

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

35, 19, 27, 23, 29

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 0, 2

Evening picks: 8, 7, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 3, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:46.55



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

• A van and an SUV, both transporting undocumented aliens, collided, injuring 28 (Blythe, Calif.).

• A woman saved her drowning daughter in a backyard pool by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, which she said she couldn't have performed if she hadn't seen it on "Baywatch" (Brooklyn, N.Y.).

• A 37-year-old man, having reported to a hospital emergency room with a knife penetrating his brain, waited, conscious, for six hours while doctors planned the complicated surgery (which was successful) (Wellington, New Zealand).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I became a policeman because I wanted to be in a business where the customer is always wrong."

— Unnamed officer

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Homeless couple loses lawsuit against City Hall

She lost an eyeball, he was rendered quadriplegic after woman ran them over

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

More than two years after an out-of-control car struck them as they slept in a Santa Monica beach parking lot, a homeless couple who claimed City Hall was responsible for the accident had their case thrown out of court.

The couple suffered extensive injuries in December of 2000 when a teenager who was learning to drive in the lot at 2030 Barnard Way reportedly swerved to miss a cat and drove through their makeshift bed.

Nancy Safonov lost an eye and many of her teeth, and her skull and right leg were fractured in several places. Mack Turner, her boyfriend, was rendered quad-

riplegic and had his right leg amputated below the knee.

The couple, both in their 50s, argued in the lawsuit that City Hall was responsible for the accident because the parking lot was supposed to be closed from dusk until dawn but the gate had been left open. They claimed City Hall knew homeless people regularly sleep in the lot and therefore it knowingly endangered them.

But Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Jacqueline Connor disagreed. Responding to a motion filed by City Hall, Judge Connor dismissed the case earlier this year before it went to trial. It had been scheduled for a 15-day jury trial.

"While the evidence shows that (City Hall) may have and did know that homeless persons frequented the lot, there is no evidence that the lot ... had any history of high-risk behavior," Judge Connor wrote in her ruling.

See SUIT, page 6

SMC buys \$700K house

Similar house was sold to SMC for \$51,000 in 1976

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Sold: An average, 1,000-square-foot home on Santa Monica's east-side. Price: \$700,000.

The latest acquisition by Santa

Monica College is a 6,500-square-foot lot with three bedrooms and one bathroom.

The home, located at 1738 Pearl St., will be used as a SMC administration office.

SMC already owns five others just like it on Pearl Street that have been purchased over the past 27 years. The SMC Board of Trustees this week approved the \$700,000

expense, which is a half million dollars more than the last house bought 10 years ago.

"Believe or not, it's the normal real estate price," said Greg Brown, director of facilities planning for SMC. "We got some recent comparative sales in the area and they were running in this range."

SMC bought the first house in 1976 for \$51,000, two more in 1977 for \$70,000 each, another in 1977 for \$79,000 and a fifth in 1993 for \$199,000. Escrow for house No. 6 is expected to begin within days, said Tom Donner, SMC's executive vice president of business and administration.

Donner said he negotiated the selling price with the owner based on other nearby properties. He adjusted for the money that was saved because the house was sold by its owner, without any broker's commission. Donner said he has been talking to the owner for more than 10 years about buying the house.

"We approached all the owners on Pearl many years ago and said we want to have a buffer between the college and the neighborhood, while retaining the residential

Only memories left



John Wood/Daily Press

Candles and flowers are set up on the sidewalk of 20th Street where Jalonnice Carter, 19, fell after being shot Tuesday evening. Carter's death marked the first homicide in Santa Monica this year.

appearance," Donner said.

Anthony Respondek, a broker associate for DBL Realtors in Santa Monica, who drove by the property and checked its records, said the home would be worth about \$599,000 on the open market.

Its location directly adjacent to two schools might be considered a detraction to some, but not to SMC.

Using the \$700,000 price and with a 20 percent down payment of \$140,000 in cash, as well as favorable interest rates, Respondek said one could expect to pay about \$3,500 each month for 30 years to purchase the little house on Pearl Street.

The median income for Santa Monica residents is \$50,714, according to a city profile prepared by the Rand Corp. That breaks down to about \$4,225 per month before taxes. The historical rule of thumb is one should pay one-quarter of their monthly salary on housing.

There is now only one privately owned house left on the stretch of Pearl Street between the college

See HOUSE, page 6



John Wood/Daily Press

A Baltic property at Park Place prices? But it wasn't bought with Monopoly money. It's SMC's new \$700,000 house, located at 1738 Pearl St.

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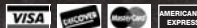
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Sept. 5, 2003:

Sometimes you get so focused on a particular goal that you lose sight of the big picture. You need to pull back frequently in order to review where you are and what you want. Your creative juices flow in an unprecedented manner this year. What you want, you can have; just go for as much as possible as you enter a very special luck cycle. Recognize that you cannot have what you want unless you know what it is. Drop the word "no" from your vocabulary. If you are single, a relationship will become a definite part of your life, if you want that as an experience. If you are attached, sometimes your significant other doesn't want to do the same thing as you. Make it OK. CAPRICORN helps you see alternatives.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Don't allow pressure to get to you. Fatigue could be a bit heavy, so you need to take a lengthy break. Others demand a lot, and you produce. Heavy obligations seem to follow you no matter what direction you head in. Tonight: Count on it being a late night.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Allow more feedback. Above all, don't shut down unnecessarily, even if you feel like it. Sometimes a break, like taking a walk or just getting a breath of fresh air, changes the environment around you. Make a long-distance call to catch up on another's news. Tonight: Split ASAP.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your ability to read between the lines helps someone come forward and share more of him- or herself. At times you could feel exhausted. Count on a partner to pitch in and make the job a lot easier. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's requests.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Let others make an effort for you. Visualize more of what you want from others, and start asking for it. You might be surprised at the possibilities that come forward. Others seek you out. Know when to close your door to get your work done. Tonight: Say "yes."

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Get into work, even if you're not in the mood. You might want to make plans that allow you to take some time off, if not today then in the very near future. You too need a rest sometimes. Think carefully about the pros and cons of a personal matter. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Sometimes you are so focused on your goals that you might lose sight of the bigger picture. Take some time to look around and get a better sense of what is going on. A little caring goes a long way in a personal relationship. Tonight: Be a romantic.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You could be unduly pushed by someone you care about. Think in terms of moving a project along. Touch base with someone you care about and explain how important he or she is, but also explain your professional demands. Tonight: Be a duo.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You could feel uptight about news that heads your way. You might not be sure what you want or expect. Open up a conversation rather than feeling off-kilter. Clear off your desk; check for a message that could have gotten lost in the shuffle. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You might feel the crunch financially, as someone puts the clamp on you. Recognize your limits right now, and stick to them. Someone might try to talk you into an expenditure. Stall for the moment. Tonight: Take a quick look at your budget.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You're all smiles, and as a result, you handle an ongoing situation differently. Someone in your immediate environment could be unusually tough or difficult. Take an overview. Walk in this person's shoes. Tonight: Try something very different.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Recognize when exhaustion sets in and you need to pull back. Clear out as much work as you can. Call it an early day if possible. The break will do you a lot of good. A partner is unusually supportive. Tonight: Make nice.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ When someone says what is on his or her mind, he or she means business. Reach out for a friend you really care about. Please don't stand on ceremony. As a result, there is greater give-and-take. The only answer is "yes." Tonight: Go along with others' plans.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

'No on recall' campaign headquartered in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

A coalition of democratic clubs will set up a "no on the recall" campaign headquarters in Santa Monica.

Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Malibu and Topanga democratic organizations will be opening a campaign office to assist voters in securing their mail ballots and registering new voters, as well as providing information on the issues related to the recall and the proposition being voted on Oct. 7.

Julie Lopez Dad, president of the Santa Monica Democratic Club, with the leaders of the other cities' clubs, issued the following statement: "The joining forces of the four Democratic organizations to defeat the recall is the result of our conviction that this blatant Republican power grab must be thwarted. We believe the recall activity will result in further destabilization of the California economy, erode public services and pervert the electoral process."

The joint clubs recently voted on their positions — to vote no on the recall, vote for Bustamante and vote no on proposition 54, which is the racial privacy initiative. There will be an open house to sign-up volunteers on Sunday, Sept. 14, from noon to 3 p.m. The headquarters is located at 408 Wilshire Blvd.

Homeless services to raise cash for center

By Daily Press staff

The main homeless services provider in Santa Monica is hosting a party to raise money for its operation.

The OPCC Access Resource Board will host its Fourth Annual Victory Cup on Sunday, Sept. 14 at the Will Rogers State Park in Pacific Palisades from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will include polo matches, a brunch, a silent auction and a "kidz fun zone," with carnival games, face painting, pony rides and a petting zoo. Tickets are \$100 and children under 12 years old are free.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the access center, a project of the OPCC in Santa Monica. The center, located on Colorado Boulevard and Sixth Street, is a social service agency that provides food, clothing, counseling and other services to impoverished community members.

For tickets and more information, call (310) 264-6646, ext. 235.

Shakespeare on the sand

By Daily Press staff

"Shakespeare in Sand" or "Shakes-Pier" in the sand, whatever you call it, there will soon be drama on the beach.

The Shakespeare in the Sand Theater Company, a new non-profit group dedicated to bringing free performances of classical theater to the public, as well as to elementary, middle and high school students, the group will give its inaugural performance of William Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra in the pier's west amphitheater on Friday, Sept. 12. They have performances planned back to back, starting at noon. The show's run-time is about one hour. Encore shows are planned for Sunday, Sept. 21.

For more information, call (310) 383-6644.

Get a free skin cancer check

By Daily Press staff

After a long summer of burning, peeling and tanning, your skin may be fried. You can find out if it is at the Santa Monica Pier next weekend.

Credentialed UCLA dermatologists can check arms, legs, necks and back recommendations in caring for your skin in the future. If the dermatologists spot anything suspicious, you can make an appointment for a more thorough examination at UCLA Medical Center.

Dermatologists will be on hand from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13 and Sunday, Sept. 14 on the north side of the pier parking lot. Doctors also will have literature on protecting your skin from the sun and other skin cancer prevention.

For more information, call (310) 794-0777.

surf report

The SW starts to fade today but the new S will fill in late in the day, bringing us some fun, chest-high sets at the best breaks.

OUTLOOK: Those waves will fade on Saturday and through the weekend. It looks like we could see building SE to S swell from the tropics by Saturday and into Sunday, although this is very dependent on the track the depression takes.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

65°

Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:34	0.3	5:58	1.1	11:53	5.4	11:58	5.0
SUNDAY	6:06	0.9	6:59	1.1	N/A	N/A	12:30	5.5
MONDAY	6:41	1.5	8:15	1.0	12:58	4.3	1:14	5.5
TUESDAY	7:22	2.2	9:50	0.9	2:22	3.6	2:10	5.5
WEDNESDAY	8:22	2.8	11:26	0.5	4:33	3.2	3:24	5.5
THURSDAY	10:09	3.1	N/A	N/A	6:40	3.5	4:47	5.6
FRIDAY	12:38	0.0	(11:30 3.0)		7:42	3.9	6:02	5.8

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LETTERS

Immigrants must be fluent in English

Editor:

"Si, se puede, yes we can?"

In the spirit of Chavez who said, "Si Se Puede, yes we can," I urge you as good Californians to support a worthwhile cause and help make a difference by insisting that all legal immigrants in California need to demonstrate English language skills to gain citizenship.

Those who become California citizens should and must have a sense of belonging to the entire community.

We need to ensure people are capable of communicating and thus integrating in society. Immigrants, like my grandparents, legally moved from Mexico City, Mexico, to El Paso, Tex.

Like my grandparents, legal immigrants must be educated, competent and hands-on in democracy; legal rights and employment opportunities.

I just want to pay my highest respect and highest regards to the millions of legal immigrants that came to California by saying from my heart, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

As for illegal immigrants, they need to go back home and learn to become legal immigrants just like my grandparents and just like millions of other legal immigrants.

Pro Se
Santa Monica

Do something about the homeless at Reed

Editor:

As a regular tennis player at Reed Park, I have found the police/park ranger's lack of response to the homeless who camp there, seemingly 24 hours a day, galling. Wednesday was a particular telling example. A man was taking a tennis lesson on court one, when a bum stood just outside the court, repeatedly yelling at him, "Serve! Serve! Serve!"

The yelling was continuous and so loud — top of the lungs loud, in fact — that it disrupted play on the other courts, including mine, two courts over. And we weren't the subject of this homeless man's attention.

The man taking the tennis lesson asked the homeless man to move on, came off the court and tried pushing him off, and — literally — even went on his knees, calling him "brother" and begging him to leave, just so he could continue his lesson. The homeless man would neither leave, nor stop yelling.

Help was sought from the tennis office. The police/rangers were apparently called but didn't show up. The homeless bum remained for as long as he wanted — about 15 minutes — until finally deciding to go on his way.

This isn't the first time tennis games have been interrupted at Reed Park, which charges each player \$2.50 an hour for the privilege of playing on the courts. Nor have I mentioned that the lighting on those courts is abysmal — way below the standard

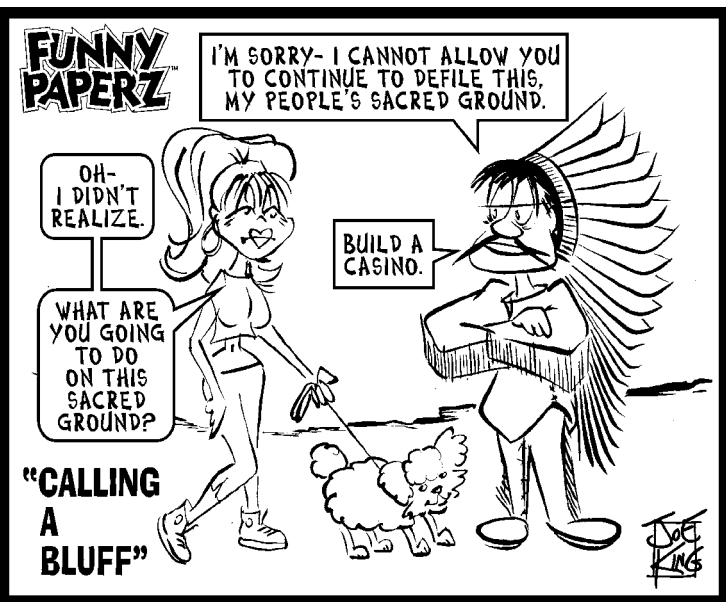
of, say, Westwood and Beverly Hills.

What, exactly, are the park rangers supposed to be doing if not to foster an environment conducive to safe recreation? Why should paying tennis patrons have to battle this sort of thing on their own? And what if this bum, so intent for whatever reason on disrupting the lesson and play, had been wielding a weapon?

At the very least, could the city not create a zone around the tennis courts — as it did in the past by putting up a cyclone fence when Miles Playhouse was being renovated — preventing the homeless from camping out? Or perhaps plant some prickly shrubbery where the homeless prefer to camp, effectively keeping them out?

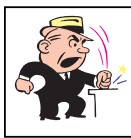
Obviously, the problem is not the entire homeless population, many of whom are down on their luck and not disruptive. But isn't there a way to accommodate those unfortunates without having recreational opportunities for the rest of us repeatedly disrupted?

Joseph Hanania
Santa Monica



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Memo to City Council: Can't control 'em? Laugh at 'em



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but apparently not to our City Council.

Last Tuesday, community activists Pro Se and Joe Paolucci were denied a request to show a video during the "public input" portion of the City Council meeting. They were annoyed by Councilman Michael Feinstein's apparent lack of patriotism and indifference about the World Trade Center disaster.

Their video consisted of a 20-second clip from city-managed City TV's cable coverage of a recent council meeting where it appears that Feinstein was grinning, laughing and smirking during the Pledge of Allegiance and later during a presentation on the WTC disaster.

Mayor Pro-tem Kevin McKeown refused to let the segment air because it was "a video show and tell" and that Se and Paolucci should address the council personally.

"Show and tell" notwithstanding, if the video were about unionizing hotel

workers, you know it would've been shown. Here, it's all about controlling presentations, deflecting criticism and blowing off those who question City Hall's agenda.

A couple of weeks ago, Pico activists tried to show the City Council a six-and-one-half minute video entitled, "An urgent message to our neighbors." The video refuted claims made by Ocean Park Community Center Executive Director John Maceri about a proposed expanded homeless shelter and drop-in facility slated for 1751 Cloverfield Blvd.

OPCC's proposal to relocate its homeless services was a hot topic at the Aug. 12 council meeting. Nearly 200 people had put in requests to speak on the issue. Time limits were invoked, restricting speakers to no more than two minutes.

A number of Pico neighbors asked Mayor Richard Bloom to let them pool their two minutes so they could play the controversial video which featured a walking tour of the neighborhood around OPCC's project.

The relationship of 1751 Cloverfield to Crossroads School a couple hundred feet away and to homes and apartments a few hundred yards down Cloverfield, as well as the Water Garden and Ralph's Market a block away, flew in the face of claims that OPCC's project would have a minimal

impact on the area.

The City Council refused to allow the video. Its action, once again, raises questions about freedom of speech issues in the "People's Republic of Santa Monica." As an ultimate slap in the face, some councilpersons accused Pico activists of misrepresentation, spreading lies and disseminating false information.

We all knew the outright gift of housing and transit funds to OPCC was in the bag. The City Council's treatment of OPCC critics was further proof that City Hall was doing everything it could to limit criticism and manage opinion on yet another pet project.

Even the city's own City TV refused to air the video even though it was in itself a major news story at the time.

Because of this, Pico neighborhood activists are preparing to take legal action against the city on freedom of speech issues.

Members of the City Council are not pleased when their pet projects are criticized and are quick to censor when one of their own are about to be upbraided by the public.

The City Council was warned about possible Brown Act violations last December after a citizen found a private note circulated by then Mayor Feinstein as to the state of the April 16, 2002, council

council meeting ("boring") and to vote "no" to hear from two members of the public who submitted late requests to speak.

Indifference or "dissing" people is par for the course when elected leaders disagree with what you have to say and have already made up their minds on an issue.

All of this reminds me of a council meeting about five years ago when a number of us addressed the council about the city's annual review of homeless services. When members of the public spoke critically, a number of councilpersons snickered and fooled around.

One public speaker commented that councilpersons must think that complaints were funny because some of them were joking, laughing or inattentive. Councilman McKeown exploded, demanding to know who the culprits were. The speaker refused to say. McKeown lectured the speaker for name calling, but not most of his fellow councilpersons for their rude, disrespectful behavior.

So, add one more great myth about our city government. When they say "we hear you" and "we listen," don't believe it. The truth is you'll get used to it.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

OPINION

The Q-Line

The results of the recall election poll are in ...

Here are your responses to this week's Q-Line question: "Will you vote for or against the recall? And who will you vote for and why?"

■ "I am against the recall and I will not vote for anybody as long as we keep Governor Davis in office. If he is not in office, I will vote for Lt. Governor Bustamante. We should never have a recall for anybody. I am a democrat and even if there is a recall for President Bush, I would be against the recall. I personally believe that if a person is elected to an office, he should serve out his term and not have any recalls, and what the republicans and the Arnold-ans are doing is very, very wrong."

■ "Yes, I am going to vote for the recall and I am not quite sure who I am going to vote for yet. That's still up in the air. But Davis screwed up and he's on his way out."

■ "Gray Davis is only one governor out of 50 governors who are taking the brunt of the incompetence and improprieties of the George Bush Jr. administration that is compounding the incompetence of the George Bush Sr. administration."

■ "All the people running for governor are a bunch of idiots. I'll vote for Gary Coleman because he's the only one who's been on the Simpsons."

■ "I fully intend to vote for the recall and the reasons I am voting for the recall are if Davis stays in office another three years we won't even have a state anymore and he will spend all the money there is left, plus we will have a huge deficit that he's already created for us with the electricity snafu and everything else. I will not be voting for Bustamante. I think he's just a smaller version of Davis. He wants to regulate the oil industry, he's for driver's license's for illegal immigrants. Why reward people who are here illegally breaking the law with driver's licenses when they aren't going to drive any better than they do now? I don't know who I am going to vote for. I am not going to vote for Arianna Huffington because I think she's full of crap and she doesn't pay taxes."

■ "I am totally against the recall. It's a waste of time, money and energy. As far as Arnold is concerned, he hasn't come out with anything that says what he would do or could do and I don't believe that he is that interested. He's a movie star, we have had movie stars before as governor. Let's get down to specifics. If I were to vote for anyone it would be Arianna Huffington, at least she has ideas and those ideas are valid."

■ "I would like to vote for the recall. I would like to see the recall election take place."

■ "I plan to vote against the recall, although I am not a fan of Gray Davis."

As a replacement, I plan to vote for Arianna Huffington for her stand on the issues and her outsider status. Bustamante is uninspired and as for Arnold, although it might be fun to have him in office, he is way too vague on the issues."

■ "Yes on the recall. I will vote for Arnold because I believe his strong leadership qualities will begin to turn California in the right direction. He also has the best chance to defeat Bustamante."

■ "I am not voting for Gray Davis. I am voting to recall him. I am not voting for Bustamante. I think he's just a bigger version of Davis. Davis has his hands in the pockets of a lot of businesses; the Indians. He's for giving illegal immigrants their driver's license, which he wasn't before, and now because he wants the votes he's going to sign it into effect. As far as Bustamante goes, he just accepted a \$2 million contribution from the Indian Gaming Commission which means that he is going to push for more gambling in California. This doesn't upset me as much as the fact that he's going to do everything he can to further bankrupt California."

■ "I will vote against the recall of Governor Davis, however I would like to vote for the recall of Santa Monica's City Council, after the incident at the farmer's market. And another incident where a woman drove a full block on the sidewalk of the Promenade. The City Council still has not put up any barricades anywhere. Yet they have millions to re-do Virginia Park, the library and other projects."

■ "I am voting against the recall. I really feel it trivializes the whole political process. It makes a mockery of the general elections and means that anyone with enough money can basically turn the government upside down."

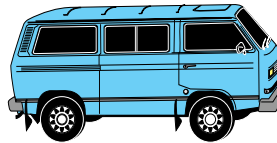
■ "Up until this morning, I was against the recall of Governor Davis, but once I read in the paper that he is ready to sign the bill for the illegal aliens to get their driver's license I changed my mind. As far as who I will vote for, I don't know. The field is so limited, if somebody twisted my arm it might be Arianna Huffington."

■ "I am very much in favor of the recall of Gray Davis. He has our state in ruins because of the way he wasted money from you and I and everybody else. Also I just learned today that the casino in San Diego has given \$2 million for the Cruz Bustamante campaign. This is a very, very bad situation. They will have their hands open to the Indians and steal money from the poor people who go to the casinos."

■ "I will vote for the recall because Governor Davis has been trying to do away with proposition 13 all along. I will vote for Arnold because not only is he for proposition 13, he is also on the board of U.S. English, which I have liked for years and he is also pro-choice."

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LOCAL

Judge on homeless: Sleep at your own risk

SUIT, from page 1

Irwin Gevurtz, Turner's attorney, and Kurt Schlichter, Safonov's attorney, said they were surprised by the ruling but don't plan to appeal.

"It was like anybody could get into the parking lot over there," Gevurtz said. "The gate wasn't down, it wasn't locked. And it was not monitored."

Deputy City Attorney Lance Gams said that although the lot is often closed at night, it's sometimes left open during the holidays for workers at downtown stores, who are shuttled from their jobs to the parking lot. Gams said it would have been difficult to pin liability on City Hall because the accident was unforeseeable.

"This took the aligning of the moon and the sun and the stars," he said. "It's not even a rare occurrence — it was a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing."

Turner and Safonov, who had been cited two years earlier for camping in public, were sleeping on a raised bed of concrete in front of a small water treatment building when the accident occurred.

Crystal Williams, who was learning to drive with boyfriend Dmitri Nikitina, lost control of her car, smashed into the plant and ran over the couple while they slept.

The homeless couple sued City Hall, Nikitina and Williams, who was uninsured and uninsured. Lawyers said the lawsuits sought millions of dollars in past and ongoing medical expenses, and reim-

**"This took the aligning
of the moon and the sun
and the stars.**

It's not even a rare occurrence — it was a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing."

— LANCE GAMS
Deputy City Attorney

bursement for pain and suffering.

But shortly after being named in the lawsuit, Nikitina and Williams, both of Los Angeles, declared bankruptcy. As a result, they weren't pursued for liability.

Safonov, who was born into wealth, and married an MIT student and future USC professor before spending nearly 20 years on the streets, is reportedly staying at a residential rehabilitation center. And Turner, who struggled for years with a crack addiction, is in a nursing home near Claremont.

In the meantime, homeless people regularly camp on the concrete bed where Safonov and Turner were struck, as well as in nearby planters, and on benches in and around Santa Monica's beach parking lots.

Pearl Street: Pedestrians only?

HOUSE, from page 1

and John Adams Middle School. Brown said SMC hasn't been in any recent discussions with the owner of that house but the goal is to one day buy it. There is another house on the corner of Pearl and 17th streets that is owned by a church.

SMC spokesman Bruce Smith said the newly acquired house will probably be used for the business offices that handle some campus operations, like the bookstore.

"We're so jammed for space," Smith said. "Space is always an issue."

Smith said despite that SMC's enrollment is among the highest for city colleges in the state, the physical size of the campus is the smallest. The main campus is a mere 38 acres and auxiliary areas, like the Madison Campus, don't make up the difference, he said.

The other five properties currently house the college police, the police annex, the distance education office, which handles online classes, the international student house and the "Eco House," which has an environmental center for the

**"Believe or not, it's the
normal real estate price."**

— GREG BROWN
Director of facilities planning

school that works in conjunction with City Hall.

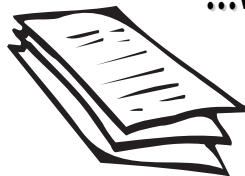
Smith said another reason the college is interested in buying the Pearl Street properties is because City Hall in the past has discussed the possibility of one day closing Pearl Street to ease traffic.

"It would be like a walkway, kind of an open space so we could have more of a mall," Smith said. "We wouldn't have to worry about the danger of people going back and forth — our students and the kids down at John Adams. It's a long shot, but it's a possibility."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



California water agencies finalize Colorado River deal

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Four Southern California water agencies have put the final touches on a long-awaited pact to share the waters of the Colorado River, according to a summary of the agreement.

A series of bills that would clear the way for the deal were being hurriedly drafted in Sacramento this week and Assembly and Senate lawmakers planned to rush them through both chambers before the Legislature adjourns next week, according to a key lawmaker.

A draft of a two-page summary of the agreement was obtained by The Associated Press. The summary being circulated to lawmakers said the four agencies have finalized the deal.

"It looks like it's coming together," said Joe Canciamilla, a Pittsburg Democrat who chairs the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife.

Only a few weeks ago, Canciamilla announced his intention to draft legislation intended to punish the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the state's largest urban water agency, for holding up the water deal sought by the Bush administration and the six Western states that share the Colorado.

The 75-year deal is aimed at easing California's overdependence on the river so other thirsty Western states can claim their full share. The heart of the deal involves the transfer to San Diego County of up to 65 million gallons a year from farmers in the Imperial Valley, the state's biggest user of Colorado River water.

Hopes for a deal seemed dim two weeks ago when San Diego, Imperial and the Coachella Valley Water District said they would part ways with Metropolitan and reach an agreement among themselves.

Assistant Interior Secretary Bennett Raley, the Bush administration's point man on Western water issues, flew to Sacramento and told them the idea wouldn't fly. Raley urged the parties to continue to work through their differences, leading to Wednesday's agreement, which included Metropolitan.

"We are diligently working with the other parties and the governor's office to complete the details of this concept," said Adan Ortega, an agency spokesman.

Canciamilla noted that agreements reached by the four agencies have fallen apart several times in the past. He said he expects to hear from the managers and board chairmen of all four agencies about

"We are diligently working with the other parties and the governor's office to complete the details of this concept."

— ADAN ORTEGA
Agency spokesman

whether they were committed to the latest version of the deal.

"It wouldn't surprise me to have it all fall apart at the 11th hour and 59th minute," he said.

That's what happened last year, when California failed to meet a Dec. 31, 2002, deadline set by the Interior Department. In response, Interior Secretary Gale Norton punished the state by cutting California's draw from the river this year by 15 percent. The state, and specifically Metropolitan, will be able to draw the additional water until 2016 if a deal is approved.

Canciamilla said only a few "technical points" needed to be wrapped up Wednesday. One involved using \$235 million from the state budget to install a concrete lining on the All-American Canal that carries Colorado River water to the Imperial Valley. Lining the earthen canal would capture an additional 32.5 million gallons each year.

It was unclear whether San Diego or Metropolitan would get most of the water generated by the canal lining, according to the draft summary of the agreement.

The deal also called for the state to commit to a \$20 million study of how to fix the Imperial Valley's Salton Sea, a major stop for migratory birds.

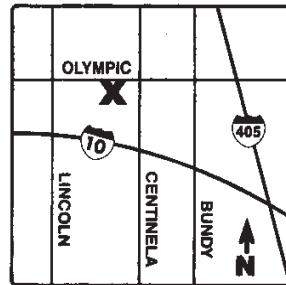
The sea, a huge sump created a century ago by an engineering mishap, would quickly become too salty to support life if it weren't for runoff from Imperial Valley farms.

The state Department of Water Resources would explore a costly plan to shrink the size of the sea and restore it to health. If the plan is feasible, farm runoff that would otherwise have flowed into the sea would be sold to Metropolitan to generate up to \$300 million to help pay for the restoration program.

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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Tens of thousands lifted from poverty in LA

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The number of poor people in the city has dropped by nearly 39,000 between 2000 and 2002, according to new census statistics.

A U.S. Census Bureau report based on a 2002 survey found Los Angeles ranked 27th among cities with the highest poverty rates. In 2000, it ranked 13th.

The city now has a lower poverty rate than either Chicago or New York.

The percentage of poor people in the city declined from 20.2 percent in 2000 to 18.8 percent last year. In 1990, it was 23.1 percent.

Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., attributes the decrease to education.

“The immigrant base wants better for their children, and they’re pushing education,” Kyser said.

The city improved 3.8 percentage points between 2000 and 2002 in its high school and college graduation rates, according to the statistics. The city now has 71.4 percent of the population 25 years or older with at least a high school diploma.

Other analysts attribute the trend to rising housing costs, which may have forced the city’s poorest to move. The city’s median household income increased by 5.6 percent, from \$37,051 to \$39,139.

The San Fernando Valley, in contrast, continued to see an increase in poverty. The percentage of poor surged from 11 percent in the 1990s to 15.3 percent in 2002.

Long Beach ranked 10th in the survey, with a 22.6 percent poverty rate.

The estimates released Wednesday by the bureau’s American Community Survey were based on responses from 62,000 households each month nationwide.

Woman recovering after lifeguard truck runs over her

By The Associated Press

HERMOSA BEACH — A Reseda woman was on crutches with bruises on her hip and backside after being run over by a lifeguard truck on the beach.

Claudia Prada, a community college Spanish instructor, said the incident happened when she went to the beach last week for some body boarding.

She said she likes to be near the lifeguard tower, because it makes her feel safe.

As Prada laid on the sand with her eyes closed, she said she heard someone shout, “Stop, stop,” and then suddenly felt pressure on top of her body.

“It felt as if I was in the mouth of the sharks,” Prada said.

She said the right front wheel of a Nissan Frontier truck had rolled onto her.

The lifeguard driving the truck realized Prada was under him and put the vehicle in reverse, she said. When the tire didn’t budge, a few men ran over to help and pushed the truck off her body.

A Frontier can weigh about 4,000 pounds.

After the accident Friday, Prada spent much of the night in a hospital emergency room, but X-rays didn’t show any fractures.

County lifeguard spokesman Garth Canning said the incident is under investigation. He declined to identify the driver other than to say he has been on the job for several years. The lifeguard remains on duty.

Canning said the lifeguard was moving at 1 or 2 mph and was coming to a stop at the tower.

Landlord accused of videotaping nude tenants

By The Associated Press

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — A 22-year-old man faces charges for allegedly secretly videotaping nude tenants at his home.

Prosecutors filed more than 54 misdemeanor counts of invasion of privacy against Nicholas Moore, saying he rented out rooms to three of the 25 victims.

The investigation began after one tenant found videotape equipment in a bedroom in February. Moore runs a pornographic Web site, but there was no evidence that any of the videos from his home were used on it, said Staci Johnson, spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department.

Authorities allege a five-month investigation found that Moore videotaped his tenants and guests changing clothes, showering, having sex and in the bathroom.

Moore, who was not available for comment, was not arrested and will be notified by prosecutors when he is scheduled to appear in court.

Man acquitted of murder, manslaughter

By The Associated Press

NORWALK — A jury has acquitted a Fontana man of murder, vehicular manslaughter and assault charges in the street racing death of a former high school classmate.

Jose Guadalupe Morales, 20, cried when the verdict was read Wednesday.

The jury of five men and seven women found Morales guilty only of leaving the scene of an accident. He will be sentenced on that count Oct. 2.

Raymond Matthew Lara, 18, was killed on Sept. 23, 2002, when his Mustang collided with a sport utility vehicle in unincorporated West Whittier, about 22 miles east of Los Angeles. Two people in the SUV suffered serious injuries.

California Highway Patrol investigators said Lara was going nearly 100 mph before the impact. Lara was racing against Morales, the officers testified.

Deputy District Attorney Sean Coen said he was surprised Morales was not found guilty of vehicular manslaughter.

“The main cause was illegal street racing, and it takes two individuals to participate in a street race,” Coen said.

NATIONAL



Arizona ready to receive wine through the mail

BY ERICA SAGON
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Arizona wine connoisseurs may find it a little easier to buy their favorite vintages this fall.

A law, which takes effect Sept. 18, would alter Prohibition-era laws that keep Arizonans from receiving wine in the mail or from delivery companies. With some restrictions, the new law would allow state residents to buy wine from vineyards in out-of-state regions such as California's Napa Valley and have it shipped home.

Internet wine sales, which often are cheaper and more convenient, will still be prohibited. Phone orders are barred as well.

State Sen. Barbara Leff, R-Paradise Valley, who sponsored the bill, admits it is a nominal victory for Arizona's wine savants.

"You never know when you're going to find something that you want," Leff said. "You shouldn't have to jump through hoops" to have it delivered.

Consumers have been pitted against Arizona's big liquor distributors for the past decade. The powerful industry has lobbied to keep the state's three-tiered supply system in place so that only wholesalers can have alcohol shipped in to Arizona. They then sell to retailers, and consumers buy from the retailers.

Anyone from Arizona who has taken a trip to one of California, Oregon or Washington's fine wine hubs knows the law well.

After trying a boutique Chardonnay or Merlot sold only at the vineyard, state residents are disappointed to learn they cannot have the winery ship it directly to them in Arizona.

Arizona is not the only state with such restrictions. Direct shipment of wine to consumers across state lines is prohibited in 26 states.

It's a scenario that David Bedford, the assistant manager at Mosaic restaurant in Scottsdale, knows all too well. He's pining for an order of six bottles of Harlan Estate wine, a highly allocated, super-cult wine.

"It's sitting in California right now because it can't be shipped" directly to him, Bedford said.

Consumers' thirst for wine has clearly increased. National wine sales topped \$21 million in 2002, doubling sales from 10 years ago. That has given wine enthusiasts and industry lobbyists reason to mount attacks on the state's rigid system.

Any move to chip away at the state's tiered distribution system has drawn criticism from wholesalers and retailers.

"(Wineries) need Safeway, they need Bashas", they need Sportsman's to sell the wine," said Michael Fine, owner of Sportsman's Fine Wines. "If they undercut us, why would we want to do business with them?"

Arizonans can start bypassing the state's three-tier system when the law goes into effect in September.

A federal law signed in November loosened restrictions on direct shipment and opened the door for states without any legislation of their own regulating direct shipping. The law made it legal to ship wine to other states if the buyer could have carried it legally across state lines himself.

Current state law allows Arizona con-

sumers to buy up to a case of wine at an out-of-state winery, bring it to a common carrier and ship it to home. However, many carriers refused to ship wine.

Delivery giants FedEx and UPS have eased their shipping restrictions to comply with the federal law. UPS has started a pilot program that ships wine to 31 states from wineries in California, Oregon and Washington only.

Arizona is not an approved state for either carrier yet, said Steve Gross, spokesman for the Wine Institute, a lobbying group for California winemakers.

The new law, however, will allow Arizona's nascent wine industry to ship out of state.

Kent Callaghan, owner of Callaghan Vineyards in Elgin, doesn't expect sales to increase because of the changing laws. He'll finally be able to ship to out-of-state customers who place an on-site order, but he still won't be able to fulfill phone orders.

Some consumers and out-of-state vineyards don't think the law goes far enough.

Jack Bulkin, a wine enthusiast in Scottsdale, schedules most of his vacations in areas where there are wineries. Like many aficionados, Bulkin scrutinizes the way state laws restrict his search for cult wines from small, private vineyards that aren't represented by Arizona retailers.

"It is insulting," Bulkin said. "This is not guns or ammunition. This is a bottle of wine I enjoy with dinner or pour for my guests."

Small wineries without tasting rooms or contracts with big distributors are still out of luck. If a vineyard like that can't get a contract with a retailer like Costco, which is now one of the biggest wine buyers, it doesn't have a chance with Arizona wine consumers.

Without a tasting room or a distributor, Kathryn Kennedy Winery in Saratoga, Calif., depends on online orders and sales made over the phone. Marty Mathis, the winery's president, said Arizona's new direct shipping rules won't help wineries that don't do on-site sales.

"I'm stuck," Mathis said. "I can't get any wine into Arizona."

Since Mathis' distributor went out of business two years ago, he has tried unsuccessfully to find another wholesaler in the state. But the same "mom and pop" image that attracts cult wine lovers discourages distributors.

Many consumers say they're burdened, too, but Arizona's most passionate wine drinkers are finding creative and, in some cases, illegal ways to skirt the law.

"Passioned collectors like me have to do what we can," Bulkin said.

To join a wine club, for example, an Arizonan might have the bottles shipped to a friend or relative in California or Colorado, two of 13 states that allow direct shipments, who then ship the wine to Arizona. Others are stuffing their suitcases full of bottles and hoping they won't be hassled by airport security.

"Until you pass a law that allows your consumer to order the way they want to order, you're going to have frustrated consumers in Arizona who are going to seek out ways (to ship) that they shouldn't," Gross said.

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Entertainment

What's playing

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THIRTEEN

Nabbed the top director's prize at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival and deservedly so. This is one of the most compelling films of the year.

JEEPERS CREEPERS 2

Relies on far too many stale clichés. The result is a film that is as lifeless as, well, most of the cast is by film's end.

AMERICAN SPLENDOR

Based on the cult-classic comic book series of the same name, the film is funny and sad and disheveled and, most of all, it's us. In his first go as a leading man, Paul Giamatti just flat-out nails it.

STEP INTO LIQUID

Whether you're a SoCal beach bum or a mainland who doesn't know a point break from a coffee break, you'll likely enjoy this exciting, beautifully crafted love letter to surfing.

THE MEDALLION

The only thing missing from all the new, well-appointed multiplexes are barf bags for use in case of unexpected turbulence, or films such as "The Medallion."

OPEN RANGE

Boasts enough eye-popping scenery and well-choreographed gun battles to make it one of the better westerns in recent memory.

THE MAGDALENE SISTERS

Powerful and thought-provoking tale of three young women imprisoned inside a convent in 1960s Ireland.

FREDDY VS. JASON

For fans of the series, both of which lost their luster roundabout their sixteenth or seventeenth installment, the film is likely to be the ultimate letdown.

S.W.A.T.

With a compelling story, strong characters and a plethora of gritty action sequences, the film is a vast improvement over the mediocre television series that spawned it.

FREAKY FRIDAY

This remake strives to be a little more inventive than the 1977 original, and with the help of Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan succeeds to a large degree.

AMERICAN WEDDING

Doesn't succeed like its predecessors, but it's a serviceable send-off to one of the more likable film franchises of the past decade.

GIGLI

In a year notable for the extraordinary number of truly abominable bombs, "Gigli" may have just chased "Chasing Papi" from the top of the flops list.

SEABISCUIT

A nice film that makes the heart swell with patriotic pride and nostalgia, while the head marvels at the depth and complexity of some truly wonderful performances.

SPY KIDS 3-D: GAME OVER

A muddled special-effects spectacle that invites you to play along with the game, and hopes you forget that you actually paid to see a movie.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Without a doubt the best Big Screen adaptation of a theme park ride ever, this film goes a long way toward redeeming Disney for the sin that was "The Country Bears" movie.

TERMINATOR 3

A heck of an enjoyable movie that follows the franchise blueprint to the letter, albeit with a bit more firepower ... seemingly everything that can be blown up in this picture, gets blown up.

'Dickie Roberts' just another Spade 'ho-hum' flick

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

"Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star" has a lot in common with David Spade's filmography: It shows early promise ("Tommy Boy") but quickly degenerates into an unfunny mess ("8 Heads In A Duffel Bag," "Senseless," "Joe Dirt"). The six-minute E! True Hollywood Story parody that opens "Dickie" is as good as it gets in this otherwise insipid offering from the writing team that assailed us with "Joe Dirt" (that would be Spade and former Saturday Night Live head writer Fred Wolf) and producer Adam Sandler, another SNL alum who enjoys immense popularity despite churning out more dogs than Oscar Meyer.

Spade plays Roberts, a 35-year-old former child star plunged so far into obscurity, he's parking cars at an LA restaurant for a living. During his heyday on a popular '70s sitcom

called the "The Glimmer Gang," young Dickie was celebrated for his tongue-twisting catchphrase, "That's nucking futs!" Now he's a nobody who pals around with Leif Garrett and the guy who played Screech on "Saved by the Bell" and it's driving him, well, ... you know. After getting whupped by Emmanuelle Lewis (the former child star of "Webster") in a celebrity boxing match, Dickie gets dumped by his trailer-trash girlfriend Cyndi (FCS Alyssa Milano) and hits rock bottom. But then along comes an opportunity: Rob Reiner (as himself) is casting the lead for a new movie. If Dickie can land the plum role, he'll be back on top. Problem is, Reiner feels that Dickie, whose career deprived him of a real childhood, isn't "normal" enough for the part. So Dickie comes up with a plan — he pays a seemingly picture-perfect family 20 grand for a crash course on being an average kid.

Ahh, but the Finney family isn't as idyllic as it seems. The patriarch, George (Craig Bierko) is a two-timing deadbeat dad who's only in it

for Dickie's money. All the long-suffering wife Grace (Mary McCormack) and kids (Scott Terra and Jenna Boyd) want is a decent man to take care of them. You can probably figure out where the story goes from there.

The good news for Spade fans is that this is one of the more endurable films he's done. Of course, that's like bragging your kid was valedictorian at summer school. One of the central problems with "Dickie Roberts" is that rather than stick to the black comedy that makes the opening sequence so enjoyable, Spade forgoes his snide side for sentimental schlock that's supposed to remind us it's not about the money and the fame, you see, it's about the LOVE. That's all well and good, unless you LOVE a few laughs mixed in with your half-baked morality lessons.

(Rated PG-13 for crude and sex-related humor, language and drug references. Running time: 98 minutes)

David Spade: Thoughts from an average star

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

David Spade rose to prominence in the 1990s as the sarcastic "Hollywood Minute" reporter, one of several memorable characters he created during a five-year stint on Saturday Night Live. After saying "buh-bye" to SNL in 1996, Spade scored a breakthrough role as wisecracking assistant Dennis Finch on the hit series "Just Shoot Me!" For his work on that show, Spade was nominated for two Golden Globe Awards and an Emmy.

He hasn't fared as well on the big screen, however. Following successful collaborations with the late Chris Farley in "Tommy Boy" and "Black Sheep," Spade starred in a succession of duds that included "8 Heads In A Duffel Bag," "Senseless" and "Joe Dirt." While his latest picture, "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star," probably won't elevate Spade to the level of superstardom enjoyed by his SNL contemporaries Adam Sandler and Mike Meyers, it ought to demonstrate the diminutive comic's ability to hold his own at the box office. Here are some excerpts from a recent interview:

Question: There is a definite Oedipal aspect to the relationship between Dickie Roberts and Mary McCormack's character, Grace, Dickie's surrogate mother. Give us your take on the Freudian elements of the film.

David Spade: Yeah, that was a little dicey. I mean, it was fun to do the "your mom's hot" stuff with the (two) kids, but in the end when Mary and I got together it was weird. But it was less of a sexual thing, and more just, like, these four people should be together. This should be a little unit.

Question: Dickie goes from being a household name to being a nobody and it nearly destroys him. What, in your opinion, are some of the other downsides to celebrity?

David Spade: Well, nobody really wants to hear the rich guy complain ... that is, if I am rich anymore. I put away three thousand bucks from "Just Shoot Me," but it just wasn't enough. But there is the (loss of privacy) because you don't blend in anymore. It's funny, I was out with Howard Stern last night — and talk about not blending in. I can at least cruise through the mall like a college kid with



a hat on, but he's a giraffe and he's got crazy people for fans. So rather than deal with that, he usually just stays home.

Question: What challenges do you face?

David Spade: If you're Sean Penn, people have to stay away from you because they're afraid. But if you're me, you're like their buddy from "Tommy Boy." People come up and say, "Dude, a friend of mine knows your brother." And I'm like, "Really? Let's drink! Let's hang out!"

Question: What's your take on child actors and their showbiz parents?

David Spade: Some parents are, like, "They love it. My kid loves show business. I can't stop 'em." But they also love candy and money, and, you know, they're kids — it's your job to stop them. If they love to play in traffic, that doesn't mean you let them do it. It's tough, how to deal with it? I don't know if I'd put my kid in there ... if I had a kid.

Question: Do you keep up with the latest happenings at Saturday Night Live?

David Spade: Not as much anymore. I did

with Will (Ferrell) and Cheri Oteri and Jimmy Fallon, but I don't know as many of the new people.

Question: You live in California. What do you think of the prospect of Arnold Schwarzenegger becoming the next governor?

David Spade: He was asked the other day at some press conference what he planned to do to balance the budget and he said he planned to fix it when he's voted in (laughs). He said, "That's the plan. It's so complicated, I won't even think about it until that day." I thought it was kind of ballsy that he really had no answer. I like that he surrounds himself with guys like Warren Buffett and George Shultz and says, "You know these guys. They're good. And I'm with them and we're going to figure it all out later."

Question: What kind of music are you listening to these days?

David Spade: I love '80s music. I don't know any new bands. I'm out of it. I tell people I like new music, but I really don't. I just want them to think I'm cool.

NATIONAL



WTC attack reverberates in bell two years later

BY RICHARD BENKE
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — At the sound of the church bell tolling five blocks away, Larry Perea stops working in his garden and thinks of New York City.

The new bell tower at Sacred Heart Church cradles a cross made of two jagged World Trade Center beams. It rises from a chapel dedicated to the victims of Sept. 11, 2001. The names of the all of victims are etched on a black granite slab, and photographs taken at Ground Zero cover large sections of wall.

The 30-foot, 15,000-pound horizontal beam stamped "77," meaning it fell from the 77th floor, and the 8,000-pound, 20-foot vertical were given by the city of New York to the Roman Catholic church in Baretas, one of Albuquerque's oldest neighborhoods.

The beam has been scarred by fire, corrosion, slashes and gouges. Markings resemble prehistoric etchings or, to some, Arabic writing.

"People see a lot in this — they see faces, they see names, they see crosses," said the Rev. James Moore, pastor of Sacred Heart.

People are allowed to touch or to tap on the beams, and seeing them up close can be powerfully emotional. "There was a fireman from New York who came here and fell on his knees," Moore said.

The 1,800-pound church bell had disappeared for 25 years after the old Sacred Heart Church was demolished. It was found in a backyard just when needed to build the new tower, which was erected last spring.

"When it does ring," Perea said, "it reminds us of the community as we knew it when we were growing up, but also it reminds us of those beams and the people that died in New York on September 11th. It ties the present to the past."

The church is a couple blocks south of

downtown in a neighborhood that takes visitors back to the 1940s and '50s. The local diner still has a lunch counter, as it did back when the bell rang atop the old Sacred Heart Church.

Perea, 61, who has lived here all his life, spends much of his time in his backyard garden, "watering or working on the flower beds, raking, getting my hands dirty" or doing paperwork on a patio table.

When he hears the bell, it's like "The Angelus," the painting by Jean-Francois Millet of farmers who drop what they're doing and reflect, maybe say a prayer, when the bell signals.

Perea said the bell tower symbolizes the resurgence of the neighborhood but also is "a reminder of how vulnerable any of us can be."

Does New York seem closer?

"Yeah, it does," said Perea, a community activist and head of the Baretas redevelopment corporation.

The symbolism of the beams touched people across the country. During their truck ride from New York last year, people along the way climbed aboard when the truck pulled off the highway and stopped.

Thousands of people from many states, including New York, have visited the new chapel and signed the registry, Moore said. The church is still \$35,000 in debt from the construction of the chapel and tower, he said.

At a Sept. 11 first anniversary event at Civic Center Plaza, where the beams were displayed in 2002 before their installation at the church this year, people wept and prayed while climbing on the parked truck and on the beams.

Photos in the Sacred Heart chapel show firefighters sifting through debris — and through rising smoke. Moore and his Baretas delegation are shown at Ground Zero with the beams that New York gave them — awed, the priest said, by such solemn responsibility.



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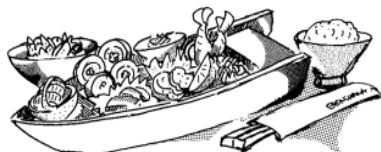
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NATIONAL

Hiker with bionic leg ready to hike Appalachian Trail

BY DUNCAN MANSFIELD

Associated Press Writer

WASHBURN, Tenn. — Scott Rogers, whose daily journey begins with a single step on a bionic leg, is preparing for a hike up the 2,168-mile Appalachian Trail.

"I have been told I can't do it, that I won't make it. But how do you know?" the 34-year-old says.

Rogers hikes with the help of the "C-Leg" — a prosthetic powered by a battery, driven by hydraulics and controlled by microprocessors that monitor his movement 50 times a second to create a natural, stable gait.

The affable Georgia native, whose Web and e-mail addresses say "onelegwonder," finished a grueling seven-day, 65-mile practice hike on the Laurel Highlands Trail in Pennsylvania.

Next April, he plans to start a seven-month trip along the Appalachian Trail, walking from Georgia to Maine. "If I fail at it," he says, "at least I tried."

Rogers lost his left leg below the knee in 1998 when he accidentally shot himself while hunting a snake. He says the accident, unexpectedly, made him stronger.

"What can hurt worse than being shot by a shotgun and surviving?" he asks.

With only one leg, he learned to water ski, bought an ultralight aircraft and returned to work as a paramedic. Wearing a below-knee prosthesis was "no more of a chore than putting on a shoe."

But when chronic pain got worse two years ago, Rogers had to quit his job. He sold his house and moved his family from Milledgeville, Ga., to Washburn, about 50 miles north of Knoxville, just to be closer to the mountains.

The leg was amputated in March 2002, and he faced the prospect of spending the rest of his life on crutches and in a wheelchair. But four months later, Medicare helped pay for a \$48,000 "C-Leg," an artificial knee, shin and foot made by the German company Otto Bock Orthopedic and available in the United States since 1999.

"Science will never be able to replace what God gave me, but they came close with this," says Rogers.

Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics in Kingsport fitted the artificial leg on Rogers, but even the specialists there are amazed by his plans for the Appalachian Trail.

"You've got to have somebody who's got the nerve to do all this," says prosthetist Paul Meyer. "I am not sure I would walk 65 miles on a trail, and I have both of my God-given legs. He's a real gutsy guy."

On the practice hike in Pennsylvania, Rogers drained all the power from the battery on his bionic leg after the first day, and found he'd left his backup battery at home on the kitchen counter. Otto Bock had specially designed a soft panel, solar-powered battery charger, but Rogers was hiking in a steady downpour.

Without power, the C-Leg goes into fail-safe mode — the leg stiffens, although

"You've got to have somebody who's got the nerve to do all this. I am not sure I would walk 65 miles on a trail, and I have both of my God-given legs. He's a real gutsy guy."

— PAUL MEYER
Prosthetist

the knee continues to flex. Rogers walked for three more days before a charger that Meyer shipped from Kansas City reached a ranger station along the trail.

"I was hoping he would succeed because I didn't want to live with him if he didn't," his wife, Leisa, says with a laugh. "I figured if he didn't do it he was going to be miserable. ... He did real good."

She paralleled his route in the family van and left love notes along the trail to encourage him. The oldest of their six children, Tyler, 12, and Hannah, 11, walked with him part of the way.

Around 2,400 backpackers each year set out on the Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Springer Mountain in Georgia to the summit of Mount Katahdin in Maine.

Fewer than one in five completes the journey. A few have used crutches. At least one was blind. But none so far had an artificial leg, says Brian King, spokesman for the Appalachian Trail Conference in Blacksburg, Va.

"It is tough for anybody," King says. "There are hard places, especially coming down hills, even if you have two original legs."

With technical support and a backup leg from Otto Bock and Hanger Prosthetics, Rogers is ready to try. He hopes to raise money for a motor home so Leisa and the children can meet him at various points along the trail.

Paddy Rossbach, president and CEO of the Amputee Coalition of America, finds Rogers' plans exciting. Her home in Salisbury, Conn., overlooks the Appalachian Trail.

An amputee athlete herself, Rossbach says, "I think it is absolutely wonderful ... to hear about people taking on things that people who are able-bodied find difficult anyway."

"I have a lot of friends that are disabled," Rogers says. "If what I do motivates one of them, I guess that is what it is all about."

"And I guess also to prove to myself: 'Yeah, you can do it, Scotty.'"

DID YOU KNOW?: There were 15 STRIPES on the official AMERICAN FLAG before Congress passed a law forever setting the number to 13. The number had increased to 15 in 1795 to include Kentucky and Vermont. Since more and more states were joining the Union, the number of stripes was reduced to 13 as of July 4, 1818 to represent the ORIGINAL 13 STATES.

INTERNATIONAL



Leaders say U.S. call for help in Iraq falls short

BY GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press Writer

DRESDEN, Germany — The leaders of Germany and France criticized a U.S. draft resolution seeking international troops and money for Iraq, saying it falls short by not granting responsibility to Iraqis or a large enough role to the United Nations.

The two nations lined up their stances ahead of tough negotiations over the U.S. draft resolution put forward Wednesday. Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States welcomes "constructive input."

The U.S. proposed seeks troops and money for Iraq's postwar reconstruction but declines to relinquish political or military control of the country.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac insisted Washington had to go further.

The U.S. plan does not address the "priority objective" — the transfer of power to a homegrown Iraqi government, Chirac said. Schroeder said the draft resolution had brought "movement" into the diplomacy. He added: "I agree with the president when he says: Not dynamic enough, not sufficient."

"Now is the time to look forward, and that can only happen if the United Nations can take responsibility for the political process," Schroeder said.

Germany's U.N. Ambassador Gunter Pleuger said the U.S. draft was a good basis for negotiations, a view shared by many other Security Council members.

"We will see in the negotiations in the next days how far we can get," Pleuger said. "It's a good working basis but it certainly can be improved."

In Washington, Powell noted that the French and Germans had not put forward a timetable for transferring power to the Iraqis, and he underlined that the resolution calls on the Iraqis to help work out a timetable.

"I think the resolution is drafted in a way that deals with the concerns that leaders such as President Chirac and Chancellor Schroeder have raised in the past," he said. "We'd be more than happy to listen to their suggestions."

France is one of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, a position that gives it veto power over Council actions. Schroeder and Chirac have both been adamant that the United States cede control of the political process there.

They said they hoped that the United States would be open to changes in the draft.

The draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, would transform the U.S.-led military force in Iraq into a U.N.-authorized multinational force under a unified command. Powell said Wednesday that an American would remain at the top of such a command.

Key provisions in the U.S. draft would:

- Call on U.N. member states to help train and equip an Iraqi police force.
- Invite the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council to cooperate with the United Nations and U.S. officials in Baghdad to produce "a timetable and program for the drafting of a new constitution

for Iraq and for the holding of democratic elections."

- Ask the U.N. representative in Iraq to facilitate a "national dialogue and consensus building" to promote the political transition.

- Ask all U.N. member states and international and regional organizations "to accelerate the provision of substantial financial contributions to support the Iraqi reconstruction effort" and appeal to international financial institutions to provide loans and other assistance.

- Call on countries in the region "to prevent the transit of terrorists, arms for terrorists, and financing that would support terrorists."

On Thursday, reaction from Security Council members was mixed. Hours before Schroeder and Chirac spoke, Russia sent its first signal that it might consider sending peacekeepers to Iraq as part of an international force.

"It all depends on a specific resolution. I wouldn't exclude it outright," Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov told the Interfax news agency.

And in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said the U.S. offer to share Iraq's postwar reconstruction was in line with the objectives of China, which has "actively participated" in the effort to increase U.N. participation.

"We have all along stood for the early restoration of stability throughout Iraq," Kong said. "We have stood for the important growth of the United Nations in this endeavor." He did not provide details.

Chile's U.N. Ambassador Heraldo Munoz called the U.S. proposal "an adequate basis for negotiations."

Many council nations stressed that the U.N. role in Iraq, and the degree of power the United States will be prepared to relinquish, will be key issues.

Mexico's U.N. Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, whose country opposed the war, said the thrust of a new resolution must be "the restoration of the full sovereignty of Iraqis." The Mexican position is that reconstruction in Iraq "is a job for the United Nations."

Council diplomats said they would like the resolution to be adopted before ministers gather for the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 23.

Some European countries are likely to resist if the United States continues to try to hold on to all the lucrative and influential ventures, such as oil contracts and the political rebuilding process, according to some council diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The postwar operation is costing the United States about \$3.9 billion a month and has strained the American military, which has some 140,000 troops stationed in Iraq.

The resolution envisions a substantial infusion of international aid to defray costs now largely borne by U.S. taxpayers. At the same time, the administration is preparing a new budget request for \$60 billion to \$70 billion for reconstruction and the military operation of Iraq — nearly double what Congress was expecting, The Washington Post reported.

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INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Iraqi guerrillas launch rounds at U.S. troops

By The Associated Press

TIKRIT, Iraq — U.S. troops exchanged fire with Iraqi guerrillas who lobbed at least six mortar rounds at them in downtown Tikrit, and detained four people, including a suspected bomb maker, in intense fighting early Thursday.

The mortar shells missed their targets, causing no injuries or damage, said Lt. Col. Steve Russell, commander of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment, which patrols Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, 120 miles north of Baghdad.

An American reconnaissance patrol, responding to the mortar attack, was ambushed with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades on the eastern bank of the Tigris River, directly opposite the 4th Infantry's sprawling headquarters in one of Saddam's former palaces.

Bradley fighting vehicles were called in as reinforcements, opening fire at the guerrillas as tracer bullets lit the night sky over Tikrit, which was plunged into darkness. An intense firefight ensued, and at least one house was on fire. Helicopters were heard hovering above.

Russell said there were no U.S. casualties, and that one attacker might have been killed, as the rest of the guerrillas disappeared into the night.

Abbas wants backing, aor no peace plan

By The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, weakened by a power struggle with Yasser Arafat, on Thursday asked parliament to back him, saying that otherwise no progress can be made on a U.S.-backed peace plan.

In his speech to parliament, Abbas said there were "problems" between his government and the Palestinian leadership, although he did not mention Arafat by name.

Abbas hinted at resignation if he did not win support, saying he would not put up a fight to keep his job, which he described as a "difficult mission that some would say is impossible."

Abbas was summing up his first 100 days in office, a period marked by somewhat reduced violence but also disappointment over a lack of movement in implementing the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

Abbas told lawmakers he would continue talks with militants rather than launching a campaign to disarm and dismantle their groups.

Abbas was reluctantly appointed by Arafat as the Palestinians' first prime minister in April under pressure

from Israel and the United States, which have accused Arafat of blocking peace efforts.

Execution of doctor killer worries some

By The Associated Press

STARKE, Fla. — The execution of Paul Hill for the murders of an abortion doctor and his bodyguard left abortion providers holding their breath, wary that the former minister may become a martyr to the anti-abortion cause and spur others to act violently.

While the mainstream anti-abortion community largely dismissed Hill as a fringe character, his supporters — including a small but vocal group that stood outside the prison as Hill was put to death Wednesday — believe he was rewarded with glory in heaven for his actions.

Florida abortion clinics and police were on heightened alert for reprisals. Several officials connected to the case received threatening letters last week, accompanied by rifle bullets.

"We're very concerned," said Vicki Saporta, president and CEO of the National Abortion Federation in Washington. "We know that certain events can and do trigger increased violence."

Hill, 49, was executed by injection at Florida State Prison for the 1994 shotgun murders of Dr. John Bayard Britton and Britton's unarmed bodyguard, James Barrett, outside a Pensacola abortion clinic.

Fireworks fly in Democratic debate

By The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Democratic presidential candidates enter the fall campaign with a new front-runner, Howard Dean, and eight contenders seeking to slow his momentum.

The Dean-against-the-field dynamic began to play out Thursday night when the leading Democratic candidates gathered for their first party-sanctioned debate.

"I think there will be some fireworks," said New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a Democrat who has not taken sides in the nine-way fight for the party's nomination.

He said Democrats would be better off if candidates focus their ire on President Bush, not each other, but he held out little hope for that.

"This is the opening bell of the campaign," Richardson said. "They'll come out swinging."

The 8 p.m. EDT debate will be broadcast on PBS and Univision with simultaneous Spanish translation, a nod to the rising influence of Hispanic voters. New Mexico

has a large Hispanic population — about 42 percent — and an Hispanic governor in Richardson.

CD prices slashed to build up biz

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Universal Music Group, whose roster of artists includes 50 Cent, U2, Elton John and Diana Krall, will cut the price of its wholesale CDs and push for a \$12.98 retail cap on its discs in an attempt to woo music fans back into record stores.

The world's largest recording company hopes retailers, who have suffered as industrywide music sales dropped 31 percent the last three years, will follow its lead and pass on the savings to consumers.

Universal hopes the actual retail price of most of its CD will end up about \$10 or less, comparable to the \$9.99 retail price that music fans enjoyed in the early 1990s, at the height of a price war between the recording companies.

"Our new pricing model will enable U.S. retailers to offer music at a much more appealing price point in comparison to other entertainment products," said Jim Urie, president of Universal Music & Video Distribution. "We are confident this pricing approach will drive music fans back into retail stores."

If retailers also drop their prices, Universal's move would make CDs more competitive with online services, including Apple Computer Inc.'s popular iTunes Music Store and Buy.com's BuyMusic.com.

Court blocks rules of media ownership

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — In a break for small media companies fearful of industry consolidation, an appeals court blocked new federal rules that would relax restrictions on how many TV stations a company can own and lift a ban on owning newspapers and broadcast outlets in the same city.

Critics of the Federal Communications Commission rules say the industry overhaul would create a media landscape in which control over what people see, hear and read is in the hands of a few giant companies.

In an emergency stay, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with a coalition of media access groups that claimed its members could suffer irreparable harm if the rules went into effect Thursday as scheduled.

"Given the magnitude of this matter and the public's interest in reaching the proper resolution, a stay is warranted pending thorough and efficient judicial review," a three-judge panel concluded Wednesday. The court did not comment on the merits of the Prometheus Project's complaint.

While the Bush administration has fought hard for the overhaul, many influential Republicans are among its most vocal opponents, saying the rules would stifle competition.

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SPORTS



SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Rick Carlisle was hired as the Indiana Pacers' new coach, three years after the former assistant was bypassed in favor of Isiah Thomas.

Carlisle, coach of the Detroit Pistons the past two years, was fired by the Pistons in May. He was the first choice for the Pacers after new president Larry Bird, his former Boston teammate, fired Thomas last month.

TENNIS

NEW YORK — Rain forced the postponement of the entire day schedule and all but one match of the night schedule at the U.S. Open. A record 106 matches had been scheduled for play. Men's No. 4 seed Andy Roddick beat Xavier Malisse 6-3, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (5) to advance to the quarterfinals.

BASKETBALL

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Gov. Rick Perry signed a warrant seeking the extradition of former Baylor basketball player Carlton Dotson from Maryland.

Dotson is accused of murder in the death of Patrick Dennehy, his former teammate. Dotson has been indicted by a McLennan County grand jury and the district attorney's office asked Perry to seek his return from his home state.

The formal extradition request was sent to Maryland Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich.

AUBURN, Ala. — The NCAA formally notified Auburn it is investigating possible major rules violations in the men's basketball program, including accusations of improper offers to recruits.

The university has received a letter detailing the accusations, which involve one former and one current assistant coach, school spokesman John Hachtel said. The coaches were not identified.

FOOTBALL

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Four-time Pro Bowl safety Lawyer Milloy agreed in principle to a deal with the Buffalo Bills, a day after the New England Patriots released him for salary cap reasons.

Milloy reportedly signed a four-year deal worth \$15 million, including a \$5 million signing bonus.

Buffalo coach Gregg Williams said he would have to first speak with Milloy before determining whether he would be ready to play in Sunday's opener against the Patriots.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Priest Holmes agreed to a four-year contract extension with the Kansas City Chiefs. Holmes has led the NFL in yards from scrimmage the past two seasons.

AUTO RACING

ROME — Formula One driver Ralf Schumacher left a Milan hospital, a day after his car flipped over during testing at the Monza racetrack.

Schumacher planned to return to his home in Salzburg, Austria, to rest and is expected to race in the Sept. 14 Italian Grand Prix at Monza, said Thomas Hofmann, who represents the Williams-BMW driver.

HOCKEY

BOSTON — Felix Potvin agreed to a contract with the Boston Bruins. Potvin joins his fifth team for his 13th NHL season. He played 42 games for the Kings last season with a 17-20-3 record before a knee injury on Jan. 28 ended his season.

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes re-signed center Josef Vasicek to a one-year contract. Terms of the deal were not announced.

SOCCER

CARSON — The Los Angeles Galaxy and China's national team played a 0-0 tie in an exhibition game. Dan Popik made two saves for the Galaxy, while Chinese goalkeeper Li Jian made three saves.

BOXING

SYDNEY, Australia — Former Australian rugby league player Anthony Mundine won the vacant WBA super middleweight title with a unanimous decision over Antwon Echols of the United States.

TRACK & FIELD

PARIS — U.S. sprinter Kelli White will not be suspended from track meets for taking a stimulant but still could be stripped of the two gold medals she won at the World Championships.

The IAAF will review White's medical records Monday and decide whether she committed a doping offense. Istvan Gyulai, general secretary of track and field's governing body, told The Associated Press from Monaco.

If the International Association of Athletics Federations rules against her, it will ask the U.S. federation to begin disciplinary procedures.

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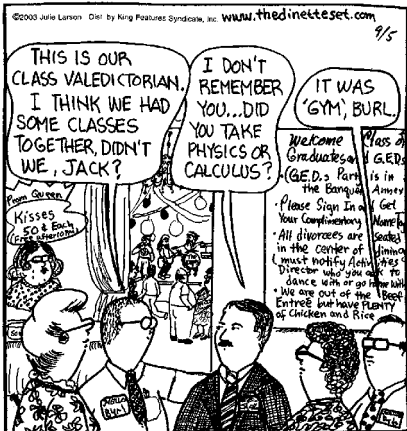
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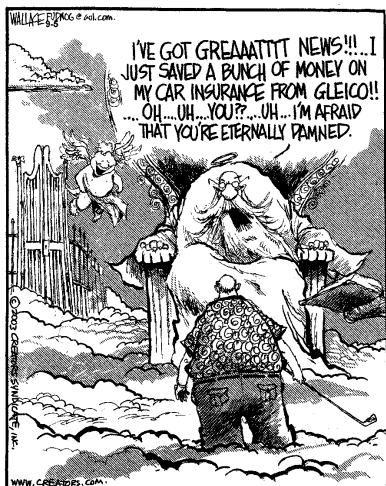
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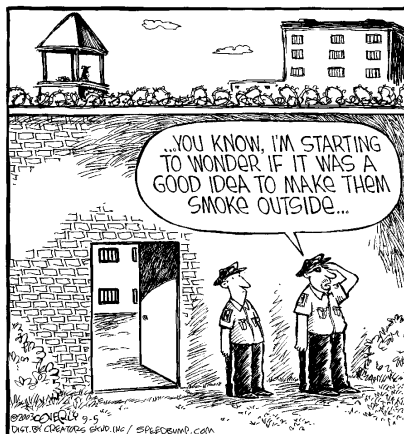
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Yesterday's answer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "— luck!"
- 6 Paris subway
- 11 Needed a massage
- 12 Drained of color
- 13 Horse
- 14 Some wood-winds
- 15 Movie computer
- 16 Antlered animal
- 18 Whopper
- 19 Juan's wife
- 20 "Law & Order" group
- 21 Lowly worker
- 22 Virginia city
- 24 Invites
- 25 Cheap
- 27 Essay
- 29 Finishes
- 32 One of the March sisters
- 33 California's Fort —
- 34 French article
- 35 Pouchlike part
- 36 Exploit
- 37 Pod item
- DOWN**
- 38 Hoof sounds
- 40 Dismay
- 42 Underway
- 43 Singer Della
- 44 Script makeup
- 45 Begat

- DOWN**
- 1 Anne Rice novel
- 2 Vocal range
- 3 1976 De Niro film
- 4 Spot
- 5 Appended
- 6 Targets
- 7 Language suffix
- 8 Da Vinci painting
- 9 Debt medium
- 10 Starts
- 17 Cavalry soldiers
- 23 Links need
- 24 Further-more
- 26 Makes fond
- 27 Knave
- 28 Italian port
- 30 Anxiety
- 31 Rang
- 33 Gives the boot
- 39 "The Bells" writer
- 41 Architect I.M.

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Britney Spears gets a lot of play with Madonna smooch

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Britney Spears can get a lot of mileage from a kiss.

The pop star was asked about her MTV Music Awards smooch with Madonna during a news conference promoting Thursday night's NFL kickoff celebration. Spears will headline the event, along with Aerosmith, Mary J. Blige, Good Charlotte and Aretha Franklin.

Spears said she left the United States for England immediately after the Aug. 28 awards show and was unaware of all the media attention the kiss received. She said it was unrehearsed and that it was the first time she had kissed a woman.

Would she do it again?

"I hadn't kissed anyone in a long time," she responded, "so that should last me for awhile."

MARIETTA, Ga. — A bodyguard for R&B singer R. Kelly accidentally shot himself in the leg at a Marietta nightclub after being asked to remove the gun before entering the club.

Maceo Price, 32, of Covington, La., was escorting Kelly and Ronald "Slim" Williams, co-founder of Cash Money Records, into Vegas Nights on Saturday night, according to Marietta police.

Price was asked to remove the gun before entering the nightclub and it went off as he was taking it out of the holster, said police Officer Brian Marshall.

He was taken to WellStar Kennestone Hospital, where he was treated and released. Police don't expect to file charges, Marshall said.

NEWYORK — Cuba Gooding Jr. understands why his "The Fighting Temptations" co-star Beyonce Knowles was uneasy about their kissing scenes in the comedy.

"She was probably a little nervous, because for her, it was more about, 'Oh, no, I'm performing for the peanut gallery,'" Gooding tells People magazine in its Sept. 15 issue.

In the film, Gooding plays an ad executive who learns he must create a successful gospel choir to collect his inheritance. The movie is set for release on Sept. 19.

Gooding, who won a best-supporting actor Oscar in 1997 for "Jerry Maguire," previously went to great lengths to loosen up before shooting intimate scenes.

Says the 35-year-old actor: "Butt Naked" was my nickname for a long time on movie sets because when I had a love scene, I'd run butt naked through the set just to show them, 'Who cares?'"

VENICE, Italy — George Clooney said "I do" — sort of — when a journalist asked him to marry her during a press conference at the Venice Film Festival.

Clooney was answering questions Wednesday about his new film, "Intolerable Cruelty," when an Italian TV journalist wearing a white veil proposed marriage.

"All right, come here" Clooney replied.

The woman approached the dais, bringing along a cameraman doubling as a priest who produced two rings.

"Finally, finally married" Clooney said, although he added: "My fear is that he really is a priest."

Clooney kissed the journalist, laughed and had a sip of celebratory wine before moving on: "Next question?"

"Intolerable Cruelty," the Coen

brothers' latest film, stars Clooney as a divorce lawyer and Catherine Zeta-Jones as a "serial divorcee." It is not in competition at the festival.

In an interview in the October issue of Vanity Fair magazine, the 42-year-old Clooney said he is single and still keeps hope alive about dating.

"You get to start over and go, 'I'm a really nice guy.' And by virtue of saying it, you can be it. You can actually decide, OK, now I'm a really nice guy."

PARIS — A bandana-wearing burglar broke into the Paris apartment of Jeanne Moreau as she slept and stole more than \$432,000 worth of jewelry and cash, police said Wednesday.

Moreau, the raspy-voiced star of films such as "Jules and Jim," "The Yellow Rolls-Royce" and "Viva Maria!" wasn't injured in the daybreak burglary last Friday, police said.

A report in Le Parisien daily quoted police as saying the burglar, who was in his 30s, ordered the 75-year-old actress to lead him to her valuables and then stole jewelry, \$2,160 in cash and a cordless telephone before fleeing.

The burglar appeared to be unarmed, police said.

In 2001, Moreau became the first woman inducted into the more than two-centuries-old Academie des Beaux-Arts. Members of the prestigious institution are known as "immortals."

HONG KONG — The Rolling Stones and tenor Jose Carreras will headline a four-week government-sponsored music festival designed to attract tourists to SARS-battered Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Harbor Fest will take place at the outdoor Tamar site along Hong Kong's waterfront Oct. 15-Nov. 9, organizers said Wednesday. More than 200,000 tickets for 18 shows will be available. Ticket sales begin Sept. 12.

Carreras will perform on Oct. 20. The Rolling Stones will play Nov. 7 and 9, with top tickets priced at \$256.

"We thought we could all help Hong Kong recover by bringing some exciting, world-class entertainment here," said James Thompson, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, which is organizing the event with the government.

Carlos Santana, British R&B singer Craig David, Irish boy band Westlife, Taiwan pop sensation Jay Chou and boy band F4 also will participate.

Thompson said he hoped the festival would attract tourists from North America, Europe and Japan and, in turn, create jobs. Hong Kong's unemployment is at a record 8.7 percent.

An outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome between March and May dealt a heavy blow to the already struggling economy. The disease, which killed 299 people in the territory and sickened 1,755, prompted travel warnings and devastated tourism, hotel and other businesses.

"We are trying to put Hong Kong back on the map. That's the entire thrust of the relaunch effort because Hong Kong really did fall down badly with SARS," Thompson said.

The festival is estimated to cost \$16.7 million. The government has agreed to contribute \$10.3 million if half the tickets are sold, said Mike Rowse, director-general of Invest Hong Kong, a government body aimed at attracting overseas business.