WEEKEND EDITION

FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

August 28-29, 2004 | A newspaper with issues | Volume 3, Issue 248

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5
3 4 16 23 28

DAILY 3
Daytime: 2 1 5
Evening: 4 2 5

DAILY DERBY
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:40.74

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

A 911 operator in Anne Arundel County, Md., apparently fell asleep in the middle of a call about a possible home break-in in progress on July 29, according to the official tape recording, which was reported by WBAL-TV (Baltimore). And in Alexandria, Va., the week after that, police found all three staff members asleep at the Sunrise Senior Living facility on Duke Street. (They had slept through the buzzing call button, several telephone calls, and a police siren. The supervisor had to be nudged awake despite the burglar alarm blaring just 10 feet away. One patient had fallen out of bed and couldn't get up, and another called 911 to summon the police when no one was there to help with his catheter.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Aug. 28, 1963, 200,000 people participated in a peaceful civil rights rally in Washington D.C., where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial.
■ **In 1609**, Henry Hudson discovered Delaware Bay.
■ **In 1774**, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint, was born in New York City.
■ **In 1916**, Italy's declaration of war against Germany took effect during World War I.
■ **In 1917**, 10 suffragists were arrested as they picketed the White House.

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Justice for y'all



Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press

Benny Cassett and the Justice League rock the mic in front of a huge crowd estimated at more than 15,000 people on Thursday evening at the Santa Monica Pier. One week remains in the 20th anniversary season of the free weekly concert series.

Emancipation: 'Slave' enjoys $1.6M payday

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — Nena Jimeno Ruiz wept on Friday after a jury awarded her more than $1.6 million for the year she spent enslaved in a Sony Pictures executive's home.

Santa Monica jurors found that James Jackson and his wife Elizabeth lured Ruiz to the United States under false pretenses, then forced her to sleep on a dog bed and work long hours with little pay for more than a year.

"I'm very grateful to the jurors for the wonderful judgment," Ruiz said as she wiped away tears. "Now (I'm) looking forward to seeing my family who are waiting for me (in the Philippines) for last four years."

Ruiz, 60, on Thursday was awarded $551,000 in back wages, penalty and other damages. On Friday — after hearing a detailed accounting of the Jacksons' assets —

See GOT IT MAID, page 5

Former Outlook publisher Copley dies

By Staff and Wire Reports

Helen K. Copley, former publisher of The Outlook and retired chairwoman of the family-owned Copley newspaper group, died Wednesday night at her San Diego home. She was 81.

The cause of death was pneumonia, a spokesperson for the group said.

Copley published The San Diego Union-Tribune and its predecessors for nearly three decades after the death of her husband, James S. Copley, in 1973. The Union-Tribune is now the third-largest newspaper in California, with a daily circulation of 355,000.

Born Margaret Helen Kinney in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Copley served in the Navy WAVES and married in the 1940s. After her marriage ended, she moved with her mother to San Diego in 1951.

In 1953, she was hired as one of three secretaries to James Copley, who had become chief executive officer of Copley Press Inc. after the death of his father, Ira C. Copley, who started the company in Illinois in 1905. Eight years after she married James Copley in 1965, her husband died of brain cancer.

The Copley family first came into contact with Santa Monica and The Evening Outlook in 1927, when Ira Copley bought the paper from F.W. Kellog, a San Francisco publisher. Five years later, the family sold the paper to J.D. Funk and Samuel G. McClure, according to the Santa Monica Historical Museum.

With the Santa Monica market

See BYE LINE, page 6



HELEN K. COPLEY

Humming along: P.R. firm sends in clowns to support SUVs

BY TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A public relations firm with automaker clients is trying to derail proposed stricter state clean air regulations with ads warning that the first-in-the-nation rules would force drivers to abandon SUVs for smaller cars that could endanger their lives.

The ads conflict with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data released earlier this month that found SUV drivers were slightly more likely to die in accidents than people driving cars and almost three times as likely to die in rollovers.

In addition, SUVs, light trucks and vans were far more likely to kill or seriously injure people in accidents than cars, the NHTSA found.

The print and radio ads are sponsored by the Sport Utility Vehicle Owners of America, a group purchased two years ago by the Washington, D.C.-based public relations firm Stratcomm.

The campaign features clowns who say the regulations would

See GAS GUZZLE, page 6

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Eddie Guerboian

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Where the music is, Sag

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ A dream could be realized, if you so choose. Modify your thinking and/or plans involving friends and close associates. Revise your thinking if need be. Remember, we all have stumbling blocks. Tonight: Where you are, the fun is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You draw others with your easy smile and subtle but strong leadership. Others want to be around you. A partner might have to revise his or her thinking, or perhaps handle his or her possessiveness. Tonight: Visit with a friend or older relative.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your vision, insight and detachment help you adjust to others. Help someone see life in a renewed, transformed manner. Share your perspectives and where you are coming from. Open doors — don't shut them. Tonight: Try a new type of cuisine.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Nurture a loved one or a close friend as you would yourself or child. A relationship will bloom if you are less dependent and more independent in your thinking. Clear out a project; ask for support. Tonight: Work as a team with another.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Investigate, and don't automatically say "no." You might need to work with a new mind frame or a different way of thinking. Let your imagination respond to those around you. The intensity of a bond becomes like super-glue. Tonight: Say "yes" to another's request.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Family members and/or roommates seem to be in the mood to discuss a change, even if it means just rearranging the living room or making a more major change. Willingly pitch in and pick up some of the slack. You'll accomplish a lot. Tonight: Relax wherever you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your dreamy nature takes you to another level in a relationship. You can be sure you aren't seeing someone properly. Your work or day-to-day life might need some new energy or ideas. Brainstorm with someone you consider innovative. Tonight: Play away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Home is where the heart is. You might want to check on the cost of a new addition, the purchase of a new home or perhaps sprucing up a room or two. Revamp your budget with this extra in mind. Remember that the cozy days of fall are around the corner. Tonight: Invite friends over.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ By saying something in a different way than you had originally, someone might agree with you, when he or she didn't before. When describing your ideas, work on making them less airy-fairy and more concrete. Not everyone has your imagination! Tonight: Where the music is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Revise your thinking, or you might find that you'll miss the boat. Others do think differently. Money will slide through your fingers if you're not careful. You could be considering a new car, computer or another such item. Tonight: You don't have to go overboard.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your sixth sense guides you, though many of your friends might scratch their heads trying to understand your logic. Rearrange plans to maximize your time with the special people in your life. What you do with them really doesn't matter. Tonight: Smile away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Take your time with others, especially people who can impact your life. You need to use your intuition. Someone in your life might be exercising his or her power. Realize that you need to go with the flow — for now. Tonight: Adjust plans accordingly.

Santa Monica Daily Press
Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa .....ross@smdp.com
EDITOR
Carolyn Sackariason .....sack@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER
John Wood .....wood@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER
Geneva Whitmarsh .....geneva@smdp.com
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Piubeni .....rob@smdp.com
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rob Schwenker .....schwenker@smdp.com
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Chris Allen .....chris@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II .....alex@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ARTIST
Rick Reynoso .....rick@smdp.com
EXECUTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER
Heather Rich .....heather@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Mitch Troy .....mitch@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Kitty Seeger .....kitty@smdp.com
NIGHT EDITOR
Lori Luechtefeld .....lori@smdp.com
NIGHT EDITOR
Michael Tittinger .....mikeyt@smdp.com
CIRCULATION MANAGER
Mike Aviles .....mike@smdp.com
CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt .....keith@smdp.com
CIRCULATION
Glenn Bolan .....glenn@smdp.com
SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dave Danforth .....dave@smdp.com
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LOCAL

Duane Douglas Nightingale
1955 – 2004

Duane Douglas Nightingale, 70, passed away on Aug. 24 in Westlake Village after a long bout with cancer. He made the transition peacefully at home, surrounded by his family.

Born in Norfolk, Neb., on Oct. 1, 1933, Nightingale was raised and schooled in Denver before coming to California in 1951. He briefly pursued his dream as a police officer in Manhattan Beach, but ended up changing careers and spent the next 37 years with the telephone company, GTE (now Verizon). His last job as a public affairs manager in Santa Monica created many fond memories and lasting friendships. Nightingale was president of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and once was the lieutenant governor of the Santa Monica Kiwanis. He was on the boards of The Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club, The Salvation Army, The Santa Monica YMCA (past president), Santa Monica College, the Navy League (past president), Senior Health and Peer Counseling, the Police Activities League, Marina Del Rey Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Police Department Pacific Division Boosters and many more.

Nightingale was a devoted and beloved husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Kayleen, of Westlake Village, Calif.; sons, Jeff Nightingale of San Jose, Calif., and his wife Gai, their children Kailey and Chasen; Kimo Watanabe of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; and Lee Gale of Ipswich, Mass., and his wife Elaine, their son Michael; daughters Mary Lou Drown of Hemet, Calif. and her husband Lee, their sons Trever and Travis and Debbie Bontty of Thousand Oaks, Calif., and sons Tony and Steve DuFault and daughter Kelly Bontty; brother Darold and his wife Cheri and nine children, 25 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; and sister Marge Denhart along with her husband Tony, their children Joyce and Mark.

After his retirement, Nightingale continued his spirit of community service, serving with the Thousand Oaks Police Department, Volunteer-In-Policing (VIP). He was proud to have been a mentor and partner. Nightingale also found time to enjoy woodworking and making toys for underprivileged children at Christmas with his buddies from the Conejo Valley Woodworkers Association. He always found reasons to buy more tools to fill up the garage. He loved being a member of the service organization Kiwanis. Nightingale also enjoyed fishing, cooking, woodworking, traveling and an occasional golf game. But most of all, he loved the good life he shared with his family and friends.

An informal viewing will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday at Pierce Brother's Valley Oaks Mortuary in Westlake Village. A memorial service to honor and remember Nightingale will be held on Monday at 3 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Westlake Village.

If desired, tax deductible memorial donations in Nightingale's name may be made to:

TOPD, Volunteer in Policing
2101 E. Olsen Rd.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica
P. O. Box 7368
Santa Monica, CA 90406



SURF REPORT

Look for 2-3 ft.+ sets, knee- to chest-high, occasionally 4 ft. and fair+ conditions.

On Saturday, expect a mix of holding, steep NW ground swell, fading NW wind swell and some background SW swell. Breaks with decent NW exposure see waist-high waves with occasional bigger sets. By as early as Sunday evening, we'll see a new SE to S swell mix from Tropical Storm Georgette and a recent Southern Hemi storm.

Today the water is:

71°

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	- 1:42	1.0	1:42	0.3	7:32	4.5	8:03	5.2
SUNDAY	- 2:21	0.3	2:12	0.4	8:20	4.5	8:28	5.7
MONDAY	- 3:01	-0.4	2:44	0.7	9:09	4.5	8:58	6.1
TUESDAY	- 3:44	-0.1	3:17	1.1	9:59	4.3	9:31	6.4
WEDNESDAY	- 4:30	-1.3	3:51	1.5	10:52	4.1	10:08	6.5
THURSDAY	- 5:20	-1.4	4:29	1.9	11:52	3.7	10:49	6.4
FRIDAY	- 6:16	-1.3	5:12	2.3	1:02	3.5	11:37	6.1

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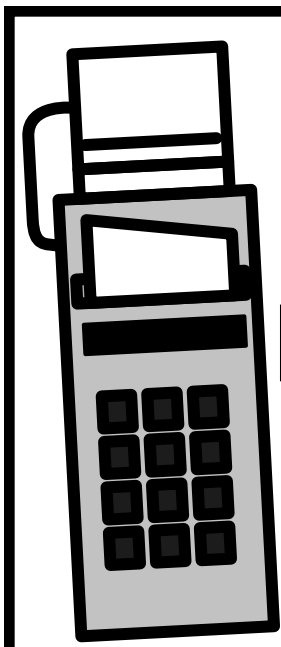
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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

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YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.



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OPINION

The Q Line

THE BURR IN YOUR SADDLE

This past week, Q-line asked:

"What's bugging you? What issues need to be brought to the table during this election season and what do you have to say about them?"

Here are your responses:

✆ "All levels of government should concentrate on the six basics of life — employment, education, housing, medical, transportation and welfare. Having the six basics in order will tend to allow other areas of government to fall into place. However, for my own purposes, as long as the Santa Monica bike path is in good working order — to quote Herbert Humphrey — 'I am as pleased as punch.'"

✆ "The biggest and most important issue in our community is the ever-escalating problem of vagrancy. We are overrun with vagrants, drifters, crazies, alcoholics, drug addicts and downright criminals. These people need to be sent back where they have come from. The vagrancy laws need to be enforced. A new look at traffic management is a must, also. Let's give the sidewalks back to the pedestrians, keep these rude bicycle riders off of them. Speaking of sidewalks, would someone please take responsibility for cleaning them? There are multiple sidewalks in the city that stink of human waste, especially around the 5th Street post office. There are tons of other problems, which I am sure other residents will cover."

✆ "We have the worst city council ever. They do not take care of the residents' needs. They shut down all the inexpensive stores and replaced them with high-priced shops you have to be a millionaire to buy things in. Also, the new businesses have become a bit snobby. I went in to the US Bank on Wilshire and 4th. I had five $100 bills and just wanted to get twenties. They said they could not exchange money for me unless I opened an account. What kind of treatment is this? The biggest problem, relating directly back to the city council, is the homeless. Something must be done about the vagrants in this community. I step in human feces all the time. Michael Feinstein is the worst man we have ever had on the city council and I hope they are all voted out."

✆ "First and foremost, federally, we must be prepared for the second coup this illegitimate regime will pull to stay in power and insist that John Kerry not wimp out like Al Gore did. On the local front, we need city representatives that serve actual residents, rather than a well-entrenched homeless group. College board members that are not rubber-stamped for Piedad Robinson, and school board members willing to cut Malibu loose ASAP."

✆ "The NDC needs to bring forth that the Republican administrations of past and present have run up national deficits well into trillions and trillions of dollars. I don't know why the Democrats don't bring this up more often and make that a serious issue in the campaign."

✆ "(President) Bush rushed the U.S., virtually alone, into a war with Iraq. He assured the U.N. and the country that Iraq had deadly weapons of mass destruction and immediate action was necessary. The U.N. did not find them and asked Bush to prove where they were. Well, Bush refused because he realized he did not know. The end result is many deaths and wounded and mass destruction of property and an ever-growing record U.S. national debt with no end in sight. His war mission is not 'accomplished.'"

✆ "What is bugging me is the Santa Monica election. Who gave the city council the right to medicate our water? Is it not the choice of every human being to choose whether or not they will be medicated through a public water supply? A choice like this should not belong to the government."

✆ "I would like elected officials to close the borders. I am tired of illegals bringing down our school systems and neighborhoods. Terrorists can get in the same way and it is dangerous and irresponsible. Companies that outsource jobs should also be fined."

✆ "I think the entire city council should be thrown off the pier for what they have done to this city. You can't go walking at night. You can't walk on the Promenade without a gas mask. They are dead weight, time to pack them up."

✆ "The homeless, homeless, homeless. Quit funding programs for the homeless who have no accountability. Have the laws against no feeding in the parks actually be enforced. Have the guy who feeds the homeless, who is not a resident of Santa Monica, take his homeless to a nice park in his neighborhood where kids like to play and feed them there. Also, the traffic here is ridiculous. I would also request that the city council meetings be held at a decent hour. Thank you to the Santa Monica Daily Press for investigating what goes on at these midnight meetings for residents who just cant attend."

✆ "The disgusting, ridiculous homeless problem should be first on any city council member's list. I guarantee any candidate running on an anti-homeless platform will win any position he is after by a virtual landslide. The bastards in office right now would have us all believe that we have some kind responsibility for vagrants, addicts, runaways from decent homes who just don't want to work and derelicts of society. I get up and go to work even though I don't want to, and I know for a fact there are jobs available in Santa Monica. Maybe they aren't the best jobs, but I don't want to support these idiots anymore. We need a city council who respects hard working residents and not bums."

If you've got the answers, Garver's got the questions



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Tired of those polls that don't ask the questions you want to ask? Suspicious of conflicting results of some surveys? During this lull between the two political conventions, I thought it would be a good time to take another Garver Poll on Presidential politics.

As usual, as opposed to real polls, there is no science involved and the answers should not be taken any more seriously than the questions. However, I promise that I will read all your responses, and I will post the results on this site. With a nod towards my boyhood Chicago, you may vote as many times as you want.

1. Would you rather have a president whose family is involved in:

A. _____ Big oil?
B. _____ Big ketchup?

2. Whatever happened to John Edwards? I thought he was going to be the dynamic campaigner who would be in the news every day. We've hardly heard from him since the convention. What do you think he's up to?

A. _____ He's at the "undisclosed location" with Dick Cheney?
B. _____ He's waiting to look older before he goes out in public again?

3. What would surprise you the most at the upcoming Republican convention?

A. _____ Colin Powell telling us what he really thinks?
B. _____ Dick Cheney saying, "Maybe there really aren't any Weapons of Mass Destruction over there?"
C. _____ George Bush performing a gay wedding at the opening ceremony?

4. What would you most like to see happen at the debates?

A. _____ President Bush insisting that Dick Cheney accompany him.
B. _____ The Bush twins debating Emma Claire and Jack Edwards.
C. _____ Either candidate actually answering any question.

5. Which is most confusing to you?

A. _____ The Electoral College?
B. _____ President Bush's position on stem cell research?
C. _____ Why both sides spend so much time talking about how they're not going to talk about Kerry's military career?
D. _____ Why Bill Clinton looks younger now than when he was president?

6. Which makes you angriest?

A. _____ That George Bush has a really rich father?
B. _____ That John Kerry has a really rich spouse?
C. _____ That you don't have a rich spouse or a rich father?

7. What annoys you the most about President Bush?

A. _____ The smirk?
B. _____ The way he pronounces "nuclear?"
C. _____ His perfect posture?

8. What annoys you the most about John Kerry?

A. _____ His speaking voice?
B. _____ His hair?
C. _____ His height?

9. How can anyone still be undecided? What do you think "the undecideds" are waiting for before making up their minds?

A. _____ They're hoping to finally find out where President Bush was when he was supposed to be with the National Guard?
B. _____ They're wondering if Kerry's going to say, "All right. I only deserved two Purple Hearts, not three?"
C. _____ If U.S. forces catch Osama Bin Laden, they want to know if Osama will say, "Bush is the man. The United States never would have found me if that war hero guy were president?"

10. What do you think would help get more young people to vote?

A. _____ Have the candidates dress hipper?
B. _____ Have the candidates rap their speeches?
C. _____ Have better candidates to choose from?

11. Even though it could never happen, in your wildest political fantasy which would you like to see occur?

A. _____ John Kerry accidentally slipping into perfect French as he addresses a campaign crowd in Ohio?
B. _____ An investigation revealing that Ralph Nader has been a crook all these years?
C._____ President Bush saying, "Let's not count any state whose governor happens to be related to one of the candidates?"
D. _____ Both sides being positive and refraining from bad-mouthing each other for the rest of the campaign?

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has 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.

Sony exec now singing quite a different tune

GOT IT MAID, from page 1

the jury found that Elizabeth and James Jackson will each pay $137,872.92 in punitive damages.

Those amounts will double by state statute, explained Ruiz's attorney, Dan Stormer.

"We're ecstatic," he said. "This is an important victory for Nena and an important victory for people who are exploited."

James Jackson is currently on leave as the vice president of legal affairs at Sony Pictures, according to a company spokeswoman. He appeared drained and stared forward as the jury announced its verdict.

Elizabeth Jackson, who like Ruiz is of Filipino descent, was not present in the courtroom.

The Jacksons' attorney, Jack Daniels, said he will ask Santa Monica Superior Court Judge James Bascue for a new trial in the next month. If denied, he will file for an appeal.

The jury agreed that the Jacksons were liable for each of the claims Ruiz filed in a 2003 lawsuit: Involuntary servitude, violation of the California Labor Code, false imprisonment and invasion of privacy, as well as fraud, assault and battery, and intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Ruiz's lawyers spent more than a week describing her year-long plight to jurors. They said she originally came to the United States in early 2001 to work as a traveling companion for Elizabeth Jackson's sick mother. A few days after arriving in the country, she was moved to the Jacksons' Culver City condominium, where she was forced to work more than 18 hours a day, seven days a week, and sleep on a dog bed in the living room.

Stormer said Ruiz was the victim of physical and emotional abuse and was afraid to approach local authorities because the Jacksons told her she'd face jail time for an expired visa.

"I don't have a passport," Ruiz said after the verdict. "I don't have money, and I don't know where to go. I'd just be crying in the street. I'd be locked up, and I didn't want that to happen to me."

The defense argued that Ruiz's accusations made little sense since the Jacksons had never retained a live-in maid before or after Ruiz's stay. Lawyers also claimed the Jacksons urged Ruiz to return to the Philippines with Elizabeth Jackson's mother a few months after they arrived in the United States, but she refused.

Daniels said his clients signed an affidavit of support when they initially applied for Ruiz's visa and allowed her to continue in their home after the visa expired.

They contend that her work as a maid slowly evolved, with the Jacksons providing her with room and board and $400 a month. They subtracted money from her monthly paycheck for phone calls she made and items they bought her.

Daniels also argued that there was no proof of the physical abuse Ruiz claims she endured, or of the mental anguish she says she suffered since leaving the Jacksons' home in early 2002.

Both sides called several witnesses during trial. A neighbor of the Jacksons testified Ruiz approached her in early 2002 to ask for help, while another neighbor told the jury she heard someone being physically abused from within the Jacksons' home.

Ruiz's attorneys also called an expert in human trafficking, who told the jury that most victims of the crime seek a better life or enhanced economic opportunities and are vulnerable to false promises.

The issue of human trafficking has garnered publicity in recent years. In 2001, the State Department issued a "Trafficking in Persons Report" in an effort to raise awareness of the crime. Congress has noted at least 700,000 people each year are brought across international borders.

According to the report, the problem is "in many ways a modern day form of slavery that has persisted into the 21st Century, (and) all acts of trafficking have a common thread — they occur by fraud, deception and coercion in all of these acts."

Figures released by the Los Angeles-based Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) show that a woman or child is trafficked into the United States every 10 minutes. Men also are trafficked into forced labor in agriculture, restaurants and other unregulated industries.

"It's a (triumph) for domestic workers in the U.S.," Ruiz said.

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LOCAL

Newspaper magnate Copley dies of pneumonia

BYE LINE, from page 1

looking up in 1982, the Funk and McClure families approved of the paper's sale and sold it back to Copley Press.

Copley merged some of the paper's business operations with its South Bay Daily Breeze in Redondo. As its circulation and ad income continued to decline, the company consolidated the paper with the Daily Breeze and the San Pedro News Pilot and changed its name from the Evening Outlook to The Outlook.

In 1995, The Outlook became a morning newspaper. On March 14, 1998, with its circulation down to just 23,000, it folded. In its heyday during the 1970s, the paper was published three times daily and had a circulation of more than 35,000.

Copley played a distant role in The Outlook, leaving direct operations to local publisher Thomas J. Wafer Jr. Some former employees blame Copley Press for the paper's demise, citing poor business decisions that destroyed the paper's ability to be a local independent.

Copley, whose net worth was estimated at $960 million by Forbes magazine last year, retired in 2001 and turned over Copley Press to her son, David C. Copley. The family company owns nine daily newspapers and other publications in California, Illinois and Ohio.

In addition to her son David of San Diego, Copley's survivors include a sister, Mary Frances Davison of Santa Maria, and a brother, Frank E. Kinney of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She also has two stepchildren from her husband's first marriage, Michael Copley of San Diego and Janice Obre of New York City.

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Guzzling without guilt: Company defends SUVs

GAS GUZZLE, from page 1

pack drivers into cars like clowns at the circus.

Ron Defore, an owner of Stratcomm who acts as a spokesman for SUVOA, said the federal data unfairly grouped older SUVs with newer, safer models.

"Unfortunately you even have people at NHTSA now who are anti-SUV," said Defore, who served as NHTSA director of public and consumer affairs in the mid-1980s. "You can cut the data any way you want."

The California Air Resources Board is scheduled to vote Sept. 23 on rules that would limit greenhouse gases from vehicles beginning in 2009.

The rules call for smaller engines, improved air conditioning and other technological changes to cut emissions by 25 percent for cars and light trucks, and about 18 percent for larger trucks and SUVs.

Defore said studies by the insurance industry have shown that smaller cars fare worse in accidents than SUVs, and past trends toward smaller vehicles have caused up to 50,000 traffic deaths — "about as many people as we lost in the Vietnam War."

Environmentalists derided SUVOA as a phony grassroots, or "AstroTurf," organization.

"Clearly SUVOA is an industry front group," said Roland Hwang, vehicles policy director the Natural Resources Defense Council. "They pay AstroTurf groups to make claims that they're too embarrassed to make themselves. This group is clearly fact-challenged."

Defore said the group has 23,000 supporters and raises money from donations and banner ads on its Web site. His company, Stratcomm, counts Daimler Chrysler, Ford Motor Co., General Motors and auto industry trade groups among its clients.

Regulators estimated the state's new clean air proposals would initially add about $292 to the cost of a car or small truck, and $308 to the cost of a large pickup or SUV.

Several other states and Canada are expected to adopt the emissions rules.

With California making up about 10 percent of the national auto market, that could lead automakers to voluntarily reduce the size of their vehicles.

The air board is legally forbidden from forcing automakers to downsize or eliminate models, said Jerry Martin, a spokesman for the agency.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers has said it may challenge the 2002 law that led to the regulations, warning that consumers may balk at the price increases.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has expressed support for the law and pledged to fight any lawsuits brought by automakers.

A July poll by the Public Policy Institute of California showed 81 percent of Californians supported requiring automakers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The move could also ease health problems associated with smog, including asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and heart attacks, Martin said.

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STATE

Marine won: Plans to create reserves off coast revived

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — State wildlife officials announced plans Friday to revive a stalled program that would create a string of marine reserves along California's 1,100-mile coast and could serve as a model for protecting ocean habitat.

The state's decision to restart planning for a network of restricted fishing zones, mandated by the state Marine Life Protection Act of 1999, comes eight months after the initiative was shelved due to the state's budget woes.

To fund the program's first-year activities, state agencies have secured $2 million from private donors, led by the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation in Sacramento, in addition to $500,000 of state funding.

"We're leveraging public money with private money," said state Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, reached by phone Friday from a Fish and Game Commission meeting in Morro Bay. "This governor is committed to protecting and restoring these oceans, particularly in California."

Marine reserves represent a new approach to marine conservation. Rather than protecting individual fish species, reserves seek to protect entire marine ecosystems. The 2003 Pew Oceans Commission report and this year's U.S. Ocean Policy Commission report both endorsed such reserves as the best way to restore fish species depleted by overfishing, pollution and other human activities.

While environmentalists are enthusiastic about marine reserves, many commercial and recreational fishermen oppose them, arguing that their effectiveness hasn't been scientifically proved and enforcement would be problematic.

"We don't know that they're going to work. I think there needs to be more studies done," said Bob Strickland, president of the United Anglers of California. "I don't like the idea that they're getting money from outside sources who have an agenda."

California already has a number of protected marine areas created over the years, but many of the zones have conflicting boundaries and restrictions. The new initiative is an effort to develop a more systematic, statewide approach to protecting coastal habitat, Chrisman said.

State officials on Friday announced the creation of a blue ribbon task force, chaired by former Assemblyman Phil Isenberg, that will oversee planning and solicit views from fishermen, environmentalists, recreation groups and other stakeholders. The task force, along with a scientific advisory board, will draw up a new set of reserves.

A draft plan for marine reserves along the Central Coast from San Francisco to Morro Bay is due in 2006, and a statewide plan is expected by 2011, officials said.

The marine reserves would only cover state waters, which extend three miles from the coast. While the extent of the reserves hasn't been determined, some experts estimate that 10 percent to 20 percent of the coast could be off-limits to fishing.

While fishing will be prohibited in some reserves, others may be open for scientific collection or recreational fishing, according to DFG Deputy Director Mike Wintemute.

"The idea is to create protection for ecosystems that will benefit all the species that live within those ecosystems," Wintemute said. "This is the direction that the world is moving in."

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STATE

Tycoons, celebs lead fight for stem cell research

BY PAUL ELIAS
AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Silicon Valley tycoons, Nobel laureates and Hollywood celebrities are backing a measure on California's Nov. 2 ballot to devote $3 billion to human embryonic stem cell experiments in what would be the biggest ever state-supported scientific research program in the country.

The measure — designed to get around the Bush administration's restrictions on the funding of such research — would put California at the very forefront of the field. It would dwarf all current stem cell projects in the United States, whether privately or publicly financed.

Proposition 71 promises to be one of the most contentious election issues in California, pitting scientists, sympathetic patients who could benefit from stem cells and biotechnology interests against the Roman Catholic Church and conservatives opposed to the research because it involves destroying days-old embryos and cloning.

What's more, cell research has emerged as a major campaign issue between President Bush and John Kerry, who promises if elected to reverse Bush's 2001 policy restricting federal funding of such experiments to only those cell lines already in existence.

The measure would authorize the state to sell $3 billion in bonds and then dispense nearly $300 million a year for 10 years to researchers for human embryonic stem cell experiments, including cloning projects intended solely for research purposes. It bans the funding of cloning to create babies.

The amount of money involved far exceeds the $25 million the federal government doled out last year for such research and surpassed even Kerry's promise to expand funding to $100 million annually.

Many scientists believe stem cells hold vast promise for treating an array of diseases from diabetes to Parkinson's. Stem cells can potentially grow into any type of human tissue and scientists hope to be able to direct the blank cells to grow into specific cell types needed for transplant.

Stem cells are harvested from embryos, which are destroyed in the process. They were first discovered in 1997 and even the research's most enthusiastic supporters acknowledge that medicines created with stem cells are still many years away.

Some 22 Nobel laureates and many other scientists support Proposition 71 as a way to get around the Bush administration restrictions. They complain that the political climate has brought the field to a virtual standstill in the United States.

Many expect Proposition 71 to instantly breathe new life into the field while also boosting California's biotechnology industry.

"Stem cell-based therapies have the potential to alleviate suffering for millions of Americans," said Leonard Zon, president of the International Society for Stem Cell Research. "If this proposition is accepted, it will place California at the forefront of stem cell research and therapies."

The vote could be close: An independent poll released Aug. 15 found that 45 percent of likely voters questioned were in favor of the measure, 42 percent were opposed and 13 percent undecided.

The pro-Proposition 71 side has raised far more money than the anti camp: more than $10 million versus just $15,000, according to campaign finance records filed this week.

Among those bankrolling the measure is Bill Gates, who contributed $400,000 on Monday. Silicon Valley tycoons such as Google investor John Doerr and eBay founder Pierre Omidyar have donated millions.

Real estate developer Robert Klein II has donated $2 million. Klein's son suffers from juvenile diabetes.

Several prominent Republicans have also endorsed the research, most notably former first lady Nancy Reagan. Also, millionaire developer Thomas Coleman, a regular contributor to GOP candidates, has donated $378,000. Coleman's daughter has diabetes.

The measure has also been endorsed by actors Michael J. Fox, who has Parkinson's, and Christopher Reeve, who was paralyzed in a riding accident.

Opponents of Proposition 71 concede they will be fortunate if they raise $1 million by November. They said they will have to wage a small-scale campaign even as the pro-Proposition 71 side prepares to open a TV advertising blitz.

"This is something that was put on the ballot by venture capitalists and people who stand to benefit," said opposition campaign manager Wayne Johnson. "The more voters find out about this measure, the more they'll turn against it."

State budget hawks, including the California Republican Party, oppose the measure because it would sink the state deeper into debt.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has not taken a position on Proposition 71, and many predict he will not do so. Schwarzenegger has said he supports human embryonic stem cell research, but he has also vowed to stop California's slide into debt.

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Man accused of starting wildfire charged

By The Associated Press

REDDING — A man was charged with felony arson for allegedly disregarding the risk of wildfire while using a riding lawn mower to cut dry grass on a hot day. Sparks from the mower burned 11,000 acres and destroyed 86 homes.

William Matthew Rupp, 44, is scheduled to be arraigned Monday on two felony arson charges. He faces a maximum of six years in prison if convicted. District Attorney Jerry Benito also said he would consider seeking restitution.

The fire broke out Aug. 11 and quickly spread through the pine and oak-covered hills south of Shasta Lake, about 140 miles northwest of Sacramento. Officials had estimated firefighting costs would top $1.8 million.

Benito said Rupp knew it was risky to mow dry grass on a day when temperatures topped 100 degrees.

"He was aware of the danger, but consciously disregarded that risk," Benito said. "This was a devastating fire to a lot of people that did not need to occur. If not for his reckless behavior, we would not be talking about this."

The Sacramento Bee on Friday reported Rupp's wife denied her husband had been reckless. "It wasn't like that at all," Tina Rupp said, referring questions to a brother-in-law, Virgil White.

White told the newspaper a county employee had come to Rupp's property and that Rupp had stopped the mower and gotten off to speak with her about a citation she was preparing to give him for trash a previous tenant had left.

White said both the county employee and Rupp noticed smoke coming from a patch of grass, and unsuccessfully tried to stomp it out.

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Reality bites: State worst in U.S. for West Nile

BY BEN FOX
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — California surpassed Arizona on Friday as the state with the most human cases of West Nile virus.

Tests have confirmed the virus in 343 people in California, an increase of nearly 38 percent from a week earlier, the state Department of Health Services reported.

The mosquito-borne illness so far this year has killed 10 people in California, more than any other state in the nation. Arizona has reported four deaths, second in the nation.

The actual number of people infected in California is likely much higher than reported, said Vicki Kramer of the state Department of Health Services.

About 15 to 20 percent of those infected show flu-like symptoms that often aren't diagnosed as West Nile virus or reported to authorities, she said.

"There are certainly many more cases of the milder form of West Nile virus that are occurring in California than are being reported to state and local officials," said Kramer, chief of the department's vector-borne disease section.

Many of those infected with the milder form, known as West Nile fever, may get better without seeking medical treatment. Symptoms include high temperature, headache, fatigue, aches and sometimes rash.

It lasts from a few days to several weeks, even for healthy people, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Most people infected in California are in the southern part of the state, — with the majority in San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Riverside counties. But there have been a handful in the northern and central regions.

San Diego, the most southern county in the state, reported its first case on Friday.

But there was a chance the unidentified patient — a man in his 50s who remained hospitalized — was bitten by an infected mosquito in Long Beach, about 100 miles to the north, where he also has a home.

"We knew at some point we would get a case because all the other surrounding counties have already had not only those people who've been infected but have had deaths," said Dr. Wilma Wooten, San Diego County's deputy public health officer.

Human cases are increasing rapidly in California, which reported a total of 249 on Aug. 20.

Arizona, the only state where authorities had declared an epidemic because of the virus, reported 309 cases as of Friday. That state is due to update its numbers on Monday, but the outbreak appears to be slowing there, officials said.

Arizona has a population of 5.5 million, compared to more than 35 million in California.

About 80 percent of those bitten by an infected mosquito show no symptoms.

West Nile experts said that roughly one in 100 people bitten by an infected mosquito develops the more severe neuroinvasive form of the virus, which attacks the nervous system.

It can result in such serious ailments as encephalitis, inflammation of the brain and meningitis, an inflammation of the membrane around the brain and the spinal cord.

All the deaths in California this year have been as a result of this form of the virus.

Students fighting for right to register to vote in college towns

BY MARTHA IRVINE
AP National Writer

CHICAGO — Young Han tried to register to vote in the New York town where he attends college but got a letter telling him to cast an absentee ballot where his parents live, more than 2,000 miles away. In Virginia, Luther Lowe and Serene Alami were told much the same — their campus addresses at the College of William & Mary were deemed "temporary."

With so much emphasis on getting young people to the polls this election, the issue of where college students can register to vote is getting more attention. And some students — who believe they should have the right to vote where they live most of the year — are getting organized.

"We plan to push this issue," says Han, a 21-year old junior at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., who's originally from a Seattle suburb. "Students are being disenfranchised."

Han spent the summer interning in Washington, D.C., where he met Lowe and other students who share his cause. They formed the grass-roots Student Voting Rights Campaign.

Now the group is calling for a "day of action" on Sept. 23, urging students to register en masse — even if they meet with resistance.

Students in some states will find they have no problem, say researchers at the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement at Salisbury University in Maryland. They've found that, in recent years, more states have loosened voting restrictions on college students.

But there are always exceptions, especially in smaller towns.

"Local politicians are very unsure about students," says Michael O'Loughlin, a political science professor at Salisbury. "They enjoy having students pay (sales) taxes and contribute to the economy. But they are wary of how students could influence politics at a local level."

Ultimately, O'Loughlin and fellow researchers have found that students who attend college in states that force or "encourage" them to vote absentee are less likely to vote.

David Andrews, general voter registrar in Williamsburg, Va., says that's why he goes out of his way to help William & Mary students navigate the absentee process. He says he assisted about 2,000 vote absentee in the 2002 election.

But Virginia laws — "rules that apply to everyone," he says — make it unlikely that he'll let students register in his town.

At issue, he says, is the fact that dorms are considered temporary addresses, "like a hotel room or a time share." So when he gets a voter registration form with a campus address on it, he poses more questions to the applicant: What is the address on your driver's license? Where is your car registered?

If Williamsburg isn't the answer, the student probably won't be allowed to register there.

Some William & Mary students think that's unfair. They've filed a federal lawsuit demanding the right to vote in their college town and to run for city council.

They say students deserve to have a voice in local issues that directly affect them — housing ordinances, for instance.

"It makes no sense for me to vote in a city election where my parents live," says Lowe, a 22-year-old senior who is represented in the lawsuit. "I live in Williamsburg nine months out of the year."

There have been students who've overcome voting registration barriers.

Students at Prairie View A&M University in Texas won the right to vote in their county after settling a lawsuit of their own.

And in Oneida County, N.Y., attention brought by Han and other students at Hamilton College prompted officials there to stop sending out letters that told students to vote absentee. Han plans to register there when he returns for fall term.

Meanwhile, some students are challenging colleges and universities to provide ample voter registration materials to students — something federal law requires them to do.

Still others, including 20-year-old Eric Krassoi Peach, are working with such organizations as Rock the Vote.

The sophomore at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., has a goal of registering 1,000 students at his tiny school.

"That's a serious voting block," says Krassoi Peach, founder of Hendrix Community of Informed Voters, which distributes registration and candidate information to students.

Still others plan to vote absentee. They include 19-year-old Caitlin Davis, who attends Georgetown University but prefers to vote in her home state, California.

Davis — spokeswoman and resident "blogger" for the Web site "Register and Vote 2004" — says her main goal is to get people her age to vote, one way or another.

"A lot of people," she says, "are unaware of just how easy it is."

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NATIONAL

Immigrant deaths down along deserts of Arizona

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — Exposure deaths in what has been a particularly deadly section of Arizona's deserts have dropped 24 percent because of a massive crackdown this summer on illegal immigration, the head of the U.S. Border Patrol said Friday.

Border Patrol Chief David Aguilar, in Tucson for a ceremony, said he's pleased with results from the government's effort to make it harder for illegal immigrants to cross into Arizona — the busiest illegal entry point along the U.S.-Mexico border — and to prevent the deaths that have become commonplace in its deserts.

Exposure-related deaths have dipped 24 percent to 33 so far during this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, in an area west of Tucson that has claimed many lives in recent years.

There were 43 exposure-related deaths in the same area during the same period last year, said Rob Griffin, a spokesman for the patrol's Tucson sector, which covers all of Arizona except an area around Yuma.

Overall, agents have recorded 101 immigrant deaths in the sector so far, down from 124 during the same period last year, Griffin said.

Border Patrol officials have said they believe fewer people are dying because the increased enforcement is discouraging migrants from attempting to cross through the sector. They say having more agents patrolling, including those trained in emergency medicine, also has helped them find more people in distress.

But the Rev. Robin Hoover, founder of Humane Borders, a group that sets out water in the desert for border crossers, noted the overall death toll is almost the same.

"Migrants are still dying at the same rate," Hoover said. "And our primary issue is migrant safety."

Hoover said there have been fewer days with temperatures above 100 degrees. "We're always a little bit suspicious of Border Patrol stats, because they can frequently be explained by other means."

Arizona's other sector, which covers the Yuma area, has reported a sharp increase in deaths this year. There have been 21 so far, up from 12 last year, Yuma sector spokesman Joe Brigman said.

Deaths have dipped in some other sectors along the border.

As far as the overall crackdown, Aguilar said he's pleased with the use of unmanned aerial drones as part of a pilot program to monitor illegal activity along the Arizona-Mexico border, as well as a program to fly illegal immigrants caught in Arizona back to the Mexican interior.

The latter plan was designed to curb repeated crossing attempts by the same people by separating them from paid smugglers along the border.

Both programs and the crackdown officially will end when the fiscal year ends Sept. 30, but Aguilar said the best features of the crackdown will continue.

Aguilar said the unmanned aircraft will be evaluated after Sept. 30, with recommendations whether to continue its use.

The aircraft also will be tested this fall along the Canadian border.

"At this point in time I think the responsible thing to do is to continue with the pilot program," Aguilar said. "It is but one component of the approach that we need to take to the border.

"It is not going to replace our manned helicopters. It is not going to replace the agent on the ground. It is going to augment those capabilities. So it's critically important that we continue this test," he said.

Norton announces grants to protect national wildlife

BY STEVEN K. PAULSON
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced $16 million in grants this week to protect wildlife in 42 states, saying government works best when it works with local officials.

The grants will support 150 projects to conserve threatened species.

"Our best conservation efforts are those that have involved people from local communities," Norton said at a meeting with conservation groups in Denver to announce the grants.

Colorado's director of natural resources, Russ George, said the new cooperative conservation efforts with local governments and groups will carry on in the new millennium.

"It's not just the federal government's job," George said.

About $2.4 million will support private efforts to control invasive species that are a threat to ecosystems and wildlife.

The grants include $7 million to support projects started by private landowners and groups in 39 states. Recipients must contribute at least 10 percent in local funds or in-kind contributions. The money will be used to protect species ranging from the bog turtle in the eastern United States to an endangered forest bird in Hawaii.

In Oregon, a $53,000 grant is going to the McKenzie River Trust to restore 200 acres of oak, mixed conifer and forest habitat to benefit the Columbia white-tailed deer, while in Louisiana, $65,800 will go to the Black Bear Conservation Committee to work with landowners to protect the Louisiana black bear.

Another $3 million is being awarded to Indian tribes through the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program for 25 projects, including $99,583 to the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona to study the threatened Mexican spotted owl.

The Tribal Wildlife Grant will provide $6 million for 28 projects to help fish and wildlife. In Maine, $105,869 will go to the Passamaquoddy Tribe to restore native sea-run fish in the Little River and Boyden Lake, while the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma will get $250,000 to establish an eagle rehabilitation program.

Projects in Colorado include $126,005 for the Stollsteimer Creek Restoration Project for the Southern Ute tribe to repair riverbank erosion, $17,570 for the Lasater Ranch project to establish a black-tailed prairie dog colony, and $114,675 in a joint project with South Dakota groups to restore short grass range.

NATIONAL

Greenspan warns of some painful choices ahead

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

JACKSON, Wyo. — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Friday the country will face "abrupt and painful" choices unless Congress acts quickly to trim Social Security and Medicare benefits for the baby boom generation. He said the government has promised more than it can deliver.

Returning to a politically explosive issue just before the Republican National Convention, Greenspan said the country must face up to "some tough policy choices."

Government resources even under the most optimistic economic assumptions on growth and productivity will be inadequate to provide baby boomers with the level of benefits their parents got, he said.

Speaking at a two-day conference sponsored by the Kansas City Federal Reserve on challenges posed by an aging population, Greenspan said policy-makers must address the looming crisis in Social Security and Medicare before the first wave of 77 million U.S. baby boomers begin retiring later this decade.

"We owe it to our retirees to promise only the benefits that can be delivered," he said. "If we have promised more than our economy has the ability to deliver ... as I fear we may have, we must recalibrate our public programs so that pending retirees have time to adjust through other channels."

And he warned, "If we delay, the adjustments could be abrupt and painful."

"Curbing benefits once bestowed has proved difficult in the past," he noted, so the government must be careful about enacting any new benefits. Congress last year, at President Bush's urging, passed a new prescription drug benefit expected to cost more than $540 billion in the next 10 years.

The 78-year-old Greenspan, recently confirmed for a fifth term as Fed chairman, suggested one possible fix would be to increase the retirement age for receiving full benefits. It is already scheduled to rise from 65 to 67. Greenspan has suggested that the retirement age be continually adjusted to reflect ever-rising life expectancies. He has also proposed trimming the annual cost-of-living adjustment retirees receive because the current Consumer Price Index overstates inflation.

Greenspan has long been concerned about the benefits programs for the elderly. Back in 1983, he chaired a commission that rescued Social Security during an earlier funding crisis.

And starting last February, he has delivered a series of warnings about the looming crisis in Social Security and Medicare, which along with soaring budget deficits are likely to be the biggest economic challenges in the next four years.

However, the government's two largest entitlement programs have received little attention in the presidential race because neither Bush nor his Democratic challenger, John Kerry, wants to dwell on financing problems that present painful choices.

Bush favors giving younger workers the option of putting part of their payroll tax into personal retirement accounts. Kerry opposes the plan for partial privatization.

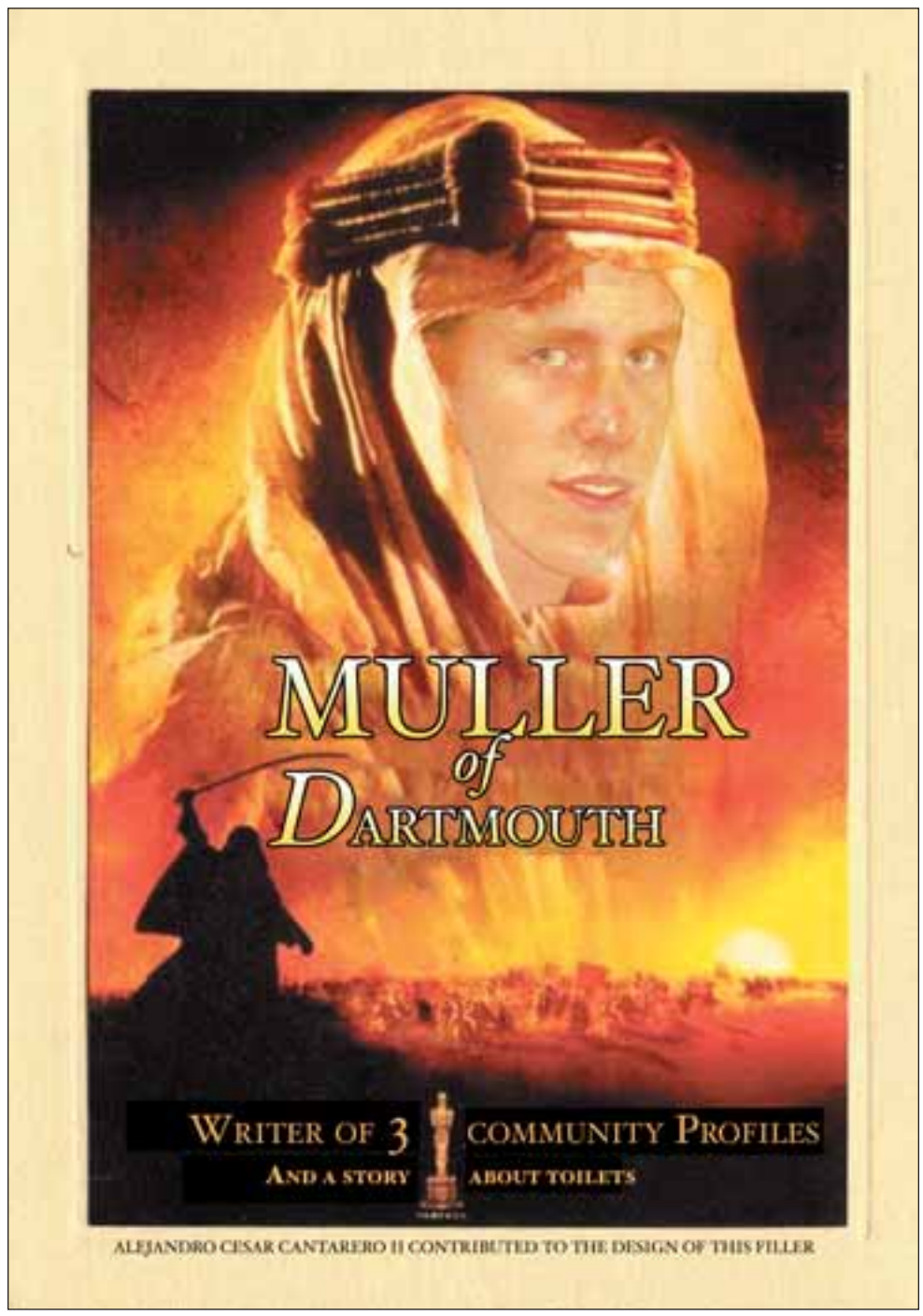
In the firestorm that erupted over Greenspan's earlier comments about trimming benefits for baby boomers, Kerry rejected the idea of cutting benefits while Bush said benefits "should not be changed for people who are at or near retirement."

"If we have promised more than our economy has the ability to deliver ... as I fear we may have, we must recalibrate our public programs so that pending retirees have time to adjust through other channels."

– ALAN GREENSPAN
Federal Reserve Chairman

Other speakers at the conference echoed Greenspan's comments about the difficult choices aging populations pose for government policy-makers.

While the United States, Europe and Japan are seen as facing the biggest difficulty financing baby boomer retirements, International Monetary Fund Deputy Managing Director Anne Krueger said developing countries will also face problems with aging populations. She said countries such as India and Brazil must "take remedial action now to establish much sounder fiscal positions" to cope with rising pension costs.



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NATIONAL

Fire crews hit the bricks after fire south of Reno appears to be contained

BY TOM GARDNER
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Fire crews were headed home or being reassigned on Friday as a wildland blaze south of Reno neared containment just two days after it seemed unstoppable.

The blaze, which burned 2,692 acres and six homes on Wednesday, was 85 percent contained. At its height, it was attacked by 555 firefighters and an aerial assault from 14 tankers and seven helicopters.

The tankers and helicopters were gone on Thursday and the forces were down to 390 by Friday.

Washoe County officials have declared a state of emergency for the area, making the county eligible for federal and state funding to help people who suffered losses as a result of the fire.

Reno Fire Marshal Larry Farr said the fire was sparked by a man who was target shooting when a bullet ricocheted off a rock. He said the man was in an area where it was legal to shoot. While criminal charges were unlikely, the man could face civil lawsuits for damages from people whose homes were lost or damaged.

In addition to the six homes that burned, Farr said at least seven outbuildings and 22 vehicles were destroyed.

Local, state and federal officials said they would consider tightening restrictions on target shooting in light of the prolonged drought, which has turned vegetation brown in this desert state.

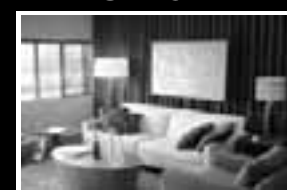
As crews continued to mop up the Andrew fire on Friday, last month's Waterfall fire in Carson City was declared a federal disaster area, freeing $10.9 million in government money to supplement state and local funds in repairing or replacing facilities that were lost or damaged there.

It also makes money available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency for hazard mitigation in the burn area west of Carson City including seeding, construction of sediment basins and barriers and installation of a system to warn officials of any high water runoff.

That fire blackened 8,700 acres and burned 15 homes. It's expected to cost $6.4 million to rehabilitate the huge area.

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NATIONAL

Officials take aim at target shooters after wildfire

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Local, state and federal fire officials may take aim at target shooters for the first time after a man with a rifle admitted he started a wildfire that destroyed six houses south of Reno.

Officials said gun enthusiasts who have been free to target practice in Nevada could be restricted to designated sites because of the intense fire danger created by drought and heat.

"I think it's something we need to look at," Reno Fire Marshal Larry Farr said. "These fires started by target shooting are not all that uncommon, especially when we're in the third or fourth year of a drought and there's low humidity."

Nevada State Forester Pete Anderson said target shooting is among outdoor activities that will be discussed when officials consider a new round of fire restrictions for this gun-friendly state.

He said the fire danger is so extreme that backpackers now are forbidden to use cookstoves in California's Tahoe National Forest near Lake Tahoe _ the first such ban he's aware of.

"Any activity that has the potential to ignite a fire should be considered as part of restrictions," Anderson said. "The conditions in the field warrant that level of restrictions."

Wednesday's nearly 2,700-acre fire south of Reno was sparked by a man who was target shooting when a bullet ricocheted off a rock, Farr said.

No citation was immediately issued, but Farr said the man is liable for firefighting costs and could face civil lawsuits from people whose homes were destroyed or damaged.

It was the most recent in a series of wildfires that have been blamed on target shooters in recent years, including a 2001 blaze that prompted the evacuation of 60 homes and a hospital in Susanville, Calif., 90 miles north of Reno.

Shooters also were accused of starting a July wildfire that destroyed four mobile homes and 14 outbuildings 90 miles east of Los Angeles, and one of last fall's devastating wildfires across Southern California that scorched more than 750,000 acres, destroyed 3,650 homes and killed 24 people.

The U.S. Forest Service has prohibited shooting in all but three designated ranges in California's San Bernardino forest, and could extend restrictions to Nevada, said Bob Vaught, supervisor of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

"I do think as the danger increases in drought this is something we do need to consider," Vaught said. "All it takes is one spark ... The fire danger is extreme."

No special shooting restrictions are planned at this time on the Bureau of Land Management's 48 million acres in Nevada, spokesman Richard Brown said.

Gerald Lent of the Nevada Hunters Association said he wouldn't object to restrictions on shooters as long as they're not unfairly singled out.

"If you're going to close the area to target shooters, you need to close it to backpacking and motor homes and everybody else," he said. "There are irresponsible target shooters. But those other people can start fires, too."

Lent said most shooters fire into safe backgrounds where bullets can't ricochet, and very few wildfires are set by shooters.

Statistics compiled by the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho provides no breakdown for wildfires caused by shooters, spokeswoman Toni Rohm said.


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Bank robbery suspect nabbed in Wyoming

By The Associated Press

PORTLAND, ORE. — A woman accused of robbing banks in five Western states has been arrested a second time after she was spotted driving with a male companion on a freeway in Wyoming, the FBI said Friday.

Ericka Lynne Heald, 28, was taken into custody without incident on Thursday after two sheriff's deputies in Uinta County, Wyo., saw her attempt to hide her face while they passed her vehicle on Interstate 80, according to FBI spokeswoman Beth Anne Steele in Portland.

The senior deputy and a deputy in training slowed their vehicle to about 45 mph after passing a minivan driven by Heald but she also slowed. The deputies pulled over to check the minivan license plate and determined it had been stolen before pursuing Heald, Steele said.

After stopping for deputies, Heald and her male passenger kissed before they responded to orders to get out of the vehicle, Steele said.

Heald was first arrested March 31 in Idaho. A federal grand jury in Oregon indicted her in April on charges involving three Oregon bank robberies in Salem. But she was released pending trial and soon was identified as a suspect in other bank robberies in Utah, Nevada and California, according to the FBI.

Heald already was a suspect in a bank robbery in Vancouver, Wash., before her arrest in Idaho, Steele said.

Devon Whipple, 22, was arrested with Heald on Thursday. He was charged with possession of stolen property.

A hearing was set for 2 p.m. Monday for Heald before a federal judge in Green River, Wyo.

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NATIONAL

Damn Republicans: GOP compared to Yankees

BY FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — On national political maps, Republicans are red and Democrats are blue, but when it comes to the national pastime the parties switch colors.

Democrats more nearly mirror the Boston Red Sox and Republicans the dark blue-pinstriped New York Yankees — a link playing out with the GOP holding its convention in New York next week after the Democrats held theirs in Boston.

Like Boston, New York is an overwhelmingly Democratic city, but the Yankees have historically reflected New York's richer, Republican residents. This dates back to an era when three baseball franchises played in the city, and the Brooklyn Dodgers were the workingman's team.

In fact, many Dodgers fans switched allegiance to the Red Sox after the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles, rather than embrace the haughty Yankees.

The Yankees embody values of the Republican Party — wealth, entrepreneurship. The team remains the richest in baseball, just as the GOP maintains its dominant financial position in American politics. The Yankees resist revenue-sharing aimed at helping poorer teams, just as the Republican Party fights economic policies aimed at redistributing wealth.

And the Yankees are successful — winning American League pennants in five of the last six years, just as the GOP has won four of the last six presidential elections. The team's most visible fan is one of the nation's leading Republicans: former Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

The Red Sox, like the Democrats, seem more vulnerable. Last year's crushing loss in the American League Championship Series resembled the Democrats' loss in the last presidential race — narrowly missing a prize that many felt should have been theirs.

The Red Sox were five outs away from winning the decisive seventh game of the series, only to lose the game in extra innings; Democrat Al Gore lost the presidential election despite getting more votes than George W. Bush, in an election that took weeks to sort out.

As Jay Leno put it before this year's Democratic National Convention, "You know Boston is a perfect city for Democrats because the Democrats are like the Red Sox: They're optimistic in the spring, concerned in the summer, ready to choke in the fall."

This trend goes back years. In 1978, the Red Sox blew a 14-game lead to the Yankees, who went on to win the World Series. A decade later, Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis lost a 17-point lead in the polls to George H.W. Bush, who went on to win the White House. Dukakis, a lifelong Red Sox fan, calls the Yankees baseball's Republicans.

"The Yankees got money, lots of it," he said in an interview. "And you know, they're out there, and they always do their thing, and nine times out of ten they win ... whereas the Red Sox are scrappers and battlers, they've got to live off the land. The Yankees are the establishment."

By a scheduling quirk, the Yankees and Red Sox faced off at Fenway Park on the eve of the Democratic convention, prompting John Kerry to divert his plane from the campaign trail to Boston to attend the nationally televised game, where he threw out the first ball.

"The idea of missing a Yankees-Red Sox series right before a convention week was not acceptable," the Sox fan said.

Some Democrats try to demonize the Yankees and Republicans into one giant, evil political-sports entity. "You've got to be a Democrat to love the Red Sox, because they're the workingman's team," said Paul Begala, the liberal co-host of CNN's "Crossfire." "They're in there every year. You know, the Yankees are like General Motors, ... like Halliburton, and the Red Sox are like the rest of America."

The idea that the Red Sox are working-class scrappers is part of the team's ancient mythology. Of course it's a distortion. The team has the sport's second-highest payroll (after the Yankees) and were sold for a record $660 million in 2001.

If anything, that makes the comparison to the Democratic Party even more apt. The Democrats years ago became almost as adept at raising money as their Republican counterparts.

Speaking of money, is it a coincidence that the Yankees owner, George Steinbrenner, has contributed to President Bush in this election, while the Red Sox chairman, Tom Werner, has given to Kerry? Yankees shortstop Alex Rodriguez also contributed to Bush. With an annual salary averaging $25 million, he's got a financial incentive in preserving Bush's tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, which Kerry promises to eliminate.

Republican Yankees fans, less obsessed about the rivalry than Democratic Red Sox fans, don't play up the connection as much. Success will give you that kind of graciousness.

"I don't care if the guy sitting next to me is a Democrat or Ralph Nader guy," says former Bush press secretary Ari Fleischer, a lifelong Yankees fan. "If he's cheering for the Yankees, he's one of my guys."



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NATIONAL

Terrorism to blame for at least one plane crash

BY JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — One of two Russian airliners that crashed nearly simultaneously was brought down by a terrorist act, officials said Friday, after finding traces of explosives in the plane's wreckage. An Islamic militant group claimed responsibility for the attack in a Web statement.

The planes, with 90 people aboard, went down within 20 minutes of each other Tuesday night. In Washington, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said there was "mounting evidence" that both crashes "were acts of terrorism."

Traces of the explosive hexogen were found in the remains of one of the planes, a Tu-154, security service spokesman Nikolai Zakharov said. No results from the investigation of the other crashed plane, a Tu-134, have been announced.

"According to preliminary information, at least one of the air crashes ... has been the result of a terrorist act," a spokesman for the Federal Security Service, Sergei Ignatchenko, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

The Tu-154 was carrying 46 people when it crashed en route to the Black Sea resort of Sochi. The other flight had 44 people aboard, heading to the southern city of Volgograd, when it went down.

NATO's chief blamed terrorism for both crashes.

"I condemn in the strongest possible terms the apparent act of barbaric terrorism ... resulting in the crash of two Russian passenger aircraft, and the senseless loss of innocent lives," NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, said Friday.

Hexogen, the explosive found in the Tu-154, is the material that Russian officials said was used in the 1999 apartment bombings that killed some 300 people in Russia, an attack blamed on Chechen separatists.

Despite the suspicious timing of the crashes and the fact they took place five days before an election in Chechnya opposed by separatists, Russian officials had kept open the possibility they were caused by bad fuel or human error.

A Web site connected to Islamic militants published a statement on Friday — signed the "Islambouli Brigades" — claiming responsibility for the crashes. The statement's authenticity could not immediately be confirmed.

The statement said five "mujahedeen" — holy fighters — were aboard each plane. It said the two planes were downed as part of a series of operations "to extend support and victory to our Muslim brothers in Chechnya and other Muslim areas which suffer from Russian faithlessness."

The Federal Security Service declined to comment on the statement.

Russian officials have contended that the rebels fighting Russian forces in Chechnya for nearly five years receive help from foreign terrorist organizations, including al-Qaida.

Friday's claim did not refer to al-Qaida, but a group called "the Islambouli Brigades of al-Qaida" claimed responsibility for last month's attempt to assassinate Pakistan's prime minister-designate.

Lt. Khaled Islambouli was the leader of the group of soldiers who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Cairo in 1981.

Russian officials said they were investigating two female passengers with Chechen names. The two were the only passengers whose relatives did not contact authorities, officials said.

Paul Duffy, a Moscow-based aviation expert, told Associated Press Television that he found it "hard to believe" that five attackers were aboard each plane, "but there is no doubt that they had one at least on each aircraft."

Both planes took off from Moscow's Domodedovo airport, one of Russia's most modern and sophisticated. It was not immediately clear how airport security systems could be circumvented to smuggle in explosives.

Although Friday's developments raised security concerns for the airlines that crisscross the sprawling country, Russia did not order a halt to air traffic, as the United States did after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Chechens on Sunday are to vote for the republic's president, to replace Kremlin-backed Chechen president Akhmad Kadyrov, who was assassinated in a May 9 bomb attack.

Officials had warned that Chechen separatists might try to carry out attacks ahead of the vote, which is part of the Kremlin's attempts to establish a modicum of civil order in the region and undermine separatist rebels.

A Chechen connection to the crashes would be likely to further harden the Kremlin's already-stony refusal to negotiate an end to the war, as well as to expose weakness in its strategy.

"Here's the answer to how effective our politics in Chechnya have been," Russian legislator Vladimir Ryzhkov was quoted as saying in the newspaper Novaya Gazeta.

Security analyst Andrei Soldatov said a connection could bring more suffering to Chechnya, where Russian forces are widely criticized for abusing and abducting civilians.

"The government will now be able to say that the fight against separatists in Chechnya comes under the roof of international terrorism. As soon as they say that, you can forget about human rights in the region," he said.

Details of how the planes were destroyed remained incomplete. News reports said at least one of the planes sent a distress signal indicating a hijacking shortly before it disappeared from radar screens.

That led to speculation that Russian anti-aircraft missiles may have shot down the planes to prevent a Sept. 11-type plan to crash them into buildings. The Tu-154 was en route to Sochi, where Russian President Vladimir Putin was at his summer residence.

Independent military analyst Pavel Felgenhauer dismissed that speculation, saying the plane wreckage did not show signs of being shot down and that there are no anti-aircraft missile batteries in the regions where the planes fell.

Victims' families began holding funerals Friday, including for Tengiz Yakobashvili, a dual Russian-Israeli citizen. "He helped many people and he did it quietly," Rabbi Shmuel Kuperman said at his funeral in Moscow.

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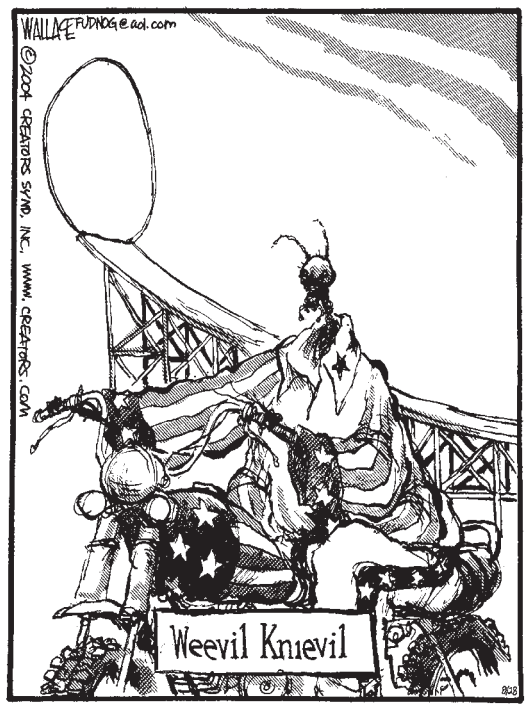
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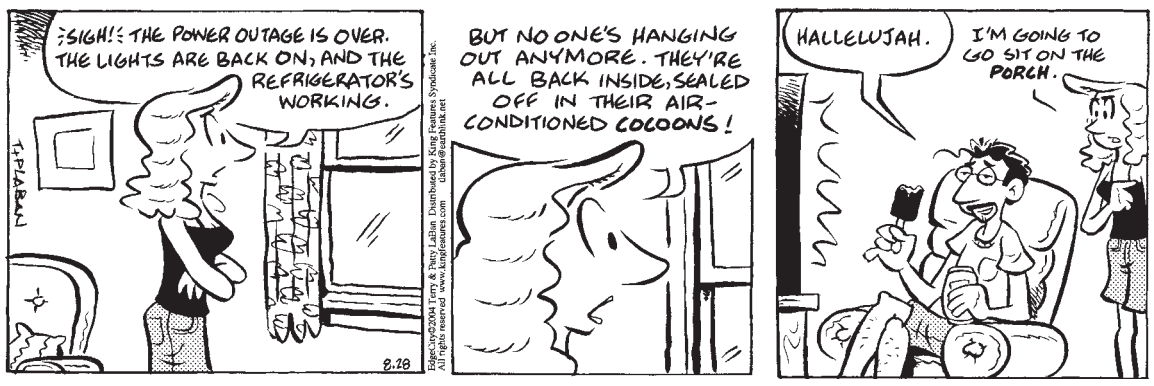
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



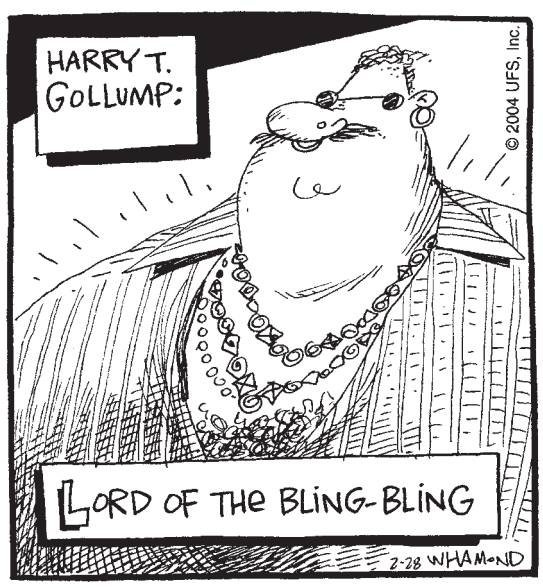
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1 Cal. abbr.
5 Play group
9 — Rica
10 Stomach woe
12 Decorate
13 Laconic
14 Viewed in wonder
16 — loss
17 Simone's season
18 Short fly ball
20 Tourist's wheels
22 Unites
23 Gnaw at
25 "Waterloo" group
28 Come clean
32 Museum display
34 Half of dos
35 Previously
36 Kind of manner
38 One of the Alou brothers
40 Assume
41 Some agents
42 Fools
43 Sargasso Sea swimmers
44 Refusals

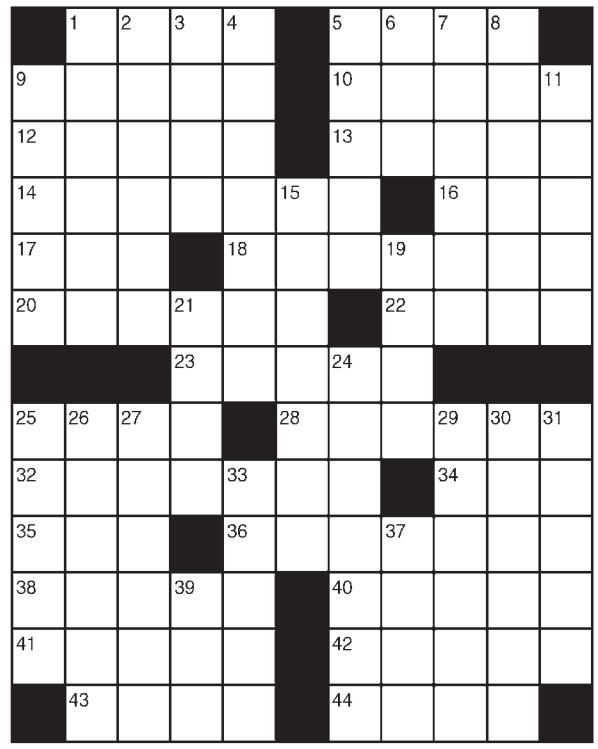
DOWN

1 So far
2 Annual tennis tourney
3 Being, in Bordeaux
4 Shoal
5 Script direction
6 Pub pint
7 Predicament
8 Tried out
9 Court player
11 Brings up
15 Hit song of 1931
19 Is obligated to
21 Eye drop
24 Impassive
25 Second president
26 Galoot
27 Tot's sock
29 Geneve's nation
30 Briefs, perhaps
31 Burns and Frost
33 Deep chasm
37 Middling
39 Bus. card no.

C	L	A	P	■	■	C	R	A	M	■	
L	A	M	A	S	■	H	U	M	O	R	
A	D	E	L	E	■	O	N	E	N	O	
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■	E	N	D	S	■	■	X	M	A	S	

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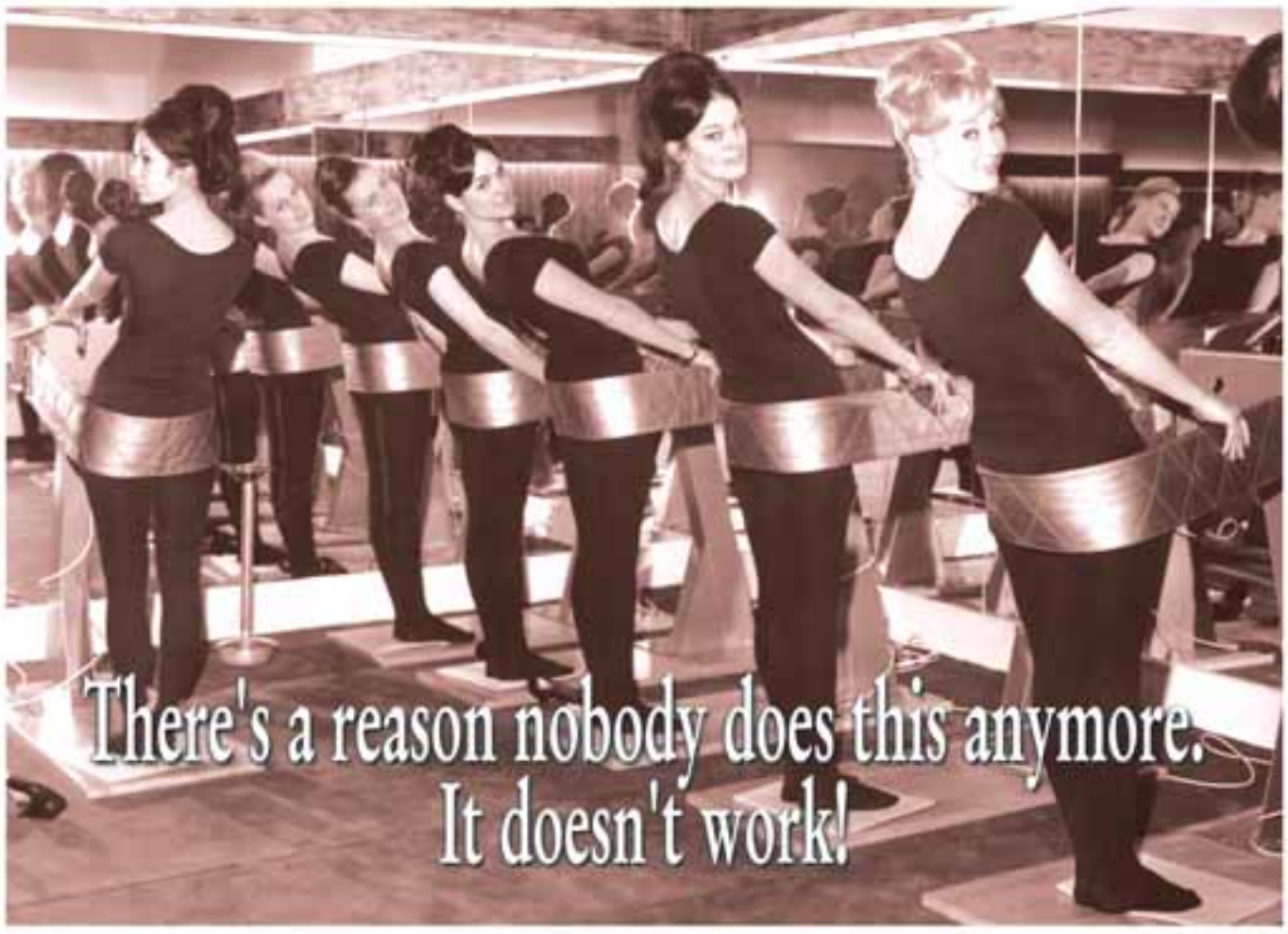
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