

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Uplifted



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
The steeple of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica on 11th Street and Washington Avenue gets a new coat of paint this week.

City council has a careful eye on citizen committee

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Elected officials want to reign in one of its citizen boards, fearing its members are out of line when reviewing building plans.

A contentious appointment to the Architectural Review Board has revealed some council members are concerned the city-appointed board may be overstepping its bounds.

Several council members, including the mayor, said at their Tuesday meeting that it's time ARB members get some legal

training from the city attorney's office on what they are supposed to be doing.

"I think it needs direction," said Councilman Herb Katz, who also is an architect. "I find they are nit-picking things too much and then rejecting it. They get down to, I wouldn't say doornobs, but it's getting darn close."

The ARB was created in 1974 to review architectural design, appearance and landscaping on projects.

But some have complained the group has strayed from its intend-

ed purpose and has denied projects for reasons outside of its jurisdiction. Developers and even small property owners are then forced to appeal ARB decisions to the city's planning commission.

A deputy city attorney advises the group at its monthly meetings, to let members know when they step out of bounds.

However, some on the council feel it's long overdue that the city council and the ARB have a joint meeting to work out concerns being expressed by developers

See ARB, page 5

Project could block hotel's views

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Ocean views in downtown Santa Monica are as valuable as they are protected.

Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel officials are keeping a watchful eye on the city's plan for a proposed parking structure across the street, which could block ocean views from some of the hotel's most expensive suites.

City council members conceptually approved a plan Tuesday that would build a parking structure behind the county courthouse that could reach a height of 68 feet, 12 feet higher than what is currently allowed.

But hotel officials said that plan would eclipse much of their 80-foot-tall building.

Many rooms on the northern side of the building on the seventh and eight floors with views of the Pacific Ocean may end up facing the concrete and glass of the new structure.

Doubletree general manager Francois Khoury said he didn't know exactly how much money the hotel would lose from not being able to charge ocean-view rates because room prices vary by season.

"As the plan is right now, financially speaking, it's going to hurt me," he said. "That's for certain."

But city officials say all the

See OCEAN VIEWS, page 5



Courtesy of the City of Santa Monica

The drawing of a proposed parking garage as viewed from Fourth Street, behind the county courthouse, located on Main Street between Pico Boulevard and Colorado Avenue.

State Commission approves plan limiting Malibu development

BY LAURA WIDES
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The California Coastal Commission approved a plan Friday that limits development and provides greater public beach access along the scenic Malibu coast, celebrated home to some of the richest people in the state.

The panel designated nearly half the city as environmentally sensitive habitat, with more than 10 percent of all privately held land falling in the protected areas.

"Endangered habitat is in danger because there ain't much

left," Commissioner Christina Desser said. "I'm concerned about protecting it."

Among other things, the move will control construction and renovation of multimillion-dollar homes nestled in semi-rural ambiance on steep slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

The panel voted 10-1 in favor of the plan that came nearly a quarter-century after state legislation required every coastal city and county to come up with a blueprint for governing development.

Friday's decision was closely

See MALIBU, page 6

America's wealthy lose billions but still rich

BY REBECCA GOMEZ
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The rich are getting less rich in America.

For the second straight year but only the fourth time in 20 years of rankings, the combined net worth of Forbes magazine's 400 wealthiest Americans declined this year, reflecting the economy's continuing troubles.

Their total net worth of \$872 billion was down from \$946 billion in 2001 and \$1.2 trillion in 2000.

Even the benchmark for being ranked dropped.

The 2002 survey included individuals with a minimum net worth of \$550 million — down from the required \$600 million in 2001.

See RICH, page 8

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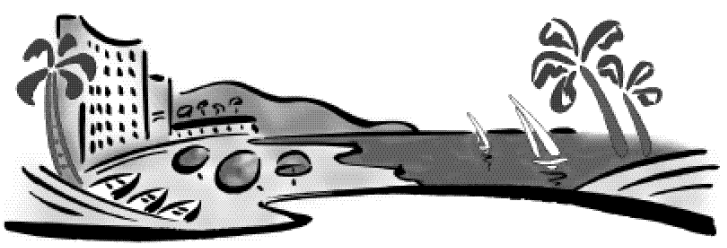
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Don't allow a difficult situation to get to you. Take charge when others run away. In the next few weeks, you will want to think through a decision once more — do so. Be sensitive to the long term as well as the immediate. A parent or authority figure demands your time. Tonight: A must show.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Take off early, but be able to flow with adjustments that might be necessary. Pace yourself, as you might become tired and need to slow down. Lounge over a lengthy meal or opt for the movies. Don't try anything too adventuresome. Tonight: Go for a mind escape.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You could be a bit out of sorts. Mercury, your ruler, goes retrograde right now, and this will impact your mood. A friend or partner works well with your off-energy, doting on you. Now that's more like it! Learn to let others do for you. Tonight: Dinner for two.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Others seek you out. Make plans and confirm meetings. What seems to work for you might not work for a friend or loved one. Express your willingness to help with another's problems, and you'll make a friend for life. Use your imagination to entertain. Tonight: Where the parties are.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Pace yourself carefully. You might be pushing way too hard. Head out the door. Think through a decision involving family. You might need to develop a more nurturing style and/or a more active role with those around you. Tonight: Keep plans low-key.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Use your dynamic thinking to wade through a problem, which might involve risk-taking and/or a loved one. Finances will take a swift curve south in the next few weeks if you don't exercise self-discipline. Use your imagination and entertain yourself and others. Tonight: Naughty works.

♏ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Extend yourself to a family member or a loved one. You could be uncomfortable and a bit unsure of yourself. Recognize how many assets you have and what you truly offer. Build on a relationship's foundation. Make each other comfortable. Tonight: A romantic date.

♐ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Extend yourself to those who make a difference in your life. Something you might find completely innocuous could be offensive to someone else. The situation could be the opposite as well. Be understanding and sensitive to others. Tonight: At a favorite place.

♑ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Be careful when dealing with someone who seems to be in charge but who you personally judge to be shaky. Use your intuition, especially with a money partner. You will start to notice that others seem a bit off. Tonight: Treat someone to a movie and dinner.

♒ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ The Moon in your sign energizes you but might not lead you in the proper direction. A supervisor or someone you defer to could be a source of bad information. Join friends. Don't make anything more significant than it needs to be. Tonight: You choose.

♓ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Step back and take your time making a decision involving travel and someone else. In fact, consider taking the day off in order to complete a project. You also might feel the need to catch up on a loved one's news. Don't push others right now. Tonight: Curl up with a good book or movie.

♐ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Understand more of what is going on with friends. News from a distance makes you a lot happier. Share more of what you need with loved ones. You find a partner definitely out of sorts. Work with others on a one-on-one level. Tonight: Have a party.

CORRECTION — The Associated Press reported erroneously on Sept. 12 the first name of a radio talk show host who was spit at during an interview with a Libertarian Party candidate. The KABC radio host's name is Brian Whitman.

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LOCAL



She didn't do it, but plaintiff got a refund instead

Daily Press Staff report

"We're gonna make you do it," proclaims Better Body Maker, a fitness shop on Santa Monica Boulevard in Westwood. But when Neva Rogers of Carson decided that no amount of "doing" was going to succeed in cutting her weight, she sued for the return of her \$2,250 program fee.

Rogers, who is 75 years old and appeared in Santa Monica Small Claims Court with a cane last week, prevailed after the shop offered her only a partial refund.

Rogers contracted in February for 45 one-hour sessions with a personal trainer in order to lose 60 lbs. She said the proprietor, Hany Mikhael, gave her confidence despite her history of disabilities.

"I told him I have arthritis in my back and knee and have had three major surgeries," she said. "He said their trainers were very good, and they knew how to take care of everything."

"I told him I have arthritis in my back and knee and have had three major surgeries. He said their trainers were very good, and they knew how to take care of everything."

— NEVA ROGERS
Plaintiff

Despite the reassurances, she became dispirited after a single session.

"When I got home, my knees hurt," she said. So Rogers canceled the contract she'd signed just two days earlier.

Mikhael said he had no problem refunding \$1,600 of Rogers' money, but claimed that he'd already paid someone to draw up a nutrition program for her and had paid a personal trainer to handle the work.

"I take full responsibility," he told Santa Monica Judge Pro Tem Stu Rissman. "But I already paid a commis-

sion as well as a trainer."

He added that he had already arranged three sessions for Rogers, and couldn't afford a full refund since he was "out the money" for the other services.

"She totally understood that there would be some work," said Mikhael, who

appeared in court with a T-shirt sporting the shop's slogan.

Rissman asked the pair if they could settle the case, but warned them he would not take into account testimony that at one time Rogers had offered to accept the \$1,600 but had later turned it down.

"Settlement discussions ring no bells with me," he told both the trainer and the customer. Rissman said he does not care about earlier settlement agreements if cases don't settle and come before him.

Rissman awarded her a full refund without comment. There is a "cooling off" period in California law allowing customers to cancel health club memberships within three days of signing without penalty.

Judge leaves neighbors hanging on the vine

Daily Press Staff report

Even a judge couldn't persuade two neighbors from Venice to settle a little dispute over whether one could cut vines near the fence separating the two.

The case illustrates that when both sides go for broke, at least one may be unhappy with the outcome.

Roman Przybylski and Susan Moltzan share a property line. He's lived there 37 years, while she moved in three years ago. But seniority doesn't count when such disputes come to Santa Monica Small Claims Court.

Przybylski sued for \$900 damages after Moltzan trimmed ivy that began on his property but grew over to her side. The vines were rotted, unsightly and made it difficult to maneuver her mower, she complained, showing photos. He claimed it would cost \$900 to buy and plant new ones.

The fence separating the property is several inches into his yard, but Judge Pro Tem Stu Rissman said the case wasn't as simple as it appeared.

There could be public health issues, he noted. If the fire department became interested fire fighters could chop down everything, no questions asked, he added. Under the circumstances, he tried to bro-

ker a deal by noting that newly-planted vines would take years to grow.

"I was just cleaning up my yard," Moltzan pleaded, noting that some vines had taken root on her side.

"I was just cleaning up my yard."

— SUSAN MOLTZAN
Defendant

"She destroyed my privacy," complained Przybylski.

"We have a concept here," Judge Rissman lectured. "The concept is called neighbors. The property marker is only as good as the neighbors. I might not live long enough to see that ivy to maturity."

When it became clear that no amount of brokering would solve the neighborly differences, Rissman ended the case. He later ruled in Moltzan's favor, holding that she owed Przybylski nothing.

Rissman ruled without comment. But during the case, he seemed troubled that Przybylski couldn't say how he arrived at \$900 figure other than by "asking around."



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Surfers observe a moment of silence today, the week's huge swell is gone. Nothing new is expected until at least Monday. Today and Sunday will look like Friday with slightly smaller size and more limited consistency.

The weekend should see mainly waist-high surf on leftover swell.

There is a minor, south-southwest swell building, but it is small enough not to seriously affect the surf.

Today's Tides:		
High-	6:29 a.m.	3.51'
Low-	10:29 a.m.	3.02'
High-	4:41 p.m.	5.07'

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

Reporter only gave half of story

Editor:

Your article regarding the Bayside District Corporation misrepresents my position on the distribution of candidate information at public expense. By reporting only a portion of what I said to your reporter, you make it appear that I flatly oppose public funding of the circulation of candidates' positions on issues. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I strongly favor such distribution — when it is done through a program that is carefully designed and administered so it does not favor any one candidate over any other. The use of public funds for such a non-partisan program to distribute election information can help level the playing field between well-funded candidates and those without a lot of money to spend. Thus, public funding can reduce the influence of campaign contributors.

Your article does correctly reflect my thoughts on Bayside's interjection into this year's council campaign. Since Bayside did not take steps to assure that its questionnaire was non-partisan, I believe it should not be circulated at public expense.

Ken Genser

Santa Monica City Councilman

Don't take us for fools

Editor:

If (as the hotels claim) the living wage ordinance would wreak such horrible havoc on low-wage workers, then why aren't said workers besieging Santa Monica in opposition to the living wage? I have yet to see a picket sign declaring "HELL NO, DON'T RAISE MY WAGE!"

Low-wage employees aren't stupid. And neither are the big hotels. Both know the proposed ordinance would raise hotel employees' wages to a decent livable level. The workers seem to like that idea. The hotels seem to hate it. Santa Monica voters get to decide, on Nov. 5. And we ain't stupid, either.

Patrick Meighan

Santa Monica

Questions in the living wage debate

Editor:

I've read your Friday, Sept. 13, 2002, issue and would like to make the following comments:

1. If working for Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel is so oppressive why don't the employees look for work elsewhere.

2. In response to Patrick Meighan's letter, the reason that there are lawsuits against the city is because the council and various boards do not follow the advice of their own attorneys when they make decisions.

3. I was wondering if the city has computed the sales tax and room tax revenue they have received from the tourism industry that Santa Monica has invested in. Mr. Rosenstein's commentary uses the word investment but by the tone of his article you would think we gave a gift to the tourism industry. Santa Monica wouldn't have made an investment if it didn't think it would get a return.

Murray Greiff

Santa Monica

Eliminate soft money campaigns

Editor:

Soft money is corrupting Santa Monica City Council elections. Soft money is money which flows through a loophole to allow a candidate to evade the campaign finance limits. Santa Monica's campaign finance law \$250 limit is routinely evaded by a few candidates who do not report the enormous soft money they receive. These unfair City Council elections will end if Measure HH is approved by the voters this November.

Do the math. Aside from the incumbents, the six independent challengers for the City Council have so far raised COLLECTIVELY only \$2,074. Although one city wide mailing costs more than \$15,000, independent candidates typically raise less than \$8,000 each. Meanwhile the three candidates endorsed by the ruling quasi-political party receive a massive \$200,000 soft money campaign which includes multiple campaign mailings (often with the candidate's pictures and their messages), professional political consultants, telephone boiler rooms, and scores of election day helpers to take "identified" workers to the poles. \$6,000 versus \$200,000? That is like a singing contest where the independent candidate must sing alone while the political party's candidate is allowed to bring in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir!

This absurdly UN-LEVEL playing field violates fundamental freedoms, the freedom of free and open political speech with the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse sources. Santa Monica's soft money dominated elections is reminiscent of third world political farces where entrenched politicians create similar insurmountable obstacles to prevent competition.

Where are the cries of outrage and shouts of "foul play" from our City Council majority? Where are the demands to establish a righteous, democratic process to insure that the First Amendment right to political speech will not be drowned out by soft money? Look closely. Yes, the members of the council majority are the PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES OF THE SOFT MONEY.

Due to the corrupting influence of this huge soft money, the November election already has been decided. In practical terms, the only question is whether one Councilmember Robert Holbrook can raise enough hard money required to get out his message against the gigantic \$200,000 soft money campaign for the three endorsed candidates.

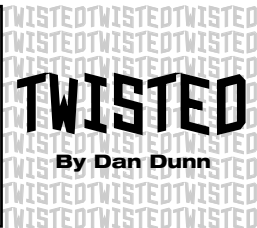
Measure HH will stop this anti-democratic abuse by eliminating the need to raise big money to run a City Council campaign. Measure HH will create compact City Council election districts where candidates can get out their messages with a small campaign budget. All that a candidate needs are good character, experience, a healthy vision of the future, a few hundred dollars for photocopying, friends using their telephones, time to attend neighborhood meet-the-candidate coffees, and a good pair of walking shoes. HH will open the door for more people to run for the City Council, and bring more diversity and fresh blood to government.

With HH, no longer will any singer be drowned out by a massive choir.

Paul DeSantis

*Yes on Measure HH (VERITAS) Committee
Santa Monica*

Stupid is as stupid does at E-Z Screw in a Jiffy



It was just the other day, driving home after forking over \$44.95 for what was advertised as a \$24 oil change, that I began to wonder just when in the hell I had entered the ranks of the New Stupid.

The thought lingered: Later that same day, back at my embarrassingly tiny stupid-person's studio apartment, I received (via certified mail, no less) a letter from the IRS threatening prosecution unless I made good on \$202 in back taxes owed. That's when I remembered an article I'd read in Forbes in which it was estimated that over 1,000 corporations with assets of \$300 million or more paid no taxes and reported "no income" last year, and that corporate tax shelters cost average Americans \$10 billion a year. And I thought, geez, when the hell did I become Mayor of New Stupidville?

Having neither the time nor inclination to "smarten up" in regards to the vast United States tax code, I decided the voodoo economics of an oil change might be a better

baby-step out of my new demographic.

So I called over to my local lube-and-go spot, which — in the interest of fairness to all the oil change con artists — I'll call "E-Z Screw in a Jiffy."

"Yeah, hi," I said. "May I please speak to the manager?"

"Is there something I can help you with, sir?" asked the woman at the other end of the line.

"Are you the manager?"

"No."

"Is the manager in?"

"Yes, he is."

I paused for a moment to bang my head against a large kitchen appliance, then ...

"Well," I sighed, rubbing my noggin, "thanks for offering, but if it's all the same to you, I think I'd like to speak to the manager ... you know, LIKE I ASKED IN THE FIRST PLACE!!!!!"

Jose, the manager, seemed like a nice enough fella. He referred to me as Mr. Dunn, and repeatedly emphasized the corporate mantra — that "customer satisfaction is the NUMBER ONE priority at E-Z Screw in a Jiffy."

And what a relief it was to hear that, and I'll admit to feeling a wave of guilt. Cuz up to that point, I had somehow developed a nagging suspicion that PROFIT was at the top of their priority list.

"So, Jose, earlier today I came in to get

one of your \$24 oil changes and ..."

"And I hope the work was completed to your satisfaction, Mr. Dunn," Jose chirped.

"Um, yeah. I think so. I mean, the car still runs and all ... it's just, Jose ... it's just, the BILL for the oil change has me a bit flummoxed."

"How's that, sir?"

"It's \$44.95."

"Uh-huh."

"That's \$20.95 more than advertised."

"OK, Mr. Dunn, let's not get excited. Let's see if I can help you," said Jose, his voice steady, calm, reassuring. Here's a guy, I thought, who knows how to keep the clientele happy. Certainly Jose would agree that a horrible error had been made, heads would roll down at EZ-JS and that I SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CHARGED an additional \$8 for a "special filter," \$6 for "extra oil" and — most puzzling of all — a \$3 "convenience charge."

Jose asked what type of car I drive, and I told him: A beat-up, old, 6-cylinder BMW. Small. Efficient. Reliable. Only vaguely German, in that Colonel Klink sort of way. Certainly nothing fancy.

"That explains it!" Jose explained. "You see, Mr. Dunn, the \$24 oil change is based on a STANDARD VEHICLE, and a BMW is not a standard vehicle."

"It's not?" I asked.

Nope, it's not. Apparently, the ACTUAL

price of most oil changes in the USA is based on Industry Standards, which were set by MIT-trained engineers measuring the cost of changing the lubrication on a 1976 Huffy bicycle chain ... and a girl's bike at that. Anything else is "extra," in that kind of way you see those big signs along the interstate promising \$18 rooms that turn out to be only slightly more expensive than the Ritz, with the "advertised rate" being for AARP members who belong to AAA and are currently attending AA, and then only if they check in between the non-peak hours between midnight and 4 a.m. while wearing a Nixon mask. You end up paying \$44.95 for the room, mostly because the United Nations has declared it an international war crime to screw us up to the magic \$45 level.

"One more thing, Jose," I said. "What's the 'convenience charge' all about? Isn't E-Z Screw in a Jiffy SUPPOSED to be convenient, without my having to pay extra for it? I mean, really, it just seems kinda ... stupid."

"Oh, no, it's not stupid, sir," Jose chuckled. "When it comes to our customers, nothing is stupid."

Nothing, that is, but the customers.

Stupid Dan Dunn used to write for Talk Soup. Then he lucked into a screenwriting career. Now he doesn't do much of anything. E-mail Dan at Dunn714@yahoo.com)

LOCAL



Architect's appointment to ARB a 'compromise'

ARB, from page 1

and architects.

"A study session is probably in order," said Councilwoman Pam O'Connor. "We need to re-assess and get on the same page."

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie recommended council members refrain from talking about a meeting with the ARB until it has been listed on an agenda.

"The role of the ARB is set forth in law in Santa Monica," she said. "And you might want to refrain from (talking about) how you can influence the ARB to another time."

But the council significantly altered the make-up of the body by appointing a fourth architect to the board. While only two seats are required to be held by architects, the council has now given them the majority.

William Adams — an architect living in Venice Beach who has ties to Santa Monica — was appointed to the board in a 4-3 vote. After the vote was taken Councilman Richard Bloom changed his vote for Adams, making it 5-2.

Architects with local business interests have often had to recuse themselves from voting on projects that come before the board because they had professional conflicts.

While city officials want residents on the board as well as those with professional building experience, many professionals that go before the board complain the majority of its members don't know how to read blueprints.

Councilman Ken Genser said technical

training shouldn't be a requirement for board members, who he said should either live or work in Santa Monica, even though the city doesn't require it.

"We shouldn't be importing people

"I think it needs direction. They're nitpicking stuff and then rejecting it. They get down to, I won't say doorknobs, but you're darn near that close."

— HERB KATZ
Santa Monica City Councilman

from outside the community to make judgments about how this community should be developed," he said. "We shouldn't have more architects on the board."

Adams' appointment is seen by some as a compromise. He is trained as an architect but was formerly the chair of the department of architecture at Cal Poly, Pomona.

"He is not involved in the day-to-day search for work," said Mayor Mike Feinstein. "Mr. Adams is the best solution to the schism that we have at this point."

Hotel's concerns will be explored, officials say

OCEAN VIEWS, from page 1

potential side effects of the parking structure on the surrounding properties will be fully explored in the environmental impact review the city is currently undertaking.

It's during that process, which community members and Doubletree officials can take part, when aspects of the plan can be altered, officials said.

Councilman Richard Bloom said nothing is set in stone yet and all sides will have a chance to be heard before any official action is taken.

"I think we need to think about everybody's concerns," he said, "so I wouldn't want to give (the Doubletree's concerns) a short shrift."

The proposed structure would provide parking for approximately 900 cars in five levels above ground and one and a half levels below. City officials said the building cannot go any deeper because of a large underground storm drain.

The city officially restricted the parking structure's height to 56 feet, but architects of the plan included a community room on the top floor. The new room would provide the public with a meeting space with views of the civic center and the ocean.

"It would be more like meeting space that we have at the Ken Edwards Center," said Andy Agle, assistant director of Planning and Community Development. "It would be a place where you could have a variety of things going on."

City officials concede the community

room would add significant costs to the project and decrease the overall number of parking spaces.

"It was something originally brought to us by the architects," Agle said. "It was something they came up with when they were looking at ways to animate that side of the structure and it being in a pretty spectacular location."

"As the plan is right now, financially speaking, it's going to hurt me. That's for certain."

— FRANCOIS KHOURY
Doubletree general manager

Each side of the structure would incorporate architectural styles of the buildings around it. While the western side would have similar features as the courthouse and City Hall, the eastern side, which faces the Doubletree, would be covered by narrow glass panels of varying hues.

Khoury said the glass plates have the potential to affect all the hotel's western-facing rooms.

"When the sun shines on that side," he said, "all my rooms will get is glare."

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LOCAL

Environmentalists and Frank Gehry tangle again

By The Associated Press

MARINA DEL REY — Architect Frank Gehry and environmentalists have moved to a smaller battlefield — instead of arguing about a 1,087-acre development, they are now fighting over a single tree.

Gehry, who has designed things like the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and the Disney Concert Hall being built in downtown Los Angeles, was hired to design buildings for a 60-acre portion of Playa Vista, a housing, office and retail project near Marina del Rey.

Environmentalists claim the development is destroying coastal wetlands and have conducted a long running feud with developers and Gehry.

When Gehry moved his office from Santa Monica closer to Playa Vista but kept it outside the project's boundaries, environmentalists declared victory. He denied he did it because of the activists.

Then he cut down a tree and another fight was on.

To make room for a parking lot for Gehry and his staff, workers cut down a 100-foot eucalyptus tree that neighbors and environmentalists claimed was the

area's last tie with Ballona Creek's historic rancho era.

"The tree was a remembrance of the ranch. It was something we held sacred," said Fred Machado, 78, the great-great-grandson of the settler who created 13,919-acre Rancho La Ballona. "That tree marked a historic spot. That was the only thing left from the ranch."

"It was so big and beautiful and healthy. It's like losing a real close friend."

Homeowner Mickey Shockley, who pleaded with Gehry's office to save the tree, wrote to the architect: "As a very well-known architect, Mr. Gehry, I would have hoped a parking area of your design could have saved this once beautiful tree."

Gehry was unavailable for comment, but Ken Ayeroff of NSB Capital Partners said he was unaware of any agreement to preserve the tree. He also noted it was "a private tree on private property."

"We did due-diligence about the property. I'm totally unaware of any special protection" for the tree, the Gehry partner said. "The first time we heard of the Machado connection was after the tree was cut down."

Point Dume exempted from coastal development plan

MALIBU, from page 1

watched by the 30 percent of other California communities along the ocean that have yet to create their own coastal land-use plans.

"I'm certain this is now going to get litigated," said Ted Vaill, whose Malibu home lies next to the protected areas.

Malibu Mayor Jeff Jennings said he would have to review the final decision before deciding whether to recommend that the city sue the commission.

Malibu has been unable to craft a plan protecting its 27 miles of coastline because many residents and investors opposed tight limits on developing lucrative mountain and oceanfront property.

The city has also fought broader, state-mandated access to beaches and is suing the commission to stop the opening of a path to the beach next to Hollywood mogul David Geffen's oceanfront villa.

The plan approved Friday was almost derailed by disagreements over what areas would be designated environmentally sensitive habitat.

"I don't think it's fair for the state to put more of a burden on property owners," Commissioner Cynthia McClain-Hill argued. She cast the lone vote against the plan.

Commission staff members and outside consultants used maps and field research to identify open areas that contain protected or endangered plants and animals. Most of the designated areas include undisturbed mountainside land.

The panel agreed to exempt Point Dume because it contains large family

homes along with canyons and streams. The streams will remain protected under state law.

A development plan previously approved by the Malibu City Council for the downtown civic center was allowed to proceed under the decision.

Commission chairwoman Sara Wan called approval of the plan a blessing.

"I don't think it's fair for the state to put more of a burden on property owners."

— CYNTHIA MCCLAIN-HILL
Commissioner

"Now it is really up to the residents of Malibu to ensure their city enforces it," she said.

The Legislature previously ordered the commission to devise a plan for Malibu as a way to avoid time-consuming, piecemeal development decisions.

The commission, which has final authority over coastal land use, held hearings this week in Los Angeles and heard from hundreds of angry residents. Most opposed strict limits on development.

However, musician Don Henley, who has owned land in the seaside enclave since 1974, urged the commission Thursday to accept the plan and limit growth.

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STATE



Verdict reversal in Simon case raises question of juries' roles

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — The reversal of a jury's \$78 million fraud verdict against gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon's family firm follows judicial second-guessing in two other big California cases and raises the question: Do jury verdicts count anymore?

Legal experts and a juror who served on one case say that jurors are less concerned about a judge's post-trial rulings than one might expect.

"They're usually not angry or bitter about it," said Richard Gabriel, whose jury consulting firm, Decision Quest, has interviewed many jurors on the subject. "They understand there's a whole matrix of legal mumbo jumbo going on outside their presence. And there is an awareness in the jury pool that judges have discretion."

But Gabriel said jurors are sometimes frustrated because they don't get a chance to explain how they reached their decision. "They'd like the chance to explain their reasoning, but the law doesn't provide for that."

Loyola Law School professor Laurie Levenson said the 36-page ruling in the Simon case by Superior Court Judge James Chalfant shows that the civil lawsuit involving investors and the founder of a failed company was extremely complicated, with evidence being heard in three phases.

"It may be with the evidence coming in in so many bits and pieces the judge himself needed time to sort it out," she said.

But Levenson said the ruling should not be seen as a disenfranchisement of the jury.

"What the case says for juries that go into complicated civil matters is that they're only asked to give a first opinion. Their opinion is valuable but the system never intended it to be the final say. ... The jurors get the first shot at getting it right."

Democratic Gov. Gray Davis, who is running against the Republican Simon in the November election and cited the original verdict in attack ads, clearly wants the jurors to have the last word.

"A jury of 12 people still found Mr. Simon fraudulent and awarded a \$70 million verdict against him. No judge's decision is going to change that fact," the governor said.

Larry Feldman, a prominent Los Angeles civil attorney, said the judge's action was surprising.

"It's rarely done, high profile or low profile, where a judge will actually enter a

verdict for the losing party. ... I've had many cases where the award has been reduced or a new trial granted but rarely thrown out," Feldman said.

He said the final decision in the case will be in the hands of the appellate courts.

"Because they are rarely granted, decisions like this are closely scrutinized," Feldman said. "It's going to be put under a magnifying glass."

Some have analogized the action to two recent criminal cases: the dog mauling trial of San Francisco attorneys Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel and the criminal trial of Los Angeles police officers in the so-called Rampart scandal.

Following the Rampart trial, Superior Court Judge Jacqueline Connor threw out convictions of three officers, saying that jurors focused on the wrong point of law in reaching their decision. The case currently is on appeal.

In the mauling trial, Superior Court Judge James Warren threw out a jury's finding of second-degree murder against Knoller and sentenced her and her husband to four years in prison under the lesser involuntary manslaughter charge.

The fatal mauling occurred in San Francisco but was moved to Los Angeles for trial because of perceived prejudice against the couple in their home town.

At sentencing in San Francisco, Warren said Knoller and her husband are "the most despised couple in this city," but the evidence did not support a murder conviction because Knoller had no way of knowing her dogs would kill.

Don Newton, who was foreman of the jury in that case said some jurors traveled to San Francisco for the sentencing and exchanged e-mails expressing disappointment in the result. But Newton said he was convinced the jury did the best job it could and he was not concerned about sentencing.

"I thought our jury did a very good job," he said. "It was a very diverse and unified group. We were under a certain amount of pressure. We had to be taken in and out of a tunnel every day.... There was some pretty ugly stuff we had to look at."

But he added, "These judges are under a lot of pressure too. I think that's why they wear those long gowns, to hide the scars."

Asked if he thought such decisions would discourage jurors from serving, Newton, who has been on many juries, laughed.

"So many people have excuses not to serve on juries," he said, "just add this to the pot."

Laguna school sheds 'Artists' nickname for 'Breakers'

By The Associated Press

LAGUNA BEACH — The Laguna Beach High School Artists wanted a new image. So they mothballed the brushes and dusted off the Breakers.

In the rough-and-tumble world of high school sports dominated by the fighting Lions, Trojans and Rebels, the Artists were less than fearsome.

So students voted to reconsider the school's nickname. The winning nickname was an old one. Laguna Beach was known as the Breakers from 1934 to 1936 when students voted to become the Artists.

The new nickname went on display Friday when the Breakers football team

took the field for the first time against the La Quinta High School.

"It's about having an appropriate name for the sports teams," Laguna wide receiver Bryce Loidolt said.

Breakers got 65 percent of the vote, Titans got 13 percent and Coyotes got 7 percent. Artists received 5 percent. Other names made up the rest of the vote.

Also gone is Guna, the red, Gumby-like mascot that cavorted on the field dressed in painter's pants.

Back in 1936, the school became the Artists, using a multicolored logo of a painter's palette and two brushes because the area was still a sleepy arts colony.

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NATIONAL

Corporate boards will crack down compensation abuse

BY ALAN CLENDENNING
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The lawsuit by Tyco International Ltd., seeking \$730 million back from former top officers accused of theft, may be just the start of a nationwide corporate crackdown on lavish executive perks.

More lawsuits targeting executives are likely in cases of suspected fraud, while vaguely worded compensation contracts approving the benefits will be revised to deal with abuses, according to corporate governance experts and lawyers who specialize in fraud and executive compensation.

In the Tyco case, former chief executive Dennis Kozlowski is accused, among other things, of using \$242 million from an employee loan program designed to help workers purchase Tyco stock to instead pay for yachts, fine art, jewelry, luxury apartments and vacations.

The lawsuit by Tyco seeking to recoup the money contends board members never knew about the alleged abuses. It "sends a strong message to executives that these actions are not without consequences," said Charles Elson, director of the Center for Corporate Governance at the University of Delaware.

While the alleged abuses by Kozlowski and two other former Tyco executives seem extreme, he said, many U.S. corporations gave their top executives loans for millions on favorable terms and continue to provide generous housing or relocation compensation.

A law went into effect in July banning the loans, but experts believe many corporate boards are trying to determine precisely how much they doled out before the ban and whether executives abused the programs.

It's impossible to know how widespread the abuse may be, but experts point out that the various compensation programs were used by corporations large and small — and details were often worked out by the managers themselves instead of independent board members.

"I think a lot of times a lot of boards

are dominated by the chief executive, and a lot of these programs are simply under the table," Elson said. "They're referred to in vague clauses in the contract."

The crackdown will affect not just abuse of loan and relocation programs and other perks, but the extent of the perks themselves, which many shareholders now call excessive.

"I think the tide has turned on executive compensation," said Lowell Peterson, a lawyer who specializes in compensation and labor issues. "We see the dramatic examples of the failed and defrauded companies which not only lined the executives' pockets when they were there, but lined them after they left."

But even companies that haven't faced scrutiny for actions by their executives or allegations of accounting irregularities are now more likely to take a much closer look at what their top managers are receiving.

While General Electric Co. still ranks in business circles as among the best-run companies, and no one is alleging any fraud, it has been put on the defensive by published details of perks its former CEO, Jack Welch, is receiving.

Court documents filed last week by Welch's wife, Jane, in their divorce case show that GE still pays for Welch's use of a company-owned Manhattan apartment, courtside seats at the U.S. Open tennis tournament and satellite television systems at his four homes.

GE paid for all expenses incurred at the Manhattan apartment, including food, wine, cooks, wait staff, laundry and furnishings. Jane Welch also cited her husband's use of a Boeing 737 business jet valued at \$291,667 per month. Welch's lawyers filed legal papers contending his wife's claims were rife with speculation, but offered no numbers.

The type of benefits Welch is receiving after retirement are commonplace among top executives still working for their companies, said Jerry Reisman, a lawyer who specializes in corporate fraud. Welch has remained a consultant to the company.

Bill Gates biggest loser on list

RICH, from page 1

The top 10 remained the same, with some reshuffling of the order.

The biggest loser on the list, released Friday, was also the richest person: Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates.

Gates lost \$11 billion, for a net worth of \$43 billion. He now has lost \$20 billion — mostly because of the drop in value of his Microsoft stock — since the tech meltdown began in 2000.

The biggest winner was investor Warren Buffett, who remained No. 2 on the list. His net worth increased to \$36 billion from \$33.2 billion.

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen also maintained his ranking — third — but saw his net worth fall to \$21 billion from \$28.2 billion.

Five relatives of the late Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart Stores, retained five of the top 10 spots. Their net worth increased to \$18.8 billion each from \$17.5 billion in 2001, thanks to strong consumer spending.

Oracle chief executive Larry Ellison, who fell from second in 2000 to fourth in 2001, dropped to ninth this year. He is

now worth \$15.2 billion, down from \$21.9 billion last year.

Rounding out the top 10, Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer suffered a \$3.2 billion loss, for a net worth of \$11.9 billion.

Neither AOL Time Warner's Steven Case nor Sun Microsystems' Scott McNealy made the cut this year, casualties of the Internet implosion.

Martha Stewart was also among 35 people bumped, largely because her company's stock drastically declined in value following her legal troubles.

Forty-six women made the list, including the three granddaughters of oilman J. Paul Getty. They each inherited \$400 million in 1986.

The youngest among the 400 was 30-year-old Daniel Ziff, who shares a \$1.2 billion inheritance with his two brothers, ages 34 and 38. His father, William Ziff Jr., built and sold a publishing empire that included PC Magazine, Boating and Car & Driver magazines.

The oldest person on the survey is 94-year-old Max Fisher, who made his fortune in oil and steel. His net worth was put at \$750 million.

NATIONAL



Life expectancy for Americans reaches high of 76.9 years

BY LAURA MECKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Death is on the decline for babies, adults and older people alike, with AIDS, homicide, cancer and heart disease all claiming fewer lives, the government reports in its annual look at American health.

Life expectancy reached a record high of 76.9 years, with the gaps between blacks and whites as well as men and women narrowing over time.

The report released Thursday looks at health trends spanning the second half of the 20th century and finds improvement on almost every measure.

“When you take the long view, you see clearly how far we’ve come,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson.

With better medical care and a drop in smoking rates, death rates for heart disease have been cut in more than half, and they have declined even more dramatically for stroke and other cerebrovascular disease.

Death rates from injuries, particularly motor vehicle crashes, have also fallen since about 1970, with safer cars on the road and more people wearing seat belts.

It’s not all good news. Death rates for diabetes, along with the number of cases, are climbing, largely the result of a sharp increase in obesity.

All of these factors contribute to life expectancy, and people are certainly living longer.

The average baby born in 1900 could expect to live 47.3 years and that gauge has been climbing ever since. By 1950, life expectancy had risen to 68.2, and it reached 76.9 in 2000.

Throughout the century, women and whites have lived longer, but those gaps are closing, the report shows.

In 1950, whites lived 8.3 years longer than blacks. By 2000, that gap was 5.6 years.

For gender, the gap was at its peak in 1970, when women lived 7.6 years longer than men. By 2000, the gap was 5.4 years.

The report found drops in death at every stage of life and for many diseases. Specifically:

■ **Infant mortality:** The portion of babies dying before their first birthday was at a record low in 2000, 6.9 per 1,000 live births. That rate has fallen 75 percent since 1950.

The average baby born in 1900 could expect to live 47.3 years and that gauge has been climbing ever since. By 1950, life expectancy had risen to 68.2, and it reached 76.9 in 2000.

■ **Young deaths:** Mortality among children and young adults, between 12 months and 24 years, declined by more than half since 1950. Researchers credited drops in death rates in accidents, cancer, heart disease and infectious diseases. Homicide and suicide rates generally increased over the half century, though they have been falling since the mid-1990s.

■ **Adults:** Death among adults age 25 to 44 declined by more than 40 percent between 1950 and 1999. During the mid-1990s, HIV was the leading cause of death for this age group, but these rates have fallen significantly.

■ **Older adults:** Mortality among adults age 45 to 64 fell by nearly 50 percent, including drops in heart disease, stroke and injury. Cancer is the leading cause of death in this group, and those death rates rose slowly through the 1980s and then began to decline.

■ **Heart disease:** Much of the improvement in life expectancy is traced to falling heart disease rates. In 1950, just over 585 people in the United States developed heart disease for every 100,000. By 1999, that had been more than cut in half, falling to just under 268 people per 100,000.

■ **Stroke:** In 1950, nearly 181 of every 100,000 people died of stroke and other cerebrovascular disease. By 1999, it was just 62 per 100,000.

The report, which also examines trends in the use of hospitals, found fewer people being admitted and shorter stays for those who do go in. It found a sharp drop in use of home health care, a reaction to new Medicare payment restrictions.

Gay couple moves by Falwell’s church

By The Associated Press

LYNCHBURG, Va. — A gay couple is renting a home across the street from the Rev. Jerry Falwell’s church to correct what they see as misinformation spread by the pastor and show that homosexuals can lead Christian lives.

“We just want Lynchburg to see us — an old gay couple — and realize that we’re as boring as they are,” said the Rev. Mel White, 62, who moved into the cottage Tuesday with Gary Nixon, 52.

White, a minister with Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles, ghost-wrote Falwell’s autobiography and has known Falwell for more than 15 years — before White announced his homosexuality.

White said he started planning a trip to Lynchburg after Falwell blamed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in part on gays.

“It broke our hearts to see what he was doing,” White said. Falwell later apologized for the comments.

Falwell called the couple’s move a publicity stunt but said they are

welcome at his Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, about 60 miles east of Roanoke.

“I can’t think of anyone who needs it more,” Falwell said.

White’s activist group Soulforce plans several local events to support homosexuals and gay rights. He said he hopes his presence will soften Falwell’s stance.

“We believe he’ll be one of the first to say gays are God’s children too,” White said. “We just need to give him enough time to do it.”

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NATIONAL

Planes diverted, searched as airlines deal with jitters

BY DAVID B. CARUSO

Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Nervousness about the Sept. 11 anniversary produced tension this week aboard airplanes, where combs looked like knives, the word “bag” sounded like “bomb” and a middle-aged woman’s trip to the bathroom seemed like a potential terrorist act.

In two days, at least five planes were ordered to make emergency landings and a sixth was searched on the ground in a series of false alarms.

“People are a little more jumpy, a little more aware and a little more nervous this week,” said Brian Doyle, a spokesman for the Transportation Safety Administration. “I think people will get a teeny bit more relaxed the further we get away from Sept. 11.”

Three aircraft were diverted Sept. 11, the anniversary of the terrorist attacks. An American Airlines airplane returned to Houston after a flight attendant mistook a passenger’s comb for a knife. Then, a Russian cargo plane bound for Texas was escorted by fighter jets to a base in Massachusetts before officials realized it was carrying American soldiers.

A Northwest Airlines jet bound for Las Vegas landed in Fort Smith, Ark., after one man ignored a flight attendant’s request to leave a bathroom and his traveling companion later insisted on using the same restroom.

Then on Thursday, a National Airlines flight from Las Vegas to New York was escorted by military jets to Philadelphia after a woman who spoke limited English didn’t understand an instruction to stay in her seat. Minutes later an Air Portugal flight to New York was escorted to an air base in Delaware after a miscommunication between the pilot and air-traffic controllers.

A United Airlines jet also was searched in Chicago on Thursday after a passenger told authorities he overheard another flier say he left a bomb on the plane. Police said the tipster misheard the word “bag” as “bomb.”

David Stempler, president of the Air Travelers Association, a passenger advocacy group, said the recent incidents appeared to be a combination of misunderstandings and poor communication, sometimes sparked by a language barrier.

“These security rules have strict requirements and harsh constraints on people, and they need to be clearly

enunciated and explained to passengers. And that becomes tougher when you have a language gap,” he said.

Crew members on the plane diverted Thursday were unsure how to proceed when a 43-year-old Chinese woman got up to use a bathroom after having been instructed to remain in her seat, National Airlines spokesman Dik Shimizu said. The pilot asked air-traffic controllers for guidance and was instructed to land in Philadelphia, he said.

“I can’t even imagine how this woman felt when she realized that she was the reason the plane was in Philadelphia,” Shimizu said.

Bill Shumann, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said the number of incidents should recede when the government rolls back its terror alert warning from its second highest level — orange.

Federal statistics indicate that airlines usually deal with about 300 unruly passengers a year, but the FAA said that, before the Sept. 11 attacks, it was rare that a plane would be diverted or ordered to land.

This week’s incidents were the latest in a string that began last month.

An American Airlines flight from the Dominican Republic to Miami on Aug. 19 made an emergency landing shortly after takeoff after a passenger quipped that it is easy to bring weapons aboard an airplane.

An American Airlines flight from Chicago to San Francisco was diverted to Salt Lake City on Aug. 20 after a passenger tried to recharge a battery by warming it with a cigarette lighter.

On Aug. 29, two F-16s scrambled to intercept a Bahamasair flight from Canada to North Carolina after a miscommunication between air-traffic controllers and the pilot. The plane was diverted to Long Island.

On Aug. 31, a federal air marshal trained his gun on passengers for 30 minutes on a Delta flight from Atlanta to Philadelphia after several ignored orders to stay in their seats, following the detention of a man seen rummaging through luggage.

Teeth cleaning part of school curriculum

By The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — In two New Jersey schools, Johnny can read, write — and get his teeth fixed.

New Brunswick district officials are using grants to set up dental offices at two schools, where full-time dentists and dental assistants will provide services to students for free.

The services appear to be the first school-based dental offices. Other districts have offered dental health

care during free clinics.

“It is uncommon to have actual dental services provided in school,” said Michael Yaple, a spokesman for the New Jersey School Boards Association. “It is more often common to see clinics with examinations and education.”

District Superintendent Ronald Larkin is waiting for approval from state health officials. The plan calls for opening one dental center at a

grade school by next month and the other at New Brunswick High School by the end of the year.

School district officials said dental care is desperately needed in a community where about 70 percent of the students live at or below the poverty line. The district includes a large population of immigrants and most do not have medical or dental insurance or aren’t eligible for state assistance plans, officials said.

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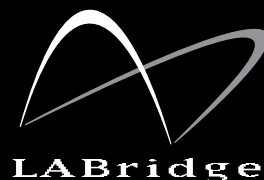
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INTERNATIONAL



Bush doubts Iraqi compliance; Powell lobbies for resolution

BY BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary of State Colin Powell gained diplomatic support for the strong U.S. stand against Saddam Hussein, winning approval Friday from all members of the U.N. Security Council for President Bush's assertion that the Iraqi leader poses a threat to international security.

Still, Bush said he doubts Saddam would give up his weapons even in the face of U.N. demands or the U.S. threat of military force. And Powell did not seek the support of the 14 other Security Council members for the use of force.

"The conversation never got quite that far directly," he told The Associated Press. "Everybody is hoping that a solution can be found."

But, Powell said, "They clearly see the U.S. is not just talking about another resolution being ignored. I think they see the seriousness and the gravity of the situation."

Powell's diplomacy was only the beginning of what could be an extended process of drafting a resolution that would demand — again — that Iraq open its weapons sites for inspection and destroy any weapons found.

"I think all the members of the council are now seized with the issue, recognize the challenge that Iraq does present to international law and to the mandate of the Security Council," Powell said after a series of meetings in which he pressed Bush's demand for Iraqi disarmament.

But the secretary gave no indication that he received endorsement for using force against Baghdad, as Bush has suggested may be necessary. And Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said in a speech to the General Assembly that his government sought a political settlement, thereby hinting that it would not endorse force.

"Efforts should be made to prevent the arbitrary enlargement of the scope of a counterterrorism campaign," he said.

As a permanent Security Council member, China could kill any resolution

with a veto.

And Powell said that while Arab nations that make up the Gulf Cooperation Council offered "understanding and support," they reminded him that the Arab League is opposed to a conflict in the region.

By next week, Powell said, the ministers will have had a chance to consult with their capitals. He stressed that he had not taken up the wording of a resolution. And as he took questions at the delegates' entrance to U.N. Secretariat, Powell said that Arab ministers probably would be in touch with Saddam.

Earlier, foreign ministers of the U.N. Security Council's permanent five nations said that Iraq's refusal to obey past U.N. resolutions "is a serious matter and that Iraq must comply."

The U.N. resolution would set a deadline for the return of weapons inspectors to Iraq and warn of serious consequences if Saddam continued to reject such an arrangement.

"We're talking days and weeks, not months and years," Bush said.

"I am highly doubtful that he will meet our demands. I hope he does but I'm highly doubtful," Bush said as he wound up talks with foreign leaders.

Bush also wants congressional backing for possible military action against Iraq and he spoke mockingly of Democrats who have been holding back.

"Democrats waiting for the U.N. to act?" Bush asked with chuckle. "I can't imagine an elected ... member of the United States Senate or House of Representatives saying, 'I think I'm going to wait for the United Nations to make a decision.'"

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, in the midst of consultations with Powell, said of Saddam: "If he refuses to cooperate with the U.N. Security Council, the Iraqi government will take responsibility itself for possible consequences."

Besides Russia and the United States, the other three permanent members are Britain, France and China.

While the Russian support could be a boost for Bush, the president was still



Ali Haider/Associated Press

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz gestures following a visit to the press center at the information ministry in Baghdad on Friday. Aziz told reporters Friday that President Bush's speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday was "full of lies and fabrications."

struggling to draw support from Congress.

Democratic leaders said the administration must provide more information on threats posed by Saddam and on U.S. plans for removing the Iraqi president before Congress considers a resolution in support of military action.

Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, has said he hasn't yet seen enough evidence to justify going to war against Saddam.

Still, on Capitol Hill, there was some good news for the administration.

Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., said he would work with members of both parties to try to draw up a congressional resolution. The aim, he said, is "the broadest possible bipartisan support for the president, as commander in chief, as he works to protect our nation and the world from Saddam Hussein."

Congress is preparing to hold at least five hearings on the confrontation with Iraq.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz dismissed Bush's speech, and in turn his remarks were dismissed by White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. "Obviously, they have something to hide," he said of the Iraqis.

Cheney, appearing on the Rush Limbaugh radio program, rejected any idea that the administration's Iraq policy was geared to elections in November.

"Every other year is an election year and you can't take half the calendar and put it off-limits. This is an issue the president and I have talked about now for months," he said.

Vice President Dick Cheney said the administration expects to provide Congress with more evidence to back up its allegations about Saddam.

Robot to explore Egypt's Great Pyramid's unsolved mystery

BY DONNA BRYSON
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO, Egypt — A robot the size and shape of a child's toy train is exploring one of the enduring questions of Egypt's Great Pyramid: What lies at the end of a shaft first discovered by explorers in the 19th century?

Engineers from the Boston firm iRobot and researchers from National Geographic and the Egyptian government's Supreme Council of the Antiquities showed the robot to reporters Friday. On Tuesday, it will crawl 200 feet up the 8-inch-square shaft before a live, international television audience.

If all goes according to plan, television viewers and researchers will discover what's behind a door at the end of the shaft at the same moment.

"It's a moment of revelation that scientists get to experience fairly often, but the rest of us don't," said Tim Kelly, president of National Geographic's television and film division.

Then begins the hard work — trying to understand the meaning of whatever is behind the door, said Zahi Hawass, director of the Supreme Council of the Antiquities.

"You have a mystery and the mystery will be solved — what's behind this door, whether it is something or nothing," Hawass said, adding it was difficult to guess what would be found. "Whatever we are going to find, there still will be a lot of work for us to do."

No other Egyptian pyramid has such shafts, Hawass said. The Great Pyramid, built 4,500 years ago by Khufu, a ruler also known as Cheops, has four.

The shafts may have played symbolic roles in Khufu's unique religious philosophy. Khufu proclaimed himself Sun God during his life — pharaohs before him believed they became sun gods only after death — and he may have tried to reflect his ideas in the design of his pyramid, Hawass said.

"You have a mystery and the mystery will be solved — what's behind this door, whether it is something or nothing."

— ZAHY HAWASS

Supreme Council of the Antiquities, director

While researchers remain in one of the chambers in the heart of the pyramid, the robot will be climbing the shaft. The shaft rises over rough stone at a 40-degree angle from the chamber and ends at a door adorned with two brass handles. In a test using ultrasound equipment mounted on the robot, researchers have determined the door is three-inches thick.

Over the next few days, the exploration team will determine how the robot will penetrate the door. Hawass says the robot may drill a hole for a tiny camera and a light to pass through.

Engineers from iRobot, benefitting from the experience of a German team that sent a robot as far as the door in 1993, have spent the last six months designing their

machine. Its motors and mountings for cameras and other equipment are encased in a frame the size of a loaf of bread with two sets of flexible treads that allow it to grip the top and bottom of the shaft. Flippers at the robot's front increase its maneuverability — the German robot couldn't negotiate a small bulge near the door.

Using the robot's "brain" — a black box with motor and camera controls — engineers can monitor the robot and its surroundings on video screens from a chamber at the heart of the pyramid and send instructions via cables. The tons of stone all around made radio controls impractical, according to iRobot's Gregg Landry.

Khufu's pyramid has never yielded the treasures usually associated with pharaohs, perhaps because tomb robbers plundered it thousands of years ago. The pyramid has, however, long intrigued amateur and professional Egyptologists, who marvel at it as a feat of ancient engineering.

It has two inner chambers and, underneath, a burial chamber. The shaft the \$250,000 robot was built to explore rises to the south from the middle chamber. Another shaft that heads north from the same chamber appears to come to a dead end. Two more stretch north and south from the topmost chamber, known as the King's Chamber, to the surface of the pyramid.

Hawass said the shafts from the King's Chamber may have been intended as pathways to other worlds for two of Khufu's spiritual incarnations — the Sun God and Horus, god of goodness and light. If the shafts leading from the lower chamber also are symbols, a key to their meaning may lie at the end of the shaft the robot was built to explore.



SPORTS

The second test for San Francisco 49ers is Denver

By The Associated Press

The San Francisco 49ers' opening game was almost exactly like last season's opener. The 49ers just hope the second game isn't similar, too.

San Francisco opened the season Sept. 5 by beating the New York Giants 16-13, the same score of last season's opening victory in overtime over Atlanta. But the 49ers lost the second game 30-26 to St. Louis, one of only four regular-season defeats.

On Sunday, San Francisco must solve its offensive inconsistencies in time to beat the Broncos' revamped defense. The key, as always, is Terrell Owens, who wasn't much of a factor against the Giants. The 49ers usually run the ball well, but Owens has the big-play capability that can transform the Niners from a good team to an excellent one.

"I don't really go into the game thinking I have an edge," Owens says. "But I'm very confident in the things I do. If that's considered an edge, then I'm positive I can do some things."

The Broncos began the season with a bang by beating powerful St. Louis, considered an NFC favorite along with the 49ers. Their next task is just as tough: winning on Candlestick Point, where the 49ers have won eight of their last nine. Quarterback Brian Griese hopes to build on the respect he earned against the Rams by leading a 71-yard fourth-quarter drive for the deciding score.

But the Broncos know if they're to stop the 49ers, they have to stop Owens.

"Take your pick as to who is the best receiver in the league — Randy Moss or Terrell Owens," says Denver safety Sam Brandon. "But with Terrell Owens, you can't ever take your eyes off that guy."

In other games Sunday, it's Chicago at Atlanta; Miami at Indianapolis; Tennessee at Dallas; Detroit at Carolina; New England at the New York Jets; Green Bay at New Orleans; Cincinnati at Cleveland; Jacksonville at Kansas City; Tampa Bay at Baltimore; Arizona at Seattle; the New York Giants at St. Louis; Houston at San Diego; Buffalo at Minnesota; and Oakland at Pittsburgh.

Philadelphia is at Washington on Monday night.

■ New York Giants (0-1) at St. Louis (0-1)

The Giants got an extra three days to prepare, but face another tough matchup. The first two games are against teams that went a combined 26-6 last year. The Giants try to rev up their running game despite a banged-up Tiki Barber (sore toe and hamstring).

Top priority for the Rams is controlling Michael Strahan, who had four of his NFL-record 22 1/2 sacks last year in a 15-14 loss in St. Louis. That task falls to T. John St. Clair, making his second career start after a somewhat shaky preseason. The Rams rushed for only 32 yards against Denver.

■ New England (1-0) at New York Jets (1-0)

The Patriots have won nine straight, including the playoffs, and really caught fire last season with a comeback victory at the Jets. They bring seven former Jets to the Meadowlands.

New York was sloppy in its opener, surviving on Chad Morton's two kickoff returns for touchdowns and some key pass completions. Star RB Curtis Martin, a former Patriot, has a sprained ankle and missed the second half at Buffalo.

■ Oakland (1-0) at Pittsburgh (0-1)

The Raiders return to Pittsburgh for only the third time since the 1970s, when the rivals met in the AFC playoffs five straight years, three times in the AFC championship game. Oakland lost its only AFC title game in Three Rivers Stadium in January 1976, and owner Al Davis remains convinced the Steelers intentionally froze the sidelines to slow down his receivers. The rivalry grew so intense, Raiders defensive back George Atkinson sued Steelers coach Chuck Noll for slander for labeling him and Raiders teammate Jack Tatum part of the "criminal element" in the NFL.

The Steelers' 30-14 loss to New England was their sixth in their last nine openers under coach Bill Cowher, but they rebounded to win their second game all but once during that span.

■ Philadelphia (0-1) at Washington (1-0) (Monday night)

A big early game in the NFC East. The Redskins can take a two-game lead over the division favorites.

Washington coach Steve Spurrier said he doesn't work his game plan around specific defensive players, which means he's likely to try to throw at Pro Bowl defensive backs Troy Vincent, Brian Dawkins and Blaine Bishop as if they were no-namers from the USFL. That should prove a better test of the Spurrier attack than the Arizona defense last week.

■ Green Bay (1-0) at New Orleans (1-0)

The Packers and Saints have played only four times in the last 15 years. The Packers have always enjoyed playing in the Superdome, however. They beat the Saints there in 1995 to clinch a playoff berth. They won the Super Bowl there in 1996, and Brett Favre is undefeated in the Superdome, including two college games.

The Saints are 7-9 at home under coach Jim Haslett, 12-5 on the road.

■ Miami (1-0) at Indianapolis (1-0)

The Colts have a four-game home losing streak against the Dolphins and must stop the run Sunday. Indianapolis ranked 28th last season and allowed former

Dolphin Lamar Smith to rush for 209 yards in a playoff loss two years ago.

Indy limited Fred Taylor and the Jaguars to 3.8 yards per carry last week and should get a better measuring stick in Ricky Williams, who tries to become Miami's first runner with successive 100-yard games since 1994.

■ Cincinnati (0-1) at Cleveland (0-1)

Linebacker Dwayne Rudd has promised to keep his helmet on this week until the final whistle after throwing it — and a season-opening win — away for the Browns.

Cleveland couldn't stop Kansas City's Priest Holmes last week, and will have to shut down Corey Dillon, who rushed for just 9 yards on 10 carries in the Bengals' 34-6 loss to San Diego.

Dillon has averaged 159 yards in Cincinnati's last four wins over the Browns.

■ Buffalo (0-1) at Minnesota (0-1)

Poor kick coverage cost the Bills against the Jets. Positives to build on were Travis Henry rushing for a career-high 149 yards and three TDs, and a young defensive front limiting the Jets to 73 yards rushing.

The Vikings also blew a fourth-quarter lead against Chicago, thanks in part to a costly interception thrown by Daunte Culpepper with 2 1/2 minutes left. The revamped defense held the Bears to 10 points and just 9 yards rushing in the first half, then let them score two touchdowns in the final nine minutes.

■ Chicago (1-0) at Atlanta (0-1)

The Bears have to stop Michael Vick without two defensive starters, injured end Phillip Daniels and cornerback R.W. McQuarters. Marty Booker is coming off a career day — 198 yards on eight receptions — and could find the Atlanta secondary to his liking with CB Ray Buchanan serving a four-game suspension after a positive steroid test.

The Falcons are undermanned on defense, with Buchanan's suspension only adding to their woes. Lineman Travis Hall is expected to miss his second straight game, leaving Atlanta with only five healthy players up front, and the linebackers have been plagued by injuries. Vick teams with RBs Warrick Dunn and T.J. Duckett to give the Falcons a potentially explosive offense.

■ Tampa Bay (0-1) at Baltimore (0-1)

Jon Gruden and Brian Billick, two animated coaches who last met in the Ravens' 2001 AFC championship game win, hook up again with decidedly different teams.

Gruden left the Raiders to take over the Buccaneers, who last week spoiled his debut by falling at home to New Orleans in overtime.

Billick is now in charge of a salary-cap depleted team that lost 10-7 at Carolina.

■ Jacksonville (0-1) at Kansas City (1-0)

The Chiefs need a quick turnaround by a defense that gave up more than 400 yards to a second-string quarterback at Cleveland. NFL rushing champion Holmes had four touchdowns and 141 yards from scrimmage against the Browns.

The Jags have lost 11 of 15, including 30-26 to Kansas City in Game 15 of 2001. A big game by running back Fred Taylor could help open passing lanes for Mark Brunell against an inexperienced secondary.

■ Tennessee (1-0) at Dallas (0-1)

The Cowboys' season might be sunk if they can't bounce back from a loss to Houston. The defense was OK, but the offense looked awful. Second-year LB Keith Adams, son of former Patriots star Julius Adams, will start for Dat Nguyen, out with a broken wrist.

Tennessee could be headed to a big start after scoring 17 straight points in the second half to beat Philadelphia. After losing DE Jevon Kearse (broken foot), rookie Carlos Hall stepped in and had three sacks. If the former Houston team can do what the current one did — beat Dallas — Tennessee will have 10 straight wins over NFC East teams.

■ Houston (1-0) at San Diego (1-0)

No expansion team has started 2-0. David Carr, who led the Texans to the shocking win over Dallas, returns to California, where he starred at Fresno State.

The Chargers go for their second straight win behind new coach Marty Schottenheimer and quarterback Drew Brees, who won his first NFL start at Cincinnati. Hard-hitting safety Rodney Harrison is out 2-3 weeks with a pulled groin.

■ Arizona (0-1) at Seattle (0-1)

Trent Dilfer could return as Seahawks quarterback after missing the 31-17 loss at Oakland that dropped their record in openers to a league worst 7-20.

The Cardinals, who lost to Steve Spurrier's Redskins, are 5-1 against the Seahawks, their new NFC West rivals. Seattle moved from the AFC West and Arizona from the NFC East.

■ Detroit (0-1) at Carolina (1-0)

The Lions are looking for their first road victory in a year — they lost all eight last season, and were routed 49-21 at Miami in last week's opener.

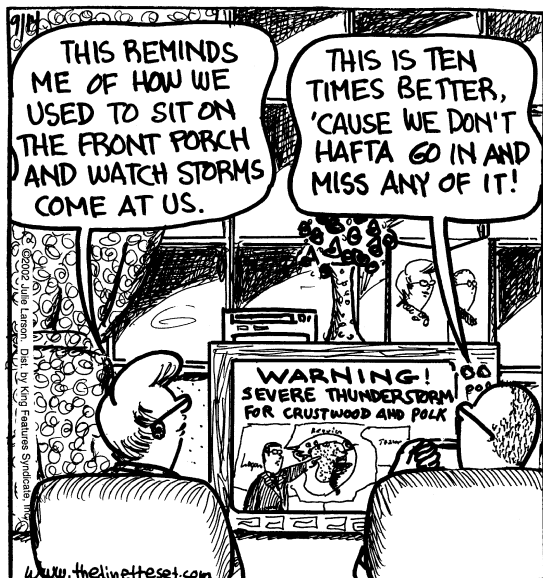
Carolina seeks its first winning streak since 2000. A victory would double the win total from a year ago after the Panthers won their opener vs. Baltimore.

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COMICS



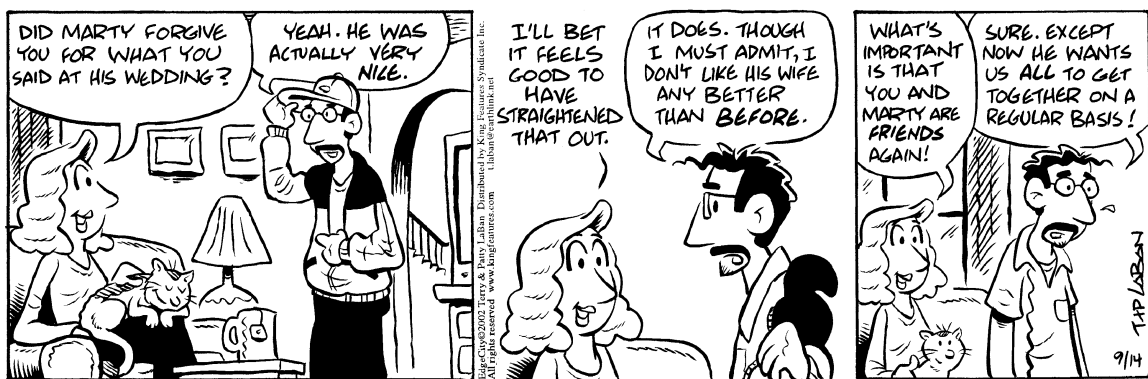
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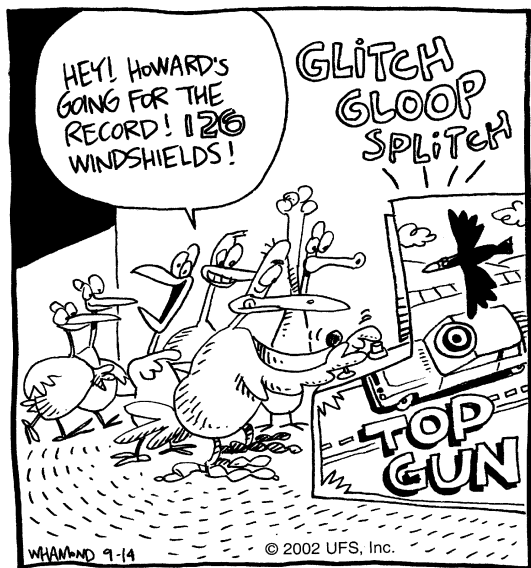
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- 15 Punished severely
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- 8 Libel
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- 24 Field marshal?
- 25 Distraught
- 26 Printer's goofs
- 27 "Twelfth Night" character
- 28 Remove surgically
- 29 Crowd scene
- 30 Fencing swords
- 34 Tabloid staple
- 36 Sopping
- 37 Superman symbol

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Yesterday's answer

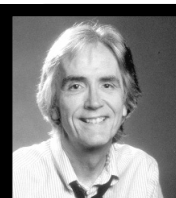
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Lawyer entitled to \$30K from government

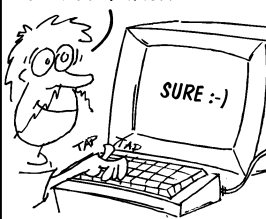
The U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia ruled in June that lawyer-plaintiff Richard Barrett of Mississippi was entitled to about \$30,000 in government reimbursement of legal fees for challenging the protest-permit process in Morristown, N.J., for his small, white-supremacist organization. Barrett admits that court-ordered expenses (from 21 recent favorable decisions) are a major source of income. Barrett showed a few minor defects in the Morristown permit process, for which he originally asked reimbursement at \$275 an hour, including 30 minutes' worth of "discussions with client" (presumably, \$137.50 for talking to himself).



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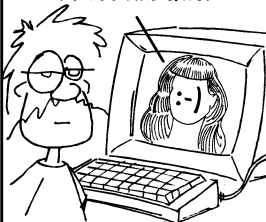
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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YARD SALE Treasures, furniture, children's goodies, linens, clothes, books, dish sets and appliances. Saturday 14th 8:30a-2p. 2347 Ashland Ave.

Personals

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

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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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Calendar

Saturday, September 14, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
City by the Sea (R) 12:20, 1:40, 3:00, 4:20, 5:40, 7:00, 8:20, 9:40, 11:00. Igby Goes Down (R) 12:00, 1:25, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45, 10:00, 11:15.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Spider Man (PG-13) 1:50, 7:15. Men In Black II (PG-13) 11:30, 4:40, 10:00. Austin Powers in Goldmember (PG-13) 11:50, 2:20, 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, 12:00. XXX (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10. Stealing Harvard (PG-13) 11:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40, 12:00.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Signs (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55. FearDotCom (R) 9:40. Road to Perdition (R) 1:15, 4:00, 7:10, 9:50. Barbershop (PG-13) 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30. Blue Crush (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:05. Spy Kids 2 (PG) 1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30. Blood Work (R) 4:45, 10:00. Swimfan (PG-13) 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 10:10. Serving Sara (PG-13) 2:15, 7:30.

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

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Possession (PG-13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50. The Good Girl (R) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10.

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

Today

Community

Little Cats Helping Big Cats Benefit cat show! Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St. Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors and children. 10 a.m. To 5 p.m. For more information please call (310)393-9961.

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.

Dance Fair to be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Hosted by the American Academy For Dance, 3026 Nebraska Ave, Santa Monica. Participants will have the opportunity to sample classes in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Voice, Flamenco, Creative Movement and Visual Arts. Any questions, please call (310)656-8899.

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

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.

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.

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.

Sunday

Community

Little Cats Helping Big Cats Benefit cat show! Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St. Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors and children. 9 a.m. To 5 p.m. For more information please call (310)393-9961.

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Ocean Park Community Organization's first

annual Historic Home Tour and Wine Tasting. 1-3 PM, begins at Ocean Park Library lawn. \$30.00 donation will benefit the last intact Shotgun House in Santa Monica.

The Santa Monica Historical Society Museum will re-air IN MEMORIAM: NEW YORK CITY, 9/11/01 on the 1 year anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks. 2 p.m., 1539 Euclid St., Santa Monica. The program is free to the public and will include a tour of the Museum.

Health & Fitness

Free Yoga Orientation - Sunday September 15, 2002, 2:15 pm-3:45 pm. Santa Monica Yoga (Venice Studio). 1027 Abbot Kinney, #2F Venice. (310)396-4040.

Theater & Arts

"The Day that Changed the World," a dramatic 9-11 photo exhibit will be shown at the Grand Salon of Kerckhoff Hall near the center of the UCLA campus from Sept 15th through Sept 20th. The exhibit consists of 140 photographs by veteran photojournalists in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania taken in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. A memorial book will be available at the exhibit for guests to sign and express their thoughts. The book will be presented to the New York City Fire Museum at the conclusion of the tour. Viewing times are as follows: Sept. 15, 1-5pm; Sept. 16-19, 9am-4pm; Sept. 20, 9am-1pm. The exhibit is free, parking is \$7.00. For more information contact (310)206-0632.

"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.metro-olisphotos.com.

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

Music & Entertainment

Keith Bilderbeck and the Baba Yaga Players at the Will Greer Theatrum. 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. Songs and stories for the whole family! 11:00 a.m., admission is \$7.00. For more information please call (310)455-2526.

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.

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.

Almost Vaudville. 2 pm and 5 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

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.

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.

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

College sex columnists causing a stir on campuses

BY MARTHA IRVINE

AP National Writer

Natalie Krinsky dares to go public on a topic most of her college classmates keep between friends — sex in the Elm City, otherwise known as New Haven, Conn.

The 19-year-old junior is the resident “sexpert” at Yale University’s student newspaper, one of a small but growing number of college publications with writers who detail the trials and tribulations of a favorite college pastime.

Their columns have campuses buzzing.

“And that’s all right because we’re 20 years old and just starting to talk about this stuff,” says Krinsky, who detailed her experiments with oral sex in some of her most popular and controversial columns last year. Now she’s back for more this semester.

As her fellow columnists often do, Krinsky uses a mix of wisecracks, raw language and unvarnished advice to make her points.

“Nudity is inherently humorous. The body is beautiful, of course, but the things we do with our bodies in the sack are plain weird,” she observed in one her column’s tamer moments. “Have you ever heard your roommate having sex? It’s embarrassing. You are embarrassed to be human.”

A column about fellatio triggered hundreds of hits on the Yale Daily News Web site. Some students were aghast, and threatened to transfer. “Is this journalism?” one griped.

At least a few student editors seem to think so. College papers from New York University to the University of Kansas to the University of California, Berkeley, have started their own sex columns.

Editors say they’re taking a cue from oft-read Internet-based columns that openly address the topic. Some also note they’re simply giving their readers information they needed but never got from home or each other.

A recent survey of 15- to 17-year-olds by the Kaiser

Family Foundation and Seventeen magazine illustrated how taboo talk about sex is.

Among teens who had engaged in sexual intercourse, only one in 10 discussed their plans with a parent ahead of time, the survey said. About 40 percent of sexually active respondents also said they’d never talked to their sex partners about the AIDS virus and other sexually transmitted diseases.

“I knew I was going to raise some eyebrows. But I didn’t know people were going to flip out.”

— MEGHAN BAINUM

University of Kansas sex columnist

“While it would be nice to think that kids don’t have hormones and aren’t ready to be sexual until they’re married and in their 20s, that’s not reality,” says Meghan Bainum, sex columnist at the University of Kansas’ student newspaper.

Her columns have dealt with everything from the awkwardness of sex to suggestions for how to release sexual tension during spring break.

It was a column about anal sex that caused the biggest stir, mostly among alumni and people in Lawrence, Kan., where The University Daily Kansan circulates.

“I knew I was going to raise some eyebrows,” the 21-year-old writer says. “But I didn’t know people were going to flip out.”

Kansan editors voluntarily stopped mailing Thursday

editions, when Bainum’s column runs, to area high schools. They refused to pull the popular fixture.

“Even with the negative feedback, we’ve never really wanted to censor her,” says Kyle Ramsey, one of the paper’s student editors. “We only encourage her to write a stronger column.”

Others see their columns as a way to boost circulation. This fall, students at NYU’s Washington Square News are publicizing their new sex column with placards on newspaper boxes and postcards.

Yvonne K. Fulbright is that paper’s sexpert, one who takes a more clinical approach when addressing everything from painful intercourse to sexual technique.

“I definitely deal with racy issues, but I balance it with matters of sexual health,” says Fulbright, a 26-year-old doctoral student in health studies with a master’s degree in human sexuality.

The concerns are even more basic from young readers who send questions to experts at SEX, ETC., a newsletter and Web site for teens.

“The level of ignorance is incredibly sad,” says Susan N. Wilson, executive coordinator of the Network for Family Life Education at Rutgers University, which produces SEX, ETC. and commissions most of its first-person columns from young writers. Kids “don’t even know the basics.”

From a personal standpoint, writing about sex isn’t always easy. Krinsky says students make assumptions about her and pelt her with more than her share of insults. The most common: “You’re a slut.”

“It is difficult to put yourself out there,” she says.

Bainum says she lost a free-lance contract at a newspaper because of her “reputation.”

Both of them hope to continue as sex columnists after college. So does Fulbright.

“It’s just one step,” she says, “in trying to be the next Dr. Ruth.”

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One FREE Dessert on Jazz Night

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