Issa was the only one to do so), now says he has no plans to make that plea again soon.

Schwarzenegger will re-emerge Wednesday, hosting an economic summit in Los Angeles chaired by Buffett, a billionaire investor, and former Secretary of State George Shultz. His campaign will also begin running a 60-second television ad, in which he pledges to restore fiscal responsibility to the state and take power away from special interests — both messages that strongly sway conservatives, his advisers say.

Despite his money, fame, and the excitement generated by his candidacy,

Schwarzenegger is far from the ideal candidate for staunch conservatives — whose anger against Davis' leadership fueled the recall effort.

Simon and McClintock have sought to burnish their own conservative credentials and brand Schwarzenegger as a liberal.

"I think what happened last week shocked a lot of people into realizing that a familiar name is not enough," McClintock said Tuesday. "With Warren Buffett pining for the days people lost their homes because of spiraling property taxes, it's becoming very clear that Schwarzenegger campaign is one of the most liberal that we've seen in the past 20 years."

McClintock said contributions to his campaign have surged since Buffett's remark. The events of last week have only strengthened his decision to remain a candidate.

"If anyone wants to call to tell me to drop out, they can save their time because it's not going to happen," he said.

Ueberroth, the former Major League Baseball commissioner who will begin campaigning this week, is taking a different tack — wooing voters across party lines by reminding them of his skillful management of the 1984 Olympic Games

in Los Angeles. On Tuesday, he announced his opposition to Proposition 187, a Republican-backed initiative passed in 1994 that denied public services to illegal immigrants.

"He is in for the long haul and he's in it to win," his lead strategist, Bill Lord-Butcher, said.

All of this poses a distinct quandary for Schwarzenegger's team, who must address the party's conservative base while not pushing the candidate too far right and alienating mainstream voters who are key to victory in California.

Rich Galen, a spokesman for the Republican Leadership Council — a moderate GOP organization chaired by New York Gov. George Pataki — said the race is being viewed nationally as a test of whether Republicans can put aside so-called "litmus tests" on social issues and instead embrace a candidate who can win a largely Democratic state.

"You've got to be able to accept views of people you don't agree with," Galen said. "Arnold Schwarzenegger may be a little to our left, but with him in the governor's chair we could begin to rebuild a Republican infrastructure in California that hasn't been particularly functional in a decade."



Study ranks University of Colorado No. 1 for partying

BY BEN KIECKHEFER
Associated Press Writer

BOULDER, Colo. — The University of Colorado, where a six-year effort to curb binge drinking ended this spring without making a dent, is the nation's No. 1 party school.

According to the latest Princeton Review survey, the typical CU student smokes a lot of marijuana and drinks a lot of booze, but doesn't study very often.

Alexandra Kass, a 21-year-old CU student, said finding a party is as easy as driving around with the windows open and listening for music blaring from a house.

Still, she said her study habits haven't suffered at a university that also rated three out of four stars for academics in the survey.

"If someone can't balance their social life and studying, then too bad for them," Kass said.

The latest Princeton Review's "Best 351 Colleges" is based on 70-question surveys completed by more than 100,000 students at various campuses. The review, which is not related to Princeton University, has been conducting the surveys since 1992.

Brigham Young University was the top "stone-cold sober" school in the 2004 survey and Army's military academy at West Point, N.Y., was the hardest to get into.

The "party school" category is based on survey questions focusing on the amount of alcohol and drug consumption, the amount of time students spend — or don't spend — studying, and the popularity of fraternities and sororities. Last year, CU was No. 8 on the party list.

University officials questioned the lat-

est report, saying it was based on objective factors and rankings. They noted the faculty includes Nobel Prize winners, and that numerous students have won awards.

"If they want to study hard and play

"If they want to study hard and play hard, they will get a great degree, but if they come here just to play hard, they won't be here long."

— RON STUMP
Vice chancellor for student affairs
University of Colorado

hard, they will get a great degree, but if they come here just to play hard, they won't be here long," said Ron Stump, vice chancellor for student affairs. "(The university) provides a wonderful opportunity for education and a wonderful opportunity for off-campus social and recreational opportunities."

About 63 percent of students at the 28,000-student Boulder school binge drink, a rate well above the national average and up from recent years, according to Bob Maust, coordinator of the A Matter of Degree Program, which tried to reduce binge drinking at CU. A Harvard study showed about 44 percent of college students nationwide binge drink.

CU and the city in recent years have

tried to limit some of the problems associated with partying.

In 2001, officials barred couches on front porches in the University Hill district after riots in which students set couches ablaze in the streets. Beer has been banned at CU football games since 1996.

Parties weren't hard to find Saturday night as students spilled out of houses and onto the sidewalks of University Hill. There was a steady stream of people visiting nearby taverns.

Groups such as the American Medical Association have long criticized party school rankings. The AMA said the ranking legitimizes high-risk drinking and portrays alcohol as an essential part of student life.

Princeton Review is merely reporting on conditions at the schools, editorial director Robert Franek said.

In other party-school criteria, CU ranked third in widespread use of marijuana, fourth in the prevalence of hard liquor consumption and 11th in the prevalence of beer usage. The university ranked first among schools where students study the least.

The other top 10 party schools were the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Indiana University, Bloomington; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.; University of Texas-Austin; The University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.; DePaul University, Greencastle, Ind.; and Saint Bonaventure University, Olean, N.Y.; and the University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

The Princeton Review's 'Best 351 Colleges,' 2004

- Best professors: Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt.
- Toughest college to get into: U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
- Students most satisfied with financial aid: Knox College, Galesburg, Ill.
- Most beautiful campus: University of California, Santa Cruz, Calif.
- Best campus dorms: Loyola College, Baltimore, Md.
- Best campus food: Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.
- Top party school: University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.
- Top stone-cold sober school: Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.
- Biggest fraternity and sorority scene: DePaul University, Greencastle, Ind.
- Happiest students: DePaul University, Chicago.
- Most religious students: Brigham Young University.
- Friendliest campus race-class relations: McGill University, Montreal.
- Gay community most accepted: New York University, New York.
- Students lean most to the right politically: Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.
- Students lean most to the left politically: Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.
- Students most supportive of college's sports teams: University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

Based on surveys of more than 100,000 students.

Swimmer killed by great white shark 15-18 feet in length

By The Associated Press

AVILA BEACH — A 50-year-old college instructor taking a morning swim bled to death after she was attacked by a great white shark 15 to 18 feet long, preliminary autopsy results showed Wednesday.

Deborah Franzman of Nipomo was killed Tuesday as she swam 75 yards offshore alongside a group of seals. Witnesses reported seeing a large fin as Franzman screamed for help.

Lifeguards pulled Franzman to shore, where she died. Bite marks on her legs were consistent with those seen in previous attacks by great white sharks, San Luis Obispo County sheriff's Lt. Martin Basti said.

Shark expert Robert Lea, present during the autopsy, estimated the fish was between 15 and 18 feet long.

"That's incredibly large," Basti said.

An unknown species of shark was spotted in the area after the attack, Basti said.

Franzman likely bled to death after her left femoral artery was severed in the

attack, Basti said.

Franzman's death marked the 10th fatal shark attack in California since 1952 and the first death since 1994, according to state Fish and Game records.

Franzman was a sociology instructor at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria. She swam in the area by the Avila Beach Pier several times a week, friend Andrea Sanders said through tears.

"She loved it. She would talk about how fun it was to swim and play with the seals," Sanders said.

Franzman was wearing a full wetsuit and swim fins when she was attacked, Lea said. The state marine biologist said the shark may have mistaken Franzman, silhouetted against the surface, for a seal. The sharks are ambush predators and attack their prey from below.

Avila Beach, located about 200 miles northwest of Los Angeles, was closed to swimmers after the attack.

Great white sharks are a protected species in California.

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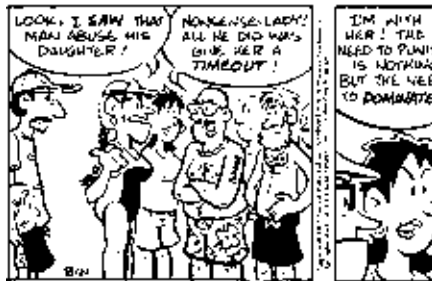
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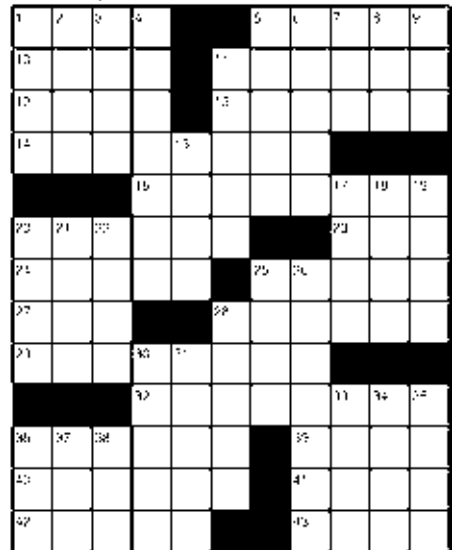
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VENICE: 1+1 501 N. Venice Blvd. #27. Upper, stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets, rent-\$1125 call (310)574-6767 mgr. Avail. now.

W. LOS Angeles: 1+1, 1457 Westgate Ave. #d upper, stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, 1 car parking in front, no pets, rent-\$900 + sec. deposit \$1000. Call (310)578-7512. Avail now.

W. LOS Angeles: 1+1, 1821 1/4 Purdue Ave. Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, w/d hook-ups, garage, no pets, rent-\$1160 + sec. deposit \$1260. (310)578-7512. Call (310)578-7512. Avail. now.

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SANTA MONICA: triplex, 1+1, r/s, carpets, a/c, yard, month-to-month, \$950.
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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

Compiled by Natalia Aivazova

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2003

EVENTS

Twilight Dance Festival

Enjoy a night of dancing under the stars as Santa Monica continues its tradition of weekly concerts on Thursday nights. *The Sidestepper* and *Los Amigos Invisibles* perform tonight on the Santa Monica Pier's parking decks. You can come by car or ride the Tide shuttle from selected beach lots and from Downtown. Admission: FREE 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (310) 458-8900

Writer's Colony: Fiction Writing Workshop

You can come and watch as this popular genre is discussed by those who love the thrill of a good book or just sip a cup of coffee. Event begins at 7:30p.m. Barnes & Noble Booksellers 1201 Third Street Promenade Santa Monica, CA For more information call: 310-260-9110

Nike's Relay Challenge

Start stretching because you have to be ready by the 24 for this contests of

strength and endurance. The Relay Challenge will take place at UCLA's Drake Stadium on Sunday. The 10,000 participants can flex their muscles to the sounds of little known bands. Teams are expected to include competitive companies and rival high schools.

CULTURE

Kaleidoscope

The newly built Edgemar Center for the Arts is continuing its mission to showcase artistic talent with their Kaleidoscope of events. Today the entertainment will include vocalist Lisa Passero as she combines "two of her zany characters" to keep the audience captivated. Afterwards view "A Separate Peace," the adaptation of the novel by John Knowles. Edgemar Center for the Arts 2437 Main street, Santa Monica CA. For more information call: (310) 392-7327

Angel's Attic

Founded in 1984 this museum of historic dolls offers a great place to take the whole family and experience a little bit of

Santa Monica History. The museum reflects the growing popularity of doll and miniature collection in the last 400 years. The house itself was built in 1895 and has been restored to the period, making it one of the few remaining Victorian houses in Santa Monica. 516 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (310) 394-8331 Fax: 310-656-6865

ENTERTAINMENT

14 Below

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This popular club has something for everyone this weekend. Tonight you can show off your vocal cords with Karaoke at 9p.m. 2030 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90403 (310) 829-2382

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, 7:30, 10:00

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
Freddy 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, 2:45, 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,

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BACK PAGE

Stone Temple Pilots' singer gets probation for heroin

By The Associated Press

■ **PASADENA** — Stone Temple Pilots lead singer Scott Weiland has been sentenced to three years probation after pleading no contest to one count of possessing heroin.

Weiland was arrested May 17 after a police officer pulled him over for allegedly driving without headlights on and said he saw drugs in the car. He initially was charged with two felony counts of possessing heroin and cocaine.

Weiland appeared in a Pasadena courtroom last week and pleaded no contest, said Los Angeles County district attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons. He's scheduled to return to court Oct. 20 for a progress report.

The 35-year-old was entered in the state's Proposition 36 program, which allows people arrested for possessing drugs for personal use to go to treatment instead of jail. Those who complete the so-called drug diversion program have the arrests removed from their records; more than 20,000 people have qualified for treatment.

Weiland previously was arrested for investigation of cocaine and heroin possession and was jailed in 1999 after he violated probation and didn't complete drug rehabilitation programs.

He pleaded guilty two years ago to domestic battery after a fight with his wife at a Las Vegas hotel. The judge agreed to dismiss the charges if Weiland underwent counseling.

His wife, Mary, filed for divorce last year because of irreconcilable differences. The couple have two children.

Weiland also is the frontman for Velvet Revolver, which features three former Guns N' Roses members. The band is expected to release an album next year.

■ **AMSTERDAM, Netherlands** — The Rolling Stones canceled a concert Wednesday in Amsterdam after Mick Jagger came down with a sore throat.

The show's organizer, Mojo, said the concert likely

would be rescheduled for Sept. 22.

The British band has played sold-out concerts around the Netherlands over the past week as part of its "Forty Licks" tour. The group sold 50,000 tickets for Wednesday's appearance at the Amsterdam Arena.

"We are sorry to disappoint the fans who were coming to tonight's show. We will be back in September to do the gig and will give you a Stones show you will never forget," Jagger said in a statement.

The Stones canceled another tour date in Spain earlier this month after the 60-year-old lead singer came down with laryngitis, and said they'd reschedule that show for Sept. 19.

Mojo said a concert scheduled for Saturday in Twickenham, England, would go ahead as planned.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — A law firm has sued imprisoned rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight, alleging he fraudulently sold or gave away property to avoid paying more than \$140,000 a judge had ordered him to pay the firm.

Knight, who's serving a 10-month prison sentence, was ordered to pay nearly \$142,000 to the law firm of Kopple and Klinger last May for services the firm provided.

In the lawsuit filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court, the firm claims Knight hasn't paid the debt and has sold or transferred at least four properties in the Los Angeles area for little or no compensation to friends to "hinder, delay or defraud" his creditors.

The firm seeks payment for May's judgment and is trying to prevent the properties Knight allegedly transferred from being sold.

Knight, who's been in custody since June 27, was found guilty of violating parole last month for striking a Hollywood nightclub valet. Knight's publicist, Jonathan Wolfson, said he hadn't seen the lawsuit and declined to comment.

An attorney representing the firm also declined to comment.

The properties in Beverly Hills, Malibu and Encino were transferred starting in 1999, the lawsuit alleges. It's unclear whether they were homes or businesses.

In one case, Knight and his MHK Investment company gave away a property in upscale Encino for "no valuable consideration," according to the lawsuit. The recipient was aware of Knight's "deteriorating" financial and legal situation, the lawsuit added.

■ **SOMERVILLE, N.J.** — The former estate of the late King Hassan II of Morocco will become a spa under a lease agreement Somerset County officials approved this week.

The Board of Freeholders have agreed to sign a 99-year lease with British billionaire Richard Branson and his partner, Warren Township businessman Robert Wojtowicz. The deal approved Tuesday night is similar to the revenue-sharing arrangement the county has with the Somerset Patriots baseball team, who play at Commerce Bank Ballpark.

Branson, the founder of Virgin Atlantic Airlines, and Wojtowicz plan to turn the estate's 47-room Tudor mansion and 80 surrounding acres into a spa that could open by 2006. However, the plan requires approval from the state Department of Environmental Protection and local officials.

The 491-acre estate known as Natirar — Raritan spelled backward — is on the border of Far Hills and Peapack-Gladstone. King Hassan bought the property from the Ladd estate in 1983 but never lived there, and the county bought it from his son in March for \$22 million.

The lease agreement calls for the county to use the remaining 410 acres for public programs.

The deal also requires resort developers to preserve the mansion's historic characteristics if possible. Besides the spa, the resort will feature a 61-room hotel, a 150-seat restaurant and a conference center.



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