

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

31, 23, 13, 21, 19

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 3, 4

Evening picks: 6, 0, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 4, Big Ben

2nd Place: 3, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 1, Gold Rush

Race Time: 1:42.40



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

The police department in Madera, Calif., and its officer Marcy Noriega filed a lawsuit in July against the manufacturer of Taser guns (nonlethal guns that fire incapacitating electrical charges), claiming it was the company's fault that Noriega, reaching for her Taser, inadvertently drew her real gun and fatally shot a man resisting arrest. According to Noriega, the Taser looks so much like a real gun that she couldn't help it, and Taser International Inc., should have provided better warnings and training.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do."

— Jean-Paul Sartre



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The hand-off



John Wood/Daily Press

The Vikings varsity football team runs drills on Tuesday afternoon at Santa Monica High School. The Vikings (0-2) will play Venice High School Thursday. Only the freshmen football team has a win so far this year at Samohi.

'Both Hands Bandit' sought in First Federal robbery

Suspect wanted in connection with 12 other robberies

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

First Federal Bank in downtown Santa Monica was robbed on Saturday by a man who federal authorities call the "Both Hands Bandit."

Shortly before 2 p.m., a black man wearing a light blue fisherman's hat and sunglasses approached a bank teller with a note that read, "You are being robbed. I

want your 100s, 50s and 20s," according to FBI spokeswoman Laura Bosley.

The FBI said the suspect is responsible for at least a dozen bank robberies in Los Angeles since August, with the most recent on Sept. 12 at the Wells Fargo Bank, 3550 Wilshire Blvd.

Bosley said the suspect uses both hands to hold the note. He doesn't speak to the teller and produces no weapon.

The FBI didn't disclose how much money he got away with from the First Federal Bank at 401 Wilshire Blvd.

See ROBBER, page 5

Small local company suffers second murdered employee

Two co-workers die violently in separate incidents

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The small company where a slain Santa Monica woman worked has lost another employee to murder.

CNCG Cellular, based in Marina Del Rey, is a wholesale cellular phone compa-

ny with just nine people in the office. Within the past seven months, the company has had to deal with the loss of two employees, both killed in violent crimes.

In February, the company lost 21-year-old data entry worker Kristi Johnson when she was raped and murdered in the Hollywood Hills by a man police describe as a predator with a history of victimizing women.

See WORKERS, page 6

Motel owner pleads not guilty to city's charges

He faces eight criminal counts

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

A local motel owner on Tuesday pleaded not guilty to eight criminal charges levied against him by City Hall, from fraud and accepting stolen property to allegedly running a house of ill repute.

Maurice Farzam, 51, entered the plea in Santa Monica Superior Court with his lawyer Richard Beada. Beada told Judge Bernard Kamins he is waiting for City Hall to hand over "hours and hours" worth of audio and video evidence gathered before Farzam was arrested.

"We've seen the icing on the cake," Beada said after the hearing. "Now we want to see the cake."

In addition to the eight criminal charges, Farzam, owner of the Holiday Motel, 1102 Pico Blvd., and the American Motel, 1243 Lincoln Blvd., faces 91 building code violations. He was arrested in July, capping a year-long investigation by five law enforcement agencies.

Farzam is free on \$150,000 bond. He maintained his innocence Tuesday and said business at his two motels has been "very, very slow" since his arrest.

"We've seen the icing on the cake. Now we want to see the cake."

— RICHARD BEADA
Attorney

Neighbors have described Farzam's two hotels as eyesores that regularly attract drug dealers and prostitutes. They said Farzam, a native of Iran and father of four who lives north of San Vicente Boulevard, has for years let his two properties slip into disrepair.

But Farzam said he is being targeted by an overzealous City Hall. He said the bulk of complaints against him stem from one group of unruly guests that refused to leave the Holiday Motel earlier this year. The group apparently used drugs and brought prostitutes to the motel, said Farzam, who added that since he was able to evict them in May the motel has been quiet and safe.

Farzam pointed out that although the case was originally submitted to the L.A. District Attorney's Office, it did not pursue pimping and pandering charges, which are felonies. DA spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said the evidence against Farzam was not sufficient and the case was sent to City Hall. As a result, Deputy City Attorney Betty Haviland filed eight misdemeanor charges against Farzam.

Those charges are two counts of allegedly knowingly and willfully running a house of ill repute, two counts of

See NOT GUILTY, page 5

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, September 24, 2003:
 You have the potential for an excellent year if you just go with the flow. If you rebel against others' styles — promise — you will run into trouble. You might want to keep a journal to give you a better perspective. You will gain a lot of insight as a result. Your career grows in importance, at least to you. You might opt to work very hard to achieve your long-term goals. Opportunities knock on your door, but perhaps not in the obvious way. You are protected from any major problems. If you are single, check out romantic opportunities with care. Someone might not be as emotionally available as you previously thought. If you are attached, schedule plenty of time alone together. Your relationship will grow as a result. VIRGO reads you cold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Pace yourself, with an eye to completion. You might need to deal with a matter head-on right now. Excellent communication helps clear the air. Pressure builds involving distant relatives and a potential trip. Tonight: Take a night just for yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★ Take your time, especially in the face of a difficult and demanding boss. You might not be comfortable with what comes down your path. Kick back rather than make any grandiose statements. Follow your instincts, please. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ For the most part, others delight in your imagination, though a close associate might have a bone to pick with you. Express your creativity and ability to problem-solve. You find answers where others could easily toss their hands in the air. Tonight: Go for a midweek break.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. A unique opportunity is heading your way that could toss the status quo. You might not feel 100 percent secure in taking a risk. Get past a case of the nerves and move into a new dimension. Tonight: Where your friends are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Try another approach with a family member if your normal way doesn't work. Finding answers could be difficult with this person, who specializes in tossing obstacles in your way. Don't back off on a budgetary decision. Tonight: Happy at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Others look to you to take the lead. You could be a bit shaky and somewhat out of control. Still, remain confident and follow a strong path. You know what you want. Don't hesitate at the last moment. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ When you speak your mind, you always stand a strong chance of a hard reaction, whether you like it or not. You might not be thrilled by what you hear, but letting others know that you're absolutely serious is critical. Tonight: Stop in at a favorite spot.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ You might want to defer to someone else. Seek out many opinions, and you'll inevitably come up with successful answers. Tossing around solutions and brainstorming brings the kind of ideas you like. Tonight: Rent a movie.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★ Handle finances with a firm hand. You might not know what needs to happen within a relationship, especially as this person could act very strangely out of the blue. Hang out and observe what might be happening. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Deal with others and their brilliant ideas. Your tendency to play devil's advocate puts a hole or two in your thinking. Don't get too caught up in your goals; look at what is good for everyone. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your subtlety might blow away with the wind when you want to make a point and drive a hard bargain. You might not feel comfortable with a loved one's or friend's emphasis. You also might not be able to turn this situation around. Tonight: Smiles melt more resistance than many other ways or manipulation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Consider your options more carefully. What might feel good to someone hits a discordant cord for someone else. Laugh and relax with the moment. You find that someone really does have a great idea. Encourage this person. Tonight: Go along with another's ideas.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
 Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com STAFF WRITER John Wood wood@smdp.com ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Steve Averill steve@smdp.com PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastrana del@smdp.com PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Alejandro Cesar Cantarero alex@smdp.com	ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER Elise De Ford elise@smdp.com CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com CIRCULATION MANAGER Robert Deamicis Rob@smdp.com CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com
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LOCAL



Dean Hendler/Special to the Daily Press

Students from the Westlake Culinary Institute prepare a 10-course meal at Loews on Sunday. Proceeds from the dinner raised more than \$1,600 for victims of the July 16 Farmers Market accident.

Gourmet dinner raises \$1,600 for Farmers Market fund

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A 10-course gourmet dinner at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel on Sunday raised more than \$1,600 for victims of the July 16 Farmers Market accident.

The meal was prepared by 25 students of the Westlake Culinary Institute as the final assignment in their 23-week course. It also served as their graduation celebration and attracted more than 200 people.

Friends and family of the students gathered in the Lavande Restaurant at Loews to enjoy the food and drink, the intermittent commentary from students and the setting orange sun as it slipped behind the roller coaster on the Santa Monica Pier.

Cecilia DeCastro, lead instructor for the school, described the event as a success and said even Loews staff members, who are accustomed to sharing their kitchen with world-renowned chefs, were impressed by the efficiency and professionalism exhibited by the culinary students.

"I always do this for them, because it's at the point where you ask, 'Do you really want to work in the industry or not?'" said DeCastro. "Once they do this, it separates those who really want to work in the industry from the ones who don't. It separates those that say, 'It's a lot of work,' from, 'It's a high, I really want to do this.'"

The evening began with a choice of five appetizers — from crostini with cannelini beans and roasted garlic to Thai crab cakes with basil cilantro aioli and ahi

tuna tartare on a crispy won ton.

Up next was a brioche toast with nectarine in a Riesling reduction topped with foie gras and served with a glass of 2001 Koehler Riesling from Santa Barbara.

The Riesling gave way to a 2000 Carneros Chardonnay from Dunewood Vineyards as the students presented grilled shrimp and scallops on a bed of mesclun greens and heirloom tomatoes in an Asian vinaigrette.

Butternut squash and corn chowder puree with goat cheese croutons was served before a wild mushroom ravioli in gorgonzola cream sauce, alongside a 2000 Lincourt Chardonnay from Santa Barbara.

Course No. 6 included halibut with a black bean salad and pineapple chutney, and was followed by a calamandine sorbet infused with champagne to clear the palette.

That's when things really got started.

Next was tenderloin of beef with a port fig sauce, Swiss chard with pancetta creamed potatoes and fresh vegetables. It was served with two wines — the 1999 Rancho Sisquoc Cabernet Sauvignon from Santa Barbara and a 2000 Covey Run Cabernet Sauvignon from Washington state.

Finally, two rounds of dessert were served with a special dessert wine. First, a spiced peach cobbler with a ginger-almond biscuit and cardamom ice cream, and, lastly, a marjolaine creme brulee with raspberry and passion fruit coulis.

"They worked extremely hard this week, especially as a team," said Phyllis Vaccarelli, who founded the school in 1978. "It's amazing what they've accomplished."

surf report

The surf has been fun but unfortunately the SSE will fade back today and the waters will be calming down.

OUTLOOK: Wait and see. There isn't a whole lot out there, save for the NW wind swell which has been persistent in the background.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

65°

Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.
Sunset: 7:03 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:44	0.8	12:06	3.3	8:05	3.8	5:52	4.9
SUNDAY	1:22	0.4	12:54	2.9	8:15	4.1	6:44	5.3
MONDAY	1:54	0.0	1:32	2.4	8:30	4.4	7:28	5.7
TUESDAY	2:23	-0.2	2:09	1.8	8:49	4.7	8:09	6.0
WEDNESDAY	2:52	-0.3	2:47	1.3	9:10	5.1	8:50	6.1
THURSDAY	3:21	-0.2	3:27	0.8	9:35	5.4	9:32	6.0
FRIDAY	3:51	0.0	4:10	0.3	10:03	5.8	10:17	5.7

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The QLine

It's no secret that Santa Monica residents aren't satisfied when it comes to customer service in City Hall — especially in the planning department. The department has been criticized for being overly bureaucratic and taking too long in approving building permits, business licenses and other vital elements that allow merchants to set up shop here.

Both the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the Planning Commission are doing separate audits of the department's operations, particularly

now that fees have increased. In addition to listening to the advice of expensive consultants, perhaps city officials will listen to its residents ...

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "What should be done, if anything, to improve customer service in City Hall?"

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



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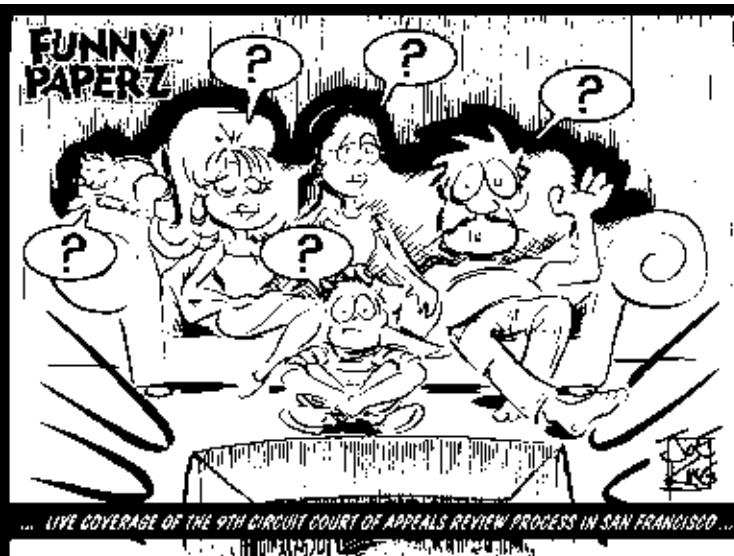
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A week in wilderness displays uncompassionate conservatism



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

I spent the past week with a group of conservatives. The setting was Togiak River Fishing Lodge in Alaska (which I highly recommend) where the guests competed with grizzly bears, otters and eagles to catch the seemingly endless stream of silver (coho) salmon heading up river to spawn.

As we shared a common passion, an easy camaraderie was quickly achieved among the guests. As a group, these mostly older, educated, well-to-do men (and one woman) were friendly, helpful and full of laughter. But to my dismay a good many of them were also surprisingly ignorant and selfish.

One of the men, traveling with his father, lived in Alaska and had recently sold his environmental consulting firm. I was interested in what he thought about drilling in the Arctic wilderness. He was all for it. He felt that there was little chance of a spill and the impact of one would not be significant enough to warrant not drilling.

But then his motivations became clearer. He was concerned because there had been some talk about initiating a state income tax in Alaska. He was strongly opposed to such a tax and felt that there would be no need if they opened up the wilderness to drilling. But then in the next breath he advocated eliminating the permanent fund that provides a small sum to all permanent residents of Alaska. He would also eliminate additional payments made to the native population, most of whom live in abject poverty, struggle with alcoholism and suicide, and have almost no means to make a living.

Many of these Alaskans depend on these extra dollars to survive. But this man, this multi-millionaire who has his own plane, who had just returned from a month vacation in Hawaii and was now spending nearly \$8,000 to take his father

fishing, wanted to eliminate these payments so he wouldn't have to pay a few dollars in state tax, the necessity of which was, no doubt, caused by Bush's tax cuts. Tax cuts he completely supports.

While he didn't venture an opinion about global warming, his father, a retired pharmacist, was certain that it didn't exist. How did he know this? Rush Limbaugh said it was all a liberal plot.

Let us pretend for a moment that Rush Limbaugh is more than just a coarse, loud, vile, slimy, duplicitous, wind bag who is willing to say anything, regardless of its veracity, in order to advance the poor hating, minority hating, liberal hating, business-loving neo-conservative movement. And let's also pretend that this mentally challenged ideologue had some actual educational qualification for having an opinion that was in direct opposition to about 85 percent of the world's greatest scientists in the field. And let's even pretend that the glaciers that are all melting, the fish populations that are dwindling or moving north, the ocean temperatures that are rising and the heat waves that are multiplying are just a cyclical fluctuation. What if Rush is right and nearly everybody else is wrong? What if, in our misguided "liberal" zeal, we made businesses more responsible for pollution, demanded improved gas mileage for cars and trucks, developed alternative and renewable energy sources and pushed conservation?

Well, the air would be cleaner which might result in fewer childhood and senior respiratory problems. We would save lots of money on gas as demand would be down and cars would operate cheaper. We would not have to ruin pristine wildernesses, regardless of how insignificant the possibility of an ecological disaster. And we would not be dependent upon human rights violating, Mid East dictators. Plus, the creation and production of new technologies would provide many well-paying jobs for the unemployed.

But what if Rush is wrong? Our environment will continue to get hotter and dirtier. We will have increasing temperatures in the ocean and huge fish kills, as well as the loss of many other species. The polar icecaps will melt. Weather pat-

terns will be thrown into chaos. There will be worldwide droughts and flooding. The ozone layer will probably become increasingly depleted and skin cancer rates will explode. Water shortages and crop failures in much of the world will kill millions or even billions of people. Is it worth taking the chance? The pharmacist thought it was.

And as long as we're on the subject of Rush, a relative of mine recently informed my wife that the reason the media is liberal and immoral is because Jews run Hollywood. And guess where she heard it? Not only isn't it true, but statements such as these bear such a remarkable resemblance to the tactics used by the Nazis that we should consider giving Limbaugh an all-expense paid trip to Nuremberg. And if my conservative relative is really so concerned with morality, she might want to break up with her married boyfriend before their kids find out. And for the record, the media is about as liberal as Joseph McCarthy.

Also at the lodge was a rice farmer from Sacramento. He supported driver licenses for illegal immigrants and for a moment I thought he might even be liberal. "Yup," he went on to say. "I want all those backlogs to get licenses so that our insurance rates will go down." Of course he had no problem with illegal aliens; hires them all the time.

The farmer hated welfare, which he blamed on the Democrats — unaware that welfare reform had been consecrated under Clinton. And while he denigrated all "those lazy bastards who lived off his hard work" and railed against "women who dropped kids by the truckload just so they can up their welfare payments," he had no problem accepting his share of the massive farm subsidies. His Sacramento rice grower cooperative collects over \$28 million a year or about the same as 1,500 welfare recipients. And with the help of this corporate welfare he's expanding his farm just so he can collect even more welfare.

The farmer also hated the idea of any sort of health coverage for the poor. He, like many of the guests, seemed to believe that these people needed to work harder so they could afford health coverage. His

opinion was that, "If he could do it, they could do it." Of course, it is a lot easier to do "it" when you inherit a successful farm from your father. I explained that many of these "lazy" immigrants were working three jobs just to get by and that if they got sick they couldn't pay their bills and were forced to give up necessities. He was unsympathetic. He had had bad years in the past and had been forced to give up necessities, too ... like his country club membership. Yes, he actually said that.

In talking to people such as these, what I have come to understand is that what is glaringly missing from compassionate conservatism is the compassion. That is not to say that all conservatives are like this. But the neo-conservatives in power today have made it OK to be selfish, to be racists, to despise the poor and blame them for their condition. For a group that never loses an opportunity to quote Christ or promote Christian values, they seem to be missing the point.

ASIDE 1: As reported in The New Republic, Democrats, bowing to pressure from the high tech sector, are pressuring the Federal Accounting Standards Board not to adopt mandated stock-option expensing, a key element to corporate reform. Further, the Dems chose to appoint Robert Lenhard over the incumbent Scott Thomas to the Federal Election Committee.

While Thomas supported campaign finance reform, Lenhard will likely do what he can to undermine McCain Feingold. It makes you wonder if maybe Ralph Nader was right that Democrats and Republicans are the same.

ASIDE 2: The ultrapatriotic — God Bless America — Republican National Committee (as reported by the Business Standard, Jan. 31, 2003) recently outsourced their fundraising to a company located in India. Exporting American jobs in the midst of exploding unemployment proves conclusively that Democrats and Republicans are not even similar.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Anyone who has compassionate comments may e-mail them to edsincites@aol.com).

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

LOCAL



File photo

A house of ill repute or a motel? A judge will decide next month.

Evidence against motel owner reviewed by lawyers

NOT GUILTY, from page 1

creating a public nuisance, one count of accepting a stolen credit card and three counts of using a stolen credit card to obtain money.

The 91 building code violations cover everything from broken smoke detectors to bad plastering. Beada said Tuesday that construction plans to correct the violations have been submitted to City Hall and a permit to commence work has been issued.

Each of the eight criminal charges carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail and \$3,000 in fines. The building code violations each carry a maximum fine of \$1,500. No plea discussions have taken place, Haviland said.

The investigation into Farzam's activi-

ties was prompted by a history of resident complaints involving alleged prostitution and illegal drug activity. Over the past four years, police have received more than 150 calls complaining about the motel's patrons, said Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega.

While Beada waits to receive the evidence from City Hall, he told the court he also has subpoenaed credit card records from American Express. Beada said he hopes the records will prove Farzam did not use a stolen credit card to get cash.

Farzam, who is scheduled to return to court Oct. 29, said the records will vindicate him.

"I'm in good standing with all of my credit card companies," he said.

Downtown bank robbery marks sixth this year in city

ROBBER, from page 1

Saturday's incident marks the sixth bank robbery in Santa Monica this year.

Santa Monica Police responded to a call at 1:57 p.m. of a bank robbery in progress. When officers arrived, bank employees said the suspect, described as between 20 and 30 years old, six feet tall and thin, left the bank and walked north on Fourth Street, according to SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

Officers patrolled the area, but found nothing.

In earlier robberies, witnesses describe the "Both Hands Bandit" as having a "shabby appearance." However, in recent robberies, witnesses have told FBI offi-

cials that he is clean cut.

Bosley said the suspect has had getaway drivers waiting for him after some of the robberies.

The other bank robberies this year in Santa Monica are as follows:

■ Jan. 14 — US Bank, 1401 Wilshire Blvd.

■ Feb. 11 — First Federal Bank, 1630 Montana Ave. The bank also was robbed last October.

■ Feb. 19 — US Bank, 400 Wilshire Blvd.

■ April 11 — US Bank, 2221 Santa Monica Blvd.

■ April 17 — Wells Fargo, 2444 Wilshire Blvd.

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LOCAL

Company mourning loss of murdered employees

WORKERS, from page 1

Last Thursday, the company lost its warehouse manager, Durwin Williams, 32, when he was shot at 8:55 p.m. while sitting in his car at 123 East 77th St. with a woman he was reportedly dropping off at home.

"The suspects decided to pull a strong-arm robbery and they shot him," said LAPD's 77th division homicide supervisor Rudy Lemos, adding Williams' passenger was able to escape unharmed.

Williams, who was shot in the upper stomach, was taken to Martin Luther King Hospital, where he died. The LAPD has identified two suspects in the killing and the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office has issued two felony murder warrants for their arrests. The first suspect is Steven Devon Tyre, 26 and the other is a juvenile — both are reportedly gang members.

Williams apparently was in a south Los Angeles neighborhood that is the territory of a particular gang.

"His murder occurred because he was in the wrong neighborhood," said LAPD Detective Bill Fallon. "They didn't recognize his car so they robbed him."

Edwin Ortiz, a manager at CNCG, said his employees are in shock.

"Everybody is walking around in a haze," he said. "It's strange that it's this company ... This is all a little bizarre."

When employees learned of Williams' murder, the company closed the office on Friday as Williams was a vital part of the operation. The company's owners, Daniel Gazal and Simon Blitz, who work in CNCG's headquarters in New York, immediately flew to Los Angeles to offer support to their employees.

The employees gathered around Williams' work station on Monday for a moment of prayer and the owners held a brief meeting to offer their support to their workers.

Williams, who had a 13-year-old daughter, Jasmine, and a 6-month-old son, Darvis, held a special place in his heart for Johnson, who was found dead in the Hollywood Hills on March 3. He kept a photo of her near his work station. He also helped Johnson's mother, Terry Wark, load her daughter's belongings out of her Santa Monica apartment.

Williams, who grew up in Los Angeles and lived near the Crenshaw district, was working his way up at CNCG. Ortiz hired him a year ago as a warehouse employee. He rose through the ranks and had recently become the warehouse manager, in charge of orders and shipments from cellular phone distributors throughout the country.

Ortiz said Williams, who cared deeply about his family, was always waiting in his car when he arrived to work.

"I would say to him, 'Good morning, Durwin, how are you?'" Ortiz said. "And he would say, 'I'm blessed.'"

During lunch, Williams would read books in his car and eat fruit.

"Durwin was one of those people who always had a smile on his face," Ortiz said. "He always talked about his daughter and his son ... He stood completely out of trouble."

While it appears that Williams' life had been centered on his job and family, he was an "inactive" gang member and was on parole five years ago stemming from a 1992 robbery conviction, Detective Fallon said. He has a criminal history dat-

ing back to 1987.

"His past is his past," Detective Fallon said. "He had the bad luck of taking her home."

The loss of two of CNCG's employees epitomizes the violence in Los Angeles. Johnson was a young, middle-class white girl who grew up in the Midwest. She was murdered by a man who allegedly lured her by saying he was a publicity photographer for a James Bond movie.

"There are some really miserable human beings out there roaming this earth and the good ones are taken. The crime in this city is completely out of control."

— EDWIN ORTIZ
CNCG Cellular,
Manager

Williams, a black man, grew up in south central Los Angeles. His murder appears to be a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. However, the woman he was dropping off knows the suspects that shot him and it could have been a gang-on-gang shooting — between the Bloods and the Crips, Detective Fallon said.

And while the two-week search for Johnson, the murder investigation and the court proceedings for her alleged killer — convicted felon Victor Paleologus — has received national media attention, not one word has been written or said about Williams' death in the media.

"I've been realistic about racism in this country, but even this I was floored that nothing was written about it," Ortiz said, adding that a black man dying in a south LA neighborhood apparently isn't enough to warrant media exposure.

Johnson's desk had been empty since she disappeared on Feb. 15. It wasn't until recently that Ortiz allowed someone to sit there, although he hasn't filled her position. Now, employees will have to walk by yet another empty work station.

Ortiz said he was especially close to Williams because he hired him and worked closely with him every day.

"With Kristi, it was hard, but this is harder," Ortiz said. "I don't think it has really hit me yet. I know it will soon."

CNCG will close its offices again this Friday for Williams' funeral, which will be held at Mount Zion Church, 1301 50th St., at 11 a.m.

Ortiz, a New York native, said he has never had to experience so much violence.

"There are some really miserable human beings out there roaming this earth and the good ones are taken," he said. "The crime in this city is completely out of control."

Meanwhile, CNCG employees are on edge.

"It's like, what else is going to happen?" Ortiz said.

STATE



A BRIEF RECALL

Labor unions go to bat for Bustamante

By The Associated Press

OAKLAND — California's labor unions began distributing a half million fliers around the state this week opposing the Oct. 7 recall and praising Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante as a worthy replacement if Gov. Gray Davis is booted from office.

The fliers, prepared by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, were being distributed at work sites. They urge a no vote on the recall.

They praise Davis for fighting for overtime pay and family leave for workers, and credit the governor with increasing funding for public schools, hiring more teachers and improving teacher training programs.

The unions offered praise for Bustamante, who is urging voters to oppose the recall but also support him in case Davis is ousted. Both Bustamante and Davis are Democrats; the other high-profile recall candidates are Republicans.

The unions credited Bustamante with improving education by supporting smaller class sizes for elementary schools and also advocating paid leave for parents who need to care for sick children.

An animated Huffington cleans out 'cathouse'

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Independent gubernatorial candidate Arianna Huffington continues to trail in the polls but leads in the race to bring the coolest campaign commercials to the Internet.

Her latest, which went up on her Web site (<http://www.votearianna.com>) Tuesday, is a two-minute flash-animation cartoon starring Huffington as a gun-toting sheriff who strides into Sacramento and shuts down the "Special Interest Brothel."

Her raid nets Gov. Gray Davis, Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante and Republican candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger, who are cavorting in their underwear. President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney are seen in the background as dancing girls.

"Your days of buying political favors are over," she tells the brothel's inhabitants, who include Indian gambling interests represented by a slot machine and big business in the form of a bulldozer shoveling money at Schwarzenegger.

"Yeah, it sure was a pretty corrupt place," the cartoon's narrator says in a Western old-timer's voice. "A cathouse for the fat cats."

After shutting it down, Huffington calls on people to support her efforts to put an initiative on the ballot that would require all state elections be financed by public money.

Earlier ads on the site have offered "The Match Your Candidate Game" and shown Huffington beating Schwarzenegger in a race that pitted her hybrid-powered car against his gas-guzzling Hummer.

Shut out Green Party candidate seeing red

By The Associated Press

FOLSOM — Green Party candidate Peter Camejo is upset that today's scheduled debate will likely be his last televised appearance with the other gubernatorial hopefuls — and he is making sure the League of Women Voters knows it.

According to Camejo, the league has set an unfair threshold for determining which candidates can participate in two debates it is co-sponsoring next week. For the first, set for Oct. 2, the nonpartisan voter education group has said candidates must have earned at least 3 percent of the vote in a recent poll to participate.

In the Los Angeles Times poll the League of Women Voters relied on in extending its invitations to candidates, Camejo got 2 percent of the vote, making him the only one of the five remaining major candidates ineligible. Independent candidate Arianna Huffington barely qualified with 3 percent.

Neither Huffington nor Camejo, however, qualified for the league's Oct. 4 debate, which carries an eligibility cutoff of 10 percent. The Sept. 30 debate sponsored by the CNN and the Times also sets the limit at 10 percent.

Camejo said Tuesday that he plans to raise the issue during tonight's debate, which is expected to pull in a lot of viewers because it is Arnold Schwarzenegger's first. His campaign is also launching a letter-writing drive encouraging Green Party members from around the country to pressure the league into changing its debate rules.

"This goes against everything the people of California want," he said. "It's been one of the great achievements of the recall election that voters have been able to hear more than two points of view."

San Diego united against colorblind ballot measure

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The City Council has voted unanimously to oppose Proposition 54, the Oct. 7 ballot measure that would ban the collection of most racial data on individuals by public agencies.

"Proposition 54 is wrong for the city of San Diego, and we're not going to just sit by and be quiet about it," said Councilman Charles Lewis.

The measure, which voters will consider along with the recall of Gov. Gray Davis, has been championed by University of California Regent Ward Connerly, who argues it would lead to a more colorblind society. Opponents say it would hamstring public agencies trying to track racial disparity and could harm the efforts of public health officials trying to learn how diseases affect different racial groups.

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Westside | Real Estate

A lawyer's perspective on landlords' challenges in SM



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

Today, we share the opinions of Gordon P. Gitlen, Attorney at Law.

GORDON GITLEN: My particular specialty is real estate and business transactions. I've been doing this for about 25 years. I service a tremendous amount of Santa Monica problems, which Santa Monica seems to reinvent "like Madonna" all the time. It's a source of amusement and a tremendous source of business because the city keeps changing its policies and making things so difficult. This basically is an anti-development, anti-business city. Yet people still flock to Santa Monica and the property values are still here, despite the politics.

HIS OPINION: The city passes new rules and regulations all the time. It's like a floating game — you have to get a handle on the rules this week, and it's difficult to keep up on.

HIS OBSERVATION: Santa Monica is operated by a City Council, but this City Council depends upon the city attor-

"... Five people out of the seven on the City Council are directly related to renter's rights. So they're going to do whatever their agenda tells them to do."

— GORDON GITLEN
Attorney

ney, the planning department, and the building and safety department. If that's not depressing news — five people out of the seven on the City Council are directly related to renter's rights. So they're going to do whatever their agenda tells them to do. The other two are more or less along for the ride, although trying as best they can to be an independent voice. You're never going to be an independent voice when it's two against five.

JODI SUMMERS: How difficult is it to be a landlord in Santa Monica?

GORDON GITLEN: It depends upon if you want to make money. There are so many rules and regulations in our town that are counter to what happens in the state of California, and unless you know the rules and regulations, it's going to cost you money.

JS: What rights does a landlord have in Santa Monica?

GG: Not as many as any place else in

the United States. The landlord has the right to stay in business or go out of business. When you buy a property, you would think you have the right to live in your own property. But here you have to pay relocation assistance, and the rent control board will tell you exactly which unit you will take as opposed to the unit you want. You cannot just give a tenant a notice to leave. Now it's called "Just Cause for Eviction." Just cause is generally a violation of the Rent Control law or a violation of the rental agreement. And you get to pay the Rent Control Board for the pleasure of being in business by the registration fees. Sometimes you can pass it through, but if there's nobody to pass the cost through to, then you cannot.

JS: What is the upside to being a landlord in Santa Monica?

GG: There is no upside. You can buy a building in Santa Monica, and if you can manage it appropriately and wait for the

real estate market to go up, you might make some money. The problem is that the rent levels are controlled by the rent control board, and your rent levels are just not going to go up that high. Today, most of your tenants that are going to vacate probably have vacated, so you've already got vacancy decontrol. Now you've set your rent levels as high as you can make them when somebody moves in and your rent levels are controlled. If we agree that the value of the apartment building is directly attributable to the income that the building generates and you cannot generate substantially more income because of rent control levels, then you're just not going to make that much more money compared to other areas, where you get a higher rate of return off of your investment. But people still want to live in Santa Monica, so people still want to own in Santa Monica, and that's the drawing card, even though the financial reward isn't as great.

Gordon Gitlen's law offices are located at the Gitlen Law Building, 2917 Santa Monica Blvd.

(If you would like to more information of interest to property owners, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call at (310) 309-4219.)

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

SOLD	2025 NAVY ST	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold:	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$725,000	Bed: 2
09/16/2003	Lot Size: 6,995	Sold Price: \$699,108	Pool Bath: 1
SOLD	1110 OZONE AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold:	SqFt: 912	List Price: \$649,000	Bed: 2
09/17/2003	Lot Size: 5,257	Sold Price: \$628,000	Bath: 1
SOLD	634 COPELAND CT	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,665	List Price: \$1,038,000	Bed: 2
09/18/2003	Lot Size: 5,815	Sold Price: \$993,008	Bath: 2
SOLD	1734 PINE ST	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,788	List Price: \$789,000	Bed: 4
09/16/2003	Lot Size: 6,500	Sold Price: \$830,000	Bath: 2
SOLD	2507 18TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,921	List Price: \$875,000	Bed: 3
09/16/2003	Lot Size: 6,446	Sold Price: \$865,000	Bath: 2.5
SOLD	700 KINGMAN AVE	SANTA MONICA	90402
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,300	List Price: \$1,375,000	Bed: 2
09/18/2003	Lot Size: 7,500	Sold Price: \$1,282,500	Bath: 2.00

SOLD	317 16TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402
Date Sold:	SqFt: 6,000	List Price: \$3,295,000	Bed: 5
09/15/2003	Lot Size: 7,496	Sold Price: \$3,250,000	Pool Bath: 5.5
SOLD	757 OCEAN AVE #216	SANTA MONICA	90402
Date Sold:	SqFt: 737	List Price: \$399,000	Bed: 1
09/15/2003	HOD: \$282	Sold Price: \$396,000	Pool Bath: 1
SOLD	2325 20TH ST #1	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,482	List Price: \$499,000	Bed: 3
09/18/2003	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$498,000	Bath: 3
SOLD	853 12TH ST #C	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold:	SqFt: 600	List Price: \$375,000	Bed: 1
09/16/2003	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$371,500	Bath: 1
SOLD	130 OCEAN PARK BL #317	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,146	List Price: \$599,000	Bed: 1
09/19/2003	HOD: \$505	Sold Price: \$595,000	Pool Bath: 1.5
SOLD	2134 OAK ST #B	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold:	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$299,000	Bed: 1
09/15/2003	HOD: \$175	Sold Price: \$329,000	Bath: 1

SOLD	427 CALIFORNIA AVE #1	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold:	SqFt: 2,301	List Price: \$1,395,000	Bed: 3
09/15/2003	HOD: \$387	Sold Price: \$1,395,000	Bath: 3.5
SOLD	1140 CHELSEA AVE #C	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold:	SqFt: 2,000	List Price: \$669,000	Bed: 2
09/17/2003	HOD: \$313	Sold Price: \$655,000	Bath: 2.5
SOLD	931 10TH ST #A	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold:	SqFt: 2,000	List Price: \$1,190,000	Bed: 3
09/15/2003	HOD: \$290	Sold Price: \$1,150,000	Bath: 2.5
SOLD	930 CALIFORNIA AVE #104	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,460	List Price: \$469,000	Bed: 2
09/15/2003	HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$430,000	Bath: 2
SOLD	1545 YALE ST	SANTA MONICA	90404
Date Sold:	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$1,635,000	#Units: 7
09/18/2003	Lot Size: 8,123	Sold Price: \$1,600,000	GRM: 15
SOLD	1038 11TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold:	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$1,125,000	#Units: 5
09/19/2003	Lot Size: 7,496	Sold Price: \$1,100,000	GRM: 0

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REAL ESTATE

What to look for: Leasing or buying commercial property



IN YOUR SPACE

By Christina S. Porter

Has your need for space changed recently? Are you exploring the commercial real estate market? Considering the ups and downs of owning the property your business occupies?

Ever since interest rates have taken the dive that they have I have encountered many "Lessees" entering the "prospective buyer" market. It makes sense. You can build equity while very possibly paying less per month on a mortgage than you would on a lease. It sounds great, but, of course, it couldn't possibly be that simple. Below are just a couple of points that should be considered.

The down payment. Most commercial lenders require a minimum 25 to 30 percent down payment and many times as high as 40 percent of the purchase price. If you are a startup this is certainly prohibitive and even if you're not, a good hard look at the opportunity cost of that money would be in order.

Lenders. Unless you have a SBA loan (Small Business Administration) the term of your loan can range from three to 10 years, (a SBA-backed loan can be 25 years) at which time a balloon payment is due. If you are not ready to move, then a refinancing will be in order.

Some benefits to owning are:

- Tax write-offs for mortgage interest and building depreciation.

- No Landlord-mandated restrictions.

- You can stay in your space as long as you like.

- The difference between a smaller mortgage payment and a larger lease payment can be considered a "return" on the cash invested (the down payment) and could be a better investment than other venues.

Some benefits to leasing are:

- Most of the time there is no initial

cash investment required, allowing you to invest more in your business.

- Unless you have a triple net lease, building maintenance and repair is mostly the landlord's responsibility.

- No extra time spent on dealing with the responsibilities of ownership.

- If your space needs change, you can sublease the space.

- You can write off the lease payments as a business expense.

A good thing to do to help with a decision like this is to compare the cost of leasing to the cost of owning. There are many factors to consider in this comparison and a good amount of investigation would be necessary. Some of the questions that should be answered are below.

- What are the building maintenance costs?

- Insurance costs?

- What will interest rates be when it is time to refinance? And how much equity will you have at that time?

- Is the building earthquake retrofitted? Does it need to be? Is it required to be?

- What is the leasing market like at this time? Can you get a good rate for a long term? Is it a landlord's or tenant's market?

- What is the purchasing market like at this time? Can you buy under market? Is everything over priced?

- In today's market the words "as is" appear in many purchase contracts. How much will you have to spend to make the property habitable by your business?

Lease rates are low and vacancy rates are still high. According to several experts, vacancy rates are starting to "flatten out" as opposed to continuing to decrease. I do believe that now is the time to take advantage of these low lease rates and lock in a long-term lease. However, if you can find the right property at the right price, then it is a great time to buy. But as all of us who are in the world of commercial real estate know, there is a severe shortage of product and, as in the residential market, it is a common occurrence to have multiple offers on a property, which always drives the price up.

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9/12/03	201 Santa Monica Blvd.	\$3.20 FS	4,463
9/19/03	620 Santa Monica Blvd	\$4.00 nnn	3,050
9/05/03	725 Arizona Ave	\$2.95 FS	2,660
9/11/03	720 Wilshire Blvd	\$2.50 FS	1,987
9/19/03	2210 Main Street	\$2.55 MG	1,100
9/18/03	2102 Wilshire Blvd	\$2.95 nnn	2,200

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FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt just returned from her second trip to Iraq, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit in February. She also saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts. The trip revealed much devastation – and much inspiration.

She will be speaking about the people she met – and remet – in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Wednesday, September 25

7:00 pm Global Exchange, Thousand Oaks Main Library

1401 E. Janss Road in Thousand Oaks

Since February, Kelly has addressed over 60 audiences, including religious congregations, state women's conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. If you would like her to address your group, please call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com.

Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

City separates 'self from contested cross

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — The contested city-owned cross looming on a hill behind downtown is being sold for \$104,216 to a private nonprofit group hastily formed to buy the landmark.

The City Council voted 6-1 this week to sell the cross and an acre of land around it to the Grant Park Conservancy, which submitted the highest of five bids.

"I'm beyond thrilled," conservancy chief Christy Weir said.

The deal will be finalized in about 20 days, as long as the bidder pays the city in full for the cross property and agrees to a number of conditions, including muted lighting of the cross and keeping the property as open space.

The council decided in July to sell the cross after San Francisco attorney Vince Chhabria warned that city ownership and maintenance of it violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

Ventura has had some version of the cross ever since Father Junipero Serra founded the Buenaventura mission in 1782. The current wooden cross has stood high above the downtown since 1941.

Reel Bad: Algae killing off fish

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Dead smelt are stinking up Ventura Harbor.

An algae bloom red tide has been killing off the bottom dwelling fish and tons of smelt went belly up in the harbor. The dead fish were being scooped up this week.

"It's probably going to take us a good three to four days," said Rick Echevarria, harbor facilities manager. "I wish the birds would eat them, but they're too full."

Plump seagulls rested between feedings on harbor embankments as crews cleared away the fish. Harbor officials noticed over the weekend that the fish had begun dying from the toxic levels of algae caused by weeks of red tide, Echevarria said.

Red tide forms when microscopic, plantlike cells produce a potent chemical toxin that paralyzes fish, restricts their breathing and colors the water crimson.

West Nile virus continues to spread

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — A dead sparrow found in central Riverside was infected with the West Nile virus.

This week's announcement by mosquito control officials marked the first time the virus has been found in the western portion of Riverside or San Bernardino counties.

The virus has killed 80 people nationwide this year and sickened thousands more, although most infected people don't show symptoms.

West Nile virus is carried by birds and can be spread to humans and horses by mosquitoes. Health officials believe migrating birds have caused the virus to spread nationwide in just four years.

"It is no surprise that it is becoming established in California," said Vicki Kramer, chief of the state health department's vector-borne diseases program. West Nile made its first appearance in California's Imperial Valley last month.

Elderly people are most at risk of serious illness or death from the virus, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, most people have no symptoms.

County program for kids of little assistance

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An audit shows a county program designed to help foster children get on their feet when they turn 18 failed to spend millions of dollars allocated.

The audit also found the Department of Children and Family Services' Independent Living Program, which has an \$18 million annual budget, delayed payments for college expenses and distribution of laptop computers and gift certificates intended for school supplies.

The audit examined services given to more than 20,000 foster children ages 14 to 21— who either have left foster care or are expected to be on their own in the next several years.

Within two to four years after leaving the system, 46 percent had not completed high school, 51 percent were unemployed, 40 percent had been on welfare or in jail and 25 percent had been homeless, the audit said.

Wolfgang Puck Cafe hangs up its skillet

By The Associated Press

IRVINE — The 8-year-old Wolfgang Puck Cafe in the Irvine Spectrum Center has closed amid reorganization of the Beverly Hills-based restaurant chain.

The 7,700-square-foot Irvine restaurant opened in 1995. It is the only Wolfgang Puck restaurant to close so far, but more may close as the company evaluates the 75-restaurant chain, officials said.

"Each restaurant is looked at on a case-by-case basis," company spokeswoman Jannis Swerman said. The Irvine restaurant closed Sept. 2 because it wasn't making enough money, Swerman said.

Wolfgang Puck Worldwide Inc. is privately held and employs about 5,000 people. It operates 12 fine-dining spots such as Spago and 27 midlevel restaurants such as Wolfgang Puck Express, Wolfgang Puck Cafe and Cucina Cucina!

The restructuring will focus on two concepts: the Express restaurants and high-end eateries in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The reorganization is a response to changes in eating trends, not lowered sales, Swerman said.

STATE



Redwood country: Recall voters prefer the seclusion

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

ARCATA — Behind the "redwood curtain" that separates California's far north coast from the rest of the state, people have other things to worry about than who gets the hot seat in Sacramento.

California's upcoming recall election may be water cooler fodder nationally, but Gov. Gray Davis's political troubles barely merit a mention in the isolated enclaves of Humboldt County, where aging hippies and dreadlocked ravers mix with timber workers and dairy farmers.

Residents here are more concerned with other recalls — like the Arcata City Council's measure asking Congress to impeach President Bush, and a local effort to remove the liberal district attorney.

"We are forgotten up here, and people are here who want to forget what's going on in the rest of the state," observed Brent Critch, 39, of McKinleyville, who said he "hardly ever" talks about the statewide election commanding so much attention elsewhere.

That sense of seclusion — self-imposed or otherwise — was evident during a campaign sweep through the "Left Coast" by Green Party candidate Peter Camejo. His two-day visit last weekend was the first by a major gubernatorial candidate to the region since Republican businessman Bill Simon breezed through in mid-August shortly before he quit the race.

Camejo made the trip because the north coast gave him some of his strongest numbers when he ran for governor last November. He received 5.3 percent of the vote statewide, but he pulled in nearly 12 percent in Humboldt and 16.5 percent in neighboring Mendocino County.

"No candidates will come here because there aren't that many votes to be had" in an area that had only 122,478 registered voters at last count, Camejo said.

Camejo held a fund-raiser with Paul Gallegos, the Humboldt district attorney, who became the subject of a recall drive himself after taking on Pacific Lumber Co., one of the county's large employers. Gallegos alleges the company lied about the potential for its logging to cause landslides.

With about 30 people in attendance and about \$900 raised for Camejo, the event was considered a success.

Darin Price, a chemistry professor at Humboldt State University in Arcata who is running under the Natural Law Party banner, says he is the only one of the 135 would-be governors on the recall ballot from Humboldt or Mendocino. The old adage of "all politics are local," Price notes, especially applies in a place with a

greater affinity with Oregon than the California of popular imagination.

"We have so many politically educated people up here and none of them had the strength to run for governor. They are so disenfranchised," said Price, 40, who shared the stump with Camejo at an organic coffee shop and a street fair. "Camejo comes once every election, but we rarely see (California senators Barbara) Boxer and (Dianne) Feinstein. They don't care about us. They don't know about our issues."

In Arcata, which claims more registered Greens than Republicans, the Davis recall is largely regarded as a waste of money, and people roll their eyes at the thought of Arnold Schwarzenegger becoming governor.

The same feelings are shared in nearby Fortuna and Ferndale, conservative timber and dairy towns rich in natural beauty but low on jobs.

Running the cash register at her family's Red Front Store, Vicky Donohue, a lifelong Ferndale resident, said she opposes the recall even though she's a registered Republican and the governor is a Democrat.

"I don't really think who is in there is going to make that much difference," she shrugged. "We care, but it's not like it's going to affect us as much as people in big cities."

Troy Christensen, 36, who was raised in Fortuna and still hauls milk at a cooperative dairy there, sees a parallel between the north coast's lack of political clout and its small population and economy. The way he sees it, laws made in Sacramento that drive down the price of milk, limit timber harvests and draw water from the rivers so salmon can't spawn aren't made for him and his neighbors.

"We are a fishing industry, a timber industry and a dairy industry and pretty much it's all being taken away from us," he said.

Despite such disaffection, many residents say they aren't eager to participate in the hoopla surrounding the recall. Asked what she would want to tell the candidates if they made it to town for a debate, Susan Davis, 51, who works for the North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association, rolled her eyes in mock horror. Sacramento "is another planet" and that's fine with her.

"We don't really need the rest of the state to discover us," Davis said with a wink. "We're really not that eager for them to come here. ... Tell them we get 300 inches of rain a year and it's always foggy. And it's really boring."

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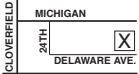
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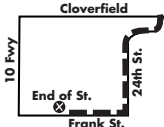
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STATE

First step taken in Colo. River water-sharing deal

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The board of the Metropolitan Water District, the largest water broker in Southern California, approved a deal Tuesday to divide the state's share of Colorado River water and officials said they were optimistic they'd win needed support from three other agencies.

Metropolitan was the first of the four agencies to vote on the long-awaited pact, which is needed to secure the water future for thirsty and fast-growing Southern California.

"To reach this point has been a long and difficult road, representing years of negotiations and false starts," said John Foley, Metropolitan's vice chairman. "Like those who came before us, we have the opportunity to add to California's water supply foundation."

The 75-year deal would restore Metropolitan's privileges to fill its half-empty aqueduct with additional Colorado water for its 18 million customers. The U.S. Interior Department took those privileges away when the state failed to meet a Dec. 31 deadline to reach agreement. The deal also eases concerns that the heavily-populated south would look to the north for water.

Two other boards, the Coachella Valley Water District and the San Diego County Water Authority, were expected to follow Metropolitan's lead this week. But there were lingering doubts about water officials in the Imperial Valley, the state's largest user of Colorado water.

Gov. Gray Davis announced Tuesday that negotiators had resolved all outstanding issues to the satisfaction of the four water agencies, the state, the federal government and six other Western states that share the river. But Imperial's position is still hard to predict.

Many in the heavily agricultural valley view the Colorado River as the region's lifeblood. And that has created opposition to a cornerstone of the deal: agreement that Imperial will transfer up to 200,000 acre-feet a year to urban San Diego and possibly other 1.6 million acre-feet to Metropolitan. Imperial board member Stella Mendoza, for one, has said she would never vote to sell the region's water.

Imperial board members were holding a workshop Tuesday to hear input from the public. The board is to vote on the deal on Oct. 7.

In December, the five-member board rejected the deal, concerned about the environmental consequences of transferring so much water.

This time around, Imperial has butted heads with the U.S. Interior Department over the concept of the beneficial use of water, which holds that reclaimed water cannot be wasted.

The Bureau of Reclamation ruled in July that Imperial Valley farmers were wasting water on their desert fields and therefore should lose hundreds of thousands of gallons from their Colorado River allotment next year. The 400 or so farmers in California's southeastern corner use about 70 percent of the state's share of the river.

A portion of the complex Colorado water-sharing deal involves beneficial use. The broader agreement is aimed at easing California's overdependence on the Colorado River so other Western states can claim their full share.

"It's time for negotiations to end. It's time for us to move forward. This is a good deal for all parties."

— **RON GASTELUM**
Metropolitan,
Chief executive

Negotiators for Imperial met Monday in Las Vegas with Assistant Interior Secretary Bennett Raley and officials with the U.S. Justice Department and reached a tentative agreement over language in the Colorado River water-sharing that touches on the department's authority to determine whether water is being wasted.

"The negotiators for Imperial ... did a very, very effective job to get a great deal," said Richard Katz, a senior adviser to the governor on water issues who has led weeks of negotiations between the water agencies. "I think at the end of the day they will approve it."

In Los Angeles, several board members of Metropolitan said they were concerned that Imperial might waver and veto the deal on Oct. 7. Ron Gastelum, Metropolitan's chief executive, said he was cautiously optimistic.

Metropolitan drove a hard bargain during months of negotiations this year, insisting, among other things, that it would not pay for parts of the deal that would benefit another water agency.

Last month, the three other agencies launched an aborted attempt reach an agreement without Metropolitan. A top water official in Nevada, which needs California to sign the deal to get its hands on surplus Colorado River water, branded Metropolitan "a rogue water agency."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein helped coax Metropolitan back to the table and the four agencies struck a basic agreement around Labor Day.

"It's time for negotiations to end. It's time for us to move forward. This is a good deal for all parties," Gastelum said.

check out your forecast in today's horoscopes ...

page 2





NATIONAL

Freedom riders spotlight immigrants' rights

BY JIM COUR
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — With a rousing protest chant of "Fighting for our families, we shall not be moved," coming from immigrants' rights supporters, a tour bus loaded with 54 riders pulled away from the Seattle Labor Temple on Tuesday, headed for the nation's capital.

The trip is part of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, which borrows a page from the civil rights movement of the 1960s to call for improved workplace protections and recognition of immigrants' civil rights regardless of their legal status. Similar trips are launching from nine other cities across the country.

Josephine Villagomez, 38, of Tacoma, an immigrant from Mexico, warmly embraced her husband, Victor, 42, and two of her five children; Emanuel, 12, and Cristal, 9, before she boarded the Seattle bus.

"I want to go for legalization (of undocumented immigrants) and justice on the job," she said. "Families should stick together."

Another bus rider, Gabriel Dominguez, 43, of Longview said he moved to the United States from Mexico 15 years ago.

"It's been a little bit tougher on us (immigrants) since before the 9-11 attacks," said Dominguez, who works as a shipper and receiver on the docks in Longview.

"We need benefits and help from the government," he said. "Of course, the government should be doing more for us."

The freedom rides were criticized by the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which seeks to sharply reduce both legal and illegal immigration. It encouraged its supporters to demand that authorities arrest illegal immigrants participating in the freedom rides.

"We think that they fly in the face of the opposition of the vast majority of the American public for an amnesty for illegal aliens and for tougher measures to stop the wave of illegal immigration into the country," Jack Martin, special projects director for FAIR, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

David Koff, national spokesman for the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, said immigrants' rights supporters expected opposition.

"This is really the first time immigrants and immigrant rights supporters have stood up and said, 'We want to be heard,'" Koff said.

The Seattle bus was headed to Washington, D.C., in a cross-country, 12-day bus ride, with its first stop in Walla Walla on Tuesday night. A total of 18 buses will make planned stops in more than 100 communities.

The Rev. Jim Picton, 60, representing the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Seattle, delivered a blessing before the passengers boarded for their long trip. Picton is pastor at Saint Madeleine Sophie Catholic Church in Bellevue.

Mako Nakagawa, 66, of Seattle, a retired elementary school teacher whose father immigrated to the United States

from Japan in 1913, said she wanted to make the bus ride in support of the immigrants who are fighting for a better life in the country.

"We're all immigrants, aren't we?" she asked.

Nakagawa said she was separated from her father during World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese aircraft.

"We need benefits and help from the government."

— GABRIEL DOMINGUEZ
Mexican immigrant

"This government put my father in a concentration camp for two years," she said. "People are being detained today without being charged. This is so close to what happened to my family in 1942."

Michael Ramos, 42, of Seattle, who is the coordinator of Seattle's bus trip, said 15 people who signed up for the trip could not be seated because there wasn't enough room.

The Seattle bus cost \$18,000 to rent, Ramos said. The tab was paid by donations for church groups and unions, he said.

Destinations on the "Road to Citizenship" are Washington on Oct. 1, for meetings with members of Congress, and New York, where organizers hope to draw 100,000 supporters to an Oct. 4 rally.

Buses also were scheduled to leave from Portland, Ore.; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Las Vegas; Houston; Minneapolis; Chicago; Miami; and Boston.

The idea for the symbolic ride developed in July 2001 by leaders of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union. After decades of considering new arrivals as the enemy, many unions now seek to organize even illegal immigrants, whose lower pay and lack of worker protections threaten to reduce standards across the board.

The Urban Institute, an economic and social policy research group in Washington, D.C., estimates the number of illegal immigrants living in the United States totals about 8.5 million, although the number is debated.

Organized by the Congress of Racial Equality, the original Freedom Ride left Washington on May 4, 1961. Whites and blacks rode together through the South, protesting segregation on buses and trains. They faced angry mobs and mass arrests.

The new freedom riders — representing 17 countries and including illegal immigrants — say they're anticipating more favorable receptions.

Richard Hicks, 40, of SeaTac decided to use his vacation to be on the Seattle bus because he wanted to support the nation's new immigrants.

"The only natives of this country are the ones who were here," Hicks said. "I'm talking about the Native Americans."

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NATIONAL

Menopausal women's memories are, um ...

BY LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Despite frequent complaints of forgetfulness among women going through menopause, a new study suggests their memories are just fine.

Researchers expecting to see signs of mental decline in 803 menopausal women found evidence to the contrary — the women's scores on periodic memory tests improved slightly over time.

"We are not saying that the forgetfulness is all in their heads," said lead researcher Peter M. Meyer, a biostatistician at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. "The question we were trying to answer was: Is this forgetfulness reflective of something bigger, below the surface," such as the onset of mental decline?

Meyer said his data suggest the answer is no.

Any forgetfulness during the years surrounding menopause is probably not from any harmful hormonal changes in the brain, but rather due to women being busy, distracted and stressed-out from ordinary pressures of mid-life.

Many women complain that they become more forgetful around the time of menopause, and some doctors believe that hormonal changes are the reason.

Naturally occurring estrogen is thought to help keep brain cells healthy, but it drops during menopause. In fact, the hormone supplement industry was built partly on the premise that estrogen pills could keep women's minds sharp — an idea that has recently been challenged.

The new study appears in Tuesday's issue of the journal *Neurology*.

"It may be that the brain does not need the hormones as much as we think," Russel Thompson of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System wrote in an accompanying commentary.

Other research has suggested that midlife forgetfulness might be due to stresses such as children becoming teenagers and parents dying. Meyer said those stresses, rather than true mental decline, could account for what some women describe as memory loss.

Dr. Sam Gandy, a neurologist at Thomas Jefferson University, said the study is "reassuring in the short term" but does not settle whether the hormonal changes in menopause might hasten mental decline and lead to Alzheimer's disease later on.

The brain processes involved in Alzheimer's typically begin at least 10 years before symptoms occur, so the Chicago women would need to be followed longer to see if the early results hold up, said Gandy, a scientific adviser to the Alzheimer's Association.

The study involved white and black women from Chicago ages 42 to 52, most of whom had not yet reached complete menopause, meaning they still menstruated occasionally, though their bodies were producing dwindling levels of estrogen and progesterone hormones.

"We are not saying that the forgetfulness is all in their heads."

— PETER M. MEYER
Rush University Medical Center,
Researcher

The participants were not taking hormone supplements, which were recently linked to an increased risk of dementia in older women.

The women were given two standard memory tests every year for an average of a little more than two years.

On one test requiring reversing a string of numbers from memory, scores improved by an average of about 3 percent.

On the other test, women had 90 seconds to read rows of symbols and recall numbers previously assigned to each symbol. Those scores improved by an average of about 8 percent for premenopausal women. They declined slightly for postmenopausal women, but no more than would be expected with normal aging, Meyer said.

Diane Dobry, a 46-year-old New Yorker whose grandmother has dementia, said having two children in college and dealing with multiple tasks at work might help explain her own memory lapses. Dobry, communications director for Teachers College, Columbia University, said she sometimes tells her children: "I have to try to think for everybody, and it's spreading thin."

But Dobry said she is skeptical of the findings "because you always hear in a year or two, a study that says the complete opposite."

For now, she said she will stick with "taking classes and trying to prove I can learn new things" to help keep her brain in shape.

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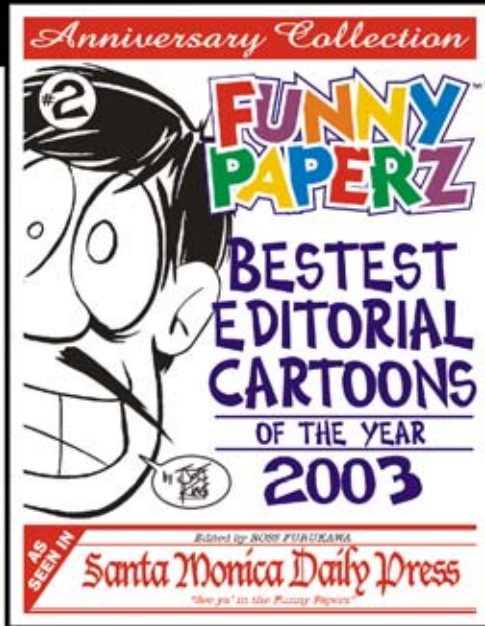
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WORLD BRIEFLY

Annan calls world to aid Iraq

By The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan criticized President Bush's "pre-emptive" attack on Iraq but urged world leaders Tuesday to set aside their disputes over the war and join forces to build a peaceful democracy in the troubled nation.

While Annan's opposition to the U.S. policy of pre-emptive strikes against perceived threats was likely to anger Bush, his strong appeal for global unity on Iraq's future was sure to win strong American support.

In his prepared address to Tuesday's opening of the assembly, Annan challenged the 191 U.N. member states to re-examine the way the international community is dealing with wars, terrorism, poverty and other threats to international security.

His message was clear: The world should collectively address the threats from terrorists and weapons of mass destruction that spur such "pre-emptive" strikes.

World Bank prez blasts the rich

By The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The World Bank opened its annual meeting Tuesday with a blistering attack on rich countries for spending hundreds of billions more on their militaries and their farmers than they do on helping the poor.

"Our planet is not balanced," World Bank President James Wolfensohn told delegates from 184 countries. "Too few control too much, and too many have too little to hope for. Too much turmoil, too many wars. Too much suffering."

The failure of global trade talks this month in the Mexican resort of Cancun highlights the deep divide that must be overcome to create a stable future, Wolfensohn said in an opening address to the joint meeting of his bank and the International Monetary Fund.

He criticized rich countries for providing just \$56 billion a year in development assistance to poor countries, compared with more than \$300 billion they spend on agricultural subsidies and \$600 billion spent on defense. Nations have committed an additional \$16 billion in aid by 2006, but Wolfensohn said poor nations could easily use twice as much.

Ashcroft tells attorneys to tighten noose

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General John Ashcroft wants federal prosecutors to seek the severest charges and penalties more often. Experts say it won't be easy to achieve the uniformity he wants.

Ashcroft said in a memo this week to all 94 U.S. attorneys' offices that plea bargains should only be pursued in limited, specific circumstances.

"In virtually all cases, prosecutors must bring the toughest charges available, yielding the toughest penalties under the sentencing guidelines," Ashcroft said.

The policy change is the latest example of Ashcroft's attempts to bring greater symmetry — critics say inflexibility — to the federal justice system. During the summer Ashcroft instructed U.S. attorneys to seek the death penalty whenever applicable, overruling some who would not, and to vigorously oppose sentences imposed by judges that are lighter than recommended by federal guidelines.

Poll suggests Dems gaining on Bush

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush seems to be increasingly politically vulnerable on issues from the economy to Iraq, though the public still sees him as a strong leader and approves of his handling of the campaign against terror.

With the president's approval rating hovering in the low 50s in some polls, Democrats appear to be in a more

competitive position than they have been in months, a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll suggests.

Leading Democratic candidates from newcomer Wesley Clark to Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry to Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman were in a virtual tie with Bush in head-to-head matchups with Bush in the poll out Monday. Bush held a slight lead over Howard Dean and Rep. Dick Gephardt in that poll.

In the head-to-head matchups, registered voters said if the election were held today, almost half, 49 percent, would support Clark, while 46 percent would support Bush, which is within the poll's margin of error.

Kerry had 48 percent to Bush's 47 percent; and Bush had 48 percent to Lieberman's 47 percent. Bush held a slight lead over Dean, 49-45 percent, and had a similar advantage over Gephardt.

Firefighter too late to save own children

By The Associated Press

DOUGLAS, Ga. — Volunteer firefighter David Varnedore rushed to the scene of a car accident prepared to help strangers in need. Then he came across the body of his own son. And then the body of his elder daughter.

Varnedore's two children were among five youngsters killed Saturday night when a car on a curving road struck an all-terrain vehicle the kids had crowded onto during a birthday party. A sixth child was critically injured.

When Varnedore got to the scene, his son Dustin, 11, was lying face down in a pool of blood. "There was no hope for him," Varnedore recalled Monday, gasping with emotion between every word.

A few feet away, Varnedore found his daughter, Kayla, 13. "My daughter was laying face up and I did CPR on her to no avail," said Varnedore, who lives only a mile away.

The other victims were Lindsay Joiner, 13 of Douglas; Courtney Arsenault, 10, of Alma; and the ATV's driver, Coranne Megan Nelson, 14. Another partygoer, Heather Bass, 13, was listed in critical condition Monday.

The car's driver, Amanda Michelle Troupe, 29, of Ambrose, could face charges, investigators said. They were awaiting the results of blood tests on whether she had been drinking.

President offers United Nations expanded role in Iraq

BY BARRY SCHWEID

AP Diplomatic Writer

UNITED NATIONS — Unbending in spite of widespread opposition, President Bush returned to the United Nations on Tuesday to try to marshal support for a deliberate transition to democracy in Iraq. "Let us move forward," he told those leaders who would have the U.S. occupation ended right away.

A year ago, Bush stood before the U.N. General Assembly and tried to build a case against Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Ultimately, he drew only some support from the Security Council and went to war without direct authority.

There were nations with the United States, Bush said in Tuesday's speech, but "some of the sovereign nations of this assembly disagree with our actions."

To try to accommodate them, Bush on Tuesday offered the United Nations a larger role in Iraq's reconstruction. But he did not budge from his plan for step-by-step transformation of Iraq to democracy.

"This process must unfold according to the needs of Iraqis — neither hurried nor delayed by the wishes of other parties," he said.

Couching U.S. policy in Iraq and Afghanistan in terms of countering terrorism, Bush said the world should stand with the people of both countries as they seek freedom and stability.

Bush spoke as negotiations continued behind the scenes on a new U.N. resolution setting terms for the handover of power. So far, U.S. efforts have been stymied by France, Germany and other critics of the U.S. approach.

In Washington, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle said he thought Bush "lost an opportunity."

"He came before the international community and he could have made the case for more troops, more resources," the South Dakota Democrat said. "He didn't do that. ... It was a missed opportunity and that's very disappointing."

Bush invited the United Nations to play an expanded role in Iraq's reconstruction. The world body should assist in preparing a constitution for Iraq, help train civil servants and conduct free and fair elections, he said.

"This process must unfold according to the needs of Iraqis — neither hurried nor delayed by the wishes of other parties."

— GEORGE W. BUSH
U.S. president

"Every young democracy needs the help of friends," Bush declared.

The president's address was received politely by the General Assembly audience.

Bush also revived the issue of Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

"The regime of Saddam Hussein cultivated ties to terror while it built weapons of mass destruction. It used those weapons in acts of mass murder, and refused to account for them when confronted by the world," he said.

Bush also appealed for a worldwide drive to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, although he mentioned neither North Korea nor Iran by name.

"The deadly combination of outlaw regimes, terror networks and weapons of mass murder is a peril that cannot be ignored or wished away," he said.

In the audience sat Ahmed Chalabi, this month's president of the Iraqi Governing Council, President Jacques Chirac of France and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Schroeder, who opposed the war in the first place and will not contribute peacekeeping troops, told reporters he wanted to see power handed over to the Iraqi people in a

"matter of months."

It was Schroeder's most specific comments yet on a timetable and echoed the French position for a swift transfer of power to the Iraqis. Previously, Schroeder had said Berlin would like to see it take place "as quickly as possible."

Meeting privately here after their speeches, Bush and Chirac aired their differences on Iraq, with Bush telling the French leader he would not permit 140,000 troops to stay on the ground while asking Congress for \$20 billion in reconstruction aid without an "orderly" transfer of power, said a senior administration official.

Chirac pledged the French "wouldn't stand in the way," and said "France would like to help" in the process, said the official who spoke on grounds of anonymity. But this official was unable to discern whether Chirac was signaling that he would not veto the resolution currently being discussed at the United Nations.

Bush told world leaders in his speech that they must stand with the people of Iraq and Afghanistan as they build free and stable countries. "The terrorists and their allies fear and fight this process above all, because free people embrace hope over resentment," he said.

The president was not only addressing an international audience, but some of his remarks appeared tailored for domestic consumption. Polls show increased concern on the part of Americans over continued casualties in Iraq and with respect to the mounting costs of reconstruction. These polls also have shown a decline in the president's overall approval ratings.

Bush said that democracy in Iraq could be an inspiration to other countries in the Middle East, just as it had great power to destabilize the region under the overthrown Saddam.

Calling on the Palestinians to follow the course now under way in Iraq, Bush said — in an apparent reference to Yasser Arafat — "the Palestinian cause is betrayed by leaders who cling to power but are feeding old hatreds and destroying the good will of others."

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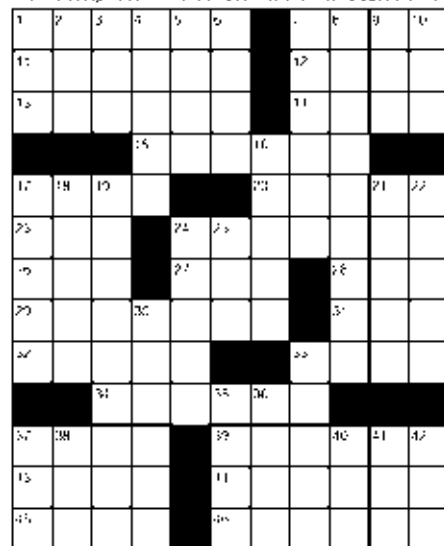
- ACROSS**
- 1 Sense of taste
 - 7 Movie dog
 - 11 Lens cover
 - 12 Go across
 - 13 Changed completely
 - 14 Hair line?
 - 15 Foil user
 - 17 Historian's concern
 - 20 Mermaid's home
 - 23 Dadaist Jean
 - 24 Make wooden art
 - 26 Writer Levin
 - 27 Skedaddle
 - 28 Lupino of film
 - 29 Boulder setting
 - 31 Convened
 - 32 Dear
 - 33 Carson's successor
 - 34 Pact
 - 37 April weather
 - 39 Rector's charge
 - 43 High point
 - 44 "Twelfth Night" heroine
 - 45 Banana leftover
- DOWN**
- 46 Sufficiently dressed
 - 1 Apiece
 - 2 Ensign's answer
 - 3 Went ahead
 - 4 In the air
 - 5 Fork feature
 - 6 Perfect place
 - 7 Facet
 - 8 Leisure
 - 9 Road gunk
 - 10 Tiny worker
 - 16 Change
 - 17 Skating category
 - 18 Pointer

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DIVOT	ANKLE
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Yesterday's answer

- 19 Four-dimensional system
- 35 "... like peas in —"
- 36 Yarn
- 37 Eminem offering
- 38 Good service
- 40 "— got it!"
- 41 Sermon topic
- 42 Bowler, for one

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OUR COMPASSIONATE SON, DANIEL B. MAY, has been missing since June 20, 2002. He is educated, spiritually oriented and in the hearts of many people who miss him. We will be very grateful for your prayers for Daniel and/or for your phone call if you have seen him recently. The numbers are (310)392-5911 and (310)456-1578. Thank you and God bless.

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SANTA MONICA SCENE CALENDAR EDITION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2003

EVENTS

Land Use Committee

This committee focuses on many of the regulatory and other issues that affect the mechanics of opening and operating a business in Santa Monica. Permitting, zoning, parking, access and change of use regulations are all topics of potential discussion and action within this committee. The committee is currently focusing on the new permitting process in Santa Monica and will develop a position paper and recommendations for both businesses and the City. Committee membership is open to all Chamber members and their employees. Meeting begins at 4:00 p.m. Chamber offices at 501 Colorado Avenue, Suite 150

Widows and Widowers

A recently formed group which discusses feelings that often accompany loss. 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Center for Healthy Aging (310) 576-2554 2125 Arizona Ave

CULTURE

Puppetolol!

Watch a puppet show at the Santa Monica Puppet and Magic Center. This is a great place to take the kids and to

unwind after a long day. 1255 2nd Street Santa Monica (310) 656-0483

Mary Mary, Quite Contrary

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents on of their many fantastic plays for children. This time around a young girl wonders if she has outgrown her favorite fairy tales. The show is family friendly, with bright colors and fun characters. It is perfect for kids and those who are young at heart. 1211 Fourth Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 For more information call: (310) 394-9779

Because of You: The Life and Loves of Sholom Aleichem

Evelyn Rudie and Chris DeCalo created 'Because of You' a musical based on the letters and stories of Sholom Aleichem, the creator of the characters in 'Fiddler on the Roof.' Aleichem wrote about the Russian-Jewish experience, including works in Yiddish at a time when there was no literature in the language. Santa Monica Playhouse (310) 394-9779 1211 Fourth St. Santa Monica, CA 90401

ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate

Martinis, a Gingitini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Tonight features DJ ISSA and others: 8:30p.m. Marvik, 9:45p.m. Fosforo, 11:00p.m. Wyde Bunch. 55, 1026 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica (310) 393-6611

Harvelle's

Established in 1931, Harvelle's is the oldest blues club on the west side. This is the kind of blues joint you'd expect to find in a dark Chicago alley; yet even if it's your first visit, it feels familiar. Tonight Harvelle's is featuring Miss Mickey Champions (blues). Opens at 7:00 p.m. for Circle of Songs. 1432 4th St., Santa Monica (310) 395-1676

14 Below

An intimate and well-equipped club that is leading the Westside music scene with live performances seven nights a week. Tonight features: 8:30 Chero Michel, 9:30 The Constant, 10:30 Fader, 11:30 The BMC's 1348 14th St. Santa Monica (310) 451-5040

MOVIE GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
American Splendor R - 1.45, 4.25, 7.05, 9.45
Dummy R - 1.00, 3.20, 5.40, 8.00, 10.20

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Casa de los Babys R - 4.15, 7.00, 9.30
Party Monster (not rated) - 4.30, 7.30, 10.00

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
Anything Else R - 11:15a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
The Fighting Temptations PG-13 - 11:00a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:30
Lost in Translation R - 10:45a.m., 12:00 noon, 1:10, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:10, 7:45, 8:45, 10:20

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star PG-13 - 2:20, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45
Freaky Friday G - 2:10, 4:10, 7:00
Once Upon a Time in Mexico R - 1:30, 4:45, 7:30, 9:20, 10:00
Open Range PG-13 - 2:00, 4:50, 8:15
Seabiscuit PG - 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05
Secondhand Lions PG - 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55
Step into Liquid (not rated) - 1:40, 4:00, 7:05, 9:10

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Cold Fever R - 11:15, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40
Cabin Creek Manor R - 1:00, 4:40, 7:05, 10:00
Matchstick Men PG-13 - 10:30a.m., 11:00a.m., 1:30, 4:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10, 10:40
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 - 11:45a.m., 3:15, 6:15, 10:15
Underworld R - 12:30, 1:50, 3:45, 7:00, 7:40, 9:55

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Man suing Liz Taylor claims the butler did it

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Elizabeth Taylor has asked a judge to strike "inflammatory, irrelevant and false" allegations about the actress from a lawsuit that her former gardener filed.

Willem Van Muyden claimed he suffered improper sexual advances from her butler in his Superior Court lawsuit filed in July, which seeks unspecified damages from Taylor. Van Muyden claims in the lawsuit that he was fired without being paid \$294,000 Taylor owes him for 10 years of gardening work.

Van Muyden also makes allegations in the lawsuit about Taylor having a relationship with the butler, Jean-Luc Lacquement, who filed a notice of demurrer that argues the gardener's complaint has no merit.

The butler's attorney did not immediately return a call for comment Monday.

In papers filed Sept. 15, Taylor's representatives asked the court to strike those details from the lawsuit along with Van Muyden's claims for punitive damages.

"These allegations are included merely as inflammatory, irrelevant and false insinuations which do not belong in the complaint. ... They add nothing to the complaint except an inappropriate intimation of scandal," the document states, adding that the gardener was trying to embarrass the 71-year-old actress into a settlement.

Taylor's attorney, Martin Singer, said Monday he would prefer if the judge heeded Lacquement's filing and threw the lawsuit out because the gardener "has no legitimate claims."

Van Muyden's attorney, Mark Leonardo, said he was "not surprised" by the counter filings, but said he expects his client's lawsuit will prevail.

■ **ST. PAUL, Minn.** — Limp Bizkit singer Fred Durst has been sued by the St. Paul-based security company that employed a guard Durst allegedly kicked in the head during a 1999 concert here.

Azzone Security-Investigation Agency Inc., or ASIA, filed the lawsuit Monday in Ramsey County. The lawsuit names Durst, his production companies and his record labels as defendants.

The company seeks a judgment against Durst and the other defendants for the \$49,663 in workers' compensation it claims it already paid and for expected future payments.

Durst allegedly kicked security guard Patrick Estes in the head onstage during the concert, according to police reports. Durst was apologetic, police said then, because he apparently had mistaken Estes for a fan he believed was attacking his personal security guard.

Police arrested the 33-year-old singer, but an assault charge later was dismissed, said his lawyer, Earl Gray. Gray said he was not familiar with the new complaint.

Estes filed his own civil lawsuit against Durst leading to an April 2000 settlement in which Durst and other defendants agreed to pay the guard \$100,000, according to court records.

■ **DETROIT** — Stevie Wonder has asked a federal judge to free a man convicted as a leader of a West Coast-to-Detroit cocaine and heroin ring.

The Grammy-winning singer came to U.S. District Court Monday for Antonio Ameen's sentencing hearing. Ameen, 37, received 20 years in prison.

Wonder asked to speak in favor of allowing Ameen to remain free on bond during an appeal that is based on race bias. U.S. District Judge John O'Meara declined the request, saying Wonder had covered all his points in a Sept. 30, 2002, letter.

In the letter, Wonder, a former Detroit resident whose legal name is Steveland Morris, said he'd known Ameen for several years and was impressed with Ameen's parenting during a long, hard criminal case.

"Please look within the deepest part of your heart, spirit and history and use any discretion that you have to keep this man with his family as long as possible," the letter said.

Over the objections of U.S. Assistant Attorney John Freeman, O'Meara said Ameen and associate Steven Fantroy, 38, of Detroit could remain free until the Bureau of Prisons finds beds for them. O'Meara said he also will consider whether to allow the men to remain free pending their appeals.

Both men said they were denied a fair trial because they are black and no blacks served on their jury.

Wonder, 53, and Ameen met after Ameen became a musician and producer in Los Angeles.

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