

FREE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2002

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

City grapples with proposals to restrict transients

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The city council tonight will consider passing two laws designed to move the homeless population out of the downtown area.

Tough restrictions could be placed on groups who distribute food to the needy in public parks as a way to clear downtown of transients. The proposed ordinance says any group that hands out food must have a permit issued by the Los Angeles County Health Department and be authorized by the city before organizing food lines.

The other proposed law would make it illegal for any person to sit or lie down in a building's entrance between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. But the ordinance only covers buildings in downtown, which means the area bounded by and including the east side of Ocean Avenue, the north side of Wilshire Boulevard, the east side of Lincoln Boulevard and the south side of Pico Boulevard.

Some officials believe part of Santa Monica's vagrant problem stems from church groups that come from outside of the city that host public feedings in

Palisades Park and on the front lawn of City Hall. The feedings draw hundreds of hungry homeless people to the downtown area every day.

The Bayside District Corp., which manages the downtown area and works with the city, has been dealing with complaints by business owners for the past several months, if not years. They claim transients are ruining the charm and economy of Santa Monica because of their anti-social and threatening behaviors. And it appears to be a quality of life issue for residents, who for at least three years, have said the high number of homeless people was their No. 1 concern in the city, officials said.

Dozens of vagrants sleep in doorways in front of businesses on the Third Street Promenade, as well as urinate and defecate in public. Many transients spend their days panhandling — sometimes aggressively — which scares people away from downtown, merchants, residents and visitors say.

The Bayside board formed a public safety subcommittee several months ago that began looking at ways to deal with the problems plaguing the downtown area. Committee members and the Bayside board recommended to city council in July to eliminate or at least restrict the public food giveaways and create a local ordinance that is tougher than the state's current trespassing law.

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside, said she is satisfied with the proposed laws, although she personally will advocate that sleeping in doorways should be illegal 24 hours a day.

"It's a step in the right direction," she said.

See ORDINANCES, page 4

Suggested laws may get Santa Monica sued

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

If a pair of ordinances designed to curb public feedings and trespassing downtown is enacted by the city council tonight, a series of legal challenges will likely ensue.

Officials with the Los Angeles chapter of the National Lawyers Guild said they will file suit against the city to protect the rights of Santa Monica's homeless population, which would largely be affected by the proposed measures.

"If it passes, it will be challenged," said former city attorney Robert Myers, who is an active member of the guild.

Myers was fired in 1992 by the city council for refusing to write laws that prohibited camping in public and limit public food distribution.

The guild successfully defeated a similar city ordinance in 1993 that required a city permit for gatherings of more than 35 individuals in public parks. That ordinance was deemed unconstitutional by the courts for being vague and violating residents' First Amendment right to freedom of speech and assembly.

"It's essentially the same thing," Myers said. "But this seems far more sweeping than the last one."

See LAWS, page 5

Michael Crichton robbed in his Santa Monica home

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Famed author Michael Crichton was tied up and robbed at gunpoint in his Santa Monica home early Monday by two masked men.

Santa Monica Police couldn't say whether the victim was Crichton, but his publicist Joseph Marich confirmed that the author of Jurassic Park was robbed at his home.

"An incident did occur but everybody is fine and that's all I can say because a kid is involved," Marich said.

Crichton reportedly lives with his daughter, Taylor.

Police said the crime was committed in a private home in the 400 block of 22nd Street, which is between Georgina Avenue and Marguerita Avenue.

Santa Monica Police responded to a call at 4:51 a.m. Monday regarding a home invasion robbery, SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega said.

The victim, believed to be Crichton, told police two men armed with handguns and dressed in ski masks broke into his home, tied him and an unidentified person up while the thieves ransacked the house.

Crichton was able to call police after he freed himself and the thieves left. Both

See CRICHTON, page 4



File photo

Hundreds of hungry people line up in Palisades Park to take advantage of a free food distribution program. Similar programs may be restricted by the city.

Candidate faces elimination

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A front-runner in the school board race may be removed from the November ballot for not being a registered Santa Monica voter at the time he decided to run.

Oscar de la Torre's candidacy has been challenged by Santa Monica City Clerk Maria Stewart for not being a registered Santa Monica voter when he filed his papers to run for public office.

It would be the first time in Santa Monica history that a candidate has been

disqualified in such a way, Stewart said.

State election code requires candidates to be able to vote for the office they intend to become a candidate for.

The law could potentially disqualify de la Torre because he was registered to vote at a Los Angeles address when he first "pulled papers" to run for the school board seat on July 15.

"Based upon that information, he is not eligible to run for office," Stewart said. "We have also asked him to share

See CANDIDATE, page 8

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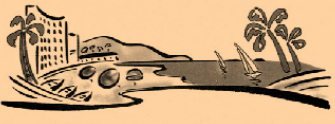
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Juggle what might go on with others. Extremes mark your decisions. Use your drive and energy to put the finishing touches on a very important project. Financial matters improve because of your guidance. Still, expect a strain on your budget. Tonight: Indulge others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your personality melts barriers. In fact, you might laugh at some of the extremes you see others hit. Be sensitive to opportunities that surround a partnership. Use your ingenuity, and you'll make your point. Tonight: Do what pleases you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You might enjoy what is happening behind the scenes at work. Know what you need to get done first, then you might be able to kick back and enjoy more. When someone tells you a secret, be sure he or she means it. Be ready to take it to the grave! Tonight: Comfortable at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ A meeting develops into more, if you wish. Somehow, others act as if there's no tomorrow. A potential loved one or friend lets you know just how interested he or she is. Communicate your intentions as clearly as possible. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Don't go to excess in order to make a point. Review a matter that is important and close to your heart. Initiate a new beginning if possible. Consider what might be motivating you in a particular situation. Understand the pros and cons. Tonight: All eyes turn to you. Express your opinions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You seem bent on creating options by hook or crook. You often get so involved in a conversation that you lose perspective. Understand more of what you want before launching into action. The outcome will be better as a result. Tonight: Relax your emotions and your mind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Extremes punctuate everyone's mood right now, including yours. Enjoying the moment might include incorporating a mishap into your day. Make light of a problem. If you haven't developed this special skill yet, why not do so now? Tonight: Get a backrub.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Juggle the different aspects of what might be happening in your life. Meetings and groups are provocative at best. A friend drives a hard bargain. Keep smiling and don't react. Carefully review news that comes your way. Tonight: Say "yes."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Pace yourself. Bosses make demands. Others have strong expectations. You might want to balk; instead, do the opposite and take on a project. Show off your stuff. Act on a long-term desire. You find that an associate or pal is more than willing to help. Tonight: Take a walk in the fall air.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Tap into your creativity and ingenuity for answers. Do needed research by finding experts, perhaps even on the Internet. Laugh and play along with a boss. This person values your expertise and friendship. Tonight: Take a mid-week break.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Stay calm, even if others fall into a flurry for no reason at all. Others seek you out on a massive level; however, you might be best off focusing on one person at a time. A partner or loved one could demonstrate unusual jealousy. Tonight: Happy at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Others seek you out. What a close friend or loved one wants from you becomes very clear. You might think others are difficult. In essence, they are trying to have you hear them. Perhaps they do have something important to share. Tonight: Talk over dinner.

QUOTE of the DAY

"Marriage has driven more than one man to sex."

— Peter De Vries

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LOCAL

Proposed homeless policies incite protest

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

High profile figures have lobbied council members to vote against ordinances designed to place limitations on the city's homeless population.

Rev. Jesse Jackson of the Rainbow Push Coalition; author and historian Howard Zinn; and former city attorney Robert Myers have all written passionate pleas to city council members to reconsider ordinances that would place barriers to public feedings and enact stricter trespassing laws for downtown businesses.

Jackson urged the council to postpone taking a vote on the proposed ordinances and find a better way to approach the issue.

"Private efforts to aid the poor and those less fortunate should be encouraged, not made illegal," he wrote. "Homelessness and hunger are human rights issues."

Jackson, who lives in Atlanta, wrote that when he travels abroad to protest human rights abuses, he is reminded of how poorly the chronically homeless are treated in the U.S.

"At one time Santa Monica was synonymous with progressive politics and the decency with which the city treated its citizenry," Jackson wrote. "You should continue that tradition by voting against the proposal to criminalize food distribution."

Zinn, who wrote "A People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present," said in his letter that he was deeply troubled by the council's proposed actions.

"This is a human rights issue, in which the profits of merchants should not come before the feeding of people who are hun-

gry," he wrote.

Zinn, who lives in Boston, said the ordinances would violate a clause in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states everyone has a right to a standard of living adequate for health food, clothing, and housing.

"Private efforts to aid the poor and those less fortunate should be encouraged, not made illegal."

— REV. JESSE JACKSON
Rainbow Push Coalition

"It would be a shame if the City of Santa Monica could not live up to this principle," he wrote.

Myers wrote that council members seeking re-election are pandering to business interests. Myers was fired by the city council in 1992 for refusing to write ordinances that prohibited camping in public and limit public food distribution.

In his letter, Myers wrote that the city was reacting to outside church groups that run the food programs for no other reason than the groups are not from Santa Monica.

"This ordinance attempts to criminalize those who answer their religious, political or moral call to feed the hungry," he wrote.

surf report Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Surf's up. A strong southwest (200 degrees) started hitting last night and will continue to build through the day. By morning, southwest facing spots can expect consistent, waist to chest-high surf, slightly larger by afternoon and shoulder to head-high on plus sets.

Forecast predict that the southwester will peak early Wednesday, so expect more big surf. Reports are showing big waves at Venice where the swell sneaks through a pair of near shore islands south of Catalina.

Winds from the northwest cause some afternoon blowout, but conditions should be mainly fair.

Today's Tides:

Low-	5:01 a.m.	1.40'
High-	11:11 a.m.	5.08'
Low-	5:42 p.m.	1.07'
High-	11:42 p.m.	4.10'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Venice	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
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The Q Line

Over the past few weeks, President George Bush has let it be known that he's no admirer of Saddam Hussein, who Bush charges is a world threat. Bush, as a result, wants to invade Iraq and, after hopeful victory, install a new regime.

On the other hand, there are critics who say such an invasion is one more example of American military power run amok. Critics also contend that al-Qaeda actually poses a more serious threat to the United States, and Bush is letting old grudges sidetrack the original task at hand, which is

bringing about justice for September 11.

So this week's Q-line wants to know:
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LOCAL

Enforcing new laws a question of priorities

ORDINANCES, from page 1

said. "We're optimistic and we are going to be supportive of it and let it have a run and see if there are fewer people downtown."

The state trespassing law only addresses public property and requires that people not stay in one place if they have been asked to leave. The result is that the homeless can move from one doorway to another along city streets, which makes it difficult for police to keep people from sleeping in doorways, officials have said.

City staff recognizes in the proposed ordinance that people who sleep in doorways use them as restrooms, which poses a significant public health hazard and employees of those businesses are forced to clean up urine and feces. The ordinance also addresses the fact that camping in doorways degrades the appearance of downtown and diminishes the quality of life for people who live and work there.

Officials also have recognized that there has been an increase in violent crime committed by homeless people against other homeless people.

The ordinance that would regulate food distribution, drafted by city staff, recognizes that between 20 and 30 groups distribute meals on a weekly basis to as many as 300 people each time. Some officials believe those activities not only monopolize certain areas of the parks, but also that public streets and sidewalks are not suitable locations because sanitary facilities are not readily available. The food lines also interfere with pedestrian and vehicle traffic, officials say.

The LA County Health Department has concluded that the public food distribution programs pose significant health

risks because the facilities to store the food properly at required temperatures are non-existent. And because the food is out in the open, it makes it susceptible to bird and animal droppings.

**"The police will have to
prioritize to make it
happen. If we don't
have the people in
the downtown enforcing
the laws, nothing
will happen."**

— KATHLEEN RAWSON
Executive director of Bayside

The ordinance also would require any group that attracts more than 150 people get a special event permit from the city. Santa Monica's community events law allows up to 150 people to gather without a permit.

But whether or not the new laws, if passed, will be enforced to the extent that they are effective remains to be seen. In the past, city officials and police have voiced their frustration that there aren't enough resources to effectively enforce the high number of transients breaking trespassing laws and other ordinances.

"The police will have to prioritize to make it happen," Rawson said. "If we don't have the people in the downtown enforcing the laws, nothing will happen."

Police describe suspects as wearing ski masks

CRICHTON, from page 1

victims were uninjured, police said.

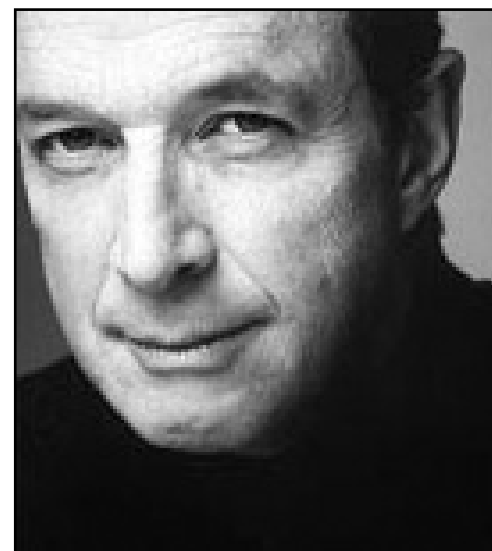
Police are providing little details regarding the incident because the investigation is on-going. It is unknown how long Crichton was tied up, how much was stolen or how long the thieves were inside his home.

"There was a loss of personal property with an undetermined value," Fabrega said, adding a car was heard leaving the area shortly after the incident.

The first suspect is described as a male, 5' 10" wearing a black ski mask, black sweater and dark pants. The second suspect also is a male, 5' 10", wearing a black ski mask, black sweater and dark pants.

Fabrega said anyone with information regarding the crime should call SMPD's robbery/homicide unit at (310) 458-8451.

Crichton, 59, is an acclaimed writer, movie producer and director. In addition to writing dozens of novels, he is respon-



Michael Crichton

sible for movies such as "Congo," "Sphere," "Jurassic Park," "Disclosure," "Rising Sun" and "Twister."

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Santa Monica Daily Press



LOCAL

Mayor calls proposed laws 'thinly veiled'

LAWS, from page 1

The proposed public feeding program ordinance would require groups to get a permit from the Los Angeles County Health Department to hold their charitable food distributions in city parks. After the groups received the county's blessing, they would still need to get permission from the city.

The other ordinance would prohibit individuals from sitting or lying down in the doorway of a downtown business between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

City officials said in a written staff report to the city council that the ordinance would not prohibit the food giveaways but require the charitable groups that run the programs to meet stringent Los Angeles County Health Department regulations.

"The ordinance does not prohibit food distribution or assembly in public spaces," a city staff report states. "Moreover, it does not impose new standards. Rather, it clarifies that persons wishing to distribute meals and food in parks and on the City Hall lawn must comply with state health standards and with (city law)."

However, city officials also wrote the intended effect of the new ordinance would be to decrease the number of food programs, which officials said average between 20 and 30 a week.

"Presumably, enforcement will diminish the number of projects and the number of distributions by each project because, among other things, project participants will be unwilling or unable to comply with the state and county requirements," staff wrote.

For more than a decade, Santa Monica has reformulated how it responds to its homeless population. Instead of providing immediate services, such as meals and clean clothes, it redirected \$1.8 million in aid to community non-profit organizations that provide counseling, transitional housing and job training.

Those social service agencies fill the immediate needs of the homeless community while also providing services intended to lift unhoused and unemployed residents off the streets.

During the last decade, the number of homeless living in Santa Monica and seeking city-sponsored services has risen by 25-30 percent, which has climbed even higher since the recent downturn in the economy, officials said.

The number of complaints from businesses, residents and tourists also have risen along with the increased numbers of homeless living in the city, officials said. In response, a number of groups have formed to lobby the city council to control

the public feeding programs and enact stricter trespassing laws.

However, Mayor Mike Feinstein said the two proposed ordinances that resulted from those groups are unconstitutional and would likely be struck down in court, despite the large sums the city would spend defending them.

"The issue is a political issue not a health issue and the approach taken by the ordinance is trying to pretend we can resolve a political issue by resorting to a backdoor health argument. I don't believe that's honest government."

— MIKE FEINSTEIN
Santa Monica City Mayor

Feinstein said the city is thinly veiling its ordinance with health code requirements but the intended effect is to eliminate the programs.

"The issue is a political issue not a health issue and the approach taken by the ordinance is trying to pretend we can resolve a political issue by resorting to a backdoor health argument," he said. "I don't believe that's honest government."

Santa Cruz City Attorney John G. Barisone said he thinks Santa Monica is well within its right to enact such ordinances.

Santa Cruz is dealing with many of the same issues Santa Monica is regarding transients and anti-social behavior. For several months, city leaders have been developing a package of new rules for its 10-block downtown core that is home to obnoxious sidewalk behavior by all types of people.

Barisone recently wrote legislation enacted by the Santa Cruz City Council that forbids anyone from setting up tables or stands on public property. The ordinance is aimed at limiting problems associated with panhandling.

"It's completely within the city's policing prerogative to enact ordinances to protect public safety, and that's what Santa Monica sounds like it's doing," he said. "That's the fundamental job of city government to ensure the public is safe."

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OPINION

LETTERS

Proposed laws just moves the problem

Editor:

Today the City Council will consider adding section 4.08.097 to the Santa Monica Municipal Code which will prohibit sitting or lying in doorways in the downtown area (3rd Street Promenade i.e. area bounded by east side of Ocean, north side of Wilshire, east side of Lincoln and up to the south side of Pico) between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The proposed ordinance states that this behavior leads to:

- "Significant public health hazards."
- "Degrades the appearance of the downtown area."
- "Diminishes the quality of life of employees and residents who work and live there."
- "Poses safety risks."

The ordinance continues to state that during the last year there have been a number of very violent crimes committed by homeless people in the downtown areas. The only problem is that the ordinance limits the "downtown" to the community within the boundaries of Wilshire, Lincoln, Ocean and Pico i.e. the Promenade. So what this ordinance will do is allow the communities outside this very small area to become the receptacle of the aforementioned homeless and vagrants who by their activity have created safety risks, diminished the quality of life and committed a number of very violent crimes.

The Ocean Park neighborhood I live in continues to be in a state of siege with aggressive panhandling, defecating in public and individuals in various stages of intoxication sleeping, passed out or in general destroying the quiet of our beachside community.

As a long time resident and taxpayer, I have watched while my neighbors have moved away because the onslaught of homeless showing up outside their homes and have made it unsafe for their children to play outside.

My elderly parents, visiting from out of state were harassed at 9 a.m. by vagrants who that morning had already been "overserved" at a nearby liquor store.

As an 18-year veteran of the non-profit community, I am well acquainted with the homeless issue, however, I am curious why the City of Santa Monica continues to allow 22 different groups from as far away as West Covina to come to Santa Monica and feed homeless people and vagrants in our city parks. I am also curious why these groups don't run these programs in their own communities. I, along with many others continue to watch the homeless population grow, negatively impacting businesses and residents on an ongoing basis.

After many years, I am finally at the stage where all the efforts of the city seem to be for naught. And, I want to know how long the businesses, parents, children and community of Santa Monica will continue to be held hostage by the plight of the very individuals (homeless/vagrants) that the Council purports to help. I urge those in the community to attend the City Council meeting at 5:45 p.m. today and let your voice be heard.

Enough is enough.

Anne E. Biege-Pearson
Santa Monica

Proposed laws are problematic

Editor:

SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO GIVE HOMES TO THE HOMELESS.

THE DOORWAYS OF THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES.

In the latest effort to be all things to all people, the city council has proposed an ordinance to allow the homeless to sleep in only certain doorways. The proposed ordinance creates a "No Sleeping Zone," defined as south of Wilshire, east of Ocean, west of Lincoln and north of Pico where it will be unlawful for individuals to sit or lie down in the doorways of a building between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The problem with this ordinance is that it allows ALL BUILDINGS not in the zone, to be used for sitting or lying down. This will have the unintended consequences of pushing the homeless, who are the main users of doorways for sitting and lying down (a nice euphemism for sleeping !) into the surrounding areas, thus increasing the filth, trash, vermin and unsanitary conditions (WHICH ARE THE STATED REASONS FOR LIMITING THE USE OF DOORWAYS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA) into the residential districts adjacent to the downtown area.

As a resident for the last seven years I have walked over and around literally hundreds of bodies of the "Great Unwashed" as La Rouchefoucauld would say. I have been accosted for years by men who are in a drunken stupor begging for money. I have been insulted, accosted, and belittled by those selfsame men when I politely refused their offers for charity.

Now the City Council wants to create a "No Sleeping Zone," WHICH I FULLY AND COMPLETELY SUPPORT, however, it should be a citywide ordinance. The problem is city wide and the solution should be city wide. The City Council has the opportunity to make significant improvements in the living conditions of the residents, and I would urge them to take this opportunity and make Santa Monica the quality place to live it should be.

The introductory language of the ordinance states that the sleeping in doorways is a health and safety hazard due to a lack of sanitary facilities, violence between and among the homeless. This is not an issue that is site specific. It is not only in the downtown zone. The problems faced by the homeless, and to which they are a contributing cause are city wide, we need a city wide solution.

The problem with the homeless, is not that they are homeless. It is that they do not live by the same laws as the rest of society. They are allowed to urinate in public, I'm not. They are allowed to leave their trash wherever they feel like it, I'm not. They are allowed to spit on the sidewalk, I'm not.

This ordinance is a great ordinance, it is well written and clear enough that the Police and the city attorneys office can easily and fairly enforce it without concern for ambiguity. BUT IT DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH.

By creating a "No Sleeping Zone," the City Council is forcing the concentration of the health and safety problems into the surrounding neighborhoods. My neighborhood and yours. It is only going to increase the health and safety issues already faced by local businesses and residents. The city council cannot be allowed to play a shell game with the problems, they must be made to face the problem as a whole.

See LETTERS, page 7

If they won't pay you, don't come to work here

(This is one of a series of weekly columns editorializing on the hotly contested living wage ordinance. The city council passed an ordinance in July of 2001 requiring business located in the coastal zone that generate \$5 million or more in revenue to pay their employees up to \$12.25 per hour. Those businesses and their supporters have asked for the ordinance to be rescinded which is before voters this November.)

Suppose a city passed a law stating that only those holding college degrees would be permitted to hold jobs in that community. While this would insure that only college graduates obtained jobs, we would have no difficulty judging such a law to be immoral and, presumably, illegal.

Suppose instead that a law was passed establishing a minimum wage in that city of \$50 per hour. While this might have a similar result, or at least limit job opportunities to those with substantial skills of one kind or another, we would probably all recognize that such a law would be

adverse to the community's interest. Even if the minimum wage level applied only to employees of certain large businesses, we would all agree that the mandated wage level would be nonsensical and counterproductive.

Now reduce the mandated wage level from an admittedly ludicrous \$50 to \$12.25, the level initially required by Proposition JJ. The dynamics are the same, even if not so draconian. While the mantra chanted by proponents is that JJ will force employers to pay fair wages, a more logical slogan would be, "If they won't pay you \$12.25, then go work somewhere else."

Supporters of such a law can smugly claim that no one in Santa Monica, at least in the 100 or so businesses covered by JJ, works for less than \$12.25 per hour — and they'd be right of course. The underlying reality, however, is that many who might have had an opportunity to obtain a good job with a good employer must look else-

where, including many young people looking either for a part-time job or an opportunity to enter the work force.

What benefit is it to adopt a law which will force wage levels above those the market will pay when the result is that many will end up not working, or at least not working in Santa Monica? How is it that JJ will accomplish beneficial goals if its primary impact will be to price many low-wage workers out of the market?

A classic example of this same mentality is found in usury laws. While these laws are largely irrelevant today because of low interest rates, that has not always been the case. When market rates rise high enough to bump up against statutory limits, the result is a decrease in available credit and the inability of lower income families to obtain needed loans.

Supporters of usury laws, like those of JJ, claim they are needed to help the

poor. However, the real impact on the poor is to drive them away from traditional lenders and into the arms of the loan sharks.

JJ will have a similar result — it will drive our youth and entry-level workers and those with fewer skills away from the very Santa Monica employers who provide good job opportunities and into the arms of employers outside Santa Monica, often to those less concerned about obeying laws dealing with wages and working conditions.

Obviously, this result is not the intention of JJ's supporters. In voting on JJ, however, we are not conducting a poll on the morality of attempting to improve the quality of life for low-income families — everyone agrees with that principle. Instead we are considering a specific legislative proposal which is filled with flaws. As I said in an earlier column, good intentions do not necessarily make good laws.

(Tom Larmore is a Santa Monica resident and a local property rights attorney.)

**Guest
Commentary**
By Tom Larmore

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

All I ask is for the laws to be enforced equally and fairly for ALL CITIZENS. Homed and Unhomed. That's all.

I urge all my fellow citizens to come and be heard today at the City Council meeting on this issue.

David T. Pisarra, Esq.
Santa Monica

Homeless have a voice

Editor:

Regarding the diatribe of Michael Beattie as it appears in the opinion section of the

Sept. 23 edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press, I would like someone to enlighten me about the "number of articles published in the many daily and weekly papers here in Santa Monica that blame the homeless for just about everything that is wrong with our city." While I have read opinion letters and articles pertaining to the homeless problem, I have not once read anything that blamed the homeless for EVERYTHING that is wrong with Santa Monica. "Are we really that selfish to think that the poor people of Santa Monica are the ones to cause all our problems?" I have only read about problems that homelessness causes in Santa Monica. I have not read anything that singles out the homeless as being responsible for "all our problems." "It's extremely easy to blame a part of society that has no voice, political or otherwise"? Since when don't the homeless have a voice? Give me a break!

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Outlawing feeding programs suppresses liberties

Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.

— Proverbs 22:9

As the kick-off policy initiative of her reelection campaign, Councilmember Pam O'Connor wants to make criminals out of private citizens who feed the hungry in our community. O'Connor took this action in response to complaints from the Bayside District Corporation. This has been a familiar election-year theme for more than a decade, as Santa Monica leaders seek to placate those with much by depriving those with little of human dignity through a variety of punitive measures.

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The fruit of O'Connor's political pandering is an ordinance to be considered by the Santa Monica City Council on tonight. (Voters concerned about civil rights laws, including rent control, should not even consider voting for politicians like O'Connor who don't have the backbone to defend the powerless.) This ordinance attempts to criminalize those who answer their personal religious, political, or moral call to feed the hungry.

Share the Wealth

1. God wants us to be our brother's keeper.

2. To feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to instruct the ignorant, at a personal sacrifice, is what God wants us to do.

3. What we give to the poor for Christ's sake is what we carry with us when we die.

— Peter Maurin, co-founder of the Catholic Worker

It is important to understand what this ordinance is about. Contrary to the City's proffered justifications, this ordinance is not about concern for the quality of food served to homeless people, since the feeding programs provide safe and sanitary food which receives better reviews than the food provided by some City-funded programs. It is not about the need for park space for other uses, since the feeding programs operate at times and places when there is ample room for everyone. It is not about "outsiders" coming to Santa Monica to serve the

poor, since around the world "outsiders@" are commended for their hunger relief efforts. It is not about preserving the City's social service system, since it is already inadequate to meet the needs of the City's homeless population and private efforts support rather than undermine efforts to aid the poor.

If one of your kinsman in any community is in need in the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand to him in his need. Instead, you shall open your hand to him and freely lend him enough to meet his need ... When you give to him, give freely and not with ill will; for the Lord, your God, will bless you for this in all your works and undertakings. The needy will never be lacking in the land; that is why I command you to open your hand to your poor and needy kinsman in your country.

— Deuteronomy, 15:7-11

Make no mistake about it. This ordinance aims to drive homeless people out of Santa Monica. Since 1991, the City has pursued a four-part strategy to run homeless people out of town. First, the City articulates the principle that only "professional" social service agencies should help the homeless. Second, it limits the number of social service agencies — and, correspondingly, the number of homeless people served — through the City's funding process. Third, it repeatedly attempts to curtail private efforts to help the homeless. Fourth, it unleashes punitive law enforcement measures against homeless people remaining in public spaces.

[P]eople experiencing homelessness are subject to basic violations of their civil rights through the unconstitutional application of laws, arbitrary police practices and discriminatory public regulations. Local governments, police departments, and local business improvement districts, from our largest cities to our most rural communities, are diverting precious public resources and funding to penalize people for being homeless. Lacking private spaces in which to carry out life-sustaining activities such as sleeping, resting, storing personal belongings, or activities associated with personal hygiene, people experiencing homelessness face the further indignity of arrest. They will still be homeless when

released but leave with a criminal record and another barrier to obtaining housing. These short-sighted laws and practices may make good sound bites but only serve to invest more tax dollars in jails than in housing, health care and services.

— Illegal to be Homeless: The Criminalization of the Homeless in the United States

These efforts are part of a larger battle in our society between rich and poor. People with houses, businesses, and ample resources do not want homeless people in our community. Although the Bayside District Corporation has no problem with businesses that sell sweatshop-made products on the Third Street Promenade, it doesn't want homeless people tarnishing the shopping experience of its upscale clientele. The City of Santa Monica is one of the wealthiest communities in Southern California and some of our residents find it uncomfortable to be reminded that the presence of

hungry people is the consequence of economic and tax policies which enhance the incomes of the prosperous at the expense of the poor. Indeed, the state

budget is consistently balanced by slashing health and welfare expenditures and sparing the wealthy from tax increases.

The agony of the poor impoverishes the rich; the betterment of the poor enriches the rich. We are inevitably our brother's keeper because we are our brother's brother. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is astonishing in an affluent society that anyone would be upset with citizens who volunteer to feed the hungry. 13.8% of Californians live in poverty and 4.1% of all households in the state do not have enough food to avoid hunger. Nationwide, more than 36 million people, including 14 million children, experience hunger. Private citizens responding to this overwhelming need should be commended, not prosecuted.

Then the King will say to those on the right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your

home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me. Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you? And the King will tell them, I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me.'

— Matthew 25:34-40

The human right to adequate food is recognized in several instruments under international law. In 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt first articulated the human right of "freedom from want," including the right to food. Both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognize the right to food as a basic human right. Government efforts to outlaw food relief unmistakably contravene international law.

"The right to food is the right to have regular, permanent and unobstructed access, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food corresponding to the cultural traditions of the people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified life free from anxiety."

— United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Santa Monica clearly does not have the authority to legislate in contravention of these well-established religious and human rights principles. The men, women, and children providing food to the unfortunate of our community are good and decent people. The City Council should reconsider making their charitable works of mercy a crime in Santa Monica.

One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that An unjust law is no law at all.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

(Robert Myers is a former city attorney who was fired in 1992 for refusing to write laws that would limit public food distribution programs and anti-camping laws in Santa Monica.)

Guest Commentary

By Robert M. Myers

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LOCAL □ STATE

Candidate, city looking into disqualification issue

CANDIDATE, from page 1

with us any information that he may have to the contrary."

de la Torre, who moved back to Santa Monica from Mar Vista a year ago, said he and his attorney are looking into the issue.

"We are researching the legalities surrounding the question that was raised," he said. "Our campaign is moving forward. On or off the ballot, I will continue to advocate for a quality education for all Santa Monica students."

Stewart would only say that de la Torre had been notified that he is ineligible to appear on the November ballot, but she would not say if any final decision had been made by the city to remove him from the ballot.

"This is the first time something like this has happened," she said. "There is no formal process we can follow for something like this."

Stewart said the city requires every candidate to attend a seminar explaining the rules and regulations of running for office. The first thing candidates are told during the seminars is they must be registered Santa Monica voters when they first announce that they may run for an elective office, Stewart said.

During the time candidates file their candidacy papers, city clerks are deputized by the county clerk, who regulates elections, to register any potential candidate on the spot, Stewart said.

"When people request nomination papers they indicate they are eligible," she said. "We cannot doubt what they are telling us."

Stewart said de la Torre attended a July 15 seminar and then afterward "pulled papers" to run for office. He submitted his petition with 100 signatures on the Aug. 9 filing deadline. By that time, de la Torre had registered in Santa Monica, he said.

The signatures were sent to the Los Angeles County Registrar's office which verified all of de la Torre's information. Stewart said the county should have spotted the alleged problem and denied his application.

"They made a mistake," Stewart said. "We had no reason not to believe them because that is what they do."

But Grace Chavez, a county registrar

spokeswoman, said only the city clerk can certify that a candidate is ineligible under state law to run for office. Under the circumstances, the fault for verifying de la Torre's candidacy falls on Stewart's shoulders, she said.

"The county is not an investigative agency," Chavez said. "The candidate specifies they are running for a particular office. The county verifies the signatures. That's it."

"This is the first time something like this has happened. There is no formal process we can follow for something like this."

— MARIA STEWART
Santa Monica City Clerk

Chavez also said Santa Monica has access to an electronic data base that's regularly updated which contains the names of all those registered to vote within the city's jurisdiction. All the city clerk's office would have needed to do in order to verify de la Torre's eligibility is enter his name into the database, Chavez said.

But Stewart said that's not something her office regularly looks at unless someone comes forward with credible information that a person's candidacy is questionable. Last week, Stewart said she had received repeated calls asking her to check into the validity of de la Torre's candidacy.

"I made the decision then that I had received one phone call too many and that I would personally look into it," she said.

Compounding the problem, the county already has sent out its ballots to be printed for the November elections. Those ballots still list de la Torre as a candidate. And the city's ballot printing deadline is tonight.

Stewart said she doesn't know what will happen if de la Torre is deemed ineligible but still appears on the November ballot. City Attorney Marsha Moutrie is looking into the issue, she said.

"But once you get too far," she said, "you can't turn back."

Supreme Court justice recognizes advocacy center

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Architect Frank Gehry's latest creation, the Loyola Law School's Albert H. Girardi Advocacy Center, was dedicated Monday by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

"Our professions are similar, we seek order and stability in an existence that is all too fleeting," Kennedy told Gehry. "We also recognize the need for experimentation, creation and new ways of doing things."

The center is the latest of a series of contemporary buildings clustered around a central plaza on campus, each one designed by Gehry over the past two decades.

The three-story rust colored structure with its 65-foot conical silver tower contains a 90-person courtroom for mock tri-

als, a jury deliberation room, a 70-person appellate courtroom, a 36-person Center for Ethical Advocacy classroom and video training labs. It is already booked for lectures and an upcoming moot court later this week.

"The greatest thrill for me is when I run into graduates and they tell me how important the architecture has been for them," Gehry said. "Building this campus has been a great journey, we have become a family."

The award-winning architect designed seven of the downtown law school's buildings and renovated two existing ones. As a result, the campus represents almost exclusively his architectural vision as well as a chronicle of his style since the late 1970s.

STATE



Housing prices rise and show no signs of slowing down

BY SIMON AVERY

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — California housing prices maintained their torrid pace in August, surging nearly 15 percent from a year earlier, in a market that shows no signs of slowing down, a real estate information service said Monday.

The statewide median home price, the point at which half the homes sell for more and half for less, climbed to \$270,000, up from \$235,000 in August 2001, according to DataQuick Information Systems, a subsidiary of MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates.

Underlying market conditions remained stable even with the rapid pace of appreciation. Buyers continued to choose prudent financing, with most still selecting long-term fixed mortgages rather than riskier adjustable rate mortgages. In addition, the typical monthly mortgage payment remained close to previous months at \$1,273, according to DataQuick.

"We're not seeing any change in the market," said John Karevoll, an analyst with the firm. "We're looking very carefully for signs of a bubble and we're just not seeing any indication."

The number of new and existing houses and condo-

miniums sold statewide in August declined to 54,200, down 3.7 percent from an all-time record set a year earlier. But the decrease had more to do with lenders, appraisal companies and escrow firms being unable to process all the transactions than with consumers tempering their enthusiasm, Karevoll said.

"We're looking very carefully for signs of a bubble and we're just not seeing any indication."

— JOHN KAREVOLL
Analyst

"If it wasn't for that, August would have been another all-time peak," he said.

One of the key signs pointing to the ongoing health of California's housing market is the strong mix of properties available, from entry level to high end offerings, Karevoll said.

Homes valued at more than \$400,000 represent the one

segment where appreciation rates are slowing. While entry level properties are growing in value at about 17 percent annually, the rate for high end homes has cooled to between 10 percent and 12 percent. Three months ago, all segments were growing at nearly the same pace, he said.

It's still too early to know if the shift signifies a broader trend at the upper end. Some real estate agents in the million-dollar-plus market have seen a sudden surge in sales activity this month.

"People have just decided they are going to buy," said Patty Brotherton, an agent with Prudential California Realty in Santa Barbara. "It's not stocks now, it's real estate."

She attributed increased activity in the last couple of weeks in part to buyers' renewed confidence after the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks.

On a regional basis, median prices showed double-digit growth across much of the state. In the nine counties comprising the San Francisco Bay area, the median price in August rose 10.9 percent to \$417,000, according to DataQuick.

In Los Angeles County, the median price rose 15.6 percent to \$267,000. In Orange County it climbed 20.1 percent to \$370,000, and in San Diego County, prices surged 23.7 percent to \$339,000, DataQuick said.

California State senior's family sues sorority in drowning

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The family of a California State University, Los Angeles, senior sued the national, regional and local chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority on Monday for wrongful death in the 22-year-old woman's drowning.

Kristin High of Los Angeles and Kenitha Saafir, 24, of Compton, were pulled to shore at Dockweiler State Beach late in the night of Sept. 9 by police officers, but

could not be revived. The beach was closed at the time.

High's family blamed the deaths on sorority initiation rituals, although police said there was no evidence hazing was involved.

A message left after business hours at the sorority's national office in Chicago was not immediately returned Monday.

High's family, and her fiance, Holman Arthurs, the father of her 2-year-old son, filed the lawsuit in Superior

Court seeking \$100 million in compensatory damages.

"The amount represents the tragedy that occurred, the life lost with so much potential, and so the family can ensure that this doesn't happen to anyone else," family attorney Angela Reddock said in a telephone interview.

Reddock said the lawsuit also was filed to compel two other alleged sorority pledges who were at the beach the night of Sept. 9 to testify, along with four or five members of the sorority conducting the alleged hazing.

Transsexual man wins settlement against beautician school

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man who dresses as a woman said Monday that a beautician's school has settled a discrimination lawsuit he filed and will allow him to attend hair styling classes beginning Tuesday.

The man, identified in court papers only as Sandy, sued the Marinello School of Beauty in Los Angeles, accusing the school of rejecting his application because he lived life as a woman.

A message left at the school after business hours Monday night wasn't returned. School officials previous-

ly declined to comment.

Terms and conditions were not disclosed as a part of the settlement.

"Today, it's a big time for me," Sandy said in a statement released by his attorney, Gloria Allred of Los Angeles. "I am very happy about the result of my settlement. I hope people who are in my circumstance can have more chances and be treated in the right way, like I am in this moment. I want to be a hair stylist and I am very excited that I will have the opportunity to go to this excellent school."

According to the lawsuit, filed Aug. 7 in Superior

Court, Sandy, who lives in Los Angeles, enrolled at the school on July 18, passing a test and paying a \$100 registration fee. But when he reported for class the following month, he said he was told to leave because the school did not have a restroom that could accommodate a man who identifies himself as a woman.

Sandy said he offered to either use the restroom the school wanted him to use or not use the restroom at all while taking class, but the school refused.

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NATIONAL

Gore: Bush's Iraq war push makes world more dangerous

BY IAN STEWART

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Al Gore harshly criticized President Bush's push for war against Iraq, saying it has hurt the United States' standing and could dangerously undermine the rule of law around the world.

"After Sept. 11, we had enormous sympathy, goodwill and support around the world," Gore said Monday. "We've squandered that, and in one year we've replaced that with fear, anxiety and uncertainty, not at what the terrorists are going to do but at what we are going to do."

In his first major speech on the Iraq situation, the once and possibly future Democratic presidential candidate accused Bush of abandoning the goal of a world where nations follow laws.

"That concept would be displaced by the notion that there is no law but the discretion of the president of the United States," he said.

"If other nations assert the same right, then the rule of law will quickly be replaced by the reign of fear," and any nation that perceives itself threatened would feel justified in starting wars, he said.

Gore also told an enthusiastic Commonwealth Club crowd he would decide in December whether to challenge Bush again for the presidency in 2004.

Gore always has supported overthrowing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and was one of the few Senate Democrats who voted in favor of the Gulf War resolution after Iraq attacked Kuwait. He said he felt betrayed by the first President Bush's "hasty withdrawal from the battlefield."

But like other leading Democrats, Gore has expressed reservations in recent months about military action against Iraq, suggesting the diplomatic costs would be extremely high.

His speech Monday was much more critical, warning of ominous and untold consequences, ranging from a short-term power vacuum that could increase the danger of

chemical and biological attacks, to the creation of legions of enemies angry and fearful about U.S. domination.

"If we end the war in Iraq the way we ended the war

"If we end the war in Iraq the way we ended the war in Afghanistan, we could easily be worse off than we are today."

— AL GORE

Former vice-president

in Afghanistan, we could easily be worse off than we are today," Gore said.

Gore described his speech as an effort to lay out an

alternative to the course of action pursued by the Bush administration.

Even before securing United Nations support for a multinational war against Iraq, Bush asked Congress to approve the use of "all means that he determines to be appropriate, including force," in a unilateral effort to topple Saddam Hussein.

Gore urged Congress not to give the president such a broad mandate.

"It needs to be narrowed," said Gore, adding that Congress should urge Bush to go back to the U.N. Security Council and secure the "broadest possible international support" for a regime change in Iraq.

Meanwhile, Gore said, "Bush should not allow anything to distract us from the mission of avenging the murder of 3,000 Americans."

Also Monday, former President Carter criticized Bush's stance on Iraq, saying military action without the blessing of the United Nations would be a grave mistake that would put America in danger.

Double amputee killed by falling rock

By The Associated Press

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, Wash. — A double-amputee training to climb Mount Everest was struck and killed by a falling rock on Mount Rainier early Monday, a park spokeswoman said.

Ed Hommer, a 46-year-old pilot from Duluth, Minn., was killed instantly when he was struck by a basketball-sized rock, spokeswoman Maria Gillett said.

Gillett said rangers received a cell

phone call just before dawn from team leader Jim Wickwire of Seattle. He said a member of the party had been killed on Disappointment Cleaver, at the 11,700-foot level of the 14,411-foot mountain.

Park spokeswoman Lee Taylor said Hommer's body was removed by helicopter. The three other members of the party hiked down to Camp Muir, where they were met by a helicopter and taken off the mountain.

Three years ago, Hommer became the first double-amputee to climb

Alaska's Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America at 20,320 feet. He had lost his legs to frostbite on McKinley after a 1981 plane crash during a mountaineering trip.

Hommer used carbon-fiber and titanium prostheses and had hoped to be the first double-amputee to scale Mount Everest. But last October, his quest was called off when he and his team, hampered by bad weather, had to turn back 3,000 feet short of Everest's summit.

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INTERNATIONAL



Rumsfeld says German elections had effect of 'poisoning' relations with Washington

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP Military Writer

WARSAW, Poland — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Monday criticized the anti-U.S. tone of Germany's elections, saying it had the effect of "poisoning" U.S. relations with a longtime ally.

"I have no comment on the German elections outcome, but I would have to say that the way it was conducted was notably unhelpful," Rumsfeld told reporters after meeting with President Aleksander Kwasniewski in the presidential palace. "And as the White House indicated, has had the effect of poisoning the relationship."

Rumsfeld apparently was referring to comments published Saturday in *The Financial Times* newspaper by Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's national security adviser. She was quoted as saying that the alleged comment by Germany's minister of justice comparing Bush to Adolf Hitler had created a "poisoned" atmosphere.

U.S. officials also were disturbed by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's emphatic opposition to American military action to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Schroeder tried to defuse the dispute over the alleged remark by the justice minister by sending Bush a letter in which he said she had never made the remarks attributed to her.

Asked about the letter on Monday, White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said, "It really didn't read like an apology. It read more like an attempt at an explanation."

He said the State Department planned to issue a statement on the election later in the day.

A senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "Schroeder has a lot of work to do" to repair damage to U.S.-German relations.

Rumsfeld said he had no plan to meet with Germany's defense minister during NATO meetings in Warsaw on Tuesday and Wednesday. Rumsfeld will be meeting with several other NATO counterparts.

In his talks with the Polish president, Rumsfeld said the subject of Iraq came up in the context of pressing the U.N. Security Council to enforce U.N. resolutions on Iraqi disarmament. He said it would be "not on the mark" to suggest the United States was planning to intervene in Iraq by itself.

Appearing with Rumsfeld after his meeting with the presi-

dent, Marek Siwec, the minister of the bureau of national security, did not say explicitly whether Poland would support U.S. military action against Iraq.

"We are a very steadfast ally," Siwec said.

On Sunday, Rumsfeld told reporters that the target of a U.S. military attack on Iraq would be Saddam Hussein's narrow power base, not the country's civilian infrastructure.

Interviewed en route to Poland, Rumsfeld refused to discuss any details of U.S. war planning. He blasted those who have leaked such information as poorly informed people whose talk puts the lives of American troops at risk.

Rumsfeld was meeting on Monday with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, Prime Minister Leszek Miller and Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski as a prelude to two days of talks with his counterparts from 18 other NATO countries.

Poland joined NATO in 1999 and is playing host to the alliance for the first time.

Rumsfeld's comment about the broad aims of a war against Iraq — which President Bush has not yet approved — suggested that any U.S. military action would look much different than the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The goal then was to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait rather than break Saddam's grip on power.

"I have said, and the president has said, that the small group of people that run Iraq and have run it for a good many years have repressed the people, and in a very real sense the people of that country are hostages to a small group of dictatorial, repressive government officials," he said.

"The United States hasn't, and never has had, any problem with the Iraqi people."

Referring to news reports that any U.S. military attack on Iraq that is designed to topple Saddam's regime would seek to avoid inflicting extensive damage on the nation's infrastructure, Rumsfeld said:

"They're saying the obvious. Obviously no one would want to harm the people of that country. We favor the people of that country. But what the president will decide to do is entirely in the future."

The White House acknowledged on Saturday that the Pentagon delivered to Bush in early September a detailed set of military options for action against Iraq. Officials said the options would be refined further in the weeks ahead and that Bush had made no decision to go to war.



Nasser Shiyukhi/Associated Press

Israeli soldiers continue to patrol after checking the identification of a Palestinian man, center, in the West Bank town of Hebron on Monday. Palestinians in the West Bank observed a commercial strike Monday protesting the continuing siege of their leader Yasser Arafat's compound.

Arafat, trapped in devastated compound, defies Israeli demands

BY JAMIE TARABAY

Associated Press Writer

RAMALLAH, West Bank

— A defiant Yasser Arafat dug in at his besieged compound Monday, rejecting Israel's demand to hand over the names of all those holed up inside. The Bush administration criticized Israel for the standoff and called for a pullout.

In Gaza, Israeli tanks fought Palestinian gunmen, and hospital officials said three Palestinians were killed and 20 injured.

As Israeli troops settled in around the compound, criticism of the third blockade in 10 months intensified in Israel and around the world. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is boosting Arafat's popularity, instead of sidelining him, the government's detractors said.

At the U.N. Security Council in New York, the United States proposed a resolution calling for an end to the siege along with punishment of the plotters of Palestinian suicide bombings.

In Washington, statements issued by White House and State Department officials said Israel siege had "aggravated" U.S. efforts to improve security and reform the Palestinian leadership.

On the West Bank, an Israeli man was killed and three of his children, ages 9, 12 and 18, were wounded in a Palestinian shooting attack in the West Bank city of Hebron. The 9-year-old was in serious condition, hospital officials said.

Meanwhile, in the Gaza Strip, 20 Israeli tanks and two helicopters traded fire with Palestinian gunmen on the eastern edge of Gaza city near the Jewish settle-

ment of Nahal Oz, according to witnesses and Palestinian security officials.

Three Palestinians were killed and 20 others injured, two of them critically, hospital officials said.

The army confirmed that a military operation was under way in Gaza and said no soldiers had been injured, but declined to comment further. Sharon said earlier Monday that Israel would mount a military operation against Hamas in Gaza "as soon as we have the necessary troops together."

The assault on Arafat's office has made an already tense situation even more volatile. With Arafat and 200 aides and security guards ringed by troops and confined to a building Palestinians claim is in danger of collapse, Israel cannot guarantee the Palestinian leader's safety. Harm to Arafat, even unintentional, could ignite the region.

Arafat's isolation has already triggered mass street protests, some orchestrated and some spontaneous, in a replay of the scenes that marked the beginning of fighting two years ago.

On Monday, Palestinians rallying around Arafat observed a commercial strike and burned tires and pelted soldiers with rocks — events rarely seen in recent months. About 10,000 rallied in Gaza, many of them school children bused in for the demonstration.

Early Tuesday, more than 1,000 Palestinians returned to the streets of Ramallah to support Arafat.

For the first time since Israeli tanks crashed into the compound on Thursday — retaliating for a Palestinian suicide bombing in Tel Aviv that killed six bystanders — Israeli military offi-

cials and Palestinian leaders met Monday to begin feeling their way to a solution of the latest crisis, but no progress was reported.

Israel is demanding that all the men in Arafat's office building surrender for questioning. Israel originally said 19 terror suspects were inside the building, including Tawfik Tirawi, the Palestinian intelligence chief.

Israeli commentators said it was not immediately clear why the government is focusing on Tirawi, saying that as recently as half a year ago, he had participated in security talks with Israeli officials, including Shin Bet security services chief Avi Dichter.

Arafat flatly rejected the Israeli demand for a list of names of all the men in the compound, said Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat, who met Israeli military officials at the Beit El military base, an Israeli outpost next to Ramallah.

"We told them (the Israelis) that this is none of their business, and we called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal from President Arafat's office, and an end to the siege," Erekat told *The Associated Press*. It was the first face-to-face encounter since the siege began.

Erekat said the building where Arafat is staying is in danger of collapse. Arafat and aides were crammed into four rooms on the second floor of one wing after a tank shell destroyed the stairs to the third floor. It's the only one left intact after Israeli bulldozers and bombs flattened most of the others. On Monday, tanks maintained a tight siege. Israeli troops briefly planted an Israeli flag on the compound, but it was removed over the weekend.



SPORTS

Buccaneers 26, Rams 14

BY FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — Maybe now it's time for the St. Louis Rams to get concerned.

The defending NFC champions dropped to 0-3 Monday night, hardly resembling a team that's been to the Super Bowl two of the past three seasons in a 26-14 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Bucs' vaunted defense knocked running back Marshall Faulk out of the game and intercepted Kurt Warner four times to key their third straight victory in a heated rivalry that began with the Rams' 11-6 win in the 1999 NFC championship game.

Brad Johnson threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Rickey Dudley and Martin Gramatica kicked field goals of 39 and 47 yards to help the Bucs (2-1) build a 13-7 halftime lead.

Brian Kelly's interception and 31-yard return to the St. Louis 1 set up Mike Alstott's TD plunge to put Tampa Bay up 19-7 with 10:42 to go. The Rams pulled within five points on Lamar Gordon's 20-yard TD run, but couldn't score again over the final 4:21.

Linebacker Derrick Brooks put the finishing touch on the victory, returning an interception 39 yards for a TD, a score assured when Warren Sapp flattened Warner near the goal line. He also scored on a 97-yard interception return in Tampa Bay's 25-0 win over Baltimore last week.

Faulk, who rushed for 9 yards on six carries, left with a neck strain early in the second quarter and did not return. He scored on a 5-yard run in the first quarter and finished with 9 yards on six carries.

The Rams opened the season with losses to the Denver Broncos and New

York Giants, but maintained there was no reason for alarm. Climbing out of an 0-3 hole will be difficult, though.

In the past five seasons, 28 teams have started 0-3. Just one, the 1998 Arizona Cardinals — have made the playoffs.

Warner finished 30-of-45 for 301 yards and no touchdowns. He was sacked five times.

The (Rams) dropped to 0-3 Monday night, hardly resembling a team that's been to the Super Bowl two of the past three seasons in a 26-14 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Since their memorable meeting in the 1999 title game, the Rams and Bucs have faced each other three consecutive years on "Monday Night Football."

Tampa Bay won 38-35 at Raymond James Stadium in 2000 and 24-17 at St. Louis last season.

The Bucs like to think no defense matches up better with the high-powered Rams, and the results support their contention.

Since the start of the 1999 season, St. Louis has been held to 20 points or less just eight times and Tampa Bay, with three, is the only opponent to do it more than once.

The Rams marched 91 yards on their first possession to take a 7-3 lead on Faulk's 5-yard run. But without the seven-time 1,000-yard rusher for most of the last three quarters, St. Louis was unable to move the ball with any kind of consistency.

A champion again



Adam Butler/Associated Press

Tiger Woods of the United States takes a shot from the 15th fairway during the final round of the American Express championship at Mount Juliet Golf Course, Thomastown, Ireland, on Sunday. Woods went on to win the championship with a total score of 25 under par over 4 days.

UCLA Bruins coach sees bright side to one-sided loss

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Going strictly by the numbers, especially in the last three quarters, UCLA's performance against Colorado appears pretty dismal.

Bruins coach Bob Toledo emerged from a film session feeling otherwise.

"I think there were two good football teams on the field, we came up short," Toledo said Monday of Colorado's 31-17 victory over the previously unbeaten Bruins two days earlier at the Rose Bowl. "We need to put it behind us."

"Colorado's a good football team, they're going to win a lot of games. We weren't really moving the ball well. (But) we were playing well. It's kind of a crazy thing to say. There were some outstanding things we did."

After Jon Dubravac threw a 33-yard touchdown pass to Craig Bragg on the first play of the second quarter to give UCLA a 7-0 lead, the Bruins had gained 84 yards while holding the Buffaloes to 27.

Colorado gained 444 yards and held UCLA to 200 after that.

"I told you Colorado was a good football team," Toledo said. "They were a good football team, they proved to everybody they were."

The Buffaloes (2-2) were coming off a 40-3 loss to No. 18 Southern California, when they had only four first downs and 61 total yards.

But Toledo said his team took Colorado seriously.

"There weren't a lot of mistakes in the game," Toledo said. "There weren't a lot of big plays. They didn't have a turnover, we had one. They committed seven penalties, we had four. We didn't have enough sustained drives, we only got in the red zone twice."

The Buffaloes, meanwhile, scored on five straight pos-

sessions starting in the second quarter, moving 67, 57, 41, 61 and 82 yards. Then, on their last possession, they gained 36 yards in running out the final four-plus minutes.

After falling behind, Colorado outscored UCLA 31-3 before the Bruins got a touchdown to make the final margin more respectable.

"No question we need to block better, and I'm not just talking about our offensive line," Toledo said. "Our tight ends have to block better, our fullbacks have to block better. And if we break the line of scrimmage, our wide receivers have to block better. We'll address that."

"I told you Colorado was a good football team. They were a good football team, they proved to everybody they were."

— **BOB TOLEDO**
UCLA Bruins coach

"Defensively, I thought we started out really well. There's no question defensively we've got to get off the field. You've got to make a play. We didn't make a play in the game. We need to get better defensively, we need to get off blocks, we've got to tackle better."

Toledo said he expects the Bruins to profit from the experience.

"It's a young football team that's got a good attitude," he said. "We played hard, we'll get better. You think Tennessee's happy today. Cincinnati almost beat Ohio

State. There's a lot of good teams out there."

Toledo referred to Tennessee's 30-13 loss to Florida, dropping the Volunteers from fourth to 11th in this week's Associated Press poll, and No. 6 Ohio State's narrow 23-19 win over unheralded Cincinnati over the weekend.

"Even though we got manhandled by Colorado, we know we're a really good team with good players," said UCLA quarterback Cory Paus, who completed 21 of 35 passes for 189 yards and one touchdown with one interception against the Buffaloes. "We're going to stick together. People were disappointed, but had a nice look in their eyes about next week."

UCLA (2-1), which dropped out of the top 25 after being ranked 20th last week, will play its final nonconference game Saturday, facing winless San Diego State at Qualcomm Stadium.

The Aztecs (0-4) haven't won, losing to Fresno State 16-14, Colorado 34-14, Arizona State 39-28 and Idaho 48-38, but they've challenged opposing defenses, averaging 459.5 yards and 23.5 points per game.

"They've been in every football game," Toledo said. "Our big thing is we need to bounce back. And that's what we're going to do."

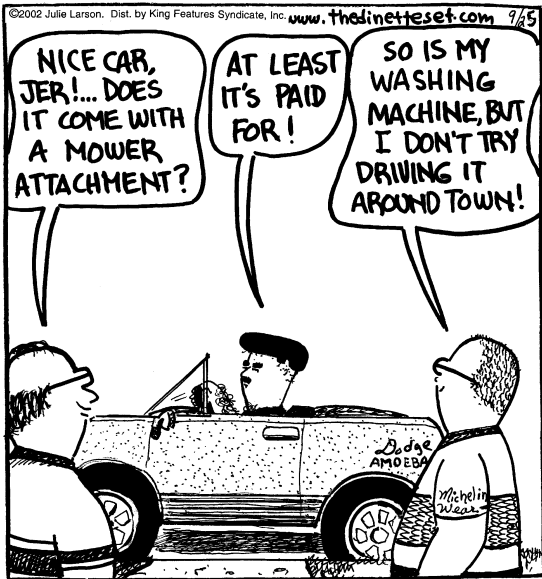
Toledo said that Matt Ware, a 6-foot-3 sophomore who played cornerback last season but has been used at safety so far this year, will start at cornerback this weekend due to San Diego State's explosive passing game and tall wide receivers.

San Diego State's Adam Hall leads the nation in passing, having completed 125 of 205 passes for 1,621 yards and nine touchdowns. J.R. Tolver, a 6-2, 205-pounder, has 44 receptions for 717 yards and Kassim Osgood, a 6-5, 210-pounder, has 39 catches for 572 yards.

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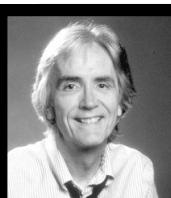
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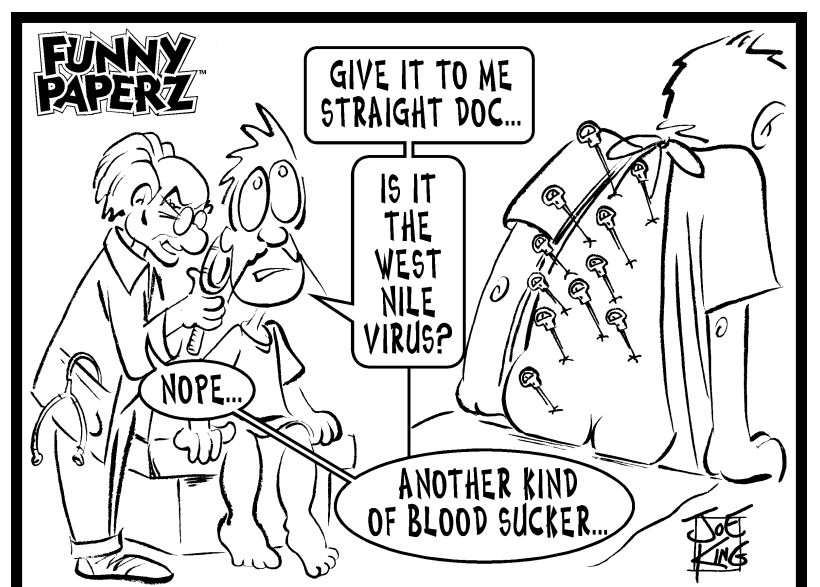


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Teen shoots another for giving him a 'wedgie'

- A judge set a 19-year-old man for trial in a revenge-shooting, allegedly in retaliation for the victim's having given him a "wedgie" at a concert (Southampton, Pa.).
- A 37-year-old woman received probation-only after being charged with attempting to kill her husband by placing poisonous spiders on him while he slept (Rutherford County, Tenn.).
- A pregnant woman in the middle of a Caesarian delivery at the Waitakere Hospital had her legs catch on fire (from the alcohol-swabbing solution), but mother and eventual baby received only minor injuries (Waitemata, New Zealand).
- Police, citing federal forfeiture law, demanded that McIntosh College give up ownership of one of its dormitories to the city because so much drug activity was taking place inside (Dover, N.H.).



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Lower 1 bed, hardwood floors, fresh paint & new counters

1211 9th St. #2 \$1290

Lower 1 bed, new remodel, great location, balcony, laundry

932 2nd St. #H \$1295

Upper 1 bed, walk to beach & Promenade, street parking only

139 Hollister #4 \$1395

Lower 1 bed, hardwood floors, huge patio, steps to beach

143 Hollister \$1590-1690

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

1214 California \$1650

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

1211 9th St. #5 \$1690

Upper 2 bed w/ balcony view, hardwood flrs, fridge, dishwasher, washer/dryer, parking!

WILBRENTWOOD

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Lower 1 bed, pool, laundry, gas stove, near San Vicente Blvd.

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SANTA MONICA \$2900.00 On the Beach 2+2, bright, w/balcony, partial view. 2 pkgng spaces. (818)613-9324

SANTA MONICA: Luxury 2bdrm/2ba, floor to ceiling, the best ocean views, remodeled, spectacular ocean tower, full service, spa/pool. 24 hour doorman. Switch board and two phone numbers. \$4000.00 (310)575-4001 or (760)413-4187.

VENICE BEACH 1 bedroom (\$1495) and 2 bedroom (\$1795) apartments available. Totally renovated with lots of charm. Everything is new, hardwood floors, dishwasher, washer dryer in unit. Private garages are available. 1 year lease. No pets. (310)396-4443, ext. 102.

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VENICE/SM \$895.00 Large Studio, secure building, parking, pool. 235 Main St. Senior citizen 62+ only. 310-261-2093.

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VENICE BEACHFRONT condo in newer luxury building with amazing ocean and mountain views, 2 car gated parking, dishwasher and much much more. Must see to appreciate. 1 year lease, no pets \$3,950.

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Houses For Rent

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

MDR ADJACENT, 2 +2, fireplace, dishwasher, stove, large private patio, new paint and carpet in newer gated building with gated, subterranean parking, A/C, quiet neighborhood. laundry room, 1 year lease, no pets \$1,495. (310)578-9729

Elly Nesis Company
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SANTA MONICA \$1050.00 Lovely duplex, R/S, hardwood floors, yard, garage. Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$795.00 Cozy guest house, R/S, W/D, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Charming house, R/S, carpets, W/D, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Roommates

S.M. \$800.00 Ninth & Wilshire. 2bdrm, utilities/cable free, large, \$7000.00 recently paid for new furniture. (310)394-1050

SANTA MONICA \$1400.00 (negotiable). Bedroom w/balcony in 3 story art deco house, ocean views. Private bath. Share utilities. (310)396-8187.

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

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

SANTA MONICA Unique Office, appx. 1,000 sq. ft. 11th St, High ceilings, light, must see! (310)393-6252

SM OFFICE, Ocean Park, 195 sq/ft + 50 shared, floor-to-ceiling window, furnished w/desks, phones, fax, filing cabinets for 2-3 people. Parking available. Neighborhood printer/restaurants. Off 10&405. \$950/mo (310)581-4421.

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

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VENICE BEACH \$1700.00 Office space with 4 parking spaces, one big room with high ceilings, skylights and rollup door. (310)396-4443

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Vehicles for sale

1994 DODGE Intrepid, one owner car, good condition, clean. \$3500.00 Call Bill at (310)207-5060/ext.201. pgr.(310) 224-3425.

Massage

15 MINUTES... can change the mood of your office. Want happy productive employees? Bring chair massage to them today. Liam (310) 399-2860

BLEND OF Swedish, Deep-tissue and Shiatsu. Very sensual and relaxing by Katsumi. (310)452-2782

JOURNEY THROUGH your senses, peeling away layers of unwanted tension and stress. Intro: \$29/hour. Vlado@ (310)397-7855

RELAXING & Therapeutic Blend of Swedish, Deep-tissue, Reiki, Craniosacral and Aroma therapy. Intro: \$90.00 for 90 minutes at your home. Non-sexual. Holly (310)383-1136.

STRONG & SOOTHING professional deep-tissue therapy. Intro: \$35/90min. Paul: (310)741-1901.

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

Massage

THE BEST solution to low cost advertising. Fill your appointment book by running your ad in the Daily Press. Only a buck a day, call (310)458-7737 to place your ad today.

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

WOULD LIKE to trade deep-tissue and Swedish bodywork with female therapist. Non-sexual. Paul (310)741-1901.

Announcements

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

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

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

Services

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

GOT COURAGE? Support for entrepreneurs, public speaking, and individual counseling. www.solsuccess.com (310)581-2655.

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

LOGO DESIGN General graphics design. Call Alex (310)902-6930. Two variations, 3 revisions, \$500.00.

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

QUALITY PAINTING interior and exteriors, free estimate, referral, clean and on time. Call (310)475-0864

QUICK AND Dirty (if the newspaper rubs off on your hands). Market your small business in our services section for a buck a day. Call (310)458-7737.

Business Opps

PROFITABLE RETAIL Kiosk driven business located 3 blocks from beach. Established, high traffic lease. Great opportunity for entrepreneur. Affordable buyout. Huge upside! \$26,000. (714)745-1423

CLASSIFIEDS



Yard Sales

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD Sale! Clothing, jewelry and much more! Between Centinela & Inglewood Blvd, Culver City. 9am to 2 pm. 12063 Aneta Street.

Health/Beauty

HAWAIIAN INSTANT anti-aging facial moisturizer. 1oz \$8.50. Happy or MBG. Ralph Sahara, P.O. Box 62174, Honolulu, HI 96839. Free catalog. 5 free samples.

Personals

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

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.

Classified Advertising Conditions

:DOLLAR-A-DAY NON COMMERCIAL: Ad must run a minimum of 12 consecutive days. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. **REGULAR RATE:** \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

Can't find the Daily Press in your neighborhood? Call us.

**We'll take your suggestions.
(310) 458-PRESS (7737)**

Calendar

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
City by the Sea (R) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30. Igby Goes Down (R) 11:00, 12:20, 1:10, 1:35, 3:50, 3:40, 4:10, 5:20, 6:10, 6:45, 7:50, 8:40, 9:20, 10:20, 11:10.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Austin Powers in Goldmember (PG-13) 2:00, 7:30. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, 12:15. Stealing Harvard (PG-13) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30. XXX (PG-13) 11:10, 4:20, 10:00.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Amy's Orgasm (NR) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55. Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever (R) 12:50, 3:10, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30. Barbershop (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15. Signs (PG-13) 1:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50. Swimfan (PG-13) 1:45, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25. Trapped (R) 1:15, 4:00, 7:10, 9:45.

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.
The Good Girl (R) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10. The Mesmerist (NR) 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55. Possession (PG-13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:55. Secretary (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
24 Hour Party People (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

Today

Community

Toddler Time, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

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

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

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.

Music / Entertainment

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.

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.

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.

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.

Open Discussion/ Political Debate. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Wednesday

Community

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between

Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

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

Learn to Square Dance! New beginners class starting 09/10 is open for three weeks on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. To 9:30 p.m. @ Marine Park in Santa Monica. 1st class is free! Sponsored by the Red Ribbon Squares. The official Square Dance Club of Santa Monica.

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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.

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

Administration considering lowering terror alert

BY RON FOURNIER
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Two weeks after putting the nation on high alert, President Bush and his advisers are discussing whether to lower the nationwide terror alert back to code yellow because of disruptions in the al-Qaida terrorist network, government officials say.

Bush raised the alert to orange — the second-highest level — after U.S. intelligence warned of a "high risk" of a terrorist attack in connection with the Sept. 11 anniversary two weeks ago.

Officials stressed that Americans should remain alert; even at code yellow, the nation faces a significant risk of attack.

The change could come as early as Tuesday after Bush meets with senior administration officials who are reviewing new intelligence, weighing the potential for attack on U.S. targets and preparing a recommendation for the president, said two officials familiar with the deliberations. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the days leading up to the anniversary, U.S. intelligence agencies warned the White House that terrorists operating in several South Asian countries and linked to al-Qaida hoped to explode car bombs or launch other attacks on U.S. facilities abroad.

While there was no direct evidence of a plot against the United States, U.S. intelligence noted a similar pattern before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and urged Bush to raise the alert level.

Bush may soon return the level to yellow because of "some disruptions in plots and operations" of terrorists, one of the officials said. Several developments on the terrorism front — some public, others confidential — could prompt Bush to lower the alert level, the officials said.

The advances include:

■ The Sept. 11 arrest in Pakistan of Ramzi Binalshibh, one of the suspected planners of the suicide hijackings a year earlier.

■ The arrest of six suspected members of a New York terrorism cell.

■ The detention of a Sudanese pilot being held in North Carolina while investigators determine whether he was plotting to fly a plane into a U.S. target.

In addition, the Sept. 11 anniversary passed without incident, the officials noted.

Homeland security director Tom Ridge, FBI Director Robert Mueller, CIA Director George Tenet and Attorney General John Ashcroft advised Bush on Sept. 10 to raise the alert level based in part on intelligence from a high-level al-Qaida operative in custody, Omar al-Farouq.

Those same officials, who meet daily with Bush, are close to seeking a return to yellow.

Any new intelligence that raises alarms could force Bush's advisers to table talks about reducing the threat level, the officials said.

The color-coded system ranks threats by colors, starting at the bottom with green and followed by blue, yellow, orange and red as perceived dangers intensify. The warning level can be upgraded for the entire country or for specific regions or economic sectors — such as the nuclear industry.

Ridge put the nation on yellow alert when he imposed the system in March. The status was unchanged until Sept. 11.

Prosecutors call Adelphia scandal one of the 'most elaborate' in U.S. history

BY DEVLIN BARRETT
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Prosecutors described it as "one of the most elaborate and extensive corporate frauds" in U.S. history: Executives allegedly looting corporate accounts, building a golf course with company money and flying in corporate jets for personal business.

The allegations were included in a 24-count indictment filed Monday against the founding family and two executives of bankrupt cable company Adelphia Communications Corp.

The indictment on charges of conspiracy, securities fraud and wire fraud names Adelphia founder John J. Rigas, 77; his sons, Timothy, 46,

and Michael, 48; James R. Brown, 40, former vice president of finance; and Michael C. Mulcahey, 45, former director of internal reporting.

John Rigas was taking so much money under the table that his son Timothy instructed Mulcahey not to allow his father to withdraw more than \$1 million a month, prosecutors charge.

Members of the Rigas family received more than \$50 million in unauthorized secret transfers from Adelphia, the indictment said.

The court papers also charge the Rigas family regularly used three corporate airplanes for personal use and spent \$13 million in Adelphia money to build a golf course on property owned by John Rigas near

the family home in Coudersport, Pa.

The defendants "exploited Adelphia's Byzantine corporate and financial structure to create a towering facade of false success, even as Adelphia was collapsing under the weight of its staggering debt burden," said U.S. Attorney James Comey.

John Rigas issued a statement Monday insisting the transactions detailed in the indictment were perfectly legal.

"The corporate and personal reputation I have worked to build over the last 50 years has been irreparably damaged," Rigas said. "My family and I have always acted with integrity and honesty and are committed to restoring our credibility and that of Adelphia."

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Happy Hour

Monday through Friday from 4pm to 7pm. Selected Wines, Beers and Appetizers only \$2.95 each!



Jazz Night Every Tuesday

From 9 until closing, the swinging Gregory Alper Jazz Quartet plays LIVE. No Cover.

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1

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with the purchase of another breakfast entree of equal or greater value. One coupon per guest. Not valid with any other offer. Offer does not include tax or tip. Only valid at Wolfgang Puck Cafe - Montana Avenue location. Expires 10/31/02

2

One FREE Bar Appetizer

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

3

One FREE Dessert on Jazz Night

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

1323 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica (310) 393-0290



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