



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

September, 3-4, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 253

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 8 13 23 27
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$25 Million

FANTASY 5

4 28 30 31 36

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 5 9
Evening: 3 0 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka!
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 10 Solid Gold

RACE TIME: 1:44.51

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In incidents two weeks apart in July, men in New York City and Trenton, Ohio, arrived for Internet-chat-room-arranged trysts with "teenage girls" (who were, of course, police officers operating stings), even though they apparently could not find baby sitters. Alan Schaefer, 43, was arrested in Greenwich Village while walking down a street with his 14-month-old son in one arm and holding the hand of a very young-looking policewoman. Would-be Clinton Township, Ohio, politician Hank Hill was arrested when he showed up to meet a "14-year-old girl," and according to WEWS-TV, in his truck were Viagra, condoms, lubricant and his 22-month-old son.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 246th day of 2005.
There are 119 days left in the year.

On Sept. 3, 1783, the Treaty of Paris between the United States and Great Britain officially ended the Revolutionary War.

In 1658, Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England, died.

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Sun sets on Twilight



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Bass player Prescott Niles of the Knack jams before a captive audience Thursday night on the Santa Monica Pier. The band's lively set marked the season finale of the 21st Annual Twilight Dance Series concerts.

L.A. isn't drain on SM Bay cleanup

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA BAY — A local environmental watchdog group has concluded that a sewage settlement for \$2 billion against Los Angeles did the most to preserve the Santa Monica Bay and other coastal areas last year.

Environment Now, a Santa Monica-based non-profit group, announced in an August report that the victorious settlement involving the Santa Monica Baykeeper against the city of Los Angeles was the most impressive legal action to further the cause of coastal protection in 2004. According to the group, Los Angeles is fulfilling its obligations under the agreement.

Terry O'Day, chief operating officer for Environment Now, said the sewage settlement is a landmark achievement that will have

See **BAYKEEPERS**, page 6

LOCAL

Suspect being sought after attempted rape

By Daily Press staff

ARCADE TERRACE — A man who attempted a rape and failed is wanted by the Santa Monica police for assault.

At 9:50 p.m. on Sept. 1, the Santa Monica police responded to Arcade Terrace regarding an attempted sexual assault.

After officers arrived on the scene, they concluded the suspect entered the residence through a partially open door. Once inside the residence, the suspect attempted to sexually assault the victim.

The suspect took the victim's purse before fleeing the location.

See **SEXUAL ASSAULT**, page 6

Arrests in local terrorism case example of homegrown threat

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — An alleged plot targeting military facilities, synagogues and other Los Angeles-area sites — including a Santa Monica recruitment center — has highlighted what experts say is a growing terrorist threat: homegrown American militants operating with little or no help from Islamic extremists abroad.

Four suspects were charged this week with conspiring to wage war against the U.S. government through terrorism. Named in the federal indictment were Levar Haley Washington, 25; Gregory Vernon Patterson, 21; Kevin James, 29; and Hammad Riaz Samana, 21, believed to be a for-

mer Santa Monica College student.

All but Samana, a Pakistani national, are American born and Muslim converts. Counterterrorism officials have found no evidence directly connecting the group — described as the cell of a California prison gang of radical Muslims — to al-Qaida or other foreign terror networks.

Law enforcement officials and terrorism experts said it could represent one of the first Islamic terrorism cases involving U.S. natives without those connections.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror strikes, an international dragnet has broken up training camps, disrupted finances and sent terrorist leaders underground, making it all

See **TERROR AT HOME**, page 7

Whoa is me



Matan Ori/Special to Daily Press
Why would anybody jump out of a perfectly good airplane? Seek answers on page 13.

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Act on a wish, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press



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)

★★★ Sometimes you might want to hide out or avoid others. There is an underlying tone of uproar. You gain insight but also could have frayed nerves. Think of better ways to handle stress. A diet or health regimen begun today will probably last. Tonight: Stay close to home.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ A friend could bolt into your morning, starting your day on a very surprising note. Understand how much you are cared about, but be willing to juggle different people if you want to make yourself and others happy. Tonight: Settle for nothing less than fun.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You might be woken up by an unusual demand or request. You might not be happy about the pressure you are under, and could say so very clearly. Get home as fast as you can. You need to let others know and honor your priorities. Tonight: Entertain at home, if you wish.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Though you're easygoing, you might not appreciate any disruption this morning. In fact, you might need to do some activity in order to chill out. Start acting on your priorities, screening out certain people and calls. Tonight: At a favorite spot.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You find someone's request a bit outrageous. A bill could send you through the roof, and rightly so. Remember, you will have choices once you calm down. Decide to handle your finances differently. Decisions made today hold. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Someone acts like an electrical bolt through your life. You certainly are jolted into reality or out of an easy, relaxed state. You might not be able to control this person, but you certainly can establish boundaries. Tonight: What you want.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ You might find your nerves frayed by early morning events. Clearly, you need to relax, even if it means playing ostrich. You are no good to others unless you are OK, relaxed and alert. Start taking care of yourself. Tonight: Give in to a long-term desire.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Your morning could be filled with adventure and excitement. You will go along, but won't be sure if you really want what is happening. Later, focus on friends and a get-together. Determine what you want. Tonight: Act on a wish.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might be startled by a family member or events around your home. Whatever goes on, you will need to take the lead, whether you want to or not. Decisions you make today will stick and are important. Tonight: In the limelight.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You cannot complain of boredom right now. On the other hand, so much goes on that you might need to chill out and go with the flow. Look at the big picture and don't get caught up in the details. Don't trigger. Tonight: Go where you can hear music.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You pull the wild card financially, not knowing which way to twist or turn. Don't take any risks that could damage your security. Flow with a partner who seems far more grounded than you. Tonight: If someone wants to treat, say yes.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You might not think you are high-voltage, but others do. In fact, you could trigger a whole series of events and reactions. Listen to what others say. Your sensitivity goes a long way in your relationships. Tonight: Be thoughtful of others.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Katrina victims, help is on the way

By Daily Press staff

For those saddened by the devastation in the South in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, some Santa Monicans are saying that help's on the way.

Franklin Elementary School parents are joining together to collect items anyone might care to donate to the victims of this disaster. An 18-wheeler will be outside of Franklin this weekend to load the trailer with contributions.

Displaced families are in desperate need of: food (non-perishable); water; clothing (all ages); shoes (all ages); bedding; medicines; formula; diapers; toys and games; stuffed animals; books; and household items.

It's a great time of year to clean your closets of those outgrown clothes and what better reason than to offer them to victims of such a horrifying disaster?

To donate, drop it by the trailer, which can be found on Idaho Avenue near the Franklin playground. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday.

Call Debra at (310) 453-4649 for more information.

Tiny grads get their diplomas

By Daily Press staff

Seven children, ages four and five, received their diplomas recently at St. Joseph Center's full-day child care Early Learning Center.

As the mini-grads finished their first chapter of schooling, a group of their fellow students sang "Baby Beluga" and "Color My World" in support.

The 19 preschoolers and their parents are part of the Center's ongoing childcare, development and case management services encouraging self-sufficiency for homeless and low-income families.

When program manager April Wright asked the graduates about their future career choices, four of the girls said they wanted to be power rangers, while the other girls opted to be basketball players, police officers and artists. The only boy graduate wants to be a monster truck driver.

"This ceremony is significant to me," said Wright, "because it marks the second graduation in our expanded Early Learning Center program that moved to Fourth and Ashland two years ago. Here we are preparing children for the future."

St. Joseph Center has been in Venice, Santa Monica and the Westside community for 29 years.

For more information on St. Joseph Center and how you can help, call (310) 396-6468 ext. 325, or visit www.stjosephctr.org.

SMC professor is out of this world

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College astronomy professor Gary Fouts has been named the second recipient of the John F. Drescher Chair of Excellence in Earth Science.

Fouts will receives \$5,000 a year for each of the next three years, cash to be used toward a research project of his choice.

He plans to use the funds to conduct research on atmospheric ozone level fluctuations, which have been shown to lead to excess UV sun rays, posing risks ranging from skin cancer to crop damage.

The award was established in the memory of John Drescher, a philanthropist and donor to the college.

Drescher, who died five years ago at the age of 89, had left in his will a \$1,500,000 gift to the college

Fouts has had several scientific papers published, including an award-winning paper that garnered him attention in books such as "The Alchemy of Heavens" and magazines such as Scientific American.

An astronomy professor at SMC since 1988, he founded and advises the student Astronomy Club and has organized lectures and fundraisers for his department and the club.



SURF REPORT

South-facing are seeing knee- to waist-high surf. West-facing breaks are running waist- to at times chest-high.

On Saturday, things pick up a bit. We have some SW due on Sunday, which should bring in some forerunners on Saturday. We're calling for knee- to waist-high surf on Saturday for south-facing breaks with some pluses at times at standouts in the chest-high range.

Sunday is when our next SW swell is due, and this has some very long periods to it (16+ seconds) and will likely have some noticeable lulls between sets.

Today the water is:

68°

Write us at alex@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	4:03	0.1	3:45	1.6	10:20	4.6	9:48	5.7
SUNDAY	4:24	0.2	4:18	1.5	10:40	4.7	10:19	5.4
MONDAY	4:45	0.5	4:53	1.3	11:00	4.5	10:52	5.0
TUESDAY	5:05	0.9	5:32	1.3	11:22	5.0	11:28	4.5
WEDNESDAY	5:25	1.3	6:18	1.3	11:46	4.3	N/A	N/A

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RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.

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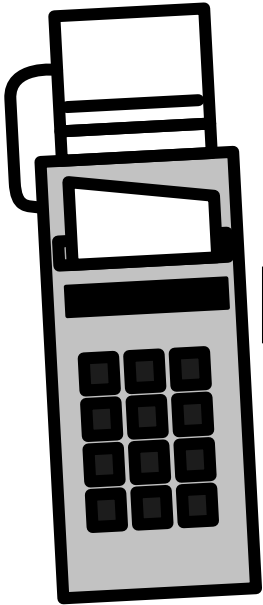
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OPINION

The QLine

SAFETY + FUNDAMENTALS = SUCCESS

This past week, Q-line asked:

What does the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District have to do to ensure that the upward achievement trend among students continues?

Here are your responses:

© “To ensure the upward achievement of students, the general environment in and around schools needs to be made safe and secure. Constant vigilance regarding troublemakers, drug and alcohol abusers needs to be consistently done with a no tolerance agenda. That is a big part of the overall picture. One cannot learn in an atmosphere of fear and upset.”

© “Frankly, I think the whole school system and its curriculum need updating badly. Not every student is geared toward or capable of higher education. Have basic English classes, etc., but then for those so inclined, gear the courses toward the various trades. There’s no shame in trades versus higher education. Everyone is needed and everyone with their own needs met will be happier and more successful.”

© “It is important that teachers make learning interesting and explain in detail why it is important to learn. It is not enough to teach that two plus two makes four. The student must understand why they should care. One reason being that figures do not lie, however liars do figure. As adults, we should be on top of the figures, lest we be outfigured. Children and adults will stand in a six-block line and pay to see a “Star Wars” movie simply because it is interesting and exciting. I have never seen anyone stand in line to go to school, due to school being boring. Most students would rather ditch and often do.”

© “Test scores would rise as long as several things are done. They should concentrate on teaching English to the kids that don’t speak English. That should be their main focus. Forget about teaching bilingual junk. Just get them to learn English. And if they’re trouble-

makers, send them to this community day school but call it a reform school. That’s what it should be called. Teachers should be able to teach and not spend half the time in class disciplining the troublemakers. They don’t belong in school with regular people because regular people want to learn. Troublemakers don’t. Ship ‘em out. Get rid of the illegal aliens. Most of them don’t speak English. That would help raise the test scores too.”

© “Continued achievement is beyond the ability of this school board. The board president spends most of her effort writing to your paper to complain about our governor while conveniently forgetting who overlooked the last 30 years that put us in this mess. But the one I like most is the professional racial agitator funded by the city. Every progressive school board should have one. The rest are fence-sitting dullards, who are catering to their political voter base. At the 10th grade, put those who are not into vocational studies. Here is the most important new concept for students to achieve high scores: discipline, personal responsibility, sacrifice, no free lunch. Not really a new concept but only to progressives. Time to evaluate a lot of high-paying positions in the school district. Our teachers should instill these values starting at an early age — to do the very best you can, no matter what. In the end, the most important person you compete against is yourself.”

© “Get rid of Malibu and use our money here instead of constantly asking for more. Santa Monica taxpayers should not have to continue to subsidize the Malibu schools. It’s time to end this illegal arrangement.”

Didn’t read fine print? Neither did any of us



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Publishers are coming to the rescue of baby boomers who are having trouble reading the small print of mass market paperbacks. Simon & Schuster’s Jack Romanos says, “We’ve been losing the foundation of our customer base because their eyesight is getting worse, and the books are getting harder and harder to read.”

So, they are printing new paperbacks in a bigger size with larger type and more space between lines. These aren’t to be confused with the “large print” version of books. These new books will still fit on the same shelf at the airport store, so boomers will be able to buy them without feeling that there is a sign on their foreheads that reads: “Getting Old.”

I hope that phone book publishers figure out how to do the same thing without making the Yellow Pages weigh 300 pounds. It’s also time for watchmakers to make those numbers legible. I’m not sure if I really want restaurant checks to be more readable, but that doesn’t seem like it would be too difficult of a task.

Eyesight is only one thing that changes as people get older. It would be nice if there were special showings of movies for people who are starting to be “hearing challenged.” If the volume were turned up a bit, then other people in the theater wouldn’t be constantly subjected to hearing things like, “What did she say?”

They could build special movie theaters for Boomers and Beyond. They would be long and narrow so that all the seats are on the aisle. That way, nobody would be disturbed when you have to go to the bathroom. The audio portion of the movie should be piped into the restroom, so that when you return to your seat, you don’t have to shout, “So, what did I miss?”

Many boomers readily admit that their memories are not as good now as they once were. There are already devices to help you find your keys and glasses. You

attach a little receiver to the object which will beep when you push the transmitter. All you have to do is follow the beep, and you’ve got your keys and glasses. My big problem with this is, how would I remember where I put the transmitter? I need a device that could hear me when I say, “Where are my stupid keys?” and then answer me with, “They’re right on the table where you left them, stupid.” Techies, get to work on that one.

The most annoying and embarrassing memory failure is not remembering the names of people we should remember. We run into someone whose face is very familiar, but we don’t have a clue what name goes with that face. One solution would be for everyone over 40 to wear a name tag. This has many drawbacks, not the least of which is that you’d have to remember to put your name tag on before you leave the house.

Forget name tags and technology. If someone who was born at least 40 years ago runs into another person of the same generation, they have an obligation to let each other know what their names are before panic sets in. If the salutation of “Hi” is followed by nothing or by something lame like, “How are you?” rather than a name, the other person should supply his or her name immediately. There’s nothing wrong with the second person saying, “Hi, Bill. I’m Jane. I used to live down the hall from you, but I know you remember that.” Then when Bill says, “Of course, I knew that,” let him get away with it. We’ve got to stick together on this thing.

Since baby boomers are such huge consumers, I feel society owes it to them to try to figure out more and more ways for them to feel comfortable. I had a few other ideas, but, well, I just can’t remember what they were.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Frasier.” He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com)

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COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY KEITH LOCKITCH

We can't defend if we can't convince

Four years into our "war on terror," the Iraqi insurgency is raging, with no apparent end to the new recruits eager to wage jihad against the West. Support for offensive action is fading among a disheartened American public, while the terrorists are growing in numbers and in boldness.

Where have our leaders gone wrong? What kind of leadership failure can demoralize a whole nation of honest, productive citizens, while leaving suicide murderers stirred to righteous action?

The power that inspires righteous action — and which, by its absence, breeds discouragement — is the power of moral idealism.

Observe that what draws the recruits to terrorist cells is the advancement of their religion. They are fighting to impose the rule of Islam worldwide, whether others agree with its tenets or not. It is no accident that the Koran (or the Bible) is full of calls to inflict violence on the recalcitrant unbeliever. Obedience to God is his highest moral obligation, whether he can be rationally persuaded of this or not. The jihadists' eagerness to subjugate and kill is an expression of the faith that establishing God's kingdom on earth is a cause worth dying for and worth killing for.

A twisted moral ideal of this kind must not be tolerated; it must be denounced without compromise and answered by a rational moral ideal proclaimed with equal righteousness. America was founded on the principle of individual rights — the rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" — a principle which bars the initiation of force. One cannot properly defend America, or Western civilization more broadly, without acknowledging the basic conflict between faith and reason, force and freedom — without upholding as a moral ideal, not submission to religious authority, but the freedom to live according to one's own rational convictions and values.

But on the inseparable connection between freedom and reason, our leaders are silent.

Have they at least condemned the jihadists' evil religious motives, showing some of the moral confidence necessary to defend our lives? Clearly not. Consider that a mere two weeks after Sept. 11, our planned Afghanistan campaign, "Operation Infinite Justice," was renamed to appease Muslims protesting that only Allah can dispense "infinite justice." Our leaders continue to insist, preposterously, that religion is incidental to the terrorist threat, that the terror-

ists have "hijacked a great religion," that America is (at best) neutral on the issue of faith and force.

Unable to defend America intellectually, our leaders are unable to defend her militarily.

Have they asserted that the purpose of our military is not to better the world, but to secure our non-negotiable right to self-defense? No. Our military resources have been squandered, and too many of our brave soldiers sacrificed, in a futile quest to spread "democracy" around the globe. This "Forward Strategy of Freedom" rests on the absurd moral premise that protecting our freedom is legitimate only when we "compassionately" bring voting booths to nations mired in endless ethnic and sectarian conflict.

Have our leaders acted consistently against terrorist regimes? Consider our policy toward Iran, the primary state sponsor of terrorism. Refusing to identify Iran as the fatherland of Islamic totalitarianism, our President beseeched its Mullahs to join our war on terror. And he has consistently answered their chants of "Death to America" and their quest for nuclear weapons with negotiation and spineless diplomacy.

The reason the terrorists and their state sponsors are not demoralized is that our leaders have failed to demoralize them. Our leaders' words and actions have signaled that we are not as morally committed to our lives and freedom as the terrorists are to our destruction.

No one wants to fight and die for a hopeless cause. The jihadists will continue to be emboldened and to attract new recruits until they are convinced their goal is unachievable. They must see that we have the moral confidence to defend our lives — to answer their violence with an overwhelming military response, without pulling punches. They must see us willing to visit such crushing devastation on them that they fear us more than they fear Allah.

Our safety does indeed depend on winning "hearts and minds" among the supporters of totalitarian Islam: their hearts must be made to despair at the futility of their cause, and their minds must be convinced that any threat to our lives and freedom will bring them swift and certain doom. The ideologues of totalitarian Islam have seized the power of moral idealism in the service of our destruction. It is time we reclaimed that power in defense of our freedom.

(Keith Lockitch is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine, CA.)

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L.A. to clean 2,800 miles of sewer lines

BAYKEEPERS, from page 1

long-term impacts for Santa Monica and other areas. Perhaps just as importantly, O'Day said that Los Angeles seems to be living up to its end of the bargain.

"The settlement is supported by the top leadership in Los Angeles, who were very involved in negotiations and believed it was the right way to go," O'Day said. "They realized this was a public issue, with serious effects, and we're very optimistic Los Angeles will follow through with the terms of the settlement."

In its annual report, Environment Now traces the most significant development each year in Southern California involving issues related to air and water quality, energy and land use management. Because of the precedent-setting aspects of the sewage settlement, Environment Now's Year in Review 2004 Coastal Protection Award recognizes those who pushed the whopping \$2 billion agreement forward.

In November of 1998, the Santa Monica Baykeeper, a group committed to restoring coastal areas, filed suit in federal

district court against the city of Los Angeles, alleging some 20,000 violations of the federal Clean Water Act due to ongoing city sewage spills. The majority of these spills occurred in low-income, minority areas, according to the complaint.

Some of the spills overflowed into storm drains and reached river and ocean waters, causing bacterial contamination and beach closures.

In January of 2001, the federal and state Environmental Protection Agency also joined the fray, suing the city of Los Angeles for its continuing violations. That summer, residents in Baldwin Hills and the Crenshaw District also filed suit.

The various parties involved in the suit were able to provide enough legal fodder to steer Los Angeles into compliance, said Tracy Egoscue, from the Santa Monica Baykeeper.

"The expert reports really turned the tide for us," Egoscue said.

In August of 2004, after six years of litigation, a \$2 billion settlement was

reached, resulting in one of the largest clean water projects and providing a road map for change, according to Environment Now.

TALLYING THE RESULTS

"The impact of the sewage settlement is enormous," O'Day said.

L.A. has about 6,000 miles of sewer lines serving almost four million residents. The \$2 billion agreement requires the city to rebuild at least 488 miles of sewer lines and clean 2,800 miles of sewer annually.

L.A. must also enhance its program to control restaurant grease discharges, increase the sewage system's capacity, and plan for future expansion.

All terms of the settlement must be met and progress reports have to be submitted to the Santa Monica Baykeeper and the EPA for the next 10 years, with penalties for unfulfilled obligations.

"The city is now learning to go the next step," O'Day said.





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Police searching for suspect who fled following assault

SEXUAL ASSAULT, from page 1

The suspect is described as a black male, in his early- to mid- 30s, approximately five-foot-eight to five-foot-nine inches tall, muscular build, with short black hair and brown eyes, and a medium pock-marked complexion and freckles.

The suspect is also described as having a small mole on his right bicep.

At the time of the incident, the suspect wore a white tank top, dark blue nylon track pants, and blue tennis shoes with

white soles.

Anyone having information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491 or the Watch Commander's Office at (310) 458-8426.

Callers who wish to provide anonymous information may also call the We-Tip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463).

Callers with information that leads to an arrest and conviction become eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

Attorney general is looking into possible gas-price gouging case

JENNIFER COLEMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — State Attorney General Bill Lockyer on Friday launched a probe into possible price gouging by gas and oil companies following Hurricane Katrina.

He said the investigation was prompted by complaints from California residents about rising gas prices after the hurricane, which destroyed oil platforms and damaged refineries along the Gulf Coast.

"Hurricane Katrina has broken families, devastated communities and destroyed lives," Lockyer said in a written statement. "To unjustly profit from tragedy is unconscionable."

His investigation will examine whether oil companies or retailers violated antitrust or unfair business practice laws. It also will examine whether they broke a state law that bars retailers from raising prices more than 10 percent during government-declared emergencies.

Lockyer said he plans to subpoena records from oil refiners and examine how gas station owners set the price at the pump. He asked consumers and employees of gas stations and oil companies to contact his office if they have information about gouging or other practices that may be illegal.

His office established an e-mail

address to submit those reports www.gaspricinghotlinedoj.ca.gov.

Lockyer questioned whether the storm could justify higher prices in California because he said the state receives little or no refined gasoline from the Gulf region and no crude oil from there.

The industry understands consumers' frustration with the higher prices, but gouging isn't to blame, said Anita Mangels, spokeswoman for the Western States Petroleum Association.

"Petroleum products, including gasoline, are traded on the global market, so no matter where a disruption occurs, that affects prices everywhere," she said.

Recent higher prices have been driven by higher demand, inadequate infrastructure and a jump in crude oil prices, she said.

"The Gulf situation is just one factor in what's been going on in petroleum markets for decades," she said.

Despite prices near or above \$3 a gallon, gasoline supplies in California are adequate, the state Energy Commission said Friday. Supplies in other parts of the country have been disrupted by hurricane-related damage.

Anticipating heavy travel over the Labor Day holiday, the commission launched a new Internet site with information on gasoline prices and supply statewide.

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STATE



Toxic cruise ship gas kills three repairmen

TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Three crew members were killed by toxic sewer gas Friday as they repaired a waste pipe on a cruise ship that had just returned to the Port of Los Angeles. No passengers were involved.

Nineteen other members of the Monarch of the Seas' crew, including two ship's physicians and a nurse, were examined but most were not believed to have actually been exposed to the toxic gas, authorities said.

Passengers were disembarking from the Royal Caribbean line ship at the time of the incident and none were affected, the company said in a statement. "All guests have safely departed the ship," it said.

Officials first identified the gas as methane but later determined it was hydrogen sulfide, which occurs in sewage, said Barbara Yu, a supervising hazardous-materials specialist for the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The three crew members probably died within 30 seconds of encountering the gas, Yu said.

"It deadens your sense of smell so you don't even smell it," she said.

The ship was expected to depart at midnight Friday on a cruise to the Mexican port of Ensenada, several hours

later than it was originally scheduled to leave port, Royal Caribbean spokesman Michael Sheehan said.

The incident occurred at midmorning after the vessel returned from a cruise with about 2,500 passengers and 850 crew members, said city Fire Department Battalion Chief Lou Roupoli. The ship makes regular trips down Mexico's Pacific coast.

Royal Caribbean said crew members were replacing a section of pipe connected to the ship's sewage system when the accident occurred.

The broken line expelled about five gallons of raw sewage and an unknown amount of gas in the starboard propeller shaft tunnel, Roupoli said.

Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Tony Migliorini said the repair crew could have worn special masks but they usually are not required for such operations.

The ship's first officer declared a medical emergency at 9:03 a.m. and an onboard rescue team with breathing apparatus retrieved the fallen workers, according to Roupoli and the cruise line statement.

City firefighters arrived about a half hour later with 11 ambulances, two hazardous materials units and other equipment. Roupoli said at late morning that the situation was stable.

'Passive recruiting strategy' allowing numbers to grow

TERROR AT HOME, from page 1

the more difficult for al-Qaida to mount attacks.

Yet despite tougher border control, a radical ideology shared by the terrorist network continues to seep into the United States through propaganda distributed via the Internet, books, pamphlets, DVDs and the media — a "passive recruiting strategy," according to terrorism experts.

That's helped transform al-Qaida into a movement with disciples acting without funding, expertise or guidance of foreign handlers.

"Al-Qaida can't get their militants to the places they want to hit, so they rely on an ideology to gain converts who do it for them," said Professor Brian Levin, a terrorism researcher at California State University, San Bernardino.

In the Southern California case, prosecutors say cell members largely supported themselves.

Washington, Patterson and Samana allegedly robbed gas stations to finance their plans to target military sites, synagogues, the Israeli Consulate and the El Al airport counter in the Los Angeles area. Patterson purchased a .223 caliber rifle. Samana underwent "firearms training and physical training" at a local park, according to the indictment.

They even conducted Internet research on potential targets and Jewish holidays — dates they allegedly planned the assaults to "maximize the number of casualties," prosecutors said.

Samana's lawyer, Timothy Lannen, described his client in a statement Thursday as a "peace-loving, law-abiding member of our community" and said "he

did not intend at any time to commit violence against anyone."

An attorney in Washington's state robbery case had not reviewed the federal indictment and had no immediate comment. Patterson's lawyer has said his client asked him not to comment.

The plot's suspected mastermind was James, a California State Prison, Sacramento, inmate who founded the radical group Jamiyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh, or JIS, authorities said. Washington converted to Islam while imprisoned there for a previous robbery conviction.

James, who along with Washington and Patterson is black, spent time in Southern California and was so far removed from overseas groups that he feigned Middle Eastern roots to strengthen his credibility. He told inmates he was Sudanese and that his father was a top official there.

"He is neither Sudanese nor is his father a high official of anything. He was trying to give himself a Middle Eastern background," said a law enforcement official close to the investigation who asked to remain anonymous because the case is pending.

Self-made groups in the United States can be more difficult to root out because they're smaller and have fewer financial resources to track, experts said.

That has law enforcement authorities on guard for more attacks by homegrown groups.

"They're adopting the al-Qaida agenda and philosophy and carrying out their own jihad," said Buck Revell, a former FBI associate deputy director and counterterrorism chief. "Unfortunately, they may be successful because they're extremely hard to detect."



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STATE

Schwarzenegger hinting he's up for another run

BY BETH FOUHY
AP Political Writer

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is beginning to sound like Candidate Schwarzenegger, hinting in interviews that he plans to run for re-election in 2006. The Republican governor could announce his plans as soon as mid-September, around the state GOP convention in Anaheim and after the state Legislature adjourns for the year.

At the same time, Schwarzenegger will be ramping up his campaign on behalf of three "year of reform" ballot initiatives set to go before voters in a Nov. 8 special election.

"I think he needs to do it for two good reasons," said Bill Whalen, a fellow at the Hoover Institution who worked for former Republican Gov. Pete Wilson. "It will invigorate the Republican base, which he sorely needs to do if he has any chance to win the special election. And it sends a positive message to the donor community that he's not going to cut and run."

Schwarzenegger has fooled political prognosticators before, and few can say for certain what his announcement will be.

Two years ago he surprised nearly everyone, including many of his own advisers, when he announced on the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno" that he would run to replace Gov. Gray Davis in the state's historic recall election.

Since taking office in late 2003, Schwarzenegger has been vague about whether he would seek a second term. But recently, amid sagging poll numbers and little public support for his reform initiatives, the embattled governor has begun signaling he won't give up on the job anytime soon.

"I am not here for the short run. I am a follow-through guy," he told Sacramento radio host Tom Sullivan in a call-in program last week.

Later, he told a television reporter he might agree soon to an interview about his re-election plans.

"I don't walk away from things that I think are unfinished," Schwarzenegger told KCRA-TV in Sacramento last week, urging the reporter to get in touch with him in about two weeks.

The hints of an impending announcement come as the Hollywood star and former body building champion struggles to burnish his image after months of criticism from labor unions and Democratic activists. Since launching his "year of reform" in January, he has been dogged by protesters, denounced in television spots and criticized for his fundraising practices.

His decision to skip next week's opening of the University of California, Merced, the first new UC campus in 40 years, has only added to the perception that the governor is under siege.

Still, GOP strategists said they have been urging Schwarzenegger for months to announce his re-election plans.

Without an assurance that the governor wants to remain in office, state Republican officials said they fear he will have a hard time generating the popular and financial support he needs for his ballot initiatives — implementing a state spending cap, changing the way legislative districts are drawn and making teachers work longer to get off probation.

A separate measure, requiring public employee unions to get written approval from members before using their dues for political purposes, was placed on the ballot by a group of Schwarzenegger supporters.

Whalen said the failure of a similar union dues measure in 1998 provides a lesson about why Schwarzenegger needs to announce his plans soon.

Then-Gov. Wilson endorsed and campaigned for the previous initiative. But because he was in his second term and not seeking re-election, he could not reassure nervous donors in the business community that they should risk alienating labor unions, who carry significant political clout in Sacramento.

"With Gov. Wilson a lame duck, the business community said, 'gee wilikers, I'm not sure I want to stick my neck out on this thing,'" Whalen said. "They want a guarantee, an insurance of some sort that this governor is going to stick around and work for them."

Democrats say a re-election announcement so close to the special election carries risks for the fate of the initiatives.

From the beginning, Schwarzenegger has tried to cast his reform proposals as a nonpartisan effort to improve the functioning of state government. Democrats have contended the initiatives are little more than a Republican power grab.

An announcement that Schwarzenegger is seeking re-election would only feed into that perception, say the two Democrats who have announced they will run for governor next year.

"This special election is about Arnold Schwarzenegger's agenda, and it's the platform for his re-election," Treasurer Phil Angelides said.

State Controller Steve Westly, a one-time Schwarzenegger ally who once said he would not run if the governor sought re-election, now says he is in the race to stay.

"The governor said he would put forward reforms that help people. Instead, he brought forth reforms that did not help people," Westly said. "That's when I realized I didn't want to take another four years of this."

Two other Democrats — actor Warren Beatty and director Rob Reiner — have been mentioned as possible challengers to Schwarzenegger, but neither has announced plans to run.

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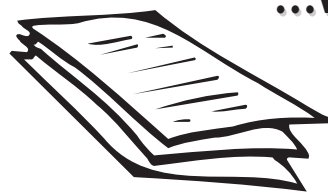
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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



Senate approves bill allowing gay marriage

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Handing gay rights advocates a major victory, the California Senate approved legislation Thursday that would legalize same-sex marriages in the nation's most populous state.

The 21-15 vote made the Senate the first legislative chamber in the country to approve a gay marriage bill. It sets the stage for a showdown in the state Assembly, which narrowly rejected a gay marriage bill in June.

"Equality is equality, period," said one of the bill's supporters, Sen. Liz Figueroa, D-Sunol. "When I leave this Legislature, I want to be able to tell my grandchildren I stood up for dignity and rights for all."

But Sen. Dennis Hollingsworth, R-La Mesa, suggested that a "higher power" opposed the legislation.

"This is not the right thing to do," he said. "We should protect traditional marriage and uphold all of those values and institutions that have made our society and keep our society together today."

But Sen. Debra Bowen, D-Redondo Beach, said a number of churches supported the bill: "I don't think anyone should claim God as being on their side in this debate," she said.

California already confers many of the rights and duties of marriage on gay couples, who can register as domestic partners. Massachusetts became the first state to recognize gay marriages when the state Supreme Court legalized same-sex weddings there in 2003.

Several senators equated the struggle for gay marriage to other civil rights movements. They said arguments against the bill were similar to earlier arguments in support of slavery and opposing interracial marriage.

"This is probably the most profound civil rights movement of our generation, without a doubt," said Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Hillsborough.

Gay rights advocates called Thursday's California vote historic.

"It will make all California families safer and more secure if it becomes law," said Seth Kilbourn, director of the Human Rights Campaign Marriage Project in New York. "The fact they debated and voted on this relatively quickly today sends a message that there is momentum for this bill."

Senate approval gave the bill's author, Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, another chance to send the legislation to the desk of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Legislature is expected to adjourn its 2005 session next week.

Leno said he planned to bring up the bill on Tuesday in the Assembly and predicted that the Senate vote would help sway undecided lawmakers in his house.

"We are so very close," he said in an

interview after the Senate vote. "It would be very disappointing for this body not to be able to stand up for civil rights."

After the Assembly rejected his bill in June by four votes, Leno amended the measure's provisions into another one of his bills that had already passed the Assembly and was awaiting action in the Senate. That's the bill the Senate approved Thursday and sent back to the Assembly for a vote on Senate amendments.

Schwarzenegger spokeswoman Margita Thompson said the office would not comment about how the governor would act if the bill is sent to his desk.

"The governor believes that the people spoke when they passed Proposition 22, and now it went to the courts and that's where it should be," she said. "The governor will abide by what the courts rule."

She added that Schwarzenegger does support domestic partnerships.

Proposition 22 was approved by California voters in 2000. The initiative added a section to the state Family Code stating that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

It was put on the ballot when it appeared that Hawaii might legalize gay marriages and was intended to prevent California from recognizing gay marriages performed elsewhere.

Leno's bill would amend a separate section of state law that bars the state from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in California.

Sen. Sheila Kuehl, one of six gay members of the state Legislature, told the chamber that gay couples have the same hopes for their relationships as heterosexual couples.

"Gay and lesbian people fall in love. We settle down. We commit our lives to one another. We raise our children. We protect them. We try to be good citizens," said Kuehl, D-Santa Monica. "This is a bill whose time has come."

Sen. Tom McClintock, R-Thousand Oaks, agreed that gay couples are entitled to certain rights but not the right to marry.

"Can't you see that marriage is a fundamentally different institution?" he said. "Marriage is the institution by which we propagate our species and inculcate our young."

The vote came as a state appellate court is considering appeals of a San Francisco judge's ruling that overturned California laws banning recognition of gay marriages. At the same time, opponents of same-sex marriage are trying to qualify initiatives for the 2006 ballot that would place a ban on gay marriages in the state Constitution.

Andrew Pugno, legal adviser to one of the two groups trying to qualify such an amendment, called the Senate vote an insult to the majority of California voters who approved Proposition 22.

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STATE

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Young athletes all for getting that extra edge

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSEY

Associated Press Writer

RANCHO CORDOVA, Calif. — Checking himself out in the weight-room mirror, 16-year-old Marshall Sailor flexes his right arm and smiles wide.

He's admiring the new muscle that helped him win a spot as starting defensive tackle on the varsity football team at Cordova High School in suburban Sacramento. Sailor credits the strength to hard work, a timely growth spurt and a hodgepodge of powders and shakes from a local health store.

"I saw what everybody else was lifting and I wanted to lift that, too," he said, adding that he stopped using some of the products after failing to see results.

Like many high school athletes, Sailor is barely aware of the furor that erupted this summer in California over Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's support of nutritional supplements. But he can rattle off the name brands of several protein and creatine products. He can tell you how he thinks they work, what they cost and when to take them.

For Sailor and many of his peers, navigating the world of nutritional supplements has become part of the formula for success.

Eight percent of girls and 12 percent of boys age 12-18 said they used supplements in pursuit of a better body, according to a survey published this month and funded by the National Institutes of Health and cereal-maker Kellogg Co. For high school athletes in competitive sports, the percentage may be far higher.

"Everybody's tried them, pretty much," said quarterback Andrew Davis, surveying the Cordova Lancers weight room, where the team spends at least four hours a week.

Most popular are protein shakes and powders that add calories to fast-growing teenage bodies. They often are blends of whey protein and nitric oxide. Many athletes said they've experimented with creatine, a natural substance found in muscle tissue and also in lean meat and fish. All those substances are legal, over-the-counter and easily accessible.

The goal for many high school athletes is to try to get faster and stronger. What's less obvious to many teenagers and parents is whether supplements are needed to do it.

The Schwarzenegger controversy was the result of his close ties to the nutritional supplement industry at the same time he vetoed a bill that could have hurt it. Schwarzenegger has long defended his own use of such products.

"Wherever I am, I have food supplements. That's part of me. I just happen to believe in it very strongly," he said last month.

But some doctors and industry critics say even the nonprescription products make false claims and are unnecessary.

"The question is: supplementing what? People who need supplements have, basically, a disease or some dietary behavior that would leave them wanting something," said Dr. Gary Wadler, a professor of sports medicine at New York University and an expert on performance-enhancing drugs. "It may be quite fashionable to take these things, but whether they really do anything to otherwise healthy people is dubious at best."

Wadler supports a bill in the California Legislature that would bar high school

athletes from taking three nutritional supplements — synephrine, ephedra and DHEA. The list would not include the protein and creatine products many athletes say they use.

The bill, by state Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Hillsborough, also would require more education for coaches and prohibit companies from marketing to students in high schools. Schwarzenegger vetoed a version of the bill last year, saying it should have targeted more dangerous performance-enhancing substances, such as steroids.

In July, it was revealed that he had a multimillion dollar contract with magazines that reap most of their profits from nutritional supplement advertising, leading critics to accuse him of having a conflict of interest. His business relationship is now the subject of a state ethics probe, and he has since ended his financial arrangement with the magazines.

On the field and in locker rooms, the political battle in Sacramento may have little immediate effect.

Several athletes said they got their information about supplements from each other, not coaches. They said they never considered taking steroids, and many had never heard of the substances that would be banned in Speier's bill. Others said they avoid supplements altogether, uncertain that the benefits are as advertised.

"A lot of people are concerned about what's in these things because it says one thing and means another. You've really got to research it," said 16-year-old Andrew Jackson, a 6-foot-5, 250-pound football player at Nevada Union High School in Grass Valley, east of Sacramento.

The California Interscholastic Federation, which oversees the state's high school athletic programs, has moved toward regulation on its own. In May, it adopted rules requiring all coaches to attend a seminar on nutrition, steroids and performance-enhancing dietary supplements by 2008.

The organization had little trouble establishing a policy barring steroids and illegal substances but struggled with how to handle legal supplements, said Roger Black, CIF assistant executive director.

CIF chose to focus on the role of coaches in supplying supplements or encouraging their use. Under the new rules, coaches are not allowed to promote or distribute any muscle-building substances.

"We're not going to go into mom and dad's kitchen, but we certainly shouldn't be having coaches promoting this stuff," Black said.

Some coaches said they do what they can to teach students about nutrition and that some of the pressure on them was misguided.

"I can tell you we educate our kids on it, and tell our parents, 'Tell your kids not to take it; we don't know what's in it,'" said Casey Jones, head football coach at Del Oro High School in Loomis, another Sacramento suburb. "They keep hammering high school coaches, but I wonder when they're going to step up and make GNC (General Nutrition Center) and these companies accountable. They're the ones making a ton of money off this stuff."

Industry groups deride the effort to ban some nutritional supplements as a political stunt intended to draw attention to Schwarzenegger's close ties to the industry.



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Featured Agent — Fred Rabie



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4042 BEETHOVEN- LOS ANGELES

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JUST REDUCED! 3718 GLENDON, MAR VISTA

Rental house with builder's potential. Accepted offer subject to seeing interior. No termite, no home warranty, "AS-IS" condition. Some copper plumbing, bathroom walls around tub retiled. Some electrical updated. Long driveway to 2 car detached garage. Large Service porch for washer and dryer hook up



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STATE BRIEFS

Beware the stinky bush

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — Forest crews, hikers and off-roaders are being warned to avoid a stinky pest lurking in the San Bernardino National Forest — the towering poodle-dog bush — because it can cause severe skin problems.

The green plant with purple blossoms — officially called the *Turricula parryi* — is plentiful in the chaparral burned in the 2003 wildfires and state fire officials issued a public advisory warning of the dangers if the plant is touched.

The pungent flower can cause severe dermatitis: blistering, rash, swelling and itching.

Poodle-dog bush blooms in the summer and is common on slopes across south-western California. It is particularly heavy in the aftermath of large fires.

After the Old and Grand Prix wildfires in the fall of 2003, the poodle-dog emerged on blackened slopes. This summer, the areas were blanketed with poodle-dog, apparently thriving because of fires and rainy winter deluge.

The plant is covered with microscopic, prickly hairs that give off phenolics, a noxious chemical that induces a reaction akin to poison oak, U.S. Forest Service botanist Melody Lardner said. The irritation can last more than a week.

"It's hard to sleep, it's hard to do anything because it itches so bad," Lardner said. "It's always been here, but it's far more abundant this year. It's hard to pass through some places without getting it on you."

Crashed pilot avoids sinking feeling

By The Associated Press

MALIBU — A small plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Point Dume, but the pilot managed to escape unharmed before the aircraft sank.

Jeff Luboff of Ventura was flying a Citabria aircraft when he lost oil pressure and crashed into the water, said Bruce Nelson, an operations officer with the Federal Aviation Administration in Los Angeles.

The plane crashed about 11:05 a.m. Thursday three miles south of Point Dume, about 20 miles west of downtown Los Angeles.

Luboff, who only had a cut on his forehead, managed to get into a life raft and was plucked from the sea by a Coast Guard vessel, Petty Officer Prentice Danner said.

Dirty days of summer lands L.A. back on top

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It appears Los Angeles will take back the title of America's smog capital from Houston and the San Joaquin Valley.

Despite a relatively mild smog season so far and efforts to cut pollution, the Los Angeles area has already logged 76 smoggy days under the nation's new, more stringent ozone standards. So far, Houston has 41 dirty days and the San Joaquin Valley has 61.

The smog season runs May through September.

Still, the air in Los Angeles is cleaner than 2003 when the region suffered the worst smog season in years. And the region has significantly cut pollution over the last two decades when smog days numbered nearly 200.

Most of the bad-air violations occurred in the inland valley areas of Santa Clarita, San Bernardino and Riverside.

"With 76 days you're talking about two months of the year with bad air. Every day with bad air we're concerned about asthma attacks, premature deaths, school absences and lung damage to children," said Bonnie Holmes-Gen, assistant vice president of government relations for the American Lung Association of California.

At the end of the 2004 smog season, Houston had the most days — 35 — exceeding the nation's old ozone limit, which measured ozone levels over an hour. The old limit was designed to protect people from unhealthy spikes of ozone, the main ingredient in smog.

At the same time, the San Joaquin Valley had the most days — 109 — exceeding the nation's new ozone limit, which measures ozone levels over eight hours and is designed to protect against health problems associated with breathing low levels of ozone over a long period of time.

But Los Angeles has the most smoggy days in both categories this year. With a month to go, the region has had 27 days when ozone exceeded the old, one-hour standard, and 76 days when ozone exceeded the new, eight-hour standard.

Teacher's raises preserved amid cutbacks

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A \$13.2 billion budget for the Los Angeles Unified School District includes cuts to programs but boosted school maintenance spending and preserved a 2 percent pay hike for teachers.

The Board of Education approved the 2005-2006 budget on Thursday.

Programs cut included an attendance incentive initiative and books for special education students, but district budget director Roger Rasmussen said some reductions could be restored later in the year.

Rasmussen said the board set aside \$50 million in June for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to shift retirement costs to the district, which the Legislature rejected. Additionally, the district didn't spend as much as it had anticipated last year, giving it an additional \$46 million.

"It's better than we thought, but it's certainly not what we wanted," Rasmussen said.



Getting the drop on this whole fear thing



12,500 FEET ABOVE ELSINORE — It's OK to be afraid.

Fear is not to be shunned, but embraced, or so that's what school teacher Melissa Goddard is planning to tell her first-grade class this fall. And given that the 27-year-old isn't of the do-as-I-say, not-as-I-do variety, it's a lesson that just might stick.

It's also a lesson Goddard has gone to great heights to validate, skydiving for the first time over her summer break.

"I just kept telling myself to look around, because I knew I would shut my eyes," said the Hermosa Beach resident.

"I was scared."

Kneeling before the open door of a hiccuping twin-engine airplane — propellers whirring just feet away, the earth below reduced to some sort of obscure Rand McNally grid — would scare most. People tend to have one of two reactions when you tell them you just jumped from an airplane with nothing but a backpack stuffed with nylon and strings: 1) "Why the hell would you jump out of a perfectly good airplane?", or 2) "I've always thought about doing that, but ..."

For those who fall in the former, it's prob-

ably best they just remain on tarmac. But for those in the latter, pull the ripcord already.

"It's so empowering," said Goddard, who received the "gift" of a free jump at Skydive Elsinore from her boyfriend for her birthday. "I feel like I conquered something. I just kept walking around telling myself, 'I just jumped out of an airplane.'"

Brooke Leslie, who hails from Santa Monica, sat alongside Goddard in the prep room, watching a decidedly morbid film warning participants of the dangers exclusive to skydiving. The drop zone's founder, a seeming ZZ Top reject with beard reaching for his lower regions, warns novice jumpers of the potential, um pitfalls, of leaping from an airplane.

The registration waiver — signed and dated on film for legal protection purposes — does little to assuage a jumper's fretting, with clauses like "there is no warranty whatsoever", "assume all risk of death" and "parachuting activities are of little value to the public and no one has to engage in them."

Leslie, now bedecked in a spiffy blue rental jumpsuit, lamented the loose ends.

"I should have called my mom," the 24-year-old hairstylist admitted. "I should have called and told her I love her."

Leslie recalled the 90-mile trek she made that morning from Santa Monica to Lake Elsinore, in turns yawning from fatigue amid the two-hour commute to panicking upon the realization of where she was headed.

So why do people jump? The video — post "death-becomes-you" segment —



Matan Ori /Special to the Daily Press

OH 'CHUTE: The writer seems pleased tandem instructor John McIntyre is sticking close by.

lends some answers.

Amid the raucous footage of skydivers streaming through the sky, flying free of earth's constraints to U2's "Elevation", one testimonial seemed to strike a chord with Goddard, Leslie and company.

"It's just one of those things you can't explain," offered one woman. "If you're on the outside looking in, you can't understand it. If you're on the inside looking out, you can't explain it."

"You just have to experience it for yourself."

And so they did.

Goddard was still smiling ear-to-ear a week after her first tandem jump at Elsinore on Aug. 13. She'd been playing her DVD of the freefall so often, she

feared she would "wear it out."

"It's the time of your life," she said. "I always try and tell my students to do something they wouldn't normally do, teach them to take risks, try new things. I think it's good for them to see that I did something scary. For them, learning to read might seem scary."

"It will help them see it's OK to get scared."

WHO'S GOT MY BACK?

When the door to the side of the plane goes up, it's on.

I was going to have to jump. I was last in line, and the dozen or so others were already plummeting towards earth. The

See **WHEN IN ROAM**, page 14



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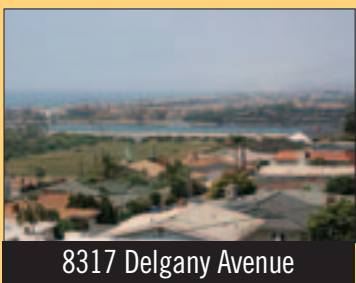
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LOCAL

When being in the Zone ain't the half of it

WHEN IN ROAM, from page 13

pilot was ready to turn this flying bucket around. My tandem instructor had fastened all the clips, connecting us at the hip, literally, and shoulders.

I hadn't told my mother I loved her. I hadn't any snot-nosed kids to prove myself to either.

This was a birthday gift to myself.

I owed this to myself.

What the hell's the matter with me?

At this altitude, one tends to have a few intense thoughts — Did I make all necessary arrangements in the case of my untimely demise? ... Is an unexamined life really not worth living? ... Did Chopin go skydiving before penning his "Funeral March"?

But most pressing, who the hell was this guy strapped to my back?

What if he unhooks me in the air and lets me fall to my death? I don't have a chute, he's got the chutes! Wouldn't he then be embroiled in lawsuits? A pretty steep price to pay for a serial killer. A serial killer wouldn't go through all the training to become a tandem jumper and then unclip people in the air, would he? Too costly, too time-consuming, too obvious. Besides, one unclipping and he likely loses his job ... two at the most. What were the chances?

Time to pull it together.

In the end, it's a leap of faith, as is the whole skydiving experience. No, it doesn't seem very rational, even natural, for a human being adherent to gravitational pull to thrust themselves out of an air-

plane some two and half miles above the earth, falling through the clouds and smiling all the while.

It's not natural. It's cheating. And that's the kicker. That's the smile-on-your-face-for-a-week after finally landing safely back in the Elsinore drop zone, back on tarmac ... I'm back on freakin' tar, Mac!

Still, who the hell is this guy strapped on my back?

A BRIDGE TOO FAR ... FOR SOME

Anyone with more than 6,000 jumps "has a couple of stories to tell," notes Christiaan Rendle, a tandem instructor at Skydive Elsinore. Rendle, who lives in Hollywood and commutes to the Elsinore Valley each weekend, is no different. The 30-year-old Australian has broken his back and both his ankles skydiving, but he's quick to point out that seldom does the careful novice pay a price aside from the \$200 fee.

"Most accidents happen because jumpers were doing stupid things," reports Rendle. "It rarely happens in tandems. Experienced jumpers sometimes try and do stupid things."

Skydiving, by all accounts, has come a long way from the WWII parachutes, he says, explaining that the equipment used today compared to your grandfather dropping behind enemy lines in Europe is safer, stronger and much more reliable. "There isn't too much to worry about."

As a sport, skydiving began to gain prominence following the "big one," as antsy war veterans returned to the States with newfound derring-do and learned

ROAMIN' HOLIDAY

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WHY: If you have to ask ...



Matan Ori /Special to the Daily Press

The writer (left) and Brooke Leslie, both from Santa Monica, seem relieved to again have their feet on the ground

skills "of little value to the public and no one has to engage in."

Enter Skydive Elsinore, the oldest continuously operating drop zone in the United States, located roughly between the San Diego and Los Angeles metropolitan regions.

While the war veterans have aged, giving way to a new breed of adventurers and sport skydivers, so has the clientele. According to Betsy Burkey, co-director of Elsinore, any one of any age is welcome to take a leap, that is if they are relatively fit and have the mettle.

After that, she's confident they'll come back for more.

As for Rendle, he knew he was hooked during his first jump, as a 16-year-old in freefall.

"I can look at the tape and tell you the exact moment that I realized I wanted to do this," he said proudly. "Everyone should try it if it's something they've ever thought about, the majority want to come back."

As to be expected, there are a handful of "refusals," as Rendle calls them — people who pay for the jump, sign the waiver, watch the harrowing film, suit up, train and board the plane ... then, refuse to jump.

Rendle said he had a girl the other weekend who was crying at the door. The plane circled 'round and the tandem instructor managed to convince her to let go of her fears, let go of herself.

"People that do not go, and land, are disappointed in themselves," he said. "They have all this adrenaline buildup and no release. It doesn't happen often, but it does happen."

Rendle said it's the over-confident novice that he worries about, as their calm can be disconcerting. He doesn't know what to expect from them in the air, what their motivations might be.

"You should have a little fear, it's healthy," said Rendle. "You're jumping out of an airplane."

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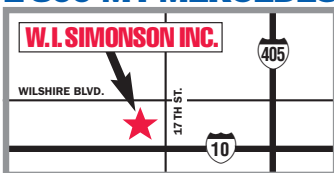
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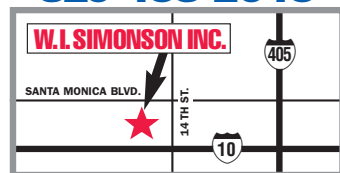
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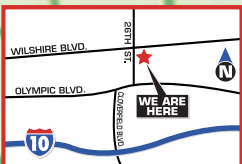
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NATIONAL

Papa don't play: Writer's house won't be museum

BY JOHN MILLER

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — Plans to open for public tours the Ketchum house where author Ernest Hemingway killed himself in 1961 have been scrubbed, a victory for neighbors who said gawking tourists would have disrupted their upscale neighborhood.

Now the Nature Conservancy, the environmental group that inherited the house in 1986 from the writer's fourth wife, Mary Hemingway, plans to hire a caretaker and use the home for charitable events and fundraising.

The conservancy had originally hoped to change the zoning on the property and then give it to a foundation, which would have offered tours.

But prolonged opposition from neighbors — who threatened to sue — became a liability, said Lou Lunte, the acting director of the environmental group's Idaho chapter.

"We didn't see an impact on fundraising, but certainly it was taking a lot of time," Lunte said Thursday. "We were getting a lot of questions about the house. Our focus is wildlife preservation. Spending time answering the questions wasn't allowing us to focus on the incredible features in Idaho we are trying to protect."

Traces of Hemingway remain in the

home: There's a typewriter on the top floor, beneath a window facing the mountains. Animal heads, including an impala from Africa, adorn the walls, and a painting by Waldo Pierce, one of the author's buddies from 1920s Spain, is mounted in a stairwell.

But neighbors hated the proposal that would have brought as many as two tours to the house daily.

They argued that a road leading to the property was on private land, and wasn't open to even limited tours. They also said that Ketchum city officials would be violating zoning laws if they agreed to allow a public tourist venue in a residential neighborhood.

They also argued that while Hemingway killed himself at the house, he did little or no writing at the property.

Meanwhile, the neighbors have installed "No Trespassing" signs to keep the curious away from the place, located above a 13-acre preserve also overseen by the Nature Conservancy on the Big Wood River.

The conservancy said it will need to raise money to restore the home, built in 1954 and showing its age. Lunte said his group plans to get a professional restoration expert to assess the property and estimate how much money is needed, and the conservancy will schedule functions at the home to raise money.

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NATIONAL



School serving Hawaiians doing battle with the courts

BY ALEXANDRE DA SILVA
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Sitting atop a lush green hillside with a panoramic view of Honolulu and the Pacific beyond, the prestigious Native Hawaiians-only Kamehameha Schools is much beloved by its students and alumni. But the private school envisioned by a Hawaiian princess may soon be changing.

A non-Hawaiian teenager is suing the school over its exclusive admissions policy requiring that applicants prove Hawaiian bloodlines.

The boy was rejected for admission in 2003, and his lawsuit led to a ruling earlier this month from a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said the race-based policy violates federal anti-discrimination laws. The school is asking the full court to reconsider.

Michael Chun, headmaster of the school, said the Hawaiians-only policy follows the 1883 will of a princess who was concerned Hawaiians would suffer disadvantages. Ten years after her death, the Hawaiian monarchy was overthrown by a group of U.S. businessmen and sugar planters.

"Their culture was shredded, their spirit was broken, and their sense of sovereignty and independence was taken away," Chun said. "She saw as one of the ways to help her people survive was through education."

Since the 9th Circuit ruling, alumni and other Native Hawaiians have risen to the school's defense. On Aug. 20, some 400 marched in San Francisco to petition the full appeals court to review the admissions case. On Aug. 6, more than 15,000 demonstrated across the islands to protest what they see as an assault on their culture.

Since its humble start with a couple of dozen boys, Kamehameha has expanded to campuses on other islands, becoming the largest and richest independent private elementary and secondary school in the nation.

About 5,100 Native Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian students from kindergarten through 12th grade attend classes on the schools' three campuses.

Funded by a \$6.2 billion trust, it is also Hawaii's largest private landowner, with 365,000 acres, including resort, commercial and residential holdings.

Former student Joshua Irvine said textbooks could never teach him what he learned when he transferred to the Oahu campus from a public school in a poor neighborhood.

Poverty was no longer an issue, said Irvine, whose new friends wore collared blue and white uniforms and spoke "proper English," instead of the pidgin English spoken among many local people. Irvine played flute in the school band and explored his passion for science in "top-notch" laboratories.

"That you cannot replicate in a public school because of a lack of funding," said Irvine, now 20, who's double majoring in biological engineering and Spanish at the University of Hawaii.

Jim Slagel, who has taught advanced placement English at Kamehameha for 16 years, said his students are no different from those he taught at public schools in the mainland.

"It's not a typical private school," Slagel said. "We are still dealing with the lower social and economic students."

The school's powerful economic assets allow it to subsidize tuition costs for 60 percent of its students, making admissions highly prized and extremely competitive. Only one in eight applicants is admitted.

Kamehameha's \$2,686 annual tuition falls well below other Hawaii private schools, including highly rated Punahou School's \$12,885 and Iolani School's \$12,200, neither of which is race restrictive.

In addition to providing a birth certificate to prove Hawaiian ancestry, applicants for grade seven and higher at Kamehameha must pass an admissions test, undergo interviews with professors and write an essay.

The school's stated policy is that non-Hawaiians may be admitted if there are openings after Native Hawaiians who meet the criteria have been offered admission.

But the school in recent years has enrolled only two non-Hawaiians.

Chun said opening the school to all students would deny many underprivileged Native Hawaiian children a better future.

Native Hawaiian families are more than twice as likely to live in poverty than the state's general population, according to the school's 2005 Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment report.

Kamehameha senior Max Lindsey, 17, also noted that, even with the Hawaiians-only policy, the school's Oahu campus is diverse.

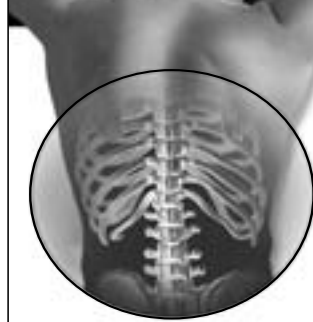
"Many of us are multirace," he said. "We are not just Hawaiians."



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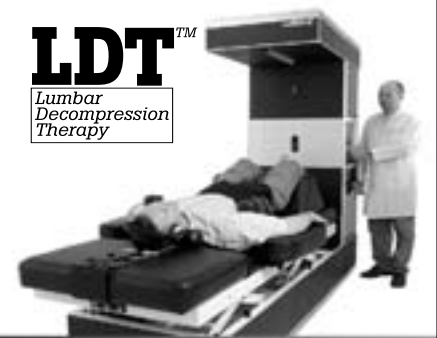
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NATIONAL

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National Guardsmen
pour into New Orleans;
tote food and weapons

BY ALLEN G. BREED
 Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — More than four days after Hurricane Katrina struck, the National Guard arrived in force Friday with food, water and weapons, churning through the floodwaters in a vast truck convoy that was met with both catcalls and cries of “Thank you, Jesus!” from the suffering multitudes.

“Lord, I thank you for getting us out of here,” Leschia Radford said at the New Orleans Convention Center as the military rolled in with orders to restore order and feed the hungry.

But 46-year-old Michael Levy said, “They should have been here days ago. I ain’t glad to see ‘em” — words that brought shouts of “Hell, yeah!” from those around him. He added: “We’ve been sleeping on the ... ground like rats. I say burn this whole ... city down.”

The arrival of the thousands of soldiers came amid blistering complaints from the mayor and others that the federal government had bungled the relief effort and let people die in the streets for lack of food, water or medicine. Thousands are feared dead in New Orleans.

“The people of our city are holding on by a thread,” Mayor Ray Nagin warned in a statement to CNN. “Time has run out. Can we survive another night? And who can we depend on? Only God knows.”

In Washington, President Bush admitted “the results are not acceptable” and pledged to bolster the relief efforts. He visited the stricken Gulf Coast later in the day, and pledged in Mobile, Ala.: “What is not working right, we’re going to make it right.”

With a cigar-chomping general in the convoy’s lead vehicle, the camouflage-green National Guard trucks rolled through muddy water up to their axles to reach the convention center, where 15,000 to 20,000 desperate and often seething refugees had taken shelter. It was the first major relief convoy to reach the convention center.

Authorities set up six food and water lines, with dozens of armed guards keeping watch. The crowd was for the most part orderly and grateful to finally have a meal.

Diane Sylvester, 49, was the first person through the line, and she emerged with two bottles of water and a pork rib meal. “Something is better than nothing,” she said as she mopped sweat from her brow. “I feel great to see the military here. I know I’m saved.”

Angela Jones, 24, began guzzling her water before she even cleared the line.

“Like steak and potatoes!” she said of the cool water. “I didn’t think I was going to make it through that.”

Guardsmen carrying rifles also arrived at the Louisiana Superdome, where a vast crowd of bedraggled people fanned themselves, waiting to be rescued from the heat, the filth and the gagging stench inside the stadium.

Flatbed trucks carried huge crates, pallets and bags of relief supplies, including Meals Ready to Eat. Soldiers in fatigues sat in the backs of open-top trucks, their rifles pointing skyward.

Both the Superdome and the convention center had seemed like powder kegs in recent days: Fistfights and fires broke out, storm victims complained that the government had forsaken them, and furious evacuees menaced police.

The military said its first priority was delivering food and water, after which it would begin evacuating people — something that could take days.

“As fast as we can, we’ll move them out,” said Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore. “Worse things have happened to America,” he added. “We’re going to overcome this, too. It’s not our fault. The storm came and flooded the city.”

New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass rode down the street on the running board of a box truck and announced through a bullhorn to thunderous applause: “We got 30,000 people out of the Superdome and we’re going to take care of you.”

“We’ve got food and water on the way. We’ve got medical attention on the way. We’re going to get you out of here safely.

“We’re going to get all of you,” he said.

As he came down the road, elderly people gave thanks and some nearly fainted with joy.

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NATIONAL



Bush faults recovery efforts as 'not enough'

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Scorched by criticism about sluggish federal help, President Bush acknowledged the government's failure to stop lawlessness and help desperate people in New Orleans. "The results are not enough," Bush said Friday in the face of mounting complaints from Republicans and Democrats alike.

Bush promised to crack down on crime and violence, rush food and medicine to the needy and restore electrical power within weeks to millions of customers across the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"This is a storm that requires immediate action, now," the president said after a daylong tour of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. "I understand the devastation requires more than one day's attention. It's going to require the attention of this country for a long period of time."

Congress passed a \$10.5 billion disaster aid package, and Bush said he would sign it by day's end. He also said National Guard troops were moving in to restore order in New Orleans. He said the city's convention center, where thousands of people lived for days in unsafe conditions, was secure.

Inspecting Gulf Coast disaster scenes from the air and on the ground, Bush said the damage was "worse than imaginable." He consoled weeping women and praised Coast Guard teams that pulled stranded people from the roofs of flooded homes. In New Orleans, Bush flew by helicopter to the ruptured 17th Street levee and watched workers load huge sandbags that were air-lifted and dropped into the breach.

"The president is starting to grasp the magnitude of the situation," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La. Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., said, "The president obviously was just stunned" by what he saw.

Four days after Katrina killed hundreds if not thousands, Republicans joined Democrats in wondering why it was taking so long to relieve the misery of so many people living in squalor without the necessities of life.

"If we can't respond faster than this to an event we saw coming across the Gulf for days, then why do we think we're prepared to respond to a nuclear or biological attack?" asked former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Republican.

Republican Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts called the government's response "an embarrassment."

Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla., called upon Bush to recall National Guardsmen stationed in Iraq whose homes and families were in the path of Katrina's destruction.

The president said there were enough Guard troops for Iraq and recovery efforts.

The storm of criticism was stinging for a president who won widespread praise for his handling of the terrorist attacks four years ago. It was an unwelcome turn for Bush, suffering sagging approval ratings in the polls.

While Bush has been loath to admit errors throughout his presidency, he conceded that the recovery is not proceeding well. Some White House aides and Republicans were glad to hear the president stop defending the administration's response when it was so obvious that conditions were so bad for so many people.

"Where it's not working right, we're going to make it right," the president said after walking through a devastated neighborhood of Mobile, Ala. "Where it is working right, we're going to duplicate it elsewhere."

Bush faulted efforts to restore order in New Orleans, where looting, violence and other crimes have been rampant. Asked what he meant by unacceptable results, Bush said, "Well, I'm talking about the fact that we don't have enough security in New Orleans yet." He said 1,200 National Guard troops arrived there on Friday and that 1,200 were deployed on Thursday.

"They need to stabilize that situation," the president said. "They need to make sure that the food and medicine that is in place is given to the people that need the food and medicine."

He said he was not faulting efforts in Mississippi, where Republican Gov. Haley Barbour praised federal help. Still, Barbour said, "We've suffered a grievous blow that we won't recover from for a long while."

Just a day earlier, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin had lashed out at federal officials: "They don't have a clue what's going on down here."

There were calls from Republicans for Bush to name a prominent official to oversee the recovery. Gingrich suggested former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Rep. John Sweeney, R-N.Y., suggested Giuliani, former Secretary of State Colin Powell or retired Gen. Tommy Franks to take charge.

In Biloxi, Miss., Bush comforted two weeping women on a street where a house had collapsed and towering trees were stripped of their branches. "My son needs clothes," said Bronwynne Bassier, 23, clutching several trash bags. "I don't have anything."

"I understand that," Bush said. He kissed both women on their heads and walked with his arms around them, telling them they could get help from the Salvation Army. "Hang in there," he said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Discussions still under way to fine tune Iraqi constitution

BY SAMEER N. YACCOUB

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Discussions are under way to fine-tune Iraq's draft constitution in hopes of still winning Sunni Arab approval, representatives of both sides in the talks said Friday.

"Discussions are under way to make minor changes in the language to improve the text to satisfy some parties," Shiite negotiator Khalid al-Attiyah told The Associated Press.

News of the talks came as thousands of Shiite Muslims rallied in the southern city of Basra to show support for the constitution and the Shiite-dominated government.

Another demonstration in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit drew about 2,000 Sunni Arabs who urged that voters reject the constitution in the Oct. 15 referendum because its provision on federalism will lead to the breakup of the country.

In new reports of violence, the U.S. military said three American soldiers were killed in action in Baghdad and south of the capital.

Al-Attiyah said the discussions were focusing on "three or four" undisclosed articles which "might help the approval of the constitution" in the referendum. He said "there is a possibility" that the changes would be announced Sunday.

A Sunni Arab negotiator confirmed that discussions were under way but would not elaborate. A Western diplomat also confirmed the talks but refused to provide details.

"We understand there is ongoing dialogue between Sunni negotiators and the Shiites and Kurds," said the diplomat,

who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to comment on the process. "We don't have the specifics of what is being negotiated, but we know they are discussing language changes and slight modifications that would bring the sides closer."

Sunni Arabs rejected the charter that was approved Aug. 28 by the Shiites and Kurds.

The Sunnis cited a number of points, including federalism, references to Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated party and the description of Iraq as a Muslim but not Arab country.

The description of Iraq's identity was a concession to the non-Arab Kurds, but one Kurdish official said the Kurds were willing to show some flexibility on the wording.

"Yes, probably some words will be changed here and there, and this issue is under discussion, especially the Iraqi identity," Kurdish negotiator Mahmoud Othman told AP. "We are discussing this article aiming at achieving an aspiration of the Arab League as well as to satisfy some parties," presumably Sunni Arabs.

"There was a campaign conducted by the Arabs on us regarding this issue," he added. "We as Kurds wouldn't mind any new change. Some other articles' texts might be changed."

Legal experts said no further changes were legally possible after the draft was finalized.

On Tuesday, however, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said he believed "a final, final draft" had not been completed and that "edits" were still possible — a strong hint to Shiites and Kurds that Washington wants another bid to

accommodate the Sunnis.

The demonstration by at least 5,000 people in Basra, the country's second largest city, was organized by the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq and the Shiite Dawa Party. It was larger than the rallies Sunni Arabs have staged against the constitution recent weeks.

The rally was sponsored by two major Shiite parties whose representatives played a key role in drafting the new charter.

The two parties are the largest Shiite political groupings in Iraq, and their representatives played a key role in drafting the new charter.

Demonstrators chanted "Yes to the constitution!" and carried banners that said: "The constitution is a guarantee for better future," and "Freedom and justice will be achieved by this constitution."

Aside from the rally in Tikrit, another demonstration against the constitution was held in Ramadi, a Sunni city west of Baghdad, where several hundred people marched. "We are brothers, Sunnis and Shiites. We will never sell this country," they chanted.

Numerous demonstrations for and against the proposed charter have highlighted the deepening rift between the Shiite and Kurdish politicians who pushed the draft through parliament last weekend and the Sunni Arabs who oppose it. Sunni leaders have urged their community to vote against the constitution because its provision for a decentralized Iraq comprised of federal states would divide the country.

In continuing sectarian violence, unidentified gunmen opened fire on Sunni Muslim worshippers at Friday prayers in

two mosques south of Baghdad, killing two people and injuring four, police said.

The first attack occurred when a lone gunman entered the Mizael Basha mosque near the town of Zubeir, 12 miles southwest of Basra, and sprayed automatic fire on worshippers during dawn prayers. One man was killed and four injured, police Col. Nouri al-Fayadh said.

Another Sunni mosque, the Rashidiya, was later attacked by a group of gunmen who fled after shooting dead a guard, police said.

In Baghdad, two bombs rocked the central part of the city early Friday. Police said one person was injured in a blast at the Sadeer Hotel used mainly by foreign contractors.

Another bomb was reported to have targeted a U.S. military convoy, witnesses said. There were no reports of casualties in that incident.

The U.S. military said Friday three American soldiers had been killed in action in clashes in Baghdad and the town of Iskandariyah 30 miles south of the capital.

Two members of Task Force Baghdad were killed Thursday when their patrol was struck by a roadside bomb. Another soldier was shot to death during a clash in Iskandariyah on Wednesday.

A car bomb exploded in Maghrib street in Baghdad's Sunni neighborhood Azamiyah on Friday near an Iraqi police patrol, injuring one civilian.

In the aftermath of Wednesday's stampede during a Shiite pilgrimage in Baghdad that killed nearly 1,000 people, politicians from Sunni and opposition Shiite groups have denounced the government's failure to organize the processions and to react quickly.

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INTERNATIONAL



UN: Iran has produced gas required for atomic bombs

BY GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria — Iran has pumped out about seven tons of the gas it needs for uranium enrichment since it restarted the process last month, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported Friday. A former U.N. nuclear inspector said that would be enough for an atomic weapon.

In unusually strong language, an IAEA report also said despite its investigation, questions remain about key aspects of Iran's 18 years of clandestine nuclear activity and that it still was unable "to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran."

"Iran's full transparency is indispensable and overdue," said the confidential document obtained by The Associated Press. The document listed perceived Iranian failings and called for "access to individuals, documentation related to procurement ... certain military-owned workshops and research and development locations."

Among the unanswered questions, according to the report, were gaps in the documented development of Iran's centrifuge program used in uranium enrichment — and in what was received, and when, from the black market network headed by the Pakistani scientist A.Q. Khan.

Overall, the report confirmed recent revelations that most of the traces of weapons-grade uranium were imported to Iran on equipment from Pakistan that it bought on the black market — even though it said it was not possible to determine the origins of other traces enriched to less than weapons grade.

That finding hurts U.S. arguments that the traces were likely the result of enrichment done in Iran, as part of a secret program to make nuclear weapons.

Iranian state television quoted Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani as saying the conclusion showed that the country's nuclear program is "completely peaceful and has never been diverted to illegal activities."

But the key issue in the report was uranium conversion — changing raw uranium into gas that then is spun by centrifuges into enriched uranium.

The report, prepared by IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei, said Iran had produced about 15,000 pounds of uranium hexafluoride, the gaseous feed stock that is spun by centrifuge into enriched uranium. Depending on the level of enrichment, that substance can be used either as a source of power or as the core of nuclear weapons.

But David Albright, a former IAEA nuclear inspector, said that were Tehran to use the material for weapons purposes, it would be enough for one atomic bomb.

The Iranian state television report did not quote or acknowledge the IAEA statements faulting Iran for a lack of transparency, but the newscaster quoted Larijani as saying some comments by ElBaradei were "non-legal" and were "made to lead to further bargaining" or "made under U.S. pressure." The newscaster did not say which remarks Larijani was referring to.

But "Iran will confine its cooperation with the IAEA to IAEA regulations and to defined international agree-

ments," the newscaster quoted Larijani as saying.

After Iran resumed conversion last month, key European nations set a Sept. 3 deadline for Tehran to reimpose its freeze of the process or face the threat of referral to the U.N. Security Council — a warning most recently repeated last week by French President Jacques Chirac.

The 35-nation IAEA board meets Sept. 19 on Iran and will debate options that could include a U.S.-EU push for Security Council referral.

The Security Council, in turn, could impose sanctions — although members China and Russia are believed to oppose them. At a minimum, the issue would receive world attention if debated by the U.N.'s top body.

The document, prepared for that board meeting, did not report on Iran's conversion activities past the end of August, the time of the date of the last visit by IAEA inspectors to the central city of Isfahan, where the activities are taking place.

But with no word from Iran that it would cease conversion before the deadline Saturday, there was little hope that Tehran was interested in deflecting the threat.

The report said Iran has informed the IAEA that it would move its raw uranium feedstock into tunnels at the facility at Isfahan, which diplomats familiar with Iran's nuclear program say have been hardened against "bunker buster" bombs.

Tehran last month rejected economic and other incentives offered by Britain, France and Germany — negotiating on behalf of the EU — and resumed conversion, a prelude to enrichment.

Iran argues that it has a right to enrichment for peaceful purposes. The Europeans say Tehran broke its word by unilaterally resuming conversion while still negotiating with the Europeans on ways to reduce international suspicions about its nuclear agenda.



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INTERNATIONAL

Palestinians prepare to take over Jewish settlements in Gaza

BY STEVEN GUTKIN

Associated Press Writer

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinians are preparing to take over abandoned Jewish settlements in Gaza — drawing up plans for high-rise apartments and debating whether to name evacuated towns after deceased leaders or historical events.

The Palestinian Authority says it's ready to assume control, but the most important decisions for Gaza's future — how to get people and goods in and out — are still up in the air.

Israel is expected to complete its military pullout from Gaza within two weeks, after having emptied the coastal strip and four West Bank enclaves of some 9,000 Israeli settlers. Now the Palestinians are fast at work figuring out what to do with the land they call "liberated," and dreams of a better future abound.

In the evacuated areas, the Palestinians envision parks, industrial zones, a new seaport, a nature reserve, tourism facilities and new housing to ease overcrowding in the fenced-in coastal strip that is home to 1.4 million mostly impoverished Palestinians.

Palestinian security forces will enter the settlement areas as soon as Israeli troops leave, most likely on Sept. 15, to "clear the area of any possible explosive objects or land mines," said Interior Ministry spokesman Tawfek Abu Khousa. In the meantime, officials have been handing out fliers declaring "The Future is Ours" and admonishing Gazans to stay out of the settlements.

Only after the land is deemed safe will ordinary Palestinians be allowed in for what's expected to be a massive celebration. Hamas militants say they'll participate in the official ceremonies, then stage their own military-style parades.

A ceremony between Palestinian and Israeli field commanders will mark the actual handover. Then local governors, mayors and Cabinet ministers will arrive to "deliver the message that the land is being reclaimed by the Palestinian people," said Mohammed Samhour, a handover organizer.

After that, technical teams will inventory abandoned Israeli assets and evaluate the condition of water, electricity and road facilities, Samhour said.

Palestinians will face a Herculean task in removing rubble from Israel's demolition of some 2,800 settler homes that was completed this week, though Israel plans to foot the estimated \$30 million bill for it.

Palestinians already have begun discussing what to name the evacuated areas. Top suggestions include "Yasser Arafat" and "Sheikh Ahmed Yassin," the slain founder of Hamas.

Palestinians also are racing to take over Israeli greenhouses in time to plant a winter crop.

"We will do our homework and we will do it top notch," said Basil Jaber, a Palestinian businessman leading the greenhouse takeover. "We would like to show Israel and the international community that we're capable."

Both Israel and the Palestinians have an interest in making Gaza less isolated

and destitute: Israel because it hopes a brighter future will prevent terror and the Palestinians because they hope a successful pullout could lead to more withdrawals.

But the two sides have yet to agree on the status of Gaza's most important link to the outside world — the border crossing between the territory and Egypt — and intense negotiations were under way to balance Gazans' demand for open borders with Israel's need for security.

As part of an agreement with Egypt, Israel will withdraw its troops from a patrol road along the Gaza-Egypt border, and some 750 Egyptian troops will take up positions there, starting this weekend, to prevent arms smuggling into Gaza.

Israel says it will begin constructing a new border terminal next week at the point where Gaza, Egypt and Israel meet, near the Israeli communal farm of Kerem Shalom. Israel wants all goods and people flowing into Gaza to go through the new terminal and be inspected by Israeli personnel.

The Palestinians say they're willing to route imports through Kerem Shalom to preserve a customs union with Israel. But they want exports and people to go through the existing Rafah terminal inside Gaza, with inspections by third-party monitors rather than Israel.

More talks were scheduled, but an agreement did not appear close.

"This is a major issue that needs to be resolved and I think it needs to be resolved very soon," said Nigel Roberts, the World Bank's country director for the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinians say that without an agreement on that and other issues — including the opening of a harbor and airport — Israel's 38-year-old occupation of Gaza is not really ending.

For Jaber, who's leading the \$33 million greenhouse project, it's more than an academic discussion.

Even if Palestinians meet a Sept. 25 deadline for planting winter crops, there's no guarantee the perishable fruits and vegetables will get access to outside markets, he said.

Israel says it's committed to allowing Palestinian freedom of movement after it leaves Gaza, but it also wants to ensure that militants do not use the territory as a base of operations for carrying out attacks, using increasingly sophisticated weapons smuggled over the border.

"We want to be as flexible as we can on the issue of the crossings," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said.

About 3 percent of the land abandoned by Israel is held by private Palestinian citizens, and those who still have their titles are pushing hard to get it back.

Among them is 47-year-old Abdel Hakim Abu Samra, who held up a frayed British deed dating from 1935. He said he wants to build tourist bungalows on his land near the beach in northern Gaza, and hopes Israelis will be among the paying guests.

"We've been suffering for 50 years. We need to feel like other nations," he said.

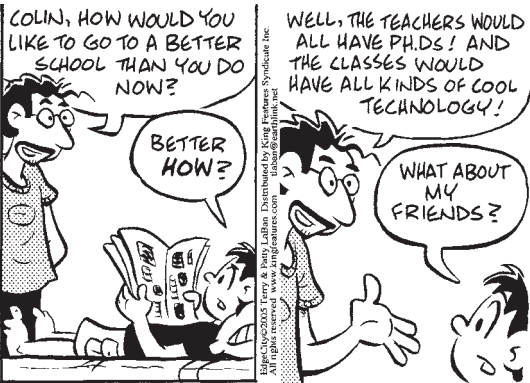
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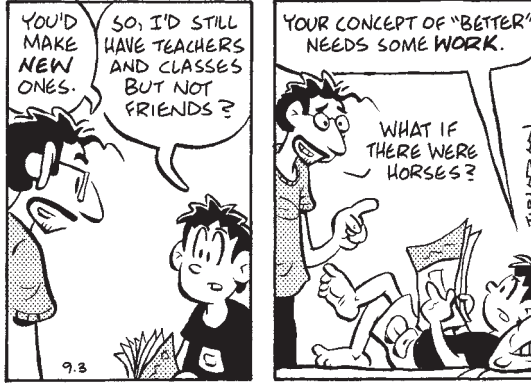


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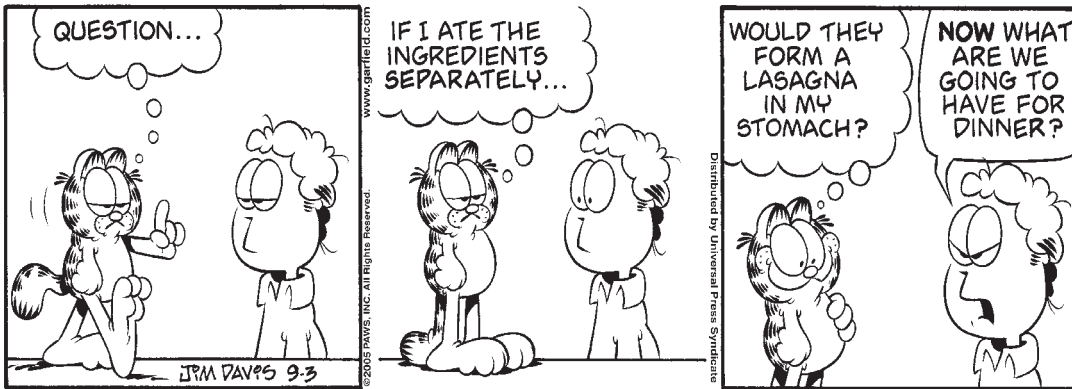


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*Member of Actors' Equity Association.

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