

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Piping it in



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Jose Salazar gets down and dirty Tuesday morning on Olympic Boulevard where crews are laying new water pipes. Crews had the center island of the road torn up so they could dig the five-foot deep trench for several pipes to be placed in.

SoCal gets mixed grades on protecting environment

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Southern California got mixed grades in a new study on protecting the environment, ranking high in recycling but nearly failing in use of treated wastewater.

Few homeowners would use reclaimed water for bathing, cooking or drinking, even if treatment made it as pure as tap water, according to a report card to be issued Wednesday by the UCLA Institute of the Environment.

That attitude prevailed even though wastewater from showers, sinks and toilets could potentially provide supplies

equal to about 50 percent of current water consumption, the report said.

Consumers were less reluctant to use reclaimed water for outdoor purposes.

New water supplies are needed because Southern California relies heavily on imported water, notably from the Colorado River, that are shrinking due to demand from other states and environmental protection measures.

Further, global warming means "the next drought could be more severe and longer than any we can remember, and the problems it creates could make our electricity shortage seem trivial by comparison,"

See ENVIRONMENT, page 6

Future of Santa Monica Airport is up in the air

(Editor's note: This is the second installment of a two-part series examining the role the airport has played in the city. Today, where the airport may be headed.)

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The only thing that is certain about the future of Santa Monica Airport is that it's uncertain.

According to a 1984 agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration, the city has to maintain and operate the airport until 2015. After that, all the city's commercial leases and grant requirements expire. Legally, Santa Monica could close its airfield when the agreement ends.

"When the time expires and if they have not engaged in any grant agreements they have the right to do whatever they see fit with their airport," said Jerry Snyder, an FAA spokesman. "It's their airport, why shouldn't they be able to close it if it's theirs?"

Santa Monica has made it a practice not to accept grant money or enter into leases that would require the airport to stay open longer than the 2015 deadline.

"We want to maintain flexibility when it

comes time to decide how to deal with the airport," said Deputy City Attorney Marty Tachiki. "We want the council at that time

"When the time expires and if they have not engaged in any grant agreements they have the right to do whatever they see fit with their airport."

— JERRY SNYDER
FAA spokesman

to have as many options as possible."

Formed in 1923 by the Army to help train its young fleet of pilots and manufacture biplanes, the airport grew under Donald Douglas' aircraft plant into the economic and social heart of Santa Monica in less than 20 years.

See AIRPORT, page 7

Kids want voice in City Hall

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Young people want a voice in City Hall so they can have input on decisions that affect them.

There is growing support for a commission of Santa Monica youth that would advise the city council on issues affecting residents that are too young to vote.

Los Angeles, Malibu and Huntington Beach, among other municipalities, have created similar commissions to advocate on behalf of youth, and also to design programs and services for younger residents. The commissions also get students involved in the governmental process, officials said.

The Santa Monica Unified School District has student representatives from its two high schools — Santa Monica and Malibu — serving as alternate school board members. And with the exception of voting on personnel and student expulsion decisions, the students are given full voting rights.

Supporters say now it's time for Santa Monica's youth to have a stronger voice at City Hall.

"I don't feel like a lot of students feel their voices are being heard and they don't feel a connection to the city now, at the present time," said Cynthia Santiago, Santa Monica High School student body president. "I see a commission as both making sure our voices are heard and making sure our input is given when council members are making decisions."

Neil Carrey, a city Recreation and Parks Commissioner, said the city should have input from the youth on many decisions being made in City Hall. Without youth involvement, he said officials risk making poor decisions.

"Right now you've got a group of adults sitting there deciding what's good for kids," he said. "Unless the kids are there to give input, what do we know?"

Superintendent John Deasy said he intends to eventually raise the issue of creating a youth commission in the city. "It strikes me as a critical part of our

See YOUTH, page 6

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★★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Adjust to the day's varied pressures. Unexpected developments come from a friend or meeting. You know how to deal with the many people around you. Partners have much to share. Consider different options carefully. Tonight: Talk up a storm.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others declare how they feel. You might experience some helplessness during the next few weeks. Bosses express unusual demands. You need more space. Flow with others as much as you can. Refuse to respond to any ultimatums for a while. Bone up on your listening skills. Tonight: Say "yes."



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Think carefully when dealing with a loved one or a friend. Your ability to understand what others want is one matter. On the other hand, you might not want to do what is requested. Don't do anything right away. Lie back and think. Tonight: Blow out the door.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Friends and loved ones surround you. Pace yourself in order to complete what you must. Meetings might take up a large chunk of your day. Consider isolating yourself if you need to do some quiet work. Tonight: Take your time.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Consider what you want from a professional interaction or situation. With that goal in mind, you'll make the right decisions at the right time. Others step back when you decide to act. Later today proves to be more successful. Bide your time. Tonight: Where your friends are.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your sense of humor needs to come out with those at a distance. Find out what is going on by exploring options, reading between the lines and asking open-ended questions. When you decide to take charge, you'll know what you're doing. Tonight: Fun and games.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Make that extra effort toward a partner you care about. You work best as a team with this person. You might not always appreciate his or her feedback, but you know that he or she is often right. Investigate different travel options. Tonight: Away you go.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Not everyone sees matters as clearly as you do right now. However, you do need to let those around you find the error in their ways. By lying back, you actually will cause less problems for yourself. Review a matter involving insurance or other big financial groups. Tonight: Indulge a partner.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Continue the even work pace you're capable of. Clear out as much as you can. In the next few days, you might want to take off or do something different. Take a power nap or a walk at lunchtime. Maximize your efficiency. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Use your imagination once more to help others skip through a problem. You might feel as if associates are way too testy for your taste. Schedule time for a lengthy lunch with a friend. Your ability to make grounded decisions makes all the difference. Tonight: Tear through some paperwork.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ If you can work from home, you're more likely to get a lot done. Your ability to streamline problems lets you quickly clear out the majority of calls and e-mail. Tackle a hard job that needs handling. Think through a request from a loved one. Tonight: Take a midweek break.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Make that extra effort so conversations flow. Your sense of humor and ability to clear out the frivolous help others understand what is really on your mind. Delegate as much as you can. Save the people work for yourself. Tonight: Head home and run an errand or two.



QUOTE of the DAY

"Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Indian."

— Robert Orben

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Walk for hunger

By Daily Press staff

You can help build your appetite while helping feed someone else this Sunday afternoon.

The Westside Food Bank is walking to end hunger this Sunday. The 12th Annual Hunger Walk starts at 12:30 p.m. at Santa Monica High School in the science building. The event is the non-profit organization's biggest fundraiser of the year.

Westside Food Bank distributes nearly 4 million pounds of food a year to local families and individuals in need.

Check out www.westsidefoodbankca.org or call for more information at (310) 828-6016.

A public reading on the pier

By Daily Press staff

A former nightclub on Santa Monica's historic pier will be the site of a free public reading by celebrated writers associated with the Squaw Valley Community of Writers, an annual creative writing conference held in the California Sierra Nevada.

The evening of short readings by novelists Janet Fitch (White Oleander), Alice Sebold (The Lucky Bones), Glen David Gold (Carter Beats the Devil) and Jim Krusoe (Iceland) will be on Friday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m., and will be emceed by Aimee Bender (The Girl in the Flammable Skirt).

Admission to the public reading is first come, first admitted. About 100 seats will be available to the public. The event is preceded by a \$35 wine and food reception and author book signing for sponsors, starting at 6 p.m. Parking for the event is available on the pier and in the beach parking lot north of the pier.

Event organizer Andrew Tonkovich, editor of Santa Monica Review, said the evening is a celebration of the work by the Community of Writers' most successful participants.

All five participating authors have recently achieved success with popular novels. A feature film of Janet Fitch's best-selling novel "White Oleander" has recently been released. Alice Sebold's "The Lucky Bones" was a bestseller before it arrived in bookstores. Glen David Gold's "Carter Beats the Devil" is now out in paperback, and will be made into a film. Jim Krusoe is a longtime instructor of writing at Santa Monica College whose novel Iceland was enthusiastically reviewed by the Los Angeles Times. His previous short-story collection, "Blood Lake" received popular and critical acclaim. Aimee Bender's second book, a novel, "An Invisible Sign of my Own," was published last year. She teaches writing at USC.

Proceeds from the benefit reception earlier in the evening go toward scholarships provided to future SVCW summer workshop participants.

For more than 30 years, the Squaw Valley Community of Writers has brought professional and unpublished writers together for week-long workshops in fiction, nonfiction, poetry and screenwriting held in the California Sierra Nevada near Lake Tahoe. This nonprofit organization assists serious writers through exploration of the art and craft, as well as the business of writing. Its annual teaching staff of novelists and short story writers, poets, screenwriters, editors, agents and producers includes some of the nation's leading voices.

The event location is just west of the pier carousel and is the former site of the Club Arcadia and Ashgrove nightclubs. Doors for the reading open at 7:15 p.m.

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Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Forecasts show the next pulse of northwest swell due Friday, so until then it's leftovers. But in spite of that, and you know if you've been out in the water lately, there's still more than enough waves for a few good sessions.

We do expect to lose some size today as swell from the northwest backs off. Surf looks like it will drop from head-high to chest-high at the best LA breaks, waist and lower at less exposed spots.

Wind will gain strength in the afternoon, but morning sets look clean and glassy.



Today's Tides:

Low-	4:14 a.m.	1.90'
High-	10:25 a.m.	5.55'
Low-	5:27 p.m.	0.36'
High-	11:41 p.m.	3.69'

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	3-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	B
El Porto	3-4'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A

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The Q-Line

On any given night on the Third Street Promenade, street performers dance and sing for tourists and locals alike. But sometimes these people, especially the singers, just don't cut it, and add to the noise pollution that's always prevalent in a vibrant city.

But there is a solution: Hold auditions for performers before the city hands them a permit to dance or sing — or sometimes screech — their hearts out. If they don't make the cut, then they don't

get a permit to perform.

So this week's Q-Line wants to know: "Should the city create a committee that will audition street performers before they receive a permit to entertain us?"

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

Living wage law is flawed

Editor:

Having served as president of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the PTA, as well as one who has lived and worked in Santa Monica for more than 25 years, I have endorsed many worthy community issues or ballot measures. This year, however, a measure is on the ballot that I believe will be particularly destructive to our city, its businesses and its residents. It is Measure JJ.

This proposed living wage ordinance, while raising the salaries of some, will do so unfairly at the expense of businesses located in a narrowly defined area. Even more unfair will be the significant cost to the city at a time when some services have to be cut in order to balance the already strained budget.

Workers should have the right to make as much as they can based on their skill level and hard work. But no workers should have an unfair advantage over others determined merely by which side of the street they work on. And, by the same token, businesses, even if large or successful, should not unfairly be put at a competitive disadvantage over others a block or two away.

While well intentioned, whatever good results from this poorly written ordinance will be more than offset by the loss of jobs from lay-offs or competition for the higher wages by more skilled workers from outside the city. And those who lose their jobs will likely be the most vulnerable. Entry level and teen employment will all but disappear in the affected area. Those with language handicaps or other disadvantages will be closed out of the job market. Moreover, senior centers and community agencies will be hurt by this ordinance. This is just not right.

Measure JJ was cleverly designed to benefit the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union. Because of a clause that exempts businesses from the minimum wage law if they unionize, many will feel compelled that they might avoid significant financial hardship. This is a form of coercion and has no place in Santa Monica.

If Measure JJ were well written, it would benefit many while hurting few. Its cost would be reasonable and it would be widely accepted. Much to the contrary, this ordinance is discriminatory and destructive. Santa Monica deserves

better. I will vote no on it and I recommend that you do the same.

Ann Greenspun
Santa Monica

Polarization pegged

Editor:

Mr. Todd Flora's guest commentary of Oct. 21 succinctly puts into hard focus what's wrong with Santa Monica. This has become a one-issue town. Everything is viewed in terms of Rent Control. Renter, good, liberal. Everyone else, bad, conservative. Flora, who says he's lived here for SEVERAL years so he must know, claims anyone wanting district representation is "well heeled." Well heeled is bad. So-so heeled or no-heeled therefore must be good. Thanks for the polarization, Mr. Flora. Without stepping too hard on your heels, you are a perfect example of the dumbing down of the genetic make up of our community. If you really were honest you would admit that there are lots of homeowners bleeding heart liberals who still want a change and renters, especially seniors, who vote the (gasp) Republican ticket who are sick of the city's passive encouragement of the homeless. The reason most people are behind Veritas is not to dismantle Rent Control but to broaden the city's agenda and add some checks and balances on its ideology which is out of step with the mainstream. We want more than a ceremonial Mayor Moonbeam. And we want a government that will allow itself to look beyond one issue. The only way to get that is to vote YES on Veritas (HH).

Larry Mollin
Santa Monica

Hypocrites, all of you

Editor:

At the end of Mr. Flora's "the sky is falling" commentary about the evils of

See LETTERS, next page

'They're Coming to Take Us Away, Ha Ha, He He, Ho Ho'

EDGE of the WEST

By Ron Scott Smith



I love this town, man.

Girl, I need this town.

Town, don't walk out on me now.

The people's republic of Santa Monica — under siege. I must have been sleeping — help me out — have we been added to this Bush axis-of-evil thing, or what? For stockpiling programs of mass progression ... I think they're coming to get us.

■ The law and order barons who can never quite get a street clean and neat enough are coming to get the homeless.

■ The real estate barons who can never quite get true value or top dollar for their ownership of the earth are coming to get rent control.

■ Bubba Gump Shrimp came and got The Boathouse.

■ AMC Cineplex 124 — or however many — with stadium seating — came and got the Aero.

■ It's Halloween soon — and Boo — "monster mansions" are coming to get your little abode and my even littler one.

■ Bush and Cheney are coming to get Feinstein and McKeown.

Paranoid? Well, paranoia loves company and "it's like this monster is trying to take us over." So said Vivian Rothstein recently, about the current state of affairs that have come to our town. She's one of the leaders of the rent control movement in the '70s, which began to transform this town into one where all class of folks

might afford to live by everybody's ocean. A people's republic. Where did that concept become contemptible? Does "elitist, obscenely wealthy ruling-class republic" work better for you?

We're all over the media. The LA Times ran a feature on this invasion of Santa Monica, right up there on the front page last week, alongside stories on invasion plans for Iraq, and now — it appears — North Korea, as the campaign to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction kicks into high gear — with Bushamerica perhaps immersed in its own state of paranoia because they know if they really want to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction, sooner or later they have to attack themselves.

And how's this strike you? Right wing radio hotheads up and down the dial have recently begun praising Santa Monica! What have we become?! When Rush Limbaugh takes you off his shit list, buddies, you're not doing the right thing.

Another whining, America-bashing, right-radio host — Mike Medved — went out of his hate-mongering way the other day to give kudos to what he usually calls "Slanta Monica," for passing the ordinance which will make it illegal for decent, charitable people to give food out to the hungry among us — those he eloquently refers to as "stinking human scum." The same ordinance will also allow for those same "stinking human scum" to be dragged from their cardboard sheets on concrete beds in storefront enclaves downtown, which provide their only hint of shelter on a long, rainy, mid-winter's night in 2002 America.

I came from the woods — a place called Pennsylvania — to even more woods. I've been to Hollywood, I've been

to Redwood ... sing along. Westwood, Brentwood, Beverlywood, even Fernwood if I'm not mistaken. Lots of woods. And the hills, so many hills. I've been to Woodland, West, North, Beverly, Agoura and even found myself in Lost Hills once, unfortunately. What brought me here to Southern California a couple decades ago, like a lot of you, from lands east and far away — these hills, these woods? That's anybody's guess. Keeps me guessing. What keeps me here is not so difficult to figure out. It's called Santa Monica. How can I tell you? You already know.

Like I've said here before — Santa Monica has strong shoulders and takes more than its fair share of the weight of the world upon them. That's a good thing — all of the over-worked, over-taxed, under-loved, sore-shouldered, angry white guys notwithstanding.

Homelessness. Maybe you'll say I can't count, but that's a four-letter word. And it's the issue of our time — fully loaded, layered, and complex, with no easy answers, if any answers at all. But how do you leave thousands of hurting human beings out on the streets, hungry and shelterless, while billions of dollars sit in banks that tower over them and give them a shadow to sleep under and a wall to cling to at night? This town has taken the challenge head-on, and so what if we've been noble enough in dealing with it that we're known as the "home of the homeless?" Somebody's got to do it. Hermosa Beach doesn't. Arizona doesn't.

What town are all you naysayers and gloom-and-doomers looking at on a beautiful beachside morning? Does the sight of the down and out in front of Starbucks really block your vision to the extent that you



can't see the sun? Or dull your senses to where you can't bask in the ocean breeze?

The elections are coming, although many on the edge of mainstream politics often choose to ignore them, thus making their own anti-establishment statement in that way. Now is not the time to make your radical, non-voting statement. Get out there on Nov. 5 and let this country, which happens to be watching with keen interest, know that our shoulders here are strong enough to offer up a minimum living wage, so the hardest workers with the lowest pay in the richest businesses among us, can make the rent and feed their families. The guys that pay that wage to them will still somehow be able to reach for plenty of nice shirts in their closets.

Let this amazing city remain what it is — simply one of the most beautiful, charmed places you will ever have the good fortune to walk in. You know why? It's got a heart of gold, and you found it.

(To reach Ron Scott Smith, e-mail him at edgeofthewest@aol.com)

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from previous page

Prop HH, he says:

"If the city we want to become is one that shuts out renters, workers and other middle class consumers, then by all means vote for the city council 'district system' and 'strong mayor' proposed in Proposition HH."

Let's see.

If he's asking if we want a city that "shuts out" six-figure-earning, BMW-driving, TVO-watching, rent-control-living, anti-HH hypocrites and people that can't afford market rate rents — then YES we do.

If he's asking if we want a city that "shuts out" low-wage workers that don't have the skill level to warrant a forced wage increase that most professional Midwesterners can't get — then YES we do.

If he is asking if we want a city that "shuts out" middle class consumers that, for whatever reason, have not excelled at their chosen professions and yet refuse to wake up and smell the espresso — then YES we do.

Flora says, "strong renter protection and largely progressive policy decisions" is what he wants. I dare Mr. Flora to call for means testing of all these so-called low-moderate income people. He wouldn't because the emperor has no clothes. And besides, he wouldn't want to upset a majority of the SMRR voter base.

You're all a bunch of hypocrites!

Tony Street
Santa Monica

SMDP has lost its senses with Dunn

Editor:

Regarding Dan Dunn's sports article in Monday's paper, I ask what were you thinking?

If you believe the comments of a moronic, sophomoric lout are funny, or would be of interest to anyone but another semi-literate vulgarian, the only reasonable answer to the question is you've taken leave of your senses. Temporary, one hopes.

Sadly, Dunn's article reinforces the stereotype, among people who do not enjoy football, that all fans of the sport are a beer guzzling, whiskey swilling lot, unable to speak without resort to street slang and grossness. One saving grace is Dunn knows he has no class.

You demean your paper. He belongs with the screaming, face-painted fringe of the lunatic. Reading Dunn's article, I was reminded of Truman Capote's comment about someone else who called himself a writer: "It's not writing. It's typing."

Louis Pastore
Santa Monica

Article depicts Lithuanians incorrectly

Editor:

I am shocked by the inaccurate reporting evident in your article, "Lithuanian hijacker's murder trial begins." The assertion that Albert White and his father are "icons among Lithuanian expatriates living in America" is patently false. The true icons used peaceful and democratic means to aid Lithuania, unlike these men who were convicted of hijacking and murder. As a Lithuanian-American, I am disappointed that your newspaper so poorly characterized the type of people our community respects and admires.

Los Angeles is full of Lithuanian heroes who helped the country reestablish independence from the Soviet Union through peaceful means. They include men and women who organize letter-writing campaigns to urge the U.S. congress to support Lithuania's struggle; families who sent packages to relatives who lacked food and clothing; and teenagers who marched at the Federal Building to draw media attention to the cause.

Once independence was reestablished, Lithuanian-Americans turned their efforts toward helping the country overcome 50 years of oppression. In these initiatives, icons include the leaders of Lithuanian Children's Hope, an organization that supports disabled children and their families who cannot receive adequate medical care in Lithuania. They also include young Americans who went to Lithuania to help government's transition to democracy, sacrificing the comforts and salaries of the U.S. to provide their assistance. Further, the city of Santa Monica alone boasts numerous benefactors who support orphanages, hospitals, schools, and libraries every year.

It is disheartening that your newspaper did not publish the truth. Instead, your article is a slap in the face to the real heroes of the Lithuanian-American community — teachers, volunteers, philanthropists ... not murderers.

Zina Markevicius
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

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LOCAL □ STATE



Youth commission is planned

YOUTH, from page 1

community that would be well served with a commission," he said. "It's not that youth aren't being served but that they get fractioned off into other issues.

"The youth, especially in Santa Monica, are a very active people, and I would assume the youth would really welcome this," Deasy added.

Some people have said young adults should have played a larger role in designing the \$120 million civic center redevelopment plan to include athletic fields, and they should have been more involved when city officials designed a new skate facility at Olympic Park.

Santiago — whose older sister is city council candidate Josefina Santiago Aranda — said city officials do reach out for help. She is currently helping plan the city's new youth center as part of the Virginia Avenue Park Expansion Project, which is scheduled to be completed this year.

But she said that doesn't mean the city's young adults don't deserve a constant voice to air their concerns from within city government.

"They can always make room for the youth, especially if they value our voice like they say they do," Santiago said.

Carrey said if the city is going to have commissions representing women, older Americans and the disabled, then there is no reason the youth shouldn't have one too.

"If you don't feel there is a need for one, then there shouldn't be a need for the others," he said.

As the city council's youngest member, Mayor Mike Feinstein, 43, said he believes there is a lack of youth input.

"I believe we need both more youth on

the council and more youth advising the council," he said.

However, while city council members have been expressing support individually for a youth commission, the city manager's office has not been instructed to begin the process of creating one, said Santa Monica spokeswoman Judy Rambeau.

"They can always make room for the youth, especially if they value our voice like they say they do."

— CYNTHIA SANTIAGO
Santa Monica High School,
student body president

But Santiago said that doesn't mean something couldn't begin happening within the year. While she said students weren't organizing over the issue right now, they have been talking with city council members and city council candidates about the issue.

"I would ask different people, on the city council and others, to make these efforts and help establish a youth commission soon," she said. "We need some place connected to the city where we can hold officials accountable."

SoCal doesn't make the grade in environmentalism

ENVIRONMENT, from page 1

the study concluded.

The public got a D for its lack of interest in reclaimed water, but the study gave public agencies an A for leadership efforts on the issue, noting that in 2000 the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts produced more than 520 million gallons of treated wastewater each day.

recent decades, including the gray wolf and California grizzly bear, the state's official animal. Nearly two-thirds of the state's native fish species are extinct, endangered or in significant decline, the report said.

The report praised a state program that works with land owners, developers and environmentalists to craft plans to preserve ecosystems. Researchers also said California as a whole has strong popular interest in protecting the environment.

The state's relatively strong economy "should allow the region to be at the forefront of worldwide conservation efforts," it said.

Southern California got a B+ for increased recycling efforts. But the report warned that "imaginative, potentially expensive and politically controversial programs" will be needed to reverse an increase in the amount of solid waste going to landfills as the population soars.

The report also graded a series of building projects in the city of Los Angeles. A program to build new urban parks got an A, as did several developments deemed environmentally friendly and energy efficient.

But the Belmont Learning Complex, the troubled high school construction project near downtown Los Angeles, got a D for planning failures after pockets of methane gas were discovered beneath the site.

The state's relatively strong economy "should allow the region to be at the forefront of worldwide conservation efforts."

— ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The report gave a C+ to state and federal agencies for efforts to protect biodiversity in the face of California's population growth, noting the state is one of 25 recognized "hotspots" in the world where irreplaceable plant and animal species are severely threatened.

The Southern California coast was cited as the most critically endangered area of the state.

At least 21 animal and 34 plant species in California have become extinct in

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LOCAL



Closing SM Airport may strain regional air traffic

AIRPORT, from page 1

As Douglas moved its airplane production to larger airports, the city's attachment to the airport waned. A study conducted by the city in the late 1970s revealed the airport had become an economic and social drain on Santa Monica's resources.

In 1981, citing the results of the survey, the city council voted to close the airport as soon as it was legally possible.

The FAA sued Santa Monica to prevent it from closing the airfield. In 1984, an agreement was struck that has spurred the airport's development. It also outlined the rights of the city to take action regarding the airport's impact on nearby residential neighborhoods.

In exchange for promising to maintain and keep the airport open until 2015, Santa Monica was allowed to create a noise ordinance for planes, institute curfews for flying into and out of the airport, restrict helicopters, and use a significant portion of the airport's land for non-aviation uses.

However, the agreement hasn't appeased nearby residents, who have sued the city over what they say are negative impacts the airport has on their quality of life and land values.

Several local neighborhood groups have attracted large memberships and become politically powerful because of their opposition to the airport.

Many critics believe when the city's obligations to keep the airport open expire, the facility will be shut down, or so they hope.

It's certainly on the minds of elected officials. The city council has instructed its planning staff to begin investigating what choices the city will have in 2015, and if closing the airport is an option.

"I'm not saying whether closing the airport or keeping it open is a good or a bad thing, but the council stated in its budget priorities this year that we need to start thinking about what options will be available," said Councilman Ken Genser. "We need to do some thinking and come to some decisions about what we want to do over the next several years."

City staff members are working on a new masterplan for the airport, which would guide future development on the 225-acre site. The document would outline what could eventually become of Santa Monica Airport.

However, the process is complicated by a number of factors, including fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Plans to expand Los Angeles International Airport and the increasing congestion of commercial air traffic over Southern California skies also play a role in determining Santa Monica Airport's fate.

"Since post-9/11 times the whole aviation industry has changed, and we are a part of that change," Tachiki said. "We are probably going to be pulled along by forces of the industry."

Officials note that the skies over Southern California are clogged with airplane traffic — even general aviation airports like Santa Monica's are feeling the strain.

"This is among the top areas of air traffic congestion, that is true," Snyder said. "And it's all controlled by the busiest terminal approach control facility

in the U.S.

"(Santa Monica Airport) is an important airport for the region here as all airports are," he added. "But we can't afford to lose any of our airports."

Reports indicate the skies are likely to become even more congested in the near future. LAX is planning an ambitious renovation that could have a serious impact on Santa Monica Airport's operations.

"Unless someone finds a way to increase the capacity of general aviation airports, the FAA is going to have to keep as many of them going as possible," Tachiki said.

"We need to do some thinking and come to some decisions about what we want to do over the next several years."

— KEN GENSER
City Councilman

A report conducted by the Santa Monica Airport administration released in September indicates the expansion will force Santa Monica to absorb some of the air traffic.

"LAX is still a primary site for business jet activity," the report states. "Dislocation of that traffic and services would shift to other area airports."

A tentative LAX plan released by L.A. Mayor Jim Hahn offers a major disincentive to business jet traffic, Santa Monica Airport officials said.

Officials believe since Santa Monica Airport is only seven miles away from LAX it might be confronted with a significant amount of business jets taking off and landing here.

However, Tom Winfrey, an LAX spokesman, discounted that notion because general aviation aircraft make up less than 3 percent of the total traffic at the international airport, which in 2000 handled 67 million passengers and processed 2.1 million tons of cargo.

Besides, Winfrey said, Van Nuys Airport has been designated to handle the overflow traffic from LAX.

"Our percentage of (general aviation) traffic is very small," Winfrey said. "I don't think it would have a very big effect."

City officials said they would continue to closely monitor LAX's expansion plans.

"Depending on how they use their runways, it could also limit our air space," Genser said. "We want to make sure whatever happens is also best for our community."

Snyder said any shift in business jet traffic patterns would cause strain on other airports in the region, though he said the FAA is not sure if other airports couldn't handle more activity.

"We can't characterize that additional burden as being overburdened," he said. "We don't have any info to back up a statement like that."



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STATE

Sacramento authorities probe pyramid scheme with national reach

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — They met in beauty salons and suburban homes with the guests — all invitation only — coming for the promise of helping their community while making a huge profit for themselves.

The "Women Helping Women" parties featured a lucky "birthday girl," who would receive up to \$40,000 in cash from the new participants, who each donated up to \$5,000 to get in and eventually celebrate her own "birthday."

But for many women, the birthday never came, say authorities, who call "Women Helping Women" a \$12 million pyramid scheme for which they have arrested four Sacramento-area women. Their investigation also revealed a candidate for district attorney in a neighboring county told partygoers the events were legal and then asked them for campaign contributions.

The parties, authorities and experts said, were part of a pattern of pyramid schemes found in nearly every state. Beyond women, these schemes focus on other groups, such as Hispanics, blacks or members of the same church, said Robert L. FitzPatrick, author of "False Profits," a book on pyramid schemes.

A scheme "travels very much like a virus. It could move in any direction. There's no mastermind behind it," FitzPatrick said.

Recently, officials in New Mexico indicted 20 people for allegedly running similar schemes, said Sam Thompson, spokeswoman for the New Mexico attorney general's office.

"It's a cottage industry here," Thompson said. "People get a hold of the paperwork, sometimes it's 'The Spirit of Giving' or 'Women Helping Women' or 'The Dinner Party,' and they just copy part of it and start their own pyramid."

The scheme has also surfaced in Texas, where two women were arrested in 2000, and in Philadelphia, where authorities said in March 2001 that a dozen women had complained of being solicited by a similar network, or of losing money in it.

In Maine, the state attorney general's office last year warned of a similar scheme that targeted men, sometimes using the names "NASCAR" or "Men's Club."

The Federal Trade Commission warns consumers about getting involved in the schemes, which officials there classify as a Ponzi scheme, but most prosecutions are handled at local or state levels, said James Kohm, assistant director of the commission's division of consumer protection. The FTC doesn't track prosecutions or complaints, he said.

In Sacramento, the four women face charges that could result in five years in prison, fines and restitution. They are Cheryl Bean, 54, former human resources officer at Pacific Bell; Anne Marie King, 47, co-owner of a Roseville Montessori school; Pamela Garibaldi, 57, a part-time English professor at a community college; and Cathy Lovely, 49, a homemaker.

Sheriff's detectives Mike Wright and Eric White said the enterprise bragged of distributing \$12 million and having 10,000 women participate in the last two years.

Wright and White said they've documented more than \$7 million that has

been collected, distributed or pledged in the Sacramento region.

Despite the charges against them, Bean, King, Garibaldi and Lovely have plenty of supporters. A cheering crowd of women greeted them in the courtroom for a recent hearing.

"They're genuinely good people," said Wayne Ordos, Lovely and King's attorney. "They're taxpayers, they're den mothers. This is very difficult for them."

None has entered a plea yet, but the four will return to court Wednesday.

Sacramento authorities placed undercover officers in five meetings, starting in July, after similar parties had already been detected in neighboring El Dorado County. There, District Attorney Gary Lacy warned his employees against participating in them as early as April 2001.

But one El Dorado County party had another attendee — Deputy District Attorney Eric Schlueter, Lacy's opponent in next month's election. Schlueter reportedly told party participants there were legal loopholes that allowed such schemes, and then he solicited campaign contributions.

Schlueter told The Sacramento Bee newspaper that he didn't advocate "gift-giving," but didn't believe it was prosecutable under California law.

"It may be a pyramid scheme," he told The Bee. "But whether it's illegal is another matter."

FitzPatrick said he's never found a legal opinion calling the parties anything other than an "endless chain" operation.

"The first lie is that it's legal," FitzPatrick said. "They'll tell you it's not a pyramid, it can work and everyone can win."

But no pyramid can survive its unsustainable mathematics, FitzPatrick said. Each woman must recruit eight others to get her \$40,000. Then each of those eight women must get another eight. Eventually, that pace can't be sustained, and the pyramid collapses, leaving about 90 percent of the participants out their investment.

"Women Helping Women" and other groups appeal to patriotism, religious faith or the desire to help others, FitzPatrick said, and use "the idea that women are helping women, supporting each other."

The group's very name angers Harriet Barron, executive director of the National Council of Jewish Women in Los Angeles, who runs a program called "Women Helping Women Services."

Barron's program offers support groups and counseling for domestic violence, single parenting and other issues, she said. The similarity between her group's name and the Sacramento organization has her concerned contributors might confuse the two, she said.

Women Helping Women organizers told their recruits they gave 1 percent of their birthday awards to charities, but investigators said they haven't seen evidence of such charitable activity in the Sacramento area.

Although pyramid deals gone bad often get attention, the early victims rarely come forward, FitzPatrick said, making it difficult to steer potential victims away.

NATIONAL



Martha Stewart about to answer to SEC charges

BY DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Securities and Exchange Commission lawyers have told Martha Stewart they are ready to file civil securities fraud charges against her for her alleged involvement in an insider trading scandal, a source close to the investigation said Tuesday.

The SEC recently gave the home decor entrepreneur a formal notice of its intent to file civil charges, the source told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Stewart's lawyers reportedly have filed a response with the SEC.

In most cases, such a notice leads to filing of a civil lawsuit by the SEC.

The possibility of civil charges is a potentially devastating scenario for Stewart, who is accused of selling shares of ImClone Systems after getting tipped off about negative news surrounding one of its promising new cancer drugs.

The ImClone case is also being investigated by the U.S. Attorney's Office. The SEC move does not necessarily mean criminal charges will be filed, though probes at the two agencies often work in tandem.

Stewart has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged, but the scandal has fractured her multibillion-dollar empire. Her company's stock has tumbled 60 percent since she was linked to the scandal, and Stewart resigned earlier this month from the board of the New York Stock Exchange.

Stewart's lawyers referred calls to her public relations representative, Allyn Magrino, who declined to comment on the development. Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc., where Stewart is chief executive and chairman, also declined to comment, as did an SEC spokesman.

Shares of the company were up 5 cents at \$7.55 in late morning trading Tuesday.

Stewart is already under investigation by the Justice Department, which is probing whether she lied to lawmakers about

her sale of ImClone shares.

She sold nearly 4,000 shares of ImClone on Dec. 27 — one day before the Food and Drug Administration announced it would not review the biotechnology company's cancer drug, Erbitux. ImClone's stock subsequently plummeted.

Stewart has maintained that she and her broker Peter Bacanovic had a standing order to sell the shares if the stock dropped below \$60.

Stewart is friends with Sam Waksal, founder and former chief executive of ImClone, who pleaded guilty last week to several counts of bank fraud, securities fraud, conspiracy to obstruct justice and perjury.

Waksal did not implicate Stewart, and his plea was not part of an agreement to cooperate with prosecutors.

Douglas Faneuil, Bacanovic's assistant, initially supported Stewart's and Bacanovic's account, but later admitted he withheld information when first interviewed by investigators from the SEC and the FBI.

Earlier this month, Faneuil pleaded guilty as part of a deal to testify against Stewart and others who might be charged in connection with sales of ImClone shares.

Faneuil admitted to a misdemeanor charge of receiving money and other valuables "as consideration for not informing."

On Monday, U.S. Attorney James Comey filed papers in Manhattan federal court seeking to seize more than \$10 million from Waksal's family members. He admitted tipping off his daughter, Aliza, to sell her ImClone shares just before the share price plunged.

During his plea, Waksal insisted his daughter and father, Jack, had done nothing wrong. Prosecutors say Jack Waksal sold more than \$8 million of ImClone shares in five separate transactions Dec. 27-28.

Aliza Waksal sold \$2.4 million worth of ImClone shares on Dec. 27.

Though neither Aliza nor Jack Waksal has been charged, prosecutors are trying to force them to forfeit all of that money.

AOL launches campaign with messaging buddy

BY ANICK JESDANUN

AP Internet Writer

NEW YORK — America Online is launching a new Internet-safety campaign for kids built around an automated "buddy" that dispenses advice on the spot.

Kids can add "AOLSafetyBot" to their buddy lists of friends on AOL Instant Messenger. It is programmed to answer, within seconds, such questions as whether kids should agree to meetings with online acquaintances or reveal such personal information as their address and age.

Some experts wonder, however, whether a scripted program can work adequately in the online world, given the wide age range of computer users and their parents' different preferences.

The SafetyBot campaign is being launched Wednesday. People who do not use AOL's instant-messaging software can also find the SafetyBot buddy on AOL's SafetyClicks.com site.

Automated instant-messaging bud-

dies, or bots, are not new, but past ones have been mostly devoted to marketing and promotions.

AOL's instant-messaging software is the most popular on the Internet, with more than 150 million registered users.

According to a 2000 study by Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire, one in five youths ages 10 to 17 received unwanted sexual solicitations over the Internet within the year. Only a quarter of them told a parent.

Parry Aftab, a leading Internet-safety expert, applauded AOL's efforts to make learning about safety fun.

"The kids will play with it, and if they play with it, maybe they will learn something," she said. But she cautioned that correct answers may depend on age and other factors — for instance, some parents may want to handle meeting strangers differently.

"There is not always one clear answer," she said.

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NATIONAL

Police plead with sniper to communicate with them

BY DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press Writer

ROCKVILLE, Md. — A bus driver was shot to death Tuesday as he was about to set out on his morning route in what authorities fear was the 13th attack by the Washington-area sniper. Police also revealed a chilling warning found at a weekend shooting scene: "Your children are not safe anywhere at any time."

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose issued a new plea to the killer, urging the gunman to continue a dialogue with investigators.

"It is important that we do this without anyone else getting hurt," said Moose, who had publicly pleaded for more communication in the two days before Tuesday's slaying.

In an evening news briefing, the police chief suggested authorities had repeatedly been in contact with the sniper.

"We have researched the options you stated and found that it is not possible electronically to comply in the manner that you requested," he said. "However, we remain open and ready to talk to you about the options you have mentioned."

He said the sniper is seeking an 800 telephone number to talk with authorities, and he offered to set up a private post office box "or another secure method."

"You indicated that this is about more than violence," Moose said. "We are waiting to hear from you."

He refused to take questions from reporters.

The bus driver was gunned down in Aspen Hill, Md. Police were searching the area adjacent to the bus that was the scene of a shooting. The bus driver was shot and killed early Tuesday in an attack that bore the hallmarks of the serial sniper who has slain nine other people in the Washington area this month.



Joe Marquette/Associated Press

Law enforcement personnel look at a bus door adjacent to North Gate Park on Tuesday in Aspen Hill, Md. Police were searching the area adjacent to the bus that was the scene of a shooting. The bus driver was shot and killed early Tuesday in an attack that bore the hallmarks of the serial sniper who has slain nine other people in the Washington area this month.

in Maryland, Virginia and Washington.

Conrad Johnson, 35, was fatally wounded just before 6 a.m. as he stood on the top step of his bus, setting off a police dragnet and snarling traffic in the suburbs north of the nation's capital. He died later at a hospital.

Earlier, Moose suggested police had received a new message from the killer, believed to be the fourth during the investigation.

The warning about children's safety was discovered by police outside a steakhouse just north of Richmond, Va., where the sniper critically wounded a man

Saturday night.

Moose said the warning came in the form of a "postscript," but refused to describe the rest of the note.

However, a senior law enforcement official speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity said the note demanded \$10 million.

More than 140,000 students in the Richmond area remained home Tuesday as schools were closed for a second day. School officials cited information from police in shutting down, prompting questions for Moose, whose office is leading the sprawling investigation.

Moose said investigators recognized "the concerns of the community" and decided to provide the "exact language that pertains to the threat."

The Virginia schools will reopen Wednesday under heightened security. As of Monday evening, no Maryland schools had decided to close.

In Maryland, Kathy Franco, who was shopping with her year-old son, Liam, and six-week-old daughter, Katherine, was angered by the warning about children.

"As a parent, it just completely brings out every animal instinct," she said. "These two are the most important things in the world for me."

Immediately after Tuesday's shooting, police put a widespread dragnet into place, clogging traffic on Connecticut Avenue, one of the main arteries into Washington, just as the morning commute began.

But police came up empty, and Moose said there was no suspect or vehicle description to report.

"We have not been able to assure that anyone, any age, any gender, any race — we've not been able to assure anyone their safety," Moose said.

The shooting happened near a wooded area along Connecticut Avenue. The bus was parked at a staging area where drivers get ready for their morning runs, state police spokesman Cpl. Rob Moroney said.

Police refused to say whether anyone else was on the bus.

All the confirmed sniper victims were felled by a single shot. Several residents of a neighboring apartment complex reported hearing one loud bang Tuesday morning.

Appeals court rules NRA sticker wasn't enough for search

BY ALAN SAYRE
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — A National Rifle Association sticker was not enough justification to warrant a police search of a pickup truck for a gun, a federal appeals court has ruled.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that police in a Dallas suburb did not have probable cause when they searched Jeffrey L. Estep's truck and found a pistol in a case.

"Indeed, if the presence of an NRA sticker and camouflage gear in a vehicle could be used by an officer to conclude he was in danger, half the pickups in the state of Texas would be subject to a vehicle search," the majority wrote.

Estep, who had been stopped for speeding, sued three officers in Garland, Texas, over the March 29, 1993,

search and his subsequent arrest for a weapons violation.

According to the court record, Estep heard one officers tell another that he suspected a weapon was present because of the NRA sticker on his truck.

According to the court record, Estep got out of the pickup with his identification and was asked by an officer if he was carrying a weapon. Estep said he wasn't, although he gave the officer a canister of mace he was carrying on a key chain.

The vehicle also contained a camouflage jacket, according to the court.

After two other officers were called in, the vehicle was searched and the weapon was found.

The panel's majority, including 5th Circuit Judge Robert Parker and U.S. District Judge Keith Ellison, said

none of the evidence in view of the officers, including the sticker and the jacket, constituted legal reason for a search.

5th Circuit Chief Judge Carolyn King dissented. "I am dismayed by the probability that Estep has received a free pass in this case because his pickup truck sports an NRA sticker," King wrote.

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INTERNATIONAL



France's Chirac takes strong stand on Iraq

BY JOSEPH COLEMAN

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac said Tuesday that France's relations with Washington are not based on the idea that the United States is "always right."

"We have our own appreciation of things, and we tell (the United States) that," Chirac said, even if "we don't say it in an aggressive way." He spoke to reporters after a meeting with Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, whose country holds the rotating European Union presidency.

But no matter how the French leader delivers the message, his tough stand

against a unilateral U.S. strike to topple the Iraqi government is making strong progress internationally — and winning Chirac points at home.

Paris' policy, backed by fellow permanent U.N. Security Council members Russia and China, has had an impact in Washington. A revised U.S. proposal ensures there will be "consequences" if Iraq fails to comply with weapons inspectors, but stops short of directly calling for military action.

It was far from clear whether France and the United States would agree on the compromise resolution, but Paris' success in positioning itself into a pivotal role was praised domestically.

"France has played its game quite wisely," said Jean-Francois Daguzan, a senior researcher at the Foundation for Strategic Research, a think-tank in Paris.

That game has been an international balancing act.

Paris has been opposed from the beginning to unilateral American action in Iraq and demanding that Washington get U.N. Security Council approval before sending in the troops.

But the stance has been more subtle than flat-out opposition. Paris also proffered an alternative to U.S. plans to threaten military action unless Baghdad complies with U.N. weapons inspectors.

Instead, France suggested two resolutions: one demanding free access for inspectors, with the threat of a second resolution on what steps to take — including military — only if Baghdad failed to cooperate.

"We have to first make sure the inspectors are allowed to do their work, and report on their mission to the international community," Chirac said on a trip to Amman, Jordan, on Sunday night.

At the same time, Chirac's government has had plenty of harsh words for Saddam Hussein, whom Washington accuses of developing weapons of mass destruction and harboring terrorists.

Chirac and Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin have repeatedly said that war must be only the last resort, but it is still an option — keeping France free to support its most important ally should Washington go to war.

Paris has won the backing of war skeptics Russia and China, making it the central player among the five permanent members of the Security Council. Britain, the other member with veto power, supports the U.S. position.

"France has managed to optimize the leverage that U.N. Security Council per-

manent membership gives her," said Bruno Tertrais, a senior research fellow at the Foundation for Strategic Research.

The success of the French diplomacy on Iraq so far, however, is not a sure sign that Paris will be able to provide a counterweight to the United States in the future, experts say.

Other factors were also at work. Germany, for example, came out early in full opposition to war in Iraq, leaving no room to work with Washington and depriving it of a leadership position. With Britain in the U.S. camp, the path was wide for France to take a middle path.

France's power, however, is too limited in comparison to Washington to provide a consistently effective alternative, said Daguzan.

"It's a day-to-day success," he said. "And if the United States decided to go (to war), it would be difficult to resist."

In the meantime, Chirac is reaping domestic benefits as well. His Iraq stance is considered to be a central factor in his government's strong showings in recent surveys.

According to a poll published in the weekly *Journal du Dimanche* on Sunday, 57 percent of respondents said they were "very satisfied" or "rather satisfied" with the president, a five-point increase from a month ago.

It's easy to see the policy's domestic appeal: it raises France's international profile, balances what many French see as American heavy-handedness and addresses general anti-war sentiment.

Some French were triumphant.

"While annoyed by the unruliness of its ally, the Bush administration was forced to beat a retreat and come closer to France's position on Iraq," wrote *Journal du Dimanche* editor Jean-Claude Maurice in an editorial Sunday.

"We have rediscovered the voice of France," he wrote.

Master minds



Ahmed Mahmoud/Associated Press

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, right, meets with Gen. Tommy Franks, the U.S. military officer who will head any U.S. attack on Iraq, in Cairo, on Tuesday.

Sept. 11 suspect admits he was in Afghan bin Laden camp

BY DAVID RISING

Associated Press Writer

HAMBURG, Germany — A Moroccan student accused of aiding the Hamburg terrorist cell involved in the Sept. 11 attacks testified at the start of his trial Tuesday that he attended a training camp run by Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

As the first trial of a Sept. 11 suspect got under way in a Hamburg state court, defense attorneys issued a statement saying Mounir el Motassadeq, 28, "continues to deny" charges of belonging to a terrorist organization and more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder.

El Motassadeq denied traveling to Afghanistan when police questioned him after his arrest last year. But his defense revised the account after he testified Tuesday that he last saw Mohamed Atta, the lead Sept. 11 suicide hijacker and ring-leader of the Hamburg al-Qaida cell, in May 2000 "when I planned to go to Pakistan, Afghanistan."

In later questioning by the court, el Motassadeq admitted he had attended a camp outside the Afghan city of Kandahar.

"I learned that bin Laden was responsible for the camp and had been at the camp

sometimes," he said. But, he added, "I didn't know that beforehand and I didn't meet him either."

El Motassadeq said he had learned to use a Kalashnikov rifle and did fitness training, but had not participated in training on the use of explosives.

He insisted he had not discussed the trip with members of the Hamburg cell, but said he met two other suspected members during his three-week stay — fellow Moroccans Zakariya Essabar and Abdelghani Mzoudi, the only other Sept. 11 suspect in German custody.

El Motassadeq's lawyers said the Afghan trip "proves nothing," arguing that thousands went to such camps without necessarily becoming terrorists.

Prosecutors allege that he helped the Hamburg cell with logistical support leading up to Sept. 11. When suicide pilots Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah left Hamburg in 2000 to begin flight training in Florida, el Motassadeq stayed behind, filtering money through an account to al-Shehhi in the United States, according to the indictment.

El Motassadeq told investigators he paid utility, rent and school bills for al-Shehhi, but transferred no money to the United States,

according to his defense team.

A calm el Motassadeq told the Hamburg state court Tuesday that he first met Atta in 1996 when he started studying in Hamburg, and they often talked about religion and politics — including the situation in the Palestinian territories and Chechnya.

Asked by Presiding Judge Albrecht Mentz whether there had been any indication that Atta planned violence, el Motassadeq replied: "In my opinion, it is no solution."

"Perhaps Atta was of a different opinion," he added. "But Atta never spoke about any attacks."

Earlier, el Motassadeq listened with no visible sign of emotion as prosecutor Walter Hemberger read out a summary of the indictment.

El Motassadeq sat facing prosecutors with his two attorneys and an Arabic translator beside him, leaning into a microphone as he answered the judge's questions in German. Initially making nervous hand gestures, el Motassadeq appeared to relax during two sessions of questioning.

Atta, he said, had helped him and Mzoudi to find an apartment.

El Motassadeq said that Atta had spoken of Chechnya, and added that "I know that he wanted to travel there and fight

alongside" Chechen rebels.

El Motassadeq was arrested in Hamburg two months after the attacks. Mzoudi was arrested in the city this month on charges of supporting a terrorist organization.

Germany's chief federal prosecutor, Kay Nehm, has said the hijackers knew by October 1999 they would attack the United States with airplanes, but that the idea likely originated elsewhere in the al-Qaida network.

All were united by "hatred of world Jewry and the United States," Nehm said in August.

El Motassadeq came to Germany in 1993 to study. By 1995, his German was good enough to win admission to a Hamburg technical university's electrical engineering program. In Hamburg, he met his wife Maria — a Russian who had converted to Islam three years before — and, during the same time, Atta and other future cell members.

With more than 160 witnesses due to testify, the trial was expected to go beyond the three months of sessions scheduled so far. A panel of five judges is hear the case and leading the questioning, as is customary in Germany.



SPORTS

Angels take Giants by six runs, take lead in series

BY BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Pac Bell Park was pumped.

Tony Bennett serenaded the crowd with his signature song, Willie Mays threw out the first ball and Barry Bonds even hit another huge home run.

If only the Angels had left their bats and hearts in Anaheim.

Relentless again at the plate and on the bases, Scott Spiezio and the Angels trampled the San Francisco Giants 10-4 Tuesday night to take a 2-1 lead in the World Series.

"We're doing the little things it takes to win games. That's why we're here," Spiezio said.

Spiezio drove in three runs, Darin Erstad had three hits and Anaheim battered Livan Hernandez, the postseason ace who recently boasted, "I never lose in October."

The Angels became the first team in Series history to bat around in consecutive innings, with a flood of hits, walks and steals making it 8-1 in the fourth.

And suddenly, the lines at the wine stands and garlic fries counter got a little longer. This party, San Francisco-style, was all but over for the 42,707 fans. Even the guy who climbed the mast of a sailboat bobbing in McCovey Cove beyond the right-field wall soon was gone.

The Angels finished with 16 hits in keeping up a familiar pattern. They've lost the opener in all three of their postseason series this year, then didn't lose again.

"We've been through tough times before," Erstad said. "We have it rolling right now."

A disappointing night for the Giants, who joined in listening to Bennett sing "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" from the mound before the first pitch.

Bonds did his best, becoming the first player to homer in his first three Series games. His 437-foot, two-run shot to center field came in the fifth, the same inning Rich Aurilia connected for the Giants, but only made it 8-4.

Bonds set a postseason record with his seventh home run and also drew two more walks.

With 13 homers already, Anaheim and San Francisco are only four short of the record for any Series. The long balls are sure to further increase speculation that juiced balls are being used — commissioner Bud Selig insists it's not so — but the Angels proved little ball works just fine, too.

"We scored a lot of runs today and we didn't hit any home runs. We have a lot of guys that are gap hitters," Spiezio said.

Every Angels starter except winning pitcher Ramon Ortiz got a hit. No DH, no worry. And they coasted despite setting a nine-inning Series record by leaving 15 runners on base.

Hernandez was chased after 3 2-3 innings, the worst start of a glittery postseason career that had seen him go 6-0. Instead, he looked like the pitcher who tied for the NL lead in losses, which he did with 16.

Now, John Lackey will start for the

Angels in Game 4 Wednesday night. He'll be pitching on his 24th birthday against Kirk Rueter.

The fans were ready for fun from the start as Pacific Bell hosted its first Series game. After Bennett sang the city's favorite song, Mays threw out the ball to Bonds, his godson.

The Angels scored four times in third and four more in the fourth for an 8-1 lead. Spiezio, who dyed Angel red streaks into his hair and goatee before Game 1, was in the middle of both big innings.

After an error by sure-handed third baseman David Bell paved the way in the third, Spiezio lined a two-run triple to the deepest part of the field. The ball rolled to the 421-foot mark at the oddly angled corner in right-center field, and a really fast runner might've had a chance at the first Series inside-the-park homer since Mule Haas of the Philadelphia Athletics did it in 1929.

Hernandez was pulled after Garret Anderson's RBI grounder in the fourth, set up when the Angels alertly pulled a double steal as the Giants' infield over-shifted to the right side.

The Angels poured it on with hits against — and off — reliever Jay Witasick. Spiezio pulled a ball to right, Adam Kennedy hit a liner off Witasick's right elbow and Bengie Molina delivered Anaheim's third straight RBI single.

David Eckstein hit an RBI single in the sixth and the Angels added a run in the eighth when the Giants botched a comebacker.

Benito Santiago gave San Francisco a 1-0 lead in the first with a slow ground-out. The Angels intentionally walked Bonds with one out and runners at first and third to bring up Santiago.

The Giants took advantage of Ortiz's hitting — lack of it, really — by twice intentionally walking Molina with two outs.

Ortiz struck out on three pitches with the bases loaded to end the second. He angrily slung his bat toward the dugout, narrowly missing Eckstein in the on-deck circle.

Ortiz came closer to his first major league hit in the third. Hernandez made a nice play to end the inning with runners at the corners, leaving Ortiz at 0-for-16 in his career.

Notes: Bonds joined Hank Bauer as the only players to homer in the first three games of any Series. Bauer did it for the Yankees in 1958.

Giants Hall of Famers Juan Marichal, Willie McCovey and Orlando Cepeda took part in the first-pitch festivities. ... Two other pitchers have started a Series game on their birthday: Pittsburgh's Brickyard Kennedy lost to Cy Young in 1903 and Brooklyn's Johnny Podres beat the Yankees in 1955.

Colorful San Francisco mayor Willie Brown got in the spirit. He wore orange shoes as he strolled the stands. Comedian Robin Williams also sported Giants' colors with orange-toned glasses.

Lackey pitched 2 1-3 innings in Game 2, and said he was fresh for his upcoming start. ... The Angels played at Pac Bell for the first time since getting swept in a three-game interleague series in 2001.

Gambill's backhand



Jack Mikrut/Associated Press

Jan-Michael Gambill of the United States plays a backhand return to Olivier Rochus of Belgium during their first round match at the Stockholm Open in Stockholm, Sweden on Tuesday. Gambill defeated Rochus 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (8).

Teen who beat Royals coach pleads guilty

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The 15-year-old boy who ran on the field with his father to attack a Kansas City Royals coach pleaded guilty and was released to his family.

The boy and William R. Ligue Jr. were charged in the September beating of coach Tom Gamboa during a game between the Royals and the Chicago White Sox.

Assistant Public Defender Vincent Akers said the boy pleaded guilty Monday to one charge of aggravated battery and two counts of mob action for striking Gamboa and an off-duty state trooper who was working security at the game. At his sentencing Nov. 7 he could face probation or incarceration until he is 21, Akers said.

Cook County Juvenile Court Judge Paul Stralka released the boy, whose name was withheld because of his age, from the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.

The teen told the court he was sorry for what happened and wanted to go home with his mother and go to school, said Marcy Jensen, a spokeswoman for the Cook County state's attorney.

Ligue remains in jail. His sister, Kimberly Richardson, said he has struggled since his month-old daughter's death in May. Richardson called the sprint onto the field at Comiskey Park "a cry for help."

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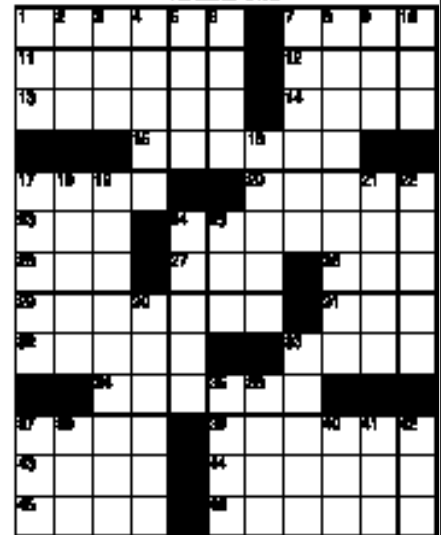
- ACROSS**
- 1 Like mares and fillies
 - 7 Dressed
 - 11 Second-longest river
 - 12 Long lunch?
 - 13 Portly
 - 14 Fighting
 - 15 Stand up to
 - 17 Ump's call
 - 20 Pricey
 - 23 Unbroken
 - 24 Sicilian port
 - 26 Took the bait
 - 27 Ram's mate
 - 28 Water cooler?
 - 29 Fancy homes
 - 31 Tales in
 - 32 Baseball's Pee Wee
 - 33 Historic times
 - 34 Stair parts
 - 37 Bess' opposer
 - 38 Wicker material
 - 43 Dog's treat
 - 44 Alien section
 - 45 Gear parts
 - 46 Ontario's Creek
- DOWN**
- 1 Remote
 - 2 Punk rock offshoot
 - 3 Wrestling need
 - 4 Sky color
 - 5 Single
 - 6 Termini
 - 7 Pure
 - 8 Calligrapher's art
 - 9 "Exodus" character
 - 10 Period
 - 16 Resort spots
 - 17 Grave
 - 18 Queso flavor
 - 19 Restraining
 - 21 Game leader
 - 22 Verse pros
 - 24 "For — sales"
 - 25 Wonder
 - 30 Stage comments
 - 33 The Jetsons' dog
 - 35 Periods

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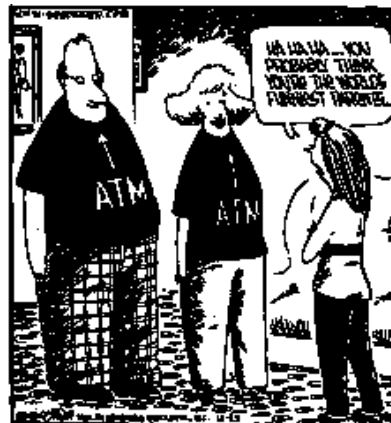
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

The birds can drop but you can't shoo 'em

The annual late-summer arrival in Boulder, Colo., of 4,000 starlings has once again drenched a 128-unit mobile home park with droppings, but city regulations prohibit even shooing the birds away.

And the Whole Foods Market company was hit with an animal-rights boycott in September after a dead mouse was found in its Boulder warehouse, showing that the company might not be using rodent-friendly catch-and-release traps)





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SANTA MONICA \$400.00 Pvt. Rm., petok, r/s, high ceilings, Indry, prknig, util incld. Westside Rentals

SANTA MONICA \$500.00 Pvt Rm, r/s, hrdwd flrs, laundry, prknig, util incld. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Commercial Lease

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.

Commercial Lease

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

OSTEOPATH SEEK non-drug practitioners. Reasonable day rates. Beautiful and friendly office. Contact Robin at (310)664-8818.

VENICE BEACH \$1695.00 Office space with 4 parking spaces, one large room with high ceilings, skylights, rollup door, bathroom and shower. (310)396-4443 x102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

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.

Massage

BACK/NECK PAIN? Try Myoskeletal Alignment. Strictly Therapeutic! Call (310)650-8226.

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue, energy balancing, non-sexual. Introductory specials from \$45.00/hr. In/out. Lynda, L.M.T. (310)749-0621

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.

MASSAGE CARING, soothing, relaxing full body therapeutic, Swedish / back walking. You will melt in my magic hands! Home/office/outdoors ok. 1-4 hours. Non sexual out call. Anytime or day. Page Doris (310)551-2121.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Acupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

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CLASSIFIEDS



Massage

MESSAGE ENJOY a really great, amazing and wonderful full body massage. Swedish, deep-tissue and Tantra. (Platonic only!) No time limit. Will come to you. 24/7 Cute, slim, fit, petite mature chocolate. 14 years experience. Dolly's pager (310)236-9627.

SWEDISH MASSAGE. The lovely Dessarae. 27-year old beauty. 45/min \$100.00 for info (310)319-1361. Appointment only call (213)308-9711.

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.

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

Services

NEED TAX and bookkeeping service? For small businesses. Payroll services, bank reconciliations, financial statements. (310)230-8826.

Services

AFTER SCHOOL program for special needs children. Monday through Friday. Saturday program also. (310)459-5973.

BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS of your wedding, pregnancy and family. www.belindawaymouthphotography.com

CALIFORNIA ENGLISH Teacher Specialist - Tutoring all aspects of English. Fax phone number and name to (310)393-8778.

HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

Services

PIANO LESSONS Westside, my home or yours, ages 4 to adult, sliding scale. Jan (310)453-6211.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Swedish, Deep-Tissue, Sports Massage. Intro: \$29/hour. (CMT) Vlady (310) 397-7855

Health/Beauty

EXPERIENCED MAKE-UP ARTIST! Weddings & Special Events. Local references available. (310)702-8778 / (323)559-9033. Nina & Alex.

RECEPTIONIST/HAIRSTYLIST NEEDED in hair salon, ASAP. Contact Martin at (310)260-0123.

Personals

CATHOLIC NIGERIAN Lar Cute, 40, 5'3", 118 lbs, slim, petite. Kind warm-hearted with a heart of gold in search SW boyfriend. I enjoy flying, boating, horses, and singing. Must be romantic, sensual and willing to spoil me in any way 42 years and up. Rich and generous guy! (310)201-5553.

STEADY GIRLFRIEND Wanted. You will get \$200.00 every week to go shopping, pamper yourself. Fit lady into rollerblading, hiking, rollerblading jogging. Can you teach Spanish or Russian or Chinese? Please be down to earth domestic and good company. I'm color blind, classy. 5'1 155 lbs., 52 year old European man. Cabinet maker/designer. Very kind/warm hearted and sensual. (310)201-5553.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Calendar

Wednesday, October 23, 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, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:15, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Punch Drunk Love (R) 11:00, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:45
The Transporter (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Red Dragon (R) 1:05, 4:15, 7:05, 10:05
Tuck Everlasting (PG) 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45
Brown Sugar (PG-13) 1:25, 4:25, 7:35, 10:20
Formula 51 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:45
Jonah: A Veggie Tales Movie (G) 12:25, 2:30, 4:35
White Oleander (PG-13) 1:15, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Grey Zone (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Moonlight Mile (PG-13) 11:15, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00.
Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Auto Focus (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20
Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
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.
Below 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

Today

Community Events

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.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Parents of Adult Children. Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue.

Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Poetry and Spoken Word. 8:00pm - Hosted By Tony Perez. UnUrban Coffee House. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Thursday Community

Save the Aero! "Laughing Matters: An Evening of Serious Satire" 7pm and 9pm, 1328 Montana Ave., \$20.00. Proceeds to benefit the Aero Theatre. (310)395-4990 info@aer theatre.com, www.aer theatre.com.

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.

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

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

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Men's Group. Thursdays, 11:15 to 12:45. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and

Referral. (310)576-2550.

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

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

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

schlitz wine cooler and warmer at
brookstone 150

hand-colored cocktail glasses (4) at **macy's** 115

silver-plated punch bowl set (bowl, ladle,
and 6 cups) at **the bombay company** 189

connecticut wine opener at **brookstone** 150

electric milk blender at **williams-sonoma** 159

handpainted tile serving trays at **utopia** 150

vintage set of 4 belmont wavy 2 1/2 oz. cups
at **brookstone** 150

overdiced new line plates at **williams-sonoma** 113

chocolate hazelnut biscuits at **godiva** 111

get on cooking new party ideas

"harvest confetti parties" cookbook at
williams-sonoma 135

hand-beaded tablecloths at **utopia** 155

virginia scall wine spritzer at **brookstone** 115

belgian waffle maker at **williams-sonoma** 159

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