

FREE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 258

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Union tentatively settles contract with school district

Teachers would gain a 2 percent raise and no reduction in benefits

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

After nine months of tense negotiations, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the Santa Monica Classroom Teachers Association have reached a tentative contract.

The union has agreed to undergo a national certification process and submit to a new district-wide evaluation. District officials, in exchange, have created weekly "professional development" time for teachers and agreed to a 2 percent salary increase with no reductions in benefits.

The school board will consider ratification of the new contract at its Sept. 19 meeting, while the teachers' union will hold a vote sometime next week, officials said.

"This agreement is an example of the union's willingness to negotiate traditional salary and benefits and, at the same time, the professional concerns of our membership," said Harry Keilly, SMMC-TA president. "This settlement is good for teachers, students and the public schools in Santa Monica and Malibu."

SMMUSD Superintendent John Deasy said the agreement would allow for a modest increase in teachers' pay while ensuring enough money for educational programs and facilities.

"This agreement is an example of the union's willingness to negotiate traditional salary and benefits and, at the same time, the professional concerns of our membership."

— HARRY KEILLY
SMMC-TA president

"It sets the stage to support all of the efforts underway to dramatically improve student achievement through high quality teaching and professional development," he said. "This is a milestone in collaborative work for students."

See UNION, page 5



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

A child walks in the playground at the Les Enfants preschool as a car passes on the Santa Monica Freeway in the background on Friday.

Proposed sound barrier may quiet freeway noise

City asked to spend nearly \$700K on wall

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

On any other playground, the sound of children laughing and yelling would drown out surrounding noise.

But not at Les Enfants, a private preschool in an eastside neighborhood. There, the roar of passing cars and trucks on the nearby Santa Monica Freeway drown out the children as they play in sandboxes and tumble on jumble-gyms.

An exposed section of the freeway runs less than 100 feet from where the playground's fences end.

Nancy Behraves, the school's director, said she has been asking Caltrans and Santa Monica to put up a sound barrier for more than three years. And next week, the Santa Monica City Council may approve a \$690,000 contract to build one.

"These are poor Latino residents so (Caltrans officials) did nothing," Behraves said. "If this had been Beverly Hills, forget it. It would have been done right away."

The proposed 1,450-foot-long, 14-

foot-high wall would run east along the southern side of the freeway from Cloverfield Boulevard to Stewart Street to tone down the roar of traffic.

"These are poor Latino residents so (Caltrans officials) did nothing. If this had been Beverly Hills, forget it. It would have been done right away."

— NANCY BEHRAVESH
Les Enfants director

In 2000, the city began planning for the sound wall, a city staff report says. City officials sent a sound engineer to the neighborhood and found noise from the freeway was significantly higher than the standards used by Caltrans to rate whether a barrier is required, the report said.

Caltrans and Santa Monica officials were unavailable for comment Friday.

See SOUND WALL, page 5

Juror heads to the slammer

By The Associated Press

DENVER — A woman who took off on vacation in the middle of her jury duty has earned herself another trip — a six-hour stay in a holding cell.

Judge Robert McGahey also ordered Carmella Garcia on Wednesday to pay \$250, the amount she was given for her jury service. The jail sentence is equal to the amount of time her fellow jurors deliberated on the day she failed to show up.

"I wish I didn't have to, but quite obviously you didn't care, so all I can do is punish you for not caring," McGahey said.

Garcia was a juror in a legal malpractice trial that began July 29. She failed to show up Aug. 7, the day jurors heard closing arguments and began deliberations.

An alternate juror was available for deliberations, but the parties settled the case before a verdict was reached.

Garcia told McGahey she had informed the court of her vacation plans during jury selection. McGahey said he had told her she would have to complete her jury service before taking off on vacation.

"I told you I would be gone," Garcia replied.

McGahey noted that another juror who also had vacation plans dropped her family off at the airport and came to court to complete her civic duty.

"You made a promise to your fellow citizens, you made a promise to fellow jurors, you made a promise to the justice system, and then you blew it off," he said. "So I hope you had a good vacation."

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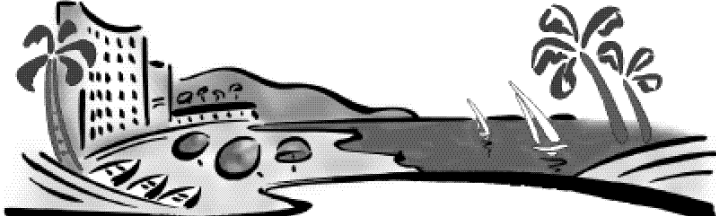
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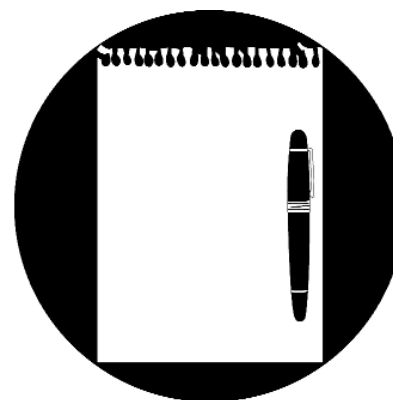
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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★ Demands made of you force you to tamper with plans. You might not be able to take off as soon as you desire. Loosen up with someone close to you. You could be taking a stand that might be inappropriate. Deal with a loved one personally and with more affection. Tonight: Join a group project.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ You can't win for losing with a key associate or partner. Let go of having this person conform to what you desire. You won't be able to have what you want if you keep pushing. Be realistic about your motives. Realize what is happening. Tonight: Let others express their feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★ Your ability to jump over obstacles comes into play when dealing with a touchy associate, friend or loved one. Stay close to home, nurturing a close friend or loved one. How you handle someone else could make a big difference in the near future. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You might be unusually busy as you express your different ideas and feelings. Let go of "musts." Clear out errands quickly. Indulge a family member or a close loved one. This person needs your time and attention. Do nothing halfway. Tonight: Play away.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★ Consider a money matter but don't hesitate to say no. Avoid risk-taking, even if a close individual throws a tantrum. Establish your boundaries, no matter how much flak you get. You know when enough is enough. Express your caring at the same time. Tonight: Join friends after dinner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your perspective could change when you witness another's reaction. At the same time, you could make a major decision involving your personal life. Don't make a public announcement just yet. You'll find the right words in the next few days. Tonight: Take a pal to a favorite spot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★ Sit back. You won't be able to change another's mind. You might not like how someone talks to you and vice versa. Avoid a power play or an angry encounter by stepping back. A generous gesture could end this problem later on. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★ Others have expectations that you might find a bit hard to fulfill. Aim for what you desire, understanding more of what is key to your well-being. Cut spending. A "yes" might not always be appropriate. Venus enters your sign, adding to your allure later today. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★ Pressure builds. You cannot avoid a must appearance or a responsibility. Call an elder friend or relative. It means a lot to hear from him or her. If you want a positive response, express your feelings, but not in a hard way. Tonight: Out on the town. Share more of yourself in the wee hours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Detach and you might not get as upset about news. You move in a new direction or try something totally different, though you might find this situation trying. Keep up the good will. Very soon you will find great serenity and common ground. Tonight: Try something a bit exotic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★ Listen to another's ideas, even if you might be a bit uncomfortable. If you follow this person's suggestions, you could distance quite a few people. If you don't, you might distance this person. Do the politically correct thing — stall. Tonight: Dinner for two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★ Though you might want to please quite a few people, you might not be as successful as you would like to be. Understanding takes you to a different plane, where you might not want to participate in what plays out. Defer to others. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

 **QUOTE of the DAY**

"Hope is the feeling that you have that the feeling you have isn't permanent."

— Jean Kerr

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New laptops for local teachers

By Daily Press staff

This year, about 40 teachers in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will be equipped and trained on new laptops thanks to the K-8 Technology Mentor Laptop Program.

Now in its fourth year, SMMUSD's department of educational services has provided more than 300 teachers with new laptops and the training that accompanies them.

The laptop program has been provided by the California State Department of Education in the form of two grants, one for \$879,000 for grades 9-12 and another for \$94,000 for grades K-8.

According to school administrators, the two grants allow the district to establish and accomplish two main objectives:

■ **Teacher basic proficiency** — Ensure that all educators are able to use a computer to safely enhance personal productivity, locate information and conduct research via the Internet and operate a variety of common media display devices.

■ **Teacher instructional proficiency** — Ensure educators are able to apply educational technology skills to customize curriculum lesson plans for relevant student instruction and exploration.

Jazz series at Santa Monica College

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College music department will kick off its Fall Jazz Concert Series with two performances by the Jon Mayer Trio, with special guest artist Stephanie Haynes, on Friday, Sept. 13.

Mayer, known as an inventive and playful jazz pianist, will perform at 7 and 9 p.m. in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Also performing at SMC in September will be internationally acclaimed pianist Michael Sellers, who will give a free recital at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24 in the SMC Concert Hall.

Featured in the rest of the jazz concert series, all in the SMC Concert Hall, will be:

- Friday, Oct. 4, 7 & 9 p.m.: Larry Nash Quintet
- Saturday, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m.: Eldar Djangirov (Part of SMC's RussiaFest)
- Friday, Nov. 1 at 7 & 9 p.m.: Gerald Wiggins Quintet
- Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 & 9 p.m.: Albert "Tootie" Heath Quintet

Tickets are \$10 for each concert. Call (310) 434-3000 or (310) 434-4323.

College students remember Sept. 11

By Daily Press staff

The SMC Associated Students has organized a memorial for the entire college community. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 11 at the Clocktower, SMC students and employees are invited to sign a banner that says, "We Will Never Forget — Remembering Sept. 11, 2001." The banner will be sent to New York where a group of such banners will be collected and displayed.

At 10:28 a.m. — the time when the second of the two World Trade towers collapsed — an SMC student will play "Taps" and a moment of silence will be observed. This also will be held at the Clocktower.

On Thursday, Sept. 12, the Associated Students will hold a remembrance ceremony featuring speakers and poetry readings. This will be held at 11:15 a.m. at the Clocktower.

The Santa Monica Bay (Westside) Interfaith Council is currently holding "11 Days of Reflection and Remembrance" at houses of worship throughout the westside. It will culminate with a Sunrise Interfaith Service at 6:45 a.m. and a community observance at 7 p.m. on Sept. 11, both at the Santa Monica Pier.

For more information on these observances, contact the Interfaith Council at (310) 394-1518 or SMBInterfaithC@aol.com.



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

While less consistent than Wednesday and Thursday, today's sets 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-	3:42 a.m.	-0.83'
High-	9:58 a.m.	4.95'
Low-	3:28 p.m.	1.24'
High-	9:33 p.m.	6.61'

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

'Pollyanna' hit it on the nose

Editor:

When Pollyanna starts complaining about the homeless situation in Santa Monica, you know it must be getting bad!

Maureen Schugardt's letter, "Homeless need tough love," Sept. 6, 2002, is one of the best writings on the topic I have ever seen. Clearly, she is a loving, caring person who is active and well informed. I believe that her views are shared by the vast majority of us in Santa Monica. Thanks to Maureen for writing it; and thanks to SMDP for printing it. We should enlarge her article to poster size and post it all over the Promenade, the park and, most importantly, City Hall.

Tom Fuller
Santa Monica

Loews is fair to its employees

Editor:

In reference to the letter you printed from Rabbi Comess-Daniels, I would like to point out the following:

For more than two years, the union has made repeated efforts to force the owners of Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel to forfeit our employees' right to decide on union representation. These efforts have included baseless unfair labor practice charges. The National Labor Relations Board has not found Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel in violation of any of the charges. We have agreed to do "postings," which expressly indicate no admission of guilt, as they don't involve lengthy and expensive investigations and they simply state our position on various issues.

No workers have been unfairly targeted for disciplinary action ... for any reason. With the exception of four or five vocal supporters, we have no idea who supports the living wage and who does not. It is a non-issue within the hotel. The letter you printed used "alleged" four times. For good reason. We are fair to all of our team members.

The latest effort by the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (H.E.R.E.) to force unionization is their attempt to institute a "living wage" on select businesses in Santa Monica. The union's dubious motives became clear when it was exposed that hotels with a collective bargaining agreement with Local 814 of H.E.R.E. are exempt from the new living wage ordinance. At Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, almost all of our non-tipped employees already make a wage equal to or better than the proposal. We also pay 91 percent of the health insurance for our

employees, which comes out to more than the hourly differential outlined in the ordinance. Furthermore, we provide free meals, free parking and free life insurance, just to mention a few of Loews' additional benefits. Perhaps those are some of the reasons why our employees believe they do not need or want union representation.

The newest issue with the living wage ordinance is the inclusion of tipped employees. From the outset of the local debate on a living wage, even the advocates recognized that most tipped employees currently make substantial incomes from tips. In fact, the economic study prepared for the city assumed that employees receiving at least one-half of their income from tips would be excluded. So when it became clear that without including tipped-employees, the law would have virtually no impact on the beach hotels that Local 814 is trying to organize, the proposal was modified. This is just one more piece of evidence of the union's true agenda behind the wage ordinance.

Despite attempts to portray Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel in a negative light, the truth remains: We are not anti-union. In fact, one third of Loews Hotels are already unionized. We are pro-employee and firmly believe that our employees, not the union, not management and not the community, should determine whether they want to join the union. From the beginning, we have agreed to have a secret ballot election, as provided for in law by the National Labor Relations Act. This would be the fairest and quickest way to resolve the dispute, but the union has refused to have an election. If employees vote for a union, the hotel would recognize the union. It is that simple.

Loews Santa Beach Hotel has been a good employer, a good neighbor and a strong corporate citizen. Our wages and benefits equal or exceed other local hotel properties and surpass those at unionized hotels in Santa Monica. Our efforts to promote diversity within employee and management ranks and to embrace the welfare-to-work initiative have been a model for the industry. Our commitment to the City of Santa Monica goes back over 14 years when we spurred the revitalization of the beach area.

People are, of course, free to continue to demonstrate in front of our hotel. Just be aware that the consequence is discouraging travelers and tourists from visiting Santa Monica, thereby hurting the very people Santa Monicans Allied for Responsible Tourism purports to be fighting for. I have offered to meet one-on-one with Rabbi Comess-Daniels if he is willing to hear the other side of the story.

John Thacker
Regional vice president/managing director
Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel

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

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LOCAL

Teacher certification will improve students' skills

UNION, from page 1

Deasy joined the school district as its superintendent a little more than a year ago, and since then he has begun an ambitious renovation of the school district's educational programs. He said this contract would provide a cornerstone for that work.

For example, all teachers would have to undergo National Board Certification, which is a rigorous, nation-wide program that requires teachers to pass tests, make portfolio presentations and demonstrate their teaching abilities.

The national certification requirement is the first step in helping teachers continually improve their teaching methods, which will help raise student achievement, Deasy said.

"It helps provide a model of all professional development activities and holds the bar extremely high," he said.

The teachers' union and the district also announced they would jointly construct a new, standards-based evaluation process for all teachers. The evaluation process and its criteria would be created by a committee consisting of teachers and district administrators.

Additionally, teachers would be given a weekly allotment of time to be used specifically for improving their teaching skills and researching other classroom methods. Called "collaborative time," this practice would be instituted in every school by the beginning of the 2003-04 school year, officials said.

"As professionals, teachers deserve to get feedback from their evaluations that highlights their many strengths and at the same time gives them a clear focus for

areas of growth," Keilly said. "An evaluation system based on the California Standards for the Teaching Profession will accomplish that."

One of the sticking points in the contract's negotiations concerned the model for student services at Santa Monica High School, officials said. Beginning this year, there will be significantly more student support specialists, who will undertake some work that used to be done by guidance counselors.

"(Certification) helps provide a model of all professional development activities and holds the bar extremely high."

— JOHN DEASY
SMMUSD superintendent

They will also be responsible for expanded duties, aimed at providing a more personalized relationship with each student and their family, officials said. Union officials had worried the expanded role and use of the position would undermine the job of counselors.

"This issue was one of the more difficult ones to resolve, but at the end of the day, our members will serve as student support specialists and with a well needed, reduced case load, teachers, students and families will benefit," Keilly said.

Barrier would save schools from freeway noise, traffic

SOUND WALL, from page 1

The sound barrier will protect residents of more than a half-dozen apartment complexes from the freeway's noise. Another school, Edison Elementary, will likely have a decrease in freeway noise affecting its classrooms and playgrounds as well.

"At night we can generally leave our windows open, but when it gets too loud we have to sometimes close them," said Yoomi Ko, a Kansas Avenue resident. "Hopefully the wall will block some of that noise. And then I could leave my window open."

Residents of the area had signed a petition almost 14 years ago asking for the sound barrier, but nothing came of it, Behraves said. Then Les Enfants moved into the neighborhood at 2702 Virginia Ave. and Caltrans began paying attention, she said. Caltrans has made a point to build sound barriers along patches of the state's freeways where schools are located, Behraves said.

In 1997, school officials notified Caltrans that they were moving the school into the neighborhood and requested sound walls be erected to protect its students. Caltrans officials began studying the project in 1998, but funding for the project was not approved until 2000. Until the barriers could be built, Caltrans officials installed concrete dividers at the edge of the freeway to prevent cars from

accidentally driving off the freeway and into the children's playground.

"Hopefully the wall will block some of that noise. And then I could leave my window open."

— YOOMI KO
Kansas Avenue resident

Behraves said she attended meetings held all over Los Angeles to pressure Caltrans officials into action. But just when the state transportation officials were about to approve the project, they passed it along to Santa Monica. The city, however, sent the project back to Caltrans. Finally, the project was returned to Santa Monica, which finally accepted the project, Behraves said.

By that time, another year had passed, and some parents of the preschool students began withdrawing their children because of the freeway noise, Behraves said.

"When we started having a couple people withdraw from our program because of it, we started calling City Hall," she said. "That's when it seemed to become more serious to them."

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STATE



Dan Coyro/Associated Press/Santa Cruz Sentinel

Jean Hanamoto smokes what she says is a marijuana cigarette she is using for medical purposes, as a Drug Enforcement Administration agent stands in the background, guarding an entrance to Valerie and Michael Corral's marijuana farm, north of Santa Cruz, Calif., Thursday.

DEA raid sparks medical pot protests

BY MARTHA MENDOZA
AP National Writer

SANTA CRUZ — Medical marijuana advocates outraged by a raid at a local prescription pot supplier protested at federal offices in several cities in Northern California and across the country Friday.

"Medical marijuana patients and advocates around the country realize what's happening in California is absolute terror," said Steph Sherer, executive director of Americans for Safe Access, who was heading to the Drug Enforcement Agency office in Oakland to protest.

DEA spokesman Richard Meyer in San Francisco said his agents simply were doing their job.

"Federal law says marijuana is illegal," he said. "We have no choice. We're enforcing the law."

On Thursday, federal agents raided a small pot farm located on a quiet coastal road about 55 miles south of San Francisco, pulling up about 100 plants and arresting the owners — Valerie and Michael Corral.

The couple, leading activists for medical marijuana, were the latest high-profile advocates to be arrested in a series of sweeps during the past year in California.

State law in California, as well as Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, allows marijuana to be grown and distributed to people with a doctor's prescription. Federal law, on the other hand, prohibits marijuana use under any circumstances.

California medical marijuana growers and distributors work closely with local law enforcement, and are quite open about their programs. In fact, the farm raided Thursday morning by DEA agents had been featured in national media, and the program is listed in the local telephone book.

But in recent months, federal agents — working strictly without local support — have been busting pot clubs and farms in Northern California.

News of the Santa Cruz raid spread quickly across the country.

"This is an issue that faces all of us," said Karen Heikkala, holding a "Arrest Pain, Not Patients and Caregivers" in front of the federal building in Austin, Texas.

"It's a sad day in the United States when the federal government goes after the sick and dying in direct violation of states' rights," she said.

In Washington, D.C., 15 people protested in front of the Justice Department. In Northern California, protesters gathered at DEA offices in San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose.

"The only way to explain this is in a truly fanatical, inhumane ... spirit that this was carried out," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance.

Back at the Corrals' farm, where users had been preparing their annual harvest, a sign "Love Grows Here" still stood but there were only a few large stems and leaves scattered on the ground.

Prosecutors said the Corrals, who helped write the provision in California's Proposition 215 that allows patients and their caregivers to cultivate their own medicine, had not been charged by Friday morning. But their attorney said they could be indicted at any time.

This was not the first arrest for the Corrals.

Before state and local laws allowed their program, they were arrested in 1992 and 1993. In 1992, Valerie Corral was prosecuted, but was found innocent after being the first person in California to challenge marijuana laws by arguing it was medically necessary. When they were arrested again in 1993, local authorities decided not to prosecute.

Valerie Corral said Friday she was deeply pained by the raid.

"They cannot know how many people's lives they are causing suffering in because, if they did, they would not do this," she said.

STATE



Satellites begin mapping Earth's gravitational field

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — Data gathered over two weeks by a pair of identical satellites have yielded one of the best-ever maps of the Earth's lumpy, bumpy gravitational field, scientists said Friday.

The low-resolution look represents a tenfold improvement over previous maps, said scientists on the joint U.S.-German Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment, or Grace, mission.

Earlier maps were slowly cobbled together using a combination of satellite and ground data.

"It took 30 years to get what we had before," said Mike Watkins, the mission's project scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "Grace in just 14 days of data does better."

Due to variations in the density and types of material that make up the Earth, its gravitational field is full of lumps. Large-scale movements of mass — including when glaciers melt — also can alter the field.

The new maps track variations in the gravitational field about 620 miles across and larger, showing them as large blobs. Preliminary maps created by using another 35 days of data have shrunk the resolution to about 310 miles.

Launched in March, the twin Grace satellites — Tom and Jerry — orbit the Earth 16 times a day at an altitude of 311 miles. Separated by 137 miles, a precise microwave ranging system constantly measures the distance between them to within the equivalent of one-tenth the

width of a human hair.

That ability, coupled with Global Positioning System technology, permits scientists on the ground to monitor changes in the speed and distance between the German-built spacecraft.

Those changes indicate differences in the mass of the Earth's surface below and any corresponding variations in its gravitational pull. For example, a region of higher gravity will cause each spacecraft to alternately speed up and slow down as it passes overhead.

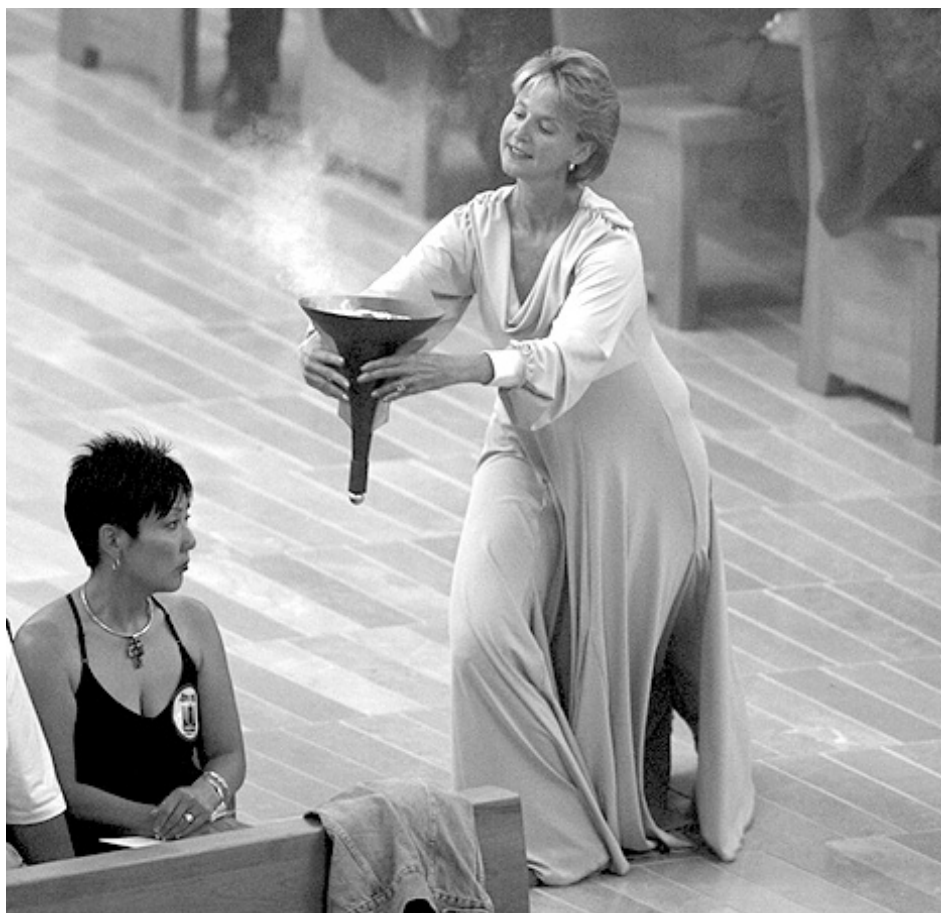
A software upgrade, due to be uploaded to the spacecraft in October, should further improve on the pointing accuracy. By year's end, scientists hope to be churning out gravitational field maps every month that represent a 100-fold improvement over those currently available.

Among those most eager to receive results from the \$127 million mission are oceanographers. The ocean surface tends to mimic in its topography the shape of the geoid, or imaginary surface on which the pull of the Earth's gravity is uniform.

However, that topography or shape is also influenced by the ocean's temperature and by large-scale currents; separating out the contribution of gravity is crucial for scientists tracking phenomena like El Nino.

"These first results from Grace look very promising from an oceanographer's point of view," said Lee-Leung Fu, the National Aerospace and Space Administration's project scientist for the joint U.S.-French Topex/Poseidon and Jason 1 oceanographic satellite missions.

Spiritual dancing



Gary Friedman/Associated Press

A woman dances in the center aisle during an interfaith service celebrating the new \$190 million Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels on Wednesday in Los Angeles. Visitors to Los Angeles' newest landmark can sip Starbucks coffee in the cafeteria, buy a bottle of Our Lady of the Angels chardonnay for \$24.99 or secure a final resting place in the below-ground crypt for as much as \$3 million, a practice unique to the Los Angeles cathedral.

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STATE

Radio-based security system tracks inmates, officers

BY MAY WONG
AP Technology Writer

Frank Ochoa, imprisoned on an attempted carjacking conviction, thought he had the guards fooled.

The inmate at a minimum-security prison in the California desert slipped his electronic bracelet around a hot cup of coffee and made a run for it.

Ochoa apparently didn't know that by tampering with the tracking device, he had triggered an alarm at the Calipatria prison's security control center. Guards caught Ochoa less than a mile away.

The sophisticated radio monitoring system that helped capture Ochoa two years ago is now being installed at a handful of other U.S. prisons. If widely adopted, it could one day change the way correctional facilities are run.

"It completely revolutionizes a prison because you know where everyone is — not approximately but exactly where they are," said Larry Cothran, a technology consultant to the National Institute of Justice.

Using radio transmitters monitored by a network of receivers, the system tracks prisoners and corrections officers to within 20 feet. Inmates wear tamper- and water-resistant bracelets while officers wear pager-like devices.

It's a high-tech version of the head count, except these head counts are conducted every two seconds versus the old-fashioned method of five to eight times a day.

Any time an inmate tampers with or removes the bracelet — or strays out of range — the bracelet trips an alarm. Guards monitoring the prison can not only



Fred Greaves/Associated Press

Vincent Campos, a correctional officer at Calipatria state prison in Calipatria, Calif., monitors inmates via a computer system Wednesday.

pinpoint the location but also know who is in the vicinity.

The monitoring device for officers has a red button that allows them to signal for help and an automatic "man-down" alarm if the device ends up in a horizontal position.

If guards aren't careful, the tilt mechanism has been known to trigger alarms if the device gets twisted on their belt or they drop their pants, said Chris Trott, president of the Calipatria guards union.

"Sometimes you go to the bathroom and your alarm goes off," he said.

Location data shows up as dots on a computerized map — blue for corrections officers and yellow for inmates. A list indicates who each dot represents and all movements are stored in a database, for investigative purposes.

So far, Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Technology Systems International Inc. appears to be the only company selling such a product in the United States.

Called TSI PRISM, the system is based on technology Motorola Inc. developed in the 1980s with an eye to military uses.

The company decided instead to license it to TSI, which spent seven years honing it for prisons.

Trott said guards using the devices credit them for helping to understand prisoner involvement in fights or other incidents.

"It's almost like having a videotape of the incident, because you can track who was there," Trott quoted guards as saying.

Tight government budgets, however, are a huge hurdle to widespread adoption — at least until the cost decreases. Outfitting a prison generally costs \$1 million or more, according to Greg Oester, TSI's president.

California has been an early adopter of such prison management technologies as electrified fences and pepper-laced water hoses. But its current budget crunch has delayed the possibility of a PRISM system purchase, said state corrections spokesman Russ Heimerich.

"If money were not an issue, it would be a welcome addition," said Tim Ochoa, an associate warden at the 300-inmate Calipatria State Prison, which has been testing the system for three years.

Guards at Calipatria initially opposed the system, thinking it would be used to spy on them. But prison officials agreed not to use monitoring data against them, Tim Ochoa said, and the officers now support its use.

As for prisoners, they don't have a say in the matter.

Inmates aren't entitled to many of the freedoms non-felons enjoy, and the system hasn't raised serious objections from a civil rights perspective, said Jay Stanley of the American Civil Liberties Union.

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STATE



Tests indicate woman may have West Nile virus

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — A California woman has tested positive for the West Nile virus in what could be the first human case contracted in the western United States, health officials said Friday in announcing preliminary test results.

Conclusive results won't be known for another week. However, Los Angeles County health officials were calling it a "probable case of locally acquired West Nile virus infection." The case suggests that the virus may have completed its journey across the continent.

The woman, who was not identified, became sick in August from meningitis, which is associated with the virus. She has recovered.

She had not traveled outside the region, meaning the possible infection occurred locally, said Maria Iacobo, a spokeswoman for the county Department of Health Services.

The diagnosis surprised health officials because ongoing monitoring of birds and mosquitoes had shown no trace of the virus in California.

"The virus' arrival in California is anticipated, but unexpected at this time since it

is not present in any contiguous states," said Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, director and chief medical officer of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

The mosquito-borne virus appeared in the United States in 1999 in New York. So far though, no local cases have been confirmed west of the Rocky Mountains. Four confirmed cases in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho contracted the virus in states where the virus was already present.

Nationwide this year, there have been 854 confirmed human cases of the virus, including 43 deaths, according to the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Human cases have been confirmed this year in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

West Nile is spread by infected mosquitoes, which pass the virus to birds, horses or humans. Most people develop a mild flu-like illness, though the elderly and people with weak immune systems can get a potentially fatal brain inflammation.

The CDC confirmed this week that four people became sick from organ transplants. Health officials are investigating whether the organ donor and another woman contracted West Nile virus through blood donations.

Executives of tech firm charged in accounting scheme

BY SIMON AVERY

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Federal prosecutors have announced a 36-count grand jury indictment against four executives charged with defrauding investors in a public technology company of \$140 million in a "cook the books" scheme.

Prosecutors allege three senior officers and an outside director of NewCom Inc. illegally inflated sales before the now-defunct Westlake Village firm's 1997 initial public offering.

In one case, a \$3.7 million purchase order was allegedly recorded from a nonexistent company.

"This case illustrates the serious and corrosive nature of crimes committed by corporate insiders, crimes which have affected too many companies in America and have shaken the nation's faith in the securities markets," U.S. Attorney Debra Yang said Thursday.

The three senior executives who surrendered to the FBI on Thursday were identified as Sultan Warris Khan, 57, of Calabasas, NewCom's president, chief executive and chair-

man; Asif Mohammad Khan (no relation), 57, of Westlake Village, NewCom's executive vice president and a company director; and Steven Conrad Veen, 46, of Downey, the chief financial officer and a company director.

Both Khans said through their lawyers that they will plead innocent to all charges at their arraignment next week. Veen's lawyer did not immediately return a call.

The fourth defendant, Alexander Remington, 45, of Duluth, Ga., who owns Micro Equipment Corp. and served on NewCom's board, has agreed to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy, federal prosecutors said in a written statement.

Remington did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

NewCom, which sold computer equipment, was founded in 1994 and went public in September 1997. Shortly afterward it had a market value of more than \$140 million.

Less than two years later, the stock price plunged to just pennies after an employee uncovered some \$9 million in false invoices. As much as one-thirds of NewCom's total accounts receivable were bogus, author-

ities said.

NewCom went out of business in 1999.

Officials with the U.S. Attorney's Office also claimed the Khans embezzled more than \$1 million from the company and used a client trust account to launder money. They face at least 10 counts of money laundering.

Ronald Iden, FBI assistant director, said the case should send a message to the business community that "we will weed out corporate corruption driven by corporate greed at all levels."

Authorities have filed a forfeiture claim to seize the homes and any other assets of defendants that they can show were bought with illegal gains.

Lawyers for the defendants said the charges tell an inaccurate story.

"This case involves a complicated commercial transaction, and we see the transactions charged in the indictment differently from the prosecution and look forward to having the situation resolved," said attorney Tom Pollack, who represents Sultan Warris Khan.

The two Khans and Veen settled unrelated civil claims filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission in June.

State wants Olson to serve more time for 1975 SLA crime

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Former Symbionese Liberation Army member Sara Jane Olson won a temporary reprieve Friday from the state's attempt to increase her prison sentence for conspiring to blow up Los Angeles police cruisers in 1975.

A Sacramento judge announced a Sept. 17 Board of Prison Terms hearing at the California Womens Correctional Facility in Chowchilla was canceled after attorneys for Olson and the state agreed to reschedule in October.

Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Thomas Cecil also set an Oct. 7 hearing in Sacramento to hear Olson's objections to the prison board's intentions to

consider a new sentence in her case.

The Board of Prison Terms is seeking a possible longer prison for Olson, 55, the Minnesota housewife serving a 20 years to life sentence following her guilty plea to conspiracy charges in January. Olson could be paroled as early as 2004 for the crime committed as a young California revolutionary.

Denise Schmidt, spokeswoman for the Board of Prison Terms, said the nine-member body, which is appointed by the governor, decided in July to reconsider Olson's sentence. The board based its decision on a little-used part of the state penal code, allowing it to consider her as a "serious offender."

State law allows the board to reconsider sen-

tences issued for crimes committed before 1977, when different sentencing guidelines prevailed. In Olson's case, it could add an undetermined number of years to her sentence, said Schmidt.

Olson's Los Angeles attorney, Shawn S. Chapman, suggested Friday that the state's move may be "political."

Chapman said the "serious offender" clause was "certainly not created or

contemplated for somebody who is now in court 27 years after the fact, and who has demonstrated her good citizenship." Added Chapman, "Sarah Jane Olson has demonstrated not only is she not a danger to the community, she is an

asset to the community."

Olson, arrested for the crime in 1999 in an upscale part of St. Paul, Minn., is a mother of three and married to a doctor. Neighbors called her a sometimes-actress who was well-liked and known for community service.



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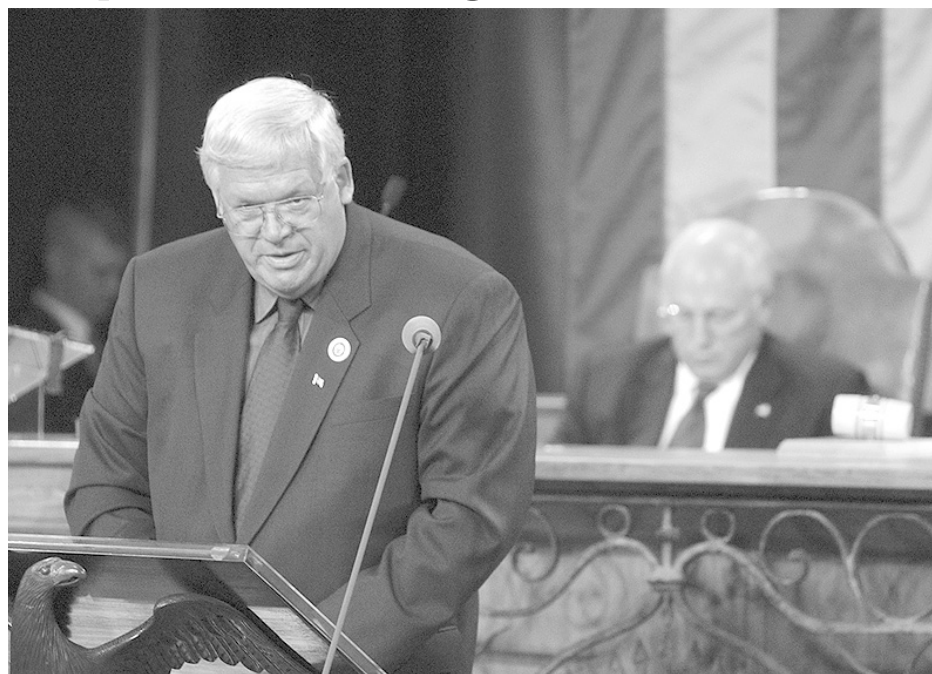
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NATIONAL

A special meeting



Lawrence Jackson/Associated Press

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., addresses the joint meeting of Congress at Federal Hall in New York Friday as Vice President Dick Cheney listens in the background. Congress paid homage to the victims and heroes of Sept. 11 by convening for a 50-minute session, which was attended by more than 300 lawmakers. It was only the second time since 1800 that Congress had convened outside of Washington, D.C.

Unemployment rate at 5.7 percent, lowest since March

BY LEIGH STROPE

AP Labor Writer

WASHINGTON — Easing fears of a dip back into recession, the nation's unemployment rate unexpectedly fell to a five-month low in August as companies added jobs for a fourth straight month.

The jobless rate dropped to 5.7 percent last month, down from July's 5.9 percent and the lowest since March, the Labor Department reported Friday. Economists had expected the rate to remain unchanged or edge up slightly.

Stocks were buoyed by the upbeat report. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up more than 140 points and the Nasdaq ended the day up 44 points.

Companies added 39,000 new jobs last month, a weak showing that was in line with what analysts expected. It was the fourth consecutive gain in payrolls, including a revised 67,000 jobs created in July. But analysts weren't exuberant. The economy must generate 125,000 new jobs per month to keep the unemployment rate stable.

Hiring in construction, government and the service sector helped fuel overall job gains, although they were largely offset by cuts in manufacturing and retail.

Companies have been reluctant to make big hiring and capital investment commitments, prime ingredients in a full and sustained comeback, because of insecurity about the recovery. Therefore, some analysts still expect the jobless rate to creep up again in coming months to 6.0 percent or so, though not as high as the 6.5 percent previously anticipated.

"This report is a big relief," said Bill Cheney, chief economist with John Hancock Financial Services. Other recent economic indicators had been weak, raising renewed fears of layoffs and a double-dip recession.

"We can't yet lay those fears completely to rest, but it's very reassuring that ... we're moving forward, not slipping backward," he said.

Most analysts now don't foresee the economy sliding back into recession, but the struggle to recovery still poses a challenge for President Bush and will be a key topic for voters heading into the November elections.

The White House seized on Friday's report, demanding that Congress act on Bush's terrorism insurance and retirement protection policies to help spur job growth.

"The president remains concerned because Americans are unemployed," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. "He wants to make sure that Congress takes additional steps this fall so more jobs will be created for the American people."

Congress also got blame from the left. "Congress has failed to address the unemployment crisis since passing a benefit extension in March," said John Sweeney, president of the world's largest federation of unions, the AFL-CIO. He noted that 2.8 million workers have been out of work for 15 weeks or more, up 54 percent from a year ago.

Also significant in Friday's report is that people looking for work last month didn't get discouraged and drop out of the job market, which increased by 226,000. With more people looking for jobs, the unemployment rate still managed to improve.

The shape of the recovery ultimately will be determined by consumers and their willingness to spend and invest in the months ahead. So far, the stagnant job market, eroding consumer confidence and the turbulent stock market haven't caused Americans to cut back dramatically. That's because rising home values, low interest rates and a refinancing boom have left people with extra cash.

The Federal Reserve has tried to quicken the recovery pace by keeping short-term interest rates at four-decade lows all year. Although it has signaled a willingness to cut rates if economic conditions warrant, most economists think the unemployment report makes that unlikely when the Fed meets next on Sept. 24.

INTERNATIONAL



President courts three U.N. Security Council members

BY SCOTT LINDLAW

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush telephoned leaders of China, Russia and France on Friday in hopes of softening their opposition to ousting Saddam Hussein, but he made little noticeable progress.

In a series of cursory calls from the Oval Office, Bush talked for a total of 30 minutes with Presidents Jacques Chirac of France, Jiang Zemin of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia. Each could use their votes on the United Nations Security Council to veto resolutions aimed at Saddam.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush "told the foreign leaders that he values their opinion and he stressed that Saddam Hussein was a threat and that we need to work together to make the world peaceful." He said Bush has not decided how to oust Saddam, thus did not share any plans with the leaders.

Chirac wasn't convinced by Bush's call, repeating his long-standing position that any military action against Baghdad should be decided by the U.N. Security Council, said Catherine Colonna, a Chirac spokeswoman.

Putin talked to Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has emerged as Bush's closest ally on Iraq. The Russian president told Blair there was "a real

potential" for a political solution to the crisis around Baghdad's alleged stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, a Kremlin press service statement said.

Putin spokesman Alexei Gromov did not say what Bush and Putin talked about.

In Beijing, China's official Xinhua News Agency said Jiang and Bush discussed world affairs but didn't say whether they brought up Saddam.

Bush promised to send diplomats to each of the three nations to continue consultations after he addresses the United Nations on Sept. 12.

The telephone conversations could lay the groundwork for the administration requesting the Security Council adopt a resolution setting a deadline for Iraq to admit weapons inspectors or risk punitive action.

Fleischer said Bush did not discuss the inspectors issue with the leaders.

Also Friday, Bush met with his foreign policy team on Iraq and was meeting with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld at the White House.

Rumsfeld, Vice President Dick Cheney, and CIA Director George Tenet met at the Pentagon on Thursday with the bipartisan group of senators in hopes of building support for a congressional resolution giving Bush authority to act against Saddam. Cheney and Tenet met

separately with congressional leadership on Capitol Hill.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle indicated Friday he will not be rushed to judgment on Iraq.

"I'm not going to categorize the information we were provided," Daschle said on NBC "Today" program.

"All I would say is that some of our questions were answered but there are a lot more out there that need to be addressed," the South Dakota Democrat said.

Also on NBC, Iraqi ambassador Mohammed Aldouri insisted Saddam does not belong to the "club of mass destruction." He added, "We have no such weapons at all, no chemical weapons, no biological weapons."

Shown a tape of the interview with the ambassador, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott fired back: "If there were a question of truth or consequences, he just failed. If this is not true, let inspectors in unfettered."

Blair meets with Bush at his Camp David presidential retreat on Saturday. The president meets Monday with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who said Thursday he has yet to see evidence to justify Canadian support for a military campaign against Iraq.

France and China have said any military action against Iraq should be decided by the

United Nations. Russia opposes war with Iraq, but its stand is clouded by growing economic and diplomatic ties to the country.

In his speech to the U.N. next week, Bush plans to restate the argument he made in public Wednesday, that the Security Council was obligated to hold Iraq accountable for not complying with the U.N. resolutions, U.S. officials said.

The officials confirmed he was reviewing several ideas, including giving Saddam a last-ditch deadline for allowing unfettered access to weapons inspectors, but said the president and his advisers had determined that Friday was too soon to show his hand.

He does not plan to break major new ground in a Sept. 12 address to the United Nations; aides who have seen early drafts say Bush makes a forceful case for ousting Saddam and warns the United Nations that its credibility and relevancy is on the line. While there is no "huge divergence" on what to say, the topic is still the subject of lively discussions within the administration, one official said.

Aides say concrete plans to oust Saddam will likely wait for another speech, perhaps a joint session of Congress, once Bush is finished consulting with allies and lawmakers and makes a final decision on how to handle Saddam.

Turkish man, fiancée suspected of planning attack on U.S.

BY MELISSA EDDY

Associated Press Writer

STUTTGART, Germany — A Turkish admirer of Osama bin Laden and the man's American fiancée who worked for the U.S. military were arrested for planning an attack on a U.S. base on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings, German authorities announced Friday.

The couple had 287 pounds of chemicals and five pipe bombs at the time of their arrest Thursday in an apartment near Heidelberg, where the U.S. Army in Europe has headquarters.

The 25-year-old Turkish man had a picture of Osama bin Laden at his apartment, in addition to Islamic literature and a book

about building bombs, said Thomas Schaeuble, the chief law enforcement officer for Baden-Wuerttemberg state.

While he said there were indications an attack was planned for Sept. 11, Schaeuble refused to elaborate.

"We suspect that they intended to mount a bomb attack against military installations and the city of Heidelberg," Schaeuble said, adding that the Turkish man was a strict Muslim "who hates Americans and Jews."

His 23-year-old fiancée worked at a supermarket at a U.S. installation in Heidelberg where some 16,000 American soldiers, family members and civilian workers are stationed. Schaeuble said she was an American citizen.

U.S. law enforcement officials in Washington said the woman had dual American and German citizenship.

The man worked at a chemical warehouse in nearby Karlsruhe. They were arrested in their apartment in Walldorf, about six miles south of Heidelberg.

"Now we must examine whether he was acting alone or whether there were structures behind this," Schaeuble said, adding that the man was being questioned but not cooperating.

U.S. Army Europe spokesman Sandy Goss said he had no details about a possible target.

"All I know is there were two people arrested and we're monitoring the situation closely because we take all these reports seriously," Goss said.

There were no signs of heightened alert at the U.S. facility Friday evening. Joggers ran past the fenced-in headquarters and children played outside at military housing across the street.

If such a plot was underway, it would represent one of the largest planned terrorist attack to become public since Sept. 11.

German federal criminal authorities refused to comment, saying the case was being handled by state investigators.

Earlier this week, federal Interior Minister Otto Schily said German authorities had no information on any plans for attacks in the country around the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

In a separate incident, federal prosecutors said Friday they are investigating a 39-year-old Afghan-born man who lived in Hamburg and holds a German passport for possible terror links. The man was arrested by U.S. authorities after he traveled to the United States in mid-July, and was in custody in Alexandria, Virginia.

Federal investigators started their investigation on Aug. 20, a spokesman for federal prosecutors, Hartmut Schneider, said. He refused to give further details.

Still standing



Kamran Jebreili/Associated Press

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai talks to journalists at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday a day after a failed assassination attempt against him in the southern city of Kandahar, the former stronghold of the Taliban.

Terrorist plots thwarted around the world since 9-11

By The Associated Press

U.S. authorities and officials overseas say that since Sept. 11 they have prevented terrorist strikes against American targets or U.S. citizens in Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Malaysia, Indonesia, France, Bosnia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, India, Australia and Singapore. A look at some of the foiled attacks:

■ Two days after Sept. 11, an Algerian, a Frenchman and a Dutchman are arrested in a European-wide sweep of groups suspected of links to al-Qaida, accused with several others of plotting to bomb the U.S. embassy in Paris. Prosecutors say the group also targeted the Kleine-Brogel base in northeast Belgium, where around 100 U.S. Air Force personnel are stationed.

■ On Dec. 22, Richard Reid, a British citizen and convert to Islam was subdued by crew members and passengers aboard an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami after allegedly trying to detonate explosives hidden in his shoes.

■ In a December sweep, Singapore authorities arrested 13 men suspected of plotting to blow up Western embassies, U.S. Navy ships and American companies in the city-state. Some of the men, all from the Jemaah Islamiyah militant group, had trained in Afghanistan.

■ In October, the U.S. and British embassies in Bosnia were closed for several days after local police arrested six naturalized Bosnians, all of them Algerian natives, suspected of plotting attacks on U.S. interests in Bosnia and elsewhere.



SPORTS

Venus guarantees half of Williams sisters final

BY HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Venus Williams shook off a blister and spotty play to guarantee half of a sister vs. sister U.S. Open final with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 semifinal win over Amelie Mauresmo on Friday.

Serena Williams played Lindsay Davenport for the other spot and a third straight Grand Slam championship matchup with her older sister.

Venus won the last two U.S. Opens, beating Serena in the 2001 final, and is seeded second to Serena, who beat her at the French Open and Wimbledon this year.

Venus' play against Mauresmo, though, didn't justify that billing.

The harder-serving Venus had only three aces, the same as Mauresmo. And she had 10 double faults to four for the 10th-seeded Frenchwoman.

Venus also had more unforced errors, 44-35, and was outplayed at the net. Mauresmo complained in vain about several calls that went against her and replays showed she was right on some of them.

Venus remained calm when she struggled.

"I keep telling myself that it's just a game and go out there and have fun," she said. "It was hard to hold the racket at times, but you only get one chance at the final and you try to take it."

She had her right hand taped twice by WTA trainer Laura Eby.



Richard Drew/Associated Press

Lisa Raymond, of the United States, makes a return to Bob Bryan and Katarina Srebotnik, as partner Mike Bryan looks on during the mixed doubles final at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York Friday.

The first time was before the 12th game of the second set. Venus had her service broken in that game, losing the set.

The second time was before the fourth game of the third set. Again, Mauresmo broke service to tie the match at 2-2.

The turning point came in the next game when Mauresmo fell behind 0-40. She followed with two aces, then double-faulted to give the game to Venus.

Both players held serve for the next four games, leaving Venus ahead 5-4. Then Mauresmo, who lost to Serena in the Wimbledon semifinals, nearly evened the match.

She had three break points in the final game, but Venus saved them all with two serves of 116 mph and an ace at 114. Venus then gained the advantage and Mauresmo was down to her last chance.

That's when Venus really reared back and fired in a 122-mph serve. Mauresmo barely got her racket on the ball, it sailed wide, and Venus had her 20th straight U.S. Open win.

She's also 35-3 in her career at the tournament.

The Williams sisters have faced each other in three of the last four Grand Slam finals.

Davenport is seeded fourth and beat 1999 champion Serena in the 2000 Open final. But Serena is much better now.

"These are the moments where, as a player, you live for," Davenport said, "and you need to play your best."

Finally, UCLA Bruins get a chance to play some football

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

PASADENA — Cory Paus and his teammates have lived with UCLA's disastrous finish to last season for more than nine months.

The Bruins will finally be able to put those unpleasant memories behind them Saturday night when they become the last Division I-A team to open the season, against No. 19 Colorado State at the Rose Bowl.

"There are a lot of hungry football players around here. This is an exciting time," Paus said. "I think the mood's very focused."

Paus and the Bruins were rolling at 6-0 before things began going wrong last fall. First came hard-fought setbacks to Stanford, Washington State and Oregon, dropping them from No. 4 in the country to out of the Top 25.

The misery was capped by a 28-0 loss to crosstown rival Southern California in UCLA's poorest performance in memory.

The Bruins won their last game to finish 7-4, but that wasn't much of a consolation, and they didn't play in a bowl.

Two days before the USC game, coach Bob Toledo was told that Paus faced four days of jail time. Paus hadn't told his coach he'd been fined and placed on probation for a misdemeanor conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol — his second such offense in two years.

That was then. This is now.

"He's a changed guy, he's much more mature, much more responsible," Toledo said of his fifth-year senior quarterback.

And the Bruins aren't wearing collective frowns these days, either.

"I'm looking forward to our getting our chance to be the leaders of the team,"

Paus said of the 14 seniors. "My instincts tell me we can be as good as any team I've been a part of. Whether that happens, we'll see. I hope I'm not wrong."

Colorado State has two games under its belt — victories over Virginia and then No. 7 Colorado. That figures to give the Rams an advantage, but as Paus said: "Being at home will hopefully give a little bit of the advantage to us."

In addition, UCLA has won its last four openers and Colorado State is faced with bouncing back after an emotional victory over its in-state rival.

Rams coach Sonny Lubick said playing UCLA "is really an honor" because of the Bruins' winning tradition.

Toledo might say the same thing, considering Colorado State is 76-34 since Lubick took over as coach in 1993.

Facing stronger opposition, UCLA is 42-27 in six years under Toledo including 17-19 since opening the 1998 season with 10 wins.

"Our players will be ready to play," Toledo promised.

The Rams are led by Bradlee Van Pelt, who has passed for 397 yards and rushed for another 101, and Cecil Sapp, who has gained 258 yards and scored four touchdowns.

"He always could run the football, now he's become a better passer," Toledo said of Van Pelt, who is from Santa Barbara.

Regarding Sapp, Toledo said: "He is really an outstanding back, I don't know if we'll play against anyone better."

Toledo also said Colorado State's line-backing corps of Doug Heald, Drew Wood and Eric Pauly was among the best in the country.

Toledo said freshman quarterback Drew Olson will get some playing time in relief of Paus in the second quarter.

Woman accuses Steelers' Bettis of sexual misconduct

BY JOE MANDAK

Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH — Police are investigating Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jerome Bettis after a woman accused him of sexual misconduct.

The woman, who was not identified, told police Bettis attacked her in his car on Aug. 21, after she'd met him at a bar to have a football autographed.

Bettis' lawyer, Bob Del Greco, confirmed Friday that police in Greensburg — about 25 miles southeast of Pittsburgh — contacted the player about the woman's claim. Del Greco said Bettis was cooperating with the investigation.

"Jerome didn't engage in any sexual misconduct or criminal activity," Del Greco said.

Del Greco refused to provide details about the woman's accusation, which was first reported by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in Friday's editions. The lawyer said Bettis had passed a voice-stress analysis, a type of lie-detector test, and

You sure do.

Serena is the world's top-ranked woman following her consecutive Grand Slam wins. Venus is No. 2 in the world and reached the semifinals at all six she's played.

Serena has won 60 of her 74 games here and averaged just 51 minutes per match.

Davenport has won 63 of 88. But she had knee surgery in January and admits the obvious: No woman is in the Williams sisters' class.

"I've said it and I haven't hesitated. They are definitely at a level above everyone else," Davenport said.

The 6-foot-2 1/2 Davenport has the power to rally with Venus and Serena, but can't cover the court as well. Mauresmo played a solid all-around game in beating third-seeded Jennifer Capriati on Wednesday but is winless in four matches against Venus.

Serena is at the top of her game, darting all over the court, hitting powerful serves and playing with supreme confidence. Davenport came into the Open having played just 14 matches in four tournaments this year.

Last month, Davenport lost to Venus in the semifinals at San Diego and in the finals to Chanda Rubin at Los Angeles. Against Serena, her record is 2-7.

But the player seeded first has won just two of the last 19 Grand Slams starting with the 1998 opener, the Australian Open. And Davenport has an opportunity she didn't expect.

On the men's side, Pete Sampras had made just one final in his 16 tournaments this year. He lost that to Andy Roddick in straight sets in Houston in April. But now Sampras is in the U.S. Open, an event he's won four times.

He has a chance for a fifth title after a surprisingly easy 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win Thursday over Roddick in just 1 hour, 30 minutes.

"When it comes to majors and a night like tonight, this is why I'm playing," said Sampras, seeded just 17th.

He should be favored in the semifinals against No. 24 Sjeng Schalken, who outlasted No. 28 Fernando Gonzalez 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2) on Thursday.

also will allow his car to be searched, Del Greco said.

The woman told police she had met Bettis earlier in August and asked if he would autograph a football for her 2-year-old son at a later date, Greensburg Police Chief Richard Baric said.

The Steelers were in training camp at the time near Latrobe, about 10 miles east of Greensburg.

The woman said that when she saw Bettis the second time on Aug. 21, the two went to her car to retrieve a ball. Bettis then asked the woman if she wanted to get into his vehicle, according to a police report.

The woman told police Bettis drove out of the parking lot, parked on a street and forced her to perform oral sex.

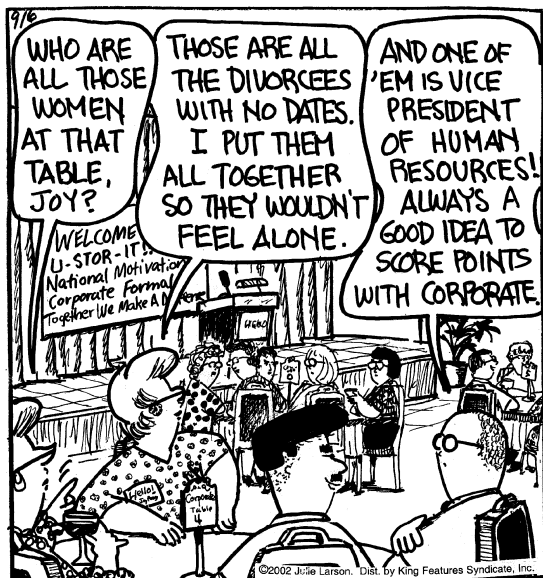
She said Bettis told her, "You better not fight. You better not do anything."

Once the investigation is complete, a report is expected to be made to Westmoreland County District Attorney John Peck, who will decide if charges should be filed.

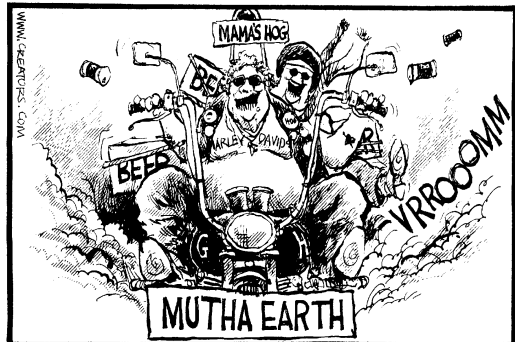
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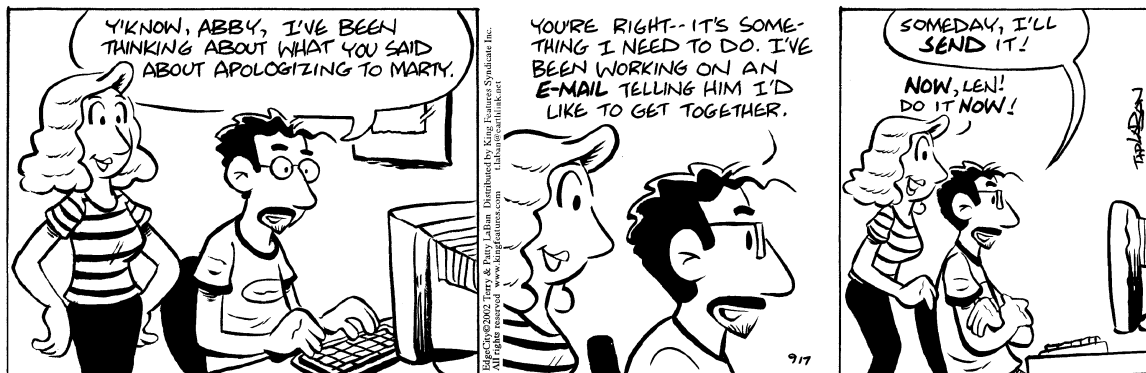
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ACROSS
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Yesterday's answer

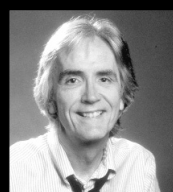
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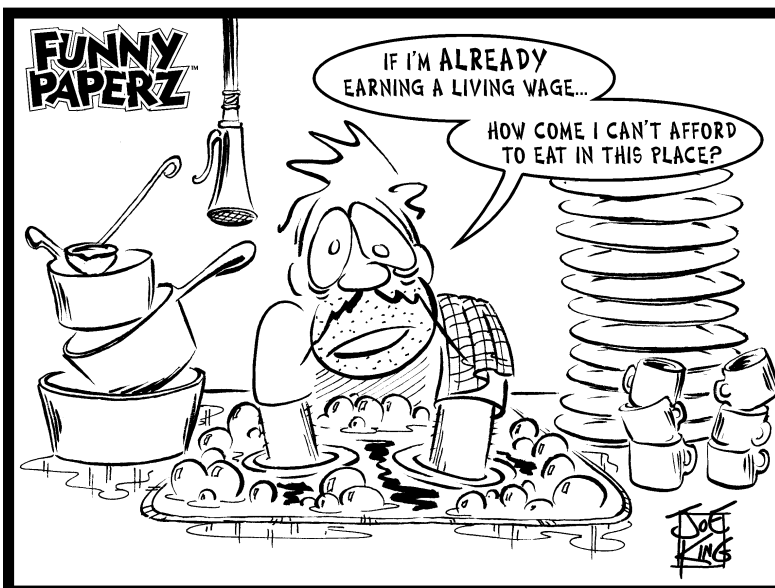


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Coach attacks rival team's star player

- Witnesses said a 39-year-old youth-league soccer coach rushed onto the field during a time-out and aggressively elbowed the other team's star player (an 11-year-old girl) in the stomach (but the league has specific penalties only for coaches who attack referees) (Mississauga, Ontario).
- A 15-year-old girl won a talent search by "jumping" rope 100 times while seated (by raising her butt for each pass) (Keller, Texas).
- A 44-year-old man, angry that a check he was expecting didn't come, beat up the postal carrier (Shreveport, La.).
- A catwalk collapsed at Aquarium of the Americas, sending 10 VIP visitors into a tank with 24 sharks (but which, fortunately, had just been fed and were docile) (New Orleans).



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CLASSIFIEDS



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Ask for Angela or Paula

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(310) 458-PRESS (7737)

Calendar

Saturday, September 7, 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 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.

Sunday 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.

KelpFest! 11:00am to 4:00 pm Free! "KelpFest, co-sponsored by the Santa Monica BayKeeper and City of Santa Monica will be held at the park where Ocean Park Blvd. meets the beach, adjacent to the bike path. The event is an educational celebration of our local kelp habitat here in the Santa Monica Bay, and educates the community about environmental and marine issues."

Rally for Justice and Peace! A better world is possible. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Macarthur Park. Sponsored by The Coalition for World Peace. (323)852-9808.

Theater / Arts

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Music / Entertainment

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

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.

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.

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



BACK PAGE

Mayor sentenced to five plus years in prison for corruption

BY BRIAN CAROVILLANO

Associated Press Writer

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Mayor Vincent “Buddy” Cianci Jr. was sentenced to more than five years in prison Friday by a judge who portrayed him as a Jekyll-and-Hyde figure who revitalized down-and-out Providence even as he turned City Hall into a hotbed of bribery.

U.S. District Judge Ernest Torres praised Cianci’s political talents but criticized the veteran mayor for running an administration that was “rife with corruption at all levels.”

“There appear to be two very different Buddy Ciances that have come across here,” Torres said. “I’m struck by the parallels of this case and the story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.”

Cianci, 61, who plans to appeal the conviction, told the judge he never intended any wrongdoing. He is set to go to prison Dec. 6.

The beloved and charismatic mayor was convicted in June on a charge of racketeering conspiracy that accused him of masterminding a criminal enterprise that took bribes in exchange for tax breaks, favors and jobs with the city.

Even as the corruption was taking place, Providence was experiencing a rebirth, with new parks, a thriving arts scene and a sprawling new downtown mall.

The first Cianci, Torres said, has been “a mayor with rare vision and boundless energy.” The second was a despot who abused the public trust by using the office for personal profit.

“My job is to sentence the second Buddy Cianci, because the first wouldn’t be here,” the judge said.

With that, he sentenced Cianci to five years and four months in federal prison, fined him \$100,000 and ordered him to perform 150 hours of community service.

Cianci asked the judge for leniency, saying he loves the city he led for parts of four decades. “It’s an unfortunate situation,” he said. “I’m sorry it came to all of this. ... I never intended to do anything wrong, your honor.”

As he left the courthouse, Cianci was greeted by dozens of supporters who cheered him wildly as he stepped into a chauffeured car.

“There appear to be two very different Buddy Ciances that have come across here. I’m struck by the parallels of this case and the story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.”

— ERNEST TORRES
U.S. District judge

“I think it’s a bittersweet day for the City of Providence,” said Perry Rosenthal, 35, a cellist with the Rhode Island Philharmonic.

State law required Cianci to leave office after being sentenced, and City Council President John Lombardi was sworn in to serve out the remainder of his term, which expires in January. Voters in Tuesday’s primary will choose the top candidates to succeed Cianci.

Cianci was forced from office once before, in 1984, after pleading no contest to charges he beat his estranged wife’s lover with a lit cigarette, ashtray and fireplace log. He was re-elected in 1991.

At the pinnacle of his power, Cianci was known as the “Mayor of Rhode Island,” a brash bachelor with a high-rolling lifestyle.

In 2001, he was indicted in a four-year FBI investigation called Operation Plunder Dome.

During the trial, prosecutors portrayed Providence as a “city for sale.” The mayor’s attorney countered that his accusers were liars and thieves, and called one key witness “a pig, plain and simple.”

Longtime mayoral aide Frank Corrente was also sentenced Friday, to five years and three months for his role as Cianci’s “bag man.” Politically connected tow-truck operator Richard Autiello awaited sentencing later Friday.

USGS maps show seafloor off L.A. coast

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A newly published U.S. Geological Survey report gives a detailed look at the seafloor off greater Los Angeles, showing submarine canyons carved during the last Ice Age when sea levels were hundreds of feet lower than they are today.

USGS scientists used advanced sonar technology in gathering the data to create the maps, which show in unprecedented detail the complex topography of the seafloor below Santa Monica and San Pedro bays.

The maps show canyon walls scoured by underwater landslides, rocky outcrops that protrude above the seafloor and stretches of flat land that once sat on the Ice

Age coastline but now lie beneath several hundred feet of water.

“People don’t really have an idea of what is offshore where they live — they see a blue ocean. Now, with these maps, they can actually see the ocean floor,” said USGS scientist Peter Darnell, co-author of the report containing the maps.

The USGS has produced similar reports that show Lake Tahoe, Crater Lake and the ocean bottom off Maui. Researchers use the maps to study a region’s geologic history.

The Los Angeles maps include satellite images of the city.

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with the purchase of any beverage during Happy Hour, Monday-Friday. One coupon per guest. Not valid with any other offer. Offer does not include tax or tip. Only valid at Wolfgang Puck Cafe - Montana Avenue location. Expires 10/31/02

3

One FREE Dessert on Jazz Night

during Tuesday Jazz Night hours. No purchase necessary. One coupon per guest. Not valid with any other offer. Offer does not include tax or tip. Only valid at Wolfgang Puck Cafe - Montana Avenue location. Expires 10/29/02

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