

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Latino political group accuses district of bias

Group plans to file charges

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Mexican-American political group will legally challenge the school district, claiming it has violated dozens of students' civil rights by allegedly disciplining them because of their race.

The threat comes on the heels of an investigation that was launched in June by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in response to claims that minorities are expelled and suspended unfairly.

Members of the local chapter of the Mexican Political Association have said they will file a complaint against the school district with the U.S. Department of Justice. The department of justice would then investigate the complaints and file charges if necessary.

The group's activists said they are helping several parents fill out paperwork requesting an outside investigation.

"We are no longer going to tolerate harassment and discrimination at our schools," said Natalie Preciado, a co-chair of the Santa Monica chapter. "A simple apology or an inside investigation is not the answer. Civil rights have been violated."

Preciado and about a dozen parents say their children have been targeted for discipline because of their race. They said a recent school district report to the state Department of Education shows while Latino children make up less than 40 percent of all students in the district, they represent roughly 60 percent of all those being suspended or expelled.

The kids were disciplined for a variety of different infractions including carrying weapons, drugs and using obscenities.

Schools superintendent John Deasy said he is surprised that members of the Mexican Political Association demonstrated at a June 27 school board meeting. He also is surprised that the group finds fault with what the district is doing to combat claims of bias in its discipline policy.

"We are no longer going to tolerate harassment and discrimination at our schools."

— NATALIE PRECIADO
Mexican Political Association

"We were unaware they were coming to speak that evening," Deasy said. "And they have not attempted to form a partnership with us, unlike when the Mothers of Justice came to the board, because we knew of them and of their cause before they came to the board."

Mothers for Justice has partnered with district administrators to form a 25-member task force on racism and discipline in the schools. The task force has been meeting regularly and is recommending how the district can make its disciplinary

See SCHOOL BIAS, page 5

First day of school



Andrew H Fixmer/Daily Press

Sylvia Jimenez teaches 20 second grade students Spanish during the first day of classes Wednesday at Edison Elementary School. Classes began across the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Wednesday.

Bayside's candidate survey may open the door for others

Political observer applauds candidate questions

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A decision to publish a city council candidates' survey in a publicly-funded newsletter may set the precedent for other city commissions and boards to do the same, officials say.

But despite recent criticism by some community members, a political observer said he believes the Bayside Beat would be doing a public service by asking questions and publishing them in its monthly newsletter, which prints 2,000 copies for downtown business and residents.

The Bayside District Corp, which receives 80 percent of its funding from the city, has proposed publishing in its September issue the results of a questionnaire it distributed to all nine city council candidates last month. The Bayside District manages the downtown area, including the Third Street Promenade.

A few of Bayside's board members have said the action would violate the organization's status as a non-profit. The

issue has been put on hold until the city attorney's office can determine if it's legal.

"These are specific questions, but I'm not sure they are biased questions. Any time you ask questions you can be accused of having an agenda."

— ROBERT STERN
Center for Governmental Studies

Publishing the questionnaire's answers also may allow any of the city's other non-profit organizations to follow suit, officials worry.

The Pier Restoration Corp. board could ask political candidates their views on issues concerning the Santa Monica Pier. Or the

See SURVEY, page 5

Supreme Court throws out New Orleans' minimum wage

Local living wage activists say ruling doesn't effect Santa Monica's proposal

By staff and wire reports

Local living wage activists aren't putting too much weight behind Wednesday's Louisiana Supreme Court decision that says cities cannot legally impose minimum wages higher than those set by Congress.

The ruling effectively killed New

Orleans' \$1-an-hour higher minimum wage before it could go into effect.

In a 6-1 ruling, the high court upheld the constitutionality of a 1997 state law that bans higher minimum wages.

Vivian Rothstein, director of Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism, a coalition of union organizers and living wage supporters, said New Orleans' minimum wage law is a different situation than what is proposed here.

"The state of Louisiana had passed a law so the state has a right to prohibit

See MINIMUM WAGE, page 6

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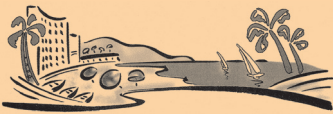
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Your imagination delights someone close to you. Brainstorming with this person always proves to be a pleasure. Understand what might help, especially if a friend does a reversal. You might not be completely grasping the situation. Tonight: Think weekend. Make an effort toward a loved one.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Your work could inordinately pressure you. Schedule yourself accordingly. It might not be worth working especially hard in order to get out early on Friday. Express your diligence, though a boss might not agree with you. Don't give yourself a migraine over this issue. Tonight: Push paper. Order in.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Keep conversations moving as only you can do. Laughter marks your decisions, making it easier for others. When upheaval strikes, adjust your plans. Listen carefully to others who seek you out. Make an effort toward a child or new friend. Tonight: Out and about.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Be more experimental when dealing with your work and finances. Don't step in the red, but consider different ways of managing these areas. Your instincts guide you financially and help you see the other side of a question. Tonight: Just do. Curb wildness — for now.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Feel free to follow through on what you know to be true. How someone reacts to a changing situation gives you more information about what he or she is about. Your intense creativity and dynamic personality convinces others that you're right. Tonight: Beam in what you want.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ A boss makes a demand. You might not know how to respond. You could be a bit touchy about a situation. Pressure builds because of judgments. Expenses could overwhelm you. Use your innate talents. Tonight: Take a break. Opt for some downtime.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for others at a distance. You get important information. You gain as a result. Your ingenuity takes you down a new path, but others could give you some flack. Unexpected developments point out a potential problem. Tonight: Gather your friends.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You demand high performance. Realize limits more clearly. Humor plays a significant role when you're dealing with finances. Don't do anything you might regret at a later date. Be sensitive to a parent or family member who could be upset. Tonight: In the limelight.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Your mind might already be tuned to weekend mode. Unexpected developments take you into a new dimension. Others dance to a different tune. Be easygoing with a volatile person or a change of plans. The easier you are, the easier it will be. Tonight: Take off ASAP.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others will seize control, especially if you're iffy. You'll find answers, if you relax and listen. Sometimes your ingenuity falls apart when you have pushed way too hard. A must appearance draws many people's attention. Brainstorm in a meeting. Tonight: Build on a relationship.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might be confused by someone else's antics. Keep conversations rolling. Don't feel as if you have to make a choice right now. Relax in the company of a dear friend or special associate. Discussions bring a new vision. Tonight: Go along with another's wishes.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Push hard to complete work, errands or anything else that might interfere with your weekend. Work directly with an associate. Your abilities to interact and reach out for others take you down a new path. An insight is important. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

CORRECTION — In its Sept. 4 edition, the Daily Press misidentified Joe Lawrence. He is a deputy city attorney.



QUOTE of the DAY

"Virtue is its own revenge." — E.Y.Harburg (1898-1950)

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LOCAL



NEWS BRIEFS

Pedestrians struck near Edison Elementary

By Daily Press staff

An elderly woman and a child were struck by an automobile while they crossed the intersection of Stewart Street and Kansas Avenue on Tuesday, police said.

A 74-year-old woman and a 4-year-old boy were struck at about 4:15 p.m. by an automobile that was turning left onto the 2700 block of Kansas Avenue, said Lt. Frank Fabrega, a Santa Monica Police Department spokesman. The pair were in the crosswalk when the car hit them, Fabrega said.

Both victims sustained serious injuries and were taken to an undisclosed area hospital.

The two were crossing an intersection that is two blocks east of Edison Elementary School, an area where there are many children crossing the street.

After being interviewed by police officers, the driver of the vehicle was released. However, an investigation into the incident is on-going, Fabrega said.

Man shot in head is out of hospital

By Daily Press staff

A homeless man who was shot in the head last week is out of the hospital and roaming the streets again.

The victim was listed in critical condition at UCLA hospital last week after he was shot on Aug. 28 by three transients in Palisades Park, near Ocean Avenue and Montana Avenue.

Police believe the victim knew the three suspects, who are still at large.

At about 1 a.m., an acquaintance of the victim, who also appeared to be homeless, called police from a pay phone reporting that a robbery was in progress, police said. When Santa Monica police officers arrived at the scene they found the man standing upright in the park with a gunshot wound to his head, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

The first suspect is described as a white male, in his 20s, 6'1", 185 lbs. with red-dish/blonde hair and a beard and mustache. He was wearing a dark hooded sweat-shirt and dark pants.

The second suspect is described as a white male, in his 20s, 5'9", 120 lbs., wearing dark clothing and carrying a light gray or purple backpack.

The third suspect is described as a white male, with no further information.

They are wanted for attempted murder.

The QLine

Next week, we, as a nation, will honor the stolen lives that were taken by terrorists on September 11, 2001. At the time, the citizens of this country bonded over that tragic day, people re-examined their own lives and the news media declared that the United States of America would never be the same.

So this week Q-Line wants to know:

"How do you believe America has changed since September 11, if it has changed at all?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

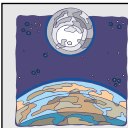
surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Hurricane swell holds today with plenty of left-over energy for waist- to chest-level surf throughout the north bay. Winds remain low for the morning; pick up during the afternoon, and calm down by evening.

South Bay and Santa Monica spots remain smaller, knee- to waist-level mostly.

Swell will start to back off Friday. Expect inconsistent waist- to chest-high surf at County Line; knee- to waist-high in the South Bay.



Today's Tides:

Low-	3:10 a.m.	-0.70'
High-	9:25 a.m.	4.52'
Low-	2:45 p.m.	1.64'
High-	8:45 p.m.	6.42'

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

The underlying reason to support a living wage

Editor:

In the interest of the "full disclosure" that Shutters Hotel general manager Klaus Mennekes called for in a recent letter to your paper, I would like to explain in detail why I, a 20-year resident of Santa Monica, am now working for the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.

From 1982-87 I worked as part of the City of Santa Monica's management team which decided to encourage the development of the city's tourism industry.

We felt a thriving tourism trade would take advantage of the city's natural beauty, would bring needed revenue into the city government, and would produce minimal negative impacts on the community in terms of traffic and pollution.

To further the aim of promoting a successful hotel industry, the city council rezoned the beachfront area, invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in promoting the city as a tourism destination, and over the years renovated the pier, the beachfront, the Promenade and Palisades Park with taxpayers' money.

Our economic planning was on target. Santa Monica's tourism industry is hugely successful and has amongst the highest hotel occupancy in the entire state, generating upwards of \$750 million in business every year.

Yet, as I learned through my volunteer involvement with Santa Monicans Allied for Responsible Tourism, thousands of the workers in our luxury hotels, many of whom have worked there since the hotels opened, do not earn enough money to pull their families out of poverty. Despite their hard work, they still live below the poverty line and do not have health coverage for their children.

I feel that I personally have played a role in creating this unjust situation and that I have a responsibility to correct it. Therefore I have decided to devote myself, together with hundreds of other Santa Monica residents, to promoting and defending our Santa Monica Living Wage Law.

Mr. Mennekes, you may have come to Santa Monica to run a business which turns a profit, there is no harm in that. But those of us who live in this town also want to make sure that the people who work in your business earn a living wage. I urge all Santa Monicans to vote yes on the Living Wage, proposition JJ, on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Vivian Rothstein
Santa Monica

No easy answer to feeding homeless

Editor:

Why not have all the "children and tourists" fed at a single cafeteria one block square across from City Hall instead of going to all these high-toned eateries in Santa Monica? Each of the present small restaurants could operate in the new food block. And such patrons would not be going "where they are not wanted ..."

Sounds pretty stupid, yes? Well so does corralling the foodless into the slaughter pens of the shelters. The Salvation Army is a multi-billion-dollar-a-year charity. It operates the Santa Monica shelter. A chief source of shelter earnings comes from its referral of clients to other agencies. So to get a sandwich or a food plate, contemporary thinking seems to be to refer the unfortunate where (s)he may not appropriately fit. Witness the present horror stories told about activities in Samoshel.

Santa Monica's original idea seems to have been to feed publicly its hungry so they need not steal to survive. Maybe it needs tweaking. The health department should issue permits. But a head-hammering session with business big shots who pay \$50,000 a year plus merchandise to sell on a Promenade cart is also "inappropriate."

Julien Thompson
Santa Monica

Going it alone in remembering Sept. 11 tragedies



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

"Remembering Sept. 11."

The Daily News teaser adorning a newspaper box outside the Bagel Nosh at 17th and Wilshire gave me pause the other night. For one, it's hard to imagine that it's been a full year since that fateful day. Secondly, how can we forget?

Surely the headline, complete with streaming flag logo, was well intentioned. And if an ad preying upon our enduring grief and compassion can boost the sales of that day's paper, all the better to thank the editors. It just smacks of the kind of wanton patriotism utilized on Madison Avenue over the past year to hawk virtually every product type in the name of "My Country 'Tis of Thee." Maybe I'm being too harsh on the editors of the Daily News; it was just the latest bit of 9/11 nostalgia to catch my cynical eye.

Maybe this is a personal problem. I'm just not ready to start looking back at the day that shook our nation, and the world. I'm still coming to grips with its causes and effects, trying to sort out all the pieces. What are we supposed to read about or learn on television this Wednesday that we haven't already heard, surmised or been inundated with on a daily basis since the terrorist plot took flight?

I'm just not ready to look back. As a nation, we are collectively still trying to determine how to go forward. I'm going to spend this Sept. 11 the way I would have

had the hijackings never taken place, or, more specifically, the way I did two and three years ago — going about my business as I would any other calendar day. If we are to be vigilant in the wake of an assault on our beliefs like the Bush administration stresses, what better way to thumb our noses to all those harboring hatred and ill-will than to go on with life as we always did?

Apparently, I'm not alone on this. A new CNN-Time poll, released Sunday, shows that support for a national holiday on the date that terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon has diminished in recent months. More than 51 percent of those polled opposed the national holiday, while 44 percent were in support of the idea. A similar poll in March resulted in a 48-48 split.

I will not be in attendance at the memorial service to be staged Wednesday at the south side of the Santa Monica Pier, nor will I be marching to the beach as a participant in the "Peace at the Beach" parade and gala. No, I prefer to go it alone. There will be few among us who manage to forget what day of the year it is when the day is upon us, and I see little need for a rock concert on the sand to remind me how to remember a day I will never forget.

I had worked late the previous evening in the guise of news editor, putting to bed the finishing touches on a daily newspaper which hit the stands of an unsuspecting world on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. When the phone rang early in the morning I had opted to let the answering machine do its thing. Then my mother's cracking voice came over the monitor: "I want you to get up ... You need to wake up (sobbing) ... jets have attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon!"

I spent three hours that morning sitting

with my crying parents and sister waiting for word on whether or not my brother, Jim, was still alive. A major in the Air Force, Jim accepted a position and began work at the Pentagon just weeks before the 9/11 attack. So, you're damn right I take all of this very personally and see no need to shimmy on the beach to music in the name of peace as the Westside Greens are urging us to do with their parade and shindig. No thank you, I'm not ready to start blaming our government for the horrors wrought by the al-Qaida hijackers one year ago. I'm not even going to give them the satisfaction of altering my schedule one iota.

Lesson No. 1 in history is that if we do not study it we are doomed to repeat it. To quickly dismiss what happened last year is a lack of appreciation for what we have around us in this country every day. Some 50 years after the end of World War II, there are those that argue that the Holocaust never happened. They dismiss the renowned atrocities as postwar propaganda against the Nazis and there are people, mostly born since the end of the war, who do buy into that crap. The more time passes, the more memories fade.

It is all of our responsibilities to never let the world forget what happened in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania one year ago, just as it was the previous generation's duty to never let us dismiss the Holocaust. But we don't need a holiday to etch the day into our collective mindsets. In fact, it would probably achieve the opposite as students begin anticipating an early-term holiday and workers eye a late-summer last-gasp. We don't need to jiggle on the beach to recall the ever-disturbing sight of jetliners crashing into the World Trade Center on live television. As disturbing as it all was, it is doubtful we will

forget, but it becomes easier to dismiss the past when the present is so comfortable.

Leafing through some letters this week I came upon a passage I wrote to a friend shortly after the 9/11 attacks in regards to the United States' next course of action. We were discussing a mutual friend's aversion to the Ground Zero site in New York City. I thought the following was appropriate:

"(He) will probably be one of the ones calling for the U.S. to stop the senseless killing overseas in three months' time, when we, say, bomb Iraq. Without the image in his mind of the Trade Center site, it will be easy to forget; forget what all those people died for, forget the emptiness in the middle of Manhattan when shiny new buildings begin to rise up in the skyline, forget about those plotting to kill our spirit and freedom-loving ways. It will be easy to point to killings in Iraq and wonder what the point is, how wrong it is. But I don't think the families of those who died will wonder, or those who smelled the smoldering ruins outside their front doors for months, or those who saw their whole office wiped out."

I'm not advocating we dismiss the memories of one year ago, far from it. I just think we should approach the day with wariness about the observances we project. Do we want the world to see a nation divided, confused still about all that has transpired? I'd rather send the message that it's business as usual in Santa Monica, and across the United States; that life in the West is just as invigorating, tempting and free as it was on Sept. 10, 2001.

That would be quite another Sept. 11 to remember!

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in a Santa Monica. You can reach him at tooroam@aol.com.)

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

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LOCAL

Two groups fight for equality of students in school district

SCHOOL BIAS, from page 1

policies more equitable.

The Mexican Political Association's Santa Monica chapter mostly consists of activists who are unhappy with the direction taken by Mothers for Justice, which formed in June in response to perceived issues of bias.

Parents in the Mexican Political Association, many of whom also are members of Mothers for Justice, say a more dramatic course needs to be taken.

"(The school district) can't police themselves," Preciado said. "These kids have been arrested and given felony records; that's something that is not erasable."

Some members of Mothers for Justice said they don't have a problem with the Mexican Political Association weighing in on alleged bias issues in the school district or the tactics the group is using.

"It's a different approach and I think that the mothers and the other community members have a right to address their concerns in the way it will have the most impact," said Maria Loya, a leader in Mothers for Justice. "If these community members feel by creating their own group they will have more of an impact, then that is fine."

Others involved in the issue said though the two groups have the same members, they are separate groups.

"It's mostly a different agenda," said Oscar de la Torre, a member of the district's task force. "The Mexican Political Association is taking a more statewide and national approach."

"The Mexican Political Association is taking a more statewide and national approach."

— OSCAR DE LA TORRE
Task force member

And de la Torre said he sees nothing wrong with the Mexican Political Association's insistence in involving the federal government. Though he applauds the school district's response to minority parents' concerns, he said feelings are still hurt.

"I think it's a proactive response (by the school district)," he said. "But in some cases it's too little too late, in regards to some individual cases."

"There has been some irreparable harm (done) to some youths and their families," he added.

City officials say they are not likely to quiz candidates

SURVEY, from page 1

Convention and Visitor's Bureau could ask candidates for their views on matters dealing with the city's tourism industry.

And while neither organization publishes their own newsletter, they both have Web sites where such material could be posted.

Robert Stern, president of West L.A.-based Center for Governmental Studies, applauds Bayside's decision to ask candidates pointed questions about issues facing Santa Monica.

The more information being provided about candidates and their views the better, said Stern, who used to live in Santa Monica.

And while the city's official newsletter, "The Seascape," discontinues publishing during the 88 days surrounding an election, Stern pointed out that Santa Monica's publicly funded cable television station does not.

Santa Monica TV hosts candidate forums and individual interviews with candidates running for city council.

"It would be somewhat unusual (Bayside officials) are asking these questions, but there is a city TV station already putting candidates on and asking questions of them and airing all of that," he said. "That's paid for by the city and it should be encouraged."

Stern brushed aside accusations that the survey's questions were leading or biased. The questions address topics as diverse as candidates' views on the city's living wage ordinance, public food giveaway programs held in downtown parks and a question about an intricate downtown planning policy.

"These are specific questions, but I'm not sure they are biased questions," he

said. "Any time you ask questions you can be accused of having an agenda. I mean they aren't endorsing candidates."

The questions Bayside officials submitted to all nine city council candidates asked them to respond to five questions in 15 words or less. The answers would be edited for content or editorialized by the newsletter's staff.

Stern said the more the city provides forums for candidates to engage each other and the voters in an unbiased dialogue, the better informed residents will be when they go to the polls in November.

However, other city non-profit board officials said they don't plan to submit questionnaires to candidates any time soon.

Michael Klein, chair of the Pier Restoration Corp., said personally he would not advocate publishing a survey of candidates' views. He feels publishing the information might give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

"I always prefer to avoid even the appearance of suspicion, and there are other places where this information can be published," he said. "Places that are not funded by the city."

"It has obviously raised questions for some people, so my personal inclination would be not to do it," he added.

Rodney Punt, chair of the Convention and Visitor's board, agrees.

"Our board has collectively decided to focus on our mission, which is to bring visitors to Santa Monica, and serve those visitors while they are here," he said. "I haven't considered quizzing candidates and it's not something we would do."

However Punt said he feels Bayside should be free to publish its survey if that is what the membership wants.

"It's their own right to pursue such matters as they see fit," he said.

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Hearing postponed in Winona Ryder shoplifting charges

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS — A hearing to set a trial date for actress Winona Ryder on shoplifting charges was postponed Wednesday because her attorney had another court commitment.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Elden S. Fox said the trial would likely begin on Oct. 4, but that date would be discussed further when defense attorney Mark Geragos returned to court on Thursday for the rescheduled hearing.

Geragos currently has another trial underway.

Ryder, 30, did not appear in court on Wednesday. She previously pleaded innocent to charges of second-degree burglary, grand theft, vandalism and possession of a controlled substance.

The star of "Girl, Interrupted" and other films was arrested in December for allegedly stealing merchandise from a department store in Beverly Hills.

Billy Wilder's Oscars returned

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The widow of "Sunset Blvd." and "The Apartment" director Billy Wilder has returned the late filmmaker's six Oscar statuettes to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

Audrey Wilder presented the awards to Academy President Frank Pierson before a screening Tuesday of the director's 1945 alcoholism drama "The Lost Weekend."

Billy Wilder died March 29 at the age of 95 after months of failing health.

He received Oscars for co-writing and directing that film, which also won best picture. He had other awards for co-writing "Sunset Blvd." and co-writing, pro-

ducing and directing "The Apartment," another best-picture winner.

Mrs. Wilder also returned her husband's Irving G. Thalberg honorary award, which was given to him in 1987 for lifetime achievement.

"She indicated that she wanted them kept together and that she didn't want them someday being sold or otherwise inappropriately distributed," Academy spokeswoman Leslie Unger said.

When a recipient dies, Oscars can be passed on to an estate or heirs, she said. Winners must sign agreements stipulating they cannot sell the statuette to outside parties without giving the Academy the chance to purchase it back for \$10.

Anti-living wage supporters applaud high court's ruling

MINIMUM WAGE, from page 1

localities from having a wage law," she said. "There's never been a statewide wage law in California.

"It's a bad defeat for living wage but it doesn't apply here," she added. "The issues are not the same."

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

The measure will go before voters on Nov. 5.

Scores of local governments around the country have set their own minimum wages affecting employers with government contracts, but the New Orleans ordinance approved by voters in February went farther, covering all workers not directly employed by the government.

Proponents of the higher city minimum wage say it is desperately needed by a New Orleans work force often trapped in low-paying hospitality industry jobs.

The city minimum wage, which would have set the hourly minimum wage in New Orleans at \$6.15 instead of the federal \$5.15, was opposed by a coalition of business groups, including the Louisiana Restaurant Association and the New Orleans-area chamber of commerce. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce also intervened.

Opponents said the higher minimum would have forced marginal businesses to leave the city and would have put the city at a disadvantage in attracting new

employers.

"We think the court has made the right decision," said Tom Weatherly, a spokesman for the Louisiana Restaurant Association. "It's a good economic decision for the city and the state as a whole."

**"It's a bad defeat for
living wage but it doesn't
apply here."**

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Higher minimum wage proponents were led by ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. Wade Rathke, an organizer with the Service Employers International Union and a backer of the higher minimum wage, said proponents would have to study the ruling before deciding their next move.

"We still celebrate the accomplishment of coming as far as we have come and will continue working towards a living wage," Rathke said.

After a long fight with the New Orleans City Council to put the issue on the ballot, proponents won an overwhelming public vote in February to implement the new wage. However, it wasn't put into effect because the Supreme Court was considering the appeal.

The state law banning higher local minimum wages was passed in 1997 after community organizers in New Orleans began a petition drive.

STATE



LA County may try to recoup money spent on LAPD corruption scandal

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The city's police corruption scandal has cost Los Angeles County \$20 million since 1999. Now, the county may try to get that money back.

The county Board of Supervisors will decide next week whether to review its legal options for recouping costs related to abuse by the Rampart Division of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Since the corruption scandal surfaced in 1999, the county has spent millions to prosecute officers and represent those whose civil rights were violated.

"That is \$20 million that could have been spent for other worthwhile projects," Supervisor Michael Antonovich told the Daily News of Los Angeles.

The scandal involves allegations that members of an anti-gang unit in the Rampart area west of downtown beat, robbed, framed and shot suspects.

The city of Los Angeles was responsible for failing to hire quality law enforcement officers, said Antonovich, who intends to ask county attorneys to review options for reimbursement.

Messages left Wednesday for Mayor James Hahn were not immediately returned.

The ongoing Rampart investigation has led to charges being dismissed or overturned in about 100 criminal cases. It also was a catalyst for an agreement that provides federal oversight of LAPD reforms.

More than 80 officers are still under investigation, according to the district attorney's office. The public defender's office also has reviewed more than 20,000 closed cases to determine whether they should be reopened.

'Ageism' is alive and well in entertainment industry

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Age discrimination is rife within Hollywood and marketing, and it should be treated like biases against race and gender, actress Doris Roberts told a congressional panel Wednesday.

"I'm at the peak of my life," said Roberts, 71, who plays the mother of the title character on CBS' "Everybody Loves Raymond." "When my grandchildren say I rock, they're not talking about a rocking chair."

"The entertainment industry has made age something to be feared. ... It is of small comfort to know that those who have perpetrated ageism will someday face it themselves," Roberts told the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

As actors age they encounter a shrinking pool of jobs, she said, and often accept roles that are "insulting and degrading" to seniors. The result "robs us of our dignity and denies us the chance to continue to grow," she said.

"My peers and I are portrayed as dependent, helpless, unproductive and demanding, rather than deserving," she said.

Roberts won an Emmy last year for her role on the CBS sitcom, and has been nominated for the award again this year.

Other advocates told the Senate panel that the stereotyping of seniors could be curbed by helping people confront their fears of growing old and death and promoting research on aging and age-related diseases.

Couple evicted from tree home

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Thelma Caballero and Besh Serdahely are being asked to leave their home of 12 years — a giant oak tree on San Bruno Mountain.

Last week, police officers stapled an eviction notice to the tree. It is illegal to live in a tree in San Mateo County, and according to the notice Caballero must leave immediately.

Serdahely already has been arrested. Last week, two rangers and a sheriff's deputy trekked up the eastern slope of the mountain and arrested the 50-year-old laborer on a 5-year-old misdemeanor warrant from Mendocino County.

Even though her husband was led away in handcuffs, Caballero, 50, says she isn't going to leave. She has until the end of the month before the deputy comes knocking again.

Caballero, a former housekeeper from Honduras, and her husband met at a San Francisco homeless shelter in the late 1980s. They lived in some bushes by the Caltrain tracks before hanging discarded building materials in the giant oak that would become their home.

The eviction was authorized after the county Parks and Recreation Department, which has known about the couple for years, completed a new land survey that found the tree house was on county-owned land and not state land, as previously thought.

San Bruno Mountain Watch has fought commercial development of the mountain for three decades. Members of the organization say they want Serdahely and Caballero to stay because they are good stewards of the land.

"These evictions are a horror," David Schooley, the group's executive director, told the San Francisco Chronicle.

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NATIONAL

Seniors find 'fountain of youth' at chi kung classes

BY JAYMES SONG
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Twice a week, about 100 people gather under a giant banyan tree at the foot of Diamond Head to closely follow the body motions and breathing of a martial arts master who believes "health is wealth" but it should be free.

It's clear they leave the one-hour classes refreshed and renewed. But those faithful who swear by the art of chi kung are making startling claims: A diabetic says he doesn't need insulin injections any more. A woman who could barely walk professes she can climb two dozen flights of stairs.

Whatever the reason for these changes, students of Master Luk Chun Bond say his free guidance has brought them to their fountain of youth.

Luk's students are mostly in their 60s, 70s and 80s, although a few are younger. They come from all economic and ethnic backgrounds, dressed in everything from jogging suits to business attire.

The classes in Kapiolani Park just off Waikiki Beach draw folks from the island of Oahu and all over the world. Tourists walking around the park often stop and watch for a few minutes before dropping their cameras to join in. And some attend the class each time they return to Hawaii.

They swear by the health benefits of the class and the ancient healing art that uses breathing and slow, subtle movements to channel "chi," or a person's inner energy, to heal an ailment or injury.

Unlike other martial arts classes, chi kung has no jarring moves, no kicks, no punches, no black belts and no uniforms. It is simply a laid-back, comfortable atmosphere where people come to relieve stress and meditate. The students do a series of bending and squatting movements, raising their arms and holding a position. As they go through the move-

ments, they appear to be praying, dancing, relaxing and stretching.

"All the moves should be done slowly and gracefully," Luk tells the students. "Communicate with your body."

Luk, a 52-year-old third-generation master from Hong Kong, says he conducts the free classes to carry on his grandfather's dreams of creating a better society and sharing the art. Luk makes his living running a Waikiki hair salon.

Charging people for his classes is against his family's policy.

"We have a very famous Chinese saying: 'If you have good health, you have everything,'" Luk said. "Good health is a great asset. Health is wealth. Money can't buy it. It's priceless."

All Luk asks in return is that his students practice chi kung for 30 minutes a day and eat a proper diet of natural foods.

"My father always said in all the dietary considerations, you have to be moderate," Luk said. "Everything in moderation, including moderation itself."

As the students methodically go through each exercise, Luk explains what part of the body each movement is intended to help — everything from hemorrhoids to heart disease, he claims.

Rosanne Harrigan, chairwoman of the Complementary and Alternative Medicine division at the University of Hawaii, said more clinical research needs to be completed before she accepts chi kung as having healing qualities.

"Much of traditional Chinese medicine is built on theories of balancing one's life and much like anything else, when you bring things into balance, energy flows better," she said. "So from a traditional Chinese medicine point of view, it makes a lot of potential sense."

No scientific studies affirm the therapies practiced by Luk, she said. "However, people use them and we are hearing many positive testimonials about them."

Study shows drop in regular exercise among teenage girls

BY STEPHANIE NANO
Associated Press Writer

The amount of regular exercise girls get falls off dramatically as they move through their teenage years, dropping to practically zero in many cases, especially among blacks, a study found.

By the time they were 16 or 17, more than half of the black girls in the study and nearly a third of the white girls reported they got no regular exercise at all outside school.

With obesity at epidemic levels, "it's a cause for alarm," said Dr. Sue Y.S. Kimm of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. "We cannot sit complacent anymore."

Kimm and her colleagues reported their findings in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

She said that there has been no similar study of boys but that they are generally more active because of their greater participation in sports.

The girls' decline in physical activity was affected by lower levels of parental education, heavier weight, smoking and pregnancy. Girls with better-educated parents may

be better informed and more encouraged to exercise, the researchers suggested.

The study followed 1,213 black girls and 1,166 white girls from the Washington, D.C., Cincinnati and San Francisco areas for 10 years, beginning at age 9 or 10.

Through a series of questionnaires and interviews, the researchers recorded after-school exercise such as sports, bicycling, dancing and gymnastics.

By the end of the study, the activity score for the whole group dropped 83 percent.

Kimm said yet-unpublished data from the group shows that obesity doubled even though no significant increase in calorie consumption was reported.

"We have to surmise that physical activity appears to be a major suspect," she said.

Dr. Paul D. Thompson of Hartford Hospital said the study confirms suspicions that teenage girls in particular are getting little exercise.

In another study in the journal, researchers found that women who sit for less than four hours a day have a lower risk of heart disease than those who sit for prolonged periods.

NATIONAL



City officials list nation's top concerns in survey

BY WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Officials in the nation's cities named biological and chemical attacks and cyberterrorism at the top of their list of concerns in a survey taken for the anniversary of last September's terrorist acts.

About half of U.S. cities are less able to meet their financial needs after the attacks, said the survey of 725 cities released Wednesday by the National League of Cities. A big strain has been paying for local homeland security efforts.

"Cities have responded to the challenges of last Sept.

11," Karen Anderson, a Minnesota mayor who is the League's president, said in an interview Wednesday.

"In order to succeed and become as prepared and ready as we need to be, we need more partnership with the federal government," said Anderson, mayor of Minnetonka, a suburb west of Minneapolis.

She said under the current system, money will be sent to the states and state officials are to redistribute money at the local level.

While saying that cooperation has improved between federal, state and local government, Anderson added: "Our experience in other funding situations is that money that goes

to the states does not always get to the local governments."

And she said financial problems experienced by four of five states could make that problem worse.

She said federal budget cuts have hurt cities' abilities to improve their communications systems and pay for the cost of providing airport security.

Other top concerns mentioned in the survey were car bombs, "dirty" bombs that release nuclear material, radiological attacks, suicide bombs and airplanes used as weapons.

"Cities are the natural targets of the evolving terrorist threat," she said, but added, "They seem to be an afterthought when it comes to federal and state priorities for providing funding and communicating key information."

Terrorism preparedness was ranked fourth among the city officials' top concerns behind crime prevention, economic conditions and investment in infrastructure.

The survey of city officials was conducted by the National League of Cities in July and August. Of the 725 cities that responded, 142 had populations of 100,000 or more.

Rocker Ted Nugent offers to give pop star Lance Bass hunting lessons

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Why would Lance Bass want to go into space, when he could be home on the range with Ted Nugent?

The 'N Sync singer was rejected this week in his bid to visit the International Space Station because his sponsors were unable to come up with the \$20 million fee in time.

For just \$1 million, Nugent has offered to have the boy band member over to his Michigan ranch to teach him bow-hunting skills. The guitarist and outdoorsman said Bass could then join him on a weeklong hunt, "where he'll be taught a greater appreciation

for nature and gravity as he hunts, kills, cleans and cooks for himself."

"Bass needs to quit worrying about going into outer space and embrace and celebrate life by learning how to kill his own food," Nugent said Tuesday. "A slab of flesh on the back of a deer is the finest source of protein on the planet."

The 53-year-old rocker said he'd sweeten the deal by "throwing in a few guitar lessons."

Nugent is a National Rifle Association board member whose books include "God, Guns & Rock 'n' Roll" and "Kill it and Grill It: A Guide to Preparing and Cooking Wild Game and Fish." He says he'll

kill 100 deer this year, most of which he'll donate to homeless shelters.

Bass' publicist, Jill Fritz, did not immediately have a response to Nugent's offer Wednesday.

The Russian space agency Rosaviakosmos on Tuesday ordered Bass to leave Russia's Star City cosmonaut training ground, where he'd been since July, after missing several deadlines to pay for his October ride.

At 23, the pop singer would have been the youngest person ever in space.

Fritz and David Krieff, the television producer who'd planned to document Bass' journey, both said negotiations with the Russians are still possible.

Whale kills man jumping into boat

By The Associated Press

PORT SAN LUIS — A whale suddenly breached and crashed into the bow of a fishing boat, killing a restaurant owner on board.

Jerry Tibbs, 51, owner of Mr. Tibb's Ribs in Bakersfield, was aboard his boat The BBQ on Sunday when the whale hit and tossed him into the sea five miles off Port San Luis. Three other fishermen stayed aboard the damaged boat, which was towed to shore by

the Coast Guard.

Tibbs and his three friends were just ending a day fishing for albacore when the accident occurred.

After more than 18 hours of searching, Tibbs' body was found Monday afternoon.

Coast Guard officials said it was the first time they could recall an accident caused by a whale hitting a boat.

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briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

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NATIONAL

Bush asks Congress for broad authority against Saddam

BY RON FOURNIER

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush promised Wednesday to seek Congress' approval for "whatever is necessary" to oust Saddam Hussein, including using military force, as the White House considered giving Iraq a last-ditch ultimatum over weapons inspectors.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert said Congress would vote before the Nov. 5 elections on how to deal with the Iraqi president, ensuring that Iraq is a high-profile issue in the campaign for control of the House and Senate.

Democrats who control the Senate said a resolution is possible but not certain because of the lack of time and Bush's failure thus far to make his case for war. "It would not be my assumption that the military course is the only action available to him today," said Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

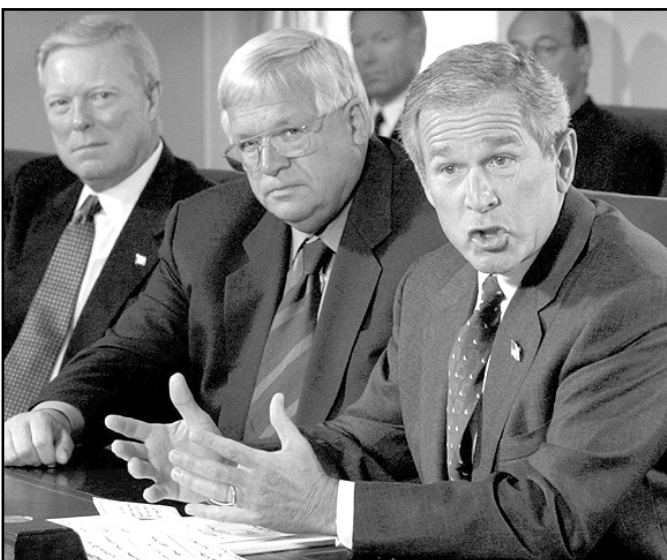
"This is a debate the American people must hear, must understand," Bush said after a Cabinet Room meeting with 18 Democratic and Republican congressional leaders. "And the world must understand, as well, that its credibility is at stake."

After weeks of conflict and criticism, Bush began a public relations campaign to convince Americans and wary allies of the need to overthrow Saddam and secure his weapons of mass destruction program — perhaps by opening a second, perilous front on the war against terrorism.

Essentially seeking a blank check, Bush told lawmakers, "At an appropriate time, and after consultations with the leadership, I will seek congressional support for U.S. action to do whatever is necessary to deal with the threat posed by Saddam Hussein's regime."

Baghdad denounced Bush's "evil plans." Iraqi foreign minister Naji Sabri, speaking at the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Egypt, said: "These are whims and lies and pretexts ... all prepared with no evidence at all to support them."

Also in Cairo, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa said the threat of war against Iraq "constitutes a danger for the stability of the entire region." But Swedish



Doug Mills/Associated Press

President Bush meets with top Democratic and Republican lawmakers including leaders of the Intelligence, Armed Services and International Relations committees in the Cabinet Room of the White House on Wednesday. Left to right, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., Speaker of the House of Representatives Dennis Hastert, R-Ill and Bush.

Prime Minister Goeran Persson said Bush was making the situation "politically manageable."

In South Africa, Secretary of State Colin Powell said he received "a solid expression of support" from allies at a U.N. development summit.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said the congressional resolution could include "any number of things, including the option of military force." Congress may be asked to approve "all-encompassing" language, even before Bush decides what action to take.

Sensitive to the political pitfalls of bucking a wartime president, Democratic lawmakers cautiously accepted Bush's talk of consultations and a sense-of-the-Congress

vote. But they said Bush has yet to justify war with Iraq.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., who attended the White House meeting, said he does not think there is time for a resolution before the election.

"I think everyone acknowledged this is a good start, but I don't think anyone walked out of there ready to invade," he said.

The president plans to make his case before the United Nations on Sept. 12, a day after the nation commemorates the one year anniversary of the terrorist attacks that killed more than 3,000 people.

He will meet Saturday at Camp David with Tony Blair, the staunchest U.S. ally on Iraq. Bush said he would reach out to presidents Jacques Chirac of France, Jiang Zemin of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia — all three opposed to war with Iraq.

Bush will argue that Saddam has flouted U.N. resolutions aimed at curbing his weapons of mass destruction program since the Persian Gulf War, and thus the world body is obligated to help the U.S. punish Saddam for not complying, administration officials said.

The president is strongly considering a U.N. Security Council resolution that would set a deadline for Iraq to open its weapons sites to unfettered inspection and to apply punitive action if he refuses, three administration officials told The Associated Press on condition they not be identified.

To get the resolution past a threatened veto by China or Russia, the resolution likely would not spell out the threat, but it would be obvious to Saddam, the officials said.

Some two dozen ideas are circulating within the administration, and among them is the notion of "coercive inspections" — forcing Iraq to open its suspect sites to inspectors by deploying thousands of American or multinational troops in or near Iraq who would launch an attack if inspectors were denied, officials said.

In any form, White House officials said Saddam is unlikely to comply with either a U.S. or U.N. ultimatum. Even if he does agree to wide-open inspections, the official U.S. policy still calls for a regime change.

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INTERNATIONAL



Colin Powell heckled by activists at World Summit

ALEXANDRA ZAVIS

Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Unfurling banners and shouting “Shame on Bush,” dozens of activists at the World Summit heckled Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday as he defended America’s record on the environment and helping the developing world. Thirteen activists were dragged from the room.

Boos from the rear of the summit’s main hall repeatedly interrupted Powell’s five-minute speech to an audience of 1,500 government leaders and delegates.

“The American soul has always harbored a deep desire to help people build better lives for themselves and their children,” Powell said. “We have always understood that our own well-being depends on the well-being of our fellow inhabitants of this planet Earth.”

The United States joined 190 other nations on the summit’s last day Wednesday in adopting an action plan aimed at improving the lives of the poor and reversing the destruction of the planet.

But Washington was widely accused in 10 days of tough negotiations of shirking past commitments and trying to avoid new ones.

Government officials and activists have strongly criticized the United States for rejecting the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which seeks to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. Many countries view the accord as crucial for reversing global warming, which has been blamed for cataclysmic storms, floods and droughts.

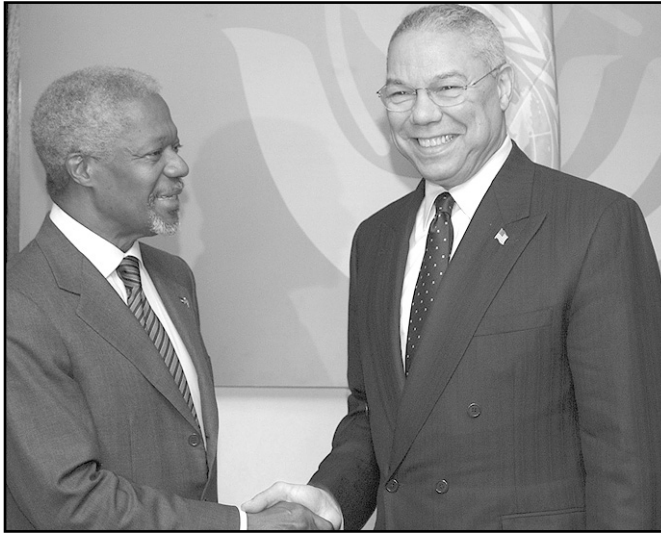
President Bush has said the United States is taking other actions to fight climate change, but the international agreement’s strictures are inappropriate and too costly for the U.S. economy.

Washington has also been hammered by some here for opposing binding targets to increase the use of solar and wind power and other renewable energy sources, and for Bush’s decision not to attend.

During Powell’s speech, dozens of American, Australian and other activists in the audience jeered and shouted “Shame on Bush.” Some held up banners reading “Bush: People and Planet, Not Big Business.”

South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who was chairing the session, banged her gavel and yelled at the hecklers to stop. Security forcibly removed 13 people from the hall.

Powell looked annoyed, answering back at one point:



Evan Schneider/Associated Press

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomes U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to the World Summit on Sustainable Development at the Sandton Convention Center in Johannesburg, on its final day on Wednesday.

“I have now heard you,” before going on.

The heckling started when Powell criticized Zimbabwe for pursuing land reform policies that have exacerbated the food crisis there and pushed “millions of people to the brink of starvation.” The comments brought some cheers from the audience as well.

He also criticized Zambia, which is also facing widespread hunger, for rejecting genetically engineered corn that Americans eat every day.

However, much of his speech focused on America’s commitment to the developing world and the environment.

“We have reaffirmed the principle that sound economic management, investment in people and responsible stewardship of our environment are crucial for development,” he said.

Powell also repeated the U.S. explanation for opposing specific targets in the summit’s action plan, saying projects were more important than paper agreements.

Summit Secretary-General Nitin Desai said he understood the concerns of the protesters but felt the main hall was not the right place to express them.

“The United States was very engaged in this conference,” Desai said, noting the \$2.4 billion America has committed to programs aimed at addressing the summit’s goals.

Later on, Powell said the heckling didn’t bother him and that many of the leaders he met on the sidelines of the summit were supportive of the U.S. proposals.

“Hecklers always get attention. I was more impressed by the reaction I got from my fellow ministers,” Powell said. “The United States is very proud of the record we brought to this summit.”

Many activists said they were disappointed with Powell’s speech.

American officials “say they are committed to sustainable development, but at the same time have been so obstructionist (during) the process,” said Leslie Fields, an official with Friends of the Earth. “I really think he’s in another world on this.”

The conclusion of the summit was delayed by a couple of hours as delegates negotiated the wording of a political declaration to accompany the plan. “We declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to future generations,” it said.

Commitments to focus attention on issues including foreign occupation, terrorism and HIV were added at the 11th hour before the declaration was adopted with applause.

The 10-day summit was envisaged as a landmark opportunity to refocus the world’s attention on the plight of the poor and the destruction of the environment.

“Sustainable development is firmly back on the agenda,” U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said. “We realize we need to maintain that delicate balance between development and the environment.”

But many activists slammed the summit’s final agreement as inadequate.

The 70-odd page document is intended to turn commitments made 10 years ago at the Rio Earth Summit into reality.

While there were a few achievements — mainly on protecting fisheries, promoting corporate accountability and bringing sanitation to the poor — activists charged that much of the summit was a desperate fight to stop governments from weakening already existing agreements.

“We’re running on a treadmill. We are running just as fast as we can to prevent ourselves from moving backward,” said Andrew Deutz, an official with the World Conservation Union, or IUCN. “It’s a missed opportunity.”

Annan warned against expecting “conferences like this to bring miracles.” He said governments, businesses and other groups had agreed on “an impressive range” of commitments and actions “that will make a real difference for people in all regions of the world.”

Germany rebuffs attempt to rally support for U.S. over Iraq

BY TONY CZUCZKA

Associated Press Writer

BERLIN — Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder rebuffed calls by Britain for Europe to help the United States against Iraq, saying Wednesday that Germany won’t tone down its opposition to military action and won’t “submit” to Washington.

In blunt comments, Schroeder said Tony Blair does not speak for all Europe, a day after the British prime minister declared Iraq “a real and unique threat” to world security and said the United States “should not have to face this issue alone.”

The exchange highlighted international opposition to the prospect of a U.S. attack on Iraq — despite Blair’s attempts to rally support for Washington.

At the World Summit in Johannesburg, top European Union leaders met with Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday to lobby against any unilateral U.S. action to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, saying Washington should work through the United Nations for a return of weapons inspectors.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Powell has assured him that Washington puts “the strongest importance” on international involvement in the Iraq case.

Schroeder defended his outspoken opposition to an attack on Iraq, which he has said could hurt the war on terrorism and cause chaos in the Middle East.

“Friendship cannot mean that you do what the friend wants even if you have another opinion,” he told a news conference in Berlin. “Anything else would not be friendship, but submission — and I would consider that wrong.”

“With all respect for Tony Blair: Just like anyone else,

he will not speak for Europe alone on this issue or on others,” he said. “We have absolutely no reason to change our well-founded position. Under my leadership, Germany will not take part in an intervention in Iraq.”

“We have absolutely no reason to change our well-founded position. Under my leadership, Germany will not take part in an intervention in Iraq.”

— GERHARD SCHROEDER
Chancellor of Germany

Schroeder also confirmed that Germany would withdraw six armored personnel carriers equipped to detect nuclear, chemical and biological warfare from Kuwait if the United States launches an attack on Iraq. The vehicles were deployed as part of the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

In Washington, President Bush was to meet with leaders from Congress on Wednesday and administration officials said he would promise to seek congressional approval once he decided how to deal with Saddam.

Bush says ousting Saddam is a priority but that he hasn’t decided what action to take. Vice President Dick Cheney and others in the administration have called for a pre-emptive attack on Iraq, which is accused of seeking to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Blair has said his government plans to publish a

dossier on Saddam’s weapons programs, and a British Foreign Office official said Wednesday he believed the report would be “very convincing.”

“As far as nuclear weapons are concerned we believe that (Saddam) is in the process of developing that capacity,” Mike O’Brien, a junior minister in the Foreign Office, told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Referring to ballistic missile technology, O’Brien said, “We believe he’s in the process of trying to get that, so we’ll set out all the details and the evidence in the dossier.” He did not say if the report would have any previously unpublished information.

In Cairo, Arab foreign ministers opened a meeting on Wednesday at which the U.S. threats on Iraq were high on the agenda. Baghdad has been seeking Arab support, but some Arab governments have been pressing for Iraq to accept U.N. weapons inspectors.

In his talks with Powell in South Africa, Denmark’s Fogh Rasmussen said that while there is “no doubt” Saddam is dangerous, Washington should not try to deal with the Iraqi leader alone.

“It is vitally important to pursue the U.N. track,” said Fogh Rasmussen, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency.

Powell has said the United States should first try to force a return of U.N. weapons inspectors to Iraq before deciding the next step, though Cheney has said making inspections a priority would be counterproductive. Heading to Johannesburg, Powell acknowledged there were differences in the administration, adding, “Some are real, some are perceived, some are overhyped.”

He said it was “premature” to say what “will or should happen” if Saddam continues to refuse the U.N. Security Council’s demands.



SPORTS

The rites of autumn, football is back all over town

By
Ron Smith



Cheers. Here's hoping everybody's had a summer to remember — endless warm days at the beach, cool nights spent with someone close. Yeah, and then I woke up.

Hey! Dust off the office pools, dial up the Internet sports books, and hang the Sunday morning "do not disturb" signs on the door.

Football is back. And Santa Monica's glad it is.

Without an NFL team of our own to obsess over, southland fans are left with the next best thing — that new American ritual, wild-weekend-sports-bar-football.

Here's a report for you on how some local sporting establishments will present the games for your viewing entertainment.

This was a tough assignment — many pints thrown back in the name of diligent research — but somebody had to do it. So for you, my fellow football fans, here's the results of the sports bar/pub-crawl that's been undertaken on your behalf. First, a couple preemptive Exedrins. And don't worry, I left the car at home.

What better place to begin than at the home bar of the Super Bowl champions New England Patriots but **Sonny McLeans**, at 26th and Wilshire. All hell was last seen breaking loose in here last January when Adam Vintieri won the miracle "snow" game against the Raiders, then the overtime Super Bowl against the Rams with the greatest kicks in NFL history. Sonny's is all about Boston, and over a cold Bud, I join the faithful in here watching the Red Sox lose to the Yankees in the midst of their usual autumn collapse. It only means the Patriots will be welcomed back with even more gusto on the first Monday night game of the new

season. On Sunday mornings, breakfast will be offered as two big screens and 10 smaller TVs show every game from around the NFL. When the Patriots play on Sundays, they will be the featured attraction, do you think?

From Sonny's, the reporter veers caddy corner, across the street to **The Shack**, home bar for the Eagles. Being a central Pennsylvania homeboy, I feel right at home scarfing on a classic Philly cheese steak and a couple Rolling Rocks all in the name of good journalism. This being the year of the Eagle, The Shack is ready to roll all the way to the Super Bowl, with 10 TVs, and breakfast specials including Pennsylvania scrapple and eggs (don't even ask), and those ridiculously fine cheesesteaks. Eagles fans flock here from the valley, the South Bay, even Orange County I'm told. Monday Night Football gets you a free half-time buffet, and John Madden mercifully replacing Dennis Miller on the tube. On college Saturdays you fellow Penn State people will find many compatriots here for Nittany Lions games. Painful as it is to admit, Ohio State has a strong presence here on Saturdays too.

A couple blocks down, **O'Brien's** on 23rd and Wilshire enters the weekend fray, serving up the NFL on one big and five small screens, along with Tommy's killer Sunday morning Bloody Mary. Duty calls and the reporter samples one. It hits pay-dirt, a real eye opener and makes it worth a visit here with or without football. O'Brien's is home for the Green Bay Packers and Cleveland Browns faithful, but Tommy, a forlorn Jets fan himself, will accommodate requests for any games. They'll open at 8 a.m. on Sundays, offering up some world class breakfast fare, and will show a featured English Premier League game prior to the 10 a.m. NFL starts. So here they've got football covered from both sides of the big pond. Beckham and Owen, meet Favre and Emmitt. On Monday nights, look for free hotdogs, and happy hour prices during the games.

Next up, down on 11th and Wilshire — **JP's Grill** — where seven TVs with four satellite feeds will provide league-wide NFL coverage on Sundays, and nationwide NCAA action on Saturdays. The doors open at 9 a.m. Catch the Bears and Vikings battle it out with a plate full of what Nathan there tells me is the best steak and eggs breakfast in town. Again, it's the Browns who appear to be the home team in here. How many transplanted Clevelanders can there be out there? On Monday nights draft beer and well drinks will be offered at a dollar off. And there will be Bud Light Girls, Miller Girls, Jaegermeister Girls, Girls Gone Wild, all kinds of girls, at JP's.

Reporter, still standing, turns left now, and heads to **Over/Under** on Santa Monica Boulevard at 14th Street, home of the Michigan Wolverines on Saturdays, and where are you Redskins fans on Sundays? Here, if you know what's good for you. The best jukebox in town will be shut down but the steak and eggs breakfast special is on, just in case Saturday night left you hungry. Eight TVs, two of them the big ones, offer up every game. And every game is what's necessary these days with all of you fantasy players, parlay card bettors, and office pool aficionados. You know who you are. It's no longer what's up with my team, it's about the overall picture, know what I mean? This place is good enough to get these guys — Bama, Geno, Timmie, Todd — off the Lincoln Park hoop courts on a Sunday afternoon and that's saying something. Monday nights get you tacos, and we're not talking Taco Bell here, for \$1.25 apiece, and maybe those tireless Bud Light Girls to boot.

You're not likely to find the Bud Light Girls at **Hooter's**, on Santa Monica at 4th Street. Conflict of interest or something like that. Hooter's does it ... uh ... big. Football that is. They'll have every NFL game on Sundays, and every major college game on Saturdays showing on their

23 or so TVs, three of them giant screens. They'll have 25 cent chicken wings and happy hour beer prices on Monday nights. And oh yeah, enter at your own risk, check your sanity at the door, this is Raiders country.

We're in the neighborhood, only slightly dazed, so why not hoof it over to **Yankee Doodles** on the Promenade for the nightcap, and the end of story. The king of them all in sheer size and numbers of televisions, Yankee Doodles checks in with — count 'em — 30 standard sets, and 10 big screens for your weekend viewing pleasure. New York, New York, I'm told, as in the Jets and the Giants, draw the most fans here, where pool tables become banquet tables for the hungry, and libations flow for the thirsty.

Reporter's thirst duly quenched, it's homeward bound time. Now hang with me, this is the final thought, I promise.

Right here in little old all-world Santa Monica, you've got the whole USA covered at these local emporiums, and man it's a tribute to the free spirit and diversity of this southland of ours, isn't it? Show me a Lakers bar in Boston, a UCLA bar in Chicago, a Dodgers bar in New York. Ain't gonna happen. Us guys — the Patriots at Sonny's, the Eagles at The Shack, the Browns at JP's, et al — you might hear us bitch a little about LA, and we still love to hate the Lakers, but you would too if your guys had to play them. We all came here, not the other way around. Melting pot is good pot. We're all singing along when "I Love LA" comes on.

And If we ever get our own football team here again — you know what it's got to be named, and isn't it true? LA Rocks. You saw it here first.

That's it buddies, mission accomplished, happy face on. See ya at the games. And Nathan, don't forget, friends don't let friends bet on Trojans.

(Ron Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

Super Bowl champions are the underdog at home?

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

The oddsmakers have given Bill Belichick another way to fire up the New England Patriots. His Super Bowl champions are 2-point underdogs to Pittsburgh AT HOME in their season opener Monday night.

Making it worse is that this is a big event, the first regular-season game at new Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. And there is recent history: The Patriots beat the Steelers for the AFC title 24-17 in Pittsburgh last January as 10-point underdogs.

Belichick figures to use the betting line as part of the "us against the world" theme for the Patriots this season. Many think of them as fluke champions who got every break last season, most notably the fumble call in the snow that was overruled by

replay against the Raiders in the playoffs.

The Steelers, on the other hand, are clear favorites in the AFC despite losing in the title game, which happened largely because of mistakes on special teams. Bill Cowher replaced his special teams coach, and one of the special teams goats, former first-round pick Troy Edwards, was traded to St. Louis last week.

"I think this is a good group, but what is going to happen remains to be seen," Cowher says of his team.

The emotion of the evening will happen.

PATRIOTS, 23-18.

■ **San Francisco (minus 3) at New York Giants (Thursday night)**

One of the best rivalries in the NFC a decade ago has been dormant lately, considering the up-and-

down fortunes of these teams. The Niners are supposed to be up this year and the Giants down.

Jim Fassel has had two very good seasons and three that were mediocre. The two good seasons both came in years the Giants were supposed to do nothing.

They're supposed to do nothing this year, so they keep it close ...

49ERS 31-29.

■ **St. Louis (minus 3) at Denver**

The 0-4 preseason record means nothing.

RAMS, 27-20.

■ **Arizona (plus 7) at Washington**

Give Steve Spurrier his opener ... because of Marvin Lewis' defense.

REDSKINS, 13-3.

■ **Dallas (minus 7) at Houston**

Dallas isn't as good as

it thinks. But it is the best NFL team in Texas.

COWBOYS, 28-6.

■ **Philadelphia (plus 1) at Tennessee**

Two teams with great expectations this season. A healthy Eddie George exploits the absence of Jeremiah Trotter in the middle.

TITANS, 16-13.

■ **New York Jets (minus 3) at Buffalo**

The Jets should be good this year, but they traditionally have problems with intradivision games like this.

JETS, 24-20.

■ **Baltimore (plus 2) at Carolina**

The Ravens were forced to shed most of their Super Bowl team, and their starting offense didn't score a touchdown in exhibitions. A trend: The Panthers' only win

last season was in their opener, although that was with QB Chris Weinke, who's been replaced by Rodney Peete.

PANTHERS, 6-2.

■ **Minnesota (plus 4 1/2) at Chicago**

The Bears got a lot of lucky breaks last season. The Vikings rarely win outdoors.

BEARS, 22-13.

■ **Seattle (plus 7) at Oakland**

The Jon Gruden spark is gone.

SEAHAWKS, 24-23.

■ **New Orleans (plus 7) at Tampa Bay**

The Jon Gruden spark is in Tampa.

BUCS, 28-10.

■ **Atlanta (plus 7 1/2) at Green Bay**

Does anyone remember that Brett Favre was drafted by Atlanta?

PACKERS, 34-23.

■ **Detroit (plus 8) at Miami**

The Dolphins don't lose at home in September.

DOLPHINS, 31-3.

■ **Kansas City (plus 3) at Cleveland**

The Browns are taking small steps. This is one ...

BROWNS, 13-6.

■ **San Diego (plus 2) at Cincinnati**

Marty Schottenheimer started 0-5 in Washington last year.

BENGALS, 5-0.

■ **Indianapolis (minus 3 1/2) at Jacksonville**

Tony Dungy returns to Florida.

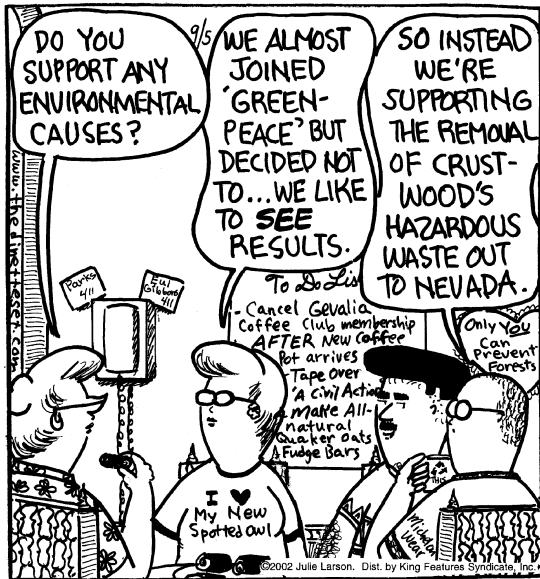
COLTS, 27-13.

■ **LAST SEASON:** 131-108-9 (spread); 166-82 (straight up).

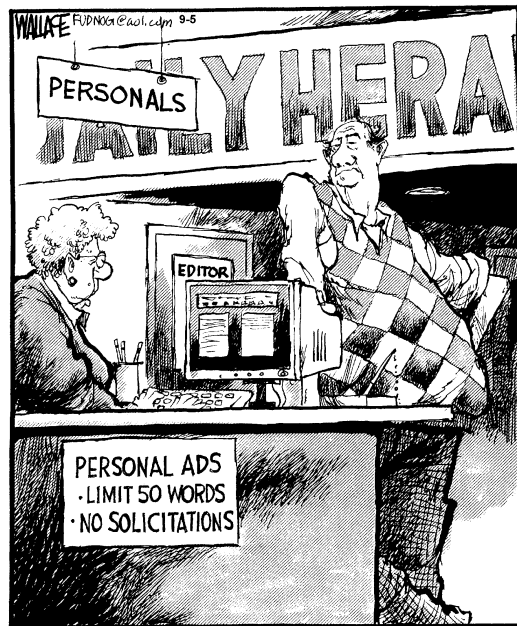
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Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



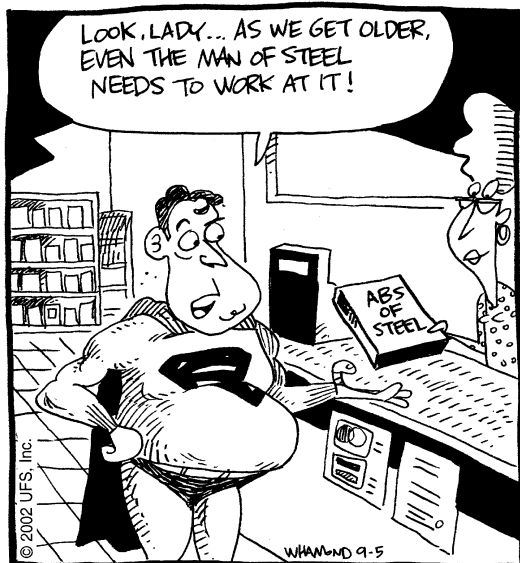
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Yesterday's answer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bit from the fire
 - 6 Predicting deck
 - 11 Bond portrayer
 - 12 Radiate
 - 13 Go bad
 - 14 Sheet makeup
 - 15 Prepares for prayers
 - 17 Tatter
 - 19 Some
 - 20 Greedy one
 - 23 Sign up
 - 25 Finished
 - 26 Restaurant device
 - 28 "Doggone!"
 - 29 Pants feature
 - 30 Have debts
 - 31 Kitchen invader
 - 32 Layer
 - 33 Some embroidery
 - 35 Stupefy
 - 38 Make blank
 - 41 Israel's Moshe
 - 42 Ceremonies
 - 43 La Scala offering
 - 44 Tiny sounds
- DOWN**
- 3 It may say "Ex Libris"
 - 4 TV's Moran
 - 5 Let out
 - 6 Tube, to Brits
 - 7 Line of symmetry
 - 8 Hightail it
 - 9 Poem of exaltation
 - 10 Perfect rating
 - 16 Interlace
 - 17 Printing proof
 - 18 Acquired relative
 - 20 Diamond feature
 - 21 Basketball's Shaquille
 - 22 Full of bacteria
 - 24 "— a boy!"
 - 25 Hosp. workers
 - 27 1920 Olympics setting
 - 31 Site of contention
 - 33 Russian
 - 34 Historic canal
 - 35 Commotion
 - 36 Travel aid
 - 37 Word of support
 - 39 Fall mo.
 - 40 Slalom maneuver

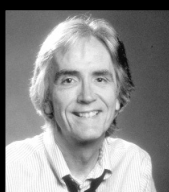
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9-5

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Man kills to overcome guilt of embezzling

- Taketomi Miura, 30, was arrested and charged with killing a newspaper carrier, allegedly because Miura thought that a murder conviction would help obscure the shameful fact that he had been embezzling from his employer (Tondabayashi, Japan, June).
- Shane Sloan, 29, was convicted of killing his mother, supposedly because he was angry at her for interrupting his suicide attempt (and Sloan indeed killed himself in his cell 10 days later) (Pittsburgh, June).

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SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Furn. 1 bdrm, r/s, crpts, patio, lrg clsts, close to SMC, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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VENICE BEACH \$4495.00 3bdrm/3.5 bath. Luxury ocean front condo in newer building with amazing ocean and mountain views, gourmet kitchen, W/D, steam/shower, spa tub, marble, granite and much more. Must see to appreciate! 1 year lease, no pets. (310)466-9778.

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VENICE BEACH 1 bedroom (\$1495) and 2 bedroom (\$1795) apartments available. Totally renovated with lots of charm. Everything is new, hardwood floors, dishwasher, washer dryer in unit. Private garages are available. 1 year lease. No pets. (310)396-4443, ext. 102.

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VENICE WALK St. \$2200.00 2bdrm ground floor in classic Venice home. 1/2 block ocean. (310)463-7428.

For Rent

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SANTA MONICA \$1195.00 Charming Cottage, r/s, hrdwd flrs, patio, Indry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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

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

SANTA MONICA \$1650.00 Twnhse, CAT OK, r/s, crpts, patio, d/w, frplce, a/c, lrg clsts, Indry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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Personals

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

Personals

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

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**Can't find the Daily Press in your neighborhood?
Call us. We'll take your suggestions.**

(310) 458-PRESS (7737)

Calendar

Thursday, September 5, 2002

movies

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

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Minority Report (PG-13) 11:50, 3:15, 7:10, 10:20. *Austin Powers in Goldmember (PG-13)* 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG-13)* 11:40, 12:20, 2:10, 2:45, 4:50, 5:30, 7:20, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30. *XXX (PG-13)* 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00. *Little Secrets (PG)* 11:30. *The Master of Disguise (PG)* 1:45, 3:50, 6:00.

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

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

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

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
The Bourne Identity (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

Today

Community

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

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

Music / Entertainment

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

cover. (310)394-7113.

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

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

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

Cara Rosellini hosts The Gaslite's Comic Review, followed by open-mic comedy karaoke, at The Gaslite, 2030 Wilshire Blvd. 7:30 p.m. FREE! (310)829-2382.

Poetry N Go Club, 8 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Friday

Community

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

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

Classes / Study Groups

Dharma at the Clubhouse. A weekly book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at

Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 - 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santa-monivcakksg.org

Music / Entertainment

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

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

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

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KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.

Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE

Like, wow: Linguist takes a stand for crutch word 'like'

BY MICHAEL RUBINKAM

Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — This is, like, way cool.

A Temple University linguist says there's a lot to like about "like," the crutch word of teenagers and the bane of language purists. Muffy E.A. Siegel, who has published a scholarly study of the word, says "like" is not mindless filler but can actually impart meaning.

It turns out "like" in its slang form has evolved over centuries, became a Beatnik buzzword and caught the attention of linguists in the mid-1980s after it was popularized by Southern California "Valley Girls" ("Like, gag me with a spoon.").

The Valley Girl version of "like" is classified by linguists as a "discourse particle," along with "um," "well," "oh" and the like.

Unlike mere fillers, however, "like" has the ability to change the meaning of a sentence, according to Siegel's research, which builds on the findings of at least two other studies of the word.

For example, "like" can be a hedge, when the speaker is not quite sure what he or she is about to say is accurate. (Example: "He has, like, six sisters.")

Siegel and other linguists have identified a variety of other uses for "like": a substitute for "said"; a way to introduce an exaggeration ("He's, like, 150 years old."); and, yes, a filler when the speaker is casting about for just the right words.

"That's the word you use when you can't think of anything else to say. During a story people use 'like' a lot to keep the story going instead of pausing," said Molly Pardue, 17, a high school senior from Devon, Pa. "Teachers will stop us and be like, 'Do you know what you just said?'"

Siegel's own daughters provided the inspiration for her study, published in the Aug. 19 issue of the Journal of Semantics. Their speech was littered with "likes," and Siegel began to wonder whether there was some greater meaning.

At first, Siegel conducted formal, one-on-one inter-

views. But she soon abandoned that approach because her teen-age subjects were using too few "likes."

Fortunately, Siegel's older daughter Miriam happened to be doing a school project in which she asked classmates a single question: "What is an individual?"

"That's the word you use when you can't think of anything else to say. During a story people use 'like' a lot to keep the story going instead of pausing."

— MOLLY PARDUE
High school senior

Those 23 tape-recorded interviews — conducted informally in school hallways, classrooms, even the girls' locker room — formed the basis of Siegel's

research. Fourteen of the students used "like" at least once. Siegel's own daughter also used it.

Siegel turned her linguist's mind to the transcripts. Her findings largely involve mathematical formulas and esoteric linguistic concepts such as "truth-conditions" and the "weak/strong distinction." Essentially, though, Siegel's claim is that "like" can change the meaning of a sentence.

"It's a big deal to linguists because the assumption has always been that all the meaning in a sentence comes from the real words in the sentence," Siegel said.

Nancy Niedzielski, a linguistics professor at Rice University, said linguists won't be horrified by Siegel's defense of "like." "Linguists tend to be much less prescriptive than other people who look at language," she said.

Sister Marianna Fieo, an English teacher at Archbishop Carroll High School in suburban Philadelphia, would prefer to see the word used "as it is intended, as its proper part of speech."

"You wonder as a teacher why someone would seize upon that particular word, which doesn't seem to have any particular relation to the way the student is using it," she said.

Niedzielski said like it or not, "like" is probably here to stay.

"It doesn't matter what parents or editors or English teachers say," she said.

Craig Stern picks up feces for a living

By The Associated Press

LAGUNA BEACH — Business is picking up for Craig Stern, who claims he's No. 1 in the No. 2 business.

Stern picks up dog feces for a living. Since starting his Entre-Manure firm a year ago, he's scooped up

more than 50 customers, including apartment complexes, private homes and city parks.

"Our motto is, 'We're No. 1 in the No. 2 business,'" said Stern, who often refers to himself in the plural even though it's a one-man operation.

Stern is quick to point out the benefits of scooping up feces: it prevents

dog waste from finding its way into storm drains, then the ocean. He takes it to the landfill instead.

The city of Laguna Beach signed Stern to a one-year contract at \$20 an hour. There are other businesses that gather pet waste, but Stern boasts he's the only one in Orange County who has a city contract.

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