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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

HHHHH Speak your mind loudly and clearly. You want to make a point. Be sure to express yourself in a manner that others can hear. Others will or will not rally around your cause because of how you present it. Use your most persuasive powers. Tonight: Enjoy yourself.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Deal with finances. Start taking a hard look at your budget, considering that the holidays will be here in no time. You might need to put in overtime for a while if you want to be able to splurge on a certain someone or two. Tonight: Juggle your budget.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You do make a difference, and you can clearly see it. Others seek you out for inspiration, ideas or sheer companionship. Be efficient when handling your "must do" list. You'll want plenty of people-time. Let your personality melt a barrier. Tonight: Whatever you want.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Allow others to step forward. You don't always have to do everything for everyone. Sometimes you need to close your door or turn off your phone and simply handle what you must. Respect your own needs as well. Take some personal time if you can. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You know where you're going. Others sense this in your attitude, and as a result, they step back. You accomplish everything and then some. A meeting or get-together proves instrumental. Ask for what you feel you need. Others will pitch in. Tonight: Where the action is.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Bosses turn to you for answers, especially about finances and overtime. Your efficiency and careful ways pay off in your dealings. Understand where others are coming from when they ask for help. Feel free to say "no." Tonight: Work as late as need be.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your high energy, in turn, energizes others in your immediate environment. You want to be efficient and get a lot done. Take your time checking out information. If you act too quickly, you could make a mistake. Do needed research. Tonight: Relax your mind.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Deal with others directly, especially if you want to have control over the net results. Not everything happens as you would like, but a lot does occur that makes you unusually happy. Have a long overdue discussion with a loved one. Tonight: Give in to a partner's wishes.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Reach out to others, and consider an opportunity more carefully. Listen well to a loved one. You feel another's natural resistance to an idea. Weigh the pros and cons without bias. That's more like it. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Dig into work with an eye on the upcoming weekend. Don't sell your abilities short. You can and will get a project done in time. Visualize an expenditure or home improvement task for several days before actually doing it. Tonight: Follow a boss's lead.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your playfulness reminds others that there is more to life than work. Take an overview of a situation where you might be triggered. Think twice before making a major decision. Better yet, postpone it till when you might not be so reactive. Tonight: Can you start your weekend early?

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ An associate pitches in. Let this person take the lead, if need be. You might find that "follow the leader" is a relief. Focus on personal matters. A close partner also might help in this realm. Ask for the help you feel you need. Tonight: Be the easygoing Fish.

QUOTE of the DAY

"Some people are like popular songs that you can only sing for a short time."

— La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)

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LOCAL



NEWS BRIEFS

Prescription card may benefit seniors looking for solutions

By Daily Press staff

One of seven big pharmaceutical companies involved in a prescription-drug discount card is bringing its national road-show to Encino's "Celebrating Longevity Senior Health Fair and Festival" this weekend, and eligible Santa Monica residents are invited to participate in a Saturday enroll-a-thon.

The "Together Rx" card debuted in April and is offered free to Medicare enrollees who do not currently have prescription-drug coverage and whose incomes are less than \$28,000 for individuals and \$38,000 for couples. More than 150 drugs are covered under the plan, including medicines that commonly afflict the elderly, including arthritis, diabetes, cancer, depression and high cholesterol. Discounts can range into the 40 percent neighborhood.

Saturday's event is being hosted by the AstraZeneca company, which joined six other firms in developing the discount program. Others involved are Bristol-Myers Squibb, Johnson & Johnson, GlaxoSmithKline, Abbott Laboratories, Aventis SA and Novartis AG. The AstraZeneca booth will be part of the annual Celebrating Longevity festival at 6200 Balboa Boulevard (Balboa Park) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn and Rushmore Cervantes of the L.A. Department of Aging are scheduled to participate in the Health Fair, which will include activities ranging from a senior citizen talent show to chair aerobics.

The prescription drug cards became a bit of a trend over the past year, with several companies offering single-company plans and sparking concerns that elderly patients might have problems sorting out all the options. Drug company officials say the TogetherRx is an attempt to address those concerns. Several of the participating companies folded their own cards into the TogetherRx program.

While national Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson has heralded the discount program a "tremendous new initiative," critics of both drug companies and federal prescription drug policy have been more cautious.

Consumer groups have called the program a step in the right direction, but worry that it might take pressure off Congress to tackle broader issues of prescription drug programs to senior citizens. Drug companies agree that more needs to be done, but also say the discount drug cards can provide immediate help for lower income senior citizens.

For more information about the TogetherRx discount program, you can visit their Web site at www.togetherrx.com.

Sierra Club makes endorsements

By Daily Press staff

The Sierra Club has announced that it has endorsed candidates Nancy Greenstein and Bill Winslow for the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees.

Club leaders cited both candidates' support for a strong sustainable building policy at Santa Monica College, their support for an expanded environmental studies program, and their overall qualifications for the office, as the leading reasons for the endorsement.

The Sierra Club is one of the nation's oldest and largest environmental organizations, and has approximately 2,200 members in Santa Monica and Malibu.

Greenstein and Winslow are the only non-incumbents running for the SMC Board of Trustees in the Nov. 5 election. The Santa Monica College District includes all voters in the cities of Malibu and Santa Monica. There are four seats open, and six candidates running, including four incumbents.

Greenstein and Winslow have also received endorsements from the Santa Monica College Faculty Association and the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

The six candidates running for election in the SMC Trustees race has been invited to complete a questionnaire on a variety of environmental and educational issues confronting Santa Monica College, and were then invited to be interviewed by a committee of three Sierra Club leaders — Kevin Finney, Howard Strauss, and Peggy Forster.

The committee's recommendation was approved by the Political Committee of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, and the Executive Committee of the West Los Angeles Sierra Club Group (which includes Santa Monica, Malibu, and the greater West Los Angeles area).

The Sierra Club also endorsed four candidates running for three seats in the Santa Monica City Council race — incumbents Pam O'Connor and Kevin McKeown, and first time candidates Abby Arnold and Josefina Santiago Aranda.

The Sierra Club has also endorsed local Assembly Member Fran Pavley for re-election.



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-	4:17 a.m.	1.90'
High-	10:28 a.m.	5.55'
Low-	5:29 p.m.	0.36'
High-	11:44 p.m.	3.69'

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

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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

Sears using scare tactics?

Editor:

Sears, is it true that you have threatened to close your Santa Monica store if Proposition JJ (the living wage law) passes, as stated in attorney Tom Larmore's (who is an arch opponent of JJ) Daily Press column?

Although my family and I have been faithful Sears shoppers since the 1950s, we are also staunch Prop. JJ supporters. I suspect we won't be alone among the many thousands of living wage proponents who (if Mr. Larmore is correct) now will feel compelled to place Sears on our "Do Not Patronize" lists.

I've always considered Sears to be a reputable, trustworthy merchant. Please tell your many pro-JJ customers, Sears, that you are not injecting the scare tactic of closing your Santa Monica store into the living wage campaign.

Rufus Baker
Santa Monica

Facts about JJ opposition

Editor:

In an Oct. 19 guest commentary, Rev. Jim Conn urged voters to vote for Proposition JJ (the proposed Santa Monica minimum wage) on the grounds that the weight of economic opinion is on the side of supporters. He acknowledges that the recent study I did with two academic colleagues is very critical of JJ, but says that we can be safely dismissed as lackeys of the hotels. I'd like to set a few facts straight.

But my first and most important point is that citizens of Santa Monica ought to take a look at what we actually wrote, and what the pro-JJ study says. My study can be

found at the Web site livingwage.com. Robert Pollin's study, which is very supportive of SMART's original proposal, can be found at the City of Santa Monica's Web site, under its "living wage" button. The best way to understand the difference in our studies, and the problems with JJ, is to read the first 10 pages of each of our studies.

Conn is right that I'm a law professor at UCLA, but he doesn't mention that I have a doctorate in economics from Northwestern, or that my co-author is an associate professor of economics at Sewanee University. Our Santa Monica report is our fourth published study on living wage and minimum wage laws. We are on most expert's short list of national authorities on the living wage, which is why we were recently commissioned to do a report on the Santa Monica ordinance by the peer-reviewed Economic Development Quarterly. The publisher of our preliminary study, the Employment Policies Institute, has commissioned studies from dozens of eminent economists. Nobel Prize winner James Heckman sits on its advisory board. My co-authors and I didn't receive a penny personally for this work; indeed, I turned down a \$1,000 honorarium offered by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce for a speech I gave last month.

Conn may disagree with my conclusions, but he doesn't address a single one of them. We found that a drafting mistake in the ordinance creates powerful incentives for employers to eliminate health coverage; we find that only 7 percent of the wages and benefits paid under JJ go to low-income workers and 65 percent go to workers making more than the median Los Angeles household. We believe over 1,100 jobs will be lost at businesses put in an untenable position by JJ's wage mandates. These are important issues to deal with substantively, not slanderously.

Dr. Richard Sander
Professor of Law, UCLA
Director, UCLA Empirical Research Group

Better to be a positive link in chain of events



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

The two men towards the end of the bar were obviously outsiders. For whatever reason — their clothes, their drawl, their mannerisms — they didn't seem to fit in.

They sipped on Miller beers and kept to themselves mostly, occasionally breaking away to ask the bartenders for another round ("No, I don't want Lite beer. Do I look like I'm on a diet?") or more volume on the jukebox ("Amplifiers have blown out my eardrums.") when a Lynard Skynard song blared.

No, they were definitely not from Santa Monica and the regulars at the Wilshire Boulevard tavern sensed it, stealing glances from time to time at the cowboy hat-bedecked duo. They looked different. They sounded different. And it was entirely too easy for all present to give in to the tendency to regard them as different, to place them under elevated scrutiny, to treat them differently than all the regu-

lars who down beers and shoot pool there every night.

But that would be wrong, not only from a moral and ethical viewpoint, but also from an economic one. According to a Daily Press article on Oct. 15, regarding Measure II, or the "Own your apartment" proposal that will be featured on the ballot in next month's elections, the average Santa Monica resident rents and lives in our city for an average of just two years. Dashed dreams or strapped finances usually prompt another relocation. In the business world, however, it just makes sense to embrace newcomers and unfamiliar faces in the hopes they will soon become familiar faces. Little remains stagnant here in the city by the sea.

But distrust all too often creeps in and, unfortunately, actual events can sometimes bear its presence. An unknown's actions typically leave a greater mark than those of the people around us do every day. As the saying goes, you only get one chance to make a first impression. When it's a negative one, it serves to reinforce those biases and prejudices and fears of the unfamiliar that we must struggle to ignore each day.

"She shouldn't have left her wallet in a plastic Thrifty bag on the floor," a young

man said to me after his female friend's belongings were stolen. "But, it's just a shame that she can't."

Not one of us lives in a vacuum. Every action we take has a chain reaction and affects the lives of others, in big ways or small, like the ripples resulting from the skimming rock.

According to witnesses, the two men with the cowboy hats took a plastic bag from the nearby table when the young couple headed for the door. With that plastic Thrifty bag containing candy and a girl's wallet, the men beget a chain of events that affected countless others — the guilt-ridden bartenders who wished they'd kept a closer eye out for their patrons, the wary regulars whose clique was further tightened, and, most importantly, the victims, whose innocence and unearned trust of the world will likely never recover.

It was just a wallet, yes, but the smallest of crimes can have a profound effect on individuals. Once bitten, twice shy. There will be more victims of that small theft than those scrambling to cancel credit cards Monday night. It is doubtful the pair will ever again feel carefree enough in public to fully trust their neighbors, to leave their belongings out of sight even

for a moment, to focus on the positive. And that is the shame of it all.

Innocence lost is seldom recovered, but I implore that couple to fight to hold on to that wide-eyed optimism and not become cynical or jaded with the world. There's enough of that going around, and it doesn't seem to hold many answers. They must, as we all must, fight through the setbacks, the pieces of the puzzle that don't quite fit, in order to fully appreciate the beauty of the world around us. Not all people are conniving. Not all "outsiders" are untrustworthy. Don't allow the few to speak for the masses!

It's important for all of us to fight through our inclination towards biases, towards prejudices, towards distractions, for we are all outsiders of one form or another. Nothing in this world remains stagnant. No one day in Santa Monica is exactly the same as the last.

Chains of events are beginning all the time, all around us, and it's on us to give them a positive start. It's on us to make certain that all the pieces of the puzzle fit.

Mike Tittinger is a Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Laugh with Catechism at the Methodist church

By Daily Press staff

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica is taking a humorous approach to fundraising this weekend.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, actress and writer Maripat Donovan has the saints on her side as she presents "Late Nite Catechism," a one woman show presenting a hilarious view of religious education.

The First United Methodist Church will use all proceeds from the event to promote and enhance the youth programs of the church. Those programs include summer day camp, vacation bible school, Sunday school programs and supplies and youth groups for ages 10-18.

As part of the Sisters Adult Catechism class, participants are invited to ask and answer questions pertaining to the Catholic faith and how it relates to other faiths as well. Organizers promise that you will smile, chuckle and outright laugh as she guides people through the class.

Regular tickets are \$75, which includes the reception, dinner, the show, plus a chance to win the grand prizes. Prizes include a weekend getaway in Big Bear with accommodations in a cabin that sleeps eight with all the amenities; a catered five course dinner for 10 at your house by Paula Wilson and Tania Batson; or a personal parking place for one year in the church parking lot.

Tickets at the "Patron Saint Table" are \$1,000 and includes the reception, dinner and show for 10 people, plus 10 chances to win one of the three grand prizes.

Tables will be named after a patron saint that ticket holders can choose. You may invite guests to your table. Patron sponsor tables will be reserved. All others will be open for general seating.

The reception begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church is located at 1008 11th St., on the corner of Washington Avenue.

Tickets can be purchased at the church during regular office hours.

Child care is provided for those under 12 years old.

Saint John's tips hat off to Shriver and Schwarzenegger

By Daily Press staff

Saint John's Health Center will honor this weekend two celebrities for their work and commitment to the hospital.

Broadcast journalist Maria Shriver and her husband, Arnold Schwarzenegger, will be honored as the 2002 Caritas Award recipients on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Saint John's Health Center's Caritas Award Gala. The gala will support essential community services and programs provided by the health center's emergency department while honoring Shriver and Schwarzenegger for their dedication to serving the community.

Saint John's emergency department treats about 27,000 ER patients a year. With the recent expansion of Fast Track — a rapid assessment system through which patients arriving at the ER with less urgent symptoms are directed to a dedicated area where they can be treated and discharged without waiting for other more emergent patients to be seen — Saint John's officials say they are strengthening the hospital's position as the top community hospital in California.

"Maria and Arnold have been longtime friends and supporters of Saint John's Health Center, where all four of their children were born and have generously contributed to many of our programs and services," said Sister Marie Madeleine, president of Saint John's Health Center. "In addition, their involvement in many other charitable and education endeavors, such as the Special Olympics, the Inner-City Games Foundation and the After School Alliance program, truly embodies the spirit of the Caritas Award, which honors individuals for their strong commitment to the community and to Saint John's."

For more information, or to obtain tickets to the 2002 Caritas Award Gala, call (310) 829-8423.

Employees honored for pain relief

By Daily Press staff

The Southern California Cancer Pain Initiative has honored two Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center employees for their efforts to promote pain relief to cancer patients treated at the hospital.

Libby Bowers, a nurse practitioner with the medical center's Palliative Care Service, and Ellen Ellis, a clinical social worker who supports patients cared for by the service, were honored this month.

The initiative is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting pain relief for all cancer patients. Founded in 1993, the organization is comprised of more than 1,800 healthcare professionals.

Santa Monica-UCLA's Palliative Care Services specializes in providing humane and dignified care for patients with advanced illnesses, including cancer.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

City council members defend their actions

LAWSUIT, from page 1

against the ordinance covering the meal programs with Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown, said the issue was not fully studied before the city proposed the ordinance.

He said the city council is acting prematurely and without having a knowledgeable discussion about alternatives before enacting a "draconian" measure.

"Most residents that came before council were people talking about ... alcohol and liquor problems," he said. "There is no health situation."

Other council members said the ordinances need to be enacted out of compassion for the homeless, so they would be encouraged to get help through any one of the local social service agencies.

Councilman Herb Katz said even though there had not been any reports of people becoming sick from the food distributed at outdoor locations, it doesn't mean that it can't happen.

"We're not trying to stop the homeless from being here, we're trying to protect them," he said. Katz asked city staff members to come back with a list of possible locations for the food programs by the next council meeting on Nov. 11.

Councilman Richard Bloom said the council was only reacting to what it was hearing from the community, which still wants to help the homeless but also wants a higher quality of life.

"It's a responsible and measured response to what we have heard through e-mail and in public testimony," he said. "It came out of the community."

Councilman Bob Holbrook sarcastically said since many of the groups operating outdoor food programs are coming to Santa Monica from towns such as Malibu and as far away as Oxnard, perhaps the city should help those less fortunate municipalities set up their own programs.

"Because they can't seem to find anywhere to go with their charity than here," he said.

Myers said the council members that for the ordinances should be ashamed of themselves.

"I am reminded of southern segregationists who made comments about how well they treat their Negroes in response to complaints from civil rights activists in the 1960s," he said. "No council member who voted for these ordinances should be able to call themselves compassionate."

Myers — who was fired in 1991 as the Santa Monica City Attorney for refusing to write or enforce city laws forbidding camping in public — said the city has slowly been turning more and more anti-homeless over the past decade.

He said the city used to do a lot more to help the less fortunate than it does now. Back then he said the city treated the homeless as human beings and with kindness.

"Personally, I don't think you measure compassion by the amount of money you spend but how you treat people," Myers said. "And when you pass ordinances like this, that is not what you are doing."

It's possible to vote in seven foreign languages

TOUCHSCREEN, from page 1

sonal information is linked with other computers that are online with the county's clerk and recorder's office to check verification and to ensure people don't vote twice.

Once people cast their votes, a disc in the back of the computer will record it. At the close of Touchscreen Early Voting, each machine will be unlocked by an employee at the clerk and recorder's office and the cartridge will be removed and transported to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Headquarters where they will be secured until Election Day and then counted.

"It is a lot easier and there is less room for error," said Grace Chee, an inspector working in the Santa Monica location. "There's no question of how your vote will come out."

Chee, who has worked in past elections at polling places, said touchscreen voting simplifies not only the voters' jobs but hers too.

"We can process so many more voters than we can with paper and pen," she said, adding she no longer will have to count each ballot because all of the information is on disc. "This is far more cost efficient in the long run."

Voters on Wednesday said they voted early not only because it's convenient but trying something different puts the excitement back in voting.

"I think it is the best thing ever," said Sue Moss, who normally votes at the Ocean Park Library. "You don't have to wait in line and I beat the crowd. Also I like to think of myself as an early adapter when it comes to technological advances."

For Linda Piera-Avila, a home healthcare worker who visits patients in their homes, touchscreen voting was not only convenient but reassuring. Piera-Avila, who is a physical therapist for Saint John's Home Health Agency, normally votes at Memorial Park.

"On Nov. 5, I don't want to be sitting in a line when I need to be with patients," she said. "It also encourages people to get involved in the system and anytime you can get people involved in the electoral process, I'm for it."

There is one computer at the Santa Monica location dedicated for the visually impaired, which is equipped with headphones. All computers are wheelchair accessible.

Besides English, the computer ballot is available in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. All votes are considered absentee ballots.

Hours for the Santa Monica location are Monday through Thursday from noon to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For other locations and times, check out www.lavote.net.

Officials recommend that people mark their voting choices in their sample ballot booklet before voting on the touchscreen. And to avoid possible lines, officials warn not to wait until the last minute because they anticipate more voters will use the touchscreen system as Election Day approaches.

"It has generated a lot of excitement," Chee said. "Anyone in L.A. County can vote in any of these locations."



City's finances flexible but cuts may still be necessary

BUDGET, from page 1

"We don't know how things will be in a year or two, but the trends are not good," he said. "We have to engage the public on what needs to be done. This is a very important issue."

Officials found the city has \$3.2 million left over from last year's municipal budget. The extra money — which is attributed to budget reductions, a state refund and several late payments — will be used to offset projected sales tax losses this year.

"We don't know how things will be in a year or two, but the trends are not good. We have to engage the public on what needs to be done. This is a very important issue."

— KEN GENSER
Santa Monica City Councilman

The city council voted Tuesday to raise many fees charged for building permits and for city inspectors to review construction projects so that the city is no longer subsidizing the work.

The increased fees are predicted to bring in \$600,000 for the rest of this year, but it cannot be used to cover the looming budget shortfalls.

Even before the economic fallout after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Santa Monica officials began a series of budget cut backs and holding expensive capital

improvements to keep the city's spending proportional to the amount it was taking in on sales and hotel room taxes.

However, sharp declines in Santa Monica's tourism industry deeply eroded much of the city's tax revenues, leaving officials with a \$20 million budget deficit.

To make up for the loss in funds, each city department was required to cut 2.5 percent of its budget, a hiring freeze was put into effect and more than \$20 million capital improvements were put on hold.

Genser said there are only so many capital improvement projects the city can put on hold before real cuts will be required.

"It's one way to conserve, but I don't know what we can do at this point," he said. "Some of the things we have postponed will become necessary and there will become fewer and fewer things to postpone."

"Clearly we are going to have some issues to deal with no matter what," he said.

While Santa Monica's tourism industry appears to be rebounding, consumer confidence is being eroded by worsening economic trends and a possible war with Iraq, officials said.

And with an already lean budget this year, officials believe any further cuts may require discontinuing some services and increasing fees and taxes.

"The city's financial system and position has flexibility in it to close these budget gaps through various strategies, however the selection of the strategies is going to involve difficult decisions," Dennis said. "Further expenditure reductions — which will probably impact services and service levels — and revenue increases that will have folks paying more may be needed."

Prosecutors file counts against actor Nick Nolte

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors filed two misdemeanor counts Wednesday against actor Nick Nolte in connection with his September arrest for allegedly driving under the influence.

Nolte, 61, faces charges of driving under the influence and being under the influence of a controlled substance, said Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Tests indicated Nolte had elements of the banned depressant gamma hydroxybutyrate in his system, she said.

Known as GHB, the drug comes in liquid, powder or pill form and became a popular club drug because of its ability to cause euphoria. It can also cause loss of consciousness, which has led to its abuse as a date-rape drug.

The "48 Hours" star checked into a Connecticut rehabilitation center on

Sept. 14, just days after he was arrested. An arraignment was scheduled Monday in Malibu.

Nolte was driving his black 1992 Mercedes-Benz, swerving into oncoming highway lanes, when he was stopped Sept. 11 near his west Malibu home, police said.

The arresting officer described Nolte as disheveled and drooling during the traffic stop along Pacific Coast Highway.

Nolte had a reputation as a heavy drinker for years, once describing himself as a "functioning drunk." But in the mid-1990s, he reportedly quit alcohol and became a fitness buff.

He was nominated for Oscars for 1991's "The Prince of Tides" and 1997's "Affliction." He also received an Emmy nomination for his breakout role as Tom Jordache in the 1976 television miniseries "Rich Man, Poor Man."

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DID YOU KNOW?: A cockroach will live nine days without it's head before it starves to death



STATE

Calif. supremes uphold \$290 million award

BY DAVID KRAVETS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court on Wednesday let stand a \$290 million personal injury jury award levied against the Ford Motor Co. stemming from a Bronco rollover accident in 1993.

The justices, without publicly commenting, decided at their private weekly conference to uphold what Ford, in court briefs, called the nation's largest personal injury award ever affirmed by an appellate court.

The case involved a rollover accident of a 1978 Ford Bronco near Ceres, about 80 miles south of Sacramento, in which three members of the Romo family were killed and two others injured. The Romos sued the Dearborn, Mich., automaker and a Stanislaus County civil jury awarded \$290 million in punitive damages.

That award was meant to punish Ford for what a state appeals court found was "despicable conduct." The family's attorney, Joe Carcione, said Ford knew the Bronco "would crush flat as a pancake in a rollover."

"The legal system works," Carcione said. "It's finding a way to punish conduct that is outrageous and is criminal, and the only way to punish outrageous and criminal conduct of a huge, monolithic rich corporation is you have to hit them in the wallet."

"You have to punish that corporation and the only way we know how to do that is with dollars."

Ford attorney Theodore Boutros Jr., echoing business interests that had urged the state's highest court to overturn the verdict, said the justices missed an opportunity to rein in runaway verdicts.

"This is an extreme and unconstitutional

award," Boutros said. "We plan to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn it."

Trial Judge Roger Beauchesne had ordered a new punitive damages trial. The judge said potential jury misconduct rendered the verdict "fundamentally suspect."

But in June, California's 5th District Court of Appeal in Fresno reinstated the verdict and said there was ample evidence of corporate wrongdoing regardless of allegations of jury misconduct.

"We think that it is obvious that putting on the market a motor vehicle with a known propensity to roll over and, while giving the vehicle the appearance of sturdiness, consciously deciding not to provide adequate crush protection to properly belted passengers constitutes despicable conduct," Justice Steven Vartabedian wrote for the appeals court, which ruled 3-

0. "Such conduct could kill people."

The Bronco's roof was made partially of steel and fiberglass. As the vehicle rolled, the steel collapsed, killing Ramon Romo, the passenger in the front seat. The fiberglass also broke loose, striking and killing his wife, Salustia Romo, and his child, Ramiro Romo. All three were wearing seat belts.

Two other children not wearing seat belts were thrown from the Bronco and injured.

In its appeal, Ford said one juror was wrongly influenced by a television news show in which lawyers alleged the automaker would rather litigate cases than correct defects. Ford also charged that another juror, during deliberations, described to fellow panelists a so-called "omen" in which she dreamed that her child, and fellow jurors' children, were killed by a Bronco.

Reed Slatkin associate pleads guilty to obstructing SEC probe

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A business associate of Earthlink co-founder Reed Slatkin has agreed to plead guilty to an elaborate scheme to obstruct the Securities and Exchange Commission's investigation of Slatkin.

Daniel Jacobs will plead guilty to conspiracy to obstruct justice when he is arraigned next month, the SEC and U.S. Attorney's Office said Tuesday.

Slatkin, 53, who also served as a financial adviser to celebrities, business executives and socialites, pleaded guilty in April to five counts of mail fraud, three counts of wire fraud, six counts of money laundering and one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

In his plea agreement, Jacobs, 60, acknowledged that when the SEC began its investigation of Slatkin in 1999, he and others provided the SEC with false documents concerning NAA Financial, a bogus Swiss brokerage firm in which Slatkin claimed he was holding his investors' funds.

Instead, Slatkin was using money collected from new investors to pay older investors while claiming he was delivering above average returns.

Jacobs has admitted that during the investigation, he set up phony European phone numbers for NAA Financial, bought European-style letterhead stationery for Slatkin and altered a fax machine at his home so recipients would think faxes were coming from a

European phone number.

Jacobs also fabricated bank records and correspondence to convince the SEC that Slatkin had transferred more than \$400 million into the phony Swiss bank account.

For his troubles, Slatkin paid Jacobs \$1 million and some gold coins, the SEC said.

The plea agreement contemplates a sentence of about one year in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. Jacobs may also be required to pay back the \$1 million in fees he received.

Jacobs has agreed to cooperate with an ongoing investigation and his sentence may be decreased as a result of his help or increased if further inquiry shows he had more of a central role in Slatkin's scheme, federal prosecutors said.

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NATIONAL



Sniper Scare



Rick Bowmer/Associated Press

A concerned Stacy Coleman looks on while a Maryland State Trooper holds the door for her son, and a friend at the Glenallan Elementary School Wednesday in Silver Spring, a day after a bus driver was gunned down. Anxious parents took their children back to schools under tight security after a chilling warning — “Your children are not safe, anywhere at any time” — apparently written by the sniper who has shot at least a dozen people.

Co-founder of Islamic charity seeks asylum

BY SARAH FREEMAN

Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — The detained co-founder of an Islamic charity that has been accused of funneling money to terrorists testified Wednesday that he fears retribution from the government and al-Qaida supporters if he is forced to return to his native Lebanon.

Rabih Haddad, who is seeking political asylum for himself and his family, said at a bond hearing that he has been vocal in his opposition to al-Qaida and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and worries that he will be persecuted for it if he goes back to Lebanon.

He also said the Lebanese government might target him to show the United States it's against terrorism.

“There's no telling what they could do,” Haddad said.

Haddad has been jailed since Dec. 14 on a visa violation. The 41-year-old Ann Arbor resident and Lebanese citizen helped create the Global Relief Foundation, which the federal government says has received substantial funding from a suspected financier of al-Qaida's worldwide efforts.

The same day Haddad was arrested, the Treasury Department froze the bank accounts of his Global Relief Foundation and agents raided its suburban Chicago office.

The Bush administration has said it suspects Global Relief of having ties to terrorism, but no criminal charges have been filed against Haddad or the 10-year-old foundation, and both Haddad and Global Relief have denied any links to ter-

rorist groups.

Immigration and Naturalization Services attorney Marsha Nettles argued against allowing Haddad to be released on bond, saying he is a flight risk, and said Haddad is not statutorily eligible to seek political asylum because he did not apply for it within a year of entering the United States.

But defense attorney Ashraf Nubani said Haddad can apply for asylum because Lebanon's political climate has changed since Haddad left and his case's publicity would make him a target in the country.

Immigration Judge Robert Newberry said he would issue a written ruling on Haddad's request for bond by Thursday.

Haddad spent time in Peshwar, Pakistan, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, where the government says a self-proclaimed charitable organization known as Mekhtab Al-Khidemar, co-founded by Osama Bin Laden, became the group out of which al-Qaida grew. Haddad said he was doing humanitarian work there and has denied any links to terrorism.

Barnett Rubin, director of studies at New York University's Center for International Cooperation, testified for the defense Tuesday that Haddad's presence in Pakistan more than a decade ago and other evidence presented by the government did not “raise a red flag” about Haddad's activities because thousands of Muslims came to the area during that time to fight Afghanistan's communist government.

Portions of Haddad's bond hearing have been closed to the public. The Justice Department said it wants to avoid the public release of sensitive information that could help terrorists.

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INTERNATIONAL



U.S. brands Southeast Asian group terrorists

BY BARRY SCHWEID

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — The United States on Wednesday branded a group of Islamic extremists in Southeast Asia who are linked to the al-Qaida network as a foreign terrorist organization and asked the nations of the world to dry up its assets.

The group is suspected in the bombing of a nightclub in Bali Oct. 12 that killed more than 180 people, but a senior U.S. official told reporters the United States had made no connection as Indonesian authorities pursue their investigation.

Designation of Jemaah Islamiyah as a foreign terrorist organization by the State Department makes it a crime to contribute funds to it. Also, the group's members are barred from receiving visas to travel to the United States.

The next step, said the official, who spoke to reporters under rules that shielded his identity, is to ask the United Nations to approve sanctions that would freeze the organization's assets, prevent sale of weapons to it, and stop members of the group from entering or traveling to the 190 countries that are U.N. members.

The official said Jemaah Islamiyah is a regional terrorism power that communicates regularly with al-Qaida and some of whose members trained in al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, in a statement distributed to reporters, said the United States was sending "a powerful signal" that the countries of Southeast Asia will not tolerate terrorism.

He said "the United States does not wish to imply that we have come to a conclusion about responsibility for the devastating Bali bombings."

Arrests of members of the group in Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines have revealed links with al-Qaida, Powell said.

Powell did not appear in public, and questions by reporters at the State

Department were referred to a senior administration official.

The designation could put pressure on Indonesia to crack down on militants and also strengthen President Bush's hand in talks this weekend with President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Ever since explosions rocked the nightclub in Bali, the Bush administration has urged Indonesia to take a strong stand against terror.

The Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah has cells operating throughout Southeast Asia. It seeks to create an Islamic state comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the southern Philippines, according to a report in May by the State Department's counterterrorism office.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

Before the explosions on the resort island the Bush administration had moved gingerly in dealing with Indonesia on terrorism. w Secretary of State Colin Powell said after the blast, "You cannot pretend it (terrorism) doesn't exist in your country."

Powell, who will participate in this weekend's talks, said he hoped the attack "reinforces Indonesia's determination to deal with this kind of threat."

Jemaah Islamiyah will become the 35th organization branded as a terrorist group by the State Department.

This year's department report on terrorism said recent arrests of group members revealed links with al-Qaida, blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks.

According to the report, Jemaah Islamiyah began developing plans in 1997 to target U.S. interests in Singapore.

Last December, Singapore arrested 15 members, some of whom had trained in al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan and planned to attack the U.S. and Israeli embassies and British and Australian diplomatic buildings in Singapore, the report said.

It said Singapore police found forged immigration stamps, bomb-making material

and al-Qaida documents in suspects' homes.

Powell had announced a \$50 million, three-year anti-terrorism assistance package during visit to Indonesia in August. The Bali bombing could prompt more U.S. help.

The United States had warned Indonesia in early October that it was becoming a home to terrorists. U.S. Ambassador Ralph Boyce met with Megawati to press for action against terrorist groups.

Bush said he hoped to hear in their upcoming meeting "the resolve of a leader

that recognizes that any time terrorists take hold in a country it is going to weaken the country itself."

"There has to be a firm and deliberate desire to find the killers before they kill somebody else," he said.

The Bali bombing, which mostly killed Australian tourists, forced Indonesia's government to acknowledge for the first time that al-Qaida was active in the Southeast Asian archipelago. Some of Indonesia's neighbors, particularly Singapore, had complained Indonesia was reluctant to crack down on Islamic militants.

Russian hostages



Misha Japaridze/Associated Press

A police officer stands in front of the theater in Moscow as a hostage crisis was playing out inside Wednesday. Armed men entered the crowded theater and took the audience captive, the Federal Security Service said. Gunshots rang out during the rare hostage-taking in the Russian capital, and police and security forces went on high alert. The marquee reads "Nord-Ost," one of Moscow's most popular productions.

Vivendi plans to sell publishing assets to Lagardere

BY KIM HOUSEGO

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — Vivendi Universal said Wednesday it plans to sell its European and Latin American publishing businesses to French media and defense conglomerate Lagardere SCA, raising badly needed cash to reduce its debts.

The sale would mark the breakup of Vivendi Universal Publishing's U.S. and European divisions and ease fears among France's political and cultural establishment that its French-language publications would fall into foreign hands.

Vivendi did not disclose the exact price of the sale, which excludes U.S. publisher Houghton Mifflin. But it said the deal values the businesses being sold at an estimated 1.25 billion euros (\$1.22 billion) including debt. Vivendi will in the end likely receive a little more than 1 billion euros (\$980 million) in cash for the sale.

The company had hoped to raise 3.5 billion euros (\$3.42 billion) for the sale of Vivendi Universal Publishing in its entirety. But faced with bids significantly lower than that, Vivendi opted to sell the European and Latin American publishing divisions separately.

The company said it plans to restart negotiations for the sale of Boston-based Houghton Mifflin, in the hope of luring more bidders.

Vivendi shares were down 6.72 percent

to 12.5 euros (\$12.20) in trading on the Paris stock exchange.

Chairman Jean-Rene Fourtoul said in a statement the sale of the European and Latin American assets "contributes to low-

ering Vivendi Universal's debt, which is an absolute prerequisite for a turnaround."

He said it also "meets the cultural and heritage concerns (in France) that relate to publishing."

British tabloid runs full-page ad, apologizing to Steve Bing

By The Associated Press

LONDON — A British tabloid has run a full-page advertisement apologizing to Hollywood producer Steve Bing for publishing "mean-spirited and inaccurate" stories about him and for giving its readers his home telephone number so they could call and berate him.

The ad, in Tuesday's editions of the Daily Mirror, contained a large photo of Bing above the headline, "We're Sorry, Steve."

In May, Britain's press watchdog, the Press Complaints Commission, ruled that the Mirror had not violated Bing's privacy by publishing his number and urging readers to criticize his treatment of model-actress Elizabeth Hurley.

When Hurley announced last November that she was pregnant, she said Bing was the father, touching off a frenzy

of tabloid reporting about the two public figures in Britain.

Bing questioned his involvement, but DNA tests later found that the producer was indeed the father of Damian Charles, who was born April 4.

The Daily Mirror apologized in the ad for "untrue statements" and "insulting remarks" about Bing, but didn't say what they had been and didn't mention Hurley.

"In retrospect, our publication of articles urging readers to harass Mr. Bing with such telephone calls was distasteful and uncalled for, and we deeply regret their publication," the ad said.

Bing was an executive producer on the 2000 remake of "Get Carter," starring Sylvester Stallone. He also directed and co-wrote the 1993 movie "Every Breath," starring Judd Nelson.

The media group is struggling under \$18.6 billion of debt, racked up during a whirlwind of costly acquisitions under former chairman Jean-Marie Messier.

The planned sale requires regulatory approval and could face scrutiny in France because it would allow Vivendi Universal Publishing-Hachette Livre to dwarf rivals such as Groupe France Loisirs, owned by Germany's Bertelsmann AG, and French publishing houses like Galimard.

Lagardere's Hachette Livre publishing unit is France's second biggest publisher after Vivendi.

The French government, which firmly backed Lagardere's bid, praised the plan and said any concerns would be countered by commitments from the company to publish the widest possible range of works.

"I know Hachette will scrupulously respect the editorial freedom of the (publishing) houses that belong to VUP's French arm," Culture Minister Jean-Jacques Aillagon said. Those include dictionary publisher Robert and Larousse and fiction publishers Robert Laffont and Plon.

Vivendi had received two other offers for its publishing business: one from a group led by BNP Paribas' investment arm, PAI, and U.S. fund Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., and a second one from a consortium led by U.S.-based Carlyle Group LP and Eurazeo of France.



SPORTS

Irish put winning streak on line against Seminoles

BY RICHARD ROSENBLATT

AP Football Writer

Florida State is used to playing for national titles. Now it's trying to play spoiler.

Two weeks after falling a field goal short of knocking off No. 1 Miami, the Seminoles will try to stop No. 6 Notre Dame's seven-game winning streak.

Under new coach Tyrone Willingham, the Fighting Irish are off to their best start since 1993. A victory Saturday probably would lead to an 11-0 record entering Notre Dame's finale at USC on Nov. 30. The Irish will be favored to beat Boston College, Navy and Rutgers before travel-

ing to Los Angeles to play the Trojans.

But they've got other work to do first. The 11th-ranked Seminoles won't be pushovers. They rarely lose at home and are favored by 10 points.

Florida State might be 5-2 and out of the national title chase for the second year in a row, but beating Notre Dame will revive its season.

For the first time since 1987, Florida State averages more yards rushing than yards passing. With Greg Jones gaining 117.4 yards per game, the Seminoles are rushing for 230 ypg. Just the challenge Notre Dame is looking for — its defense is sixth nationally against the run (80.1 ypg).

"Our offensive line against their defensive line will be a great matchup," Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden said. "It will be our strength against their strength. The maturity of their football team is very obvious. They are never out of position and they play hard all game."

Notre Dame's offense woke up last week in a 21-14 win at Air Force. With Ryan Grant running for 190 yards, and quarterback Carlyle Holiday going 53 yards for one of his two touchdown runs, the Irish rolled up a season-high 447 yards.

Florida State counters with Jones, a bruising runner who overpowered Miami's strong defense for 189 yards and a TD.

This is just the fifth meeting between the teams. Florida State won 31-26 in the 1996 Orange Bowl, but the most memorable game was at the end of the 1993 season, when No. 2 Notre Dame beat No. 1 Florida State 31-24.

In their next game, the Irish were upset by Boston College and the Seminoles ended up winning the national title.

"All of our focus right now is on the Florida State game this week," Willingham said.

The picks: No. 1 Miami (minus 19 1/2) at West Virginia

'Canes defense ready to shut down WVU RB Cobourne ... MIAMI, 41-17.

Temple (plus 28 1/2) at No. 3 Virginia Tech

Owls have 20 points vs. Hokies in last three meetings ... VIRGINIA TECH, 45-14.

No. 18 Penn State (plus 4 1/2) at No. 4 Ohio State

Buckeyes give JoePa plenty to whine about ... OHIO STATE, 31-21.

No. 5 Georgia (minus 4 1/2) at Kentucky

Banged-up 'Dawgs in trouble against 'Cats QB Lorenzen ... KENTUCKY, 28-24.

No. 6 Notre Dame (plus 10) at No. 11 Florida State

Seminole's spoil the party ... FLORIDA STATE, 28-21.

No. 17 Iowa State (plus 12 1/2) at No.

7 Texas

Cyclones get no sympathy from 'Horns ... TEXAS, 41-21.

No. 13 Iowa (plus 3 1/2) at No. 8 Michigan

Hawkeyes look for first win over Wolverines since '90 ... IOWA, 31-21.

No. 9 Washington State (minus 11) at Arizona

Cougs QB Gesser still a Heisman hopeful ... WASHINGTON STATE, 35-20

No. 10 LSU (minus 3 1/2) at Auburn

We like the Tigers — Auburn's ... AUBURN, 28-27.

No. 12 North Carolina State (minus 1) at Clemson (Thursday)

Tigers rise to occasion on national TV ... CLEMSON, 31-28.

No. 15 USC (minus 1) at No. 14 Oregon

Loser likely out of Pac-10 race ... OREGON, 35-28.

No. 19 Alabama (plus 3) at No. 16 Tennessee

Vols' season on brink of collapse ... TENNESSEE, 28-27.

No. 20 Kansas State (minus 30 1/2) at Baylor

Bears outscored 75-0 in last two games ... KANSAS STATE, 42-7.

Texas Tech (plus 6) at No. 21 Colorado

Buff's running outscoring Tech's passing ... COLORADO, 33-24.

No. 22 Air Force (minus 16) at Wyoming

Falcons' option won't be grounded this week ... AIR FORCE, 31-13.

Washington (plus 3 1/2) at No. 23 Arizona State

Sun Devils ranked and Huskies aren't? ... ARIZONA STATE, 35-34.

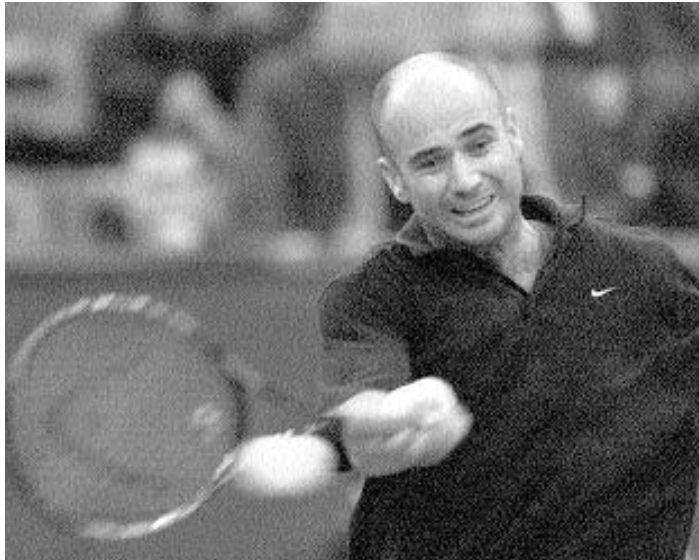
Ball State (plus 21) at No. 24 Bowling Green

Green machine leads nation in scoring at 49.3 ppg ... BOWLING GREEN, 49-13.

Last week: 12-4 (straight); 3-12 (vs. points)

Season: 117-38 (straight); 79-66 (vs. points)

Agassi moves ahead



Ivan Sekretarev/Associated Press

Top-seeded tennis star Andre Agassi, of the United States, returns a shot during his match against the Czech Republic's Radek Stepanek at the St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament Wednesday. Agassi beat Stepanek 6-3, 6-4.

Record low television ratings for 2002 World Series

BY JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Record-high offense is producing record-low ratings in the World Series.

The all-California matchup between the San Francisco Giants and Anaheim Angels has generated two of the three lowest-rated Series games in history.

Anaheim's 10-4 victory on Tuesday night got a 10.8 national rating, the lowest ever for the third game of the Series, Nielsen Media Research said Wednesday.

The rating fell 30 percent from last year's 15.4 between Arizona and the New York Yankees, which went up against Michael Jordan's comeback game to the NBA.

Last year's Series Game 3, won by the Yankees 2-1, also included President Bush throwing out the first pitch, which helped generate a large audience for the start of the game.

The rating for this year's game peaked at 13.0 between 9:30-10 p.m. EDT and fell after that as the Angels took a big lead.

"In addition to the regional matchup dampening overall viewership, Game 3 in

particular, was negatively influenced by the Angels taking an early 8-1 lead," Fox Sports president Ed Goren said.

The last regional Series, the 2000 all-New York matchup between the Yankees and Mets, got a 12.4 rating for Game 3.

Through three games, this year's World Series is averaging a 10.8 rating, down 22 percent from the 13.8 last year and 11 percent from the 12.1 in 2000.

There have been a record 13 homers and 42 runs scored in the first three games. Two of the games were decided by only one run.

The low ratings could force Fox to give advertisers make-good ads to make up for the small audiences. Fox is in the second year of a \$2.4 billion, six-year contract with baseball.

Even though last year's World Series went seven games, its 15.7 rating was the third-lowest ever, ahead of only the 2000 Series (12.4) and the Yankees' four-game sweep of San Diego in 1998 (14.1).

The opener of this year's Series got a record-low 9.4 rating followed by an 11.9 for Game 2. The record-low before this year was the 10.4 for last year's opener,

which beat the 11.3 for Game 1 in 1997 between Cleveland at Florida.

"The bottom line is Games 1 and 2 were two of the top 13 shows in prime time last week, and Fox finished first each night a World Series game was played," Goren said.

The Los Angeles market had the highest rating for Game 3 at 32.3, slightly ahead of San Francisco's 32.0. Ratings were considerably lower in the East, with New York getting a 10.7 rating, Chicago an 11.1 and Atlanta an 11.0.

Even though ratings are down, all three games gave Fox prime-time victories.

Jordan lawsuit claims \$5 million extortion

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Michael Jordan filed a lawsuit Wednesday against a woman he contends is trying to extort \$5 million from him to keep quiet about their relationship more than 10 years ago.

Jordan acknowledged in the lawsuit filed in Cook County Circuit Court that he paid the woman \$250,000 "under threat of publicly exposing that

relationship."

Jordan, who plays for the Washington Wizards but spent most of his career with the Chicago Bulls, never agreed to pay any amount above the original \$250,000, the lawsuit stated.

The lawsuit asks the court to stop the woman from further attempts to get money from Jordan.

Jordan's lawyer, Frederick Sperling, refused to say whether he asked the

police to get involved. He also refused to answer questions about the nature of the relationship.

"The complaint says everything Michael has to say," Sperling said.

Jordan and his wife, Juanita, have been married more than 12 years. Juanita Jordan filed for divorce last January. But the Jordans withdrew the divorce case a month later and issued a statement that they were trying to get back together.

COMICS



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



Owen in retirement

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Feed a 4-Down
- 6 Parade
- 10 Like volcano
- 12 Hello
- 13 Last Greek letter
- 14 Rose feature
- 15 Jogged
- 16 Like most 5-Down
- 18 Supplies with a grant
- 20 Frank McCourt book
- 21 Bulb unit
- 23 Fall mo.
- 24 Pelusa
- 26 Lot unit
- 28 Rand
- 29 Noted gorilla
- 31 Nest him
- 32 "Paging Bull" star
- 36 Obscure
- 39 Burgle
- 40 Strenuous type, for short
- 41 No longer a minor
- 43 Prod into action
- 44 Staff symbol
- 45 Acapungue unit
- 46 Samples of tennis

DOWN

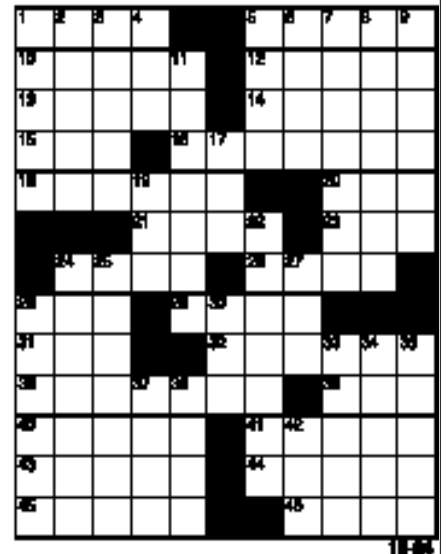
- 1 Composer's creation
- 2 Miller's salesman
- 3 Without break
- 4 Parker
- 5 Atlas makeup
- 6 William Baldwin's brother
- 7 Shoulder muscle
- 8 Goblet
- 9 Most healthy
- 11 Way over a stage
- 17 East, in Berlin
- 18 Wise filer
- 22 Hires
- 24 Display joy
- 25 Software buy
- 27 Swindle
- 28 Fins products
- 30 Un-matched
- 33 Steamed
- 34 Man of many words
- 35 Pump
- 37 One of Chekhov's sisters
- 38 Manipulative sort
- 42 Dandy

FEMALE	GLAD
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RIGERS	
ACID	RATTAN
BONE	AFRICA
COGB	STONE

Yesterday's answer

- 16 Wise filer
- 22 Hires
- 24 Display
- 25 Software buy
- 27 Swindle
- 28 Fins products
- 30 Un-matched
- 33 Steamed
- 34 Man of many words
- 35 Pump
- 37 One of Chekhov's sisters
- 38 Manipulative sort
- 42 Dandy

FOR CROSSWORD BOOKS: Send (MLO) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 838476, Orlando, FL 32883-8476



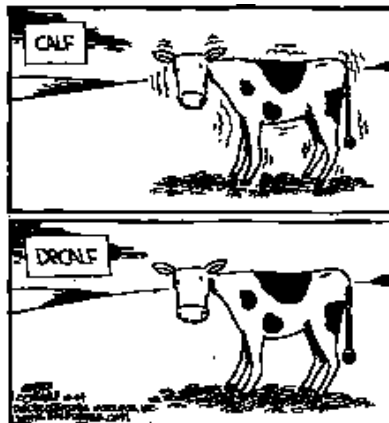
edge city by TERRY & PATTY LEBAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



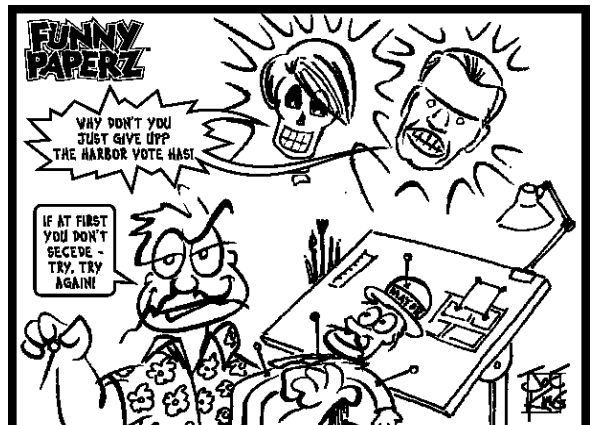
Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Million-Pound March about 998,000 pounds short

- A formerly obese woman organized a "million-pound march" for Ottawa in October to protest the Ontario Parliament's proposed funding cutbacks on stomach-stapling surgery. (Attendance was about 998,000 pounds short.)
- And to protest unemployment in Escravos, Nigeria, in July, about 600 women held hundreds of workers captive inside an oil terminal and threatened to take off their own clothes, which Nigerians regard as gravely shocking. And in Rajasthan, India, protesters opposed to distribution of the allegedly mob-financed movie "Kante" said they would release poisonous snakes into the darkened theaters showing the film.





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up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word
call 310-458-7737 and sell your old sporting goods to someone who will actually use them.

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(310)452-0851.

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CONGENIAL W. LA Dental office looking for responsible, pleasant dental assistant w/x-ray license. Some experience necessary. Salary negotiable. Fax resume to (310)473-0271.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR wanted by Property Management Co. to oversee a staff of 10 men in the field. Duties include assigning work orders, communicating with journeymen, oversee rent readings, bid out new jobs, communicating with inspectors, must be bilingual (Spanish/English), interact with clients/owners, computer literate, detail oriented and have experience in the field. Salary DOE. Fax resume with salary history to (310)396-4733.

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

For Sale

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

ATTENTION DECORATORS Stuffed goat's head and deer head for home or business decoration. \$400.00 OBO. Call Bob @ (310)650-3609.

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

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

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For Rent

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Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

MDR ADJACENT \$825.00 Studio, gated building with gated, subterranean parking. Newer building with courtyard area, quiet neighborhood. Laundry room, pkgng, 1 year lease, no pets. (310)578-9729

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

NEW STUDIO Apartments available from \$1295.00 to \$1355.00. Six blocks from the beach. Three blocks from Third St. Promenade area! (310)656-0311. www.breezesuites.com

SANTA MONICA \$1250.00 2brdm/1ba, r/s, crpt, very quiet, laundry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1400.00 2brdm/2Ba Duplex, petok, r/s, patio, w/d, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1700.00 3brdm/2Ba, balcony, crpt, laundry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$550.00 Bach Pad, petok, hrwd flrs, large clsts, pkgng, utls incld. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$750.00 Studio, petok, r/s, prime area, hrwd flrs, pkgng, utls incld. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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SANTA MONICA \$950.00 Duplex, petok, r/s, all new, crpt, w/d, yard, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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

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VENICE BEACH \$2950.00 Artist Work Live Historic Brick Building, 1700 sq. ft. 2 story unit consisting of a ground floor with 850 sq. ft. and a basement with 850 sq. ft. The ground floor has 12' ceilings and exposed brick walls. The basement has 8 ft ceilings. The building is completely rehabbed with everything brand new and replaced. Concrete floors, double glazed wooden windows, exposed brick walls, antique brick patios, tons of charm. Located one block from the ocean. 1 year lease. (310)466-9778.

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

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SANTA MONICA \$500.00 Apartment, prvt room, r/s, hrwd flrs, Indry, pkgng, utls incld. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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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.

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

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VOTE Thomas David Carter, Santa Monica Rent Control Board. YES on Measure EE. Protect Free Speech and Education. Paid for by Thomas David Carter

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Call (310) 458-7737 ext. 104

Calendar

Thursday, October 24, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Knockaround Guys (R) 11:45,
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45. Igby
Goes Down (R) 11:15, 1:45,
4:15, 6:45, 9:15. The Rules of
Attraction (R) 11:00, 1:35, 4:25,
7:00, 10:00. The Tuxedo (PG-
13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45,
10:15.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00,
7:00, 10:00. Sweet Home
Alabama (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10,
5:00, 7:40, 10:20. My Bog 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, 7:10,
8:00, 9:40, 10:45. The
Transporter (PG-13) 11:45,
2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:30.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Red Dragon (R) 1:40, 4:25,
7:15, 10:00. White Oleander
(PG-13) 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40.
Abandon (PG-13) 1:50, 4:15,
7:25, 9:45. Barbershop (PG-13)
5:40, 10:00. Brown Sugar (PG-
13) 3:25, 7:50. Formula 51 (R)
2:10, 4:40, 7:40, 9:50. Johnn: A
Veggie Tales Movie (G) 1:30.

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

Today

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

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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.santa-
monivcakksg.org

Ongoing support groups for peo-
ple 55 and older. Current open-
ings in Men's Group. Thursdays,
11:15 to 12:45. Center for Healthy
Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue.
Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in
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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
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more information contact skinny-

buddahboy@hotmail.com

The Westside Walkers, a FREE
program sponsored by UCLA
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Walking programs for adults 50 or
older looking for safe, low-impact
exercise in a comfortable environ-
ment. 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 infor-
mation about the program, call
(800)516-5323.

Friday

Community

MAGICOPOLIS presents HOCUS
POCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us).
The stage explodes with a colorful
mix of Magic, Special Effects,
Sleight of Hand, Comedy and
Music that's sure to delight audi-
ences of all ages. At MAGICOPO-

LIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa
Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at
8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at
2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-
451-2241.

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 environ-
ment. The Santa Monica Strutters
meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and
Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at
Santa Monica Place, Fourth St.
and Broadway Ave. in Santa
Monica.

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

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Study of worms sheds light on aging in humans

BY WILLIAM MCCALL
Associated Press Writer

A tiny worm that barely lives more than a week under normal conditions may hold clues that could help keep us stronger and healthier until old age finally catches up with us, researchers say.

C. elegans — a roundworm that has already been the subject of research that won a Nobel Prize this year — apparently goes to seed much like middle-aged people, losing muscle cells in a process called sarcopenia, according to a study by Rutgers biologist Monica Driscoll.

The soil-dwelling, bacteria-eating worms have a very simple structure that allows scientists to count and observe

each cell from birth to death. The worms also can be raised under experimental conditions that produce nearly identical populations.

But even though "it's essentially like looking at clones," Driscoll and her team were surprised to find there was significant variation in muscle decay and lifespan.

In a study published Thursday in the journal *Nature*, Driscoll was able to show for the first time that a specific enzyme, called PI3 kinase, has to be present for sarcopenia to occur, indicating there may be a simple way to delay age-related muscle deterioration in humans.

"This kinase probably has good chance of contributing to muscle decline in humans, which is why you don't have an

athlete who's an Olympic champion after age 40," Driscoll said. "But the cool thing about this is that maybe you can fix a couple of key things and get significant enhancement of quality of life."

The lowly worm, containing a total of just 959 cells, already has proven a useful tool to make broad comparisons to humans. But most of those earlier studies have focused on DNA and the genetics of aging, not what happens at the larger, cellular level, researchers said.

The latest study is "one of the first papers that actually goes after tissue function in aging, so we're pretty excited about this," said Anna McCormick, chief of genetics at the National Institute on Aging.

The results also add to the evidence that

random cell damage over time contributes to aging — the "disposable soma" theory — as indicated by the differences seen in otherwise nearly identical worms, Thomas Kirkwood and Caleb Finch said in an accompanying commentary in *Nature*.

Driscoll and her team started the research believing that aging slowly destroys the nervous system. But they counted every nerve cell in every worm they examined and "never saw the loss of even a single neuron," she said.

"We were shocked. The nervous system looks absolutely gorgeous even in animals we picked out as recently dead," Driscoll said.

That may indicate that our brains withstand aging better than our bodies, she said.

Former porn star sentenced to jail for insider trades

BY DEVLIN BARRETT
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A former porn star who admitted profiting from insider information she received from a Wall Street executive was sentenced Wednesday to three months in prison.

"I did a lot of wrong things, but I'm an adventurous Aries and a Canadian," Kathryn Gannon, who appeared as Marilyn Star in several adult films, said outside federal court. "I'm going to go to jail with my head up high, and I'm going to be the captain of my cell block."

Gannon, 33, said she hoped the sentence would restore her flagging finances.

"There is going to be a movie made about my life story," she said. "Jail time actually promotes it even better — ching, ching!"

Gannon's co-conspirator, James McDermott Jr., was a \$4 million-a-year executive known for his appearances on television investment programs.

McDermott, the former chief executive of New York-based investment bank Keefe Bruyette & Woods, admitted feeding stock tips to the porn star and was sentenced last year to the five months he had already served in jail.

Gannon, who appeared in adult movies such as "Marilyn Does Miami" and "Babe Watch 3," made more than \$80,000 on trades in 1997 and 1998.

U.S. District Judge Richard Owen rebuffed defense requests to sentence Gannon to home detention, saying the punishment should send a message to the investment community.

"I'm certainly not going to tell the United States public and hardworking prosecutors that the federal securities laws have no teeth, whether you're a lying CEO or just a \$150,000 cheating investor," Owen said.

Gannon began to cry as the judge discussed her jail sentence. After the hearing, she quickly regained her composure, telling reporters she was "perfectly happy to pay the time for the crime."

Gannon must surrender to authorities by Dec. 2.

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