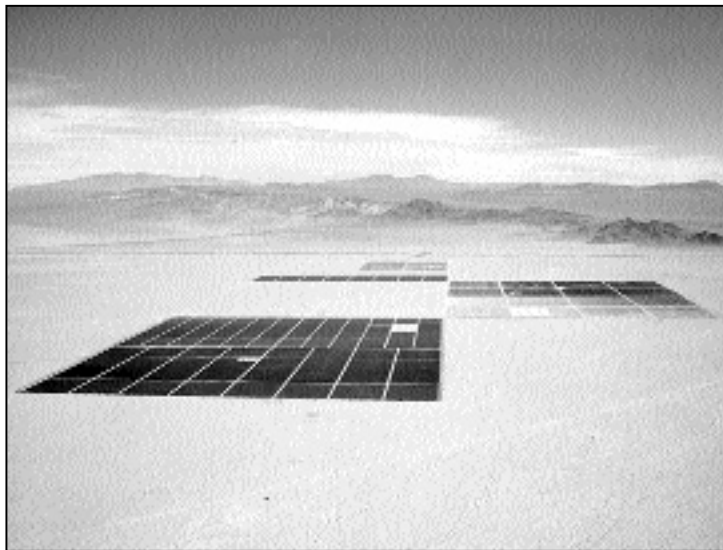


Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

National spotlight focuses on local business



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

The above photo shows an agricultural project in the desert undertaken by Santa Monica-based Cadiz, Inc., which may win a large government contract to provide water to Southern Californians.

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica company is finding out just how much controversy water projects in California can attract.

Cadiz, Inc., located on the 16th floor of the 100 Wilshire building, is proposing a \$150 million system that would store Colorado River and local water under the Mojave Desert. The system would be used by Southern California cities during droughts.

"When this project goes through, it will set a new standard for ground water monitoring," said Wendy Lee Mitchell, director of external affairs for Cadiz. "Nobody manages ground water at this time."

"And this is the most comprehensive plan in the country to address that problem," she added.

The water pipeline and underground storage facility are public-private ventures between the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Cadiz, which owns the land involved. Cadiz, which stands to earn up to \$1 billion on the 50-year deal, still needs approval from MWD's board of directors.

Founded in 1983, Cadiz Inc., is a publicly held water resource management and agricultural firm. With its subsidiary, Sun World International, Inc., Cadiz is one of the largest agricultural companies in the state. The company owns significant landholdings with substantial water resources throughout California.

But California water deals, especially those in the southern half of the state, draw a lot of attention. From 1930s Raymond Chandler novels and the movie "Chinatown," the idea of Los Angeles as

a desert oasis kept adrift by other people's water has permeated mainstream media.

And because of the high stakes involved, Cadiz's plan has drawn the attention of the national media, environmental groups and several lawmakers in Washington, D.C.

"Nothing about a water project in California goes smoothly."

— WENDY LEE MITCHELL
Cadiz spokeswoman

"(Water projects) are always controversial," Mitchell said, "but people have really hyped this up."

Though the plan's environmental review was approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior on Thursday, the company and its proposal has drawn sharp rebukes from U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, and some environmental groups.

Opponents of the plan fear it will drain too much water from the already fragile desert ecosystem.

Feinstein has introduced congressional legislation to block the project, and she has requested a cap on the amount of water drawn from the aquifer.

"In my mind, it does not make sense to siphon off water from this critical area of the California desert to send to the MWD

See CADIZ, page 5

TORCA condominium dispute leads to lockout

BY JOHN WOOD

Special to the Daily Press

Ocean Park renter Paul Raff was locked out of his condominium by sheriff's deputies this month, culminating a five-month standoff over his beachside unit.

Sheriffs and locksmiths were called to the Wadsworth Avenue residence Aug. 16, after Raff lost a lawsuit brought against him by the new owner of the condo. But Raff refused to budge.

Bruc Vandeweghe, who bought the unit in March, issued Raff a 30-day notice March 21. Raff had lived in the complex for eight years.

When 30 days passed and Raff hadn't left, Vandeweghe's attorney, Gordon P. Gitlen, filed an unlawful detainer lawsuit in Santa Monica Superior Court May 6.

Raff's attorney, Sonya Bekoff Molho, argued that Raff was protected by Santa Monica's Tenant Ownership Rights Charter Amendment (TORCA), a now-expired amendment designed to help renters purchase their apartments, and therefore he was entitled to stay.

The complex Raff lived in had been converted from apartment units to condominiums under the TORCA initiative in 1992.

But Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Julius M. Title in July ruled against Raff, saying he was not protected by TORCA because the conversion occurred before Raff moved in.

Judge Title called for the immediate eviction of Raff and demanded that he reimburse Vandeweghe \$2,696 for his extended stay in the condo. That amount was amended to \$3,504 on Aug. 2, when Raff still had not vacated the condominium.

Judge Title found that Vandeweghe had followed all the correct procedures — issuing a 30-day notice, offering the mandated \$4,250 relocation assistance and complying with other guidelines as mandated by local and state law.

Vandeweghe has filed a new motion requesting reimbursement for attorney fees. He expects to win.

Raff's attorney would not comment on the case.

Raff also refused to comment, but didn't deny that he may appeal.

"I'm living in a new place," he said. "And I can't discuss anything."

Cops handing out personal sobriety tests in six states

By Daily Press staff and Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — At highway checkpoints this Labor Day weekend, Colorado state police officers will be handing out tickets as well as devices drivers can use to measure their blood-alcohol content.

"We're hoping we will give people an additional tool that will help make the decision not to drive after drinking," said Capt. Jim Wolfenbarger of the Colorado State Patrol. "Traditionally, thousands of times a year, people are making poor decisions. If they're fortunate, they'll make it home. If they're unfortunate, they'll get arrested. If it's a tragedy, they'll kill somebody."

Federal statistics showed the number of people killed in alcohol-related crashes rose from 17,380 in 2000 to 17,448 in 2001, the first increase in five years.

Police see the Guardian Angel Personal Alcohol Test they are distributing in Colorado as a weapon against drunken driving. It is among several products on the market that allow drivers to measure their blood-alcohol content and learn when they're approaching the legal limit, 0.08 percent in most states.

Police in 11 states and the District of Columbia have given the strips to bars, restaurants and motorists. Besides

See TEST, page 5

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Unexpected plans take you in a new direction. Friends inspire you to do something new. Take a leap of faith, even if it means symbolically hopping on a roller coaster. You enjoy yourself to the max. Don't get uptight with a change in plans. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Just when you thought you had an agreement with a partner solidified, you find elements falling apart. Worry less about what you're going to do; your creativity will come through for you. Get together with others. A good time will be had by all. Tonight: Go with the moment.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your playful ways make others happy. Share a wild idea without worrying about the consequences. Take off and enjoy yourself. Pressure builds because someone might be envious. Deal with the situation diplomatically. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Take your time with a decision, especially if you feel a bit off-kilter. A partner might want to help you lighten up. Be careful how serious you take an intimate or one-on-one conversation. Your perspective changes as a result. Tonight: Do your thing.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might be kidding yourself about a relationship, and for that matter, you might not care. A child or loved one acts up. You can deal with this person's intensity. In fact, you might even like it. Play it cool. Add more humor and laughter to your life. Tonight: You're the party.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Whatever you're doing, you will be helping others, whether it is completing a job or preparing a party or barbecue. You feel good about yourself. A difficult family member might be encroaching on your space. Take a deep breath. Tonight: Out.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Try to walk in another's footsteps. You will get along a lot better if you understand this person. Lighten up about a change in plans or a difficult conversation. You can glide right past a problem, if you so choose. Opt for a different type of activity. Tonight: Touch base with friends.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your humor allows you to flow through tension about funds. Somehow, you work right past it, possibly because of the help of another close friend or loved one. Invite others over for a fun afternoon or get-together. Tonight: Make time for a special friend.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You could be out of sorts right now, having a difficult time understanding why others are acting up. Stop. Could the difficult person be you? A conversation with a trusted family member or friend might reveal another side to this story. Tonight: Go along with what others want.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Pressure builds. You might wonder what you need to do in order to help friends relax. Don't always think you have the power to make a difference. Simply share who you are, enjoying the moment. Be yourself and don't fuss about others' moods. Tonight: Just make sure you relax.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your vagueness might inadvertently cause a problem for a friend, but not for you! If asked questions, don't get touchy, remembering how ethereal you can be. Creativity adds to your fun and to a loved one's as well. Tonight: Whimsical works.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You could be creating more of a problem than you need to. Really think through how you could be adding an obstacle with a parent or authority figure. Laugh and enjoy yourself with close family and friends. Share strong feelings. Tonight: Invite others over.

QUOTE of the DAY

"A thing worth having is
a thing worth cheating for."

— W.C. Fields (1880-1946)

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LOCAL



Gavel II Gavel

From the people's court in the Byron Y. Appleton Honorary Courtroom in Santa Monica.

By John Wood

Santa Monica Superior Court judges found this week that: Ford's 4.6 Liter Recall

In a recent hearing, a recall of the intake manifolds on certain 1996 to 1998 Ford models should have extended to more of the automaker's models equipped with 4.6 liter engines, according to a Santa Monica Superior Court judge.

Issued in 1999, the recall mainly targeted the intake manifold of Ford models used by police officers and taxi drivers, according to plaintiff John Harrington of Pacific Palisades. But Harrington's car, a 1996 Lincoln Towncar, was not covered — though it has the same engine and the same manifold.

Harrington paid over \$500 to replace the faulty auto part earlier this year, when the intake manifold "sprang a leak and started sending coolant everywhere" as Harrington's son drove the car up Chautauqua Boulevard in Pacific Palisades.

When numerous telephone calls and a lengthy letter to Ford Motor Co. went unanswered, Harrington decided to sue the automaker in Santa Monica Small Claims Court. "I didn't like the way they treated me at all," said Harrington.

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Alan B. Haber presided over the case because Ford representatives did not want the matter heard before a Pro Tem Judge, who are typically lawyers volunteering as judges for the day.

Haber oversees the administration of all superior courts on the westside of Los Angeles, in addition to hearing cases in Santa Monica.

Haber asked a representative from Ford why Harrington's model was left out of the recall.

"How does Harrington's car differ?" Judge Haber asked.

Harrington said the representative, who could not be reached for comment, had no reply.

"The guy was treading water," Harrington said. "He had no defense at all. He didn't even call (before trial) to ask why I wanted 500 bucks."

Judge Haber ruled in favor of Harrington for the full \$547 claim, plus court costs.

Starship lands at the pier



Franklin Smith/Special to the Daily Press
Marty Balin (left) and Paul Kantner of the Jefferson Starship rock out Thursday night at the Twilight Concert Series at the Santa Monica Pier.



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Tropical storm Genevieve, which was south-southeast of the California coast Thursday, shifts west, passing through our swell window. Expect a boost in activity from the direct south, though not until tonight. Daytime waves rely heavily on a peaking southwest ground swell. Well-exposed spots can expect waist to chest level. The tropical swell should weigh in Saturday at SoCal locations. Orange County, with the best south exposure, will probably grab most of it, while the Santa Monica Bay sees little from Genevieve because it is too steep a south swell angle.

If the tropical swell doesn't find a way into L.A. County, then surf should begin to decline Sunday and into next week.



High-	3:30 a.m.	2.85'
Low-	7:31 a.m.	2.58'
High-	2:53 p.m.	4.43'
Low-	11:20 p.m.	1.54'

SMPD retires a brave canine

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

After nearly a decade of service, the Santa Monica Police Department is retiring one of its most distinguished canines.

K9 Roy — a Belgian Malinois born in the Netherlands on April 10, 1990 — was officially retired from active duty earlier this month. His partner, SMPD Officer Mike Von Achen, purchased the dog from the city for \$1, so K9 Roy can live out his days with his long-time partner and his family.

"He enjoys his walks on the beach, plenty of extra attention from Mike and his wife, Allison, and much deserved sleep," said Lt. Frank Fabrega, a SMPD spokesman, in a prepared statement.

The dog has helped officers capture many suspects in the field and prevent

them from being injured while attempting to subdue culprits.

He also participated in the well-publicized attempted murder of several police officers that occurred at the Santa Monica Pier on July 4, 2000.

Throughout K9 Roy's illustrious career, he has been called out from his home to assist officers while off duty.

In one incident, K9 Roy was called out from his home to help in the apprehension of bank robbery suspects who were hiding in a residential neighborhood after leading police on a high-speed pursuit.

"Without the use of Roy's nose, the second suspect would not likely have been found," Fabrega said.

K9 Roy will now chase squirrels instead of bad guys.

Location	Friday	Saturday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3/Fair	2-3/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3/Fair	2-3/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2/Fair	1-2/Fair	A
Topanga	1-3/Fair	1-3/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3/Fair	2-3/Fair	B
El Porto	2-3/Poor	2-3/Fair	A

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OPINION

LETTERS

Time for solutions

Editor,

This is concerning the letter that I wrote on Friday that was published on Monday. Apparently I made the mistake of not being a professional writer and due to this I was not specific enough about which of Mr. Bauer's columns that I was referring to when I made certain statements. Well, I would like to have the chance to clear that up now, if you would be so kind.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd apparently do not read your paper very often because Mr. Bauer did indeed make that statement concerning attendance and frequency of the feedings in the park. Please refer to his column three weeks ago, and you will plainly see that you apparently are not as well read as you seem to think. I am sure the editor will gladly send you a copy if you are really interested.

Also I failed to mention (as did the editor) that even though my letter was published in Monday's edition, the letter was sent on Friday, and I had not read Saturday's part two at the time I wrote it. For this I do apologize to the Lloyds and anyone else who may have been misled by my inexperience. Next time I promise I will provide dates so that you will not have to eat so much crow.

Unfortunately people like the Lloyds seem to think that only the homeless have to resort to what they call "childish name calling." Maybe you missed the point of my use of that tactic. Nobody likes to be called names whether rich or poor, and I just responded in kind to the numerous articles and letters that use name calling to call attention to the problem as did Mr. Bauer. Until we all (yes, I am guilty also) stop the bickering and name calling, nothing will ever get accomplished. We all need to focus on realistic solutions instead of back-biting and misinformation. I promise I will! Will You?

After reading his part two on Saturday, I will definitely give credit where credit is due. It was well written and addressed the problems and concerns regarding the homeless issue and how to solve it. I sincerely hope that he continues to write like part two instead of part one. More will be accomplished by addressing the Solution instead of the Problem. I would also like to thank the editor of SMDP for finally having the

backbone to present both sides of this important issue as has been done in the past week in the paper. Thank You.

Michael Beattie
Santa Monica

Traffic cameras are a good thing!

Editor,

If you call the police department in any city where they use traffic cameras, you will learn as I did that the cameras are working. They are saving lives by decreasing traffic fatalities. As an example, according to the police, prior to the cameras being installed at the intersection of Wilshire and La Cienega, the police gave out 2,000-3,000 violations per month and there was a tremendous amount of fatal accidents at that intersection. Since the cameras have been installed, the violations are down to practically zilch and accidents are minuscule.

West Hollywood, Culver City, Beverly Hills and Los Angeles all use cameras, as well many other states, Australia and most of the European countries. It is time for Santa Monica to step up to the plate.

Someone wrote that he thought the cameras where an invasion of privacy. How absurd. There is no invasion of privacy. What is the difference between a cop watching the intersection versus a camera? You could say that that is an invasion of privacy. The police told me that there is a three second delay for the cameras. If a police officer is watching the intersection, there is no delay. You get the ticket. If there is a camera there, you get a delay. So in actuality the camera is letting you violate the law.

There is too much traffic in this town to have a police officer at every major intersection; and the traffic needs to be monitored. So, unless you are one of those people who get a thrill out of running red lights, I don't see why anyone in their right mind would object.

Barbara Tenzer
Brentwood

The Crowd at the Lame Bush Rally in Westwood

Did you know G.W. Bush was on the westside last Saturday? Where were you? If you showed, you already know it was maybe the most pathetic anti-war protest ever. G.W. doesn't come to our state, let alone L.A., very often (twice in the last how many years?), especially not to the southwest corner of Westwood and Wilshire to nosh and fund raise for "embattled" gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon at the rooftop Regency Club.

This was too much to pass up. "I went down to the demonstration to get my fair share of abuse," Mick Jagger once put it, not that I could convince any of my friends to join me. Most folks on the westside would rather circulate e-mail petitions like the one I received four times that week: <http://www.moveon.org/nowar/>. E-mail protest? Give me a break.

With fire and flood engulfing the world, isn't it time to put our bodies on the front — if not the bottom — lines? In Portland, police had just pepper-sprayed families when a thousand people took to the streets angry over Bush's environmental policies, the threat of war in Iraq and government corruption. Just a day ago, Medea Benjamin, the former California Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate, was thrown out of an auditorium for shouting at him in Stockton.

"Scores of demonstrators" is how our rally will be described on NPR — meaning upwards of what ... 60? 80? The Times will write of "several hundred jeering demonstrators, corralled on the sidewalks ... of Westwood and Santa Monica boulevards..." Well, they got one of three right. Corralled is the word. Here we are, held on three street corners by the ever tactically-vigilant LAPD, and rendered ineffectual. There may be power in a union, but divided by three a certain amount of

righteousness can lose its massive attack.

Where are the babies, the tree-hugging, monkey-wrench gangbangers down here on the westside of L.A.? All twelve-lanes wide, Wilshire is smooth sailing. The presidential-sealed limos and posse of vans arrive at 8 a.m., circling like wagons to keep us natives backed well off the street, behind stretched-long yellow "Linea de Policia" tape.

One activist has distributed "STOP BUSH" traffic signs on sticks. Some drums and dancers wail from the northwest corner well across Wilshire. I wear my "www.BushOnCrack.com" T-shirt, which I got at the L.A. Shadow Convention in 2000. But do I chant, "Bush Gotta be on Crack/To Attack Iraq!" and start a movement, any kind of movement? Of course not. No coffee yet, so I'm as lethargic as everyone else. Protesters like me ain't got no imagination.

And the police hold all the power, not the people. One female officer with a heart helps out, but the LAPD force watching our southeast corner (MTV, VIACOM tower) insists on hassling, of course. One complains we've knocked down his yellow tape. And apparently the sticks holding our placards are too long. Like airport security or a hockey ref, he threatens to measure one. (We'll have to hold the placards with both hands now. Hands up?) A man standing next to me says he's not aware of such a "stick law," but the officer pleads he's just a "sergeant on the bike detail" and doesn't really know how it came to be, either.

"Then why can't we use them?" I ask. "A less peaceful person than yourself

could use the stick as a weapon," the officer explains.

Why in L.A. are we made to feel like we're breaking the law by exercising our freedom of assembly? If we carried talking sticks would they have to go, too?

A woman with a bullhorn no one can hear — when will some techie update this primitive protest device? — announces she's taking a group to a different corner. This only serves to reduce the size of our southeast assemblage. Don White, of the International Action Center, acknowledges later that "it was a big mistake." He told me two organizers at the rally, the I.A.C. and National Lawyers Guild, were trying to challenge the Secret Service restrictions and move closer to the building where Bush was having breakfast.

But suddenly the limos roll back out of the building at 9 a.m., and those of us left try to shout as quick and loud as we can as the motorcade swerves away down Westwood: "GIVE US BACK OUR COUNTRY!" "NOT IN MY NAME!" "NO CHENEY, NO RUMSFIELD!" [sic] And my favorite — which I pass along to an AP reporter sitting by looking bored — "Thief Executive Officer!"

With G.W. gone, nothing left for us to do now but wave at cars that go by our corners, "honking for peace." I've been to protests in Minneapolis, New York and San Francisco, and this has to be the weakest (most police state-like?) gathering. Is this the extent of our outrage? Honk for peace almost any day you like just a little further west along Wilshire as you drive by the vigils in front of the Federal Building.

Guest Commentary By Hank Rosenfeld

What's wrong with the progressive movement in L.A.? No UCLA students back yet? People can't get up by 8 a.m. on Saturday? (Good planning by the Republicans then.) Is everybody at the beach taking yoga class with Sally Kirkland?

I read there was a feral cat support rally in San Pedro with more attendees today, and seven hundred anti-globalizationers were stun-grenaded in South Africa.

"I guess we'll get more here when a war starts," Don White says, which reminds me of the joke about protesters after the '91 "Brief War" in the Gulf: "If only it had lasted a little longer, we would have been able to stop it."

Is everyone still inside and numb since last September? Okay, it's been eleven months, so, according to the Kaddish, mourning is over in America. And when I yell "F--K YOU BUSH, YOU DANGEROUS F--KFACE!" directly at the tyrant (okay, at his limo), it does make me feel better than sending a petition around the Internet. (Although the protesters who look at me when I shout make me feel like a very bad boy.)

"America was born in the streets," is the pitch line for the movie "Gangs of New York." Is it dying on the sidewalks in L.A.? Driving through wide-open Wilshire-Westwood on my way back to Santa Monica, I blast the new Springsteen CD out of my car windows, in a lame-late attempt at raucousness. The song "World Apart" has a powerful Pakistani beat and inspiring guitar scream underscoring its lyrics. "Let love give what love gives," Springsteen sings. I honk, some lingering demonstrators cheer and I make it home and back to bed by 9:30.

Hank Rosenfeld is senior anchor on KCRW for Santa Monica City Council meetings on some Tuesdays.

LOCAL



Mojave water project still needs MWD approval

CADIZ, from page 1

when the region has other options for water and when the aquifer is vital to the health of the desert and its animal and plant life," she wrote in a letter to Phillip J. Pace, chairman of the MWD Board, and all the board members.

"The likelihood that this could result in the destruction of the California desert as we know it ... is why I strongly oppose this project."

But Cadiz officials argue their proposal has received the blessing of several federal agencies since it began the federal review process in August 1998. The plan has been combed over by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded Cadiz's proposal would have no negative impact on the Mojave's plants or wildlife, including the desert tortoise.

And the Environmental Protection Agency has ruled the project wouldn't cause air pollution.

"It's a huge watershed in the middle of the Mojave," she said. "It won't affect the environment."

And the aquifer, which Mitchell described as roughly the size of Rhode Island, would provide badly needed water for Southern California.

The region has faced a major draught this year and many of its water deals with Northern California communities and six other states that draw water from the Colorado River are due to expire in the next ten years.

However, even under those circumstances Cadiz officials are still not 100 percent sure their plan will ultimately be approved.

"Nothing about a water project in California goes smoothly," Mitchell said. "Nothing."

Sobriety strips may prevent arrest, deaths this weekend

TEST, from page 1

Colorado, other western states distributing the strips include: Arizona, California, New Mexico, Washington and Wyoming.

In Santa Monica, police are restricted to using systems that read blood alcohol levels which can be upheld in court, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

The strips don't replace breathalyzers because they can't differentiate between whether someone just had a sip of alcohol or mouthwash or are actually intoxicated. But the strips do have their purpose even though they shouldn't be relied upon.

"It's a great idea to have them at parties," he said.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving has not taken a position on Guardian Angel. But MADD President Wendy Hamilton is concerned some people will feel they can have a few drinks and get behind the wheel as long as the device shows them below the legal limit.

"They'll be under the legal level but they're still going to be impaired," she said. "They can still go out and injure or kill some people. That's what we're afraid of."

The head of the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, a nonprofit advocacy group pushing for stronger anti-drunken driving laws, said the devices help motorists make intelligent decisions.

"When it comes to personal responsibility, ignorance is not the answer," John Moulden said. "People need to understand what their personal blood-alcohol limits are and they need to have the information so they can at least make a responsible decision before they get impaired."

The Guardian Angel device is a strip that is placed in the mouth for 10 seconds, then held to a "risk meter" which ranks alcohol content in saliva three ways — lower, higher or highest, which means blood-alcohol content is 0.08 or above. The product's package urges people not to drink and drive, warns that even some alcohol can impair judgment and includes a 1-800 number for taxis.

A package of four strips is available for less than \$2 at various convenience stores, drug stores and supermarkets.

"It's a way to defuse that debate for car keys at the end of the evening," Guardian Angel Vice President Jeff Scult said. "This is not a tool to green-light drinking and driving and drink up to the limit. This is to help people become educated to make the right decision not to drive."

Another product, the Breath Alcohol Check by Akers Biosciences, is a small tube filled with crystals. A person blows into it for 12 seconds. Blood-alcohol content is determined by how many of the crystals change color.

"We're hoping we will give people an additional tool that will help make the decision not to drive after drinking."

— CAPT. JIM WOLFINBARGER
Colorado State Patrol

It has been sold to police departments and commercial truckers and trucking companies for about two years. The product also is available to consumers in some European countries. The company hopes to begin selling it in the United States early next year, according to Akers chief financial officer Paul Freedman. The price is expected to be about \$10 for a package of three.

In addition, hand-held digital monitors that calculate blood-alcohol content can be purchased for around \$90-\$100 at specialty retail stores.

But Guardian Angel is getting the widest distribution.

While not endorsing a particular product, the International Association of Chiefs of Police says it's good to have any device showing the effects of alcohol to a driver before he or she gets behind the wheel.

"Most people think you have a couple of drinks, no big deal, but you're really not fine," said North Miami Beach, Fla., Police Chief Bill Berger, president of the association. "This says you've got to think twice before you get in that car and drive."

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STATE

Mother who kidnapped her 9-year-old daughter sought

By The Associated Press

BAKERSFIELD — Vigilante truckers who spotted a car wanted in connection with a child abduction tried unsuccessfully Friday afternoon to stop the vehicle on Interstate 5.

The truckers were responding to a statewide alert for a Bakersfield mother with mental problems who allegedly kidnapped her 9-year-old daughter during a supervised visit Thursday afternoon.

Pamela Walden believes that people are trying to kill her daughter, Cierra, because God speaks to her through the girl, said officer Isaac Garcia.

Truck drivers spotted the blue Hyundai as it headed south through Kern County near the Grapevine at 3 p.m., said police spokeswoman Mary DeGeare. They called police and tried to surround the car, but the driver was able to get away near Highway 99, about 100 miles north of Los Angeles.

There were two adults and a child in the car, DeGeare said.

Cierra Walden was taken during a scheduled visit with her mother at the Kern County Department of Human

Services. Pamela Walden fled when a social worker became distracted in the parking lot while Walden was showing her daughter her dog.

The 50-year-old mother lost custody of the girl about a month ago following a dependency hearing, Garcia said. Walden was arrested earlier this month for trying to take her daughter out of state.

She was released Tuesday from a mental facility.

Cierra was last seen wearing a white T-shirt and purple shorts. She is 4-foot-6, weighs 60 pounds and has blond hair and blue eyes.

Walden, who is 5-foot-2 and 110 pounds with brown hair and green eyes, was last seen wearing a white tank top and blue jeans. Authorities described her vehicle as a dark blue, two-door Hyundai with California license plate 4SHV526.

The statewide Amber Alert, with information about the car, was issued Friday morning, but nearly a fifth of the electronic signs in the San Francisco Bay area were not working because of electrical problems, dead bulbs or because of previous crashes.

Court says feds, not state to control new PG&E Co.

BY DAVID KRAVETS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge's ruling issued Friday leaves open the possibility that Pacific Gas and Electric Co. could emerge from bankruptcy protection primarily under the control of the federal government, and not California.

The decision, which overturns U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali's March decision, means that the bulk of the energy concern's activities would be regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, not the California Public Utilities Commission as the state argued.

The San Francisco-based public utility, which is attempting to emerge from Chapter 11 protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, has proposed creating four new companies for the distribution and generation of natural gas and electricity.

The state argued that the spinoffs require environmental studies, a move that may not be required if U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling survives appeals to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Analysts say, if the ruling survives, it would allow PG&E to increase its cash flow and borrow more money because the

utility would escape state control over wholesale electricity rates once it emerges from bankruptcy court control.

The decision comes a week after an announced agreement that the cost of righting the bankrupt utility would come from customers' pockets.

The agreement would enable Montali to require that PG&E's rates be high enough to meet the utility's financial obligations.

The commission and a committee of PG&E creditors will work with investment banking firm UBS Warburg to design a financial plan that would leave PG&E with enough cash to pay its debts, become creditworthy and resume buying power for its customers, commission attorneys said.

Currently, the state buys power for customers of PG&E and two other electric utilities. Those companies went deep into debt in 2000 and 2001, when they were caught between skyrocketing energy prices and a freeze on electric rates.

The San Francisco-based utility filed for bankruptcy.

California officials say the price surge was caused by market manipulation by energy firms such as now-bankrupt Enron Corp.

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STATE



Gray Davis to consider paid family leave bill

BY LOUISE CHU
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California is another step closer to becoming the first state in the country to pass paid family leave legislation, after the Senate voted Friday to send the bill to Gov. Gray Davis.

"The next job that I have is to marshal support and information that will make the governor feel that this is a good bill to sign," said Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, the bill's author.

The legislation would establish a family temporary disability insurance program to give workers up to six weeks of paid leave to care for a newborn, newly adopted child or ill family member. The employee-funded program would pay 55 percent of wages — up to \$490 a week — and cost workers an average of \$2.25 a month, Kuehl said.

Twenty-seven other states have introduced similar legislation, with Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Washington state leading the charge toward paid family leave.

Current federal law grants up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for workers and only applies to larger businesses with more than 50 employees. Kuehl's bill would establish the program for all businesses, although it would not add any requirements to grant workers the time off. If employers deny the leave, workers have the option to quit and still collect the program's payments.

The bill has traveled a rough course on its way to the governor, as Kuehl amended it in the Assembly to get it passed. The amendments reduced the original 12-week paid leave period in half and shifted the financial burden of the program from both

workers and employers to workers alone. But bill supporters said they're still satisfied with the result.

"We're glad that we at least have made some progress toward making working families meet the conflicting needs of work and family," said Greer McVay, a spokeswoman for the Labor Project for Working Families.

The Senate voted, 21-9, to pass the Assembly amendments.

"We're glad that we at least have made some progress toward making working families meet the conflicting needs of work and family."

— GREER McVAY
Labor Project for Working Families

In other action Friday, the Senate also passed a bill that would prohibit employers from penalizing employees for taking off sick days to care for an ill family member.

Employers have been using an Absence Control Policy in which they can legally penalize an employee for taking the days off. Supporters said an employer should not be able to offer sick leave on the one hand and punish an employee for using sick leave on the other.

The bill, by Sen. Gloria Romero, D-Puente Hills, was approved with a 21-12 vote, sending it to the governor's desk.

Davis has not taken a position on either of the bills.

Bill approved to allow DNA testing for paternity claims

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — The state Senate approved a bill Friday that would allow men falsely named as a child's father through a default judgment to use DNA evidence to contest paternity.

The bill, by Assemblyman Rod Wright, D-Los Angeles, was approved 28-4, and goes back to the Assembly for approval of Senate changes.

Under the bill, men who were named through a default judgment, not served legal documents in person, would be able to conduct DNA tests to establish paternity.

Most of the men in these situations first learn that they were named the child's father when their wages are garnished for child support, said Sen. Kevin Murray, D-Culver City.

Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, opposed the bill, saying it would be harmful for the children involved in the dispute.

"Suddenly, this child has no father and there's no support for this child," she said. "This bill would allow you to say

"Though I've been like your father, though you thought I was your father ... because I didn't donate the genetic material, I'll walk away."

But Sen. John Burton, D-San Francisco, said requiring a man to be a father wouldn't be beneficial to either party.

"Forcing someone into a parental relationship they don't want with someone they found out isn't their child isn't good policy," Burton said.

Sen. Martha Escutia, D-Commerce, said negotiations in the Senate Judiciary Committee over the bill "tore our insides."

Wright's bill had originally been much broader, but the committee limited it to situations where paternity had been established by default and retained the judge's discretion to determine what's in the best interest of the child.

"A judge can claim there's too much of an emotional bond there," Escutia said.

The compromise is "the best way to recognize that the law has got to catch up to science," she said.

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NATIONAL

Judge: Scientists can study ancient bones

BY WILLIAM MCCALL

Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — A federal judge on Friday ordered the U.S. government to let scientists study the bones of Kennewick Man, an ancient skeleton discovered in 1996 on the banks of the Columbia River.

The 9,300-year-old bones have been the center of an intense legal battle between scientists, who want to study the remains, and the federal government, which had ruled the bones belong to Northwest tribes who claim the remains as an ancient tribal member and want to bury them.

"Allowing study is fully consistent with applicable statutes and regulations, which are clearly intended to make archaeological information available to the public through scientific research," wrote U.S. Magistrate John Jelderks.

Jelderks had repeatedly criticized the Army Corps of Engineers and the Interior Department for the way they handled the case.

The judge had said he felt the corps made a "hasty decision" to recognize a tribal claim to the bones.

He has also criticized the government for delaying tests on the age of the bones and delaying its response to questions about determining cultural affiliation with modern tribes.

Scientists want to study the skeleton to see if it represents some unknown source of migration to North America apart from the traditional theory of people walking from Asia across a land bridge to North America.

But five tribes along the Columbia River are seeking possession of the bones to bury them — and have been backed by the U.S. government.

The bones were found in July 1996 along the banks of the Columbia

River near Kennewick, Wash., during annual hydroplane races. They are being stored at the University of Washington's Burke Museum until the case is resolved.

The skeleton is called the "Ancient One" by Northwest tribes and has been used as a model to fashion a reproduction that resembles actor Patrick Stewart of "Star Trek" fame.

Scientists argued that former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt overstepped his authority by ruling the skeleton was "culturally affiliated" with Northwest tribes. Babbitt justified his decision by arguing the tribes had an "oral tradition" of history in the general geographic area where the bones were found.

Babbitt was acting under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, a law intended to prevent theft and illegal trafficking of Indian artifacts, protect tribal burial sites and restore the remains of ancestors to the tribes.

The law says that federal agencies or museums shall return remains or associated objects to tribes that request them and can "show cultural affiliation by a preponderance of the evidence based upon geographical, kinship, biological, archaeological, anthropological, linguistic, folkloric, oral traditional, historical, or other relevant information or expert opinion."

The scientists, however, argued that no group can establish a direct link that extends back 9,000 years by any of those means.

"Babbitt said oral tradition trumped everything else," said anthropologist Richard Jantz at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, one of the scientists who sued the government to block the return of the bones to the tribes.

Dana Perino, spokeswoman for the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., said government attorneys would have to review the ruling before they could comment.

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Reduced backlogs increase legal resident applications

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The number of foreigners legally becoming U.S. residents broke the million mark for the first time last year, an increase the Immigration and Naturalization Service attributed Friday partly to reductions in application backlogs.

The INS said it recorded 1,064,318 new legal permanent residents between Oct. 2000 and Sept. 2001. That number rose from 849,807 recorded the year before.

Sixty-one percent, or 653,259, of the new permanent residents already were living in the United States as temporary employees, refugees, students or under asylum and simply adjusted their status.

Others were in the country illegally. The INS did not know how many people had been in the country illegally and became permanent residents through various programs.

The rest of the new residents — 411,059 — entered the country on a visa. That is an increase from fiscal year 2000, when 407,402 new arrivals became legal

permanent residents.

The INS is processing the applications adjusting immigrants' status to permanent resident faster than ever before, completing 48 percent more applications. The immigration agency completed 653,259 cases in fiscal 2001, up from 442,405 completions the year before.

Nationally, such applications take an average of 11 months, down from 30 months at the beginning of 2000. INS said it still has 847,000 applications pending.

"Last year the president declared his goal was to reduce the processing times to six months by 2004 and this just shows we're on track to do that," INS spokesman Bill Strassberger said.

Processing times vary by city. In New York, the wait for completion of a legal permanent residency application is 17 months. But in San Antonio, Newark, N.J. and San Diego, the wait is four months, INS said.

INS statistics show the biggest increases in new legal permanent residents are among immigrants sponsored by family members or relatives of U.S. citizens.

NATIONAL



Touch America tiptoes through landscape littered

BY MATT GOURAS
Associated Press Writer

HELENA, Mont. — It seemed at the time like a bold but sound business move: Montana Power Co. gave up its position as the state's venerable energy giant to join what so many thought was the unstoppable telecommunications market.

But today, a share of stock in Touch America, Montana Power's new incarnation, will barely buy a can of soda pop. Investors are angry, former managers have become critical, and many fear the crumbling telecom industry is about to take Touch America down with it.

"The largest corporation ever known in the state of Montana is almost gone, and it's really a shame," said Carl Anderson, a retired Montana Power manager and investor. And it has all happened in what seems like the blink of an eye.

In March 2000, the 90-year-old Montana Power announced it was giving up its electricity monopoly in the state to focus efforts instead on its then-fledgling Touch America telecommunications offshoot. MPC stock was trading for about \$65 a share at the time.

Unfortunately, the conversion from a solid, if spectacular, old-economy energy company came just as the telecom industry fell flat. Now the industry is littered with bankruptcies, from giant MCI Worldcom to upstart Global Crossing. And Touch America, whose stock has been worth less than \$1 a share since July 31, is just one of many trying to hold on.

Touch America officials, citing pending lawsuits by shareholders, declined repeated requests by The Associated Press for interviews. Analysts, however, say Touch America has one thing going for it that so many other telecom companies don't — the company is debt-free.

"That's a real rarity in this industry and something that's real valuable," said Rod Woodward, an industry analyst for Frost & Sullivan of San Antonio.

When Montana Power sold off its electricity and gas utilities, it used most of the \$1 billion in cash it got to lay the 24,000 miles of Touch America fiber-optic lines.

The company still has about \$100 million left from the sale, but can do little more than try to hold on and hope the money lasts until demand for high-speed data lines springs back, Woodward said.

"I don't think anything right now, when it comes to wholesale providers, is surprising," he added. "Everyone's really fighting right now. It's a tough environment to be in."

Touch America has told investors it needs to add a lot of customers and cut down on huge expenses related to building the sprawling fiber-optic network if it hopes to turn a profit before running out of money.

But in its most recent statement to shareholders, the firm said it expects less money from voice customers during the remainder of the year and only a little bit more

from data lines. And it's not making any promises on profitability.

Telecom firms raced to build sprawling high-speed networks, many taking on billions in debt to finish the job. Now, there's simply too many miles of lines and too few customers to go around, Woodward said.

Anderson, who still lives in Butte and has retained stock in the company, said much of what happened to Touch America couldn't be controlled.

"The largest corporation ever known in the state of Montana is almost gone, and it's really a shame."

— CARL ANDERSON

Retired Montana Power manager and investor

"Their timing was just against them, and you can't blame management for those kinds of those things," he said.

Anderson even shrugs off the heavy losses, calling it a losing bet in a horse race.

What bothers him and many investors, though, are recent hefty bonuses paid to senior management.

Anderson is among a group of shareholders suing chief executive Bob Gannon and other senior executives, hoping to force them to return about \$5.4 million in bonuses they received this summer.

"It's the crooked jockey that I'm worried about," Anderson said. "When they turn around and claim they've done something that deserves \$5 million. It's unconscionable."

Other lawsuits claim Touch America management purposely deceived investors, or hid complicated disagreements with Qwest from shareholders as it sought their approval to get out of the power business.

It is those lawsuits that apparently have turned managers, including Gannon, increasingly tight-lipped.

"Because of the shareholder lawsuits we're facing, he's been advised by counsel not to talk about any of the substantial issues you'd want to talk about," said Touch America spokesman Cort Freeman.

In earlier interviews, however, Gannon noted that the

financial difficulties Touch America is having are shared throughout the industry.

Shareholder Ron Hirst, a management consultant in California, said Montana Power's decision to convert to a telecom firm was a move that made sense at the time. But he noted that signs of trouble were brewing in the telecom industry even as the company began finalizing the sale of its energy utilities.

"Perhaps (Montana Power) should have reversed that decision just before making it final in 2001 since the telecom nuclear winter had already begun," said Hirst, who's not part of any of the shareholder lawsuits. "What I'm mainly concerned about are leadership missteps at (Touch America) and very questionable executive decisions made in the last two years."

With thousands of miles of line expected to come on the market at bargain prices from bankrupt firms, existing systems like the one Touch America is just finishing have little value, industry analysts say.

There's also the potential that companies such as MCI Worldcom could emerge from bankruptcy with an intact network and no debt, giving it the ability to sell cheap broadband space.

"The tough times in the industry are going to last through 2003," Woodward said. "I think you're going to see more telecom problems over the next four to five months. And it's tough to say what will happen with a company like Touch America. They're not big enough to buy anyone, but then no one in the industry is really in a position to buy them."

As the company Anderson helped run now teeters on the brink of failure, Anderson can't help but get angry about executives taking more than \$5 million in bonuses from a firm valued by the stock market at \$55 million in early August.

He remembers the days when Montana Power Co., was a household name in the state for sponsoring basketball games and summer concerts. Now, its successor is a household name for all the wrong reasons.

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NATIONAL

Ski resort expands after bankruptcy sale

BY RICHARD BENKE
AP Business Writer

ANGEL FIRE, N.M. — Despite its sweeping vistas, the Angel Fire Resort 25 miles northeast of Taos has been slow to grow.

The ski mountain is not quite as high, steep or challenging as Taos. Seldom has a resort changed hands as often or as rapidly as Angel Fire.

But now, a new \$45 million development offers fresh optimism. New owners picked up the resort for 20 cents on the dollar when a predecessor failed.

The new development offers 215 high-mountain meadow parcels, 2 to 4 acres each, priced from \$165,000 to \$275,000 in an area replete with Wild West history.

There's a 67-run ski mountain in winter, then golf, horseback riding, hiking, fishing, tennis, basketball in summer — all covered by the resort's annual dues starting at \$1,200 per family.

"It's the last best place that you can buy in the United States," said Sue Sasseen, one of Liddle's three-member sales team. "There just isn't anything left in the U.S. that's this pristine, this reasonably priced."

At 18,000 acres, Angel Fire represents about one-fifth of the 37-mile-long Moreno Valley and is the only major portion with architectural and environmental controls. All plans, from single homes to businesses, require approval by an architectural board. Mobile homes aren't allowed.

As for the new expansion, called Valley of the Utes, builders are barred from coming within 40 feet of wetlands that exist in the meadows.

The Moache Utes used the 9,400-foot-high meadows for their annual summer-fall camps centuries before the Spanish and other Europeans arrived. The name Angel Fire evolved from a Ute name that referred to a strange light the Indians reported seeing on the mountain.

Valley of the Utes nestles among the Philmont Scout Ranch, the CS Cattle Ranch and a state wildlife preserve that includes Tolby Peak and Tolby Creek,

landmarks named after the assassinated — some say martyred — the Rev. Franklin Tolby, whose death sparked the Colfax County War in 1875. It was a conflict akin to the simultaneous Lincoln County War that also featured uprisings against the Santa Fe Ring, a corrupt political machine.

When the area became a resort in 1966, Angel Fire was the name suggested by a son of one of the founders, said local historian Martin Andrews.

Seldom has a resort changed hands as often or as rapidly as Angel Fire. As Andrews recounts it in a local history, within three years of its creation, Angel Fire sold in 1969 to a Wisconsin-based investment group, then was acquired in 1972 by the Arizona-Colorado Land and Cattle Co., which within a couple years sold to ProKem Co., which in turn sold to California-based TosCo Oil.

In 1984, it went to Dan Lasater, Arkansas-based entrepreneur with ties to President Clinton. Lasater, who received a Clinton pardon after a drug dealing conviction, paid \$16.5 million for the resort, Andrews said.

The Lasater years also were marked by the opening of the Angel Fire Resort Hotel, which, after years of struggling, now operates at full service.

After Lasater, another batch of investors led by Gary Plante negotiated to buy back the resort from the Resolution Trust Corp., the agency formed to help bail out U.S. savings and loans in the 1980s.

The Allens, who have owned it since 1996, have helped put to rest a long period of doubt and debt, several residents said.

"They began the turnaround, you might say," Chamber of Commerce President Jimmy Linton said. "They're the ones who came in and did the new (ski) lift, put in another new lift. They expanded the snow-making."

There's a spirit of growth in Angel Fire today — home and business construction is up, there's a new charter high school, new library, new post office, new restaurants.

Major gonorrhea test recall

BY ELIZABETH WOLFE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Abbott Laboratories is recalling 1.5 million gonorrhea tests sold worldwide because they might give false negative results, the government said Friday.

The Food and Drug Administration recommended that people who have tested negative for gonorrhea from Jan. 11 to June 24 ask their doctor if another test is necessary.

The FDA gave the recall its highest risk category because of the dangers associated with false negatives for gonorrhea, a sexually transmitted disease that can worsen if left untreated.

"First, the person may not be getting the appropriate treatment," said Larry Spears, acting deputy director the FDA's Office of Compliance. "Second, they (may be) continuing to spread the disease to others."

Abbott Laboratories, based in Abbott Park, Ill., distributed the kits to hundreds of hospitals and laboratories, 80 percent of them

in the United States, from Jan. 11 to June 24.

Company spokesman Don Braakman said Abbott voluntarily recalled the tests July 18 and that all customers had been contacted and offered a refund. The company has since produced new test kits now available for sale.

Braakman said only a small percentage of people with gonorrhea would be affected by the defective tests since only those with low levels of the disease could be misdiagnosed.

In men, gonorrhea causes a burning sensation when urinating and irregular discharge from the penis. Undetected, it can lead to sterility. Women initially often show no or only mild symptoms, which can be mistaken for bladder or vaginal infections. If untreated, women can develop pelvic inflammatory disease, which can lead to infertility or complications in pregnancy.

Of the 32 sets of test kits recalled, the company later found that 16 contained tests that could give false readings. Each set contains about 47,000 tests.

INTERNATIONAL



Funeral for slain boy



Brennan Linsley/Associated Press
During a funeral procession, a man shouts Islamic slogans as he and others carry the body of Palestinian boy Abdel Hadi Hamaida, 12, who was shot dead Thursday by Israeli soldiers, in Rafah, Gaza. Hamaida was killed, according to witnesses, when Israeli troops who were demolishing a home opened fire to keep people away from their position.

Koreas agree on cross-border railway, food aid

BY SANG-HUN CHOE
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North and South Korea agreed Friday to reconnect rail and road links by year's end, building a corridor of traffic across the mine-strewn Demilitarized Zone that has separated the two Koreas since the 1950-53 Korean War.

After three days of economic talks in Seoul, the two sides reached an agreement that also called for the South to provide the impoverished North with a loan of 400,000 metric tons of rice worth \$106 million, and a free donation of 100,000 metric tons of chemical fertilizer worth \$17 million.

The agreement, the latest step toward reconciliation on the divided peninsula, came as North Korea's isolated communist regime is moving to reach out to the rest of the world, including the United States and Japan.

Shortly after the two Koreas struck their economic deal, Tokyo and Pyongyang announced that Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in mid-September.

Friday's agreement said the two Koreas will tear down barbed wire fences and remove land mines to reconnect a rail line across the western sector of the 2 1/2-mile wide DMZ by year's end. They will also finish a parallel road by next spring.

The two sides will start work simultaneously on Sept. 18, a joint statement said.

Work will also begin at the same time to reconnect a second railroad and another road across the eastern sector of the border. The road will be connected by November to carry South Korean tourists to the scenic Diamond Mountain on the North's east coast. Until now, tourists have traveled by expensive cruise ships. Finishing the eastern rail link is expected to take several years.

Opening road and rail links would be a significant breakthrough in relations between the two Koreas, which are separated by the world's most heavily armed border. The Korean War ended in an armistice, not in a peace treaty, and the

border is guarded by 2 million troops on both sides.

The two sides have a history of reaching big agreements that later fall through when tensions flare.

Plans to build a railway and a parallel road across the western sector of the border were originally included in an agreement reached at a historic inter-Korean summit in the summer of 2000. North Korea stopped construction early last year amid tension with the United States, Seoul's main ally.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has yet to keep a promise he had made during the summit to visit South Korea.

"North Korea's main motive is economic benefits," said Park June-young, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Ewha Womans University, commenting on Koizumi's planned visit to North Korea and the inter-Korean agreement. "But through these agreements, North Korea is slowly changing itself and moving in the right direction."

Potential stumbling blocks remain in the railway project. Military officials of the two sides must meet before Sept. 18 to work out details of cooperation inside the DMZ during the railway work.

As an incentive, South Korea will supply North Korea with needed material and equipment for the rail and road projects.

South Korea also extracted a North Korean promise to let South Korean officials monitor distribution of its rice loans to ensure that they do not feed North Korea's armed forces.

The agreement also revived a proposal to build an industrial park in Kaesong, a North Korean border city, where South Korea plans to relocate hundreds, perhaps thousands of labor-intensive plants such as shoe factories.

The statement said North Korea agreed to allow South Korean contractors to start building the industrial park this year.

If reconnected, the railway would be first direct land transport link between the Koreas since the war. It could also boost trade, allowing South Korea to export goods to Europe by land, rather than by more expensive sea routes.

Wharfe said on television: "The last thing I would want to do is annoy or upset anybody."

"If, genuinely, (Princes) William or Harry are sad about this, and for that matter the Prince of Wales, well, then that's

unfortunate. But I stand by what I have written, and I would ask William and Harry and anybody else to read it and see for the first time the very positive side of who their mother was."

Tell-all book by Diana's ex-bodyguard condemned

BY ED JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — A tell-all book about Princess Diana by a former police bodyguard has outraged Scotland Yard and upset her mother and royal family members.

Although several books have been written about Diana since her death in a Paris car crash on Aug. 31, 1997, Ken Wharfe is the first personal guard to write a royal biography.

The book, "Diana: Closely Guarded Secret," chronicles Wharfe's six years at the princess's side and gives details of the troubled relationship between Diana and Prince Charles, and her romance with cavalry officer James Hewitt.

Scotland Yard chief Sir John Stevens said he was mortified by the book, describing it as a betrayal.

"As a protection officer, you are in the most intimate relationships with people, living with people, traveling with them," Stevens said. "That is one of the distasteful parts of Ken Wharfe's actions, that trust was built over a long period of time and could be destroyed just like that."

According to The Daily Mail tabloid, Scotland Yard was considering whether it

could force the book to be removed from the market and destroyed, and Wharfe's profits to be confiscated.

A force spokeswoman dismissed the report as speculation but confirmed that senior officers were looking at the legal options open to them.

Diana's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, has attacked what she calls the "commercialization" of her daughter's death which "has gone way beyond limits of decency and sensitivity."

"Since her death so many people who she trusted have broken the trust and for financial gain have spilled the beans, so to speak," she said, according to a transcript of a show to be seen Sunday.

Bodyguards employed by Scotland Yard are not covered by a confidentiality agreement that has bound members of the royal household since 2000, after Patrick Jephson, Diana's former private secretary, wrote a book.

The new tell-all book has upset members of the royal family.

"We would welcome any moves to tighten up the system" of confidentiality agreements, said a spokeswoman for St. James's Palace.

Sophia Loren at Venice Film Festival to promote son's film

BY TOM RACHMAN
Associated Press Writer

VENICE, Italy — After years away, the elegant Sophia Loren returned to the Venice Film Festival, not as just another glitter-celebrity waggling for the paparazzi, but in the role she holds dearest of all: doting mom.

The 67-year-old actress, whose looks and grace have seduced generations of fans, was on hand Friday to promote the feature-film debut of her director son, Edoardo Ponti. His picture "Between Strangers" also gets a boost from leading lady Mira Sorvino and French actor Gerard Depardieu — but it's his mother's star turn in the picture that grabbed the attention here.

"Working together was very emotional for me," Loren

said Friday. "When I saw him on the first day of shooting and I was looking at him, I thought: I brought him to life and there he was, my best friend giving me the most beautiful judgment about how I should do a scene."

The thin-haired, bearded 29-year-old Ponti — offspring of Loren and her husband, producer Carlo Ponti — smiled when his mother started sounding a little too motherly, noting how "terribly young" he is, then listing off her boy's fine traits: "very healthy, good principles, very eager to express himself, very intelligent, great sense of humor," she told a news conference.

"Always a mom," Ponti said with a grin.

Ponti's film, which he also wrote, tells the story of three women. Loren plays a frustrated artist thwarted by her husband, and she agonizes over having given up a

baby for adoption when she was younger. "Between Strangers" is not in competition for any award, but nonetheless had much of the attention Friday on the second day of the festival.

"I was just trying to portray my mother as I saw her," Ponti said. "I don't know her as a movie star, I know her as the woman who woke me up for school."

Loren is renowned in Italy for having maintained her beauty without surgery and having kept her poise rather than sinking into a garish celebrity life. The longevity of her looks is also legendary, and brought a laugh Friday when a British tabloid journalist asked her, "How do you still look so sexy in your seventh decade?"

Replied a grinning Loren: "It's in the DNA."



SPORTS

Gaga for Guga: Gustavo Kuerten knocks off Marat Safin

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK — With each flowing forehand, each biting serve, Gustavo Kuerten looked less and less like the unseeded player he is and more and more like the Grand Slam champion he has been.

Marat Safin did little to slow the transformation.

In a matchup that, judging by names and accomplishments alone, belongs in the latter stages of a major tournament rather than merely the second round, Kuerten dominated No. 2-seeded Safin 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 Friday at the U.S. Open.

"Maybe today is my happiest day of the year," three-time French Open champion Kuerten said, his disposition as bright as his orange T-shirt. "I feel much more relieved. I feel I have nothing to lose. Winning the match, I got my confidence back. I feel happy with myself and my game."

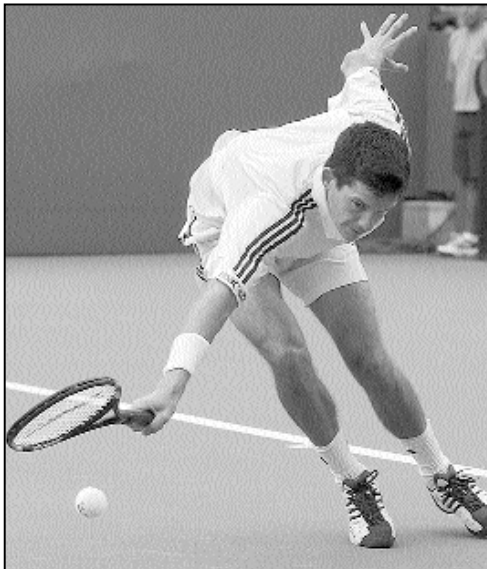
That hasn't been the case for much of 2002, a season interrupted in February by right hip surgery that kept him off tour for two months. Kuerten came into the U.S. Open totting a 13-10 match record and a ranking of 46th — making him the first player in 31 years to go from being seeded No. 1 at the Open one year to being unseeded the next.

"He's hungry," said Safin, who beat Pete Sampras to win the 2000 Open. "He wants to come back. He wants to win matches."

Among the contenders moving into the third round with victories: No. 11 Andy Roddick, who turned 20 Friday and was serenaded with "Happy Birthday" from the stands; and No. 3 Tommy Haas, who was steamed that his coach wasn't relaying advice from the stands — even though such help is banned.

Other seeded winners included Wimbledon semifinalist Tim Henman, French Open finalist Juan Carlos Ferrero and No. 19 Xavier Malisse. But 10th-seeded Sebastien Grosjean lost to fellow Frenchman Arnaud Clement 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Lindsay Davenport, the 1998 champion, reached the Open's fourth round for the seventh year in a row, beating 17-year-old French qualifier Marion Bartoli 6-3, 6-1. Davenport, seeded fourth as she plays her first major



Ed Betz/Associated Press

Britain's Tim Henman reaches for a return against Belgium's Dick Norman Friday at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York.

since right knee surgery in January, had 11 aces among a whopping 37 winners — 34 more than Bartoli.

Kuerten was asked what the unwanted time off after his operation taught him.

"The past and the future don't matter — just the moment you're living," the man known as Guga said. "So that's what I've got to worry: When the ball comes, I have to hit it, or when I'm on the court I have to practice."

"When it's gone, it's gone."

If Kuerten lives for the moment, Safin tries to get through it.

He'll smash rackets (though none Friday, which counts as progress). He'll throw his arms in the air. He'll mutter to himself after most every mistake. It's as though he's thinking, "I am much too good to ever give away a point."

"What can you say to yourself? It's just all the good things and all the bad things you can say," Safin said. "You try to react, try to maybe help. But it didn't help today."

Kuerten was just too good, striking 13 aces; his fastest of the match, 122 mph, came in the final game. He faced just two break points, erasing both, and won 24 of the 27 points on his serve in the third set.

His ratio of winners to errors was 45-24.

"He was inspired. He was everything. Even when he hit with the frame, it was perfect," Safin said. "What can you do about it? You cannot do nothing about it."

Safin had other obstacles to overcome, including a cracked rib and fatigue from a 4 1/2-hour, cramp-inducing first-round victory over Nicolas Kiefer.

Still, the 6-foot-4 Russian can't be pleased with a second-round exit to match the one he had at Wimbledon. The two surprising flops at majors follow a string in which Safin made at least the semifinals of four straight Grand Slam events.

Kuerten, meanwhile, knows all about surprises, having won the 1997 French Open as a little-known player ranked out of the top 50 and without a single tournament title to his credit.

"Marat, for sure, knew it would be a tough match to play me, especially in a Grand Slam," said Guga, who took in Game 1 of the WNBA Finals at Madison Square Garden on Thursday night. "So I think I will always be trying to worry the guys in these tournaments, even if I'm not seeded."

Roddick's 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Raemon Sluiter opened with a 10-minute game in which the American failed to convert seven break points.

Roddick quickly took control, though, winning the next five games, and did all he could to fire up the fans at Louis Armstrong Stadium. After one winner, he waved his arms to implore them to yell louder. After another — a spectacular running crosscourt backhand — Roddick stood near the stands and bowed as the crowd roared.

Oakland Athletics happy to bring 15-game streak back home

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND — It sure felt good for pitcher Barry Zito finally to talk about throwing strikes instead of going out on one.

Zito and the Oakland Athletics returned home carrying an impressive 15-game winning streak and a sense of relief that, yes, they will have a chance to continue their remarkable run.

"Bringing the streak back to Oakland is very cool," Zito said Friday afternoon after baseball players and owners reached a tentative agreement and avoided a work stoppage.

"It's big, but it was secondary to this issue.

... Is our team going to be turned around by this deal? No. Our team is awesome."

Shortstop Miguel Tejada is happy the hometown fans will get to witness an exciting final month of the season as the AL West leaders go for their third straight playoff appearance.

Oakland plays the AL-Central leading Minnesota Twins in what should be an exciting weekend series.

"It's cool," Tejada said. "The fans get to see the things that we're doing, and they will."

The Coliseum's outfield may have looked a little ugly following two Raiders NFL exhibition games including one the

previous night, but that seemed to be only a minor annoyance on this day. The teams did not take batting practice to allow the grounds crew to prepare the field.

"As long as no one gets hurt and it doesn't hurt the game adversely, we can live with it," A's manager Art Howe said.

Fans greeted second baseman Mark Ellis with congratulations and best wishes when he stopped to get lunch Friday.

He said it will be a fun pennant race, and not just for the players.

"I'm very glad it wasn't halted," he said. "It would have been very tough to come back from."

Even the Twins were pleased the A's

would be back in front of their fans.

"These guys are unbelievable," Twins closer Eddie Guardado said of the A's. "They're similar to us — they're not a high-powered, All-Star, big-salary team. They play hard ball for nine innings just like we do."

A's fan Anthony Silva, 23, waited outside the Coliseum a few hours before game-time. He plays semipro baseball in the area and hopes one day to play professionally.

"I wasn't so much fearing that I wouldn't be able to see them play, I was fearing that they wouldn't get to continue the season they are having," he said.

Masters will be commercial-free, dropping corporate sponsors

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

The Masters is going commercial-free, dropping its corporate sponsors to avoid pressure on them by a women's organization that challenged Augusta National's all-male membership.

Club chairman Hootie Johnson on Friday notified the tournament's three sponsors — IBM, Citigroup and Coca-Cola — that the Masters "will not request their participation" in 2003.

Those were the only companies that were allowed to run ads during the broadcast. Their logos also appeared on the Masters' Web site.

"This year's telecast will be conducted by the Masters Tournament," Johnson said in a statement. "We appreciate everything our media sponsors have done for us, but under the circumstances, we think it is important to take this step."

The Masters, which traditionally has the highest ratings in golf, will be the only commercial-free telecast in sports.

The friction began in June when Martha Burk, head of the

National Council of Women's Organization, sent Johnson a letter urging him to add women to its membership.

Johnson said he canceled the one-year sponsorship contracts because the NCWO had launched a corporate campaign against the club.

Johnson has said the club has no exclusionary policies, although it has never had a female member its 69-year history, and only welcomed its first black member in 1990. In response to Burk's letter, Johnson defiantly said that Augusta National will not be "bullied, threatened or intimidated" to add female members.

Burk was at a conference in Maine on Friday. Calls to her cell phone were not immediately returned.

Coca-Cola spokesman Ben Deutsch confirmed the company did receive a letter from Burk, although he said it was not threatening.

"We had discussions with Augusta National officials and they recently informed us of their decision to conduct the tournament without sponsors," Deutsch said. "We enjoyed our one-year sponsorship of the Masters,

and we wish them well."

IBM spokeswoman Deb Gotthimer would only confirm that the company received a letter from NCWO. "We respect the club's decision to hold the Masters without sponsors next year," she said.

Citigroup declined comment.

The companies also had a small chalet at Augusta National during the Masters. It was not immediately clear whether they would be able to use them next year.

"We are sorry, but not surprised, to see these corporations drawn into this matter," Johnson said. "Augusta National is NCWO's true target. It is therefore unfair to put the Masters' media sponsors in the position of having to deal with this pressure."

The Masters already was the least commercialized tournament in golf, void of corporate tents and exhibitions at Augusta National. Its deal with CBS Sports allowed only four minutes of commercials each hour.

CBS spokeswoman Robin Brendle said the network would have no comment.

COMICS

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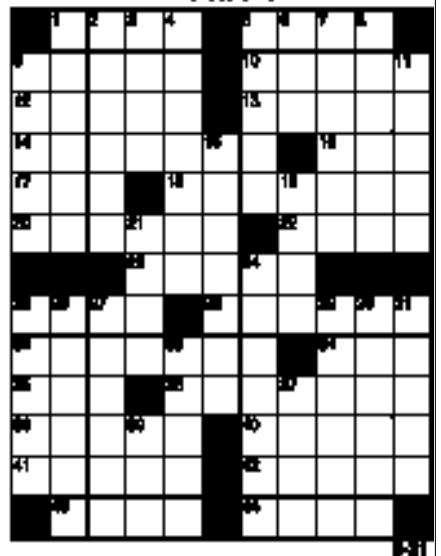
- ACROSS**
- 1 Bum a bit
 - 5 Fleet unit
 - 6 Entertain-er Rivers
 - 10 Choir member
 - 12 Wore
 - 13 Poetic Muse
 - 14 Rusher's goal
 - 16 Used to be
 - 17 Survey question
 - 18 Electrical measure
 - 20 Wrote
 - 22 Looks over
 - 23 Tilt
 - 25 Result
 - 32 Acquires
 - 34 Bearded head
 - 35 Smile center
 - 36 Hole for Robeson
 - 38 Nephew
 - 40 Little hooker
 - 41 Divinity, e.g.
 - 42 Low looks
 - 43 Dog-gone!
 - 44 Blunders
- DOWN**
- 2 Secreted
 - 3 The whole range
 - 4 Went too long
 - 6 Gender material
 - 8 Yonder less
 - 7 Sort of
 - 8 Thick soup
 - 9 Tawdry
 - 11 Gift for a sweet-heart
 - 15 Without question
 - 19 Casual tops
 - 21 Capar Archibald
 - 24 Apartment
 - 26 Box, e.g.
 - 28 Affected person
 - 27 Plumber or Blake
 - 29 "Catch-door"
 - 30 "22" writer
 - 31 Horn at times
 - 33 Shoe parts
 - 37 Plover
 - 39 Rap.



Yesterday's answer

- 24 Apartment
- 26 Box, e.g.
- 28 Affected person
- 27 Plumber or Blake
- 29 "Catch-door"
- 30 "22" writer
- 31 Horn at times
- 33 Shoe parts
- 37 Plover
- 39 Rap.

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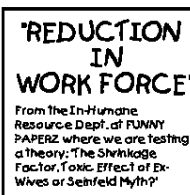


NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Congregation blames devil for credit debt

Bishop C. Vernie Russell's Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church (Norfolk, Va.) has raised \$340,000 from his congregation in 14 months for the specific purpose of helping randomly chosen members (59 so far) to get out of debt by having their credit-card bills paid off by the church, according to a June Wall Street Journal report. At the special, monthly "debt liquidation revival," congregants dance and chant, "stomping" the devil, who is believed to be the cause of the credit-card debt in the first place. Lucky winners must cut up their cards and attend counseling, and Russell believes "cured" borrowers are much better tithers.

WEBSTER Joe King





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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.

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Houses For Rent

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SANTA MONICA \$1600.00 Twnhse, r/s, crpts, d/w, balcony, hrdwd flrs, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1300.00 Twnhse, PET OK, r/s, crpts, lrg clsts, Indry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1350.00 Cozy Gst Hse, PET OK, hrdwd flrs, patio, w/d, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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

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GREAT GIRLS clothes, games, toys, c.d.s, books, household and lots more! Saturday 8/31 9am-2pm 1508 Stanford St., south of Broadway.

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Calendar

Saturday, August 31, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Blue Crush (PG-13) 12:40, 1:40, 3:30, 4:30, 6:20, 7:20, 9:10, 10:10. *Blood Work* (R) 1:00, 3:35, 6:40, 9:30. *Simone* (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
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, 12:20, 2:10, 2:45, 4:50, 5:30, 7:20, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30. *XXX* (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:30. *The Master of Disguise* (PG) 1:45, 3:50, 6:00.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
FearDotcom (R) 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30. *Signs* (PG-13) 1:00, 3:45, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:20. *Undisputed* (R) 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55. *Road to Perdition* (R) 1:20, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05. *Lilo & Stich* (PG) 12:45, 2:45. *Spy Kids 2* (PG) 1:30, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35. *Serving Sara* (PG-13) 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15.

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

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.
The Bourne Identity (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

Today

Community

Weekly Storytime, 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes & Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call 310-260-9110 for more information.

Art in Literature Book Discussion Series - The Santa Monica Public Library offers a new book discussion series on Saturdays, August 10, August 24, and September 7, at 2 p.m. The discussions will take place in the Main Library auditorium, 1343 Sixth Street. Book discussions are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited. To register, please stop by the Information Desk on the 2nd floor of the library, or call Rebecca at (310)434-2644, or by e-mail rebecca-ryan@santa-monica.org.

Theater / Arts

Beauty and the Beast - Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through September 15 6:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th Street.

Santa Monica Children's Theatre Co. presents a newly forming musical theatre company for chil-

dren. Every Saturday from 10:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Quest Studios, 19th & Broadway in Santa Monica. Tuition is \$325 per month - covers cost of all classes and productions. Contact Janet Stegman at (310)995-9636.

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)394-9779 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.

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.

14 Below, 1348 14th St., Santa Monica. If the band stinks, take advantage of commodious booths, pool tables, and fireplace. Full Bar. Over 21. (310)451-5040.

Juana Molina, 8 pm, \$16. McCabe's Guitar Shop. Pico at 31st. (310)828-4403.

Sunday

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 \$25.50. Show starts at 6:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)394-9779 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Beauty and the Beast - Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through September 15 6:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th Street.

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 surfboards. 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.

14 Below, 1348 14th St., Santa Monica. If the band stinks, take advantage of commodious booths, pool tables, and fireplace. Full Bar. Over 21. (310)451-5040.

Almost Vaudeville. 2 pm and 5 pm. 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



BACK PAGE

Vegans can now find animal-friendly gear for bondage

BY SHERRI C. GOODMAN
The Salt Lake Tribune

SALT LAKE CITY — A vegan's life is anything but easy. What to eat, what to drink, what to wear.

What to use to tie up, blindfold, gag and whip your partner.

A young Salt Lake City entrepreneur is working to take the "cow" out of cover and make bondage play safe for vegans with a line of animal-friendly, cruelty-free human restraints, collars, harnesses, whips and belts.

Eric Ward, who runs the business online, crafts custom-made gear on request out of a "synthetic" microfiber called Lorica that looks, feels and acts like leather.

"One of the major aspects of the fetish of leather is the look of it. It just looks so sexy," Ward said.

The online store's dedication to vegan products earned it a spot on the "compassionate retailer" list of the animal-rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Ward, who has not eaten or used products derived from animals in four years, runs the online store as part of Reach Out Publications, a company that makes buttons and T-shirts for activist and nonprofit groups in Utah.

Reach Out's offices — where Ward produces his erotic wares — are anything but sexy.

Perched atop an unrelated business along the railroad tracks in West Salt Lake, the cluttered space doubles as Ward's home.

He bags condoms in a room next to his kitchen; he designs and builds bondage gear in his bedroom. The store's inventory hangs from pegs on his bedroom wall.

And Ward, a slight 22-year-old University of Utah graduate with a degree in stage management and theater, is far from Larry Flynt.

He insists his main motive is to make life easier for vegans. Ward volunteers with the Utah Animal Rights Coalition and helped publish a guide to vegetarian restaurants in the valley.

Reach Out also runs a vegetarian food-buying club. But he admits a personal interest in leather fetishes

and bondage also played a role in the creation of his online store.

"I like helping open people's sexuality," he said.

His career as a PETA-sanctioned erotica outfitter started with a fateful trip to Europe, where he discovered a wealth of affordable vegan condoms.

"I like helping open people's sexuality."

— ERIC WARD
Entrepreneur

When he returned to the United States he decided to start an online store to sell the vegan condoms priced to compete with traditional condoms.

The condom line, produced by German company Condomi, raises the question: What makes a typical latex condom unvegan?

According to Ward and other animal activists, latex processing traditionally involves the use of a milk protein to soften the material, which violates the philosophy of veganism. Condomi uses milk-free cocoa powder instead.

His condom sales have been brisk — one customer in Ohio spent more than \$100 on condoms — spurring Ward to toy with other vegan erotic tools.

He searched for durable vegan bondage gear and found fabric restraints and rubber whips, but not a lot of well-crafted "pleather" gear, he said.

He researched alternative materials and settled on Lorica, a synthetic microfiber used to make shoes and other vegan products.

Ward bought a roll of the black material, some leather-crafting tools and hardware, and the alternative sexuality guide, "Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns," and started whipping out custom-crafted designs.

"The most important thing to me to get on the Web site

immediately was the ankle and wrist restraints," he said. "While your average couple may not be interested in bondage, many of them would like some nice padded restraints."

He has since added custom-made belts and harness designs as well as whips and slappers to the Web site at prices that are competitive with comparable leather items.

Ward can only afford to offer the items in black, but he hopes to expand the choice to red and white Lorica products.

"Those are sexy colors, but it costs a lot to just get the black (material)," he said.

He now spends much of his time perfecting his product designs.

"Of course this may not be something your average couple will want, but there is a market," he said.

Lisa Franzetta, a campaign coordinator for PETA, agrees.

"PETA has received inquiries from people independently trying to find those types of products," she said. "In general, more and more people are looking for items that are cruelty-free."

Still, Ward isn't raking in the dollars with the Web site. While he has sold about 5,000 condoms at a cost of about 48 cents each, he has had only five orders for bondage gear.

At least one of his customers is so pleased with her purchase that she plans to buy more.

Amy Leventhal, a 32-year-old Berkeley, Calif., resident, said she and her boyfriend visited street fairs and sex shops and surfed Web sites looking for a vegan collar.

"I'm not really a bondage-type person, but I wanted a collar and my boyfriend wanted one," said Leventhal, who is a vegetarian and does not wear leather products.

The selection of "cutesy" vegan collars dismayed her. Then she found Ward's Web site.

Ward asked for her neck size and customized the collar.

"It was really well-made and comfortable," she said. "It feels great and it looks like leather. It was just I was looking for."

Now her boyfriend wants his own collar.

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