

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

OPCO faces lawsuit, its finances questioned

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

One of Santa Monica's largest and oldest neighborhood associations is under attack by former board members who want to know where its money is.

A former board member of the Ocean Park Community Organization has filed suit in Los Angeles Superior Court demanding its financial records. Tom Fuller, along with a few other people, have been asking for the organization's financial records for more than a year. They claim chairman Rick Laudati has ignored their requests.

The complaint, filed last month, seeks an order that Laudati provide financial statements to OPCO's membership.

When Fuller got involved in OPCO in early 2001, he asked to review the accounting books and all financial records, as well as a list of the organization's current membership.

In his written request to Laudati in June 2001, Fuller said he was concerned about an apparent discrepancy between the number of reported members and the small amount of membership fees collected.

By the end of 2001, Fuller and other board members wanted the documents to review before the organization's annual congress in February, when all of its members gather to elect board members and discuss issues. They also requested that Laudati provide monthly financial statements.

None of their requests were granted.

On Aug. 8, 2002 — more than a year after Fuller requested the documents — Laudati formally denied Fuller's inquiries via e-mail.

"Because it's so secretive and it's not open, one has to wonder what the hell is going on," Fuller said. "I've been very patient. I asked for months as a member

and as a board member.

"The community has a right to know where their dues are going," he added. "It's a neighborhood group, and it should be open even more so."

Laudati didn't return messages left over the weekend. It's unknown how many members OPCO has. Some people estimate membership, which is voluntary, between 200 and 500.

Other board members have resigned this year because they feel the organization is operated too secretly.

"I sat on the board and I can't tell you how many members we have or how much money we have," said Joe Pipersky, who resigned from the OPCO board in August. "The reason I left OPCO is because it doesn't keep proper records of accounting and, consequently, there is no protection of liability for the citizen who wants to give back to his community."

OPCO, which was formed in 1978 as a community organization for the Ocean Park neighborhood, is a nonprofit corporation. Under California law, OPCO is required to provide its membership with financial records, according to the complaint.

"Financial statements are by law open documents," Fuller said. "I'm just exercising my rights to get the records."

Records are not accessible to OPCO's membership because Laudati, who operates the organization out of his home, controls them, OPCO members say.

"We've asked him on several occasions to share the minutes from previous meetings," said OPCO member Lance Schmidt. "It's highly suspect when someone doesn't show bank statements and deposits ... It appears very suspicious."

Schmidt, along with other members, think OPCO has lost its mission of being

See OPCO, page 6

Save the tree



Jason Auslander/Special to the Daily Press

Residents rally around "The Big Tree" Sunday afternoon. The tree, located at 918 Fifth St., is being considered for official landmark status. People signed a petition to lobby officials to make sure the tree survives. The tree faces a potential threat of being cut down because the property it sits on is on the market and a developer could remove it, residents fear.

Police poised to enforce new homeless ordinance

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

When a new law that forbids people from sleeping in downtown doorways goes into effect in December, Santa Monica police will be out in full force.

Like any new law the city council passes, the Santa Monica Police Department will redirect its resources and officers to zero in on offenders, especially when the ordinance is first enacted, said chief of police James T. Butts Jr.

"We will enforce the law, make no mis-

take about it," he said.

The ordinance was created partially because the state's trespassing law is too weak, officials say. It's hard to enforce because it only addresses private property and puts the onus on the property owner to file complaints.

But officials insist the law isn't about trespassing as much as it's about protecting the public.

"I see it as a law to deal with a health issue," Butts said. "I believe these laws

See HOMELESS, page 5

Drive-by victim shot in Pico

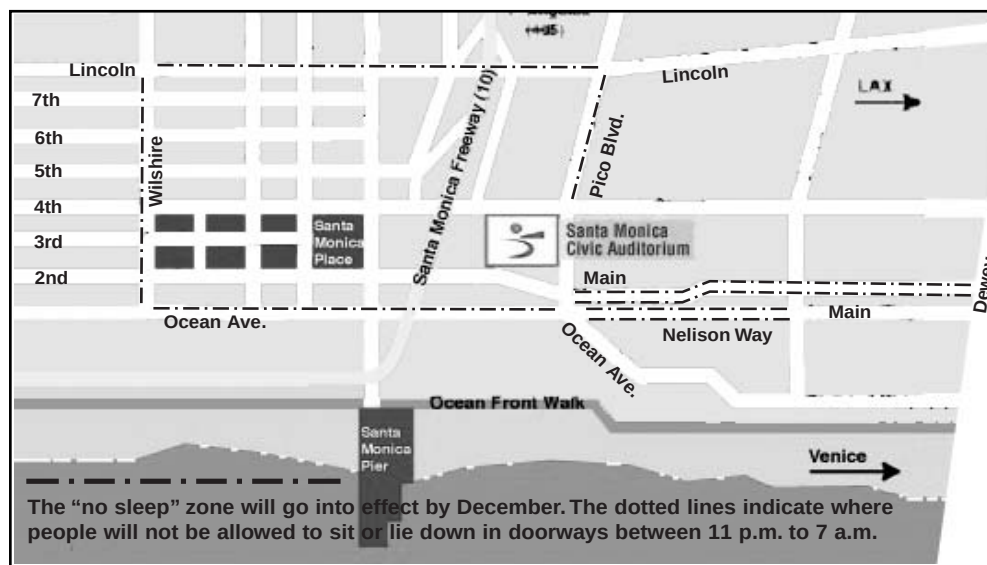
By Daily Press staff

A man was shot in the wrist Friday night in an apparent drive-by shooting in an eastside Santa Monica neighborhood.

At 10:05 p.m., Santa Monica police officers responded to a call from officials at a local hospital that a gunshot victim was in the emergency room. The victim told police that he was standing in the 1800 block of 21st Street when the suspect's vehicle stopped, they exchanged words and then shot him.

The vehicle, described as an older model brown Buick, headed southbound on 21st Street. The suspects are described as two Latino men between 18 and 25 years old.

Anyone with information regarding the incident can call the SMPD's robbery/homicide unit at (310) 458-8451.



The "no sleep" zone will go into effect by December. The dotted lines indicate where people will not be allowed to sit or lie down in doorways between 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ A cousin, sibling or neighbor seeks you out. You could be irritated by his or her demands. Trust that all will work out just fine, if you relax. You can and will stay centered if you stay focused on your goal. A meeting propels your drive. Tonight: Find your friends.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ What might be someone else's pleasure could be a real nuisance for you. Don't allow yourself to become reactive when dealing with a child or creative product. A boss or superior could be unusually vague. Try as you might, you won't be able to pin her or him down. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your seriousness puts a glitch in your domestic or personal front. Do you really want to deal with this? Read between the lines with a boss or higher up. Know when to establish boundaries but also when to let them down. Tonight: Explore some travel options.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Step back if you feel something might be a bit off-kilter. What is going on behind the scenes needs attention. A discussion with a partner or associate invites more teamwork. Ultimately, you decide how much you want to give. Tonight: Togetherness works.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others confuse a project, which ultimately could be extremely frustrating. Don't lose your focus. Scattering could cause some financial problems with which you might not be prepared to deal. Stand by your convictions. Tonight: Where the fun is.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ A mistake could be costly and unnerving. Stay centered at work, clearing out confusion. Asking too many questions proves to be a lot smarter than not asking enough. Keep your focus right now. Don't lose your temper, if possible. Tonight: Work off steam through some healthy exercise.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Understand what might be ailing someone at a distance. You might decide that pleasing this person could be close to impossible. Walk in your own direction, and focus on what is necessary to make yourself happy. Start living your life on a different premise. Tonight: Pretend it is Friday night.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ A friend drives a hard bargain, forcing your hand. A partner lets you know just how uncomfortable he or she is. You need to understand who's who in your life. Honor your heart-felt feelings when making a decision. Tonight: Order in.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Keep talking, even if you find a boss or associate offensive. Getting angry will not help. Be sure of yourself. Understand another's stalemate, but also make key suggestions to help. Don't worry if problems aren't instantly settled. Tonight: Munchies at a favorite spot.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your discussions are animated and exciting to others. You force a door open, but don't be surprised if you get a backlash. You cannot always have what you want, as you will learn. Be as direct as possible about a financial matter. Tonight: Do some shopping.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You could get quite a kick from a close associate. Understand that you cannot control others, no matter what. Your humor comes out when dealing with a child or loved one. You might not be so sure of yourself. Someone else assumes a lot. Tonight: Follow a whim.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ A partner lets you have it. Don't push a loved one too hard; understand what a huge backfire you could have. Intuitively, you might understand something someone else cannot grasp. Pressure builds on the home front. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.



QUOTE of the DAY

**"Science has not yet found
a cure for the pun."**

— Robert Byrne

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LOCAL

Gavel III Gavel

From the people's court in the Byron Y. Appleton Honorary Courtroom in Santa Monica.

By John Wood

Sorry, your insurance doesn't cover that

Patients looking for front office help in securing benefits and interpreting confusing guidelines from insurance companies may be better off reading the fine print themselves.

Ear, nose and throat specialist Sheldon Klausner, M.D., sued former patient Joyce Arrastia and her insurance provider, the Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plan (MPIPHP), after the provider refused to pay for Arrastia's nasal surgery.

The insurance company first gave the go-ahead, but later said they wouldn't foot the bill for surgery because Arrastia hadn't received formal authorization and they considered her operation a "nose job," an assistant to Dr. Klausner told the court.

Arrastia, of Santa Monica, suffered from a deviated septum. Dr. Klausner corrected it without making any changes to Arrastia's outward appearance.

"There was absolutely no cosmetic surgery performed," said Arrastia, who was shocked that her insurance wouldn't pay for the procedure. "Ever since I was a child I've had major obstructions in my sinuses."

Dr. Klausner's assistant said the insurance providers told her they'd "taken care of it." But when she sent them the bill for the operation, the MPIPHP refused to pay.

They said they had "no record" of giving the doctor the go-ahead, according to Klausner's assistant. MPIPHP did not send a representative to court.

After sifting through the fine print, Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Pro Tem Ed Schaffer ruled against Arrastia and the insurance providers for \$5,000, the maximum allowable small claims amount, plus court costs.

Judge Schaffer was dismayed by the provider's failure to keep detailed call logs and by their failure to appear in court.

He asked Arrastia if she had filed a counter-claim against her carrier, indicating that if she had, he could enter judgment solely against the non-appearing defendant.

But Arrastia had not thought to file a formal counter-claim.

"I'm sorry," she told the judge. "I just figured this would all work out (in court)."

Judge benches unprepared plaintiff

Although plaintiffs often show up to small claims court with a stack of papers and expect the judge to take time to read through and make sense of disparate documents, Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Ed Schaffer wasn't in the mood for organizing someone else's case.

Schaffer recently heard the case of Kevin Kirkley, who sued Alex Reazl, owner of Auto Depot, for repairs to a 1999 Audi that Kirkley purchased in May for \$14,800.

Kirkley, who was seeking \$4,723, said the car suffered a myriad of problems beginning two days after he purchased it, but said the dealer refused to honor his six-month, 5,000-mile warranty.

"You'll be going 65 and (the car) will just shut off," Kirkley said, adding that he experienced problems with the airbags, stereo, spare tire and other parts of the car.

But because Kirkley didn't present the judge with a clear presentation of the costs he'd incurred, and which portions he felt Reazl should be responsible for, Judge Schaffer pushed Kirkley's case back in the day to allow Kirkley to compile the necessary data.

"People expect us to do everything," the judge later said, adding that it detracts from the strength of their cases while holding up other matters before the court.

In the end, Judge Schaffer awarded the car buyer \$1,900, plus court costs, nearly \$3,000 less than Kirkley's original claim.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Some minor southwest swell starts to fill in today. It will build and peak Tuesday, staying small at most spots in L.A. County. It's a good angle for local beaches, 210-220 degrees, so we should see some decent sets from it.

Most well-exposed spots see waist-high surf. Better breaks promise inconsistent chest-high sets.

Tuesday things will look better with some more size thanks to peaking swell.

Extended forecasts are showing a bigger southwest swell that we should start to see Thursday.

Today's Tides:

Low- 12:01 a.m. 0.21'
High- 7:06 a.m. 4.15'
Low- 12:12 p.m. 2.84'
High- 5:36 p.m. 4.68'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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The Q Line

The Santa Monica City Council has passed an ordinance that has created a "zone" downtown to prevent homeless men and women from sleeping in the doorways of businesses.

While some people say it is an important law in terms of public health and safety concerns, others claim the homeless will only find new doorways to use as shelter in other parts of the city, and it is merely a Band-Aid for a larger problem.

So this week Q-Line wants to know: "Do you think the zone will be effective in dealing with the homeless problem downtown? Or will it just create headaches somewhere else in Santa Monica?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print it 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

LETTERS

Iron Curtain politics in Santa Monica

Editor:

When the dust has settled what will the “not-so” living wage really do to our city? I am one of those employees that Ms. Richardson recently referred to in her editorial on the proposed living wage ordinance. I work for the “capitalists” that she refers to. On a daily basis I talk to, console and counsel the dozens of employees she is talking about. And Ms. Richardson, you are wrong, this proposed law would not help them or me. In fact, it may cost us our jobs!

I know a little about what happens to businesses when the government tries to mandate how you do business. I am an immigrant from the Eastern Block. I saw firsthand the devastation to people's lives as the government promised to raise the standard of living for every man, woman and child. Ms. Richardson you are mistaken. I don't want to live through that again!

Let's look at the facts. Wages. In most cases our company and the other major employers already pay as much or more than the proposed ordinance. In fact, under the proposed ordinance, we can lower our base pay and reduce salaries if need be to meet the proposal. But that's not what I want, that's not what my employees want. What they want is to be treated fairly, be paid an honest day's wages and have the security to know that their jobs will be there tomorrow. If the new law is passed, I will be forced to make some very tough decisions. I need to remain profitable, and, as a result, I may have to cut costs.

Let's imagine that as Ms. Richardson would believe that Measure JJ would go through, the political triumph would be trumpeted by the special interest labor unions as a watershed moment. Let's also imagine all those employees who would get laid off, terminated and dismissed. The Marios, the Esthe's, Juans, Bills and Sandys who will take the long ride home walking into their homes explaining the wonderful triumph that these well-intentioned proponents for the living wage achieved on their behalf.

Call me an optimist, but I do tend to believe that the intentions of Ms. Richardson are good. Just misdirected and misinformed. There is a better way! And I am happy to work with the proponents to find it! Perhaps they can look beyond rhetoric and politics and talk sense.

I know this sounds emotional, but my work and my employees are my life. I care

for them, and that care should not be discounted. Much was made in Ms. Richardson's editorial about being poor. I know what it's like to be poor. I can attest to that. As I said earlier, I am a living testament to the fact that government can take away land and freedoms of its people under the slogan: “Give the wealth to the people who grow and cultivate our daily bread.” I don't have to tell you what happened to the Iron Curtain countries' agricultures. I am not saying that Santa Monica is like my former home, but I feel like the arguments that are being made by the proponents of Measure JJ are all too similar in tone and content.

All this said, I will go to work in the coming weeks, listen to the concerns of my employees, try to encourage them to look at the facts, make their own decisions and talk to the residents of this great city and tell them the truth. Because I know many of them like me are scared and want to make sure the truth comes out.

Paul J. Hortobagyi, general manager
The Georgian Hotel
Santa Monica

Good riddance MGM

Editor:

Re: MGM STUDIO leaving Santa Monica Adios! Did MGM ever do anything for this community? Did MGM ever sponsor a street fair or beach clean-up or throw a drive-in movie night or offer a homeless benefit or free booze at a Bergamot opening to help SM?

Daily Press columnist Michael Tittinger refers to a spokeswoman who says MGM is leaving their open-air campus here to “consolidate all of the company's operations under a single roof” in Century City. Wow, nice sense of history there, MGM. So much for being a movie “studio.” You're nothing but a corporate line of clothing salesmen now, re-selling 1970's “Blaxploitation” outfits, when here you were actually living in an MGM-era closer to circa 1939: In the magical land of Oz we call sweet Santa Monica!

So goodbye MGM, and good riddance! (Do I sound bitter? I'm sorry. I just lost two hours of my life and 9 bucks at “Windtalkers.”)

Hank Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Let's be creative and find a solution to homelessness



“Wake up!!! Wake up!!!”

I opened my eyes at approximately 6 a.m. Tuesday morning to the police rousting me out of one of my spots in the rear doorway of City Hall. It's a shame that SOME property owners and business owners do not respect those of us who live, work and/or go to school here in Santa Monica because we live on the streets. I have lived here for six going on seven years now. I have been attending Santa Monica Community College since 1998, have a 2.76 G.P.A. and 35 units accumulated. I also, along with three to five other homeless men, move the vending carts on and off the Third Street Promenade for a living. So I am not a panhandler or a vagrant or transient. I am a human being!

A human being who sometimes struggles, on a daily basis, to maintain my dignity and humanity. I keep myself as clean as possible, my cloths are washed, my teeth brushed and I do not smell. If you look at me, you would not even think I am homeless at all. And I am not on the streets by choice, nor did I mess up in a shelter to wind up out here as have others I have met. I do not use heroin, speed, coke, crack or alcohol. And I do not deal drugs to supplement my living. I try not to act anti-social nor do I insult tourists or locals or destroy public property. I have more

important things to do, positive things.

And I am not alone in this endeavor. There are other men and women who are doing the same thing. They work and/or go to school to better their lives and strive to move forward off the streets. Some of us have been put out of shelters for things as simple as not reporting a chore or speaking out against rules that have nothing to do with making it to housing. So the trust we put in the system “designed” to help us is shattered, sometimes along with our hopes, dreams and aspirations. So we do it from the streets! And anyone who thinks it is always easy or always fun out here, my challenge stands, come out here for a month with no money, credit cards and only what you can carry with you. I guarantee you will believe what is written about all homeless people will change.

Since I have been on the street, I have known people who seemed strong to snap, having been reduced to mental illness and/or drug and alcohol addiction, from what I call sensory overload. (Imagine NEVER being able to be alone.) I have known and watched people die slowly of alcohol poisoning, drug overdoses or just beat or raped or murdered outright for whatever reason. And Santa Monica is far safer than, say, Skid Row. (I spent seven months down there, and there was a dead body found almost on a daily basis.)

Then there are the business owners and property owners. While I know drug and alcohol addictions are prevalent on the streets. Those who practice this behavior are ALL you seem to focus on. I know some of you who frequent Starbuck's know me and know I am not like that, yet people of my ilk are lumped together with those who cause

problems for you. So we are sometimes punished along with those who do what I have read about in the newspaper and see out here all the time. Why focus on the worst aspect of a people, then lump that on all who are of the same ilk regardless of any positive accomplishments that are achieved by those of us who do not fit that mold?

And what about those who read all of what has been written about the homeless and homeless issues? Do you think an elderly or handicapped or responsible homeless person would defecate, urinate, rob or destroy property where we sleep? Would any of you, if you wound up out here? If you were out here and could not find work, would you ask for money or food to exist? Would you appreciate the food lines and the restaurant owners who DO feed out here?

Now to those of you who own businesses and property who have “profiled” all homeless as alcoholic, drug addicted, lazy vagrants and transients. What makes you better? Your money, your power, your influence? How long will that last in these hard post-9/11, King George II economic times? I have walked north of Wilshire and see how many apartments are vacant, I see “office space for lease” signs all over. You are pricing YOURSELVES out of the market. And you are probably the same ones who lobbied for rent control to be phased out. Now, with the economy going sour, you are feeling the pinch. Can you REALLY blame all the homeless for your loss of money? Or are we just a “whipping post” for the mistakes you have made and cannot rectify without losing face? The solution to the situation of homelessness has to start with co-operation on ALL fronts!!

This city that I have come to love and call home has to potential to be UNIQUE among its neighbors. This is a city where rich and poor (homeless ARE poor) live side by side. This is a city that boasts to the world of being progressive, yet I have seen it become less so. It has become more and more corporate and less and less unique than its neighbors. I have a lot of stickers on the back of my sketch board. One quotes Albert Einstein: “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” Being creative is what I do best as an artist. It is also the CORE of brainstorming.

There are creative ways to solve the homeless dilemma, which is what a progressive city WOULD do, rather than outlaw a symptom of a failing economy. Another sticker says, “You laugh at me because I'm different. I laugh at you because you are all the same.” Why be the same as our neighbors who play “shuffle the homeless?” Why not be different and find a working (not workable) solution to help us who want help, but, because of the overburdening of the homeless agencies, can't get the immediate help we need? It all starts with dialogue with ALL parties both housed and unhoused alike coming together. It starts with understanding and compassion, a smile for those of us who are trying to be MORE than homeless in a homeless situation. Not with these ordinances trying to ban food and sleep for those who are making an effort against already insurmountable odds to better themselves, who cannot do for themselves at all, or who do not cause trouble for the community ASA WHOLE. To quote Mr. Steve Miller, “There's a solution!”

Charles E. Springer Jr. is homeless and a freelance writer and artist.

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

LOCAL

Laws are designed to protect public health

HOMELESS, from page 1

provide a level of fairness and efficiency in dealing with some long-standing issues that the community collectively has complained about."

The Santa Monica City Council last week passed two ordinances designed to move the homeless population out of downtown, but are described by officials as laws that protect the public from health and safety threats.

The first law, which restricts people from lying or sitting in doorways of downtown businesses, is city officials' response to vocal business owners. These people say they have grown tired of people urinating and defecating in their doorways, particularly on the Third Street Promenade where many people sleep.

No matter how it's described, the law will likely have a strong effect. In 1991, when Butts became the chief of police, one of the SMPD's goals was to wipe out widespread drug dealing in the city. At the same time, the city passed a law against camping in parks and another one making it illegal to camp in public. Many of the drug dealers were transients, and the homeless population, which was between 3,500 and 4,000, declined substantially because of the laws and the SMPD's crackdown.

By the end of the year, people won't be able to lie or sit down from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. in front of buildings downtown, which means the area bounded by and including the east side of Ocean Avenue, the north side of Wilshire Boulevard, the east side of Lincoln Boulevard, the south side of Pico Boulevard and both sides of Main Street.

Some people say the law is nothing more than an attempt to shuffle the homeless to other parts of town. Soon, areas outside of the "zone" will have more people sleeping in front of their doors, some say.

"They'll start going into people's neighborhoods," said Terry Soft, a homeless resident who works at an outdoor cart on the Promenade. "Hopefully when this law goes into effect, I'll be off the street. But if not, I'll be moving out of state."

Ken Karl, who also is homeless and works at a cart, thinks the law will clean up the downtown area. He said the police have cracked down on people sleeping on the Promenade in past months, which has forced him to head east.

"We will go on the cusp. Just past Lincoln," he said.

Officials recognize it could be an issue in the future, but chose to focus only downtown based on advice from Santa Monica City Attorney Marsha Moutrie. Enacting a city-wide ban would pre-empt the state trespassing law and could be legally challenged, she said.

If other areas begin to experience an influx of homeless who create health and safety issues, city officials say they will address it when the time comes. The result could be passing bans in a piecemeal fashion, but officials are taking a wait and see approach.

"I think we need to see what happens,"

said Judy Rambeau, a city spokesperson. "But (the city attorney) will take direction from council."

City Councilman Herb Katz doesn't expect the new law to push homeless people into residential areas.

"The feeling is we are in the commercial district, and if they go into neighborhoods we'll have to do a better job of enforcement," he said. "But I think the homeless are smart enough that they know what will happen if they go there."

Also considered a public health and safety threat are the food lines that dozens of church groups conduct in Palisades Park and in front of City Hall. So the city council passed a law that requires those groups to get a permit from the Los Angeles County Health Department and

"We train our officers to treat people with dignity. We'll inform them of the offense and how to avoid it."

— JAMES T. BUTTS JR.
Santa Monica Police Chief

approval from the city.

"The objective is to acknowledge the fact that we all need to co-exist," Butts said. "But we need uniform standards for sanitation and public health and safety."

The SMPD's strategy of enforcement for the feeding programs will be to deploy its homeless liaison team to check food providers to make sure they have a health department permit. If they don't, they'll be warned and then cited at the second infraction.

Because of the hours and where the trespassing law applies, the SMPD's morning watch and Promenade officers will likely be the ones enforcing the ordinance.

"It's the same skill set as any to enforce the laws," Butts said. "We train our officers to treat people with dignity. We'll inform them of the offense and how to avoid it."

"The first and foremost responsibility of the police department is to provide equal protection of the law fairly and vigorously," he added.

Santa Monica police officers have plenty of experience with the homeless. A significant portion of the SMPD's resources are used to deal with the city's homeless population. One in every three police calls are related to homeless people, Butts told the city council last week. He estimated that between \$4 million and \$5 million is spent out of the SMPD's \$40 million budget, although those figures are not based on any specific analysis.



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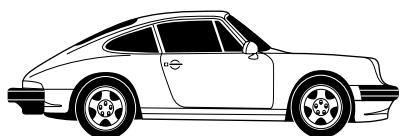


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LOCAL

Local Sports

Samohi beats Monarchs

BY JESSE HALEY
Special to the Daily Press

A relentless Santa Monica High School offense set a season high for scoring in Friday's football victory over the Morningside Monarchs, 45-17.

Aggressive offensive line play gave Viking rushers Adrian Gonzales and Chris Clay ample room to move deep into the Monarch secondary.

On the other side of the ball, a consistent defensive line and zealous pass coverage stifled Morningside's offense who entered Viking territory only once in the first half.

The Vikings took an early lead, marching eighty yards on their first possession; a drive Gonzales finished with a 54-yard touchdown run off quarterback Ricky Johnson's pitch.

The next possession, Johnson found a gaping hole on the strong side and carried

the football 35 yards for the first of his two rushing touchdowns in the first half.

Chris Clay scored on a 38-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter.

The lead was 39-0 before Monarch receiver Ryan Taylor's reception at the 3-yard line set up Morningside's first score ten minutes into the third quarter.

While Morningside's defense struggled to stop the run, their pass coverage held up well against Samo's receivers.

Of Samo's 6 offensive touchdowns, none were scored on pass plays. The Vikings missed 4 extra points, and ran back one interception for a touchdown in the fourth.

Monarchs put up 17 in the second half, adding another touchdown and field goal in the fourth quarter, but Samo's early lead and repetitive offensive success left no chance for a come back.

The Vikings took this one home 45-17. They are now 3-2.

SMC drops third in a row

BY JESSE HALEY
Special to the Daily Press

The score looked more fitting for basketball than football as the Santa Monica College Corsairs suffered another disappointing loss this week — the worst of three — a 63-0 shutout at home against College of the Canyons Cougars.

SMC hasn't scored since Mike Haley threw for three touchdowns in nine minutes to upset El Camino overtime four weeks ago.

Since then L.A. Pierce blanked SMC 7-0, Allan Hancock 45-0 and now Canyons 63-0.

Quarterback Mike Haley, who went 5 of 17 for 93 yards and two interceptions last week, sat the first quarter, replaced by Theron Shakir in his first start at quarterback for the Corsairs. Shakir is listed on SMC's roster as a wide receiver.

Canyons' starting quarterback Kyle Bauer came into the game as the Western State Conference leader in individual total offense with 1,086 passing and 33 rushing for 1,119 total yards this season.

Bauer was flanked by two of junior college's better wide receivers; Trevor

Bracket, 15 catches for 337 yards on the season, and Tyrell Smith, who has 14 catches for 274.

Bauer threw a 34-yard touchdown pass, Cougar running back J.J. Arrington scored on a 2-yard touchdown run, and Jason Tompkins kicked a 29-yard field goal in the first quarter of play.

In the second, Bauer found Smith for a 17-yard touchdown pass to make it 26-0.

Haley subbed in to start the second quarter and got the Corsairs into Cougar territory once, but Canyons defense held SMC at midfield and out of field goal range.

Head coach Robert Taylor played Haley and Shakir alternately at quarterback in the second half, but neither could jump start a frustrated and demoralized SMC offense.

In the second half, Canyons scored on a Bauer to Smith reception for a 53-yard touchdown, and Bauer to Jason Scott for a 26-yard touchdown. They scored a safety on a fumbled high snap that SMC's Joe Rosenberg kicked out of the back of the end zone, and a defensive touchdown on a 33-yard run back of a James Jackson fumble.

The loss brings SMC to 2-3 on the season, 0-3 in division play.

Members say organization operating too secretively

OPCO, from page 1

a grassroots neighborhood group and has become politicized in recent years.

"It's not a community organization," Schmidt said. "It's been hijacked."

Former board members point to a recent historic shack known as Santa Monica's last shotgun house that was saved from demolition earlier this year as one example of how secretive the organization operates. OPCO, along with the city and other community organizations, raised thousands of dollars to move the house from Ocean Park to a temporary location at the airport.

But many OPCO members had no idea that OPCO had raised money for the endeavor.

"The board never said, 'Let's buy a house,'" Pipersky said. "Then I read (in the newspaper) we are having fundraisers. When the organization buys a house without its board of directors, something is wrong."

Schmidt said it's difficult to know when the board meets because agendas are often posted the day of the meeting on OPCO's Web site, which is updated by Laudati at his home.

"They are voting on issues that no one knows about," he said.

DID YOU KNOW?: A polar bears liver is poisonous because it contains too much vitamin C.

STATE



Simon stumps around state with NYC's Rudy

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

BURBANK — Republican Bill Simon barnstormed the state with ex-New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani on Sunday as he and Democratic Gov. Gray Davis prepared for the final three-week push before Election Day.

"I feel that we're on the verge of a surge," an enthusiastic Simon, tieless and sleeves rolled up, told dozens of cheering supporters at a hotel near the Burbank Airport. "We're taking it to Gray Davis right now!"

Simon lags in polls and fund-raising and has been battered by a series of controversies. Giuliani, Simon's boss when both were federal prosecutors in New York, reassured the crowd that he himself once won an election that polls showed he would lose.

"This election is going to be very, very close," Giuliani said as the crowd chanted "Go Bill go."

"You got to get out the vote ... we learned two years ago how important every single vote is," added the ex-mayor, who's in California partly to promote his new book, "Leadership."

In Simon's latest campaign misstep, he accused Davis last week of illegally accepting a campaign check inside the state Capitol, only to retract the allegation a day later when it was disproven.

"Bill understood this was a mistake, he acknowledged it and now you've got to move on and he has done that," Giuliani told reporters later in response to a question. "...So I attribute that to, that's the way a campaign is. I can think of lots of mistakes that I made, particularly the first time I ran, and it didn't have any impact on how I governed."

Simon and Giuliani were also stopping in San Diego, where they planned to greet supporters and attend a San Diego Chargers game together. David McDonald, president of security camera

manufacturer Pelco, was hosting them for a fund-raising dinner Sunday night at his estate near Fresno. The event was expected to bring in some \$500,000.

Davis has millions more to spend on television advertising than Simon and has spent far less time on the campaign trail. He held no public events over the weekend though he was seen sitting next to actor John Travolta at an Anaheim Angels game Saturday.

"Bill understood this was a mistake, he acknowledged it and now you've got to move on and he has done that."

— RUDY GIULIANI
Former New York City Mayor

Davis was bringing in heavy hitters of his own later in the month, including ex-President Bill Clinton and Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman, and his aides downplayed Giuliani's impact.

"It was a nice way for him to introduce himself to Californians back in the primary, but I think Californians are more interested in what the candidate has to offer, and so far Bill Simon hasn't put forth any clear vision or plan for where he wants to lead the state," said Davis campaign press secretary Roger Salazar.

Davis is spending some \$2.5 million on television advertising each week and planned to launch a new commercial Monday highlighting Simon's conservative stances on social issues including abortion and gun control, aides said.

The governor was set to begin touring the state by plane next weekend.

L.A. Sheriffs fail to look into deputy misconduct claims

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department failed to investigate 800 claims of deputy misconduct dating to 1993, a civilian oversight panel has found.

The report by the Office of Independent Review found department officials routinely failed to investigate allegations of misconduct outlined in civil claims, which are filed with the county prior to a lawsuit, the Daily News of Los Angeles reported Sunday.

The report, which is scheduled to be released Thursday, follows increased pressure on the department by county officials to reduce its soaring litigation costs.

"Unfortunately, in the past, the Sheriff's Department has largely viewed civil litigation as a realm exclusively for its defense lawyers and has not thoroughly exploited this valuable information source," Michael Gennaco, chief attorney for the panel, wrote in the report.

Sheriff Lee Baca said the findings reinforce his concerns about the depart-

ment's legal bills, which have soared from \$11.9 million in 1999-2000 to \$26.7 million for 2001-2002.

"I think the claims and lawsuits filed against the department need to have thorough investigations at the very beginning," Baca said. "I think the (panel) is doing very well, and the report indicates a lot of improvements have been made in managing internal-affairs investigations."

At Gennaco's recommendation, the department has implemented a more thorough and timely inquiry into allegations made in the claims.

"I think it's very troubling to see a very large number of claims where there hasn't been the necessary investigation," said University of Southern California law professor Erwin Chemerinsky, a civil-rights expert. "These are exactly the kind of things that need to be found by an independent review board."

At Baca's request, the Board of Supervisors created the panel in October 2001 with an annual budget of \$1.2 million.

About 1,100 claims are filed against the department each year, Gennaco said.

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STATE

Ports moving slowly, but who's to blame?

BY ANGELA WATERCUTTER
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — As dockworkers finished their first weekend back to work, both the union and port operators agreed on one thing: It's still slow going.

Union officials blame the sluggish pace at the ports on the aftermath of the 10-day lockout, while port operators are keeping an eye out for an intentional slowdown.

Shipping companies and port terminal operators said that longshoremen's work was off about 25 percent Friday, and charged that the pace of work at the 29 major Pacific ports continued to be slow Sunday.

"There's no question that the ports are limping along and we are monitoring the situation and getting information together," said Steve Sugerman, a spokesman for the Pacific Maritime Association. "We expect we can report back on that (Monday)."

The association has the option of taking its slowdown charges to a federal judge in San Francisco to ask for relief — but the courts are closed until Tuesday.

Union officials blamed the slow pace on a lack of train cars in Seattle and Oakland. A shortage of truck chassis have also kept the ports clogged, said Steve Stallone, a spokesman for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, which represents 10,500 longshoremen.

"You can take the containers off the ships, but you can't get them out of the ports," he said.

Also, he said, crowded conditions on the docks have made work very dangerous.

"The problem becomes, where do these containers go?" Stallone said. "They just stack up in the yard. Now we're piling containers on top of containers. Accidents have already started happening because of the congestion."

Port operators are more interested in documenting the supposed slowdowns by the union than clearing the docks, Stallone said.

"We're out there working. We're out there risking our lives again. But all they can do is run around trying to document what we're doing wrong," he said.

A federal judge approved President Bush's request Tuesday to reopen the ports after the lockout, which was costing the U.S. economy \$1 billion to \$2 billion a day. An agreement was then reached to keep the docks open for 80 days, which ensures retailers will receive their merchandise during the busy Christmas season.

Federal mediator Peter Hurtgen will talk next week with both sides about scheduling the next round of contract negotiations — the lockout came after a meltdown in contract talks. The union said it expected to talk to him starting Wednesday; association President Joseph Miniace said he wouldn't meet with Hurtgen until next weekend.

Atop Hurtgen's list will be a thorny issue — how to modernize the West Coast waterfront with new cargo-tracking technology that could cost union jobs. The union says it can accept short-term cuts as long as future technology-related jobs fall under its control.

Fire-stricken Sierra area to rebound with fair, concert

BY TOM GARDNER
Associated Press Writer

WALKER — A roadside craft fair, an outdoor concert and a barbecue. Sounds like a typical small-town fall festival, but it's got a deeper meaning here in a dusty Sierra field barely spared by two devastating wildfires this summer.

Just a few hundred yards away in another field, a C130A air tanker crashed while dropping a load of fire retardant, killing all three men on board.

This weekend, Walker gathered to celebrate its survival — and to hail its renewal.

"We were all sitting around and we said, 'We got to do something to help the community,'" said Bob Cashell, owner of the Topaz Lodge. "I think that these people down here deserve all the help that they can get."

Cashell's hotel-casino on the California-Nevada line 14 miles north of here and 60 miles south of Reno, opened its rooms and dining areas to the people of Walker when June's deadly 22,750-acre blaze forced evacuations of some 400 people as fire rimmed the city.

Ironically, a 9,866-acre fire the following month forced the lodge to shut down as flames moved within a half mile of the building.

The "No Vacancy" sign was lit Saturday as visitors filled its 104 rooms before heading to Walker.

"Hopefully, we can convince some people the area is not as devastated from

an aesthetic standpoint as people might think," said general manager Rick Ross.

The only structures lost this summer were a travel trailer and an outbuilding.

The craft fair and concert, featuring Grammy Award-winning singer Juice Newton, were held in the shadow of Sierra peaks dotted by blackened skeletons of sagebrush and pine.

"I was asked if I would come to do a show to try to raise the awareness, to raise some money," she said after Saturday's concert. "Of course I'd come. Why not? I mean, what could you not come and do? You've gotta help."

Ross said the town, which subsists on family-owned arts and crafts shops and a handful of motels and restaurants, suffered financially from the fires, which shut down its highway linking northern Nevada and Southern California.

"We're hoping to expose the area and get a big boost economically this weekend — to get some people who haven't been here in awhile," Ross said.

Newton, fighting a cold, sang for more than an hour to a crowd of about 200 seated on scattered hay bales. They paid \$10 each — money that went to the Chamber of Commerce to promote the area.

"We're all part of California, and we all are sensitive as to what can happen with fires" said Newton, who lives north of San Diego. "I live in an area where, if it caught on fire, it would go up."

NATIONAL



Investigators defend releasing little information

BY DAVID DISHNEAU

Associated Press Writer

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Investigators hunting an increasingly brazen sniper defended their meager release of information, saying Sunday they don't want the killer to know what they know.

Authorities pointed to the dangerous balance between pleading for public help and revealing too much.

"We don't want to release anything that may cause ... anyone to think they're a suspect," said Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent Mike Bouchard.

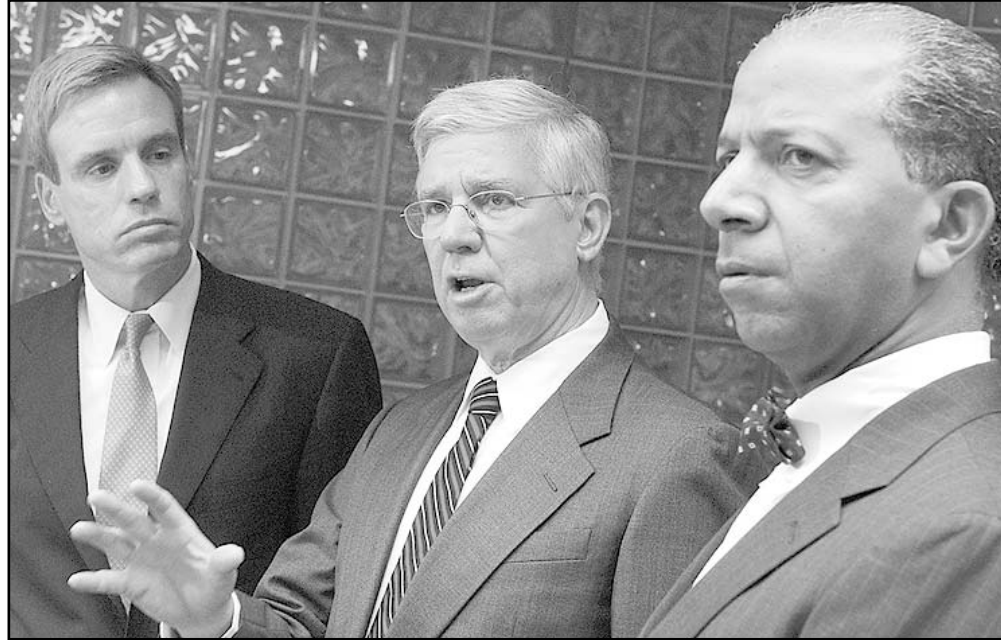
Montgomery County police Chief Charles Moose, meanwhile, has cut back on his news briefings while saying he wishes there was more he could reveal.

"I wish we could give you a name, a mug shot and an address but we're not at that point," he said in one of four appearances he made Sunday on national TV talk shows.

Moose has become the public face of a massive task force investigating a random shooter who has fired a single round into each of 10 victims, killing eight, in suburban Washington since Oct. 2.

The last killing occurred Friday morning, when a 53-year-old father of six was shot while fueling his sedan in a gas station just south of Fredericksburg, Va. At the time, a state trooper stood just 50 yards away, investigating a traffic accident.

Also Sunday, calls continued to flood tipster hot lines with information about white box trucks and a second white vehi-



Ken Lambert/Associated Press

(From left) Virginia Gov. Mark Warner, Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening and Washington Mayor Tony Williams hold a news conference outside ABC studios in Washington, after the three were interviewed on ABC's "This Week," to talk about issues surrounding the area sniper shootings Sunday.

cle, a Chevrolet Astro van, seen at two or more of the killing sites.

And authorities began describing the serial sniper as not just a local threat, but an attempt to terrorize an already anxious nation.

"This reminds us that people in our past have tried to intimidate and put fear into Americans," Moose said. "This a strong nation ... and we will not be intimidated."

At the sprawling Covenant Life Church in Gaithersburg, Va., pastor C.J. Mahaney urged Sunday worshippers to turn off their televisions and turn to God.

"I am concerned there is too little faith and too much fear," the preacher said from the pulpit.

The victims, in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., were shot as they carried out daily errands, including mowing

grass, shopping and pumping gas. Four were killed at service stations.

County, state and federal investigators won't say if they know much about the killer, whose only apparent communication to police was a tarot card left at one shooting scene with the words, "Dear Policeman, I am God."

Moose refused to comment on reports that the FBI has asked the Pentagon to search its records for recently discharged GIs who had gone through sniper school. FBI spokesman Mike Saltz declined to comment on any investigative leads and the ATF's Bouchard said: "I don't think you need special training. Obviously the person has practiced before."

Investigators also would not discuss reports that a scrap of paper found at the site of the latest killing contained scribbled directions from northern Maryland to the Capital Beltway.

Authorities told residents to keep looking for a white truck matching composite images released Saturday and based on witness descriptions from more than one shooting.

With no known shootings since Friday morning, a reporter asked Moose if he was worried about Monday. One week ago, the killer apparently took the weekend off, only to strike again on Monday, Oct. 7.

"We won't make any assumptions about any kind of pattern," Moose said. "I never approach Monday morning with a sense of dread."

Astronauts enjoy results of their handiwork with new radiators

BY MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Astronauts aboard space shuttle Atlantis and the international space station got to see the results of their handiwork Sunday, with the rotation of brand new radiators.

But the main event — the unfolding of one of the three exterior radiators — was put off until Monday because of a fleeting electrical problem. A sensor was apparently too sensitive, and engineers needed extra time to reset the cutoff point for a potential short circuit.

"This is new hardware," Mission Control said, apologizing to the nine space fliers who had gathered at windows to watch the center radiator extend to its full 75 feet in length.

Instead, the astronauts observed as the folded-up radiators swung back and forth in unison on their rotating beam. The massive, elaborate air-conditioning system is part of the \$390 million girder that was delivered and installed by Atlantis' crew last week.

"It looks like it's moving pretty fast, guys — but not out of control," shuttle astronaut Sandra Magnus told Mission Control. She was informed the radiator rotary joint was moving 45 degrees per minute; it's designed to rotate 105 degrees in each direction.

"It's a great sight," Magnus said.

The extension of the middle radiator is meant as a test to make sure all the moving parts work. The system will not be activated to shed heat until next year.

Once all three are deployed, the radiating surface will be about the size of a tennis court — enough area to cool the equivalent of four 2,000-square-foot homes. NASA will aim the radiators at deep space, to keep the ammonia coolant in the lines as cold as possible.

The three space station residents and six shuttle astronauts took time out Sunday, a quiet day off between spacewalks, to chat with reporters.

Peggy Whitson, the space station's American occupant, said she's already gone through much of the salsa her shuttle friends brought. She had been craving spice after four months in orbit and put in an order for lots of salsa.

She also is enjoying the pecan pie that came up on Atlantis.

"Pecan pie is one of the few things that doesn't really need salsa," Whitson said with a laugh.

Whitson, who's supposed to return to Earth next month, said it's hard to imagine being back in Houston "because I guess I feel like this is my home right now."

"Unfortunately, I don't have my husband," she said.

Shuttle astronauts Piers Sellers and David Wolf spent the day getting ready for their third and final spacewalk, set for Monday. They will finish hooking up the plumbing for the girder, and attach more pressure-relief clamps to the coolant lines.

Sellers said it should be "a walk in the park — but it's not over 'til the fat lady floats."

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NATIONAL

Who's in, who's out as Bush builds 'coalition'

BY SANDRA SOBIERAJ

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush promises to be at the helm of a "vast coalition" against Iraq. Unlike his father's 31-nation force for the Persian Gulf War, however, it is a coalition slow to gather and lacking in marquee players.

Bulgaria has anted up an airport. Romania guaranteed air bases and airspace rights to U.S. fighter jets. Qatar is upgrading its al-Udeid air base and letting the Pentagon set up a command center and pre-position armored brigade equipment there.

If the lineup looks like small-fry now, some experts expect it not to be for long.

With Congress' overwhelming vote to authorize a military strike if necessary to disarm Iraq and remove President Saddam Hussein, the U.N. Security Council and skittish would-be coalition members will fall into line, said Bill Taylor, former director of National Security Studies at West Point.

"The ones who pay any attention to our democracy understand that the hand of the president is strengthened enormously by Congress going along," Taylor said.

"You're seeing the trickle right now,

and he's having a much tougher time than his father, but he's going to pull it off."

Today's big bench-warmers — Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Canada and others — can be counted on to enlist if and when Bush commits the full force of the U.S. military to wiping out Saddam and his weapons programs, agreed Ivo Daalder, who was an adviser to President Clinton's National Security Council.

"Nobody wants to be left behind in a sure victory," Daalder said.

For months, lawmakers in both parties, as well as Republican Party elders, publicly worried over what looked like a go-it-alone strategy at the White House. The president has since underscored a group effort by the United States and "a lot of our friends."

"My intent is to put together a vast coalition of countries who understand the threat of Saddam Hussein," Bush said. "Many, many countries share our determination to confront this threat. We're not alone."

Pressed to name names, Bush and his aides say only that time will tell. No less than Canada suggests it will take some convincing.

The day before Bush spoke of leading a vast coalition, Canada split with the United States over the question of ousting Saddam

and said the verdict was still out on whether Canada would take part in any U.S.-led offensive.

In Operation Desert Storm, Canada deployed two destroyers and a supply ship to the Persian Gulf, and Canadian fighter jets flew bombing raids alongside the United States, Britain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, France, Italy, Bahrain and Qatar.

Then, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and an almost-instantaneous denunciation by the U.N. Security Council made coalition-building easy work for the first President Bush.

In the end, he had 31 nations helping to push back Saddam. Aside from the United States, the largest armed contingents came from Britain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and France. Turkey tied down Iraqi troops by deploying some 100,000 of its soldiers along the Turkish border with Iraq. Germany and Japan, legally barred from offensive warfare, provided billions of dollars to help defray war costs.

This time, U.S. allies are telling the current president they want proof Saddam is capable of a nuclear attack. And, led by France, most insist on the cover of a U.N. resolution demanding disarmament — or else.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder won re-election and fractured U.S.-

German relations by refusing to follow Bush into any war with Iraq. Its economy in the tank, Japan is in no position to be paying anyone else's bills.

Russia, with veto power on the Security Council, is bargaining for assurances that Moscow will not have to forfeit \$7 billion owed by Iraq. Turkey wants promises of an Iraq kept whole, lest the Kurdish-controlled north seek an independent state and stir Kurdish rebels within Turkey's own borders.

Even in Britain, where Prime Minister Tony Blair has aligned himself behind Bush and led the indictment of Saddam for his illegal weapons programs, Parliament balks and Downing Street officials demur when asked about British troops going after Saddam again.

The few allies who have already thrown almost unconditional support Bush's way are countries such as Bulgaria and Romania, which aspire to NATO membership and are eager to demonstrate their mettle.

Australia is firmly backing Bush, no matter what the United Nations ultimately does. Poland, Spain and Italy also have offered moral support, if not explicit promises of troops or other material help.

First lady, a librarian, inaugurates second books festival

BY LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — First lady Laura Bush invoked "the pure joy of the bookworm" on Saturday as she opened a weekend festival devoted to books, their writers and fellow book lovers everywhere.

In clusters of large white tents stretching across the Capitol's broad lawns, the second National Book Festival lured readers with more than 70 authors, storytellers, book illustrators, singers, actors and a squad of professional basketball players spreading the message that "reading is cool."

That was Mrs. Bush's message as well.

"Let this festival remind us of the pure joy of the bookworm — the one who sits in a quiet corner and focuses on just one thing, devouring a story or argument or idea unfolding on the written page," she said as she opened the festival before an invited audience of authors gathered in the East Room of the White House.

"Our love of reading is what makes us tuck a paper under our arm on the way to work," the former school librarian said. "It's why our bedside tables include piles of books that we read before we fall asleep, or continue reading long after we should be asleep."

The festival, modeled on those Mrs. Bush organized when President Bush was governor of Texas, had its first

run last year. Mrs. Bush, said Librarian of Congress James Billington, is the festival's "founding mother, guiding hand and continuing inspiration." Under her leadership, he said, the festival has become "a fun, free, all-day showcase for the pleasures and experiences of reading."

Library of Congress officials estimated that 40,000 to 45,000 people attended the event, said Noelia Rodriguez, the first lady's spokeswoman.

Mrs. Bush was accompanied on her festival rounds by "my friend and fellow book lover," Lyudmila Putin, wife of President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Speaking to the East Room audience, the Russian first lady said she hoped to organize a book festival of her own in Moscow.

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INTERNATIONAL



War looming, wary Iraqis vote on their leader

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The victory rallies are set and the tributes are ready. In an Iraqi yes-or-no vote on re-electing Saddam Hussein, the only cliffhanger in Tuesday's vote is whether the two-decade Iraqi leader will beat his last showing: 99.96 percent.

In Iraq, where many believe war with the United States is coming, that 1995 result for Saddam is now seen as somewhat tepid.

"This time, 100 percent!" worker Mayad Aiwan cried Sunday. "Because the Iraqi people love our leader!"

But as the ballot on which only Saddam's name appears suggests, it's not as if Saddam's people have much choice.

Shopkeepers hung banners on dreary storefronts Sunday, the new white sheets and cheerful red, green, blue and yellow lettering the only bright spots in a smoggy city choked by a decade of international isolation and sanctions on Saddam's regime.

"Yes, yes, yes Saddam!" "Iraq will win, God save our leader!" the banners in Arabic proclaimed, in slogans repeated with modest variations on posters nationwide.

"Yes, yes, yes Saddam! No, no, no USA!" declared one such sheet, in English, on a school wall on the road to a complex that Washington has targeted as an alleged nuclear site. Scarved girls in braids played in the schoolyard.

In what rights groups universally call one of the world's most oppressive regimes, it is difficult to determine how ordinary Iraqis truly view the ballot.

On Baghdad's streets, people voiced support for Saddam similar to that found on the slogans.

All were questioned Sunday in the presence of a government-appointed minder, officially required of all foreign press.

"This vote will be the challenge of the Iraqi people to the United States," engineer Achmed Abdul Sahib said outside a city bus station. "More than last time. More than 99 percent."

But there was only silence after an awkward question was posed in the presence of the minder: Why the 0.04

percent "no" vote in the last Saddam election?

Curious soldiers stopped and clustered behind the minder, who froze in hesitation at the question and sagged in relief after being told he didn't have to answer.

Iraq's media estimate more than 11 million Iraqis will cast ballots on Saddam's election.

Most polling places are schools. Iraqis ages 18 and above will enter with their voter cards, and be handed the ballot with the "Yes" or "No" boxes.

Iraq already has announced celebrations "like a wedding night" for Saddam's election victory. Artists tell newspapers what tributes they will present the victor.

Many Iraqis — who say they see the United States picking a fight with their country at a time when life here was getting a little better — say their vote for Saddam will be a vote of defiance to the United States.

Amid U.N. sanctions, and renewed threat of war, "Our message for outside is we love Saddam Hussein," housewife Tatar Mahdi said as she leaned over a market stall, with a huddled toddler staring from the folds of her black robe.

Catholic-Protestant government could fall from power

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press Writer

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant government is about to be stripped of power in a bid to keep the coalition from unraveling over an Irish Republican Army spying scandal, politicians said Sunday.

Britain "will suspend the institutions, that is inevitable now," Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said as all sides debated whether it would be possible to revive power-sharing, the central achievement of the 1998 Good Friday peace deal.

The British minister overseeing the province, John Reid, is expected to announce Monday morning that power is being switched to Britain's Northern

Ireland Office from Northern Ireland's 108-member legislature and the four-party administration it elected.

Ahern, who blamed all sides for the failure, said he understood why Protestants were no longer willing to cooperate with Catholic hard-liners from Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party.

Ahern said the Sinn Fein-IRA movement was not yet observing "totally democratic means" as the 1998 pact required. "That is creating tensions. It is breaking trust," said Ahern, who hoped all sides would launch a new round of negotiations.

Three Sinn Fein activists, including the party's senior legislative aide, and a former British civil servant face espionage-related charges following police raids Oct. 4 that allegedly uncovered

stacks of stolen British documents.

Among the papers, police say, are records of potential IRA targets — ranging from prison officers to the British army commander in Northern Ireland — and confidential communications between Britain and other parties in the Northern Ireland peace process.

The scandal accelerated a Protestant plan to withdraw from power-sharing unless the IRA disbands by January.

In the latest apparent sign that the outlawed group remains active, five Dublin men were charged Sunday with IRA membership after police allegedly caught them with masks, gloves, sledgehammers, ax handles, two-way radios and handcuffs. The arrests foiled an attempted IRA robbery or kidnapping, police said.

First Minister David Trimble, the senior Protestant in the three-year-old coalition, vowed to take his Ulster Unionist Party out of the administration, forcing its collapse unless Britain intervened. He said he would continue power-sharing with moderate Catholics if the administration's Sinn Fein education minister, former IRA chief Martin McGuinness, resigned.

"His colleagues organized a massive spying ring on me, on John Reid, on (British Prime Minister) Tony Blair and on President Bush," Trimble said.

McGuinness said the IRA deserved credit for maintaining its 1997 cease-fire, which halted 27 years of violence designed to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Bombings lead to fears al-Qaida has taken root in Indonesia

BY IRWAN FIRDAUS

Associated Press Writer

BALI, Indonesia — Terrified tourists tried Sunday to flee this island paradise that turned into an inferno, with the death toll from a pair of bombings climbing to 187 and fears growing that al-Qaida has taken its terror campaign to the world's largest Muslim country.

Many of those killed by the two bombs that tore through a nightclub district on Bali island Saturday were Australians as well as other foreigners from Canada, Britain, Germany and Sweden. Three Americans were among the more than 300 people injured.

No one claimed responsibility for the bombings — the worst terrorist attack in Indonesia's history — but suspicion turned to al-Qaida and an affiliated group, Jemaah Islamiyah, which wants to establish a pan-Islamic state across Malaysia, Indonesia and the southern Philippines. It is accused of plotting to blow up the U.S. and other embassies in Singapore.

In Washington, President Bush condemned the attack as "a cowardly act designed to create terror and chaos" and offered U.S. help in finding the perpetrators.

"The world must confront this global menace, terrorism," he said.

The attacks were on the second anniversary of the al-Qaida-linked attack against USS Cole off Yemen that left 17 sailors dead and took place amid signs of increasing terrorist activity that had led to the closure of U.S. embassies and renewed terror alerts for Americans.

The destruction started when a small homemade bomb exploded outside Paddy's Discotheque in the maze of clubs and bars on Kuta Beach, a popular haunt with young travelers. Shortly afterward, a huge blast from a bomb in a Toyota Kijang, a jeep-like vehicle, 30 yards down the street devastated the crowded Sari Club, a surfers' hangout.



Achmad Ibrahim/Associated Press

The chard ruins of a bomb blast in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, Sunday, where a nightclub was destroyed late Saturday night, killing more than 180 people and injuring more than 300 others. A second bomb exploded about 100 meters (109 yards) from the U.S. consular office in Denpasar, the capital of Bali.

A third, smaller bomb exploded outside the U.S. consular office. No one was injured in that blast.

The second blast ripped into the open-air bar, triggering a massive burst of flames that officials said was caused by the explosion of gas cylinders used for cooking. The explosion collapsed the roof of the flimsy structure, trapping revelers in flaming wreckage. The explosions and fire damaged about 20 buildings and devastated much of the block.

Identification of the dead was slow, since some were burned beyond recognition.

American Amos Libby, 25, felt himself lifted off his feet as he walked by the Sari Club as the bomb detonated.

"All the buildings in the vicinity just collapsed, cars overturned and debris from the buildings fell on them," he said, without giving his hometown. "I have never seen anything so horrible. There were so many people, 18 to 20 year olds, people in pieces all over the street."

New Zealander Lonny McDowell, 25, was at Paddy's when the blast blew chairs and concrete through the bar. He said he saw a man with no legs and another with a cable stuck through his stomach.

"Who knows if this couldn't happen again? I really don't want to go back to Kuta," he said looking for his airline ticket home.

Indonesian National Police Chief Gen. Da'i Bachtiar called the it "the worst act of terror in Indonesia's history."

President Megawati Sukarnoputri flew to Bali and wept as she toured the wreckage. Asked about a possible link to al-Qaida, she said: "That will be continuously investigated to that this can be uncovered as soon as possible." She promised to cooperate with other nations to fight terror.

U.S. Ambassador Ralph Boyce told The Associated Press that it was not possible yet to pin the Bali attack on al-Qaida, but noted that increasing evidence in recent weeks has confirmed al-Qaida's presence in Indonesia and reaching out to local extremists.

"In recent weeks, we have been able to put an end to a year of speculation as to whether al-Qaida might be in Indonesia, or relocating to Indonesia, or using Indonesia as a base of operations, after the fall of Afghanistan," Boyce said.

He said three Americans were among the wounded but there was no confirmation by late Sunday that any Americans had been killed.

The United States and Indonesia's neighbors have urged Jakarta for months to pass an anti-terrorism law that has been languishing in the Parliament contending there is a strong al-Qaida presence here. Without the law, Indonesia says, security forces cannot arrest suspects without clear evidence they have committed a crime.



SPORTS

Kennedy's power surge leads Angels into Series

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM — Adam Kennedy suddenly became a power hitter Sunday.

Now, he's taking his big bat to the World Series.

Usually a light-hitting second baseman, Kennedy became the fifth player to hit three homers in a postseason game as the Anaheim Angels beat the Minnesota Twins 13-5 to win the AL championship series 4-1.

"I don't care if I have another one," Kennedy said. "This is it right here, the biggest game of my life."

Kennedy, named MVP of the ALCS despite going 1-for-10 without an RBI in the first four games, said he couldn't remember ever hitting three homers in a game.

"Everybody dreams of this," he said. "I was in the right spot today."

The Angels will play in the World Series for the first time in their 42-season history against San Francisco or St. Louis starting Saturday at Edison Field — where the red-clad crowd of 44,835 went crazy after Kennedy's third homer, a three-run shot in the seventh.

Scott Spiezio and Bengie Molina singled in the seventh before Kennedy came to the plate. He fouled off a sacrifice bunt attempt before manager Mike Scioscia let him swing away.

Kennedy hit an 0-2 pitch from Johan Santana over the 18-foot wall in right-center to put Anaheim on top 6-5.

The homer triggered a 10-run inning that put the game out of reach.

"That's just amazing," starting pitcher Kevin Appier said. "We're sitting there begging him to get the bunt down. Two pitches later, he's going deep."

The 26-year-old Kennedy, who has played in 470 regular-season games and hit only 23 homers in 1,652 at-bats, yelled in celebration while rounding first base as the ball cleared the wall.



Mark J. Terrill/Associated Press

Anaheim Angels' Darin Erstad is congratulated at the dugout after scoring on a single by Garret Anderson in the eighth inning of Game 4 of the American League Championship Series in Anaheim, Calif., Saturday.

He hit solo homers in the third and fifth innings off Joe Mays.

Another solo homer by Spiezio in the fifth put the Angels on top 3-2 before the Twins scored three runs in the seventh for a 5-3 lead.

"To me, that kind of sums up our whole season, that's why we're where we're at," designated hitter Brad Fullmer said. "Every day a different person stepped up and did it."

The left handed-hitting Kennedy, who bats ninth, hasn't played against left-handed pitchers much recently, but he stayed in to sacrifice against Santana.

After fouling off a bunt attempt, Kennedy took a full swing and hit another foul before uppercutting a hanging curveball out of the park.

"This guy's been swinging the bat so well," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We saw the Twins were pitching him for a bunt, we saw that and the way he was swinging, we thought we'd give him a chance to rip. He didn't miss it."

Kennedy added a single later in the seventh to finish 4-for-4.

Others who have homered three times in a postseason game are New York Yankees sluggers Babe Ruth and Reggie Jackson, Pittsburgh's Bob Robertson and Kansas City's George Brett.

Ruth did it in the World Series twice — in 1926 and 1928. Robertson did it in the 1971 NLCS, Jackson in the 1977 World Series and Brett in the 1978 ALCS.

Kennedy, who grew up in nearby Riverside and played at Cal State Northridge before being chosen in the first round of the 1997 draft by the St. Louis Cardinals, hit seven homers in 474 at-bats this season while batting .312 — the seventh-highest average in the AL.

He also homered in the division series against the Yankees, and has four in 32 postseason at-bats while playing in eight of Anaheim's nine playoff games.

"We were trying to bounce 'em, and we hung 'em," Twins catcher A.J. Pierzynski said of the pitches to Kennedy. "That's what the postseason is all about. He did something great today."

Kennedy tied a franchise record by driving in eight runs in a game at Toronto on April 18, 2000 — less than a month after the Angels acquired him from the Cardinals along with pitcher Kent Bottenfield in a trade for outfielder Jim Edmonds.

The deal was one of Bill Stoneman's first major moves as Angels general manager, and was extremely unpopular for some time with local fans because Edmonds became an even bigger star for the Cardinals than he was with Anaheim.

USC Trojans attacked Cal Bears via ground, air

BY KEN PETERS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Sultan McCullough carried 39 times for 176 yards, and he was just half the offensive story for the Southern California Trojans. Carson Palmer completed 25 of 39 for 289 yards and two touchdowns.

"Our offense was balanced and that's what we need to win," McCullough said. "It felt good out there. Somebody's got to carry the load. It was me and I'm grateful."

"I got tired, but the coaches had been saying all week, 'Finish, finish, finish.' And that's what I had to do."

McCullough, a fifth-year senior who has had an up-and-down career at USC, scored the go-ahead touchdown in the third quarter as the Trojans rallied from 18 points down to beat California 30-28 on Saturday.

The win moved USC up one notch in the national rankings to No. 19.

Ryan Killeen, who had missed two field goals and a critical extra point in a loss at Washington State the previous week, went 3-for-4 on field goals against the Golden Bears, including making two in the fourth quarter.

His last kick, an 18-yarder, proved the difference since Cal scored a touchdown with 35 seconds remaining. Killeen also made all three of his PAT kicks.

USC coach Pete Carroll was impressed by the way the Trojans kept their composure after falling behind.

"That obviously was a tale of two distinctly different halves," he said. "The story of the game was that our offense stayed together and continued to run the football."

"I was really pleased with how we went about it up front and how Sultan carried the ball."

Carroll had been spreading time at tailback around, but decided last week that "We wanted one guy to get a feel for the game."

McCullough was able to pick up yards not only because of good blocking in front of him, but because Palmer's passing kept the Bears from focusing on stopping the run.

"Carson was fantastic," Carroll said. "He made some spectacular plays."

Mike Williams had a fine game, too. The 6-foot-5, 210-pound freshman accounted for 103 yards on six receptions and caught a 21-yard scoring pass.

After falling behind 21-3 early in the second quarter, the Trojans shut down Cal (4-3, 1-2) until Kyle Boller threw a 5-yard TD pass to Tom Swoboda in the final minute. USC then recovered the onside kickoff to seal the win.

"We couldn't get a rhythm in the second half," first-year Cal coach Jeff Tedford said. "We came out and had too many penalties and too many third-and-longs."

"They put the hammer to us. They flexed their muscles up front and their backs did an excellent job of breaking tack-

les. Their offensive line did a fine job."

Although they lost, Tedford obviously has the Bears on the right track. Their 1-10 record last year included a 55-14 loss to USC.

The 39 carries by McCullough, the conference 100-meter title with a 10.18-second clocking as a freshman in 1999, were the most for a Trojans tailback since Steve Webster had 40 in a game in 1987.

The school record of 51 carries was set by Ricky Bell in 1976.

Boller went 20-of-30 for 211 yards, with two touchdowns. But he was just 6-of-19 for 87 yards in the second half.

"The offense struggled in the second half and I don't know why," said Cal's Jonathan Makonnen, who had a 15-yard scoring catch. "We had them off-balance in the first half. Their defense gained momentum from their offenses when it picked up. Other than that, we stopped ourselves."

Paula Radcliffe breaks world best at Chicago Marathon

BY JASON STRAIT

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Britain's Paula Radcliffe set a world best in the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, finishing in 2 hours, 17 minutes, 18 seconds.

The 28-year-old Radcliffe, running in just her second marathon, broke the previous mark of 2:18:47, set last year by Catherine Ndereba in the same event.

American Khalid Khannouchi won the men's race in 2:05:56 — his fourth title in Chicago. He missed the world best he set last April by 18 seconds.

Running into a stiff wind over the last few miles, Radcliffe finished strong while other runners faded. Ndereba, who won the race the last two years, finished second in 2:19:29.

Radcliffe, her head bobbing up and down as she ran, broke away from Ndereba in the 17th mile and seemingly got stronger as the race went on.

Yoko Shibui of Japan finished third in 2:21:22 — more than two minutes behind Radcliffe.

In the men's race, Daniel Njenga finished second in 2:06:16. Japan's Toshinari Takaoka finished third, in an identical time.

Takaoka was originally announced as the second-place finisher, but race officials later ruled he was edged out by Njenga.

Takaoka made a surprise move with about five miles to go and led by as many as 20 seconds before being caught by Khannouchi in the 24th mile.

Radcliffe waved to the crowd after crossing the finish line, appearing more energized than drained.

"I was trying to hold on in the first half of the race and push on in the second," she said. "I was kicking hard at the end. I felt strong the last mile."

Radcliffe, Shibui and Ndereba all pulled away from the pack from the start and ran together for much of the first half.

Shibui faded quickly after that, and fell off the pace at approximately the 14-mile mark, but hung on for third.

Khannouchi, born in Morocco, fell to his knees after crossing the finish line, then rolled onto his side and wept. He set a course mark in his Chicago debut in 1997.

"This is a magical place to run. That's why I love Chicago. It's just awesome," he said. "The conditions weren't too good and the wind was blowing hard and I just wanted to make sure I won."

A pack of eight of the top runners, including Khannouchi, passed the midway point at 1:02:25 — on pace to eclipse the world best Khannouchi set in London in April. But the weather didn't cooperate.

The conditions, though better than expected, were a factor over the last few miles. Temperatures were in the upper 30s, but runners had to finish against a strong wind.

"The conditions weren't good. We could have run for a world record but it was really windy and cold," Khannouchi said.

COMICS



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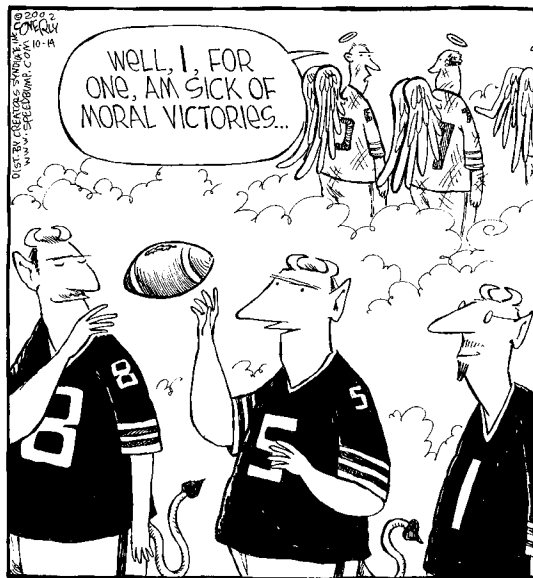
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 - Assist
 - Historic periods
 - Nosh
 - Like some logic
 - Twosome
 - Address sharply
 - Poe's middle name
 - Without help
 - Sofa's cousin
 - Smidgen
 - Bookplate phrase
 - Owens
 - Cold War participant
 - Montreal team
 - Toil
 - Stay away from
 - Make amends
 - Gives for a time
 - Made kit-ten cries
- DOWN**
- Gardner of film
 - Laud
 - Lead-in
 - Sicilian port
 - Chopping tool
 - Dreadful
 - Edison's middle name
 - Track com-petition
 - Capp and Capone
 - Resorts
 - Harvard rival
 - Hockey Hall of Famer Schmidt
 - Fix a gauge
 - Needy
 - Opposed to
 - Brewed drinks
 - Con-nec-tions
 - Golf's Ernie
 - Mosque faith
 - Shoe part
 - Car part
 - Whirled
 - Peculiar
 - Archery need
 - Count start
 - Sunburned

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Saturday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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10-14

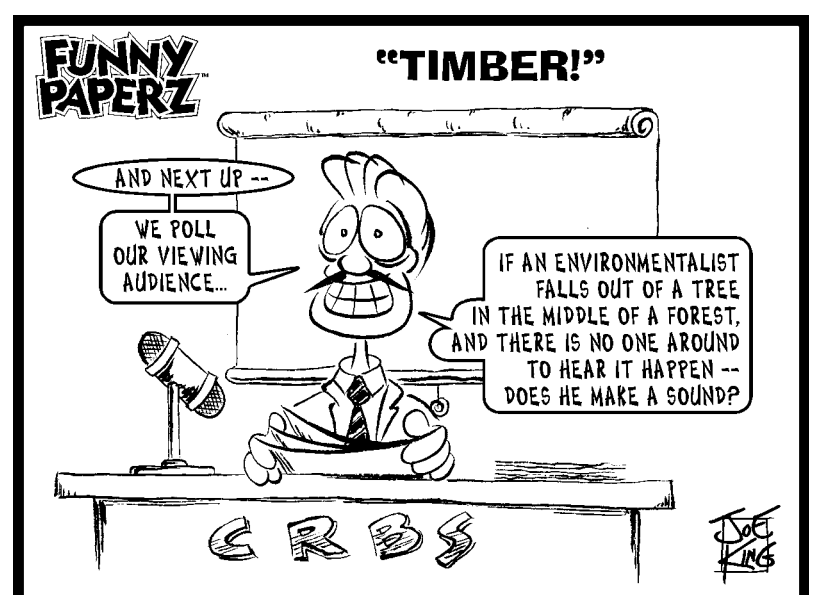
STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-3168! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Pakistani dentist tools: Pliers, wire-cutters

Business was booming in August for unlicensed street dentists in Lahore, Pakistan, according to a New York Times reporter, who witnessed several patients' gruesome sidewalk experiences (forced on them because one-third of Pakistanis earn less in a month than even the lowest-priced licensed-dentist procedure). Tools of the trade include ordinary pliers, wire-cutters, metal files, a container of moonshine (to rinse tools off) needle-point probes (to inflict a distracting pain elsewhere in the mouth), and a red plastic sheet (so the blood won't stand out so much). Also plentiful in the street-dentists' "offices": dust and vehicle exhaust.





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PART-TIME RDA for Orthodontic practist in W. Los Angeles. (310)442-9188.

SCHEDULING COORDINATOR: Orthodontics, we are looking for a bright enthusiastic person to join our team. Must have excellent communication and people skills, cheerful voice and appearance. M-F 1:00 to 5:30. (310)546-5097.

TOP DESIGNER Santa Monica boutique seeks team player. High energy sales person. Experience preferred. Family environment. Salary and commission. (310)394-1406.

Employment

WHOLESALE TRAVEL agency, located near LAX is looking for a part-time reservation agent to work week-ends, from 10am - 3pm, with a possiblity of increasing hours. Training is provided, but limited, so it's important to be a quick learner and self-starter. Must be computer savvy, excellent communication skills, enjoy problem solving and working as a team as well as working independently. Multi-tasking is absoltely necessary. The office offers a high energy enviornment and opportunity for advancement. Travel benefits. Pay is \$9 an hour + commission. Call Katie (310)641-2611.

For Sale

ALPINE VILLAGE Auction. Every Wednesday, 1pm-5pm. Please contact Royal Auctioneers (310)324-9692.

GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY light table w/ stand. Approx. 4'x18". Excellent Condition. \$200.00 (310)453-9196

NEW MATTRESS full size, Simmons Beauty Rest 'Premium Extra Firm' Bought for \$600.00 Sell for \$150.00. Call (310)453-9196

STAINLESS STEEL Flat Art Files - Vintage 47"wx 35" \$800.00 each (310)453-9196

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

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SANTA MONICA \$1295.00 2 bdrm, PET OK, r/s, crpt, pool, Indry, pkgng inc. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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SANTA MONICA \$950.00 1drn/1ba, appliances, no pets, 2535 Kansas Ave., #211. Manager in #101.

SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Furn. 1 bdrm, r/s, crpts, patio, lrg clsts, Indry, pkgng, close to SMC. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

VENICE SUNNY Upper Unit. 2 bed/ 1 bath. Washer/ dryer hookup. Lease \$1700.00 p/m. (310) 663-6962

For Rent

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VENICE BEACH \$1050.00 Large 1bdrm/1ba w/parking and pool in courtyard building, close to beach and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH \$2950.00 Artist Work Live Historic Brick Building, 1700 sq. ft. 2 story unit consisting of a ground floor with 850 sq. ft. The ground floor has 12' ceilings and exposed brick walls. The basement has 8 ft ceilings. The building is completely rehabbed with everything brand new and replaced. Concrete floors, double glazed wooden windows, exposed brick walls, antique brick patios, tons of charm. Located one block from the ocean. 1 year lease. (310)396-4443.

VENICE BEACH \$850.00 to \$895.00. 2 Large singles available in charming building. 1 block to beach. 1 year lease, no pets. Paid parking available. (310)396-4443.

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VENICE BEACH \$895.00 1bd/1ba in courtyard building. Close to Abbot Kinney and beach. 1 car parking, all utilities included. 1 year lease, no pets. (310) 396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH Starting @ \$2,400.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oakwood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. Open house Sat 10am to 2pm. (310)396-4443 x102.

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For Rent

VENICE BEACHFRONT Condo \$4750.00 3bdrm/3.5bath in newer luxury building with amazing ocean and mountain views, 2 car gated parking, Gourmet kitchen, spa style bathroom and much more. Must see to appreciate. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)466-9778.

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Houses For Rent

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

**Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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SANTA MONICA \$1000.00 Lovely Dplx, PET OK, stove, new crpts, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$1100.00 Wonderful Gst Hse, r/s, crpts, patio, ceiling fan, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1350.00 Dplx, r/s, crpts, patio, new bath & kitchen, like a Home. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$850.00 Cozy Gst Hse, stove, hrdwd flrs, frplce, yard, close to beach. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$995.00 Charming Cottage, PET OK, r/s, hrdwd flrs, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA House w/yard. \$2650.00 Completely renovated, Pergo floors, large kitchen, old fashion bathroom. Close to beach and shopping, next to new park. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

**Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com**

SM 1115 Berkeley. 3bdrm/1ba, dining room, hardwood floors, new bathroom/kitchen, stainless steel appliances. \$3800.00 (310)454-1015.

Roommates

S.M. SHARE 2bdrm furnished apt., all utilities paid including cable. 9th & Wilshire. Male only. \$750.00 (310)394-1050.

Commercial Lease

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

OFFICE SPACE, 6 offices+ 2 bathrooms +kitchenette +reception. 1,250 SF. Year sublet +renewal option. Prime local Yale @ Colorado (SM) incl. parking. Lease negotiable. Contact Tom @ (310)612-0840.

OFFICE SUBLEASE, 1 office available, seconds to 10 and 405. \$625/month, avail. immediately, (310)392-6100.

TREATMENT ROOM with table/sink/desk/privacy in Acupuncturist office. 1/2 \$500. Full week \$1000. (310)820-8001.

VENICE BEACH \$595.00 Small office space with bathroom on ground floor. High ceiling, large window. Fresh paint. Just off Abbot Kinney. 1 year lease. (310) 396-4443 x102

**Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com**

Vehicles for sale

1976 ALPHA Romeo Spider Convertible. Red. 5-Speed. AM/FM Cassette. \$2700.00 OBO. (310)505-9564.

93 CHEVROLET Blazer S-10. 4 Wheel Drive. V-6, all power, new mini-disc changer included. Excellent condition. \$4000.00 OBO. (310)485-8001.

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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I EVALUATE your need and combine techniques to give you the ultimate therapeutic experience. In/Out Call, pamper parties and other events. Al (323)564-5114.

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

Announcements

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

Announcements

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

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ADVERTISE FOR A DOLLAR A DAY!

Santa Monica Daily Press 310.458.7737

Calendar

Monday, October 14, 2002

Today

Community

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

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

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

Music / Entertainment

Monday Nights the UnUrban Coffee

House presents: Hot Topics Night Hosted By Ali . Open Panel Discussion and Open Forum. Signup is at 8 pm . 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 315-0056

14 Below, 1348 14th St., Santa Monica. If the band stinks, take advantage of commodious booths, pool tables, and fireplace. Full Bar. Over 21. (310)451-5040.

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.

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.

Tuesday

Community

Childbloom Program. Special Open

day at Santa Monica Music Center. This coming Sat. Oct. 19, 1-3pm. Guitar Giveaway and free mini lessons. For more information call (310) 600-0284

Come and join storyteller Mr. Jesse, and his puppet pals for a hilarious program and lots of fun. This program is for ages 3-7. Tuesday, October 15th, from 3:30pm to 4:15pm, Ocean Park Library, 2601 Main Street, Santa Monica, (310) 392-3804.

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus

College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

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

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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.

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

Comic strip crossed border before many immigrants

BY MARGIE MASON
Associated Press Writer

CARMEL — Years before waves of Mexican immigrants tipped the nation's demographic scale, a bean farmer-turned-tour guide took Americans south of the border each morning through the funny pages.

Cartoonist Gus Arriola's comic strip, "Gordo," which ran for 44 years in as many as 270 newspapers, influenced generations of readers and cartoonists and Gordo himself became one of Mexico's greatest promoters.

"He became an accidental ambassador. I didn't intend for him to be, but the readers made him that," Arriola said during an interview in his studio in Carmel, where he retired in 1985. "People would write and tell me that they went to Mexico because of reading about it in the strip."

Long before Telemundo and Univision brought Latin American news and entertainment to television, and generations before "Baldo" and other present-day strips with a Hispanic sensibility made it into newspapers, "Gordo" reached an audience fascinated by an exotic foreign land that was depicted through characters whose pidgin English was sprinkled with Spanish.

"He was a trendsetter and a ground-breaker. If it hadn't been for Gordo, things might have been different," said Hector Cantu, who writes for "Baldo," which depicts a modern-day Latino family in the United States.

Arriola also used the strip as a way to educate others about a different lifestyle and culture that existed just across the border.

Ironically, Arriola, now 85, didn't visit Mexico until 1961 — 20 years after he began drawing "Gordo." He gleaned his

"The Mexican influence came from those early days in Florence. There were serenades going on, and I remember listening to people playing guitars and singing as a child."

— GUS ARRIOLA
Cartoonist

gags from books and travel guides and his own boyhood memories growing up in Florence, Ariz., about 120 miles northwest of the Mexican border.

His father was born on a hacienda in Hermosillo in the Mexican state of Sonora and moved north in the late 1800s. Arriola, the youngest of nine children, didn't learn English until he was about 6, and taught himself to read by stretching out on the floor every Sunday with the comics.

"The Mexican influence came from those early days in Florence," he said. "There were serenades going on, and I remember listening to people playing guitars and singing as a child."

From dancing at fiestas to dressing up in traditional sombreros, charro pants and boots, the Mexican flavor was always alive in Arriola's drawings. A merry band of cats, birds, pigs and donkeys talked among themselves, serving as the strip's Greek chorus.

Earlier in his career, Arriola bought into the stereotyping typical in American popular culture at the time. Working as an animator at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's cartoon studio, he created a clan of dirty, unshaven Mexican bandits for a 1940 production

called "The Lonesome Stranger."

He later took one of those scoundrels, cleaned him up and named him Gordo. In 1941, he took some of those sample drawings to New York, hoping to sell his character.

"They looked at them and weren't too particularly impressed. They said, 'Leave them here with us. We want to look at them. We want to study them,'" Arriola recalled. "That was April. In June, I had a telegram from the United Feature Syndicate saying they were interested in producing it."

In the beginning, Gordo remained fat, sexist and lazy, often seen barefoot, enjoying a siesta under a tree. Arriola figured that would appeal to English-language newspaper readers, which at the time did not include many Mexican-Americans.

But after receiving a few critical letters from readers, he abandoned those stereotypes.

"I was going to do a Mexican Li'l Abner," Arriola said. "I was just going to be funny, then I realized that I'm depicting a real group of people here. I was caught, and I had to go with what I had created."

It was a move that captured generations of loyal readers, like Alex Saragoza, a professor of Mexican and Latino history at the University of California, Berkeley, who grew up in the Central Valley where his father moved from Mexico.

"Arriola's comic strip was one of the few alternatives to a different view and, in many respects, a more accurate view of Mexico in large part because he gave a very positive spin to events and cultural expression," he said.

"Just the characterization of Gordo was such that it countered the kind of sleazy, sneaky Mexican stereotype or lazy stereotype, the Latin lover stereotype and several others. It was done with humor and with warmth."

Saragoza said Arriola helped eliminate common misconceptions, such as the idea that Cinco de Mayo was Mexico's independence day. It is a commemoration of the Mexican army's defeat of invading French forces on May 5, 1862, a story Arriola told in one strip by making Gordo a French soldier in a re-enactment. "The French always get creamed! That's why we trade off!" says a pummeled Gordo as he limps home from the battle.

Arriola decided to move from Phoenix in 1956 — where he had spent five years fighting the heat — to the breezy coast of Northern California. But once he got a taste of Mexico, he and his wife, Frances, and their only child, Carlin, traveled there every year.

"It opened up a whole new vista," Arriola recalled. "I fell in love with their culture, their art, their music and I thought this is something that will be of real use in the strip for material."

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