

FREE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 262

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Tributes to 9-11



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
Andrew and Terri Leighton hold up an American flag with a peace emblem during a prayer at a rally held in Pacific Palisades Park on Wednesday.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Santa Monica Police Officer Phil Robish leads the riderless horse, "Mr. Cool," down the walkway in front of City Hall Wednesday in front of dozens of local police officers and firemen in memory of the law enforcement officers who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

Santa Monica joins westside coalition

Alliance to tackle regional problems

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica has joined three other westside municipalities to create a coalition of cities that will address regional problems and enable the towns to better compete with Los Angeles for grants and public works projects.

The city council formally committed Santa Monica Tuesday to working within the Coalition of Westside Cities, which also consists of representatives from Beverly Hills, Culver City and West Hollywood.

Officials from all four cities will meet at noon today at the Ken Edwards Center to approve the coalition's bylaws and finalize a mission statement.

Already, each city in the coalition has put forward \$50,000 to complete a regional traffic study to investigate how congestion in the region could be mitigated. The results of the study will be used to apply for transportation improvement projects with the

state, Los Angeles County and the county's Metropolitan Transportation Agency.

"This is long overdue," said Councilwoman Pam O'Connor. "It's taken a long time for these things to happen."

"We all know anecdotally that our westside neighbors have historically relied on our compassionate city to deal with their homeless."

— KEVIN MCKEOWN
Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem

While the coalition is starting its work on traffic problems, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown said he hopes the group will address regional social issues as well.

Specifically, McKeown wants other cities in the region to help Santa Monica cope with the homeless population, a

See COALITION, page 5

Show us your pearly whites

Fluoride coming to city's water soon

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monicans will get a healthy dose of fluoride in their drinking water within a year, city officials said.

Plans are underway to design a water treatment system that will pump fluoride into all of the city's water supply, said city utilities manager Gil Borboa.

"By July 2003, we should be able to flip the switch and start fluoridating," he said, adding that the system will have to be approved by the state of California. "That's kind of the unknown in this process."

The city council in October voted 4-3 to fluoridate the city's water after years of controversy and debate among citizens. Council members Herb Katz, Pam O'Connor, Bob Holbrook and Richard Bloom all voted in favor of the plan. Council members Ken Genser and Kevin McKeown as well as Mayor Mike Feinstein voted against it.

Opponents of the plan say fluoride

poses significant health risks when ingested, and city government shouldn't be forcing those risks onto the public. They also say fluoride is a toxic compound, presents an increased risk of osteoporosis and causes dental fluorosis.

The council first considered the issue in 2000, but the idea was voted down in November of that year by a majority. When the issue was presented again in May of 2001, hundreds of citizens publicly argued for and against such a move. The debate was heated and emotional at times, with people toting reams of documents to council chambers as evidence supporting the benefits and risks of water fluoridation. Opponents are still fighting the city against the plan.

But it appears their efforts will be in vain. Borboa said the city is currently soliciting bids to contract with a consulting firm that will help design a system that will be built at the Arcadia Well, located on Bundy Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard.

It will cost an estimated \$365,000 to design and build the system, which will be paid for by the state. The city will be responsible for operating the system, which

See FLUORIDE, page 5

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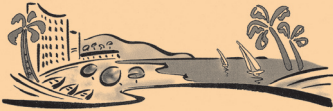
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Bitch!

Whine!

Complain!

Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

The Q Line

HOROSCOPE

Spend time with your family, Taurus



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)

★★★★★ Let your mind soar, and your spirit will give you the courage to follow. Review matters carefully. You might need to intercede in order to help a child or loved one. Your creativity flourishes. Don't take another's stance personally — OK? Tonight: Make calls and weekend plans.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Deal with people directly, asking for more information. You find that although a child or loved one could be testy, you get a new perspective because of what others choose to share. You're coming from a place of understanding. Tonight: Spend time with family.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your temper pushes you to sometimes do things that you would prefer not to. Choose your words and reach out to those around you. Humor helps you relax with those close to you and those in your daily life. Return calls. Tonight: Use care with others, especially if you're angry!



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Dig into work, avoiding personal calls or anything else that might be distracting. You accomplish a lot. Whether up for a bonus or receiving overtime, you make this day pay off. Pressure builds from a multitude of personal demands. Tonight: Run errands and make visits. Let your social nature emerge.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for people who make a difference to you, whether creatively or emotionally. You could be frustrated by dealing with the same old information. Express your bountiful and happy personality. You get many yeses as a result. Tonight: Play the night away.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Curb your temper before you have a problem. Be smart and distance yourself emotionally from this situation. You'll do well if you concentrate on one matter at a time. Use your instincts and follow-through. Build stronger foundations. Tonight: Anchor in at home. Do something you love.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might be irritated. Conjure up that unusually diplomatic, charming style, and you'll be heading toward the victory circle before you know it! Meetings, groups of people and friends play a significant role in your decisions. Don't get caught up in another's story. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Friends and associates might push you in a certain direction. Know when to say no, especially when your finances might be implicated. Listen to a boss or parent who obviously has a lot more knowledge than many. Stay on top of work. Tonight: Treat yourself for a change.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You're personality plus. Where you found resistance this week, you might not any longer. Your ability to grasp a situation helps you jump right over a snafu. Pat yourself on the back. Be careful not to antagonize a friend. Tonight: The world is your oyster.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Listen to someone at a distance. Read between the lines with a partner. This person really means well. Meanwhile, seek out experts. Consider other ways to get to the same result. Your perky manner makes all the difference. Tonight: Vanish quickly.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Aim for what you want. Meetings prove to be instrumental. Realize your desires through your own energy. Be determined about what is happening. A partner could be testy or difficult. Think through a decision. Tonight: Where the crowds are.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Though many could test your patience, you will get comfort from one special person. Listen well to others you care about, but realize someone might make a judgment that might not be justified. Observe and watch more carefully. Tonight: Be with the one you love.

QUOTE of the DAY

“It is easier to be gigantic than to be beautiful.”
 — Nietzsche (1844-1900)

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LOCAL



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
(Left to right) Environmental and Public Works Director Craig Perkins, Solid Waste Operations Manager Joe Delaney and Deputy City Attorney Joe Lawrence check out a row of possible new recycling containers in front of City Hall on Tuesday.

City council may expand recycling bin program

By Daily Press staff

A pilot program that allows some residents to throw all of their recycling trash into one bin may be expanded by the city council.

Residents and elected officials got a glimpse of what the new recycling bins would look like at Tuesday's city council meeting. A row of possible containers were displayed along a sidewalk in front of City Hall.

Instead of sorting newspapers, glass and aluminum into separate bins, residents would be allowed to throw everything into the same container for pick-up.

The pilot program has been in place for roughly two years in some neighborhoods north of Montana Avenue, and those between Wilshire Boulevard and Montana Avenue and in areas between Pico and Ocean Park boulevards.

Council approval is needed before the program can be expanded to neighborhoods between Lincoln Boulevard and Centinela Avenue and between Colorado Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard. Other areas include 20th Street to Lincoln Boulevard and between Pico Boulevard and the Santa Monica Freeway.

Officials with the city's Environment and Public Works Department want to eventually expand the program citywide.



Our big southwest swell remains on the decline, losing more size today. Expect fun, inconsistent waist- to chest-high surf at most northern locations. South bay breaks will look smaller on the average.

Friday the 13th means bad luck, further decreasing swell conditions and smaller size. We should see an increase in wind swell in the south bay to accompany knee- to waist-high surf.

Today's Tides:		
High-	2:21 a.m.	3.74'
Low-	7:20 a.m.	2.27'
High-	1:57 p.m.	5.52'
Low-	9:34 p.m.	0.70'

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

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The Q Line

While most California residents are cognizant of their health, the rest of Americans are getting fatter by the day. It has recently been reported that nearly 60 percent of the country's population is obese. The culprit? Fast food, says Cesar Barber who has sued McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Burger King for selling products to the public that they know are damaging to a person's health. The suit is much like the ones against the tobacco industry, which has been hung out to dry for knowingly selling damaging products to the public.

The local school district just recently approved year-long contracts to Papa

Johns Pizza, McDonalds, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut so they can sell their fat-laden food to high school students. School administrators said if they don't offer it, kids will just walk down the street and buy it anyway, which would leave the district cash strapped.

So this week Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think fast food should be sold at our local schools? Why or why not?"

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

City needs to pay attention to its own backyard

Editor:

I write this letter as a voice of concern regarding the condition and situation of the Third Street Promenade. I have concerns not just as a merchant, but also as a citizen of this community.

First of all, as we all already know, we have to deal with the issue of unacceptable, anti-social behavior by this young group of people, especially on the 1300 block of Third Street. I want to underline that homelessness is not the issue, but the behavior by this group of young people is the issue. This group of young people are engaged in drugs, smoke marijuana, fight, aggressively panhandle tourists and locals alike. I personally have seen all of those activities before my own eyes. The Bayside District Corporation has already taken steps, having their task force to tackle this issue, and we are all still waiting for the results. As merchants, certainly we feel that the city has long neglected this on-going issue. How much longer do we have to wait for the city to take action, to rebuild the tarnished image of downtown Santa Monica in general, and specifically the Third Street Promenade?

Does the city need a wake up call? Do we have to wait for a wake up call similar to the Westwood incident a few years back that really deterred and scared people to go to downtown Santa Monica and the Third Street Promenade?

How much longer do us, the merchants, expect to wait for a helping hand from the City of Santa Monica?

As for right now, people already are deterred to go to downtown Santa Monica after the completion of the Transit Mall. Why would people want to go to downtown Santa Monica to shop if the City of Santa Monica makes it a hassle for them to come here? Five long blocks of Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway is only one lane each, making the traffic always jammed on the weekends. Sure it looks nice with wider sidewalks, nice looking bus stops, etc., but what is the whole point to make the place nice if people find it difficult to come to downtown and difficult to find parking space? If the reason behind the narrow streets, one lane only in Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway, is to discourage people to come here by their own cars and encourage them to take public transportation, let me ask you all these questions, do you take the bus to your office in City Hall? Does your wife/husband take the bus with your kids to shop or go see a movie in downtown Santa Monica? If you don't, and if your spouse doesn't, then you can expect other people doing the same thing you do. The Transit Mall is a success to make downtown Santa Monica look beautiful, but it has a negative effect on businesses because less people are willing to come shopping here, and have to go through the hassle of traffic and parking in downtown Santa Monica.

In addition to the existing problem, now more and more problems have arisen. The growing numbers of street performers on the Third Street Promenade slowly are adding to the problems we already have. These street performers continuously violate the Santa Monica City Code Section 6.116.30 Noise Ordinance, and they also fight against each other for a performance space. A specific incident happened and raised concern for me.

On Sept. 2, I went to have dinner at Yangtze restaurant at 8:30 p.m. As I was having dinner with my boss, there was a singer on the center stage area on the 1300 block, between the two dinosaur figures. As we both noticed, there was another performer, who had been waiting to perform. At around 10:15 p.m., the second performer started performing his talent (singing), as we both were having dinner and conversation while listening to the second performer. All of the sudden he heard very loud music coming from the speaker of the first singer who had moved in front of George's restaurant. All of the customers in Yangtze started to mumble about this particular singer because the noise level was so high. As all of this happened, the second singer stopped singing immediately because his singing can't be heard by the audience. I personally could not take this overly loud music from the first singer, so I decided to go over and ask him nicely to turn his speaker volume down. Surprisingly this is what I get as a response from him, "I will not turn it down, there's no police, what are you going to do, I need to make my money." Because of that response, I called the non-emergency police dispatch, and approximately after waiting for about 15 to

20 minutes a police officer came. At that time the first singer had already left. Surprisingly enough, when we need a police officer, we cannot get a quick response, and on the other hand we as merchants who pay the taxes to the city, enrich the downtown shopping area, often enough get unfriendly treatment by the local police officers.

To me personally, the concern is if these street performers can do their performances on the Third Street Promenade from Sunday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. the following day (SMCC Section 6.112.050 (a) (1) and (2)), then where is the task force who is responsible to enforce this noise ordinance? The task force needs and must be in the area while performers are in the area. If the task force can only be in the area until 7 p.m. everyday, then what is the whole point to have a noise ordinance, and what is the whole point to have a task force if the task force cannot be the enforcing the ordinance?

I think the time is now for the elected officials of Santa Monica to act for the betterment of the City of Santa Monica. Give the chief of police more resources so he can do his job, and don't tie his hands with shortage of police officers because the city made them work overtime controlling the traffic that is getting worse after the completion of the Transit Mall.

Theodorus Hendrani

Santa Monica

(This letter was originally addressed to the Santa Monica City Council.)

Look at motivations behind living wage law

Editor:

During her entire time promoting the living wage, Vivian Rothstein always identified herself as a local activist and leader of Santa Monicans Allied for Responsible Tourism, hiding the fact that she was a paid union organizer. It was only after my disclosure that she confirmed being a member of H.E.R.E. Obviously, being paid \$65,000 per annum by out of town interests may not have lent too much credibility to her cause or made for good public relations.

Her devotion to improve the lives of thousands of workers in Santa Monica hotels is specifically targeted to only those who work in a very specific geographic location in businesses with specific revenue criteria, in short, all those hotels she is being paid to unionize. So far, she has not had too much success convincing these employees that she really has their best interests in mind. Ms. Rothstein, her union and SMART supporters defend and promote a living wage ordinance and urge voters to do likewise. Why then, Ms. Rothstein, are the workers of your union specifically excluded from any passage of a living wage ordinance? Generating union dues and fattening union coffers is the bottom line of the business you represent. Too bad if the employees get shortchanged in accomplishing that objective.

For the benefit of the voters, here is paragraph 7 in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the two Santa Monica union hotels and Local 814:

"7. Preemption and Coordination

(a) Intent of the Parties. The wages and economic benefits provided to Hotel employees pursuant to this Agreement were agreed upon by the parties as the result of collective bargaining pursuant to and in full compliance with federal law. It is therefore the intention and understanding of the parties that no ordinance, regulation or similar pronouncement by the City of Santa Monica may be interpreted to require an increase in or modification of the wages or economic benefits for the covered classifications set forth in Appendix A. Local 814 specifically agrees that it will not use or attempt to use such an ordinance, regulation or similar pronouncement of the City of Santa Monica as the basis of any legal or public argument that wages and/or economic benefits set forth herein should be increased."

Ms. Rothstein states in her letter that she feels a responsibility to correct an unjust situation. She obviously now should know where to start!

Klaus Mennekes

Hotel Casa del Mar

General manager and vice president

Santa Monica

Farook inventor winning in the court of public opinion



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

An ancient Chinese proverb states: "Least said soonest mended." In the case of a defiant street performer, Santa Monica officials have taken that saying to heart.

He who shouts loudest is usually the one who gets heard. This is increasingly true today, in an age when cable news anchors debate the day's issues in a manner more reminiscent of a Jerry Springer-dwarf, she/male argument than a topical give-and-take involving Ted Koppel and David Brinkley. But when only one side is doing all the talking, the argument wouldn't seem to be much of a face-off at all.

And so the fabled "Farook" case contin-

ues, with an area game inventor and retailer, Stewart Lamle, continuing to set up shop on the Third Street Promenade, all the while amassing fines in excess of \$16,000 and jail time amounting to eight years. City officials, including Santa Monica Deputy City Attorney Linda A. Mills, have been eerily quiet as to the reasoning behind their targeting of Lamle, who admittedly hawks his invented board game without a business permit. He claims the city refuses to grant him one.

The city responds ...

Lamle and his attorney have inquired as to what law on the current books would preclude him from selling and playing his game under the guise of a "street performer" along the Promenade.

The city retorts ...

Lamle and his lawyer claim the city is snarling from Lamle's beating the rap on 34 previous citations issued him by Santa Monica police officers.

The city counters with

Sometimes silence can be deafening.

City officials need to get their ducks in a row and either let Lamle off the hook or find a reason to finally book "Farook." Lamle's attorney, Paul Mills, claims "the reason they are having trouble answering ... is because no such municipal code exists." And it's hard to argue with that logic when that's the only logic being batted about.

Meanwhile, Lamle can operate his business on the Promenade — license free — until at least Sept. 20, when he is due to appear again in Santa Monica Superior Court. The original trial date was postponed after the city's legal team requested a postponement as they attempt to answer questions asked by Lamle and Mills. Namely, on what grounds is the city denying the inventor and entrepreneur a license?

And the city claims ...

As the city regroups and discusses how to save face on this one, Lamle is getting all the free publicity an entrepreneur could hope for, with his name and Chinese checker-like game getting print on a consistent basis. As the saying goes, "There's no such

thing as bad press." Ask basketball star Allen Iverson, whose jersey sales continue to soar after an arrest on weapons charges, or actor Robert Downey Jr., who picks up Emmys and Golden Globes between rehab stints. Unwittingly, it seems the city has done Lamle a huge favor, putting his name and product on the front pages, not quite the desired effect if they are indeed "picking on" Lamle like his lawyer suggests.

The problem seems to be that there is nothing in the law's wording to preclude an inventor from playing his invention and selling his product under the guise of "street performer," a broad description to be sure. But the city needs to present its case soon. If not to the court, then to the public because Lamle and company are doing all the talking here, and, therefore, winning the trial of public opinion.

Nothing said nothing mended.

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

LOCAL



Coalition may address regional homelessness

COALITION, from page 1

proposition other westside cities have been hesitant to consider. But McKeown said homeless persons throughout the region are attracted to Santa Monica and other beach communities, which are then forced to carry the burden of providing services to those individuals.

"We all know anecdotally that our westside neighbors have historically relied on our compassionate city to deal with their homeless," McKeown said.

"As we enter into a council of governments, I have to speak out on behalf of our residents and make sure we go into this with a clear and reasonable expectation that shared social services and solutions to homelessness are on our agenda."

At the organization's founding meeting on Aug. 8 in Beverly Hills, McKeown asked that the group's mission statement contain a phrase about distributing the social services burden among the cities to address the regional homeless problem, but work on the mission statement was tabled by officials from other cities.

McKeown said if the opportunity arises today, he will again attempt to introduce sharing social services into the coalition's mission statement. But at the same time, McKeown said, he does not want to jeopardize the coalition's creation.

"I think this is a very appropriate addition to our mission statement," the councilman said. "I don't believe it isn't something that doesn't belong."

"But I don't want to prevent the creation of an organization that can help our residents," he added.

Carol Gross, the mayor of Culver City, said she did not believe homeless social services had been an issue at the Aug. 8 meeting, but she believed it would likely be a topic the group would eventually take up.

"Certainly it's an issue we all struggle with," she said. "Certainly Santa Monica has greater numbers, but we have difficulties as well."

"It wouldn't surprise me that it would be something the group would talk about, but that hasn't been the focus," she added.

For nearly a decade, the cities have worked together under an informal relationship. Representatives would meet and tell elected officials at the federal, state or county level what they had reached a consensus on.

Forming a formal coalition did not seem necessary until other cities in the region became successful by banding together.

"The rest of the world recognizes a cog as a much more formal force than the informal meetings we would have," Gross said. "We can have a stronger base from which to deal with other entities."

Every city in the coalition has similar issues regarding traffic, state funding and clean water. And each city deals with sharing borders with Los Angeles, which is like trying to tackle an 800-pound gorilla, Gross said.

And while the cities will still compete against each other to attract business, and they will continue to put the interests of their residents first, the common problems will outweigh any differences, officials said.

"We have more in common than differences," Gross said, "and our differences are superficial."

L.A. utilities manager thinks city did right thing

FLUORIDE, from page 1

is estimated to cost \$35,000 annually.

Fluoride, a naturally occurring substance, already exists in Santa Monica. Officials estimate that Santa Monica's water supply has a fluoride level of between .2 and .4 parts per million. The plan is to increase that to .8 parts per million, Borboa said.

"That's what has been determined as the appropriate level for this region by the Federal government, or the Center for Disease Control," he said. "It's adding a nutrient for a public health benefit."

Santa Monica will join thousands of other cities around the country in fluoridating their water with the goal of preventing tooth decay. Fluoride is distributed throughout the body by the blood stream and is deposited in bones and hard tissues like teeth.

Grand Rapids, Mich., became the first city in the nation to fluoridate its water in 1945. Since then, the CDC reports that more than 10,000 public water systems and about 70 percent of U.S. cities with populations larger than 100,000 have fluoridated water systems.

The City of Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Diego are currently fluoridating their water. But not all California cities approve of fluoridation. In March of 1999, Santa Cruz voters shot down fluoridation in a local ballot measure and the

city councils in Escondido and Santa Barbara also rejected such a move.

"Santa Monica did the right thing, although it was painful at times ... I was there in council chambers until 2 a.m."

— DAVID HEUMANN
L.A. Water and Power engineer

Santa Monica will become the fifth city in Los Angeles County to be fluoridated, according to David Heumann, an engineer for L.A. Water and Power. Pico Rivera just turned its fluoridation on for the first time Tuesday. Long Beach and Beverly Hills also has fluoridated water.

Heumann was part of the debate last fall when the city council decided to fluoridate. He agrees with the thousands of residents and experts who say fluoride in the water is a public health benefit, particularly for children under 6 years old.

"There is a lot of talk out there about it, but there are only 15 percent who are against it that are vocal," he said. "Santa Monica did the right thing, although it was painful at times. I saw it. I was there in council chambers until 2 a.m."

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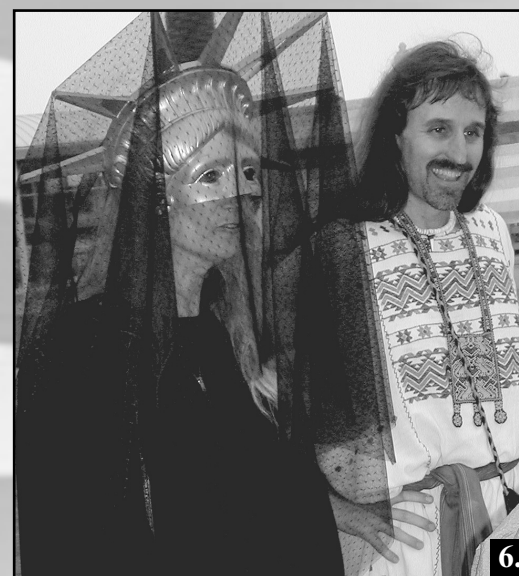
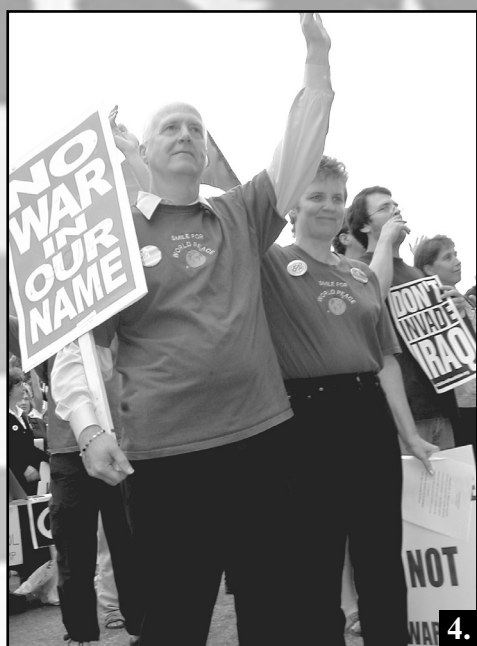
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LOCAL

Santa Monica remembers 9-11



Pacific Palisades Park Peace Rally — Photos by Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press 1. Ericka Verba holds David Cesar, 2, while an activist urges against responding to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks with acts of war. The event was part of a peace rally held Wednesday in Pacific Palisades Park to commemorate the anniversary of Sept. 11. It honored those lost in the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and protested the idea of invading Iraq and stationing American troops in Afghanistan. 2. Anita Montero Campion, right, and Rosa Isnerio lead hundreds in a prayer for peace. 3. A couple listens as Jon Sherman plays a melody on a "lacola" cedar flute. 4. Joe Bloomer and Jane Kikendall wave signs at the peace rally. 5. Two strangers help each other light their candles. 6. Sally Marr dresses as the Statue of Liberty in mourning as a symbol of the grief the nation is going through. Peter Dudar stands to her right.

9-11 Memorial Ceremony at City Hall — Photos by Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press 7. Santa Monica Fire Chief Ettore Berardinelli (right) stands in silence as Deputy Fire Chief Bill Kolberg rings the bell outside City Hall on Wednesday in honor and memory of their fallen comrades in New York City. 8. Santa Monica firefighters stand at attention during the ceremony. 9. (From left to right) Cattie Adams, city employee Betty Macias and Leslie O. Smith sing a heartfelt "Bridge Over Troubled Water." 10. Santa Monica City Manager Susan McCarthy and Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. address the crowd. 11. Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown listens as Alex MacGillivray plays the bagpipes.

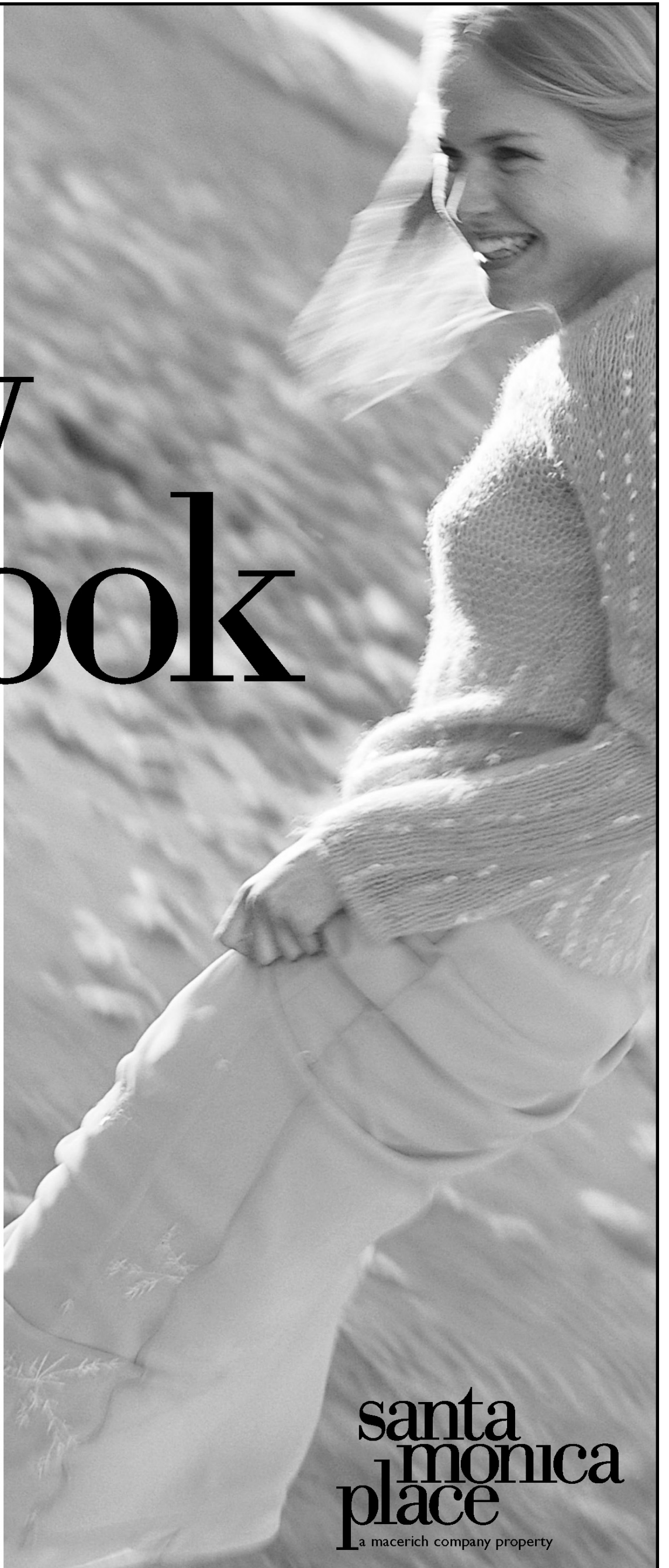
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STATE

Relationship with agency examined by lawmakers

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — City and county leaders distanced themselves from a film permit agency now under criminal investigation and ordered staff members to examine government's relationship with the quasi-public corporation.

Although the mayor, City Council members and county supervisors sit on its board, the embattled Entertainment Industry Development Corp. "is not a governmental agency," Councilman Nick Pacheco argued Tuesday.

"They contract with the city," he said. "We just need to make clear what the relationship is."

The EIDC came under fire last week when prosecutors said in court papers that it made \$50,000 in direct payments to the personal credit card of its president, Cody Cluff.

The agency also spent tens of thousands of dollars on trips to Utah and other film festival locations, and contributed nearly \$200,000 to politicians, including more than a dozen who sat on its board, documents show.

Attorney Tom Brown, who represents Cluff, has said his client has cooperated with investigators and done nothing wrong. Brown would not address any specific allegations.

Formed in 1995, the nonprofit agency coordinates permits to film in the city and county, collects fees for government and keeps a portion for its own budget.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley has launched an investigation of EIDC expenses, searching the offices and home of its president.

EIDC officials have argued that they must wine and dine Hollywood big-shots to promote the county as a filming location at a time when productions are leaving California.

On Tuesday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors also ordered a full report on the EIDC.

"If the agency wants to spend money lavishly, and if that's how it's done in Hollywood, they ought to do it with Hollywood dollars," Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said. "These are public funds, and they shouldn't be paying for it."

EIDC attorney George Newhouse said the money was not public.

The agency paid the city \$3.9 million and the county \$690,425 in fees it collected in the 2000-2001 fiscal year, said Morrie Goldman, a spokesman for the EIDC, which coordinates about 150 on-location film shoots daily in the Los Angeles area.

"We can account for every penny that is due the city and county," Goldman said.

Meanwhile, several lawmakers said they had little real connection to the EIDC, despite their positions on its board.

"I discovered in the news that I'm a member," Councilman Dennis Zine said.

"I attended one meeting four years ago," Yaroslavsky said.

Council invites pot users to distribute weed at City Hall

BY MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SANTA CRUZ — City leaders plan to join medical marijuana users at a pot giveaway at City Hall next week. Their goal is to send a message to federal authorities that, in this town, medical marijuana is welcome.

The invitation comes one week after agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency arrested the high-profile owners of a pot farm and confiscated 130 plants that had been grown to be used as medicine.

"It's just absolutely loathsome to me that federal money, energy and staff time would be used to harass people like this," said vice mayor Emily Reilly, who with several colleagues on the City Council plans to help pass out medical marijuana to sick people from the garden-like courtyard at City Hall next Tuesday.

City Attorney John Barisone said that although the City Council did pass a resolution denouncing the raid, there is no official city sponsorship of the event, but that council members and medical marijuana advocates are acting on their own accord in a public space.

DEA spokesman Richard Meyer was surprised at the plan.

"Are you serious? That's illegal. It's like they're flouting federal law," he said. "I'm shocked that city leaders would promote the use of marijuana that way. What is that saying to our youth?"

On Thursday, federal agents — acting without support from state and local law enforcement — raided a small pot farm located on a quiet coastal road about 55

miles south of San Francisco, arresting the owners — Valerie and Michael Corral.

The couple, leading activists for medical marijuana, have not been indicted. Their attorney, Ben Rice, said he was informed by the DEA that the U.S. attorney has declined to prosecute the case. A spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office said she could not comment on the case, and DEA spokesman Meyer said his agency isn't involved in decisions on whether to prosecute.

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.

"The DEA has gone too far with these cruel and utterly pointless actions," said Robert Kampia, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Marijuana Policy Project. "The courage of the Santa Cruz City Council and the growing anger in Congress are signs of a genuine grassroots rebellion all across this country that will put an end to these attacks on the sick and vulnerable."

NATIONAL

Passengers prompt pilot to abort Vegas bound flight

BY JENNY MARBERRY

Associated Press Writer

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Three of four passengers whose behavior prompted a pilot to abort his Vegas-bound flight to an Arkansas airport will be charged with interfering with a flight crew, a federal prosecutor said.

Northwest Airlines Flight 979, from Memphis, Tenn., resumed the trip to Las Vegas on Wednesday afternoon, hours

after diverting to Fort Smith with 94 passengers and a crew of five that reported trouble with the four passengers, U.S. Attorney Tom Gean said.

The plane, an Airbus A320, was due to arrive in Las Vegas at 4:52 p.m.

Investigators had been worried that one of the men had taken a bomb aboard the plane. Officials blew open a cardboard box that belonged to one of the men. Nothing extraordinary was found.

Federal officials speaking on a condition of anonymity said the incident was not believed to be related to terrorism.

Gean said the three men were arrested and would face arraignment on flight-crew interference charges Thursday afternoon or Friday.

He did not release the men's names or their nationalities or say whether they were U.S. citizens. They were being held at the Sebastian County Jail, Gean said.

He said two of the men arrested were of Middle Eastern descent and were traveling together. A third Middle Eastern man was arrested, and another man, of Hispanic descent, was released due to lack of evidence.

Interfering with a flight crew is a crime punishable by up to 20 years in prison, Gean said.

"The suspicious activity began prior to the flight ever leaving Memphis" and continued on the plane, Gean said. The pilot decided to land at Fort Smith after the men refused to obey the flight crew's orders.

"Unable to satisfactorily resolve the situation in-flight, the crew elected to divert to Fort Smith as a precaution," the airline said in a statement.

Two of the men had shaved on the flight, raising concerns, Gean said.

After last year's terror attacks, documents taken from the luggage of terrorist

leader Mohamed Atta gave what appeared to be instructions for the suicide hijackers: "The previous night, shave the extra hair from the body (and) pray."

Fighter jets were not launched to accompany the aircraft, said Maj. Douglas Martin of the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The airline said the men had boarded at Minneapolis and made a connection to Flight 979 at Memphis. Both are Northwest Airlines hubs.

The Bush administration had raised the nation's terror alert warning to its second-highest level Tuesday — code orange — signaling a "high risk" of attack with the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks at hand.

No other air traffic in the area was affected, said Dave Steigman, a spokesman for the Transportation Security Agency.

A day of mourning



Eric Gay/Associated Press

A mourner holds a flower near the east retaining wall at the site of the World Trade Center Wednesday in New York City, on the one year anniversary of the attacks that leveled the towers.

FDA orders maker of Botox to pull 'misleading' ads; firm refuses

By The Associated Press

IRVINE — The maker of Botox, the wrinkle-smoothing botulinum toxin, is refusing a demand by the Food and Drug Administration to pull ads the agency says are misleading.

Allergan Inc. reacted angrily Monday to the FDA's order to "immediately cease distribution" of advertisements and brochures.

The FDA said the company's multi-million dollar ad campaign does not specify the particular wrinkles Botox is approved to treat, in violation of federal law.

The agency also said the Botox brochure misleads patients about the

duration of a wrinkle-reducing injection, which is usually about four months. The Allergan Web site for physicians also led to confusion on dilution of the Botox solution, said Mary Malarkey, director of case management for the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Allergan said it will not pull the advertisements or the brochure.

"We strongly disagree on all points," said Allergan spokeswoman Christine Cassiano, adding that the company "worked diligently" with the agency to produce accurate materials about Botox Cosmetic.

Cassiano said the FDA has never previously indicated there was a problem.

The company has 10 days to provide a written response to the FDA demand, which is one step short of a federal warning in which the FDA outlines enforcement action to the Justice Department.

Botulinum toxin type A, or Botox, was approved by the FDA this year for use on a specific wrinkle that develops between the eyebrows and the forehead.

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briefs

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MTA Localizes Operations

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NATIONAL

Bush strategists weigh deadline for renewed weapons inspections

BY BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

NEW YORK — President Bush is ready to make a fresh call on Iraq to admit weapons inspectors while his strategists consider setting a deadline with serious consequences if the appeal is rejected, even as old allies withhold support.

The implicit warning of U.S. military action to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would be in a U.N. Security Council resolution by Britain that would have to avert a veto by Russia, China or France to pass.

The president will make his case against Iraq at the United Nations on Thursday, urging the nations of the world to compel Saddam to admit weapons inspectors and to disarm.

A senior U.S. official said he is "going to make clear that the current regime in Iraq is an outlaw regime, that it has defied U.N. resolutions for 11 years now."

Trying to spur the United Nations to action, Bush intends to tell the 190 nations that Saddam's "outlaw regime" is challenging the world organization with its defiance of a string of resolutions, the official said.

Condoleezza Rice, Bush's national security adviser, put the case graphically on Sunday. With Iraq building up an arsenal of nuclear and other destructive weapons "we don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud."

Bush contends he does not need new legal authority to use force to overthrow Saddam. The White House cites U.N. resolutions dating from 1990-91 Persian Gulf war that reversed Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

But with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder dismissing action against Iraq as an "adventure," and only Britain solidly in the U.S. camp, Bush's policy could stand a boost even though the president is prepared to act unilaterally, if need be.

Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres said Bush had told him he would do what he must, even if alone. Peres said he told Bush: "Mr. President, if you act you won't be alone."

"Everyone at heart understands that this is a brutal man, who will be a danger to the whole world if he has nuclear, chemical or biological weapons in his hands," Peres said.

British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said in dealing with Iraq, diplomacy should and will come first. Hoon met with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld at the Pentagon Wednesday.

"But when dealing with dictators, diplomacy must be backed up by the certain knowledge in the dictator's mind that behind the diplomacy lies the real threat of force being used," he said in a speech at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

"So our message to Saddam is plain: no more conditions, no more games, no more prevaricating, no more undermining the U.N.'s authority."

He said Saddam was in breach of at least 23 U.N. obligations and was doing all he could to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

Bush administration officials are trying

to muster support for military action against Iraq in Congress with mixed results.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., in a speech to the Philadelphia World Affairs Council, said he did not think time had run out for diplomacy.

Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, said worst option would be for the United States to move against Iraq alone.

Several prominent House Democrats questioned whether the White House's urgency to oust Saddam was politically motivated at a time when the midterm elections in November likely will determine control of Congress.

"Obviously, we all support a regime change. The question is how do we get it done, at what cost."

— HILLARY CLINTON
New York Senator

"I don't like to say this is a political issue, that he's trying to distract the public from what's going on (domestically), because it's so serious that I hope it isn't," said Rep. John P. Murtha, D-Pa., the ranking member of the House Appropriations Defense subcommittee.

Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., planned to depart for Iraq on Wednesday to inquire about the possibility of U.S. negotiations with that country to head off American military action.

Rahall said that he supported the intervention of the American-led coalition that liberated Kuwait from Iraqi control 11 years ago. But this time, he said, "I have a lot of unanswered questions."

And Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., was skeptical of using force.

"Obviously, we all support a regime change," she said on Fox-TV. "The question is how do we get it done, at what cost. And by costs I'm not talking financially — I'm talking about unintended consequences, lives, people being thrown into turmoil in other parts of the world." Any plan to oust Saddam must not require the United States to act alone, many lawmakers say.

Under the agreement that ended the Gulf war and several U.N. Security Council resolutions, Iraq is forbidden to develop weapons of mass destruction and under orders to allow any already in its arsenal to be destroyed.

"I believe this is an international problem, and that we must work together to deal with the problem," Bush said during an appearance Tuesday at the Afghan Embassy.

Bush linked his goal of toppling Saddam to the war on terror he began after the Sept. 11 attacks a year ago.

"I'm deeply concerned about a leader who has ignored the United Nations for all these years, refused to conform to resolution after resolution after resolution, who has weapons of mass destruction," Bush said.

INTERNATIONAL



Report: Oil prices to spike if OPEC doesn't raise output

BY BRUCE STANLEY
AP Business Writer

LONDON — Higher, more volatile oil prices will loom this winter if OPEC refuses to boost crude production as major importing countries head into the peak heating oil season, an industry report warned Wednesday.

A decrease last month in crude exports from Iraq has squeezed supplies and contributed to a dwindling of U.S. inventories. Global demand, meanwhile, is forecast to rise by a robust 1.6 million barrels a day in the fourth quarter, the International Energy Agency said in its monthly oil market report.

Markets now face a challenge similar to that in 1999, when a plunge in oil inventories paved the way for a spike in prices and extreme instability, it said.

"Today's situation is every bit as precarious, given the fragile state of the global economy and the threat of military action against Iraq," the agency said in an unusually pointed message.

However, some respected industry analysts argued that the IEA has overstated this danger.

"We think it's exaggerated," said Leo Drollas, chief economist for the Center for Global Energy Studies. He suggested that the IEA might have "some kind of political agenda" for making such a sharp warning.

The Paris-based IEA is the energy watchdog agency for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a grouping of rich, oil-importing nations. It is, in effect, a consumer organization.

"So they're sending a message saying, 'We need more oil just in case,'" said Lawrence Eagles, head of commodity research for London brokerage GNI Ltd.

World oil production slipped to 76.1 million barrels in August, down 580,000 barrels a day from July. At the same time, the IEA raised its estimate of demand growth for the third quarter by 220,000 barrels a day to 76.5 million barrels. Global demand would swell to 78.1 million barrels a day in the fourth quarter, it said.

The United States, the IEA's most powerful member and the world's biggest importer of oil, is seen to be leaning on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to boost production when its members meet in Osaka, Japan, on Sept. 19. Washington hopes an increase will help steady energy markets if it goes to war against Iraq.

Traders' concerns about the impact a U.S.-led war against OPEC-member Iraq might have on Middle East oil supplies have already inflated the price of oil. By most estimates, this "war premium" had added \$2-4 to the price of each barrel.

Last month, the price of U.S. light, sweet crude burst through the psychologically important barrier of \$30 a barrel for the first time since February 2001. A decrease in Iraqi exports of 270,000 barrels a day contributed to this upward pressure on prices. So did a 510,000 barrel cut in daily production from the North Sea, due to seasonal maintenance of oil rigs there, the report said.

Average monthly oil prices have risen

steadily from December to August, by 47 percent in New York and 43 percent in London, according to IEA data. The increase has been a boon for OPEC.

Yet the United States and other importers fear that costlier oil could stifle their fragile economic recovery and are calling for OPEC to boost its production when its oil ministers meet later this month.

Excluding Iraq, OPEC was producing 1.69 million barrels a day above its own quota in August, the IEA said.

A source at OPEC headquarters in Vienna suggested that the cartel, which pumps about a third of the world's crude, will probably postpone a decision to increase its official output until it meets again after Osaka, most likely in November. The source spoke on condition of anonymity.

The price for October contracts of light, sweet crude breached \$30 again on Tuesday, before closing at \$29.73 a barrel. October crude was trading 2 cents higher at \$29.75 late Wednesday in New York.

Despite heightened threats, world remembers terror attack

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — From a dusty embassy compound in Afghanistan to London's cathedrals and mosques, millions around the world gathered Wednesday to remember those who died in the Sept. 11 attacks and to offer prayers for peace and tolerance.

At London's St. Paul's Cathedral, 3,000 white rose petals fluttered down from the dome — one for each victim who died last Sept. 11.

A cellist played a Bach suite and the congregation of 2,000 remained silent as the petals fell. Moments earlier, they joined people across Britain and around the world in observing a moment of silence at 1:46 p.m., the time in London at the moment the first hijacked jet struck the World Trade Center last year.

Religious leaders of all stripes condemned the attacks. "No situation of hurt, no philosophy or religion can ever justify such a grave offense on human life and dignity," Pope John Paul II said at his weekly audience at the Vatican.

At London Central Mosque, Muslim leaders offered Quranic prayers for peace, justice and tolerance.

Around the world, it was a day of simple, heartfelt gestures. In Sydney, Australia, thousands of motorists turned on their headlights at 8:46 a.m. as a mark of respect for those who died.

Cities around the globe paused for moments of silence, while candles were lighted and flowers laid outside U.S. embassies from Copenhagen to Moscow to Manila.

In Paris, two powerful beams of light were projected into the sky Tuesday to honor the memory of the victims — a project to be repeated Wednesday night.

Beginning with choirs in New Zealand and Japan, 180 singing groups in 20 time zones began a "Rolling Requiem," singing Mozart's masterpiece.

U.S. researchers at the South Pole also played the music at their isolated base.

Political leaders expressed their sorrow and solidarity. "France knows what it owes America," French President Jacques Chirac told a ceremony at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Paris. "The French people stand with all their hearts at the side of the American people."

Russian President Vladimir Putin phoned President Bush to express his condolences.

"In Russia, they say that time cures, but we cannot forget. We must not forget," Putin said, according to portions of the conversation released on Russian television.

European Union leaders expressed their sorrow at the attacks and said they would stand "side by side" with the United States.

"The European Union will not slacken its resolve to contribute to the international community's fight against terrorism," leaders of the 15 EU nations said in a statement.

In Afghanistan, a country battered and transformed by the events of Sept. 11, soldiers and diplomats unveiled the site where a piece of the World Trade Center was



Ed Wray/Associated Press

Four U.S. soldiers at Kandahar Airbase hold torches symbolizing the four planes used in last year's Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. Wednesday outside Kandahar, Afghanistan. Soldiers at bases around Afghanistan said that the memories of last year's attacks gives them a renewed sense of purpose.

buried under the flagpole at the U.S. Embassy, as a bugler played taps and the Stars and Stripes was lowered to half staff.

A steel-gray marble headstone marked the resting place of the remains brought from the ruined towers by a Marine from New York. Inscribed on it: "We serve because they cannot."

"My fear is that people will start to take things for granted, forget about it. 'That some kind of amnesia starts to set in,'" said Lt. Kyle Aldrich, a 27-year-old New Yorker who had worked on Wall Street and joined the Marines after losing friends in the attacks.

Protesters gathered, too. In Bangkok, about 70 people including Thai monks and children held a peaceful protest outside the U.S. Embassy against U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and a possible attack on Iraq.

In the Philippine capital, Manila, supporters and opponents of the U.S. global war on terror held separate rallies to express sympathy for victims of last year's terrorist attacks.

And not all saw the day as a time to mourn.

In Iraq, the state-owned Al-Iktisadi newspaper covered its front page Wednesday with a photograph of a burning World Trade Center Tower and a two-word headline in red: "God's punishment."

"Events like Sept. 11 are sad but it is an opportunity for the American people to feel what bombing could do to nations," said Ali Ahmed, a 47-year-old who owns a Baghdad stationery shop.

Fear of a new terrorist attack overshadowed some memorials. Citing "credible and specific" threats, some U.S. embassies in Asia, Africa and the Middle East were closed, and U.S. military bases and embassies in Europe enforced tightened security.

Authorities in Turkey were told that militants linked to al-Qaida might be planning poison gas attacks. Australian travelers in southeast Asia were warned following a threat to that country's interests in East Timor.

In Germany, police searched a Hamburg Islamic center after a tip that an Egyptian man staying at a guesthouse there was planning an explosives attack. Police said they found no evidence of terrorist activities.

But the threats often paled before the need to gather in remembrance.

"I spent a year studying in the U.S. — and it's not someone else's problem," said Megumi Hirokawa, an 18-year-old college student who attended a small, quiet ceremony outside the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Speakers in Nairobi, Kenya spoke of the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania during their memorial. Those blasts killed 231 people — including 12 Americans — and wounded more than 5,000.

"Kenya was the victim of a terror attack," said Kenyan Health Minister Sam Ongeri. "Kenyans can sympathize with the victims of Sept. 11."

Canada held a ceremony at the airport of the tiny town of Gander on Newfoundland island, a facility that became the symbol of the country's assistance to a neighbor in need. When the United States closed off its airspace following the attacks, Canada immediately gave permission for diverted flights to land at its airports.

Thirty-eight planes landed at the Gander airport — Newfoundland is the country's easternmost point — and almost 7,000 travelers stayed for days in the small towns of the remote region.

On Wednesday, passengers and air crew who had been stranded there returned to say thank you, joined by Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and U.S. Ambassador Paul Cellucci.



SPORTS

Shaquille O'Neal has successful surgery on toe

BY JOHN ANTCHAK

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — After almost three months of indecision, Shaquille O'Neal finally had surgery on his chronically sore big toe Wednesday and could miss the beginning of the season.

Recovery and rehabilitation time for the Los Angeles Lakers' center is expected to be 6-to-8 weeks, said Dr. Robert Mohr, who removed bone spurs from a joint on the arthritic right big toe at UCLA's Outpatient Surgery Center.

That means O'Neal could miss the three-time defending NBA champion Lakers' regular-season opener against San Antonio on Oct. 29. If he had surgery earlier, he probably would have been at full speed by the time the season began.

O'Neal has said he delayed the operation until he had checked out all the options and spoken with a number of doctors.

"He was deciding what to do, and was getting some conflicting opinions," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said. "When he finally made the decision, he was completely comfortable with it."

Kupchak and the rest of the Lakers breathed a sigh of relief after doctors deemed the surgery a success, with Mohr saying, "We're very confident he's going to have a complete recovery."

"When we saw the doctors come out smiling, I think we were all relieved — the team, Shaquille's people, everybody,"

Kupchak said.

The often mischievous O'Neal was in a jovial mood right after the operation, "Joking, just being Shaq," Kupchak said.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson was among those visiting O'Neal, but he did not speak to reporters.

The NBA Finals MVP for the past three years as he led the Lakers to three titles, O'Neal was hampered by the injury during most of the regular season and playoffs.

He missed 15 games and tried a combination of medication, orthotics and other treatments to ease the pain, but no method was completely effective.

O'Neal was on the injured list twice last season because of his toe. He averaged 27.2 points and 10.7 rebounds — both slightly below his career averages — and usually wasn't as mobile on defense as in past years.

The surgery, called a cheilectomy, was not unusual, but Mohr acknowledged it was important in O'Neal's case.

"This is the way he makes his livelihood. This is pretty significant for him," the doctor said.

The doctor said O'Neal would be able to walk immediately in what he called a surgical shoe that keeps the foot dry. In about two weeks, he will be able to use an exercise bike for cardiovascular fitness.

In two to three weeks, O'Neal should be able to wear a regular tennis shoe and then, about six weeks from now, he should be able to resume running, Mohr said.

He's safe!



Chris Urso/Associated Press

Oakland Athletics third baseman Eric Chavez falls over Anaheim Angels' Shawn Wooten during the seventh inning Tuesday in Anaheim, Calif. Wooten stole third base. The Angels won 5-2.

Asked how he felt about operating on such a celebrated patient, Mohr said, "I'm glad this day, this surgery is over."

Instead of trying to sign a big man to fill in for O'Neal, Kupchak said the Lakers probably will use forwards Samaki Walker and Stanislav

Medvedenko at center until O'Neal returns, and that the team might even go with a small lineup at times.

The Lakers will rely on doctors to tell them when O'Neal is ready to play again, and neither the Lakers nor O'Neal will rush his return, Kupchak said.

Hall of Fame quarterback Johnny Unitas dead at 69

BY DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE — Johnny Unitas, the Hall of Fame quarterback who broke nearly every NFL passing record and won three championships with the Baltimore Colts in an 18-year career, died Wednesday. He was 69.

Unitas died of a heart attack, Baltimore Ravens spokesman Chad Steele said. Steele had no other details.

Unitas underwent emergency triple-bypass surgery in March 1993 after a heart attack.

He was the first to throw for 40,000 yards in his career and now ranks seventh, surpassed by a group of quarterbacks who played in an era when the rules made passing easier. Unitas retired after the 1973 season holding 22 NFL records, among them marks for most passes attempted and completed, most yards gained passing, most touchdown passes and most seasons leading the league in TD passes.

Unitas completed 2,830 of 5,186 passes for 40,239 yards and 290 touchdowns. He completed at least one touchdown pass in 47 straight games, a record that no one has come close to matching since it was set from 1956-60.

Unitas was Most Valuable Player three times and played in 10 Pro Bowls. He led Baltimore to the NFL championship in 1958 and 1959 and the Super Bowl in 1970. He was inducted into the football Hall of Fame in 1979.

On the NFL's 50th anniversary in 1969, Unitas was voted the greatest quarterback of all time. He also was selected at quarterback for the NFL's All-Time team in 2000 by the 36 Pro Football Hall of Fame voters.

"Johnny Unitas is the greatest quarterback ever to play the game, better than I was, better than Sammy Baugh, better than anyone," Sid Luckman, the great Chicago Bears quarterback of the 1940s, once said.

Unitas was one of the few quarterbacks who called his own plays, an ability traced to his knack for reading an opponent's defense and spotting a weakness, then calling a play to take advantage.

John Mackey, the Colts' tight end during the Unitas years, once said of his teammate, "It's like being in a huddle with God."

The long list of accomplishments was quite a reversal

of fortune for a player who hitchhiked home from his first NFL training camp after the Pittsburgh Steelers cut him in 1955. He spent that season playing semipro football on rock- and glass-covered fields in Pittsburgh for \$6 a game and working as a piledriver at a construction site.

The Colts signed him the following season after getting tipped to his ability in a most unusual way.

"Johnny Unitas is the greatest quarterback ever to play the game, better than I was, better than Sammy Baugh, better than anyone."

— SID LUCKMAN

Former Chicago Bears quarterback

"Unitas was signed after we received a letter from a fan telling us there was a player in Bloomington deserving a chance," former Colts coach Weeb Ewbank recalled a few years later. "I always accused Johnny of writing it."

Unitas became a backup quarterback and made his debut in the fourth game of the 1956 season. His first pass was intercepted and returned for a touchdown. It got worse as Unitas fumbled on his next two possessions.

Fortunately, however, the Colts' other backup had opted for law school and Unitas was able to start the next game, and Baltimore beat the Green Bay Packers 28-21. A week later, the Colts upset the Cleveland Browns, and Unitas had earned himself a job.

Unitas didn't really look like a football player. At 6-foot-1, just under 200 pounds, his body was that of an everyday person — except for the scars, bumps and bruises.

His most noticeable malady was a curved right arm, evidence of the thousands of passes he threw. His worst injury was a torn Achilles' tendon, but he also had broken ribs, a punctured lung and knee injuries.

Unitas' brightest moment probably came in the 1958

championship game against the New York Giants, a match that was called "the greatest football game ever played" for years afterward.

With 90 seconds left, Unitas completed four passes, taking the Colts to the 20-yard line to tie the game on a field goal. He then engineered an 80-yard drive for the winning touchdown.

"The drama came from the championship setting rather than the game itself, until we came down to tie it in the final seconds. And then it became the first playoff ever to go to sudden death, and you can't have much more drama than that," Unitas recalled.

The following year, Baltimore beat the Giants 31-16 in the championship game. Unitas ran for one touchdown, and passed for two others, completing 18 of 29 passes, good for 264 yards. For the season he set an NFL record by throwing 32 touchdown passes, and was named the league's outstanding player.

His Super Bowl victory came in 1971, a 16-13 victory over Dallas in which he played sparingly. He also played in the 1969 Super Bowl, a shocking 16-7 loss to Joe Namath and the New York Jets.

Unitas' enormous talent and ability, combined with his penchant for taking command in the huddle, caused some players to view him as overly cocky and arrogant.

Unitas called it confidence.

"There's a big difference between confidence and conceit. To me, conceit is bragging about yourself. Being confident means you believe you can get the job done, but you know you can't get your job done unless you also have the confidence that the other guys are going to get their jobs done too. Without them, I'm nothing," he said.

Some of that confidence was apparent in his freshman year of college at Louisville. He threw for more than 2,000 yards and 21 touchdowns in his first two years, earning the nickname "Mr. Football" from local sports writers.

The Steelers drafted him in the ninth round, but he saw little action in the preseason and was cut just before the season-opener.

Unitas played his final season for the San Diego Chargers, and his 30-yard completion to Mike Garrett against Cincinnati on Sept. 30 put him over the 40,000-yard mark.

COMICS



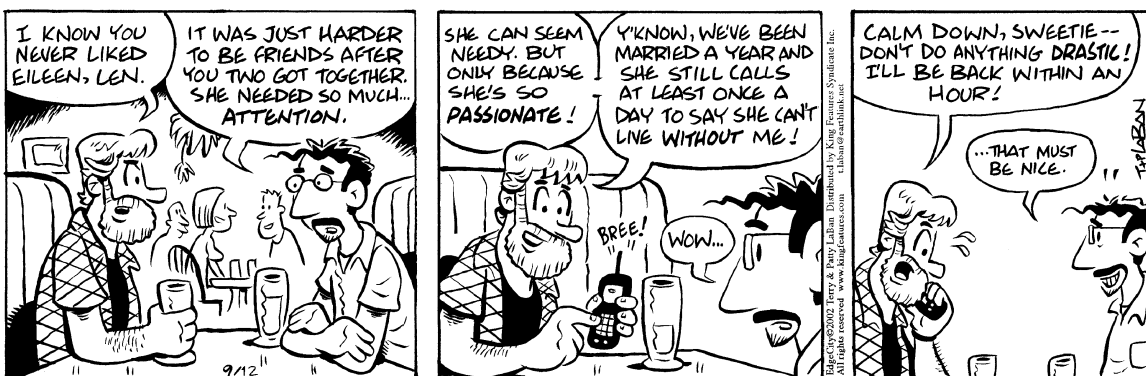
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 - Fancy

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- Refer
- Distress letters
- Fancy
- Tarzan's pals
- Cinch
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- Feeding time
- wear
- Flightless bird
- Fitting

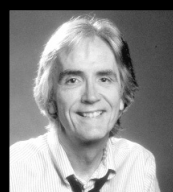
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

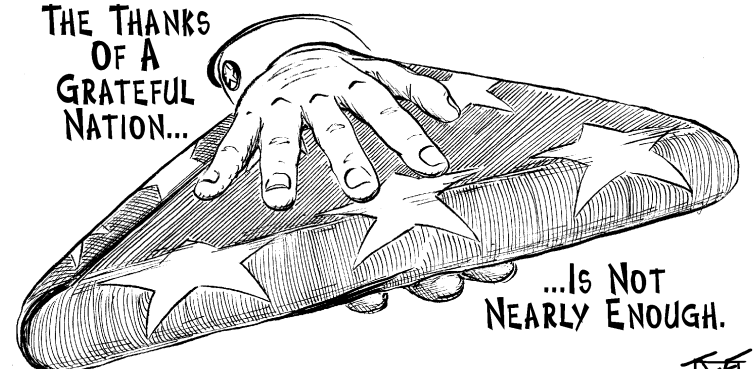
Lawyer smacks client upside head

- A judge in Columbus, Ohio, declared a mistrial in July when lawyer Christopher T. Cicero rushed the phalanx of deputies surrounding his murder-defendant-client Michael Gordon and smacked Gordon in the head (in response to Gordon's threat, according to a bailiff, to "kick (Cicero's) fat ass."
- Edmonton, Alberta, lawyer Maurice Prefontaine was arrested in March for skipping his contempt-of-court trial, which came about when he referred to Justice Gerald Verville as a "slithering mass (of) vipers."

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

Personals

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

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Can't find the Daily Press in your neighborhood?
Call us. We'll take your suggestions.
(310) 458-PRESS (7737)

Calendar

Thursday, September 12, 2002

movies

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

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Solder Man (PG-13) 1:50, 7:15. *Minority Report* (PG-13) 1:00, 7:10. *Men In Black II* (PG-13) 11:30, 4:40, 10:00. *Austin Powers in Goldmember* (PG-13) 11:50, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG) 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, 10:10. *Blood Work* (R) 4:20, 10:20.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
FearDotCom (R) 2:20, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55. *Signs* (PG-13) 1:40, 4:15, 5:35, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45. *The Master of Disguise* (PG) 1:30, 3:30. *Road to Perdition* (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50. *Swimfan* (PG-13) 2:30, 5:20, 7:45, 10:00. *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.

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.

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.santamonivcakks.org

Theater / Arts

"The Big Wheel," an exhibition of photographs of the historic Santa Monica Pier and Pacific Park by Juanita Richeson, is on display until September 20 at the Main Library Art Gallery, second floor, 1343 Sixth Street. The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information about the program, the public can contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600, or visit the photographer's web site www.metropolisphotos.com .

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.

Friday

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.

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

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

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

Entertainment

Friday the 13th the **Comedy Underground** presents an "all improv nite" starting with: *Addle Essence* at 8 PM, followed by *OFF THE WALL* at 9PM, and concluding with *Unusual Suspects* at 10 PM. Tickets to all shows are \$5.00 each. The Comedy Underground is located at 320 Wilshire in Santa Monica. Show entrance is in the ALLEY. Class info and reservation line :310-451-1800

Open Mic Music. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

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.

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



A winning store

By The Associated Press

KENTWOOD, Mich. — Feeling lucky? You might want to try buying a lottery ticket at the Mother Hubbard store in Kentwood.

The store has beaten long odds — 1 in 135 million, according to the Michigan Lottery — and sold winning lottery tickets twice in less than a decade, The Grand Rapids Press reported in a Sunday story.

The store sold the winning ticket for Friday's \$17 million multistate Mega Millions drawing. It also sold a winning ticket worth \$8 million in 1993, according to store manager Sam Kradshch, who said he sold Friday's winning ticket but doesn't know who the winner is.

"I can't wait to find out who won. I know just about everyone who comes in here," he said.

"Imagine \$17 million. I'd like to break the news. Oh my gosh, that's really some money."

The next Mega Millions drawing, worth \$10 million, is Tuesday.

Mega Millions, formerly known as The Big Game, also operates in Virginia, New York, Ohio, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Washington and New Jersey. The game was created in 1996.

Two-headed turtle

By The Associated Press

NAPLES, Fla. — What started as a routine day for

sea turtle monitor Mary Toro turned out to be one of her most memorable — after she found a baby turtle with two heads.

"I was shocked. I couldn't believe it," Toro said after finding the creature Thursday morning near Naples Cay.

Toro's boss, 20-year sea turtle monitoring veteran Maura Kraus, said she comes across two-headed turtle embryos every couple of years but had never seen one survive.

"This is the first time I've ever seen one alive, fully developed and hatched," Kraus said.

Toro found the turtle as she dug up a nest that had hatched three days earlier. Monitors routinely dig up old nests of the protected turtles to count the number of hatched and unhatched eggs and rescue any stragglers.

Anne Meylan, a researcher with the Florida Marine Research Institute in St. Petersburg, said the two-headed creature likely is a natural occurrence, not caused by chemicals or any other outside influence.

After consulting with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Kraus released the two-headed loggerhead into the Gulf of Mexico.

"We didn't want it to become a freak in a freak show," she said.

Prairie dog hunt

By The Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Calling all prairie dogs: This would be a good time to leave town voluntarily.

The state's environmental agency has approved Lubbock's plan to relocate, and if necessary kill, prairie dogs accused of damaging land.

The newly renamed Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has accepted a city plan that allows licensed volunteers to capture and relocate prairie dogs until the end of the year, when migratory owls leave the area.

The owls, a protected species, use the prairie dogs' vacant burrows to lay their eggs.

After the owls are gone, the approved plan allows the

city to begin killing the remaining prairie dogs by poisoning them and igniting propane gas inside their burrows.

In June, the state agency told the city to come up with a plan to stop the prairie dogs from overgrazing and burrowing that threatened to contaminate groundwater.

Lynda Watson, a Lubbock resident who has a federal permit to handle the animals, said she is working feverishly to trap as many prairie dogs as she can.

"I'm going to be out there the day they start killing them," she said in Wednesday's Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "They'll be on one end blasting them, and I'll be on the other end catching them."

A knockout stripper

By The Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — A former exotic dancer received two years of house arrest for knocking out another stripper's tooth with her high-heel shoes during a fight.

Now a nursing student, Kimi Aushabanner, 30, received a five-year suspended sentence Monday. Circuit Judge Clinton Foster ordered her to spend the first two years under community control and the remaining three on probation.

She also must pay restitution of about \$13,000 for the victim's medical expenses and do 300 hours of community service, although Foster said he would waive the latter if she remains in school.

A jury last month convicted her of felony battery for kicking out one of Charlotte Barber's teeth and loosening another with her 6-inch heels. It happened in 1997 at a lounge in nearby Panama City Beach.

Aushabanner's lawyer, Waylon Graham, told Foster the sentence would let his client get on with her new career goals.

Witnesses said the violence began when a bartender told Aushabanner to leave because she had broken a club rule. She threw a drink on the bartender and then exchanged words with Barber, witnesses said.

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One FREE Dessert on Jazz Night

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