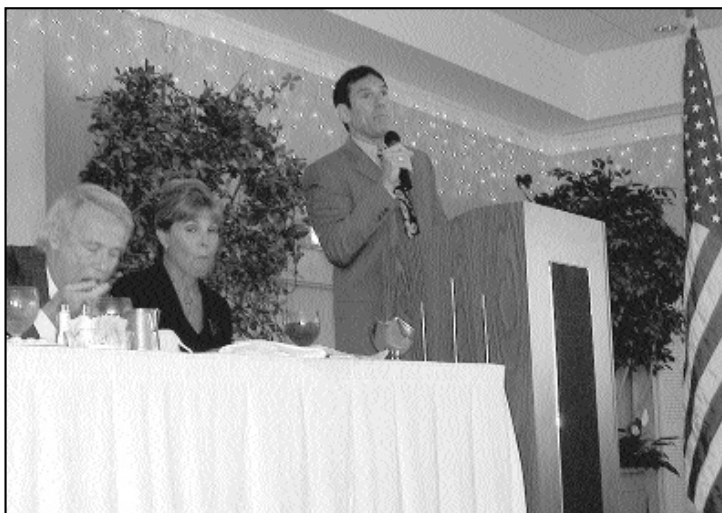


Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
Attorney Tom Larmore (left) and Santa Monica chamber president Linda "Tish" Tisherman listen Tuesday to KABC radio talk show host AI Rantel moderate a "forum" on Santa Monica's hotly contested living wage ordinance.

Chamber: Living wage leads to job loss

Living wage supporters claim they were muffled

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A lid was clamped on living wage supporters who showed up at a chamber-sponsored lunch Tuesday which had been billed as a "forum" on the issue.

Chamber of commerce officials later said the event was designed only to air the chamber's opposition to the living wage.

The living wage ordinance is the most hotly contested issue on the fall ballot. At one point, chamber officials were overheard telling one supporter who'd just been verbally attacked that it wasn't "the appropriate time" to respond.

The chamber insisted the event was designed to "educate" its members.

Conversation at the \$25-a-plate lunch of broiled salmon — served by workers at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel who would supposedly benefit if the living wage ordinance is approved by voters in November — largely focused on the negative aspects of the ordinance and how it could potentially harm local businesses.

The living wage law would raise the minimum wage for low-income workers at coastal Santa Monica businesses that earn more than \$5 million a year in revenue to \$10.50 with health benefits, or \$12.25 without benefits. The wage for workers without benefits would increase to \$13 after one year.

See LUNCHEON, page 7

Third Street Promenade performer's trial postponed

Attorney accuses city of operating in secrecy

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The trial of a street performer facing eight years in jail and up to \$16,000 in fines for working on the Third Street Promenade without a business permit has been postponed.

Stewart Lamle and his attorney Paul

Mills appeared in Santa Monica Superior Court Friday to answer to 16 misdemeanor charges of operating a business without a license. Each citation carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

But Santa Monica Deputy City Attorney Linda A. Mills asked the trial be postponed for 30 days while the city tries to answer questions posed by Lamle's attorney.

Paul Mills wants to know what municipal code prohibits the city from issuing a business permit to Lamle.

The city has refused to issue Lamle a business permit for setting up an impromptu table on the Third Street Promenade from which he sells an invented game called "Farook."

City officials say Lamle needs either a store front location or he must rent an \$1,800 a month cart from the city before it can issue him a license.

Linda Mills didn't return repeated calls since last Thursday seeking comment. City Attorney Marsha Moutrie also wasn't available for comment.

Paul Mills believes there's nothing in the municipal code that warrants Lamle's arrest and that's why the city hasn't responded.

"The reason they are having trouble answering my request is because no such municipal code exists," he said.

Until another trial can be held on Sept. 20, Lamle will be allowed to work on the Promenade without a business permit.

Paul Mills expects the city to continue to delay Lamle's court proceedings and

See TRIAL, page 6

LA school district to vote on banning campus soda sales

BY LOUINN LOTA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The nation's second-largest school district was poised Tuesday to ban the sale of carbonated soft drinks at all of its 677 campuses during class hours.

The seven-member board governing the Los Angeles Unified School District was expected to approve the ban at an afternoon session to battle what member Julie Korenstein, one of three co-sponsors of the measure, has called "an obesity epidemic."

In California, an estimated 30 percent of children are overweight or at risk of being overweight, according to the California Center for Public Health Advocacy.

A study last year by Massachusetts researchers concluded that drinking sugar-sweetened soft drinks increased the chance of childhood obesity. Some other studies have failed to find any link.

However, an average can of soda has about 150 calories and overall soft drink consumption has nearly doubled over the past 20 years.

Los Angeles Unified, which has 748,000 students, already prohibited carbonated drink sales at elementary schools. The new measure would extend the ban to about 200 middle and high schools by January 2004, when a statewide ban on elementary school sales takes effect.

The measure would only ban the sale of carbonated drinks during school hours. Still permitted would be water, milk, beverages with at least 50 percent fruit juice and sports drinks with less than 42 grams of sugar per 20-

See SODA SALES, page 6

Bill to spur condo building begins to move through California Legislature

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A final-hour bill aiming to spur an explosion of condominium building in a state desperately short of affordable housing is headed to the Assembly floor after passing a key committee 13-0 on Tuesday.

Backers called the bill a "historic agreement in California," resolving decade-long differences between

home builders and attorneys on how to fix construction defects. Nearly 20 years of class-action lawsuits and financial settlements running into hundreds of millions of dollars have brought condominium building nearly to a standstill compared to previous decades.

California homebuilders say condominium and town house construction, which peaked at 30,000 units a year in

See BILL, page 6

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Deal with givens, not theoretical situations. As a result, you'll come out ahead. Help others see an issue from your point of view. Look at the long term. A friend's imagination or creativity could become a problem. Help this person use his or her energy constructively. Tonight: Pay bills.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ The Moon in your sign waves a green light in front of you. The problem might be that others might not recognize how "on" you are. A professional matter or appearance could be confusing. Keep talking, and you'll get everything straightened out. Tonight: Ask and you shall receive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Even without trying, things get confusing. Keep talking and trying to clarify. Maintain a sense of humor about what is going down, and you'll be a lot happier. Listen to someone's feedback. He or she attempts to point the way. Tonight: Try reading a sci-fi classic.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Don't lose your focus. A partner could be most distracting and might do a great job of way-laying you. Recognize your limits when dealing with others. Don't get caught up in spending more than you want. Carefully establish your limits. Tonight: Join your pals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Realize that your energy has limits. Do what you can, but don't take on any more than necessary. Partners easily get confused. Clearly, others are on a different page than you. Maintain a public persona for now. Later on, do what you want. Tonight: Clean off your desk.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Look for answers. Detach from immediate confusion, if you can. The workplace could be perplexing at best. Find someone who understands the dynamics at work in order to find solutions. Schedule a checkup as soon as possible. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Know when enough is enough. You can't seem to get everyone on the same page. Recognize what might be happening with a partnership. Discussions might need to be postponed unless someone starts talking. Don't get yourself in trouble over a risk. Tonight: Togetherness works.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others seek you out, but just as they start talking, they might forget what they wanted to say. Confusion infiltrates. Confirm all appointments. Understand that misunderstandings seem to run rampant. Don't push another's buttons. Tonight: Say yes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Be sensitive to co-workers. You might not be able to verbalize your feelings, but your actions speak loudly. Reach out for someone at a distance. Your positive attitude will make a difference. Trust your decisions, if you're sure of the facts. Tonight: Easy does it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Understand where others are coming from. You might have to fill in quite a few blanks. If possible, don't push someone too hard. Confirm what might be going on when others seem more capable of speaking. Tonight: Be a kid again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others might not understand exactly what is on your mind. Confusion surrounds key decisions, especially those involving your home and a domestic matter. Even if a misunderstanding occurs, someone involved proves to be very gracious. Tonight: Relax. Put your feet up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Realize why someone might not be able to get the gist of your message. Don't worry, because your actions speak a lot louder than words, anyway. You also might not understand ideas that someone else presents. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

QUOTE of the DAY

"Nothing is illegal if a hundred businessmen decided to do it."

— Andrew Young

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LOCAL



CrimeWatch

Alleged car jacker arrested

By Daily Press staff

■ A Santa Monica man was arrested Aug. 12 for attempting to steal a car from two men on the 600 block of Arizona Avenue.

Freddy Doering, 21, of Santa Monica, was identified as one of two men who allegedly attempted to carjack a Honda civic at about 1 a.m. The victims said they were walking to their parked car when they heard a voice from behind. As they approached the car and the driver entered the vehicle, one of the suspects demanded the keys. He then allegedly kicked the door and told the second suspect to "get a gun." The second suspect punched the victim's friend in the face and then brandished a 6" folding knife. He scratched the car's hood with the knife and then smashed the windshield. Both suspects fled on foot. At 2:20 a.m., officers noticed two men standing on the sidewalk in the 1400 block of Lincoln Boulevard, one of whom matched the description from the earlier incident. Doering was identified by the victim as one of the alleged car jacks. He was arrested for attempted carjacking and booked into the Santa Monica Jail. His bail was set at \$100,000. The second suspect was not found. He is described as a Latino male between 18 and 19 years old, 5'6" tall and thin.

■ On Aug. 15 a man was robbed of six compact discs at gunpoint in the alley behind the Third Street Promenade between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard.

At about 8:40 p.m., the victim said while he was walking to the parking structure, he was approached by two men. One of them stepped out of a car and demanded that the victim give him the CD's. At first the victim refused, but one suspect pushed the victim while the other man pulled out a gun.

The victim gave up the CD's and ran.

The first suspect is described as a Latino male in his 20s, 5'8", 180 lbs. The second suspect is described as a Latino male in his 30's, 5'5", 135 lbs. Their car was identified as a maroon Toyota Corolla.

■ On Aug. 16, Jarris J. Castaneda, 23, of Orangevale, Calif., was arrested for robbery, and assault and battery after he allegedly stole clothing from Macy's department store in the Santa Monica Place Mall.

At about 4:40 p.m., mall security officers witnessed Castaneda allegedly removing price tags from a pair of shorts and a shirt. But unable to remove the security

See CRIMEWATCH, page 6

The Q-Line

It's election season in Santa Monica and for many that means the games are about to begin. Politics in Santa Monica can be quite a spectator sport, especially for those who are deeply involved in it.

But for the average Joe citizen, politics doesn't mean much. He just wants to make sure his trash is collected and can live in a safe community.

The leading political party, Santa Monicans For Renters Rights, which holds the majority on many city boards, most likely will keep its power.

Its causes are noble and just, but some wonder if basic city issues are lost in bettering society as a whole.

So this week Q-Line wants to know: "What local issues do our elected and appointed officials need to focus on during their campaigns?"

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.

Superintendent gets an 'A' from school board

By Daily Press staff

School superintendent John Deasy got high grades from the board of education last week, when he successfully passed his first evaluation since joining the district a year ago.

It has been a tumultuous year for Deasy and the school district, which was short millions of dollars in its budget. Deasy successfully found a way to balance the multi-million deficit in the budget and still find a way to lower class size.

The evaluation started in June and involved several individuals who have a stake in the school district, which is comprised of public schools in Santa Monica and Malibu.

The board will determine, based on the evaluation, how much of a raise Deasy will get. He can get up to a 10 percent raise on his \$150,000 a year contract.

The evaluation involved both a summative assessment of Deasy's general performance and an assessment of his achievement on four specific performance targets. The board chose the targets to focus Deasy's efforts on specific areas that the district needed to improve on, as well to establish standards to encourage exceptional performance.

The four targets were:

- building instructional leadership capacity — substantially achieved
- strategic planning — completely achieved
- improving fiscal stewardship — substantially achieved
- communications and central office — substantially achieved



John Deasy



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

The shadowed southwest swell we saw Tuesday fills in better today, though it remains spotty thanks to near shore islands.

The fading swell gives way to a new swell from that familiar southwest direction. The near identical southwest ground swell is expected late Thursday, building into Friday.

While many breaks will miss out on the new swell, exposed spots should hit chest-high today and Thursday. Reports show a lot of activity around Venice Beach, so we may get some big sets at the breakwater and the pier.

Today's Tides:		
High-	12:38 a.m.	3.83'
Low-	6:44 a.m.	1.72'
High-	1:11 p.m.	4.45'
Low-	8:01 p.m.	1.89'

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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OPINION

LETTERS

The 'angry rich' cannot look the other way

Editor:

I am astounded by the increasingly bizarre lines of argumentation posited by the good citizens of Santa Monica concerning the city's homeless situation. I have over the last few weeks observed your readership alternately decry the indolence, criminality and overall offensiveness of the homeless who congregate in and on the city's parks and beaches. The general consensus appears to be that, as the homeless in the area haven't the decency to crawl into the ocean and die, the only sensible alternative is to somehow permanently relocate those without \$1,200-\$1,500 a month to spend on lodging. Solutions proffered for the "homeless problem" ranged from incarceration and/or deportation to I.D. cards (priceless). It seems only a communist would fail to see the bind these "people" have put the taxpaying residents and business owners of Santa Monica in. I will forever be impressed by the ability of those whom mere circumstance has placed into a high tax bracket to disregard the most basic causative factors of all our nation's social problems. Simultaneously, they fail to erect even the pretense of compassion for any human being — with the possible exception of anyone likely to turn up outside little Decklan's pre-pre-SAT class or the holistic supplements aisle at Wild Oats. In reading some of the opinions held by the local townsfolk, I was heartened to learn that the contempt the privileged class holds for pretty much everyone else on Earth is alive and well in Santa Monica. I had no idea hypocrisy, xenophobia, solipsism, misanthropy and general dumbassness was so fashionable here as well.

Yes, some people choose to be homeless (though far fewer than one would like to think) just as, I suppose, some people choose to make by recommendations on stocks they know to be worthless, and yes, as long as there are people; there will be poor people. Bad decisions are our birthright. But regardless of all else — drugs, bad luck, laziness, or good old fashioned anti-social behavior — you'd do well to understand that when people can't cover their basic needs, in the absence of others, they generally become their own targets. That means their drinking, brawling and debauchery are an

ends not a means. Whatever inconvenience you are subjected to on your next trip to Williams Sonoma by "aggressive panhandlers" (if you were hungry or so spirited that you couldn't face the day sober you'd be aggressive too) will surely last only as long as it takes for the valet to pull up in your eco-friendly SUV. But by all means do what you must to purge yourselves of the thought of sharing your air with anyone who isn't exactly like you: Buy that Maybach, that Patek Philippe, or that Michael Kors sweater or even that Ostrich-skin decanter. More bread! More circuses! War is peace, right! Alas, rhetoric, however dazzling, will not prevent "people" from urinating on public streets, or God forbid, having the desire to live and be treated like a person. We can't be our brother's keepers can we? And we can't very well be expected to change the past. The radical deregulation of the mental health system in this country began during the Reagan years has already dumped thousands of Americans on the street. They ain't going no where now! The economic disparity between the wealthy and the poor has been expanding steadily — the trickle down ain't trickling like it should, what are you gonna do? These are very real issues that must be faced, I say again, faced. Still, ignoring our problems seems to be working for somebody.

Hmm? Now that is a head-scratcher.

Leland Anderson
Venice

P.S. I very much enjoyed reading of the Second Annual Spaghetti Showdown in your Monday (8/26) issue. I imagine the lucky denizens of Santa Monica who participated in the event have recovered from their gorging and I trust that whatever the contestants weren't able to stuff down their gullets was scraped into plastic bags and thrown into the garbage behind the restaurant so the scores of homeless who might want to eat more than once a day might be able to re-live the fun and excitement of the event. I'm sure the new basketball nets and pool cues at the Boys and Girls Club that the proceeds from the contest paid for will be appreciated.

Kudos!

'To feed or not to feed, is there any question?'



EDGE of the WEST

By Ron Scott Smith

Walking down Wilshire Boulevard on Sunday night, heading for a late meal and something more, it occurs to me:

Who said goodnight to that lady down there? A trembling arm reaches out from beneath a blanket of cardboard, groping for something inside the ragged duffel bag by her side. A deeply weathered face rises slowly from the ground; her eyes are slightly open, and catch mine for an instant. Then she retreats back down into a late summer night slumber. She's 80 if she's a year. Her bed is a cold concrete one outside a closed restaurant on Fifth Street, and it's not likely her bed of choice.

She'll open her eyes in the morning just like you and I. She'll be ready to break the fast just like you and I do,

except she won't have the bacon and eggs or hotcakes to go to. She'll have to wait until the afternoon, for the food offering at the park, and if she has the energy and the legs, she'll walk over there to get a hot bowl of soup and a piece of bread. Well, excuse her. For living. Barely.

And excuse the City of Santa Monica for giving a damn, for feeding hungry people.

Build them — the food giveaways — and they will come, too many of the homeless will come, so say the well-fed critics among us, and they'll bring "crime, dirt, filth and anti-social behavior" along with them. But many "homefull" are also known to be the source of similar problems. And aren't those just some of the unavoidable, not so pleasant by-products of any large group of people living together in what have come to be known as "cities?" Get it? Get over it.

The same critics agonize that hundreds of other more disciplined municipalities have found ways to make it harder for the poor to get fed, so why does Santa Monica find ways to make it easier? Maybe it's

simply because it's a good city sitting here by this bay doing a good thing. And until somebody figures out a way to get everybody "up and in," a good city has no choice but to feed the "down and out." If there are errors in judgment made, let them be on the side of humanity and compassion, coming from our best instincts, not from the lesser ones of fear, elitism and greed.

Santa Monica has strong shoulders, and doesn't mind some of the weight of the world sitting upon those shoulders. And it is a load to bear, this public food giveaway in the park.

So is rent control, which allows that not only the well-to-do should have the inalienable right to live beside everybody's ocean; and so is the minimum living wage, which allows that some of the hardest workers among us can supply beds for their families other than the concrete ones on the streets.

It's a tough job but somebody's got to do it. This city has decided it will. The canvas that is Santa Monica is full of dazzling colors, of sunsets, and carousels, of small

apartments and large beachfront mansions. Some of the strokes are a little wild, unruly and off-center, but for many of us, they fit in with the controlled ones and only add to the masterpiece being created.

And don't lose any sleep for the wealthiest — they'll continue to be just fine. They do lunch inside the establishments whose sidewalks at night serve as bed for those less fortunate or less ambitious. And what's in their lunches is not in the wildest dreams of the lady sleeping under her cardboard on Fifth Street.

What is she dreaming about? What's going through that head down there on that cold ground? Does she dream she's flying, like you and I might, or is she just slipping and falling down. You have that dream?

Possibly, her dream is of Sunday fried chicken, biscuits and gravy, and mama's home-made cherry pie ... stuff that's good enough to die for.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.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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OPINION



Red light cameras violate fundamental fairness issues

The City of Santa Monica is considering installing red light cameras at traffic intersections and issuing tickets by mail. At the city council meeting on Aug. 13 the issue was debated. The issue was tabled, but not finally dealt with and may come back before the council.

Of course, traffic laws are very important. Enforcement is critical. No one can disagree with that.

Santa Monica has a fine police department that works very hard and generally does an excellent job for its citizenry.

But we can reasonably disagree about how to enforce laws and suggest alternatives, as good citizens should.

I spoke at the city council hearing. I raised various legal issues of privacy and fundamental fairness. I concluded by suggesting enforcement by live officers instead of cameras.

I raised the issue of fundamental fairness in several ways. I mentioned that tickets sent by mail don't always reach the person in question. Sometimes, a person has moved, or a roommate may not deliver them, or the dog may eat them, or mail service being mail service, they simply may not be delivered.

The police department responded that no response is received, tickets are re-mailed.

But tickets that are re-mailed may still not reach people, for the same reason that the first one didn't get there, or for other reasons.

No matter how you slice it, a police officer handing out a ticket is guaranteed service of process. Not only that, it's guaranteed service on the right person — the actual driver, not someone else driving the car. There is no better way to get a ticket to the right person than an officer standing there and there can be no question that the person was served. That's "the gold standard." Anything less isn't what we should and do expect from our criminal justice system.

I also raised the issue of being able to defend yourself. I said that, with a traffic officer, the alleged violator is stopped on the spot and has an opportunity to recollect the circumstances of the ticket and defend himself or herself, gather witnesses, and prepare a case.

With a camera, the alleged violator receives the ticket many days or even weeks later. In the interim, the alleged violator probably does not know that a ticket is in process and may forget the circumstances if he or she was ever aware of them. In fact, the alleged violator may go through the intersection in question many times — even three or four times a day, I said that it is fundamentally unfair to ask someone to defend himself or herself without the opportunity to recollect the circumstances, gather witnesses and mount a defense.

The police department responded that the driver sees the flash, and so has a fair chance to recollect the circumstances and defend him or herself, gather witnesses, and mount a defense.

But on a sunny day, with glints coming from every direction, is the driver going to see the flash? And what if the driver is through safely, but the vehicle next to or behind the driver or going the other way is running the light? The driver might see a flash, but is it for the driver? I've never had a ticket on one of the traffic cameras, but there are several times I have thought that I did. What is a driver to do? Spend the rest of his or her days getting ready to defend tickets that may or may not have been issued? I repeat, it is fundamentally unfair to have camera generated tickets.

But with a police officer and that siren and that ticket, the driver has a fair chance to defend her or himself — if there is any argument to make. The driver can't complain about any lack of that crucial American Constitutional specialty — due process.

Another issue is the critical privacy issues with video, cameras, record keeping, capturing others in the picture, and most important, the tendency in our society to go into a surveillance state.

Cameras mounted at intersections are another incremental invasion of our privacy today, and more importantly, could potentially be used for further invasions of our privacy and our precious Constitutional freedoms in the future. If I were a dictator interested in taking over this country, one of the things that would most facilitate my efforts to restrain and control the populace would be an installed base of cameras at traffic intersections and the legal precedents to retain them.

And, contrary to what one council member said, private individuals or businesses using cameras are not the same thing and do not justify government cameras. A camera at a bank doesn't raise the Constitutional issues that a government camera may. The Bill of Rights is very specific in its focus. It starts out, and right from the First Amendment, the focus is clearly very different from the rest of the Constitution:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

What kind of government document starts out saying "Congress shall make no law..."?

The answer is simple. The Bill of Rights is intended to protect us from — our own government(!), reflecting the view of the Founders that, historically, people need protection most from their own government, which has far and away more power over them than any other individual or group — or even foreign government.

The bottom line is that the cameras not only violate privacy rights, and endanger the public welfare in the long term, but that they are also fundamentally unfair to the public.

Does that mean that we shouldn't enforce traffic laws vigorously?

Absolutely not! The money should be used for human officers who can not only monitor traffic, but perform other necessary police functions.

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Another indication of our sensitivity is that Californians have the highest percentage of people who elect to have unpublished phone numbers in the United States.

Santa Monicans, as a group are, in my opinion, even more sensitive. I don't have statistics on the percentage of us with unlisted phone numbers, but if one wanted further proof of our sensitivity, one could note that, in the public comment at the city council meeting, every speaker — I think there were 10 or 12 — spoke against red light cameras.

(Michael Klein is a Santa Monica resident and a local attorney.)

Guest Commentary By Michael Klein

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LOCAL

City punishing 'Farook' inventor, his attorney says

TRIAL, from page 1

not offer reasons why it keeps denying his application for a business permit.

"Nobody knows why none of these guys don't qualify and the government isn't going to tell us why," he said. "It's secret government. When you ask them for an answer and they won't tell you, I don't know of a better definition of a government operating in secrecy."

And Paul Mills continues to believe the city is "picking on" Lamle for contesting — and winning — 34 other citations issued to him by Santa Monica Police officers for not having a performer's permit.

"It's pretty obvious what's going on here," he said. "They don't like these guys and they are trying to shut them down and make them into criminals."

"And they are trying to get away with it by operating in complete secrecy," he added.

LA students getting fatter

SODA SALES, from page 1

ounce serving.

Health advocates supported the soda ban. Soft drink purveyors condemned the measure as simplistic, arguing that children's weight problems are caused by increasingly sedentary lifestyles promoted by TV-watching and use of video games.

Although educators and legislators have long grappled with how to promote student health, only a few districts have a ban. They include the Oakland (Calif.) Unified School District.

Many Los Angeles Unified schools rely on soda sales to fund student activities such as sports and field trips. Sodas sold in vending machines and student stores generate an annual average profit of \$39,000 per high school and \$14,000 per middle school.

Supporters of the ban suggested that the money could be made up by the sale of other drinks, including Gatorade, fruit juices and bottled waters, all produced by large soft drink companies such as Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola.

Assembly bill was last minute

BILL, from page 1

the mid-1980s, fell to a 1999 low of 3,000 units. Even while climbing to roughly 6,000 this year, housing authorities say most are resort-style units priced above \$300,000 in a state where two-thirds of potential buyers can't afford them.

The last-minute bill, SB800 by Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, aims to bring back insurers who deserted the state by giving builders a chance to fix defects before homeowners can sue. If builders lag on that chance, homeowners can then file lawsuits.

That provision is a "huge advance," said Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, who presented the bill to an Assembly Judiciary Committee. The committee has repeatedly squashed previous attempts by builders to fix the problem — because of opposition from attorneys.

Drafted during a furious round of meetings in recent days, the bill also lets homeowners for the first time demand

fixes for problems such as inadequate firewalls and faulty chimneys, even if they haven't yet caused greater damage to the house.

Burton and other legislators pressured attorneys and builders to work out their differences to help a housing market where condominiums are viewed as a more affordable option for first-time home buyers.

Insurers testified Tuesday that their industry remains wary of a state where attorneys routinely grouped owners of townhouses and condominiums for collective settlements against builders, including a record \$35 million in 1986 for a 400-unit complex in San Diego.

"We don't know if the bill has the incentives to bring the insurers back," said Mark Sektman, assistant vice president of state affairs for the American Insurance Association. But he called it good for consumers.

The bill must pass the Assembly and Senate by Saturday night and be signed by Gov. Gray Davis to become law.



CrimeWatch

Blockbuster Video robbed

CRIMEWATCH, from page 3

tags, the alarm was set off when Castaneda tried to leave the store. When security officers tried to detain him, Castaneda allegedly resisted. He was eventually handcuffed and taken back into the store, where he then allegedly kicked one of the security officers in the lower back.

Santa Monica Police officers arrived at the store and booked Castaneda in Santa Monica Jail. His bail was set at \$35,000.

■ A Blockbuster Video employee was held at gunpoint Aug. 16 just before the store closed up shop.

The employee of Blockbuster on the 2600 block of Lincoln Boulevard said the suspect approached him with a gun while the cash register was open at about 10:15 p.m. The suspect grabbed about \$100 in cash and fled on foot. He is described as a male black, between 20 and 30 years old, 5'2" tall, 125 lbs. and having beard.

STATE



Critics call living wage a strong-arming by unions

LUNCHEON, from page 1

About 160 people, some representatives of unions and supporters of the living wage ordinance, sat quietly while KABC radio talk show host Al Rantel moderated the discussion between the two guest speakers and the audience. Those who attended were invited to write questions on pieces of paper placed at their tables.

The questions were picked up by chamber workers and processed by local property rights attorney Tom Larmore, a leader in the anti-living wage movement. Larmore passed along a few of the questions.

The chamber, which has strongly opposed the living wage ordinance for the past two years, hired former Michigan University Economics Professor David Neumark for \$1,000 plus traveling expenses, to speak Tuesday about how living wage ordinances have a negative impact on low-income workers as a group, according to Larmore.

The second speaker was paid an undisclosed amount for a past study by living wage opponents. Richard Sander, a UCLA professor, wrote a report in 2000 for a coalition of local luxury hotels and the Santa Monica chamber that found the city's proposed living wage ordinance would do more harm than good. During his talk Tuesday, he accused union-sympathizers and the city council of "fixing" the debate about the ordinance. He was not paid for his appearance.

Sander said Madeline Janis-Aparicio, executive director of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, or LAANE, told him not to bother applying with the City of Santa Monica to review its living wage proposal. He claimed at the luncheon that Janis-Aparicio told him that the city and LAANE had already hand-picked University of Massachusetts, Amherst Economics Professor Robert Pollin, to review the proposal so it would favor the living wage.

Janis-Aparicio wasn't allowed to respond to the claims, despite her repeated attempts to approach the podium and address the crowd. Chamber officials quietly, but within earshot of the audience, told her it wasn't "the appropriate time" to hear her.

"His claims are completely unfounded," Janis-Aparicio said. "I met with him as a friend to discourage him from taking money from the hotels, nothing more."

After the two professors spoke, living wage supporters dropped their forks and headed to the back of the penthouse conference room to hold their own press conference.

Vivian Rothstein, director of Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism, a coalition of union organizers and living wage supporters, said the professors misled the audience.

"There's much more to this story than what was presented," she said. "Don't take what you heard at the luncheon as truth."

Chamber officials said the luncheon was not meant to be a debate. They maintained it was positioned as an event for the chamber to present its views regarding the living wage ordinance.

"This wasn't meant to be a sharing of views," said Kathy Dodson, the chamber's executive director. "This was meant to be more of an educational event."

Dodson had told the Daily Press on

Monday that the chamber would be open to community debate on the issue during the luncheon.

One chamber member said she thought it was a disservice by the chamber's leadership not to include the other side of the debate.

"Why weren't there opposing points of view for their membership to hear?" asked Sonya Fox Sultan, a local estate attorney. "This was a skewed hearing, a totally skewed hearing."

Jeff King, owner of Ocean Avenue Seafood, said his operation would be affected by the wage increase. He called the ordinance "insanity." He added that minimum wage jobs are entry level positions meant as a starting point, not a career.

"The easiest way to escape the living wage is unionization. It becomes a local policy to promote unionization at that point."

— RICHARD SANDER
UCLA professor

"Nobody stays a dishwasher all their lives," he said. "It's a stepping stone to a better job."

King, who said he owns restaurants from San Diego to Calabasas, said people from around the state couldn't believe Santa Monica would consider "almost doubling" its minimum wage.

"People out there ask can this really happen?" King said. "Well I say, 'did people think Hitler could happen in 1928?'"

His remark drew a gasp from the audience, which otherwise clapped politely and remained fairly quiet during the luncheon.

Neumark said living wage laws generally cause unemployment for low-skilled workers because employers are forced to pay higher wages.

"If you raise the cost of something you are going to discourage its consumption," he said.

Neumark, the economist, compared the living wage to a tax on cigarettes intended to reduce consumption.

"The more you raise the prices the more you discourage smoking," he said. "Same premise here."

But he also compared the living wage law to environmental regulations that may result in the loss of jobs but result in a cleaner habitat.

Sander accused the city council of trying to settle a unionization battle being waged between the local Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Union and several hotels near the beach.

"The easiest way to escape the living wage is unionization," he said. "It becomes a local policy to promote unionization at that point."

Rothstein, who heads up the group supporting the living wage and is paid a salary by the hotel union, said SMART was supporting the ordinance for unselfish reasons.

"We feel this is a tool to bring workers and their families out of poverty," she said.

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STATE

Income gap increases in state despite go-go 1990s

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press Writer

The gulf between rich and poor widened in California during the 1990s. New census data show that vast disparities persist in cities and rural California, while the economic leveling effect of sprawl helped some suburbs close the income gap.

The numbers, which were collected at the height of the economic boom in 2000, show a state that got more golden for the wealthy while the working poor struggled to keep up.

The income gap widened in 54 of the 58 counties, according to results released Tuesday from the census long form, which asked about one in six Californians to report their 1999 income as well as everything from their country of origin to whether their children are in preschool.

Some regional wrinkles emerged from the data:

■ The income gap increased fastest in low-population counties in the Sierras and the state's far north, including Alpine, Modoc and Siskiyou. Other areas of high inequality included southern San Joaquin Valley farm communities.

■ Cities remained centers of inequality. In Los Angeles, which encompasses both Pacific Palisades and Watts, the disparity between rich and poor was so extreme that it skewed the statewide average. San Francisco, Oakland and Fresno also all had a wider income gap than the state average.

■ The only four counties where the gap decreased were Colusa, Glenn, San Benito and Sierra counties. They were semi-rural areas, but on the cusp of a new surge in growth from the state's population centers. The income gap was relatively low in the sprawl east of the Bay Area, north of Los Angeles and around Sacramento, where two-income families can be the norm.

■ California has the fourth highest disparity among the 25 states for which long-form data has been released this summer.

Those conclusions are based on a statistical formula economists use to measure income disparity called the "Gini coefficient," named after an Italian demographer.

High immigration rates explain some of it — nearly 40 percent of California's 33.9 million residents lives in a family headed by an immigrant, the Census Bureau has reported.

During the 1990s, waves of low-wage workers from Mexico and Central America arrived along with highly skilled engineers and computer programmers from Asia, increasing the gap.

Fidel Arroyo came from Mexico in 1994 and started as a cook at the luxurious Claremont Resort & Spa in Berkeley, where one night's accommodations runs from \$235 to \$850.

He earns \$13.25 an hour — his wife, who works in the laundry room, earns \$8.50.

Between the monthly mortgage payments for their Oakland home and the cost of caring for an infant, times are tight.

"We don't earn enough," said Arroyo, 45. For the working poor like Arroyo, raises have barely managed to keep inflation at bay: Arroyo's 2001 income of \$26,500 bought as much as the \$22,000 he earned when he started eight years ago.

Those who earn a little less tend to be slipping slowly behind, according to Deborah Reed, an economist for the San Francisco-based Public Policy Institute of California.

"The poor counties have diverse populations ranging from poor through rich, while the rich areas are more exclusive."

— DEBORAH REED
Economist

During the 1990s, Reed said, the income of a family of four in the lowest quarter of wage earners fell from \$28,600 to \$27,200 in constant dollars, while a family of four in the highest quarter earned \$90,600 as the decade began and \$94,900 by its end.

Though that gap closed slightly during the late 1990s, more recent economic woes have likely forced it wider again, Reed said.

"This is very consistent with what we've seen over the last 20 years in California, which is the rising of the income gap due to the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer," Reed said.

Counties with a high median income tended to be more homogenous and thus have a relatively small gap, while counties with high poverty rates had higher inequality. Immigration and education levels appear to be less of an influence on the wage gap, Reed said.

"The poor counties have diverse populations ranging from poor through rich, while the rich areas are more exclusive," she said.

The state is trying to close the gap by training the often transitory low-wage work force in skills that will help them move up the career ladder incrementally, according to Michael Bernick, director of the Employment Development Department.

A certified nurse assistant earning \$9 an hour who qualifies as a senior nurse assistant — but not a fully registered nurse — might earn about \$10.50 an hour, he points out.

Beyond earning more, a career-track nurse will tend to be a better worker, Bernick said.

"It's a consumer issue, a quality-of-service issue," he said, "as well as an issue of income inequality."

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NATIONAL



Bush holding talks at ranch with Saudi ambassador

BY LEIGH STROPE
Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush, confronting an ally opposed to his Iraq policy, told Saudi Arabia's ambassador Tuesday that Saddam Hussein is "a menace to world peace," the White House spokesman said.

Bush also urged the kingdom to resolve custody cases involving children who have been abducted from the United States to the kingdom.

"Not enough progress has been made, because people have not been allowed to come back to the United States who ought to be able to," spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters after the meeting with Prince Bandar bin Sultan.

According to State Department officials, Saudi courts almost always favor Saudi fathers in child custody cases involving non-Saudi mothers. It marked the first time Bush has raised the issue with a high-level Saudi official.

Bush met privately with the Saudi diplomat for about an hour, then Bandar brought his family to lunch at the president's ranch near here.

"They discussed a variety of issues including the prospects for ... peace in the Middle East," Fleischer said, adding they discussed the war on terrorism and Saudi Arabia's cooperation in the war.

On Iraq, Bush told Bandar he had not decided how to oust Saddam. "He will continue to consult with Saudi Arabia and other nations about steps in the Middle East and Iraq," Fleischer said. "The presi-

"Not enough progress has been made, because people have not been allowed to come back to the United States who ought to be able to."

— ARI FLEISCHER
White House spokesman

dent made it very clear again that he believes Saddam Hussein is a menace to world peace, a menace to regional peace."

Just hours before the meeting, the foreign policy adviser to Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah said the kingdom opposes military action against Iraq.

"There is a process under way with the U.N. to bring the inspectors back in, unfettered," said Adel el-Jubeir said. "We believe it will succeed, and if it does, the objective (of searching for weapons of mass destruction) will be achieved without firing a single bullet or losing a single life."

In an Associated Press interview in Washington, he said Saudi Arabia was not alone in its objections to a U.S. military attack. "There is no country I know of supporting the use of force in Iraq at this time. Your allies in Europe don't. Your allies in the Middle East don't."

But, the Saudi official said, "you have a situation where the rhetoric about using force is way ahead of the policy."

Meanwhile, the official Saudi Press Agency reported that Bush telephoned Crown Prince Abdullah to reassure him that relations between the two countries

remain strong and talk of their deterioration is "irresponsible."

Recent tensions between both nations had been sparked by "irresponsible statements reflecting the points of view only of those who made them," Bush reportedly told the crown prince.

Bush administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the quotes were not accurate but the sentiment is the same: Bush told the crown prince Monday that U.S.-Saudi relations are strong. Specifically, he said a recommendation from a private defense analyst to a Pentagon advisory board did not reflect his views nor the opinion of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

The board was told that Saudi Arabia should be given an ultimatum to stop supporting terrorism or face retaliation.

Bush and the crown prince also talked about the Middle East crisis, officials said.

Earlier this month, 700 relatives of Sept. 11 victims filed suit against the Saudi and Sudanese governments and some institutions claiming that they helped finance Osama bin Laden's network and the terror attacks that killed

nearly 3,000 people in New York City, Washington and Pennsylvania.

The lawsuit was filed a week after Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said the United States would not have access to Saudi facilities for an attack on Iraq. He also affirmed the kingdom's opposition to an incursion.

Visits by foreign leaders to Crawford are considered diplomatic plums. Russian President Vladimir Putin has visited there and Chinese President Jiang Zemin is due in late October. Prince Bandar has a personal relationship with the Bush family.

Prince Bandar was with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah when he visited Bush at the ranch in April. Prince Bandar was to be accompanied Tuesday by his family, which was to have lunch at the ranch following morning discussions with Bush. A tour of the grounds also was likely.

Fleischer characterized the meeting as a warm visit by two old friends rather than an intense diplomatic session. He said the meeting would be heavy on spontaneity and light on carefully prepared presentations.

Fifteen of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers were Saudis but the Bush administration never has held the Saudi government responsible.

However, some members of Congress are not sure about Saudi reliability in the terrorism war. A seven-member House delegation will leave for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to seek clarification of the monarchy's antiterrorism policies.

The Bush administration insists that Saudi Arabia is a valuable ally in the war on terrorism.



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NATIONAL

In midst of budget deficits, beer and liquor lobbies press for cut in sin taxes

BY SHARON THEIMER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — As several states consider trimming budget deficits by raising taxes on beer, liquor and wine, the industry is finding support in Congress to cut the federal excise tax on alcoholic beverages.

Already, more than 200 lawmakers seeking re-election — many beneficiaries of the industry's political largesse — have signed on to tax cut proposals. Industry lobbyists say if the bills do not pass this year, they hope they'll be first in line the next time Congress considers tax cuts.

"There's lots of good reasons to pursue this legislation that go beyond getting it passed," said Frank Coleman, spokesman for the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States.

If anyone suggests raising the federal excise tax on liquor, "you already have a solid bloc of people who say, 'Your taxes are too high and/or inequitable,'" he said.

At least 18 states have raised cigarette taxes in recent months. At least 15 have considered raising alcoholic beverage taxes; of those, Alaska and Tennessee have approved increases.

In Oregon, the Distilled Spirits Council convinced lawmakers it would be more profitable to allow liquor sales on Sunday than to raise the state tax, a victory the council hopes to repeat in other states with laws banning Sunday sales, including New York.

The spirits tax cut proposal is sponsored by Rep. Ron Lewis, R-Ky., a Baptist preacher who doesn't drink. Lewis' district includes several bourbon distilleries, spokeswoman Kathy Reding said. About 100 lawmakers are co-sponsoring Lewis' bill.

Rep. Phil English, R-Pa., proposes cutting the beer tax in half, from the current \$18 per barrel to \$9, its 1990 level. That would save beer drinkers about 16 cents a six-pack. At least 223 lawmakers — more than half the House — have signed on to his legislation.

The beer lobby is portraying the beer tax as unfair to working-class Americans. A poster handed out on Capitol Hill features Uncle Sam sternly declaring, "I want half your beer," and says taxes take about 44 cents of every dollar spent on beer.

The poster promotes an Anheuser-Busch "Roll Back the Beer Tax" Web site featuring profiles of "Joe and Jane Six-Pack: The Average American Beer Drinkers," described as "young, average Americans, many of whom are raising a family."

"Lowering the beer tax means more money in the pockets of these young, hardworking men and women," the Web site said.

English said the current economic slowdown is a good time to "pass back to a lot of working-class consumers a little

bit of their tax money."

"I think this is a fairness issue," he said.

The beer tax was doubled in 1991 legislation that also raised the taxes on yachts, furs and other luxury items, English said. Although many of those taxes were later rolled back, the beer tax remained at the higher level, he said.

If Congress grants the tax cuts, it would provide a long-sought victory to an industry that has been a prolific giver of campaign cash this election year.

Beer, wine and liquor interests have donated at least \$3.7 million to congressional Republicans and national party committees and \$2.6 million to their Democratic counterparts for this fall's election, according to figures compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan center that studies political donations.

"Lowering the beer tax means more money in the pockets of these young, hardworking men and women."

— ANHEUSER-BUSCH WEB SITE

Lewis and English both count the industry among their top donors. Reding said Lewis' bill is driven by distilleries' importance as an employer in his district. English said his campaign has a broad base of support and isn't dependent on industry money.

The talk of federal cuts comes as several states consider raising sin taxes to help trim budget shortfalls.

Portland liquor store operator Robert Hesla said he opposed the Sunday sales legislation in part because it came from a national lobby rather than local interests. Besides, with little traffic on his street on Sundays, opening a seventh day wouldn't pay, he said.

Virginia Harris of Portland said her store is selling enough on Sundays to make it cost-effective. Roughly one-fourth of Oregon's liquor stores have opened on Sundays since it became legal in April.

Tom Towslee, a spokesman for Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber, said it's unlikely to have much effect on the budget deficit, which stood at about \$350 million after \$1 billion in cuts. Oregon's liquor taxes are among the lowest, he noted.

"The options are getting fewer and fewer," Towslee said. "It should not be off the table just because the liquor industry has a powerful lobby."

INTERNATIONAL



Industrialized nations scuttling clean energy timetable

BY JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA

AP Science Writer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — To the outrage of environmentalists, the United States, Saudi Arabia and other nations at a U.N. summit worked Tuesday to water down promises to rapidly expand the use of clean, renewable energy technologies around the globe.

Renewable energy sources like wind power and solar energy produce smaller and more expensive amounts of electricity than a traditional power plant. But the technologies generate a tiny fraction of the smog that comes from burning oil, coal and other fossil fuels, as well as carbon dioxide and other gases believed to accelerate global warming.

A proposal for the World Summit on Sustainable Development's action plan calls for the use of the technologies to be increased to account for 15 percent of the world's total energy production by 2010.

Sources sitting in on the negotiations said delegates from the United States, Saudi Arabia and other industrialized and oil states were lobbying to eliminate the provision and set no specific goals.

Even the European Union — some members of which, like Germany, strongly embrace renewable energy sources — wavered on the agreement.

"We may have to bend if we can't convince all of our partners," said EU official Christine Day. "It's early in the negotiations."

The 10-day summit, which began Monday, is focused on uplifting the world's poor and protecting the global environment. The United Nations expects it to be the largest summit in its history. More than 100 heads of state

are scheduled to attend.

During Tuesday's open session, delegates called for increased global efforts to bring new agricultural technologies to poor farmers and railed against European and American agricultural subsidies, saying they made it difficult for poor farmers to compete on the world market.

Developing countries are hoping the summit's action plan will call for the reduction or elimination of subsidies, a provision opposed by wealthy countries. The summit was unlikely to resolve the issue. "No country can realistically be expected to make a major commitment here on those matters," South African Trade Minister Alec Erwin said.

Also Tuesday, non-governmental groups complained they were being sidelined at the summit, saying they had trouble getting seats at the main event in a building that can't hold all the accredited delegates. The United Nations said later it would try to accommodate them.

Targets and timetables were added to the summit's implementation plan as organizers sought new ways to compel nations to live up to their pledges made in the heat of international diplomacy. In the 10 years since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, treaties protecting biodiversity and limiting climate change have languished.

However, the United States is seeking to erase specific targets and timetables on many topics throughout the plan, which includes 150 pages addressing biodiversity, food security, clean water and health care.

Instead, U.S. officials said they prefer voluntary partnerships with business and other groups.

"I don't know of a goal that has protected a child from a waterborne disease or provided energy to a village," a senior U.S. diplomat said. "Goals do not by themselves

bring about change or results."

The United States, Canada and other large energy producers also opposed a provision requiring industrialized nations to phase out some subsidies for their energy industries, according to representatives of a U.S. non-governmental organization monitoring the energy discussion.

The provision called for eliminating subsidies for practices that do not support sustainable development, but did not define the subsidies or practices.

In the United States, renewable sources provide 1 percent of the nation's total power supply despite recent expansions in wind turbine "farms" and other sources.

Delegates are circulating two agreements on renewable energy.

One would eliminate all target dates.

The alternative would set the 15 percent target. However, the broadly written definition of renewable energy would include hydroelectric dams and wood burning — energy sources that conservationists condemn, saying they damage the environment.

Factoring in those sources, renewable energy already contributes 14 percent of power supplies worldwide. That would make the increase called for in the agreement just another percentage point — a target clean energy supporters call unacceptable.

"Ministers must stop this process, which is producing nothing more than the lowest common denominator," said Jennifer Morgan of the World Wildlife Fund.

"If renewable energy is to grow and costs are to go down, it will need targets and frameworks," said former Shell Oil chairman Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of Business Action for Sustainable Development, an advocacy group organized following the Rio Summit.

Saudi princes paint the town, mosque in hedonistic Marbella

BY JEROME SOCOLOVSKY

Associated Press Writer

MARBELLA, Spain — It's the hottest hour of the day at the Puente Romano beach club when a girl of 13 dashes out of the hotel gardens, throwing a black cloak over her flowing hair, T-shirt and jeans and leaving the topless sunbathers behind.

Sarah al-Kabbani, child of Saudi royalty, is obeying the muezzin's call to prayer, and she's running late.

King Fahd, leader of one of the world's strictest Muslim nations, has come to his vacation residence in Marbella, the Mediterranean capital of sun and sin, bringing along thousands of members of the House of Saud.

As usual, Saudi princes and princesses are expected to snap up Hermes scarves and Rolex watches by the display case, slap down millions on roulette tables and boogie into the night with the bejeweled blondes at the Olivia Valere discotheque.

It's a lifestyle strictly prohibited in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, where boys and girls are forbidden to hold hands in public and the constitution is based on Islam's holy book, the Quran.

This summer the gap between the monarchy's practices and preachings is under greater scrutiny than usual, as war talk rumbles through the Middle East and Saudi Arabia wrestles with the fallout from terrorism and the fact that 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers were Saudis — devotees of Osama bin Laden and his campaign to topple a monarchy he views as America's corrupt puppet.

Saudi royalty has been part of the Marbella glitterati ever since the 1970s Arab oil boom. When Fahd built his summer residence atop an artificial hill overlooking the city, the White House look-alike mansion shocked a city whose gaudy architecture makes Beverly Hills look staid.

Called An-Nada, or the Dew, the palace

got a facelift in time for Fahd's arrival Aug. 14 from Switzerland, where he has another residence.

Although princes vacation in the palace every summer, the House of Saud has virtually transplanted itself here for the first visit in three years by the 81-year-old sovereign, who handed over authority to Crown Prince Abdullah after suffering a stroke in 1995.

Fahd, who now uses a wheelchair, hardly ever comes into town. However, he sends aides on shopping sprees or summons merchants to bring their most exclusive offerings to the palace. On Tuesday, Spain's King Juan Carlos visited him at his palace.

Shopkeepers have stocked up on luxury items, expecting the royals to spend some \$5 million a day during the month or more that they stay here.

"Every time they come here they turn this place on its head," said Antonio Mena, who sells \$250 silk scarves in one of Puerto Banus Marina's exclusive shops while moonlighting as personal gym trainer for Fahd's 27-year-old niece, Princess Hadza. His brother just got a temporary job as the princess's chauffeur.

Mena added that last year the Saudis went to a Cartier jewelry shop "and spent more than 60 million euros in a single day." A euro is roughly a dollar.

High-end merchants aren't the only ones cashing in.

Under the eucalyptus trees by the palace's service gate, hundreds of poor North Africans have been waiting for weeks to be temporarily hired by Saudis at \$3,000 per month.

"We are not beggars," said Minetou Sidi Ali, seated with half a dozen other Mauritanian women in colorful scarves around a camping stove.

"We'll cook. We'll clean," she said. "We'll do anything as long as it's dignified work."

The Saudi men seem to have more fun. The women wear veils and waterproof

robes, even on Marbella's topless beaches. A woman riding a Jet Ski while covered head-to-toe in a black robe is not an uncommon sight.

But after Friday prayers were over at the Abdulaziz al-Saud mosque, Sarah al-Kabbani tore off her garment and wove her way on foot through a traffic jam of Mercedes sedans back to the Puente Romano, where suites cost \$1,270 a night.

There's plenty of ways kids can have good clean fun in Marbella, such as hanging out or going to movies. But when Sarah started to talk about them, a man in sunglasses appeared, scolded her in

Arabic for talking to a reporter and sent her away.

He turned out to be a royal family member named Adnan al-Fadda. Munching on a fresh date, he said Saudis behaved no differently in Marbella than at home. Then, after indignantly knocking down the gossip in Marbella about Saudi men and blonde escorts for hire, he turned to Sept. 11.

It had nothing to do with the political situation in Saudi Arabia, he said. He refused to believe that any of the hijackers were Saudi citizens, and maintained the attacks were an Israeli-CIA plot.

Saddam speaks



Associated Press

President Saddam Hussein, right, greets Qatari foreign minister Sheikh Hammed bin Jassim al-Thani who arrived Monday in Baghdad on a 24-hour visit. The sheik delivered a message from Sheikh Hammed bin Khalifa al-Thani of Qatar to president Hussein related to the American military threats against Iraq. President Saddam said the United States is threatening all Arab countries, not only Iraq.



SPORTS

Negotiators trade public posturing for private talks

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Instead of posturing in public, negotiators for baseball players and owners are talking in private.

The sides met Monday afternoon, again in the evening and briefly Tuesday morning. Negotiators, who took pointed jabs at each other in public comments after exchanging proposals last weekend, were suddenly silent.

"We had some informal conversations, that's it," Gene Orza, the union's No. 2 official, said without disclosing details.

Some players thought a faction of hardline owners still doubted the union would go through with its strike, scheduled to start with Friday's games.

"I don't know if they think we're bluffing," Los Angeles Dodgers player representative Paul Lo Duca said. "We never have before."

Time was running short for a settlement that would prevent baseball's ninth work stoppage since 1972. During the weekend, the sides reacted angrily to each other's proposals.

"It was a tough night for us a couple nights ago," Boston's Johnny Damon said. "We are definitely bridging the gap and, hopefully, we can continue to play baseball."

In 1994, the sides didn't start bargaining until three months after the start of strike, which dragged on for 232 days and led to the first cancellation of the World Series in 90 years.

Negotiators spent Monday discussing the key economic issues, one management official said, speaking on the condition he not be identified.

"I think we're a lot closer than what we hear in the media," said Brandon Inge, Detroit's assistant player representative. "I honestly don't think we will go out. I hope not. I think we are fairly close and have made a lot of progress from where

we started. Even if it goes down to the last day, as long as we get together, it will be a good thing."

Owners want vastly increased revenue sharing and a luxury tax to slow the spending of high-payroll teams. Players have agreed to revenue sharing increases, but proposed a lower level than management wants and asked to phase in the changes, which management opposes.

On the luxury tax, owners want higher tax rates and lower thresholds than the players do. Owners regard the union's proposal as ineffective, and players think management's plan would act like a salary cap.

Owners increased the tax threshold Sunday from \$102 million to \$107 million in the first three years of the new contract and to \$111 million in 2006. The portions of payrolls above that figure would be taxed, using the average annual value of 40-man rosters plus about \$7.7 million per team in benefits.

Players have proposed thresholds of \$125 million next year, \$135 million in 2004, \$145 million in 2005 and no tax in the final season of the deal — another big point of contention.

Owners gave proposed tax rates of 35-50 percent, depending on the number of times a team exceed the threshold, while players have proposed rates of 15-40 percent.

As for revenue sharing, owners proposed that teams share 36 percent of their locally generated revenue, up from 20 percent this year. The teams' previous plan was 37 percent, and the union moved up to 33.3 percent in its Saturday proposal.

The owners' plan would transfer \$263 million annually from baseball's richest teams to its poorest, using 2001 revenue figures for analysis. Because the union's proposal phases in changes, the players' proposal would transfer \$172.3 million in 2003, \$195.6 million in 2004, \$219 million in 2005 and \$242.3 million in 2006.

Poll: Number of baseball fans have dropped off

By The Associated Press

The number of people who consider themselves baseball fans has dipped to less than three in 10, the lowest level since the last strike ended in April 1995, according to a poll.

Twenty-eight percent of those surveyed by ABC in a poll taken from Aug. 21 through Sunday said they are baseball fans. That matched the previous low of 28 percent, set in a poll just after the end of the 232-day strike in 1994-95 that wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years.

In March of this year, 44 percent said they were baseball fans.

Players have threatened to strike Friday if they don't have a labor deal by then, and they say owners have made proposals that would suppress salaries. Management contends changes are needed to increase competitive balance and slow salary increases.

Just before the last strike, about four in 10 said they were baseball fans and

the percentage increased from its April 1995 low point to almost half of the public during the 1998 season, when Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa were challenging for the season home-run record.

Only a third of those who said they are baseball fans in the new poll said they would miss baseball a lot if there is a strike, and that translated to only one in 10 overall. Men, residents of the Northeast and those in the highest income group were most likely to say they would miss baseball.

When asked whether they were more sympathetic with players or owners, 38 percent of fans said owners and 26 percent said players, while another 30 percent said neither. A CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll late last week, also found public sentiment leaned toward the owners.

The ABC poll of 1,036 adults had an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points, higher for subgroups such as baseball fans.



Richard Drew/Associated Press
Switzerland's Martina Hingis makes a forehand return to USA's Marissa Irvin at the U.S. Open tennis tournament, on Tuesday in New York.

Safin, Moya advance at U.S. Open; Mark Philippoussis out

BY HAL BOCK
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Former champion Marat Safin battled his temper and some booming serves from Nicolas Kiefer to advance in the first round of the U.S. Open on Tuesday with a draining 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (4) victory.

Safin smashed two rackets during the match, which lasted 4 hours, 31 minutes. In the end, Kiefer gave in to fatigue and cramps.

It wasn't easy for Safin, the Open's 2000 champion and seeded second this year. He traded huge serves with Kiefer that exceeded 130 mph. Twice, Kiefer broke Safin's serve late to stay in the match, and another time Kiefer raced from one corner of the court to the other to save a point.

Both players were iced for cramps in their upper legs as the match neared the end. Safin was flat on the court being stretched while Kiefer sat in his chair as the trainer worked on him.

Limping badly, Kiefer twice saved match points and forced a tiebreak. But he collapsed on the court reaching for a shot at 3-5. He was helped to his feet and won the next point before Safin ended the marathon.

"He tried as much as he could," Safin said. "It was unbelievable."

Safin had 15 aces and 64 unforced errors to 12 aces and 59 unforced errors for Kiefer. Twelve double faults hurt Kiefer's chances for the upset.

Carlos Moya, awarded his highest seed at the U.S. Open in three years at No. 9, advanced to the second round of the season's final Grand Slam by defeating Adrian Panatta 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

The victory was a grind for Moya, a clay-court specialist who came into the Open after winning at Cincinnati — just the second hardcourt title of his career. Ten of his previous 11 victories were on clay, and he won at Cincinnati by defeating No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt in the final.

Former finalist Mark Philippoussis, hounded by knee trouble, was forced to retire from his match against No. 24 Sjeng Schalken after winning the first two sets.

Hewitt, the defending champion, and

two-time defending women's champion Venus Williams were scheduled to play their first matches later Tuesday — Williams vs. Mirjana Lucic and Hewitt vs. Nicolas Pietrangeli.

Third-seeded Jennifer Capriati plays Bethanie Mattek and No. 11 Andy Roddick faces Martin Verkerk at night.

Moya came into the Open with four titles this year, tying Andre Agassi and Hewitt for the most on the tour. It's the first time since 1995 that Voinea has lost in the opening round of this tournament.

Philippoussis, runner-up in the Open in 1998 but unseeded now and battling a cranky left knee, looked strong for two sets against Schalken. But after losing the third, the Australian fell in a heap on an overhand and came up grimacing as he gripped his left knee.

There have been three operations in 14 months on the knee, and Philippoussis was in obvious pain as ATP trainer Doug Spreen examined him. When Spreen asked how he felt, Philippoussis said, "I'm scared."

The Australian struggled to his feet and, after Spreen worked on him, he was able to continue for a while, even winning another game. But on a changeover Spreen examined him again. "It hurts," he told the trainer. A few moments later, Philippoussis retired from the match, allowing Schalken to advance 6-7 (1), 4-6, 6-3, 5-3.

He left the grounds to get an MRI on his knee.

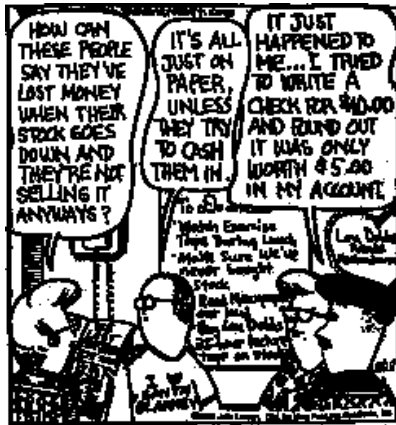
Other early winners on Tuesday were seventh-seeded Kim Clijsters, who beat Conchita Martinez Granados 6-1, 6-0, in just 42 minutes; No. 14 Chanda Rubin 6-1, 6-3 over Jill Craybas; Jan-Michael Gambill, who led 6-1, 2-1 when Julian Knowle retired; No. 10 Amelie Mauresmo, who defeated Iva Benesova 6-3, 6-2; and No. 18 Ai Sugiyama, 6-3, 6-3 over Mi-Ra Jeon.

Venus' sister, top-seeded Serena Williams, advanced Monday night with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over cancer survivor Corina Morariu, and Andre Agassi, seeded No. 6, advanced with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Robby Ginepri.

COMICS



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Indulges
- 7 Actor
- 11 Depleted
- 12 Ever
- 13 Yacht lot
- 14 Pizzeria need
- 16 Coos
- 17 Ninny
- 20 Light hills
- 23 Cam-
- 24 Doubler
- 25 Adj.
- 27 Frank
- 28 McCourt
- 30 Lupine of
- 32 Library
- 33 Florist
- 34 Orlando
- 35 Fur
- 36 Flings
- 37 Hotel
- 38 Red wine
- 43 Edison's
- 44 Charm
- 45 Marsh
- 46 Crashed

- DOWN
- 1 Engine

2 Mix.

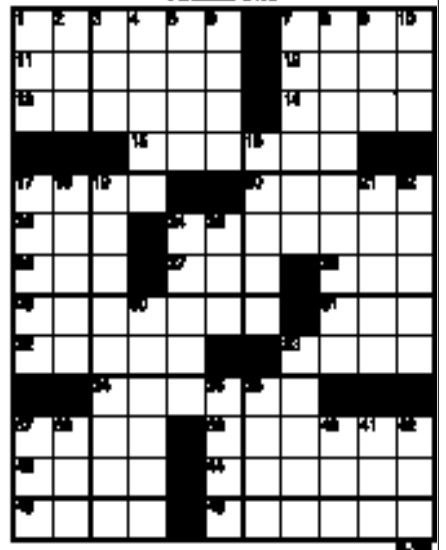
- 3 Body of
- 4 Pinder, for
- 5 Smallest
- 6 Practice
- 7 Seek in a
- 8 Abusive
- 9 Kind of
- 10 Greed
- 11 Stag party
- 12 Conspire
- 13 Barker
- 14 Crumple
- 15 Intox. a
- 16 Neighbor
- 17 Body of
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- 19 Smallest
- 20 Practice
- 21 Seek in a
- 22 Abusive
- 23 Kind of
- 24 Greed
- 25 Stag party
- 26 Conspire
- 27 Barker
- 28 Crumple
- 29 Intox. a

CABOT	SHREK
ABGOT	HAITI
PIANOLEBON	
PAN VIA END	
BEERS	
OAPOS	SHOOK
APEX	ERIE
PETER	GLEAN
BERIF	
ETA	MAR
GARY	INDIANA
GREEN	EDICT
STAND	ROLES

Yesterday's Answer

- 19 Abusive
- 20 Kind of
- 21 Greed
- 22 Stag party
- 23 Conspire
- 24 Barker
- 25 Crumple
- 26 Intox. a
- 27 Neighbor
- 28 Body of
- 29 Pinder, for
- 30 Smallest
- 31 Practice
- 32 Seek in a
- 33 Abusive
- 34 Kind of
- 35 Greed
- 36 Stag party
- 37 Conspire
- 38 Barker
- 39 Crumple
- 40 Intox. a

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

The 'I don't know why?' defense

Nathan A. Williams, 18, admitting that he robbed a convenience store in White River Junction, Vt., in July, told the judge, "I still don't know quite to this day why I did it." And Gerald Fitzgerald, 73, pleading guilty to a series of petty crimes in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, in July: "I don't know why (I did it)." And Ms. Rie Fujii, 24, pleading guilty in Calgary, Alberta, in June to abandoning her children while she partied: "I don't know why." And Darlene Eva Gallant, 41, sentenced to two years in prison in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, in May for maliciously injecting her grandson with insulin: "I hurt someone more precious than my life, and I don't even know why." And pharmacist Robert Courtney, pleading guilty in Kansas City, Mo., in February to diluting customers' cancer drugs: "I keep asking myself, 'Why?'"

WEBSTER by Joe King





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upper 1 bed, new paint & blinds, near Main St. & beach

143 Hollister \$1590-1690

1 bedroom, gated entry, many upgrades, steps to the beach, hardwood floors

1224 12th St. #5 \$1495

upper 2 bed, 1.5 baths, bright, front unit, large balcony, fresh paint

1002 12th St. \$1690-1750

2 bed, 2 bath, gated entry & parking, laundry room, patio, elevator

1214 California \$1650

upper 2 bed, 1.75 baths, new carpet, large kitchen, new blinds, fireplace

WLA/BRENTWOOD

648 Barrington #204, Bk. #1200

upper 1 bed, remodeled, new carpet, blinds, stove, dishwasher, pool

10745 Outdren, Rancho Pk. \$2400

2 bed, 2 bath house, garage, laundry, hook-ups, hardwood floors, near school

1208 Marine, WLA, \$2250

2 bed, 2 bath house, 1800 S.F., all appliances inc., patio, near yard

FOR MORE LISTINGS GO TO
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SANTA MONICA \$1795.00 2+2, very light and airy, front unit, private, new crpt/appliances. (310)383-7080

SANTA MONICA 1890.00 301 Ocean Ave., upper 1 1, ocean vu, hrwd flrs, totally remodeled. (310)394-7085 ext.142

SM \$2050.00 3+2.5 (by apts.) 2 floors, 2 car garage. Near SMC. No pets. (310)452-3375

For Rent

SM \$1550.00 New! 1/2 block to beach. Studio/loft. Hardwood floors, hi-ceilings. 121 #13 Strand. (310)392-7276

SM \$1700.00 Spacious 2-bdrm, 1.5 Bath 2-story Townhouse Apt. with 2-car closed garage. 18th Street near SM Blvd. Security building, ample closets, private patio, 2-oven gas stove, dishwasher, gas log fireplace, wet bar. Info (310)828-4481 or Page (310)775-1511 after 6pm.

SM \$2,300.00 2bdrm top floor, bright. Ocean front, across from beach. Totally remodeled. (310)392-0122.

SM \$2700.00 On the beach, bright, fantastic! 2bdrm/2ba. Pet OK. Owner. Available now. (818)769-3399

SM \$2995.00 2+den/3ba. Townhouse, option to buy. 2 car garage, patio, carpet, A/C, fireplace. Laundry in unit. Steps to Montana. 822 19th #A. (310)392-0544.

VENICE \$795.00 Very nice, sunny studio 1/2 block from beach, new paint, new carpet, very clean, large closet, 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$795.00 Sunny studio 1 block from beach. Hardwood floors and full kitchens. Very clean, security building. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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VENICE BEACH \$850.00 Studio with partial ocean view in tudor style building. Great location 1/2 block to the beach. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH Starting @ \$2,400.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oakwood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Open house Sat 10am to 2pm. (310)396-4443

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

Houses For Rent

MARKET YOUR rental house in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters. For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

PLAYA DEL Rey \$2400.00 Unique 2bdrm/1.5ba, fireplace, large kitchen, some marble, lots of glass. On hill. Views. Double garage, brick patio. Totally remodeled! (310)827-9033

Roommates

S.M. \$850.00 Ninth & Wilshire. 2bdrm, utilities/cable free, large, \$7000.00 recently paid for new furniture. (310)394-1050

Commercial Lease

COMMERCIAL SPACE can be leased quickly if you market to the right crowd. Reach local business owners by running your listing in the Daily Press. Call (310)458-7737 to place your listing for only a buck a day.

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VENICE \$695.00 250 sq. ft. office space with bathroom. High ceiling, large window. Fresh paint. Just off Abbot Kinney. 1 year lease. (310)396-4443

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$1750.00 Office space with 4 parking spaces, one big room with high ceilings, skylights and rollup door. (310)396-4443

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310.458.7737 ext.101

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Santa Monica, CA 90401

(310)458-7737 ext. 101

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REMEDIES BY ROTH Carpentry, Handyman Services. Reasonable rates. Contact Michael: (310)829-1316 MSG. (323)610-1217 Cell.

SECRETARIAL ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICES: Word processing, mailings, bookkeeping, file systems, set-up offices, projects. Helene (310)940-5165 hipwinkler@yahoo.com

SM - Della Robbia. Floral design classes. Call for schedule & information. Now forming. (310)395-3337

\$99.00 PORTRAIT hand painted from your favorite photo. Real canvas. Great gift idea! (310)664-1434.

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Services

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HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

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Wealth & Success

Wealth & Success Seminar upcoming Sept. 13-15. Hilton Hotel, LAX. Discover and permanently release the causes of inconsistent performance in your career, relationships, health, and finances using the hybrid science of neuro linguistic programming. 100% satisfaction guaranteed! Call now for your free audio tape and to reserve your seat. (888)877-8550

Personals

MATCH MAKER for marriage minded singles. Are you celibate? Are you still a virgin? (Primary or secondary?) Your body is the holy temple of the lord where god lives. Get to know your partner as a best friend first. Abstain from sex before marriage. When you trust God, then yourself, it's very easy to trust your future partner completely with God's blessing. It's also easy to be disciplined in other areas of your life. If you have tried everything else, and couldn't keep a partner - Try to align your body with your soul and holy spirit. Dorothy (310)201-5553.

PLATONIC SOCIAL/SPIRITUAL companion to religious occasions, weddings, dance clubs, dining, movie theaters, singing, shopping malls, comedy shows, galleries, museums, sports events, conventions, weekend getaways, boat cruises, chopper rides, sight seeing, limousine rides, horseback riding, parks, walks on the beach, concerts, visiting family and friends, company parties, thanksgiving, ceremonies, anniversaries, etc. Where would you like to go? What would you like to do? Leave your worries and troubles behind. Come to fun public places and create happy memories. Rent me! The girl next door type. Casual or business attire are acceptable. Female bodyguard and driver with four door car or limousine wanted. Dorothy (310)201-5553.

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Calendar

Wednesday, August 28, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Blue Crush (PG-13) 11:15, 1:00, 2:20, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:15, *Blood Work* (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, *Simone* (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
The Adventures of Pluto Nash (PG-13) 8:15, 10:30, *Minority Report* (PG-13) 11:50, 3:15, 7:10, 10:20, *Austin Powers in Goldmember* (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG-13) 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, *XXX* (PG-13) 12:00, 12:30, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:30, 10:00, 10:35, *Little Secrets* (PG) 12:15, 3:00, 6:00.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
The Bourne Identity (PG-13) 4:55, 9:35, *Signs* (PG-13) 1:30, 3:15, 4:15, 5:45, 7:05, 8:15, 9:40, *The Master of Disguise* (PG) 2:00, 7:30, *Road to Perdition* (R) 1:20, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55, *K-11: The Widowmaker* (PG-13) 7:00, 10:00, *Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams* (PG) 1:55, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25, *Serving Sara* (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50, *Stuart Little 2* (PG) 1:00, *Undisputed* (R) 1:05, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Kid Stays in the Picture (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30, *Mostly Martha* (PG) 11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Tadpole (PG-13) 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:55, *The Good Girl* (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55, *Possession* (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15, *24 Hour Party People* (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
Lovely and Amazing (R) 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

Today

Community

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Music / Entertainment

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surf-

boards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over 21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

Cara Rosellini hosts The Gaslite's Comic Review, followed by open-mic comedy karaoke, at The Gaslite, 2030 Wilshire Blvd. 7:30 p.m. FREE! (310)829-2382. Poetry N Go Club, 8 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse, 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Thursday

Community

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet

Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Classes / Lectures

Dharma at the Clubhouse. A weekly book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 - 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santamonivacksg.org Theater / Arts

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Picon Pie! The World Premiere of a joyous and poignant musical play about the life and loves of legendary Molly Picon. Admission is \$23.50. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)994-9779 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Music / Entertainment

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over 21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

Komdey Krunch. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

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

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