

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Stumping the Promenade



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Sen. Jack O'Connell, D-Santa Barbara, who is running for state Superintendent of Public Instruction, chats with Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Superintendent John Deasy while he campaigns for office Tuesday on the Third Street Promenade.

By Daily Press staff

Sen. Jack O'Connell shook hands and asked for votes from shoppers along the Third Street Promenade on Tuesday.

O'Connell, D-Santa Barbara, is running for Superintendent of Public Instruction on Nov. 5. Term-limits prevent him from running for his senate seat this year.

During O'Connell's visit, Santa Monica-Malibu Superintendent John Deasy came to wish him luck on his campaign and let the candidate know about what the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is doing to raise money to keep class sizes small.

Voters will be asked whether they want to increase their parcel taxes to \$300 to help make up for a decline in state funding. Without the added revenue, school officials say there will likely be a severe loss in academic programs and overcrowded classrooms.

O'Connell said he supports local municipalities taking on a greater responsibility to ensure their schools remain high caliber.

"That's what's so great about local control," he said. "People can determine what level of service they want at their school by going beyond the amount of funding provided by the state."

Sales tax figures show economy in sad state

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Slumping sales at stores throughout Santa Monica may lead to a loss of millions in tax revenue, officials said this week.

Sales tax revenues plunged \$300,000 in the first quarter of this year, forcing officials to lower the amount the city is projected to make this year by at least \$1.5 million and leaving city council members with more tough budget decisions.

City financial experts previously predicted Santa Monica would bring in \$6.3 million in sales tax revenues during the first business quarter, which ranges from July 1 to Sept. 30. Sales tax figures were released to the city this month.

While they were off by \$300,000, the figures indicate the city will lose between \$1.5 to \$2 million — or nearly 6 percent of its projected revenues — over the year, city officials said.

"We had in our budget what we would

be receiving each quarter," said Mike Dennis, the city's finance director. "When the first quarter came in they were less than that amount, and we extrapolated that difference for the rest of the year based on the most recent economic forecasts."

Those forecasts indicate sales will continue to slump locally as consumers worry about worsening economic conditions and a possible war with Iraq, Dennis said. However, the city hasn't broke down which categories are bringing in the most revenues and which declined the most.

"There is not going to be a speeding up of activity," he said. "We think there will be a slowing of sales activity."

Predictions for how much the city would take in on hotel room taxes were on target, though hotel managers say they've reduce their room rates to lure guests.

Even more worrisome is that automobile sales, which lead all industries in local

See SALES, page 5

Santa Monica Bay Week acquired by new company

Employees down-sized, paper's future uncertain

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

The fate of a local weekly newspaper is up in the air as the company that publishes it was acquired this week, leaving many employees scrambling for their jobs.

Culver City-based Coastal Community News, owned by Steve Hadland, was assumed Monday by a newly formed company called

Cunningham & Gillis Enterprises, which has never published newspapers.

Coastal Community News published five westside weekly newspapers: the Santa Monica Bay Week, the Los Angeles Tribune, the Culver City News, the Westchester News and Playa del Rey News. Hadland previously pegged the combined circulation of the five newspapers at 62,000.

The company, which reportedly had 50 full-time employees, also owned a printing operation called West Coast Offset Printing, which prints the newspapers

See BAY WEEK, page 5

California voters face \$23 billion in state, local school bonds

By staff and wire reports

SACRAMENTO — Next month, California voters will face an unprecedented \$23 billion worth of state and local school bond proposals, an explosion caused by the passage two years ago of an initiative that made it easier for communities to pass bond issues.

With Proposition 47, voters will face \$13 billion in general obligation bonds — the largest bond measure in state history. There are also 104 local school bonds worth

more than \$9.9 billion on various ballots, a new record, according to School Services of California, a company that provides financial services to school districts.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is proposing a \$300 increase in parcel taxes for a period of 12 years, which is called Measure EE on the November ballot. Parcel taxes are flat fees charged to property owners, which can be passed along to renters of apartments also.

School district officials said the average Santa Monica apartment monthly rent would be increased by

\$3 if the ballot initiative is approved by voters.

The amount would represent a 300 percent increase over the \$100 property owners currently pay. There are 32,413 parcels in the two cities, and the increased parcel tax rate would annually give the school district an additional \$9.6 million.

Supporters say districts are proposing bonds in record numbers to make up for decades of a swelling student population and slow or no growth in school construction.

See BONDS, page 6

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Know when to step back and allow others to run with the ball. Right now, you might have a difficult time proving yourself. Do some work or get into a project that you can do by yourself. Quit pushing quite so hard for a few days. Decide to exercise more. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Meetings prove to be fruitful. You see that others reveal more of their thoughts right now. Step forward and ask for more of what you want from a friend or associate. Remember that few people are mind readers! Stay focused at a meeting. Tonight: Paint the town red.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Stay on top of work, refusing to defer to others. You might want to take charge, especially if you want the end product to be a specific way. Don't push associates beyond their limits. Use more diplomacy in dealing with bosses. Tonight: A late meal.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Do much needed research, which might involve computer work as well as phone calls. Others express their pleasure at your understanding. You build trust by the way you handle problems. Touch base with a child or loved one. Tonight: Where the action is.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Deal with a loved one or friend individually, if you really want your message to get through. Others might make a financial demand that is uncomfortable. Say what is on your mind so that others can understand what is happening. Tonight: Make nice.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Imagine more of what you would like from an associate, friend or partner. Others seek you out, and though you can make suggestions, you might not be totally comfortable. Ask for more feedback. Share information. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Dig into work, using all your positive energy. Check out what a fax or call is offering. Research new possibilities and check with others in the know. Teamwork helps put the final touches on a project. Take a walk to clear your mind. Tonight: Get some exercise.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Use self-discipline with your imagination right now. What comes up might surprise you and lead you down a new path. Be careful with suggestions that might involve a risk. You could be sorry later if things go this way. Tonight: Ever playful.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Understand what might be going on with a family member who has been rather cantankerous at times. Honestly, have you done anything to provoke this? Play it low-key as you deal with others. Visit with family. Tonight: Head home.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Keep up your end of communication, even if you want to close down or screen your calls. Important information heads your way. Don't disclose anything you're not comfortable with just yet. Return calls and e-mail. Tonight: Hang out.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Manage your finances with the finesse and insight you're capable of. Carefully consider an opportunity that involves a child or loved one who could be overly serious. Help this person see more than just his or her issues. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Express what you have avoided. How someone reacts could change substantially once he or she has a better grasp of a problem. Could you be diluting the facts? Open up to someone you trust if you need feedback. Tonight: Midweek break.

QUOTE of the DAY

**"Why don't you get a haircut?
You look like a chrysanthemum."**

— P. G. Wodehouse (1881-1975)

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com	MEDIA CONSULTANT William Pattnosh william@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com	MEDIA CONSULTANT Freida Woody freida@smdp.com
NIGHT EDITOR Patrick McDonald PRMcDonald@aol.com	MEDIA CONSULTANT Ryan Ingram ryan@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastrana del@smdp.com	CIRCULATION MANAGER Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Alejandro Cantarero alex@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Angela Downen angela@smdp.com	STAFF MASCOT Miya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Help clean up the neighborhood

By Daily Press staff

Main Street is cleaning itself up.

Organized by the Main Street Merchants Association, "Ocean Park Community Clean-up Day" will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Citizens are asked to help clean up the area from Neilsen Way to Fourth Street, from Pico Boulevard to the southern border of Santa Monica.

Those who are interested in helping should meet and park at the Victorian, 2640 Main St., just south of Ocean Park Boulevard. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

All volunteers will receive a \$20 gift certificate from A/X, and \$5 gift certificates from The Library Alehouse and Cleaner By Nature, and more.

All volunteers can enter to win prizes donated by Main Street merchants including Joe's Diner, Patagonia, Fedora Primo, ZJ Boarding House, Shoop's Deli, Ocean Park Beauty Supply, O'Brien's Irish Pub, World Cafe, Mani's Bakery, Rick's Tavern, Omelettes at Sunday Farmers' Market, La Vecchia Cucina, Casa Allegra, Splash Bath & Body, and more.

There will be a post cleanup get together at the Library Alehouse.

Volunteers under 18 years old need parental or guardian supervision.

Cars on the Promenade?

By Daily Press staff

This Saturday may be one of the only days of the year when cars are allowed on the Third Street Promenade.

The Santa Monica Junior Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an auto show from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., which will highlight 2003 models from various dealerships in town. Selected autos and trucks will be parked at locations along the Promenade throughout the day. Dealer representatives will be available to answer questions from the public.

Founded in 1931, the Santa Monica Junior Chamber of Commerce, also known as the Santa Monica Jaycees, is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing personal and leadership skills through local community services and activities.

Fire department to host free training

By Daily Press staff

Do you know how to rescue someone who is trapped? How to control bleeding?

Citizens can learn vital emergency actions during a free one-day emergency training class offered by the Santa Monica Fire Department on Oct. 26.

The Disaster Assistance Response Team training is designed to provide citizens with the skills to save themselves, their loved ones, neighbors or co-workers in the event of an emergency. The course includes hands-on training in light search and rescue techniques, shutting off utility connections, rescuer safety, extinguishing fires and disaster first aid.

The training runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (310) 458-2221 to enroll.



surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Today we're due for slight improvements in size and shape, both up and down the coast, as our admittedly minor southwest swell peaks. Surf isn't expected to get much above waist level, but conditions show improvement.

Thursday a new swell will be bypassing Santa Monica Bay thanks to its excessively steep northwest angle, 300 degrees, but another southwest ground swell should lend a hand in bringing up surf later in the day. The new southwest arrives early Thursday and builds throughout the day and overnight.

As the 200 degree swell fills in, good exposures see occasional chest-high sets, getting more consistent Friday.



Today's Tides:

Low-	1:35 a.m.	0.15'
High-	8:04 a.m.	4.65'
Low-	1:49 p.m.	1.90'
High-	7:26 p.m.	4.88'

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
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

Equal opportunity barber

Editor:

I just had my haircut at Peter's in Santa Monica and not only does he cut white and black men's hair, but also women's. In my Daily Press column last week, I called his place "a white man's barbershop" only to signify how different it is from the one depicted in the movie "BarberShop." I am sorry for any misunderstanding. Pete even has a photo on his wall of a great Harlem Globetrotter who has taken tonsorial pleasure in his shop. There is no truth to the rumor however, that he is offering a "Terrorist's Haircut Special: No Oil."

Hank Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Worried about a 'living wage'

Editor:

I am quite concerned over the effect that Measure JJ will have on employees such as me, if this measure is passed during the upcoming elections. I am a professional waiter (server) for an upscale restaurant within the proposed affected areas of Santa Monica.

I certainly believe that everyone who works in our industry should be compensated fairly. But I also believe that fairly should not mean equally. The way I am interpreting Measure JJ is that all employees working in the hotel/restaurant business in the defined area would be compensated at the same pay scale, i.e. a dishwasher would be at the same level as a waiter; fast food employees would be compensated the same as upscale restaurants.

I believe that this would not only affect me personally, but my employer as well. I am a professional server, and have developed my skills over a 15 year period. My employer, in fact, demands a "resume" before an employment interview can be scheduled. My job, in order to perform exceptionally, requires knowledge of food and beverage far beyond fast food fare. How I perform my job is directly related to my income, because of course, I work for "tips." I am educated, (BA degree) but have found much job satisfaction working for an establishment that serves entertainment, political, and business leaders in the Santa Monica area. Measure JJ appears to change how I will be compensated, from a performance based method to a dictated by law method. This will have an adverse effect on my employer as well, since he will have to add an automatic service charge to patrons' checks. This will tend to irritate patrons who believe in tipping based on service. It may also result in overall price increases to cover the compensation of the support staff. I do not see foresee anything but overall decline in the upscale restaurant business, not to mention the unfair advantage it would allow those restaurants with gross sales of less than \$5 million.

I am a resident of Santa Monica, and moved there because of my job. If Measure JJ is passed and the results are negative as I predict, I will have to seek employment elsewhere; elsewhere being just a few blocks east of the proposed area to be affected. It seems that plain business sense has been overlooked when drafting this measure. It will be detrimental to an existing successful Santa Monica business, and certainly cause myself and other like employees to seek positions elsewhere.

Thomas Bailey
Santa Monica

Don't be fooled by the game

Editor:

Measure JJ is like a play, with many "acts" unfolding, as Nov. 5 nears.

Early on you had the Renter's Rights heavy weights coming out with emotionally saturated rhetoric. The husband/wife team of Linda Sullivan and Robert Myers (AKA Mr. & Mrs. Rent Control) are prime examples, having submitted opinions and a column to this paper.

The housekeepers were then organized for photo ops and press releases. Thus, the scenery, in this union pressured play, was given a face, which is sadly being used for purposes other than simply "raising wages." But, I am getting ahead of the plot.

Enter, left stage, Vivian Rothstein, steaming ahead, as the paid "voice box," countering all logical arguments supporting what a scam this ordinance really is. After all, there is no room for reality checks in the emotional portrayals theatrically spun by the politically powerful.

Music, music we need music! So, here we get "Peter, Paul and Mary," singing all their old folk renditions of suppression, popular in the '60s. Everyone knows that gray haired retrospectives are "in" these days.

Next comes the serious part of the play, symbolized by handpicked soothsayers — 100 "economists!" There should be a drum roll here. They are only written in to lend some semblance of credibility to an incredulous concept — targeted people and pay zones in Santa Monica. However, what about the many economists or research organizations, studying entry-level employment, who state the "living wage campaign is part of the world of make believe?" Or, is this just another example of overlooked factual trivia?

Last Friday, a new scene was publicly choreographed outside Santa Monica City Hall. This time religion was rolled out, giving sort of a right-wing drift to the living wage ordinance. Could this be a right-wing conspiracy in the making? Ah, the play is turning into a mystery! Oh yes, did I forget to mention what a wonderfully orchestrated Kodak moment it turned out to be, indeed — blessings on film! The PR for this play is just beautiful, man, just beautiful.

Similar to reality TV programs, though, we have to wait and see what or who the next segment will bring on. The ending, however, is one of those formulated ones. When the curtain call comes, no matter if Prop JJ wins or loses, the people taking the center stage bow will be the Renter Right's leadership holding hands with union stooges.

The human masses, those struggling workers, at the play's conclusion, will be back stage, too obscure to be recognized. For, they have really been "extras," all along, in this production — metaphoric pons riled up to create a larger constituency for Renter's Rights. As any savvy political insider knows, the best way to ensure you have a beholden constituency, who think they need you, is to keep unrest alive and well in any given community or country. Coercive ploys, duping the public, it's all in the name and game of machine politics, trying to write the plays of life just to keep winning elections in dear old Santa Monica.

Jan Tousignant
Santa Monica

Let's set the record straight and get our facts right

There was a guest commentary in the Oct. 4 issue of the SMDP by a Mr. Flora, a recent resident of our great city. Unfortunately he comes to his opinions without the benefit of many years of seeing just how our city was, is and should be.

I too am a resident, small business owner and parent with two children in the Santa Monica schools. I can tell you right now — the living wage is a bad deal for our city and will cause more harm than good for the men and women it proposes to help.

In his opinion piece, he has unfortunately confused fact with fiction. I have lived here for over 20 years, and have seen this city change so dramatically sometimes for the best, sometimes not. But I love this town as much as anyone, and I do not want to see it hurt by the risky, whims of a small group of special interests that have too much influence over our city council.

Let's set the record straight. First let's address this misconception that the city invested hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade the bay district so the businesses in this area are now beholden to the city and should provide a "living wage" to their employees. Well Mr. Flora, let's tell the truth. Of that \$180 million he talks about, it

is estimated that less than 10 percent came directly from the city coffers. The rest were grants and loans from the state and federal government — and some of it we pay interest on as state taxpayers. The same study that Mr. Flora refers to, states clearly that the city did not invest disproportionately in the bay district over any other part of the city. (Check out the facts at <http://pen.ci.santa-monica.ca.us/cityclerk/council/pollin.pdf>) So as a result, should we now impose a living wage on the entire city?

Most importantly, the businesses in this district have conservatively spent nearly \$300 million to build a district that was at best a rest stop for transients and the homeless. Should they be penalized for investing in the community? Let's set the record straight!

Much is made in his piece about the "big hotels" and "wealthy business owners." I wish I could say I was a wealthy business owner. The fact, is I like so many others, am just making ends meet, and in less than great economic times. Is

it the right time to force me to spend more than I can, to risk my livelihood?

This is not just a fight by the big hotels! Businesses large and small will all be affected by this bad law. Mr. Flora forgets about businesses like Midnight Special Book Store, Broadway Deli, The Reel Inn, Hennessey and Ingles, and many more small businesses ... each of whom face

potentially devastating impacts by this bad law. With the city ill prepared for the coming of this law, the "so called" exemptions will not go into effect for some time, and in the interim,

businesses will be forced to meet the new higher wage standards, and may be forced to close their doors. I ask Mr. Flora, is this an "innovative cutting edge decision?"

Let's set the record straight. The way Mr. Flora tells it, he would have us believe that this law was the work of a grassroots group of residents! Well let's look at the facts. Based on recent campaign spending reports, a group of very clever labor unions from downtown Los Angeles are behind this law. This one special interest group is spending

hundreds of thousands of dollars and bringing outsiders into our city every weekend, to make us believe that this is good policy for our city. I admire our city leaders, but I think they have been led astray by the mistaken promise of the real "vocal minority"

Let's set the record straight. Mr. Flora refers to our "city of great wealth." I think he must be thinking of Beverly Hills. Did he not hear the agonizing hours of debate by our city leaders as they cut over \$15 million from important city services to balance the budget? Schools are going without music and art programs, city services such as street improvements have been delayed or scrapped. This is not the time to be adding new laws that benefit a few and handicap the many!

Your right Mr. Flora, it is "gut check" time, and my gut is telling me this is bad for Santa Monica, bad for our residents, and risks the very jobs you want to protect. I hope you will look at the facts, and vote no as I am on Measure JJ.

(Jack Srebnik is a small business owner and resident in Santa Monica.)

Guest Commentary

By Jack Srebnik

LOCAL



Bright spots in local economy offer hope

SALES, from page 1

sales tax revenue sources, are projected to decline over the next year, Dennis said.

Future sales are expected to decline because dealerships and car manufacturers offered huge incentives to buy new cars over the past year, leaving less of a market for newer models currently being released.

"Nationally, it appears all the incentives that have been offered by car companies are in effect stealing future sales and bringing them into the present," Dennis said.

The Santa Monica City Council deferred more than \$20 million capital improvement projects this year to balance the city's budget, which also amounted to 2.5 percent cuts in every department.

The city had to undergo serious belt-tightening to make up for a nearly \$9 million loss in tax revenue last year, mainly from a drop-off in sales and a low hotel occupancy rate. And officials are preparing for further reductions in state funding when the California legislature adjusts its budget in November.

City council members may have to further cut the city's budget and delay even more capital improvement projects to make up for the recent sales tax deficit.

"It certainly is significant especially in light of the cuts we had to make when we adopted the budget last June," said Councilman Ken Genser. "Any future cuts or changes will require a lot of thought and community dialogue."

The city has begun a recent campaign to

promote itself as a tourism destination and a regional draw for shopping and dining, which may help counteract further declines in sales tax revenues, Genser said.

"We've put more money back into tourism promotion and I think the best thing to do is continue to be the most desirable community we can, not just for the residents but one that will continue to attract people as well," he said.

Kathy Dodson, executive director of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, said while retail and automobile sales are expected to slide, there are still some positive aspects to Santa Monica's economy.

She said business is picking up at many entertainment companies with headquarters in Santa Monica and three major local hospitals are planning "significant" expansion projects.

"There are some bright spots in the economy, but it's certainly not where it was before," she said. "I think the economy is going to expand slowly, and I don't think it's going to bounce back anytime soon."

And Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp. — which helps manage the downtown for the city, said she has been noticing packed stores along Third Street Promenade on the weekends.

"People are saying one day they'll have the absolutely greatest sales ever, but then the next day business is terrible," she said. "The predictability is gone, that's what I'm hearing."

Paper will continue publishing

BAY WEEK, from page 1

along with other publications, including the Santa Monica Daily Press.

Hadland — who made headlines in an unsuccessful bid to buy the Honolulu Advertiser in 2000 — deferred all comments to Suzan Cunningham, who along with business partner Jack Gillis, formed the new company.

Cunningham said the five newspapers and the printing operation was part of the business deal. She would not say whether the newspapers were purchased or if Coastal Community News was acquired because of debt owed.

"I'm not at liberty to discuss any of our financial arrangements," she said. "We are not saying we did or did not have prior business dealings with them."

Hadland's media outlet was going through rough financial times, according to industry sources. Over the past few months, some employees reported their salaries would go unpaid for weeks at a time and a few employees said their paychecks bounced.

On Monday and Tuesday, employees were interviewed to sort out who would stay with the company and who would be down-sized out of a job.

A receptionist that answered the phone Tuesday morning said groups of five employees were being brought into Hadland's office for the "bad news."

"I'm just trying to keep my head up," she said. "All I can do is hope to have a

job tomorrow."

By that afternoon, she was no longer answering the phones.

"Any cuts being made are superfluous," Cunningham said. "It's a down-sizing thing, not a firing thing."

Cunningham said the company will remain in Culver City, but she is uncertain about the future of the newspapers.

"As far as we know, we are going to maintain the publications we are doing until we make other arrangements," she said. "Right now we're just trying to get our feet on the ground and finding out where we stand."

"You have to give me some time," she added. "It's a completely new endeavor for me."

Cunningham said she would like to see the new company continue some of the operations.

"The paper has age on it and I would like to see it to continue," she said. "It would be a real tragedy for it to discontinue."

Skip Rimer, the former editor of the defunct Evening Outlook, said Santa Monica can't continue to support so many publications.

Currently there is one daily newspaper, four weekly publications and a monthly newspaper covering Santa Monica issues.

"It doesn't surprise me at all given you have so many papers going after so few advertising dollars," he said. "It's just a given some will fall to the wayside."

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STATE

LA Unified voters face largest bond in history

BONDS, from page 1

"Two weeks ago, we had two high school groundbreakings in one day after not having built a high school in 30 years," said Glenn Gritzner, special assistant to the superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District. "We finally have the ability to meet the need for more schools."

Deidra Powell, a spokeswoman for the San Juan Unified School District near Sacramento, which has a \$350 million school bond on the ballot, said the district will use the money "for basic needed repairs of the schools we already have."

Proposition 39, which was approved in November 2000, made it easier to pass local school bond measures by lowering the vote requirement from two-thirds to 55 percent. Since then, voters have approved more than \$10.3 billion in school bonds.

In March 2000, before the new law, voters approved five local school bonds worth \$443 million. Two years later, voters approved 67 local school bonds worth \$6.1 billion.

"As soon as Prop. 39 passed, the number of bond proposals grew significantly," said Kim Rueben, a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, a San Francisco-based think tank. "In March, there were 76 local school bond measures; 63 passed. Only 25 would have passed if they were still required to get two-thirds of the vote."

The bond surge concerns some taxpayers groups, who note California's national lead in bond debt.

California shouldn't increase its debt load while it faces years of potential budget deficits, said John Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

"Assuming more debt is going to put tremendous pressure on the state's general fund," Coupal said. "I would liken this situation to someone who just lost his job and then goes out and runs up a huge Master Card bill."

The statewide bond measure, Proposition 47, will not directly raise taxes. But the money to repay the bonds will come from the state's general fund, so the money used to pay the bond debt could be taken from other state programs.

Also, while the bonds would pay to

build new schools, they would not pay for the extra teachers, books and other resources the new facilities will need. Taxpayers groups say that will lead to even higher spending and further strain the general fund.

If the local bonds are passed, property owners will carry the burden of paying back the debt.

In the Los Angeles Unified School District, voters will face a \$3.35 billion school bond — the largest local bond in California history — that will be used to build 120 new schools and create 115,000 new classroom seats. In 1997, the district passed a \$2.4 billion school bond.

If the Los Angeles bond is successful, property taxes in the area will rise by about \$5 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, Gritzner said.

Parent Dana Rhodes, who has two children attending a charter school in the Natomas Unified School District in Sacramento, said she supports school bonds but thinks it's unfair to property owners. The Natomas district is trying to float a \$45 million school bond this year.

"I don't like it on my taxes, but the community is growing so fast and we need more schools," said Rhodes, a property owner. "I think everyone who has kids in public schools should pick up the tab."

The statewide bond measure is drawing considerable financial support from the state's largest school unions, as well as from construction companies, bond firms and financial institutions. A handful of groups campaigning for Proposition 47 have raised at least \$7.8 million, with \$3.3 million coming from the California Teachers Association, the state's largest teachers union.

According to recent polls, that support has given Proposition 47 a lead among likely voters. A Field Poll taken in September showed 54 percent of likely voters in favor of the bonds, while only 33 percent were opposed.

Rueben said bond financing has been spurred on by the lowest interest rates in 30 years, and that voters can expect the surge to drop off soon.

"Bond financing is cyclical," she said. "Part of what we are seeing now is the tail end of something that had been going on when the economy was doing really well."

School bonds in recent elections

By The Associated Press

MARCH 2000:

■ Number of local school bonds on the ballot: 6

■ Number of school bonds that passed: 5

■ Amount of bonds approved by voters: \$443 million

MAY THROUGH OCTOBER 2000:

■ Number of local school bonds on the ballot: 14

■ Number of school bonds that passed: 9

■ Amount of bonds approved by voters: \$1.65 billion

NOVEMBER 2000:

■ Number of local school bonds on the ballot: 32

■ Number of school bonds that passed: 31

■ Amount of bonds approved by voters: \$2.1 billion

MARCH 2002:

■ Number of local school bonds on the ballot: 76

■ Number of school bonds that passed: 64

■ Amount of bonds approved by voters: \$6.1 billion

NOVEMBER 2002:

■ At least 104 school districts are asking voters to pass more than \$9.94 billion in school bonds this November. Voters will also face Proposition 47, a \$13 billion statewide school bond.

STATE



Bali bomb survivor home



Kevin Sullivan/Associated Press

Bali bomb survivor Steve Cabler, left, gives his son Max, 12, a kiss after answering reporters' questions at Los Angeles International Airport on Monday. Cabler, 42, of Newport Beach, was treated at a hospital for third-degree burns following Saturday's blast at a nightclub in Bali. Cabler and two friends, John Frederick Parodi Jr. and Steven Brooks Webster were in the Sari Club on Saturday. Parodi left the club just before the blast. Webster died in the explosion.

80 percent of Coast Guard cocaine seizures in Pacific

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nearly 80 percent of the total amount of cocaine seized by the U.S. Coast Guard last fiscal year occurred in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, authorities said Tuesday.

The Coast Guard seized 93,417 pounds of cocaine in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The total amount seized was 117,280 pounds, officials said in a statement.

"The Coast Guard is committed to securing America from all maritime threats, whether they be terrorists or drug smugglers, and we will continue to deny the seas to those who would harm our citizens," said Vice Adm. Terry Cross, commander of the Coast Guard's Pacific Area.

The Coast Guard over the past four years has seized 500,000 pounds of cocaine valued at over \$16 billion.

The total amount of cocaine seized last fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, was the third largest ever. Combined with the nearly 40,000 pounds of marijuana seized, it equaled \$3.9 billion worth of illegal drugs seized.

One of the largest seizures over the past fiscal year was the 25,300 pounds of cocaine found south of the Galapagos Islands on the Colombian fishing vessel Paulo. Coast Guard officers also seized 20,387 pounds of cocaine off the coast of Acapulco, Mexico, on the Mexican fishing vessel Macel.

Judge postpones Ryder case

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA

Associated Press Writer

BEVERLY HILLS — Actress Winona Ryder did not appear in court Tuesday for the start of her trial on shoplifting charges, prompting a judge to postpone her hearing for a day.

The trial, which was scheduled to start Tuesday morning, was delayed by Judge Elden J. Fox until Wednesday after prosecutors and Ryder's attorney met in the judge's chambers. The judge, who said Ryder's absence was due to an "unusual" circumstance, previously said that Ryder should be present Tuesday unless otherwise notified by the court.

Fox also postponed until Wednesday a hearing in which he will consider a motion by prosecutors to drop a felony drug charge against the "Girl Interrupted" and "Little Women" star.

"We'll be back in court tomorrow," said Sandy Gibbons, a spokeswoman with the District Attorney's Office. She declined to comment on why Ryder was

not in court Tuesday and a defense attorney was not immediately available for comment on her absence.

Officials with the District Attorney's Office have said that Ryder's defense offered a sworn statement from an individual who said she had reason to possess the painkillers, which were a generic form of the prescription drug Percocet.

Ryder, 30, will stand trial on charges of felony grand theft, burglary and vandalism.

She was arrested Dec. 12, 2001, outside a Beverly Hills Saks Fifth Avenue store after security officers reported that she had taken nearly \$6,000 worth of designer merchandise.

Attorney Shepard Kopp appeared Tuesday on Ryder's behalf. Her lead attorney, Mark Geragos, was not present.

Ryder faces up to three years in prison, if convicted.

Discussions between defense and prosecution attorneys to resolve the case without a trial broke down in mid-September.

Ryder also has starred in "Reality Bites," "Edward Scissorhands," and "Dracula."



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NATIONAL

Bombardier introduces high-speed locomotive

BY LAURENCE ARNOLD
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The maker of America's fastest train is shopping around a new product that could bring high-speed rail service to areas outside the Northeast.

Bombardier Transportation says its new "JetTrain" locomotive, powered by a jet engine, can reach 150 mph without needing overhead electrical lines like those used by Amtrak's high-speed Acela Express.

Bombardier led the consortium that built Acela Express, which operates in the Boston-New York-Washington corridor — the only electrified intercity corridor in the nation.

Pierre Lortie, president of Montreal-based Bombardier, said Tuesday he is confident the equipment problems that have plagued Acela Express will not hurt sales of the new locomotive.

He said several states are developing high-speed rail, and the company is targeting proposed high-speed lines within California, between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, between Chicago and St. Louis, between Tampa and Orlando in Florida, and between Toronto and Montreal.

Lortie said the company could begin closing deals in the next few months.

Bombardier has worked on the JetTrain for four years in partnership with the U.S. Federal Railroad Administration. Each side has invested about \$20 million, Lortie said.

The company says the new locomotive fits American demands because it is environmentally friendly, lightweight — thus causing less wear and tear on tracks — and capable of going into operation without major improvements to rail lines.

The locomotive is powered by a Pratt & Whitney jet engine rather than a traditional diesel engine. Bombardier says it is 20 percent lighter than a diesel locomotive and can accelerate twice as quickly. It is also designed to meet stringent U.S. safety standards.

Development of the non-electric locomotive is one piece of an ongoing effort by the Federal Railroad Administration to pave the way for high-speed rail around

the nation.

Bombardier showed off its new product at Union Station. The prototype locomotive — cherry red, with an American flag decal and the words "Turbine Powered" on its snub nose — sat at a station platform.

The Federal Railroad Administration did not participate in the event, since it was a commercial product kickoff. But spokesman Warren Plateau said the FRA remains "very much a part of the partnership."

Also not represented at the event was Amtrak, which despite its financial woes remains the only current provider of regularly scheduled intercity passenger rail in the United States. Amtrak says it needs \$1.2 billion from the government just to maintain operations for the next year and has shelved expansion plans, including those for high-speed rail.

Lortie acknowledged that Amtrak could be a potential purchaser but said high-speed projects being developed outside Amtrak's oversight are more promising.

He specifically cited Florida, where voters two years ago passed a constitutional amendment requiring construction of a rail network, with trains exceeding 120 mph, by November 2003.

Amtrak and Bombardier are locked in a legal battle over production delays and equipment problems that marred the introduction of Acela Express.

Bombardier, a world leader in manufacturing regional jets and train cars, sued Amtrak in 2000, contending the railroad held up production through shifting demands and bad decisions. It is seeking at least \$200 million in damages.

Amtrak blames Bombardier and says that, under its contract, it reserves the right to seek more than \$250 million in penalties. On Sept. 30, a judge denied Amtrak's motion to dismiss the case.

Amtrak and Bombardier continue to work together on equipment problems that grounded the Acela Express fleet for part of August.

AskMe.com to close free expert advice Web site

By The Associated Press

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Where is Bali? What is a good substitute for eggs in a cake recipe? What are some good places to take young children while visiting in Paris?

AskMe.com was one place to get the answers, but not for long.

The privately held company in this Seattle suburb announced in an e-mail Monday that its free expert advice Web site will be shut down by Nov. 25. AskMe will now concentrate on selling software to enable rapid transfer of information between employees within large companies such as Boeing, Ford and Honeywell, said Hossein Mousavi, AskMe vice president of marketing.

"It just didn't make business sense for us to continue having the consumer site," Mousavi said.

No employees will be laid off, he said.

AskMe users are being referred to alternatives such as AllExperts.com, Abuzz.com, ExpertCentral.com and Keen.com.

At its peak, AskMe attracted more than 10 million registered users. Questions listed Monday ranged from "Where is Malta located?" to "How do I free Diddy on Donkey Kong 64?"

The shutdown was a blow to Michelle Hardenbrook of Renton, AskMe's top-ranked expert with 23,005 questions answered, usually 20 to 30 a day, on relationships, parenting, women's health and dating.

"I feel like I have done some really good work, and I have helped an awful lot of people through some really traumatic things in their life," said Hardenbrook, who works at a property-tax company.

"This has been a real big part of my life for almost three years, and now it is going away," she said. "It is sort of like a death."

NATIONAL



The scene of another crime



Doug Mills/Associated Press

Investigators search for clues at the latest sniper shooting at the Seven Corners Shopping Center in Falls Church, Va. on Tuesday. Ballistic evidence conclusively links the death of the woman shot in the head Monday night with eight other killings by a Washington-area sniper, authorities said Tuesday. Linda Franklin, 47, of Arlington, Va., was shot as she and her husband loaded packages into their car outside a Home Depot.

Supreme Court denies class action lawsuit

BY GINA HOLLAND
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court swapped one class-action case for another Tuesday, backing out of a dispute over a popular credit card rebate program while agreeing to intervene in a case between the managed care industry and doctors.

Eight months after justices said they would consider the credit card case, they abruptly dismissed it — a blow to businesses that wanted the high court to use the dispute between Ford Motor Co. and millions of credit card holders to open the federal courts to more class-action lawsuits.

Ford had been sued by people who joined a credit card rebate program that allowed them to accumulate points to use for car purchases. Ford and Citibank canceled part of the 5-year-old rebate program in 1998.

The question that justices put off for now was whether the lawsuits belonged in federal or state court. Suits had been filed in state courts in Alabama, California, Illinois, New York, Oregon and Washington.

"It's a temporary setback," said Robin Conrad, an attorney for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which backed Ford in the case.

Ford and Citibank argued that federal court was the proper jurisdiction because of the amount of money involved in the conflicts. The court had been asked to clarify how the amount should be calculated.

The Supreme Court heard arguments in the case last week on the opening day of its new nine-month term. Justices questioned then whether the case should be reviewed further by lower courts.

The HMO case puts the justices in the middle of a class-action claim that health care insurers are cheating doctors. The court will consider whether doctors can sue under a federal racketeering law or whether some disputes must be settled in arbitration.

It's just one issue arising out of a case involving about 600,000 doctors who are jointly suing 15 HMOs in Miami. This case includes two of the HMOs, PacifiCare Health Systems Inc. and UnitedHealthcare Inc., which claim some doctors had signed contracts promising to work out disagreements in arbitration.

Arbitration is favored by many companies as cheaper, faster and more predictable than trials. An outside expert's decision is final.

Mary Davis, a law professor at the University of Kentucky specializing in class actions, said the large lawsuits are receiving more attention from the public and also from the Supreme Court.

Also Tuesday, the Supreme Court agreed to consider a case involving a computer expert who moved from California to Las Vegas before collecting millions of dollars in patent fees.

At issue is a ruling that allows Gilbert Hyatt to sue California officials in Nevada court. Hyatt, who has a patent for a computer microprocessor chip, filed a tax return that said he moved to Nevada in 1991, just before receiving \$40 million in patent licensing fees, California lawyers told the court.

California's tax agency is trying to collect some taxes from Hyatt. Hyatt claims the tax officials invaded his privacy and were guilty of fraud in checking his residence status.

Justices will consider whether Nevada courts must follow California's law, which would prevent the lawsuit. Thirty-five states had asked the Supreme Court to intervene and hear California's case.

The cases are Ford Motor Co. v. McCauley, 01-896; PacifiCare Health Systems v. Book, 02-215; and Franchise Tax Board of the State of California v. Hyatt, 02-42.

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NATIONAL

Castro was worried U.S. would spot missiles

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Weeks before the Cuban missile crisis erupted, Fidel Castro's biggest concern was that his "imperialist" neighbor would somehow discover the secret Soviet rocket deployments on Cuban soil.

Castro outlined his concerns in a speech he delivered to a Communist Party conclave in January 1968. Excerpts of the speech, kept secret until now, are contained in a book by two American professors that coincides with the 40th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis.

When Castro dispatched his brother, Raul, to Moscow to raise his concerns about possible American discovery of the missiles, Raul got the following response from Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev:

"Don't worry. I'm going to grab Kennedy by the testicles and he will just have to come and talk it over because, after all, they have our country surrounded by bases, in Turkey, here, there, everywhere."

The United States did, indeed, discover

the missiles, and on Oct. 16, 1962 — 40 years ago Wednesday — President Kennedy was informed of them.

Khrushchev's actions in the aftermath did not match the swaggering threat he had described in his conversation with Raul. After two weeks, he agreed to withdraw the missiles — but not before the two superpowers had come closer than at any time during the Cold War to nuclear annihilation.

Fidel Castro spoke to the Communist Party's Central Committee for 12 hours over two days in January 1968. Raul was at his side, and it was he who summed up Khrushchev's ribald response about how he planned to deal with Kennedy.

The passage is contained in "Sad and Luminous Days," by James G. Blight of Brown University and Philip Brenner of American University.

According to the book, Fidel Castro also had these observations about the crisis:

■ The Soviets showed great "carelessness" in not doing more to keep the 20-meter-long missiles out of view. "In a country so full of construction projects, it

would have been the easiest thing in the world for us to build those emplacements under the guise of something totally different and they never would have been discovered. ... I was amazed that they weren't discovered earlier."

■ The high-level contacts that Cuba had with the Russians in Moscow were so secretive that Cuba's official interpreters were barred from the meetings.

■ After three years of U.S. harassment, having missiles available was a heady feeling for Castro despite the dangers. "We were defending those rockets with amazing fervor and love. For the first time we were participating in a certain state of equality with an enemy that had been attacking us and provoking us incessantly, and we were really enjoying such a new and different situation."

■ The missiles raised the possibility of Cuba entering into a negotiation with the United States over their fate, an idea that Castro relished. He believed the missiles would have given him leverage to reclaim the naval base at Guantanamo Bay from U.S. control.

Bay from U.S. control.

■ On Oct. 26, during the darkest hours of the crisis, Castro said in a memo to Khrushchev: "I believe that aggression is imminent in the next 24 to 72 hours."

Much of the world applauded days later when the crisis ended with Khrushchev's promise to remove the missiles in exchange for a pledge by Kennedy not to invade Cuba and to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey, a Soviet neighbor.

The outcome left Castro inconsolable. He told Khrushchev in a letter: "We knew — do not presume that we did not — that we would be exterminated. ... Nonetheless, we did not ask you to withdraw the missiles."

"Do you perhaps believe that we desired that war? But how could it have been avoided if they had invaded. ... The majority of Cubans are currently experiencing unspeakable bitterness and sadness. The imperialists have again begun to speak of invading our country, a demonstration of how short-lived and untrustworthy their promises are."

Two charged with scheming Adelphia out of \$2.1 million

By The Associated Press

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Two men were charged with bilking the troubled cable television provider Adelphia Communications Corp. out of \$2.1 million by infiltrating the company, then having it pay for unauthorized consulting work.

A federal grand jury on Friday indicted a former employee of Adelphia's Buffalo, N.Y., office, and a Santa Cruz, Calif., businessman on charges that they set up a complex network of bank accounts and phony identities to conceal the payments.

The consultant, Daniel Wirth, 44, was free Tuesday but was making plans to surrender to FBI agents in California, authorities said.

Federal prosecutors said the Adelphia employee had been using the name John Wayne Truelove, but that they believed he had assumed that identity from a 4-year-old New York boy who died in 1959. His real name is unknown, authorities said. He was listed in court

papers as John Doe.

Between September 2001 and March 2002, the man, who began working at Adelphia in 1999, used his position to make 12 payments to Wirth totaling \$2.1 million, investigators said. The company began investigating the payments in March, the indictment said.

The case is unrelated to federal charges that Adelphia's founder, John Rigas, two of his sons and other former executives looted the company of \$2.5 billion and used the cash to finance personal business ventures. Adelphia, the nation's sixth-largest cable company, filed for bankruptcy protection this year.

Wirth's attorney said Tuesday that the payments were legitimate and his client's contract to perform work for Adelphia was legal.

"There was a substantial amount of work done out here. There were substantial work products sent back to this fellow at Adelphia," attorney Frank Ubhaus said. He said Wirth denied allegations that he conspired to defraud the company.

The man Adelphia knew as Truelove was in custody in Lehigh County, Pa., on an unrelated charge of giving a fake name to authorities investigating a fire at his home in Lower Saucon Township. Authorities said he had been using the name Jeffrey Wayne Hessler, along with at least two other aliases.

A Philadelphia attorney representing the man did not immediately return a phone call Tuesday.

The indictment said the man had been using Truelove's identity since at least 1992 and had obtained a social security account and a driver's license under that name. He also used the name Truelove when he was hired as an information technology manager at The Pew Charitable Trusts in 1997, the indictment said.

An Adelphia spokesman said the company was cooperating with the investigation, but declined to discuss the details of the allegations.

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INTERNATIONAL



U.S., Britain at odds with France, Russia and China

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — France, Russia, China and several other members of the U.N. Security Council remain opposed to a resolution backed by the United States and Britain that would authorize military action against Iraq if it fails to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors.

Intense negotiations have been going on among the five veto-holding nations, and U.S. deputy ambassador Richard Williamson said Tuesday that "the dance continues."

"No breakthroughs have taken place to date, but the conversations continue," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said in Washington. President Bush has said "he was content to wait for days and weeks, not months. It still is within that days and weeks timeframe. ... We'll see if it goes beyond that."

France has led the opposition — instead favoring two U.N. resolutions — a first toughening U.N. inspections and a second authorizing action against Iraq if it fails to comply.

French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin reaffirmed on Monday that Paris is opposed to unilateral U.S. military action and urged the Bush administration to "remain faithful to the vision of collective security that rests on the law."

"America seems tempted by the solitude of power," he told the Institute for National Defense Studies, a think tank in Paris. "We cannot accept an intervention that is not a last resort, the final resort."

China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said Tuesday that inspectors should return to Iraq before the Security Council decides on any action.

"We believe that the imperative is to readmit U.N. weapons inspectors to Iraq as soon as possible to have outside inspection and then submit a report to the U.N. Security Council. After reviewing such an objective report, then the U.N. Security Council should take some actions," she said.

Affirming China's opposition to military action, Zhang said, "A political and diplomatic way should be sought within the U.N. framework."

Chief weapons inspector Hans Blix was asked to brief the council Tuesday at Russia's request on two letters from Iraq on the return of inspectors after nearly

four years, diplomats said.

Blix, who is in charge of searching for biological and chemical weapons, and Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is in charge of nuclear inspections, asked Iraq to confirm agreements reached in Vienna earlier this month on resuming inspections.

The two Iraqi letters did not explicitly confirm the agreements, but Iraq said it saw no obstacles to a resumption of the hunt for weapons of mass destruction and promised to behave "professionally" if U.N. weapons inspectors return.

Meanwhile, negotiations on a new U.N. resolution continued.

In a move to placate France, U.S. diplomats last week offered to remove a threat to use "all necessary means" if Saddam Hussein doesn't cooperate. France objected because the new U.S. draft resolution would still threaten "serious consequences" if Iraq remained defiant, which U.S. officials said was enough for Washington to attack if necessary.

On Monday, U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte met France's U.N. Ambassador John David Levitte. Council diplomats said France still insists on a two-stage resolution but offered more precise language in its draft to address U.S. concerns.

Secretary of State Colin Powell scheduled talks with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, the administration's closest ally, in Washington on Tuesday.

Council diplomats said Monday they did not believe the United States and Britain have enough support in the 15-member Security Council for a resolution that would give a green light for the use of force in Iraq. To win approval, a resolution must get nine "yes" votes and must not be vetoed by a permanent member.

Diplomats said they believe a U.S. resolution with any language that could authorize force would likely be opposed by France, Russia, China, Syria, Ireland, Mexico, Cameroon, Guinea and probably Mauritius — which means it would get a maximum of only six or seven "yes" votes.

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock told the General Assembly on Monday that U.N. inspectors should be given "the strongest powers possible to ensure successful disarmament and to make it crystal clear to Iraq that this time, it is complete disarmament or serious consequences."

Coffins headed home



Achmad Ibrahim/Associated Press

Indonesian medical crews on Tuesday carry a coffin containing a victim of Saturday's bombings after two days of cool storage at a hospital in Denpasar, on the Indonesian island of Bali. The bombing at a nightclub killed nearly 200 people, most of them foreign tourists.

Giuliani gets \$4.3 million for Mexico consulting contract

By The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani will be paid \$4.3 million plus expenses for a one-year contract to advise Mexico City's mayor on reducing crime, Mexican media reported.

City legislators said the top public safety official told them in a closed-door session that business donors would pick up the tab.

Those donors include a foundation headed by Carlos Slim, a retail and telecommunications magnate who is one of Latin America's richest men.

Giuliani's office in New York refused to comment on the Monday report.

"We don't discuss prearrangements," Giuliani spokeswoman Sunny Mindel said. "We're not confirming or denying that."

Giuliani, credited with reducing crime in New York by 65 percent, announced the contract at a news conference last Thursday, but didn't say how much he

would be paid. It is the first international security project for the former mayor's consultancy group.

Some Mexico City legislators doubted that Giuliani would be much help in this megalopolis of 18 million.

"This will do more harm than good," said Assemblyman Alejandro Diez-Barroso, who heads the Mexico City assembly's public safety commission.

Diez-Barroso suggested that the money might have better been spent on higher salaries for the police force, which is beleaguered by accusations of corruption.

Giuliani said last week that "the similarities between what Mexico City faces today and what New York City faced in the late '80s and early '90s are striking."

Mexico City has long been plagued by crime. Cab drivers have been known to kidnap passengers, holding them for several days and driving them to automatic teller machines until their bank accounts are empty.

UN reports progress toward hunger relief nears a standstill

BY EMILY GERSEMA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Progress toward reducing famine worldwide has stalled and hunger spread in some countries over the past eight years, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said Tuesday.

The report said seven countries together — China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Nigeria, Ghana and Peru — reduced hunger for about 100 million people from 1992 to 2000. But 96 million more people went hungry in 47 countries during that period for reasons ranging from war to drought to population growth.

"Most of the increase took place in Central Africa, driven by the collapse into chronic warfare of a single country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the number of undernourished people has tripled," the report said.

Of the 840 million hungry people around the globe, 36.4 million are citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the organization said. In comparison, China — including Taiwan — relieved hunger for 74 million people.

Countries at the World Food Summit in 1996 set a goal to curb hunger for half the famished population by 2015. The U.N. organization said the new estimates, however, indicate that countries must boost their efforts

to fill empty stomachs before then.

"In order to make up for the lagging progress to date to reach the World Food Summit goal on time, we must now strive to reduce the number of hungry people by 24 million each year from now until 2015," the organization said in the report.

That pace is almost 10 times faster than the rate at which hunger was reduced from 1992 to 2000.

Studies show that economies improve when hunger and malnutrition are treated, said the U.N. organization, which encourages farming development to increase food production around the globe.

DID YOU KNOW?: More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call?



SPORTS

Giants' old-timers in search of first Series ring

BY BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Kenny Lofton raised his arms in celebration, well before David Bell belly-flopped home with the winning run.

Moments later, there was madness in the middle of the diamond as Shawon Dunston and his San Francisco teammates hugged Lofton.

"He told me in Game 1, 'Shawon, have you ever been to the World Series?' I said no and he said, 'I'm going to get you there,'" Dunston said after the Giants beat St. Louis 2-1 Monday night to clinch the NL championship series.

A few other Giants old-timers will make the trip for the first time, too, when San Francisco travels to take on the Anaheim Angels in Game 1 Saturday night.

There's Barry Bonds, of course. At 38 and in his 17th major league season, he finally gets his chance at the only prize that has eluded him.

"It's a feeling I can't explain. Maybe in a few days I'll be able to tell someone how I feel," he said. "I'm just so glad I'm going to the World Series. For me, it's a long time coming."

Same for Benito Santiago. At 37 and also in his 17th season, his career almost ended a few years ago because of a car crash. Now, he's the NLCS MVP.

"The only thing I told Kenny when he got here was, 'You've been there before. I'm in the water. Just take me to the land,'" Santiago said.

"It's been a long time behind the plate taking foul tips," he said.

And there's Dunston. At 39, he made his big league debut in 1985 as a rocket-

armed shortstop, a season before Bonds and Santiago reached the majors.

A backup outfielder these days, he struck out in his only at-bat in this NLCS before lining a two-out single that set up Lofton's hit.

After Bonds sprinted from the third-base dugout to help hoist Lofton, he found Dunston.

"He hugged me and I said, 'Barry, thank you for giving me the chance to go to the World Series.' And he said, 'No, thank you. I knew you were going to get that hit,'" Dunston said. "Man, that's a good feeling when the best player in baseball tells you, 'Way to go!'"

Said Lofton: "Shawon was emotional today. He was telling everybody, 'This is it. This is probably my last chance. It's my dream to get one World Series.' That was one of my thoughts as I ran to first. Now, he's getting it."

And that thrilled Giants manager Dusty Baker.

"We've got a bunch of veteran guys who've given their heart and souls to this game and this team, and they're getting their reward," he said.

Kind of like last year when several older players with Arizona, such as Randy Johnson, Mark Grace and Jay Bell, won their first Series ring.

The party at Pacific Bell Park lasted for two more hours as a sellout crowd of 42,673 enjoyed the scene.

The scoreboard flashed "The Giants Win the Pennant!" The crowd chanted "Beat L.A.!" The sound system played "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

Inside the clubhouse, Giants players shouted and sprayed champagne. All except one.

World Series rosters

ANAHEIM ANGELS

Manager: Mike Scioscia

Catchers	No. Player	B	T	Born	Ht	Wt
	1 Molina, Bengie	R	R	07-20-1974	5-11	210
	28 Molina, Jose	R	R	06-03-1975	6-1	215
	44 Wooten, Shawn	R	R	07-24-1972	5-10	225
Infielders						
	22 Eckstein, David	R	R	01-20-1975	5-8	170
	20 Fullmer, Brad	L	R	01-17-1975	6-0	220
	10 Gil, Benji	R	R	10-06-1972	6-2	210
	25 Glaus, Troy	R	R	08-03-1976	6-5	245
	2 Kennedy, Adam	L	R	01-10-1969	6-1	192
	23 Spiezio, Scott	S	R	09-21-1972	6-2	225
Outfielders						
	16 Anderson, Garrett	L	L	06-30-1972	6-3	228
	17 Erstad, Darin	L	L	06-04-1974	6-2	220
	18 Ochoa, Alex	R	R	03-29-1972	6-0	200
	3 Palmeiro, Orlando	L	L	01-19-1969	5-10	182
	15 Salamon, Tim	R	R	08-24-1968	6-3	235
Pitchers						
	27 Appier, Kevin	R	R	12-06-1967	6-2	200
	21 Cook, Dennis	L	L	10-04-1962	6-3	190
	53 Donnelly, Brendan	R	R	07-04-1971	6-3	200
	41 Lackey, John	R	R	10-23-1978	6-6	205
	43 Levine, Al	L	R	05-22-1968	6-3	190
	36 Ortiz, Ramon	R	R	03-23-1973	6-0	170
	40 Percival, Troy	R	R	08-09-1969	6-3	235
	60 Schoeneweis, Scott	L	L	10-02-1973	6-0	185
	62 Shields, Scott	R	R	07-22-1975	6-1	175
	56 Washburn, Jarrod	L	L	08-13-1974	6-1	187
	77 Weber, Ben	R	R	11-17-1969	6-4	210

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Manager: Dusty Baker

Catchers	No. Player	B	T	Born	Ht	Wt
	33 Santiago, Benito	R	R	03-09-1965	6-1	185
	9 Torrealba, Yorvit	R	R	07-19-1978	5-11	180
Infielders						
	35 Aurilia, Rich	R	R	09-02-1971	6-1	189
	28 Bell, David	L	R	09-14-1972	5-10	190
	21 Kent, Jeff	R	R	03-07-1968	6-1	220
	34 Martinez, Ramon	R	R	10-10-1972	6-1	183
	32 Mueller, Bill	S	R	03-17-1971	5-10	180
	6 Snow, J.T.	L	L	02-26-1968	6-2	205
Outfielders						
	25 Bonds, Barry	L	L	07-24-1964	6-2	228
	23 Dunston, Shawon	R	R	03-21-1963	6-1	180
	8 Gooden, Tom	L	R	07-27-1968	6-1	175
	1 Lofton, Kenny	L	L	05-31-1967	6-0	190
	16 Sanders, Reggie	R	R	12-01-1967	6-1	205
	5 Shinjo, Tsuyoshi	R	R	01-28-1972	6-1	185
Pitchers						
	38 Fultz, Aaron	L	L	09-04-1973	6-0	200
	61 Hernandez, Livan	R	R	02-20-1975	6-2	240
	43 Jensen, Ryan	R	R	09-17-1975	6-0	205
	31 Nen, Robb	R	R	11-28-1969	6-5	222
	48 Ortiz, Russ	R	R	06-05-1974	6-1	208
	47 Rodriguez, Felix	R	R	12-05-1972	6-1	198
	46 Ruster, Kirk	L	L	12-01-1970	6-3	212
	29 Schmidt, Jason	R	R	01-29-1973	6-5	220
	26 Witasick, Jay	R	R	08-28-1972	6-4	235
	45 Worrell, Tim	R	R	07-05-1967	6-4	220
	41 Zerbe, Chad	L	L	04-27-1972	6-0	200

Because off in a corner and away from the bedlam, Bonds stayed dry — until his 12-year-old son, Nikolai, poured water over his head.

"When we win the World Series, I'll celebrate," Bonds said.

The 35-year-old Lofton became one of his teammates on July 28 when the Chicago White Sox traded him to the Giants for two minor league pitchers.

A star leadoff hitter through the 1990s, Lofton has dipped in the last few years. His only World Series appearance came in 1995 when his Cleveland Indians lost to Atlanta.

Lofton was in the center of a skirmish in Game 1 against St. Louis. The Cardinals didn't take too kindly to Lofton's protracted trot around the bases after an early home run off Matt Morris, and threw high and inside in his next at-bat. Lofton started shouting, triggering a bench-clearing shoving match.

After that game, Cardinals manager Tony La Russa claimed he'd seen Lofton pull the same "trick" in overreacting to inside pitches. Lofton then went 0-for-16 in the series until getting hit in the back by a pitch from Morris in the fourth inning.

Managerial mess-ups mark postseason baseball

BY BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Stick with a starting pitcher too long in May, it might cost the manager a game.

Make the same wrong move in October, it could cost him a lot more: a chance to win the World Series, and maybe even his reputation.

Ask Tony La Russa. Or Art Howe. Or Bobby Cox. La Russa made a whole bunch of moves in Game 4 of the NL championship series Sunday. Too bad for the St. Louis skipper, none of them turned out well.

Maybe he should've pulled Andy Benes sooner. He probably could've replaced reliever Rick White earlier. He shouldn't have told Tino Martinez, with one only sacrifice in the last six seasons, to bunt.

The one thing La Russa did absolutely right — intentionally walking Barry Bonds with two outs in the eighth inning — is what he'll get blamed for the most.

"Well, a lot of times strategy is judged on whether it works," La Russa said after the Cardinals lost 4-3 to San Francisco, dropping them into a 3-1 series deficit. "So it didn't work. Bad strategy."

Of course, La Russa is no stranger to second-guessing. Because for all his thinking, he's been bamboozled in the postseason before.

Hamstrung by Mark McGwire's sore knee in the 2000 playoffs, he never quite figured out how to make his injured slugger a factor. The Cardinals got wiped out by the New York Mets and La Russa, considered by many as one of baseball's best minds, paid the price.

Arizona manager Bob Brenly didn't like hearing it last year on his way to winning the World Series. Criticized for pitching Curt Schilling on three days' rest and bringing back Byung-Hyun Kim after a bad outing, Brenly overreacted.

"When I was up in the booth, I made it a point to never second guess. If you cannot point something out ahead of time, it becomes the lowest form of journalism as far as I'm concerned, to come in after the fact and say what should have happened," he said.

But face it, managerial mess-ups have always marked the postseason. Fans look forward to them, relishing the opportunity to attack dugout mismanagement.

And there's been plenty of it. Howe mistakenly refused to reshuffle his rotation to let ace lefty Barry Zito pitch twice in the opening round against Minnesota, a team that couldn't hit lefties. See ya, Oakland.

Cox decided to keep three catchers, including seldom-used Steve Torrealba, and got caught short against San Francisco in the division series. Bye-bye, Braves.

Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia blundered, failing to bring in closer Troy Percival in a key spot in Game 1 at Yankee Stadium. The Angels lost, and the next day Scioscia was able to joke about the criticism.

By the way, a few hours later in a similar spot, Scioscia went to Percival in the eighth inning. The Angels are now in the World Series and Percival, used just four times in the eighth during the regular season, has made two early appearances in the playoffs.

That's a sign of smart managing. The good ones realize what works over 162 games may not work at all in the postseason.

The Giants' Dusty Baker has learned. Twice in the first three games against St. Louis, he had Rich Aurilia put down a sacrifice bunt in the opening inning. The same Rich Aurilia who hit 37 homers last year and has averaged four sacrifices in the past five seasons.

"You manage differently because during the season, if everytime the leadoff man got on and I had Rich Aurilia bunt, he would have 25 RBIs and no home runs and be ready to kill me," Baker said.

"In a short series, you manage as if it's the last game, and every game is so pivotal," he said.

New York Yankees manager Joe Torre, whose teams won four of the previous six World Series, often prospered because he was willing to change his approach in the postseason.

"I think pitching is probably the one area where you don't think about how much rest has this guy had or when are you going to use him again because it's right now, today, and that's when we're using him," Torre said during the first round.

Stick David Cone in the bullpen and leave him there? Fine. Pull Paul O'Neill for a pinch-hitter in a clutch situation? Yep.

"Postseason is not the time that you make friends because you do certain things, you try to win ballgames. Your loyalty to the 25 players is more important than loyalty to one individual," Torre said.

DID YOU KNOW?: The "Sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.



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Calendar

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

movies

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

Mann Criterion
 1313 Third St.
 Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13) 11:30, 12:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20. Below (R) 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00. 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. The Transporter (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50.

AMC Theatre SM 7
 1310 3rd Street
 Red Dragon (R) 1:40, 3:50, 4:30, 6:45, 7:25, 9:40, 10:15. Tuck Everlasting (PG) 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 9:50. The Banger Sisters (R) 1:30. Barbershop (PG-13) 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25. Brown Sugar (PG-13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00. Jonah: A Veggie Tales Movie (G) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15. White Oleander (PG-13) 1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 7:30, 9:35, 10:10.

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 (PG) 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

Today Community

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

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.

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.

Music / Entertainment

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. Thursday

Thursday

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

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.

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Classes/ Groups

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

Dharma at the Clubhouse. A weekly

book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 - 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santamonivcakksg.org

Music / Entertainment

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

Komedy Krunch. Showtime is at 7pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse, 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

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

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.

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KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

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



BACK PAGE

Are redheads harder to knock out before surgery?

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

The genetic quirk that makes red hair red may also make carrot-tops harder to knock out — in the operating room, that is.

A new study suggests people with naturally red hair need about 20 percent more anesthesia than patients with other hair colors.

It's a small study that will need confirmation. But it marks the first time scientists have linked a visible genetic trait to anesthesia doses, said Dr. Daniel Sessler of the University of Louisville, whose study will be presented Tuesday at a meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

Inadequate doses of general anesthesia can allow people to recall surgery, or even wake up during it, problems that occur in 1 percent of cases, Sessler said.

"If redheads require more anesthesia and are not given more, their chances of having recall during surgeries increase," he said.

Determining a patient is properly anesthetized is a partly an art: Physicians must watch for sometimes subtle signs of an underdose, like slight movements or sweating, as well as overdose warnings such as low blood pressure or heart rate. So knowing if a particular group of people is more likely to need a higher- or lower-than-standard dose could be very useful.

Anesthesiologists have long grumbled that redheads can be a little harder to put under, but no one had ever studied if that was real or folklore, said Dr. Andrea Kurz of Washington University in St. Louis, who praised the new research.

But why would hair color possibly matter? The theory hinges on melanin, a pigment responsible for skin and hair color.

It's likely the first of many yet-to-be-discovered genetic factors that will allow anesthesia to be fine-tuned for increased safety, added Dr. James Cottrell, president of the anesthesiology society. "It's a very exciting area."

The sun triggers a hormone that in turn triggers the production of melanin to form a tan. Redheads seldom tan easily because they have a defective receptor for that hormone — a quirk with this "melanocortin-1 receptor" that also leaves their hair red. Without its intended receptor to dock in, the melanin-producing hormone may cross-react with a related receptor on brain cells that influences pain sensitivity, Sessler explained.

That's still a theory. Here's what Sessler can say for certain: He and colleagues gave 10 healthy women with naturally red hair and 10 with dark hair the common inhaled anesthetic desflurane. Then they administered electric shocks — not enough to do damage but enough to cause pain — and inched the desflurane dose up or

down according to the pain response until each patient was judged to be at the optimum anesthetic dose. The redheads required a 20 percent higher dose.

Sessler said his lab first tested a few blondes and found they reacted the same as brunettes. That was expected since only redheads have the melanocortin-1 defect.

The study doesn't address if men would react similarly — there are gender differences for many drugs — or if redheads would be similarly affected by non-inhaled types of anesthesia.

Still, the research "gives us a window into what determines anesthetic requirements," said Sessler, whose lab is beginning more studies to see if the melanin theory is right.

Duct tape effective for removing warts

BY DEANNA BELLANDI

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — Duct tape, the all-purpose household fix-it with hundreds of uses, can also remove warts.

Researchers say over-the-counter duct tape is a more effective, less painful alternative to liquid nitrogen, which is used to freeze warts.

The study was reported in the October issue of the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.

In the study, patients wore duct tape over their warts for six days. Then they removed the tape, soaked the area in water and used an emery board or pumice stone to scrape the spot. The tape was reapplied the next morning. The treatment continued for a maximum of two months or until the wart went away.

The duct tape irritated the warts, and that apparently caused an immune system reaction that attacked the growths, said researcher Dr. Dean "Rick" Focht III of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

He said researchers did not test other kinds of tape,

and so they cannot say whether there is anything special about the gray, heavy-duty, fabric-backed tape.

Pediatric dermatologist Dr. Anthony J. Mancini of Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago said he uses duct-tape therapy for warts in his practice.

"The whole point of this is a non-painful approach," said Mancini, who was not involved in the study.

The study was conducted at the Madigan Army Medical Center near Tacoma, Wash. It began with 61 patients between the ages of 3 and 22, but only 51 patients completed the study.

Of the 26 patients treated with duct tape, 85 percent got rid of their warts compared with 60 percent of the 25 patients who received the freezing treatment.

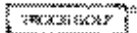
Researchers did not test the duct tape on older adults and also did not study whether warts recurred.

The apparent curative powers of duct tape are no surprise to Tim Nyberg, one-half of the Duct Tape Guys, who write books and perform comedy about the adhesive's allure. Nyberg said he and his duct tape partner, Jim Berg, do a shtick that includes duct tape wart removal.

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