

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Chamber plans new role for homeless issue

New committee seeks to address public safety

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

When it comes to the growing number of homeless people in downtown Santa Monica, the business community plans to take matters into its own hands.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce hopes a new committee of its members will help businesses help themselves when it comes to problems associated with transients and vagrants, who, chamber officials claim, disrupt daily life throughout the city by trespassing and aggressively panhandling.

A newly formed "public safety committee" will advocate on behalf of chamber members on city safety problems and help business owners organize themselves to address issues they have.

Before, the chamber relied on the city council to take action on homeless-related problems. The new committee will now take a more proactive approach, chamber members said.

"We are the business community," said chamber executive director Kathy Dodson. "We need to look into how we can help solve this problem by ourselves as well."

While the chamber has a homeless task force, it deals with raising funds for local social service organizations and less with policy issues, Dodson said.

The new committee will address complaints the chamber receives from tourists and residents about homeless-related circumstances, investigate what is done in other cities in the Los Angeles area and propose new policies that could be adopted locally.

Dodson said the group receives complaints on a weekly, if not daily, basis.

See HOMLESS, page 5

Here comes the rain



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Southern California's drought ended Thursday when the skies opened up in Santa Monica and light rain covered the streets. This downtown pedestrian was prepared with her umbrella.

Landmarks Commission member resigns after six years



File photo

Margot Alofsin, former chair of the Landmarks Commission, looks at the demolition of a 1920s-era Sunset Park home.

She left permanent mark on advisory board, colleagues say

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Longtime Landmarks Commission member Margot Alofsin has resigned two years shy of when her term would have officially ended.

Alofsin, an architect, had to leave her post when she sold her Sunset Park home and moved across the border into West L.A. Commission members are required to live in Santa Monica.

During her six-year-tenure, Alofsin left an indelible impression on the Landmarks Commission, her colleagues said.

They credit her as being one of the members who transformed the group from simply rubber-stamping

demolition permits of older Santa Monica homes to a body that attempted to preserve more of the city's older homes and landmarks.

The change in the commission's nature also drummed up some vocal neighborhood opposition. Late last year, a group of homeowners living north of Montana Avenue began an anti-historic district campaign because landmark commissioners may create a historic district where they live. The residents think the designation would prevent them from remodeling their homes.

Though commission members and city officials deny that claim, some of the homeowners have formed a group called Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation, which is attempting to gather enough signatures to place a ballot initiative before voters that would prevent the city from landmarking private property without the owner's permission.

Alofsin, who was chair of the Landmarks Commission during the unrest, quickly became a target for upset home-

See ALOFSIN, page 5

Arco fined and ordered to clean up L.A. contamination

Same company is being sued by Santa Monica

By staff and wire reports

LOS ANGELES — A gasoline company being sued by the City of Santa Monica has agreed to clean up some of its stations in Los Angeles that may have led to contaminated drinking water.

The Atlantic Richfield Co. has promised to clean up five contaminated Arco gasoline stations and pay \$36,213 in fines, the Los Angeles City Attorneys Office announced Wednesday.

The sites were found to be contaminated with methyl tertiary butyl ether or MTBE, which is known to cause cancer in animals. MTBE can also contaminate groundwater and drinking water aquifers.

Two of the stations are in the San

Fernando Valley on Sepulveda Boulevard and Nordhoff Street; and three are in the Harbor area on Figueroa and West Channel streets, and West Pacific Coast Highway.

City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo said it was the first case in the state in which a company has to follow a comprehensive abatement plan.

"This settlement sends a clear message to those who do business in our city,

that they have a responsibility to respect and protect our natural resources," Delgadillo said in a prepared statement.

Two years ago, Santa Monica sued 18 refiners, manufacturers and suppliers of MTBE and MTBE-laden gasoline, including ARCO, for allowing the chemical to leak into its ground water. The pollution closed seven of Santa Monica's 11

See ARCO, page 6

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your fire energizes those around your desk or workplace. You can amaze associates with your drive and enthusiasm. Don't allow others to slow you down as you charge out the door. A new beginning seems more and more possible. Tonight: Start a new health program.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your imagination takes you in a new direction. You might also decide to act on this idea. Your sense of humor delights a child or new friend. Add more spice to your personal life. Express more of your libido. Tonight: Heat up the night.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Deal with a domestic matter head-on. Observe what another is saying. Reorganize, aiming for a long-term desire. Allow your sense of humor to emerge with a child who can be quite contentious. You know what you want; ask for it. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could mull over getting a new car, computer or some other equipment that could make your daily life easier. Others might consider taking a class in communication. You know which direction you're heading in. Tonight: Share a decision.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Expenses whirl out of control. Attempt to deal with others more directly as you search for answers. Don't take fast action, just get to the bottom of the problem. You will understand a lot. You regain control later, when you're ready to let go. Tonight: Forget problems for a while.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A new beginning remains possible. You can forge ahead in a new direction. A New Moon in your sign energizes and pushes you into the limelight. Decisions made now will stick. Carefully evaluate your feelings about an associate. Tonight: Whatever's your pleasure.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ A personal decision needs to be made. Evaluate more of what you need or want from a personal matter. You could be much angrier about recent developments than you realize. Look within to transform your feelings. No one else can do it for you. Tonight: Take some time to yourself.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Decide what you want. Plot your path to success. Go down this road. You have far more power to transform your life on this present New Moon. Make the impossible possible. Friends and an important get-together could be significant. Tonight: Celebrate the moment.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Emphasize your career and interactions with bosses and those in power. You might decide that someone's reaction is a bit out of control. Don't push here; rather, echo this person's statements. This person will be more likely to hear you if you proceed calmly. Tonight: A must approach.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Take the next step. Grow in another direction. You might not be certain of yourself, for a change. Take a risk. A call to an expert satisfies you. A new beginning appears on the horizon. A trip could star in upcoming events. Tonight: Try a new beginning.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Claim your power by relating to others individually. Others respond positively when in your company. Someone needs to clear the air. Once you pass through the smoke of his or her temper, you see a new perspective. Tonight: Spend quality time with a loved one.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others seek you out. If you think you have control of someone else, think again. Events right now demonstrate the strength of another's personality. Loosen up and let go. Manipulation won't bring results. Trust others. Tonight: Many want you. Your dance card fills up.

CORRECTION — In the Sept. 5 edition, the story about the Bayside Beat newsletter contained an error. The story should have said that the content of the city council candidates' survey would not be edited if it is published this month.

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LOCAL

The Q-Line

Santa Monicans reflect on changes since 9-11

Here are your responses to this week's Q-Line question:

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

■ "Americans have definitely become more security conscious since 9-11. For example, I have a part-time job with a local company, and it's very hard to get inside the building, and I have to wear ID inside the building at all times. I also have more problems for a publication that I freelance for. To get into the shows in downtown Los Angeles, I had to show my driver's license along with a copy of an article I wrote. 9-11 also did not help the U.S. economy. A year later, we are stuck in one of the longest, meanest bear markets on record."

■ "I think that we've become more of a police state. If you can't even bring a pair of nail clippers on an airplane without being considered a terrorist, I think we have become a reactive country rather than a proactive country. I think this country has become paranoid. I also don't believe that we were given all the facts about 9-11. I think our government knew about it. I recently tried to get on an aircraft with a six-inch crescent wrench on my key ring, which they would not allow because they considered it to be a weapon. If a crescent wrench can be a weapon, then we are all headed for disaster."

■ "People, in general, have certainly come together emotionally since 9-11. Unfortunately, this renewed patriotism has not translated into a reappraisal of American foreign policy. The highest lev-

els of our government is inhabited by oil men who have made their fortunes helping the Arab nations bring their oil to market."

■ "The terrorists got us right where they wanted us. They made us paranoid and fighting among ourselves. They also hurt us financially and symbolically. We'll never get over it, and they know it. They hit us at our weakest spot, our most vulnerable area — our own airline industry. Hopefully we aren't going to continue being vulnerable and we pay attention to where our other weak spots are. Just like in any war or game, you always go for the enemy's weak spot."

■ "It's funny. Funny only because we Americans are so pathetic, especially in L.A. Only for a few days after the attacks did people respect others and were nice to each other. Then it was business as usual, honking the horns at each other, being nasty to one another and being completely self-absorbed. All it's about is making money. That's why they hate us so much."

■ "It hasn't changed anything. We are (jerks) to each other. We'll never wake up. We're all completely wrapped up into ourselves as a society. Just wait until our world crumbles around us in another five years when our taxes have put us out on the street and we are defending ourselves against crazies in little countries we've never heard of."

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surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

While less consistent than Wednesday and Thursday, today's set remains big. Zuma, Dume and other north spots with the south exposure still see head highs. Expect mostly waist- to chest-level waves.

South swell fades Saturday, as the last remnant energy from Hurricane Hernan washes out. Surf will lose both height and consistency for the morning and afternoon.

New southwest swell arrives Saturday night with enough strength by Sunday to kick surf back into the shoulder-high range for northern bay spots.

We did see some light rains Thursday, but no beach closures have been posted.



**Today's
Tides:**

Low-	3:39 a.m.	-0.83'
High-	9:55 a.m.	4.95'
Low-	3:25 p.m.	1.24'
High-	9:30 p.m.	6.61'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	3-5'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Topanga	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Poor	2-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A

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OPINION

LETTERS

Homeless issue needs tough love

Editor:

My philosophy of life is simple. Life is a movie. I write the script, direct and produce and play the leading role of Pollyanna, an optimist who chooses to see the good in everyone and everything, and therefore I feel good all the time.

After retirement, I chose to live in this beautiful city, thriving with vitality, friendly people, a uniquely livable, walkable downtown with tree-lined, flower-filled streets, shops, cafes, movies, buses to everywhere and a promenade that pulls the community together to celebrate the goodness of life.

Since I come from an east coast beach community, I appreciate the city's challenge to meet the diverse needs of residents, business owners, tourists and the homeless. I volunteered when it was my church's turn to provide a place to sleep, a hot dinner, shower, socks, toothpaste, breakfast and a sandwich for the day. When the high school speech class studied the issue of the homelessness, I invited two gentlemen from the shelter to tell their riches-to-rags stories. Both had lost their high paying jobs, homes and families because they chose alcohol to feel good. The shelter had taken them off the streets, and programs were helping them find a job, and eventually a place of their own.

Santa Monica has similar programs for the homeless who make a conscious choice to change their lives, like Michael, a college student who wrote to SMDP that he has chosen to take advantage of Samoshell. But not everyone who is homeless chooses to change his lifestyle. No city program or big budget can change an individual's lifestyle without his full commitment to change.

Perhaps the city's laissez-faire policy, which has turned downtown into an open-air homeless shelter, needs some tough love. Tough love says I recognize you as a worthwhile human being. I know you have potential to thrive to the fullness of your physical, mental, emotional, financial and creative well-being. Tough love says if I allow you to sleep in doorways and parks, eat out of garbage cans, defecate on the streets, beg from shoppers, intimidate tourists, I thwart your potential to thrive. If I give you a handout not a hand-up, I do you injustice.

The laissez-faire policy towards begging encourages certain individuals to take advantage. I was waiting for the light at Fourth and Wilshire Sunday afternoon and a 720 Metro from downtown L.A. stopped and a man in a nice black suit stepped off, put a crutch under his left arm and held a clean empty Styrofoam cup in his right. We were both headed for the Promenade. I watched as his coughing and walking with difficulty increased as he came to Third Street. He walked over to a couple dining at a cafe. He put his cup in the woman's face. She quickly put two dollars in the cup. Several others did the same. I reported this to two bicycle officers who said they couldn't do anything unless he asked for money. I insisted. They pedaled over and waved him on. He moved on, continuing to put his cup in people's faces.

When I stayed at the hotel, I asked the foreigners what they thought about America. They asked me, "Why are there so many homeless in Santa Monica?" At that time, I believed it was because Santa Monica was the only town that didn't support the homeless. Perhaps if the city council dress like a tourist and walk around downtown, not drive through, they would see what our soft-hearted visitors experience.

Ironically, the city has spent much time, energy and money to attract locals and tourists to come downtown to shop, dine and see a movie. But when I walk downtown I don't feel good. So why go? I feel guilty for not giving every beggar a buck or two. I feel angry as a homeless man steps out of the Palisades feeding line and says, "Take me home so I can prop my sore leg on your lap." I feel nauseous waiting for the light at Wilshire standing next to the homeless man who smells because he has not combed, washed or cut his hair in years. I feel disgust as I walk down Sixth Street to catch the morning bus and step around a box with human feces in it.

In feel-bad moments like these, I ask myself what is the difference between the Promenade and the ghetto. Both are a gathering place for people. A promenade turns me on. A ghetto turns me off. I appreciate another's right to choose a diverse lifestyle. But I prefer to support those who need help through my taxes, not by begging. In today's material world, begging confirms the belief of the beggar that he's worth nothing because he has nothing. And that's not true. We always have a choice to find a better way to thrive to the fullness of our being. So Pollyanna, the optimist who chooses to see good in everyone and everything, has chosen to rewrite her script and celebrate the good life in a different location.

Maureen Schugardt
Santa Monica

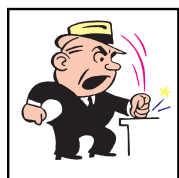
It's time to take back our community

Editor:

As a resident in Santa Monica, I feel as though my health and safety are at risk with the type of people who are taking over the Promenade and our community. There are homeless people who are down on their luck and need help physically, mentally and also emotionally. And there are also those who hang out and come to Santa Monica for a FREE RIDE. The people who have taken over the Promenade are the ones looking for the FREE RIDE or should I say THE FREE HIGH. They hang out all day and night, day after day, week after week. They don't try to work or help themselves; they only aggressively panhandle and verbally ask for money to get high or for heroin or crack. There is no shame to their game. They will tell you in a minute they are not homeless, they just want to get high. I feel as though my rights are being violated having to tolerate this day after day. The police say it is FREEDOM OF SPEECH. Well, while they are verbalizing their freedom of speech, my freedom to enjoy my community has all gone to the pits. I say Santa Monicans WAKE UP and let's take back our beautiful community that we used to be so proud of being a resident of. There should be ZERO tolerance of this behavior, and we need our mayor and chief of police as well as our city attorney to do something NOW, NOT LATER. When you get ready to vote this year, watch out who you vote for as it does affect YOUR community. Maybe we should all go to the Promenade and hold our own signs to tell tourists and visitors not to give money to the panhandlers. And start voicing your opinions and giving your support at the city council meetings. Next one on Sept. 10 at City Hall.

Marie Scott
Santa Monica

Overstepping the bounds and pushing the limits



AS I SEE IT

By Bill Bauer

There's been a lot of news the last few days about whether the Bayside District Corp. should publish answers to questions on local issues posed to city council candidates.

The issue whether city-established and city-funded advisory boards and commissions should take public political stands is an easy one for me: Taxpayer-supported entities should not be engaged in any political activity, whatsoever.

The BDC is funded by the city and is a non-profit corporation created to promote business on the Third Street Promenade, as well as manage it.

The Bayside staff drafted questions covering topics such as parking, transient feedings, desirability of shopping downtown, the living wage, development and zoning.

The nine city council candidates were asked to submit brief answers to be printed verbatim and without commentary in the September issue of the Bayside Beat, a month-

ly newsletter distributed free to 2,000 downtown businesses and interested residents.

Some council candidates and at least one Bayside director, Art Harris, argued that the BDC should not be conducting a candidate's survey because the organization is city-authorized and therefore it should not be involved in political activity.

During Wednesday's emergency board of directors meeting, called by Harris, the issue was hotly debated. Harris pointed out the organization's own bylaws made it clear that the BDC shall not "authorize or reimburse any director or staff for expenses incurred in the support of nominees to the board nor involvement in political activity."

Harris stated that because it was illegal for the board to spend money on "involvement in political activity," they should cease all work regarding the candidate survey. Pending an opinion from the city attorney as to whether publishing candidate comments violates BDC bylaws, the Bayside board voted to roll the presses and publish the comments this month. However, the presses won't roll until the city attorney weighs in on the matter.

Political involvement is nothing new for city-authorized boards and commissions. Even though most of these organizations'

mission statements and bylaws do not permit political activity, a couple of commissions have pushed the envelope anyway.

Last spring, the Commission on Older Americans brazenly and publicly supported Measure U, Santa Monica College's \$160 million bond issue. They were told that some bond money was earmarked for the Emeritus College. So, they endorsed the bonds even though there was nothing in their charter that allowed them to do so.

Recently, after a plea from Mayor Michael Feinstein, the Social Services Commission voted to request the city to send a letter to Gov. Gray Davis, asking for a moratorium on the death penalty in California.

Reaction was quick and negative with many critics complaining that the Social Service Commission was not created to speak for the citizens of Santa Monica. In doing the mayor's bidding, it appears that the SSC prostituted itself and may have violated its own charter at the same time.

More than a year ago, the SSC considered supporting the living wage ordinance, and entertained opposing a proposed municipal ordinance that would prohibit people from residing in vehicles on public property.

Wisely, the SSC took no official position

on either issue although its board has recently debated whether they should take stands on proposed city ordinances as well as ballot measures. However, I see nothing in their mission, or in the Powers and Duties of the Commission (Section 2.60.030 of the municipal code), that allows the SSC to publicly advocate positions on political issues.

The BDC and most of the other boards and commissions were mostly created to advise city council and to make city government aware of certain issues and conditions important to the community within their purview.

A board or commission is not a two-lane street, my friends. And, these organizations must stop exceeding their authority and refrain from using the city bully pulpit to editorialize and campaign on issues.

Because most board and commission members are political appointees, the groups should scrupulously avoid becoming shills for their benefactors and cronies, as well as propagandizers for their own personal agendas.

Commissions and boards are chartered to carry our message to those who govern. It's not the other way around.

(Bill Bauer is a 25-year resident of Santa Monica and a freelance writer.)

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.

LOCAL

Chamber wants action

HOMELESS, from page 1

At the committee's first official meeting Thursday, Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. addressed a crowd of about 30 business owners and managers. Afterwards, Butts also fielded questions from the group.

Butts answered questions from business owners who wanted to know how they could help police enforce the laws already on the books, especially on issues of trespassing and panhandling.

Butts also said he has asked the city council to allow the police department to hire new officers in anticipation of those who are retiring, a practice that has been endorsed by the chamber and other business organizations.

"I'm not saying we should increase the table of staffing," Butts said. "I'm saying we should be allowed to hire to keep up with our attrition rate."

While Santa Monica has a population of about 84,000, during the day as many as 350,000 people come to the city for work and recreation, Butts said. Hiring and training new police officers can take 12-18 months, leaving a substantial gap of time between when a full-time officer retires and when the officer can be replaced.

"We need to be at full strength at all times so we can deal with that larger daytime population," he said.

Joel Schwartz, the city's director of homeless services, said he encourages more residents and business owners to get involved, but he said they should do so by writing letters and making phone calls to city council members.

He said city organizations and groups should wait to see what action the city council takes at its Sept. 24 meeting, when it is scheduled to make recommen-

dations on the city's homeless services.

"Before we have people forming posses, I would encourage people to write letters and make phone calls and make their voices heard," he said. "And wait and hear what the council's response is."

"Until we hear that, I don't understand why taking action independently would make sense," he added.

But business owners at the chamber meeting said they have tried that approach in the past but now something more is needed.

"We feel there is a critical mass and something must be done," said Dr. Michael Gruning, the chamber's president-elect.

And according to commercial real estate broker Barbara Tenzer, previous lobbying of the city council has not achieved the results business interests are looking for.

"The council is politically tying the hands of (city attorney) Marsh Moutrie," she said. "I think there is an emergency down there (on the Third Street Promenade). And (council members) aren't treating it that way."

Richard Eichenbaum, senior manager for Santa Monica Place, said he believes chamber members should organize into "neighborhood watch" type groups. That way businesses close to each other can look out for one another and report any inappropriate behavior to the police, he said.

Police could be informed when trespassing laws are being broken or aggressive panhandling is taking place near their group's cluster of stores, he said.

"We can't continue to depend on the city or the police to do everything," he said. "It's time that we as a business community start looking into what we can do to address the problem too."

Architect a guiding force

ALOFSIN, from page 1

owners at public meetings. Some in the group criticized the way she ran those meetings, saying Alofsin was too autocratic and unsympathetic to their concerns.

"I think that they were kind of looking for a target, and she was trying very hard to be businesses-like and straight forward," said Landmarks Commission member Nina Fresco.

"They wanted something they couldn't get and wouldn't have gotten from any chairperson," she said. "Anyone would have been a lightning rod for them. She tried very hard to be formal with them, but she was being hooted at."

"They were a pretty rowdy crowd," she added.

Alofsin was unavailable for comment.

The commotion over whether or not the Landmarks Commission would consider advising the city council to create new historic districts put Alofsin on the spot, commissioners said.

Ruthann Lehrer, the current chair of the advisory board, said no previous Landmarks Commission has ever come under such heavy public scrutiny than during that recent controversy.

"She was in a difficult position when it was under attack," she said. "It was hard, and we don't know how anyone would have handled it."

"We don't fault her for the slings and arrows of fortune," she added, quoting a passage from Shakespeare.

Landmarks Commission members described Alofsin as dedicated to preservation and a tireless supporter of preservation causes within the city.

Alofsin, who filled the commission's dedicated seat as an architect, gave insight into matters before the commission that otherwise wouldn't have been discussed, colleagues said.

"Because she was an architect, she was very knowledgeable and helpful with details about building," said Landmarks Commission member Roger Genser. "She sorted out a lot of the detailed questions about construction that the rest of us didn't (have experience with)."

Alofsin also worked extensively on crafting the city's Landmarks Master Plan, which maps out Santa Monica's preservation plan for the next 10 years. She also was instrumental in getting city approval to conduct a survey of all historic homes in Santa Monica, a task that had not been done for almost 20 years.

With Alofsin's resignation, there are now two vacancies on the Landmarks Commission. While Alofsin's seat must be filled by another local architect, the other seat is dedicated for a local real estate agent.

"In recent years since she has been (on the Landmarks Commission), more things have been preserved and more things have been landmarked and more things have been saved," Fresco said. "Now we hope we will be able to continue moving forward and saving even more things."



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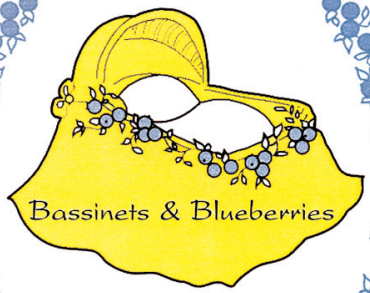
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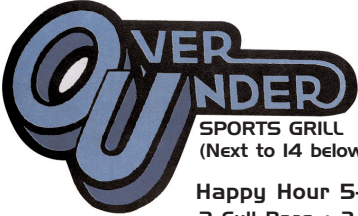
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LOCAL □ STATE

Oil companies still being sued by Santa Monica

ARCO, from page 1

wells, forcing the city to import nearly 80 percent of the 12 million gallons of water it uses each day.

Deputy City Attorney Joe Lawrence said he doesn't believe Los Angeles' agreement with ARCO represents the first comprehensive clean-up plan.

"It's kind of a PR stretch to say that they are the first in the state for clean-up," he said, adding ARCO's promise bodes well for Santa Monica's effort to clean up its wells. "It's another example of the fact that stations are problems and oil companies need to clean them up."

Two of the largest oil companies accused of contaminating Santa Monica's wells with MTBE reached a tentative settlement with the city in July.

Both Chevron/Texaco and Exxon/Mobil have agreed to pay the full cost to design, construct, operate and maintain a water treatment facility that is estimated could cost hundreds of millions of dollars to complete. Additionally, the oil companies will provide an undisclosed cash settlement to cover costs associated with the contamination.

In return, the city has agreed to release the two companies from its MTBE lawsuit, which was filed in June 2000.

Hollywood reaches out to Arabs with public message

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — The first in a series of public service announcements aimed at Arab audiences and produced by a group of Hollywood executives is being released to domestic and international television channels.

The 90-second message features Olympian hurdler Nawal el Moutawakel-Bennis of Morocco. It was made by a group of producers and studio executives as part of a larger entertainment industry effort to produce PSAs, distribute DVDs to American troops and otherwise aid the war on terrorism.

The group formed last November when Karl Rove, a senior adviser to President Bush, met with top entertainment industry executives. The group has produced three television spots encouraging volunteerism and has coordinated efforts to ship thousands of DVDs to troops.

One subcommittee, headed by Hope Boonshaft, executive vice president of Sony Pictures, was formed to craft messages mostly for foreign consumption, advocating tolerance and improving the image of Americans abroad.

It is pursuing the goal separate from similar efforts sponsored by the Bush administration and spearheaded by former advertising executive Charlotte Beers.

The group first approached Muhammad Ali, a Muslim, to appear in an ad campaign. But the former boxer declined because

of scheduling problems.

The new spot has been distributed to television networks in Morocco, Jordan, India and Japan and will run domestically on the International Channel networks. A version with Mandarin subtitles is being prepared for airing in China, the producers said.

The group is also submitting the tape to the Arab satellite network Al Jazeera.

The tape features Moutawakel-Bennis running on the streets of Casablanca and a clip of her in her Gold medal performance at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

The voice over, recorded in English and Arabic, is a

general message urging tolerance in a world that changed after Sept. 11 and touting sports as a way to "eradicate so many barriers and so many taboos." It doesn't mention the United States or terrorism.

The hurdler also advocates teaching children about forgiveness, "about what happened in the past and look upon a brighter future."

The spot was produced by Kathleen Kennedy, who produces films for Steven Spielberg, including "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial." It was filmed by a commercial production company run by directors Ridley and Tony Scott.

Airline defense



Joe Marquette/Associated Press

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., center, holds a box cutter during a Capitol Hill rally Thursday by flight attendants calling for better self-defense training. United flight attendant Alice Hoglan, whose son Mark died on Flight 93 which crashed in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, left, and Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., look on. Many flight attendants say they haven't been adequately taught to defend themselves or their passengers from terrorists because each airline offers different training for dealing with potential threats.

STATE



DEA raids medical pot farm just before harvest

BY MARTHA MENDOZA
AP National Writer

SANTA CRUZ — Federal agents raided a marijuana farm Thursday and arrested the owners, who grow the pot for a medical users club, surprising community members and local law enforcement.

Officers seized more than 100 marijuana plants, three rifles and a shotgun in the pre-dawn raid, said Drug Enforcement Agent spokesman Richard Meyer in San Francisco.

Valerie and Michael Corral were arrested on federal charges of intent to distribute marijuana and conspiracy, he said.

The Corrals helped write the provision in California's Proposition 215 which allows patients and their caregivers to cultivate their own medicine. Their farm has been featured in national media and they work with local authorities to grow and distribute their pot to people with doctors' recommendations to use marijuana.

The raid was a surprise to local medical marijuana growers and advocates, as well as the Santa Cruz County sheriff and even DEA officials in the agency's closest office, in San Jose.

The marijuana farm about 15 miles north of Santa Cruz is well known to local law officers, who follow state medical marijuana law rather than federal drug laws, said sheriff's spokesman Kim Allen.

"The DEA didn't tell us they did this, not before, and not after," he said.

Steven Reiniger, DEA task force officer in San Jose said he didn't know anything about the raid either.

DEA agents have repeatedly cracked down on high-profile medical marijuana advocates and distribution clubs recently in California, bypassing local law enforcement agencies that have condoned these activities.

In February, agents seized hundreds of plants from a San Francisco club and arrested one of its suppliers, pot guru Ed Rosenthal, author of "Ask Ed: Marijuana Law. Don't Get Busted."

Federal agents also raided three other cannabis clubs in California, seizing a garden of marijuana in Hollywood and taking away the records of 5,000 medical

marijuana users from a doctor's office near Sacramento.

Andrea Tischler, owner of the Compassion Flower Inn in Santa Cruz — a bed and breakfast inn where guests with doctors recommendations are allowed to use medical marijuana — said she was outraged.

"We're absolutely shocked that the DEA would step in like this at harvest time when so many patients would be able to benefit from this medication."

— ANDREA TISCHLER
Compassion Flower Inn, owner

"We're absolutely shocked that the DEA would step in like this at harvest time when so many patients would be able to benefit from this medication," she said. "This is the one crop of the year they were growing."

About 200 patients are served by the Corral's Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana.

Santa Cruz has been at the forefront of medical marijuana efforts in California and nationally.

In 1992, 77 percent of Santa Cruz voters approved a measure ending the medical prohibition of marijuana. Four years later, state voters— including 74 percent of those in Santa Cruz — approved Proposition 215, allowing marijuana for medicinal purposes. And then again, in 2000, the City Council approved an ordinance allowing medical marijuana to be grown and used without a prescription.

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Oregon and Washington allow the infirm to receive, possess, grow or smoke marijuana for medical purposes without fear of state prosecution. However, the federal government maintains marijuana has no medical benefits and is an illegal drug.

Construction worker survives spike imbedded in brain

By The Associated Press

SANTA CLARITA — Construction worker Jorge Hernandez wasn't too concerned about the burning sensation on his face until he peeked in the mirror: An errant spike from his nail gun went through his eye socket and imbedded in his brain.

"I felt a strong impact on my face, but I didn't fall back. My face felt hot, but I didn't have a headache," Hernandez said Wednesday before he was released from Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital.

On Aug. 30, Hernandez was assembling ladders with a nail gun when he hit a piece of metal instead of the intended hole. It wasn't until he saw his face in the car mirror that he realized the nail had ricocheted off the metal and embedded deep in his brain.

It took three hours for surgeons to remove the 3 1/4-inch nail.

"Winning the lottery is easier than coming through this without any problems the way he did," neurosurgeon Rafael Quinonez said. The nail missed Hernandez's eye and there was no brain damage.

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STATE

Legislature produces gains for managing state growth

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A Golden State plagued by tough commutes, high rents, dirty air and other indicators of endless, frenzied development, is hardly, by measures of urban planners, a national leader in managing growth. Housing is short, 50,000 acres of farms disappear yearly and the last statewide growth plan dates to 1978.

But a state Legislature known for dabbling at the edge of land-use and housing issues may be finally cobbling together a more workable system for the state's growth ills, say planning analysts.

Though California's new piecemeal approaches pale against aggressive state planning of smaller bellwether states such as Oregon, Washington and Maryland, some see beginnings of a trend as new legislators, sprung from city councils and steeped in local growth battles, pass more bills to shape a turbulent California.

"I would have to say in the last three or four years, the number of bills that we have lobbied has more than doubled," says Sande George, lobbyist for the California Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Though several planning bills died in 2002, including a proposed sales-tax sharing experiment in metropolitan Sacramento and a crackdown on cities that balk at affordable housing, the Legislature's strides on growth included bills to jump start more secondary back yard housing and a truce between developers and attorneys over construction defects.

Supporters hope both bills, AB1866 and SB800, will eventually produce thousands more affordable "granny flats," condominiums and townhouses.

A third bill, AB857, declares infill development a priority for how California grows and spends billions of dollars in infrastructure funds. The legislation also pushes the governor's Office of Planning and Research to update its 24-year old statewide growth plan with infill in mind.

Backers, including the Legislature's 37-member "Smart Growth Caucus," call it the state's most important planning bill in 30 years.

These and other bills now await decisions by Gov. Gray Davis, a campaigning governor who studiously avoids the term "smart growth," and has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto them. Already, Davis has signed one bill to spur desperately needed housing for the state's working poor, by putting a \$2.1 billion housing bond on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Jeff Lambert, planning director of Santa Clarita and president of APA's California chapter, is among those pressuring Davis to sign the infill priority bill. Citing prospects for today's 35 million Californians becoming 47 million by 2020, he says, "If the state waits, the agricultural land will be gone, the traffic will be even worse and citizens will be even more concerned about their quality of life."

But in a state where most growth happens on vacant land in newer suburban cities, prospects of the bill becoming law is unnerving homebuilders, commercial property developers and businesses. Many of these groups, substantial contributors to Davis, want him to veto it.

"I'm not sure there are very many projects that are going to be able to meet those criteria, much less the fact that we are

going to be able to house 500,000 new Californians each year in infill alone," says Rex Hime, lobbyist for the California Business Properties Owners Association. His group has given Davis \$54,000 in the past year. The California Building Industry Association, also in opposition and part of a group that calls the idea a "job killer," has contributed \$72,000 during 2001 and 2002, according to state records.

At the midnight hour on Aug. 31, the Legislature also approved ACA11, a constitutional amendment to boost spending on highways, colleges, parks and water systems. A critical part of agreements that broke a record-length budget deadlock, the measure will ask voters in 2004 to set aside a percentage of state spending for California's neglected infrastructure.

**"I would have to say in
the last three or four
years, the number of bills
that we have lobbied has
more than doubled."**

— SANDE GEORGE
Lobbyist

"We've been anxious to get something like this done for quite awhile," says Bill Hauck, director of the California Business Roundtable, an association of California's corporate chief executive officers.

After legislative breakthroughs last year that required a proven water supply for new subdivisions and easier standards for developing vacant polluted "infill" sites, lawmakers this year passed AB2954, directing cities to plan for badly needed licensed day care centers.

"This is as important as highways and other infrastructure," says Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City. "We have four kids waiting for child care for every space that exists."

In its final hours, the Legislature also passed AB2588, to turn large new school campuses into multipurpose community centers that share libraries, gymnasiums and playgrounds with surrounding neighborhoods. The bill would set aside \$100 million from school bonds on the 2002 and 2004 ballots to cover costs of designing the facilities.

"This could have a significant impact in changing how schools and neighborhoods work," says Assemblyman Robert Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys. "Now we have this law that says we build schools by the acre and close them up at three."

While growth watchers are heartened by such bills, some, including Sunne Wright McPeak, president and chief executive officer of the Bay Area Council, say, "We've got a long ways to go. Nothing in this session addressed the issue of (housing) supply."

McPeak expects a new Legislature next year, including still more local government officials, to focus anew on the state's housing, which is falling farther behind demand and increasingly built greater distances from jobs and requiring longer commutes.

"Nothing works in terms of infrastructure, quality of life in our economy if we don't get the housing right," she says.

NATIONAL



Mortgage rates continue to take downward spiral

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — They just keep on going and going — down.

Rates on 30-year mortgages dropped to a new low this week, providing even more fuel for the mortgage refinancing boom.

In a nationwide survey released Thursday, Freddie Mac, the mortgage company, reported that the average interest rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell to 6.15 percent this week, the lowest level in 32 years of record keeping.

It's the third new low reached on 30-year mortgage rates this year.

Last week, rates on 30-year mortgages dipped to 6.22 percent, matching the previous record low set in mid-August. That low had bested the prior low of 6.34 percent reached in late July.

Mortgage rates have been falling amid growing signs of a sluggish economic recovery and a turbulent stock market that has sent investors to the bond market, helping push long-term rates down.

"Looking for safety from the current uneasiness in domestic and foreign markets, nervous investors pumped their money into the U.S. Treasury bond market causing yields to fall to record levels. Mortgage rates followed, also dropping to yet another historic low," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

"The refinancing wave of the last six weeks is now on pace to eclipse the unprecedented refinancing activity that we saw last October and November."

— PHIL COLLING
Economist

Low mortgage rates are feeding a boom in mortgage refinancing. Savings or extra cash coming out of refi-

nancing deals is helping to support consumer spending, including home buying, amid uncertain economic times and eroding consumer confidence.

"The refinancing wave of the last six weeks is now on pace to eclipse the unprecedented refinancing activity that we saw last October and November," said Phil Colling, economist with the Mortgage Bankers Association of America.

Rates for 15-year fixed-rate mortgages also fell this week to 5.56 percent, the lowest level since Freddie Mac began tracking these rates in August of 1991. Last week, rates on 15-year mortgages averaged 5.64 percent.

Rates on one-year adjustable mortgages nudged up to 4.35 percent this week from 4.34 percent last week.

This week's mortgage rates do not include add-on fees known as points. Each loan type carried an average 0.6 point fee this week.

A year ago, 30-year mortgages averaged 6.89 percent, 15-year mortgages were 6.44 percent and one-year ARMS stood at 5.64 percent.

Recent economic reports point to a sluggish economic recovery: Both manufacturing and the service sector barely grew in August; the nation's biggest retailers reported disappointing back-to-school sales, though auto sales surged as free-financing deals motivated buyers. And, the job market remains sluggish.

Survey finds increase in drug use

BY CONNIE CASS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — About 15.9 million people use drugs illegally, representing 7 percent of the population aged 12 or older, according to a government survey that found increases in the use of marijuana, cocaine and pain relievers.

Although the number of people using marijuana for the first time may have remained about the same last year, health officials noted that the number of people who perceived smoking marijuana once or twice a week as risky dropped to 53 percent.

"As the perception that marijuana is dangerous goes down, its use goes up," observed Tommy Thompson, secretary of Health and Human Services, which conducted the survey.

The number of people who use marijuana for the first time has been about 2.5 million per year since 1996. That figure isn't yet available for last year.

The survey also found an increase in the number of people who would benefit from drug treatment.

The number of people needing drug treatment increased to 6.1 million, from 4.7 million in 2000, the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse estimated. About 5 million

of those drug abusers didn't get the treatment they needed last year, the survey found, and most didn't recognize that they had a problem.

"Our current treatment system is not able to help all those in need of drug treatment," Thompson said.

Among young people, the survey found that 10.8 percent of those ages 12 to 17 were current drug users, meaning they used drugs within the last month, up from 9.7 percent in 2000. Drug use among adults ages 18 to 25 increased to

18.8 percent, from 15.9 percent in 2000.

Drug use among older adults remained about the same, with 4.5 percent found to be current users.

For the first time, the annual survey of almost 69,000 people also asked about mental health prob-

lems. It estimated that 14.8 million adults, or about 7.3 percent, have a serious mental illness. Less than half of them received mental health treatment within the 12 months before they were surveyed. Smaller surveys found similar numbers, officials said.



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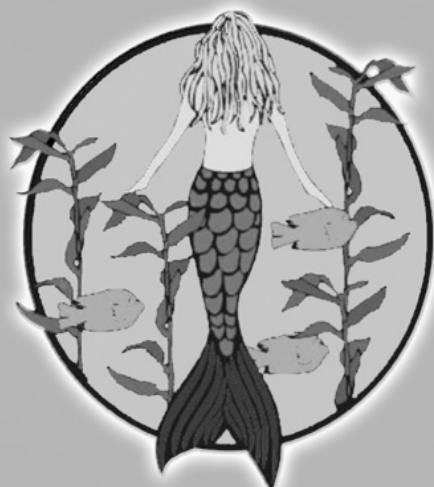
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NATIONAL

U.S. Army has doubled war stocks in Kuwait

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — The Army recently doubled the size of its war stocks in Kuwait to accommodate a little-noticed expansion of U.S. armored forces at a base near the Iraqi border, Army Secretary Thomas White said Thursday.

White said the Army is ready for whatever action President Bush chooses as he considers how to fulfill his administration's stated goal of removing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power. White said the Army has not been given orders to begin preparing for an invasion.

"We have done a lot with pre-positioned stocks in the Gulf, making sure they're accessible and that they're in the right spot to support whatever the president wants to do," White said in an interview with a group of reporters. "But we've done nothing specifically against any particular scenario" for war.

Bush, who has said he will outline his case against Saddam in a Sept. 12 speech in New York, said Thursday that he would discuss Iraq on Friday in calls to the presidents of France, Russia and China.

"I will remind them that history has called us into action, that we love freedom, that we'll be deliberate, patient, strong in the values we adhere to," he said.

Speaking in Louisville, Ky., Bush emphasized how much he will consult — with Congress, the public and U.S. allies. "But one thing is for certain," he said.

"I'm not going to change my view and it's this: my view is we cannot let the world's worst leaders blackmail America, threaten America or hurt America with the world's worst weapons."

A question facing Bush is whether to push for a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for Iraq to accept a return of U.N. inspectors to verify the status of his chemical, biological or nuclear weapons programs. One condition for accepting Saddam's surrender in the 1991 Gulf War was his promise to abide by U.N. resolutions requiring him to disarm and to allow U.N. inspectors to verify it.

Iraq asserts that it has met this obligation.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said there was no doubt Bush will take action against Saddam. But he said Bush had not yet decided what he will do or when to do it.

Addressing the issue of Arab opposition to a U.S. attack, Armitage said "there is no one in the Arab world who has any affection" for the Iraqi leader and that Bush will try to enlist "like-minded folks" in the Arab world.

Speaking at a conference held by the U.S. Institute on Peace, Armitage said "there is going to be a lot of cleanup after" the United States moves against Saddam. He did not provide any details.

Iraq also was discussed in a meeting at the Pentagon Thursday between senior administration officials and two dozen senators.

Fall's anthrax attacks aid in response to West Nile virus

BY KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Using lessons learned from last fall's anthrax attacks, federal health officials are responding to the West Nile virus with improved emergency efforts that were designed for a bioterrorism attack.

"We're seeing West Nile as the basis for overall preparedness," said Dr. Stephen Ostroff, who monitors the virus for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"In a way West Nile is similar to what would happen in bioterrorism," he said in a recent interview. "You'd have individuals showing up in hospitals with a previously unrecognized illness, where you have to move quickly to figure out what's going on to cause it."

While the spread of the West Nile virus is a natural phenomenon and nothing like the potential disaster of a deliberate terrorist release of germs, CDC officials say they are relying on what they learned last fall to cope this time.

"We are deploying and managing the people in the field using the same style of leadership and the same operations concepts that we would do if we were actually dealing with a terrorist attack," CDC director Julie Gerberding said at a recent news conference.

Among other things, the West Nile response is being run out of the CDC's new full-time Emergency Operations Center, which is used to manage hundreds of investigators in the field and thousands of specimens.

For now, the center is in temporary quarters. But by the end of the year, "we will physically have an operations center that is the quality of anything in the world," said Dr. Richard Jackson, head of CDC's National Center for Environmental Health.

Among the CDC's goals are faster and smoother identification of infectious outbreaks, whether they are intentional or natural. Dr. James Hughes, director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases, said the CDC changes in response to bioterrorism have made it "substantially better off" in dealing with West Nile.

The CDC was criticized for its response to the anthrax attack, including slowness to communicate with the public about what it knows. The agency eventually began regular briefings last fall, and it has resumed the practice in recent weeks to discuss West Nile developments.

Gerberding says one of the lessons of the anthrax attack is the need to "prepare people for the fact that we learn as we go," and the facts can change from day to day.

Another is the need to set aside some scientists who are not involved in day-to-day work so they can second-guess and ask questions. During the West Nile investigation, she said, that's meant creating a "Team B" of specialists who "are looking at the research questions, identifying the information needs, going to the external experts for input and advice and really keeping that balanced perspective."

The West Nile outbreak is also the first reminder in decades for the public health establishment that insects can kill.

INTERNATIONAL



Afghan President survives assassination attempt

BY TINI TRAN
Associated Press Writer

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — President Hamid Karzai survived an assassination attempt Thursday when an Afghan security guard fired at his car as it was leaving the governor's mansion here, witnesses said. The attack came just after a huge explosion in the capital that police said killed 10 people.

The Kandahar governor, Gul Agha Sherzai, was wounded in the attack, and witnesses saw him bleeding from the neck. In Washington, President Bush expressed relief that Karzai was not hurt.

The attacks in Kandahar and Kabul came less than a week ahead of the Sept. 11 anniversary, and at a time when Afghanistan was remembering northern alliance leader Ahmed Shah Massoud, killed Sept. 9, 2001, in an assassination attempt blamed on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

Karzai was in Kandahar, the former spiritual headquarters of the Taliban, to attend a wedding celebration for his youngest brother, Ahmed Wali Karzai.

The Afghan president's American bodyguards opened fire in response to the shooting, and three people were killed including one who was wearing an Afghan military uniform.

Lt. Tina Kroske, a spokeswoman for the U.S. military at Bagram air base, the U.S. military headquarters in Afghanistan, confirmed that U.S. special operations forces did open fire on the attackers, killing three people.

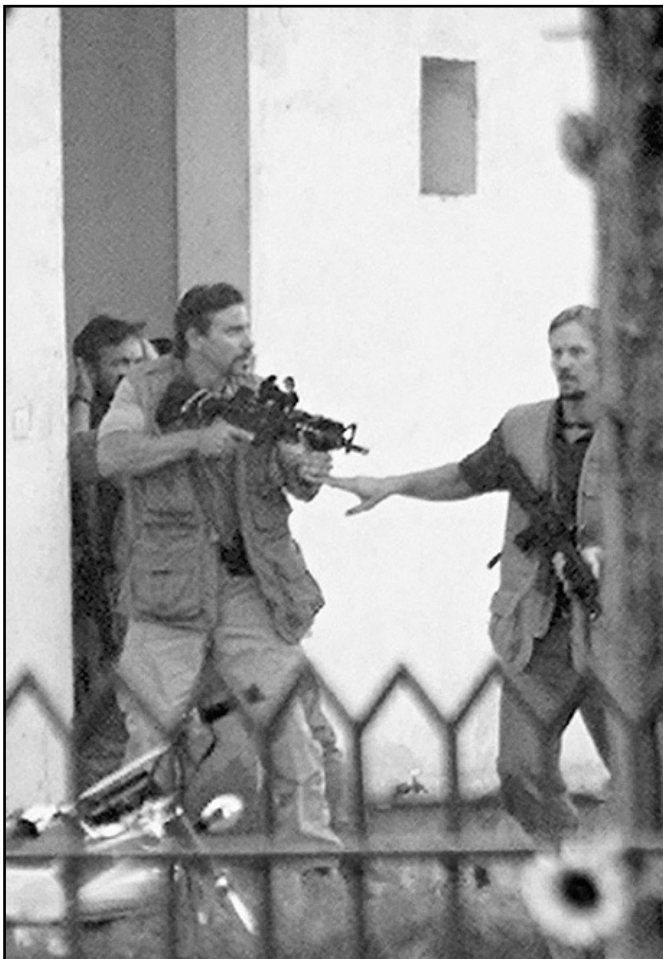
It was not known if the Kandahar governor was wounded by gunfire from the assailant or from shots fired afterward.

"I was just outside the gate when I heard the gunshots," Sherzai's security chief Dur Mohammed said. "The Americans opened fire on three people and they were killed."

After the attack, Karzai returned to the governor's guesthouse, where he is staying, and said he was fine. "As he arrived here he assured people that he was fine," said BBC reporter Lyse Doucet, who saw the attack.

Sherzai is being treated at the hospital at the U.S. air base in Kandahar, said Capt. Christa D'Andrea, a U.S. spokesman at Bagram air base, the U.S. military headquarters in Afghanistan.

D'Andrea did not have any information on the extent



Ed Wray/Associated Press

U.S. Special Forces assigned to guard President Hamid Karzai try to secure the area after an assassination attempt on Karzai Thursday in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

of Sherzai's injuries and could not provide any details about the assassination attempt.

The shooting occurred shortly after a powerful car bomb rocked a busy market area in the center of Kabul on Thursday, killing and wounding scores in the bloodiest attack in the Afghan capital since the fall of the Taliban.

Reports of the number of casualties were confused, but police said 10 people were killed and dozens wounded.

Emergency vehicles and armored personnel carriers from the international peacekeeping force rushed to the scene in a crowded market area near the Ministry of Information.

Witnesses said a smaller explosion had drawn crowds to the area when the car bomb exploded in front of a building containing shops selling televisions and satellite dishes. The second floor of the building housed a small hotel.

Police sealed off the area, but emergency vehicles could be seen rushing injured to hospitals. Some dazed victims could be seen being led away, their clothing ripped and covered in blood.

"This bomb was inside a taxi," said police spokesman Dul Aqa. "It was a very, very strong explosion. We can't say exactly who was behind it but we know the last bombs were al-Qaida and Gulbuddin."

He was referring to former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who issued a call for jihad, or holy war, this week to drive U.S. and foreign troops including international peacekeepers from Afghanistan. Some officials have speculated that he may have formed an alliance with remaining al-Qaida and Taliban leaders, although no clear evidence of this has surfaced.

About 65 people were rushed to one hospital, with an unknown number taken elsewhere.

The blast occurred in one of the most congested areas of the city on a day when many residents do their shopping before Friday's Muslim prayer day.

Several main roads in the city were blocked and additional police and soldiers, armed with rocket launchers and automatic weapons, took positions at strategic points in the capital.

President Bush was relieved to hear that Karzai was unhurt, said White House spokesman Sean McCormack. Bush looks forward to meeting with Karzai next week during the special session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, McCormack said.

There was no immediate information about the assailant, the spokesman said. Witnesses said Karzai was leaving the governor's house in his motorcade when shots were fired in his direction. U.S. Special Forces guarding him screamed for him to take cover and the convoy sped away.

Three bullet-riddled bodies could be seen outside the mansion grounds in a pool of blood.

Researchers determine genetic fingerprint of healthy sperm

BY EMMA ROSS
AP Medical Writer

LONDON — Researchers have determined the genetic fingerprint of healthy human sperm — an advance that could be a major step forward in understanding male infertility. The discovery could also lead to new types of male contraceptives.

Experts say a test that compares the genetic pattern of the sperm of infertile men with the "benchmark" profile of fertile sperm would show mismatches that explain the problem. Infertility in men now remains inexplicable in two-thirds of cases.

The research, outlined this week in the *Lancet* medical journal, was conducted by scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wayne State University in Detroit and Leeds University in England.

"At the moment, at infertility clinics, we are completely blind when it comes to trying to find out why men are infertile," said researcher David Miller, a lecturer in reproductive biology at Leeds University. "We rely on things like standard semen analysis (looking at the shape, size and movement of sperm) to give us some idea of what the problem is, but essentially we really are in the dark."

The scientists analyzed thousands of millions of sperm cells from healthy, fertile men in three different samples.

The first sample contained sperm from the testicles of 19 men. In the second sam-

ple, the scientists pooled together the genetic material from the semen of nine fathers and the third sample contained the sperm from the semen of one man.

The scientists were looking for a key genetic substance called messenger RNAs in the samples. Messenger RNA is the molecule that delivers instructions from the gene to the cell's protein-making machinery.

Combining the semen of nine men showed the range of messenger RNAs.

They compared the messenger RNAs among the three samples.

"There was remarkably little variation between the individual and the pooled sample. We can say that because there was a high level of correspondence between the pooled and the individual ejaculates, that we have identified a set of RNAs that are like a fingerprint for fertility," Miller said.

The scientists found that less than 3,000 messenger RNAs define fertile sperm.

"The argument is once you've got that, then you can look at abnormal men and look at the differences," said sperm expert Christopher Barratt, a professor of reproductive medicine at Birmingham University in England. "It's a significant advance that he's come up with a fingerprint, albeit a first draft, but it's a good first draft," he said of Miller.

Barratt, who was not connected with the research, predicted the test could be available in clinics in about two years.

Miller said the strategy might also one

day improve the safety and quality of in vitro fertilization when the problem lies with the man.

"It will help us identify men who clearly shouldn't be using their own sperm for IVF, or at least be able to tell them more accurately what the risks of using their sperm are to the offspring," Miller said.

The fingerprint could also be used to design contraceptives for men.

"If you found what goes wrong that makes men infertile, then you just generate the problem in a healthy man and you've got contraception. There's always a mirror image of infertility and contraception," Barratt said.

An example of this is the female contraceptive pill, which suppresses ovulation. Lack of ovulation is one of the causes of female infertility.

Bush's niece models in Spain

BY SARAH ANDREWS
Associated Press Writer

BARCELONA, Spain — President Bush's niece Lauren Bush made her first appearance on a Spanish catwalk Thursday when she modeled a simple black dress for the presentation of the label Toypes' summer 2003 collection.

The show was full of silk, linen, elaborate embroidery, and Arabic-inspired touches like turbans and traditional robes.

A Toypes spokeswoman said stylists deliberately gave Lauren Bush a simple, non-ethnic dress to avoid any political undertones.

President Bush is currently considering whether to launch an attack on Iraq to stop its alleged production of weapons of mass destruction — a prospect that has angered many in the Arab world.

Any connection with the Bush family and Arabic styles were pure coincidence, said the label's designer, Spain's Jorge Galinanes.

Lauren Bush, the daughter of President Bush's brother, Neil, was chosen to model because she is an "international personality who had never modeled in Spain," Galinanes said.

"This is fashion, not politics. You can't politicize fashion," he said.

Bush made her appearance at the end of the fashion show, walking onto the runway hand-in-hand with the designer.

She was originally slated to participate more in the show, but the 17-year-old, who is the face of Tommy Hilfiger and has appeared in numerous international fashion shows, felt sick on Thursday, the Toypes spokeswoman said.



SPORTS

Schalken wins 'other' quarterfinal at U.S. Open

Williams sisters on course for final

BY HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Slow-serving Sjeng Schalken won Thursday's "other" quarterfinal, beating Fernando Gonzalez before an all-American glamor match at the U.S. Open.

Schalken reached his first semifinal in 30 Grand Slam tournaments with a 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2) win over Fernando Gonzalez, playing in his first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Their 3-hour, 43-minute match ended about an hour before the marquee meeting between old and new, 31-year-old Pete Sampras against 20-year-old Andy Roddick, under the lights.

The profiles of Schalken and Gonzalez are considerably lower.

Schalken is seeded 24th and never reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal until he did it on his 29th try this year at Wimbledon, where he was the only player to take a set from champion Lleyton Hewitt. Gonzalez, seeded 28th, was in his first Grand Slam quarterfinal and bidding to become the first player from Chile to reach the Open semifinals.

Schalken won the match when he finally held on to a big lead in a tiebreaker. He led the first tiebreaker 5-1 and the second 5-3 and lost them both.

"You have to win one, of course" to win the match, Schalken said.

He went ahead 6-0 in the last one before Gonzalez got the next two points. On the next point, Gonzalez returned Schalken's serve wide, making Schalken the first Dutchman to reach the Open semifinals since Tom Okker in 1971.

Schalken won his fifth match in the tournament after winning a total of seven in his previous seven U.S. Opens.

But he failed at critical times. He committed his only two double faults of the match in the fourth-set tiebreaker.

He matched Gonzalez with 12 aces, but Gonzalez also had 12 double faults. Schalken's serve was consistent, topping out at 110 mph, while Gonzalez reached 130 mph.

Sampras and Roddick hit much harder and bring attractive qualities to their match. Sampras has won four U.S. Opens and his 13 major titles are a record, although



Amy Sancetta/Associated Press

Fernando Gonzalez, of Chile, serves against Sjeng Schalken, of the Netherlands, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York Thursday.

he hasn't won since 2000 at Wimbledon. Roddick's shot-making and exuberance excite crowds.

The Williams sisters also captivate the fans and they could meet in their fourth final in five Grand Slam tournaments.

On Wednesday night, it was Venus cruising into the semifinals. One day earlier, it was Serena. The only time either may lose could be in Saturday night's championship match.

Two-time defending champion Venus played a dominating all-around game to beat sixth-seeded Monica Seles 6-2, 6-3 in 57 minutes. Serena, who beat her sister in this year's French Open and Wimbledon finals, has lost 14 games in five straight-sets victories at the Open.

"People are maybe going to get bored of seeing always the same final," said Amelie Mauresmo, Venus' next

opponent. "To me, it gets a little bit irritating because you want to go out there and try to beat these guys."

Everybody tries. Few succeed. Venus beat Serena in the last U.S. Open final.

So what's new?

Even the sight of Richard Williams moving from section to section in the stands to take photos of his daughter on the court Wednesday night seemed like a replay. He does that often.

Serena still must face fourth-seeded Lindsay Davenport on Friday, but Venus has no interest in hyping women's tennis at the expense of her family.

"I feel it's best for me to meet Serena in the final," she said, "because I want to see her do her best and I would like to see me do my best."

The U.S. Open has done nothing to bridge the growing gulf between the sisters and the next level of players.

Third-seeded Jennifer Capriati was stunned by No. 10 Mauresmo 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3 Wednesday. No. 5 Jelena Dokic lost in the second round, No. 7 Kim Clijsters in the third and No. 8 Justine Henin in the fourth.

None of them has the speed, power and athleticism of the sisters. But who's better now — the top-seeded Serena or the second-seeded Venus?

"It seems from the last two matches, Serena," Seles said, referring to the French Open and Wimbledon finals. "But Venus has won this tournament twice in a row. So, you know, we'll see."

Two of the four men's semifinalists were decided Wednesday when favorites struggled briefly against long shots.

Top-seeded beat No. 20 Younes El Aynaoui 6-1, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-2, and No. 6 Andre Agassi came back for a 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 win over No. 32 Max Mirnyi, who lost in the first round of this year's other three Grand Slam events.

Sampras beat Agassi in the 1990 and 1995 finals.

Seles won the tournament in 1991 and 1992 and her grunts when she hits are still loud although her successes are fewer. The quarterfinals have been her big blockade, losing in that round this year at the French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open.

Venus took control from the start, breaking Seles' serve in the first game and racing to a 5-1 lead in the first set.

The second set was 3-3 before Venus broke Seles at love. Seles had a break point in the next game, but Venus saved it with a 112-mph ace and won with a service winner.

Duel over ownership of Bonds baseballs in court

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The two most important home run balls Barry Bonds has hit — No. 73 of last year and No. 600 of his career — continued their trip through court system Thursday in separate lawsuits.

In Fairfield, 40 miles northeast of where Bonds plays for the San Francisco Giants, a judge agreed Thursday to put the 600th home run ball under lock and key. It now sits in a safe in the Solano County sheriff's department, alongside evidence in the unsolved case of the 1960s serial Zodiac Killer.

Three men are suing their former friend and co-worker on grounds that he accepted tickets to the Aug. 9 game on the condition that — remote as it may have sounded — if he got the ball, he'd share its value.

The lawsuit over No. 600 shares the same sketchy details as the fight over No. 73, the single-season record ball that Bonds hit last October.

In both cases, the men who went home with the balls after a fight in the bleachers of Pacific Bell Park are sure the balls are theirs. Both cases have also provoked a what-have-we-come-to reaction from baseball fans.

Like No. 600, No. 73 is also in a safe. Patrick Hayashi had to give it up after he was sued by fellow fan Alex Popov, who insists he caught the ball before he was mobbed and it squirted out of his glove.

Popov has assembled a team of legal experts, more than a dozen witnesses and copies of a TV news video that shows him snagging the ball, at least momentarily, before being overwhelmed. Hayashi retorts that no one possessed the ball — and thus no one owned it — until he produced it for authorities after several minutes of chaos.

"What they want a judge to say is that if you go to a

baseball game, it's the law of the jungle," said Martin Triano, Popov's lawyer. "Whoever ends up with the ball at the end of this testosterone event, you're the winner."

Hayashi's lawyers weren't available for comment.

On Thursday, a San Francisco judge decided to postpone until Friday his decision whether to dismiss the case. Both parties will be in court to restate their case, but chances are that the case will go to trial next month.

The crux of No. 73 is whether — and if so, when — Popov owned the ball. For No. 600, it's a question of

whether Jay Arsenault promised to split the value of the ball in exchange for the tickets — and if so, whether that was a binding contract.

Under California law, oral promises are contracts under most circumstances — with some exceptions for real estate and the sale of expensive goods.

The men suing Arsenault say they have a witness that he promised to split the value should he get the ball. Arsenault denies ever making that promise and believes the ball is his, according to his lawyer, Steven D. Woodson.

San Francisco 49ers beat N.Y. Giants in season opening thriller

BY TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — What seemed like a dud of a season-opening party for the NFL actually turned into a thriller.

Jose Cortez kicked a 36-yard field goal with :06 to play, giving the San Francisco 49ers a 16-13 victory over the New York Giants in a Thursday night season opener.

Cortez also had field goals of 23 and 33 yards and Garrison Hearst score on a 9-yard pass for the Niners.

Tiki Barber tied the game at 13 with a 1-yard with 1:49 to play, and rookie Matt Bryant made field goals of 29 and 33 yards for the Giants in a mistake-filled game that turned into a nail-biter in the fourth quarter.

The NFL ushered in this season with a special mid-

week start that included a Manhattan concert. The league said it was celebrating New York's resilience in the wake of the terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of more than 3,000 people.

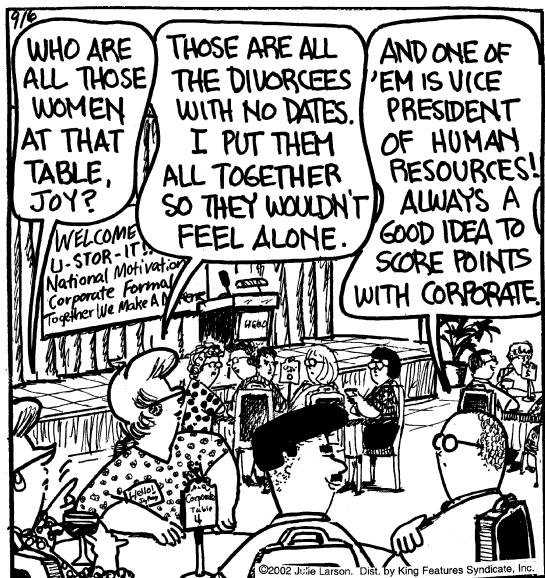
The festivities kicked off with what the NFL termed the "world's largest tailgate party," a concert in Times Square featuring Bon Jovi, Eve, Alicia Keys, 'N Sync's Joey Fatone and Enrique Iglesias. It continued before the game with a more patriotic flavor.

New York City police officer Daniel Rodriguez sang "God Bless America" as a 40-yard U.S. flag was unfurled by policemen, firefighters, members of the armed services and construction workers who helped clear the rubble of the World Trade Center towers. Following the national anthem, there was a flyover by two Navy helicopters with U.S. flags waving in the breeze.

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10 Skilled folks
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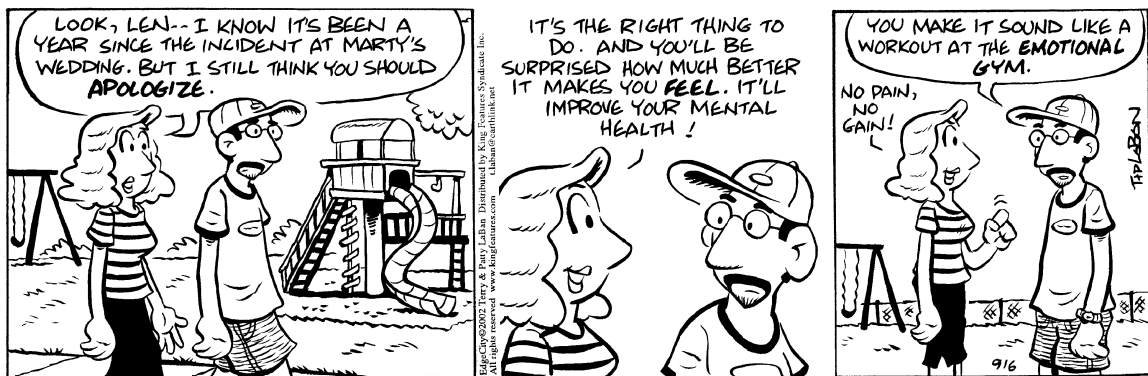
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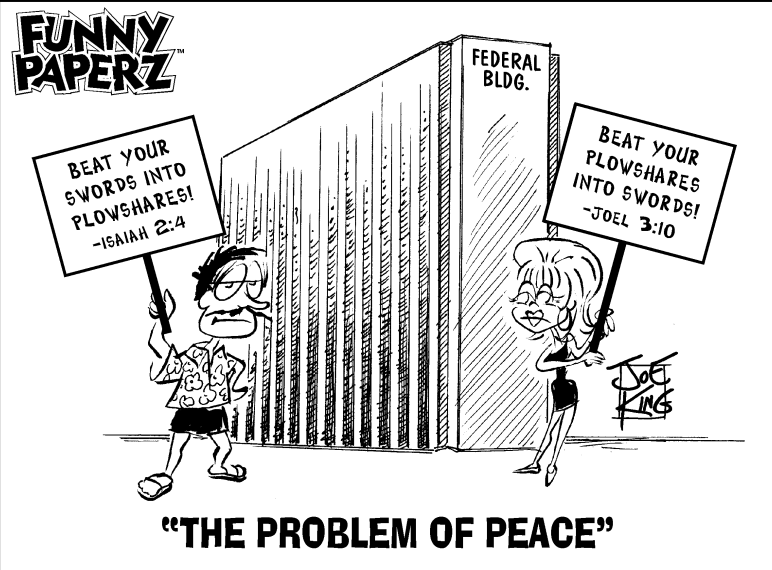


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Innocent man convicted of murder

- Angel Martinez, 36, was only recently released after serving 17 years in prison for a murder he did not commit, 13 of those years after another man had confessed; Martinez's lawyer had never told him about the confession (New York City, June).
- A 22-year-old church pastor and his brother were arrested for administering an hour-long beating with a rod to an 11-year-old boy (resulting in kidney failure) because he allegedly cheated in Bible study class (San Antonio, July). Colombian rebels wounded eight humans and destroyed 20 homes with a bomb strapped onto a horse (Guadalupe, Colombia, July).





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SANTA MONICA \$1350.00 Charming 2 bdrms, CAT OK, r/s. hrdwd flrs, w/d hkups, pkgng, flex lease. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

For Rent

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SALES • RENTALS
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RENTALS AVAILABLE

NO PETS ALLOWED

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1 bed, hardwood floors, new paint & counters, patio area

422 Hill #10 \$1095

upper 1 bed, new paint & blinds, near Main St. & beach

1047 19th St. #E \$1295

Large 1 bed, front unit, huge shared patio area, fresh paint & blinds

143 Hollister \$1590-1890

1 bedroom, gated entry, many upgrades, steps to the beach, hardwood floors

1002 12th St. \$1690-1750

2 bed, 2 bath, gated entry & parking, laundry room, patio, elevator

1214 California \$1650

upper 2 bed, 1.75 baths, new carpet, large kitchen, new blinds, fireplace

WLA/BRENTWOOD

649 Barrington #204, BW, \$1200

upper 1 bed, remodeled, new carpet, blinds, stove, dishwasher, pool

12258 Montana #103, BW, \$1850

2 bed, 1.75 bath, gated entry and parking, new stove + microwave included, balcony

FOR MORE LISTINGS GO TO
WWW.ROQUE-MARK.COM

SANTA MONICA \$1300.00 2 bdrms, r/s, crpts, a/c, lrg clsts, Indry, pool, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1795.00 2bdrm/2ba, wood floors, french doors, N. of Wilshire, parking available, on-site laundry. (310)451-2178

SANTA MONICA \$650.00 Cozy Bach Pad, CAT OK, crpts, microwave, Indry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Clean 1 bdrm, PET OK, r/s, hrdwd flrs, Indry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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

SM \$1550.00 New! 1/2 block to beach. Studio/loft. Hardwood floors, hi-ceilings. 121 #13 Strand. (310)392-7276

VENICE \$795.00 Very nice, sunny studio 1/2 block from beach, new paint, new carpet, very clean, large closet, 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443

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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 \$795.00 Sunny studio 1 block from beach. Hardwood floors and full kitchens. Nery clean, security building. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443.

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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

VENICE BEACH front 1930's bath house. \$995.00 Completely renovated 4-story brick building with lots of charm and unbeatable views of the ocean, mountains and sunsets. Single w/full kitchen and bathroom, w/exposed brick. Laundry room, water and gas paid. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)450-1934.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH Starting @ \$2,400.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oakwood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Open house Sat 10am to 2pm. (310)396-4443

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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Houses For Rent

MARKET YOUR rental house in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters. For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

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

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 Lovely Hse, hrdwd flrs, lrg clsts, Indry, pkgng, a must see! Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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

Roommates

DOCTORAL STUDENT looking for room in exchange for office work, elderly care or house sitting. Call Stan. (818)585-2529

S.M. \$850.00 Ninth & Wilshire. 2bdrm, utilities/cable free, large, \$7000.00 recently paid for new furniture. (310)394-1050

Commercial Lease

COMMERCIAL SPACE can be leased quickly if you market to the right crowd. Reach local business owners by running your listing in the Daily Press. Call (310)458-7737 to place your listing for only a buck a day.

OFFICE SPACE, 3rd St. Promenade in SM. Skylights, airy, quiet, 2nd floor, shared kitchen, new carpet/paint. 1,100 sq. ft, good rate. Dave (310)-458-7737

VENICE \$695.00 250 sq. ft. office space with bathroom. High ceiling. Large window. Fresh paint. Just off Abbot Kinney. 1 year lease. (310)396-4443

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Combining techniques for ultimate results & relaxation. I make you feel new. In/Out call. Pamper Parties/and other events! Al (323)564-5114.

STRONG & soothing deep-tissue by fit therapist. Platon-ic. Intro: \$35/90min. Paul: (310)741-1901.

SUMMERTIME SOOTHER! Shiatsu, Lymphatic, Deep Tissue, Sports, with handsome masseur. For women/men/couples. In/out. Angelo. (818)503-1408.

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THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Accupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

Announcements

PRO SE of Neighborhood Project needs volunteers for events that honor our heroes. (310) 899-3888 pro.se@adelphia.net.

WE ARE THE CLASSIEST GIG IN TOWN!

Call Angela at the Santa Monica Daily Press
310.458.7737 ext.101

CLASSIFIEDS



Announcements

GET YOUR message out! For only a buck a day, call (310)458-7737 to run your announcement to over 15,000 interested readers daily.

VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council! Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!

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Lowest prices!
Expert Installation
Ask for Ray (310)539-1610
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QUICK AND Dirty (if the newspaper rubs off on your hands). Market your small business in our services section for a buck a day. Call (310)458-7737.

Services

PIANO LESSONS Private, professional in my Santa Monica home. Children and adults welcome. All styles. Mary Harper (310)315-5693.

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www.99DollarPortrait.com

HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

SECRETARIAL ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICES: Word processing, mailings, bookkeeping, file systems, set-up offices, projects. Helene (310)940-5165
hipwinkler@yahoo.com

Services

GENERAL HOUSE Cleaning available Thursday's & Friday's. Good references, 10 years experience. Have own transportation. Maritza (323)232-7668

Yard Sales

MOVING SALE -multiple family, household and office items, furniture, books, clothes, jewelry and building materials. 2457 Ashland Ave. Sun Sept 8th, 9-1pm.

Got Junk in the Trunk?

Advertise with the Daily Press for \$1 a day

310.458.7737 x101

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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

Friday, September 6, 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

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.santamonivcakksg.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.

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.

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.

Saturday

community

The Church of Scientology, Mission of Santa Monica, is offering special assistance during the

anniversary of 9/11. Volunteer Ministers provide counseling for grief, anxiety, fear and other effects of 9/11. 10 a.m. To 10 p.m. Daily through September 15. No charge. 1337-C Ocean Ave. For more information please call (310)576-1010.

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

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

Theater / Arts

Santa Monica Children's Theatre Co. presents a newly forming musical theatre company for children. Every Saturday from 10:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Quest Studios, 19th & Broadway in Santa Monica. Tuition is \$325 per month - covers cost of all classes and productions. Contact Janet Stegman at (310)995-9636.

Scala Galleria is proud to present paintings and prints by International Romantic Impressionist,

Aldo Luongo, Sat & Sun, 1409 Montana Ave, Santa Monica, (310)395-8989

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

The Empty State Theater at 2372 Veteran Ave. in W. Los Angeles proudly presents: "The Fortune Room Lounge Show" A musical improv show featuring the "Stella Ray Trio" and "The Lucky Players". Every Saturday night at 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00, drinks included w/admission. Lots of parking! For information or reservations please call (310)470-3560.

Music / Entertainment

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

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.

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.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

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

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

Longs Drugs

**ATTENTION
ALBERTSON
SHOPPERS!**

During the remodel of Albertsons Santa Monica on Wilshire Boulevard, Longs Drugs in Santa Monica would like to remind you that in addition to our full service Pharmacy, Cosmetics and Photo departments, we offer a wide variety of grocery items at everyday low prices and without the long lines! Please stop by and let us help you save time and money. We look forward to serving you!

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32 oz. **2 for \$3** + CRV

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130 ct. or 110 ct. packs only.

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1 Gallon

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