

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Another Friday in the city



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
Traffic officers on Friday route hundreds of cars into the parking structure located at Third Street Promenade and Broadway Avenue while pedestrians negotiate around cars stuck in the crosswalk zone.

City allocates \$4.6M for new crosswalks

Series of crosswalk projects approved citywide

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Crossing the street in Santa Monica may get a lot safer now that the city has approved nearly \$5 million in pedestrian improvements.

Officials are planning a series of changes to Wilshire, Santa Monica and Ocean Park Boulevards, including center islands on some streets. Improvements will be done near office parks on Broadway and 26th Street that will go far beyond new crosswalks at intersections.

Planning for the improvements, which will range from flashing pedestrian crossing lights to re-engineering entire intersections, has been underway since 1999.

"The crosswalks projects have been very important to residents and merchants," said the city's transportation manager Lucy Dyke. "As Santa Monica becomes more crowded we want to ensure there is a way for people to get around."

"In all the locations we are trying to improve the ability of people to cross the streets and improve the walkability of the city," she added.

Since then engineers, designers and neighborhood groups have been studying the proposals and combining different elements to come up with a final plan, which the city council approved last year.

"Safe crosswalks make our city more livable and keep our neighborhoods from being split apart by dangerous traffic," said Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown. "With regional pressures increasing local traffic, we can't just surrender our streets to cars and ignore seniors and children."

McKeown added city officials and residents paid special attention to areas around schools, hospitals and other generators of pedestrian traffic to identify areas that need improvement.

Dyke said after each area was singled out, city staff figured out ways to better accommodate both foot and vehicle traffic.

"The goal of the project is to look at each corridor and find out where we need to make improvements to ensure people can cross these streets safely," Dyke said.

Construction is scheduled to begin on the first phase of the \$4.6 million plan with a new signal at the intersection of Berkeley Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. A new roundabout at the intersection of Washington Avenue and 26th

See CROSSWALKS, page 7

Members petition YMCA to pay fitness instructors

Organization's management say they depend on volunteers

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The YMCA's fitness instructors have grown tired of not getting paid. And some of the organization's members have grown tired of not having quality instruction.

A petition signed by 70 Santa Monica YMCA members was delivered to management this week that demands the community organization pay its fitness instructors.

Unlike many affiliated YMCAs throughout Los Angeles County, the independent YMCA is allowed to set its own policies on paying instructors. And while the affiliated Westside YMCA in neighboring West L.A.

pays its instructors, those in Santa Monica are all volunteers.

In exchange for teaching three one-hour classes a week, instructors are allowed unlimited use of the YMCA's new \$8.5 million facility near the corner of Sixth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Some Santa Monica YMCA members say the unpaid instructors don't take teaching classes seriously and they are forced to deal with unexpected class cancellations, high instructor turnover, and an ever-changing schedule of classes.

"I'm incredibly frustrated," said Barbara Olsen, a YMCA member that helped organize the petition. "Every time I find a class or an instructor I like, they move to Gold's Gym or some place that's going to pay them."

See YMCA, page 7

Southern California movie production shows rebound

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Movie and television production is on the rise in Southern California after nearly a year-long slump caused by studio backlog and the threat last summer of a writers and actors strike.

Shooting on the streets of Los Angeles rose 55 percent from the same time last year and was the highest for that time period since 1998, according to permit agency Entertainment Industry Development Corp.

Among the films in production this week were the sequel "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" at the Griffith Park Observatory, "The Italian Job" being filmed at the Sepulveda Dam in Encino and the comedy "Hollywood Homicide" in urban Los Angeles.

Economists and unions said in the Los Angeles Times Friday that the boost reflects an increase in projects taken on by studios. Production slowed last year after studios and networks backlogged material out of fear of a strike by creative arts unions.

New contracts with screenwriters and actors were resolved without a walkout, and studios slowed production while exhausting its store of new films.

Unions said runaway production, in which studios send crews to film in foreign countries to take advantage of tax breaks and cheaper labor, remains a problem despite the increase in productions.

"As long as other nations are committed to luring away motion pictures

See PRODUCTION, page 7

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Make that extra effort toward a parent or superior of some sort. Don't think that this person doesn't notice. Schedule some quality time with a partner as well. Discussions give you new insight. Allow others also to express their unique form of caring. Tonight: A must appearance.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You could feel vaguely off kilter when you deal with someone you care about. Your vision might need some adjusting. Others seek you out. Let a partner have a conversation. You have that special touch that makes a difference. Tonight: Relax to a movie, or go to a concert.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A friend chooses to reveal much more of him- or herself than before. Laughter surrounds a key relationship as you get to understand each other better. Be sensitive to a loved one you care about. This person might need time as well. Tonight: Why not add some romance to your life?

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your loving ways come back in multiples. Others seek you out, though if single, note the dewy-eyed look from one special person. Act on what could be a very romantic tie. Your depth and perception guide you with a key associate. Tonight: Finally — let the good times roll.

♌ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Stay close to home, or do something special for a family member. You need to relax more and enjoy yourself. If you can, postpone a major decision that involves your personal life. Don't let the fact that something is out of sync simply wash over you, either. Tonight: Order in.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Venus in your sign allows you to draw others to you. Someone who really cares a lot about you lets you know it. Keep communication flowing with others. Make some phone calls. Catch up on mail. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might not want to share what is on your mind with everyone. Listen to your instincts with a close pal who might not be vocal. Stop and buy something special for a friend or loved one and maybe even yourself. Why not? Tonight: Dinner out.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You draw caring people right now. You might enjoy wandering around with a friend or two. Happiness emanates from being part of the group. A friend or loved one touches you with his or her sharing. Be more open as well. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Let your intuition lead you with a superior or a responsibility. Listen carefully to someone you care about. This person might seem to be lecturing you, but also might have a lot of insight. A must appearance works out well, to your delight. Tonight: Do your thing.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ If you want, take off for the day. A different setting gives you a new perspective and renewed energy. How you see a personal matter could change substantially. Get together with friends later on when you're more relaxed. Tonight: Where the music is.

QUOTE of the DAY

**"Eat as much as you like ...
just don't swallow it."**
— Steve Burns

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LOCAL



CrimeWatch

Burglaries and robberies top week of crime

By Daily Press staff

■ Jeffery Scott Kessler was arrested for strong arm robbery on Sept. 29 after allegedly stealing beer from Star Liquor at 2500 Main Street, according to police.

At 5:15 p.m., Kessler entered the store. An employee watched him walk to the cooler and put a few cans of beer in his pocket, police said. Kessler then approached the counter, put a couple beers on the counter and said he couldn't pay for them. Kessler left the cans on the counter and began to exit the store. But the employee confronted him about the beer in his pocket.

Kessler allegedly threatened to harm the employee if he came any closer, then fled the store. Santa Monica police arrested him shortly after.

Kessler is 36 years old.

■ A man with a handgun robbed a store at 2600 Main Street on Friday, Sept. 27.

The suspect entered the store at 7:26 p.m., showed a handgun to an employee and demanded money from the cash register. The employee complied, and the suspect fled from the store with the money, police said.

The suspect was last seen on Main Street. He is described as a black male between 20 and 30 years old, five feet, 10 inches tall, 180 pounds and wearing a dark gray shirt with a number on it.

■ A homeless man was robbed and slashed in the face by assailants armed with a box cutter on Sept. 26, police said.

At 11:32 p.m. the victim was sleeping near 701 Wilshire Boulevard when two men woke him up and demanded his money. One of the robbers carried a box cutter.

The victim had no money. The suspect with the box cutter slashed a three-inch cut into the left side of the victim's face.

The suspect with the box cutter is a Hispanic male, five feet, seven inches tall, with dark hair and eyes. He was wearing a dark jacket and dark pants.

The second suspect is a male Hispanic, five feet, 11 inches tall, with dark hair and eyes, and wearing dark pants and jacket.

The victim was treated for a superficial face laceration at a local hospital, and released that night.

■ Anthony Loren Janis and Todd Davenport were arrested for attempted car burglary on Monday, Sept. 23.

A witness watched Janis and Davenport walk along the 100 block of Pacific Avenue at about 9:10 p.m. allegedly lifting up door handles of parked cars. When they opened the door of a Jeep Cherokee and entered the vehicle, the witness called police. Janis and Davenport fled the scene, but Santa Monica police stopped them soon afterward.

A preliminary investigation of the Jeep indicated there was an attempted robbery, so Janis and Davenport were arrested, police said.

Janis, a 24-year-old white male transient, was held without bail because he violated his felony probation.

Davenport, a 23-year-old white male transient, was held with bail set at \$20,000.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

The weekend will see a mix of swell for decent, fun surf at southwest and west facing breaks. Southwest ground swell is expected to fill in better today and carry over into Saturday.

Northwest wind swell helps size and shape at west facing spots.

Expect knee- to waist-high surf at the majority of breaks, some chest level sets at standouts.

Conditions will be on the decline Sunday as ground swell fades. We should see a drop in size and consistency until Monday when a new swell is expected.



Today's Tides:

High-	2:39 a.m.	3.50'
Low-	6:48 a.m.	2.84'
High-	1:16 p.m.	5.42'
Low-	9:15 p.m.	0.26'

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

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OPINION

LETTERS

Baca's hands are tied

Editor:

Bill Bauer's opinion piece left out one vital component. Sheriff Lee Baca has been forced to trim his budget by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

Sheriff Baca told the county what would happen if funding was cut, and they didn't lift a finger.

This lack of direction has put the entire county in danger. L.A. County Supervisors need to be demonstrating leadership, and find the necessary funding. Simply saying "We don't have the money," is not a solution. We should expect no less from our elected officials.

Joe Weichman
Santa Monica

Listen up, city council

Editor:

I am happy to hear that our city council seems to be listening to the people who live, work, and pay taxes in this fine city. Especially concerning the feeding of the multitude of homeless people without responsibility here in Santa Monica in our open areas. I wish they would take it to the next step. I was discussing this with my wife and she agrees with me that we should license the providers of this service ... have them pay a basic fee of \$1,000 for their license. This will cover the rental fee for the land they are using for the feedings, underwrite the cost of the clean up crews that will need to be there to pick up after the feedings, and help subsidize the police that will be needed for control.

I personally feel that there should also be the interfacing of the health department in these feedings. I was shocked to read that there is no control at the present moment by the health department. Guess who is going to be blamed if there is food poisoning or any lesser food carried reaction to the feedings?

So I conclude by saying ... listen up.

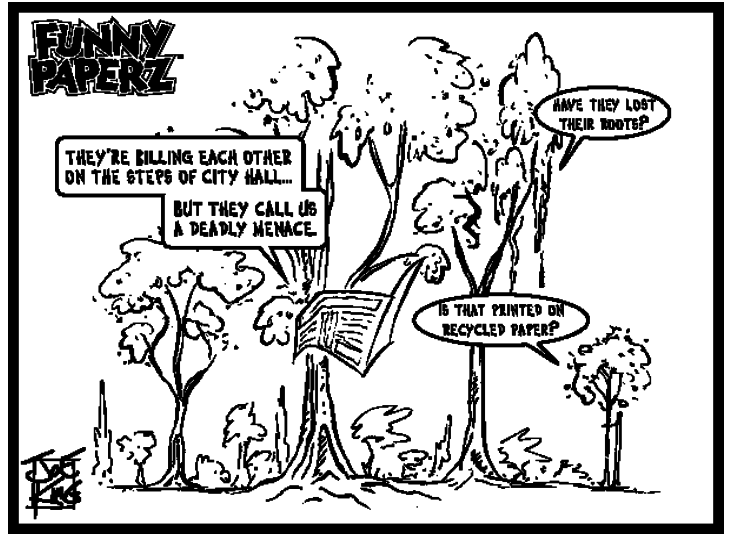
Dane Swanson
Santa Monica

Illegals shouldn't get licenses

Editor:

I worry when our elected representatives put their own personal ethnic agenda

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Living wage is part of the world of make believe

On a recent Sunday afternoon, a union-funded coalition kicked off its campaign for the Santa Monica living wage, complete with a concert from the musical trio, Peter, Paul & Mary.

This campaign to "lift Santa Monica hotel workers out of poverty" has a harmonious tone, but the "living wage" is far from a magic cure for poverty. Pay mandates like these are blunt tools that target the masses in an effort to help the few in need. In the end, low-skill workers stand to lose — a lot — if the Santa Monica living wage succeeds.

Just like Puff the Magic Dragon, living wage advocates seem to reside in a world of make believe. Living wage debates across the country are typically driven by myths that will not die. The debate in Santa Monica is no different.

By the logic of one myth, a high proportion of workers who would benefit from a living wage are acting as sole support for their families. Research dictates otherwise. A statewide study of Californians on the effects of a \$10.25 pay increase illustrates the gap between myth and reality. More than 21 percent of the projected beneficiaries are living with at least one parent. The average family income of the affected worker is \$42,530. Fewer than one in six are in families with an income of less than \$12,500. Most "beneficiaries" live in homes with other earners, and few are officially living in poverty.

So what of the few minimum wage

workers who truly are sole supporters? Will they not benefit from a "living wage?" The mythical foundation of the living wage movement strains to answer in the affirmative. Again, sound research suggests otherwise.

By requiring employers to pay a much higher wage for positions once considered entry-level, the government will literally crowd out the least skilled workers. Higher skilled employees will be attracted to the living wage jobs, making it difficult for low-skilled applicants to compete. Interestingly, this is the one point on which advocates, opponents, and impartial observers all agree.

According to a national survey of labor economists in the American Economic Association conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center, nearly eight in 10 labor economists (79 percent) believe that a typical living wage law applied locally would cause employers to hire entry-level employees with greater skills or experience than the applicants they previously hired.

David Reynolds, author of "Living Wage Campaigns: An Activist's Guide to Building the Movement for Economic Justice," says the living wage helps businesses "attract and retain the best workers" — without necessarily

helping lower-skill workers who currently have the jobs.

University of Massachusetts Professor Robert Pollin, considered the father of the living wage movement has reported: "The other possible effect on employment policies would be through labor substitution — i.e. firms replacing their existing minimum wage employees with workers having better credentials (openings for the covered jobs) would likely attract workers with somewhat better credentials, on average, than those in the existing labor pool."

So let's assume there are some low-wage workers who are supporting families and who survive the newfound competition from better-skilled applicants after a living wage passes. They live happily ever after, right? Only in the land of make believe.

In real life, their "raise" will be sapped away by the dreaded "marginal tax rate effect." That's a fancy way of saying that as their income rises, beneficiaries will lose the Earned Income Tax Credit and other substantial public assistance benefits. For many, the raise is exposed as — you guessed it — a myth.

So most beneficiaries are not poor. All will see increased competition from higher skilled workers. Some will lose valuable benefits as their mandated

increases kick in. This is not a pretty picture. But at least living wage policies reduce poverty, right? After all, proponents often cite a California study as evidence that poverty falls after the living wage takes effect.

But a closer look at the study finds its author stating, "In particular, the estimates indicate that a 50 percent increase in the living wage would reduce the employment rate for workers in the bottom tenth of the skill distribution by 7 percent." This is a huge hit on those with the least amount of opportunities to get hired.

Santa Monica has a national reputation as a progressive city. It is not known for disregarding the plight of the poor. Perhaps that's why living wage advocates selected the city to advance their cause. But the living wage movement is built on myth and emotion. Regardless of the feel good rhythms of folk music heroes, the living wage is not a magic cure — all for poverty. For low-skill workers, it brings a dark cloud that does not belong in the magical land Santa Monica residents have worked so hard to create.

Tom Dilworth is the research director for Employment Policies Institute, a non-profit research organization dedicated to studying public policy issues surrounding entry-level employment.

Guest Commentary

By Tom Dilworth

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

ahead of enforcing the law. The Latino Caucus (members of the Senate and Assembly) scare the hell out of me; illegal means just that — against the law. Why would anyone want to grant privileges such as drivers' licenses to people who are here illegally and why would the legislature support this? As I said, I worry, a lot.

Dorothy R. Sterling
Marina del Rey

County and state have failed us

Editor:

In 1978 the voters voted to have a 1 percent ceiling placed on property taxes billed. Assessed valuations have increased significantly since 1978 to adjust the tax for inflation to fund "normal" operations.

Why can't the bureaucrats be satisfied? Have they now become "creative" with the aid of honest dedicated staff and "outside" accountants and lawyers to develop a Parcel Tax to circumvent the property tax ceiling limit voted on? Or, is this "reality?"

In prior years the City of Berkeley passed a "Parcel tax" based on "square footage" for several funding requirements and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) passed the first "Parcel Tax" in 1985 as a "direct assessment" to supplement education; because, in my opinion, the county and state were unable to assist adequately with the needs that have existed at SMMUSD in excess of now 15 years.

The county now wishes to fix a medical crisis with a \$168,000,000 or \$175,000,000 Parcel Tax. The amount has fluctuated in the media and even the "ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B" IN THE "OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT" remains at \$175 million, as of this writing. I can only speculate as to the reasons. For example, in the measure it states that "structural improvements" are "excluding the square footage of improvements used for parking." Could this be one reason why the change in amount? Is this for all "parking" or only "structural parking"? Why is the county ballot pamphlet so confusing as written?

The auditor-controller of the county also states in the pamphlet received that a "new account" will be created. And, the auditor-controller shall "annually file with the county Board of Supervisors a report setting forth the amount of funds collected and expended by this measure." Does this mean an "accounting" in accordance with good government practices?

The need to make this statement concerns me and maybe also should you my good neighbors in Santa Monica when I say that the city and the rent control board have had the same auditors for the past 20 years. Please remember Orange County and now ENRON.

Assuming that that county Band-Aid will work; I now ask my good neighbors in Santa Monica, Malibu and six other LA County precincts to vote for Measure EE, the last Band-Aid for Education for the SMMUSD.

The Parcel Tax, Measure EE, for about \$9,700,000 must be voted for because the county and state have failed us in regards to funding education, in my opinion.

Thomas David Carter
Santa Monica

Take a broader view

Editor:

Regarding Santa Monica resident Tom Fuller's letter (Get Some Respect 10/10). Is he actually entreating the mentally ill to autonomously "get help?" Does he expect a paranoid schizophrenic just say to himself one day, "Enough of this living in the street, I'm going to go manage private equity funds with the Carlyle Group!"

I submit that our society doesn't work, as Mr. Fuller suggests, rather, for better and worse, it simply exists. And yes, I love America for all its faults. It's the best country on Earth. Still, it's the pseudo-liberal posturing and plain ignorance of so many Santa Monicans that rankles most. Why is no one in an uproar over the MTBE now contaminating the drinking water right here in Santa Monica (or, for that matter, the rBGH in the moccacino you're slurping while you read this?).

Stating there is a "widening income gap" is not the same as doing something, anything to close that gap. I suppose if Jose had stayed in his native Guatemala he would have had his hands chopped off by death commandos (CIA trained, naturally). So people like him are better off in America, the land of opportunity where Jose can now use those hands to park your car. I'm being facetious, but not really. Forty to 50 hours a week, Mr. Fuller? How do you do it? The 70 hours a week most real working people put in, for a fraction of the salary mind you, often with inadequate or nonexistent health benefits, no doubt pales by comparison. Tired of beggars asking you for money? Well, I'm tired of getting almost run over by people yacking on cell phones, swilling lattes while driving huge SUVs. It's tough all over I guess. Imagine if you will that people living on the street is somehow connected to the passing of laws that cripple a person's ability to take care of themselves. Further imagine you are connected to those very same people. New age mumbo jumbo aside. You are tired of all the anti-social behavior? I'm tired of all the anti-human behavior. I suppose this letter could be classified as some of the "B.S. rhetoric" Mr. Fuller and his ilk find so debilitating. I would request only that anyone of that opinion would just take one moment to adopt a broader view and realize that it's not your precious egos that are at the center of this issue and that no one is trying to take your SUV or your gun or, heaven forbid, expose you to the outside world. This is about the kind of people your sons and daughters will become and the world that they will have to live in.

Leland Anderson
Venice

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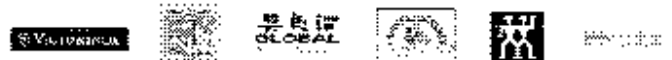
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ENTERTAINMENT

James Van Der Beek — 'The Rules of Attraction'

BY SEAN DALY

Special to the Daily Press

When it comes to questions about love and romance, most celebrities prefer to be coy, beat around the bush and keep everybody guessing. But ask James Van Der Beek — star of TV's hit teen drama "Dawson's Creek" — how he proposed last year to actress Heather McComb, and you can expect a bit of Hollywood humor as well: "I had my publicist contact her people," he quips.

Van Der Beek, 25, is careful not to disclose too many specifics about his upcoming nuptials, but he does seem to be taking a hands-off approach when it comes to the fine details. "I help out with planning when I can, but I try not to get in the way too much," he reveals with a laugh. "I mean, honestly, do I care what the design is on the napkins? No."

That's because Van Der Beek, the oldest son of Jim, a former minor league pitcher, and Melinda, a gymnastics instructor, has a full plate of his own to attend to. For starters, there is season number six of the show that teenage girls have built their Wednesday nights around since 1997. It will probably be the last, he admits: "It's always nice to excuse yourself before you are asked to leave."

And then there is a blossoming movie career, which he hopes to kick into high gear with "The Rules of Attraction," opening Friday. Based on a 1988 novel by Brett Easton Ellis, it's a warts-and-all look at the loves and lives of three students at a fictional New England college. Van Der Beek is drug dealer Sean Bateman, a character he describes as "an emotional vampire." "He feeds off the emotions of others," the sandy-haired actor shares. "But at the same time it is also his greatest fear that he will end up like his older brother, Patrick (the central figure in Ellis's 'American Psycho')."

"The Rules of Attraction" includes in-your-face scenes of drug use, masturbation, sex and suicide — a far stretch from what Van Der Beek witnessed during his two

years as an English major at Drew University in New Jersey — and a stark contrast to the more wholesome content of his hit TV series. But as he relaxes in a second floor suite at the Four Seasons hotel, clean shaven and wearing an un-tucked blue button down shirt, Van Der Beek (his name is Dutch for "By the brook") admits he is anxious to shed the boy-next-door image. "The bigger risk is just staying the same for the sake of just staying the same," he explains, in between sips of bottled water. "If you are gonna ask people to pay their \$9 to go and see something, you don't want to give them the same thing they can get for free on TV every week."

One thing "Dawson" fans won't see in prime time is Van Der Beek's first same sex kiss (with "Rules" co-star and male model Ian Somerhalder), which recently fueled speculation about the actor's sexuality. Not that he seems to really care. "Whether Joe Public who lives in wherever, Middle America, believes in their heart of hearts that I'm gay... it's not that important to me," he maintains.

After all, this would hardly be the first time something untrue was written about him.

"I think my favorite story was when some tabloid reported that I lost my Game Boy on the set of 'Dawson's Creek' and the whole crew had to stop working to look for it," he laughs. "My other favorite one was that we had to go back and re-shoot an entire episode because my fly was down!"

Maybe that's why Van Der Beek — who was once known to friends as "Beek" and "Baby James" — goes out of his way to maintain a low-profile public life. "I just keep my private life to myself," he once said in an interview. "I figure if you talk about it once, it's an invitation for everyone to dig into your life even further. If people want to write anything about me, they can go ahead and do whatever they want, but they won't get a comment out of me. It's a free country and I can keep my mouth shut if I want to."

There are a few things Van Der Beek is happy to talk

about — like his passion for sports. Despite growing up in Cheshire, Conn., he is an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers and briefly played junior high school football. Van Der Beek is also a huge fan of the Dave Matthews Band and is self taught at playing guitar.

He began his acting career by accident — literally. A gym class mishap in the eighth grade left Van Der Beek with a concussion, so under doctor's orders to sit on the sidelines, he decided to try out for the role of Danny Zuko in the school production of "Grease." After a brief stint in community theater, Van Der Beek and his mom began commuting to New York City, in search of stardom.

"I remember we'd make our sandwiches before we'd go and we'd get on the Metro North train and then just walk around the city instead of taking cabs," he recalled in 1998. "We'd be running around in the hot summer, dropping off head shots at agents' offices. They'd open the door a crack and we'd feel the air conditioning. And they would just grab the head shot and shut the door."

Eventually Van Der Beek landed a television spot for Oxy acne cream. It was his first time on national television.

"I was totally broken out," he remembers. "But I was supposed to be the guy with the clear skin ... so they had to totally cover me with makeup!"

Soon after, came "Dawson's Creek."

Van Der Beek continued to appear on stage for several years, appearing in at least one play he was too embarrassed for his parents to see.

"It was called 'My Marriage To Ernest Borgnine,'" he remembers. "I played a kid who kills both of his parents, gets thrown in jail and seduces his male psychiatrist. They really wanted to see it, so they snuck in one night. Thank God I didn't see them in the audience!"

Perhaps it will prepare them for "Rules of Attraction."

(Sean Daly is president of Showtime Entertainment and a Santa Monica-based freelance writer.)

The shear madness continues in downtown barber shop

Sitting in a white man's barbershop in downtown Santa Monica, talking it all over with Pete. Pete the Barber is Greek and he loves speech. We can talk about anything in here. Except that movie, "BarberShop."

"Did you know a new golf course opens every three days in the U.S.?" one customer will say, looking up from his newspaper. That kind of talk. "When ya gonna cut the mayor's ponytail, Pete?" asks another man, waiting for a trim.

Nobody in Pete's had seen BarberShop. Until this one guy came in. Hippy-hop-hipster, this one, no doubt, probably even read Norman Mailer's "The White Negro" once or twice. But as un-hip, un-hopped up males, the rest of us hadda ask him: Hey, where's the appeal to our demographic?

Rev. Jesse Jackson's "Shrapnel & Jester," he said, have threatened a boycott if MGM doesn't issue a public apology and remove the scenes — when issuing the video and DVD of BarberShop — that make jokes about Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, and Jackson. The Los Angeles Times reported that Jackson hasn't seen the movie. This newcomer to Pete's did, and here's what he told us:

"It's Spike Lee/August Wilson-light," he said. "Spike is much tougher with the truth, in fact he made his own movie about a barbershop decades ago. And like in a Wilson play, there are great characters doing great ensemble work here. But being from Hollywood and not Wilson's Ma

Rainey's Black Bottom, the dialogue hits us over the head too much. But I dunno, mebbe an audience numbed by summer action needs schoolin' in the fall to hear what BarberShop wants to say, you know?"

Like somebody said, it ain't my demographic.

The truth of this flick, said the kid, is that, "These two idiots never get the joke. Why? Because they're part of the joke! Jesse gets totally dissed! And even though The New Yorker says Cedric the Entertainer is made up to look like Frederick Douglas, its clear he's basing this loud-mouthed fool barber on Sharpton!"

No wonder they're upset.

"I can't see Jackson sitting there watching a movie that shouts 'F--- Jesse Jackson!' at him, can you?"

Well, Pete's customers laughed at that. We should go see this. In the wake of the CleanFlicks controversy — CleanFlicks is the company that takes films like Private Ryan and edits out war violence — this censorship comes off as extremely bad timing, don't it?

The LA Times didn't print the "offensive" words about Rosa Parks: "black ass." (Take that, Ma Rainey) "Rosa Parks didn't do nothin' but sit her ... down," the Times reported Cedric the Entertainer said. NBC News ran the whole thing. NPR, in its report, bleeped only the word

"ass." The kid tells us that in the movie this putdown is followed by a discussion of Parks' work for the NAACP. How she knowingly used the incident — as Huey Newton and Abbie Hoffman and others who knew how to use media did back then — to give impetus to the civil rights movement. The kid says maybe Jackson is threatened by a different comment by Cedric: "We need to stop lying," and engage in some "healthy conversation."

"Maybe he's afraid the truth about his doings after King was assassinated might come out," the kid said.

"No, that isn't it," another customer said. "Jackson and Sharpton are media savvy and know critiquing it will bring people like us to see it."

"Ohhh," said the guy behind the newspaper.

"I get it: They want my demographic to be exposed to the African-American conversation."

Sharpton told NPR that had the jokes, "been about the Pope or Mother Teresa, MGM wouldn't put it out ... and that's not censorship, that's respect."

"Sharpton is just mad because he ain't in BarberShop and Jackson is," the kids told us. Apparently Jesse's face, his clean-shaven mug, is hung on the wall of the shop like other celebrities. What more could he want? Pete the barber smiled at this. His wall has pictures of the Pope,

Hillary Clinton, and other ladies on it.

"What more does he want?" I threw in. "Residuals, maybe. Like the black militant in Network who has his own show and demands: 'Where's my goddamn residuals?'"

Nobody got this reference.

When I went to see the movie, I noticed on the marquee that the title "BarberShop" has clipping shears under it. So cut THAT, I thought, you clean-flickin', tongue-clickin', supersize demagoguin' goons you. Hey, preachers! Leave us kids alone!

I thought BarberShop had touching takes on history and culture. Sure the old clown bits are so slow to payoff they're freaking painful. But in the middle of the movie, Marvin Gaye's great dance number "Live it Up" appears just in time to diffuse a brawl. How you gonna beat that?

That night on NPR I heard a woman from the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute — the woman is an institution! — say: "Some things are sacred, and that out of reverence" they shouldn't be made the butt of jokes. I thought of the Groucho Marx line: "Irreverence and reverence are really the same thing." Nothing is sacred, because everything is. Especially the truth? On the way home, I saw Sharpton has a new book coming out.

(Hank Rosenfeld is a self-described Laughrican-American.)

Guest Commentary

By Hank Rosenfeld

LOCAL



Grants will mostly pay for pedestrian improvements

CROSSWALKS, from page 1

Street will likely be the last project.

A plan to build traffic islands along Wilshire Boulevard will be coordinated with the current streetlight project, which aims to better control the flow of traffic on one of the city's busiest thoroughfares.

Dyke said the project was a priority for city officials because accidents involving motor vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists have the highest potential for serious injuries.

"We are very concerned about safety," she said. "Improving the intersections is one of the best ways we can improve the overall safety of the city."

Over the past few years the city has taken on more pedestrian safety projects,

while also trying to educate residents on the safest ways to walk around town. And the Santa Monica Police Department has conducted regular stings to catch motorists who don't stop for people in crosswalks.

The entire pedestrian improvement plan — which except for \$1.6 million will be paid for with state and federal grant money — is scheduled to be completed by May 2003.

McKeown said the city has been saving up for the series of improvements, and has collected grants from CALTRANS, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and money from developers.

"The portion from the city general fund was already set aside for this work," he said.

YMCA members upset but not enough to go elsewhere

YMCA, from page 1

Instructors say as a group they feel under appreciated not because they aren't compensated for teaching classes at the YMCA, but because they feel management doesn't value the time they commit to teaching classes.

"I think that a volunteer program is a good way to go," said Gary Slacum, a step aerobics instructor. "My problem is that in order for me to be a volunteer and do a service exchange, I have to teach three classes a week ... teaching three classes a week is a lot of time," he said.

Neither Dr. Gee-shin Lee, the YMCA's general director, nor Tara Pomposini, the YMCA's associate general manager returned calls Friday.

But according to recent accounts in the media, YMCA officials said they run an organization based on volunteerism and community service. The YMCA provides its 19 instructors with music for their classes and it pays for their certification training.

Slacum said a lot more than that goes into conducting a class.

"When somebody teaches aerobics, there's a lot involved," he said. "There's the cost of tapes, the cost of clothing, preparing the routine, having to be there on a regular basis."

In the past, instructors have asked the YMCA to review its volunteer instructor policy, but management won't implement a payment plan, Olsen said.

"All we want is for the Y to do what's right for members and instructors," said

Pamela de Liz, a YMCA member that helped organize the petition. "Members pay dues comparable to other gyms in the area. Why can't one of the nation's largest Y's pay its instructors like other facilities?"

"The Santa Monica Y prides itself on building community, but no strong community ignores the legitimate grievances of its members," she added.

Olsen said members pay nearly \$500 a year to use the YMCA's facilities, and if the conditions don't improve many families may consider switching to cheaper private gyms with more choices.

"The problem is that teachers feel devalued by the policy and members are pissed because we pay competitive rates and we're not getting the same caliber of courses than if we joined 24 Hour Fitness, which is much cheaper," she said.

However, neither Olsen nor de Liz said they would ever leave the YMCA. Same goes for Slacum and two other YMCA instructors interviewed for this story who requested anonymity. They said members and instructors feel as if they are part of a community.

In Olsen's case, her family has been members of the YMCA for decades.

"My sense is that people feel great loyalty to the Y," she said. "My husband has been a Y member for most of this life."

"People know the Y, they're comfortable with the Y, and they feel a great loyalty to the Y."

Entertainment businesses are booming from spike in filming

PRODUCTION, from page 1

and TV producers with financial incentives, we're going to be in for a fight," said Bruce Doering, national executive director of the Cinematographers Guild.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. estimates film and TV production employment in August at 229,100 — up 14,000 from the bottom reached in February. However, the number remains below the more than 270,000 people estimated to be working in the business

in Los Angeles County in 1998 and 1999.

Businesses related to entertainment have also benefited from the slight resurgence after experiencing difficult times last year.

Alf Jacobsen — owner of Jet Mockups/AFTP — said he is renting his airplane sets to TV shows such as CBS's "Jag" and the movie "Bikini Airways."

"I couldn't even get a phone call before," Jacobsen said. "Now people are going full bore." The rebound is good news for Hollywood's blue-collar work force."

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STATE

Judge says prison officials can't have new 'supermax' cells

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — A federal judge signed an order prohibiting prison officials from housing mentally ill inmates in so-called "Supermax" isolation cells without prior approval from the court.

Thursday's ruling comes after lawyers for mentally ill convicts said the high-security cells are dangerous and inhumane. The cells were designed to house inmates deemed to be a threat to themselves or others.

The order signed by U.S. District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton represents an agreement between the attorneys and the Department of Corrections and spells out conditions under which the inmates may be placed in the cells. Under the court order, prison officials must provide 60 days' notice when they intend to shift a mentally ill inmate into a new cell.

"We're very happy," said Michael Bien, one of several attorneys representing convicts in the case. "If any mentally ill prisoners are placed in these Supermax units, it will be closely monitored by the court, not as part of some inappropriate experiment."

Department of Corrections spokes-

woman Margot Bach said the state had agreed to most of the conditions listed in the court order and all plans to place mentally ill prisoners in the cells remain on hold pending further discussions with attorneys.

"We want the best for our inmates, and we think these units are an improvement over the current environment they're in," Bach said.

The newly constructed segregation cells, which cost about \$86 million, are part of a pilot program at Corcoran State Prison and are the first of 10 planned at prisons across the state. The cells are lined up next to each other so inmates can't see the guards or other inmates.

The pilot program would have placed about 50 mentally ill inmates in the Supermax cells for up to six months while leaving another 50 in the traditional segregation cells as a control group, according to court documents.

Bach said about 20 percent of the 158,000 convicts in the state's 33 prisons have been diagnosed as mentally disturbed, who are frequently housed in such facilities because they assault or are preyed upon by other inmates.

Civil disobedience in SF



Julie Jacobson/Associated Press

Anti-war protesters blocking the entrance to the Phillip Burton Federal Building are arrested by police officers on Friday, in San Francisco. Hundreds of anti-war protesters chanting "No War in Iraq" and beating on drums blocked an entrance to the federal building after an all-night vigil. Dozens were arrested.

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NATIONAL



Nine days of bloodshed in suburbs claim nine lives

EDITOR'S NOTE — There are now nine victims of a mysterious killer in the Washington, D.C., area. Here's a look back at how the horror unfolded, shot by shot, day by day.

BY JERRY SCHWARTZ

AP National Writer

There was nothing powerful about the sound. It was, an assistant store manager says, something like a light-bulb popping. And there was nothing cataclysmic about the damage — just a small hole in the display window, about the size of a marble.

It was 5:20 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2, and an epic nightmare was beginning.

But no one knew it — no one, that is, except the person who fired the rifle into a busy Michaels crafts store at the Northgate Plaza shopping center in Aspen Hill.

No one was injured or killed by the single rifle blast. It was not a mistake the unseen assassin would make again.

It is 6:04 p.m., 44 minutes after the shot pierced the store window. James D. Martin is in the parking lot of the Shoppers Food Warehouse in Wheaton, a mile away from Michaels.

Martin, a 55-year-old program analyst for a federal department, has been shopping. But not for himself — he is buying stuff for the kids at Shepherd Elementary School in Washington. People in his department at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations serve as mentors there, and Martin is devoted.

The lot is full — cars are waiting in line for spaces — but the report of the gun resounds over the sounds of idling engines. Across the street, officers at a district police station jump to their feet and out to the street, looking for the source.

But some shoppers are unaware. One walks by, assuming the figure on the ground is merely a motorist working under his car. When the officers find him, they perform CPR, but to no avail. Martin — Civil War buff, ardent volunteer, father of an 11-year-old son — is dead.

This alone is a peculiar thing for this community. Montgomery County is not to be confused with the neighboring District of Columbia. It is Maryland's most affluent; "violent crime is not regarded as a serious problem," says the county Web site.

At 7:41 a.m. Thursday, the sky is a brilliant blue. James L. "Sonny" Buchanan cuts the grass at the Fitzgerald Auto Mall on Rockville Pike in the county's White Flint area.

Buchanan is a 39-year-old poet, a self-employed landscaper who likes to teach children about plants. He has moved to Virginia and a Christmas tree farm he owns with his father, but he still comes back to Maryland and mows the grass for the dealership, as he has for 10 years.

There's a loud sound — like a huge object hitting the ground, thinks body shop manager Gary Huss. Outside, Buchanan stumbles 200 feet into the lot and collapses, face forward.

A hundred dealership employees surround the bleeding man. They, too, react to murder with disbelief — surely, the lawnmower exploded. When the ambulance arrives, about 10 minutes later, emergency workers find the hole in his chest left by the bullet.

Thirty-one minutes later, 54-year-old Prem Kumar Walekar fills the tank of his cab at the Mobil station on Aspen Hill Road in Rockville. He immigrated 30 years ago, and worked hard all his life to raise his two children, now in their 20s, to help his family back in India, and to bring his siblings to the United States.

He does not usually take to the road this early, but the day is beautiful, and he wants to finish early and enjoy the sunshine.

Police Cpl. Paul Kukucka is nearby, driving to the funeral of a fellow officer who died of a heart attack, when a woman runs toward him, her arms waving.

"This man has just been shot! He's bleeding!" she shouts. Kukucka runs to the pumps and finds Walekar, blood flowing from his chest, dying.

A little more than a mile away, in front of a post office in Silver Spring, a Salvadoran immigrant sits on a metal bench and reads. Sarah Ramos was a law student in her native country; now she is a 34-year-old housecleaner, waiting for her ride to work. The shot, like all the others, comes from nowhere. It passes through her head and into the Crisp & Juicy carryout restaurant behind her.



Steve Helber/Associated Press

Sheriff's deputies place crime scene tape around cars at an Exxon station after a man was shot in Fredericksburg, Va. on Friday. Police, searching for a sniper, were investigating a deadly shooting at the gas station. They were pulling over white vans on a nearby interstate after witnesses saw a van leaving the scene of the shooting.

"She was sitting on the bench, just sitting there," says a witness, Dolores Wallgren.

It is 8:37 a.m., and three people have died in the past 56 minutes.

With horrible and abrupt clarity, the police realize they are in the middle of a massacre.

The brass convenes at the Mobil station to plot their next move. They would send every officer available to patrol the area, ordering them to wear their bulletproof vests. Park police, state police, police from surrounding areas all are drawn into the maelstrom.

See related story page 16

There is one clue: According to a witness to the Ramos shooting, two men in a white "box truck" with black lettering sped away from the scene. All across the area, police stop and search white delivery vans.

But they cannot protect Lori Ann Lewis-Rivera, 25-year-old mother of a preschooler. She pulls her burgundy minivan up to a Kensington Shell station's coin-operated vacuum, removes her daughter's car seat and begins to clean her car.

At 9:58 a.m., a single bullet strikes her, knocking her to the ground.

Mechanic John Mistry is working nearby under the hood of a car when he hears the loud "crack." An electrical short, he figures. But when he looks up, the lights are still on.

Mistry and fellow mechanic Jimmy Ajca run out of the garage to find Lewis-Rivera under her van door, blood trickling from her mouth.

Small bubbles dribble from her lips as she struggles for breath.

Nor can police protect Pascal Charlot. The 72-year-old handyman is gunned down while standing on Kalmia Road and Georgia Avenue in Washington, half a block from the border with Montgomery County.

It is 9:15 p.m. In a little more than 27 blood-soaked hours, six people have been killed — each apparently with a single, .223-caliber bullet fired at long range, each for no apparent reason.

On Friday, Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose appeals for an end to the murders. "We implore him to surrender, stop this madness," he pleads.

But the shootings do not stop. Instead, they spread to other places.

At 2:30 p.m. Friday, a 43-year-old woman from Spotsylvania, Va., the mother of two young sons, is parked in front of the Michaels craft store in Fredericksburg, 50 miles south of Washington. She has made her purchases, and is loading her champagne-colored Toyota minivan.

The bullet hits her in the lower right side of her back, exits under her left breast and is embedded in the rear of the minivan. Miraculously, her vital organs are spared.

"She's very lucky," says Spotsylvania County sher-

iff's Major Howard Smith.

Thus far she is the only survivor of this rampage. Police will not give her name; there are fears that her safety is still in jeopardy.

On Saturday, nothing. On Sunday, nothing.

On Monday, a 13-year-old student at Benjamin Tasker Elementary School in Bowie, Md., changes his daily routine, and almost pays for it with his life.

Normally, he attends a prayer service at a neighbor's house before taking the bus to school. But on this day, he skips the service, and his aunt drives him to school. As he walks to the front door, he crumples to the ground, shot once in the chest.

His aunt is a nurse. She scoops him up and drives him to the hospital. He survives.

And this time, the gunman leaves a message. A police search a wooded area 150 yards from the school turns up a .223-caliber shell casing and a tarot card — the Death card.

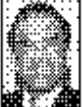
On it, someone had written this:

"Dear policeman, I am God."

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NATIONAL

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White House developing postwar plan for Iraq

BY PAULINE JELINEK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is working on postwar plans for Iraq that could include using American and other foreign troops as a stabilizing force until a new government is formed, the Pentagon said Friday.

"Clearly, security would be a concern in the early months," after the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein, said Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke.

Any plan would include a Defense Department role in finding and securing any weapons of mass destruction, she said.

"The United States will not cut and run," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "The United States and our allies are committed to find a way to help preserve the stability and maintain the peace of the region and particularly Iraq as a unified country in the event military force is used."

He said the United Nations might be called upon to help stabilize a post-Saddam Iraq, and did not rule out U.S. forces behind part of an international effort.

Secretary of State Colin Powell has told foreign governments the United States was committed to assisting postwar Iraq develop a democratic government, but had not taken up any specific plan with them, a senior U.S. official said, on condition of anonymity.

President Bush says he has not definitely decided on a military invasion to achieve his goal of ousting Saddam Hussein. But among a range of proposals being developed is the Pentagon's role and, for instance, whether a force might be American, comprised of whatever coalition joins in a war against Iraq, devised by the United Nations, and so on, they said. There also have been suggestions that an Iraqi government-in-exile be set up before any invasion so it could be ready to take over sooner.

The plan is being developed by a number of U.S. government agencies.

Clarke said it was "way too soon" to say what plan would eventually be approved.

She stressed several times in a press conference later in the day that any plan has to take into account what the Iraqi people want.

"They are going to have a huge part to play in this," she said.

One plan being considered by the White House is based on the occupation of Japan following World War II and includes installing a U.S. commander to administer Iraq, perhaps U.S. Central Command head Gen. Tommy Franks in the role taken by Gen. Douglas MacArthur after Tokyo surrendered in 1945, The New York Times said in its Friday editions.

U.S. commanders would oversee the beginnings of democratic transformation,

The Washington Post quoted unnamed sources as saying in a similar story.

But officials said later Friday that such a plan is among the least likely to be approved of those being considered.

"That's not what's envisioned," Fleischer said.

A senior White House official said that while there are people in the government studying the idea of a military occupation, Bush and his foreign policy team "are not looking seriously at this."

He said Bush is committed to helping the Iraqi people establish a broad, democratic government.

Fleischer said military civil affairs units may help rebuild Iraq's infrastructure.

"The point is we want to very quickly transfer governmental power to the Iraqi people both from inside Iraq and outside Iraq," he said.

Some have warned that American military control of Iraq would enflame Iraqis and Muslims in other countries.

"I am viscerally opposed to a prolonged occupation of a Muslim country at the heart of the Muslim world by Western nations who proclaim the right to re-educate that country," former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said during Senate hearings last month.

"Some kind of peace force is absolutely critical, but peacekeeping is very different from having a viceroy or some kind of commission," Anthony Cordesman, Iraq expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Friday.

"Given Iraq's history, nothing could be resented more than if someone from outside, particularly from a Western state, takes over and dictates to Iraq" what they should do, he said.

Some officials suggested the occupation option may have been leaked by lower-level planners who wanted to kill it.

Others suggested that the idea is being floated publicly by some in the administration as the latest effort in a psychological campaign aimed at Saddam's generals. That is, they said, it suggests to them that they should join in the U.S. effort to topple Saddam or face being controlled by foreign military forces.

Still others said it was leaked to counter criticism that the White House is rushing to get rid of Saddam without a sufficient plan for what would come next.

The Senate, early Friday, joined the House in passing a resolution granting Bush the powers to use the U.S. military to enforce United Nations orders that Saddam dispose of his weapons of mass destruction. The resolution, which now goes to the president, encourages Bush to seek U.N. cooperation in such a campaign but does not require it.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



INTERNATIONAL



Congress clears way for Bush to use force

BY JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush now has the overwhelming approval of Congress to use force against Iraq. But the drive for U.N. approval is meeting stiff resistance from France.

After days of debate, the House and Senate passed and sent to the White House on Thursday a resolution authorizing the president to use military force, if necessary, to compel Iraq to get rid of its biological and chemical weapons and disband its nuclear weapons program.

"The days of Iraq acting as an outlaw state are coming to an end," Bush said.

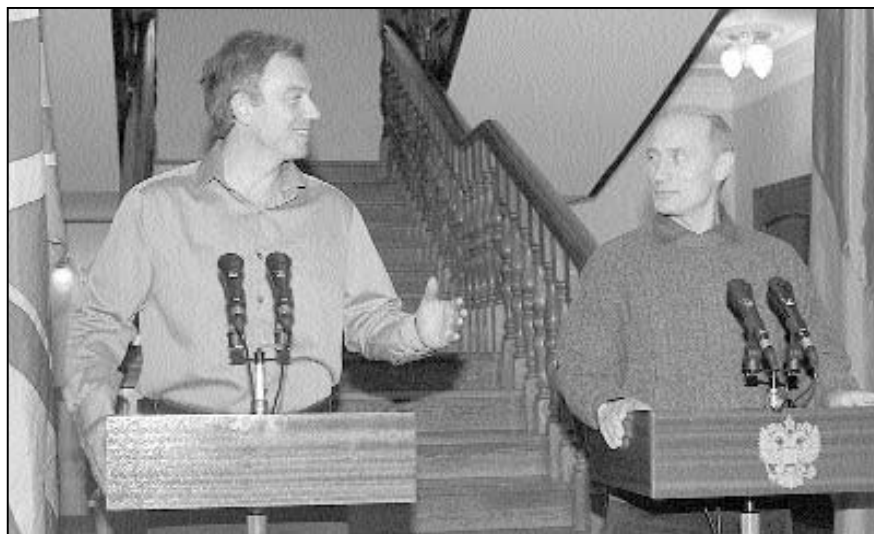
At the United Nations, even an offer to compromise failed to win France's support for a tough Security Council resolution proposed jointly by the United States and Britain.

Responding to the reluctance of France, and Russia, to have the Council approve war with Iraq, U.S. diplomats offered to remove from the resolution a threat to use "all necessary means" to compel Iraq to disarm, a U.S. official told The Associated Press on Friday.

The resolution simply would threaten consequences, but not call for an automatic, forceful response. Still, the United States would be able to interpret "consequences" as meaning force, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In southern Iraq on Friday, U.S. warplanes bombed a mobile surface-to-air missile launcher near Tallil, about 160 miles southeast of Baghdad, the U.S. Central Command headquarters said in a brief statement. It was the latest in a long string of U.S. attacks that Central Command says are in response to Iraqi provocations in the "no fly" zones patrolled by American and British aircraft.

France continues to insist on



Alexander Zemlianichenko/Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, listens to British Prime Minister Tony Blair during their news conference after talks in Zavidovo, about 75 miles north of Moscow on Thursday. Blair came to Russia for talks focusing on Iraq.

two resolutions. The first would authorize new international weapons inspections of suspect sites in Iraq. Any consideration of using force would depend on the result of the searches and require further debate.

A revision of France's initial resolution does not change this stand, the official said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday he believed the Security Council could reach common ground on Iraq and did not rule out Moscow's agreeing to a new U.N. resolution on the return of weapons inspectors to Iraq.

"We don't exclude the possibility of reaching some coordinated decision in the shape of a U.N. Security Council resolution," Putin said after meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The president prevailed despite lingering Democratic concerns about the risks of a pre-emptive, unilateral strike on Iraq.

"The Congress has spoken

clearly to the international community and the United Nations Security Council," Bush said Friday in a statement. "Saddam Hussein and his outlaw regime pose a grave threat to the region, the world and the United States. Inaction is not an option, disarmament is a must."

It was a major national security policy victory for Bush, and it occurred less than a month before midterm elections that will decide control of the House and Senate.

The House approved the resolution by a strong 296-133 margin Thursday. The Senate vote, coming early Friday, was 77-23.

The resolution emphasizes the need to work with the United Nations and exhaust diplomatic measures before resorting to force but allows the president to act with or without the United Nations. There was a sense that war was inevitable.

Bush, speaking to reporters

after the House vote, said it "sends a clear message to the Iraqi regime: It must disarm and comply with all U.N. resolutions or it will be forced to comply."

Bush is pressing the U.N. Security Council to adopt a new resolution requiring Iraq to submit to unconditional inspections and disarm or face military retaliation.

All but six Republicans in the House and one in the Senate — Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island — backed the president, but Democrats were far more divided, with many voting for the resolution only after more restrictive alternatives were voted down.

Even House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt, who helped negotiate the language of the resolution with the White House, urged the president not to rush to war. "Completely bypassing the U.N. would set a dangerous precedent that would undoubtedly be used by other countries in the future to our and the world's detriment," he said.

Gephardt added that the resolution was "not an endorsement or acceptance of President Bush's new policy of pre-emption," or striking another nation because of a perceived threat to U.S. security.

Of 208 House Democrats, 126 voted against the resolution, and this significant number "does send a message that the support for this war is not what the administration asked for," said Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas. In the Senate, 21 of the 50 Democrats voted against the measure. Vermont independent Sen. James Jeffords also opposed the measure.

Senate action on the resolution was slowed by 84-year-old Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., a master of parliamentary procedure and an implacable defender of the constitutional powers of Congress. "Let us not give this president, or any power, unchecked power," he said.

His resistance was undercut Thursday morning when the Senate voted 75-25 to stop Byrd's delaying tactics and move the measure toward a final vote. At about the same time, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., announced he was supporting the resolution.

"I believe it is important for America to speak with one voice," said Daschle. "It is neither a Democratic resolution nor a Republican resolution. It is now a statement of American resolve and values."

The Iraqi vote came 11 years after Congress engaged in a similar debate over whether to grant the first President Bush the authority to use American troops to drive Iraq from occupied Kuwait. The votes in favor that time, when an international coalition was already in place in the Middle East, were less decisive: 250-183 in the House and 52-47 in the Senate.

Cold War enemies discuss brush with nuclear war

BY ANITA SNOW
Associated Press Writer

HAVANA — As President Bush ponders striking Iraq, former U.S. officials who considered attacking Cuba 40 years ago this month sat down Friday with Fidel Castro to reflect on the missile crisis that nearly sparked a nuclear war.

Before retiring behind closed doors with his Cold War foe, former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara credited the Cuban leader, President John F. Kennedy and Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev with saving the world from destruction.

"It was the best managed foreign policy crisis of the last 50 years," McNamara said as the three-day academic conference on the Cuban missile crisis opened in Havana.

Former Kennedy aides Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Richard Goodwin and Ted Sorensen are also attending, as well as former CIA analyst Dino Brugioni, who interpreted American spy photos of Soviet missiles in Cuba.

The crisis began in October 1962 when Kennedy learned that Cuba had Soviet nuclear missiles capable of reaching the United States. The crisis was defused two weeks later when the Soviet Union agreed to remove the missiles.

Castro, McNamara and other Cuban and American

protagonists in that Cold War drama were studying newly declassified documents on the role U.S. covert action played in months leading up to the crisis.

Also participating were directors of the nonprofit National Security Archive, an international relations research group from George Washington University that collected many of the documents being consulted.

Many of those historic papers will be released publicly during the gathering, including documents from the Cuban government, the CIA, the Pentagon, the White House, the Soviet Foreign Ministry and other governments that played a role in the crisis.

A portion of the documents, made available to The Associated Press in Washington, demonstrate that the crisis did not end on Oct. 29 with the Soviet Union's agreement to remove the offensive weapons, as is widely believed.

Weeks after the Soviet Union agreed to pull the missiles from Cuba, Khrushchev worried that an "irrational" Castro would renew tensions with the United States — perhaps even provoke war.

Cuba "wants practically to drag us behind it with a leash, and wants to pull us into a war with America by its actions," Khrushchev said in a Nov. 16, 1962, letter to diplomatic aides in Cuba.

At issue were U.S. surveillance flights over Cuba to monitor dismantling of the missiles Moscow had installed on the island. Khrushchev had agreed in late October to pull out the missiles.

But Khrushchev was concerned that Castro would order his forces to shoot down the low-flying U.S. surveillance flights, which the Cuban leader saw as an intolerable intrusion on Cuban sovereignty.

"The Crisis of October has been considered by many as the most dramatic of the so-called Cold War and perhaps of all international relations in contemporary history," said Jose Ramon Fernandez, a Cuban military commander at the time of the crisis and now a vice president in Castro's government.

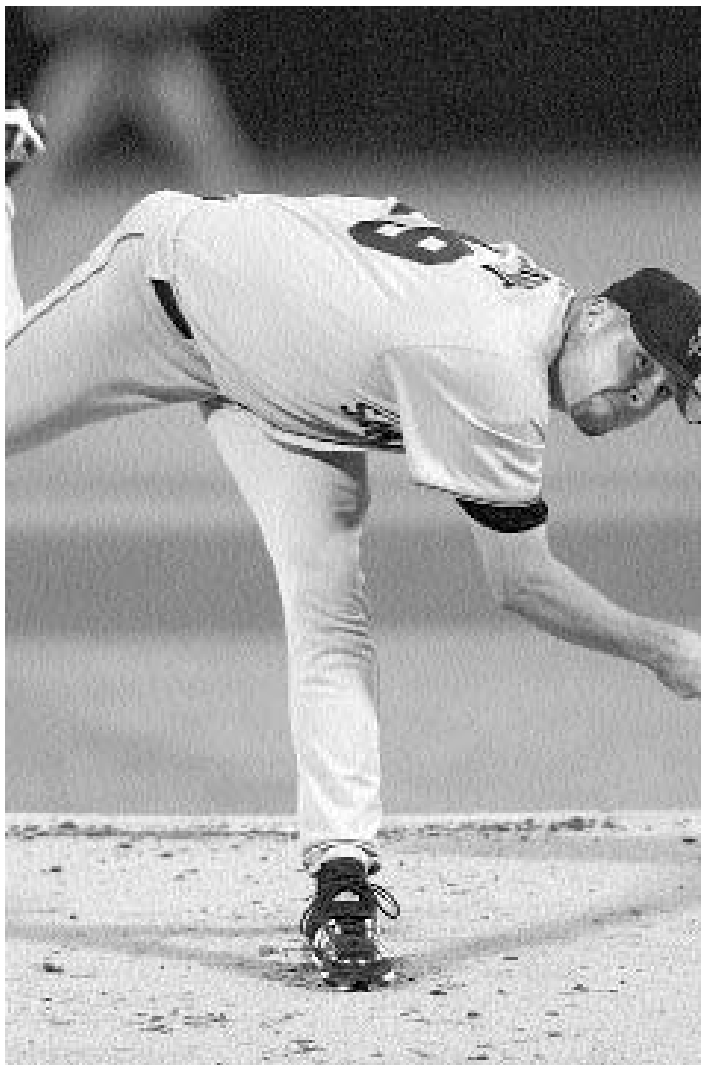
Fernandez said most studies of the events had concentrated on the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and expressed hope that more would be understood about Cuba's role.

"How did it happen? How close did we come to nuclear war? Why didn't nuclear war start? What lessons can be drawn to reduce the risk of nuclear war?" McNamara said on the eve of the conference, outlining some of the questions he hoped would be answered.



SPORTS

Follow through



Tom Gannam/Associated Press

San Francisco Giants pitcher Jason Schmidt follows through with a pitch against the St. Louis Cardinals in the first inning during Game 2 of the National League Championship Series on Thursday.

Angels lead series 2 to 1

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM— The Anaheim Angels monkeyed around with Minnesota for seven innings, then watched Troy Glaus put them in control of the AL championship series.

Glaus hit a tiebreaking homer off J.C. Romero in the eighth inning, and the Angels got two great defensive plays in the ninth to beat the Twins 2-1 Friday night to take a 2-1 series lead.

Garret Anderson's second-inning homer off Eric Milton had put the Angels ahead, and Jarrod Washburn seemed unstoppable until Jacque Jones' RBI double in the seventh, which ended his 0-for-18 skid.

Then came the "rally monkey," who during the regular season appears only when the Angels trail after the fifth inning. Like closer Troy Percival, he's coming in a little earlier than usual during the postseason.

Anaheim failed to get a run despite advancing a runner to third with one out in the seventh, but Glaus led off the eighth with his fourth homer of the postseason, an opposite-field drive into the right-field bleachers off Romero, the Twins' fifth pitcher.

Percival then closed it out with a 1-2-3 ninth for his fourth save of the postseason. He got a fine diving catch from right fielder Alex Ochoa for the first out and a sliding catch in shallow left by Anderson for the last out.

Anaheim, 3-0 at home in the playoffs, has become as dominant at Edison International Field as the Twins are at the Metrodome. The crowd of 44,234, nearly all wearing red, banged their Thunder Stix from start to finish, getting especially fired up when the "rally monkey" started appearing on the right-field video board in the bottom of the seventh.

Even Torii Hunter and the other Twins outfielders looked up at the board as the monkey appeared in scenes from "Animal House," "Risky Business" and "Star Trek."

With the next two games in the best-of-seven series at home, the Angels send John Lackey to the mound Saturday night against Brad Radke, hoping to move within a victory of the first World Series appearance in the 42-season history of the franchise.

Washburn was dominant. He started his first 12 batters with strikes, allowed

just two leadoff batters to reach base and went to a three-ball count twice.

He gave up six hits — all singles until Jones' double — struck out seven and walked none in seven innings before turning it over to the best bullpen in baseball. Francisco Rodriguez improved to 3-0 in the postseason by striking out two in a perfect eighth.

Milton, 4-0 with a 1.50 ERA in five career starts at Anaheim coming in, was hurt only by Anderson, his least-favorite Angels batter. Anderson, a .364 (8-for-22) hitter with four homers off Milton coming in, turned on a 91 mph chest-high pitch leading off the second inning, depositing it in the right-field bleachers.

Washburn was dominant.

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batters with strikes,

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count twice.

Hunter had helped him out in the first inning when he jumped at the warning track and reached high against the fence to catch a drive by Tim Salmon, back in the lineup after leaving Game 2 with a tight right hamstring.

Anaheim nearly went ahead in the seventh when Bengie Molina walked against LaTroy Hawkins leading off. Benji Gil sacrificed and David Eckstein singled, a ball that went just off the webbing of the glove of second baseman Luis Rivas, who tried for a leaping grab.

Pinch-runner Chone Figgins went to third, and Johan Santana came in to face Darin Erstad. He threw a wild pitch that bounced about 40 feet up the third-base line, but Figgins held as Eckstein advanced.

Erstad then grounded to Rivas, who threw out Figgins at the plate. Mike Jackson walked Salmon, loading the bases, and Anderson fled to the right-field warning track against Romero.

Little guys send high rollers home in baseball playoffs

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM — The high-rollers already are back home. This year's baseball playoffs are for the little guys.

None of the four teams left competing for spots in the World Series has a payroll among the top eight in the major leagues, according to figures compiled by the commissioner's office.

Five of the eight highest spenders didn't even make the playoffs, a stark contrast to the last few years, when spending meant winning. So much for commissioner Bud Selig's argument that only the big-bucks teams can win. The Twins, Angels, Cardinals and Giants used a combination of smart trades, wise spending, team chemistry and cheap homegrown talent to advance to the league championship series.

"The A's, the Angels, small-market Twins, we went out there and showed people that we can get to the playoffs and we can compete," Minnesota center fielder Torii Hunter said.

Still, Selig isn't convinced he's wrong, insisting one year does not make a trend.

"There have been a lot of surprises," he said. The biggest is Minnesota, which is No. 27 among the 30 major league teams in spending with a \$41.3 million payroll, according to figures based on Aug. 31 rosters, which include salaries, and prorated shares of All-Star and signing bonuses. Anaheim, the Twins' opponent in the American League championship series, is 15th at \$62.8 million. San Francisco, ninth at \$78.4 million, is in the National League championship series against St. Louis, 10th at \$76.2 million. In the first round, the team with the higher payroll lost every series. The Angels shocked the New York Yankees (first at \$133.4 million); the Twins beat Oakland (25th at \$41.9 million); St. Louis swept defending World Series champion Arizona (fourth at \$103.5 million); and San Francisco defeated Atlanta (seventh at \$93.8 million). "A team gets the right bounces, gets a little bit hot, you can knock off a good team," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "But those teams that beat Arizona and New York are good teams. It's not a shocker." Look at the teams that didn't even make it into October. The list includes Boston (second at \$110.2 million); Texas (third at \$106.9

million); Los Angeles (fifth at \$101.5 million); the New York Mets (sixth at \$94.4 million); and Seattle (eighth at \$86.1 million).

In the first five seasons after the 1994-95 strike, only one team not among the top half in payroll advanced to the postseason: The 1997 Houston Astros were 18th and lost in the first round.

The 1993 Phillies are the last pennant winners not in the top 10 in payroll, and no team in the bottom half of the list has won the World Series since the 1991 Twins.

Of 224 postseason games from 1995-2001, all but five were won by teams in the top half of the payroll standings.

This year, teams in the bottom half have won six, with another four won by the Angels, who are just above the midpoint. And the Angels didn't just knock out the Yankees, they embarrassed the four-time defending AL champions, compiling the best batting average by any team in any postseason series ever.

"These guys are hungry. You can see it in their eyes," Yankees pitcher David Wells said.

Selig calls the success of the Twins an aberration. He spent two years saying the small markets had lost "hope and faith," and is

proud the new labor contract will shift more money from the big teams to the rest starting next year.

He still insists the richer clubs have all the advantages. He looks at teams like the Twins and Athletics and wonders how they can afford increased salaries as young stars become eligible for salary arbitration and free agency.

"The very teams we are talking about are the ones worrying about that," Selig said. "They've done a masterful job. The question is how long can they keep those players?"

Oakland made it back to the playoffs for the third straight season, winning the AL West even after star first baseman Jason Giambi left to sign a \$120 million, seven-year contract with the Yankees.

In the end, money made little difference for the majors' big spenders. The most important numbers are wins and losses, batting averages and ERAs.

"I expect a great deal out of myself, whether I'm managing a team that spends \$100-something million, or a team that spends \$40 million," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "You still as a manager, I think, have to work the same way."

COMICS



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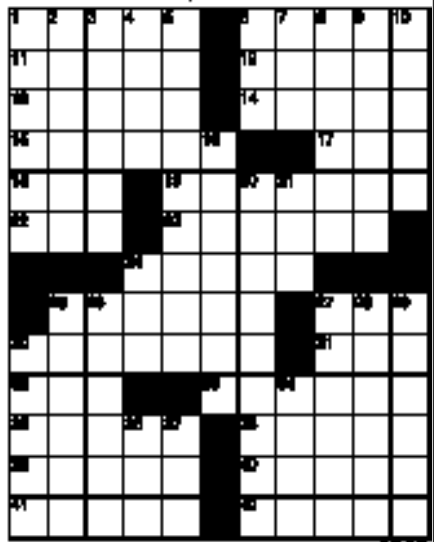
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Businessman sues socialite for maintenance

In New York City in August, businessman Herbert Black sued socialite Denise Rich (ex-wife of the Clinton-pardoned Marc Rich) for nonpayment of fees he said he earned by saving her nearly a million dollars annually as a personal financial adviser. Included alleged savings were: \$125,000 in flowers (by having fewer deliveries to her apartment when she wasn't at home); \$30,000 by changing the payment plan for her yoga instructions; and \$52,000 in "dog maintenance" (mostly by giving away her two oldest dogs, which were so feeble that they had to be pushed by sitters around Central Park in an \$8,000 baby carriage).

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Calendar

Saturday, October 12, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Knockaround Guys (R) 12:15,
2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15, Welcome
to Collinwood (R) 11:45, 2:15,
4:30, 6:45, 9:30. The Rules of
Attraction (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00,
9:45. The Tuxedo (PG-13) 12:00,
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13)
11:30, 12:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20.
Below (R) 11:10, 1:45, 4:20,
7:10, 10:00, 12:15. My Big Fat
Greek Wedding (PG) 11:40,
2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10. Punch
Drunk Love (R) 11:00, 12:00,
1:40, 2:40, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00,
8:00, 9:40, 10:30, 12:00.
The Transporter (PG-13) 11:20,
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50, 12:10.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Red Dragon (R) 12:45, 3:45,
4:45, 7:00, 7:45, 10:05, 10:40.
Tuck Everlasting (PG) 12:30,
2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:50. The
Banger Sisters (R) 2:15.
Barbershop (PG-13) 2:05, 4:35,
7:20, 9:45. Jonah: A Veggie
Tales Movie (G) 12:15, 2:00,
4:05, 6:05. White Oleander (PG-
13) 1:05, 4:00, 7:10, 8:05,
10:00, 10:45.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Moonlight Mile (PG-13) 11:00,
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. Swept
Away (R) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30,
7:15, 10:00.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Heaven (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10,
7:25, 9:50. The Man from
Elysian Fields (R) 12:00, 2:30,
5:00, 7:45, 10:15. Secretary (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05.
Spirited Away (PG) 1:00, 4:00,
7:00, 10:00.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
The Good Girl (R)
5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

Today

Community

Weekly Storytime, 11:00 a.m.
Come to Barnes & Noble for
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Theater / Arts

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chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

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

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

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



BACK PAGE

Killers often tripped up by their own mistakes

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — In 1985, police suspected Richard Ramirez of being the "Night Stalker," the man responsible for a string of nocturnal killings that terrorized southern California in the mid-1980s. They knew his name, had found a partial fingerprint and had released his picture to the public.

But it wasn't old-fashioned, shoe-leather detective work that led police finally to capture Ramirez. He was nabbed and beaten by angry residents while trying to steal a car in East Los Angeles.

Sometimes, it's the killers' own slip-ups that trip them up. Washington-area police hope a similar break will lead them to whoever is responsible for almost a dozen sniper shootings that have killed seven people and injured two since Oct. 2. Another fatal shooting Friday morning at a Virginia gas station was being investigated for possible links.

Mike Rustigan, a San Francisco State University criminologist, said serial killers eventually make mistakes because the longer they get away with their crimes, the more invincible they feel.

"It's kind of like pride goeth before the fall," he said. "They get cocky. They get full of pride about how easy it is to beat the cops. The attitude, of course, is 'Catch me if you can.'"

Criminals do stupid things, said Tod Burke, a Radford University criminal justice professor.

"It's the little things that snowball that could be the case-breaker," he says.

The annals of mass-murder history are filled with killers tripped up by their mistakes.

A \$25 parking ticket led New York City detectives to David Berkowitz, the self-described Son of Sam who

killed six people and wounded seven in the 1970s with a .44-caliber revolver. Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh drove too fast during his getaway. The man who rented the Ryder truck used in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing was nabbed when he tried to get back his \$400 deposit.

A Brooklyn woman walking her dog the night of one of Berkowitz's killings told police she saw a car being ticketed in front of a fire hydrant and the owner carrying something in his outstretched right hand. She heard four gunshots in succession as she raced home in fear but didn't immediately call police.

See related story page 9

When she did, they traced all summonses issued in the area that night and came up with Berkowitz's name. He is serving six consecutive 25-years-to-life sentences and was denied parole this year.

"Here's this guy that was taunting the police with letters and everything else, and how does he get picked up? Through a parking violation," Burke said.

Rustigan says Unabomber Ted Kaczynski "would have been bombing into old age," but his mistake was demanding that The New York Times and The Washington Post publish his manifesto.

Police zeroed in after his brother, David, saw the 35,000-word anti-technology treatise, suspected it was his sibling's work and notified authorities. Kaczynski is serving a life sentence in federal prison for a series of mail bombings that killed three people and injured 23 between 1978 and 1995.

Mohammed Salameh's downfall came when he tried to get back his \$400 deposit for the Ryder rental truck that was loaded with explosives and destroyed in the 1993 bombing in an underground garage at the World Trade Center. Six

people were killed, and Salameh was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

By the time Salameh went back to the Ryder dealership in Jersey City, N.J., investigators had found vehicle fragments with an identification number matching his van. His involvement was confirmed after his rental papers tested positive for chemical nitrates, which is common to many explosives.

Asked why Salameh would have rented a truck in his own name, reported to police and the dealership that it had been stolen and returned twice seeking a refund of his \$400 deposit, a senior law enforcement official at the time said: "Who knows? Just because he's a terrorist doesn't mean he's a brain surgeon."

Driving too fast, without a license or in a stolen car has led to other high-profile captures.

Ramirez, the Los Angeles transient convicted of killing 14 people during break-ins between 1984 and 1985, was felled during an attempted carjacking. He is on death row in California.

After the bombing of the Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, McVeigh was pulled over on an interstate highway north of the city for speeding in his yellow Mercury and driving without a license plate. Weapons charges, for a pistol strapped to his shoulder in a holster, were added later.

His connection to the bombing that killed 168 people wasn't discovered until hours later, when he was matched to a police sketch of "John Doe No. 1," the suspected bomber.

McVeigh was executed last year.

The stolen car that serial killer Ted Bundy was driving led to his arrest. He confessed to more than 30 murders, including that of a 12-year-old girl, and was executed in Florida in 1989.

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