

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Prosecutors investigating Honda dealership for fraud

Class action lawsuit filed in downtown L.A.

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Honda of Santa Monica was hit Wednesday morning with search warrants as part of a consumer fraud investigation conducted by Los Angeles County prosecutors.

The dealership was closed all day as around 20 investigators with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division combed through documents and packed up boxes of evidence from 7 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, a class action lawsuit alleging fraud was filed Wednesday morning against the dealership in a downtown Los Angeles court. The suit was a civil action separate from prosecutors' actions.

"We've been waiting for these subpoenas to be served," said attorney Daniel Hoffman, who represents the plaintiffs. "We didn't want to file our claim until then."

"Honda of Santa Monica is cooperating, and will continue to cooperate with the investigators from the D.A.'s office."

— HONDA OF SANTA MONICA OFFICIALS

Officials at Honda of Santa Monica said they knew of the possible class action lawsuit, but they were surprised by the district attorney's search of their files.

In a statement, Honda of Santa Monica officials said they believed the lawsuit and the district attorney's investigation are related.

"Honda of Santa Monica is cooperating, and will continue to cooperate with the investigators from the D.A.'s office," they said.

The civil lawsuit alleges the dealership, located at 1720 Santa Monica Blvd., has been conducting a scam in which they would overcharge buyers through false

"lease or finance" payments. The suit says that since 1998, the dealership would require customers to first lease or finance vehicles for four months before buying them. The dealership would then collect two sets of payments — one for four months' of leases, and the other for the subsequent purchase.

Also, according to the lawsuit, dealership officials added fictitious state taxes of \$500 described as "VT Registration." Customers were told the money was for Department of Motor Vehicles registration, the lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit also says the dealership concealed customer complaints from Honda of America

See HONDA, page 5



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office officials search Honda of Santa Monica for documents.

City council postpones homeless services debate

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

After hearing more than three hours of public comments, the Santa Monica City Council voted to postpone debating a pair of ordinances designed to curb trespassing and meal programs downtown.

"It's already past midnight," said Mayor Mike Feinstein. "It doesn't much make sense to me to begin an extensive debate at this time."

Council members rescheduled the debate for the Oct. 8 city council meeting. At that time, the council will decide whether to enact a pair of strict ordinances designed to place barriers on public meal programs regularly held in downtown parks and give greater power to police officers to enforce trespassing laws in the doorways of downtown businesses.

The council received guidance from two of its advisory boards. The city's Recreation and Parks Commission endorsed the ordinances while the Social Services Commission recommended the council take no action on the ordinances and create a task force to study the issues

outside of a political context.

Some council members said they are leaning toward enacting the ordinances and creating a task force similar to one formed more than a decade ago to study the city's homeless population and develop recommendations about how the city can better appropriate funding to local social service organizations.

"We need to know where everyone is out there," said Councilman Herb Katz,

"because right now we don't know, we're not homeless."

More than 80 people spoke at Tuesday night's council meeting, where hundreds of activists, homeless, business owners and residents spilled out of the jam-packed council chambers and into the hallways, nearly filling the main lobby of City Hall.

Television monitors were stationed in the hallways and the main lobby so the

overflow audience could watch the proceedings taking place down the hall. Flood lights from television cameras eerily illuminated the front of City Hall, where dozens milled about smoking and waiting for their turn to address the council.

Many said they came to put a human face to the debate over how the city provides social services to those living on the streets of Santa Monica and what it would

See DEBATE, page 6

Juveniles charged with local carjackings

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica police officers arrested four male juveniles Wednesday for a string of carjackings that took place over the past several weeks.

Two hours after a carjacking had taken place in an east-side neighborhood Wednesday morning, officers located the

same vehicle by the side of a road in an Ocean Park neighborhood, officers said.

After putting the car under surveillance for four hours, police said they witnessed four juvenile male suspects enter the vehicle and attempt to drive off before officers successfully captured them inside the car.

When officers searched the vehicle, they found a sawed-off shotgun believed to have been used in several other Santa Monica carjackings over the past several weeks.

"The sawed-off shotgun used in the carjacking was recovered in the trunk of the vehicle," said Lt. Frank Fabrega, a SMPD spokesman.

"The suspects may be responsible for several carjackings in the Santa Monica area over the past several weeks."

On Wednesday at 7:29 a.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of 16th Street regarding an armed carjacking that just occurred. When officers arrived on the scene, they

See CARJACKING, page 5

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You might be clear, but others might not be. Sleuth through communication. Stay calm and work with associates. Return calls and clear out your paperwork. You might be amazed at what you get done. Someone lets you know how much he or she cares. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Dig into work. You accomplish much more than you originally anticipated. You gain financially because of your willingness to put in overtime. A boss could be testy and difficult. Recognize who is in charge here. Brush up on your diplomatic style. Tonight: Get some exercise.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You're energized. Few can stop you, no matter what they do. Use your resourcefulness personally as well as professionally. Clear out a problem while you're still on top of things. Loosen up when dealing with a child or a new friend. Tonight: Be more kidlike.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Allow others to express more of their leadership characteristics. Build on strong foundations. Build others' confidence in what you offer and your judgments. Express your ability to roll with the punches. Tonight: Take some personal time.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Join others, but don't be surprised by what is going on. Think in terms of what might be important to someone close. This person often creates an uproar. You gain because of your sense of direction and sensitive words. Tonight: Be yourself.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Be more concerned about a boss or authority figure. You can only push so much, as you will discover. What you want financially could be possible, but with your constant pushing, you might cause yourself a problem within this realm. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

♏ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Detach from the immediate, knowing what it is you want and expect. Others from a distance reach out for you. Let go of your day-to-day grind and add a little more flourish and fun. A foreigner could be playing a significant role in your life. Tonight: Opt for an adventure.

♐ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A partner could make a significant difference in your life if you just allow this person in. Discussions could delight you beyond what you believe possible. Realize who you can and cannot trust. Take your time with a new associate. Tonight: Follow a loved one's lead.

♑ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Others seek you out. Put up your feet and relax. Don't make a big deal out of anything. You'll see that if you go with the flow, all works out. Groups pave the way to success in the next few weeks. Help others be more comfortable. Tonight: Follow your friends.

♒ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Carefully consider options that surround work. You might come off a lot differently than you realize. Evaluate feedback with an eye to what might be true. Spruce up your professional image. Know what works for you. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

♓ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your imagination and flirtatious ways mix well. Sometimes it might be wise to distance yourself from the immediate situation. Allow a child or new friend to be as expressive as you are. Let the good times roll. Give up being judgmental. Tonight: Start your weekend early.

♈ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Listen to your sixth sense when dealing with a family member. What you are doing with this person isn't working. Why not attempt another approach? Try to be more direct and honest. Laugh and play along with a close friend or partner. Tonight: Where the fun is.



QUOTE of the DAY

“Most people would sooner die
than think; in fact, they do so.”

— Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dolphins bring home the money for organizations

By Daily Press staff

Three local organizations will receive \$15,000 to help those who are needy or are living on the street.

Santa Monica-based, social service organizations Chrysalis, Step Up on Second and the Westside Food Bank will receive the money from the Bayside District Corporation's Dolphin Change Program. The three \$5,000 grants will be awarded at the Seventh Annual Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition Breakfast scheduled Friday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 a.m., at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica.

"This year's grants mark a significant milestone for the Dolphin Change Program," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director for the Bayside District. "Since inception, more than \$100,000 has been collected and distributed from the dolphin banks to support local social service agencies."

The Dolphin Change Program was established in 1993 to offer Santa Monica residents and visitors another way to give people money instead of directly giving to panhandlers and homeless. Two dolphin banks are located on the Third Street Promenade; one on the Santa Monica Pier; and another is located at Main Street and Ashland Avenue.

This is the second year that monies will be awarded on behalf of Marianne Dorn. The Marianne Dorn Trust made a significant contribution to the Dolphin Change Program and Bayside District Corporation in 1998.

This year's Marianne Dorn Memorial Dolphin Change Grant will be awarded to Step Up on Second. Step Up offers case management and advocacy services tailored to adults diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness, as well as those dually diagnosed with substance dependence. The grant will be used for laundry and shower maintenance, food expenses and employment of clients in the food program.

The Dolphin Change Program grant to Chrysalis will be used toward salaries of the program coordinator and retention manager working in employment services. Chrysalis is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting economically disadvantaged and homeless persons in becoming self-sufficient through employment.

Founded in 1981, the Westside Food Bank has a mission to feed hungry people. The Food Bank distributes nearly three million pounds of food annually to more than 60 social service agencies on the westside of Los Angeles County. The Food Bank's grant will be used towards the purchase of 25,000 pounds of emergency and supplemental food for agencies in Santa Monica.

The Bayside District Corporation is a nonprofit entity created in 1989 by the Santa Monica City Council to manage the daily operations of downtown Santa Monica and Third Street Promenade.

Two dozen homeless who've made it to be honored

By Daily Press staff

The Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition will honor 24 previously homeless people who made changes in their lives, as well as nine civic organizations and businesses for going "beyond the call of duty" to help local service agencies and individuals.

The seventh annual breakfast, "Celebrating Success: From Homelessness to Self Sufficiency and Healthy Lives," will be held at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica.

Wendie Malick, a 2002 Emmy Best Supporting Actress nominee of the TV show "Just Shoot Me" will serve as emcee. The Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition is comprised of leading social service agencies working to end homelessness and hunger.



surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Southwest swell is expected to peak today, keeping surf up in the chest to head-high range at exposed breaks. Best spots see three to sometimes five-foot sets. Expect consistent three and four footers in the north bay, same in the best exposed south bay spots.

Thursday things look a little smaller as swell begins to back down, but wave height should remain pretty constant. Reports are showing an incoming northwest ground swell that should cancel out some of the southwest energy reaching the coastline, so a decline in height is probable at more west facing breaks.

Water pollution looks low, and temperatures average in the low sixties.



Low-	5:28 a.m.	1.75'
High-	11:37 a.m.	4.92'
Low-	6:32 p.m.	1.13'

Location	Thursday	Friday	Water Quality
County	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Venice	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Porto	2-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A

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The Q Line

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

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

bringing about justice for September 11.

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

"Do you think President George Bush should throw the United States into war with Iraq, or should Bush stay focused on finding the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks?"

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

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OPINION

Without trust, we only have ourselves and walls we build



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

The whole day changed in a moment's notice ... in the eyes and the smile of a child.

Tuesday, Sept. 24, a date of no real significance other than the fact that it was "just one of those days." A day no different than those that it preceded it in the grand scheme, but a day when hope appeared to dim with the omnipresent marine layer's sudden assault. I was in a funk. I knew it. I couldn't get out.

Sometimes "a mood" is the direct result of an action; sometimes it is just an accumulation of a week's worth of nothing at all. Reaching out for help presented more walls than bridges — the girlfriend was at work and unavailable to talk (meaning her boss was standing right there), the bills were piling up and mocking me from my home desk, the customers at my day job were hapless and cranky and, to top it all off, I was still waiting for a call back from the woman I had interviewed with the week before so I could depart said dead-end day job once and for all!

"Why isn't she calling?" I questioned over and over, ad nauseum, psyching

myself out completely. Did the interview not go as well as I had assumed? Did I have something on my face? Should I have looked the employer in the eye more ... maybe less? The editing job was eluding me in the same manner most rational thoughts were this day. It was typical dol-drums. It was annoying. It was killing my spirit completely.

Most of all, I was losing trust that things were ever going to work out for me here in my adopted hometown of Santa Monica.

Lunch time! I hop in the car, pick up my cell phone and check my home answering machine messages. Zilch! With my enthusiasm curbed, I decided to drown my sorrows in a milkshake at the McDonald's on Lincoln Avenue in Santa Monica. Then it happened. Dipping my McNuggets into a fun-size pack of sweet 'n' sour sauce, my whole day's outlook changed in an instant, and for the better.

A middle-aged woman and a young child entered and staked out a table nearby. I could tell the woman was wary of me, as I sat sweaty and exhausted from working outside in the sun, still sporting my hat and sunglasses and setting a poor example with my legs and feet up on the bench at my table. The pair decided to move one more table away from me than the one they opted for originally.

The woman, who appeared too old and too nervous to be the boy's mother, got up cautiously to order food while the boy sat

patiently in his seat. Looking around his beginner's mind surroundings with wonder, his gaze soon fell upon the disillusioned guy in a hat and sunglasses who was feeling sorry for himself. I greeted him with the first smile I could muster that day. Soon after, the nervous woman came back and told him to sit up straight, instructing him to prepare to eat (whatever that means) and, not accidentally, putting her body between him and the scary guy with a hat and sunglasses in the corner.

But what she couldn't see while busy building walls between me, the boy and herself was the tike's willingness and instinct to trust, to make contact with others and to ignore, at times, adults' preoccupation with isolationism and self-sufficiency.

With a smile that brightened the room, but intended just for me, the boy casually leaned back, lifted his legs and crossed his feet atop the bench in a winking imitation of the scary guy in a hat and sunglasses in the corner. He turned his hat around on his head in the manner I wore mine. With his guardian's back still turned, he offered me a subtle hand wave as if to say "everything's gonna be all right."

It was immediate. I returned the wave, but not so as to let the woman see for fear of getting him in trouble. I just wanted to thank him for making my day ... my week. Sometimes the smallest of gestures are the most intensely moving. I left the restaurant with a broad smile and new

outlook. Everything was all right. It just had to be.

I once dated a girl who ran her own business building garden walls for home landscaping. A friend of mine once asked me what she did, and upon telling him that "she builds walls" he humorously replied, "We all build walls, Mike." A funny retort but one that has stuck with me for years due to its unintended poignancy. Truer words have seldom been spoken, and that's the real shame of it.

Our learned reluctance to connect with any and all around us keeps one another at arm's length, keeps the marine layer in constant approach and was keeping me in the doldrums, I determined as I left the restaurant for my SUV. However, I was buoyed by the boy's instinctual attempt to connect with me despite his guardian's obvious reluctance to do the same. I had that grin that would brighten the next room I went to, which turned out to be my truck. Everything was going to be all right. I just knew it. Awaiting me inside my vehicle was a flashing message on my cell phone. I got the job!

Tuesday, Sept. 24. Not a monumental day in the grand scheme of things, but a small step in the right direction.

Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica.

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

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LOCAL



Investigation continues

HONDA, from page 1

by having employees pose as customers. The dealership would allegedly supply an employee's home phone number on the complaint form. When Honda officials called to follow up on the complaint, believing they had reached a customer, a dealership employee would answer, instead telling the officials they had no problems and had received excellent service, the lawsuit alleges.

The dealership also did not provide Spanish contracts to Spanish speaking customers, as required by state law, the lawsuit says.

The plaintiffs in the civil case — Laura Zemgals, Wendy Roa, Sergio Martin, Gary Tolan, Margo Killeen, Robin Fulton and Mohammed Namavan — didn't specify an amount sought as damages. But attorney Hoffman said the "magnitude" of the lawsuit speaks for itself.

Honda of Santa Monica officials said they had previously been served with a draft of the lawsuit, and had already begun a "vigorous investigation of the allegations in the lawsuit complaint."

An employee at another Santa Monica dealership said Honda of Santa Monica had committed fraud in some of its contracts.

"When people bought a car, they were being charged for things they didn't have," the employee said. "I don't know if all the salesmen got arrested, but I do have to believe that they did."

Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman with the district attorney's office, said no arrests had been made. She would neither confirm nor deny that any other agency was involved in the investigation.

Overcharging for a car allows the dealership to pocket a higher profit. In itself, it isn't illegal to strike a deal where buyer and seller agree. In this case, however, the fraud allegation stems from deceptive practices surrounding the sales.

Investigators from the consumer protection division didn't say exactly what was contained in the documents for which they searched. They also couldn't say how long the investigation will take, said Gibbons.

"We have served search warrants as part of an ongoing criminal investigation," she said. "When you serve warrants for records there is a lot to go through so we are not talking about days, we are talking about a matter of weeks."

Investigators with the district attorney's office carried out boxes of docu-

ments to a small truck parked in the alleyway between 17th and 18th streets. A Honda of Santa Monica employee said the dealership would re-open for business tomorrow morning.

An owner of another Santa Monica auto dealership said allegations of fraud in auto purchasing was unusual. Such cases are normally related to service, parts and the keeping of financial documents.

"Usually, though it's because people were charged for services they didn't get, which could stem from an employee or management," the owner said.

Honda of Santa Monica officials said that before being served search warrants by the D.A.'s office, they had already "instituted safeguards to ensure that all transactions are conducted with the highest degree of integrity."

"The dealership will continue to evaluate its practices to ensure these safeguards are effective, and that customers are receiving the highest level of satisfaction in their car-buying experience," Honda officials said in their statement.

Honda of Santa Monica is owned by North Carolina-based Sonic Automotive, which owns car dealerships across the country. Reportedly, Sonic bought Honda of Santa Monica in 1999 from Kramer Motors Incorporated, which is also named in the class action lawsuit.

The Better Business Bureau of the Southland lists Honda of Santa Monica as having an "unsatisfactory" rating. An unsatisfactory rating is given when a pattern in the company's customer complaints causes concern, when the company does not respond to complaints, or when it will not substantiate its advertising claims, according to the bureau.

"In this case, our complaint history for this company shows that although the business has responded to some customer complaints brought to its attention by the bureau, others remain unanswered," the bureau's report on Honda of Santa Monica states.

One Honda of Santa Monica customer, Jean Barkley of Los Angeles, said Wednesday she was surprised to see the dealership being investigated. Barkley showed up at the dealership at 1:20 p.m. Wednesday to buy a car.

"I've had my Honda repaired here for years without a problem," she said. "But I guess I'll have to look elsewhere."

Carolyn Sackariason contributed to this story.

Young suspects had shotgun

CARJACKING, from page 1

spoke to a female victim who said she was parking her Saturn in the area of 16th Street and Delaware Avenue when a suspect approached her and displayed a sawed-off shotgun.

The suspect then forced the woman to drive to the area of Olympic Boulevard and 16th Street, where she was then released. Police said the suspect then drove off in the victim's vehicle.

Several hours later, patrol officers saw the stolen vehicle parked in the 600 block of Kensington Avenue.

A four-hour-long surveillance of the vehicle was conducted until officers observed four male juveniles entering the parked car and attempting to drive away.

Officers swarmed the car and the four individuals were taken into custody inside the stolen vehicle without incident. Two

of the juveniles were released to their parents, while the other two were transported to Eastlake Juvenile Hall in East Los Angeles.

Police believe the same juveniles were involved in a carjacking of a Ford pickup truck on Sept. 15 on the 1300 block of 16th Street and a carjacking of a Toyota Camry that took place on Sept. 9 on the 1600 block of Delaware Avenue.

The juvenile suspects face a series of charges stemming from the carjackings, including kidnapping the female victim on Wednesday.

Officers described the suspect in both cases as a Hispanic male, 18 to 20 years old, and approximately five feet, nine inches tall.

Anyone having additional information is encouraged to contact the SMPD Robbery/Homicide unit at (310) 458-8451.

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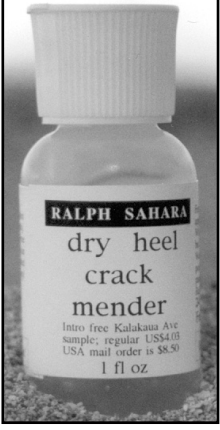


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LOCAL □ STATE

Citizens speak up at City Hall on homeless issue

DEBATE, from page 1

mean to erect barriers to meal programs and sleeping in doorways.

The business community came out in full force to air their grievances with anti-social behavior associated with some members of the homeless community and their frustration with what they perceive as a lack of response by the city government to address their concerns.

Downtown businesses have been complaining over the past six months that aggressive panhandling and other forms of harassing behavior has driven away repeat customers and potential business.

"Santa Monica has become a Mecca for the homeless and the public feedings are the magnet," said Michael Gruning, president-elect of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Some residents said curbing the meal programs in the parks would be a compassionate decision by the council because it would force the homeless to participate in social service programs intended to lift them out of poverty.

"We need to focus on programs that

will empower these people," said resident Carlos Vigon. "Giving them food in Palisades Park is just skirting the issue."

But many homeless testified that without charities providing the food, they wouldn't just go hungry. Without the food, they said it's very likely they could get sick and even possibly die.

"I'm fighting everyday to take the same breath all of you take for granted," said a homeless woman only going by the name 'Viper.' "You need to wake up and smell the coffee, people are dying on the streets out there are you're only trying to make it worse."

Other homeless activists said limiting the transients access to public space was placing them in a Catch-22 situation.

"There's only two types of property, public and private," said Jennifer Yellowhorse, an activist who publishes a homeless newspaper. "If you're not allowed on private property and you're not allowed on public property, then where are you supposed to go?"

"What would you like us to do, levitate?" she asked.

Filmmakers charged with staging 'Bumfights' between homeless men

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Prosecutors have filed felony charges against four filmmakers who allegedly offered food, shelter, liquor and money to homeless men who beat each other and hurt themselves for a videotape sold over the Internet.

On the tape "Bumfights: A Cause for Concern," a homeless man is seen ripping out his front tooth with pliers, another rams his head into a steel door and others stomp and pummel each other bloody. Defense attorneys for two of the four defendants said much of the action was staged.

Prosecutors said Wednesday they have charged Ryan E. McPherson, 19; Zachary Bubeck, 24; Daniel J. Tanner, 21; and Michael J. Slyman, 21; with soliciting homeless men to commit the crime of assault with deadly force. The charge carries a maximum of three years in prison.

McPherson also was accused of offering \$25,000 each to two local homeless men, Rufus Hannah and Donald Brennan, if they did not cooperate with authorities investigating a Feb. 6 fight on the videotape, said prosecutor Curtis Ross. One of the men broke his ankle during the fight and paramedics were called.

The investigation was continuing and additional charges are anticipated, Ross said.

McPherson of San Diego and Bubeck of Las Vegas have pleaded innocent and were freed on bonds of \$20,000 and \$5,000, respectively. Police in the San Diego suburb of La Mesa were seeking Slyman and Tanner, both of Las Vegas.

"Bumfights" has been widely denounced by homeless advocates, who organized a petition calling for an investigation into the filmmakers. On the floor of

the U.S. House of Representatives this summer, Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., said the film "sets a new standard for the cruel exploitation of damaged human beings."

Hannah, dubbed "Rufus the Stuntbum," said the filmmakers gave him \$5 and \$10 bills to perform. Hannah and his friends still bear the tattoos the filmmakers bought for them: the words "Bum Life" and "Bumfights" on their hands, bellies and foreheads.

"We never were forced into doing anything," Hannah told KFMB-TV in San Diego. "We were enticed."

At least 300,000 copies of the "Bumfights" videocassette were sold at \$20 each, said Lt. Raul Garcia of the La Mesa Police Department, which led a three-month investigation of the operation.

"These profits came on the backs of the homeless," Garcia said Wednesday. "These homeless people today don't have any money and are still homeless."

Bubeck's attorney, Michael Pancer, said the figure was "wildly overinflated" but declined to say how much money his clients have received from sales of the tape.

McPherson did not return a phone call seeking comment Wednesday.

La Mesa police began an investigation in June when a nurse at a local hospital emergency room reported that a homeless man who sought treatment for injuries claimed he was being paid to fight, Garcia said.

Attorneys for McPherson and Bubeck said their clients, whom they described as talented young filmmakers, never encouraged any violence and said much of the action was rehearsed.

"It was all an act," said Jan Ronis, McPherson's defense attorney. "This was all in the interests of let's call it art."

STATE



City resolution denounces proposed attacks on Iraq

By The Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ — Upholding its famously liberal leanings, the Santa Cruz City Council has passed a resolution denouncing any pending military strike on Iraq led by U.S. forces.

Tuesday's 6-0 council vote even outpaced its liberal neighbor, Berkeley. Last year, Berkeley passed a resolution condemning the bombing of Afghanistan, but the city has yet to address the intensifying situation in Iraq.

With passage of the resolution, the City Council authorized Mayor Christopher Krohn to send letters to President Bush and other national leaders relaying the council's sentiments.

"Locals brought this issue forward," Krohn said. "Locals (would) fight this war. Some will not come back."

Though local supporters presented a petition with hundreds of signatures backing the resolution, there was some dissent. One resident, Bill Codiga, said the resolution was inappropriate and a waste of city time and money. His comments drew hisses from the crowd.

Mayor Krohn and the City Council have made other headlines as of late, most recently for attending a marijuana giveaway in the courtyard of city hall in response to a federal agency raid on local medical marijuana farmers.

Couple who farm medical marijuana want weed back

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The couple that owns a medical marijuana farm drug agents raided earlier this month filed a federal suit Tuesday that claims they have the right to recoup more than 100 confiscated pot plants.

Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested Valerie and Michael Corral on Sept. 5 and cut down 130 plants they grew for the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana on property about 15 miles north of Santa Cruz.

That was an illegal search that violated the couple's rights to due process, according to papers the couple's lawyers filed in San Jose federal court.

"Government seizure of the only medication which gives relief to the pain, nausea, blindness, wasting, muscle spasms and other afflictions of seriously ill citizens is a violation of the substantive due process right of said citizens to life and

liberty," the lawyers wrote.

The U.S. Attorney's office has not filed criminal charges against the Corrals, prompting their lawyers to call the raid an example of illegal "punitive expeditions where criminal prosecution is not reasonably contemplated."

The case was scheduled to be heard Nov. 4.

Ben Rice, one of the couple's lawyers, said he couldn't be sure DEA agents are preserving the plants. State courts have ordered authorities to give back medically prescribed marijuana to Rice's clients in the past, he said, though he was unaware of a federal court ordering a return.

State law, and county and city ordinances, say marijuana is legal if recommended by a doctor. But it's illegal as a medicine or as a recreational drug under federal law.

"We are the Drug Enforcement Administration, not the drug distribution administration," DEA spokesman Richard Meyer said.

Laguna Beach approves limits development of mansions

By The Associated Press

LAGUNA BEACH — Tough regulations designed to limit the size of new mansions have been approved by city officials who want to preserve the quaint character of this community known for its seaside cottages and artsy atmosphere.

The City Council unanimously approved Tuesday the recommendations aimed at limiting "mansionization," a trend in which older, smaller homes on prime lots are razed to make way for houses up to 10 times larger.

"I'd like to approve this lock, stock and barrel," Councilman Steve Dictorow said before the vote. "I think it's interesting that people who have different ideas are coming together on this."

Mansionization has long been an issue in Orange County and other areas of California.

The regulations in Laguna Beach, a city of 24,300 along a shoreline of bluffs,

coves and tide pools, impose a 36-foot height limit, eliminate a requirement that bigger homes include three garage spaces, and prohibit the construction of balconies or decks in side yards.

It also requires that a three-dimensional model of the proposed house or a color panoramic photograph of the site and neighboring structures, along with an aerial photograph, be presented to city officials.

But some criticized the new regulations, saying they were too subjective and politicized.

"This is America," said resident Richard Lucky Roach. "This isn't Russia. If a person has worked hard all his life and wants to build an 8,000-square-foot house, more power to them."

Laguna Beach's Planning Commission came up with the proposal after conducting more than a dozen public workshops. Commissioners said the meetings showed that the critical issue was the appearance of the structure, not its size.

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NATIONAL

Existing-home sales fall 1.7 percent in August

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Consumers, rattled by the possibility of a war with Iraq and worried about the economy's direction, bought fewer existing homes in August, sending sales down by 1.7 percent.

Sales of previously owned homes dipped to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.28 million units, representing a 1.7 percent decline from July, the National Association of Realtors reported Wednesday.

Even with the decline, the association's chief economist said the level of sales was still quite brisk and that existing-home sales are on track for a record this year.

"It is still a very healthy pace but certainly we are winding down from the boom," David Lereah said.

Even as the economic recovery has faltered, home sales have been robust this year, powered by low mortgage rates.

Although the drop in August surprised analysts, economists said the brisk housing activity could not be maintained. Existing-home sales rose by 5.3 percent in July.

Economists said that worries about a conflict with Iraq and eroding consumer confidence in the economy contributed to the decline last month.

Consumer confidence sank to a 10-month low in September, the fourth straight monthly decline, the Conference Board reported Tuesday.

By region, existing-home sales last month fell by 5.9 percent in the Midwest to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.12 million. In the South, sales dropped by 1.8 percent to a rate of 2.13 million and in the Northeast, they went down by 1.6 percent to a rate of 630,000. But in the West, sales rose 2.2 percent to a rate of 1.40 million.

Wednesday's economic report suggested the booming housing market may be losing steam but is in good shape, economists said.

"We believe the housing market will remain healthy going forward as low

interest rates entice home buyers and offset uncertainty," said Stan Shipley, economist at Merrill Lynch.

Housing is one of the economy's few bright spots and held up well during last year's recession, thanks to low mortgage rates.

The average interest rate on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage in August was 6.29 percent, the lowest monthly figure since Freddie Mac, the mortgage company, began its nationwide survey in 1971. That was down from July's rate of 6.49 percent and well below the average rate of 6.95 percent seen in August last year.

"It is still a very healthy pace but certainly we are winding down from the boom."

— DAVID LEREAH
National Association of Realtors

Consumers, whose spending accounts for two-thirds of all economic activity in the United States, have been the main engine for the economy.

Their spending has been supported by low mortgage rates, rising home values and the refinancing boom that has left people with extra cash in their pockets.

Those factors have helped to offset fears about a war with Iraq, the roller-coaster stock market, a stagnant job market and falling consumer confidence.

In August, the median price of an existing home — the midpoint where half of the homes sold for more and half for less — was \$163,600, a 6.4 percent increase from the same month a year ago.

The Federal Reserve decided to hold short-term interest rates steady on Tuesday over the objections of two members, who favored a rate cut, which would have been the first of the year. Economists said that the odds are growing that the Fed will cut rates before the end of this year.

Disney reaches settlement in sports theme park claim

By The Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — The Walt Disney Co. reached a settlement with two businessmen awarded \$240 million by a jury that decided the company stole their idea for its Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World.

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed in court papers approved Tuesday by an appeals court in Daytona Beach. Disney attorneys and the businessmen wouldn't comment, citing a confidentiality agreement.

The settlement ended Disney's appeal of the August 2000 verdict for Palm Harbor-based All Pro Sports Camps.

All Pro founders Edward Russell and Nicholas Stracick met with Disney executives in the late 1980s to pitch a sports complex they called Sports Island. They showed Disney a model and gave them a business plan and drawings.

Disney rejected the idea at the time, according to testimony, but within a few years the entertainment giant began crafting the sports facility that became Wide World of Sports, which opened in 1997.

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NATIONAL



President accused of seeking to politicize debate over Iraq

BY JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle on Wednesday accused President Bush of seeking to politicize the debate over war with Iraq and demanded that he apologize for implying that Democrats were not interested in the security of the American people.

"That is wrong," Daschle said in an impassioned speech on the Senate floor. "We ought not politicize this war. We ought not politicize the rhetoric about war and life and death."

Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott responded a few hours later, saying he was "deeply saddened by the tone and tenor" of Daschle's remarks. "Who is the enemy here?" asked Lott, R-Miss. "The president of the United States or Saddam Hussein?"

Lott made his remarks on the Senate floor, standing a few feet away from where Daschle had attacked Bush only a few hours earlier.

"You tell those who fought in Vietnam and World War II they are not interested in the security of the American people" because they are Democrats, Daschle said. "That is outrageous. Outrageous."

Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, who lost an arm in World War II, also spoke on the Senate floor: "It grieves me when my president makes statements that would divide this nation," he said.

Daschle cited a string of actions by the administration including a comment by Bush that the Democratic-controlled Senate is "not interested in the security of the American people."

"I think that Sen. Daschle needs to cool the rhetoric," Lott said. "We need to do it in a bipartisan way. Accusations of that type are not helpful."

Daschle made his comments as congressional leaders negotiated in private with the administration over the terms of a resolution that would authorize the president to use force to eliminate Saddam's weapons of mass destruction.

Despite misgivings by some rank-and-file Democrats, Daschle and House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt have both signaled support for such legislation, to be passed before Congress adjourns for the midterm elections.

At the same time, Democratic political strategists have expressed concern that the national debate over Iraq is overshadowing domestic issues in the campaign.

Lott said he thought he, Daschle, Gephardt and House Speaker Dennis Hastert would come to an agreement on the resolution by the end of this week. "I think it's word-tweaking, I don't think there's broad disagreement on terms."



Associated Press/APTN

In this photo from television, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle makes an impassioned speech Wednesday on the Senate floor.

The quote Daschle referred to came during a visit that Bush made earlier this week to Trenton, N.J.

"You tell those (Democrats) who fought in Vietnam and World War II they are not interested in the security of the American people. That is outrageous."

— TOM DASCHLE
Senate Majority Leader

Speaking at a public event that preceded his appearance at a fund-raiser for Republican Senate candidate Doug Forrester, the president said, "The House responded, but the Senate is more interested in special interests in Washington and not interested in the security of the American people. I will not accept a Department of Homeland Security that does not allow this president and future presidents to better keep the American people secure."

Bush was speaking to reporters in the Oval Office at the same time that Daschle leveled his criticism Wednesday. The president said he is determined to battle

terrorism on two fronts — Saddam's Iraq and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network because "they're both equally as bad, and equally as evil, and equally as destructive."

At one point, Bush was asked whether he now believes that Saddam is a bigger threat to Americans than the al-Qaida terror network.

After a long pause, he replied: "That is an interesting question. I'm trying to think of something humorous to say, but I can't when I think about al-Qaida and Saddam Hussein."

"... The danger is, is that they work in concert. The danger is, is that al-Qaida becomes an extension of Saddam's madness and his hatred and his capacity to extend weapons of mass destruction around the world. Both of them need to be dealt with. You can't distinguish between al-Qaida and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror."

Democrats say the draft proposal that Bush sent to Congress last week is far too broad in giving the president open-ended authority to use military force against Iraq, unilaterally if necessary, to disarm the country, drive Saddam from power and secure peace in the region.

"We should be dealing with a coalition here rather than going it alone," said Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill. "If we don't have a coalition we run the risk of expanding opportunities for terrorism around the world against the United States."

House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill., offered a compromise proposal that made clear that any use of force to restore regional security should come in conjunction with U.N. resolutions.

The Hyde proposal, presented to congressional leaders, also reasserts the authority of Congress, indicating that Congress would have oversight over the president's decisions and applying the resolution to the War Powers Act, the 1973 law stating that prolonged military action must come with a congressional declaration of war.

Durbin said many Democrats shared the sentiments of former Vice President Al Gore, who on Monday criticized Bush's policy on Iraq. But few Democrats were supporting Gore's views publicly on Tuesday. Gore's 2000 running mate, Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, even said he disagreed with Gore's assertion that Bush's focus on Iraq could hurt the overall U.S. war on terrorism.

"I respectfully disagree with that part of it," Lieberman said. "I am confident the American military can do, and will do, both at once."

The president is simultaneously working to get the U.N. Security Council to approve a tough new resolution forcing Iraq to eliminate weapons of mass destruction.

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NATIONAL

Greenspan urges hands-off policy in financial dealings

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan urged policy-makers not to regulate the so-called over-the-counter derivatives market, saying it might crimp innovation in financial services.

"Regulation is not only unnecessary ... it is potentially damaging," Greenspan said in a speech Wednesday to the Society of Business Economists in London.

A copy of his speech was distributed in Washington.

Greenspan has repeatedly warned Congress over the years not to regulate the \$86.6 trillion over-the-counter derivatives market, saying that regulation could harm the financial system.

"By design, this market, presumed to involve dealings among sophisticated professionals, has been largely exempt from government regulation," Greenspan said. "In part, this exemption reflects the view that professionals do not require the

"By design, this market, presumed to involve dealings among sophisticated professionals, has been largely exempt from government regulation."

— **ALAN GREENSPAN**
Federal Reserve Chairman

investor protections commonly afforded to markets in which retail investors participate," he added.

Derivatives are complex financial instruments whose value depends on the value or change in value of an underlying security, commodity or asset. They are used by businesses to guard against losses from unexpected market movements, but also by high-risk investment funds to speculate.

Over-the-counter derivatives are traded privately between investors, as opposed to those derivatives traded on futures exchanges.

"Regulation presupposes disclosure and forced disclosure of proprietary information can undercut innovations in financial markets..." Greenspan said.

Derivatives played a key role in the near-collapse in September 1998 of hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management, which sent shock waves through world financial markets.

In April, the Senate rejected an attempt by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to regulate the derivatives market. Feinstein had said her proposal would have "closed a loophole" that allowed energy giant Enron to buy and sell energy holdings

largely in secret without government regulation. The company filed for bankruptcy last year.

Greenspan, in his remarks, did not mention the state of the U.S. economy or the future course of interest rate policy. On Tuesday, over the objections of two members, the Federal Reserve held short-term interest rates steady. The two dissenting members wanted a rate cut, something that hasn't happened since December of last year.

Earlier Wednesday, Greenspan, attending the opening of a new British Treasury building in London, said that the city remains a key financial center even with the emergence of the new European currency, the euro.

"London has stayed on top in the provision of financial services despite the emergence of the euro, which some expected would divert a significant share of foreign exchange trading to a single center on the continent," Greenspan said.

Enron's 'tilted-E' sign goes for \$44,000 at auction in Houston

BY KRISTEN HAYS

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — The big "E" went for big green.

Enron Corp.'s trademark "tilted-E" sign sold for \$44,000 on Wednesday as the bankrupt former energy giant began auctioning off surplus items.

Jimmy Luu, sent by his boss at a Microcache Computer store in Houston to buy the sign, said he was given explicit orders regarding the 5-foot, stainless-steel sign that once stood outside a downtown satellite office.

"He said, 'Just do anything to get it,'" Luu said after the gavel came down on the big E in a crowded Houston hotel ballroom.

Scott Bui, attorney for Microcache, said: "The reason we bought this was to preserve this business icon. It also

signifies a lot of sweat, greed and fraud in business."

The sign was the highlight among thousands of items up for bid Wednesday and Thursday, ranging from routine office supplies to kitschy items like stress balls, mugs and an air hockey table. The auction will be one of many that will be held to raise proceeds for creditors.

Enron declared bankruptcy in a wave of accounting irregularities that caused its high-flying stock to crash last year. The scandal has resulted in three convictions so far with more indictments expected.

Luu said Microcache will display the sign at one of its three stores in Houston.

Bidders began arriving at the Radisson Astrodome around 5 a.m., four hours before the auction began. The hotel was jammed with more than 1,000 bidders, with hundreds more in line waiting to get in as others left. An

additional 12,000 people from around the world were registered online.

Auctioneer Kirk Dove kept a humorous perspective on the proceedings, calling the sign the "world's largest cufflink." Another "tilted-E" went for \$15,000 in a London auction earlier this year.

Bidders expecting bargains, however, might have been disappointed. Electronics, furniture and other items were consistently selling at or above retail price because of the scandal appeal. For instance, an older-generation Palm Pilot that can be bought for under \$100 sold for \$220.

Brian Cruver, a former Enron employee who wrote the book "Anatomy of Greed: The Unshredded Truth From an Enron Insider," was at the hotel with his own agenda.

"I'm here to buy my old chair," he said. "It's the most comfortable chair I've ever sat in and I want it back."

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INTERNATIONAL



American schoolchildren evacuated from Ivory Coast

BY CLAR NI CHONGHAILE

Associated Press Writer

YAMOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast — American schoolchildren waving U.S. flags evacuated a rebel-held city under French military escort Wednesday, as U.S. special forces landed in this West African nation to help rescue Westerners caught in its deadliest uprising.

The convoy of 10 to 12 cars left rebel-held Bouake bound for Yamoussoukro, 40 miles to the south, where U.S. special

forces in C-130s arrived hours earlier to receive them.

The children swung American flags out windows of the cars as the convoy headed to safety down the region's main road, after a new night of sporadic gunfire outside the International Christian Academy.

Many of the children wore T-shirts sporting American flags. Some of the youngsters leaned out the windows to yell "Vive la France!" at another French convoy headed the other way, into Bouake.

About 100 American children ages 5 to

18 attend the mission boarding school in Bouake, intended for sons and daughters of missionaries based across Africa. Another 60 children also attend the school, which has a staff of 40, most of whom are American.

About 100 well-armed French troops had moved into the whitewashed compound early Wednesday, securing the school after rebel forces breached the walls two days earlier to fire out from its grounds.

French forces were evacuating as many Westerners in the school and surrounding neighborhood as chose to leave. The school appeared to be empty after the evacuation. About 300 Americans live in the city, Ivory Coast's second-largest and home to a half-million residents — now all trapped.

"Our idea is to get as many out as possible," Richard Buangan, a U.S. diplomat helping to coordinate at the staging area, said of the Americans.

U.S. special forces troops spilled out of C-130s at the rescue staging area in Yamoussoukro, 40 miles to the south of the rebel city. Unloading duffel bags and metal boxes, U.S. commandos set up base on the side of the airport tarmac. The American troops refused comment as they worked.

Bouake and the northern opposition stronghold of Korhogo fell into rebel hands during a bloody coup attempt Thursday. The uprising killed at least 270 people in its first days.

Ivory Coast's military and government has pledged to retake both cities. The country's military officers said only concern for civilian casualties was staving off full-scale attack.

Firing broke out again on both sides of the mission around daybreak Wednesday, said Neil Gilliland, speaking by telephone from the affiliated Free Will Baptist Missions in Nashville, Tenn. "Nobody was firing at them, but there was gunfire all around," Gilliland said.

Water and electricity in Bouake had been cut since the weekend, most shops were shuttered, and prices of food and fuel were skyrocketing, they said. Few braved the rebel barricades thrown up across the city.

"Everyone is at home. We're running out of everything," said one frightened Ivorian woman, contacted by telephone as she cowered in her home in Bouake. "We are scared."

In Yamoussoukro, a handful of American soldiers jumped off the planes on touchdown at mid-afternoon, securing the tarmac as gun-mounted Humvees drove off the ramps.

Armed U.S. troops, some in helmets, then filed down onto the airstrip.

The United States deployed about 200 soldiers, mostly special forces, to Ghana overnight to aid in any rescue missions for Americans as Ivory Coast battles to put down the 6-day-old uprising by coup forces.

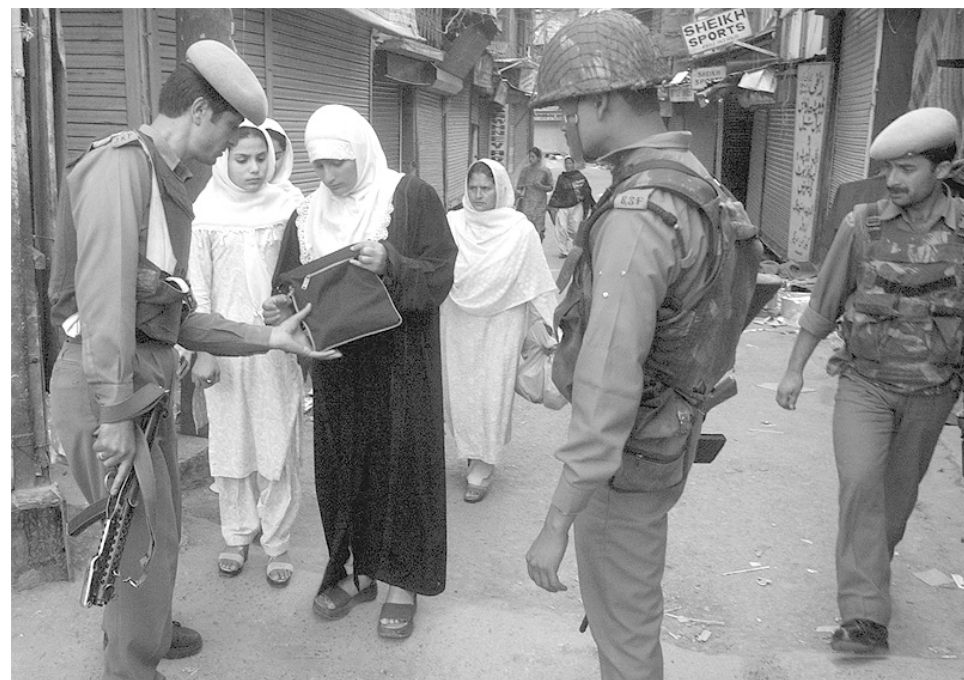
The insurgency — with a core group of 750-800 ex-soldiers angry over their dismissal from the army for suspected disloyalty — poses Ivory Coast's worst crisis since the country's first-ever coup in 1999 shattered stability in the once-prosperous country.

The uprising has sparked ethnic, political and religious hostilities that divide Ivory Coast's predominantly Christian south and its largely Muslim north.

The mutineers, dismissed from the army for suspected loyalty to ousted former junta leader Gen. Robert Guei, have found at least a measure of support from the Muslim northerners — who complain of being treated as second-class citizens by the southern-based government.

Tens of thousands of Westerners and hundreds of thousands of immigrants from neighboring Muslim countries have made their homes in Ivory Coast, until its first-ever 1999 coup an anchor of stability and prosperity in West Africa.

Tension in Kashmir



Rafiq Maqbool/Associated Press

An Indian soldier inspects a Kashmiri woman's bag at a security checkpoint in Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, Wednesday after one policeman died and another was critically wounded when they were shot at point blank range by masked gunmen in the busy Maharaja Bazaar neighborhood of Srinagar. Hundreds of thousands of security forces have been deployed to prevent violence during the state elections, which are staggered over four phases — Sept. 16 and 24, Oct. 1 and 8.

Political letters show Prince Charles has strong opinions

BY SUE LEEMAN

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — He's already known as a critic of modern architecture, an advocate of organic farming and a fan of hunting with hounds.

Prince Charles, it seems, is also a foe of political correctness and what he calls an "American-style" growth in personal litigation.

Charles' office, which confirmed Wednesday that he has been sharing his opinions with government ministers, says it's part of his royal role.

Officially, the government doesn't mind. Prime Minister Tony Blair "has an excellent relationship with the Prince of Wales and welcomes the fact that he keeps in touch with him and other ministers," Blair's office said.

The Daily Mail newspaper earlier reported that the heir to the throne has been writing regularly to government ministers to protest everything from the "politically correct" felling of a row of horse chestnut trees to the way meals are cooked for the elderly.

To the fiercely royalist Daily Mail — which accused the government of leaking the letters in an effort to shame Charles — this was only the prince doing his bit for the common man. One Labor lawmaker said the prince should run for Parliament

if he wants a more political role.

"Let's not kid ourselves that Prince Charles is a representative of ordinary people. This is someone who was born with a mouthful of silver spoons, a mega-wealthy farmer who's looking for things to do so he fires off letters," Ian Davidson, who represents a district in Glasgow, Scotland, told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Lord Russell, a member of the House of Lords, said the right to advise "is the central role of monarchy" — a line adopted by Charles' office at St. James's Palace.

"The Prince of Wales takes an active interest in all aspects of British life and believes that as well as celebrating success, part of his role must be to highlight problems and represent views in danger of not being heard," said his spokeswoman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Traditionally, the royals stay out of politics, but Charles has spoken out on a range of pet subjects. At times, he has shown the kind of bluntness associated with his father, Prince Philip.

The Daily Mail said Charles — who recently wrote the prime minister urging him not to ban hunting — "has been engaged in a long-running campaign of letter writing" to Lord Chancellor Lord Irvine, Britain's top legal official.

In one, Charles reportedly inveighed against "the very real and growing prospect of an American-style personal injury 'culture' becoming ever more

prevalent in this country."

In another, Charles reportedly complained about "the degree to which our lives are becoming ruled by a truly absurd degree of politically correct interference," citing the case of seven mature chestnut trees felled last year by a local council that

feared falling nuts might injury passers-by.

And he was said to complain about a growth of red tape affecting homes for the elderly, including the stipulation that wooden chopping boards be replaced with color-coded plastic ones, which proved less hygienic.

Storm Lili takes aim at Haiti as Isidore aims for U.S. coast

BY MICHAEL NORTON

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Tropical Storm Lili took aim at Haiti on Wednesday, drenching islands in its path. The U.S. Navy was ready to move nearly 600 terrorist suspects if the storm threatens its prison camp at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

At 2 p.m. Lili was about 300 miles southeast of the Dominican Republic's capital, Santo Domingo, and was moving west-northwest at 10 mph toward Haiti.

A tropical storm watch was in effect for southern Dominican Republic and Haiti, which share the island of Hispaniola. A tropical storm watch was expected for eastern Jamaica, to the west, later Wednesday.

Maximum winds were 45 mph and little change was expected in the next 24

hours. But officials in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba were preparing for flash floods and wind gusts.

"It's carrying a lot of thunderstorms," said Michael Formosa, a meteorologist at the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. "They can get torrential flooding in the rivers and mudslides."

In 1994, Tropical Storm Gordon killed at least 829 Haitians.

Lili was expected to reach Guantanamo Bay Naval Base late Friday. The storm could carry enough winds and rains to warrant moving the 598 detainees to a secure location away from their seaside cells, U.S. military officials said.

The detainees, accused of links to the fallen Taliban regime of Afghanistan or al-Qaida terrorist network, are being held in trailer-like cells about 545 yards from the Caribbean.



SPORTS

Playoffs are Barry Bonds' priority, not MVP trophies

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds is favored to win his record fifth MVP, is going for his first batting crown, and is among the major league leaders in almost every important offensive category.

Yet all those personal accolades won't mean much unless the San Francisco slugger proves himself in the playoffs.

The Giants are close to clinching a postseason spot, and once they do, Bonds must show he can do something beyond the regular season.

Bonds never has been to a World Series. He has never even won a playoff series in five trips to the postseason, and his own performances are a big reason why. Bonds is hitting only .196 with one home run and six RBIs in 97 at-bats, hardly the numbers of baseball's best player.

That's why his mind is not on the MVP.

When asked how he would weigh winning a fifth NL MVP, Bonds said, "I don't."

"Just win," he said. "I don't like talking about it right now. Just winning. That's the only priority on my mind."

Bonds does have a strong opinion on who shouldn't be considered for the honor: all pitchers.

Eliminating World Series co-

MVPs Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks certainly would boost Bonds' chances of winning his second straight MVP.

"A pitcher will never get it anymore," Bonds said Tuesday night. "It won't happen. It's not bad for baseball, it's an insult to everyday players. Everybody has their own individual awards for a reason."

The 38-year-old Bonds owns the single-season home run record and is an 11-time All-Star.

He helped the Giants to a three-game lead over Los Angeles in the NL wild-card race heading into Wednesday night's games.

Bonds is leading the majors in hitting this season after slamming a record 73 homers last year. In seven division series games, he's hitting .207, and is worse in 20 league championship series games at .191.

San Francisco manager Dusty Baker also is avoiding all the MVP hype.

"I don't talk about that until the end of the season," he said.

Arizona's two aces lead the majors in wins with 23 each — both in 34 starts. They also have logged the most innings — both around 250, some 20 innings more than AL leader Tim Lincecum of Oakland.

The left-handed Johnson (23-5) has won the NL Cy Young Award the past three years and has the lowest ERA in the

U.S. defends cup



Adam Butler/Associated Press

Tiger Woods tees off at the 16th, during a practice round for the Ryder Cup at The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, England, Wednesday. The competition is scheduled to begin Friday.

league. Schilling, an overpowering right-hander, was 23-7 after losing Wednesday at St. Louis.

Bonds had 45 homers heading into Wednesday night's game against the San Diego Padres at Pacific Bell Park, after hitting a two-run shot Tuesday night for No. 612 of his career.

He was batting a major league leading .372 with 108 RBIs. His average was 32 points higher than any other NL hitter (Colorado's Larry Walker was second at .340 average).

No San Francisco player has won a batting title, and the last member of the New York Giants

to do it was Willie Mays in 1954.

Bonds has the top on-base percentage, slugging percentage and road average in baseball. He's even the most effective in hitting in night games, and versus right-handers.

On top of that, Bonds has drawn a major league-record 193 walks, including 65 intentional. The Padres alone have walked him 33 times this year.

He wouldn't provide his thoughts on who should win the American League MVP — Alex Rodriguez of Texas, Oakland's Miguel Tejada and Alfonso

Soriano of the New York Yankees are the top candidates — though Bonds previously has said A-Rod's chances are not as good because he's not playing on a contending team.

"I don't play in the AL, I play in the NL," Bonds said.

His reasoning on why pitchers should not be MVP-eligible: they have ample opportunity to be recognized.

"Pitchers can win MVP in a playoff or World Series," Bonds said. "Most of them do anyway. They can pitch three games in a series."

Moss charged with two misdemeanors and released

BY ANDRES YBARRA
Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Randy Moss walked out of jail whistling, charged with two misdemeanors instead of a possible felony for allegedly pushing a traffic officer a half-block with his car.

The Minnesota Vikings' star receiver was released Wednesday from the Hennepin County jail after spending the night there. He was charged with careless driving and failure to obey a traffic officer.

Police said they found a small quantity of marijuana in Moss' car, an amount that would qualify as a petty misdemeanor, but no charge was immediately filed.

Moss, who has a history of trouble on and off the field, had been arrested on suspicion of assault with a dangerous weapon, a felony.

He whistled as he left jail and walked through a pack of reporters.

"You'll hear my side later," Moss said. "I was treated bad."

After retrieving some belongings from a van, he left in a car.

Moss' arrest could keep him out of Sunday's game against the Seattle Seahawks. The Vikings are off to an 0-3 start, their worst since 1967.

Early Tuesday night, the traffic agent stepped in front of Moss' car to stop him

"I saw a really decked-out Lexus pushing the traffic person along. It was really surreal."

— JERRY HULLERMAN
Witness

from making an illegal turn in downtown Minneapolis. Moss used his car to slowly push the officer along the street, stopping when she fell to the ground, police spokeswoman Cyndi Barrington said.

Barrington said 27-year-old Amy Zaccardi is a city employee but not a police officer and was not seriously hurt. Witnesses called the situation "surreal" but said it was clear Moss did not intend to hurt Zaccardi.

Vikings coach Mike Tice said he spoke briefly with Moss, who had asked his coach to get him out of jail. But Tice said he couldn't comment on the accusations.

"I can't go any further than to say I'm disappointed," Tice said.

Tice planned to sit down with Moss, his attorney and agent, along with Vikings owner Red McCombs, to "address the situation accordingly."

Tice said it was too early to decide whether Moss would play Sunday. Under NFL rules, Moss will undergo mandatory

"evaluation" because he was charged with a crime. Any disciplinary action would follow a conviction or guilty plea.

Jerry Hullerman said he was parked near the intersection when he saw Moss driving his car.

"I saw a really decked-out Lexus pushing the traffic person along," said Hullerman, who was also interviewed by police. "It was really surreal."

He said Zaccardi was facing forward while sitting on the front of the car with one hand on the hood and the other hand on her radio as the car pushed her along.

After a few seconds, Hullerman said, the man in the car tapped the accelerator and knocked her down.

"She fell flat on her face," Hullerman said, adding that the driver didn't get out of his car.

Hullerman said squad cars arrived seconds later and officers took Moss into custody.

"(Moss) was going really slow," said

Robert Nelson, another witness. "Apparently, he didn't want to hurt her. I think he was just trying to frighten her into moving."

The 25-year-old Moss has been in trouble before. He squirted a referee with a water bottle in 1999 — which resulted in a \$25,000 fine from the NFL — and verbally abused corporate sponsors on the team bus in 2001. The last infraction resulted in the team fining him \$15,000 and forcing him to attend anger management classes.

He had a scholarship revoked by Notre Dame in 1995 after being charged with beating up a high school classmate in Rand, W.Va. Moss pleaded guilty to battery and was sentenced to 30 days in jail. He was allowed to defer most of the sentence until after his freshman year in college.

He went to Florida State, where he red-shirted his freshman season but was kicked off the team for violating probation by smoking marijuana. That got him a one-year jail sentence, which was reduced to about one month of time served.

Virtually out of chances, Moss walked on at Marshall and quickly became a star.

Moss is in his fifth year with the Vikings and is the team's highest-paid player. He signed an eight-year, \$75 million contract last year.

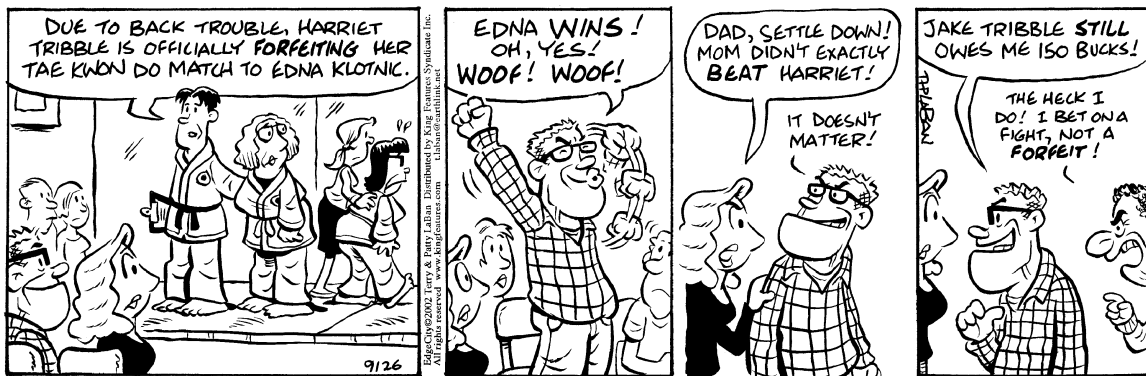
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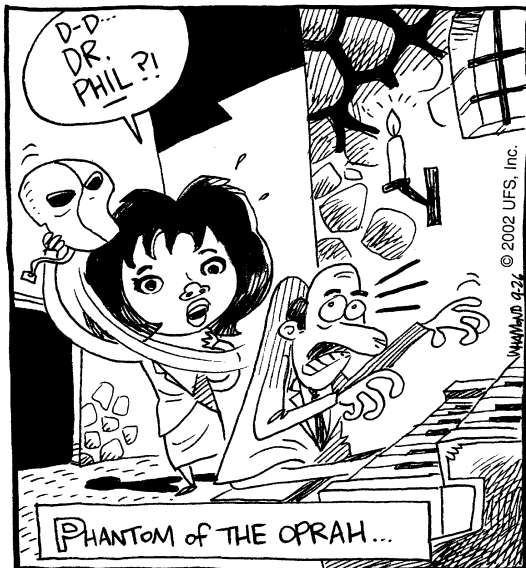
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Quite a few
 - 5 Holdup
 - 10 Homer work
 - 12 Rust, essentially
 - 13 Great, in slang
 - 14 King of Crete
 - 15 Common title start
 - 16 Like some presidencies
 - 18 "Being and Nothingness" writer
 - 20 Mermaid's home
 - 21 Word of agreement
 - 23 Fancy planter
 - 24 Cocoon, e.g.
 - 26 Yodeling area
 - 28 USO attendees
 - 29 Verne character
 - 31 Mine find
 - 32 Belize neighbor
 - 36 End-of-film effect
 - 39 Music genre
 - 40 Cuzco native
 - 41 Wide open
 - 43 Stock unit
 - 44 Boarded
 - 45 Angels' strings
- DOWN**
- 1 Fogs
 - 2 Island greeting
 - 3 More pleasant
 - 4 Hairy beast
 - 5 Rotunda part
 - 6 Way to go
 - 7 Forms a queue
 - 8 Fans
 - 9 Toady
 - 11 Apartment worker
 - 17 Born
 - 19 Spigot
 - 22 Convention ID
 - 24 Voracious swimmer
 - 25 Lemon, perhaps
 - 27 Bagel topper
 - 28 Kids' card game
 - 30 Flightless bird
 - 33 Furious
 - 34 Poultry buy
 - 35 Starts the bidding
 - 37 Tombstone name
 - 38 Folding money
 - 42 Deity

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Yesterday's answer

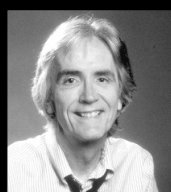
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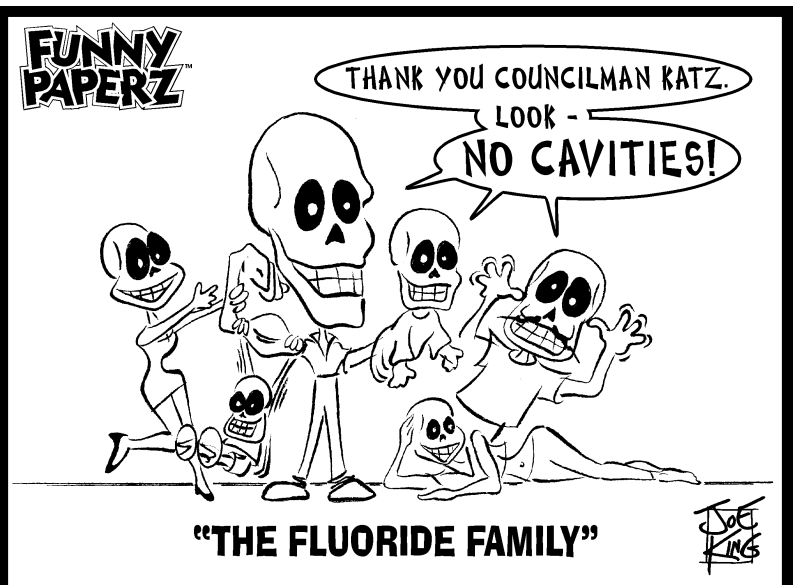


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Chile's Easter Island has first murder in 15 years

While Chile copes this month with the first murder in 15 years on its remote Easter Island (pop. 4,000; 2,370 miles from the mainland), Great Britain was reportedly preparing to build a jail and a courthouse on Easter's closest neighbor, Pitcairn Island, after investigators from Britain and New Zealand said they suspected as many as 20 of the 47 residents had engaged in sex with children. According to a July report in Britain's The Guardian newspaper, if charges are eventually filed, trials might be held on Pitcairn or in New Zealand using a special satellite video hookup from the island.





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OKTOBERFEST!!! SAT. Oct 5th, 5pm. Presented by The Santa Monica Moose Lodge #702. Traditional German Cuisine and Draft Beer, Chicken Bingo, Music.Membership Drive, Open to the Public. \$10.00 For Info Call (310)-452-3702

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

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

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

Yard Sales

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. John Adams Middle School, 2425 16th St., Santa Monica. ALL Proceeds benefit the JAMS Science Magnet. Come and find old and new treasures!

Personals

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

Personals

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

ADVERTISE IN THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS !!!
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Classified Advertising Conditions

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

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Call Angela at the Santa Monica Daily Press
310.458.7737 ext.101

Calendar

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

movies

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

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Austin Powers in Goldmember (PG-13) 2:00, 7:30. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50. Stealing Harvard (PG-13) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30. XXX (PG-13) 11:10, 4:20, 10:10. The Banger Sisters (R) 11:00, 11:45, 1:45, 2:30, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 10:00, 10:30. The Four Feathers (PG-13) 12:15, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15.

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

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

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
The Good Girl (R) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10. The Mesmerist (NR) 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55. Possession (PG-13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:55. Secretary (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05.

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

Today

Community

Come practice at SUNSET YOGA, overlooking the Pacific! "Integral Hatha Yoga" every Thursday from 7:15-9pm. Mixed levels. Donations only. Please bring a mat and towel. Located at 1450 Ocean Ave. between Santa Monica Blvd. and Broadway. For more information contact skinnybuddahboy@hotmail.com

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323

Dharma at the Clubhouse. A weekly book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night

at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 - 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368
www.santamonivcakksg.org

Theater

This Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings Beautiful Soup Productions presents SAVAGE IN LIMBO, A Play by John Patrick Shanley at The Comedy Underground, 320 Wilshire Blvd. in Santa Monica. Showtime is at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 minimum donation. For Reservations call (818)601-9657.

Music/Entertainment

O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-

facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

Komdey Krunch. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Friday

Community

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

Theater/Arts

This Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings Beautiful Soup Productions presents SAVAGE IN LIMBO, A Play by John Patrick Shanley at The Comedy Underground, 320 Wilshire Blvd. in Santa Monica. Showtime is at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 minimum donation. For Reservations call (818)601-9657.

"PERFECT DATE" STUDENT FILM SCREENING AT SMC -

"The Perfect Date" - a romantic comedy by two former Santa Monica College film students - will be screened at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27 in Room 214 of the Art Complex at SMC, 1900 Pico Blvd. The screening is free, as is parking. Seating is limited, and reservations are required by calling (562) 985-1344 or e-mailing rsvp@jacquesabalepictures.com. For more information, go to <http://www.my-perfect-date.com>.

Music/Entertainment

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

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over 21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

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KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section. Fax all information to our Calendar Editor:
Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE

California adds to reputation as trailblazer for laws

BY JESSICA BRICE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California has enacted first-in-the-nation laws this year on family leave, auto emissions and stem-cell research, lending credence to the saying that wherever America is going, California will get there first.

California rivals Washington, D.C., as an epicenter of change because of its size (34.5 million people, more than any other state) and economic clout (sixth-largest economy in the world, with a gross state product of \$1.3 trillion).

Lawmakers elsewhere look at California laws for direction.

"If it works in California, it is likely to work in states throughout the country," said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics in Charlottesville, Va. "The states are the laboratories for democracy, and California is the chief laboratory."

When the state passed the nation's first "lemon law" in 1982 to protect consumers who buy cars with serious defects, the measure became the model for similar laws in all 50 states. California enacted the nation's first ban on

assault weapons in 1989; it was quickly adopted in six other states and led to a federal ban in 1994. California's 1970 Clean Air Act is still the toughest in the nation.

National firsts in California this year include a law explicitly allowing embryonic stem cell research, the country's toughest auto emissions laws and a requirement that 20 percent of the state's power come from renewable energy sources by 2017.

Earlier this week, Gov. Gray Davis signed the nation's first comprehensive paid family leave law, which allows workers to leave their job for up to six weeks at 55 percent pay to care for a newborn, newly adopted child or sick family member.

Also, the gun control movement successfully pushed a measure this year making California the first state to repeal gun manufacturers' special immunity against lawsuits. Davis is expected to sign the bill this week.

"What we do here has tremendous impacts both in the message we send and its immediate impact on the health and safety of a large group of Americans," said Luis Tolley of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Because of California's reputation as a liberal state, it

often attracts interest groups that can't get what they want from Congress.

"Proponents of environmental laws and corporate reform that aren't willing to wait come to California," said Dan Jacobson, legislative analyst for the California Public Interest Research Group. "The Congress often looks to the states to figure out how to deal with important issues. It helps tremendously to pass important bills in California."

Similarly, lobbyists wanting to stop legislation in other states often look to California as their battleground. Nearly one-third of the estimated \$565 million spent lobbying state lawmakers nationwide in 2000 was spent here, according to the Center for Public Integrity in Washington.

Auto industry lobbyists launched a multimillion-dollar campaign this year in a failed bid to prevent the nation's first restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions. California's automobile rules tend to become the standard for the entire industry. Because California is the nation's largest auto market, automakers sometimes find it too expensive or difficult to build a California-only car.

Inmates subjected to medical tests lose bid to win compensation

BY DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Prisoners who were deliberately exposed to diseases and given mind-altering drugs during jailhouse medical experiments from the 1950s through the 1970s cannot sue the city and the university that conducted the tests, a federal appeals court ruled.

A three-judge panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday upheld a lower court's ruling that the 298 former inmates waited too long to bring their lawsuit.

In most circumstances, state law requires that the type of lawsuit filed by the prisoners be brought within two to four years. The experiments stopped in 1974.

"The experimentation programs were widely publicized from the mid-1970s until the early 1980s and a number of inmates filed suits in the years following the publicity," the court said. "It is simply not reasonable to believe that plaintiffs were not aware of the facts underlying this litigation many, many years before bringing suit."

The prisoners — all of whom finished serving their jail time long ago — sued in

2000 after Temple University instructor and prison activist Allen Hornblum wrote about the testing in his 1998 book "Acres of Skin."

For decades, the University of Pennsylvania and dermatologists led by Dr. Albert Kligman, who is credited with developing the acne and anti-wrinkle treatment Retin A, performed experiments on inmates at Holmesburg Prison, a city jail that closed in 1995.

Many of the tests were harmless, but at city hearings conducted earlier this year, one former prisoner said his hands and feet swelled grotesquely. Others said they lost feeling in limbs or had bad reactions

to psychotropic drugs.

The lawsuit said the inmates had not been informed of the risks or properly asked for their consent.

"Some of the people were tested with LSD. Some were tested with dioxin. They didn't know what they were getting into," said Thomas Nocella, the prisoners' attorney.

He said the group has not decided whether to appeal.

After Hornblum's book was published, Penn offered to examine any former inmates who thought they were harmed by the school's studies.

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3

One FREE Dessert on Jazz Night

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

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