

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

32, 16, 11, 37, 12

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 8, 2

Evening picks: 1, 8, 7

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 09, Winning Gold

2nd Place: 01, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 04, Big Ben

Race Time: 1:41.93



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

According to Houston newsletter publisher and devout Catholic Hutton Gibson, there was no Holocaust; Pope John Paul II is an imposter and a "Koran kisser"; and the church is doomed because, among other things, masses are no longer conducted in Latin. According to a July Houston Press profile, Gibson, 84, believes there is a worldwide plot that began with the 1960s' changes in the church imposed by the Vatican Council, and he is using his 600-reader newsletter to get the word out, even though the Press compares him to the paranoid lead character in the movie "Conspiracy Theory," which starred Mel Gibson, who happens to be Hutton's son. Said Hutton, "I figure that as long as there's one (true) Catholic in the world, (the church) hasn't finished."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The world is proof that God is a committee."

— Bob Stokes



INDEX



Horoscopes

Don't stray too far, Aries 2



Local

Help for screenwriters 3



Opinion

Recall process for quitters 4



State

Energy rate hikes OK'd 6



National

Overload led to blackout 8



Sports

Bryant case remains sealed 11



People in the News

Stones cancel once again 16

Local mechanic handed 10-year sentence

Judge notes his criminal history, victim's tragic death

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A local mechanic was sentenced to 10 years in state prison Friday for fatally shooting a homeless man last July.

Two dozen friends, relatives and colleagues of Michael Ward Bell, 54, attended the sentencing hearing at the LAX Courthouse. Many

more supporters wrote letters to the court in an effort to have Bell released on probation.

Bell, who claimed self defense in his trial, told Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen that he understood the severity of what happened.

"Words can never compensate for a person's life taken away," said Bell, who held back tears throughout the two-hour hearing. "I can only hope and pray that the lord has a comfortable place for Mr. Watson ... I'd like to blame Mr. Watson for what happened but I can't and I'm not going to."

A jury in June found Bell guilty of voluntary manslaughter for the death of Andre Watson, a homeless man with a history of violence and mental illness. Bell faced a sentence as light as probation or as long as 16 years.

Bell shot Watson six times last year outside of BT Automotive, the Pico Boulevard auto repair shop he managed. He claimed in the trial that Watson, who spent nearly the entire day outside of his shop, approached him with a box cutter.

In issuing the 10-year sentence, Judge Van

See SENTENCE, page 5

Woman treks 300 miles on rollerblades to SM



BY LAUREN WOLMAN

Special to the Daily Press

After rollerblading 300 miles from Santa Cruz, Tammy Nelson made it to the Santa Monica Pier on Friday excited and relieved to have completed her journey.



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Tammy Nelson skates down the Santa Monica boardwalk after her trip from Santa Cruz Friday evening where she was greeted by her mom and dad, Betty and John Aseltine.

Nelson bladed in an effort to advance awareness about multiple sclerosis and raise funds to help people living with the disease.

Nelson, whose father suffers from MS, left Santa Cruz on Monday morning, skating about 60 miles each day.

Nelson's father John Aseltine, of Los Angeles, was diagnosed with MS in his 40s and the disease has progressed steadily for the past 25 years.

"I think my father is very brave for being so willing to give of his time, money, heart and energy, of which he has little, to be able to help others," she said. "If my father can do that for others, I can certainly do this for him."

Nelson's family and friends, including her father, greeted her at the pier to watch her reach the finish line.

"Everytime her father thinks about what his daughter has accomplished, he gets very emo-

tional. He is so proud, he is speechless," said Nelson's mother, Bette Aseltine.

Nelson, 34, has been skating since she was 5 years old. She thinks of her skates as her "second feet" and had always dreamed of going on a long distance skate. But she never had reason to do it until now.

"My skating started here in Santa Monica at a free clinic that taught rollerblading," Nelson said. "After that I started jumping barrels."

Nelson also hopes that her fund-raising efforts will lead to more effective treatments and possibly even a cure. She set a goal of \$5,000.

She has raised \$1,400 through individual, and donations by businesses and corporations. She still plans to fundraise to reach her goal.

The majority of funds raised

See TREK, page 5

AG accuses Bush of end run on offshore drilling

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California's attorney general is accusing the Bush administration of trying an end run around a federal appeals court decision upholding the state's say in off-coast oil exploration.

Federal agencies want administrative rule changes limiting states' oversight authority, "thus attempting to eviscerate the recent 9th Circuit decision upholding the state's right to review federal activities," Attorney General Bill Lockyer protested in a letter sent on his behalf last week.

Twelve environmental groups sent their own a letter opposing the proposal Thursday.

"The federal government should heed the court's decision to allow Californians a say in what happens to their coastline, rather than try to get around the law through this back-door approach," said Linda Krop of the Environmental Defense Center.

Monday is the deadline for public comment on the proposed changes. Federal officials said the administration would have no response until then.

Lockyer called the proposals "a thinly veiled attempt" to reverse the three-judge appellate panel's unanimous decision in December that blocked any attempt to build the first new oil platforms off California's coast since 1994. No drilling to explore for oil deposits has been

conducted since 1989.

The ruling said the area can't be drilled or explored until the California Coastal Commission approves the plan.

The administration opted against appealing to the Supreme Court in March, with Interior Secretary Gale Norton saying the administration wants to resolve the dispute over 36 offshore leases held by oil companies through negotiation, not lawsuits.

But Lockyer said administration rules proposed in June would reduce the state's role. Gov. Gray Davis' administration, other coastal states, and various environmental groups also oppose the changes, while the oil industry favors them.

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Paint the town red, Libra!



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2003

Your positive ways draw strong results. Jupiter touching your Sun in the next few days will bring unusual opportunities into your life, depending on what you want. At this time, you will begin a new life cycle, which could be unusually lucky. Emotions could be intense, but know that you will land on your feet. If you are single, you will meet someone who could turn your universe upside down, but in a positive way. Friendships and relationships take on unusual significance. If you are attached, you'll get along with your mate if you have the same long-term goals. In some way, he or she could be challenged by your unusual good luck. CANCER can be difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ The Sun changes signs, encouraging you to refocus for the next month. Suddenly, you're all about work and getting back into a routine for the fall. Your self-discipline, while admirable, could rain on your parade as well as others'. Tonight: Stay close to home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your playfulness comes out late in the summer, but with such flare. Single Bulls could chomp at the bit right now, suddenly feeling that extra spark. Attached Bulls could heat up their relationships considerably. Tonight: Ever playful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Use caution with your possessive side, as it comes forth. You might like sharing with a family member and feel more comfortable than you have in a while. Do touch base with a parent or older relative. Tonight: Treat a friend to dinner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your smile mixed with the current planetary configuration adds to your allure. An invitation that comes forward might be too good to resist. You might be more on the move than in past years. You might be overly serious. Tonight: Ask for what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Knowing when to kick back and relax could be key to your success. Take the weekend off and do something relaxing for yourself. If you feel depressed, share more of yourself with a trusted, older friend. Exhaustion could mar your perspective. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ With the Sun moving into your sign, you will be far more perky and energetic. A partner could make an overt move or express strong feelings that might surprise you. A discussion could be way overdue. Clear the air. Tonight: With a special friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Take your bows and understand that what is easy for you might not be easy for another, and vice versa. You could find a parent or older relative a bit dour. Understand what might be going on with him or her. Continue to use caution with new acquaintances. Tonight: Paint the town red.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Take an overview, and you'll gain as a result. Friends play a far more significant role in your life than in prior months. You know what you want, though expressing it might be difficult right now. Act on your feelings. Tonight: Watch an old-fashioned movie.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ When you speak to someone in your life, make sure to make eye contact. A family member might decide to rearrange the house or add a new item. Though you like change, on some level, you find this behavior disruptive. Tonight: A loved one might need cheering up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others seek you out. On some level, you might feel as if you need to meet everyone's needs and requests. Stop. Decide just how much you can do. A partner or friend might be a bit disappointed, but know who's No. 1! Tonight: Just don't be alone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Take your time before throwing yourself into a major project. You might need to check out all the costs before beginning this hobby or event. Know your game plan, and there won't be any surprises on the way. A partner proves to be more interested than you anticipated. Tonight: Make it easy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Your fiery nature comes out with a child or loved one. Knowing how to express your high energy could make all the difference in your reaction to this person. Think before alienating him or her. Tonight: Go with another's request.

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LOCAL

Hoopin' it up



Nina Furukawa/Special to the Daily Press

Jose Cruz (left) and Andres Sanchez spent an afternoon this past week hula-hooping in Virginia Avenue Park during a breastfeeding walk to celebrate National Breastfeeding Month. The event, which was sponsored by "Women Infant and Children," attracted close to 50 people who walked from the WIC office located at 2509 Pico Blvd. to Virginia Avenue Park.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Screenwriting seminar offered next week

By Daily Press staff

The Screenwriter Group, one of the nation's largest screenwriting schools, added John Burch of Writers Boot Camp as the director of operations in L.A.

Burch brings years of entertainment industry experience, including Fox Broadcasting and Fox Searchlab.

Dan Decker, founder of the Screenwriter Group, and Burch will host a free screenwriting seminar on Tuesday, Aug. 26, for professional and amateur screenwriters looking to develop their skills.

The Screenwriter Group classes focus on the art of developing a successful screenplay from a synopsis, to a full treatment, to a script.

Students will learn how to create characters that drive the plot of their movie, receive two professional critiques and get the opportunity to rewrite their storyline.

"The Screenwriters Group got me from an idea, to a script, to a sale. The company that bought my script was so impressed, they hired me to write another," said Alan Anderson, screenwriter of "Thin Ice" and "Soiled Out."

Since 1993, the Screenwriters Group has been recognized as an award winning screenwriting school. In partnership with the Screenwriters Group are Stylus Management and Argyle Pictures, script management and production companies.

The seminar will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at 5828 Wilshire Blvd. Seating at the seminar is limited. For reservations or more information call (886) 665-8500.

surf report

Look for mainly wind swell and old S swell sending piddly little waves our way.

OUTLOOK: Early next week there will be a bump in NW wind swell and a super-steep SSE that will most many local breaks. But the first week of September still looks like it's on for head-high sets.

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:

68°

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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Sale for antique dollhouse collectors

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans have an opportunity to give a doll a home at the right price next month.

The 19th annual De-Acquisition sale on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be held in the garden of Angels Attic Museum, located on 516 Colorado Ave.

Admission to the museum and sale is free.

It's a once a year opportunity to buy doll houses at an affordable price or the right "one-twelfth scale" furniture for a dream house. Those who prefer to build their own mini-mansion will find building supplies at bargain prices.

There will be a selection of antique and modern dolls, as well as a variety of interesting collectibles.

Dollhouses, miniatures, dolls, and toys will be sold by Angels Attic, Evelyn Ackerman, Carmel Doll Shop, Mary Lou Edmiston, Mickie Haynes, Sondra Krueger, Evie de Wolfe Nadel, Ann & Charles Phillips, Norma Von Essen, Linda Vines and Bob von Fliss.

For more information call (310) 394-8331.

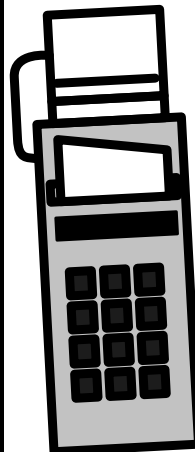
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LETTERS

Writer off base with homeless shelter views

Editor:

Evelyn Jerome's "Think Twice" column (SMDP, Aug. 19, page 4) on OPCC and the homeless was filled with so much muddled thinking that it's difficult to know where to begin. In order, then ...

"Build a new homeless shelter. Just what Santa Monica needs."

Um, exactly what would be the motivation to build a homeless shelter other than because we have homeless people who need shelter? I assume Ms. Jerome meant "needs" in the sense that we already have so many. But even if the city has shelter for 1 million people, if there are 1 million and one homeless, aren't we short?

Ever the champions of Orwellian "double-speak," those Santa Monica city leaders. It's called the "Ocean Park Community Center." It's not in Ocean Park. And it's not a community center.

1. OPCC was founded in Ocean Park as a community center. It formally changed its name to "OPCC" about a year ago to reflect its current configuration. Still, I don't know how you define "community center" but OPCC is the center for at least a half-dozen community-based social service organizations, which means it's not an outright oxymoron like "military intelligence."

2. It was not named by anyone from the city since it's not a city organization. It's a private organization which receives much (but not all) of its funding from the city. If the city didn't fund it, though, it (and we the taxpayers) would still be responsible for paying to deal with the homeless directly.

"Your City Council approved the project, despite a chorus of opposition."

... and a chorus, at least equally large, of support. And why do you think politicians would support a project which helps people who, by and large, don't vote? Do you think they're being paid off by the wealthy and corrupt homeless lobby?

"It's like having twice as many homeless shelters."

Yes, because OPCC compromised with the community by making the new shelter smaller and therefore needed its former location for the services it couldn't offer at the new one.

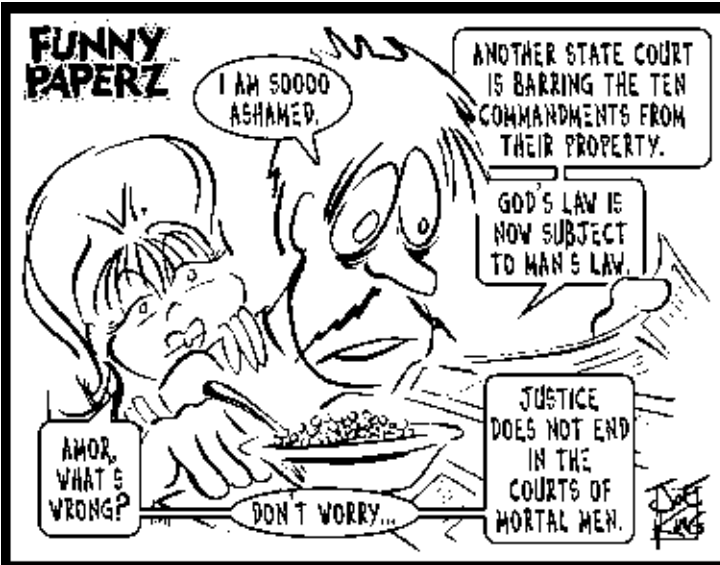
"I don't understand why Santa Monica has designated itself to be the social conscience of Southern California."

I don't understand why Ms. Jerome objects to Santa Monica dealing humanely

with its own homeless population, a population which — if left completely on its own — would almost certainly be responsible for an increase in crime and disease.

"It's fair to say that shelters and public feedings are only band-aids to this problem." True enough. So what does Ms. Jerome propose as a more permanent solution?

David Misch
Santa Monica



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Recall an example of Americans' penchant for quitting



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

I'm one of the few people in California not running for governor right now. Actually, I don't think anybody in my family is. My kids are at that age when they don't talk to me very much, so I can't be sure. I doubt that Rascal is running, but I think that according to California law, Labrador retrievers are eligible.

Gov. Gray Davis is not somebody who was elected and then suddenly acted in a way that should've shocked the people who elected him. He had already been governor for four years and got re-elected. And then in the first few months of his second term, some rich, unhappy people organized a recall campaign. When did our national fruit become sour grapes?

When I studied about recall elections as

a school kid, I learned that they existed in case an elected official committed a crime or did some other dastardly act. And don't tell me that taking over a government with a huge surplus and turning it into one with an even bigger deficit is a dastardly crime. If we recalled everybody who did that, well, you know where that would end.

When President Bush was elected, some Democrats were rather upset with that outcome.

Republicans called them "crybabies" and said that if they weren't happy, the American way was to accept the results of the election and then try to elect somebody else in the next election. I haven't heard those voices calling the California recall forces "crybabies," have you?

After every election, I'm disappointed by the poor voter turnout. Often those who don't vote will say, "I just didn't have the time." Usually, this gets me mad, because it only takes a few minutes to vote. However, in this election, after the voters flip through all the pages to locate their favorite, it may be time for another

election. It's actually possible that there will be more candidates than voters. Where are they going to hold a debate with all these people? Dodger Stadium?

And the way this election works is pretty goofy. If 49 percent of the people vote against recalling Davis, he's out. But if the leading vote-getter among the 135 candidates gets only, say, 10 percent of the vote, then he or she would be the winner. So, California could have a new governor whose support is considerably smaller than Davis'. Make sense to you? Then you're probably one of the candidates.

Nobody should really be surprised by this recall election, because we live in a "recall society." People don't accept situations if they aren't 100 percent happy. If things aren't going their way, they bail ... or, sue. If they start losing a game, they quit. If they get tired of their year-old car, they replace it. If they don't like their nose, breasts, or butt, they get new ones. If their home life isn't perfect, instead of trying to work things out, they "recall" the marriage as quickly as they can.

What if the Pilgrims had made a U-turn after finding things less than perfect here? What if Michael Jordan had quit playing basketball because he didn't win a spot on the team the first time he tried? What if your parents tried to recall you because you were a little colicky?

There's something good about having to "play the cards you're dealt." Being a gracious loser can help you learn how to be a gracious winner. But today people seem to feel entitled to having things their way no matter what. I'm afraid our recall society is going to be here for a while. I confess that I participate in it, too. In fact, whether you like this column or not, you can exercise your right to recall by reading a completely new column next week.

(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).

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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LOCAL

Local mechanic may be free in less than 7 years

SENTENCE, from page 1

Sicklen noted that Bell had a criminal history and said Bell, the son of a Santa Monica Police Department officer, should have been accustomed to dealing with transients because they are so prevalent in Santa Monica.

Bell has had 22 contacts with the law, including eight driving under the influence arrests, two burglaries, two violent acts against police officers and two concealed weapons offenses.

John Raphling, Bell's attorney, said all but one of those — a DUI arrest — happened during a rough time in Bell's youth, after he served two tours of duty in Vietnam with the Marine Corps., earning the purple heart for an injury he sustained in combat.

But Judge Van Sicklen said it would be irresponsible to overlook Bell's criminal history entirely. He said Bell is an alcoholic who possesses handguns and needs to be punished.

On the day of the shooting, Bell said Watson had made a gesture indicating he wanted to slash Bell's throat. After two heated arguments, Bell returned to his shop to close for the day, take a shower and have a drink. While sitting in his office, Bell heard a knock on the door and went to see who it was, according to court testimony.

Watson was standing outside with a box cutter. When Bell went to lock the bay door of the building he heard a noise in the dark and panicked. He grabbed his .357 Magnum which was stored in a filing cabinet drawer and ran into the street looking for Bell.

Bell walked more than 50 feet down the street and stopped at a plastic bag that held Watson's belongings. Watson then walked up from behind and said, "F--k, a f--king gun" and jumped on Bell's back, according to court testimony. That's when Bell unleashed six rounds into Watson, fatally wounding him.

"Mr. Bell went back to his office and he sat there. He did not call the police and he did not call an ambulance," Judge Van Sicklen said, adding that one witness testified Bell said, "Rot in hell, baby" as he walked away. "He left Mr. Watson to bleed to death — in agony."

Judge Van Sicklen chose not to give Bell the maximum sentence. He acknowl-

edged Bell's hard work, and his commitment to family and friends and said those balanced out the other factors.

Bell, who has been in custody since the shooting, will be eligible for parole in a little less than seven years because of time served and good behavior credits.

Twelve supporters of Bell spoke to the judge before he made his ruling. They described Bell as a well-liked and exceptionally talented mechanic who hand-built engines for movie stars, housewives and SMPD Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr.

Some of the people that spoke had known Bell for 30 years. Others, such as Tom Bergman, of Signal Hill, his former cell mate, had known him for only a few months.

One supporter, Steven Conner, of Oakdale, an aviation company manager, said Bell helped him through a rough time in his teenage years. Conner credited Bell with launching him into a career in aviation and said the work has since taken him around the world.

"Mike, we love you," he said, holding back tears. "And regardless of today's decision, we're behind you."

Three family members of Watson, who fled his Chicago home at the age of 23 saying he could no longer burden his family with his severe schizophrenia, addressed the court last month. They said Watson was a sick man but he didn't deserve to die and asked for the maximum possible sentence.

Watson had an IQ of nearly 140. Before being diagnosed with schizophrenia at 17 years old he had been an altar boy, boy scout and a skilled guitar player, family members said.

Joanne Glass-Watson, his mother, returned to court Friday and cried silently throughout the hearing. Bell and several of his friends addressed her directly to express their sorrow for Watson's death.

After the hearing, Glass-Watson said she felt the ruling was fair even though it fell short of the 16-year maximum.

She met with Bell's supporters in front of the courthouse and even hitched a ride back to her hotel from Dan Hanrahan, an old friend of Bell's who drives a classic pickup truck with a hand-built engine, one that Bell had a special talent and passion for.

"This whole thing, it's just a tragedy," Hanrahan said, shaking his head. "Nobody wins."

Rollerblader plans to keep raising money for MS

TREK, from page 1

will go to the National MS Society to fund further research and quality of life programs for people affected by MS. A small percentage of the funds raised will go to help Aseltine cover the cost of his medical expenses which exceed his income.

"She is doing a terrific job for fundraising and raising awareness," said Marni Deckter, director of communications for the Southern California chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

About 400,000 Americans live with MS, a chronic disabling disease of the central nervous system.

The mission of the National Multiple

Sclerosis Society is to end the devastating effects of MS.

"Research has been excelling dramatically in the last decade, we hope a cure will come soon," said Deckter.

Nelson said what made her journey so rewarding was that it wasn't just for her. "I've had an adventure to say the least, completing this journey is a dream come true," she said.

Donations can be made directly online at tammyskateforMS.chariteam.com. To learn more about multiple sclerosis or the Southern California Chapter of the National MS Society and the programs they offer, call 1-800-FIGHT-MS, or visit nationalmssociety.org.

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STATE □ NATIONAL



California Supreme Court upholds energy rate hikes

BY DAVID KRAVETS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A secretly negotiated deal that raised electricity rates for millions of California consumers by as much as 40 percent during the state's energy crisis was legal, the state Supreme Court said Thursday.

Watchdog groups complained that the ruling means consumers are left footing the bill for California's energy mess. An aide to Gov. Gray Davis, meanwhile, said the decision was an endorsement of the tough steps Davis took to resolve the 2000-2001 power crisis.

The court ruled that the California Public Utilities Commission neither violated deregulation rules nor breached open meeting laws when it settled a lawsuit filed by Southern California Edison Co. that allowed the utility to raise customer rates. The 2001 deal was reached after private meetings between the PUC, governor's staff and utility representatives.

"By stabilizing Edison, we were able to save the utility and now give the consumers the rate cuts they deserve," said Steve Maviglio, spokesman for the governor, whose handling of the energy crisis has become a big issue in the state's recall election.

The settlement allowed SoCal Edison to collect at least \$3 billion in extra customer utility fees and pay off its debts to the point that the PUC earlier this summer cut electricity rates for SoCal Edison customers by 3 percent.

"It's another critical step in restoring the financial health of the utilities and will help pave the way for additional cuts in rates in the months to come," Maviglio said. "The ruling helps us ensure reliability and stability."

But that misses the point that consumers should have been spared, said Bob Finkelstein, a lawyer for the Utility Reform Network, which challenged the

rate hike in court.

"What the Supreme Court has said here is the utility companies get to reap all the rewards of deregulation, but when deregulation goes into the toilet, the utilities still win," said Harvey Rosenfeld, of Consumer Advocates, another consumer organization.

**"The ruling helps
us ensure reliability and
stability."**

— **STEVE MAVIGLIO**
Spokesman for the governor

Edison and PG&E amassed billions of dollars in debts when wholesale electricity rates in California soared beyond the frozen retail rates that utilities could recover from customers in 2000 and 2001 under the state's deregulation rules.

The utilities eventually sued the PUC, arguing that federal energy rules demand they get compensated for the true cost of the electricity they are selling.

The PUC agreed to settle with Edison in October 2001 to help the utility repay \$3.6 billion in debt accumulated during the power crisis by allowing it to maintain a temporary rate increase for two more years. The PUC also allowed Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to collect a similar surcharge.

The deals allowed both utilities to generate billions in new revenues. PG&E has 4.6 million customers. Edison serves 4.3 million.

California officials have long said the reason wholesale rates soared in the state was manipulation by energy traders, such as now-bankrupt Enron, and wholesalers who withheld power to drive up prices.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has agreed that the market was manipulated, though it is still considering how to deal with those it deems responsible.

ELF claims responsibility for torching cars, dealership

BY NADA EL SAWY

Associated Press Writer

WEST COVINA — Fires destroyed dozens of SUVs and a warehouse at an auto dealership Friday, and vehicles there and at three other dealerships were spray-painted with slogans such as "Fat, Lazy Americans."

"With all the evidence ... it's highly likely it's an arson fire," said Rick Genovese, fire marshal for West Covina, a Los Angeles suburb.

The radical group Earth Liberation Front issued an unsigned e-mail Friday calling the incidents "ELF actions," and the FBI was investigating the dealership fire as domestic terrorism, Police Chief Frank Wills said.

The underground group has claimed responsibility for a slew of arson attacks against commercial entities that members say damage the environment. It is suspected in a multimillion-dollar arson fire Aug. 1 that destroyed a five-story apartment complex under construction in San Diego, though an ELF e-mail claimed the group had not been in contact with those responsible in that case.

The blazes at the Clippinger Chevrolet dealership broke out about 5 a.m. Friday. Flames destroyed about 20 vehicles, mostly Hummer H2s, which are luxury SUVs patterned after the military's work-horse Humvee. Another 20 vehicles were badly damaged. A separate blaze caved in a warehouse roof.

There were no reports of injuries, but damage was estimated at \$1 million.

SUVs at dealerships in nearby cities of Arcadia, Duarte and Monrovia were also vandalized, though there were no other fires.

Among the slogans written on the sides and hoods of vehicles were "I (heart) Pollution" and "American Wastefulness." "ELF" was written on at least one vehicle.

Brian Akre, spokesman for Hummer-maker General Motors, called Friday's destruction "reprehensible" and "some kind of misguided attempt to make a political statement."

Genovese said whoever set the fire may have been trying to protest vehicles that pollute the air because of their poor fuel economy. But he said their approach was misguided because "hundreds of tons of pollutants" were spilled off during the fire.

STATE



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Airlines propose different plan for LAX

By The Associated Press

TORRANCE — A group of airlines has come up with its own modernization plan for Los Angeles International Airport and it costs a third of Mayor James K. Hahn's \$9 billion-plus proposal and could be finished in half the time.

Airlines have been quietly lobbying Los Angeles City Council members to oppose certain elements of Hahn's plan, the Daily Breeze reported Friday.

The airline plan eliminates some of the most expensive and controversial projects in Hahn's plan, including a ground transportation center 1 1/2 miles east of the airfield and a train that would ferry passengers to the terminals, said Kelley Brown, executive director of the L.A. Airline Airport Affairs Committee.

The committee includes about 80 airlines at Los Angeles International Airport.

Many carriers claim the offsite Manchester Square center would be inconvenient for travelers and there is doubt security would be improved.

"Conceptually, the airlines have a real concern about whether that could work," Brown said.

The airline plan, which Brown said would cost \$2 billion to \$3 billion, does not reject Hahn's proposal entirely. It retains southside airfield improvements, a consolidated on-airport rental car facility and a modernized Tom Bradley International Terminal, Brown said.

Police Chief wants DMV information accessible

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police Chief William Bratton reaffirmed his support for a law allowing driver's licenses for illegal immigrants, but he wants legislators to give police wider access to California's driver database.

Senate Bill 60, being considered by the state Legislature, would add the identification data and thumbprints of an estimated 2 million now-unlicensed drivers to the information banks of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Police already have access to DMV data on drivers but they must make individual requests for information on each person they are interested in. Bratton said law enforcement wants DMV information accessible by computer to police.

"It is my belief, and that of the command staff, that passage of that bill would impact public safety in the city," Bratton said.

The new law, with the additional data Bratton wants, would give police more information for crime fighting by significantly increasing the pool of information on people in the state.

Bratton said it could also aid police by reducing the number of hit-and-run incidents because unlicensed drivers are more likely to leave the scene of a crash.

Long Beach Airport traffic increasing

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — Passenger traffic at Long Beach Airport nearly tripled in the past year.

Through the end of July, more than 1.6 million people had either flown into or out of the airport this year, which compares to 575,000 passengers during the same period last year, city figures showed.

The number of daily flights have risen dramatically in recent years. There are now 40 arrivals and departures each day compared to the average 12 to 17 a year ago.

In mid-December, Alaska Airlines starts daily nonstop service to Seattle.

"The only thing we're growing on is in the passenger side. And we will continue to show growth," airport spokeswoman Sharon Diggs-Jackson said.

The biggest growth seen among commercial airlines was at JetBlue Airlines, which has flown 563,990 passengers into and out of the airport through July 31 this year compared with 127,070 in the same period last year.

Teenager possibly run over during robbery

By The Associated Press

RUBIDOUX — An Ontario teenager whose body was found last week may have been run over by a vehicle during a botched robbery, investigators said.

The cause of 18-year-old Jessica De La Torre's death is still undetermined, but investigators believe her killers drove over the body at some point, said Sgt. Shelley Kennedy-Smith of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

"We don't know if she was alive when it happened," Kennedy-Smith said Thursday.

Motorcyclists found De La Torre's body Aug. 15 on a hillside south of Soto Street.

On Tuesday, police arrested Victor Lozada, 30, of Upland and booked him for investigation of murder. Jesus Pinuelas Velazquez, 20, of Ontario, and Lozada's roommate, Sergio Arias, 22, were also arrested in connection with the death.

Personal items belonging to De La Torre were found at Pinuelas' home, Kennedy-Smith said. Investigators said they believe robbery was the motive for the killing, she said.

All three men will be arraigned Sept. 2.

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NATIONAL

Power company says lines carrying above-normal load before blackout

BY JOHN MCCARTHY

Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — In the hours before the nation's worst blackout, several transmission lines in Ohio were carrying massive amounts of power "well above" emergency summer standards before automatically shutting down, a company that owns the lines said Friday.

American Electric Power owns or co-owns the power lines with FirstEnergy Corp., which is at the center of a U.S.-Canada blackout investigation. The company released the information with a timeline but didn't offer any conclusions about the cause of the outage.

AEP said it avoided potential widespread outages in its area — only 14,000 of its customers lost power — because control systems detected "abnormal operating conditions" and tripped — or disconnected — from linked FirstEnergy lines.

"It is likely that the automated controls tripped some transmission lines moments before they would have burned down because of extremely high power flows out of our system," said Henry Rayne, AEP's executive vice president.

The region where investigators suspect the eight-state blackout began Aug. 14 had become a black hole, sucking electricity from generators and threatening to burn transmission lines because of the overload, power company officials said. Many power lines automatically shut down to prevent burnout as the blackout spread.

"Those lines were never designed for that tremendous shot," said Joseph Welch of International Transmission Co. of Ann Arbor, Mich., which operates Michigan lines.

At some point, the power transmission systems in northern and southern Ohio separated from each other, causing electricity meant to move through FirstEnergy's system to reverse itself and flow over AEP's system through Indiana and into Michigan, then back to FirstEnergy in Ohio, power company officials say.

"Something happened in the time leading up to the blackout to the north of us," Pat Hemlepp, spokesman for Columbus-based AEP, said Friday. "Suddenly, the electrons destined for Columbus or Cincinnati or somewhere turned tail and headed north."

The power outage affected 50 million people in eight states and Canada. It shut down more than 100 power plants and knocked Cleveland's water supply off line.

The United States and Canada are conducting a joint investigation into the cause.

While officials were quick to rule out the possibility that the outage was the work of terrorists, the concern that terrorists could launch an attack on the country's energy infrastructure has been high ever since Sept. 11, a federal official said Friday.

"The three times we've gone to an orange alert (since Sept. 11) has been tied to vague threats to the power grid directly," Pat Wood, chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, said during a conference call about the blackouts held by the energy consultancy Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

Orange is the second highest of five alert levels, which now stands at yellow.

Wood wouldn't speculate about the series of events that may have caused the

blackouts to spread like wildfire, but said the root problem may turn out to be as simple as an untrimmed tree. One of FirstEnergy's lines sagged into a tree during the outage.

The heavy load of power on the Ohio lines occurred after FirstEnergy's Eastlake power plant tripped off at 1:35 p.m., about two hours before the cascading blackout began, says AEP's timeline and one released by the North American Electric Reliability Council.

FirstEnergy would not say if it cut back on demand, stopped exporting power or warned the public to cut back on usage after losing electricity at its Eastlake plant.

If it didn't drop its load, FirstEnergy would have had to use power generated from other utilities to serve its customers and fulfill its exporting contracts, which could cause power surges and overload lines, an industry analyst said Friday.

"Simply losing a generator is enough to overload lines, if there weren't steps taken to interrupt demand," said Robert Burns, senior research specialist at Ohio State University's National Regulatory Research Institute. "The other companies may not at the time have known what was causing this," Burns added.

American Electric Power said power was being siphoned off of its territory.

"A number of the lines were carrying power flows well above the summer emergency rating for the lines because of the massive amounts of power being drawn north from AEP's system," the company said Friday.

The power siphoning scenario is among many investigators are reviewing.

AEP said its first failure came at 3:45 p.m. in a line it co-owns with FirstEnergy that comes from a Canton substation. AEP said the line was "abnormal" for 58 seconds. That was more than two hours after the problem at the Eastlake plant.

A Canton Center-Cloverdale line, for example, had a summer emergency rating of 197 megavolt-amperes, but was carrying 332 megavolt-amperes when it tripped, the company said. The East-Lima-Fostoria line tripped at 2,000 megavolt-amperes, much higher than its summer emergency rating of 1,383, AEP said.

The company said it was providing the data to the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), which is helping in the investigation led by the U.S. and Canadian governments, which took over the probe last week.

Ralph DiNicola, a FirstEnergy spokesman, said the investigation must look beyond individual utility systems. He said FirstEnergy detected several tripped plants and lines elsewhere on the grid before the Eastlake plant dropped.

"Simply knowing the direction of power flow doesn't tell you anything," he said.

The blackout peaked across the Midwest and Northeast at 4:11 p.m.

Frank Merat, an electrical engineer at Case Western Reserve University, said AEP's automatic control — a very large circuit breaker — worked properly, shutting down its system when it sensed a possible overload.

The problem, he said, is that AEP's control system doesn't alert other utilities' systems to the problem.

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NATIONAL



West Nile hitting zoo animals, Air Force mascots

By The Associated Press

DENVER — The West Nile virus has killed four animals at the Denver zoo and infected four of the falcons used as mascots at the Air Force Academy.

The wolf, reindeer, goose and swan were the first animals to die from the virus at the zoo. Officials are awaiting test results on a dead camel to find out whether it was a victim.

Last year, a flamingo at the zoo was the only animal infected with West Nile. It recovered.

"This is just part of the whole big picture" in the state hardest-hit by the virus, zoo veterinarian Dr. Jeff Baier said. "The only mammals we've lost have had some other condition that made them weak."

At the academy near Colorado Springs, all 11 falcon mascots were inoculated against the virus last winter. One bird, named Magellan, died Sunday but tests have not confirmed the cause of death.

Fifty-four new human cases of West Nile were reported Thursday in Colorado, bringing the total to 546 — the most in the nation. Seven people in Colorado have died.

Zoo officials say they are vaccinating as many animals as their budget allows, but at more than \$10 a shot, inoculating just the birds would cost more than \$7,000.

Instead, Baier and his colleagues carefully monitor all water sources at the zoo to kill mosquitoes before they ever fly.

"We do several things to control the mosquitoes and their larva," Baier said, "but some mosquitoes can fly up to four miles. We would have to check all the areas of standing water in a one-mile radius to be totally secure."

Zoo spokeswoman Ana Bowie said visitors have no reason to be overly concerned.

"There is absolutely no more elevated risk at the zoo than there is sitting out on your porch," Bowie said. She and Baier pointed out that the zoo is closed at dusk when

mosquitoes are most active.

Other zoos around the state have escaped West Nile infections so far, but The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, a Fort Collins nonprofit that rehabilitates ill and injured birds of prey, has accepted a record 172 birds so far this year. Program officials think the virus has sickened or killed many of the birds, although fatalities have not been confirmed pending the results of blood tests, said Carin Avila, education coordinator.

One of 33 permanent educational birds — a female merlin often shown at schools and public events — recently died; West Nile is the likely cause, Avila said. As many as seven other permanent program residents also are suspected of having the virus.

The virus has been confirmed in 510 birds, 347 horses and five other animals statewide, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

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NATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Israel: Palestinians must stop extremists

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel plans to kill more militant leaders if the Palestinians do not begin arresting and disarming extremists, Israeli officials warned on Friday following a lethal helicopter missile strike on a Hamas chief.

Palestinian leaders said Thursday's killing of Hamas leader Ismail Abu Shanab ruined what was to be an imminent campaign against militants by Palestinian security forces.

The militants called off their two-month-old cease-fire and promised more suicide bombings and other attacks on Israeli targets, raising the chances that a new round of Mideast violence will sink a U.S.-backed peace plan.

Several high-ranking Israeli military officials said on condition of anonymity that there were plans to kill other top Hamas leaders if there are new Palestinian suicide attacks and no efforts by Palestinian police forces to arrest extremists.

A Palestinian suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus on Tuesday killed 20 people, prompting Israel's strike on Abu Shanab, a 53-year-old Hamas leader. An Israeli security source said all Hamas leaders were now considered fair targets and new strikes would be launched after a 24-hour lull to give Palestinians a chance to act on their own against militants.

Senators arrive in Afghanistan

By The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. congressional delegation including Sen. John McCain arrived in Afghanistan on Friday to meet with the president and visit the ruins of giant Buddha statues destroyed by the former Taliban regime, an embassy official said.

The six-member delegation, which earlier this week was in Iraq, was scheduled to travel to Bamiyan, west of

the capital, before returning to Kabul to meet with U.S. Embassy and Afghan officials, an embassy official said on condition of anonymity.

In Bamiyan, they would be briefed by U.S.-led coalition forces deployed in the province to help in its reconstruction, and later visit the remains of the ancient Buddha statues destroyed by the Taliban regime before it was ousted in late 2001, he said.

Shootings linked to the same gun

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Now that all three sniper-style slayings at area convenience stores have been linked to the same .22-caliber rifle, investigators say they have "a direction to go in."

Ballistics tests confirmed Thursday what authorities and many residents had suspected — that the shootings unnerving this city were linked. Whether they were random has yet to be determined.

"Now that we know it came from the same weapon," Charleston police Chief Jerry Pauley said, "we've got a direction to go in."

A composite sketch was also released Thursday of a man with dark hair — short in front, longer in back — long sideburns and a goatee.

Witnesses told police they saw a large white man in a dark-colored, two-tone Ford F-150 extended cab pick-up the night two of the killings occurred. The first shooting happened four days earlier.

Democrats to support Bustamante

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — California's congressional Democrats, seeking insurance against the odds of a Republican taking over the governor's office, are urging voters to oppose the recall — while asking them to vote

for Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante.

The unanimous move Thursday by the 33-member delegation was a formal acknowledgment they can't count on Gov. Gray Davis to survive the recall. Other core Davis supporters quickly followed suit — the California Teachers Association, for example, said it too would support the "no on recall, yes on Bustamante" campaign.

Bustamante welcomed the news about the delegation endorsement. "I think it's very significant. I think it shows institutional movement to make sure that we're going to be in a perfect position on either side and we're going to have a win-win situation," he said.

Meanwhile, Davis continued to fight for his job, appearing in Los Angeles with Sen. Dianne Feinstein to press for a permanent federal ban on assault weapons and then holding a "town hall" style meeting in a San Francisco suburb.

Bush visits Washington state

By The Associated Press

BEND, Ore. — Color President Bush's visit to Washington state green — for campaign cash and environmental issues, specifically saving salmon.

Democrats argue that the focus Friday should be about how the nation's limp economy has left Washington with one of the highest jobless rates in the nation.

His first stop was to be the Ice Harbor Lock and Dam in Burbank, Wash., to discuss salmon restoration along the Snake River.

Later in the day, Bush was scheduled to have a meeting with economic leaders at King County International Airport. Then he was to attend a private fund-raiser at the home of Craig McCaw, a wealthy telecommunications executive, outside Seattle, which is heavily Democratic.

Paul Berendt, chairman of the state Democratic Party, said Bush was trying to change the subject from the economy to the environment.

"We're focusing on the economy," Berendt said, rattling off job losses in the aircraft, aluminum and high-technology industries. "People are being displaced into lower-paying jobs. ... Bush is not doing anything to stop this hemorrhaging of jobs."

U.S. security official: U.N. bombing may have been inside job

BY JAMIE TARABAY

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. investigators probing the bombing of the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad are focusing on whether the compound's Iraqi guards with ties to Saddam Hussein's security service may have helped the attackers, U.S. officials said Friday.

FBI agents and Iraqi police were questioning Iraqis who worked both inside and outside the U.N. building, said Bernard Kerik, the top U.S. security official in Iraq.

"There are concerns about some of the people who were working there. ... It's all under investigation at this point," Kerik, the former New York police commissioner, told The Associated Press.

U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police worked together searching for human remains in the rubble from Tuesday's blast, as 86 seriously wounded United Nations' workers waited to be airlifted out of Iraq for medical care abroad. The blast killed at least 23 people.

Also Friday, the U.S. military announced the deaths of two U.S. soldiers. One serviceman was killed in action Thursday in al Hilla, 34 miles south of Baghdad, said Spc. Margo Doers. The other died in a fire at a shooting range. The military did not say what caused the fire.

Kerik, in Iraq to rebuild the police force, said some of the Iraqi personnel initially refused to cooperate with authorities and were being interrogated.

Most of the bombing's security guards had been placed in jobs at the U.N. facili-

ty by Saddam's security service before the war and reported on U.N. staff movements at the Canal Hotel when it was the headquarters for U.N. inspectors looking for weapons of mass destruction.

"We want to know who was in the building, vendors, anyone who had to make deliveries, anyone who had to be in the building for any other reason," he said. The fact that the truck blew up on a small access road outside top U.N. envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello's office, just as a high-level official meeting was in progress, added to suspicions the blast was engineered by someone with inside knowledge.

Kerik said the investigation would include interviews and forensic and technical evidence.

Questioning the guards had become a priority because of their ties to Saddam's intelligence apparatus, an official said on condition of anonymity. He said investigators were checking to see if any guards failed to report for duty on the day of the explosion.

A previously unknown group claimed responsibility for the unprecedented suicide attack against the United Nations. The group calling itself the "Armed Vanguard of a Second Muhammad Army" pledged "to continue fighting every foreigner (in Iraq) and to carry out similar operations" in a statement sent to the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya satellite TV channel.

There was no way to verify the authenticity of the claim. Gen. John Abizaid, the head of U.S. Central Command, said he was aware of a group with a similar name, but did not elaborate.

He warned that terrorism "is emerging

as the No. 1 security threat" in Iraq.

The al-Qaida-linked group Ansar al-Islam, based in northern Iraq since before the war, has "definitely established" cells in Baghdad and foreign fighters have been entering the country from Syria, Abizaid told a Washington news conference.

As the world body tried to recover its footing in Iraq after the bombing, the United States made a new push for a U.N. resolution calling on nations to send troops to help American forces in Iraq.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, who met with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Thursday, underlined that Washington would not surrender any control in Iraq to the United Nations — a step diplomats say is necessary to build a robust international force.

The U.S. military wants to broaden the coalition in part to get more soldiers on the ground to help with security, but also to make the American occupation more multinational. U.S. troops have come under constant guerrilla attack in past months and blame Saddam loyalists.

Thursday's deaths brought the number of U.S. combat deaths in Iraq to 179, 32 more than in the first Gulf War. Sixty-five U.S. soldiers have been killed since President Bush declared an end to formal combat on May 1 this year.

Six U.S. soldiers were wounded Friday when their 5-ton truck ran over a roadside bomb on the outskirts of Baiji, about 125 miles north of Baghdad, 4th Infantry Division spokeswoman Maj. Josslyn Aberle said.

The victims were evacuated in a heli-

copter to an Army field hospital north of Tikrit, where one was in critical condition awaiting surgery, she said. The others were in stable condition, she added.

U.S. troops shot and killed one Iraqi who opened fire with an AK-47 rifle at a patrol early Friday, she said. It was unclear where the shooting happened and there were no U.S. casualties.

The United Nations, despite the bombing, will not increase the number of U.S. soldiers standing guard outside its facilities from the dozen or so it had before the attack, said Ramiro Lopes da Silva, Iraq coordinator for U.N. humanitarian programs.

"It's not that we have anything against the coalition forces, but you do realize the presence of coalition forces does intimidate some of the people we need to speak to and work with," he told reporters at the blast site.

"We will always remain a soft target," he said. "We are conscious of that, but that is the way we operate. We are an open organization."

He said the United Nations was temporarily moving about 100 support and administrative staff to Jordan and Cyprus.

Two U.N. employees were still unaccounted for and an unknown number of people were still buried in the rubble, he said. The U.N.'s official death toll stood at 20, including Vieira de Mello. However, independent checks by The Associated Press at area hospitals showed at least 23 died in the blast.

SPORTS



Judge rejects media request to see details of Kobe case

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN
Associated Press Writer

EAGLE, Colo. — A judge on Thursday rejected the media's request to see detailed court records in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case, agreeing to unseal only the arrest warrant.

Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett said the search warrant, the affidavit and other material will remain sealed until the case is decided. He put his order on hold and gave attorneys 10 days to appeal.

Media organizations reacted angrily and said the decision shortchanges the public.

Without the documents, the public has no way of knowing whether the sheriff's office and other agencies acted properly in arresting Bryant, said Chris Beall, an attorney for the media organizations.

"What the judge is saying is that in those documents were statements that have little relevance and are unnecessarily prejudicial and inflammatory," Beall said. "I think the voters in Eagle County would like to know whether Sheriff (Joseph) Hoy's office engaged in improper conduct."

Krista Flannigan, spokeswoman for District Attorney Mark Hurlbert, said she could not comment on the specifics of the ruling. A spokeswoman for Hoy did not immediately return a message.

Court documents in the high-profile case have been sealed since the Los Angeles Lakers star was arrested last month. Media organizations sought their release over the objections of prosecutors and defense attorneys.

The arrest warrant and related materials contain nothing that would endanger Bryant's right to a fair trial and should be released, Gannett said. But other documents — including the search warrant and its affidavit — will remain sealed.

Gannett said those records contain "factual statements describing graphic details of the alleged sexual encounter," medical test results, evidence that can be challenged in court and the statements of potential witnesses.

"The court concludes that there is a substantial probability that the defendant's right to a fair trial would be prejudiced by disclosure of the affidavit and search warrant materials and that such prejudice could be prevented by non-disclosure," Gannett wrote.

He also said releasing the information would subject the accuser to "further intimidation, harassment and abuse." The ruling did not detail what the woman has gone through, though an Iowa man was charged with making a death threat against her.

Bryant has said his 19-year-old accuser had consensual sex with him June 30 at the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera, where she worked and he was a guest. Free on \$25,000 bond, Bryant is scheduled to return to Eagle for an Oct. 9 preliminary hearing to determine whether there is enough evidence for a trial on a charge of felony sexual assault.

The media organizations that sought the release of the documents included NBC, CNN, The Denver Post, the Los Angeles Times and the Vail Daily newspaper.

In his decision, Gannett said releasing court documents with details blacked out, or redacted, wasn't an option because the prejudicial material was too intertwined with other information.

Gannett has threatened to bar from his courtroom news organizations that identify Bryant's accuser. He did allow cameras in the courtroom for Bryant's initial court appearance Aug. 6, over the objections of defense attorneys.

SPORTS IN BRIEFS

By The Associated Press

TENNIS

■ **NEW YORK** — Pete Sampras will return to a tennis court one last time — to say goodbye.

The owner of a record 14 Grand Slam singles titles hasn't played a match since winning the 2002 U.S. Open, though he never officially announced he was quitting the sport.

That will change at a news conference Monday, when Sampras also will be feted at Arthur Ashe Stadium on the opening night of this year's U.S. Open.

Sampras, 32, leaves with 64 singles titles, and he was ranked No. 1 a record six years (1993-98). His collection of major titles includes a record-tying seven Wimbledon, five U.S. Opens and two Australian Opens.

In July 2000, Sampras won a fourth straight Wimbledon to break Roy Emerson's career mark of 12 major titles.

GOLF

■ **AKRON, Ohio** — British Open champion Ben Curtis posted his best score on the PGA Tour, a 6-under 64 that gave him a share of the lead with Sergio Garcia in the NEC Invitational.

Tiger Woods, who has won the last three times at Firestone, shot a 65.

Curtis' wedding originally was scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday in the suburb of Stow, about a 30-minute drive from Firestone. The invitations were mailed before Curtis, a 500-1 long shot, won the British Open and became the first player in 90 years to win a major championship in his first try.

Garcia birdied four straight holes in the middle of his round, the last three from inside 2 feet.

Darren Clarke joined Woods at 65, while the group at 66 included David Toms, Davis Love III, Chris Riley and Scott Verplank.

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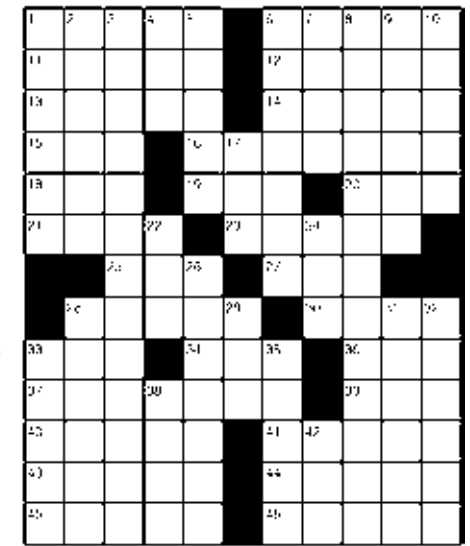
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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

Compiled by Natalia Aivazova

MOVIE °GUIDE

WEEKEND, AUGUST 23-24, 2003

EVENTS

Toddler StoryTime

Prents can enjoy a much needed break on Saturday as the youngest members of their family are entertained with their favorite stories. Toddler Story time begins at 10a.m.
Barnes & Noble Booksellers (310) 260-9110
1201 Third Street Promenade Santa Monica, CA

Nike's Relay Challenge

Hope you are ready because the Relay Challenge is here! But if you aren't in good enough shape to participate in their test of strength and endurance you could always cheer from the sidelines. 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. Facing off will be teams which are expected to include competitive companies and rival high schools.

CULTURE

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.

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1432 4th Street Santa Monica CA.
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1332 2nd Street
Thirteen PG-13 — 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
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
Les Diaboliques — Sat/Sun only 11:00 a.m.
Petit Freres — 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, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
Freddy vs. Jason R — 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
Grind PG-13 — 11:00, 9:30
Seabiscuit PG-13 — 12:30, 2:30, 3:30, 6:05, 7:00, 10:10
The Medallion PG-13 — 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00.

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
American Wedding R — 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:45,
Bad Boys II R — 7:00, 10:20 (both p.m.)
Finding Nemo G — 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55
Freaky Friday PG — 12:30, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:05

Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life PG-13 — 1:10, 4:15, 7:45, 10:20
Spy Kids 3D: Game Over PG — 12:25, 2:30, 4:00,
Open Range R — 12:20, 3:45, 7:05, 10:20
Step Into Liquid NR — 12:50, 3:05, 5:40, 8:00, 10:25

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
The Battle of Shaker Heights — 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40, 11:55
Marci X — 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55
My Boss's Daughter — 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45, 12:05
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 — 11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 10:10
S.W.A.T. PG-13 — 10:00, 1:35, 4:15, 7:05, 10, 12:40
Uptown Girls PG-13 — 11:15, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30,

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

Rolling Stones postpone concert three times this month

By The Associated Press

■ **LONDON** — The Rolling Stones have postponed a concert for the third time in a month because Mick Jagger has the flu, the band said Friday.

The rockers deferred a show planned for Saturday at Twickenham stadium in west London, rescheduling it for Sept. 20. A concert set for Sunday is expected to go ahead as planned.

"The doctors tell me that I must have two more days rest, and after that I will be completely recovered and ready for a full-on stadium show on Sunday," the 60-year-old singer said in a statement.

The band postponed a Wednesday concert in Amsterdam because Jagger had a sore throat and put off a date in Spain earlier this month because he had laryngitis.

"The Stones were looking forward to opening in the U.K. — for their hometown audience — with all guns blazing," said tour promoter Michael Cohl. "We're sorry to disappoint the fans who were coming on Saturday."

The 11-date British leg is the last segment of the Stones' "Forty Licks" world tour.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Talk show host Ricki Lake and her husband of nine years have filed for a separation, according to court documents.

Lake and husband Rob Sussman have two boys, Milo, 6, and Owen, 2. Court documents show the couple filed for a legal separation Aug. 13.

The 34-year-old has hosted the syndicated "Ricki Lake" show since 1993. She and her husband lived in New York for eight years before moving earlier this year to Los Angeles.

Lake also starred in the 1988 John Waters movie "Hairspray" as the perky Tracy Turnblad.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Hank Azaria is already an Emmy Award winner, a month before the ceremony.

Azaria will receive the Emmy for voiceover performance on "The Simpsons," the animated Fox series for which he provides a number of voices, the TV academy announced.

The 39-year-old was honored for the "Moe Baby Blues" episode, in which bartender Moe goes gaga over baby Maggie. Azaria could add a second trophy: He's nominated as guest actor in a comedy for his appearance on last season's "Friends."

The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences this week also announced winners for the individual achievement in animation category. The awards, including Azaria's, were juried ones, meaning there were no nominees in the category.

Layout artist Dan Krall and production designer Scott Wills were honored for their work on Cartoon Network's "Samurai Jack." Maciek Albrecht won for work on two segments of HBO's "Through a Child's Eye: Sept. 11, 2001."

Azaria and the other winners will receive their awards at the Creative Arts Emmy ceremony Sept. 13. The main ceremony will air Sept. 21 on Fox.

■ **ATLANTA** — The Internal Revenue Service used a large moving truck to carry away the contents of a mansion to pay back taxes singer-songwriter Peabo Bryson allegedly owes.

Bryson owed the IRS \$1.2 million as of 2000, according to a federal tax lien on file at the Fulton County Courthouse. He couldn't be reached for comment.

Although Bryson isn't listed as owner of the house in the city's trendy Buckhead neighborhood, IRS spokesman Mark Green said the belongings confiscated Thursday belonged to Bryson.

"We have exhausted all measures to collect some unpaid taxes, and this is the very last step that we had to take," Green said.

Bryson has had troubles with the IRS since 1980, accord-

ing to court records. In 1989, a lien on a home Bryson owned was settled when he paid \$1.2 million in taxes.

The 52-year-old artist won a Grammy award in 1992 for best pop duo performance for recording the theme song to "Beauty and the Beast" with Celine Dion. He won the same award again in 1993 with Regina Belle for "A Whole New World."

■ **NEW YORK** — There were pictures under glass of a young Arthur Ashe surrounded by a dozen tennis trophies — years before he would make history as the first black man to win the U.S. Open and Wimbledon.

They sat next to a letter from Martin Luther King Jr., thanking him in 1968 for his support of the civil-rights movement.

Ashe's widow, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, on Wednesday remembered both sides of Ashe's life — one as a tennis star, the other as a human-rights activist — as she donated 50 boxes of his private papers and correspondence to a black cultural center in Harlem.

"Good works and goodwill do leave a strong legacy," Moutoussamy-Ashe said at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, which is part of a New York Public Library branch.

Although organizations such as the University of Virginia and the Library of Congress asked to receive Ashe's personal papers, Moutoussamy-Ashe said her husband would have wanted them to be more easily available to the community.

"He really did want the papers to be accessible globally," she said.

Ashe died of AIDS-related pneumonia in February 1993, 10 months after revealing he had contracted the disease from a blood transfusion during heart bypass surgery in the 1980s.

The former No. 1 player won 33 tennis titles, including the U.S. Open, Wimbledon and the Australian Open. A stadium in New York is named after him.

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